

Family still having a "Hare" Raising Time

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

In March of 2005 I brought you a story of one local woman and her family along with a few friends and their efforts for the past six years at making sure the kids of our community had a traditional Easter Egg Hunt.

Well, here we are three years later, and Lisa Exline, her kids, Jara, Kara, Ashley and Austin and a few friends are still making sure the Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for local kids ages 0 through 10.

Lisa took this yearly event over on her own from the Jaycees, acquiring the bunny costumes and making the trip to purchase the plastic eggs, candy and prizes. She distributed donation cans throughout area businesses and received help from the Local Lions Club. Some of expenses to make this annual event happen have come out of pocket for Lisa, but she wouldn't have it any other way because keeping the Easter Egg Hunt going for the kids of the community is what it's all about.

This marks the ninth year for Lisa and her helpers and one thing has set the group back. The bunny outfits used for the Easter Bunnies need to be replaced. If you have never gone to Chautauqua Park and witnessed the good time had by all the kids, then you wouldn't know that the Easter Bunny attends this annual event by showing up just before the hunt begins on the back of a CJ Fire Department truck. He greets all the kids and has pictures taken making it a "Hare" raising event for the kids.

When I told John my plan to do a story in hopes of helping Lisa raise money for new outfits, I learned something else about the Easter



Pictured above are the bunny costumes made by Judy Carpenter in 1980

Bunny outfits that had to be retired. John's late wife, Judy (Collier) Carpenter, handmade the Bunny costumes 28 years ago in 1980. John recalls, "I can still remember the papier-mache heads laying on our kitchen table when Judy was making them and how big they were. I also remember our son, Andy at age 2, being held by the bunny and getting his picture taken and then the picture ended up on the front page of the Gazette, and now Andy is 29 years old. Over the years the outfits made by Judy have not only been used at the annual Easter Egg Hunt, but Mr. and Mrs. Bunny have even visited the residents of Co-

lonial Manor and the Hospitals in Iowa City and on occasion, Lisa and her family did the Easter Egg Hunt at Conesville and, of course, the Easter Bunny made an appearance there as well. Judy passed away in 1990. I think Judy would be very proud and honored to know that her handmade outfits have lasted for so many years and has delighted so many local kids and people.

Lisa already purchased one new Bunny outfit, costing her \$325.00 out of pocket expense. "We just couldn't have an Easter Egg Hunt without the Easter Bunny, after all, it's all about the kids," says Lisa. One of the heads

on one outfit is a lot worse than the other, and because the outfits are so expensive, she was only able to purchase one this year and will look into purchasing another by next Easter.

If you would like to help Lisa, her family and friends keep this annual event going in our community and would like to make a donation to their "HARE" raising money for the new Bunny costumes, please call, Lisa at 319-750-0801.

This is just another example of life in a small community and the people who live here and dedicate themselves to the kids of our community. Happy Easter everyone.

Briefly -

After Prom meeting scheduled

The Columbus Junior Class parents will hold an After-Prom Planning Meeting, Wednesday, March 26, 2008 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Junction Fire Station. All parents interested in helping with the After-Prom festivities are invited and encouraged to attend. For more information, call Mindy Conaway during the evening at 725-6706.

C.C.I.C. to meet

C.C.I.C. will meet on Tuesday night, March 25th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Columbus City United Methodist Church. Co-hosts will be Mike and Virginia. It is time to pay dues.

Diabetes clinic at Roundy

The Carver College of Medicine Mobile Clinic will be holding a diabetes clinic with blood glucose, cholesterol, and blood pressure screening at Roundy Elementary School on March 29th from 10 am to 1 pm. There will also be a bilingual nutrition educator to discuss diet, how to shop for healthy foods within a given budget, and more. Everyone is welcome.

La Clinica Móvil de la facultad de medicina estará a Roundy Elementary School el 29 de marzo de las 10 am hasta la 1 pm. Esta clinica se especializará en el tema de diabetes y habrá estudios del azúcar, el colesterol, y la presión de sangre. Habrá también una nutricionista hispanohablante. Ella hablará de la alimentación, como hacer compras para comer sano y con poco dinero, y más. Todos son bienvenidos.

Easter Egg Hunt

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

The Etude Club members will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., with the majority of the time used to rehearse selections for the Spring Show, which will be held on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Both rehearsal and the Spring Show will be held in the United Methodist Church of Columbus Junction.

Storm Spotter training

The National Weather Service in Quad Cities, in conjunction with the Louisa County Emergency Management Agency, will be hosting a free storm spotter training class at 6:30 p.m. on March 31st at the Briggs Center in Wapello. This class is open to the public and takes about 2 hours to complete. Weather enthusiasts, firefighters, emergency first responders, Ham radio operators, and those interested in providing a valuable service to their community are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact the Louisa County Emergency Management Agency at 319-729-5870 or visit the NWS Quad Cities Website at <http://www.weather.gov/quadcities>

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.

Habitat Kane County flea market trip

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity is taking their annual Kane County, Illinois Flea Market trip on Saturday, May 3. The bus will pick up at the Wapello Sale Barn at 7:30 a.m., and the Muscatine Hy-Vee parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The bus will arrive back at Wapello about 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$55 per person. Please send checks before April 29 to: Ruth Yakle, 110 N. Pine Street, Wapello, IA 52653. Her phone number is 319-523-2381.

L-M Kindergarten round-up

The L-M School District is in the process of identifying next year's kindergarteners. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 15, 2008, or know of one, please contact the elementary office at 319-726-3634. Our pre-registration is Thursday, March 27th and Friday, March 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Please bring your child's birth certificate with you. Kindergarten "Round Up" will be Thursday, April 24th and Friday, April 25th. This will be a 2-hour session. Teachers meet with students and the principal will meet with the parents. Sign up for this at pre-registration. We are also accepting students for our preschool/childcare program located in the elementary building. Please call Busy Hands Preschool/Childcare at 319-726-3645 ext. 200. The preschool and childcare have limited space so sign up soon.

