



Pen City Current

Friday, December 1, 2017 | 8 pages | Volume 1 • Issue 277

No Pozs'ers – These NOMADS are giving back

Methodist RV caravans help rebuild across the country

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - To them...it's a God thing. Fully retired Jim and Betty Posz travel about five months out of the year in their 40-foot Sundance RV, but their travels are almost always geared around giving back to others throughout the country.

As part of the Methodist Church's NOMAD program, which stands for Nomads On a Mission Active in Divine Service, the couple takes about six weeks out of each year and works on projects such as home rehabs, church camp rehabs, Boy Scout camps, and other projects throughout the country. They can also do work on disaster recovery projects, but typically those jobs don't come around until a couple years after the disaster strikes, when all the high priority work is done and out of the way.



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Jim and Betty Posz stand in the RV that they use to travel to see the countryside. But as part of the travel they stop about six weeks per year to work on projects with a Methodist outreach group.

“
That's where I found out I like an impact drill for putting in screws.”

-Betsy Posz,
NOMAD member

The NOMADS are a group of mostly retired members of the Methodist Church from around the country who work with the organization to pick projects to work on while they are enjoying their retirement traveling the country in their mobile homes. The group now has between 900 and 1,000 members across the country.

“We're humbled and proud of this organization,” Jim said Thursday “On the disaster projects there may be funds from FEMA or some local funds. So the NOMADS coordinator puts together a funding package. We get some funding from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and other federal outlets or from UMCOR, which

is the Methodist internal fundraising mechanism.”

For the past two years Jim and Betty have planned their RV travels around stopping points where help is needed, the most recent was a trip to North Carolina where new windows and a new ADA ramp and porch were built at a church camp. And earlier this year they helped rebuild some homes in Ottumwa. “That's where I found out I like an impact drill for putting in screws,” Betty said.

When planning their travels with the camper,

See **NOMADS**, page 8

Rodeo trail to get 100K rehab

Federal T.A.P. grant to pay for 80% of project in 2018

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - A \$100,000 rehab of approximately 600 feet of trail at the city's Rodeo Park will be in front of a city board on Wednesday.

According to Dawn Helling, the city's secretary for the Fort Madison Public Works and Parks departments, the work should begin in the summer next year.

The project is actually being called a rehab because there is a rough, overgrown path that has been used by vehicles for years and is overgrown.

The park board approved the project years ago, but the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission didn't get on board with the project until Public Works director Larry Driscoll came on board several years ago and took it back to them.

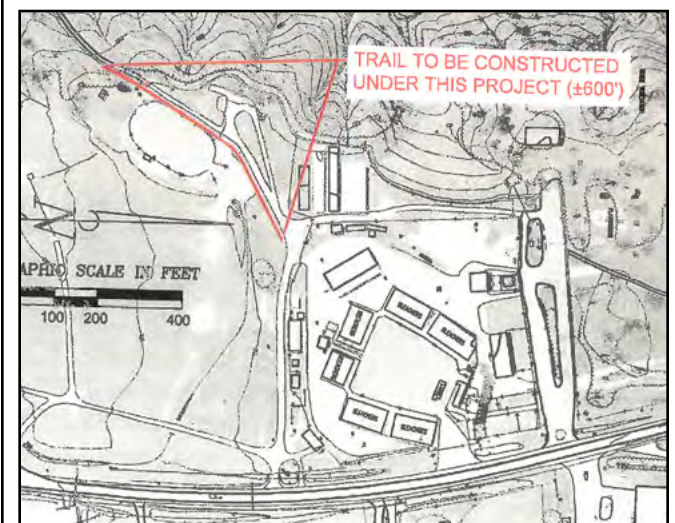
“This started with Steve Hayes before Larry came along, but Larry brought it back to the SEIRPC and they approved handling the project. We submitted all the paperwork to the DOT in June and the bid letting will take place May 15,” Helling said.

