

Possibly deeper than 1993

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

2008 may replace 1993 as the benchmark year for flooding in the area after the city received a report on Monday that the Iowa River may crest at 32 feet by Sunday. The crest in 1993 was 29 feet.

City leaders met on Monday with area emergency personnel, representatives from the fire department, city employees, the police and sheriff departments, county officials, area contractors and business owners to make preliminary plans for the river's crest.

Mayor Dan Wilson emphasized that the city's number one priority is the city water plant, and he stated that sand is now being delivered to the levee and Hwy 92 bypass to build up these areas. "We do have a few days' notice to prepare," said Wilson, "and we will do everything we can to handle this situation."

Area business owners who may be in the flood area have been contacted to make plans to move equipment and other items in the event that their locations receive flood waters. "It's always better to overprepare than to underprepare," said Wilson.

On Monday the water level at the reservoir in Coralville was only inches from overflowing. As this water comes our way, along with the heavy rains received in northern Iowa, the community may very well see record flood levels. "Thirty-two feet could put water over the road at Casey's," said Wilson, and in preparation the Day Care Center announced that they will be closed on Thursday and Friday. Wilson stated that the situation will be monitored, and anyone who may be affected will be contacted. Area volunteers began removing items from the fairgrounds on Monday evening in preparation for the rising waters.



Pictured above are volunteers showing up on Tuesday morning to begin the process of sandbagging. Plans were made at a meeting of emergency officials on Tuesday to begin detouring traffic through the city so sand levees could be built.

Pictured at right is a tree in Columbus City that was uprooted during a storm Sunday evening. Although the storm did bring a limited amount of rainfall, heavy winds caused some damage. A funnel cloud was spotted southwest of town on Sunday evening, but no reports of its touching down were made. A funnel cloud was reported on the five mile lane near Wapello Sunday evening.



Legion honors new 50 year members



The Legion honored two members last week for fifty years of membership in the American Legion. Pictured above are Tom Huston and family and Leo Hora and family. The two members were honored Tuesday night, June 3, at the Columbus Junction American Legion for their 50-years of commitment and dedication to the Legion. Not pictured is Ralph Oak, a 60-year member, also honored but unavailable for the photo.

The City is in need of help for the potential upcoming emergency. If you own any sort of equipment such as skid loaders, dump trucks, etc., or are an operator, you are urged to contact City Hall. Also, sandbaggers are needed. Please contact City Hall if you are able to help sandbag. PLEASE, Only show up if you can help. Sightseers will only hamper the work. As a precaution, residents are encouraged to begin storing water. Every effort will be made to protect the city's water supply, but, at this time it is unknown how high the water will reach.

Area Reunions

Rees Family Reunion

The 86th John A. Rees family reunion will be held at the Columbus Junction Chautauqua Park, on June 21, 2008, at 12:00 Noon. DeeAnn Vincent, Marilyn Rees and Fran Rees are on the table and drink committee. John Winga, President; Delbert Rees, Vice President; Wilma Arthur, Secretary and Richard Arthur, Historian.

McGill/Kemp Reunion

Mark Your Calendars: Sunday, June 29, 2008, at 12:30 p.m., at the Academy Park in Grandview, Iowa. Please join us for the reunion. We will have a potluck, and take a family picture. Please remember to bring your auction item. Fried chicken and BBQ sandwiches will be provided, as well as plates, cups, silverware, napkins, iced tea, lemonade, coffee and ice water. Keep in mind that "people" make a reunion. There will be plenty of room, more food than we can eat, excellent play equipment for the younger generation, and a good time is guaranteed to be had by all that attend. Your presence will help make our reunion a success! Please join us at The McGill/Kemp Reunion this year. For questions, contact Rondalyn at 319-523-5252. See you on Sunday, June 29th.

C. J. Alumni Banquet Schedule

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.

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.

