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INSIDE:

Water levels are low, but catfishing is still good.

See page 5

Tuesday, Sept. 10 2019 | 8 pages | Volume 3 • Issue 191

Suspected thief leads LEOs on rural hunt

Deputies comb fields, timber looking for DM theft suspect

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

LEE COUNTY – Lee County Sheriff's deputies are looking for a man who led officers on a chase and then fled on foot

into the woods near Ambrosia Lane just after 9 a.m. this morning.

Sheriff Stacy Weber said this morning, the only details of the suspect are a white male with a "salt and pepper" beard.

Weber said the man stole an F250 construction type truck in Des Moines and was spotted in Lee County when the chase started.

"We tried to initiate a stop and a chase ensued. I got in at the end when he came right at me on a gravel road going 75-90



mph. I spun around and chased him to a construction area where some people had bought some property and were going to build a home," Weber said.

"He drove past me and then headed into a field

and into a wooded area where he drove through some trees and then into a creek bed, where he hit a tree and then bailed out. After that it was anybody's guess

where he was."

Weber said both dogs were in Sioux City Monday getting certified and couldn't be used in the chase. Montrose police tried to deploy stop sticks during the chase, but the suspect was able to avoid them.

Deputies combed the timber and field lines in the area, hoping to flush the suspect out, and several other volunteer and

See CHASE, page 8

Harmony 3rd cruise line ship to visit FM's shores



Fort Madison Mayor Brad Randolph cuts the ribbon with American Cruise Line officials Sunday morning with the arrival of the newest ship in the fleet, the American Harmony

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - It docked a bit early, and the anticipation of seeing passengers walk out the nose of the ship was dashed with low water levels, but one of American Cruise Lines' newest ships landed at Fort Madison Sunday morning to about 150 greeters.

Mayor Brad Randolph was on hand again to greet passengers coming off the boat as were several city councilman including Matt Mohrfeld, Bob Morawitz, and City Manager David Varley.

Randolph and Cruise officials celebrated a second ribbon cutting to honor the American Harmony's maiden voyage up and down the Mississippi River.

"I think you'll find that you'll have a really enjoyable time in our fair community. We have a lot to offer and please take advantage of that," Randolph told the visitors. "Please ask questions. We're here to answer any questions you may have in terms of information and we

See **HARMONY**, page 8

Central Lee voters to decide \$12.9M bond today

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG

DONNELLSON – Voters will go the polls tomorrow to decide the fate of a \$12.9 million bond referendum that will fund several large scale upgrades on the Central Lee School District campus southeast of Donnell-

If approved, the bond would provide the district with funds to incorporate a new office at the main entrance of Central Lee High School that would improve se-



CROZIER

curity and allow staff to better monitor visitors entering and exiting the building.

This would add to measures already taken to enhance safety through the addition of secured front doors and a school resource officer. The district and Lee County Sheriff's Department have an agreement that puts a deputy on school

grounds during school days. Superintendent Andy Crozier said he would like to

see that agreement continue even if the bond is passed Tuesday.

The funds would also be used for new classrooms for band and vocal programs, along with new preschool classrooms that would free up two additional classrooms to meet space needs at the elementary level. There would also be a new competition and performance gym for elementary, middle, and high school events and ADA-accessible locker rooms. Additional plans call for an expanded commons area for better

See **VOTE**, page 8

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Obituaries/Lee County News

OBITUARIES

MURIL DEE PHILLIPS

Muril Dee Phillips, 78, of Keokuk died Wednesday, September 3, 2019.

He was born on August 20, 1941 in Carthage, IL the son of Glen and Faye Howell Phillips. On November 20, 1962 he was united in marriage to Darnetta Wilson in

Scottsdale, AZ. She preceded him in death on March 23, 2017.



Muril joined the Navy in 1958 where he earned his high school diploma as well as an Associate Degree. He proudly served in Vietnam as a member of HAL-3 (Seawolf) from 1969-1970. Muril retired as a Senior Chief Petty Officer in 1978.

After retiring from the Navy, he worked as a roofing consultant in the Los Angeles area. The family moved back to Keokuk after a forty-five minute drive took three and a half hours in 1986.

