

Post 57 hosting Family Day

All local residents invited to day of free fun, info.

By **TONY BRITT**

tbritt@lakecityreporter.com

American Legion Post 57 is hosting a community event this weekend allowing local residents to learn about the inner-workings of the organization and its members.

The American Legion Post 57 Family Day will take place from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday at Post 57, 2602 SW Main Blvd. in Lake City.

“The community is welcome,” said Donna Sessa, American Legion Auxiliary second vice president. “We’re opening it up to the community so they can come in and see everything that we do here.”

The inaugural event will allow the legion family — The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Riders, to recognize and celebrate their accomplishments along with members of the

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community.

"All our entities will have a booth outside so they can explain to the community what we do here and what you have to join," Sessa said.

Among the activities scheduled for the event are an opening ceremony with presentation of colors by Liberty Division Sea Cadets and a military Childs Table Ceremony. There is no admission to attend the event.

The American Legion Post 57 Family Day will also feature a car show, blood mobile, face painting, craft fair, the American Legion race car and a dunk tank. There will be a family photo booth, craft sale, Chinese Auction and a 50-50 raffle with various prizes.

"We have about 8-10 members that make crafts and they're going to have a little craft sale," Sessa said. "Some are croquet, some make jewelry and one member makes 3D objects with the computer and toys. It's just something our members do."

Representatives and vehicles from the Florida Highway Patrol, Lake City Police Department, Lake City Fire Department as well as a transport truck from Werner Trucking for a Touch a Truck exhibit.

Two bands are scheduled to perform, one indoors

and the other outdoors. A bar will also be set-up in the large activity room.

In addition, the event also provides the opportunity for the Legion family to share the "Be the One" initiative to reduce the rate of veteran suicide. Details can be found on betheone.org.

"It's going to be a packed, busy day," Sessa said. "The purpose of the event is introducing the American Legion and the Auxiliary to our community, so they can come in here and see where more than just a bar where people go. We have a lot of things that are going on here at the legion. Usually it's for members, this is for the community."

Saturday's event marks the first time a Family Day has been held at the legion and several American Legion Posts across the state have plans to hold similar events.

"Part of the American Legion, they were hoping that everybody would take that Saturday and have a family day and invite the community that they live in," Sessa said. "This is throughout Florida, so we started planning this a couple of months ago. I'm looking forward to everybody having a good time and the community gets to come in and see. We want the community to know because some of them think we're just a big armory building that they drive by. We do offer a lot here."