

# Pen City Current

Monday, January 6, 2020 | 14 pages | Volume 4 • Issue 14

## 2019 - A Year in Review

July & August

Queen of the Mississippi arrives at Fort Madison's pier on August 6 as the first arrival of one of the American Cruise Lines to Fort Madison. The ships were greeted by Fort Madison residents, dignitaries, economic officials, and various groups including re-enactors from the Old Fort.

Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC



### Looking back on 2019

Editor's Note:

As the year comes to a close, it is customary to look back at the stories that affected us throughout the year. Being an all-digital newspaper with multiple social media channels, we have many avenues to consider when deciding to review the year behind us.

We chose to feature the best read news articles from our website [pencitycurrent.com](http://pencitycurrent.com), the top social media posts, and the photos that impressed the most readers from each month.

Each issue of 2019 - A Year in Review will feature two months of these stories & photos as they originally appeared.

These stories touched thousands of lives this year, whether they were heartbreaking or heartwarming, good news or bad.

We hope you enjoy looking back on the year with us as we usher in a new year filled with new stories. You can rest assured Pen City Current will be reporting those stories in a factual, unbiased way in the manner you've become accustomed to - whether you're reading them on our website, on our mobile app, in our e-Edition, or in any of our social media channels.

We thank you for your patronage and wish you a peaceful new year.

## City sees cruise line efforts realized

8,924 views, 2,171 engagements - Aug. 6 2019

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.

"I 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, the 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.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Mayor Brad Randolph greets Jackie Roeske, of Greenville, South Carolina as she disembarks from the Queen of the Mississippi on Aug. 6, 2019.

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2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

# FMFD gets new water rescue boat

7,665 views, 653 engagements - July 17, 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison firefighters have a new supercharged rescue vehicle at their disposal – and this one goes on the river.

The new sleek, bright red SeaArk 24-foot rescue boat was parked behind the Fire Station about two weeks ago, where a car port will be built to keep it out of the sun.

The new boat replaces the 19-year-old airboat that the department has been using.

Captain Mike Schneider said it was time to upgrade the department’s capabilities on the river.

“That older boat was still working fine and we got a good trade on it from Dave’s Marine here in Fort Madison, but it didn’t go in reverse, was loud and not as efficient as this one.”

The city will end up paying about \$25,000 for the upgrade to the new rescue boat, which was also purchased from Dave’s Marine.

On the back end of the boat sits at 150-horsepower outboard motor that will give rescue personnel faster response times to emergency situations. The boat will be kept at the department, but the city still holds a



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Firefighters Alex Meierotto and John Lange look over the department’s newest addition, a 24-foot SeaArk rescue boat that was delivered in July.

slip at the marina should the boat need to be moored there.

Schneider said the motor is situated so the boat can still maneuver in shallow waters, which was the strength of the airboat.

Firefighter Alex Meierotto said the boat is equipped with a large water pump to assist with river fires or boat fires. It also has room for medical gear and is GPS equipped with sonar detection capabilities.

“If we were ever to be looking for a body, this GPS equipment will help us with that search,” he said. “We also have a certified diver in the department so we can have someone in the water, too.”

Schneider said he expects the boat will last the department at least 20 years. He said even with the

previous boat being in service for 19 years it still had life left in it, the department just needed something a bit quicker.

He said for most Pool 19 rescues, the department will use the Fort Madison marina, but he said now with all the entries along the river and for mutual aid, the boat will be taken by truck and put in closer to where they are needed, which will also decrease time getting to the scene.

All of the staff will be trained on driving the boat and towing it, but Schneider said most of the staff are familiar with boats.

“Most of us have had boats or been around boats, so, yeah, they will all be able to drive the boat and the truck.”



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Rescue personnel tend to the victim of a motorcycle/vehicle accident near Avenue I and 20th Street on Thursday afternoon.

# Motorcycle accident sends one to hospital

9,720 views, 3,786 engagements - July 25, 2019

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – An afternoon accident involving a motorcycle and vehicle has sent one man to the hospital in stable condition.

According to Lee County Sheriff’s deputy Craig Burch, a motorcycle driven by a male, who’s name and age was not released, was headed southbound on 20th Street near Avenue I, when a vehicle came out of the alley east bound south of Avenue I and struck the motorcycle.

