American Legion sending eight on Honor Flight

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - With Sunday's charity breakfast literally in the bank, the Fort Madison American Legion Post will now send eight local veterans to D.C.

As part of the Great River Honor Flight program, the American Legion Post 82 raised $3,200 between 8 a.m. and noon Sunday to help foot the bill for the trip. Dan Vice, the post commander, said the program buses veterans to Quincy where another bus will take them to St. Louis where they catch a flight to Washington D.C.

"They go to all the memorials, the memorials for the Vietnam and Korean conflicts, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, they get to see all those things," he said.

"People are familiar with that aspect of the program, but what they don't know as much about is the motorcycle motorcade that takes place on the trip home. It starts in Bowling Green and there will be people lining the streets and cheering and waving and just giving them a nice welcome home. It gives them some real closure," Vice said that's one of the most emotional parts of the trip.

"When veterans got back from World War I and World War II they were greeted with celebrations and parades. But the veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts didn't get the same reception. We're just trying to make sure they get that recognition. The saying is 'All Gave Some and Some Gave All' and that's pretty much what these veterans have done," he said.

At Sunday's breakfast it was common for people eating to make the recommended donation of $7 for 2017 numbers paint nice picture for RiverFest

\( \text{Sunday rain hindered final revenue tally} \)

\( \text{BY CHUCK VANDENBERG} \)

\( \text{PCC EDITOR} \)

\( \text{FORT MADISON - With the second year of Fort Madison RiverFest in the books, the co-chairman of the event said there will be a year three.} \)

"I think it's safe to say that just about everyone I saw down there had a smile on their face. That means it was a success in my book," said Charles Craft, who along with his wife Jenny and a volunteer team put on the event every year.

He said if the rain had held off on Sunday, the event probably would have been in a better positive equity position. But he said the festival did well enough to ensure a third year.

"We got some rain Sunday and I think that kind of hurt our attendance for the carnival and we did a promo - one ticket for one ride. The rain also brought in a sparse crowd for the Ozone Ramblers open jam that afternoon. Had our Sunday this year been what was last year we would have ended up in pretty nice position." Attendance was very similar to the 2016 event, but he said Thursday's turnout was really good and revenues were sufficient to show growth, which was the committee's goal for the year.

"We didn't make a lot of money, but the more we make the more we can roll into bigger acts next year," Craft said. "We did prove that we can put on that level of show. Now all we have to do is figure out how to get more people in.

See VETERANS, page 4
Tragedy helped shape O’Tool’s skill set

Continued from Page 1

She realized the importance of her work and the impact she had on people’s lives when tragedy struck her own family more than seven years ago.

Her husband Todd Matlock, complained of feeling ill one night during dinner and said he was on his way up to bed to lay down. O’Tool said she had just put their plates in the sink and went around the corner to see him laying on the floor, a victim of a massive heart attack.

“I was dumbfounded. You think someone in my position would be better prepared for that, but I didn’t know what to do,” she said. “And from that point on I had a better understanding of the shock and loss people experience in death. Now I completely understand how people can forget pictures or where people live in planning funerals because they are still so jarred and they’re really still in shock.”

She said he was her right hand man and helped her raise her daughter Kerrigan. With the 24/7 nature of the funeral business, she said sacrifices had to be made, but she never thought about leaving the business.

“The crotch pot is one of my best friends. If I have a visitation at night, I would make sure the meal is prepared. And when Kerrigan was playing sports you just made those sacrifices, I may end up at a softball game in 90-degree heat in a suit, but it’s just the sacrifices you make for both the career and the family. We make it work.”

O’Tool did an internship in Keokuk after graduation and then went to work at Lunning Chapel in Burlington for 10 years. While she worked there she also helped out on a part-time basis at King-Lynk for about seven years. She’s been at King-Lynk full time for the past 10 years.

She said she has no plans to change her career or own her own business.

“I’m happy as a lark just doing what I’m doing. Never wanted to own my own business. I had an opportunity years ago, but I don’t want the finances and responsibility of ownership. I just want to do what I love doing.”

“I had a young lady that had to make funeral arrangements for when her dad that passed away suddenly. She said to me, ‘I have to make all these decisions in less than a day and I can’t think. It’s almost like trying to plan a wedding in two days and I don’t know if I’m doing all of this right.’

Death is inevitable and unfortunately we don’t know when it will take place. People plan for weddings, retirement, kids’ college. Heck most people it takes 2-3 months to plan a week-long vacation. More and more people are pre-planning the service they want at the time of death. It so greatly eases the burden and stress on the survivors at the time of need. I’ve never once had anyone say, ‘I wish Mom or Dad would not have done this.”

Helping people move through the phase of loss and providing some closure for families is O’Tool’s passion.

“I just love helping people. When I meet with somebody you become part of their family. You really do. You see them at the grocery store. You may have helped bury someone in their family and they come and thank you. That goes a long ways,” she said.