“I would think the project would start shortly after that.”

The project has a \$102,544 price tag and a Federal Transportation Alternatives Program, or T.A.P., grant is picking up \$82,035 of the bill. The rest will come from city funds.

Helling said the project will asphalt and widen the current pathway and provide measures for erosion con-

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Local News/Lottery Numbers



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TUESDAY

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WEDNESDAY

GO WASTE FREE:



Make a conscious effort to not use your waste bin. Recycle or compost any items that have an end of life solution.

THURSDAY

REUSE:



Instill new life in items you would normally toss out. Such as jars and containers, clothing, paper products and more.

FRIDAY

COMPOSTING:



Build or purchase a composting bin for food & yard waste. Use your composted goods to better build a healthy garden in the Spring.

SATURDAY

PROCUREMENT:



Only purchase what is made to be recycled. Look for the recycling symbol on the packaging.

SUNDAY

ENJOY:



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FMCH names Koechle October EOM

BY PCC STAFF

Fort Madison Community Hospital recognized Neva Koechle as it's October Employee of the Month. Koechle works as a registered nurse and Certified Lactation Consultant in the Birthplace at FMCH. She has been with FMCH for 18 years.



Koechle was recognized with this nomination, sent in by a patient:

"This employee has been my biggest supporter in my journey of breast-

feeding both of my girls. It doesn't matter when I call or text her she always gets back to me as soon as she can even on her days off. She has encouraged me to look even further into whether my youngest daughter had a tongue tie when we were having so much trouble nursing. Once we had her tongue tie fixed the pain went away, my supply increased, with coaching from this employee, and my daughter was far more satisfied. This employee was also the one who first told me about donating milk to the Mother's Milk Bank. This was something that caught my attention and became a dream of mine because both of my girls had to be in the NICU after birth, using donor milk while in the hospital in Iowa City. Through careful coaching, we have already been able to donate 232 ounces of milk, growing my supply to meet my daughters demand as well. I would not have been able to fulfill my dream of donating milk to the sick babies who need it the most had it not been for this employee. She is quick to say that I did all the work, but without her I would have never made it. She is always so eager to offer a kind word, encouragement, support, love and humor to whatever problem I go to her with. She's absolutely wonderful with the kids when we go to baby weigh in, to the point of crawling around on the floor with my 2 1/2 year old and playing with her under the chairs. I would also like to thank the hospital for allowing her the flexibility to make herself available to us nursing mothers and our babies. It's truly a blessing, and certainly has been to my family."

Jeremy Alexander, Interim President/CEO; Neva Koechle, Heather Stevenson, Director of Maternal Child.

"My favorite part about working at FMCH is our people, all of us in every department. Like most families, we don't always agree but for the most part we all strive for the same goals and work together well. We hold each other up when things get hard and we clap for our friends when things are going well," commented Koechle.

Each month a FMCH employee is honored for going above and beyond for the good of the patient, their co-workers and the organization.

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Powerball®	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	9:59 pm
Lotto America™	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



11/30
2 3 27 44 48
Lucky Ball: 16



11/30 MID-DAY
7 0 3
11/30 EVENING
2 3 2



11/30 MID-DAY
1 9 5 7
11/30 EVENING
3 8 3 6

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.

Obituaries/For the Record

OBITUARIES

CATHERINE L. CHARLES

Catherine L. Charles, 91, of Ft. Madison passed away on Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 2:45 PM at the Montrose Health Center.

She was born on February 4, 1926 in Croton, IA to Bishop and Paula Chrisman Latta. On September 20, 1942 she married Robert Charles in Kahoka, MO and he passed away on April 30, 2005. Catherine worked at Sheaffer Pen, IAAP, Sylvania and was a clerk at several clothing stores. She was also a former owner and operator of Wishing Well Antiques. She was a member of Pontoosuc Community Church, and volunteered for the Salvation Army for several years. Catherine loved flowers, antiques, going to yard sales and going on walks. Her greatest love was her family and enjoyed spending time with all of them.

