



Pen City Current

Tuesday, August 6, 2019 | 10 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 173

Council votes 7-0 on next police chief

Former sheriff, police chief to start August 19

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Police Department will see its fourth police chief in as many years after city officials approved the hiring of a former Wisconsin sheriff to lead the department. The Fort Madison City Council approved the recommendation by City Manager David Varley to hire Mark Rohloff of Monroe, Wis. with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

Rohloff is the third police chief in a row that has been hired from outside the department, but he said after being hired, now is the time to tap into



ROHLOFF

the resources of the current department and build relationships.

It's going to be important for me to develop a good relationship with the people that are here," Rohloff said.

"Making sure that these people understand that even though they were not selected for the post, they're still considered very valuable to the city. Their knowledge and background and services are still quite necessary and I hope to be able to capitalize on that."

Varley's decision to pull internal candidates from a final pool of six that were selected after interview panels, when narrowing the field to three, drew some reaction from current department staff and former police Chief Sam Lozano.

“

I think some of the issues were addressed by David prior to getting Mr. Rohloff in here, but also the man has put my mind at ease. I feel good about having you here.”

-Chad Cangas
FM City Councilman

Councilman Chad Cangas said he was “extremely skeptical” of the city going outside the department

See CHIEF, page 5

Volunteers help prepare for Tuesday's inaugural cruise

American Cruise's first ship will arrive Tuesday morning to a spruced up park, downtown

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR



COLLIER

FORT MADISON – About 50 community-minded volunteers put in some sweat equity Monday morning to help pretty up the riverfront and downtown areas in anticipation of American Cruise Lines' inaugural landing Tuesday morning.

Savanna Collier, the Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce coordinator, said she was extremely pleased with the work that was accomplished in just three hours from 9 a.m. to noon.

As a treat, American Cruise Lines, who found out about the morning clean-up session, chipped in for a BBQ lunch for the volunteers in Central

Park. “We were just thrilled that they wanted to show their appreciation for the work of the volunteers,” Collier said.

She said about 50 people showed up to pick up trash, scrape, and paint city poles and fire hydrants, apply weed killer, pull weeds, mow, clean the Riverfront Pavilion, and remove litter from the shores of the Mississippi in Riverview Park near the Pier.

The first cruise ship is expected to dock on the city's pier on the western side of the park at 8 a.m. Tuesday for a six-hour stay.

Collier said about 100 passengers have signed up

for one of two excursions.

“One is a historical excursion and the other will be an agri-tour and, right now, they're pretty evenly split at 49 and 50,” she said.

“The rest of the people, as of right now, will do the shuttle system and visit downtown. We've contracted with Southeast Iowa Regional Planning to use SEIBUS for that and it will do a loop from the Fort to the pavillion, and to the museum and the depot, and will have two stops along Avenue G.”

The cruise line has 14 stops planned in Fort Madison yet this year and will increase that to at least 30 per year going forward.

Volunteers spread out throughout Riverfront park and the downtown



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

A volunteer worker scrapes the paint from a hydrant in Riverview Park Monday afternoon as a camera man from WGEM films the action. The work was done as part of a beautification effort in front of the inaugural American Cruise line arrivals on Tuesday.

district throughout the morning. Collier said most of the targeted items the Chamber had listed out were accomplished. But she said she hopes it's a spark for building and

business owners who saw the volunteer work being done.

“I definitely think it went well ...very well. I'm extremely pleased with everyone's hard work and

this was not easy work, but it absolutely needed to be done,” she said.

“My hope is that we can get everyone on board to

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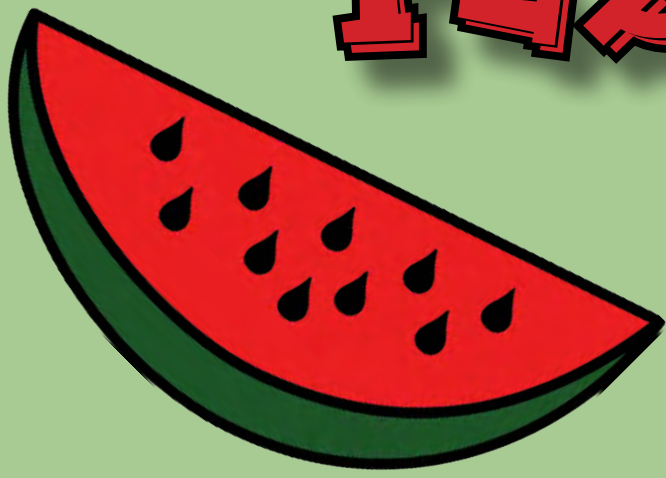
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75th Annual Montrose

