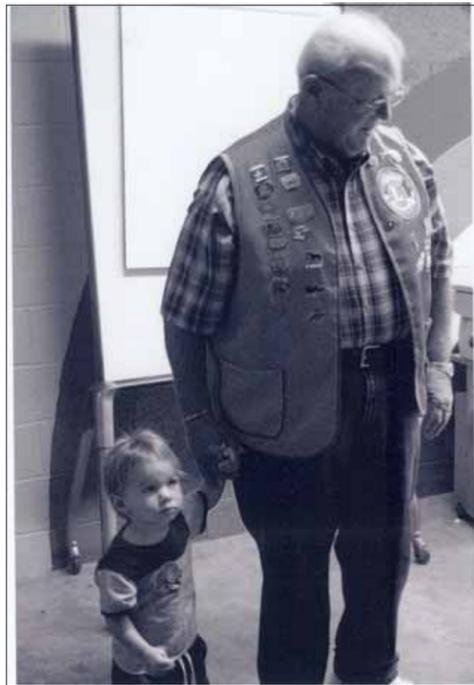


## Lions Clubs ranked best NGO worldwide

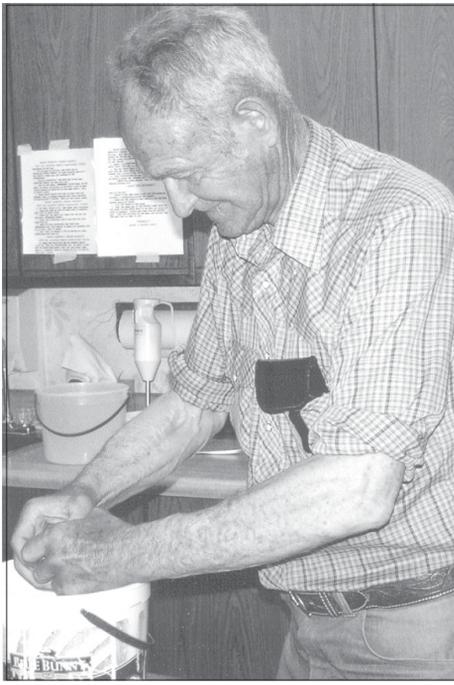
(Editor's Note: We received the following news release, and as we have a number of great Lions Clubs in the area, we are running it as a tribute to the work these Clubs do in their communities.)

In a special report released Thursday, July 5, 2007, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) ranked best among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide. From 34 global organizations, LCIF came in first for its execution of programs, demonstrated accountability, communications internally and externally, program adaptability to the surrounding community, and understanding the goals of its corporate supporters.

The ratings were compiled by the Financial Times in association with the Dalberg Global Development Advisors and the United Nations Global Compact. The assessment was published in the Financial Times' Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy special report and highlights companies' growing interest in long-term partnerships to tackle an expanding range of social issues. The full story can be at <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/e230ea0e-294c-11dc-a530-000b5df10621.html> and story about the list can be viewed at [www.ft.com/cms/s/64b86094-2a90-11dc-9208-000b5df10621.html](http://www.ft.com/cms/s/64b86094-2a90-11dc-9208-000b5df10621.html). The list was also reproduced in the Chronicle of Philanthropy. The full list can be viewed at <http://media.ft.com/cms/e462102e-2b03-11dc-85f9-000b5df10621.dwp?uuiid=c1927432-1f9e-11dc-ac86-000b5df10621.pdf>.



Lion Ron Baird helping a young friend prepare for an eye exam.



Lion Harold Hunter helping out at the Lions Club's semi-annual Biker Breakfast.

A number of other well-known NGOs were included on the list. The list was released at a meeting of executives of NGOs and the UN in Geneva, Switzerland.

Lions Clubs International Foundation is Lions helping Lions serve the world. Donations provide funding in the form of grants to financially

assist Lions districts with large-scale humanitarian projects that are too extensive for Lions to finance on their own. The Foundation aids Lions in making a greater impact in their local communities, as well as around the world. Through LCIF, Lions ease pain and suffering and bring healing and hope to people worldwide. For more information, visit [www.lcif.org](http://www.lcif.org).

The local Columbus Junction Lions Club was chartered in 1980 and currently has 43 members. If interested in learning more about our local club and its service contributions to the community, feel free to contact the current President, Lamoyne Buser at 725-6531. More information is also available at the club website, <http://iowalions.org/columbusjunction/index.html>

## Preserving our Resources - one step at a time

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

"How do we save our little towns?" is a phrase that we are hearing all across small town Iowa. At the Gazette we receive countless press releases and publications produced by economic development agencies discussing various steps taken by city leaders to revive their communities and business districts. Most of the suggestions include attracting industry, encouraging tourism, and promoting a small town way of life. Although all of these suggestions are important steps to consider, isn't the most important thing we must do is the preservation of our resources?

