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Local girl to participate in Miss Junior Teen Bloomington

Jesse Ann Gillette of Hoopeston was recently selected to participate in Nationals' 2006 Miss Jr. Teen Bloomington pageant competition that will take place on October 15.

Gillette learned of her acceptance into this year's competition as Nationals, Inc. announced their selections on Monday afternoon.

She submitted an application and took part in an interview session that was conducted by Anna Klejnonski, this year's Bloomington Pageant Coordinator.

Gillette will be among contestants competing for their share of over \$20,000 in prizes and specialty gifts that will be distributed to contestants. She will compete in the Miss Jr. Teen division, one of three divisions that will have young ladies between the ages of 10 and 19 competing in modeling routines which include casual wear and formal wear. Most important, Gillette will display her personality and interviewing skills while interviewing with this year's Bloomington judging panel.

Personality is the number one aspect that each contestant is judged on during all phases of competition.

If Gillette wins the title of Miss Jr. Teen Bloomington, she will represent Bloomington and the surrounding

See MISS on other side



GILLETTE

Rossville Community Organization to hold Halloween event

ROSSVILLE—A fall tradition has been reinstated thanks to the efforts of the members of the Rossville Community Organization.

For nearly 25 years, the old Rossville Commercial Club hosted a popular Halloween parade and contest. The annual event originally started at the Methodist church in 1953, but was moved to the post office in 1959 and preceded through downtown to the grade

school gym. When the Commercial Club ceased being active, their annual event ended.

With memories of the old event in mind, the RCO will host the First Annual Halloween Parade and Contest on Tuesday, Oct. 31.

In keeping with the tradition of the old celebration, the Halloween parade will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Ross-

See ROSSVILLE on other side

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School board should bargain fairly

Hoopeston, already reeling from a long string of economic setbacks, now faces a wrenching new crisis. Negotiations between the school board and teachers have broken down due to intransigence to bargain in good faith by the Board. I am no longer directly involved in the process but the current impasse is essentially an extension of last year's bargaining and that was quite acrimonious and hostile towards teachers. Therefore, I feel fairly certain that the Board has little intent to bargain in good faith unless there is either a public outcry, a work action by the teachers' association, or both.

For many years, negotiations between the teachers and the Board were businesslike and relatively harmonious. Neither side ever got everything that they proposed but reasonable compromises were made without any long-lasting hostilities. Then, rather dramatically, the climate of the Board changed to the worse in regards to bargaining in a fair and fiscally responsible manner. It would appear that the Board no longer desires to invest in our community's

greatest asset--our children and their future.

It seems likely to me that the legacy of this Board will be that of infamy and disdain unless their obdurate intransigence mellows in regards to good faith bargaining. Failure to continue to invest in good teachers and educational programs is tantamount to condemning our students to a lower quality education. While a school district can find "warm bodies" to impersonate real teachers, those replacements will lack the warmth, competence, and compassion that the present staff displays every day on the job.

It is more than a little ironic to me that the long-time motto of our schools-- "Quality education with a small town touch" --is now emphatically threatened with the quality being sliced out in small surgical cuts.

I fervently hope that the current climate of bad feelings does not further erode into a permanent rift. Before

wounds get inflicted so deep that they can never heal properly, I would appeal for a shift in the Board's approach to allow fair bargaining to resume. The children are watching and deserve first consideration on all things.

Bill Medler
Hoopeston

About Mark Foley

I hope there wasn't a lot of hee-hawing and fat jaws giggling when the political letter "D" was attached to the name of ex-Congressman Mark Foley by "The Most Powerful Name In News" channel during prime time television. Hey, it was said to be an error. Who am I to argue? Although, I've never seen or heard of this kind of mistake before, even after the rolling cameras and the millions of pages of news released during the previous presidency.

Mark Foley-(R-Fla.) recently resigned and admitted himself into an undisclosed rehabilitation center for alcohol abuse. We can read or watch the news for more....

Many taxpayers thought the White House was on the road to moral cleanliness, but now I'm wondering if more reaping is coming or the devil has been let loose again.

Ok ... we all have sinned, but luckily, most of us don't have a political letter attached to our names ... yet.

Vera Crozier
Hoopeston

Briefly

Tiny Tots

"Caterpillars" is the theme of this week's Tiny Tots story program. Tiny Tots meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and 10:30 a.m. Friday at the Hoopeston Public Library children's room. It is for children ages 1-4.

Rossville continued from other side

ville Post Office on Maple Street and travel through downtown to the high school gym. A costume contest will be held with the Rossville American Legion Auxiliary providing free hotdogs, drinks, and chips. The Ross-

Miss continued from other side

communities at the Cities of America National Competition in Orlando, Florida.

More than \$60,000 in prizes and awards will be presented at the National Competition while each winner enjoys this expense paid trip of five nights and six days in Orlando, Florida.

There is no cost to Gillette for participating in the pageant competition. Community businesses, organizations, and private individuals will assist her in participating in this year's competition by becoming official sponsors to her. Through sponsorship, each contestant receives all the necessary training, rehearsals, and financial support which will allow Jesse to become a very confident and well-prepared contestant in this year's Bloomington Pageant.

Businesses, organizations, or individuals interested in becoming Gillette's sponsor may contact her pageant coordinator, Anna Klejnonski at 1-800-569-2487.

ville Community Organization will also provide gift bags and a cake donut while supplies last. Those wishing to be in the parade should come at least 15 minutes early. The parade will use sidewalks and be escorted by "ghost" guards. For those not wishing to walk in the parade, costume judging will begin at 6 p.m. in the high school gym.

"Many of us fondly remember the old Halloween event." noted event committee organizer Sharon Potter. "It was a great, safe event for when we were kids and we wanted to help reinstall that fall tradition to the community."

Public Halloween celebrations in Rossville go back as far as 1904 when parties and events were held at area churches and the high school. "In the past, people were very creative in their costuming with lots of variety of home made work. It really was more about being creative and less about just being scary."

Weather



Chance of showers today, tonight and tomorrow. High today 66, low 53. Tomorrow, high 62, low 36.

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