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Templeton

## Buzzing into this biz Waspy's grand opening turns into regional event

By DOUGLAS BURNS, Staff Writer

Waspy's ownership family, with their own deep roots in western Iowa agriculture, credited strong farms in the region for catalyzing the development of a 10-acre truck stop complex in the southern part of Templeton.

Waspy's Truck Stop, located at the corner of County Road N-18 and 305th Street, an area just 1/2 mile north of Highway 141, officially opened Wednesday afternoon with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by more than 300 people from Carroll and Audubon counties and other nearby reaches as well as Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller.

"This whole thing started with a thought, a need for Templeton," Waspy's CEO Brian Handlos said.

Local contractors handled the lion's share of the work in developing the complex, Handlos said.

"They have been great, in the town of Templeton and we went out about 30 miles," he said.

The Templeton truck stop already employs 53 people with a few more hires expected. The eatery, open 24 hours a day, seats 75 people on the east side of a generous convenience store complex with fuel service for cars and trucks.

Down the road, Handlos said, Waspy's would host tractor rides, car shows and other events.

Brian Handlos' parents, Lawrence "Waspy" Handlos, 80, and his wife, Doris, longtime Audubon-area grain and hog farmers, are the sole owners of the new Waspy's Truck Stop in Templeton and the developing Waspy's in Audubon.

Their daughter, Beth Handlos, chief operating officer of Waspy's, made the rounds greeting dozens of customers and well-wishers before the speeches on the east side of the truck stop.

Dr. Daryl Olsen, managing partner of Audubon-based AMVC, emceed the ceremonies.

"We all know how important it is that people invest back in the community," Olsen said. "I think this is a perfect example of residents of our community that are investing back in our community. That's the key if we are going to continue to grow, if we are going to continue to be prosperous in rural Iowa."

Miller said Waspy's represents a vigorous entrepreneurial spirit in Carroll County.

"What a great day, a beautiful facility, a wonderful family and incredible weather," Miller said. "What a great facility."

The Handloses asked for a voluntary annexation into Templeton.

The location will collect a lot of traffic from Highway 141 as 5,000 vehicles pass by on that highway alone daily, said Nick Romey, president of the Templeton Area Development Corporation.

The Handlos family is not done building in the region.

Just weeks ago, Waspy's broke ground on an \$18 million truck stop/hotel/restaurant complex on the south side of Audubon.

The Audubon Waspy's, located on the west side of U.S. Highway 71 across from the Audubon Municipal Airport, will feature a 200-person restaurant, known as The Feed Mill. The menu will include steak and pastas and other items. Plans call for breakfast 24 hours a day.

Then there's the two-story 33-room hotel, tentatively named Blue Grass Inn & Suites (Blue Grass Creek is in close proximity).

A truck stop on the premises will include a wash-out for trucks, 16 pumps for cars, four islands for diesel trucks, a convenience store and other amenities.



More than 300 people turned out Wednesday to help Waspy's celebrate the official opening of its truck stop and cafe complex in Templeton.

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