Muril had been employed by Hubinger and retired from Roquette in 2003. He was a member of the Grain Mill Union.

He liked to play computer hide and seek games, woodworking, horse racing and gambling. Depending on which duty station he was stationed at, he also enjoyed golfing, scuba diving, boating and fishing, (he was always after that one salmon), bowling, shooting pool, dune bugging, dirt bike and motorcycle riding.

Muril loved spending time with his rather large, extended family, especially his two uncles, Francis (Frank) and Henry (Hank) Howell. He will be greatly missed by those that loved him.

He is survived by his loyal four legged companion, Bear, one daughter, Tammy Phillips of Keokuk, one sister, Janet Gipe (Wilber "Sam") Hall, two brothers, Harvey "Skip" (Bette Brooks) Gipe, Jr., and Jerry (J.C.) Gipe, brother-in-law, Gordon Wilson, one aunt, Darlene Fuller, one aunt-in-law, Gwen Howell and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

He is also preceded in death by his parents, Harvey and Faye Gipe, his father Glen Phillips, two brothers, Tommy and Steve Gipe and several aunts, and uncles.

Visitation will be held after 1 p.m., Monday, September 9 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with the family meeting with friends from 5 -7 p.m.

A graveside service with military rites will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 10 at the Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Lee County Hospice. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

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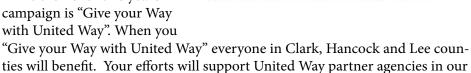
United Way sets 2019 fall campaign at \$200K

Theme of this year's campaign is "Give your Way with United Way

BY PCC STAFF

LEE COUNTY – During the week of September 9, 2019, the United Way of the Great River Region will kick off the Fall 2019 campaign with a goal of raising \$200,000 to fund needs in our tri-county area.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Give your Way with United Way". When you



United

tri-county area in three priorities: • Education: helping children and youth achieve their potential through educa-

- Health: improving people's health and access to services
- Income: helping families become financially stable and independent (learn more about our mission and partnering agencies at https://youtu.be/ FYKnXWhBjaE)

"The 2019 UWGRR Campaign goal is \$200,000. We can give you 200 reasons for supporting your United Way," says Board President, Amy Graham.

"We know that with the incredible support of our three counties, we will not only reach but exceed this goal! This will allow us to continue to help the hungry, the homeless, the powerless. We need you to join the fight because your passion, expertise and resources will help the fight become a win. A win that's not just a short-term contribution, but a long-term solution. Give your way with United Way, and join us in our mission to fight for the health, education, financial stability and basic needs of every person in Clark, Hancock and Lee Counties!"

Some of the highlights this year include:

- Grant funding to 27 funded partnering agencies in the tri-county area
- Literacy Projects in 4 elementary schools use volunteers to help students reading below grade level
- Volunteers enrolled in the 55+ Initiative/Retired Senior Volunteer Program provided services to 21 community organizations
- Volunteer Tax Assistance Program in partnership with the IRS helped 212 taxpayers
- Back to School Festival with Trinity United Methodist Church distributed over 500 backpacks filled with school supplies

Join us and "Give your Way with United Way". For more information on how to participate call 319-524-4504 or email director@unitedwaygrr.org.



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Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager (319).371.4125 sales@pencitycurrent.com

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

DeETTA B. "DEE" HERDRICH

DeEtta B. "Dee" Herdrich, 68, of Fort Madison, Iowa, passed away at 5:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at her home in Fort Madison.

She was born on December 2, 1950, in Grinnell, Iowa, the daughter of Charles F. and Myrtle (Bell) Orcutt. On July 26, 2002, she married Jim Her-

drich in Louisville, Texas.



HERDRICH

She is survived by her husband: Jim; one daughter: Tina M. (Dave) Whiteaker; one son: Michael W. (Jamie) Lindsey; one step-daughter: Shelda Parodas; one step-son: Keven M. (Maricella) Herdrich; one brother: Lewie (Carol) Orcutt; two sisters: Elaine Orcutt and Ellen (Bill) Pithan; fourteen grandchildren; twelve great grandchildren and nine nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; father and mother-in-law: Shorty and Wanda Herdrich; brother and sister-in-law: Tommy and Fern Orcutt; three nephews and one great niece.

