

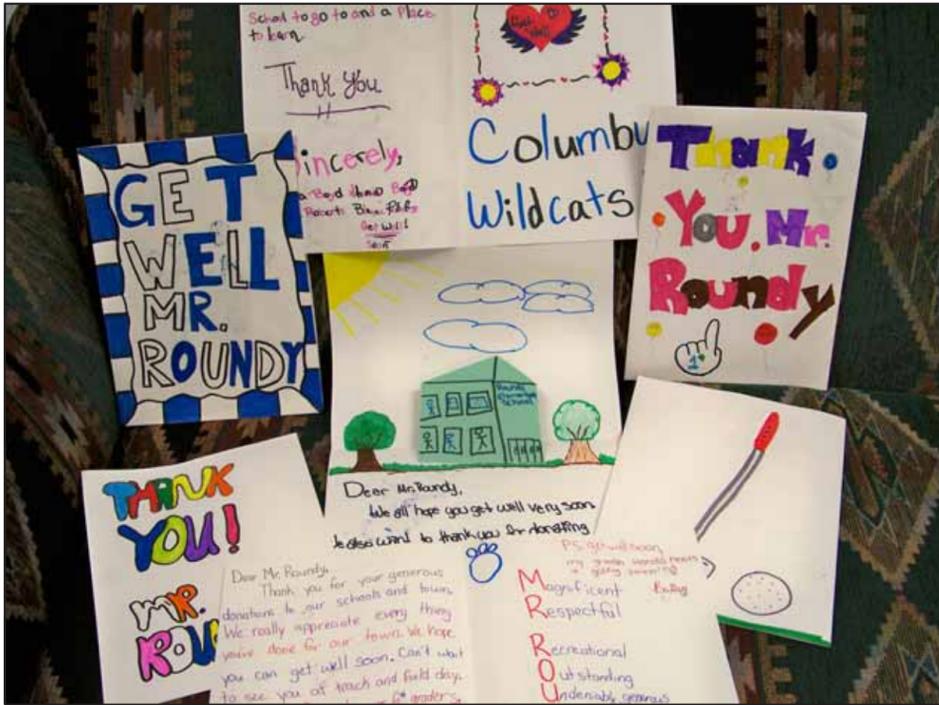
Students send special "Thank-you" to Beryl Roundy

By Carmen Lawrence
Gazette Staff

It's hard to believe that the Columbus Community School District has had its Wilma Sime Roundy Elementary building open since the fall of 2000. In the ten years that has passed, it is estimated that over 6,000 students have had their education in that building. The benefits of having a state-of-the-art, updated, modern elementary building for our district's pupils are too numerous to mention.

And none of those benefits would have been possible if it wasn't for the generosity of local, concerned citizens fighting to make a new elementary a reality. One of those concerned community members was Beryl Roundy. In part because of his benevolence, Columbus Community elementary students have been able to get the best education possible for a decade. The school district wanted to thank him in a special way for his philanthropic endeavor.

Recently, Mr. Roundy has experienced some health issues at his Arizona home, but he is reported to currently be doing well. Also, Beryl will be celebrating his 100th birthday on August 7, 2010. The school district employees thought now would be the perfect time to thank him for all that he has done for Columbus Community Schools. The idea was brought up to school superintendent, Rich Bridenstine, who went through the Steering Committee and then on to the Cultural Cadre, to finalize just how the district could thank Roundy. Then, on March 5th plans were set in motion. Through the hard work and dedication of 507 elementary students and about 100 staff members at Roundy, a "thank you video" and



Some of the cards sent to Beryl Roundy by elementary students

thank-you cards were created for him.

Michelle Dickey, first grade teacher at Roundy, was in charge of putting together a video of each Roundy Elementary student thanking Mr. Roundy. It took about three hours to shoot and ended up being about ten minutes long. At the beginning it says: This video presented by the entire staff and students at Roundy Elementary.

Dickey stated, "We just wanted to be able to say to him, 'thanks for the opportunity to learn to read and write and to teach each other.'"

The video also updates Roundy

on the school being bully-free, and how students make presentations in the classroom enabling them to be able to teach each other. It was finished last week, just in time for it to be delivered by none other than some of the staff that works at Roundy Elementary.

This week, Curriculum Director, Tara Paul and four other elementary teachers, Emily Wilson, Teresa Murry, Molly Kees, and Christina Schenk, traveled to the state of Arizona to do some observing at Phoenix schools. Beryl Roundy lives just north of Phoenix, so the group is go-

ing to make a surprise delivery of the video, cards made by the children, and a Roundy Elementary staff shirt to him. The entire staff and students feel it's the least they could do for such a long-lived, magnanimous humanitarian. And the students learned when they were shooting the video, what helping out your community will get you – unending gratitude and a legacy of 6,000 students' education being bettered because of your charity. Hopefully, some of them will be able to help out others in the future just like Beryl Roundy has helped the Columbus Community School District.

City officials watch river crest and forecast

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

City officials are meeting every Friday morning to discuss the river situation and make preparations for any flooding that comes our way.

The current projections are that the river will crest this week, with water levels remaining steady, then declining. "If we don't receive any unusual amount of spring rains, we should be fine," said Columbus Junction Mayor Dan Wilson.

As of press time the fairgrounds and areas adjacent to the river have standing water, however city pumps are moving water back over the levee. "Water drains to the north side of the fairgrounds, and this is the most visible from the road," said Wilson. "We now have much larger pumps than we did in 2008, and they appear to be keeping up with the water flow."

Geological maps show river levels projected to decline after this week, however all we can do is take a "Wait and See" approach. Spring rains locally and to our north will tell the tale.



Railroad bridge on the Iowa River East of Columbus Junction on Monday afternoon

Spring is really coming!



