



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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Fifty Years and Goin' Strong

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

On March 25, 1963, a new bank opened in Columbus Junction, Iowa. That bank, now COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST, is 50 years going and is anxious to celebrate this feat with friends and customers. Their celebration and show of customer appreciation will be held two days this week at the Columbus bank: Friday, March 22, from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and Saturday, March 23 from 9:00 A.M. until noon. Cookies, coffee, and punch will be served.

CEO and President of the bank, Gary Slight (formerly of Columbus Junction) stated, "The bank started from zero with people who felt there was a need to have another bank. Today, COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST has assets of approximately \$250 million. Along with the Columbus bank, there are two branches of the bank in Muscatine, one in Wilton, and one in Wapello."

The Columbus location customers can walk into any of the other four branches and operate as if they were standing in their bank in Columbus Junction. Checks can be cashed, deposits made, transactions completed, etc. Cindy Burroughs, Vice President, Compliance and IT Administrator, stressed, "This is just one of the advantages of working with a bank that has other locations."

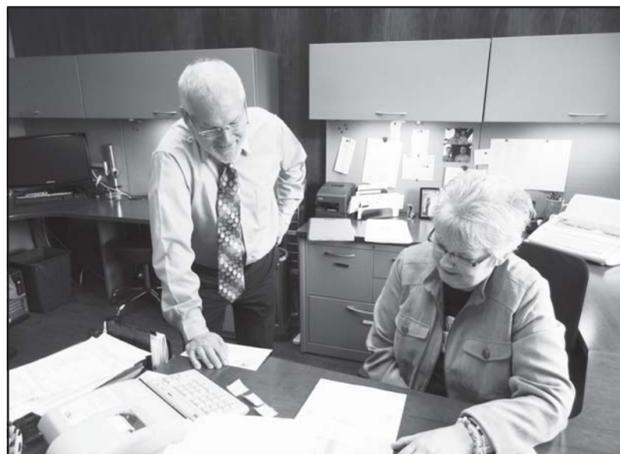
Jane Phillips, Vice President and Trust Officer, Real Estate and Consumer Loan Officer, added, "Our roots are deep. We've been here serving this community 50 years, and

we plan to keep doing so. We've grown to be part of a larger bank. We still have a small-community attitude. We offer the same technology as the bigger banks, and we have the small-town friendly service. We feel we have the best of both worlds."

The Columbus location has always been innovative. They were the first bank in Louisa County to have both a drive-up window and an ATM machine. When Gary Slight was asked, "Why are the words 'and Trust' now added on to the bank name to make it COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST?" Slight responded, "We want our customers to know that our bank has these trust powers, and we can do those jobs. Our bank trust department manages over \$100 million in assets."

Gary Slight plans on spending more time in Columbus Junction. "I'm looking forward to seeing many friends and familiar faces in Columbus Junction again. It will be fun to visit with everyone."

The staff of COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST will gladly receive you on their days of celebration. They look forward to meeting and greeting you on those days, but also as they would any other day of the week. They are proud of their 50 years in the community and plan to spend just as many or more here in the future. (Note: See their full-page ad on page 3 of today's paper for pictures of employees and staff, their job titles, and years of experience.)



Craig Helmick and Debbi Murry discuss accounting issues



Gary Slight and Jane Phillips review loan documents

The Times they are a Changing

By John Carpenter

Folks, things are always in a state of change, and it is the same with the Gazette. Over the years we have tried very hard to not make any changes in our prices, we haven't raised rates in 8 years. However postal rates as well as all of our operating expenses keep climbing upward. Like all businesses, we try to provide the best product possible, at a cost that is reasonable. And we would like to think that the Gazette is still a great bargain for our readers. But we do need to raise our prices. So effective April 1, the cost of a subscription in Louisa County will be \$32 per year, \$36 per year for an adjoining county, and \$49 for other areas. (That's an increase of 10 cents an issue per week.) Our newstand rate will be 75 cents. Also, our advertising rates will increase from \$5.25 per column inch to \$5.50 per column inch on display ads and classified ads will be \$5.75. Classified word ads will 30 cents per word with a \$4.50 minimum.

Also, over the years we have been rather lax in our policy on the Briefly Column. Originally the Briefly Column was for civic items, public meetings, club meetings, and school events. However, we have been receiving a number of items that should be ads. I understand that many of the items that are sent are from non-profit organizations, but we need to maintain our profitable status. So, the policy that we need to follow is: if you are going to make money at the event you are holding, you need to pay for an ad if you want it advertised. IT WILL NOT BE IN THE BRIEFLY SECTION.

