Hundreds join Rotary for dinner in Central Park

Power Chords, a group of local youth musicians, performed for the community at the annual Fort Madison Rotary Picnic in the Park Sunday evening.

Event wraps up club’s $100K in 100 Days campaign

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – A group of youngsters sang beyond their age while the community enjoyed grilled food and sides, root beer floats and dance troops as part of the 2019 Picnic in the Park put on by the Fort Madison Rotary Club Sunday night.

The picnic is held in Central Park every year in July with funds raised from the event going to help sponsor the City Band in the park as well as maintenance and upkeep of the park.

Power Chords, a group of local youth belted out rock tunes dating back to the 80s as community residents looked on in with pride. The group eventually gave way to Top Hatters dance students who entertained the group until the picnic ended at 7 p.m.

This year’s event leads into the Rotary Clubs 100 years of existence and triggered a $100K in 100 days capital fundraiser to put money into the park’s maintenance fund.

Rotary officials said at last count they were at about $70,000 but recent donations and the goodwill offerings hadn’t been included. A grant from Rotary International has also been applied for with the hopes that the club can get a little closer to the goal.

This year’s fundraising was more important as city officials found termite damage to the band shell. Those repairs to the shell including repainting will cost close to $20,000. The club would also like to put new lights in the park at a $30,000 price tag as well as refurbish the Statue of Liberty replica at a projected cost of $12,000. The rest of the money would be held for ongoing maintenance and repairs.

The event was originally scheduled for June 23rd but was cancelled due to inclement weather and was rescheduled for Sunday night.
JOANNE R. REA


He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Sandy and brother Mike.

Gary was a 1973 graduate of Nauvoo-Colusa High School. He was a retired Correctional Officer at the Iowa State Penitentiary. He was a member of the Carthage Eagles Club. Gary enjoyed hunting, playing cards and golfing.

The family will receive friends from 2:00 P.M. until 3:00 P.M. Friday July 12, 2019 at the Schmitz-Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 P.M. Friday July 12, 2019 at the Schmitz – Banks and Beals Funeral Home in Nauvoo. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials be made in his memory. Schmitz-Banks and Beals Funeral Home of Nauvoo is assisting the family with arrangements.

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>9:00-1:00</td>
<td>6:30-7:30</td>
<td>5:30-6:30</td>
<td>9:30-10:30</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

07/01/19 – 12:57 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 1000 block of Avenue I.

07/01/19 – 8:46 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 5400 block of Avenue O.

07/01/19 – 11:17 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of 13th Street.

07/02/19 – 11:42 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of stolen vehicle in the 1600 block of Avenue H.

07/02/19 – 1:05 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2000 block of Avenue F.

07/02/19 – 8:28 a.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

07/02/19 – 12:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

07/02/19 – 5:00 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 2500 block of Avenue J.

07/02/19 – 9:43 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/thief in the 200 block of 330th Avenue.

07/02/19 – 8:28 p.m. – Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident in the 3400 block of Avenue L.

Jo Alton Mortimer, 22, of Keokuk, in the 300th Street and Hwy. 218 in Montrose on a warrant for failure to appear/pay fines. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

07/02/19 – 12:52 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested David Eugene Benjamin, 45, of Donnellson, in the 100 block of Dewey Street in Donnellson on charges of violation of a no-contact order. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/02/19 – 4:36 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Kristopher Charles Johnson, 20, of Cedar Rapids, at the Linn County Jail in Cedar Rapids on a charge of violation of probation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail.

07/02/19 – 6:15 p.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Justin Christopher Travis, 32, of Keokuk, at the 300th Street and Hwy. 218, in Montrose on a warrant for driving while barred. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

07/05/19 – 11:05 a.m. – Lee County Sheriff’s deputies arrested Miranda Elizabeth Meyers, 23, of Keokuk, at the 300th Street and Hwy. 218, in Montrose on a warrant for driving while barred. She was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.

Those listed above a presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Obituaries/For the Record

JOANN MARIE BLIND

JoAnn Marie Blind, 79, of Mt. Madison passed away on Friday, July 5, 2019 at 12:58 at her home.

She was born on January 4, 1940 in Ft. Madison, IA to Leo and Letha Wenke Weidmann. On June 11, 1960 she married Harold “Butch” Blind in West Point and they later divorced. JoAnn was a member of Sts. Mary & Joseph Church. In her early years JoAnn farmed and held several local jobs. Lastly, she operated an in home child care business. To many she was known as the “Cookie Monster”. She enjoyed working in her yard and garden and taking care of numerous children throughout the years.