WATERMELON FESTIVAL



THURSDAY, AUGUST 15TH

\$15 Armband Unlimited Rides _____ 5-10 pm
 BINGO TENT - Montrose Ball Association _____ 5-10 p.m.
FOOD STAND OPEN FFA Alumni Butterfly Pork Chop Sandwich..... 5 p.m.
 Princess Contest _____ 6 p.m.
 Watermelon Eating Contest _____ 6:30 p.m.
FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT _____ 7-9 p.m.
 "Hill Siders"

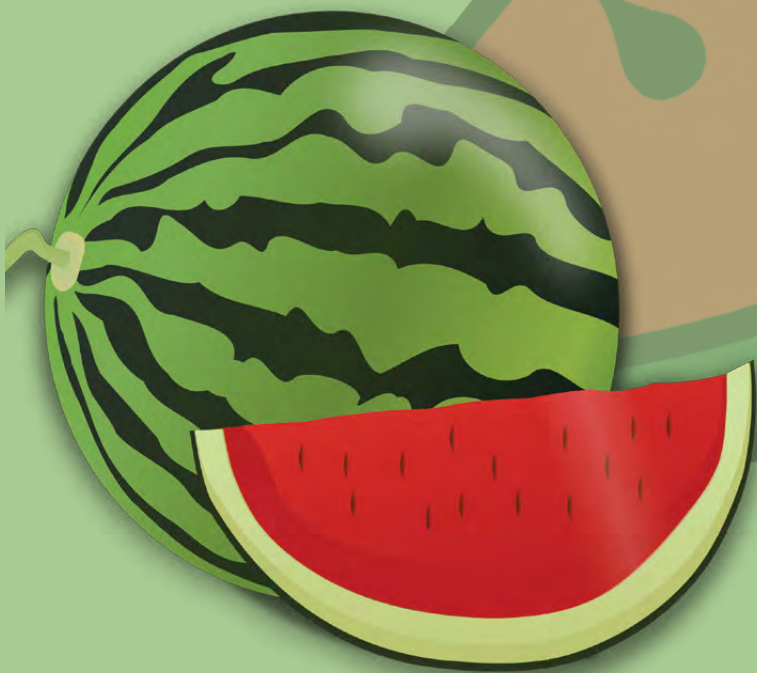
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH

FOOD STAND OPENS - Firefighters Fish Fry 5 p.m.
 BINGO TENT - Montrose Ball Association 5-10p.m.
 Music by "St. Barnabas Choir" 6 p.m.
 Volunteer Award - Mainstage..... 7 p.m.
FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT "Dustin Lee" 7 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH

Montrose Ball Association Pancake Breakfast 7-10 a.m.
 Watermelon 5K Crawl Sponsored by Central Lee Cheerleaders 8 am.
 Car Show Registration..... 9-11 a.m.
 Car Show and Judging..... 11 a.m - 3 p.m.
Festival PARADE..... 12 p.m.
FOOD STAND OPENS 1 p.m.
 Performance by "Central Lee Impulse" 1 p.m.
 Hawkeye Pedal Pulls *Ages 4 to 11* 2 p.m. (1:30 p.m reg.)
 McNamara Band..... 2 p.m.
 Car Show Winners/ Parade Winners..... 3 p.m.
 Deb Frank Gospel 3-4 p.m.
 FFA ALUMNI RIBEYE SANDWICH - IVOR FOWLER CENTER..... 4 p.m.
 Watermelon Eating Contest..... 4:30 p.m.
 BINGO TENT - Montrose Ball Association..... 5-10 p.m.
 Live on Stage "Kathy Dye" 5-7 p.m.
 Heritage Award - Main Stage 7 p.m.
 Watermelon Eating Contest..... 7:30 p.m.
FEATURED ENTERTAINMENT "Hissem Family Campfire" 8-10 p.m.

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VENDOR/ FLEA MARKET

Thursday 5 - 10 p.m.
 Friday 5 - 10 p.m.
 Saturday 12 - 10 p.m.