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

MICHAEL LEE DOTY

Michael Lee Doty, 70, of Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 12:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at Great River Hospice House in West Burlington, IA. He was born on June 7, 1947 in Fort Madison, IA, the son of Fred & Patricia (Decker) Doty. They preceded him in death. He married Vickie Herrmuth on February 21, 1970 in Fort Madison, IA, she survives. They have two children, Shone Topham (Joe) and Chanda Waters (Tracy). They also have four grandchildren, Samantha, Alexis, Evan and Shae. He is survived by a sister, Terry, a half sister, Nikki and a half brother, Bob.

He is a US Army Vietnam Veteran and worked for J.I. Case, retiring after 30 years of employment. He drove a semi for Chem Gro of Houghton and also drove for Shottenkirk of Fort Madison.

Mike loved life! He loved talking to people and laughter. He was deeply in love with his wife and he loved and adored his daughters and grandchildren. He loved to fish, hunt, trap and to just be outdoors. Sunday afternoons were all about NASCAR races. He loved Jesus Christ and it was very simple to him…Jesus loved him back. When Mike got to Heaven, he got a new tongue, and after loving on Jesus, I’m sure he said, “Where’s the food? Let’s eat!”

For his wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. Friends may call after 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2017 with the family to receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory. A ‘Remembrance of Mike’s Life’ will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 11, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Dean Graber officiating. A memorial has been established for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. Online condolences and a video tribute of Mike’s life may be viewed at the King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory website: www.kinglynk.com.

For the Record

Carnival revenues helped carry event

Buddy Jewell gave a gem of a performance Saturday night at River-Fest. Organizers said the event was equal to attendance of 2016 and will be meeting to start 2018 plans next month.

For next year, Craft said he has a lot of really great ideas and leads for entertainment and how to build even more energy around the event. Now the committee will take a month off before starting plans for the next year. One of the new events will be dragon boat racing which they want to start taking registrations in the fall for the summer event.

RIU TROPICAL BAY NEGRIL
All-Inclusive Resort

The RIU Palace Tropical Bay Hotel is located on Negril’s 7 Mile Beach, one of Jamaica’s most stunning! The amenities available at the RIU Palace Tropical Bay Hotel are countless, and they’ll make your stay unforgettable. Overlooking Bloody Bay on the Caribbean coast, this all-inclusive resort with Victorian-style details is right on the water. The Seven Mile Beach is known for its white sands, and very calm and crystal clear waters.

You’re guaranteed to have fun at this Jamaican beach resort! You can enjoy one of the many swimming pools or take advantage of the direct beach access. RIU also offers a recreation program where you can enjoy all types of activities and the shows day or night, as well as the Renova Spa located within the resort.

The Resort has been designed to give you the best quality and variety of food options. You’ll get to taste the finest international, Japanese, and Italian cuisine, or try the best Jamaican barbecue beside the beach! This all-inclusive resort also has four bars located in different zones so that you can enjoy refreshments any time of day (or night).

Jamaica is a unique country where you are sure to have unforgettable experiences. There will be plenty to do off the resort as well – all within walking distance, including Rocky Cay, Kool Runnings Water Park, Times Square Mall, Throne Room and the Negril Hills Golf Club.

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RIU TROPICAL BAY NEGRIL
All-Inclusive Resort

For the Record

Fort Madison
Police report
08/07/17 - 8:46 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a stolen bicycle in the 2800 block of Avenue N. 08/07/17 - 2:25 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 3500 block of Bluff Road. 08/07/17 - 4:14 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1100 block of 48th Street.

Lee County Sheriff’s report
No incidents to report.

All Seniors Welcome
Cash Prizes

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

Pen City Current - Wednesday, August 9, 2017 - 3
**Help CRRWA Keep Your Community Hazard Free!**

Our Household Hazardous Waste Unit is open Monday through Friday 8 am - 4 pm. Call 800.216.2370 for an appointment.

Become familiar with HHW Materials:

- **Corrosive,** meaning they can corrode or burn your skin on contact.
- **Toxic,** meaning they can be lethal to humans and animals if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.
- **Flammable,** meaning they may ignite even under normal working conditions.
- **Explosive/Reactive,** meaning it reacts violently when exposed to heat, sudden shock, pressure, or other chemicals.

Please never dispose of any of these items down your drain, they eventually pollute our rivers.

Acceptable HHW Items:

- Fertilizers
- Herbicides
- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Household Cleaning Products
- Auto Cleaning Products
- Antifreeze
- Motor Oil
- Car Batteries
- Rechargeable Batteries
- Oil Based Paints
- Paint Thinners
- Propane Tanks
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Florescent Light Bulbs
- And More

If you don’t see your item(s) on this list or if you have any questions please call 800.216.2370

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**Honor Flight just one area of service to local vets**

**VETERANS - Continued from Page 1**

adults and then write another check or give additional cash for the veterans.

It was such a success that the RiverFest committee has already asked the post to host the charity breakfast again in 2018.

“We were invited again by Charles and Jenny to go ahead and come back and do that event again,” Vice said. “We’re pleased with that because all we’re trying to do is make the community and the area aware of what we were doing and why we were doing it.”