God gave JoAnn the cream of the crop with her six children, Doug (Melinda) Blind of Ft. Madison, Jay (Lisa) Blind of Shorewood, WI, Leslie (Jeff) Hawkins of Montrose, Kelly (Mike) Kruse of Bentonville, Ark., Kyle (Nicole) Blind of Ft. Madison and Jerry (Jeanine) Blind of Johnston, IA; and; fourteen grandchildren, Ryan, Seth, Tyler, Lily, Trevor, Dylan, Samantha, Nicole, Brian, Chloe, Gracie, Cadie, Connor, Ethan, three great grandchildren, Mayli, Quentin and Keegan; one sister, Betty Weitzmauer of Ft. Madison; several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, long time companion Hank Lake and a sister, Mary Jo Boeding. Friends may call after 2 PM on Monday, July 8, 2019 at King-Tony’s Funeral Home where the family will receive friends from 4:00-6:30 PM. A rosary will be recited at 3:30 P.M. and a Wake Service will be held at 6:30 PM. The funeral mass will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 10:30 AM at SS. Mary & Joseph Church with Rev. Tony Tresolcy officiating. Burial will follow in Getsemanee Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for the Alzheimer’s Association and online condolences may be left at www.kingtnvfn.com.
OBITUARIES

JOE GRUBOR

Joe Grubor, 63, of Keokuk, IA died Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at his home. He was born April 18, 1956 in Chicago, IL, the son of Petar and Marija Shedbija Grubor.

Joe was a member of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Joe was an avid coin and currency collector, He was a dedicated father and grandfather. Joe was always happy to speak with or lend an ear to family and friends and he will be missed very much by many.

He is survived by his son, Justin Wojslaw of Seattle, WA and his grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held at 12 noon, Wednesday at St. Sava Cemetery in Libertyville, IL, with Father Petar Sailovic officiating.

There will be no visitation.

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

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

BETTY J. BAKER

Betty J. Baker, 89, of Ft. Madison passed away peacefully on Friday, July 5, 2019 at 8:29 PM at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born on March 18, 1930 in Ft. Madison to Stephen “Roy” and Dora Hall Clem. On October 23, 1948 she married Paul E. Baker, Sr. and he passed away on February 20, 2007. Betty was a homemaker.

She enjoyed playing cards and was an avid Hawkeye and Cardinal fan. Her greatest love was her family and she cherished the time she spent with them.

Survivors include two sons; Thomas (Cheryl) Baker of Ft. Madison and John Baker of Ft. Madison; one daughter, Connie (Jerry) Levandoske of Burlington; thirteen grandchildren; seventeen great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, two sons Robert and Paul, Jr., a daughter and son in law Pam and Danny Bogert; two grandchildren, Morgan Levandoske and Chad Baker and two sisters.

Per her wishes, cremation has been entrusted to King-Lynk Funeral Home & Cre- matory and a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be made at www.kinglynk.com.

IOWA LOTTERY WINNING NUMBERS

Lotto Drawings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Game</th>
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<th>Approx. Drawing Time</th>
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<td>9:30 pm</td>
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<td>Mega Millions®</td>
<td>Tues &amp; Fri</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
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<td>9:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lotto America™</td>
<td>Wed &amp; Sat</td>
<td>8:59 pm</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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<td>12:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 3 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Midday</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>12:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick 4 - Evening</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>10:00 pm</td>
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6/6 20 22 43 47 52
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All Star Bonus: 2

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A day in the garden ends with a call to 911

By Curt Swarm

A man ran across Sharon Brott's back yard. He had his shirt off and was wearing gray pants with a stripe down the side. The man had his shirt balled up in his fist as he ran.

Sharon said to her neighbor lady across the fence, "That's a prisoner!"

The neighbor lady said, "Oh, it can't be."

Sharon had been outside fussing with her iris plants. Mt. Pleasant is the Iris City, and she was proud of all the different colors of iris she had—pink, white, blue, and her favorite, purple. She was going to cut some fresh flowers and take them into her kitchen to brighten up her home and add spring fragrance. After the iris were done blooming, she would also dig some of them up to give to friends. Spread the beauty!

She lived only a couple of blocks from the minimum security prison in Mt. Pleasant. That man had to be an escaped prisoner! Why else would he be running with his shirt off?