CAR SHOW

Saturday August 17th
 9 a.m - 3 p.m. (9 - 11 a.m. REG.)
 Show and Judging 11 a.m - 3 p.m.
 Car Show Winner Announced on
 Main Stage 3 p.m.

BINGO

Thursday 5 - 10 p.m.
 Friday 5 - 10 p.m.
 Saturday 5 - 10 p.m.

Obituaries/From the Front

OBITUARIES

CELIA MAE COURTOIS

Celia Mae Courtois, 88, of Quincy, IL died Friday, August 2, 2019 at her home. She was born May 21, 1931 in Hancock County, IL the daughter of Carl and Clara Shaffer Rupp. On July 10, 1947 she was united in marriage to Tony Courtois in Elvaston, IL. He preceded her in death on July 18, 2001.

Celia had been employed by North Adams Nursing Home in Mendon, IL for ten years. She was a member of the Episcopal Church in Warsaw, IL.

Celia enjoyed spending time with her family and researching genealogy.

She is survived by four sons, Tony Courtois of Quincy, IL, Terry Courtois (Dance) of New Berlin, WI, Gailand Courtois of Quincy, IL and Gregory Courtois of Quincy, IL two grandchildren, great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by her parents, one son, Loren Courtois and four sisters, Jennie Coffman, Clara Ruffcorn, Dorothy Casey and Sarah Perry.

A private graveside service will in the Oakland Cemetery in Warsaw, IL.

There will be no visitation.

Memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

The Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Stage set for grand welcome for first inaugural cruise arrival

CLEAN-UP - Continued from Page 1

maintain it. My fear is that it won't stick and we'll have to do it again. Hopefully people see we were out there working really hard and it will be that spark to keep things going."

Inaugural cruise

Collier said the city is planning a reception for the initial cruise with Mayor Brad Randolph on hand along with the Chamber Ambassador Club, Old Fort staff in period garb, and a cannon firing. In addition, the middle school band will be on hand as will Mexican Fiesta dancers to provide some music and local culture.

A ribbon-cutting is also planned for cruise line staff. Collier said the community is welcome to come down to give the first cruise a strong Fort Madison welcome at about 9 a.m.

Going forward, Collier and Fort Madison Tourism Director Jean Peiton are working up a plan to schedule a welcoming party comprised of different groups, volunteers, and organizations to greet passengers and answer any questions they may have as they disembark.

OBITUARIES

CLINTON ANDREW TEBBS

Clinton Andrew Tebbs, 32, of Burleson, TX, passed away suddenly on Saturday, July 27, 2019 in Lewisville, TX. He was born on December 1, 1986, in Burlington, IA. He graduated from Burleson High School in 2005. He enlisted and proudly served in the United States Navy from 2007-2014, attaining the rank of Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class. Upon his Honorable Discharge from the Navy, Clinton enrolled in The University of Iowa College of Engineering, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in May 2019. He had just returned home to Texas to begin his new career when God chose to call him home.



Clinton was a dedicated Crossfit athlete and a fanatical, lifelong fan of his beloved Iowa Hawkeyes. Among his many passions were competitive sports of all kinds, classic rock music and movies of all genres. His biggest passion, however, was LIFE, and he lived it to its fullest.

Clinton is survived by his mother, Candi Hutson Tebbs of Burleson, TX; his father, Brendan (Denise) Tebbs of Aurora, IL; his sister, Corinne (James) Owen of Johnson City, TN; his step-sister, Kendyl Bechen of Iowa City, IA; his maternal grandparents Dennis Hutson of Niota, IL and Eva Hills of Ft. Worth, TX; his paternal grandmother Carol (Robert) Kelly of Cape Coral, FL; his great-grandmother, Ruth Hutson of Niota, IL; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Michael J. Tebbs of Ft. Madison, IA.

A memorial service was held on Thursday, August 1, 2019, at Pathway Church in Burleson, TX. In lieu of flowers, the family would ask that you consider making a donation to the University of Iowa Veterans' Association in Clinton's memory.

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Pen City Current
Founded in 2016



P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

Member LION Publishers
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Pen City Current and www.pencitycurrent.com are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Sunday through Friday mornings.

