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— M A Q U O K E T A —

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Horses to march in fair parade

By KELLY GERLACH

Horses will maintain their longstanding presence in the Jackson County Fair parade, board members decided Thursday, July 8. Horses' participation and safety measures remain at the discretion of the owner.

Jackson County Fair Board and association members met Thursday evening in regular session to discuss banning or restricting the presence of horses in this year's parade. Discussion was prompted by the July 4 incident in Bellevue in which a spooked horse trampled parade-goers, injuring 25 and killing one.

Board members decided not to take action limiting or prohibiting horses in the parade.

"It's very unfortunate what happened last weekend, but it was an accident," said Mike Franzen, board president. "People don't bring their animals - whether they're horses, pigs, whatever - there to hurt people."

Some members suggested having outriders riding alongside teams of horses in hopes of stopping them should they spook and run away.

Franzen said he didn't think the board could make nor enforce such rules for everyone. He said the board could suggest that horse teams have people ride alongside and that horse owners double-check the safety and security of their equipment prior to the parade.

Darcy Hankemeier, association member, said he spoke with organizers from Great River Threshers in Miles who said they were not altering their parade to exclude horses. After all, horse-powered threshing and the saddle horse show is part of the attraction at that annual event.

Hankemeier reminded people that the July 4 incident was an accident that could have involved anything. He said the throttle could stick on a four-wheeler and injure people, or that the

driver of the large Shriner's vehicle could have a heart attack and cause a catastrophe.

"It could be anything, not just horses," he said. **Hand out candy, don't throw it**

The fair board's discussion also turned to the throwing of candy in the fair parade. Some people have complained about people in the parade who use unnecessary force to hurl candy at bystanders.

Franzen said representatives from his business walk down the sides of the street handing out candy.

"We've been doing it for three years, and I think it's safer for the kids," he said. "It's candy and that's part of the parade."

Mark Drake of Andrew believed the pursuit of candy is part of the reason so many kids were injured in Bellevue July 4.

"I was there...I'll never throw another piece of candy. If you've seen what it looks like to have kids lying on the ground, bags of candy scattered

■ PARADE,
Please turn to page 2

Fund set up for Sunday's parade victims and families

When tragedies strike small communities, residents respond with big hearts.

In response to the Sunday, July 4 horse stampede during Bellevue's Heritage Days parade, a Bellevue Parade Victim's fund has been established.

To provide financial assistance to victims and families, drop donations off at Bellevue State Bank and Fidelity Bank in Bellevue. Other drop-off points include Fidelity locations in Dubuque, Maquoketa and LaMotte.

Donations can also be mailed to Bellevue State Bank, P.O. Box 47, Bellevue, IA 52031. Make checks payable to the Bellevue Parade Victims Fund.

The fund will benefit individuals who sustained injuries as a direct result of the incident and were provided emergency care at a health

care facility immediately following the incident. Eligible expenses for reimbursement are out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the victim or their immediate family.

An independent board will oversee the fund.

The Diamond Jo Casino has issued a challenge donation of \$50,000 for the cause. They hope to be able to multiply that amount by five, according to Tim Daugherty of Bellevue State Bank, which has also made a \$10,000 donation.

Sedgwick Claims Management Services has also donated \$25,000 to the fund. Sedgwick is a large processor of medical insurance claims in the United States and has an office in Dubuque.

For more information, contact Tim Daugherty, Bellevue State Bank, at (563) 872-4911.

Police order upheld to remove pit bull

By DOUGLAS MELVOLD

A split Maquoketa City Council this week upheld a police order that a Maquoketa woman remove her pet pit bull terrier from the city.

Some council members, however, also said they wanted to discuss the ordinance itself.

On a 4-3 vote, the council on Tuesday night, July 6, upheld an abatement served by Police Chief Brad Koranda on Stacy Eby, ordering that she remove her pit bull terrier from the city by Wednesday, July 14.

A city ordinance bans residents from keeping pit bull terriers in the city.

Eby, accompanied by a dozen supporters, pleaded her case before the council.

Eby acknowledged that her dog is a pit bull and that a city ordinance prohibits such dogs in the city.

She argued that that ordinance is unfair and that it should not automatically ban all members of one breed of dog.

Eby called her dog "a part of my family" and said he "is the sweetest and loves to snuggle." She said her dog has never caused harm.

"I would like my pit bull to remain a part of my family," Eby told the council. The ordinance banning pit bulls "should not be breed-specific."

She said she keeps her dog on a chain and has installed a six-foot high fence to keep him on her property.

Another woman, Cindy Holzworth said she has two pit bull terriers and also has been ordered to remove them from the city.

She said she has offered day care and foster care services for 10 years with her pit bulls present and had no incidents.

"I agree with Stacy," the woman said. "I will not let my baby go. The breed of a dog does not make it a vicious dog."

Stacy Manning said she does not own a dog but said the ordinance banning pit bulls is wrong.

Councilman Todd Mang said he didn't think the ordinance was fair and said he wanted to send the ordinance to the council's Public Safety Committee for review.

Councilman Don Schwenker asked why the entire breed of pit bulls is specifically banned. He noted that the ordinance also prohibits any dangerous animal.

Councilman Ed Turney replied that pit bulls are considered a dangerous animal. He said the city has spent \$9,000 to train police officer Brendan Zeimet so that he can identify a pit bull.

City Manager Brian Wagner noted that the ordinance banning pit bulls dates back to the mid-1980s. The provision banning all dangerous animals was added later.

Mayor Jason Hute said he has voted in favor of the ordinance twice, but said he also would like to reconsider the ordinance.

"I'd like to see it be reviewed and see what the new council thinks," Hute said.

Mang said he had expected to receive calls from constituents about the ordinance, but has received none. He urged his Second Ward constituents to contact him.

Schwenker asked where the opposition was when the council was reconsidering the ordinance last year.

Councilman Neil Morehead said the council is charged with carrying out policies for the common good. He said the pit bull was bred as

a fighter many years ago and "it is still in their blood."

He estimated that 98 percent of cities in Iowa have a blanket ban against pit bulls.

Another woman disagreed with Morehead's comments, saying that pit bulls were raised to be hunting dogs, not fighters.

City Attorney Ken Wright reminded the council that the issue before it is whether or not Koranda correctly followed the ordinance in ordering Eby to remove her dog from the city. He noted that the issue was not whether or not pit bulls are dangerous animals or whether or not the ordinance should be changed.

Council members voting in favor of upholding Koranda's order were Morehead, Turney, Eric Pape and Margo Shouse.

Voting against upholding the order were Schwenker, Mang and council member Amy Moore.

Moore said she also would like to have the ordinance be returned to the Public Safety Committee for discussion.

Koranda said after the meeting that he has issued abatement notices against six pit bulls. He said all of the owners have admitted that their dog is a pit bull.

He said two owners, including Eby, have appealed their orders.

Once an owner has been issued an abatement, he or she may appeal it to the police chief. If the owner is dissatisfied with the appeal outcome, he or she may further appeal it to the council.

Appeals of council decisions go to District Court. Eby indicated that she would take that step.