

Built and owned by the Community

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

The headline of the November 14, 1985 Columbus Gazette read: "Senior Center opening a huge success." From that Sunday in 1985, the Senior Center served a role that far exceeded its title as a center for senior citizens. It has been used as a voting location, hosted numerous family reunions and community functions, it is the location for the Lions Club's semi-annual biker pancake breakfast, recently has been the location for the community's Farmers' Market, and continued to serve as the Congregate Meal Site.

The concept for a senior center was originated in 1984 while the congregate meals were being served at the old American Legion hall. A number of citizens formed a group to explore the possibility of finding a location and building a new structure. James Gage, of Letts, a retired architectural draftsman volunteered to design the building. Land was purchased near the bowling alley for \$22,000, and the committee then began the task of raising funds for a building. The community got on board, and an additional \$60,000 in contributions were raised from various governmental and private organizations, as well as from local citizens to construct the building. As the Gazette stated back in 1985, "Many smiling faces and a large crowd marked the grand opening of the new senior center." It was a proud moment for the community, but now a community effort to help the center is again needed.

As most Gazette readers now



The flood damaged Senior Center

know, the Senior Center was one of the casualties of the recent flooding. "In order to replace the center, we are going to need a lot of help," said board member, Tom Huston. The roof and sidewall studs will be all that is salvaged from the structure. The siding and interior wall covering will need to be removed to allow for mold control. "We had everything in great shape, a new roof, an improved parking area, and no debt," said Huston, "but now we are starting from scratch.

It will cost approximately \$30,000 just to get the building stripped down, and we are getting cost estimates on restoring the facility back to its original condition." All of the furniture and fixtures were removed and are being stored in another location.

In its twenty-three year history the Senior Center has become a very important part of our community. It not only stood as a testament to those who had the vision and energy to build it, but it welcomed people of all ages to

the many events it hosted. It was a building built by the community, owned by the community, and used by the community, and we can't let it become a victim of the flood of 2008. If you can help in any way, either financially or with possible fundraising ideas, please come forward. You can be a big part in helping restore one aspect of the Columbus Community that has played such an important role in the lives of every citizen in town and the surrounding area.

Police Report

On July 2, 2008, at 1:04 a.m., the Louisa County Sheriff's Office was notified of a suspicious vehicle driving through a Farmer's Co-Op in the city of Wyman, Iowa.

Louisa County Deputy David Perley subsequently located the suspicious vehicle, conducted a traffic stop, and identified the driver and two passengers in the vehicle. The traffic stop was conducted near the intersection of County Road W66 and County Road G62, north of Winfield, Iowa.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Blaine Adam Dial, date of birth January 24, 1987. The passengers were identified as Crystal Jade Schnedler, date of birth June 17, 1983; and Jason Dean Atkinson, date of birth September 30, 1982. The driver and passengers reside near the Burlington, Iowa area.

During the traffic stop, law enforcement identified items in the vehicle that are used during the process of manufacturing methamphetamine. Also, two firearms were located within the vehicle.

Blaine Dial has been charged with Driving Under Suspension (Simple Misdemeanor Prohibited Acts - Manufacturing Methamphetamine (Class B Felony); Possession of Precursors (Class D Felony). Blaine Dial is being held at the Louisa County Jail on a \$111,000.00 bond.

Crystal Schnedler has been charged with Open Container of Alcohol (Simple Misdemeanor); Prohibited Acts - Manufacturing Methamphetamine (Class B Felony); Possession of Precursors (Class D Felony). Crystal Schnedler is being held at the Louisa County Jail on a \$111,000.00 bond.

Jason Atkinson has been charged with Carrying Weapons (Aggravated Misdemeanor); Prohibited Acts - Manufacturing Methamphetamine (Class B Felony); Possession of Precursors (Class D Felony). Jason Atkinson is being held at the Louisa County Jail on a \$111,000.00 bond.

A law enforcement officer was treated for an exposure due to a strong chemical within the vehicle.

The Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, and Washington-Louisa County Drug Task Force conducted the investigation. The investigation is ongoing.

The Winfield Police Department, Winfield Fire Department and Columbus Junction Ambulance provided additional assistance.

Fair Grounds being readied to host 2008 Louisa County Fair



Show Barn at the Louisa County Fairgrounds

According to Fair Board member, Mark Huston, the 2008 Louisa County Fair will be held at the fairgrounds as scheduled.

"Our buildings were built to with-

stand flood waters," said Huston, "they have no interior finished walls, so generally all they need is a cleaning after the flood waters recede."

