



MAQUOKETA
SENTINEL-PRESS

Volume 157, No. 14 ■ 16 pages Plus Supplements ■ Saturday, July 3, 2010 ■ \$1.00 per copy

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Biehls plan July 4 Barnstormer event

By KELLY GERLACH

"Everybody loves Marvin the hayrack driver." That's what they all say at Barnstormer events.

Marvin Franzen has worked for generations of the Biehl family since he was 14 years old, Tiffany Biehl said. So when Tiffany and her husband, Shawn, started hosting the independent music Barnstormer concerts on their rural Maquoketa farm, Franzen volunteered to drive concertgoers from their vehicles to the barn.

Franzen received a special surprise following the last Barnstormer



Melanie and Mollie, granddaughters of Marvin Franzen, benefited from the Barnstormer III sessions held earlier this spring. Through Franzen, they received \$5,000 for medical expenses.

concert, held May 1. Half the proceeds from the show were to be given to families who had fallen on hard times. Someone nominated Franzen for the donation; his twin granddaughters Mollie and Melanie suffer from Crohn's disease, which causes severe swelling and pain in the digestive tract.

The organizer of the Barnstormer shows, Sean Moeller of Rock Island, Ill., decided the Franzen family's story proved the most compelling of all the six stops on the April/May tour. So in addition to the \$3,000 from the Codfish Hollow event, Franzen received an additional \$2,000 from the other shows.

"The family's story was just so touching," Tiffany said. "His granddaughters have Crohn's disease and with all the treatments and everything and bills, they lost their (health) insurance."

The \$5,000 will be used for medical expenses.

In the meantime, Franzen's job isn't over. Biehls have another night of music planned beginning at 5 p.m. on July 4.

"Barn on the Fourth of July" will be held at Biehls' Codfish Hollow Barn, located at 3837 288th Ave. (Codfish Hollow Road). Expect hayrack rides from the parking area to the barn. Bring lawn chairs.

Six indie rock bands are scheduled to play, including Justin Townes Earle, Dawes, Jonny Corndawg, Young Man, These United States and a special surprise



Contributed photo

Marvin Franzen, center, accepts a \$5,000 donation to help his twin granddaughters pay for medical expenses. The money raised through the April/May Barnstormer music sessions, one of which was held May 1 in the barn of Shawn and Tiffany Biehl, also pictured.

headliner.

"The cost of the ticket is definitely worth it to see six bands of this caliber," Tiffany said.

The concerts expose people to the music of independent bands they might otherwise never experience.

The July 4 event will be the fourth Daytrotter event held at the rural Maquoketa barn. Their first Daytrotter Barnstormer session was held in the summer of 2009, with about 200 people attending. About 350 showed up for a return engagement last October. The May, 2010 concert sold more than 600 tickets, with more than 800 people attending.

The Barnstormer tour was started by Sean Moeller of Rock Island, Ill., who invites indie bands to his Daytrotter studio there to record live sessions of album cuts and previously unreleased songs. He then makes that music available on his Web site.

No outside fireworks will be allowed at the July 4 event.

Tiffany encourages interested individuals to purchase tickets in advance because tickets to the last show sold out. Advance tickets are available at www.daytrotter.com. Search for "Barn on the Fourth of July" and follow instructions posted there.

Parking by Briggs School reviewed

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

West Quarry Street in the vicinity of Briggs Elementary School would be expanded to allow parking on both sides of the street under a proposal being considered by a Maquoketa City Council committee.

The expansion would be done as part of a major reconstruction project of Quarry Street, the council's Public Safety Committee was told Wednesday, June 30.

The three-member committee unanimously recommended that the full council obtain estimates of the cost of redesigning the street to accommodate parking on both sides from the project engineer.

The panel also recommended that city officials discuss the proposal with Maquoketa school officials, including district Superintendent Kim Huckstadt and Briggs Principal Patrick Bollman.

Parking presently is prohibited on the north side of Quarry between North Niagara and North Fifth streets along Briggs. Parking for up to two hours is allowed on the south side of the street.

Although the reconstruction of Quarry Street is still two to three years in the future, Public Works Director David Popp said the project is in the early design stag-

es and now is the time to consider such changes.

Allowing parking on both sides of the street would ease congestion during times when parents are picking up or dropping off their children at the school, Popp said.

Police Chief Brad Koranda suggested that both sides of the street be designated for two-hour parking. If no time limit is imposed, Briggs staff members would park along the street all day, taking up spaces intended for parents to ease congestion before and after the school day.

"The more parking, the better," said committee member Don Schwenker.

If curbside parking is allowed on the north side, Popp noted that the street would have a full curb and gutter on that side. A smaller curb that allows buses to enter the playground area directly in front of the school would be eliminated, under the proposal, Popp said.

Another question is who would pay the cost of redesigning the street for the additional parking, Popp said. He noted that the school district would benefit.

The committee's recommendation will be considered by the council at its next meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 6.

■ PARKING, Please turn to page 3

Motorcycle crash takes two lives

The husband of a Bettendorf woman who was killed this week in a motorcycle crash near DeWitt was a Maquoketa native.

Robert Wayne Allman, 64, of rural Clinton and Claudia Nicole Schlitter, 28, of Bettendorf died when the motorcycle they were riding on U.S. 61 struck the guard rail of a bridge.

Schlitter's husband, Travis Schlitter, is a native of Maquoketa, family members said. He moved with his family to Davenport as a youth.

He is serving in the National Guard and was taking training in Minnesota when the accident occurred, family members said.

The accident occurred at 3:40 p.m. Wednesday, June 30, on U.S. 61 one-half mile south of DeWitt.

Clinton County sheriff's deputies said Allman was driving the motorcycle north on 61. Schlitter was a passenger.

Initial investigation indicates that the motorcycle was crossing the bridge over Silver Creek when the motorcycle ran off the left side of the highway and struck a guard rail. Both Allman and Schlitter were thrown from the motorcycle. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

Damage to the 1983 Honda GL1100 motorcycle was estimated at \$2,000, a total loss.

U.S. 61 was closed to traffic for a time.

The cause of the crash is unknown, deputies said. The accident remains under investigation.

Deputies were assisted at the scene by DeWitt police, Genesis ambulance of DeWitt, DeWitt Volunteer Fire Department, the Iowa State Patrol, the Iowa Department of Transportation, the Clinton County Medical Examiner's Office and the Scott County Sheriff's Office.