And what is our most important resource? Our young. We must find a way to encourage our young people to stay, or return after they complete their education. The Gazette recently learned of one example of a young person who chose to do just that.

Bryant Milder graduated from Columbus High School in 2007. He then attended Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa to study Auto Technology. He recently graduated from Indian Hills and began working full time for Lynn Mincer at Lynn's HyWay Service Center. "Bryant asked me about working here after he graduated from Indian Hills," said Lynn, "and I encouraged him,

but thought that he would probably work for a large car dealership. I was thrilled when he graduated and said he was ready to go to work."

Bryant is the son of Andy and Michelle Milder, and has lived his whole life in the Columbus Community. "I always knew I wanted to live here after I finished my schooling," said Bryant, "it has everything I want. I enjoy hunting, fishing and working on race cars. It's all here." Bryant is also very dedicated to his family, and living in Columbus Junction was the ideal choice for him. "I have always enjoyed life in Columbus Junction, and I am now looking forward to being a part of the business community," said Bryant.

Bryant is an example of what true economic development is about. It is everyone's responsibility to continue to maintain a way of life in the Columbus Community that will encourage our young to make their home. Change is inevitable, but progress isn't. Only our youth can assure us of maintaining a progressive, viable community.

(The Gazette would like to have more stories of young people who have decided to live in the Columbus Community. If anyone knows of other individuals, or couples, to feature, please contact us as we would like to continue this series.)



Bryant Milder on duty at Lynn's Hyway Service Center

### Area Easter and Holy Week services

#### Holy Week at Island and Letts Methodist

Worship services during Holy Week will take place on Sunday, March 16 (Palm Sunday), and Good Friday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m., at the Island Church for both congregations. The Letts church will hold Sunrise Service on Sunday, March 23, at 7:00 a.m., followed by breakfast. Sunday School and worship will follow at each church. Regular worship times are: Island 9:00 and Letts 10:30. Sunday School at Letts will be at 9:30 and Island 10:15. Everyone is welcome to attend the services.

#### Easter Sunday at Morning Sun Presbyterian

Celebrate Easter with the family of faith at the First United Presbyterian Church in Morning Sun on Easter Sunday, March 23rd. FOR EASTER SUNDAY ONLY, CHURCH WILL BE AT 9:30 A.M. There will be no Sunday School class that Sunday. Come and be blessed as we worship our risen Lord and Savior! Any questions, contact Pastor Ramona Wink at 319-212-0366.

#### Methodist Church Holy Week activities

Palm Sunday, March 16: 7:30 p.m. – JEL Easter Cantata at the CJ United Methodist Church.  
Maundy Thursday, March 20: 7:00 p.m. – Ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service at the CJ United Methodist Church.  
Good Friday, March 21: 7:00 p.m. – Ecumenical Good Friday Service at the United Presbyterian Church.  
Easter Sunday, March 23: 6:30 a.m. – Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service at the Columbus City United Methodist Church (breakfast to follow).

#### Winfield Community Easter Cantata

The Winfield community choir will present the Easter cantata "Footprints in the Sand" on Palm Sunday, March 16, at 3:00 p.m. and again on Good Friday, March 21, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Both presentations will be in the United Methodist Church of Winfield. The cantata is directed by Keith Thomas and accompanied by pianist Ruth Carden and bassist Kathy Helphrey. A free-will offering will be taken to help with music costs. Refreshments will be served following each presentation.

#### Junction Entertainers Easter Cantata

The JEL Easter Cantata performance is scheduled for Sunday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church. Fellowship will follow the cantata performance in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited to come listen to some wonderful, seasonal music.

## Downtown friend retires

A mainstay in the business district hung up his pen last Friday and entered into the world of retirement.

Marv Prior has been with the Columbus Junction State Bank since April 1, 1976. "I like to think that I came on April 1 as an April Fool's Joke on the community, but then just stayed," joked Marv.

Along with his service to the bank, he has served the area with his involvement in a number of organizations. Marv now plans to devote more time to fishing and playing golf, as well as to a number of home improvement projects for himself and his family.

"I'm certainly going to miss the people, but I'm looking forward to spending more time with Verlinda, and waking up to do whatever I want," said Marv.



