

DAILY TIMES HERALD

CELEBRATIONS START TODAY

Independence Day celebrations start this afternoon in Denison and tonight in Templeton. See Page 10 for a schedule of fireworks and more in the area.



THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2014

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50 CENTS

BUSINESS

Home Base Iowa draws Scranton welder to local workforce

By DOUGLAS BURNS
d.burns@carrollspaper.com

SCRANTON

For much of the year Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, at functions across the state, has promoted Home Base Iowa, an ambitious initiative aimed at attracting military veterans to Iowa for careers.

At Scranton Manufacturing, during a groundbreaking for a 56,000-square-foot, \$2.6-million expansion at the international refuse-truck manufacturer, Reynolds delighted in meeting a recently hired welder at the company who came to Greene County largely because of Home Base Iowa.

Daniel Currier, 41, moved to Churdan from Waterloo as part of Home Base Iowa.

"It panned out, and everything fell into place," Currier said. "It did make me feel real welcome."

He joined other Scranton Manufacturing employees in welcoming Reynolds last week to the celebration of growth at the business.

Greene County in March earned Gov. Terry Branstad's designation as the lead Home Base Iowa community. State incentives for

SCRANTON, PAGE 12

MEMPHIS BELLE TAKES FLIGHT



LOGAN KAHLER | DAILY TIMES HERALD

Historic B-17 bomber makes a stop in Des Moines amid a national tour

By BEN RODGERS | b.rodgers@carrollspaper.com

DES MOINES — Before stormy clouds took over the Des Moines metro area on Monday, "The Movie Memphis Belle" B-17 Bomber — a piece of the nation's history — took to the skies. • The giant metal war-bird made its way to the capital city as a part of the Liberty Foundation's 2014 Salute to Veterans tour. • The plane was built in April 1945, just about a month before Germany's surrender near the end of World War II. The flying fortress never ventured into combat, but served as a troop transport and general officer airplane until 1949. • After its service it was used for 17 years as a fire-bomber, dropping fire retardant onto forest fires.

BOMBER, PAGE 7



Stowed inside the Memphis Belle B-17 is a replica bomb canister. In World War II, the rear end of the plane was weighed down by a 6,000-pound payload, with the largest bomb being 2,000 pounds.

King Of The Tramps band members are (from left) drummer Ryan Audlehelm, lead vocalist Todd Partridge, lead guitarist Justin Snyder and bassist Ryan McAlister



LOGAN KAHLER | DAILY TIMES HERALD

Their organic sound

Home-grown band to headline Stone Pier concert series this weekend

By AUDREY INGRAM
a.ingram@carrollspaper.com

AUBURN

"There can be no shadows without light," croons King Of The Tramps lead vocalist Todd Partridge into a microphone decked out with orange and yellow sunflowers in the dim lighting of his basement recording studio.

Green walls reflect the beats of Ryan Audlehelm on drums, the riffs of Ryan McAlister on bass, Justin Snyder on lead guitar and Partridge on a custom 1960s guitar. Only the strains of keyboard player Adam Audlehelm are missing as the notes mingle together into the eclectic

TRAMPS, PAGE 11

Carroll named third-safest city in Iowa

By BEN RODGERS
b.rodgers@carrollspaper.com

In late June, Movoto Real Estate published a list of the 10 safest towns in Iowa, with Carroll coming in third.

The real-estate company based

SAFEST, PAGE 10



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TRAMPS

FROM PAGE 1

bluesy, roots-rock, hand-clapping, foot-stomping "whiskey gospel" sound of the band that took its name from a lesser-known rider-of-the-rails.

Tex, a hobo who wandered as far as San Antonio, Texas, and Seattle, Washington, in the 1930s and 1940s, also left his mark in Iowa towns — a "Tex KT," which stands for "King of the Tramps," can be found etched in Carnarvon and Breda. When the men began jamming about five years ago, they pulled on their own desire to travel, and the name fit.

On Saturday, they will play at Stone Pier in Lake View with Iowa City-based Tallgrass — another band performing "dirt-stomping soul."

Construction worker, industrial painter, water softener man, wholesaler and cook by day, the King Of The Tramps band members — ranging in age from 27 to 49 — travel from Carroll, Lake View and Coon Rapids every week to practice in Partridge's home — a repurposed three-story brick school building in Auburn.

The first and second floors house Partridge's home and a satellite office for his Breda-based logistics company, Movelt. The studio is located in the old woodshop, built in the 1940s.