Some of the electrical wiring was

damaged, and the walls of the Secretary's office sustained damage, but with a few days of dry weather, the fairgrounds should be ready for fair goers by July 21st.

Debris Removal begins in Oakville

WAPELLO, Iowa- The Environmental Protection Agency is making its first round of debris pick-ups in the City of Oakville. EPA workers are picking up White Goods (washing machines, refrigerators, etc.), E-debris (televisions, stereos, computers, etc.), and household hazardous materials (chemicals, fertilizers, bleach, paints, etc.). All these items MUST be placed near the curb of the public road to be collected.

Louisa County Sheriff Curt Braby says Hewitt Excavation will begin picking up larger debris items, like furniture, this Friday, July 11. Braby says a comprehensive debris

management plan for rural areas of the County is still being formulated.

County Road H-22 remains closed as the US Army Corp of Engineers continues construction of a temporary levee. Significant progress has been made as the main channel of water that had been flowing into Oakville was capped Monday morning. A large portion of the Iowa River levee just west of Oakville was breached June 14th and flooded the city.

Other items of interest:

All residents and business owners affected by the flood are

strongly encouraged to apply for federal aid at the FEMA disaster recovery center. The Center is located at the Briggs Civic Center in Wapello.

Farm Sanctuary reports it saved 69 Hogs from the flooding that will be transported to the State of New York July 9th.

For media questions contact the Louisa County Public Information Officers: Kathy Jolly Vance, ISU Extension (319) 750-3544; vancek@iastate.edu OR Gregg Flynn, MS Emergency Management (769) 798-8065; gflynn@mema.ms.gov.

Briefly -

Alumni Banquet cancelled

The 2008 Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet, scheduled for June 14 but cancelled because of the flooding, WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED. Make plans now to attend the 2009 Banquet, scheduled for the second Saturday in June.

City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold their regular council meeting Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center/City Hall

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 location

The Columbus Medical Clinic is temporarily at Roundy Elementary School in the front office. The phone number is the same 728-2429.

Fair Books now available

Louisa County Fair Books may be picked up at the following places: Columbus Junction State Bank, Community Bank, Gazette Office, Special Effects, Plants and Things, Simply Soothing, Columbus Junction City Hall and the Columbus Junction Library. The Fair dates are July 21-26.

Habitat for Humanity in need of volunteer help in Fredonia

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will meet at 7:00 p.m. Monday, July 14, at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church. Anyone who can help put the doors on the Fredonia house on Wednesday or Thursday. Need to put in windows as soon as possible. Will be working at the house on Saturday, July 12, unless it rains. If you can help call Jeff Everett at 728-2346.

Handbell soloist at Heritage Center

WAPELLO, Iowa - Guest artist, handbell soloist Kristine Stout of The Joybell Theater and Gift Shop in Nashville, Ind., will provide a special concert titled Joy Un-Speak-a-Bell at 7 p.m. Friday, July 18, at the Louisa County Historical Society, 609 James L. Hodges Ave. (US Highway 61), Wapello. Stout plays three octaves (37 bells) of English hand bells. Those attending are urged to be prepared to smile and be amazed at Stout's artistry and grace. Her music creates a one of a kind evening of inspiration and joy. To learn more about Kristine Stout, go to www.joybelltheater.com. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Proceeds from the concert will support the Louisa County Historical Society.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

Shellbark Club Supper Trip

Shellbark Club will be going to Kalona for supper July 10th at 6 p.m. Everyone will meet at Ainsworth Corners at 5 p.m., to car pool.

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.

Library to celebrate 60th Anniversary

The Columbus Junction Public Library will observe its 60th Anniversary with an Open House Thursday, July 17 from 3-6 P.M. Please join the Staff, Board, and Friends of the Library to celebrate this milestone.

Flood relief volunteers needed in Muscatine

Volunteers and Information in Muscatine is seeking volunteers to aid in flood recovery efforts for handicapped and elderly flood victims. If you are able-bodied and can help, please call Volunteers and Information in Muscatine at 563-263-0959.

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.

Congregate Meals at Columbus City Hall

Columbus City, Iowa, has generously offered the use of their City Hall at 2703 Columbus Street as a temporary location for our Senior Meal Program. This nutritionally balanced midday meal is for persons age 60 or older and will be served at 12 noon beginning July 7, 2008. Contributions are accepted from age eligible seniors. All others must pay the full posted cost of \$8.45. The "suggested" contribution range for meals consumed by elders is \$3.50-\$8.45. A 24-hour advance reservation is required and can be made by calling Barbara Spurling at 728-2412 no later than 12:30 p.m., on the day prior to the day you wish to eat.