

A County Wide Celebration of Life

Despite nasty weather early Sunday morning, a successful Relay for Life was held again this year in Louisa County. The Relay activities were held at the Columbus Community School in Columbus Junction, and events were scheduled to be held from 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon to 4 a.m. Sunday morning, but inclement weather cancelled the closing ceremonies. The early evening hours were gorgeous on Saturday. Many of the traditional events were held again, and although numbers were down slightly from last year, spirits were high attendees remembered those who are gone and celebrated the victories of survivors.

The Relay has been a traditional event in Louisa County for many years, and plans are already underway for next year. As of press time a monetary figure was unavailable representing how much was raised during the weekends festivities. Pictured above is the recognition of the survivors. **Photo by Billi Gerling.**



Briefly -

Bake Sale to help Bowling Alley

Friday, August 8 a bake sale will be held at the Cherry Top in Muscatine. All proceeds raised from the bake sale will go to the "Help Rebuild the Bowling Alley Fund". To donate to the rebuilding fund an account has been set up for Sammy's Ten Pin at the Community Bank in Columbus Junction call 728-2226.

Sweet Corn Supper at Columbus City United Methodist Church

Mark your calendars! August 16th CC UMC will be having a sweet corn supper at the Columbus City Masonic Lodge from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm. The menu will be sweet corn, sandwich, chips, dessert and drink. Free will offering. Bring your friends, family and neighbors and enjoy good food and fellowship.

CCHS Class of 1988 plans reunion

The Class of 1988 is planning their 20-year reunion for Columbus Day, October 11, 2008. We would like to contact as many classmates as possible. Anyone with knowledge of regular and/or e-mail addresses please contact Shari (Cecil) Vonnahme at 728-2403 or swolfe11@hotmail.com or Sarah (Prior) Davis at 319-254-1111 or tsdavis@farmtel.net.

Medical Clinic to be closed next Friday

The Columbus Medical Clinic will be closed on Friday, August 8, 2008.

Temporary location for Southeast Iowa Community Action

Due to the flooding, the Southeast Iowa Community Action's temporary location is at: 2602 Market Street, Columbus City, IA 52737.

Flood Slide Show for all Legion members

On Tuesday evening, August 12, the American Legion, Sons, Auxiliary members and spouses will meet together. Ken Purdy will show slides of the 2008 flood in our area. Auxiliary members are asked to please bring a dessert for the dessert bar. This will be an interesting evening, and we encourage all of our members to attend.

Heritage Center hosts Civil War presentation

WAPELLO, Iowa - "A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier" will be presented at 2 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 10, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello, by the Louisa County Historical Society. Alan Ourth, president of the South East Iowa Civil War Round Table, will speak about and display uniforms, firearms, swords, general equipment and the day-to-day things that a regular soldier would have experienced. Ourth, of Burlington, grew up in the Land of Lincoln, on a farm just south of Nauvoo, Ill., on the banks of the Mississippi River. As a young child, Ourth took a big interest in Abe Lincoln and his life, which included the Civil War. Ourth says he is not a Civil War expert but is a person willing to share his interest in the history of that time period. Ourth will also provide information about the Civil War Round Table. Lists of known Louisa County Civil War soldiers will also be available.

Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet on Monday, August 11, at 7:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room at the Musser Public Library, 304 Iowa Avenue in Muscatine. All amateur radio operators and those interested in learning more about amateur radio are invited to attend. For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

Soil Commissioners terms expire

Four of the five Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner positions will be on the November ballot. Current terms are expiring for Mary Boysen, Michelle Rees, Sam Willson and a 2-year term for Chris Ball.

CCHS Class of 1993 plans reunion

The CCHS Class of 1993 will be celebrating their 15-year reunion on August 16th in Columbus Junction. If you are a classmate or a friend/relative of a 1993 graduate, please contact Jennifer (Eutsler) Buchanan at classof1993cchs@yahoo.com or 507-388-4332. We would like to contact as many classmates as possible to join us in celebrating the upcoming reunion.