Briefly -

Legion Auxiliary Blood Drive

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center announces that the Columbus Junction American Legion Auxiliary will hold a blood drive on Wednesday, June 18th, from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the Legion Hall - 99 2nd Street. To donate, call Tammy Martin at 319-728-2011 to sign up. Walk-ins welcome. Donors who last gave blood on or before April 23, 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 diabetics are acceptable.

Benefit for Charlie Burroughs

Letts Poker Run Benefit for Letts Fireman Charlie Burroughs (injured in a motorcycle accident 5/18/08) July 5th. Sign up at the Letts Fire Station 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Last one out at 1:00 in by 5:00 PM. There will be 50/50, food, fun and raffles. Want to join the fun of the Poker Run but rather not drive? Join us on the Farmers Bus Leaving Letts at 1:00. Join us afterwards for an evening of fun at the Letts Street Dance! Letts will hold their annual Street Dance Saturday, July 5th at 6:00 PM to Midnight. Come join the fun with the Lynn Allen Band. Must be 21 years old. Sponsored by the Farmers Bar & Grill. For more information call Steve Barnes at 563-299-9856.

Heritage Museum hours

The Columbus Junction Heritage Museum will be open on Saturday, June 14th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alumni members and visitors will be welcome to see the displays.

Colonial Manor in need of boxes

Colonial Manor needs boxes (shoe boxes, hat boxes, etc.) to be used to create Memory Boxes. These boxes will keep stories, pictures, and reminders of the past. Please contact us at 319-728-2276 if you have some boxes to donate, ideas for this project or would like to volunteer to help put these boxes together.

Father's Day at Colonial Manor

You are invited to a Father's Day Social on Saturday, June 14th from 9-10:30 a.m. Join us for piano music by Marie Greene, followed by refreshments.

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction Regular Council Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 5:30 pm at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Ice Cream Social in Conesville

Conesville United Methodist Church will be having a homemade ice cream supper Thursday, June 12 beginning at 5 p.m. Creamed chicken on a bun, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, pie, drinks and homemade ice cream will be served. There will be a free will offering.

Empowerment Board to meet

The Louisa County Empowerment Advisory Group will hold their quarterly meeting today, Wednesday, June 11th at Noon at the Mediapolis Presbyterian Church. Discussion will include plans for attending fall school registrations in the county. The public is welcome to attend. For further details, contact ISU Extension in Louisa County at 319 523-2371.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

Conservation District to meet

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet June 12, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. Topics on the agenda will be an update on cost share projects and discussion on the 2008 award nominations. For more information please contact the office at 260 Mulberry St. STE 2, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Library Book Club to meet

The Library Book Club will meet Tuesday, June 17 at 4:30 p.m., at the library. We will discuss *Water for Elephants* by Sarah Gruen. We welcome anyone to join us.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet for brunch June 19th, 2008 at 9:00 am at the home of Judy Prior.

Potluck scheduled for Pastor Cathy Whitlatch

Pastor Cathy Whitlatch of Columbus Junction United Methodist Church will officiate her last joint service on June 22nd at 10 a.m. The worship service will include tributes to Pastor Cathy. Following the worship service a potluck will be held in the fellowship hall of the CJ church to say good-bye. Pastor Cathy will be joining Pastor Ron in Oregon where she will be working for the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. Please join us in saying good-bye. Everyone is invited to join us for worship and potluck following.

Fair Queen and Princess Contest

The Louisa County Fair Queen and Princess contests will take place on Monday, July 21st, 2008. Deadline for entry is Monday, June 30th. Please contact Michelle Hunt to enter today! Queen contestants must be between 16 and 21, Princess contestants must be between 4 and 8 and all must reside or attend school in Louisa County.

Amateur Radio Exams scheduled

The Muscatine Area Volunteer Examiners will be conducting exams for all classes of Amateur Radio (Ham) licenses on Saturday, June 14, at 1:30 PM at the Muscatine Public Safety Building. Pre-registration is requested. For more information, visit www.muscatinehams.org.