

Preserving a lasting memory

By Donna Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Last fall the Edmondson Family made a generous donation of \$1,000 to the Columbus Fire Department in memory of their beloved daughter, Molly. The firefighters spent lots of time and effort, according to Fire Chief Lynn Mincer, in deciding how they could best use the money to honor Molly's memory and have a permanent fixture in the station as a remembrance of her. Mincer noted that they wanted something that would not "break or go away".

After thoughtful consideration, the group decided to hire Mike Dennis from Ankeny to draw and paint the impressive mural on the wall of the fire station. Mike designed, drew, and painted the striking mural, consisting of a Maltese Cross that includes an ax, jaws of life, and a ladder in the center. The mural also includes a firehouse, flames, and a spray of water. As you look at the water cascading from the hose, you'll find an angel as well as a dedication to Molly. What a fitting tribute to a fine young person who is sadly missed by everyone who knew her.

The public was on hand to view the mural, as well as the entire fire station, last Sunday during an open house. Due to requests from the public and with Mincer heading up the effort, the group planned and carried out the event so that everyone had the opportunity to examine the renovation of the rooms since the flood of 2008. The walls display some of the old fire helmets used in the past. The familiar antique pool table, removed by the Washington Fire Department at the time of the



The new mural in the fire station purchased with funds donated by the Edmondson Family identifying the station as the home of the Columbus Junction Fire and Rescue. Hidden in the water flowing from the hose is an angel and a dedication to the memory of Molly Edmondson.

flood, was refurbished and placed back in the building. Seven easels displayed information about the station, each truck, as well as the names of the thirty members, how many calls they go out on per year, and the hours of training attended by each firefighter.

The number one goal of the open house, according to Mincer, was to "get people in the station". The new building was completed in 2002 and completely paid for in March of

2008. Through a stroke of bad luck, it was flooded in June of 2008. At the time of the flood the department had just ordered a new truck to the tune of \$340,000.

Fire Chief Mincer proudly reports that the station was built, renovations took place and that new truck is now housed in the station without ever raising taxes. That's an outstanding accomplishment that speaks to the expertise of our local fire department.

We can all rest assured that

we're in good hands with such a dedicated group of people giving of their time to uphold our safety and assist in maintaining a state of the art building of which our community can be proud. And through the generosity of a respected family who suffered a loss, generations of individuals who enter our fire station will now see a symbol that identifies not only the dedication of our firemen, but the concern that our community shares for each other.

4-H Fair Entries and Rabbit ID due

All 4-H'ers, as well as FFA members, exhibiting animals at the Louisa County Fair must make entries on the Livestock Entry form by July 1st. Animal exhibitors must also pay fees when turning in this entry form.

Any 4-H'er participating in Clothing Selection, \$15 Challenge, or Fashion Revue, Communications (Share the Fun, Educational Presentation, Extemporaneous Speaking, or Working Exhibits) or with a large exhibit or one that requires special care must also turn in a 4-H Fair Entry form by July 1st.

4-H or FFA youth planning to exhibit rabbits should note that the rabbit identification form is due by July 1st also.

County Fair entry forms and rabbit ID are available from the Louisa County Extension Office, on the www.extension.iastate.edu/louisa/kidsteens and from 4-H leaders. If entry is not made by July 1st (post-mark accepted), the exhibit will be subject to the red ribbon rule.

4-H State Fair Livestock and Horticulture Entries are due by July 1st as well. Entry forms are available at the Extension Office. State Fair Entries after this date will not be accepted.

All Weather Track Update

The renovation work has begun on the All Weather Track at the High School. The track is still open for public use. Please feel free to use the track and watch for signs that will be posted when it needs to be off limits.

Legion Honors new 50 Year Members



The Allen Wright Hanft American Legion Post 100 honored two members last week for 50 years of membership in the Legion. Honored were R.F. "Bo" Morrison and Sam Sands. Pictured above are Bo and Sam with Legion Commander, Kenny Martin.

Open House set for Senior Center

An Open House is set for this Sunday, June 14th at the Senior Center from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The open house is to celebrate the Center's, along with the whole community's recovery from the devastating flood of 2008. June 14th is the one year anniversary when the flood waters hit.

Refreshments and entertainment will be provided. The Port City Pearl Chorus - Sweet Adelines will perform from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m. and the River Junction Quartet from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.

The Center is now open and ready for use. Any organization, family or group that is looking for a place to hold any event is encouraged to reserve the Center. It is your facility, and it is restored and waiting for you to use.



Briefly -

Museum extends hours

The Columbus Community Heritage Museum will be open Saturday, June 13th, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All Alumni classes and others are invited to visit the museum that day.

