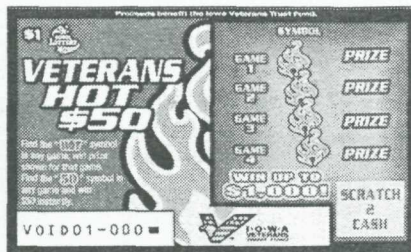


Veterans lottery



**“My country tis of thee,
sweet land of lottery”**

(An excerpt from our June 15, 2008 editorial.)

... Lottery officials hope to generate \$3 million a year to begin building a \$50 million trust fund to generate interest that, one day, will help veterans.

The \$3 million-a-year set aside seems nice, until we considered the lottery sold \$125.1 million in tickets last year. Just more than \$14.2 million of those sales came from Scott County alone.

By comparison, \$3 million is what the lottery spends each year on scratch and pull-tab machine maintenance and inventory.

Lawmakers could have appropriated \$3 million right now to address veterans’ needs, especially during war time. Instead, they’re relying on lottery losers to begin a trickle of funding that one day will generate interest to provide some help.

These new veteran lottery tickets will be marketed using every patriotic symbol imaginable, “including the liberty bell, Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam and the U.S. flag,” according to the lottery. Lucky players of the new “Stars & Stripes” game can win a patriotic \$1,776.

Slapping images of the American flag or Statue of Liberty on lottery tickets seems about as patriotic as a flag lapel pin on a politician.

From every stop and shop, let freedom ring.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Schools appreciate Genesis Shootout

On behalf of Bettendorf High School and the other 13 schools who participated in the 2011 Genesis Shootout, we would like to thank Genesis Health System for sponsoring the event.

Over recent years the Shootout has become an event that local players, coaches and fans really look forward to watching. The fan support of the event is at an all-time high.

We would also like to thank the other sponsors of the event: Eye Surgeons Associates, ORA Orthopedics, Famous Dave’s, Group O and Mediacom. Your support of high school athletics and high school athletes is appreciated.

Mark Brooks
Athletic Director,
Bettendorf High School
Bettendorf

TV is pushing Obama presidency

There is something going on that you should be aware of. We all saw the shameful display that George Stephanopoulos put on at the Republican presidential debate recently. Until then, many had forgotten that he was a Clinton White House staffer and chief leftist apologist. He is on ABC’s “Good Morning America” touting liberal causes and Obama every day.

You also may have seen Oprah’s gal pal, Gayle King, as a new host on “CBS This Morning.” Her main focus is to have an Obama story every day with pictures of the first family and lots of nice things to say about them. This agenda of pushing the Obamas and the Democrats on live TV is a trend that will get worse as the elections get closer. These stealthy coercion methods are designed to get support for a failed presidency. Please resist them. If our current president is so good, why have the media begun trying to brainwash average citizens? It is because Obama’s record is abysmal, and his approval ratings are the lowest of any president since Jimmy Carter. As a friend of mine says, “Obama is not the man for the job of President of



Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Cassie Langhammer of Davenport marches from Rock Island Oct. 22 as part of the Occupy Quad-Cities walk to Davenport’s LeClaire Park.

Occupy organizer tries another approach

I am a person of good will, crying in the wilderness of an American society poorer and poorer in social capital. Americans are increasingly “bowling alone,” according to Robert D. Putnam, who writes on American community, a metaphor based on the fact that there are more bowlers but fewer bowling leagues than previously.

When the tea party began, I was initially intrigued by the potential of our people coming together, but soon became disillusioned at how they adopted ideologies which I felt clearly did not favor the middle class, and I wondered about how Americans could so easily be deceived by others and themselves. And when the occupiers upraised, I was energized enough myself to launch the first major Occupy gathering here in Davenport, our community soap box event of Oct. 22.

Out of the soap box event I am attempting to form a new populist movement in the U.S. dedicated to the revival of wholesome community and healthy representative democracy in the spirit of our venerable forefathers, but my message is failing to rouse slumbering hearts. I know more certainly than anything else that my New American Spring’s call for revival is good, noble and beautiful, but where are my allies?

Please, my fellow Quad-Citizens. Hear my cry in the wilderness, and join me by visiting newamericanspring.org online.

Do not laugh at me as the idiot who believes in the ridiculous because I insist in believing in us.



Farinha

Roger Farinha
Davenport

... lting from military service.
... scription drug assistance.
... rans to remain in their homes.
... nseling and substance abuse programs