Marv Prior nattily attired during his last day of work at the Columbus Junction State Bank last Friday.

## Briefly -

### Alumni Banquet scheduled

Continuing the custom of holding the Columbus - Cotter - Conesville Alumni Banquet on the second Saturday in June, the 2008 Banquet will be held at Roundy Elementary School on June 14, 2008. Make your plans to attend the banquet and to schedule your class events to coincide with the date.

### St. Patrick's Day at the Library

Thursday, March 13, after school to 4:45 p.m., St. Patrick's Day fun for grades K-3<sup>rd</sup>. Please stop by or call 728-7972 to let us know you are coming.

### City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction's Regular Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. to be held at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

### Conesville Firemen Fish and Wing Fry

The Conesville firemen will be holding their annual Fish and Wing Fry on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 p.m. The cost for adults is \$7.00; 12 and under \$4.00. The public is invited to come and have a good time.

### Easter Egg Hunt scheduled

The Columbus Junction Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 22, 2008, at 2 pm in Chautauqua Park. Children 0-10 are welcome to participate.

### Etude Club to meet

Etude Club members will hold an extra rehearsal on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the United Methodist Church of Columbus Junction. Please be prompt, and bring all music needed to practice Spring Show specials.

### Grandview/Letts Lions blood drive

The Grandview/Letts Lions Club is holding a blood drive on Thursday, March 20, 2008, from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Grandview Community Bible Church. Anyone who donated on or before Thursday, January 24, 2008, is eligible to donate. Make sure to bring your I.D. and eat before donating. To make an appointment for donation, please call Jack Carter at 319-726-4252.

### Grimm Brothers to hold blood drive

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center announces a blood drive at Grimm Brothers Plastics on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Hemobile in 1 Quality Court. To donate call Linda Wilson at 319-523-6000 to sign up. Walk-ins welcome. Donors who last gave blood on or before January 17, 2008, are eligible.

### Kindergarten Round-up

Will your child be old enough to attend school at Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junction, IA this Fall? Roundy Elementary is preparing for Kindergarten—If your child was born before September 15, 2003 and is not currently enrolled in the Columbus Preschool Program, Colonel's Kids Daycare, or the Great Beginnings Preschool Program, please call the school at 728-6218.

¿Usted cree que su hijo/a tendrá la edad necesaria para empezar el Kindergarten en el Otoño del 2008?

¿Tendrá su hijo/a la edad necesaria para asistir a la Escuela Primaria Roundy en Columbus Junction, IA este otoño? La Escuela Primaria Roundy se está preparando para Kindergarten—Si su niño/a nació antes del 15 de Septiembre del 2003 y no está inscrito actualmente en el Programa de Preescolar de Columbus, el Programa Preescolar de Colonel's Kids, o en el Programa Preescolar Great Beginnings, por favor llame a la escuela al 728-6218.

### Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in the Louisa County Conservation Office, 12635 County Rd G56, Wapello, Iowa.

### Lone Tree Presbyterian Catfish Dinner

The Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a catfish dinner on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The menu includes catfish, baked potato, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, beverage, and bar/cookies. Tickets are \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children ages 10 and under.

### County Democratic convention

The Louisa County Democratic Convention will be held on Saturday, March 15, at the Louisa County Historical Society, 609 Highway 61 North, Wapello, Iowa 52653. Registration will be at 9:00 a.m., with the convention starting immediately after.

### Presbyterian Church pancake supper

The Columbus Presbyterian and Morning Sun Presbyterian Churches will co-host a pancake and sausage supper Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus High School Student Center, with serving from 4:30-7 PM. Cost of the meal is \$6.00, with kindergarten and younger eating free. All proceeds will be applied to various Louisa County mission projects. This is an opportunity to enjoy some great food, good fellowship, and also help support local mission. So be sure and mark Saturday, March 15 on your calendar.

### Senior Center seeks roof help

The Senior Center building needs a new roof. This project will be done this spring. If anyone wishes to donate toward the new roof, you may drop off your donation at the Senior Center with Judy Stirling. The Senior Center is owned by the Community At Large – we need your help. – Senior Center Board

### Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, March 20 at 11:30 A.M. at Pork's in Winfield.

### Hispanic Festival planning committee

There will be a Hispanic Cultural Festival planning meeting on March 25, 2008 in the Civic Center's Development office at 5:30 p.m. All are welcomed to attend.

### CHC/SEIA Liaison Committee to meet

There will be a Louisa County CHC/SEIA Liaison Committee meeting on April 1, 2008 at the Roundy Elementary Schools Library at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend