

Is it Deja Vu all over again?

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Monday morning appeared to be June of 2008 to many Columbus residents as they woke up to considerable standing water and wind damage. A tremendous rainfall pounded the community Sunday night with rain fall totals exceeding five inches reported in some areas. The bulk of the storm came between the hours of 10:00 and 11:00 p.m.

Two feet of water was standing in the Senior Center parking lot during the storm, and about six inches of water came into the building. Individuals worked throughout the night pushing water out, and it is hopeful that damage will be minimal.

The fairgrounds were again under water on Monday morning. Pumps were obtained on Monday, and water is now being pumped over the levee.

Monkey Run Creek caused several problems in the community. Water flowed over Highway 92 adjacent to Roadhouse 92, and firemen were forced to use boats to rescue motorists stranded in the water. Monkey Run also went out of its banks on Walnut Street, causing problems for residents living in this area.

A portion of the hillside on south Main Street collapsed and washed onto the street. City crews were busy removing the dirt and debris from the street early Monday.

A large tree floated down the creek fronting the Legaspi property on Highway 92 west of town. The tree destroyed the bridge, stranding the Legaspi family. Carlos Legaspi



Water stands in the fairgrounds early Monday morning.

reported that the tree hit the bridge just after they had crossed. If they would have been a minute or two earlier they would have been caught in the destruction.

With the ground already saturated from the wetter than normal summer, Sunday's rain caused water to stand in nearly every low area. Standing

water wrapped around the north side of the American legion, and could be seen in road ditches along highway 70 to Conesville. Water has been standing in the field adjacent to the Dean and Anita Milder home on Highway 70 for some time, but on Monday morning the water completely surrounded the house.

The storm was followed with very sultry conditions, temperatures reached 98 degrees on Monday afternoon. The hot weather is forecasted for most of the week, but fortunately no storms are in the immediate future. Fortunately, no injuries were reported during the storm. (See page 6 for more storm photos.)

United Fund distributes \$20,500 to 20 area organizations

Twenty organizations were recently presented checks from United Fund of Columbus Junction to help with operating expenses. The total amount awarded was \$20,500. United Fund of Columbus Junction serves organizations in the Columbus Junction area by providing funds for general programming and special projects. Interests served include fire protection, education, sports, childcare, first aid, youth activities, and recreation.

2009 United Fund recipients are Friends of Columbus Junction Library, Columbus Women's Fitness Center, Letts/Columbus Girl Scouts, Columbus Softball Association, Conesville Fire Department, Louisa

County Area Vietnam Veterans, Lutheran Services of Iowa, Letts Volunteer Fire Department, Letts Public Library, Louisa County Responders, Columbus Community Heritage Museum, Storks Nest of Louisa County, Columbus Junction Fire & Rescue, CJ Community Development Center, Columbus Action, Columbus City Improvement Club, Little Racer Car Club, Columbus Senior Center, Columbus Community Swimming Pool, and the Louisa County Fair.

United Fund of Columbus Junction collects money through payroll deductions, as well as individual and business donations. The largest single group of United Fund supporters is Tyson Employees whose combined



contributions represent nearly 80 percent of the annual distribution. "We're very pleased that our team members generously support United Fund and that together we can have such a positive impact on the community," commented Dave Duncan, Human Resources manager for

Tyson. For more information about United Fund of Columbus Junction contact Mallory Smith, Columbus Junction Community Development Center, 319-728-7971 or cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org. Contributions are currently being accepted for the 2010 campaign.

Former area resident helps to make a difference

A former Louisa County resident continues to make a difference. Diana Ogier-Stout and her husband, Stephen were both active in their respective communities before they met, then they teamed up, the sky was the limit. Diana had been active in her church, doing support groups, and helping when there was a death in the Muscatine School District. When she left the area for Washington, Iowa she didn't know where her service work would take her.

Through different avenues she and her husband, Stephen, located and live in Manzanillo, Mexico for the next 10 years, volunteering at a local orphanage, the Casa Hogar Los Angelitos. Stephen and Diana did everything from washing clothes by hand, handy work, and finally organizing and hosting the fundraiser in Mexico.

