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MAQUOKETA

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Country acts headline at county fair

By KELLY GERLACH

“Holler Back” if you’re “Pickin’ Wildflowers” around the grandstands at the Jackson County Fair Aug. 1. Country band The Lost Trailers and country solo artist Keith Anderson will be singing those signature songs and others that night.

Lanny Simpson, fair manager, and the Jackson County Fair Board announced the headlining musical acts during a sponsorship gathering at the fairgrounds Wednesday, Jan. 7.

The country acts will take over the grandstand stage Saturday evening, Aug. 1, keeping with the

THE LOST TRAILERS

fair’s new and popular tradition of holding a musical event on Saturday night.

Simpson said the two acts were among the fair board’s top four entertainment selections.

“Mark Miller (fair board member) gave our top four choices to our promoter and (Anderson and The Lost Trailers) were available to sign right away,” Simpson said.

She said the artists’ pricing, type of music and availability were high on the board’s list of priorities, “and what (musical acts) we thought would fly here.”

During the 2008 fair, organizers noticed that more fairgoers stayed to see country band Lonestar than ‘80s band Night Ranger. That seemingly indicated a preference for country music, Simpson said.

Singer/songwriter Keith Anderson headlines the Aug. 1 concert. He earned the reputation of being an adept writer of award nominated hits, not just for his own projects but for other artists as well and his good guy persona is as widely known as his high energy, let’s-get-this-party-started live shows, according to his biography.

Anderson has co-written hits for other artists, most notably “Lost In This Moment,” the No. 1 smash for Big & Rich which also garnered him a CMA and ACM Song of the Year nomination. He also co-wrote the Grammy-nominated “Beer Run (B Double E Double Are You In?)” for Garth Brooks and George Jones.

Photos Contributed

KEITH ANDERSON

His debut “Three Chord Country and American Rock & Roll” garnered two Top 10 hits with “Pickin’ Wildflowers” and “Every Time I Hear Your Name,” along with singles “XXL” and “Po-dunk.” That success prompted Billboard and Radio & Records to name him country music’s No. 1 new male artist of 2005.

It wasn’t just his music that was getting him attention. Known for his body building physique, Anderson was named one of People Magazine’s “50 Hottest Bachelors.”

Anderson’s current single, “I Still Miss You,” is one of his fastest rising songs to date.

The Lost Trailers hit the country music scene last fall with the down-home tune “Holler Back,” the title track from the band’s latest album.

Bandmates Ryder Lee and Stokes Nielson met in a church band as teenagers and have been making records together ever since. Their high school friendship started a country band of five called The Lost Trailers, who have blazed their way through hundreds of honkytonks, joints, roadhouses, night clubs and concert halls.

“Anyone who has ever seen us live is going to hear the first 15 seconds of ‘Holler Back’ and say ‘There’s The Lost Trailers. Those are the guys I saw open for Chesney or open for Sugarland,’” said Nielson.

In the band’s biography, Lee said the song “Holler Back” “is a fun song that captures the element of our live show which is really important to us as well.”

■ **SUPERVISORS,**
Please turn to page 2

■ **ATTRACTIONS,**
Please turn to page 2

Reed addresses Board of Supervisors on issues

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

A rural Springbrook man took exception last week to the Jackson County Board of Supervisors’ comments regarding an agricultural services company’s proposal to construct a fertilizer sales and grain storage facility along U.S. 61 north of Maquoketa.

Gordon Reed also was critical, during a supervisors meeting on Friday, Jan. 2, to a comment Supervisor Larry “Buck” Koos made a week earlier about county snow plowing policies and spending to clear county roads of snow and ice in the winter.

Reed told the supervisors that he opposed the proposal by Innovative Ag Services of Hopkinton because of its location near a creek and at

what he said was a dangerous intersection.

The ag services company is seeking a special exception permit from the Jackson County Board of Adjustment to allow it to develop a 13-acre parcel at the southeast corner of the junction of U.S. 61 and county road E-17. The company eventually would move its operations at its Andrew facility to the new site.

After discussing the application over two meetings, the Board of Adjustment last month tabled action on the request.

The board told Innovative Ag officials it would further consider the application after the compa-

Midland FFA aids humane society

They visited the Jackson County Humane Society to donate cat and dog food they collected. They stayed to play with and exercise the animals, earning new friends as a bonus.

Fifteen members of the Midland FFA sponsored a pet food drive to collect cat and dog food and donate it to the animal shelter. The students delivered 170 pounds of dog food and 60 pounds of cat food.

Committee chairperson Stacey Tjaden, a junior FFA member, devised with the idea. Because Midland’s FFA members come from diverse family backgrounds,

many of them have no animals of their own. This project allowed them to not only provide needed items to the humane society but have fun interacting with the animals and fellow FFA members.

The students spent two hours caring for the cats and dogs. They walked and brushed the dogs, then played and held the cats and kittens.

Midland FFA Adviser Jamie Christiansen said her group plans to make it a bi-annual project – collecting food, maybe helping with shelter maintenance and upkeep, and caring for the animals.

Walks make best friends. Members of the Midland FFA walked dogs at the Jackson County Humane Society after donating food for the shelter animals. Shown are Mari Merrick in front, Stacey Tjaden and Meagan Fields in back.