

Weather cooperates to produce another successful Hispanic Cultural Festival in Columbus Junction

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Despite a number of weather problems this year, the town's annual Hispanic Cultural Festival held over the past weekend was deemed another success.

Although the crowd was down somewhat from previous years, a large number of families and individuals came to the finale last Saturday and enjoyed a day of food, music, entertainment, and cultural exhibits.

The festival was originally planned for the fairgrounds, then was moved to the Weber and Huston parking lot when the grounds were under water, but then eventually rescheduled back to the fairgrounds after the water receded.

Mallory Smith, one of the festival's organizers, commented, "Although the crowd was smaller than last year, people came and spent the whole day at the festival. There were lots for them to do, and everyone seemed to have a good time. It was a successful festival."

Congratulations to everyone who helped pull off another great event in the community under difficult conditions.



Some of the individuals on hand enjoying the Hispanic Cultural Festival finale last Saturday

Briefly -

Wapello Kiwanis to host blood drive

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center announces that the Kiwanis of Wapello will hold a blood drive on Wednesday, May 21st, from 1 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Briggs Civic Center (317 North Water). To donate, call Chris Hinkle at 319-850-1395 to sign up. Walk-ins welcome. Donors who last gave blood on or before March 26, 2008, are eligible. Donors must be at least 16 years old, in good health, and weigh at least 110 pounds. A blood donor card or other photo I.D. is required to donate. 16-year-old donors must present a signed parental consent form, available from the Blood Center or for download from www.bloodcenter.org. Controlled high blood pressure and diabetes are acceptable.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board meeting will be Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 5:30 p.m. at Virginia Grove Recreation Area, 10406 55th Street, Wapello, Iowa.

Lions Club Biker's Breakfast

Attention Bikers and Friends: The Columbus Junction Lions Club will be serving breakfast Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Columbus Junction Senior Center. The menu will feature pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, juice, and milk. The cost is \$6.00 per person for all you can eat. Follow the signs to downtown Columbus Junction.

Events at the Senior Center

The Columbus Community Senior Center will be hosting a coffee, Thursday, May 29, 2008 at 8 a.m. for friends and volunteers of the Senior Center. We would like to see everyone come out and share the morning coffee at the Senior Center. Come and have coffee and cookies with us. There will be White Elephant Bingo on Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 1 p.m. Come early and have lunch with your friends before the Bingo games begin. Call Judy Stirling the day before and make arrangements for lunch.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet at Janet Pretz's today, Wednesday, May 14 at 10:45 AM to car pool to the Button Factory in Muscatine at 11:30 AM. Please note the change of day.

Community Club to meet

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

Tom Sands to host public meeting

State Representative Tom Sands will be hosting an informational meeting on Monday, May 19, 2008 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Columbus Senior Center, 125 E. Walnut, Columbus Junction. State Auditor, David Vaudt will be a special guest. Refreshments will be served.

City Council to meet today

The City of Columbus Junction will hold its regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Area School Reunions

Winfield-Mt. Union Alumni Banquet

The Winfield-Mt. Union Alumni Association is hosting the 99th annual banquet to be held Saturday, May 24, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. The banquet will be held in the Winfield gymnasium. Tickets are \$10.00 per plate for all alumni and guests for the buffet which will be catered by Pork's Restaurant. Reservations may be made to Frances Lowe, P.O. Box 5, Winfield, IA 52659 (Phone: 319-257-6784), or to Wanda Linder, 606 W. Central Ave., Apt. 9, Winfield, IA 52659 (Phone: 319-257-6724). Deadline for receiving reservations is Saturday, May 10, 2008. The Alumni Association would appreciate an update of any name or address changes. A casual coffee will be hosted by the Winfield Chamber of Commerce in the school lunchroom from 3-6:00 p.m., on the afternoon of May 24th. This is a time for visiting and catching up with old friends.

Wyman School Reunion

The Annual Reunion and get-together for all former Wyman School students and teachers will be held July 12, 2008. The school was started in 1912 when 3 one-room school buildings were moved into town. Classes continued there until the school was closed in 1978. The Reunion and Banquet will be at the United Church of Crawfordsville, doors open at 5:30 P.M.; Banquet and entertainment at 6:30. For more information or to make reservations please call Lorraine Frame at 319-257-3401 or John Wittrig at 319-257-3377.

Letts Alumni Banquet

The Letts High School Alumni Banquet will be held Saturday, May 24, 2008, at the L-M Elementary facility. Social hour will begin at 4:30 p.m. The banquet will be served at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12.00. The classes of '38, '48, and '58 will be recognized. Reservations need to be made by May 16, 2008. For reservations, you may call Craig (319-726-3142) or Betty (563-263-5291), or email bettylh@machlink.com. Members of honored classes may share a favorite memory.

Grandview School Banquet

The 74th annual Grandview Consolidated School Banquet will be held May 24th, at the Grandview Community Bible Church Friendship Center. Registration will begin at 5:00 and dinner will be served at 6:00. The classes of 1933, 1938, 1948, and 1958 will be honored. All alumni, former students and faculty who were part of the Grandview School through 1959 and their guests are invited. For reservations, contact Betty Jo Rowe, P.O. Box 335, Grandview, IA 52752 (319-729-4291); or Sharon Beik, 12200 130th St., Wapello, IA 52653 (319-729-5331). Please make reservations by May 20. The cost is \$8.00 per person at the door.