The motorcycle came to rest in the right hand lane, and the driver was being attended to by emergency crews from Fort Madison Fire Department and Lee County EMS on the curb of the east side of the road.

“The injured party was sent to the hospital with unknown injuries at this time,” Burch said.

He said the accident remains under investigation and it is unclear if charges will be filed.

Fort Madison Police and Lee County Sheriff, as well as several witnesses, assisted at the scene.

*There’s Snow Place Like Home for the Holidays.*



Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1. Our special 2019 Year In Review editions will publish Thursday, January 2 through Wednesday, January 8. Breaking news will continue to be published on our website 24/7.

*As we enjoy the holidays with family and friends, we thank you for your support and patronage and wish you all a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!*



## 5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 06 Jan	Overcast High– 39.7° F   Low – 31.7° F
TUE 07 Jan	Partly Clouds High– 38.3° F   Low – 26.0° F
WED 08 Jan	Clear High– 30.6° F   Low – 37.7° F
THU 09 Jan	Light Rain High– 49.0° F   Low – 37.1° F
FRI 10 Jan	Light Snow High– 32.9° F   Low – 22.9° F

OpenWeatherMap

2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

# Nauvoo man facing 53 sex crime charges

12,026 views, 6,518 engagements - July 5, 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

NAUVOO – A joint investigation has resulted in the arrest of a Nauvoo man on 53 charges including sexual assault of a child, child pornography, sexual abuse, and incest.

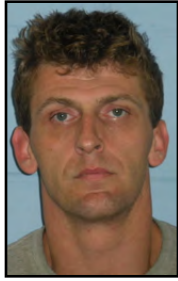
Nauvoo Police Chief Mike Boley released a statement Friday afternoon, saying Daniel Scott Lafferty, 33, of Nauvoo, was arrested Tuesday in Nauvoo after an investigation by the department, in conjunction with the Fort Madison Police Department and other Illinois, Iowa and Nevada law enforcement agencies.

Daniel Scott Lafferty, 33, of Nauvoo charged with 45 counts of criminal sexual activity in Fort Madison and Nauvoo.

Lafferty's arrest comes as a result of an investigation into allegations of sexual assault of a child having occurred in Nauvoo. He is currently being held in the Hancock County Jail on a \$400,000 bond out of Hancock County, as well as a no-bond warrant through Lee County.

Nauvoo police have charged Lafferty with one count of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault of a Child, a Class X Felony; ten counts of Child Pornography, each a Class X Felony; 21 counts of Child Pornography, each a Class 2 Felony; two counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse, each a Class 2 Felony; nine counts of Child Pornography, each a Class 3 Felony.

Also, as a result of the investigation by the Nauvoo Police Department, additional evidence was discovered in regard to additional crimes alleged to have occurred in Ft. Madison, Iowa. A subsequent investigation by Ft. Madison Police Department investigations resulted in a nation-



LAFFERTY

wide, no-bond warrant, through Lee County Iowa, that Lafferty is also being held on. Those charges include five counts of 2nd Degree Sexual Abuse, each a Class B Felony; five counts of Incest, each a Class D Felony; and one count of misdemeanor Indecent Exposure. The investigation is on-going and additional charges are expected.

Police Chief Mike Boley was unavailable for comment Friday as of this posting.

Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber said the investigation is a result of interdepartmental teamwork and the ability of detectives to focus on serious crimes.

"This is just another example of teamwork from area detectives who are left alone to concentrate on serious crimes that should take priority in today's world," said Lee County Sheriff Stacy Weber.

Assisting the Nauvoo Police Department in the investigation were the Hancock County State's Attorney Rachel B. Mast; Macomb Police Department; Illinois Attorney General's Office; Ft. Madison Police Department; Hamilton Police Department; Hancock County Sheriff's Office; Lee County, Iowa Attorney's Office; Lee County, Iowa Sheriff's Office; Des Moines County, Iowa Attorney's Office; Des Moines County, Iowa Sheriff's Office; Reno, Nevada Police Department; Washoe County, Nevada Child Advocacy Center; Children's Advocacy Center of Hancock County; and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.