Dee was a member of Saint Peter's United Church of Christ in Franklin. Friends may call after 12:00 noon, Friday, September 20, 2019, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson, Iowa, where the family will receive friends from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A Memorial Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, September 21, 2019, at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Franklin, Iowa with Pastor Michael Bennett officiating.

Burial will be at St. Peter's Cemetery rural Franklin, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory for St. Peter's Church.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting with arrangements. Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

The Current runs obituaries at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes.

807 AVENUE H • FT. MADISON 319-372-2581 Wednesday "All You Can Eat" CHICKEN DINNERS Served Every Wednesday 5:00-8:00pm Kids under 5 eat.....FREE Carryout 4 pcs. chicken \$8.50 **Kids** (ages 5-12) 2 pcs. chicken, 1 side & a roll......\$5.50 Chicken also available by the piece (carryout only) FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS Served Every Friday Night 5:00-8:00pm Dinner includes 2 sides and a roll 9 oz. Boneless Catfish Fillet **APPETIZERS** Columbus Club Combo 8 oz. Steak (Cauliflower, Mushrooms & **Pork Chop** Onion Rings) **Marinated Chicken Breast Brew House Combo Chicken Strips** (Cream Cheese Jalapeno Poppers, Chicken Strips, Mushrooms, **Jumbo Shrimp** Shrimp, Mozzarella Sticks & **Tenderloins** Onion Rings) Burgers **Reuben Bites Macaroni & Cheese Bites**

OBITUARIES

TRACY JO HYMES

Tracy Jo Hymes, 58, of Keokuk, IA died Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at the Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA.

She was born on November 16, 1960 in Keokuk, IA, the daughter of Wayland T. and Karen Thompson Lander.

HYMES

Tracy married Russell L. Hymes in 1978 in Hamilton, IL. She had been employed at Silgan Container in Ft. Madison, IA for

fifteen years.

She was of the Christian faith.

Tracy was very athletic and competitive and enjoyed playing softball in her younger years on the Women's Superstar Team. Spending time outdoors in the sun was her favorite pastime and she loved being in

the water and participating in water sports. She was an avid fan of the Hawkeyes, the New England Patriots and the Chicago Cubs. Tracy also enjoyed listening to the great music of the '70s, playing billiards and riding her motorcycle. She was a lover of animals and her cats and dogs had a special place in her heart. Tracy's greatest joy in life was spending time with her daughter.

She is survived by her daughter, Jamey Lynn Hymes of Keokuk, IA, one sister, Terri Lander (Robert Williams) of Keokuk, nieces and nephews, Kara, Chad, Michael and Andrea Lander, great-nieces and nephews, Harley Jo Fifer, Olivia Tague and Tristin Tague and a dear friend, Diane Gassaway.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Master Sergeant Julie Lander and her long-time friend, Debbie Schmitz.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with Calvin Stevens officiating.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 12 noon -1 p.m., Wednesday at the funeral home with family meeting with friends at that time.

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

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Local News/Current-Lee

Elks Club hands out scholarships

FORT MADISON – The Fort Madison Elk's Club recently awarded annual scholarships to seniors Faith Diephuis and LilliAnna Scott.

Diephuis was awarded a \$1500 vocational scholarship awarded by the Southeastern District of the Elks. She is enrolled in a 2-year physical therapy program at Kirkwood Community College. She is shown here with Scott Meller, Exalted Ruler with the Fort Madison Elks Lodge #374 during a celebration in her honor at a recent Elks Friday Fish 'n More dinners.



Ms Scott was awarded a \$500 scholarship as part of the Elks Most Valuable Student scholarship opportunity. She is enrolled in a 4-year program at the University





CURRENT-LEE

The following is a list of current events and happenings in Fort Madison and north Lee County as submitted to the Pen City Current.

Chamber Ladies Golf Outing

The Fort Madison Chamber of Commerce will be holding it's 8th annual Ladies Golf Outing on Sept. 13. For more information or to register your team email the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com

Loebsack rep at City Hall

U.S. Rep. Dave Loebsack will have district representative Jared Herschberger at the Fort Madison City Hall from 10 a.m. to noon on Monday, Sept. 9. Residents with concerns, or those having trouble with a government agency are encouraged to attend.

