



P.E.O. Country Time Luncheon

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

There's an old saying: "If life gives you lemons, make lemonade." That is just the philosophy of the local P.E.O., Chapter CX, as it once again plans its springtime, May luncheon. This year's theme centers around lemons and the decorations will be in yellow and white. As always the location will be at the Columbus Junction American Legion Building, with the date of Monday, May 6th. Serving will be from 11:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.

Enjoy delicious chicken salad with croissants, German potato salad,

and an absolute host of salads all served in buffet style. This year's dessert will be lemon bars in keeping with the theme.

This salad luncheon is the annual fundraiser of the P.E.O.'s to earn the money they give away each spring to a senior girl from the Columbus or L-M Schools. The scholarship is in the amount of \$500 and is selected from a list of girls who fill in the application form. A board selects the winner (s) from this group and the scholarships are announced at senior award's presentations. Some of the past winners have been Delaney

Howell, Natalina Sents, Rachel Pierce, and Marina Ramirez.

Your attendance at this luncheon will not only provide you mouth-watering pleasure, but also help put a young woman through college. Tickets are \$7 and are available at Columbus Junction State Bank, Community Bank, Plants and Things, Special Effects or any Chapter CX P.E.O. member.

Remember, it is the perfect gift for your secretary on secretary's week (which falls during this time.) Local flower shop "Plants and Things" will be glad to make up a special bouquet

with a luncheon ticket in it for your secretary or anyone else that you would like to remember with a special gift.

Put a spring in your step and partake of the taste and aroma of many wonderful flavors as you dine in the beautiful setting of the P.E.O. salad luncheon at the American Legion on Monday, May 6th starting at 11:00 A.M. You'll be sure to find all the homemade goodies filling the buffet table to your liking and you'll also be sure to make "lemonade out of lemons." See you there!

Carol Ann Howell Retires from Community Bank

Friday, April 19th was a monumental day in the life of one of Columbus Junction's most valuable citizens, Carol Ann Howell. Carol Ann ended her 28 year career at Community Bank. She began her career there as a bookkeeper, as well as spending 20 years as a teller. Carol Ann commented, "I have loved working with the public and will miss seeing all the customers and coworkers on a daily basis." She plans to spend more time at one of her favorite hobbies- gardening. Carol Ann also plans to do more traveling, as well as spend more time with her six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She stated that she believes it's time to begin a new chapter of her life. Best wishes, to you, Carol Ann.



Johnathan Huston joins Columbus Junction State Bank

From the origination of the Columbus Junction State Bank by H. Lee Huston in 1927, there has been a continued legacy of the Huston Family in the Bank. Johnathan Huston joined the bank last week, resulting in a fourth generation of Hustons following the family tradition.

Johnathan graduated from Columbus Community Schools in 2007, then continuing another family tradition, he attended and graduated from Iowa State University where he majored in Agricultural Business and Economics.

Johnathan's interests are car racing and playing golf. Johnathan commented: "This gives me an opportunity to be involved in so many opportunities to help the community, as I am committed to small towns. With the background that my family has cultivated, I intend and look forward



to becoming an active member of our community."

Johnathan is the son of Mark and Jennifer Huston.

Projects dominate Community Club Report

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Earlene Lekwa opened the April 18th Community Club meeting at the Senior Center with a prayer that called for a moment of remembrance of the recent happenings in Boston. Joy Lekwa, president of the organization, then started the business meeting. The minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report showed \$7,129.92 as an end-of-month balance. Then individual reports started:

City: Hal Prior. Work is still progressing on the river levee; however, the current weather is making it difficult. River levels are being monitored and the crest forecast is for 27 feet. A sign has been put up saying that the government has given money to the levee project.

County: Paula Buckman. People dumping their garbage and trash in ditches has been a real county problem. Recently someone dumped about a whole pickup load. The county is looking for leads as to who ever is doing this, so please report if you have any knowledge. Americorps has volunteered to pick up trash and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

LDG: Sherry Humphreys. She thanked people for paying their dues and announced their up-coming annual dinner to be held on Thursday, May 2nd at the Morning Sun Community Center, social hour at 5:30 P.M., and dinner at 6:00 P.M. Governor Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds will be there to recognize the youth who set the record jumping last summer at the Louisa County Fair.

Community Foundation: Paula Buckman. Thursday, May 2nd at 2:00 P.M. the Community Foundation will hold a Tea-Time Legacy in Columbus Junction. Cherry Bingo will be played and a \$50 gift certificate given away.

Shriners: Midge Craven. A fundraiser for the organization is selling sweet onions. These onions have been brought from the south and will last a long time. They can be purchased at Special Effects.

Columbus School: Jeff Maeder. The fences around the new construction areas have been mostly removed

and work is on schedule. There is much participation in spring sports and prom is April 20. Also the survey on "Iowa Safe Schools" show that Columbus School has made really great progress. He introduced Tenille Register, TAG teacher, who spoke on making community contacts, getting mentors, and informing students about living in Columbus Junction after they graduate.

