

PRESS RELEASE

Bourbonnais Friendship Festival, 2010

Children's Parade Grand Marshal

The Bourbonnais Friendship Festival Parade Committee is pleased to announce that Annabelle Sikma has been chosen as the 2010 Children's Parade Grand Marshal. Annabelle, 8, is the daughter of Justin Sikma of Bourbonnais, and Harmony Brown of Bradley. Annabelle attends Bradley East School, and lives with her mother and brother, Nate, who is 14. She is a Girl Scout, and is active in gymnastics.

Annabelle was chosen to represent the children of all deployed service men and women. Her father, Justin, is a sergeant with the U.S. Army Reserves. He is currently on his second deployment to Iraq, and is due to return later this summer. His first deployment, also to Iraq, occurred in November of 2004 through all of 2005. Justin volunteered for the second deployment, and has missed not only two holiday seasons away from his daughter, but many months of time with her as well.

Annabelle, affectionately known to her friends and family as "Animal", keeps her dad close to her mind and heart by reserving a large part of her wall space for photos of she and her dad together. Justin sent her a stuffed camel each time he was deployed, and she sleeps every night with her treasured friends. Annabelle is very supportive to her dad, and has a loving spirit that helps him through each day.

She will be introduced at Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday, June 23, 2010 at 6 p.m. The Children's Parade, led by Annabelle, will be held on Friday, June 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. This parade travels from Robert Frost Elementary School to Main Street Northwest, moving Northwest along Main Street, ending at the Village of Bourbonnais Municipal Center. Please join us as we honor all the military parents who serve overseas, so that their children and our families can celebrate the holidays in peace.