



POLK COUNTY BANK

For Immediate Release

Contact: Sherryl Viars
Communications Director
Polk County Bank
sviars@polkcountybank.com
515.331.7324

Charlotte's Web the Spotlight: Literacy Program sponsored by Polk County Bank

Des Moines, IA (October 3, 2007) – Inspiring children to read is at the heart of Spotlight: Literacy, a collaborative effort between designated area schools and The Des Moines Playhouse/Kate Goldman Children's Theater. **This year Polk County Bank is proud to sponsor Spotlight: Literacy.**

Through Spotlight: Literacy, 230 copies of *Charlotte's Web* will be distributed to students participating in the project and 2,000 copies of an activities playbill for young audiences will be distributed to all children who attend the show.

Early last week, the Spotlight: Literacy program sent 14 actors to visit Stowe Elementary in Des Moines, Hillside Elementary in West Des Moines, and Adair-Casey Elementary in Adair, Iowa. After reading a chapter of *Charlotte's Web* to the students, actors visited with the children to answer questions about the play and the movie. Each visit ended with the gift of a copy of *Charlotte's Web* for each child. In a classroom at Hillside, the teacher remarked that if the children could not yet read, perhaps their parents could read it to them as a bedtime story. One little girl remarked that her mother never read to her, but proudly added that she would learn to read this one herself.

In addition to the schools mentioned above, classes from Cumberland and Massena school districts will experience the actor/student interaction at the Playhouse.

Based on the best-selling children's book by E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web* tells a touching story about friendship and love. When Wilbur, a runty but goodhearted young pig, finds out he's on course to meet the butcher, his friends in the barn come to his rescue: Templeton, the gluttonous rat who can occasionally be talked into a good deed, and, of course, the extraordinary spider, Charlotte, who proves to be a true friend and a good writer. Charlotte, determined to save Wilbur, uses her abilities to write "Some Pig" in her web, the first effort in the attempt to save her friend Wilbur and a friendship that means everything to Charlotte.



POLK COUNTY BANK

For more information on The Playhouse and "Charlottes Web," contact The Playhouse ticket office at 515-277-6261.

"Charlottes Web" Performances: September 28- October 21, 2007 7:00 PM Friday 1:00 PM Saturday 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM Sunday (1:00 PM only on Sunday, October 21, 2007)

Since 1903 Polk County Bank has served the Greater Des Moines Area. Polk County Bank locations include Polk City, Urbandale, and Johnston. We are proud to sponsor educational opportunities like the Des Moines Playhouse Spotlight: Literacy Program.

###