Riverview Games

The Fort Madison Riverview Games are back! On Sept. 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Riverview Park. Fort Madison service clubs, OCI Iowa Fertilizer, Hy-Vee, the Fort Madison YMCA, Kempker's True Value Rental and the Chamber are sponsoring this year's event. Volunteers are still need. Contact the chamber at chamber@fortmadison.com for details or to volunteer.

Pop Can Drive

The Fort Madison Middle School bands will be hosting their annual Pop Can Drive on Sept. 14th at FMMS from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Drop off location is no north side of the school. All redeemable cans and plastic bottles will be accepted. No glass or recyclables. Proceeds help defray costs of the band department. Contact Lisa Knipe at 319-372-4687 with questions.

HTC Science Club Chicken Dinner

The Holy Trinity Catholic Science Club will be hosting a fundraiser at the Charleston Board of Trade on Sept. 15 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children for an all-you-caneat chicken buffet. Tickets are available from any science club member or by calling the school office at (319) 372-2486.

Bloodhound Booster Events

The Fort Madison Bloodhound Booster Club is hosting a BINGO night on Sept. 21, at the LULAC in Fort Madison. Also the Booster Club is having organizations in the area sponsor the Bark and Bite at home football games this year. Wilson BBQ is sponsoring this Friday with pulled pork sandwiches and baked beans.

Future Ready Iowa Summit

Sponsored by the Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Business Council, Iowa Association of Business and Industry and Cryotech, the summit will be held at Cryotech in Fort Madison Sept. 10 at 7

a.m. Click here to register: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-ready-iowa-employer-sum-mit-fort-madison-tickets-69231620641

Bridges out of Poverty Training

A community training session sponsored by Young House Family Services will be held Wed. Sept. 11 at The Landing in Montrose beginning with checkin at 4:30 p.m. Training runs from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is free. To register email Shayla Blackburn at sblackburn@younghouse.org or by phone at 319-371-7465.

Girl Scouts Discovery Night

All girls are invited to join in on a free Discovery night on Sept. 18 at the Fort Madison Public Library from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For more information visit the website at www.girlscoutstoday.org or call 800-798-0833.

North Lee County Relay for Life

The annual Relay for Life takes place this year on September 27th from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and will feature Maddie Poppe in Concert. This year's theme is "idols of strength'.

Weekly Book Sale

Friends of the Fort Madison Public Library is holding a weekly book sales from 11 a.m to 1 p.m. on Thursday's at the Public Library.

Volunteer Fair

The United Way will be holding a RSVP volunteer fair on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fort Madison Public Library's Sheaffer Memorial Meeting Room Refreshments will be provided and attendees will have a chance to explore volunteer opportunities in the area.

Small Grand Things Grand Opening

The new venue south of West Point is having a Grand Opening on Sept. 28 from 6 p.m. to midnight with food, music, and fun featuring Wilson Bros. BBQ, Caleb Booten performing from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Will Stuekerjuergen DJing until midnight. For more information visit the website at smallgrandthings.com.

Fort Madison Farmer's Market

The farmer's market continues through Sept. 30 on Mondays on the east side of Central Park in Fort Madison from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Every second Monday is Kid's Day at the market.

Kensington events

The Kensington is offering Senior's Only Community Bingo on the second Wednesday of every month at 2 p.m. The event is free for seniors and cash prizes are awarded. Caregivers Connection is held the 4th Tuesday of every month at noon. Call 319-372-4233 to reserve your seat.



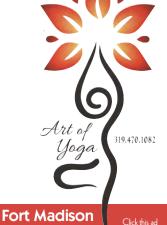
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Wednesday 6-7:30pm — Intermediate
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Sports/Lottery Numbers

Rivers slowly dropping, but channel cats are biting

DES MOINES - The following is the weekly fishing report from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for southeast Iowa lakes and rivers.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa is at a stable level. The NOAA forecast is for it to slowly drop a couple of inches this week. Channel Catfish - Good: Continue to fish the outer edges of the brush piles; grass frogs work well this time of year.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is 75 degrees. The lake is getting petty green again. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers are starting to pick up more bass in the shallow water with the cool weather. Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills are still out deep. Channel Catfish - Fair: Most catfish have moved into deeper water; start along the old creek channel.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is 75 degrees. The water is getting green in color again; need some rain to knock it back. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Anglers are still picking up some bass in shallow, but the catch rates have dropped a little. Bluegill - Fair: The bigger bluegills are still mostly in the deeper water (8-10 feet) around the rock piles and brush piles. A few smaller ones are in shallow. Channel Catfish - Slow: If we get some rain this Sunday, they might perk back up. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers are starting to catch some crappies over the deeper habitat.

