

2010 Louisa County Fair Royalty Crowned



Pictured above are the 2010 Louisa County Fair Princess, Addison Randall and the 2010 Louisa County Fair Queen, Megan Guldenpfennig.



Pictured above are the 2010 Louisa County 4-H Queen, Kenzie Griffin and the 2010 4-H King, Corey Smith. Photos by Tammy Virzi

Briefly -

Don't forget the Birthday Party

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Beryl Roundy's 100th Birthday Party Saturday, August 7th. The party will begin at the American Legion from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. with a cocktail party. It will then move to the Roundy Elementary for a program and the serving of cake and cookies. It's a great way to thank Beryl and the late Sime Roundy for all they have given to our community.

Louisa County Relay For Life

The Louisa County Relay For Life Event will be held on Saturday, August 7th at the Wapello School Track. A number of activities are scheduled, with the event running from Noon to Midnight.

Conesville Reunion

Attention Conesville Residents Past and Present: Saturday August 7, 2010 we will be holding a Conesville Reunion Potluck at 11:00 a.m. The gathering will be at the Conesville Community Center. Please bring a dish or two to share and your lawn chairs. Also if you have any pictures or memorabilia to share that would be greatly appreciated. Any information contact: Deb Bean at 563-299-6833 or email me at mrsbsy06@yahoo.com or catch me on Facebook. More information will follow next week.

This week at the Farmers' Market

The Columbus Junction Farmers' Market is held Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 pm through October 8 at the American Legion parking lot, 99 Second St., Columbus Junction. The market features regional vendors selling Iowa-grown produce, plants, baked goods, eggs, snacks, crafts and more. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, IFMNP/WIC checks, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition checks and Louisa Bucks are welcome. Eat local and taste the difference!

No coffee hour at Hope Bible Church

Hope Bible Church Coffee Fellowship will not meet on Friday, the 30th of July, so folks can attend the Louisa County Fair. The coffee will resume the following Friday, August 6th, hope to see you all there. Bring a friend and come fellowship for a while.

Handbell Concert at Historical Society

WAPELLO, Iowa - Guest artist, handbell soloist Kristine Stout of The Joybell Theater and Gift Shop in Nashville, Ind., will provide a special concert titled Joy Un-Speak-a-Bell at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 6, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 James L. Hodges Ave. (US Highway 61) in Wapello. Stout plays three octaves (37 bells) of Malmark English handbells. Those attending should be prepared to smile and be amazed at Stout's artistry and grace. Her music creates a one-of-a-kind evening of inspiration and joy. To learn more about Kristine Stout, go to www.joybelltheater.com. Tickets are \$7 at the door. Proceeds from the concert will support the Louisa County Historical Society.

Morning Sun Fire Department Golf Tourney

It's ba-ack! The Morning Sun Volunteer Fire Department is once again hosting a 4-person best-shot golf tournament at the Indian Hills Golf Course on Saturday, August 14th with an 8 A.M. shotgun start. Come out and help us make this year's tournament the best we've ever had. Price to play is \$40 per person, which includes cart, greens fees and lunch (Discount for having your own cart). Lunch this year is grilled pork loin, mashed potatoes, and vegetable. Top three scores will be paid back, and there will be various hole prizes. Please pre-register by August 5th by calling or emailing Shane Hemphill at 319-868-5781, 319-850-0798 or shaneh@louisacomm.net. Please help support your community volunteer fire department! We hope to see you there!

Peoples Partners events

There is still time to sign up for our trip to New York City, cruise up New England to Nova Scotia, ending in Quebec City, Canada. Dates are September 4th to 16th. There are twenty-two signed up to date, we would love to have you join us. Also, our Branson trip is November 11th - 14th. Great shows, food and fun. The price for a double is \$669.00 per person. Please call Carol Ann at Community Bank if you are interested in either trip.

Watch for Fair Souvenir Issue

As soon as all results are received the Gazette and Wapello Republican will be publishing the 2010 Louisa County Fair Souvenir Issue.

City Council okays liquor license request

By Jim Rudisill

A split city council approved a liquor license for the New York Dolar/Auto Parts Store during its regular July 21st meeting, after a diagram of the business and other details indicated the proposed business would operate as a convenience store.

Antonia Sosa asked the council last month to approve his application for a liquor license at 325 Main, but the council delayed a decision because of uncertainty over the type of store Sosa intended to open. During the discussion at the earlier meeting, some council members indicated they thought Sosa might be planning to open a bar in the building. Others questioned if it was appropriate to sell beer in an auto parts store.

The doubts for the majority of the council disappeared after the council read a written explanation and viewed a diagram submitted by Sosa in support of his application. "My interest (for) the permit is (to invest) in these products. I plan to get items like (a) convenience store and auto parts items," Sosa wrote. He also explained he intended to follow all the state and city regulations covering his enterprise. The diagram identified location for auto accessories, chip and other snack products, coolers and shelves for sodas and beer and counter space.

Council member Phil Kaalberg said after looking at the diagram and reading Sosa's explanation, he could

not find anything unusual about the store. "I was confused with it, but I think it's nothing more than a convenience store. The guy wants to start a business in town and I'm all for that," he said. "It's the same concept anyway," mayor Dan Wilson acknowledged.

Council member Hal Prior did not disagree, but said he would vote against it because around 20 people had contacted him in opposition to the license.

Although there was no discussion at the most recent meeting, city officials had pointed out last month that even if the council disapproved of the license, Sosa could appeal any rejection to the state. Several officials during that discussion had indicated the state would likely have approved any application submitted to it.

The measure passed last week on a 3-1 vote, with council members Dave Duncan and Mark Huston joining Kaalberg in support. Council member Curt Pierce was absent.