Survivors include one daughter, Barbara Engeman of Niota, IL; five grandchildren, Michele (Ted) Reinhardt, Nicole (Rusty) Rings, Jeremy Engeman, Pam (Rafat) Alawneh and Jamie Gilpin; eleven great grandchildren and one great great grandson; and several nieces & nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; a daughter, Debra Charles; a son in law, John Engeman; two sisters and one brother.

The funeral service will be at 10:30 AM on Saturday, December 2, 2017 at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory with Rev. Mike McHugh officiating. The family will meet with friends from 9:30 AM until the time of the service at 10:30. Burial will follow in Soldiers' Circle, Oakland Cemetery.

A memorial has been established for HCI Hospice and online condolences may be left at www.kinglynk.com.



CHARLES

VIRGINIA WALKER

Virginia Walker, 97, of rural Fort Madison, IA, passed away at 8:25 a.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2017 at her daughter's home. Arrangements are pending at King-Lynk Funeral Home & Crematory.

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.

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

11/28/17 - 3:58 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Charles Leroy Walker, 44, of Fort Madison in the 1100 block of 23rd Street, on Florida warrants for five counts of unlawful sexual activity with a minor and a count of lewd or lascivious battery.. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held pending extradition.
 11/29/17 - 1:05 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of larceny/theft in the 1900 block of Avenue H.
 11/29/17 - 3 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Gary Lee Manning, 51 of Fort Madison, at the Fort Madison Police Department, on a charge of 5th degree theft. He was released upon citation.
 11/29/17 - 3 p.m. - Fort Madison Police cited Teresa Ann Manning, 51 of Fort Madison, at the Fort Madison Police Department, on a charge of 5th degree theft. She was released upon citation.
 11/29/17 - 3:50 p.m. - Fort

Madison Police responded to a report of a property damage accident at the intersection of the 33rd Street and Avenue K.
 11/29/17 - 7:12 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to report of a property damage accident at the intersection of 10th Street and Avenue E.
 11/29/17 - 7:17 p.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 900 block of Avenue E.
 11/29/17 - 7:41 p.m - Fort Madison Police arrested Charles Edward Bachman, 47, of Fort Madison in the 500 block of Avenue D, on a charge of OWI-1st offense, failure to maintain control and striking an unattended vehicle. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. He was also cited for the second and third offenses.

the Lee County Sheriff's office on two warrants for failure to appear. He was taken to Lee County Jail and released on his own recognizance.
 11/29/17 - 9:00 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Joshua Adam Bowen, 37, of Wever, in the 2000 block of 343rd Avenue on a warrant for voluntary absence from custody and a charge of 3rd degree theft. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held.
 11/29/17 - 2 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Justin Wayne Trout, 39, homeless, at the Lee County Sheriff's office on a warrant for probation violation. He was taken to the Lee County Jail and held. *Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

Lee County Sheriff's Report

11/29/17 - 8:08 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dale Melvin Hall, 78, of Fort Madison at

Fort Madison Fire & Rescue report

11/29/17 - Fort Madison Firefighters responded to three medical calls, on truck fire and one assist.

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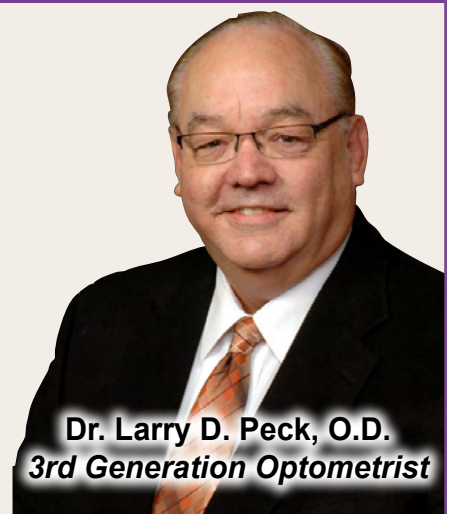
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FMHS downs Quincy at Central Lee

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

DONNELLSON - It's been more than 16 years since high school wrestling took place at the Central Lee high school gymnasium.

