

PROGRESS 2007

Southern Iowa Fair has rich history

OSKALOOSA — The Southern Iowa Fair is a major attraction for the city of Oskaloosa in late July.

This year, the fair will be held July 16-22. It will feature an Exotic Petting Zoo Thursday through Sunday; a concert; a livestock show —horses, pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, bucket bottle calf, chicken, rabbit, dairy; on Monday, a free concert with an Oldies Car Show; tractor pull; regular Wednesday night races; a carnival; a draft horse show; Jack Russell Terrier races; a combine derby; and four-wheeler races, along with several other events taking place.

The Southern Iowa Fair was first held on Oct. 23, 1852, in the Oskaloosa city square. The fair included a livestock show that was held outside of town and horse racing was held on a course that is now North G Street. Today, the Southern Iowa Fair includes activities ranging from 4-H and FFA livestock competitions to concerts, harness racing to stockcar racing and a demolition derby.

In 1858 and 1859, the Iowa State Fair was held in Oskaloosa. The fairs were held on an unfenced fairgrounds northwest of Oskaloosa. By 1860, state officials permanently moved the state fair to Des Moines.

The Southern Iowa Fair features many venues for activities.

The Southern Iowa Fair Livestock Pavilion is a versatile building — it has been used for events ranging from livestock shows to a wedding.

Oskaloosa building contractor P.W. Sparks built the Stock Judging Pavilion at the fairgrounds in 1919. The pavilion



along with the Iowa State Fair pavilion in Des Moines and the Cattle Congress in Waterloo are the only ones in the state with a round shape.

The pavilion was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 12, 1984.

The 156-foot by 116-foot, 14-sided polygonal pavilion has a 115-foot by 69-foot show arena. According to the Aug. 18, 1919, edition of The Oskaloosa Daily Herald, the pavilion cost \$15,000. It was composed of concrete, brick and steel, and it has wooden seats with a capacity for 2,000 people. The bleacher area has wooden floors, and the show arena has a dirt and sand floor.

During the pavilion's lifetime, fair board officials conducted some improvement projects. The cupola was removed in 1945. In 1989, steel siding was installed on the pavilion's exterior. Also, the windows around the top of the building were removed and hinged doors were added for better ventilation. Also, some rewiring work

was done.

The Exhibit Hall and the Varied Industry buildings are hubs for fair activities with many 4-H projects placed in the Exhibit Hall and many booths for local businesses set up in the Varied Industries Building. When they are not in use at fair time, the buildings are rented out for weddings or reunions.

The Southern Iowa Speedway is another major attraction at the fairgrounds.

The half-mile race track and grandstand are the venue for regular Wednesday night car races, and some demolition derbies. The races have brought people from as far away as New York, California and Australia. The Front Row Challenge has attracted nationally known NASCAR circuit drivers. The grandstand has a capacity of about 3,000 people.

Be sure to check the Web site — www.southerniowafair.com — for all events taking place throughout the year at the fairgrounds.

Larry's Auto Body offers experience you can trust for your car's repair needs

OSKALOOSA — Has a deer crossed your path and dented, scratched or otherwise damaged your vehicle? Are you looked to restore that classic car back to cherry condition?

Well, owner Larry Mitrison, and his wife, Helene, along with Danny

Brown and Robert Musgrove invite you to come on out to Larry's Auto Body, at 1812 17th Ave. E. in Oskaloosa.

In his nearly 45 years in the auto body business, Larry has worked on several classic cars, but that isn't where his business ends as

they also do glass replacement, insurance collision work, auto re-building and sell used cars.

The business also accepts all insurance estimates.

So, come on out to Larry's Auto Body — they're open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

www.oskaloosa.com



Indian Can Kountry Redemption Center

Hours:

M, T, Th, F 10-6; Sat. 9-3
Closed Wednesday

303 Rock Island Ave.
672-0907

J.S. Stafford/Prairie Farmers Agency's remains committed to customers

OSKALOOSA — Ask Tammy McMains, manager of J.S. Stafford/Prairie Farmers Agency, at 602 S. Market St. in Oskaloosa, what progress in the insurance agency is, and she may have told you it was moving from her parent's home in Lovilia to attend college at William Penn.

It might be no longer having to listen to insurance talk over the family dinner table and in every car ride she took with her mom and dad. Times have changed. Tammy is now the one talking insurance talk and works to keep up with the progress of being in business.

JoAnn Ames, who has been an outstanding personal lines agent since 2001, teams with Tammy to form a highly competent duo to assist with

insurance needs. On April 12 of last year, Joann and Tammy were very lucky to find Kristi Sagers. She joined the team and has become one of the best assistants they have ever had.

Johnson Insurance Sales Corp. has been in business since beginning in Lovilia in 1962 and Albia and Eddyville since 1982. Their first move to Oskaloosa was in a merger with the J.S. Stafford/IMT Agency in June 1993. The Stafford Agency was established in Oskaloosa approximately 50 years earlier.

When Prairie Farmers/IMT Agency, who had been operating in Oskaloosa for several decades, merged with J.S. Stafford in June 1999 in order to continue to provide local

service, the company's name became J.S. Stafford/Prairie Farmers Agency.

Though times and techniques have changed with the dawning of the Internet, one thing that hasn't changed is that J.S. Stafford/Prairie Farmers Agency is available to the customer when they need someone to talk to about insurance. They remain committed to serve you when you stop by their office, and they are still willing to do business the old fashioned way by coming to you if that is more convenient.

The company's motto remains, "Continuing the long-term commitment of providing excellent insurance products with friendly, local service."

Experience Affordable Living at Santa Clara Apartments



2 and 3 bedroom & Handicap units available.

- On-Site Laundry • Storage Closets
- Close to Elementary

Contact (641)673-8526
for more information.



DICKINSON COMPANY, INC.

1945 – 62 Years of Service – 2007

- LIGHTING
- SIGNING
- TRAFFIC SIGNALS
- FLOODLIGHTING
- DIRECTIONAL BORING
- TRENCHING
- BACKHOE
- CRANE WORK
- OUTDOOR STORM WARNING SYSTEMS
- GOLF COURSE, VINEYARD COMMERCIAL and RESIDENTIAL IRRIGATION

COMPLETE INSTALLATION & SERVICE

1616 D AVENUE WEST
P.O. BOX 227
OSKALOOSA, IOWA 52577-0227



MARLOWE C. DICKINSON
PRESIDENT
TEL: 641-673-3256



DAVID K. DICKINSON
VICE-PRESIDENT
FAX: 641-673-3309