City rolls out welcome wagon

American Cruises latches on to Fort Madison riverfront for first time

Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph talks to the crowd gathered for the inaugural arrival of the Queen of the Mississippi on Tuesday morning. The Queen's Captain, Brad Vandiver, stands with Randolph who’s holding a flag that the city presented to American Cruise Lines. Above right, Fort Madison Chamber coordinator Savanna Collier, second from right, and Office Manager Sabrina Snaadt, far right, greet passengers as they disembark. At right, Dr. Eugene Watkins talks with guests before the morning ceremonies.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – It arrived about 90 minutes early, but the five-level Queen of the Mississippi paddlewheeler latched onto the Fort Madison pier Tuesday morning in the first of 14 American Cruise Lines dockings this year.

Dignitaries, community leaders and just interested parties flocked to the pier where Mexican Fiesta dancers, a middle school band, some Old Fort staffers in era-dressing, awaited passengers to come down the pier.

Jackie Roeske, of Greenville South Carolina said she opened her curtains after she woke up in her stateroom on the ship and looked out and was struck by the spires reaching up out of the town.

“When I woke up and pulled the curtains, the first thing I saw was the church steeple. It’s just gorgeous – so pretty and it just watches over the town,” she said after being greeted by Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph.

“It actually made me think about moving here,” she whispered as her husband Davis walked down the pier behind her.

Davis Roeske quipped it was the first time such a group was glad to see him arrive anywhere.

“It was just thrilled at how important it made me feel to get off this boat and have everybody so pleased to see me. I haven’t had that many people pleased to see me in a long time, if ever,” he said with a laugh.

“It is so wonderful to see a small town be so enthusiastic about something like this, and seeing a bunch of old people come in off a boat and welcome us and the boat. Hopefully, it will be good for your businesses in the future.”

The city has been courting Viking Cruise Lines, but company is still several years away from building any domestic cruise ships. During initial negotiations with Viking, who needs about $1.7 million in upgrades to the city’s dock, American showed interest.

American stepped into the picture in May only requiring about $30,000 in repairs and upgrades to the pier to begin docking. Director of Guest Relations, Bret Bullock said the process was very efficient and he was kind of blown away by the reception.

“Well, I think it’s remarkable. I think any time you have an inaugural call to a port, you’ll have a special event of some sort,” he said.

“But this is very special indeed to have such a turnout from the townspeople. We’re just as excited as they are, we’ve been working with city leaders for the past several weeks on excursions. But to have the whole city come out and the band and the dancers – this is just very exciting.”

See CRUISES, page 4
Lee County Jail and held.

acts. He was taken to the
interference with official
of 3rd-degree theft and
of Avenue G, on charges
Madison Police arrested
08/01/19 – 11:45 p.m. – Fort
County Jail and held.
08/01/19 – 11:52 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police arrested
Kevin James Williams, 34,
of Dallas City, Ill., in
Riverpark on a charge of a
public intoxication. He was
taken to the Lee County Jail
and held.
08/03/19 – midnight – Fort
Madison Police arrested
James Scott Nicot, 48,
of Nota, Ill., in Riverpark
on a charge of public intoxic-
anation. He was taken to the
Lee County Jail and held.
08/03/19 – 4:57 a.m. – Fort
Madison Police arrested
Timothy Roy Gilbert, 32,
of Fort Madison, in the 1300
block of Avenue H, on a
charge of public intoxica-
anation. He was taken to the
Lee County Jail and held.
08/03/19 – 11:22 a.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of vandalism in
the 300 block of Avenue F.
08/03/19 – 6:23 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a larceny/theft in
the 600 block of Avenue D.
08/03/19 – 11:25 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police cited
Joshua Dean Potter, 32,
of Fort Madison in the 1100
block of Avenue H, on a
charge of driving while
license revoked. He was
released upon citation.
08/03/19 – 11:32 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police arrested
Malinda Marie Hart, 33,
of Fort Madison in the 4500
block of Avenue O, on a
charge of serious
domestic abuse assault. He
was taken to the Lee County Jail
and held.
08/05/19 – 12:37 a.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a warrant service.
08/05/19 – 12:46 a.m. – Fort
Madison Police arrested
Rhonda Jackson Newson,
37, in the 4600 block of
Avenue J, on a charge of
interference with official
acts. She was taken to
the Lee County Jail and held.
08/05/19 – 4:25 p.m. – Lee
County Sheriff’s deputies
arrested Matthew Jay
Thompson, 18, in the 3000
block of Avenue A, on a warrant
for violation of probation.
08/05/19 – 8:47 p.m. – Fort
Madison Firefighters responded
to one fire alarm, one
critical medical call and one
CO2 detector alarm.
08/04/19 – Fort Madison
Firefighters responded
to one medical call and
four car accidents.
08/03/19 – Fort Madison
Firefighters responded
to one medical call.
08/03/19 – 10:24 a.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a larceny/theft
in the 1100 block of Avenue F.
08/03/19 – 12:05 a.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue H.
08/05/19 – 19:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/05/19 – 2:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 2:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 3:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 4:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 5:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 6:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 7:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 8:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 9:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 10:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 11:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 12:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 1:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 2:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 3:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 4:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 5:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 6:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 7:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 8:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 9:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 10:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 11:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 12:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 1:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 2:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
08/06/19 – 3:00 p.m. – Fort
Madison Police responded
to a report of a burglary in
the 600 block of Avenue F.
Hardships not hurdles for FM’s Luke Booten