On Thursday, the Fort Madison High School wrestling team, which features many Central Lee athletes, moved the team, the fans, and even the mat to Central Lee High School to allow those wrestlers a chance to shine in front of their home town. And that they did as FMHS took the opening dual of the season 45-34 off Quincy.

Junior Gunther Johnson of Central Lee took full

advantage of the opportunity in front of the Central Lee fans and got a pivotal pin for the Hounds at 285 pounds over A.J. Miller at 23 seconds into the second period. In a match that saw both players get flung about the mat, Johnson was able to take advantage of position in the and roll Miller over the fall.

Head Coach Ryan Smith said he hadn't seen Johnson wrestle and didn't know what to expect.

"He's worked hard and was able to capitalize on position and get that pin and that was a big difference for us," Smith said. "I'd never seen him wrestle in a match before."

Johnson said it was great to have a match in his own gym.

"It was pretty cool and there was a whole lot of excitement in here tonight," Johnson said.

He didn't really have a strategy for the match after doing a bit of Greco-Roman wrestling in the spring.

"I hadn't wrestled since I was 5 or 6 years old. So this was really my first time and my thoughts were just to go out there and let it all hang out. I just went out there and did anything I could," he said.

Johnson's pin put the Hounds up 27-23. Quincy was assessed a one-point equipment violation after Fort Madison's Sam Hayes pinned Quincy's Blake Poling in just :46 at 195 pounds. Danen Settles brought Fort Madison



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Hounds senior Aaron Steffensmeier has the upper position on Quincy's Thomas Culp Thursday night. Steffensmeier won 10-4 as the Hounds opened the season with a dual win over Quincy 45-34 at Central Lee.

within two points when he pinned Lucas Bodi at 1:19 in the first period.

The Hounds found themselves down early on when Matthew Peters pinned Nathan Steffensmeier in the 2nd period at 3:11, but Aaron Steffensmeier recorded a 10-4 decision over Thomas Culp at 145 to get the Hounds on the board. Senior Harlan Steffensmeier made quick work over Niel Kozlowski in just 40 seconds at 152 to put Fort Madison up. Kaleb Vahle pinned freshman Keaton Poe in the first period, Hunter Yohn pinned Central Lee's Chance Hocker at 170, and JC Lackey got a fall over FMs Lennon Barker at 2:21 to give Quincy a 24-9 advantage.

When Hayes, Settles,

and Johnson each got consecutive pins, the Hounds were back on top with the lighter weight classes coming to the mat.

Blake Peter scored a technical fall over the Hounds' Elton Kruse, 16-0 and Hunter Carter pinned Central Lee's Mason Schau in just 33 seconds to put the Blue Devils up by 7 27-34. The Hounds' Dayne Cordray, a junior who didn't wrestle as a sophomore but went to state as a freshman, got a quick pin of Nick Pohla in 56 seconds to pull the Hounds to within one. Ryan Steffensmeier and Will Larson both got wins by forfeit to hand the Hounds the meet.

Harlan Steffensmeier, who finished third in Class 3A in the 152 pound

division last season, said wrestling at home was a moment he will remember.

"It was awesome...just crazy in here," Steffensmeier said. "I mentioned it to my dad and then I think he went to the athletic directors and they made it happen. I hope they continue to do this in the future."

Steffensmeier's dad Gary was inducted into the state Hall of Fame last year at the state tournament at Wells Fargo Arena. His brother Doug is the one who transported the Bloodhounds' mat to Central Lee for Thursday night's meet. Doug is Ryan Steffensmeier's father. Ryan placed 8th at the state tournament last year at 113 lbs.