Senior Center: Polly Prior. Meal service for seniors has been down, probably due to illnesses. May bookings for the use of the center are getting filled.

Columbus City: Mark Shear. The town water project is ¾ done. If the weather cooperates, it should be done by mid May. The new Habitat for Humanity House has been started in Columbus City and the town will be getting a warning siren.

County Fair: Susan Pretz. The first car race should be held on April 26th, weather permitting.

Community Development: Mallory Smith. Keep Columbus Beautiful week starts on April 22nd. Clean up will be held this Saturday with Brian Cummings and Jim Gabriel taking a lead roll. Monday is Earth Day and the Columbus Junior High students will be helping to pick up litter and package marigold seeds. The quilt garden will be four squares this summer, and volunteers are needed to manage a square. Plants and a plan will be provided. Smith has a grant for the sirens but needs matching money. Community Club voted to give \$500. There will be a CJPM at Simply Soothing on Thursday, April 25.

Police: Donnie Orr, Police Chief. On April 28th a school bus rescue will be done in a mock situation to give officers and officials a chance to practice. On June 15th, a benefit, fundraising supper will be held to commemorate the 5th anniversary of the 2008 flood.

The Community Club considered requests for money and voted to give \$100 to the Louisa County Fair Board and \$50 to Delaney Howell for her quest for Miss Iowa.

LaMoyné Buser asked that the public come to the Saturday, May 18th and 19th breakfast provided by the Lion's Club during the Biker Rally, saying, "This breakfast is not just for the bikers. It is also for the people of the area. Come and enjoy it."

The meeting was adjourned.

Community avoids area flood issues

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Although some roads and ground in the area were overcome by water from rains and rising rivers, flood levels in Columbus Junction were basically avoided. City officials were monitoring rivers and checking computer graphs from the national weather service to follow the rise of water all last week.

The river was predicted to peak Friday late afternoon, and that it did. City worker Fred Lukavsky went with equipment to fortify the sand levee to the east of the Columbus Motel on Thursday. This levee had been built in the flood of 2008 and was still intact and fairly high. However, the last 10-15 yards of the levee closest to Highway 92 was totally gone, and Lukavsky moved sand from the big part to this area to fortify against the river rising higher. According to Mayor Dan Wilson, "About six more inches, and Highway 92 would have been taking on water."

Water was also being pumped out of the fairgrounds area, and for the most part, this area stayed pretty dry. In low levels of Columbus Junction, especially in the Monkey Run area, water was way over Locust Street with a car trapped in it. Heading to Toddtown, the road the locals call the "Bluff Road", but is officially G36, was also covered with water.

Mayor Wilson reported this is the third highest water level in Columbus Junction history. Obviously the highest was in 2008 and the second highest was in 1993. He also said the city was already putting its contingency plan into action. They had ordered and picked up 5000 bags to hold sand, and they also had 5 rolls of the black/plastic used to cover sand levees, such as the one built in 2008 down the middle of Highway 92. Wilson said, "We are fortunate to have River Products in our community for the purpose of getting sand in a hurry. Some towns have to go a long way to get sand, and River Products is always ready and willing to help us."

The city has also been working hard to get a more permanent levee system around the Iowa River, but delays and poor weather have postponed it. Equipment is here to build that levee, and it is hoped to get going as soon as this high water resides.

All in all, Columbus Junction and surrounding areas avoided another "pounding" of high water. It is hoped that this water goes down and that it is for spring flooding. However, one never knows with Mother Nature.

Benefit for the Jeremy and Letty Marin Family

Earlier this month Jeremy & Letty Marin and their boys (of Columbus Junction) lost nearly everything in a fire that destroyed their home.

We have seen the community come together and it is so appreciated. Now, we are asking for your help but this time it includes your appetite. Come enjoy an All-You-Can-Eat pasta dinner & silent auction on Friday April 26th from 4 - 7 PM at the Wapello United Methodist Church with all proceeds going directly to the family.

This is a free will donation event and will feature many types of pasta & sauces, salad, bread, dessert and beverage!

The silent auction is to feature a wide variety of items, gift baskets and gift certificates from business in Wapello, Columbus Junction, Muscatine, Riverside and beyond. Bidders need not be present to win an item.

- Exciting Items such as (but not limited to):
- EL JAMES Signed UK Copy of 50 Shades of Grey!
- Scentsy & 31 Products
- Family Photography Session
- Local business certificates and more!

