



Columbus honors retiring school staff

By Mary Masonholder Wilson using much of a script written by Lois Mincks

Rich Bridenstine, Maureen Bridenstine, Terri Shafer, Bonnie Snyder, Nancy Orr, and Joyce Bausch—all staff members leaving the Columbus Community School system were remembered at the year-end Farewell Celebration on Monday, May 21. A breakfast was held in the student center and the ceremony was given in the school auditorium.

Rich Bridenstine, Superintendent of Columbus Schools from 2001-2012 opened the farewell by saying, "I've attended many retirements, and one never knows 'For whom the bell tolls', and now it tolls for me." Bridenstine is leaving at the end of this school year to take some time to travel and visit family. He then showed a power point slide show that spanned his years here showing pictures of many school events, students, faculty, administrators, and anyone involved with the school. It was quite a delight to view the many aspects and people of the Columbus School system over the past few years.

Marcia Pavey then took over as MC of the farewell and gave a little bit of past information about each retiree. She started with Bridenstine. He started his career in education in 1976 as an 8th and 9th grade American History teacher at Central Middle School; ten years later he moved to West Middle School where he taught 6th grade Language arts, social studies, and reading. He also taught 6th through 8th grade keyboarding and 8th grade American History. He completed his Master's in Educational Administration from Drake and spent 5 years as a principal at Madison Elementary in Muscatine, before becoming the elementary principal at L-M for 5 years. During this time he received his Specialist degree from Drake University in Educational Administration. Rich was able to use his financial prowess to get Columbus School "back in the black." He also was very savvy at technology and added many computer labs, smart boards, Elmos, Ipods, I pads, and a school web page was designed and the school messenger system was added.

Chuck Reighard, former high school principal at Columbus, joked saying he only worked one year with Bridenstine and "Rich was the first one to run him off!" On a serious note he commented that Rich taught him many educational skills, especially at being a superintendent, and Reighard went on to become a superintendent at New London.

Matt Kinsbury, another former high school principal at Columbus, told that for Rich the "job is always about kids." He told that Bridenstine carried a yellow-legal pad with him at all times and listed everything that needed to be done or delegated.

Maureen Bridenstine was the next person honored. She began her teaching career in 1975 in Muscatine as a multi-aged classroom teacher in grades 3 and 4. She then took some time off from teaching to be a stay-at-home mom and "home school" her two children, Susan and Mike. She later returned to McKinley Elementary in Muscatine and also taught evening classes of Children's Literature for Muscatine Community College and taught Reading Methods at Iowa Wesleyan College. She taught more years in Muscatine before coming to Columbus for the position of TAG (Talented and Gifted) teacher. She also coached Mock Trial teams, speech, and Soaring High. She oversaw AP classes and taught middle school reading and literature.

Erika Ramirez, a student of Mrs. Bridenstine's, sang the song, "Smile" to all retirees but dedicated it especially to Mrs. Bridenstine. Jeff



Pictured left to right: Terri Shafer, Maureen Bridenstine, Bonnie Snyder and Rich Bridenstine

Maeder spoke on behalf of Maureen and several of her TAG and speech students gave a tribute to her. Mrs. B, as her students call her, plans to spend time with her husband (Rich Bridenstine, also retiring) and her children and grandchildren. She wants to travel and would like to see all the presidential libraries. She also likes gardening and collecting *Little Red Riding Hood* items and has started a Little Free Library project.

Terri Shafer is retiring from teaching at Roundy Elementary but started her teaching career here at Cotter in 1979. She later came to Roundy and her years at Columbus now number 33. She graduated from UNI in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Special Education. She later received her Master's in Elementary Education from the University of Missouri. She taught special education for 13 years and then went in to the regular classroom teaching mostly fourth grade. Mary Settles and Becky Furlong, both former principals of Shafer's, wrote letters on her behalf and were sorry they could not attend. Furlong commented, "I always appreciated Terri's desire to do what was best for students, rather than what may have been the easiest. I could always count on her room being decorated to the max as well as Terri being dressed to the 'nines' with all of the matching accessories." Settles stated, "I easily remember Terri's love of teaching children. She really liked what she was doing, and it showed. Her students were happy and secure in her presence. It was both fun and inspiring to visit her classroom." Emily Hauenstein, a former student, spoke about being in Shafer's class and several students told "Why" they liked Shafer as a teacher.