**FMHS alum earns Iowa Games Official of the Year Award**

**BY ETHAN LILLARD**
**PCC SPORTS**

FORT MADISON – When Fort Madison High School graduate Luke Booten wrapped up his senior season of soccer at the state finals, he didn’t know if he would ever be involved with soccer again. That fear was nothing compared to the fear his parents felt when Luke had to have a shunt put in when he was just six days old. On top of that, he was also born with Hydrocephalus, causing a disability for Luke that affects the left side of his body.

While watching Luke officiate, he walks the sidelines with a noticeable limp. Other than that, no one would ever know the hardships Luke and the Booten family have been through during his life.

“We encouraged Luke to use his left hand as much as possible but it still has limited use,” Nancy Booten, Luke’s mother said. “Even with that he finds out how to get things done. He has always worked hard at everything he does.”

“But that has never stopped him from playing the game or refing the game. When he was young and started playing, it was hard for him to throw the ball in correctly and keep his foot on the ground. However, he worked hard at overcoming that."

That motivation to continue to work through any struggles he faced is what led Booten to his career in officiating soccer games. With a deep passion for the game having started playing soccer around the second grade, staying involved with the sport as an official was and continues to be a dream come true for Booten. He never would have guessed that after a decade of officiating, his efforts and love for the game would be recognized in the form of the Iowa Games Official of the Year Award.

“It felt good,” Booten said of winning the award. “I was surprised, but it felt good. It was an honor to be selected as the official of the year.”

It may have come as a surprise to Booten that he was nominated, but for those around the tri-state high school soccer scene, it shouldn’t have been.

Booten is a regular staple during the season and can be found on the sideline wherever he’s needed, regardless of the location and distance of the match.

“This would have been his eleventh year,” Nancy Booten said of Luke. “And going to different schools, doing to competitive matches.”

When asked why he continues to do it and if he had any intentions of stopping officiating, Booten continued to reference his love of the game, something that will never leave him.

“Just from my days of playing and being with my friends that I played with,” Booten said is why he loves it. “Even when I was in grade school I was like, ‘Yeah, this is what I want to do most of my life.”

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Dr. Heyland is pictured with her husband, Chad, and their two children.
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When recycling, be it at one of our convenient drop off sites, or putting out your residential recycling bin for the pickup, please DO NOT put items in plastic bags. They are not recyclable at Great River Regional Waste Authority.

For a complete listing of what we do recycle, contact your local City Hall, or one of our facilities for a service guide. Check with your local retail stores such as Hy-Vee or Walmart for their recycling capabilities. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation concerning this issue!!

