

Another step in flood recovery about to happen

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Another step in the community's recovery from the flood of 2008 will soon be completed as plans are in place to have the upstairs of the Columbus Motel ready for lodgers by the end of April. The motel was seriously damaged during the flood, and it was unsure if any takers could be found to restore it.

In mid January, Jack Patel of Krinsha Lodging began discussions with a Chicago bank that had taken ownership of the Motel. Patel was able to work out a purchase arrangement, and work began in late January. According to Krishna employee Tracy Syens, a good deal of work has been completed. "There wasn't a lot of damage in the upstairs rooms," said Syens, "so we have spent our time mostly freshening up the rooms. They are being repainted and new carpeting and furniture will be installed."

However, extensive damage was experienced on the first floor and basement. "The basement has been completely renovated with a number of posts removed and beams added," said Syens, "which will allow it to be more accessible for meetings and the like." The lobby has also been renovated with a larger entrance area. New drywall is now being installed throughout the lower floor, and a new



Krinsha Lodging employee Tracy Syens in the lobby of the Columbus Motel

color scheme and more ceramic tile will also be added. Krishna Lodging owns motels in Walnut, Iowa; Mound City, Missouri; McCook, Nebraska; and Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. The parent company of Krishna Lodging is

Radhey Lodging LLC of Mound City, Missouri.

Although it has been some time in coming, the return of the motel certainly shows the resiliency of the Columbus Community and its determi-

nation to get back on its feet after whatever Mother Nature throws our way. (The owners are planning an open house sometime after the work is completed. Watch the Gazette for details.)

Assisted Living in town moves closer to a reality

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Despite a difficult winter, assisted living in Louisa County is set to become a reality by mid summer. Construction on Colonial Heights, Louisa County's only assisted living facility, is moving full steam ahead.

The exterior is now enclosed, which gives a view of how the facility will appear, and how it connects to the existing Manor building. Work is also progressing on the interior. Walls are up giving an idea of the interior layout. The large living room at the entrance is an impressive site as you enter the building, and to the east the library is visible. Immediately to the west are public restrooms and a beauty parlor. Proceeding to the south the community kitchen and dining room is evident. Also the entryway into Colonial Manor is now in place.

Five smaller apartments are now framed up to the east, with four larger apartments to the west. The facility is designed to expand further to the east and west if demand requires it. A whirlpool and office will also be in the building. "We are doing everything we can to have a first class facility," said Colonial Manor board member Tom Huston.

Colonial Heights is poised to not only serve residents of Louisa County, but also those in surrounding communities. "We hope to be an alternative to moving to larger cities,"



Exterior view of Colonial Heights

said Huston, "by being more accessible and offering all of the amenities that other assisted living units offer." One additional advantage that Colonial Heights will be able to offer is local ownership and management. "If something is broken and needs repair, we can do it without

getting permission from some absent owner," said Huston.

So, when you are in the neighborhood of Colonial Manor, take a peek to the north and get a view of the newer addition to the quality of life in Louisa County. Bringing assisted living to Louisa County demonstrates

the concern that the stockholders of Colonial Manor have always shown for our area citizens, and is something that all of us can be very proud of. (Watch future issues of the Gazette for more updates as construction progresses on Colonial Heights.)

An Easter Tradition continues in community

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

A tradition continued last Saturday as youngsters throughout the community congregated at Chautauqua Park for the community's annual Easter Egg Hunt. This event has been a mainstay of the community for many years, however it was in danger of ending a few years back as no group was willing to organize it.

Then Lisa Exline and her family stepped forward and kept it going. "We have been holding this for about twelve years now," said Lisa, "and we have been fortunate to receive donations from area groups to help. This year the Lions Club and Community Bank employees came forward to help us." Lisa went on to explain that a major cost that they have faced and will face next year is replacing the Easter Bunny cos-

tumes. The costumes were originally made by the late Judy Carpenter approximately thirty years ago, and they are showing their wear. "We have replaced one of the costumes," said Lisa, "but we badly need to replace the other one. They are a big part of our Easter Egg hunt, and hopefully we can come up with the funding for a new costume next year." If you would like to help, please contact Lisa Exline. Any donations would be helpful. Lisa wanted to have the following published this week:

To the Columbus Community: Thanks for making the Easter Egg Hunt a big success, and a special thanks to Mark and Jenny Lowe; Community Bank; the Columbus Junction State Bank, the Lions Club, the Columbus Gazette and all the individuals who donated.
Thanks again, Lisa Exline.



Area youngsters meet the Easter Bunny last Saturday. For more photos from the Easter Egg Hunt turn to page 8.

Briefly -

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 and plan on celebrating with fellow graduates!

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Tuesday evening, April 13th at 7 p.m. Please remember to bring a bag of microwave popcorn to send with the girls going to Girls' State. Hostesses are Corrine Moyer and Brenda Wilson.

Etude Club's "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.

2010 County 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.

Great Beginnings Variety Show

The Great Beginnings Preschool Variety Show will be held on Sunday, April 11th at 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Please join the fun and enjoy the music. Refreshments will follow. Local talents include the students from Great Beginnings Preschool.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet Tuesday, April 13th, at 1:15 p.m. at Rose Wagoner's to car pool to Barnyard Blooms in Grandview. Program: Nicole Hoben. We will return to Rose's for dessert and meeting. Roll Call: Favorite spring flower.

Music at the Historical Society

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.

L-M School to hold Kindergarten and Pre-school roundup

The L-M School District is in the process of identifying next year's kindergarteners. If you have a child who will be 5 years old by September 15, 2010, or know of one please contact the elementary office at 319-726-3634. Kindergarten "Round Up" will be Thursday, April 22nd and Friday, April 23rd. This will be a 2-hour session. Teachers meet with students and the Principal will meet with the parents. You must be pre-registered, please call the elementary office to set up a time at 319-726-3634.

We are also accepting students for our pre-school / child-care program located in the elementary building. Please call busy Hands Pre-school / Child-care at 319-726-3634 ext. 200. The pre-school and child-care have limited space so sign up soon.

Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet Monday, April 12, at 7:00 pm in the upper-level meeting room at the Musser Public Library, 304 Iowa Avenue in Muscatine. All amateur radio operators, and those interested in learning more about amateur radio, are invited to attend. For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

Radio licensing tests offered

The Muscatine Area Volunteer Examiners will be testing for all classes of amateur radio operator licenses on Sunday, April 11, at 1:30 PM in the upper-level meeting room at the Musser Public Library, 304 Iowa Avenue, in Muscatine. For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, April 15th at 10:45 a.m. at Spring Run Church to car pool to have lunch at the Brown Stone in Mt. Pleasant at 11:30 a.m.

Wapello All-Alumni Banquet set

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@louisacomm.net. The letters are needed for making reservations.

Swinging Bridge gets new sign



A new sign was installed on Monday marking the Swinging Bridge. The sign was the idea of Connie Lewis, and the painting was donated by Dick Clevenger. Pictured is Warren Lewis and Dean Rickey installing the sign.