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## Great Alumni Banquet held over weekend

By Mary Masonholder Wilson  
Gazette Staff

The Columbus Community Alumni Banquet was held at Roundy Elementary Saturday night, June 9, 2012 with a large attendance from the 50 Year Class, 1962, and many other classes. A delicious meal was served by the Presbyterians to approximately 125 people and Marsha Gerot, Class of '62, served as the Master of Ceremonies and Paul Duncan, Class of '57 was the Banquet Chairperson.

Following the meal, the festivities began with the singing of "God Bless America" by everyone, and the Presbyterian Men's Quartet, 'Fellowship' entertained the crowd with such songs as "Save the Last Dance for Me," "Silhouette", and "In the Still of the Night." Some members in the crowd could be seen mouthing the words to the songs of the quartet consisting of Paul Duncan, David Duncan, Jay Hauenstein, and Brian Cummings. These melodies took many back to their high school years and brought smiles to faces.

In establishing the "records" for the evening: Mary Holmes was the oldest, Class of 1933, and Dale and Jan Hedemann Clark, both from the Class of 1962 had come the farthest, traveling from Seattle, Washington. The family with the most members there was that of Geri Leonard who had all three sons with her, all grads of CCHS: Randy, Rob, and Ron Leonard.



Members of the 50-Year Class included: Merry Boyd Wasson, Marsha Gabriel Gerot, Thomas Murphy, Ronald Swain, Jill Cecil, Dale Clark, Richard Herrick, Steve Martin, Jimmy Nunnally, Marvin Prior, Dean Smylie, James Stewart, Janet Chatfield Marz, James Crawford, Janet Hedemann Clark, Mary Hunkins Monson, Merle Masonholder, Richard Perkins, Joyce Stokes Monroe.

This family tries to go every year to the Alumni Banquet.

There were only two people there from the 25-year class. They were Luke Westfall and Shelley Reed Wulf.

Each of the 50-year class members told a brief summary of their lives since graduation. There were a wide variety of careers, travels, and families. On Friday night before the banquet, the class had been entertained at the home of Marsha Gerot and enjoyed their time together. On Saturday morning, they rode around town on a hayride,

again sponsored by Marsha Gerot and her husband Jerry.

The Class of '57, now the 55-year class, met on Friday night at the home of Frank and Sandy Jamison for a chicken/fish fry and spent Saturday afternoon at the home of Larry and Judy Prior for an open house. This class also decided a few months ago to meet at Cedarcrest Country Club after Saturday night's Banquet. After some discussion, they felt that it would be a great idea if ALL or ANY classes came to Cedarcrest that night. This way classes could visit

with each other rather than be at various locations and just with their own classmates. According to Paul Duncan, this idea really worked well. Many members of the 50-year class came and the classes enjoyed each other. Duncan states, "It is hoped that this idea catches on, more classes and people come, and this becomes a tradition."

The Banquet ended with the singing of the school song with all former cheerleaders leading the song. I think it is safe to say, "A good time was had by all."

## Columbus Junction State Bank donates to Youth Center

Columbus Junction State Bank joins the list of major supporters of the Youth Center at the Louisa County Fairgrounds with a donation of \$25,000.

Construction on the 7,680 square-foot facility is scheduled to begin in August, shortly after the county fair. The building will feature a large meeting room, a covered patio, bathrooms, showers, kitchen, offices and storage area. It will be used year round for youth and community activities as well as serving as office and exposition space during the fair.

Columbus Junction State Bank has been in business for 85 years and has a history just as long of actively supporting the Louisa County Fair. Three generations of the Huston family have managed Columbus Junction State Bank and all have served as members of the fair board as well. Lee Huston began the tradition,

followed by his son Tom; Mark, current bank president, keeps the streak alive. The family's involvement goes well beyond spending time at organizational meetings. Tom Huston recalls as a youth showing pigs and

calves at the fair. The enterprising young man turned the yard of the family's home, located near the present site of the city water tower, into a small farm operation featuring cattle, pigs, chickens and ducks.

These days the Huston family seeks trophies at the track. Johnathan Huston, Lee's great-grandson races regularly at CJ Speedway, a track that three generations of his family has been involved in developing and promoting.

Many other families and individuals share a similar history of dedication to the Louisa County Fair. The late FD Smylie a Columbus Junction State Bank director, was a benefactor offering his time, equipment, money and expertise to advance the organization. Also, Susan Pretz, an employee of the Columbus Junction State Bank serves as Fair Secretary. The late Jim Rutt, Columbus Junction State Bank Vice President, also served as Fair Board Secretary and was involved in all aspects of the Fair.

The Bob Schlutz Family are also active benefactors to the Fair. "We would like to thank Bob for all he does for the fair" offers Tom



Pictured is Fair Secretary, Susan Pretz, receiving a \$25,000 check from Columbus Junction State Bank President Mark Huston.

Huston in recognition of efforts made by Bob who heads up the Youth Center committee and has been on the fair board for over 40 years.

