

Celebrate July 4-5 Heritage Days

By **DAVID NAMANNY**
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More than 100 years ago, the river community celebrated what was called “Bellevue Homecoming.” For more than six decades, it has been known as Heritage Days.

Same concept, different name, yet the annual patriotic gala draws thousands each year from across the tri-state area and far beyond as it is one of the largest and most action-packed Independence Days celebrations in eastern Iowa, and definitely the biggest party in Jackson County by far.

Now in its 63rd year, Bellevue’s Independence Day celebration will take place Friday July 4, and Saturday, July 5. The event will include live music, dances, kids games, food, refreshments, ski shows, fireworks displays and of course, the grand parade.

All the fun starts Friday, July 4, at Cole Park with H&H Fun Rides opening for kids at 4 p.m. Inflatables, climbing rock wall, “Tubs of Fun” ride and foam machine are all available. Ron Moraga caricatures and Henna’s Temporary Tattoos will also be on site. An outdoor dance in the beer garden featuring local band 50 Pound Rooster begins at 5:30 p.m., with Not Quite Brothers from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Food vendors including Parker’s Pit Stop, Jeronimo’s, Schlect Lunch Wagon and Sip & Shop and Sweet Boutique also will be on hand.

At dusk, the music will be paused as Bellevue American Legion Post #273 members conduct a traditional flag burning at Cole Park. A youth dance with tunes provided by Absolute Music will also take place from 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Meanwhile down at the American Legion Hall on Market Street, live music will be provided by the One-of-a-Kind Band.

On Saturday, July 5, the day begins at 10 a.m. with the Heritage Days Parade, with parade line-up at the Horizon Hall parking lot at about 9:15 a.m. Floats are asked to register either online or at Bellevue City Hall in order to officially be part of the Float Contest, sponsored by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce. First and second place winners will receive a payout of \$500 and \$250 in Chamber Bucks. (Those floats not entering the contest can simply line up at Horizon Hall).

After the parade up at Cole Park, Steve Engelman will be inducted as the grand marshal of Heritage Days 2025, the prince and princess will be crowned, and essay contest winners will be recognized. A flag-raising ceremony conducted by the Bellevue Fire



Contributed photo

Bellevue organizes the largest July 4 party in the area, with a parade, fireworks, and two-days of festivities to entertain people of all ages. This year’s events will be July 4-5.

Department will be held as well.

Food stands, bingo, children’s games and a beer garden and car and tractor show will be open all day. From 12:45 p.m. to 2 p.m., youth dances will take place at the Cole Park basketball courts, as well a sanctioned pedal tractor pull for children ages 4-12.

Kids games, food stand, beverage garden and a dunk tank will run throughout the day as well. Ron Moraga Caricatures will also be on hand. Live music in the beer garden will commence at noon in the beer garden with a performance by veteran musician and one of the original “rhythm boys” Jeffy Theisen at noon, followed by River Moonshine at 2:30 p.m. and the Pork Tornados from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

H&H Fun Rides and a 24-foot rock-climbing wall will be available for the kiddos, as well as Schroeder’s Crew Petting Zoo (featuring our local FFA and 4-Hers). Miller Cornhole games will also be located on the outer softball diamond starting at 3 p.m., and T.J. the Quad City Magician will be making balloon animals and performing magic for all.

The Bellevue Chamber Cash Raffle, with drawings for \$15,000, \$3,000 and \$1,000, will take place at 7 p.m. in the beer garden.

Downtown activities, fireworks

Down on South Riverview, food trucks aplenty will be available starting at 4 p.m. A live ski show by Ski Bellevue will commence at 6 p.m.

The fireworks display over the Mississippi River will take place at dusk on Saturday night. The fireworks display is coordinated by the Bellevue Fire Department. Fireworks are paid for by business and individual donations, as well as from the proceeds from the Bellevue Heritage Days button sales, which allow admission to most events.

OBITUARIES

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Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa.

Darlene affected countless lives with her many years and positions in public service working for the State of Iowa. She retired from her position as a Juvenile Justice Program manager in 2006.

Darlene met her future husband while they were both advocating for social justice at a protest. She married Reverend Harold Butz in 1974. There were no children born to this union.

Darlene enjoyed gardening, visiting with her family, Sudoku puzzles, and researching family genealogy.