Thursday, with temps in the low 60's Doug and Vicki Wilson owners of the Dairy Sweet along with their helper, Tyler Parker were busy preparing their little sweet shop for their opening date of March 26. It's been a long cold winter and you know spring has sprung when the Dairy Sweet opens for business. Pictured above checking out their new blacktop driveway at the Dairy Sweet are Doug Wilson, owner and Tyler Parker.

Legion Auxiliary hosts County Meeting



On March 15, the American Legion Auxiliary hosted the annual county meeting. Twenty-two members and one Junior member attended the potluck dinner and meeting. Members came from Wapello, Morning Sun, and Columbus Junction. Each unit reported on their years' activities and events. Earlene Lekwa, our 2009 District President, spoke to the group, and told about her year. We are so proud to have had one of our members represent us, and thanked Earlene for a job well done. During the business meeting, we discussed and voted unanimously to donate money to the Veteran's Hospital in Iowa City.

Briefly -

Community Easter Egg Hunt

The Columbus Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at Chautauqua Park. The ages are 10 and under.

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a public hearing and regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, March 24, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/ City Hall.

Cub Scout Pancake Supper

The Cub Scout Pack 54 will hold an all-you-can-eat pancake supper with whole hog sausage and scrambled eggs on Monday, March 29, 2010 from 5-8 p.m., at the L-M Elementary School off Highway 61. The Cub Scouts will be doing all of the serving themselves. Cost is \$5.00 for 7th grade through adult; \$3.00 K-6th grade and seniors; Pre-school students are free.

Etude Club wedding reception

Columbus Etude will be hosting a "wedding reception," that the public is invited to attend. On Tuesday, April 13th at 7:00 p.m., Etude will be offering music, cake and a wedding collection from over the years. A free will offering will go toward scholarships to high school music camps.

FFA Auction location change

NOTE: LOCATION CHANGE for 1st Annual Columbus FFA Consignment Auction on Sunday, March 28, 2010, Starting at noon. Located at Plank Equipment on Hwy 92 east of Columbus Junction (Sajak's)- Look for signs! Auction conducted by McWhirter Auction Company and Giardino Auctioneering. Questions and consignments: Call Katie McWhirter 319-461-3367.

Saturday Afternoon with Chocolate

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will host "Saturday Afternoon with Chocolate," our annual fundraiser, on Saturday, March 27, from 1:30 - 3:30 at the Wapello Briggs Center. We are planning to have about 30 chocolate items, including cakes, candies, pies, ice cream, and other chocolate desserts. These will also include sugar free items. The cost will be \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children 10 and younger. Please plan to come and bring a friend(s) to help us build another house in Louisa County. PLEASE COME AND HAVE A TASTE WITH US TO ENJOY THE CHOCOLATE! Also, come to visit and for getting new ideas to take home with you.

Music at Heritage Center

WAPELLO – An afternoon of Music will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday April 11, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello. The date was incorrectly printed earlier. Vocal musical selections will be presented by the Old Keck Men's Glee Club and a Columbus Junction women's singing group Etude. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

Letts Firemen to hold fish fry

The Letts Fire Department will be holding a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, March 27, 2010, at 5 p.m. The cost will be \$9.00 for adults and children \$4.00.

Music Boosters sponsor Sock Hop

The Columbus Music Boosters are sponsoring two sock hop dances on Saturday, March 27th. The 6th grade and Junior High sock hop will be from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The High School sock hop will be from 9-11 p.m. Proceeds from both dances will go toward the high school music trip. Admission is \$4.00 or \$3.00 if you wear a 50's costume. Concessions will be available. Come have fun with lots of music, games and fun.

Poker Run scheduled

A poker run is being planned for Saturday, March 27, 2010, to benefit the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. The event starts at 10 a.m. at Karen's in Lone Tree where you will register and pay a \$10 entry fee. Other stops include: Gin's in Lone Tree; Saddle Bronc in Conesville; Rumors and Excuses in Columbus Junction; Farmer's Bar and Grill in Letts; JB's Pub and Grub in West Liberty; and ending at Burt's Tap in Nichols at 7 p.m. A 50/50 drawing and raffles will take place during the entire day and at Burt's. The best poker hand wins cash (amount depends on the number of entries).

Conesville Cemetery clean-up

The Conesville Cemetery Spring Clean-up will be held this weekend. Please remove all flowers prior to Saturday. Thank You.

Wine tasting at Two Rivers' Lodge

The Two Rivers' Lodge (formerly the "Main Bar" at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds – Highway 70, south of Conesville, Iowa) will be hosting a wine and hors d'oeuvre tasting on Saturday, March 27, 2010, from 6-9 p.m. The event is open to the public, but you must be 21 years old to attend. The cost will be \$20.00. Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, March 24th, by calling 319-726-5322 or 319-725-6180. Come join this evening of fun and celebration of spring, good spirits and fine wine.

Wapello All-Alumni Banquet

The planning committee for the Wapello All-Alumni Banquet needs to know if any graduates did not receive letters regarding the July 17 event. Anyone who did not get the letter is asked to contact Jean Brauns at 319-523-3462 or by email at bjbrauns@mchsi.com or Paula Buckman at pbuckman@louisacom.net. The letters are needed for making reservations.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The annual Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet will take place on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at Roundy Elementary School. Reserve the date on your calendar.

2010 Fair dates set

The dates for the 2010 Louisa County Fair are: July 24 - Parade and Fair Kickoff; and Fair - dates July 26-31. Dates for the Iowa State Fair are August 12-22.

Catfish dinner in Lone Tree

The Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a catfish dinner on Friday, March 26th, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. The menu includes catfish, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, beverage and bar/cookies. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 10 and under. If you have any questions, please contact Carol at the church office 319-629-4900. Thank you for your help!!!