Hopefully this will not be a burden for our readers, but it is something that we need to do, and something that we have been rather lax in following. Please feel free to give us a call if you have any questions. We do want to visit with you to help make this change something reasonable and not burdensome. Thanks for your support over the years.

Dr. Brett Gardner named Columbus Distinguished Graduate

Dr. Brett Gardner, Ph.D. has been named the Columbus Distinguished Graduate for 2013. Brett was a 1985 graduate of Columbus Community, who now lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The award will be presented at graduation this spring.

The Distinguished Graduate program was begun in 2008 to honor past graduates, who have made significant inspiring contributions to our world. The goal is to inspire CC students with the vast successes of Columbus graduates. Past recipients include Hal Prior, Tom Huston, Dan Crawford, Lisa Piper, Roger Salazar, and Richie Orr.

This is an ongoing program and nominations for future distinguished graduates may be made at any time and will be placed on file to be considered next year. The form is available on the school website or by contacting the district office. Next year the committee has chosen to expand the program by adding an award for deceased graduates as well. Graduates of Cotter and Conesville are also considered for this honor.

Area Farmer wins \$5,000 for Columbus Fire and Rescue and Fair

Randall Orr of Columbus Junction has been selected as a winner in America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. Grow Communities gives farmers the opportunity to win a \$2,500 donation to direct to their favorite local nonprofit organizations. To further support counties that have been declared disaster areas due to drought by the U.S.D.A. winning farmers in these counties were able to direct double the donation, a total of \$5,000 to further support the community. Louisa County was declared a disaster area by the USDA, giving Randall Orr, the opportunity to place two \$2,500 donations. Randall Orr selected Columbus Junction Fire and Rescue and Louisa County Fair Association. Columbus Junction Fire and Rescue, Randall Orr and a Monsanto representative partici-

pated in a check presentation ceremony on Tuesday, March 19th, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Junction State Bank (during the Fair Board meeting), 134 Main St., Columbus Junction, IA 52738.

In 1,271 eligible counties in 39 states, farmers could sign up for the opportunity to win a \$2,500 donation for their favorite community nonprofit. This year, the Monsanto Fund will invest over \$5 million in rural America through Grow Communities, which includes double donations for counties suffering from the historic drought. America's Farmers Grow Communities is sponsored by the Monsanto Fund to highlight the important contributions farmers make every day to our society and to help them positively impact their communities. This program is part of the Monsanto Fund's overall effort to support rural America. For a complete list of Grow Communities winners and more program information, please visit growcommunities.com.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for Louisa County Habitat for Humanity scheduled

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will be holding a ground breaking ceremony this Friday, March 22, at 6 p.m. at 2308 Philadelphia Street, Columbus City. A home will be built for Esperanza Gonzalez and her children Betsy, Javier and Jazmin.

Easter Egg Hunt at Morning Sun Care

Morning Sun Care Center, an ABCM Corporation home, is sponsoring its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, March 29 at 2:00. Children of all ages will be divided into categories for the hunt and all will have the opportunity for pictures with the Easter Bunny. Refreshments will be served and the community is encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Angie Smith at 868-7751.

Restoration of Alumni Photos

The Columbus Community Heritage Museum has recently been gifted with the large pages of composite photos of former graduates going back to the 1930's and up to the 1960's. To preserve these would require professional framing, and be somewhat expensive. We are asking for donations from interested people to fund this project. Any help would be appreciated, and contributions can be mailed to: Columbus Community Heritage Museum, 122 Maple Street, Columbus Junction, IA 52738. Any questions, call Lisa at 728-2175 or Gloria at 728-2124.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, March 21st at 11:30 a.m. at 92 Roadhouse.

School Improvement Committee to meet

The School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) will hold its Meeting #3 on Monday, March 25, 2013 at 5:30 PM at the Roundy Elementary Library.

Spring Tree Sales

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District has available a limited supply of trees and shrubs to order now for planting this spring. These trees and shrubs can beautify a home, provide summer shade or winter wind protection, and supply wildlife habitat and be available in mid-April. Profits from the sales of trees go for conservation education, scholarships and promotion of natural resources in Louisa County. For pricing and a list of trees/shrubs available, please call the SWCD at 319-523-6411 or stop by their office at 260 Mulberry Street in Wapello.

Briefly -

Shooting Stars 4-H free soup supper

The Shooting Stars 4-H Club will be hosting a FREE soup supper for the congregation of the Pleasant Grove Community Church on Sunday, April 14, 2013 at 6 p.m. The group will serve chili and potato soups, relish, crackers and desserts with drinks as part of their service project. Congregation members and family members of the Shooting Stars are invited to attend.

