

Governor brings "Jobs for Iowa Tour" to town

(DES MOINES)—Gov. Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds last week announced they will continue with their fourth week of town hall meetings as part of their "Jobs for Iowa" tour.

"The 'Jobs for Iowa' tour has given Lieutenant Governor Reynolds and me the opportunity to listen to the ideas of Iowans," said Branstad. "Today we are pleased to announce that the tour will continue next Friday with stops across South-

east Iowa. We look forward to traveling to these communities and sharing our plans for job creation in Iowa."

The Branstad-Reynolds jobs plan includes: Cutting Iowa corporate income tax rates in half, which currently has the highest top rate in the country; Bringing commercial property taxes to 60 percent of value, down from the current rate of 100 percent. Commercial property in Des Moines pays more tax than similar property

in New York City, Chicago, Kansas City and Philadelphia. Rural areas face similar odds against their counterparts nationwide; Remaking the Department of Economic Development into a 21st Century public-private partnership that works with businesses to create jobs; A sunset of rules and regulations every four years to determine their effectiveness, and have a jobs-impact statement with every new proposal that affects economic growth in Iowa; Touring the

country and world in search of new jobs for the state of Iowa.

The following events are free and open to the public:

Friday, March 18, 2011: 11 a.m. Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds hold "Jobs for Iowa" tour town hall meeting, Columbus Junction City Hall – ICN Room, 232 2nd Street, Columbus Junction, IA.

For more information please visit www.governor.iowa.gov.

Briefly -

Conesville Firemen's Fish Fry

The Conesville Firemen will be holding a Fish and Wing Fry at the Conesville Fire Station on Saturday, March 19th from 5:00 to ?? Adults are \$8 and 12 and under is \$4. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a great time with great food. All proceeds are used to help finance equipment and activities for the Conesville Fire Department. Your support is greatly appreciated.

School Board to meet

The Columbus School Board will meet on Monday, March 21, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Roundy Elementary.

Community Bank Travel Club

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Pacific Northwest and California tour scheduled for July 24-31 has been changed to July 11-18. Final payment will be May 11th. If you have any questions please call Carol Ann at 319-728-2226. Also, sign up now for the Saturday, April 16 trip to the Putnam Museum and ImaX Theatre for the Titanic Artifact exhibition. The price is \$80 and includes a delicious lunch. Payment due at time of sign up.

After Prom Committee meeting

There will be an After-Prom committee meeting at the Student Center at the high school on Tuesday, March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. All junior parents are welcome and are encouraged to come. Any questions call Cindy Johnston 319-212-0330.

Alumni Banquet set

The annual Columbus Schools Alumni Banquet will once again be held the second Saturday in June. The location is Roundy Elementary School for the meal and program. The United Presbyterian Women will provide the banquet meal. Make sure this event gets on your summer calendar!

Blood checks at Senior Center

Glucose, Cholesterol and Blood Pressure checks will be done at the Columbus Community Senior Center on **Tuesday, March 22, 2011** from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. The tests are free. Come and be tested to help stay healthy.

CCIC to meet

C.C.I.C. will be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at the Columbus City City Hall at 7:30 p.m. Hostess is Esther Timmons.

TTT to meet

Chapter T will meet Thursday March 17, at the home of Judy Carlson, at 7 p.m. ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND.

Community Club to meet

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

St. Patrick's Day at the Library

The Columbus Library will hold a St. Patrick's Day Story hour after school on Thursday, March 17th. We will have music, stories, crafts and cookies. This will be a great time for kids K-3rd grade. Call 319-728-7972 if you have any questions and to register.

Cultural Awareness seminar

A CULTURAL AWARENESS AND ACTION SEMINAR Sponsored by Charter for Racial Justice Committee of the United Methodist Women on Saturday, MARCH 26, 2011, at Columbus Junction UMC, 517 - 2nd Street, Columbus Junction, IA. Registration and meal \$6.00 - contact Marsha Gerot 319-726-6722.