Bonnie Snyder is leaving after being a cook at Columbus Schools for almost 37 years. Her first job was at Conesville, and when that school closed she went to Cotter where Mr. Wilson was principal, and she remembers how he loved the peanut butter! After three years she came to Columbus to work with then head cook Velma Lee and has been here ever since. She has worked under head cooks Marian Fishels, Roberta Bell, and Faye Jay. She will miss working with the people at school and she has enjoyed seeing the students grow up and then having their children go through school and watching them grow up also.

Nancy Orr, a cook at Roundy Elementary, is leaving the Columbus Schools after being in the school system for 13 years. Orr cooked and served food at both Cotter and Columbus Roundy. Orr could not be present at the farewell ceremony because as she said in a letter, "I am in St. Louis with friends and family. I was anxious to get started on my retirement!"

Joyce Bausch is leaving Columbus Schools after working on and off and has just completed 24 years of continuous service. She treats the

student on her bus like they are family, bringing them treats and even hosting a bonfire for them. She has done other duties at Columbus such as being transportation director, working as an associate, and cleaning and maintaining the buses. Bausch also cooked many a tasty dish and treated the other bus drivers.

Columbus is losing a lot of ex-

perienced people and a lot of memories have been made for both these retirees and for the students. "Thanks" does not seem adequate; however, "Well wishes are sent their way" as they leave and continue their journey through life. Once again, Lois Mincks did an outstanding job of planning and orchestrating a farewell reception.

Ernie Kilpatrick ends 33 years of loyal service to the Col. City Cemetery



Dear Ernie:

For us your retirement marks the end of an age. You have been our sexton for longer than any of us have been on the Columbus City Cemetery board. You are as much a part of the cemetery as the fence that encloses this honored ground. We will adapt to this change. Mike Lowe will do a good job as our new sexton. But you will be missed!

Although Mike is assuming your position, we want you to know that no one can replace you. No one knows the cemetery better than you. You have watched over the Columbus City Cemetery as it has grown and changed. You have directed and guided much of the change, as well as competently conducting the day-to-day affairs of the cemetery.

Thank you for your 33 years of wonderful service to our cemetery and to our community. You can be justly proud of the effort you have expended and the care you have given to the Columbus City Cemetery.

When visitors have frequently complimented us on the beauty of the cemetery and the excellent care it has obviously received, they were actually complimenting you. With you as our sexton, we always knew, that no matter how much effort it took or how much the weather interfered, the Columbus City cemetery would look wonderful for Memorial Day.

We wish you only the best as you move into this new phase of your life. May your future years be as rewarding for you as your past 33 years as our sexton have been honorable and productive.

With our sincere wishes for your future happiness, I am,
Howard Coil, Chairman, Columbus City Cemetery Board.



The Cemetery as Ernie has kept it for 33 years

Briefly -

Legion Auxiliary Blood Drive

The Columbus Junction Legion Auxiliary will host a community blood drive from 1:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Wednesday, June 6th at American Legion Hall located at 99 Second St., Columbus Junction. To donate, please contact Tammy Martin at 319-728-2011. Walk-ins welcome! 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) 591-8049. Donors who last gave blood on or before April 10th are eligible to give blood at this drive. 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.

United Methodist Women to meet

The United Methodist Women will meet in the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church for a 12:30 p.m. salad luncheon on Wednesday, June 6, 2012. Devotions – Marilyn Thomas. Guest speaker – Shirley Samuels, District Shepherdess. Hostesses – Marlys Austin, Carla Harris and Florence Harbison. Everyone bring a salad to share.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 9, 2012. 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 (1962) class and the 25-year (1987) class. Put the date on your calendar now! Tickets are available at both Columbus Junction Banks.