“We’ve got quite a few veterans around here who need help and they aren’t getting it from the (Veteran’s Administration). We’re stepping up to help them. A lot can’t afford to go to DC to see their memorial,”

Vice said Velma Bogart of Fort Madison has purchase a full seat in honor of a family member who was killed in action in Vietnam in 1967.

Vice said other fundraisers throughout the year provide necessary monies to help with the other assistance the post gives.

Last year the post did a fundraiser through the Eagles and we raised more than $16,000. Lee County Bank, Connections Bank, Eagles, Siemens were all very big contributors last year. This year Kohl’s Wholesale jumped in to help too, but Fareway was the biggest sponsor in addition to Lee and the biggest contributor this year was Fareway.

“They supplied 3/4 of the supplies we needed Sunday so hats off to them. I guess they really do believe in helping out the veteran,” he said.

Anyone wishing to donate to the Post or the honor flight program can send donations earmarked for Great River Honor Flight or the post to Dan Vice, 30 Florence Drive, Fort Madison, 52627.

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**Triage State Rodeo Parade**

2100 303rd Ave P.O. Box 490
Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-372-4330
tristaterodeo.org

September 3, 2017 at 9:30 AM
Theme: “Kids, Cowboys, and Cowgirls”

Registration required: Entry forms due by Saturday, August 26, 2017

Category: (circle one below)

- Open (no classes payable to the Tri-State Rodeo)
- Competitive ($30 to $50)
- Non-Open

Age of Horse (circle one below)

- Under 17, 18
- Over 18

Name of Entry ____________________________

Address ____________________________ City _______ State ______ ZIP _______

Phone (______-______-______)

Note special conditions (extra-long, extra-high, will race)

ALL ENTRIES ARE TO BE DECORATED TO BE CROWD PLEASING EXCEPT ANTIQUES AND MILITARY VEHICLES. FOR SAFETY REASONS, CANDY AND FAVORS ARE NOT TO BE THROWN FROM THE WINDOWS. RUNS CAN BE PAVED OFF BY THOSE WALKING WITH THE ENTRIES.

Note: Entry information will be sent out 10 days prior to the parade. All entries are to be in place by 9:00 AM parade day. Competitive entries to be in place by 8:00 AM. Special Note: The Tri-State Rodeo is a patriotic organization and reserves the right to refuse any entry on the day of the parade if the entries’ message is not consistent with the American values of the organization. If you have any questions about the entries’ message quality please contact Kirk Sherwood BEFORE the day of the parade.

Please return the entry form to the address below:

Kirk Sherwood
33 Stone Crest
Fort Madison, IA 52627
319-421-2384
Tri-State Rodeo

September 6-9, 2017

Fort Madison, IA

Wed., Sept. 6
CINCH Shootout
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Thur., Sept. 7
PRCA Rodeo Action
followed by
Cody Johnson
Country Artist

Fri., Sept. 8
PRCA Rodeo Action
with
Smash Mouth
rocking the stage

Sat., Sept. 9
PRCA Rodeo Action
followed by
Jon Pardi
Award-winning country star

Get Your Tickets Now at www.tristaterodeo.org
or click this ad

Or call 800-369-3211 or 319-372-2550
Sub Arena Sandwich Shop has immediate openings for daytime positions. Please apply in person at 2805 Avenue L, Ft. Madison. No phone calls or emails please.

Immediate Positions Available

Jr./Sr. High Math Teacher

Please e-mail or send your resume to:
Michael Sheerin
HTC
2000 Avenue A
Fort Madison, IA 52627
Michael.sheerin@holvinity.schoo ls.org
319-372-2486 x1

Daycare Substitutes.
Afternoon Daycare Shift
(2:30-5:30 pm).

Please e-mail or send your resume to:
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HTC Early Childhood Center
2213 Avenue J
Fort Madison, IA 52627
Stefanie.drollinger@holvinity.schoo ls.org
319-372-6428

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Leadership AND mechanical skills and maintenance experience
Pay: $11.65 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential

2nd Shift – General Production
Positive attitude and excellent attendance demonstrated by a solid work history
Pay: $11.17 per hour plus $0.30 shift differential

Competitive benefits package includes health, vision, life, and dental insurance, employee discounts, matching 401k. Plus paid holidays and vacation effective first day of employment.

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**5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST**

**WED 09 Aug**  
Clear Skies  
High – 80.1º F | Low – 66.9º F

**THU 10 Aug**  
Light Rain  
High – 76.7º F | Low – 67.6º F

**FRI 11 Aug**  
Moderate Rain  
High – 84.1º F | Low – 68.0º F

**SAT 12 Aug**  
Moderate Rain  
High – 79.7º F | Low – 62.4º F

**SUN 13 Aug**  
Light Rain  
High – 78.0º F | Low – 58.1º F

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City workers continue with sewer construction between 4th and 5th Streets on Avenue G, behind new crosses with names of those lost in battles at Fort Madison. The crosses are lined along 4th Street and will become part of the new park being constructed on that block.

Photo by Chuck Vanderberg/PCC

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