Lafferty is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Pen City Current will update this breaking story as more information comes available.

# Three ISP staffers, offender hurt during assault

8,924 views, 2,171 engagements - Aug. 6 2019

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – Three staff members were assaulted while on duty at the Iowa State Penitentiary earlier today.

Based on a preliminary review of the incident, it appears that at 10:22 a.m, two inmates began to assault another inmate in a housing unit at the prison. It appears that the attackers had multiple sharpened objects that were being used to cut the inmate that was being attacked. Correctional officers responded to the incident immediately, but in attempting to subdue the attacking inmates, three officers suffered what appear to be minor injuries. It does not appear that the officers were cut by the attackers.

Two of the officers that were assaulted were taken via department vehicles to the local hospital to be seen by medical professionals. The third officer was seen by institution medical personnel and returned to their post.

The inmate that was originally being assaulted was taken to the hospital via department vehicle, and is receiving medical attention at this time. His wounds appear to be non-life-threatening.

All visiting is suspended while the institution is under restricted movement.

This incident remains under investigation.

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# We Remember Our Loved Ones Lost in 2019

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2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

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2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

# P.A.W. takes in piglet that escapes from truck

13,245 views, 1,583 engagements - Aug. 1, 2019

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Sandy Brown is probably the foremost advocate for animal care in this part of the state.

And despite the director of Fort Madison's P.A.W. animal shelter having her hands more than full finding forever homes for wayward dogs and cats, she doesn't have the heart to turn away anything, including a piglet that fell from a livestock trailer on July 19 on a Lee County highway.

The 21 lb. baby pig, may have been smarter than the rest of her truckmates, or was maybe just clumsy, but certainly was lucky as now, despite getting a little banged up, escaped a certain path to a mechanized butcher, and will now find a home free of the demise.

And Brown insists upon it.

"Shirley" as she has been affectionately dubbed by P.A.W. volunteers is now in a back yard pen at a residence in Fort Madison under quarantine by Iowa Wildlife.

The pig has to be isolated for a month and then tested for any possible viral or bacterial infections before being moved.

But back to the tumble. A motorist traveling behind a livestock trailer full of the pigs witnessed the little banana-loving porker slip through a gap in the trailer and tumble to the pavement.

Brown said the pig may have suffered a broken snout, but for the most part just suffered some pretty serious road rash and bruising. The motorist, who wasn't identified, took the pig to the Lee County Sheriff's office who in turn called Brown to see if P.A.W. could help.

"I'm so thankful that we have that relationship with

the sheriff's office and the Fort Madison police department that they feel they can call on us in these situations," Brown said. "We work very closely with them and I think we have a very good relationship with them."

The pig was taken to a vet and checked over and vaccinated, tagged and then brought back to the shelter.

"She's a farm pig, not a pot-bellied pig, so we put out that we are looking for a home for her," Brown said.

"We don't want her to end up on somebody's BLT sandwich. So we're looking for a farm sanctuary or a home with a couple chickens, and a goat... and possible a big pig. She's a butcher hog, so she could get to be 500 lbs in a year or so."

Brown said anyone who takes possession of "Shirley", will have to sign an agreement that the pig will never be taken to slaughter.



Courtesy photo

"Shirley" is a pig that fell off a livestock trailer July 19, 2019 and is now being rehabbed in Fort Madison under quarantine until a permanent no-butcher home is found.

The shelter has previously taken in rats, ferrets, turtles, rabbits, guinea pigs and potbelly pig. She said she didn't know she couldn't have the potbelly pigs, but through this process now knows she can't have those on the property.

Ag officials told Brown "Shirley" now cannot be taken to another pig farm and has to be quarantined.

"We can't give her to a pig farm because you can't cross up the animals," she

said. "We have to hold her til the testing is done at the end of August. We hope to have her home chosen before her quarantine is done so when she is released to go – she's gone."

Brown said the shelter frequently gets calls about animals other than dogs and cats and staff takes action to make sure they are healthy and then try to find homes or a proper release vessel for the animals.

"Last year we had oposoms and baby raccoons, but we work with Iowa Wildlife Management where we hold them for a day or two and then they come and pick them up.

