

Louisa County Fair kicks off 2008 run

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Despite numerous weather problems this summer, the 2008 Louisa County Fair kicked off in a big way Monday with a fashion review, bottle calf interviews, floral hall entries, ice cream judging, and concluded in the evening with the 4-H Family Night. The highlight of evening came with the selection of the Louisa County Fair Queen and Princess. Contestants, pictured at left, were: Heather Morrison; Janessa Townsley, Miss Congeniality; Elyssa McFarland, Miss Leadership; 2008 Queen Abby Webb; Lindsay LaFayette, 1st runner-up; and Jacklyn Danner. Pictured in the front is the 2008 Princess, Kyndall Townsley.

Although the grounds were under water during the flood, and recent rains have not helped the drying process, the buildings and grounds are in wonderful shape thanks to the dedicated work of Fair Board members and other volunteers. A hearty Gazette congratulations to everyone that helped to make this year's fair a success despite many difficulties. A



Full week of fair activities are planned, so make sure to visit the 2008 Louisa County Fair. There is something at the fairgrounds for everyone.

Long time Wapello business destroyed by fire last week

Wapello, IA – Agents with the State Fire Marshal's Office continue to investigate a restaurant/bar fire that occurred in Wapello, Iowa, early last Wednesday afternoon. As the investigation remains very active, agents have not yet determined a cause. They would like to inform the public however, that at this time, they do not suspect foul play.

At 2:26 p.m., on Wednesday, July 16, 2008, several witnesses driving by Johnnie B's Restaurant/Bar, located at 228 N. 2nd Street, Wapello, Iowa, reported to authorities that they saw smoke coming from the building. Upon arrival, firefighters confirmed that there was heavy smoke coming from the back of the building and quickly took steps to extin-

guish the fire. Fortunately, no person was injured as a result of this fire.

The State Fire Marshal's Office was subsequently called in to assist with the investigation. Through the investigation, agents were able to determine that the fire originated in an upper level storage area located at the rear of Johnnie B's Restaurant/Bar. Additional results of the investigation, including the cause of the fire, are not expected before the end of the month.

Assisting Wapello Fire Department in their response to the fire at Johnnie B's Restaurant/Bar were the Morning Sun Fire Department, Oakville Fire Department, Grandview Fire Department and the Columbus Junction Fire Department.

Supervisors release rural debris removal plan

WAPELLO, Iowa - The Louisa County Board of Supervisors has announced a plan for rural debris removal in Louisa County. There are two methods that rural residents can take:

1. Separate and leave white goods, electronics, and household hazardous waste near the county road right of way for EPA pick up and call the transfer station when you have done so at 319-523-5013. Transport the rest of the flood debris (wall board, sofas, chairs, rugs) to the Transfer Station in Wapello and identify yourself with your name and address. Your name will be checked against a list of eligible residents and the fees will be waived.

OR

2. Separate your debris into three piles:
 - White goods and electronics;
 - Household hazardous waste (cleaners, paint);
 - Debris from clean up (wall board, furniture, carpet and other household debris).

When you are ready to have your debris picked up, call the transfer station at 319-523-5013 and identify yourself with your name and address. Your name will be checked against a list of eligible residents and the items will be picked up and hauled away at no charge to you.

NOTE: Under both plans, the actual pick-up may be several days after the call is made. A helpful alternative plan would be to ask for a roll off box to be left in your area for 3 days if you have room on the road right of way. This box would be hauled off after three days at no expense to you. Call the transfer station to find out availability and arrange this option at 319-523-5013. (This plan is not for building demolition, only flood debris removal.)

The supervisors have also approved setting roll off boxes at the following locations:

- Schafer's access Lake Odessa;
- Sand Run access Lake Odessa;
- Hartsock Cabin area;
- Swain cabin area.

Governor sends AmeriCorps members to help in Oakville

DES MOINES – In response to needs in flood-damaged Oakville, Governor Chet Culver has directed state-funded AmeriCorps members to Oakville to help in their flood recovery efforts.