FFA to hold blood drive

The Columbus FFA will be sponsoring their annual blood drive on Monday, April 4th from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at the American Legion. If you are 16, you must have a parent permission form filled out, which can be picked up in the high school office. Last day of donation must be on or before February 7, 2011. If you are interested in signing up for a time to donate, please call Katie McWhirter at 319-728-2231 x 3621 or email katie.mcwhirter@columbuscsd.org.

FFA Consignment Auction

The Columbus FFA will be having their 2nd Annual Consignment Auction on Saturday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m. at the old Sajak's building on Highway 92. Unloading/Check-in times for consignments will be available soon. For more information, visit www.mcwhirterauctionco.com.

Soup Supper at Kingston UMC

The United Methodist Church in Kingston (Pastor Earlene Lekwa) is having a soup supper on Sunday, March 20th, from 4-6:30 p.m. The menu includes Chili or Cheesy Chicken Vegetable, salads, and dessert. \$7 adults. 8 miles north of Burlington on Hwy 99.

Learn to knit Mastectomy Prosthetics

Our Shop, 106 Main Street, Suite 100, will be hosting a workshop on Monday, March 21st from 1-4 p.m. for anyone interested in learning how to knit mastectomy prosthetics from instructor Diana Weigert. Be sure to register by calling 319-728-5648, because space is limited and also to get your supply list. There will be a \$10.00 instructor fee.

Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners will be meeting on March 22, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. at the Louisa County ISU Extension Office (317 Van Buren in Wapello). Irvin Meir, Wapello High School Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor, will be presenting "Propagation Methods" as our program a business meeting to follow. Public is welcome to attend the program presentation.

Ham and Bean Supper at Masonic Lodge

The Columbus City Masonic Lodge #107 will be having a community Ham 'n' Bean Supper on Friday, March 18, 2011, from 5 - 7 P.M. Free will donations will be accepted. Special guest speaker at 7 following the meal: Von Ketelsen from AM. 540 KMWT.

Pack 54 Pancake Supper

All you can eat Pancake Supper, includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, whole hog sausage, coffee, milk and orange juice. Monday, March 28, 2011 @ 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. location L & M Elementary School. 7th Grade thru Adults - \$6.00, Grades K-6 & Seniors - \$4.00, Pre-School - free. Tickets can be purchased from any Cub Scout of Pack 54. Tickets can also be purchased by calling Mary Ann 563-263-8886 or Karen 319-726-4515, or tickets can be purchased at the door.

Celebrating 70 years together

By Carmen Lawrence
Gazette Staff

The average life expectancy for a human being is 73 years of age. Most of us would feel privileged to even live that long. Now, imagine being married to the same person for 70 years of your life. It almost boggles the mind, but that is exactly what Lewis and Romelle Dallmeyer of rural Columbus Junction have achieved. On Tuesday, March 1, 2011, the couple quietly celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a family dinner held in their honor. The Dallmeyers are not ones to brag about their achievements, but when the Columbus Gazette heard of their milestone, we just had to announce it to the world.

On March 1, 1941, Lewis and Romelle (Richardson) Dallmeyer were united in marriage in Kahoka, MO, in a church that wasn't heated, so the ceremony was in the manse. They only had one witness (the minister's wife). I jokingly asked Romelle if they were supposed to have had two witnesses to the nuptials, and she shot right back, "Well, now do you suppose we aren't really married?" I then replied, "I suppose it's too late to try and back out of it now."

The couple was both 19 when they married, and met through Lewis' niece, Jean Meredith. They have lived their entire married lives in the house Lewis was born in (17582 Hwy 92, Columbus Junction, IA 52738). They both worked the fam-

ily farm until retiring in 2008. The couple has been life-long members of the Pleasant Grove Community Church (where Lewis was recently honored for 73 years of service to his church congregation). They have two daughters, Sandra (Delbert) Reese of Columbus Junction, and Donna (Stephen) Henning of Davenport. They have five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, who lovingly refer to them as "Grandma and Grandpa Great."

