
Press Release

For release 1200hrs U.S. Mountain Time
July 31, 2023

Dunk a Chief for Charity

On Sunday, August 6th, 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Budweiser Events Center rodeo entrance, Larimer County chiefs of police, fire, and EMS go in a dunk tank at the rodeo and fair to raise money for adventure sports in underrepresented communities

Loveland, Colorado, USA – Jul. 31, 2023 – Less than two months after taking on his new role as Loveland chief of police, Tim Doran agrees to take a dunk into cold Colorado water for charity. And he enlists the help of other local chiefs to ensure everyone in our community can afford to get outside and adventure safely and sustainably.

Two Loveland Veterans create no-cost adventure opportunities for youth and adults

U.S. Army veteran Antoinette Lee and Marine Corps veteran Matthew Berrafato used adventure sports to recover from military service injuries. Lee survived a TBI and spine injury as an Air Assault Expert Field Medic. And Berrafato survived two TBI injuries from improvised explosive devices (IDE) while serving two combat tours in Iraq. They have personal experience with the health and social benefits of adventure sports like archery and whitewater kayaking. And they have witnessed how veterans and their families overcome post-traumatic stress and permanent disabilities through adventure.

"We're fortunate to live in beautiful Larimer County with many adventure sports opportunities close to home. But not everyone in our community can afford it. So, like most veterans, our community service began when our military service ended.

We founded the American Adventure Sports Club of Loveland. And our mission is to offer youth, adults, and seniors from underrepresented communities no-cost outdoor opportunities with free gear, instruction, and community. And we created what I call the Conservation Ambassador Corps along with weekly adventures, our annual adventure camp for kids, and a horsemanship program in partnership with Hearts and Horses of Loveland where Matt and I learned to ride." – Antoinette Lee

First responders go into the dunk tank for charity

You can pre-pay for your chance to dunk a chief using the Q.R. code and show proof of your online donation at the events center. For a \$5.00 U.S. donation, fair and rodeo goers will have three chances to dunk a chief. Online, tax-deductible donations can be made in support of the American Adventure Sports Club of Loveland — powered by the Denver Colorado-based national 501 (c)(3) Vibe Tribe Adventures, a 2023 Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant awardee using the Q.R. code below. All donations will fund the Larimer County Club.



When Antoinette Lee, a City of Loveland Parks and Recreation Commissioner, met Chief Tim Doran at the Old Course at Loveland clubhouse grand reopening, she asked him to go into the dunk tank for charity, and he immediately said yes. Months later, first responder chiefs throughout the county have signed up for their turn in the dunk tank.

"As an Army veteran myself, and having experienced my own overseas deployments, I personally know the burden and stress it puts on the member who is deployed and the family that is impacted. I serve closely with Chiefs from law enforcement, Fire, and EMS. We are a committed group of CEOs that will support an effort to improve our overall community and make a positive impact on our citizens." – Loveland Chief of Police Tim Doran

"Advocating for children has been a priority of my service, and I have proudly served alongside many US military veterans throughout my public safety career. I am honored to support the American Adventure Sports Club of Loveland in their mission to afford everyone the opportunity to experience the many great outdoor adventures Larimer County has to offer." – Larimer County Sheriff John Feyen

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Contact information and interview details (**members of the press only**):

Doran, Lee, and Berrafato are available for an interview at 2:00 p.m. before Chief Doran enters the dunk tank on the day of the event at the dunk tank near the rodeo entrance.

Antoinette Lee, American Adventure Sports Club of Loveland

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