Lee County News/Lottery Numbers

Historian tells of Keokuk's role in Civil War

Eckers tells of Keokuk's and Iowa's significance as a military strategic point on Mississippi

BY COLIN MAGNUSON
RADIO KEOKUK NEWS DIRECTOR

KEOKUK – As part of their regular educational programming, the Keokuk Public Library hosted Minnesota native and American History author Michael Eckers to discuss the role Keokuk played in the Civil War.



ECKERS

“The Civil War was not about railroads, it was about rivers.”

That was the message from Owatonna, Minnesota native Michael Eckers to more than 30 Keokuk residents that visited the Keokuk Public Library Tuesday night to learn about the impact this area had on the Civil War more than 150 years ago.

Eckers has become a renowned author of American History as he's currently finishing up his eighth book with three of his books pertaining not only to the Civil War but the role Midwesterners played in that conflict. After serving in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, Eckers became a postmaster in the U.S. Postal Service for several decades before indulging himself in his love for American history.

Tuesday's discussion centered on the Civil War and specifically the role Keokuk, the city, as well as its residents took part in. Michael Eckers explained that Iowa had a very significant role that it played in the western theater of the war, which Eckler described as “anywhere west of North Carolina”.

Rivers played such a pivotal role in the Civil War because they allowed one-way traffic from North to South at almost no cost. Iowa is home to a vast number of rivers as was displayed by the very first slide that Eckers showed which was a map of Iowa with all of its rivers and tributaries.

As such, Keokuk was a huge hub for the Union during the war due to the fact that it is the southernmost point of the state and it also sits along North America's premier waterway; the Mississippi River. Eckers explained that more than 80,000 soldiers from throughout Iowa were staged at some point in Keokuk as they were shipped off to the various western fronts of the war which represent-



Photo by Colin Magnuson/RadioKeokuk

Historian Michael Eckers brought several pieces of equipment that Civil War Soldiers would have worn during the era in which Samuel Curtis served as a Brigadier General.

ed a vast majority of the total number of soldiers the state supplied.

Eckers broke his explanation of Keokuk figures and landmarks down into various slides to which he highlighted for the role they played in the war.

Estes House

“The Estes House was commandeered by the U.S. Government in 1862, shortly after the Civil War began, when fighting began out west. At about the

See HISTORIAN, page 10



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Lucky for Life®	Mon & Thu	8:30 pm	9:38 pm
Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America SM	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



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8/4 EVENING
2 8 2



8/4 MID-DAY
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From the Front/Weather

New chief brings 40 years of police service

CHIEF - Continued from Page 1

again.

“I think some of the issues were addressed by David prior to getting Mr. Rohloff in here, but also the man has put my mind at ease,” Councilman Chad Cangas said.

“I feel good about having you here.”

Mayor Brad Randolph said Rohloff’s credentials speak for themselves and commended Varley on the search process and handling of the interim.

“We appreciate him considering our community and making it a part of his own,” Randolph said. “And, David, I think you did a great job in the process and bringing this full circle, as well as handling the interim situation. I think that’s worked out very well.”

Councilman Chris Greenwald said he would like to see this decision going forward being left in the hands of the City Manager and not need coun-

cil approval. Current city code indicates the City Manager can make the appointment, subject to City Council approval.

Rohloff has 40 years experience in law enforcement including a seven-year stint at Brodhead Police Department, 13 months of which he served as interim police chief; five years with the Janesville Police Dept. as a patrolman; 21 years with the Monroe Police Department as a lieutenant before receiving a Governor’s appointment to fill a vacancy in the Green County Sheriff’s Office, all in Wisconsin.

He served in that capacity overseeing a staff of 70 until his term expired on Jan. 1 of this year.

He did his law enforcement academy training at Blackhawk College in Janesville, Wisconsin and the attended the Northwestern School of Police Staff & Command in 2008. He’s also served with the United States Air Force and the Wisconsin National Guard.


He said his policing is all about teamwork.

“Policing is all team-based and I can’t accomplish the job alone,” he said.


“You need everyone from the newest person hired all the way to senior administration to make this thing work. It’s a profession and a high-honored tradition and you need to make sure we’re all on the same page as to what we want to accomplish. It isn’t about us, it’s about the job we’re doing.”