In other action, the council approved two resolutions seeking grant funding through the IJOBS II program. Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC) representative Tracy Lamm told the council the two resolutions would allow the SEIRPC to file applications on behalf of the city for upgrading the Iowa River levee and also purchasing and installing two flood control pumps near the fairgrounds.

If the grants are approved, the city would need to cover 10% of each project's cost for any expenses below \$500,000; and 50% for anything above that amount. Officials estimated the city's share for the level extension would total around \$194,000, while its share for the flood control pumps would be between \$80,000-\$100,000. "That's cheap for what we spent after the (2008) flood," Kaalberg pointed out to the rest of the council.

Huston said if the levee was raised and eventually received certification, it could mean businesses located in the floodplain would not be required to obtain flood insurance. However, other officials said Oakville had also been protected by a certified levee, but when it broke in 2008 that only meant most of the residents had not purchased flood insurance.

The council also agreed to re-advertise for bids for a surplus mower, after receiving only one bid during an earlier bidding process. The council also set a minimum \$4,500 bid on the equipment. New bids must now be submitted by the council's August 11th meeting.

Wilson also notified the council that a special meeting would be held August 4 to review a corridor and entry plan developed by RDG Planning & Design, Des Moines. The plan is part of an effort to beautify entryways and other areas of the com-

munity in cooperation with Keep Iowa Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful and local groups.

In final action, the council received a request from Elias Gutierrez to revise the city's current tax abatement program to provide a 10-year graduated abatement for a new business he and his mother has created. Currently the city has a three-year program that provides 100% abatement for commercial operations.

Under Gutierrez's proposal, the abatement would be 100% in the first year, with a 10% reduction each subsequent year. Officials did not provide any specific numbers, explaining the actual amount of the abatement could fluctuate as valuations changed.

Gutierrez said his company, Dona Letty Foods, manufactures specialty Latino/Hispanic food products that could eventually create up to 75 jobs in the community. He said the company is currently operating at 207 Main, but already needs to expand. He said one site being considered is the old bowling alley at 113 Walnut. It was flooded in 2008.

City officials said they would need to discuss the proposal with city attorney Tim Wink to determine if the city's ordinance would need to be amended to consider the proposal. Wilson said he should have a response by the council's next regular meeting.

Conesville Memories

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

It started out just an idea and a hope that some day we could reunite and share memories of growing up in a small community where we were parented by all parents of our little town. The old saying, "parents have eyes in the backs of their heads," must have originated in our community, because as kids we never knew how mom or dad found out we did something we knew we could get in trouble for.

As we played outside, we were lucky to be able to run around town with our friends. Our dad telling us to, "go play in the street!" just meant we could. Going barefoot in the summer had its advantages for our parents, saving on shoes, but the sand burrs were heck on our feet. Conesville yards and parks were notorious for sand burrs.

Rainy weather and mud puddles also provided hours of fun for us. As kids, I don't ever remember being

scared that a stranger was lurking and we needed to beware. Usually, if a bum/hobo came in on the train, he was treated to a meal at Barney's and sent on his way.

We all knew that we had to be home at a certain time for dinner and supper. We'd part ways, go home and eat, do our dishes and then go back out and meet with friends again to play hide and seek, red light, green light or ride our bikes. We had television and telephones, but they didn't interest us back then. It was all about being outside with our friends.

We didn't run in and out of the house dozens of times to get drinks, we would use the garden hose and drink ourselves silly until we ended up drenching each other fighting over it. It didn't matter if it was snowing, cold and the wind was blowing. We built snow forts and would go sledding for hours at the Conesville Elevator. Our moms would put bread sacks over our feet to keep our socks from getting wet. Some days our par-

ents had to beg us to come in from the cold.

As a community, we would all gather and play kick ball or baseball. We learned to take turns. Getting mad only got us sent home by one of the community moms just to get in to trouble by our own mom for not playing nicely.

We had train tracks that separated the east from the west side of town and a highway that ran through our town, but that didn't stop us all from being friends.

Our little community school was filled with lots of fond memories. I can remember every year mom registered us for school and how she always made a point to tell the principal, "If they need disciplined while they are here you have our permission, because when they get home they'll get it again!" Our last year of school at Cone was the 5th grade and how we thought we were so grown up to be riding the bus and going to the 'bigger' school.

It wasn't until later in life when I started feeling the sentiments of missing life in good old Conesville. Life

as it used to be, carefree and fun. Boredom was something we never really felt unless some of our friends were gone on vacation. Boredom was a word we learned young, you just didn't say it because mom and dad had ways to fix that!

Every year we would be so excited for one of the biggest events of our town, "Watermelon Days". It meant lots of people, parades, rides, games and fun.

Growing up in Conesville, we always dreamed of living elsewhere. But as I have aged and define the place of my birth, I would say for me it was a small close knit community living the simple life hearty in watermelons, cantaloupes, big gardens, close families with not a lot of money but a lot of good times shared by all who grew up there.

This year the reality of reuniting and coming together to share in memories, laughter, tears and memorabilia will finally happen. Saturday August 7, 2010 at 11:00 am Conesville residents past and present are encouraged to attend the Potluck Reunion at the Conesville Commu-

nity Center. Please bring a dish or two to share, your own table service and any memorabilia you would want to share. Non- alcoholic drinks will be provided. Any questions please call Deb Bean at 563-299-6833 email mrsbsy06@yahoo.com or catch me on Facebook.



A large crowd was in downtown Conesville for Melon Day on September 12, 1914. Notice how everyone was dressed in their Sunday best for the big day. Undoubtedly many Mothers had to deal with melon stains on the next wash day. Photo courtesy of George Bell.