Instruments and equipment lay haphazardly, guitar cases stacked a half dozen high on couches, amps and an old organ sitting in the back of the room. Plywood floors are strewn with earthy-colored rugs. A pole in the middle of the space is covered with graffiti-style art — the word "love" stands out on one side as the musicians set up in a circle, facing each other, a series of mics recording every take so the band can keep the pieces they like as they happen.

"It gives the album an organic feel," said Partridge — an effect aided by the band's resistance to using processors on their guitars on their new album, "Joyful Noise," slated to drop this summer. "Joyful Noise" will be the band's third album — it released "Good People" in 2011 and "Wicked Mountain" in 2013.

But unlike its predecessors, the new album doesn't focus on one specific theme. The "timeless vibe" of whiskey gospel — fun trouble at night, followed by forgiveness and redemption with each new morning, "just get me to the church on time" — remains, but the new album also lends a tongue-in-cheek commentary on current events, crazy weather and life on the road — a sort of "biographical sketch of a singer," described Partridge.

"At some point, it stops being



LOGAN KAHLER | DAILY TIMES HERALD

Ryan Audlehelm on drums, Ryan McAlister on bass, Justin Snyder on lead guitar and Todd Partridge singing lead vocals (clockwise), roots-rock band King Of The Tramps practices new and old music in the recording studio Partridge renovated in the old woodshop of a former public school in Auburn. Keyboardist Adam Audlehelm was absent from the practice.

a party and becomes a job. We owe it to our fans," said Partridge. "But that's not to say I won't drink a little whiskey before I play," he added with a grin, aviator-style sunglasses shading his eyes.

The new album features more prominent slide guitar, a banjo, mandolin, violin and trumpet, as well as the sounds of the Lake City jazz band's bass drum and the "scientific" precision of Snyder's hand-built amp in an "amalgamation" of the band members' jazz, Americana, funk and rock influences, he said.

Partridge — owner of between 30 and 40 guitars ranging from Les Pauls to Fender Stratocasters — writes the majority of the band's lyrics in a leather breakfast booth in his kitchen, playing on a 1964 Silvertone guitar that he picked up at a pawn shop.

"There's no inspiration," said Partridge. "I just come and sit and start playing guitar, and the music has a life of its own."

The band has played locally — in bars and at festivals in Carroll, Manning, Jefferson, Panora and Lake View — and regionally, filling venues across Iowa, Missouri, Colorado, Minnesota, South Dakota and Nebraska.

The musicians make an effort



SEE THE BAND LIVE:

King Of The Tramps will perform Saturday at the Stone Pier in Lake View with fellow roots-rock band Tallgrass. The free concert starts at 5 p.m.

King Of The Tramps practices in a recording studio, allowing the musicians to keep any takes they like as they happen, lending an "organic" sound to the album, said Partridge. He is shown here editing tracks for "Joyful Noise," slated to drop this summer.

in every city they visit to purchase used records at a local music store. They have released their own music on vinyl, as well as CD — tunes are also available via digital download. They have received radio airplay in Fort Collins, Colorado, and on Iowa Public Radio.

The band also hopes to release a microbrew by the end of the year, said Partridge. A hobby of drummer Audlehelm and Carroll resident Greg Brinker, the home brew the band hopes to market is a "renewed wheat" — a mix of American wheat and Ameri-

can pale ale brewed with German yeast, pale ale hops and a citrus element.

"We neither condone it, nor disapprove — we're just observers," Partridge says, clad in a black T-shirt and jeans, "KOTT" stamped onto his leather belt and silver

rings gleaming on three fingers as he grips the microphone to introduce a new song titled "War." Ex-marine McAlister picks up the bass line, red, pink and white carnations tied to his own mic.

King Of The Tramps plays roughly 50 shows per year. The band is slated to play CarrollFest in August and in the craft brew tent at the Iowa State Fair. But the Stone Pier concert series remains a favorite.

"(Organizers) Tom Bolan and Emily Busch are serious about good music," Partridge said. "They've been successful because of that."

Busch said that she and Bolan appreciate the band's continual support of the local concert effort, even as KOTT becomes more well-known.

"We like to call them our resident roots-rock band," she said. "They have been supportive of this series from the beginning, networking with regional bands and helping us bring good talent to the stage."

Concert-goers have become accustomed to seeing the Tramps on stage each summer, she added — and this year won't disappoint.

The Stone Pier concert series is free to the public — the music will kick off at 5 p.m. Saturday.