

Wednesday  
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Sports  
Page 8

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## Celebrate Iowa on the Fourth of July

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

This week is the Fourth of July. What do you think of or associate with this holiday: fireworks, picnics, a day on the lake or river, a parade, getting together with friends and family, barbecues, baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, and the American flag? All of these are great things to enjoy and plan. Do you ever think about the state flag of Iowa? Probably not; it doesn't have a lot to do with the national holiday celebrated on the Fourth of July.

Did you know that Iowa did not always have a state flag? "Iowa, like many states, seemed not in a hurry to adopt a state flag. The feeling was all soldiers fought under the national flag of stars and stripes."

However, when the United States entered into World War I, "it was expected that the Iowa men would fight in State regiments as they had in former wars and this emphasized the desirability of a State flag to designate the Iowa units." Also, at about the same time, Iowa units were guarding U.S. borders here in the states and other states had identifying banners and Iowa did not. Thus Governor William L. Harding ordered that a banner be sent to the Iowa Guardsmen. It was then discovered that Iowa had no banner.

Plans were started to create a

state flag, and the organization of the Iowa Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution were interested in the task, and a design contest was started by Mrs. Lue Prentiss in the Knoxville, Iowa, D.A.R. chapter. A young lady by the name of Mrs. Dixie Cornell Gebhardt became very interested in the project. Her father was a doctor and had served as a surgeon during the Civil War, and returned to Knoxville, Iowa following the war. Mrs. Gebhardt had been a member of the D.A.R. in Des Moines, but she helped organize the Mary Marion Chapter of the D.A.R. in Knoxville, Iowa, and became a member there.

Mrs. Gebhardt wrote "Iowa's banner should embrace the history of its domain from the time of its occupation by the Indians to discovery by the French and purchase from Napoleon by Jefferson, to its admission into the Union, down to the present time. All this should be represented in a design so simple that school children and adults can recognize its symbolism and know that it meant Iowa."

It was Mrs. Gebhardt's design that was selected on May 11, 1917 as the winner. The D.A.R. provided funding for eight flags to be made and one was sent to the "old Third Iowa", somewhere in France. Seven were presented by Governor Harding to the Iowa Guardsmen. It was then discovered that Iowa had no banner.

An eagle is displayed on the white center stripe of the flag and carries in its beak blue streamers or ribbons with the state motto, "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will

not until March 29, 1921 that this banner actually became the official Iowa state flag. Until then, it was called the "Iowa Regimental Flag."

The colors of the Iowa flag had meaning also.

There were three vertical stripes of blue, white, and red, reflecting Iowa's history as part of the French Louisiana purchase, and these three colors are used in both the French flag and the flag of the United States. "White was chosen to symbolize the unwritten page of history at the state's beginning, when the first Native Americans lived on Iowa's prairies and also represented purity. Blue represents loyalty, justice, and truth. Red stands for courage, and represents the loss of blood by those who sacrificed their lives."

"An eagle is displayed on the white center stripe of the flag and carries in its beak blue streamers or ribbons with the state motto, "Our liberties we prize and our rights we will

maintain" inscribed on it in white letters. The State name "Iowa" is printed in red letters below the eagle.

The city of Knoxville, County Seat of Marion County, calls itself the "Birthplace of the Iowa Flag." Mrs. Gebhardt died on October 16, 1955 in Knoxville.

Whatever you are doing this Fourth of July, take a few moments and think about the Iowa flag. Even though the Fourth is a national holiday, patriotism is observed on all levels, and for those of us who live here, Iowa is a part of our heritage and a part of this country. Note: Information is from Iowa State Flag—its adoption and history from Netstate.Com.



## Briefly -

### CCHS Class of 1988 plans reunion

Attention CCHS Class of 1988: The 25-year reunion for the Class of 1988 is set for the weekend of October 11-12. Friday Night Family Fun at Chinkapin Park. Ride the float in Saturday's parade and supper at the Thirsty Camel. For more information and to R.S.V.P., contact either Nikki McFarland at 314-680-8899 or Theresa Hall at 319-461-9122 by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Cook's Night Out

Everyone is invited to our next Cooks' Night Out Supper to be held on July 10, 2013, at the Letts Methodist Church from 5 to 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for the supper. Crafts and games are available for the youth and visiting for adults. The planned menu includes Cowboy Casserole, Salads and Desserts and Beverages.

### Farmers' Market Coupons at Senior Center

Farmer's Market coupons are now available at the Senior Center on Thursdays from 10:15-11:00 A.M. until all supplies are exhausted.

### Farmers' Market on Friday afternoons

A Farmers Market is held every Friday afternoon from 4:30-6:30, through October 11 at the American Legion parking lot. Produce, plants, baked good and crafts for sale. WIC coupon, SNAP and Senior nutrition coupons accepted. New vendors are always welcome.

### Letts UMC Fun Days

Fun Days are being planned for students K-6 at the Letts United Methodist Church. The day will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 2. Lunch will be served. Activities, crafts, games, snacks, and music. Registration forms at the church office or call office in the a.m. M-F at 726-3641. Fun Days are scheduled for August 1 and August 8. No fees. For questions, call Pastor Marsha Gerot at 319-725-6722.

### Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. at Dodici's Café in Washington.

### Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 P.M.. There will be installation of the new officers for 2013-2014. Elizabeth Miller will be hostess.

### United Methodist Women to meet

The United Methodist Women will meet at Chinkapin Park for a 12:00 p.m. picnic potluck. Note the change of date as we will meet July 10, 2013. Hostesses-Program Committee: Each one tells about a fun and favorite picnic.

### New Police Officer assumes duties



Columbus Junction Mayor, Dan Wilson swears in new Columbus Junction Police Officer, Derek Holmes

**The Dedication to the New Youth Center will be on Thursday, July 11th. The Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey will be the featured speaker.**

## Walmart Foundation gives \$44,000 to Youth Center

The Louisa County Fair Board is pleased to announce another major contributor to the Youth Center. The Walmart Foundation, through their state giving program, recently awarded \$44,000 to the project. The funds will be used to equip the facility for food and nutrition classes and to offer a series of classes focused on healthy cooking and eating. The first effort to take advantage of the Walmart-funded food and nutrition education equipment will be a food safety training on July 16 offered by ISU Extension & Outreach in partnership with the Columbus Junction Community Development Center.

Walmart has a state giving program in each state, as well as Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. In each case the state advisory council, made up of Walmart associates, determines the needs within the state, reviews all eligible grant applications and makes funding recommendations to the Walmart Foundation. Health and wellness and education are identified as important issues in Iowa and the donation to the Youth Center will be used to address those issues.

A dedication celebration for the Youth Center is planned for Thursday, July 11. The featured speaker is Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey. A representative from Walmart will speak about their contribution.

For more information about the Youth Center please contact Susan Pretz, Secretary, Louisa County Fair Association or Bob Schlutz, Youth Center Committee Chair at 563-299-6916.



## Sheriff's Office and C.J. Police urge everyone to buckle up

The Louisa County Sheriff's Office, Columbus Junction Police Department and Wapello Police Department are teaming up to save lives this 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday by asking everyone to buckle up. July 1 – 7, 2013 law enforcement agencies around the state will be conducting "High Visibility" enforcement, cracking down on traffic violators, especially those motorists and occupants not buckled up. For more information on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July mobilization, please visit [www.iowagtsb.gov](http://www.iowagtsb.gov).



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