

Falk laces up combat boots to raise money for hospital, honor veterans

By Alison Ahlgrim
Special to the Reporter

Eight years after former Rock County Sheriff Fred Falk raised \$20,000 for a veterans' memorial by completing a 5K run in army combat boots, he is at it again. While Falk imagined himself hanging up the boots for good after the 2010 run, he decided earlier this year that "maybe I had it in me to do one more in the boots."

The 2018 run is special because Nov. 11, 2018, will mark the hundredth anniversary of Armistice Day. The anniversary, coupled with the hospital's need to match funds from a grant for 3-D mammography equipment, inspired Falk to dust off the boots and lace them up once again.

For Falk, whose father and both grandfathers served in World War I and II, the boots serve as a reminder of the legacy of those who served and their ties to the Edgerton Hospital.

The Edgerton area sent 367 service members to fight in World War I. Sixteen of them did not return. With nearly everyone in town connected to someone who served, Edgerton had a very active Service Star Legion chapter, made up of mothers and sisters of veterans.

Beginning in 1921, volunteers from the Service Star Legion raised funds for the construction of the original red brick hospital on a hill west of downtown. When it opened in 1923, the hospital was named the Memorial Hospital in honor of the World War I servicemen and women.

The \$20,000 Falk raised in 2010 was used to ensure that the hospital's rich history would have a place of honor in the new hospital building, which opened in 2011. Falk "captured" historic photos and The Honor Roll plaque and ran them from the old hospital to the new hospital.

"Fast forward to 2018—the run has become an annual event. It's an off-shoot of the Rotary Rascal Run that I did in 2010," said Falk. The hospital's fundraising run is called the Victory Run/Walk, in remembrance of the hospital's connection to veterans.

This year's Victory Run/Walk will be held on Sept. 15. People can register at www.edgerton-hospital.com or sign up to sponsor the event at www.edgertonhospital.com/sponsor.

Falk, who will be running with his oldest son on Sept. 15, hopes his efforts will pay homage to Edgerton Hospital's rich history while raising money for much-needed medical equipment.

He does not have a specific fundraising target this year, but welcomes a phone call from anyone who would like to pledge directly to him at 608-868-6525.

All money raised from the Victory Run/Walk will be used to match a \$100,000 grant from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission's Med-



Fred Falk with his boots in front of the "Honor Roll" plaque at Edgerton Hospital. Submitted photo

ical Telecommunications Equipment Program for 3-D mammography equipment. Additional upcoming events to raise money for the 3-D mammography equipment include: a Green Bay Packers ticket raffle, Bras for Hope, Light the Way with Pink and a pink pumpkin decorating contest.

The Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation is also honoring veterans while raising funds for the Aespire Anesthesia System and Patient Monitor. For a fee, a veteran's photo will be displayed at the hospital. Photos of veterans from any war are welcome.

Given the significance of the eleventh day of the eleventh month at the eleventh hour marking the end of World War I, the donation to post a single picture of a veteran is \$33. For a donation of \$333 or more, multiple pictures may be posted. The donor's name will be featured online and on a plaque at the hospital.

More information about all of these events can be found at www.edgertonhospital.com or by calling the Capital Foundation Director, Bonnie Robinson, at 608-884-1401.

THRESHREEE

Each year, the Thresheree chooses to highlight a specific tractor manufacturer. While previous festivals have seen large and still widely-used brands such as Allis-Chalmers and John Deere at center stage, this year will see a producer that may be less familiar to power fans: Massey Harris. The company later merged and became known as Massey Ferguson, which it currently operates under.

Another element to watch during this year's festival is the collection of vintage construction equipment. While it's not new to 2018, Hendrickson says the collection is booming. "Our construction equipment is expanding faster than anything else right now," he said. He estimates RRT has 40 permanent pieces, and that over 50 will be on display for the Thresheree.

And while many Edgerton residents have made the event a yearly journey, Jim Raymond has noted a special affiliation he shares with the Rock River Thresheree.

Raymond, who is also treasurer to Rock River Thresheree, Inc., the non-profit group in charge of RRT, claims to have attended the very first Thresheree in 1955, when he was only 5 years. "I actually still remember some of it," he said. "Being there with my family."

But Raymond's involvement doesn't stop there. Aside from his work as treasurer, which he states he has been performing for the last 6 years, he has also been supplying the festival with loads of fresh logs for the yearly sawmill, where they are cut in front of onlookers in a live display.

