



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

Vol. 126 No. 28

Fairgrounds to upgrade Camping Facilities



By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Improvements have always been the catchword for the Louisa County Fairgrounds. Buildings are always being painted, new facilities such as the horse arena are added, and the grounds and roads are continually being updated and maintained. A Youth Center is in the planning and fund-raising stage, and it seems that whenever someone on the Fair Board has an idea, the next thing you know it gets done. This year is no different.

The city is now in the process of

adding city water to the fairgrounds, the fairgrounds is being connected to the city sewer system, and additional power service has been added. The purpose of these additions are for more than the fair. As Fair Board member Mark Huston explained, "It's our intention to have the fairgrounds be used for more than the fair and racing. For a number of years we have wanted to make it available as a campground for people visiting family, for people traveling through the area and looking for a campground to stay at, and for additional events that would attract campers. These



additions will definitely help us convert the fairgrounds to a year-round facility. This will be the first full service campground in Louisa County."

The sewer system is a newer method that now uses a number of small lift stations so it is not dependent on a gravity system. Water lines will be run throughout the fairgrounds, and it is hoped that a good deal of this cost will be recovered by additional water billing. Also, the new anticipated levee system that the city is undertaking will add protection to the grounds and camping areas.

But, like all fair projects, volun-

teers have come forward to make this a reality. Bob Schlutz has volunteered his digging and trenching equipment, Lee Foster continues to mow the fairgrounds, and the Fair Board members are always on hand to provide necessary equipment, expertise and labor when called.

For generations of Louisa County citizens, the Columbus Junction Fairgrounds has always been, and will continue to be, a great place to spend the summer and create memories that last a lifetime, and provide experiences that can be passed on to generations.

Briefly -

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Class of 1982 plans reunion

Attention Columbus Community Class of 1982 (and parents): Some of us have been making plans for our 30th year class reunion. We still need some addresses; if you can help – that would be great! We want to find as many classmates as possible. Our plans are: Columbus Day Weekend – Friday, October 12th at 7 p.m. meet and greet at Rumors and Excuses; Saturday, October 13th watch parade at Rumors and Excuses, 5-8 p.m. dinner at the Thirsty Camel, then go to excluded location for a night of fun. Any questions or addresses please call Deb (Sands) Halstead at 319-750-2636.

Cross Country Fundraiser

The Columbus High School cross country team is hosting two fundraising races at Chinkipin Bluffs Recreation Area. They are at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, August 2, and Thursday, August 9. The distance is 3 miles for walkers and runners. There is also a 1-mile run for kids age 12 and under. Cost is \$5. For more information, call Coach Steve Riley (319-217-0130) or you can download an entry form at <http://www.runlouisacounty.info>.

This week at the Farmers' Market

The Columbus Junction Farmers Market is thrilled to have a wide-variety of activities this Friday! The Columbus Junction Public Library will put on a play/children's activity (Little Red Riding Hood), the Columbus Junction Police Department will be this week's sponsor, and we will have a cooking demo from the Southeast Iowa Local Foods. You won't want to miss this! Plus, Kalona Bakery will be at this week's market! Reminder, the farmers market is every Friday from 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot. For more information, including how to participate as a vendor or sponsor, contact Mallory Smith at 319-728-7971.

Fair Dates set

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

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the Louisa County Conservation Office.

Expo Hall displayers sought

The Louisa County Fair Board and the Community Development Center are seeking organizations and businesses to have displays at the Expo Hall at the Louisa County Fair. Information and a registration form are available at www.louisacountyfair.com, find them by selecting Expo Hall Info from the list on the left.

Breakfast Buffet in Ainsworth

Ainsworth Community Center/Opera House will hold their monthly breakfast buffet on Saturday, July 7th, 2012. Hours are 7 am to 9 am. Cost is \$7 per person, children 12 and under are free with adult. We are located at 284 Railroad St. Ainsworth, IA. Menu items include biscuits and gravy, bacon, ham, sausage links, casserole, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, rolls and drink. Come see what the cooks came up with for red, white, and blue 4th of July items. Hope to see you there.

County Relay For Life set

Louisa County's Relay for Life has been set for Saturday, August 4, 2012 at the L-M High School.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, July 16, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. at the Roundy Elementary School Library.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, July 19th at 11:30 a.m. at Mi Pueblo Real, 1021 W Madison Street, Washington.

Bill Riley Talent Show in Winfield

Winfield's Crooked Creek Day committee is looking for area talent to participate in their CCD Bill Riley Talent Show. The event will be held at 9:00 am, Saturday, August 4th in the Winfield High School gym. Contestants are asked to arrive by 8:15 am. Winners will be eligible to advance to the Iowa State Fair. There are two categories, Sprouts: ages 2 through 12 years, and Seniors: ages 13 through 21 years. Acts are limited to three minutes. The committee welcomes a variety of acts and will accept a limited number of acts on a first come-first serve basis, as the time is limited due to the parade, which will follow the talent show.

