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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**81st North Iowa Band Festival
Award Winners and Royalty Announced**

MASON CITY— It was truly “Chamber of Commerce Weather” as the 81st annual North Iowa Band Festival parade marched through Mason City. Alana Noss of Rockford and Jacob VerHelst from Central Springs were crowned Band Festival Queen and King under sunny skies. Alana is the daughter of Rob and Amy Noss and plans to attend the Original LaJames College of Cosmetology this fall. Jacob’s parents are Mike and Lisa VerHelst. He will attend Iowa State University.

Perennial marching band powerhouse Lake Mills High School claimed the Meredith Willson Sweepstakes prize, which is awarded to the high school marching band with the overall highest score. As host schools for the event, Mason City High School and Newman High School marching bands are not eligible for the competition, and their royalty are not eligible to be crowned festival queen and king.

To encourage participation in the marching band competition from area schools, the North Iowa Band Festival Committee provides travel stipends to each participating band. The schools that marched in this year’s parade represent more than 30 communities with a long history of participation in the festival parade.

Award Winners:

Marching Bands

Middle School

Clear Lake Middle School—1st Place

West Fork Middle School—2nd Place

Class 1A

Northwood Kensett High School—1st Place

Rudd Rockford Marble Rock High School—2nd Place

Class 2A

Lake Mills High School—1st Place

Garner-Hayfield-Ventura High School—2nd Place

Central Springs High School—3rd Place

Class 3A

Clear Lake High School—1st Place

Forest City High School—2nd Place

Parade Awards

Grand Marshal Award—

(presented to the overall winner with the best use of the festival theme “Forward, March”)

Mason City Youth Task Force—1st Place

Smithfield—2nd Place

Prairie Ridge—3rd Place

Mr. Toot Award—

(presented to the entry with the most originality, artistic quality, and well-crafted design based on a theme of their choice)

First United Methodist Church—1st Place

NI Vietnam Veterans—2nd Place

MacNider Art Museum—3rd Place

An outdoor community church service will be held at 9AM on Sunday, May 26 at Trinity Lutheran Church. The carnival and concessions continue beginning at noon on both Sunday and Monday in Downtown Mason City. The carnival will hold “Wrist Band Days” on both days, providing unlimited rides for \$20 each day.

The North Iowa Band Festival is sponsored each year by the Mason City Chamber of Commerce to honor of the region’s musical heritage. Corporate donations and the volunteer efforts of scores of people enable the Chamber to offer the festival as a FREE family-friendly event for all North Iowans to enjoy.