Cruise officials impressed with turnout for landing

CRUISES - Continued from Page 1

He said the quick timeline was handled well on both ends. “It was extraordinarily efficient, when you have a city that wants us to be here as much as we want to come to the city – it’s a perfect fit. Between the mayor and your city manager and other city leaders, it was a breeze.”

City Manager David Varley said it is good to see a ship in Fort Madison again. “I think it’s great. I’m glad to see this many people show up to welcome them here and it’s really exciting to see another ship here in Fort Madison.”

Eric Cade, of Salem Oregon said Fort Madison is beautiful from the shore and he enjoys the small town feel. “It’s very picturesque. It reminds me of home,” Cade said. “I’m from a small town in Oregon and the train park and brickscape behind it and steeples. I love it. I’m a small town guy and I just love it.”

The excursions on the port of call included two tours on Trailways buses, one focusing on the history of Fort Madison including the old prison and Old Fort, while the other was an agri-tour featuring retail farms including stops at Hinterland Dairy and Harvestville Farms.

Cade said he was taking the agri-tour because he had his two children with him. Another option included a SEIBUS shuttle that would loop around the historical downtown and park areas picking up and dropping off passengers throughout the six-hour layover.

Queen of the Mississippi Capt. Brad Vandiver, who lived for a short stint in southeast Iowa a few years back, said he was excited to learn the boat would be stopping in Fort Madison. “I didn’t expect this much and I can’t think of a better place than Fort Madison for our guests to experience this part of the world,” he told the crowd gathered by the pier to welcome the ship.

He presented Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph with a plaque in honor of the first stop. Randolph said the cruises are another story for the history of the city. “We think this is a new day and a new chapter for Fort Madison and our community,” he said.

“The volunteers and everyone that came out and welcomed these visitors to our own little piece of the pie down here, speaks volumes to our community and American Cruise Line for choosing us for a destination.”

Community members line the sidewalk from the Fort Madison pier to the Trailways bus waiting to take them on one of two excursions as part of the six-hour inaugural stop Tuesday morning. Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Other 8 a.m. arrivals occur on Aug. 18, Aug. 26, Sept 8, Sept 19, Oct. 3, and Oct. 7. All the 8 a.m arrivals are six-hour ports of call. The other seven stops are 9 a.m. arrivals, which are the 8.5-hour stays and those are on Aug. 15, Aug. 28, Sept. 4, Sept. 18, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, and Oct. 16.

The cruise lines will be sending three different ships to the Fort Madison shores including the Queen of the Mississippi, the America, and the American Harmony.
MONTROSE – Brittany Giles and Jared Siefkne II, of Montrose, are proud to announce the birth of their son Zander Anthony Siefkne, on July 5, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Zander is joined at home by Zahra Florence Siefkne.

Parents are Richard Ahlen and Crystal Ahlen (deceased) of Burlington; Deb and Charlie Newman of Dallas City, Ill.; and Jared and Tiffany Siefkne of Burlington. 

Great-grandparents are Marion and Judy Stephenson of Montrose; and Norm and Barb Siefkne of Danville.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

WESTERMeyer

FORT MADISON – Andrea Hoenig and Justin Westermeyer are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Ayla Jean Westermeyer on July 18, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Ayla is joined at home by Rachel Marie Westermeyer and Emily Sue Westermeyer.

Parents are Warren and Becky Hoenig of Fort Madison; Ethel Westermeyer of Argyle; and Rodney Westermeyer (deceased) of Montrose.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

Fuget

FORT MADISON – Christin Munson and Bradley Fuget are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Victoria Elizabeth Fuget, on July 3, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Victoria is joined at home by Nevaeha, Ava, and Norah.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.

FoEcke

WEST POINT – Syndi Foecke and Jacob Foecke of West Point, are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Ryleigh Jean Foecke in July 10, 2019 at Fort Madison Community Hospital.

Ryleigh is joined at home by Bernice and Deb Foecke of West Point; Steve and Beth Reynolds of Burlington; and Connie Reynolds of Burlington.