"I've been hauling logs to the Thresheree for around 30 years now," he said. "Normally, I'll bring oak, but I have a lot of ash this year."

What's more, Raymond actually has plans to put the mill-cut wood to a good purpose. "I wanted to do something more than use it just as firewood," Raymond said.

This year, he plans to use the wood planks as siding for the youth room in the newly-constructed addition to Fulton Church, which was recently completed. Raymond and a number of other families

helped galvanize that project.

Each year, Raymond claims the festival gathers between \$20,000 and \$30,000, which he says is put back into the organization, and ultimately the Thresheree itself.

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Safety concerns about the Saunders Creek footbridge noted by Edgerton Police Chief Tom Klubertanz included rusting to support railings (left) and damage to concrete on the structure's underside (right), in addition to other issues.



Photos courtesy of Edgerton Police Department

Footbridge shows significant damage

By Jack McLaughlin
Special to the Reporter

Edgerton Police Chief Tom Klubertanz didn't know what to expect as he approached the footbridge spanning Saunders Creek behind Edgerton Community Elementary School earlier this month.

This week, though, the Chief shared new details with the Reporter about exactly why he made the decision to close the bridge for public use on Aug. 7, which eventually led to the Edgerton School District's (ESD) plan to remove and potentially replace the structure in the near future. The school district is involved as the bridge was determined to be their property.

What Klubertanz first noticed about the footbridge, be-

fore snapping a series of reference photos, was that damage had occurred to its hand railings.

"I saw the support railings were rusted out, which appeared to be unsafe," he said.

Additionally, the Edgerton Police Chief spotted holes on the surface of the bridge itself, which he believed was responsible for causing the rebar in the structure's underside to become exposed.

"You were actually able to see the water of the creek through the holes," he said.

According to Chief Klubertanz, he had been notified of safety complaints from several citizens via Edgerton Alderpersons earlier this summer, which eventually led to his inspection, and closure of the bridge.

The bridge was initially in-

spected last year during a large-scale facility study by ESD. According to District Administrator Dr. Dennis Pauli, the on-site engineer hired by the district gave the footbridge a preliminary visual examination and deemed it to be deteriorating but not dangerous.

And while the school board was likely to discuss plans on fixing or replacing the structure anyway, after Klubertanz's decision to prohibit use, ESD decided it was best to have the structure removed. Dr. Pauli has noted the School Board will vote about replacing the bridge in the near future.

Currently, the Edgerton School District is fielding bids for both the structure's removal and its potential replacement. Updates on this will likely come in the next several weeks.

BACK TO SCHOOL

System to each ESD school as well as the district office.

After a survey of district buildings last year revealed that entrance security was slightly out of date, ESD was able to acquire a state-issued grant covering the costs of the new system.

Raptor Visitor Management Systems uses technology that's able to scan a visitor's driver's license or identification card and check it against a number of large, national databases, quickly identifying custody

alerts, banned persons, and even sex offenders. It also allows school systems to create personalized records for every guest entering their building.

"This gives us the ability to check people in real time, which we didn't have before," Dr. Pauli said.

Additionally, the school has installed a new set of security cameras in each district building, and Yahara Elementary has received a PA system for the first time.

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Also, the finishing touches are being built onto the outside of the school's unique aquaponics greenhouse. Soon after, work on the inside of the structure can begin, and it will be incorporated into classes.

An original, cutting-edge get for the school district, this greenhouse could be incorporated into classwork as early as the 2018-2019 school year, with Edgerton High School science teacher Tony DeWar leading the way.



Sept. 7-8, 2018

DOWNTOWN EDGERTON

CHILIMANIA.COM

Public Chili Tasting

Saturday - 3pm Until Gone!

- FRIDAY -



10PM
MORGAN WALLEN
#1 Hit Song "Up Down"
7PM | Saving Savannah



2PM
HEARTACHE TONIGHT
Tribute to The Eagles



7:30PM
BOSTYXX
An Evening with Boston & Styxx



10PM
QUEEN NATION
Tribute to the Music of Queen



FRI., SEPT. 7

Gates Open at 5pm

\$10 in advance/\$15 at the gate

Kids 12 & under FREE



SAT., SEPT. 8

All day festival

10:30am - 12 midnight

\$8/person | 12 and under free

LIVE MUSIC | 5K/10K FUN RUN/WALK | CHILI COOK-OFF | STREET FESTIVAL