Lost Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Bass fishing slowed a bit over the Labor Day weekend. Anglers were still able to catch bass in 3 to 4 feet of water. Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers continue to pick up crappies out around edges of the flooded timber in 8 to 10 feet of water. Some anglers are finding them all the way down to 20 to 25 feet deep. Try vertical jigging or using a slip bobber and minnow. Bluegill - Fair: The nicer bluegills remain out in deeper

water; smaller ones are in shallow.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The Skunk River continues to slowly drop this week. There is still enough water to get around with jon boats. Channel Catfish - Good: Work the pools just downstream of the rock riffles, slow drifting crawdads or nightcrawlers to catch some nice eating size catfish. Don't forget to work the brush piles.

For more information on the above lake, call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is 684.2 feet. Channel Catfish – Slow: Slow troll or drift cut bait. White Crappie - Fair: Use minnows or bright jigs over brush piles.

Diamond Lake

Channel Catfish - Fair: Try stink bait or chicken liver. Bluegill - Fair: Use worms or small jigs fished in brush. Black Crappie - Fair: Fish brush piles or drift the basin with jigs.

Lake Macbride

Any sized motor may now be used at no wake speed (5 mph). Walleye - Slow. Black Crappie - Slow. Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) - Slow. Largemouth Bass -Fair.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The main ramp is still closed for repaving. Bluegill - Fair. Channel Catfish - Fair: Evenings are best.

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits along the rock jetties and the face of the dam. Use topwater lures early and late in the day in the same spots. Channel Catfish - Fair: Use dead chubs or nightcrawlers in 4-8 feet of water. Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with a waxworm. Sorting is needed for larger fish.



IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

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Mega Millions®	Tues & Fri	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Powerball [®]	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America ^{sм}	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 3 - Midday Pick 3 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday Pick 4 - Evening	Daily Daily	Noon 9:40 pm	12:20 pm 10:00 pm



9/8 MID-DAY 2 3 0 9/8 EVENING 8 2 0



9/8 MID-DAY 7 0 4 9 **9/8 EVENING** 9 4 7 3 Pen City
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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!!





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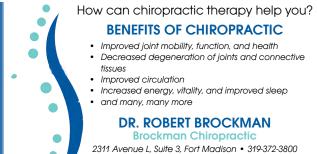


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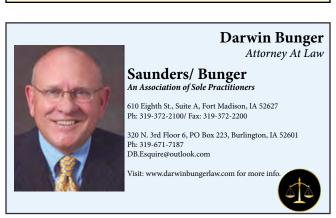






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From the Front/Classifieds

Suspect still sought in Monday chase

CHASE - Continued from Page 1

off-duty deputies patrolled the gravel roads off 300th Street between Old Highway 218 and Hwy 27.

Weber said he didn't have information on whether the suspect was still in the area or was able to contact someone for a ride. He advised residents in the area to lock up all their property and vehicles and report any suspicious individuals or vehicles in the area to local law enforcement.

"We don't know anything about him other than he didn't want to get caught today and he was in a stolen vehicle," he said.

"So lock everything up and use extreme caution if you see anyone on your property. Call us if you see suspicious vehicles and try to get a plate."

Iowa State Patrol and several local police departments assisted in the search.

the classifieds

HELP WANTED

& WAITRESS NEEDED

Columbus Club in Fort Madison is looking for a part-time bartender who is available to work primarily evening hours a few nights a week. We are also in search of a waitress who is available from 4:30 to 8:30 Friday evenings. Contact Mandy at 319-470-2762 for details.