Brown said she's has never turned away an animal, but the best course of action for these types of events is to either call the shelter for a resource, and in the event of wildlife, Iowa Wildlife or conservation officials are a good source.

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# Burlington man breaks into city hall, sets small fire

9,409 views, 4,578 engagements - Aug. 28, 2019

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON – A Burlington man is in custody and undergoing treatment at a local hospital after allegedly breaking into the Fort Madison City Hall and setting a small fire in the bathroom.

According to a release from Fort Madison Police Chief Mark Rohloff this morning, at approximately 6:20 a.m. this morning, officers took Anthony C.

Zurmuehlen, 34 of Burlington into custody on initial charges of burglary and arson, after an incident at City Hall.

He was apprehended in the vicinity after neighbors reported hearing breaking glass and witnessing him fleeing the building.

Surveillance cameras observed Zurmuehlen in the building and moving about the public areas for approximately an hour before starting a small fire of paper in a bathroom, resulting in only minor damage and smoke.



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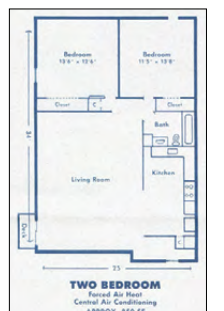
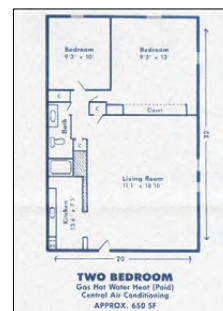
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2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

# Superintendent's contract to expire in 2021

7,640 views, 2,224 engagements - July 15, 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – After three closed sessions over the past five weeks, including an hour-long session Monday night, the Fort Madison school board has taken no action on Superintendent Dr. Erin Slater's contract.

Board President Dr. Tim Wondra said after the meeting their will be no action taken on the contract, but the contract was not extended beyond the expiration of the contract on June 30, 2021.

Wondra said the review was actually an annual scheduled review that got delayed due to personnel changes on the board. He said with the new board members coming on in the special election, the regular evaluation kind of got pushed back.

"It was my fault it got pushed back. We had it planned to do it, but then it got expanded with all this and it went from one to possibly two sessions to these extended sessions," Wondra said.

He said no action on the contract was put on the agenda because no action was required.

"The only reason to have a contract on the agenda would be if we were either going to change it or increase pay and since we're not doing either of those, there wasn't anything to act on," he said.

He said to buy out Slater's contract would have been too heavy a burden on

the district.

"Part of our job is to be financially responsible. For the taxpayers' money if you have someone that has a multi-year contract to get out of, they have no incentive without getting a whole chunk of money," Wondra said.

"To be financially responsible we can't buy out contracts. When you're looking at a \$180,000 contract, to buy that out and to pay somebody else at the same time, that's significant to the district."

The regular review was extended due to allegations that Slater had demanded additional playing time for her son at a meeting with Fort Madison Head Basketball Coach Ryan Wilson at her office.

Wilson went public with the allegations last month, two days after Slater's husband Scott confronted him at a basketball camp in Quincy. The confrontation was caught on tape and was posted locally on social media.

Slater also communicated with the board via email that she was concerned with shared programs, specifically the baseball program, hurting Fort Madison High School athletes who were losing playing time to Holy Trinity Catholic players. Slater scheduled a meeting with Wondra and Fort Madison Athletic Director Jeremy Swink to discuss the issue, but that meeting was canceled and never rescheduled.

Holy Trinity Catholic had five players on a squad of 30 for this summer's Bloodhound baseball team.



Workers with Jones Contracting out of West Point work on the southside lane of Avenue L in August. Concrete has already been poured on the north bound lane. The city took some of the curve out of the stretch of Old Hwy. 61. Data showed the segment was one of the higher rated accident zones on the stretch of roadway.