"Well, I'm going to call the police," she told the neighbor lady. The neighbor lady just rolled her eyes, "We're not carrying anyone's water here."

This incident happened half-a-dozen years ago. Sharon's back yard now has, in addition to iris—roses, chrysanthemums, daffodils, peonies, hostas, and a few lilies to compete with the iris. The neighbors all know, do anything you want, but don't mess with Sharon's yard!

"Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him a curtswarm@yahoocom or visit his website at www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.com.

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NEST
By Curt Swarm

dispatcher came on and said, "State your name, address and emergency."

Sharon's voice was also shaking. She was barely able to give her name and address. "A man, with his shirt off, just ran across my backyard and through the creek," she told the dispatcher. "I've never called 911 before."

"You're doing fine, stay calm," the dispatcher told her. "What color were the pants?" Sharon told her, "Gray, with a stripe down the side."

"Did you happen to notice if the shirt said 'Inmate' on it?"

"I couldn't tell," Sharon said. "It was balled up in his fist. Is it alright for me to leave? I need to run errands."

"You go right ahead," the dispatcher told her. "We'll take care of this."

Before Sharon could get backed out of her driveway, there were red lights everywhere, and police dogs. When the city realized it could use a refund of interest paid on the waste water treatment plant upgrades to help remediate storm water drainage in the city, they put together a plan for Avenue G curbing and sidewalks.

Engineering estimates were embarrassingly off on the project and it had to be scrapped, but the money can't go to streets necessarily unless the work deals with storm water runoff remediation. So now the city's looking at using the money in Riverview Park. But it just can't be absorbed into the general fund and used for other projects. It just doesn't work like that.

So, again, they are doing what they feel, as your elected representatives, is in the best interest of the city. And watch these meetings online. You can live stream them on the city's website and you'll see passionate people, making difficult decisions and giving full-throated opinions based on their constituents' input. Nothing is decided easily.

We recently saw City Manager David Varley give an emotional scolding to the council for not giving him what he needs to do his job, which in that situation was hiring the sheriff's department to oversee the police department until a new police chief is hired.

We're at just about every city council meeting and we're comfortable saying on average about 10 other people outside of the media do as well. No one's going to tell me these people are dumb or uncaring. They have opinions and those are based on feedback from an informed, or uninformed, citizenry. That's how it works.

But look around the city. Yeah, we're behind on street improvements and it's been neglected. But this
No one wins in the blame game

BESIDE THE POINT - Continued from Page 4

group of leaders, we believe, is doing everything their staff and coffers allow them to do. There is always a project underway somewhere to improve infrastructure: a section of street here or there, a bridge replacement, a federally mandated sewer separation that comes with zero federal dollars.

The blame game never has a winner. So as we bounce – yes, bounce – around this city, it’s frustrating for us, too, but we choose to see what’s being done in the name of progress. There is a large contingency of people in this town that rarely look forward, and when they do, they look forward to making their arguments while pointing behind them to the past.

Let’s point ahead with our both index fingers and walk in that direction with a preponderance of the majority. You maintain your history for sure, but you can’t alienate progress for the sake of it. There is a balance to be struck.

The city has an app that you can use confidentially to point out the nuisances in this town. Literally, you download the app, and point and click. It’s that simple. Yet only about 400 out of probably 7,500 that have cellphones have it on their phone and very few are using it. It would appear that nuisances are being handled much quicker through this app than phoning up city hall.

I’ve seen this post, “Why should we do their job” … because it’s our community, too, and we have expectations. We elected these officials, but our responsibilities as citizens of our communities don’t end there. We must stay involved.

Do you mow your lawn? Why? If you don’t the city will do it, but they’ll bill you $40-$50 an hour. Are you saving money or do you like to have your property well represented? It’s the same with your community.

As an aside, you’ll be seeing some big ships docking and dumping a couple hundred people regularly on the west side of Riverview Park in the very near future. Enterprising individuals should be giving that some thought, but that’s Beside the Point.
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SLATER - Continued from Page 1

Wondra said another closed session will be held July 15, as part of the district’s regular monthly board meeting, to continue the review.

It isn’t clear whether the review was triggered as a regularly scheduled annual review, or as a special review in light of recent revelations from Head Varsity Basketball coach Ryan Wilson that Slater made demands on her son’s playing time on the team’s junior varsity squad.

Wilson came forward publicly with his concerns after an email was obtained by Pen City Current that Slater had sent to the Board of Directors outlining concerns over playing time given to Holy Trinity Catholic students in shared programs with Fort Madison.

