

Locals take part in President Obama's Tour of Iowa



By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

President Barack Obama made his Whitehouse to Main Street Tour stops in Iowa last week. In the early afternoon of Tuesday, April 27, 2010 the President made a stop in Fort Madison, Iowa touring the Siemens Wind Turbine Blade Manufacturing Plant. The plant received \$3.5 million in Recovery Act tax credits for clean energy manufacturing jobs.

Later in the afternoon, the President held a town hall meeting at Indian Hills Community College in

Ottumwa.

With approximately 2,100 people in the audience, a program began with Pastor Judith Bunyl of the Ottumwa First United Methodist Church delivering the Invocation. Next the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Birmingham native, Landon Greenfield. Landon is the student body president and is currently enrolled in the advanced technology program specializing in laser and electro-optics technology.

The National Anthem was sung by local Columbus Junction resident, Mitchell Bean. Mitch is a sophomore



and an honor roll student at Indian Hills Community College. He is in his first year of employment as an Indian Hills Theatre Department Stage Technician where his focus is on music events. He is also active in the theatre.

"Four names were submitted by my music instructor, Michael Philipsen to be chosen by the College President Dr. Jim Lindenmayer to sing during the Presidents tour. I was the lucky person; it was a very exciting experience. I was just really honored to be able to take part in

something like that," said Bean, pictured in the photo above, left. Jeff is the son of Terry and Lisa Bean of Columbus Junction.

In the audience sat former Columbus Junction resident, Mike Fuller, pictured in the photo above, right. This was Mike's 9th time to attend an event with President Obama. "He is an awesome speaker and when asked a question, he doesn't have to think about what he is going to say, he knows what to say. I have also met his wife, Michelle in Muscatine, she is a very neat lady," stated Fuller.

May is National Community Action Month

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

Community Action of Southeast Iowa Centers' missions are to help families and individuals in need, achieve self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life. The agency is one of eighteen Community Action agencies in the state of Iowa. Their agency administers programs in Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties and the WIC Program in Muscatine County.

Community Action also provides emergency food, clothing and shelter to area residents and the homeless through the agency's five Community Action Centers.

At Community Action of Southeast Iowa, they believe in individuals, their abilities and potentials. They focus on "helping people help themselves." They also believe that by creating stronger, more self-sufficient individuals and families benefits the whole community.

There are five Community Action Centers, (with one located in or near where you live) offer programs such as, **Head Start and Child Development Program** which provide educational and social activities, nutritious meals, snacks, medical and

dental benefits for low-income children ages three to five; **Early Head Start** provides similar services for children birth to three. **The Birth to Three Program** in Des Moines County provides parent educators who provide in home services for children from birth to three years of age; **Child Care Resource Referral** provides support services to parents, child care providers, and the community in response to unmet child needs. **Child and Adult Care Food Program** is available to child care providers; **The Women, Infant and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC)** provides medical and nutritional assessments, education, and supplemental foods for pregnant women, breast feeding and non-nursing mothers, infants and children up to 5 years old; **Weatherization** helps homeowners and renters decrease their energy costs by inspecting and cleaning furnaces, insulating homes and **SHARE-Self Help and Resource Exchange** provides a monthly package of food for \$16 and two hours of community volunteer work.

Answers to some questions:

1) *Who is qualified to participate in Community Action Programs?*

Community Action of Southeast

Iowa Programs are open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability. Eligibility for most programs is based on household income. For some programs, household income must be at or below the federal poverty guidelines. For others, households can have incomes as high as 185 percent of the poverty guidelines.

2) *How are programs and services funded?*

Grants from federal, state and local governments, as well as donations from the private sector fund agency programs. Their programs and services also rely heavily on donations of time from volunteers, which counts as a "match" toward grant monies they receive.

3) *Is Community Action of Southeast Iowa a government agency?*

No, it is a private non-profit corporation. Policy decisions are made by a board of directors, which is made up of residents of the four counties including representatives from local government, private groups, and people who participate in the programs.

In May the Southeast Iowa Community Action will be holding open houses to promote National Commu-

nity Action Month:

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. location: Tolson Community Action Center 1303 West Washington street in Mt. Pleasant, IA (319) 385-2310.

Thursday, May 13, 2010 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. location: Louisa County Community Action 205 East Access Road Suite D in Columbus Junction (319) 728-2314.

Tuesday May 18, 2010 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. location: Marie Tallarico Community Action 220 South 22nd in Koekuk, IA (319) 524-6383.

Tuesday, May 25, 2010 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. location: Des Moines Co Community Action 700 Jefferson Street in Burlington, IA (319) 753-2893.

Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. location: Eichacker Community Action Center 3433 Ave. O in Fort Madison, IA.

One way to support National Community Action Month is by making a donation or volunteering your time by contacting Community Action of Southeast Iowa's Central Office located at 2850 Mount Pleasant, Suite 108 in Burlington, Iowa 52601 (319) 753-0193.

Mayor proclaims Poppy Day in Columbus Junction

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place...
And in the sky the larks,
Still bravely singing,
Fly scarce heard amid the guns below
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved,
And now we lie In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep.

Respect

Salute to all Veterans!
Service men and women
Honor and respect - wave the red,
white and blue.
Show respect by wearing a poppy.
Poppy color is red and stands for the
blood that our heroes have given for their
country
Poppies are made by disabled veter-
ans.

Stop and Think

What our veterans and service men
and women have given so we the people
can say Freedom can still ring.
GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.!