Briefly -

School BPA to hold Blood Drive

Columbus Community High School Business Professionals of America, will host a community blood drive from 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Thursday, April 25th in the School Gymnasium, located at 1004 Colton Street, Columbus Junction. Appointments: to donate, please contact Julia Townsley at 319-728-2231 or e-mail her at: julia.townsley@columbuscsd.org. Walk-ins welcome! Donor Eligibility Criteria: Potential donors must be at least 17 years of age (16 with parental permission form available through www.bloodcenter.org) and weigh more than 110 pounds. A photo I.D. or MVRBC Donor Card is required to donate. To schedule an appointment for donation, please call the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center at 800-747-5401. Donors who last gave blood on or before February 28, 2013 are eligible to give blood at this drive. About Blood Donation: Blood donation is a safe, simple procedure that takes about 45 minutes to one hour. Individuals with diabetes or controlled high blood pressure may be accepted as eligible donors. ABOUT MVRBC: Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is the provider of blood and blood components to 87 hospitals in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. In your area, MVRBC is the exclusive provider to Washington County Hospitals & Clinics, Iowa City VA, & Mercy Iowa City.

Community Foundation get-together

The Community Foundation of Louisa County and Community Foundation of the Great River Bend are hosting a fun and informative get-together, "Planning Your Legacy", May 2 at two locations. The morning session will be held at the Columbus Senior Center at 10:00 a.m. and at the Briggs Center in Wapello at 2:00 p.m. Enjoy morning or afternoon teatime with your friends and play Charity Bingo to win a \$50 certificate for your favorite nonprofit. For more information or R.S.V.P., please call 319-868-4240 or cfclc@louisacomm.net.

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Simply Soothing to host CJPM

Simply Soothing on 301 E. Access Rd. next to Casey's General Store will be hosting a CJPM from 5 to 7pm on Thursday, April 25, everyone is welcome. A CJPM is a networking event hosted by a local business and promoted by Columbus Community Club. These fun gatherings are designed to help businesspeople and other community leaders meet and get to know one another, to develop new customers and to showcase products and services available in our community.

Cooks Night Out

On Wednesday, May 8, 2013, a Cooks' Night Out Community Supper will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Letts United Methodist Church, Letts, Iowa. The menu includes Lasagna, Lettuce Salad, Garlic Bread and all of those wonderful desserts. Please join us that evening for some delicious food, lots of conversation and crafts for the kids - all at no charge to the public. For additional information contact the Church Office at 319-726-3541.

Etude Club to hold Spring Show

Come one, come all! Please join Etude Club members for their Spring Show, "A Tribute to Our Veterans," on Tuesday, April 30, 2013, at 7 p.m. in the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church. This year's program is planned for and dedicated to America's heroes, our veterans. Along with the general public in the local community and neighboring areas, and all those associated with any branch of military service, their spouses and families are invited and encouraged to attend this special program of recognition. If your honoree is not able to attend, or is deceased, please have a spouse, a relative or a friend present to stand as each branch of the military is recognized. Included in the program will be music from the Civil War era on through the war eras up to the present time. Refreshments and a time for visiting will follow the program.

Historical Society to hold Quilt Show

The Louisa County Historical Society will be hosting a quilt show on May 9th - 11th at the museum in Wapello.

Mother-Daughter Salad Supper

Letts Bible Church ladies will be hosting a Mother-Daughter Salad Supper on Friday, April 26th at 6:00 PM at the church. All ladies and girls are welcome. There is no charge. The theme is "Windows of The Heart." For more information and reservations please call 726-5107 or 726-4911.

Letts-Fest

The City of Letts will be holding its second annual Letts Fest on June 29th. The community is looking for vendors, and participants in the parade and car show. If interested, please contact Jake Shoppa at 563-571-4561; Monica Bieri at 319-212-1613; or Joy Murphy at 319-330-6063 and 319-726-3052.

School Negotiation Teams to meet

The Negotiation Teams for the Columbus Community School District will hold a Special Public Meeting on Monday, April 29, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. at the Columbus Administration Office, 1210 Colton Street, Columbus Junction, IA 52738.

Trees offered to Community

The Trees Forever Organization of Columbus Community and Alliant Energy are encouraging tree planting within the Columbus community (including Columbus City, Toddtown and Fredonia). Trees Forever will pay half the cost of a tree, or up to \$75.00. Interested parties may pick up application forms and read about tree varieties offered now at these area locations: Columbus Junction banks, City Hall, Columbus Gazette and Robertson Real Estate. After the forms are filled in and signed, they need to be returned to the place they were picked up by May 8th. It is hoped people will be interested in taking part in doing this to make our community beautiful. Any questions, call Roger Hunt 563-260-1074 or Judy Prior 728-2036.

UMW to hold May Breakfast

The United Methodist Women of Columbus Junction will hold their May Breakfast on Wednesday, May 1, 2013, at 9 a.m. Guests are welcome! Program will be: "My Trip to Japan," by Melanie Devore. Hostesses are Jo Baird, Midge Craven, Barb Dotson, Marilyn Thomas, Trish Woepking.

WCCE Center Summer Hours

The Washington County Conservation Education Center will be changing over to their new Summer Hours effective May 1st, 2013. Our summer hours are as follows: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 10:00 am to 6:30 pm; Sunday - 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm; Tuesday and Wednesday - CLOSED.