Pen City Current congratulates the family on this wonderful news.
Road Maintenance Proposal Guarantee: $12,500.00
Completion Date: 12/31/2019
Bid Letting Date: 8/22/2019
Project Description: This project consists of granular roadway maintenance -blading/shaping and spreading new rock.

FREMONT/MILLS COUNTY PROJECT NO. 19-04-36-05
Riverton Wildlife Management Area and Willow Slough Wildlife Management Area
Access Road Rock Proposal Guarantee: $12,500.00
Completion Date: 12/31/2019
Bid Letting Date: 8/22/2019
Project Description: This project consists of blading and shaping the existing gravel road, and blading/shaping and spreading new rock.

POTTAWATTAMIE
COUNTY PROJECT NO. 20-04-78-03
Lake Manawa State Park Campground Tree Removal Proposal Guarantee: $12,500.00
Completion Date: 3/31/2020
Bid Letting Date: 8/22/2019
Project Description: This project involves the clearing and grubbing of trees as shown in the plans and as required by the DNR construction inspector.

LUCAS COUNTY PROJECT NO. 20-05-59-03
Stephens State Forest Road Maintenance Proposal Guarantee: $25,000.00
Completion Date: 12/31/2019
Bid Letting Date: 8/22/2019
Project Description: This project consists of gravel road maintenance - blading/shaping and spreading road rock. Culvert removal/installation and incidental seeding/fertilizing are also included in this project.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PROJECT NO. 20-04-69-01
Viking Lake State Park Shoreline RipRap Repair Proposal Guarantee: $6,250.00
Completion Date: 11/28/2019
Bid Letting Date: 8/22/2019
Project Description: This project involves replacing and repairing deteriorated class ‘E’ revetment (Rip Rap) along shoreline in Viking Lake and other incidental work as required by DNR construction inspector in Montgomery County, Iowa.

DECatur COUNTY PROJECT NO. 18-05-27-01
Dekalb Wildlife Management Area Road Maintenance Proposal Guarantee: $4,000.00
Completion Date: 8/22/2019
Project Description: This project consists of granular roadway maintenance; blading/shaping, spreading rock, revetment/erosion stone placement.

DелАWАRE COUNTY PROJECT NO. 20-03-28-03
Backbone State Park Cabin Renovations Proposal Guarantee: $12,500.00
Completion Date: 5/22/2020
Bid Letting Date: 8/22/2019
Project Description: The Contractor shall remove existing exterior deck surfacing and install new composite decking (Cabin A - D and 9 - 12) and new handrails (Cabin A - D). The contractor shall replace all exterior doors on cabins 9 - 12. The contractor shall also remove and install new cement board trim and stain doors and shutters (Cabin 1 - 8). This project is to enhance Backbone’s upcoming Centennial celebration in the spring of 2020.

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- Job responsibilities will include safety as a top priority, national travel, handling over the road requirements, knowledge of operating general job site equipment, ability to lift over 30 pounds at times, work in a construction environment, assist in setting up jobsite trailer and equipment, be able to perform general shop labor.

- Job Type: full-time
- Salary: dependent upon experience
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- Required experience: CDL and general construction knowledge

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Production Lead - R0811
- Job: Safely and efficiently supports the Production supervisor in directing resources associated with the packaging of liquid products.
- Qualifications: Minimum 3 years manufacturing experience, College degree preferred, can help lead teams of 50+ associates
- Pay: Starts at $21.69/hour

Packaging/Machine Operator - R9008
- Job: Safely and efficiently perform various tasks associated with the packaging of liquid products and operating various packaging machines on production lines.
- Qualifications: Minimum 1 year experience as a machine/operator in high speed manufacturing environment (preferred)
- Pay: Starts at $16.23/hour

Filler Technician - R9011
- Job: Safely and efficiently operate liquid filling machines to package liquid consumer products. Accurately complete documentation as it pertains to efficiencies, speeds, quality and over fill. Responsible for coordinating line efficiency to meet or exceed safety, production, quality and housekeeping standards.
- Qualifications: Minimum 5 years experience as a machine/operator in high speed manufacturing environment, helping coordinate production efforts, ability to prioritize and perform tasks with interruptions.
- Pay: Starts at $21.69/hour

Forklift Operator - R1468
- Job: Safely and efficiently operate forklift trucks in a fast paced environment around other forklifts, production machinery, and pedestrians.
- Qualifications: Minimum 1 year experience as a forklift operator in a high traffic environment.
- Pay: Starts at $19.48/hour

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Premier Partner with Melissa & Doug
Council motoring along with golf court ordinance

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – City leaders continue to entertain the thought of allowing golf carts, and possibly ATVs and UTVs on city streets.