All of the children have been either physically, verbally, or mentally abused along with malnutrition. They come to the Casa Hogar, with a broken body and soul. Because of their numerous problems the paid staff is over 30. There are 5 teachers, 4 social workers, a psychologist, "mama's and mama's helpers" working three shifts, a physician, and the office staff. Currently, they are serving 52 children but 100's have been helped in other ways.

Nancy Nystrom, the Founder of the Casa Hogar Los Angelitos and Chairman of The Children's Foundation in Loveland, Colorado believes that education is the key to changing a child's life. All of the children go to public schools but are also tutored at the Casa Hogar. She



Diana and Stephen Stout in Mexico

also works on their self-esteem. All the children are required to attend one of three arts programs. If children are given these opportunities, they will remain in their communities and become productive citizens. Nancy and her husband, David began The Children's Foundation following the death of their son, Fred. Through a vision to help the children, Nancy continues steadfast in her belief that

all children are worth saving.

Stephen and Diana could see that the funding was declining due to the economic situation throughout the world. After a lot of praying and guidance from others they decided to move back to the USA and travel both the US and Canada speaking on behalf of The Children's Foundation, which helps underwrite the Casa Hogar Los Angelitos. They have be-

gun this new mission locally and will be heading to Kansas City in September for the kick off.

If you would like more information about the Stouts' new mission or The Children's Foundation you may contact them at the following: 319-541-7546 - Diana; 970-744-4883 - The Children's Foundation; dianastoutrn@yahoo.com; stout@thechildrensfoundationinc.com-

Briefly -

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at 5:30 p.m., in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring CommUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Blood checks at Econ-O-Mart

The Econ-O-Mart will be hosting blood pressure, blood sugar and SpO2 checks today, 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.

Great Beginnings registration

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.

Sen. Harkin's staff to be 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.

Honor Tour donations to continue through July 15th

The American Legion Post # 100 of Columbus Junction and Wapello VFW Post # 5166 are very proud to announce that donations to the WWII Honor Tour in Louisa County are approaching \$ 21,000.00. Any individual who wants to make a donation to the tour, are encouraged to do so by July 15th. At that point in time, we will publish a formal thank you, and a complete list of contributors. The next scheduled trip to Washington DC is September 28th, and any WWII veteran who wants to become part of the tour should contact Sam Bell at Post 100 in Columbus Junction.

Lions sausage/gravy breakfast

Columbus Junction Lions Club will hold a sausage gravy/biscuit breakfast on Saturday, July 4th, and Sunday, July 5th at the Columbus Community Senior Center, 125 East Walnut Street. Serving both days will be from 7-11 a.m. This will be in conjunction with the Blues Fest being held at the Circle of Pride rodeo grounds. However, everyone is invited to attend - local residents, visitors and bikers. Cost for all you can eat is \$5.00 for adults, and \$2.00 for children under 12 years old. Menu will be sausage gravy, biscuits, jelly, honey, coffee, milk and fruit drink. Proceeds help support Lions projects both locally, statewide, and internationally.

Radio Club to hold field day

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will be conducting their 2009 Field Day operations beginning Saturday, June 27 at 1:00 pm and continuing through the night until Sunday, June 28 at Noon, on the lawn of Muscatine Community College. All amateur radio operators and those interested in learning more about amateur radio are invited to participate. For more information, call 563-263-3097.

Open house set for Ardith Ostrem

Ardith Ostrem will be honored with an open house at the Public Library on Tuesday, June 30, 2009, from 4-6 p.m. Ardee is retiring as the librarian after 31 years of service to the community of Columbus Junction. Please join us in showing Ardee how much we appreciate her passion for the library.

Red Cross swimming lessons

Red Cross Swimming lessons begin Monday, July 6th at the Columbus Pool. Lessons run from 10-11 a.m., Monday-Friday for two weeks. The cost is \$30, payable upon registration. Every child should learn to swim and Red Cross lessons are an economical way to get them started. Register at the pool before July 6th.

TEAM GENE to hold car wash

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.

School Board to meet in closed session

The Columbus School Board is going into closed session on Friday, June 26, 2009 for the purpose of discussing the purchase of a particular real estate property. This closed session meeting is allowed by Iowa Code 21.5 (1)(j). The meeting will occur at the District Administrative Office, 1210 Colton Street, beginning at 4:00 PM.