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5 lbs. Beef Charcoal Steaks
5 lbs. Boneless Beef Country Style Ribs

Bundle #7 (1/2 Hog)

6 lbs. Country Style Ribs
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6 lbs. Iowa Chops
8 lbs. Bacon
10 lbs. Sausage
6 lbs. Pork Roast
6 lbs. Pork Steaks
16 lbs. Ham

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Pen City Current

Founded in 2016



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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.

CURRENT-LEE

CURRENT-LEE

Sheaffer's plans customer appreciation party

FORT MADISON - The Sheaffer Memorial Golf Course will be holding a Customer Appreciation event on Dec. 2, 2017 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with complimentary food, beer and soda.

Course pro Ryan McMillan will be on hand with hefty discounts on green punch cards and discounts for first time pass holders and first time cart leasers and other specials.



Coats for Hope 5k this Saturday

ST. PAUL - Coats for Hope 5k Fun Run, Saturday, December 2, 9:00am, St. Paul Shelter House. Rain or shine. All proceeds will help provide coats to local children.

Coats For Hope 5K
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All proceeds and donations will go towards purchasing/providing coats to children in local schools and daycares

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- Participants may register for the race 1 of 2 ways, either by:
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- Make checks payable to: Coats for Hope
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 - Attn: Coats for Hope
 - PO Box 63
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- All registration forms will be used as Entry to a Raffle once last participant finishes race.
- This is a **NON TIMED EVENT!**
- If you have any questions, please send them to chutson@fmcchsp.com

Registration Form

Name _____ Telephone # _____

Email Address _____

Waiver: I am aware that a 5k run is a potentially dangerous activity and I should not enter unless I am medically able and properly trained. I assume all risks associated with running in this event. I hereby hold the writer and knowing these facts and in consideration of accepting my entry, I and anyone enrolled on my behalf, waive and release Coats for Hope, the Town of Saint Paul, sponsors, and any of its race volunteers from any claims and liabilities of any kind arising by my participation in this event.

Signature (if under 18, parent or guardian) _____

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Schmitz Funeral Home to hold Remembrance Service Dec. 5

We recognize that the holidays can be a difficult time for families after the loss of a loved one. Our desire is to continue our service to you at this time of year by inviting you to attend a

Holiday Service of Remembrance, which will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 6:30 p.m. at the Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson. The service will include lighting a candle for those we have lost this past year and a glass ornament will be given to each family in remembrance of your lost loved one.

If you are unable to attend the service you may receive your ornament at the following locations: Schmitz Funeral Home in Farmington, Thursday, Dec. 7, from 3-4:30 p.m.; Schmitz Funeral Home in West Point Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10-11 a.m. We hope you find peace during this season!

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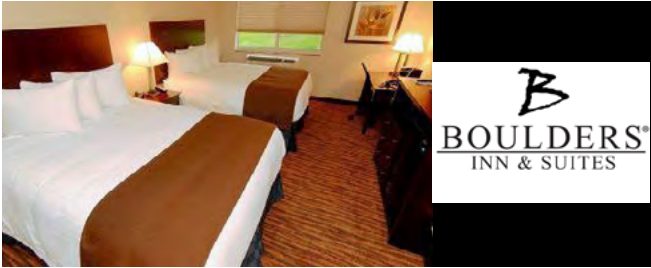
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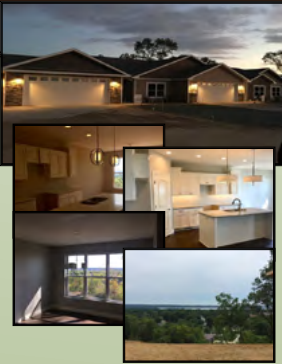
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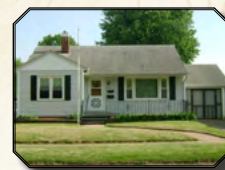
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From the Front/Weather

Trail to get asphalt overlay, widened

TRAILS - Continued from Page 1

trol. The path runs in the form of a triangle about 600 feet and is located on the southwest corner of the rodeo arena grounds, runs southwest along the eastern edge just past the Saddle Club arena and then turns sharply east and heads directly north about 500 feet and then turns east to the original starting point of the rehab project.