"Many communities have been damaged throughout this natural disaster, but few have experienced the complete devastation that Oakville has seen," said Governor Culver. "While the residents of this rural community work to repair their community, State Government will be there to help. That is why I have ordered state-funded AmeriCorps members to Oakville to help in their recovery efforts. The road to recov-

ery will not be easy for towns like Oakville, but we as a state will be there to help in any way we can."

Governor Culver has worked extensively with state and federal AmeriCorps officials to ensure the Louisa County community has the resources they need in their recovery efforts. The Governor had previously ordered 20 AmeriCorps members to the community, and today ordered an additional 40 members to aid in the community's recovery. In addition, he has sent representatives of the Governor's Office and the state AmeriCorps program to Oakville to assess their ongoing volunteer needs.

Dollar General Reopens



The Dollar General reopened last Monday after completing flood cleanup. A complete listing of updates on businesses that were damaged by the flood appears on Page 6

FEMA trailers move into County

WAPELLO, Iowa – Crews are working today (Friday, July 18th) to hook up 7 temporary housing units in two different mobile home parks in Louisa County and another 14 are expected to arrive shortly.

Woodland Trailer Park, northwest Wapello and Louisa Courts in rural Louisa County just north-east of Grandview both have had deliveries of FEMA temporary housing units today. Louisa County Sheriff and Flood Incident Commander Curt Braby says, "This shows there is finally some concrete progress being made in Louisa County to provide homes for those displaced by the flooding."

The mobiles are 14 x 64 single-wide units with 3 bedrooms and 1 bath. All come completely furnished with beds and other furniture, linens and kitchen items. Each unit has hook-ups, but no laundry appliances. The units are provided to eligible residents for up to 18 months while they make decisions about permanent

housing.

Impacted residents who have not signed up for FEMA housing should call 1 877-274-4392 or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for those with speech or hearing impairments. (This request is in addition to the initial application to FEMA.)

FEMA will then contact applicants who indicate they have housing needs. Applicants undergo review to see if they qualify.

Priority goes to those families left essentially homeless by the disaster – those living in tents, cars, shelters or those that are crowded into temporary space in private homes of neighbors, friends or relatives. Applicants are asked to identify their situation to aid in prioritization.

For media questions contact the Louisa County Public Information Officer:

Kathy Jolly Vance, ISU Extension, 319-750-3544
vancek@iastate.edu

Washington-Louisa Drug Task Force releases 2007-2008 Stats

WPD= Washington City Police Department. LC/CJ= Combined Stats for Louisa County and Columbus Junction. WCSO= Washington County Sheriff's Department.

1. Total # of Drug Related Charges Filed 2007-08= 266
2. Total # of Felony Charges Filed = 59
3. Total # of Misdemeanor Charges Filed = 207
4. Total # of Defendants Charged = 142
5. Total # of Defendants Charged Felony = 40

6. Total # of Defendants Charged Misdemeanor = 102

7. Total # of Suspects/Cases Investigated or Documented. Delivery of Controlled Substances = 68; Manufacturing Controlled Substances = 98; Possession of Controlled Substances = 68.

8. Quantity of Drugs Seized: Marijuana = 6,643.19g; Methamphetamine = 889.75g; Cocaine (Powder) = 552.3g; Crack Cocaine = 277g; Prescription Pills = 241.5. Stats reflect what each Agency Provided on the Monthly Reporting for Grant Year of 2007-08.

Briefly -

CCHS Class of 1988 plans reunion

The Class of 1988 is planning their 20-year reunion for Columbus Day, October 11, 2008. We would like to contact as many classmates as possible. Anyone with knowledge of regular and/or e-mail addresses please contact Shari (Cecil) Vonnahme at 728-2403 or swolfe11@hotmail.com or Sarah (Prior) Davis at 319-254-1111 or tsdavis@farmtel.net.