New date for Lekwa presentation

Verl Lekwa has changed the date of his presentation at the Columbus Senior Center from Wednesday, March 19th, to Wednesday, March 26th at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Lekwa will be presenting slides of the "History of Columbus Junction".

Shellbark Club to meet

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

Wapello High School blood drive

The Wapello High School will sponsor a blood drive on Wednesday, March 26th, from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., in the band room (500 Buchanan). Donors who last gave blood on or before January 30, 2008, are eligible. To donate, call Terri Hutcheson at 319-523-3241 to sign up. Walk-ins are welcome.

Riverboat Foundation to meet

The Washington County Riverboat Foundation will meet at the 4-H Building in the Washington County Fairgrounds today, Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 6:00 pm. This is a public meeting.

At the Library

Story hour-Let's learn yoga! Thursday, March 27, after school to 4:45 pm Grades K through 3rd grade. Please call (728-7972) or stop by the library to let us know you are coming.

Community Club to meet

The Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Civic Center.

Our Shop takes part in "Booby" Sock program



Breast cancer is a subject which hits close to home for many people. Carol Foster at Our Shop in Columbus Junction is working with the Skacel Collection on a project which helps in the battle to find a cure. It is called the "Booby Sock."

This sock was designed by Rosemary "Chappy" Chapman as a reminder to all women to do their monthly breast exams and get regular mammograms. The sock includes a pink ribbon band which is an international symbol to help raise awareness of breast cancer. Another band represents a healthy breast, and a final band represents mammogrammed breasts. It is hoped that these socks will be worn to remind women of the need to check for breast cancer, and when not worn, be in the front of their drawer as a constant reminder. The Skacel Collection will turn all net proceeds from the sale of these kits to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Center.

A very limited number of kits to produce the sock are available, and Our Shop was fortunate enough to receive some kits for sale. The kits cost \$19.95 each. "If someone wants a sock but isn't able to knit it, I will knit the sock for them for the same price as the kit," said Carol. Carol also stated that she will donate a portion of her profits from the sale of the kits to the Susan G. Komen Center.

So please, purchase your kit today and join Carol and the Skacel Collection in working to help find a cure for breast cancer.

A Sure Sign of Spring in area

Dairy Sweet opens with new owners

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

One sure sign that spring is just around the corner is the opening of the local Dairy Sweet.

March 13 with temperatures in the upper 50's the Dairy Sweet once again opened for business.

Besides several new items on the menu this season you will see new faces waiting on you. That is because the Dairy Sweet has new owners.

Doug and Vickie Wilson of rural Columbus Junction purchased the business from former owners, Sam and Suzanne Smith of rural Colum-



bus Junction.

The Wilsons' three daughters, Abbey, Whitney and Molly will be helping their parents with their new

family business making it a sweet family affair. Pictured at the Dairy Sweet are the Wilson sisters, Abbey, Whitney and Molly

Law Firm launches Iowa Immigrant Worker Initiative program in Columbus Junction

CEDAR RAPIDS—The law firm of Scheldrup Blades Schrock Sand Aranza P.C. of Cedar Rapids, Des Moines and Omaha, is launching the Iowa Immigrant Worker Initiative with the March 24 opening of its first Community Access Office, located in Columbus Junction at 129 Main Street. The Initiative offers immigrant workers access to legal services at reduced rates. Over the next five years the firm is making a \$330,000 financial commitment to the program, which includes four annual \$2,000 legal assistant scholarships through Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.

"Given the enormous growth in recent years of our state's immigrant population, we feel the time is right for adding this service to our firm's offerings," said Chris Scheldrup, the firm's founding attorney. Members of minority groups are projected to number more than half a million of Iowa's 3 million population, with the biggest increase in the number of Hispanics. "We want to take an active part in helping to assimilate immigrants into mainstream Iowa, where these workers become productive, creative and law-abiding citizens

of our communities," says Scheldrup.

The Columbus Junction office, managed by co-directors Judith Morales and Juan (Johnny) Partida, offers full-service legal work. "If someone wants to start a business or file for custody, we can help them," says Kent Smith, an attorney with the firm and also one of the people responsible for getting the Initiative off the ground. While the firm's attorneys will visit the office on a regular basis for client consultations, a video conferencing room with a large flat screen TV provides clients with easy access to legal advice. "We can always communicate and are available, even if one of our attorneys can't be there in person," says Smith.

Smith feels the Kirkwood scholarships are a central element of the Initiative. "The scholarships play a huge role in the assimilation process," says Smith. Kirkwood will promote the program, implement the process and select winners. Scholarships are available to students in Linn, Johnson, Louisa, Muscatine and Washington counties.

Acknowledging that immigration has become a hot topic, Scheldrup says his firm is not joining the debate,

but simply addressing the needs of a clientele that is underserved. "The issue is not whether or not immigrants should be here," he says. "It is about the fact that immigrants are here and making legal representation accessible will benefit workers as well as our communities and state.

"Over the next five years, our firm's pro bono work will be committed solely to the Iowa Immigrant Worker Initiative," says Scheldrup. The goal of the Initiative is to bring quality legal services, based on the firm's years of specialization, to a clientele that would not typically afford, or have access to, specialized legal services. The firm's areas of expertise, which Scheldrup plans to make available to immigrant workers, are employment law, workers' compensation, immigration law, small business creation, family law and civil litigation. He describes the Initiative effort as focusing on two areas. First, it will inform and educate immigrant workers on the law, including each person's

Law Firm

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