Helling said the city council wouldn't need to approve the project since it's already gone through that process. She said the Park Board will be just receiving an update on the project with new dates and information.

"Right now we're still in the engineering process. We have certain deadlines we have to meet as part of the grant process and some dates have already been extended," she said.



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Volunteering becomes part of the vacation

NOMADS - Continued from Page 1

the two will go onto the NOMADS website and find where work is being done and workers are needed and then plan their trips around the spots where they'd like to stop and help. The next trip in the spring will be a project that the two have signed up to lead. They've been involved with the program for the past two years.

Jim said the work isn't hard and the group is very safety conscious.

The normal work week is four days from 8 a.m. to 4 or 5 with breaks and lunch, but the group has had weeks where they go five days if other factors are in place such as other available labor, weather, etc.

He said putting in pools or using backhoes are not really in the scope of what the group does, but they can put in the cement or sidewalks around the pools, put up and paint the fencing and that kind of thing.

The average member of the RV groups is 65

to 70 years old so they don't go 12 hours a day and they stop for devotions through the day, but they have a focused approach to what needs to be done.

"We're safety conscious. We're not going to do 12 hour days but we have some flexibility. Everything has its own rewards and this fits into travel," Jim said.

The one we just did in Ottumwa we got \$15,000 from the Wapello County Community Foundation and they just said here and they paid for it. But we do some fundraising internally and if the coordinators find we have this great project but no funds, sometimes NOMAD will put funds in to pay for it. We just had a national meeting where the group raised \$53,000 to have some funds for projects.

"Usually we come up with what we need," Jim said. "The sponsoring agency has the power tools or some of the larger things we need, but usually I'll take a skill saw with me."

Betty said the projects go smoother and labor is used more efficiently if everything is ready when



the RV teams show up.

"When you get there you want to have all the stuff there, then you're ready to hit the ground running," Betty said.

Jim said the NOMADS will also ask the sponsoring agencies to have an extra long list in the event one part of the project would get hung up.

"We want a long to-do list so we always have something we could be working on. If we don't get to everything, we don't get to everything. But we need to be able to shift to plan B, so we always tell them to go long. On our Ottumwa job in April and May they gave us 20 things they needed to get completed and we got 18 of them done."

He said if the projects are finalized there is always cleaning that can be done, but Betty said she's learned how to run a chop saw and she'd rather do that than clean.

"I can put the chop saw on my resume now," she said.

Betty had been volunteering as a treasurer for the Methodists' women's

group, but said those meetings don't work very well with the timing of the projects. She said she likes helping the women's group but this volunteering allows her to travel with Jim and the couple's dog and cat.

"It's retirement with a purpose," Jim said. "Another couple from our church who is retired got on board and didn't want to go back to punching a clock but wanted to feel like they were accomplishing things. They were too active for cards and hooked up with this program and have been involved for about five years now."

"Since we enjoy traveling, this fits into it. We can take our pets with us and this has kind of worked out for everyone," Betsy said. "Besides, there's so much organizing to be done here at home, and my way of dealing with that is to just leave town."

More information on the program can be found at www.nomadsumc.org or by calling 1-866-466-6237.

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FRI 01 Dec



Clear Skies
 High - 50.8° F | Low - 34.9° F

SAT 02 Dec



Clear Skies
 High - 49.4° F | Low - 29.1° F

SUN 03 Dec



Light Rain
 High - 52.0° F | Low - 51.9° F

MON 04 Dec



Moderate Rain
 High - 58.7° F | Low - 54.6° F

TUE 05 Dec



Moderate Rain
 High - 38.2° F | Low - 32.0° F

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