The fund raising effort for the Youth Center at the Louisa County Fair Grounds continues to be very successful. Columbus Junction State Bank is added to a list of major supporters that includes Community Bank, Casey's General

Store, Muscatine Food Corp, Louisa County Extension Council and the Community Foundation of Louisa County as well as numerous individual and families. For more information about the Youth Center project please contact Susan Pretz, Secretary, Louisa County Fair Association or Bob Schlutz, Youth Center Committee Chair at 563-299-6916.

## Legion honors members for longevity of service

Marvin Prior, left and Mark Shear, right represented the Allen Wright Hanft American Legion Post 100 as they honored four of their members last week.

Danny Boyd, second from left and Marvin Hamilton, second from right, received 50 year membership certificates and Marvin Kistler, center, received a 60 year membership certificate.

The Legion provides a firing squad for all veteran funerals as well as other services. Dedicated members such as these honored are part of the reason we have such a strong Legion in town.

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## Briefly -

### Fair Queen Contest deadline set

Deadline approaching! The paperwork/entry information for the 2012 Louisa County Fair Queen (16-21 years old, live or attend school in Louisa County) & Princess (4-8 years old, live or attend school in Louisa County) Contest is on our website - [www.louisacountyfairqueen.com](http://www.louisacountyfairqueen.com) - with a deadline of June 20th. Contest date is Monday July 23rd. Please contact us if you're planning to compete. Orientation will be held on July 8th for both age groups.

### Wine tasting at Main Street Gifts

A Wine Tasting and Open House will be held at Main St. Gifts & Antiques in downtown Columbus Jct. on Saturday June 16th from 5-7 pm with Odessa Vineyard wines. Appetizers will include smoked Northern from Canada and cheese/crackers as well as iced tea. Other summer events include: Saturday, July 12, Open House from 5-7 pm with acoustic guitar music in the Stone Garden by Valentin, a book signing and reading of new children's book by Anita Davis (date to be announced soon), Saturday, August 18, Open House from 5-7 pm with acoustic guitar and vocals in the Stone Garden by Melanie DeVore.

### City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

### Fire Dept. and KCB at Farmers' Market

The Columbus Junction Fire Department and Keep Columbus Beautiful (KCB) will be sponsoring this week's farmers market. Community Development Center Interns Jesus Lizarraga and Megan Leyden will be representing both organizations. They will be giving out free items and information from the Fire Department as well as from KCB. Jesus and Megan will be selling KCB shirts as well. Short sleeves \$10 and \$15 for polos. Stop by their booth to learn about the different community projects they are coordinating as part of their summer internship. Jesus and Megan will also be this week's market masters. Reminder, the farmers market is every Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot. 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 or sponsor, contact Mallory Smith at 319-728-7971.

### Legion Flag Burning Ceremony

American Legion Post 100 will be hosting a flag burning ceremony on Flag Day, Thursday, June 14th. The public is invited. The ceremony will start at 6 p.m. sharp, with members of Post 100 performing the ceremony. Worn and dilapidated flags have to be retired in a formal military manner, so if you have a flag to dispose of, please bring it that evening. Post 100 would like to remind the public that we do provide a flag drop off box for their convenience, and we have gathered a large number of flags because of this service. Music will be provided by the CCHS school band. Refreshments will be served after the ceremony. In case of rain, we will postpone the ceremony until June 21st, same time and location. Post 100 has a large inventory of US, MIA/POW, and state flags that can be purchased that evening. Please come and enjoy our flag burning ceremony.

### 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 19 at the Methodist Church and in Columbus Junction on June 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.

### McGill/Kemp Reunion

The annual McGill/Kemp Reunion will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 24th, at Academy Park in Grandview, Iowa. There will be a potluck lunch, a family picture taken, and an auction. Playground equipment is available for the children. All descendants of John Lee and Jesse Belle McGill, descendants of John's grandparents William and Elizabeth McGill and descendants of Walter Kemp are welcome. For more information, contact Rondalyn K. Weyrick, 13685 105th Street, Wapello, IA 52653; Telephone: 319-523-5252.

### Rees Reunion

The annual John A. Rees Reunion will be held at Noon, on Saturday, June 16, 2012 at Marr Park west of Ainsworth. We will meet in the first shelter for a potluck meal. Officers are President: Jay Greene, Vice-President: Sarah Mayo, Secretary-Treasurer: Sharon Rees and Web Master: Richard Arthur. Table Committee will be Sandra Rees, chair, Megan Wheeler and Betty Gipple.

### School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, June 18, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. in the Roundy Elementary School Library.

### Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, June 21st at 11:30 a.m. at Chinkapin Park, Columbus Junction. Hot dogs, buns and drinks will be furnished. Please bring something to go with hot dogs and your own table service.

### Vision Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Vision Support Meeting will be held on the third Thursday of June at Corner Market, 340 North Main. We will meet at 1 p.m. on the 21st. Betty Hason from the Department for the Blind will be our guest speaker. She will be bringing aides and devices for the hard of hearing. Everyone is welcome to come and see what is available. For more information, call Lois Richers at 527-2630.



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