Lewis is a member of Farm Bureau and Romelle is a member of the Indian Creek Club (a group of neighborhood women). They both were in the Lucky 13 Card Club for over 50 years. Every night, the couple still plays cards (Skipbo) together.

The couple's daughter, Sandra thought that the secret to their long, happy marriage might be the fact that they always made due with what they had. I think it might be the fact that they still enjoy each other's company, as illustrated by their nightly card games. It might also be their collective, wonderful sense of humor. Whatever it is, the rest of Louisa County would be envious to have it. Maybe Lewis and Romelle should come out of retirement and start selling their bottled tap water from their home, and tell the world that that is the secret to their wonderful marriage. Whatever they're doing, it's working and we all want to wish them many more happy years together. Congratulations, Lewis and Romelle!



Gazette Sports Editor receives IHSAA News Media Award



Photo by Pep Rally Photo

Tammy Virzi, sports editor for the Columbus Gazette, received the IHSAA News Media award last week during the boys' state basketball tournament in Des Moines.

Tammy is a graduate of Columbus Community High School and Iowa State University. In high school she was an outstanding four sport athlete, earning All-State honors in basketball and softball before becoming an All Big 8 Conference softball pitcher for the Cyclones.

At Iowa State she was the editor of the ISU Rodeo Program and the Block and Bridle Yearbook.

She started her career in Illinois and Indiana as the editor of several national publications. In 1988 she returned home as an advertising representative of the Columbus Gazette.

She then started a weekly sports page in the paper and currently is the Sports Editor of The Gazette, proudly covering all Columbus Community Wildcat athletics. She was recently inducted into the Iowa State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

L-M School students hold Falcon Day of Action/Giving

Students (in grades 9-12) and staff will participate in a day of giving (or day of action) within the communities that comprise the Louisa-Muscatine Community School District. Students and staff will work on a variety of charitable activities in and around the school and community during the morning of April 18th (rain date is April 21st). Students along with supervising adults will choose a volunteer opportunity from a variety of community-based options.

Our purpose: Raise awareness of community needs and services that may present future Silver Cord opportunities; Create an atmosphere that promotes teamwork and builds bridges between the school and the community; Present an opportunity for students, staff, and community members to build positive relationships with each other outside of the school setting; Instill - through action - the values of respect and responsibility.

We are looking for volunteer opportunities in the areas of Fruitland, Grandview, and Letts. If you have a need, or know of a worthy project please contact Louisa-Muscatine High School at 319-726-3421 or Barbara Noble at bnoble@louisa-muscatine.k12.ia.us.

Visual Support Group reschedules

There will be no meeting of the Louisa County Visual Support Group during the month of March. The next meeting of the Louisa County Visual Support Group will be on Thursday, April 14th at Corner Market. For more information contact Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.

Alzheimer's caregivers group to meet

The New Henry County Alzheimer's and Dementia Caregiver Support Group will hold its first meeting, Thursday, March 17, 2011, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 302 Locust Street, Winfield. March Topic: Support Group Initial Meeting and Orientation. All caregivers and family members are welcome and encouraged to attend. For more information please contact Angie Ebeling or Peggy Beaty at 319-257-3303.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, March 17th, at 11:30 a.m. at the Pizza Hut in Washington.

Legislative Forum set

A Legislative Forum will take place on Saturday, March 19, 2011, with Senator Tom Courtney and Representative Dennis Cohoon and Representative Tom Sands at the Burlington Public Library, 210 Court Street, Burlington, Iowa, from 9:15-11:15 a.m.

PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Linda Pierce on Monday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. and co-hosted by Dana Howell. The program will be Ceremony of Initiation. All members are encouraged to attend.