

Ackley World Journal

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PHOTOS BY BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

This little guy's smile says it all about the joy of Sauerkraut Days. While the celebration is over, he's still dreaming of all the fun he had!

Until next year

Skraut Days 2023 is history

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

The 120th annual Sauerkraut festivities is now history. From Thursday afternoon through Sunday afternoon, there was fun to be found up and down Main Street and across the community as residents celebrated their shared history.

This year brought a new adventure which kept the history of Sauerkraut Days alive. A scavenger hunt kept residents searching through a display of old photographs of Sauerkraut Days from the past decades. Photos were provided by residents, enlarged and placed in the windows of businesses along Main

Street, questions put together by volunteers were provided with participants searching the photos in order to provide their answer.

The festivities kicked off Thursday afternoon with Chalk the Walk, held in front of King's Hometown Furniture and Flooring. Taking top prize this year in the event sponsored by Kings, Maggie Allen Photography, and the 2023 Iowa Newspaper of the Year, the Ackley World Journal, was Taryn Oelmann whose drawing of a rainbow made the judges smile! Second and third place winners were Henry Harms and Bailey Stilwell respectively. Winners have been notified and should stop by the Ackley World Journal to pick up their prizes.

With the theme of 'Sauerkraut Days

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Crowned as Miss Ackley 2023 was Giana Flores, daughter of Chuy and Amanda Flores. Runner up, also crowned during ceremonies held in Victory Park on Friday evening was Avery Bierman, daughter of Starr Miller and Eric Bierman. Little Miss and Mr. Ackley are Tenley Neuberger and Jaxen Saltzman. Look for more photos of Thursday and Friday's activities inside this edition of the Ackley World Journal. More photos of the celebration will be published in the June 21 edition.

Bippity, Boppity, Birthday!

Teen entrepreneur opens birthday party business

BECKY SCHIPPER
EDITOR

If you've ever wondered how you're going to keep a group of children entertained during a birthday party, you are not alone. Thirteen-year-old Delaney Schafer has the answer.

Delaney opened her own business, Once Upon A Birthday, in 2020 at the age of 10. The COVID pandemic put a hold on the successful operation. Rather than give up, Delaney spent the next three years considering her business plan, using the time to work through and grow the many options and ideas for the party business which she runs from her parents rural Wellsburg home.

Delaney is not your average child. The young lady - far wiser than her age suggests, hires individuals to play characters from popular movies and cartoons and provides entertainment at birthday parties in a 35-mile radius from her home.

The idea was planted when she met

a young lady who worked as Belle. Long story short, Belle grew up, got married and moved to another state.

"So there were no more characters for parties," Delaney said. "Mom mulled the idea over and worked with Amy (the former Belle). Mom has always taught us that we need to work and 'Once Upon a Birthday' is the result."

Along with a wide variety of characters - from 'The One Who Sleeps' to 'The One with the Glass Slipper', to 'The One with the Rose' to 'The One with Bat Friends' and 'The One who Turns Green', along with a variety of villains arrive at each booked party along with Delaney herself.

"The Fairy Godmother always shows up!" Delaney laughs.

She's far from a child when she's in charge of a party, keeping her actors and actresses in character, providing entertainment, and making sure each and every child - from the guest of honor to their attending friends and family are happy and engaged during their session.

Sessions range from one to two hours with costs based upon the number of

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BECKY SCHIPPER/ACKLEY WORLD JOURNAL

Thirteen-year-old Delaney Schafer poses fairy godmother style in front of the many costumes which her actors don to fulfill every child's dream. Schafer owns and operates Once Upon a Birthday, providing characters from movies and cartoons to perform at birthday parties. The young entrepreneur runs her business from her parents' home in rural Wellsburg.





The tradition of stirring the sauerkraut with a pitchfork hasn't changed since the celebration began. This year, the honor of doing so was accepted by Chris Richtsmeier of the Ackley Volunteer Ambulance Service.



2023 Little Mr. Ackley Jaxen Saltzman and Little Miss Ackley Tenley Neuberger were crowned Friday evening.



The Ackley German Band once again played their audience's favorites from the band shell in Victory Park. The group entertains during the annual kraut and weiners meal.