10,724 views, 1,406 engagements - Aug. 27, 2019

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Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
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Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



**1/4**  
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Star Ball: 6  
All Star Bonus: 2



**1/4**  
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Powerball: 7  
Power Play: 2



**1/4 MID-DAY**  
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2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

# Fairground shelter built to remember Denning

More than 50 donors are listed on the plaque mounted on a gray, brick support above a bouquet of flowers that were part of the commemoration of the Abby Denning Shelter House at the Lee County Fairgrounds Wednesday night. Denning was killed in an ATV accident on June 23, 2018 just outside of Pilot Grove at the age of 13.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

9,328 views, 3,035 engagements - July 10, 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DONNELSON – A cooling breeze blew in from the north under the arching wooden ceilings of the Lee County Fair’s newest addition and through the hair of Tricia Denning, who stood with her hands folded as a prayer was said commemorating the new structure.

Denning stood with her husband Jeff and their family as fair officials dedicated the new shelter house that was built in memory of her daughter Abigail ‘Abby’ Denning. Denning died as a result of an ATV accident near Pilot Grove on June 23, two weeks before the 2018 Lee County Fair.

The pedestal shelter house was built with funds donated from the sale of her brother Caleb’s steer at the 2018 Fair Jr. Auction and then donations that came pouring in from around the area.

“I guess our thought

process was that Abby... she really liked people being around and so we just thought we could put up a building that she could watch the people...”

“Congregate,” said Tricia, finishing the sentence for her husband as he struggled with the emotions of the day.

“We wanted something really nice where people could do this... just hang out and talk,” Jeff said leaning against a counter, while others milled about the shelter.

Tricia said people who knew Abby knew their daughter loved kids and loved being around people and the shelter house allows her memory to be folded into generations of people gathering together with children.

Jeff said the idea was originally to sell a steer and use the proceeds to build something small in Abby’s name. He thought the steer would bring in about \$15,000, but it sold for \$40,000. He said total donations are now close to \$100,000. A memorial was set up and bracelets were sold to help raise money for the structure.

Tricia said she hopes the final plans include some playground equipment on the east side of the shelter, and then possibly a sidewalk to the learning center on the fairgrounds.

Brock Westfall, the county fair president, said the family came to the fair board and asked if they could put up a building in Denning’s memory.

“We just worked closely with the family three or four times and it all just came together. The fair board put in a sidewalk and will put in some more tables and finish the landscape after the fair,” Westfall said.

“It’s a beautiful building... a beautiful design – gonna be maintenance free. It adds to the fairground. We have a lot of good shape buildings, but this will be the focal point of the fairgrounds from now on.”

The shelter sits on a cement slab with treated wooden timbers that arch toward the center of the top where a large fan and lights adorn the timbers. Gray brick pedestals support the massive shelter that sits just south and east of the show barns. Close to 150 people were inside and around the structure that has no walls.

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2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

# Krogmeiers have curds on the whey

8,498 views, 1,539 engagements - Aug. 20, 2019

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG**  
PCC EDITOR

**DONNELSON** – Out of sight doesn't necessarily have to mean out of mind.

Ralph and Colleen Krogmeier of Donnellson have taken their first generation dairy farm and spun off a small, quaint retail outlet for their newest product – cheese.

But the farmstead is literally and figuratively a Hinterland. The term is a European term used to describe land that is off from what is typically visible – usually off from coastal areas.

The Krogmeiers operate a fully functional dairy farm on about 400 acres approximately four miles

west of Wilson Lake on fertile farmland nestled quietly between Fort Madison and Donnellson.

In 2017 the family framed up a building that would house a cheese production center and a retail outlet.

Ralph Krogmeier said the transition came about when milk prices started to sag. And instead of getting out of the dairy business, the family expanded and built a small, fully pasteurized farmstead cheese production facility as part of the group's new venture, Hinterland Dairy.

Fresh cheese curds are produced two or three times a week in the facility and then sold locally on site or at Hy-Vee in Fort Madison, Harvest-

ville Farms, Appleberry Orchard, Sonny's in West Point, and at farmers' markets in Montrose and Fort Madison.

The operation is called a farmstead because the cheese has to be made with milk produced on the farm by cows owned by the farmer.

The Krogmeiers now have two farms where the cows on the original farm, about 110, produce milk that is sold to Prairie Farms. The cheese production facility has about 40 cows of its own that produce milk that is made into cheese.

"These are actually two separate Grade A milking facilities," Krogmeier said. "So far we're selling all the cheese curds we can make. But we'd rather go slow and get it right, than knock ourselves to death."

