

Senior singers audition to be Merrymakers

The group Merrymakers held a live audition last week to find talented entertainers and Iowa's next Senior Idol.

Following in the footsteps of other local successful performers such as Bill Connet, chosen singers bound for idol status performed in front of captivated audiences at events throughout Des Moines.

Merrymakers is a non-profit group with the mission to improve the lives of seniors by providing musical entertainment to increase participation, provide social interaction and spark memories.

An official panel of "senior" judges provided feedback after the Aug. 5 auditions to aid in the selection process. Idol senior hopefuls performed for a

senior audience at Wesley Acres, 3520 Grand Ave.

Contestants sang three of their best songs from the roaring '20s to the '60s. The winners will be part of a paid group of musicians who entertain throughout the area starting in September, said Cindy Copich, Merrymakers' executive director and coordinator.

"Each entertainer should provide their own unique style of performance in order to suit a variety of musical preferences," Copich said.

"We want singers that enjoy interacting with their audience."

Currently, Merrymakers provides a variety of professional entertainment to Wesley Acres, Scottish Rite Retirement Community, Elsie Mason Manor, Trinity Center, The Rose, Calvin Community, Bishop Drumm, Wesley the Village and Indianola Good Samaritan.

Donations have been provided to the Des Moines Merrymakers by Mid American Energy, Greg Abel and the Iowa Arts Council.

— Submitted by Sharon Bargas



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Joe Taylor sings for residents at Wesley Acres. Below, judges observed each act and selected their favorites. Front row, from left, are Grace Dickerson, Lee Dickson and Gen Sloan. Back row: Joe Dickerson and Clancy Dickson.