Mayor Dan Wilson signs a proclamation making Saturday, May 15th Poppy Day in town.

Golf tournament to benefit Relay For Life

A 4-Person Best Shot Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 5, 2010 at the Cedar Crest Country Club in Columbus Junction to benefit the Louisa County Relay for Life and the American Cancer Society. Tee times are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Teams may consist of 4 men, 4 women, or any combination (co-ed). Entry fee is \$100.00 per team. There will be hole prizes, a 50/50 drawing, drawing for prizes, and a \$1,000 prize for a hole-in-one on Hole #9. Contact Cedar Crest Country Club at 319-728-8461 to sign up and reserve your cart.

P.E.O. holds annual salad luncheon

The P.E.O. held their annual spring salad luncheon last Monday at the American Legion. This has become a tradition in town not only signalling the start of Spring, but also giving everyone an opportunity to fill up on some delicious salads. Even a non-salad eater like the Gazette editor always looks forward to this event.

Congratulations to all of the P.E.O. members for another successful lunch. We're all looking forward to next year.



Briefly -

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet at 4 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon, May 11, at Colonial Manor. Remember to bring a bag of white popped corn for the Girls State girls. Judy Shear will be hostess. Note the change of time and place. Poppy Day is Friday, May 15.

Lions Club breakfast planned

The Lions Club will hold their semi-annual pancake breakfast on Saturday, May 15 and Sunday, May 16 from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Columbus Senior Center. All-you-can-eat pancakes, eggs, sausage and drinks. Adults - \$6.00 and children under 12 - \$4.00. All bikers and friends are welcome. We serve good food to good people for a good cause (Lionism).

Potluck at Colonial Manor

Colonial Manor will host their annual Nursing Home Week Potluck for residents, families and friends on Wednesday, May 12th at Noon. Guests are asked to bring one dish to pass. Chicken, rolls, beverages, and table service will be provided.

Victory Christian to honor EMS

Victory Christian Church will hold its second annual EMS service on Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 10 a.m. The congregation will be honoring the local ambulance service volunteers. The public is invited to attend.

Mother/Daughter Tea in Conesville

The United Methodist Women of Conesville will be having a Mother-Daughter Tea at the church on Thursday, May 6 at 7 p.m. The speaker, Evonne Avesing from Fruitland, Iowa will tell about her recent trip to Japan. Refreshments will follow the program. Everyone is welcome.

Conesville School Reunion

The Conesville School Reunion is slated for May 29, 2010 at the Community Center in Conesville, Iowa. Invitations have been sent but anyone interested in this event is more than welcome to attend. You may call Fran Morrison at 319-728-2319 or Rose Wagoner at 319-728-2027 for reservations. The doors will be open at 11:30 a.m. and Kalona Kountry Katering will be serving a full meal at 12:30 p.m. The cost is \$16.00 per person. Don't let this reunion be something you've always wanted to attend but didn't. Just do it!

Elvis and Patsy at Manor

Don't forget to mark your calendar for Elvis and Patsy. They will be here on Monday evening, May 10th, at 6:45 p.m. in the Colonial Manor Dining Room. We hope you can attend!

Embroidery Club to meet

The Embroidery Club meeting for May at, OUR SHOP will be on May 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. We are working on Brazilian Embroidery. Please feel free to come and bring your own project if you don't want to do these projects. It is a time to get out and enjoy people.

Ladies Brunch in Wapello

Ladies, Come Join us For Brunch a free brunch is being offered to all ladies in the southeastern Iowa area on May 15 at 9:30 A.M. at the Briggs Center in Wapello. The Briggs Center is located downtown right on the Iowa River bank. The speaker will be Sylvania Airan who was born and raised in Pakistan. She has been in America for the past 30 years. She is an accomplished speaker and has had many experiences in her work at the University of Nebraska and in her travels. Sylvania will display some fashions native to Pakistan and address women's issues relative to the Muslim religion. There will be door prizes, good food, fellowship and music by "Jest" Friends. All ladies are welcome. Come join the fun! Please make reservations by May 7 by calling 319-523-6991 or 319-523-6941. The First Presbyterian Church, Wapello and the Wapello United Methodist Church sponsor this event.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet Tuesday, May 11th at 9:30 a.m., for breakfast at the home of Connie Lewis. Hostesses: Connie Lewis, Dorothy Allen and Margaret Bloomquist. Roll call: Favorite vacation. Program: Election of officers. Reading report: Kay Perkins.

Letter Carrier Food Drive

The National Association of City Letter Carriers will hold their nationwide food drive on Saturday May 8, 2010. Canned goods may be placed inside a plastic bag on the front porch of your home, next to the mailbox, and marked "Food Drive." City letter carriers will pick up the sacks while delivering mail on Saturday May 8, 2010.

L-M School Blood Drive

The L-M High School Student Council is sponsoring a Blood Drive today, Wednesday, May 5th in the high school gym from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. If you would like to donate, please contact Deb Steahr at dsteahr@louisa-muscatine.k12.ia.us or call her at 319-726-3421.

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.

CCHS Alumni Banquet

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!

For Sale from the Horticultural Class

The Horticulture class at Columbus Community High School will be selling vegetables, herbs, bedding and household plants this week from 3:30-5:30 p.m. daily in the greenhouse. Greenhouse is located across from the art complex and parking lot and can be accessed by entering through the double gates and following the signs. Questions? Please contact Katie McWhirter at 319-728-2231 ext.3621.

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.