Those left to honor her memory include a brother, Larry “Butch” (Carol) Clark of Zwingle, IA; sister, Betty (Tom) Streets of Scotch Grove, IA; a very special sister-in-law, Carolyn (Neil) Morehead of Maquoketa, IA; and 22 nieces and nephews that she loved like her own children.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clayton and Evelyn, husband Rev. Harold Butz, brothers Robert and Roger, sisters Lois Elkins, Ruth Siegel and LaVonne Morehead, nieces Janet Lee Morehead and Jan Ellen Morehead, and nephew Tom Elkins.

At Peace Cremation Services have been provided by Carson Celebration of Life Center in Maquoketa. There will be no public services. A private family gathering will be held at a later date. Burial will be at Mount Hope Cemetery, Maquoketa.

The family wishes to thank all the beautiful people at Oak Park Place, Dubuque, Grand Meadows, Asbury, and St. Croix Hospice for their loving care.

Online Condolences may be left at www.CarsonAndSon.com.

Agnes Milota

Agnes M. Milota, a cherished mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at Jackson Ridge Healthcare Center in Maquoketa, Iowa, at the age of 83. Born on January 23, 1942, in Monticello, Iowa, Agnes was the daughter of Harm John and Phoebe Gladys (Westphal) Rickels. She spent her formative years in rural Monmouth and was a proud 1960 graduate of Monmouth High School, where she showcased her athletic spirit on the basketball court.

Agnes’s heart found its match when she married Gilbert R. “Butch” Milota on December 30, 1961, in Monmouth, Iowa. Their union was blessed with love, laughter, and family until Butch’s passing on January 3, 2015.

Agnes’s professional journey was as

diverse as it was fulfilling. After graduating high school, she worked for Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids for a year. Her career path led her to various roles, including house cleaning, a stint at Lakehurst, and ultimately, she found joy in working in the kitchen at Sunshine Daycare and Preschool in Maquoketa for over five years.



AGNES MILOTA

A devout Christian, Agnes was a dedicated member of the First Lutheran Church in Maquoketa. Her faith was a cornerstone of her life, guiding her through times of joy and sorrow with grace and resilience. Agnes’s interests were a reflection of her zest for life. She relished trips to the casino, where she found excitement and camaraderie. An avid fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes, she rarely missed a chance to cheer on the Men’s basketball team, sharing her passion with family and friends.

Above all, Agnes’s world revolved around her family. Her love for them was boundless, and the time spent with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren was her most treasured.

Agnes leaves behind a legacy of love and cherished memories. She is survived by her daughters, Jodi (Dean) Nowachek of Monmouth, IA, and Lori (Brent) Klemm of Marion, IA; three grandchildren, Amanda (Phil) Schinstock, Becky (Matt) Koch, and Allison Foster; three great-grandchildren, Emery, Elise, and Rozlyn; brother, Carl Rickels of Monmouth, IA; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, beloved husband, her son Randy Ray Milota, her grandson Tyler James Foster, her sister Gladys Keating, and her brothers John Henry, Howard, Herman, George “Don,” and one brother who passed at birth.

A celebration of her life was held at 11:30 a.m., Monday, June 30, 2025, at Carson Celebration of Life Center in Maquoketa. Visitation was held prior to the funeral from 10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial was at the Monmouth, IA Cemetery.

In lieu of other expressions of sympathy, memorials may be made to Camp Courageous of Iowa.

Online condolences may be left at www.CarsonAndSon.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TWO VACANCIES ON
EASTERN IOWA REGIONAL
HOUSING AUTHORITY COMMISSION

Jackson County has two openings on the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA) Commission effective **September 1, 2025**. One appointment is for a two-year term and the other for a one-year term.

The Commissioners provide oversight of the Section 8 HCV (Housing Choice Voucher) program. The Supervisors are looking for individuals who are interested in housing, do not have rental properties on this program, and who are willing to attend up to six meetings per year in Dubuque.

Applications are available in the Supervisors office, **201 West Platt, Maquoketa, Iowa, or search for “Boards” on our website: <https://jacksoncounty.iowa.gov/>.**

Completed forms must be returned to the Supervisors office **by Friday, July 18, 2025.**

For details regarding the duties and responsibilities of an EIRHA Commissioner, contact Michelle Schnier, ECIA Director of Housing & Support Services, 563-556-4166, mschnier@ecia.org.