He said they started July 9 with the first batch of cheese. The building was framed up in 2017 and became fully functional in 2019.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Colleen and Ralph Krogmeier stand in front of the Hinterland Dairy that opened for retail cheese curd sales in July. The Donnellson dairy farmers have taken part of their family farm and turned it into a farmstead cheese processing plant.

The farm currently has six part-time employees and three full timers which include Ralph, Colleen, and their youngest daughter, Shannon.

The Krogmeiers purchased the property in 1985. "The building we milk in actually was an old airplane hanger owned by Leonard Wilson, who also developed Wilson Lake. This was his farm and he had an airstrip that went

cattywampus to where we now milk cows," he said.

"We've added some hoop structures where we keep most of the cows. At night we let them out on pasture weather permitting so they get to go outside."

On Sunday morning, the Krogmeiers had just hosted one of the agri-tours from the American Cruise Lines on Sunday morning.

"We tried to keep it presentable, but it is what it

is. You get a lot of animals around and you're going to have smell and flies," Krogmeier said.

"But the tour group was a great group. We had one gentleman who said he liked that smell because it reminded him of when he was growing up."

Krogmeier said the dairy farm business is in transition and with last year's prices for milk dropping, about 10% of the dairy farmers in the state quit.

In 2009 it hit 12 dollars per hundred weight, which is like 12 cents a pound. He said current prices are in the 17 to 18 cent range and last year was under 14.

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2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

# Murder suspect's attorney tries to suppress statements

8,951 views, 3,751 engagements - Aug. 28, 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A Fort Madison man charged with murder in the death of Keokuk woman earlier this year, wants statements made to police on the night of his arrest stricken as evidence.

Adam Golden McCain, 25, of Fort Madison is charged in the slaying of CaLove Sackman on Feb. 5, 2019 in the parking lot of the River City Mall in Keokuk.

Sackman was 27 at the time of her death.

If convicted, McCain is facing life in prison without the possibility of parole. Lee County Attorney Ross Braden, along with 1st Asst. Jonathan Stensvaag, will be prosecuting the case for the state. Fort Madison public defender Kendra Abfalter and Burlington public defender James Beres have been appointed to represent McCain.

Beres filed a motion on behalf of McCain in June to suppress statements McCain made to law enforcement officers on the night of his arrest. A hearing on that motion is set for Sept. 12 at the South Lee County Courthouse in Keokuk.

McCain pleaded not guilty to the charge in March. According to court documents, McCain's most current address was listed in the 5200 block of River Valley Road in Fort Madison.

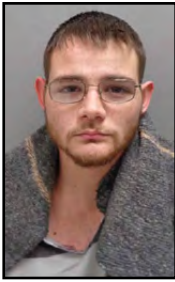
On February 5th, 2019 at approximately 10:27 pm, Keokuk Police Department officers responded to the 300 block of Main Street in the River City Mall parking lot for a female who had been stabbed.

Sackman was discovered at the scene and transported by ambulance to Unity Point Hospital in Keokuk, where she died as a result of multiple stab wounds to her torso.

McCain was later stopped by a Lee County Sheriff's deputy as a possible suspect in a hit-and-run in Keokuk sometime after the stabbing occurred. A LeeComm dispatcher realized from the deputy's stop that McCain was sought in connection with the stabbing, and he was taken into custody and delivered to the Keokuk Police Department.

In Beres' motion, he alleges McCain was Mirandized by investigators before questioning and invoked his right to remain silent, but questioning continued by investigators when incriminating statements were made in response to the interrogation.

Beres also writes in the motion, "Defendant acknowledged, at that later time, he waived those rights. But his waiver of rights was not voluntary."



MCCAIN

# Donnellson day care lead charged with child endangerment

18,149 views, 11,745 engagements - Aug. 22, 2019

BY PCC STAFF

DONNELLSON, Iowa – A supervisor and teacher at a Donnellson day care center was arrested today in connection with the death of a child that occurred in December, according to a release from the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

On December 3, 2018 at approximately 8:48 a.m., the Lee County Emergency Medical Service Paramedics were dispatched and responded to an unresponsive child at the Raisin Em Up Daycare, located at 607 Park Street, Donnellson.