Columbus City Council vacancy

The City of Columbus City will be accepting names to fill a vacancy for City Council Member. If you are interested in serving as a council member, please submit your name to City of Columbus City, 2703 Columbus Street, Columbus City, IA 52737 by June 1, 2012.

Fredonia City Council vacancy

The City of Fredonia will be accepting names to fill a vacancy for City Council Member. If you are interested please submit your name to the City of Fredonia at PO Box 169, Columbus Junction by June 1st.

This week at the Farmers' Market

The Farmer's Market will be at the American Legion parking lot every Friday until October 12. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, and plants. Some vendors accept Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition, WIC and Senior Program coupons. Buy fresh and local and taste the difference. For more information, including how to participate as a vendor contact Mallory at 319-728-7971.

County Fair dates set

The Louisa County Fair dates for 2012 are a July 22 kick off and the fair is July 23-28.

Head Start taking applications

Head Start in Louisa County is looking for children to attend classes starting in September. Head Start not only works with children to get them ready for Kindergarten but also works closely with families to help them reach their personal goals. Children must be at least 3 years old by September 15, 2012. Head Start is a free preschool program. Transportation is provided. Applications will be taken in Wapello on June 5 and 19 at the Methodist Church and in Columbus Junction on June 12 and 26 at the Community Action office from 9-3. To schedule and appointment please call Jeanette Brockert at 319-752-5692 ext. 107.

Historical Society tractor ride

The Louisa County Historical Society will hold its Tractor Ride on Saturday, June 23. A registration fee of \$25 will include driver's meal at the end of the ride. Additional meals will be available for only \$10. Pre-registration is a must for meal planning. All proceeds will go to benefit the Louisa County Historical Society. For more information call Dick McCormac at 319-728-8818.

Morning Sun Fun Run/Walk

The Morning Sun Youth League will be sponsoring the Firecracker 5K Fun Run/Walk on Sunday, July 1. The run will start at the Morning Sun Community Center at 106 N. Main. There will be a 5K run/walk; a mile run for kids 8-12 and a 1/2 mile run/walk for 7 yrs. and under. Registration will start at 7:00 a.m. with the races to start at 8:00 a.m. The fee to enter is \$15 for the 5K if registered before June 15. \$20 after June 15th. Age groups include: 12 and under; 13-19; 20-29; 30-39; 40-49; 50 and older. There will be T-shirts for all who register early. Medals will be awarded for the top 2 times in Male/Female categories. For more information or to enter contact Mike Crow at 319-868-7699 or email mcrow15@hotmail.com.

Breakfast in Ainsworth

The Ainsworth Opera House will be holding its monthly breakfast buffet on Saturday, June 2nd, 2012 at the Opera House 284 Railroad St. Ainsworth, IA. Hours are set for 7 am to 9 am and cost is \$7 per person, children 10 and under free with adult. We have sausage links, ham, bacon, eggs, hash browns, casserole, 6 salads, fresh fruit, rolls and drink. This is a fundraiser for upkeep on the Opera House. Hope you can join us.

Legion Auxiliary potluck supper

The American Legion Auxiliary is planning their annual potluck supper at the Lekwa home on June 12th at 6:00 p.m. The meat and drink will be provided, please bring your spouse and lawn chair.

Community Supported Agriculture shares available for 2012

A Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program has been active in the Columbus Jct. area since 2010 and provides 5 families with a cooler full of fresh-picked garden produce each week. Families pay for 15 weeks at the beginning of the season which starts in June and ends in September. There are two CSA shares still available for the 2012 season. If you are interested in participating please contact Melanie or Tom DeVore, DeVore Acres, Conesville, Iowa at 319-725-6521 or tommelaniedevore@gmail.com.

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