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Carnival', the annual kiddie parade was held on Thursday evening and brought smiles to all who watched. Many children, sometimes by themselves, other times with assistance from their parents, made their way through the parade to the delight of those looking on. Judges chose the following entries as those among the top places - Tricycles - Jo Sprain; Ponies - Marshall; Float - Taylor Brass, Monroe Humke, Maeva Humke, and Maren Humke; Motorized Vehicles - Hope Moreno; Coaster Wagons - Pop, Pop, Poppin Our Way to Sauerkraut Days with Forgy family and Beck Porterfield and Drake



At just a year old, Lydia Rolland, loved sauerkraut and reached out for more during the annual kraut and weiner feed held over the weekend.

family; Costumes - Kraut Days Carnival Eats with

Emma, Evan, Ada, Carson, and Alivia O'Kane and

Lauren, Tenley, and Brock Neuberger; and Bicycles -

Clowning Around to Sauerkraut, Dominic Draheim.

Friday brought the free kraut and wiener feed, served up by the Ackley Volunteer Ambulance crew. The meal is one of the longest standing traditions of the celebration and a favorite of all attending. Some of the youngest Sauerkraut Days attendees were able to taste kraut for the very first time but not all were impressed with the flavor.

This year also brought many former Miss Ackley's to the stage to reintroduce them to the community over which they once reigned. Eight former Miss Ackley winners took part.

Victory Park was incredibly busy on Saturday

with everything from a petting zoon and spelling bee to the kids pedal tractor pull. The evening kicked off with the annual parade, the Ackley Heritage Center volunteers were honored as being the grand marshal.

The fun concluded on Sunday morning with the annual Car/Flyer Show and Shine, with a good line up of planes, cars, trucks, and even motorcycles. Special train rides kept the kiddos busy as well.

Planning for the 2024 Sauerkraut Days festival will begin shortly by the Ackley Chamber of Commerce and the countless other volunteers who make the celebration happen. ●

Southfork Watershed Alliance Field Day
Keep nutrients in your Field and out of the Stream!



Come listen to keynote speaker Keegan Kult - Executive Director of Agriculture Drainage Management Coalition.
Learn about the joint SWCD/SFWA Iowa Water Quality Initiative Batch and Build project.


Jacob Handsaker will talk about saturated buffer and bioreactor installations plus about his role with the Batch and Builds in Polk and Story.

When: June 22, 2023 - 11:00am - 2:00pm *Lunch Provided*

Where: Royle and Jo Duncan Field - From Hwy 20, go north on S27 two miles, then west on D25 to EE Ave. Turn south/left 1 mile on EE. Field entrance is on the right side of road before bridge.

RSVP appreciated by: June 19 to southforkwatershed.org or phone 515-290-9999

Sponsored by:
Iowa Corn Growers
Hardin County Farm Bureau
IDALS-Iowa Water Quality Initiative



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guests and the number of characters requested. Each session includes a story time, an activity, singing of the Birthday Song,

presentation of a gift, and photo opportunities with the characters scheduled to appear.

Delaney says that activities vary depending upon the age and gender

of the party host.

"Mom makes me think on my feet and it helps me so much," Delaney said. "I have to be aware of any allergies of the guests and bring activities based on that as well. Parents want their kids' parties to go perfectly, and that's my job!"

She manages each party to meet the expectations of the parents, along with managing the characters, many of whom are older than she. The actors who portray the characters need to be able to speak 'off the cuff' while remaining in character. For example, if a character flies on a rug and a child asks where the rug is, that actor must be able to stay in their role and answer the child's question without missing a beat.

To do that, each actor is quizzed on their character and must know all the small details that a child might notice. Characters are typically those age 16 and older, so as Delaney explains, they can depend upon their own transportation to a party.

Delaney, a student at Timothy Christian School, has thought through every aspect of her role - how she wants the business to grow to how to exit the business when her time there is through. There's little the young lady hasn't thought about and planned or prepared for.

To book a party, contact Delaney at Once Upon a Birthday on social media, or call this young dream maker at 641-858-6741 for pricing and party details. ●

Ackley World Journal

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SHOWING JUNE 16 - 22

ELEMENTAL
RATED PG
TUES. - FRI. 7 p.m.
SAT. & SUN. 3 & 7 p.m.

TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS
RATED PG-13
TUES. - FRI. 7 p.m.
SAT. & SUN. 3 & 7 p.m.



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YOUR LIFE IOWA
Iowa HHS

Welcome to our Team of Visiting Specialists!



Mindy Struthoff, ARNP

We are pleased to now offer psychiatry services in Iowa Falls! Mindy Struthoff, ARNP will be available one Wednesday a month at Hansen Family Hospital.

To schedule an appointment, call 641.494.5170.



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