The issue was back on the council agenda at Tuesday night’s meeting after City Councilman Matt Mohrfeld brought the issue up two weeks ago.

Councilman Chris Greenwald, Kevin Rink and Mohrfeld made comments in favor of moving forward with the discussion, while Bob Morawitz advocated against allowing the vehicles on city streets.

The council voted 6-1 to move forward and have city staff draft an ordinance to bring back to the council for further discussion at a future meeting. Any ordinance would require three readings before being approved.

“We had this before and we voted it down. They safety issues haven’t changed and I’m not in favor it,” Morawitz said.

Mohrfeld countered with the argument that the environment has changed now with Lee County and West Point having adopted ordinances allowing permitted vehicles operated by licensed drivers. He also said Fairfield allows the vehicles.

Mohrfeld said he favored allowing the vehicles on all city streets except for Business 61 and only from dawn to dusk.

“They need to adhere to all our city driving codes, speed limits, stop signs, right of ways. They cannot operate on sidewalks and would have to park like a vehicle. They can’t go on the P.O.R.T. trail, but I would suggest keeping them off of Business 61.”

Mark Lair agreed with Morawitz that the city has been down this road before and the people didn’t want those vehicles on the street.

“We’ve been through this once already and people told us they did not want it,” Lair said.

“They are still telling me, most of the people I’ve talked to are telling me, they do not want it.”

Greenwald said he heard of constituents who told him they didn’t want the boat to come that just docked at the riverfront Tuesday morning.

“But you were elected by the people, for the people, to do the job they want,” Lair countered.

Greenwald said he wasn’t voted to do the will of the people but to make the best decision with the information he has in front of him. Morawitz said it also comes down to additional enforcement for the police department.

“I don’t know if we have enough police officers,” Morawitz said.

Greenwald said it wouldn’t be the end of the world either way the council moves on the issue.

“And the thing to remember is the floodgates aren’t going to open and there’s not going to be a hundred golf carts on the streets,” Greenwald said.

In an unrelated agenda item, the council asked City Manager David Varley to reaffirm the city’s intention to donate the Idol Rashid Building to the Fort Madison Food Pantry.

The issue was put back on because a family member with the Rashid family, who has final approval of any transfers of the building, would rather see the building go to the Head Start program through Community Action. Giving the building to the Head Start would leave the food pantry without a local home.

Lair asked if the city could give the property back to the Rashid family to do with as they please. Varley said he didn’t think giving the building to the food pantry, by way of Lee County, was off the table yet.

In other action, the council:

• approved signing an application for a REAP grant for additional funds for the Phase IV of the P.O.R.T. trail 48th street connection.
• approved a resolution to set a public hearing to order construction for Old Highway 61 from 2nd Street to 6th Street. The project was scheduled to begin in the fall, but Mayor Brad Randolph hinted that it probably should begin next year.
• approved a resolution appointing Jane Bartlett to the city’s Library Board and Mary Whitcomb to the Planning and Zoning Commission.
• approved spending $3,650 for an inspection of the pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks near the depot.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

WED 07 Aug
Clear Skies
High – 81.7º F | Low – 70.7º F

THU 08 Aug
Overcast Clouds
High – 81.5º F | Low – 59.9º F

FRI 09 Aug
Scattered Clouds
High – 76.0º F | Low – 59.4º F

SAT 10 Aug
Light Rain
High – 77.3º F | Low – 68.5º F

SUN 11 Aug
Overcast Clouds
High – 78.7º F | Low – 72.6º F

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