Conesville School Reunion

The Conesville School Reunion is scheduled for May 24, 2008, and will be held at the Conesville Community Center. All alumni, teachers, friends, friends of friends and anyone else who has an interest are welcome and urged to attend. Registration is at 12:00 noon and the catered meal will be served at 12:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE. After the meal, we'll have a short business meeting, reading of correspondence, some sharing and lots of fun. After our scheduled activities, you can stay as long as you like and catch up on the happenings of your old friends. The classes from 1938, 1948 and 1958 will be the honored guests. The class of 1958 is the last class to graduate from the Conesville High School. Reservations may be made by calling Fran Morrison at 319-728-2319 or Rose Wagoner at 319-728-2027. The reservations should be in by May 21, 2008.

Columbus Alumni Banquet

The Alumni Banquet for graduates of high schools in Columbus Junction, Cotter, and Conesville will take place on Saturday, June 14th at the Roundy Elementary School in C.J. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and dinner will be served at 6:30 PM. Tickets or reservations for the event are available from Carol Ann Howell at the Community Bank (319-728-2226) and Sherry Pine at the State Bank (319-728-2436). Ticket price is still \$10.00, and includes the delicious meal prepared by the Presbyterian Women. A limited number of walk-ins can be managed, but to assure yourself a seat and a meal, please buy your tickets or make your reservations in advance. All classes will be recognized, with special attention to the 50-year Class of 1958 and the 25-year Class of 1983.

Mike Pavey wins 2008 Masonic "Excellence in Education" Award

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

The Masonic Excellence in Education award is an award presented by Masonic Lodges state wide to express Masonry's appreciation for the great teachers throughout the state. Recipients of this honor are then eligible to be selected for the Iowa Masonic Teacher of the Year Award.

The Masonic Excellence in Education Award is given to an outstanding teacher who exhibits these standards: Conduct; courtesy; responsibility; honesty; cheerfulness; kindness; consideration of others and community involvement.

The recipient of this year's award has exemplified all the above standards throughout his 36-year career at Columbus Community Schools. He has not only served as a teacher, but also as a coach, advisor, mentor and friend, not only to the kids he has taught but also to the community of Columbus Junction.

Written in a speech that was given by one of his past students, Matt Storm stated, "His leadership has been an integral part of shaping the character of many that have graduated from Columbus Community Schools. He has not only taught students to excel in the classroom, but also to become better human beings." Matt went onto write, "The award winner this year is also known for his upbeat attitude and cheerful demeanor. His kindness to the community has been shown in many ways. He has been an active member of the Lions Club, organizer of blood drives, a Trustee of the United Methodist Church, and served on countless committees for the betterment of our community."

As he presented the Award, Matt went onto say, "On behalf of the members of the Columbus City Masonic Lodge #107, I would like to present Mr. Mike Pavey with the 2008 Masonic Excellence in Education Award."

Mike Pavey is another example of why our community is so lucky to have so many dedicated individuals. His years of service to the young of our community and to organizations he has been involved in shows why he was chosen and deserves the award: Middle School student council advisor for 28 years; Columbus United Fund Board member; Louisa County Chapter of the American Heart Association charter board member; chairman of the Columbus Junction blood drives for 21 years; 12 gallon blood donor; Trustee of the Columbus Junction United Method-

ist Church; Columbus Junction Public Library Board member; member of the Columbus Steering Committee for the new Civic Center; night levee patrol during the 1993 flood; Fellowship of Christian Athletes advisor; Louisa County Sesquicentennial Commission secretary; Columbus Community Fitness Center shingling supervisor and volunteer worker; Columbus City Cemetery board member; Voltaire repairer of broken headstones.

For the application he was also to list honors he had received, professional, civic or outstanding. His list just shows that professionalism and dedication has gone beyond and above for Columbus Community Schools and his community. He has received the following: Iowa Council for Social Studies Middle School Teacher of the Year; Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission Volunteer of the Year; Iowa Lions Warren-Coleman Award recipient; Lions Club Outstanding Service Award; Outstanding Blood Drive Coordinator Award recipient; Columbus Junction Community Club Volunteer of the month; and Columbus Schools nominee for the University of Iowa Distinguished Teacher Award, to name just a few.

Mr. Pavey was also profiled in the following publications: Outstanding Young Men of America; Who's Who Among America's Teachers; Who's Who in American Education and the Burlington Hawkeye newspaper Teacher of the Year nominee.

As part of the application process the question was asked of the applicant, "Why should you be selected as the Iowa Masonic Teacher of the Year?"

This was so well answered by Mr. Pavey, and I quote, "I would be a worthy Iowa Masonic Teacher of the Year because my career mirrors many of the ideals and activities of Iowa's Masons. As I read the online edition of the March, 2008 issue of the Grand Lodge Bulletin, I was fascinated by the similarities between the educational and service projects of the Iowa Masons and my own professional and service activities. I often attempt, on a personal level, to reach some of the same goals that the Masonic Order accomplishes on a more organized level. In essence, I am moving, though with less efficiency, in the same direction as the Masons. I was excited to read of Iowa Grand Master Donald E. Mossier's reminder that attitude is the key to success. I have often made the same statement to my students. Maintaining a positive atti-



Masonic Excellence in Education award winner, Mike Pavey addresses the attendees at the 2008 Columbus Community School Awards Ceremony.

tude is also one of the guiding forces in my own life. I read with keen interest the articles relating to the many and varied service projects undertaken by the Iowa Masonic Lodges. Service to others has always been very important to me. I cannot adequately express the joy I have received, nor count the friends I have made, from my many volunteer activities."

Mr. Mike Pavey has won this

Award because of his excellence as an educator and his accomplishments as a volunteer. He is well respected and an honored classroom teacher. He has proven himself a chosen leader in his teaching profession as well as a community volunteer.

I would like to thank Duncan Bell and Matt Storm for bringing this story to me.

Congratulations Mike (Mr. Pavey) on an Award well deserved.