

Improving the way of life in Louisa County

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Pictured at right, top is the new Community Health Center that opened last week at 2409 Spring Street in Columbus City.

The Center was previously housed in temporary quarters near the Dollar General Store in town. After the 2008 flood officials began a search for a new location. Real estate was acquired in Columbus City, and despite a difficult winter, work progressed to last week's opening.

The Center provides a wide range of services, including medical and dental. Patients are eligible to receive services regardless of age, race, nationality, income, employment, health insurance or residence. Fees are based on patient's ability to pay. English/Spanish interpretative services are available.

Patients with Medicaid, HAWK-I, Illinois Health Connect and Medicare are encouraged to make the clinic their new medical and dental facility.

The clinic is open Monday through Friday, and appointments can be made by calling 319-728-7400.

Pictured in the lower photo, is the entrance area to the new assisted living facility adjacent to Colonial Manor, Colonial Heights.

Work has been progressing throughout the winter, and a possible July 1 opening is hoped for. The exterior is nearly complete, and painting is now being completed on the interior.

This will be the first assisted living facility in Louisa County, and will include living arrangements for nine individuals or couples. The facility has a common living room, library, kitchen and dining room. There will also be a beauty parlor in the facility. A corridor connecting the building to Colonial Manor is also available for residents who may wish to dine at the Manor.

These two new facilities exemplify the progress that continues to be made in making Louisa County a great place to live.



Briefly -

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, June 9, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Farmers' Market this Friday

The Columbus Junction Farmers' Market is held Fridays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. through October 8 at the American Legion parking lot, 99 Second St., Columbus Junction. The market features regional vendors selling Iowa-grown produce, plants, baked goods, eggs, snacks, crafts and more. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, IFMNP/WIC checks, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition checks and Louisa Bucks are welcome. Buy local and taste the difference! This week we'll have free CJ Farmers' Market refrigerator magnets thanks to the community Foundation of Louisa County and free marigold seeds courtesy of Keep Columbus Beautiful.

FFA Alumni to meet

The Columbus FFA Alumni Association will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 16th at Craig and Brenda Wilson's house. Items of discussion will be the tractor ride and the Louisa County Fair.

Ice Cream Social in Conesville

The Conesville United Methodist Church will be having a homemade ice cream supper at the Conesville Community Center on Thursday, June 10, with serving beginning at 5 p.m. The menu includes: Creamed chicken on a bun, loose meat hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, pie, cake, drinks, and homemade ice cream will be served. There will be a free-will offering.

J&J Mott Trivia Night

J & J Mott Corporation (a non-profit organization) is sponsoring a Trivia Night on Saturday, June 12th at 7 p.m. at the M.O.T.S. Facility (221 S. Main St., Wapello). Maximum of 6 per team - \$30 per team. Ages 12 to adult. BYO snacks - no alcohol allowed. All entry fees are tax deductible and benefit the community. Reserve a table now! Call Jeff Lease - 319-523-4932, 7a.m. - 5 p.m. or Jeanne Mott - 563-506-0604. Limited parking - park at the courthouse

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will hold a meeting on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., at the Langwood Education Center.

Potluck at the Senior Center

The Columbus Senior Center is hosting a community potluck dinner on Thursday, June 24th, 2010 at Noon. Please come and bring a covered dish. Table service, drinks and meat will be provided. Call 319-728-8905 and leave a message if you can attend. Come have an afternoon of good food and community fellowship.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, June 17th at 10:45 a.m. at the Spring Run Church. We will car pool to 61 Chop House in Mediapolis for an 11:30 a.m. lunch.

Embroidery Club to meet

The Embroidery Club will meet June 22nd from 6:30 to 9:00 pm to work on Brazilian Embroidery. This meeting is held in OUR SHOP, 106 Main Street, Suite 100, Columbus Junction. Anyone is welcome, just bring your sewing and come stitch with us. In July we will have instruction on needle tatting on July 5th at 6:30 - 9:00 and July 7th at 1:00 to 4:00. Please register for these classes by calling Carol at 319-728-5648.

Blood Drive in Wapello

The University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center along with UI Health Care Wapello will be conducting a blood drive from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday, June 25, 2010 at the Wapello Ambulance Barn, 400 US 61 S. To schedule a time to donate, call UI Health Care Wapello at 319-523-8205. Walk-ins welcome! Donors who last gave blood on or before April 30, 2010 are eligible. Donors must be in general good health, be cold and flu symptom free for 5 days, weigh at least 110 lbs and bring a photo ID. Donors must be 17 years of age to donate, 16 with an approved UI DeGowin consent form. Blood donation is a safe and simple and only takes about 1 hour. The need for blood remains high during the summer months and it is especially critical to maintain an adequate blood supply before the long July 4th weekend. Each week the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics uses approximately 600 blood products. Blood collected by the UI DeGowin Blood Center is for use by patients at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. If you have questions concerning your eligibility please call the UI DeGowin Blood Center at 319-356-2058.

WCCB to meet

The Washington County Conservation Board will hold a regular meeting on June 9, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at the Conservation Education Center.

Rees Reunion scheduled

The annual John A. Rees reunion will be held at noon on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at Marr Park, west of Ainsworth, in the first shelter for a potluck meal. Officers are President, Tyler Rees; Vice President, Jay Greene; Secretary-Treasurer, Sharon Rees; and Historian, Richard Arthur. Table Committee is Michelle Rees, Chair; Kay Davis and Rita Luers.

Pretz/Bretz Reunion set

The Pretz/Bretz reunion will be held at the Columbus City Masonic Community Center on Sunday, June 13, 2010 at 12 p.m. It will be a potluck dinner with drinks and table service provided. If you are a Pretz/Bretz descendant, let everyone know about the get-together. Please bring any history or family updates to share. Any questions, please call Mike Lowe at 319-728-3004.

Class of 1980 plans reunion

A planning meeting for the Class of 1980 reunion will be at the 92 Roadhouse on June 18th at 6:30 P.M.

Hope Bible coffee fellowship will not be held on June 11th

The Coffee Fellowship at Hope Bible Church will NOT be held on Friday, June 11th as Vacation Bible School will be in progress. The Coffee Fellowship will resume on Friday the 18th.

Columbus Motel now open for business

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Monday marked another stage in the community's recovery from the flood of 2008 with the re-opening of the Columbus Motel.

The motel was seriously damaged during the flood, and it was unsure if it could be saved. But Jack Patel of Krinsha Lodging expressed an interest, and was able to purchase the building. Work progressed throughout the winter, with every area of the motel receiving attention.

When one enters the lobby they will notice that it has been opened up, with a breakfast area available. All new plumbing and bathroom fixtures have been installed in every room. Customer laundry facilities are now available.

Support beams have been added to the basement allowing a more open area for receptions and parties. Some areas in the upper rooms were able to be saved, however everything in the lower rooms are new.

The hotel is now open and anxious to serve visitors. The owner and employees invite you to stop by and look around. It is great to have a motel back in town.



View of the refurbished lobby in the Columbus Motel

New 50 Year Legion Member

Kenny Lorack of Columbus Junction was honored as a 50-year member of the American Legion last week. Pictured are Legion members: Denny Bennett, Jerry Murphy, Robert Bennett, Gary Burden, Jerry Ludwick, Mark Shear, Boone Bell, Kenny Martin, Kenny Lorack, Warren McConahay, Ron Scheef, Marvin Kistler, Sam Bell, Lamoyne Buser, Duane Lukavsky and Verl Lekwa.