LDG plans annual meeting

Attention Louisa Development Group (LDG) members. LDG will have an annual meeting with no meal on July 31st, at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect members to the board of directors and have a short business meeting. All LDG members are asked to attend the annual meeting. The meeting will be held at the new Louisa County Law Enforcement Center located at 12635 County Road G56, Wapello 52653 (This is the former county residential care facility located north of Wapello off Hwy 61, heading east on G56).

At the Historical Society

The Louisa County Historical Society will host a Sunday afternoon program: Civil War Round Table with Al Ourth Sunday, August 10, 2008 at 2:00 P.M. at the Louisa County Historical Museum. Remember: Fall Festival at the Museum Saturday, September 13, 2008 at 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. Serving a noon meal, displays and items for sale.

Conservation Commissioners terms to expire

Four of the five Louisa County Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner positions will be on the November ballot. Current terms are expiring for Mary Boysen, Michelle Rees, Sam Willson and a 2-year term for Chris Ball.

Spring Run Ice Cream Social

Annual Spring Run Ice Cream Supper, Tuesday, August 5...cool off with homemade ice cream and our new air conditioning! Also serving sandwiches, potato salad and pie! Serving begins at 5:00, free will offering. Hope to see you there!

CCHS Class of 1993 plans reunion

The CCHS Class of 1993 will be celebrating their 15-year reunion on August 16th in Columbus Junction. If you are a classmate or a friend/relative of a 1993 graduate, please contact Jennifer (Eutslar) Buchanan at classof1993cchs@yahoo.com or 507-388-4332. We would like to contact as many classmates as possible to join us in celebrating the upcoming reunion.

Spraying of mosquitoes in County

An Important Announcement for Louisa County Residents:

Starting Tuesday, July 22, Orkin Pest Control will be in and/or around Oakville, Columbus Junction, Wapello, and Kilpeck Landing treating to reduce the existing Mosquito populations in the surrounding areas. Treatments will be limited to road ditches and public Right Of Ways at the edge of towns and rural roads. The cost of the abatement program will be funding jointly through FEMA and local government funds. To assure to greatest effectiveness of the treatments parkways and ditches should be mowed. If mowing is not possible the treatment will be applied in any case. Residents should see a decrease in mosquitoes by the end of the first week. Treatment will be ongoing over the next month. Equipment used for application moves very slowly so we urge caution when approaching these vehicles while driving.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Louisa County Public Health at 319-523-3981 and ask for Alana Thanks for your ongoing support of our public health programs.

Alana L Poage, RN Administrator, Louisa County Public Health 805 J L Hodges Ave N - PO Box 222, Wapello, Iowa 52653, phone 319-523-3981 fax 319-523-8408

Hwy 34 Bridge reopens

AMES, Iowa – July 18, 2008 – The Great River Bridge at Burlington, closed for the last four weeks after a levee in Gulfport, Ill., broke and floodwaters swamped U.S. 34, will reopen this evening at 6:30 p.m. To resume travel between Iowa and Illinois, the Illinois Department of Transportation (DOT) placed rock fill on the Illinois roadway elevating it above the flood waters. Traffic in both directions on the road will be reduced to one lane and controlled by temporary traffic signals. Motorists traveling on the temporary crushed rock surface should exercise extreme caution and reduce their speed. Motorists can expect travel delays, including longer delays during rush hours. For information about the temporary travel solution, contact the Illinois DOT at: Contact: 309-671-4460, TTY: 309-671-3450, Phone: 309-671-3333, Fax: 309-671-4953

All Louisa County Flood Volunteers!!!

All Area City Staff, Ambulance Crews, Firemen, Police, Sheriff Staff, County Staff, Elected Officials, Council Members and other WONDERFUL Volunteers are invited to: A Volunteer Appreciation (Yes – FREE!) Supper Wednesday, July 23rd Starts at 5:30 pm At the Louisa County Fairgrounds Grandstand! Hwy 92, Columbus Junction (Thanks to Tyson for the Meat Donation!!!)