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Extra clean & quiet with free YMCA membership included. 2 bedrooms, some with decks/ patio. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, built-in microwave. Non-smoking, no pets. Very affordable security deposit \$300. Must pass background & credit checks (no felonies). Large

backyard with picnic tables & glider swing in very nice, quiet neighborhood. Rents range from \$585-\$635. Lease required. 850 sq. ft. units. All electric. Water, sewer, trash furnished. 650 sq. ft. units. Water, heat, sewer, gas, trash furnished. Laundry rooms have new coin-operated washers & dryers (located in all buildings). On-site manager. Call 319-372-9409 or 319-750-3115 for appointment to view. Owned by Alliance Realty Co.





Hall Towing gives assist to cruise liner

HARMONY - Continued from Page 1

just really appreciate American Cruise Lines choosing Fort Madison as a stop."

He said American Cruise Lines celebrating this new ship on its maiden voyage is a milestone in itself, which adds to the milestone that's being created in Fort Madison.

Randolph then presented the captain of the new boat with a green Fort Madison flag to keep on its voyages.

Varley said Hall Towing brought in a barge on Friday and hooked it up initially at no cost to the city.

He said the cruise line had concerns in the middle of the week about river levels and being able to hook up to the pier, so a barge was hooked up to the large cement barriers in the river and the American Harmony pulled up alongside.

Crew hands were out with squeegees pushing the late Saturday, early Sunday morning rain off the barge to allow safer walking for passengers disembarking for one of two tours through the area.

Marietta Stokes of Sammamish, Wash., spoke with Morawitz on the pier and said this was her first trip on this itinerary, but had taken several other cruises before.

Fort Madison Chamber Coordinator Savanna Collier and Fort Madison City Tourism Director Jean Peiton were on hand giving out information bags to the folks heading out on the Trailway buses for historic Fort Madison tours and tours of area agribusinesses.

Collier and Peiton also help with the guided tours through Fort Madison and north Lee County farms.

The city will see its first back-to-back docking days on Sept. 18 and 19th, which are the next scheduled arrivals.



Senior Community BINGO



2nd Wednesday of every month at 2pm in our dining room

All Seniors Welcome
Cash Prizes



2210 Avenue H • Fort Madison • 319.372.2243

Polls open until 8

VOTE - Continued from Page 1

student collaboration and improved building flow.

The board has presented a bond question that would not increase local property taxes. If passed, the tax rate in the Central Lee Community School District would be \$12.19 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The school district is using some of its sales tax revenues to offset a portion of the bond. Coupling that with the increased county valuations, the district was able to create a bond package that would not increase the current \$12.19 per \$1,000 equalized valuation on district tax payers' bills.

"I think the biggest thing is that people are using those 'now or never' words. I don't know if that's appropriate, but with the large valuation increase, taxes will go down with a no vote," Crozier said.

Crozier said if the district has to put up a referendum for a third time if this fails that he's not sure they'll be able to do it without a property tax rate increase.

The district held several community meetings and many VOTE YES committee meetings to help educate the district voters on the issues.

Crozier said the district also hired a communications firm to help with getting bond information to district residents.

"I think that was more thorough than last time and I feel people are very well-informed. Our strategy was better than last time," Crozier said.

"We gotta move forward one way or another. It's always nice to see this come to a conclusion and have some kind of final result. Either way, security will be an important factor for us as will the other aspects we want to improve with the master facility plan. But if this fails, we will go back to the drawing board and see how we go about getting these important goals met for the school district."

In 2018, Central Lee voters failed to pass a similar bond referendum with only 56.4% voting in favor of a \$9.8 million bond. That figure represented a 64.6% approval in early absentee voting. State law requires a 60%+1 mandate in local school bond referendums.

The district was looking to expand the high school building, add common areas, improve entry ways in both district buildings to improve security, create a new childhood center, and improve parking conditions

Voting Tuesday will take place from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Central Lee High School.

5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

TUE 10 Sep



Light Rain High– 85.2° F | Low – 72.6° F

WED 11 Sep



Light Rain High– 87.8° F | Low – 73.0° F

THU 12 Sep



Heavy Intensity Rain High– 83.9° F | Low – 71.4° F

FRI 13 Sep



Scattered Clouds High – 78.1° F | Low – 64.7° F

SAT 14 Sep



Partly Cloudy
High– 83.8° F | Low – 71.6° F

<u>OpenWeatherMap</u>