Lawrence Herrick presentation

On April 13, 2013 at the Letts Community Center in Letts, Iowa, the Frenchman Daniel Sellier, will give a presentation on Major Lawrence Herrick, an American pilot in World War II killed over France. Sellier's presentation will include slides, details of Herrick's final moments, information on military aviation and World War II. He also will tell of the bravery of the French people as they cared for and buried Herrick's body defying the Germans. At 1:00 PM on that Saturday, a procession will go from the Letts Library to the Letts Cemetery where a ceremony will take place paying homage to Herrick and all dead military persons. Following this ceremony, the procession will return to the Letts Library for the presentation by Sellier, which will probably take place around 2:00 PM. Coffee and cookies will be served following the presentation and there will be time for questions and visiting with Sellier. Major Herrick was born and raised in Letts and married Jeannette Helmick from Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Community Club to meet

Columbus Community Club will meet on Thursday, March 21 at Noon at the Senior Center.

CCIC to meet

The C.C.I.C. will be held at the Columbus City City Hall on Tuesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Esther Timmons will be the hostess.

Columbus Alumni Banquet set

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 8, 2013. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1963) class and the 25-year (1988) class. Put the date on your calendar now! Tickets are \$10 and are available at both Columbus Junction Banks.

Conesville in need of Fire Trustee

The Louisa County Board of Supervisors is accepting applications for a Trustee on the Conesville Benefited Fire District. This is a 3-year appointment. Applicants must be a resident of Louisa County living in the Conesville Fire District. Applications may be picked up in the Louisa County Auditor's office or online at louisacountyiowa.org. They will be accepting applications through April 5, 2013.

Early Area Childhood Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting today, Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle St., Mediapolis, IA.

Easter Egg Hunt scheduled

The Columbus Junction Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 30, 2013, at 1 p.m. at Chautauqua Park. Children ages 0-10 are welcome to attend. To donate or if you have any questions, please contact Lisa Exline at 319-750-0801.

Energy Assistance available

Do you need help with your energy bill? If so, first you must meet the Federal Household Income Guide qualifications to be a candidate for this assistance. Help is available at the local Community Action Program at the Louisa County Center, 205 E. Access Rd., Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Etude Club to meet

Etude Club members will meet in the Colonial Estates Assisted Living Center on Tuesday, March 26, for an extra planning session and Club Chorus rehearsal in preparation for their Spring Show, which will be April 30th. The meeting time is 6:30 p.m. Please note this time change.

Grandview-Letts Lions Blood Drive

The Grandview-Letts Lions Club is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Thursday, March 28, from 1:30-6:30 in the Letts Library Community Room.

Community Development seeks interns

This Columbus Junction Community Development Center is looking for two enthusiastic summer interns. Two paid internships are offered for college students who will work on community programs including the farmer's market, community gardens, Keep Columbus Beautiful, United Fund and local access cable. The summer internship program began last year with Jesus Lizarraga and Megan Leyden as the first participants. More information can be found on the City's website and applications can be obtained by emailing cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org. The deadline for applications for local residents is March 31.

Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners club will meet Tuesday, March 26, 2013 in Wapello at the Louisa County Extension office. As we were snowed out last month, this will be our first meeting for the new year and we a lot of projects coming up for the year. Hope to see all of our members there.

Fish Fry in Lone Tree

The Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a fish fry supper on Friday, March 22nd from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The menu includes: fish filets, baked potato, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, beverages and bar/cookies. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children ages 10 and under.

Morning Sun PTO Vendor Blender

MORNING SUN - The Morning Sun PTO will be hosting a Vendor Blender on Saturday, March 23. This is a fundraiser for the PTO Playground project. The Blender will be held from 9 am to 2 pm in the Morning Sun School Gym. The Morning Sun Youth League will provide the food throughout the event. Vendors scheduled to be on hand include: Tupperware, Scentsy, Tastefully Simple, Dove Chocolate, Paparazzi Accessories, Premier Jewelry, JamBerry Nails, Gold Canyon Candles, Origami Owl, Norwex, It Works, Thirty-One, Mia Bath and Body, Nerium Skincare, Mary Kay, Glam Glass and Gifts, Bee's Bags, Clever Containers, Wildtree, Pampered Chef, Lia Sophia, Vault Denim, Celebrating Home, Books R Fun, Beauticontrol, Advocate, Avon, Wine Shop at Home, Sunny's Boutique plus many handmade items and more.