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST


TUE 06 Aug

 Light Rain
High – 81.1° F | Low – 65.2° F


WED 07 Aug

 Clear Skies
High – 82.2° F | Low – 69.2° F


THU 08 Aug

 Light Rain
High – 74.0° F | Low – 61.1° F

FRI 09 Aug

 Partly Cloudy
High – 74.2° F | Low – 60.5° F

SAT 10 Aug

 Partly Cloudy
High – 77.3° F | Low – 63.4° F

[OpenWeatherMap](#)

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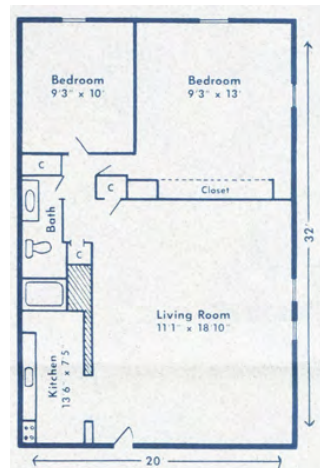
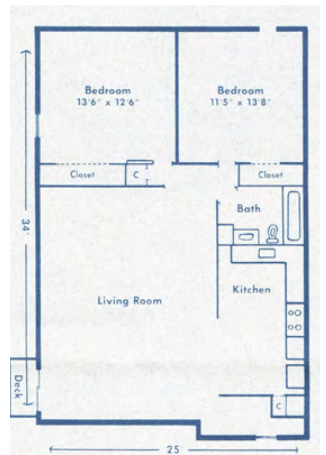


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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH

SHUCKFEST – When the Corn arrives – approx. 5p.m.
 Sponsored by Merschman Seeds & Lee County Bank
 Located at Merschman Seeds, Inc.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH

Carnival 5-10p.m.
 Arts & Crafts in the Park 5-10p.m.
 Free Sweet Corn Served 5-10p.m.
 BBQ Pork Loin Dinners Served 5-10p.m.

- Carry outs available
- Pork BBQed by the Lee County Pork Producers
- Serving pork until 10 or until we run out

Free Entertainment on the Stage

Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank

- Princess & Queen candidates
- Interviews & Coronations 6-7p.m.
- Holy Trinity Dance Team performance following

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9TH

Carnival 5-10p.m.
 Arts & Crafts in the Park 5-10p.m.
 Free Sweet Corn Served 5-10p.m.
 BBQ Chicken Dinners Served 5-10p.m.

- Carry outs available
- Serving chicken until 10 or until we run out

Free Entertainment on the Stage

Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank

- 101.7 "The Bull" Sweet Corn Eating Contest, Open to All Ages 5-5:30p.m.
- Raeanne's School of Dance 5:30-6p.m.
- Paulette's Dance Studio 6-6:30p.m.

STAGE PERFORMANCE – Free Entertainment

Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank

- Double Play 7-10p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH

5K & 10K Run

Sponsored by FMCH

- Registration (Entry Fee) 6:45-7:30a.m.
- Run Begins in Front of the Main Stage 8-9a.m.
- Awards Ceremony 9:15a.m.

Horseshoe Doubles Tournament – Ages 16 & Over

Cash Prizes Awarded. Northeast Side of the Square

- Registration 9a.m.
- Tournament 10a.m.

Arts & Crafts in the Park 11a.m.-10p.m.

Free Sweet Corn Served 11a.m.-10p.m.

BBQ Chicken Dinners Served 11a.m.-10p.m.

- Carry outs available
- Serving chicken until 10 or until we run out

Pee Wee Drags in Front of the Stage – Ages 3-6

No Entry Fee. Trophies to 1st-3rd Places
 Candy & Ribbons to All Participants

- Registration 10:30a.m.-11a.m.
- Races 11a.m.-1p.m.

Carnival Noon to Midnight

Junior Water Fights – Ages 7-12

No Entry Fee. In Front of the Stage. Ride Tickets to All Winners

- Registration 12:30p.m.-1p.m.
- Water Fights 1p.m.-2:30p.m.

Bath Tub Races – Must Be 18 to Enter

\$30 Entry Fee. Teams of 3. In Front of the Stage

- Registration 2p.m.-2:30p.m.
- Races Begin at 2:30p.m.

STAGE PERFORMANCE – Free Entertainment

Stage Sponsored by Pilot Grove Savings Bank

- Andy & The Decades 7p.m.-10p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11TH

Free Sweet Corn Served 11a.m.-?

BBQ Chicken Dinners Served 11a.m.-?

- Carry outs available
- Serving chicken until we run out

Carnival 11:30a.m.-6p.m.

Arts & Crafts in the Park Noon-7p.m.