Slater said the current shared baseball program had resulted in less playing time for Fort Madison students due to the “heavy presence” of Holy Trinity players and she advocates for the Fort Madison students and wanted to schedule a meeting to address the issue.

A meeting was scheduled but was canceled prior to taking place. In the email, Slater also said, “Our students don’t have the choice to attend a private school…a private school this district continues to programmatically support over and over without return. Our students entrust us to provide opportunities for them.”

The controversy was ramped up when a video of Slater’s husband Scott surfaced on social media channels confronting Wilson at a basketball camp in Quincy in June. Slater’s husband was also suspended for one Fort Madison High School baseball game this year after violating team rules about parents approaching the dugout during games. He was also reprimanded by an Iowa High School Athletic Association official during a game at Holy Trinity Catholic for outbursts during the game.

The Slaters have open enrolled their son into the West Burlington School district for the 2019-20 school year citing “pervasive harassment,” according to then interim-WBISD superintendent, and former Fort Madison superintendent, Dr. Ken Marang.

Pen City Current has requested from the West Burlington district all forms submitted as part of the open-enrollment request, but were denied access to part of the submitted forms. The 2017-18 Iowa Open Enrollment Handbook, the most recent available, classifies the documents as public records with redaction of personal student information allowable. However, language in the handbook does not allow for withholding the documents in their entirety. The Current has also reached out to the Iowa Department of Education for clarification on access to the documents.

Slater started with the district just prior to the start of the 2016-17 school year and will be entering the fourth year of two-year rolling contracts.

Superintendent review will continue at July 15 meeting
YMCA taking registrations for fall soccer

FORT MADISON - Fall Youth Soccer League registration is now open at the Fort Madison Family YMCA. The Y’s Soccer Program is broken into two leagues, Little Tykes and Lee County. Both leagues are designed to prepare and instruct players on the fundamentals of the sport while playing in game situations.

Little Tykes Fall Youth League - Available to girls and boys 3 to 6 years of age. This league emphasizes fun, with players having the opportunity to learn the basic skills of youth soccer while preparing them for the next level through game situations. The importance of teamwork, fair play, sportsmanship and cooperation are also emphasized in this league. This league is divided into two divisions: 3/4 years old and 5/6 year olds.

Registration deadline is August 24th; with late registration August 24th through August 31st. A $10 late fee will be applied to all late registrations.

Practices for Little Tykes Soccer League begin on Tuesday, September 10th with the season ending October 10th. Practices and games are held at the Baxter Sports Complex on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. 3 & 4 Year olds will be 5:30-6:00pm 5 & 6 Year olds will be 6:00-6:30pm.

Lee County Fall Youth League - Available to 1st – 6th grade boys and girls. This league focuses on the fundamentals of the game of soccer giving players the ability to expand on skills all while continuing to build positive sportsmanship to their foundation. Lee County Soccer League is divided into the following divisions: 1st/2nd grade, 3rd/4th grade, and 5th/6th grade.

Registration Deadline is August 17th with late registration August 17th through August 21st. A $10 late fee will be applied to all late registrations. Practices for Lee County Soccer League begin the week of August 24th. An end of the season tournament will be held for 3rd/4th Grade & 5th/6th Grade Divisions. Games are held at the Baxter Sports Complex on Saturday mornings.

Registration forms can be found online at www.fortmadisonymca.org and at the Fort Madison YMCA at 220 26th St. Fort Madison, Iowa starting July 8th. Early registration is encouraged prior to initial deadlines to ensure a shirt for your player and to avoid the late registration fee of $10.

In an effort to make the registration process easier for everyone the Fort Madison Family YMCA will introduce an online registration option with these two leagues in the coming weeks. Those wishing to register their player online should visit our website, www.fortmadisonymca.org beginning July 15th for that option.

The Y is also seeking volunteers to coach teams in both leagues. For further information or to volunteer as a coach contact Program Director, Noah Dean at 319-372-2403 or email noah.dean@fortmadisonymca.org.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 08 Jul
Scattered Clouds
High – 78.7º F | Low – 68.5º F

TUE 09 Jul
Broken Clouds
High – 81.6º F | Low – 72.8º F

WED 10 Jul
Light Rain
High – 88.1º F | Low – 64.7º F

THU 11 Jul
Clear Skies
High – 77.1º F | Low – 65.1º F

FRI 12 Jul
Clear Skies
High – 79.8º F | Low – 67.0º F

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