Louisa Development Group holds annual meeting

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

The Louisa Development Group held their Annual Meeting last Thursday at the LDG office in Grandview. Chairman, Dan Wilson welcomed the members and commented on the many things that LDG has accomplished since its inception. He felt that the role of LDG will be even increased as it helps in the county's flood recovery efforts. "Through the efforts of the LDG, people in other parts of Iowa now know where Louisa County is," said Wilson.

LDG director Elias Guitierrez described the recent activities of LDG. He highlighted the following programs that are in progress: an organized worksite in Oakville in partnership with Iowa Workforce; the Louisa County Initiative which is helping LDG with marketing; the Community Foundation's efforts in fund raising for flood relief; the Louisa County Contractors' Initiative which will help to fill the gap as federal dollars decline in flood recovery; Sudden Value Program which is helping the retail sector work together to cross promote each other; and the LDG's role in the Great River Region's marketing campaign. Guitierrez also discussed the suc-



Chairman Dan Wilson discusses the LDG's activities at the LDG Annual Meeting.

cess of the "Shop Louisa" campaign and the sale of Louisa Bucks. Both of these campaigns have increased Louisa County's sales tax revenue.

The members elected the following directors to the Board: Mike Hodges, Julie Ohde, Al Muhlenbruck, Randy Foor and Rich

Bridenstine. They will join existing directors: Jim Howell, Gary Todd, Frieda Sojka, Ken Purdy, Jason Delzell and Kent Wollenhaupt.

Community Club plans special Columbus Day, asks for input

The Columbus Day Committee of the Community Club is making plans for a special Columbus Day this year. We have always known that the Columbus Community is a giving community, but this spirit came to the forefront during the flood of 2008. Everyone, in some form or other, stepped up during the crisis to help. It would be impossible to single out any individual, so our distinguished citizen(s) this year will be the whole community.

In lieu of the typical Columbus Day, the Club would like this year to be a party in celebration of the great people we have in the community. Some ideas that are being considered are:

• Possibly a church service on Saturday morning giving thanks for the help that was received during the crisis, and maybe followed by a breakfast. The location would be somewhere in the downtown area.

• There could be a pie show followed by a pie auction.

• Possibly some organization has kid's games such as a balloon toss that they would like to organize.

concert downtown during the day.

• We would like area organizations or churches to consider setting up a stand on Main Street along with the vendors. The stand could sell items, or maybe give out materials that promote the organization. (There will be no charge for locations on Main Street this year.)

• Hopefully some type of program can be scheduled for the stage area. This might be an opportunity to honor particular individuals who did so much during the flood, possibly a review of the flood damage and the recovery work that has been accomplished to date, or some other organized presentation.

• We would like to return to the tradition of free sandwiches after the parade this year.

At the present time everything is in the discussion stage. We need the community's input for ideas, as well as your help in encouraging your church, organization or family to become involved. We know there are a lot of ideas and talent in our area, and we ask you to please step forward.

this, we need a lot of cooperation. If there is something that you have always wanted to do for Columbus Day, or an idea that you thought would be fun, please let us know. As the Gazette stated in an earlier publication, great people rise to the top in difficult times, and this is certainly a community of great people and you deserve a great day. Although a good deal of our community was damaged

by the flood, 2008 will always be remembered as one of Columbus Junction's finest hours. Please help us top this year off with a memorable Columbus Day.

If you have ideas, comments, or need information, please contact either Sue Johnson at Plants and Things, John Carpenter at the Gazette, or Kirsten Shellabarger at Horak Insurance.

Citizens attend council meeting to compliment city officials on recent actions

After some complaints at a prior council meeting concerning downtown safety, a number of citizens were on hand at last Wednesday's meeting to compliment the council on actions taken to alleviate these concerns.

Local businessman, Bob Reid, complimented the council on recent changes, and complimented the efforts of the Police Department. He said that he has noticed quite a dif-

good idea.

Businessman Lonnie Harless thanked the Police Department for their quick response to a recent hold-up attempt at his place of business. Harless stated that he has talked to several business owners about the possibility of setting up some type of a watch organization for the business district. He said that businesses need to help themselves whenever pos-