School Board to meet

The Columbus Community School District Board of Education will hold a public meeting on Monday, June 15, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., at the Roundy Elementary School Library.

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, June 10, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Conesville UMC Ice Cream Supper changes location

Conesville United Methodist Church will be having a homemade ice cream supper on Thursday, June 11th, beginning at 5 p.m., in the Community Center. Menu includes: Creamed chicken on a bun, loose meat hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, pie, cake, homemade ice cream, and beverages will be served. There will be a free will offering.

Blood checks at the Econ-O-Mart

The Econ-O-Mart will be hosting blood pressure, blood sugar and SpO2 checks on Wednesday, June 24, from 9-11 a.m. This is a FREE community service sponsored by the Morning Sun Care Center. There will also be offered a Total Cholesterol Count. Free will donation will be accepted for this test to help cover the cost of the testing strips. Everyone welcome.

Fair Books now available

The fair books are in for the Louisa County Fair, July 27-August 1. Locations in Columbus Junction to be picked up are: Columbus Junction State Bank, Community Bank, Plants and Things, Special Effects, Columbus Gazette and City Hall.

Free coffee at the Senior Center

The 2nd Thursday of the month (June 11th), free coffee will be served from 8-10:30. Everyone is welcome. Please join us. Mark your calendar for the 4th Thursday coffee on June 25. We want to extend our thanks to the Hope Bible Church for hosting the 4th Thursday Coffee while we were recovering from the flood.

Great Beginnings Preschool

Great Beginnings Preschool is now accepting student applications for the 2009 - 2010 school year. Great Beginnings offers quality care and education for children ages 3, 4 and 5. The school also provides transportation to and from the preschool. For more info please contact the preschool at 728-2669 or Beth Hills at 728-3157.

Senator Harkin to hold hours in Wapello

Senator Harkin's office will be holding a meeting on Friday, June 26, 2009, at the Wapello Ambulance Barn at 1 p.m. The meeting will be a discussion of concerns about health care reform. It is especially important that EMTs in the county attend to express their concerns regarding the changes in certification and how it will impact providing emergency life saving interventions. It is also desired that health care providers will be able to arrange their schedules to make their voices heard.

Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 18th. We will meet at the Sub Station in Wapello at 1 o'clock. Alana Poage from the County Health Department will be our speaker discussing the Flu and You. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings. Lois Richers 1-319-527-2630.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, June 18th, at 11:30 a.m. in Wapello at Johnnie B's. Please note the change of the meeting place.

St. Jude's Fish Fry in Conesville

Conesville is hosting a fish fry and auction on Saturday, June 20, 2009, from 12:00 Noon until 4 p.m. Dinners are Adults: \$8.00; Children: \$5.00. We would like to ask everyone to give a helping hand. Please help by donating new or gently used items for the auction (No clothing please), to help support these special children. Auction items can be dropped off at Bell's Melon Shed in Conesville. For more information, or if anyone is willing to help, please call Amy or Skip Kirk at 728-8829 or Saddle Bronc at 725-6011.

Team Gene car wash planned

The Relay for Life Louisa County Chapter - TEAM GENE is planning to do a car wash at Lynn's Hy-Way Service on June 27th from 10 am - 3 pm to raise money for this year's Relay for Life. The Relay team will be doing the car wash by donation, and they are planning to also have some other activities with it like a lemonade/kool aid stand and bake sale and possibly a raffle or giveaway of some kind. If you have any questions, please call Micah Sarver at 319-461-7177.

Farmers' Market this Friday

Fridays 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot, through October 9. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, frozen meat, plants, iced tea and lemonade, crafts and even dog treats! Buy fresh and local taste the difference. Support the local economy. For more information including how to participate as a vendor contact Mallory or Nitza at 319-728-7971.

Contestants for Louisa County Fair Queen and Princess sought

Seeking contestants for the 2009 Louisa County Fair Queen and Princess Contests. Contestant packets and information can be found on our website at www.louisacountyfairqueen.com. The contest date is Monday, July 27th. Fair Queen contestants must be at least 16 years of age and no older than 21 by August 1st. Winner receives a \$500 scholarship and a \$250 cash award along with many gifts from local sponsors. Awards will also be given to runners-up and Miss Leadership and Miss Personality. All contestants will also receive t-shirts and certificates. There is no entry fee for the Fair Queen contest. Fair Princess contestants must be at least 4 and no older than 8 by the contest date. All contestants receive tiaras, sashes and certificates. Entry fee is \$25. Winner receives a savings bond, crown and sash.