Sweet Corn Festival Parade Noon

Mini Garden Tractor Pull

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- Weigh In 1-2p.m.
- Tractor Pull Begins at 2p.m.

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Lee County News

A piece of USS Keokuk sits in Charleston

HISTORIAN - Continued from Page 4

same time as Fort Donnellson and Henry. This is when the western casualties began to overwhelm the Jefferson and St. Louis barracks and they began to send wounded soldiers north.”

The Estes House was located at the corners of what is now South 5th and Main Street in Keokuk and was expanded into a hospital with 16 wards and housed as many as 1,600 wounded soldiers.

Battle of Athens

“The only battle that took place within any reasonable distance of Iowa or Keokuk was the Battle of Athens. The battle actually took place in Missouri just across the Des Moines River but artillery shells landed in Lee County so it is considered part of the battle site.”

The battle of Athens itself was fought over a shipment of Springfield Rifles that were bound for Keokuk to be distributed to Union troops being sent to Davenport. The Confederates in Missouri intercepted intelligence pertaining to the rifles and fought to commandeer the bounty to distribute among Confederate sympathizers in Missouri. Three Union troops were killed in action while another eighteen were deemed missing in action.

During this part of the presentation, Eckers spoke about the Breon Brothers of Keokuk, who were members of the famed 36th Iowa Infantry Company H known as the “Greybeards,” as members of this unit were not allowed to enlist unless they were 40 years of age to 60. Hence, the moniker Greybeards. The two Breon brothers were both captured by the South and were shipped to Tyler Prisoner of War Camp in Texas where they died in Confederate custody about four weeks apart.

Samuel Curtis

“He actually had a very short military history as he resigned his commission two years after graduating from West Point in 1831.....Eventually he was appointed Colonel of the 2nd Iowa and was promoted to Brigadier General in 1861”

Samuel Curtis had become mayor of Keokuk in 1856 before being reappointed shortly after the Civil War began in 1861.

General Samuel Curtis was tasked with “unionizing” locals and suppressing uprisings in Missouri. Eckers went on to explain that Curtis became very distraught with the fighting and the death that occurred by the summer of 1862 many of the West Point graduate commanders became distressed by the amount of their soldiers they had watched die.

Eckers displayed a poem that Curtis wrote that year after the Battle of Pea Ridge in which he laments the plight of so many men dying in vain.

“The scene is silent and sad. The vulture and the wolf now have the dominion, and the dead friends and foes sleep in the same lonely graves.”

Ezekiel Sampson

“Not exactly a household name but Company F of the 5th Iowa was raised right here in Keokuk and he was the one that enlisted that unit.”

Sampson was not a native of Keokuk but he was tasked with raising the highly decorated 5th Iowa and he enlisted troops in Keokuk. Sampson was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel after enlisting himself as a private and eventually became a member of the Iowa Senate, a judge, and then of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Annie Turner Wittenmeyer

“Wittenmeyer is the first one ever named in an Iowa legislative document, any Iowa legislative document. She was appointed as a sanitary agent in the Iowa Sanitary Commission.”

The Iowa Sanitary Commission was tasked with keeping soldiers safe not from enemy fire or artil-



Michael Eckers has completed seven books on American History and three of them pertain to the Civil War. Eckers had copies of each of his published works available for sale during his presentation at the Keokuk Public Library Tuesday.

lery, but with saving them from the number one killer of the Civil War; diarrhea and related illnesses. Medicine was in its infancy, according to Eckers, and the Sanitary Commission taught soldiers to drink boiled water and keep from being infected by common diseases that abounded during the Civil War.

Annie Turner Wittenmeyer was also instrumental in the U.S. Christian Commission, which worked with soldiers to make sure they recovered from suffering the horrors of war. The Commission sent out blankets, shoes, and sanitary items to Union troops.

USS Keokuk

“The USS Keokuk was launched in 1862 and arrived at the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina in 1863 where it was the only Union vessel that was sunk by the city’s artillery batteries.”

Eckers explained that while the ship itself has been lost to the annals of time after being sunk, one piece of the ship has survived.

Confederate troops boated out to the ship in low tide in the port of Charleston and removed one of the Columbia Artillery guns. The gun was then added to the barracks’ artillery installation. As a result the turret gun from the USS Keokuk still remains in Charleston as a memento to the city’s Civil War history.

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