The child was transported to the Fort Madison Community Hospital and later transported to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics where the child was provided advanced medical treatment. On December 11, 2018 the child was withdrawn from life support and was pronounced deceased.

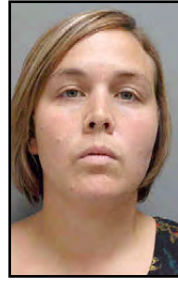
On Thursday, Laura McDowell, the site supervisor and lead teacher of the daycare was charged with the crime of Child Endangerment Causing a Death, a Class B Felony. McDowell was booked into the Lee County Jail pursuant to a warrant. McDowell is being held on a \$25,000 cash bond.

This was a joint investigation by the Donnellson Police Department, the Lee County Attorney's Office, the Iowa Department of Human Services, and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation.

The arrest comes on the heels of 15 complaints that were released by the Iowa Department of Human Services on the facility where the death occurred and another Raisin' Em Up learning center in Donnellson. Those complaints were from unannounced visits to the center in April and June of this year.

The complaints listed were varied, including staff sleeping while children were under their supervision, duplicating medications, unlawful transportation, failure to use curriculum, leaving children on buses unattended, and improper ratios of supervisors to children.

According to the release no other information will be released at this time.



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## 2019 - A Year in Review: July & August

# ACL ups ante with additional FM ports of call

8,149 views, 1,751 engagements - July 18, 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – With American Cruise Lines sealing a deal to dock at Fort Madison on their way up and down the Mississippi River, plans are quickly coming together to welcome the passengers.

A cruising schedule was released Wednesday and city officials, who were expecting to see 10 dockings this year, were surprised to see 14 on the list starting Aug. 6.

What was more surprising was the time of the layovers in town. Seven of the 14 tours will have six hour ports of call, and the other seven will be in town for 8.5 hours.

City Manager David Varley said both the itinerary changes are good for the city, but unexpected.

“Actually, I was expecting about a three to four hour call,” Varley said after Tuesday night’s City Tourism Board meeting.

He said officials with the cruise line have been meeting with Fort Madison’s part-time tourism director, Jean Peiton, to work out the details of the calls.

Peiton said the cruise line has already done its homework.

“They’ve been secret shopping us for a while,” Peiton said. “They have itineraries set up and are making plans, but not all of the details have been worked out yet.”

She said the cruise line has already set

up Trailways buses that will provide one city tour on the six hour stays, but will have two tours on the 8.5 hour layovers.

Varley said the city has already had calls from individuals in town who want to help volunteer when the boats arrive. He’s also had calls from many people inquiring about getting permits to sell items.

“I think we need to be a little careful there. I’m not sure we want to have a gauntlet of vendors awaiting the passengers when they get off,” he told the commission.

Mayor Brad Randolph said news is good news, but he said the city doesn’t have too many chances to make a good first impression.

“We’re going to be bringing 150-200 people into town 14 times. That’s 2,500 people and we have to have a plan,” he said Wednesday afternoon.

Randolph said he was informed today that the trips will include new visitors, so you won’t have the same people visiting on a return trip back up or down the river.

“I was told just today that these will be all new people on each stop. So the people coming to Fort Madison on those boats will essentially be new people each time,” he said.

He said he was surprised at the length of the stops as well as the intention of the cruise line to promote itineraries that keep guests in town.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Warrant was just one national headliner as part of a weekend full of rock music at Riverfest 2019 on the riverfront in Fort Madison. The fourth year of the annual summer festival featured some heavy metal bands to go along with the four-day carnival and festivities.

# Arrest made in Faulkners’ death

6,487 views, 2,066 engagements - July 18, 2019

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A Kahoka man is in Lee County Jail on two counts of vehicular homicide in connection with a June 9 accident that claimed the lives of a Farmington father and son.

Clark County, Mo. sheriff’s deputies arrested Robert LeRoy Boyd, 28, of Kahoka over the weekend on Lee County and Iowa State Patrol warrants and Boyd was transferred to Lee County Jail on Monday where he is being held on a \$100,500 cash only bond.

Boyd is charged with two counts of vehicular homicide – operating while intoxicated, one count of OWI, and one count of failure to maintain control.



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