



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Players and Visitors Make Way to Morris for Gus Macker Tourney this Weekend**

Morris, Illinois, June 3, 2014 – The original 3-on-3 basketball tournament known to all as “Gus Macker” will hit the streets of downtown Morris this coming weekend. Now in its 12th year, the popular event is expected to once again draw nearly 1,000 players and 8,500 spectators from more than 150 Illinois communities, and five states. Players and visitors will begin converging on the Grundy County region on Friday, with more expected on Saturday and Sunday for the “festival of basketball.” Led by Julie Applegate, who serves as Tournament Director, the Morris Downtown Development Partnership, Inc. is once again hosting the Gus Macker 3-on-3, with strong community-wide support. According to Applegate, “This great event would not be possible without the support of our local sponsors.”

The 3-day event brings visitors and visibility, as well as family fun to the area. According to Applegate, “The Morris Gus Macker Tournament has meant more than just a weekend of basketball to many in the community.” She adds, “In fact, over the past eleven years, more than \$100,000 has been given back to local not-for-profit organizations that have volunteered their time to work at the tournament.”

The Gus Macker Tournament in Morris games begin on Saturday, June 7 with early registration and continues through the division championships on Sunday, June 8 (see schedule of events below). The tournament is open to boys and girls in age brackets from 10 & under, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, and 17-18. Adult divisions are open to men and women in age brackets that range up to 40, 50, 60 and over, with all levels of experience having been encouraged to, and expected, to play.

### **Community Support Spells Victory for Visitors**

Major support for the event is being provided by Walmart, Grundy Bank, ATI Physical Therapy, Ortiz Eye and Hearing Associates P.C., Big R, Grundy County Sheriff Kevin Callahan, Grundy County State’s Attorney Jason Helland, The Herald News, Stott Contracting, Republic Services and the Quality Inn. Additional support is offered by WCSJ/WJDK radio and Morris Daily Herald/Minooka-Channahon Life. The Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau has also been providing support for what has become a major tourism event, printing promotional materials, social media support and featuring it on their website ([www.HeritageCorridorCVB.com](http://www.HeritageCorridorCVB.com)). Bob Navarro, President/CEO of the Heritage Corridor CVB, says the tourism marketing agency is eager to support Morris’ Gus Macker Tournament, and encourages visitors to support local shops, restaurants and recreational opportunities while visiting the Heritage Corridor region. Navarro commended the Morris Downtown Development Partnership, saying the organization, and the entire community of sponsors, does a great job of heading up this exciting event year after year.

### **Tournament Details**

Every player in the Macker is guaranteed at least three games so no matter how you fare the first time on the court, you’re not out by any means. Those who do make it on to the championship rounds can look forward to trophy presentations for first through third place. Special sportsmanship medals are also awarded at each court for the team that exemplifies good sportsmanship. All registered players also receive a t-shirt for participating in the event.

Once again, in order to provide a more pleasant experience for everyone, the tournament will feature striped officials. Applegate says the addition of striped officials has been seen as a positive for newcomers and veteran players alike and has cemented Morris' reputation as one of the better tournaments on the tour.

For more information on the Gus Macker Morris 3-on-3 Tournament, held June 7th and 8th, call Julie Applegate at 815.941.0245.

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<b>Schedule of Events</b>		
<b>Friday - June 6</b>		
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Registration	The registration tent is located at the corner of Washington and Liberty Streets on the Grundy County Courthouse lawn.
<b>Saturday - June 7</b>		
7:00 am – Noon	Registration	The registration tent is located at the corner of Washington and Liberty Streets on the Grundy County Courthouse lawn.
8:00 am	Opening Ceremonies	Located at the Top Court at the corner of Liberty and Main
8:30 am	Games Begin	
9:00 am	Grundy County Sherriff versus Grundy County States Attorney Free Throw Contest	
10:00 am – 2:00 pm	3 Point Shoot-Out & Free Throw Contest	Located at the corner of Liberty and Jefferson
1:00 pm	"Guns and Hoses" Tournament between members of the Morris Police Department and the Morris Fire Department	
6:00 pm	Slam Dunk Contest	Located at the corner of Liberty and Main (Registration is from noon – 6:00 pm at the Main Stage)
<b>Sunday - June 8</b>		
8:00 am	Games Begin	
10:00 am – Noon	3 Point Shoot-Out & Free Throw Contest	Located at the corner of Liberty and Jefferson
10:00 am – Finish	Trophy Presentations	Located at the corner of Washington and Liberty Streets on the Grundy County Courthouse lawn