We invite local youth to come and showcase their talents at the annual Winfield Crooked Creek Day celebration. For more information call Sharon Jennings at (319) 259-6632 or email smjen@iowatelecom.net.

Vote for your favorite Non-Profit at the Louisa County Fair

Come to the Louisa County Fair July 23-27, and stop at the Community Foundation of Louisa County booth in the Expo Hall to vote for your favorite non-profit organization. The organization receiving the most votes during the week will receive a \$100 grant from the Foundation. A \$50 grant will be given to the organization in second place. The organization receiving the most votes last year was Louisa County Habitat for Humanity. They will not be competing for the grant this year. If you want your organization included in the vote, please contact Paula Buckman, Director at 319-868-4240 or by email cflc@louisacomm.net. The Community Foundation of Louisa County is dedicated to building endowment funds by connecting people who care with causes the matter. The Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Great River Bend.

Kudos to Grandview for a great 4th of July

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

Every small town has its day. For Grandview that day is the Fourth of July, and they do it up right. Grandview epitomizes everything the Fourth of July should be and is.

Let's start with the food. There are funnel cakes and kettle corn. Thanks to the people who stand over these hot pots and make these sweet treats for us. One bite and anyone is transformed into a euphoria that automatically transcends any ordinary day. There is other delicious food for sale if you want a meal, and thank goodness for cold water, lemonade, and soft drinks to get through the heat.

For the children, there is a petting zoo with animals. This is a fun thing for any child, but a special site for anyone from a city who might never get close to animals. It's also a great photo opt for parents when

their child has a big smile. There are other little games, such as a bean bag toss, to pass the time and provide a good time.

Then comes the anticipated parade. Local fire departments lead off with sirens blaring right after a color guard, which causes us to pause a moment and reflect on our country and what the day represents. Children line the parade route with their sacks waiting for the candy to be thrown, and they are not disappointed, as there is lots of candy.

The parade has interesting old cars and tractors, horses, a band, decorated bikes and carts, and politicians. The freedom to vote is one of the greatest assets of our country and politicians exemplify this right.

Then there are the floats in the parade. Many families, organizations, and churches get together to

have a good time and entertain us with their creations. A favorite was a float entitled, "Iowa State Fair." It had a moving Ferris wheel with wooden seats painted red, white, and blue. It also had a butter cow replica complete with udders made from a golden-colored rubber glove. The town of Le Claire, Iowa, which has a tug of war across the Mississippi River each year brought a float with the two cities (the other being Port Byron, Ill) pulling on a rope, standing in sand, with a pool of water in the middle, and someone ending up in the pool. Another float had people shooting water out on the crowd, and in the 100-degree heat, it felt really good. Hats off to whomever it was dressed as a marshmallow snowman on the Festival of Trees float decorated with Christmas trees. This person had to be a real trooper to wear

that costume in this heat!

On an individual note, many homes in the town had guests and their yards were full. Some set up tents, and it was obvious there was going to be picnics and barbeques there before the day was over.

If you haven't had enough Fourth of July fun by the end of the parade, in the evening Grandview puts on a great fireworks display. For most people fireworks "make" the day, and it's a symbol of the USA and our freedoms.

Congratulations and thanks to Grandview. It makes celebrating the Fourth in our own local area fun and exciting. These occasions don't just happen; it takes a lot of "behind the scenes" work, and these efforts are greatly appreciated. May Grandview always celebrate the Fourth of July in such style!

Janet Vincent receives Governor's Volunteer Award

Janet Vincent of Conesville, Iowa received a 2012 Governor's Volunteer Award from Governor Terry E. Branstad and Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds during a special recognition ceremony held June 29 in Cedar Rapids.

The Governor's Volunteer Awards (VGA) program was created in 1982, with inaugural awards presented in 1983. What began as a small program only available to state government agencies has expanded over the years and now provides all Iowa nonprofit, charitable and government organizations with an easy way to honor their volunteers with a prestigious state-level recognition award.

Several hundred volunteers are recognized each year with awards in one of several categories: Individual, Group, Length of Service or Disaster Volunteer.

those who have given the precious gift of their time to make a difference and enrich lives in communities all across Iowa," said Governor Branstad. "I never tire of meeting volunteers and hearing about the wonderful accomplishments they contribute to making this state great."

"An unknown author wrote 'Volunteers are seldom paid; not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless,'" said Lt Governor Reynolds. "I couldn't agree more. The Governor and I are privileged to thank and recognize all of this year's award recipients for their dedication."

Janet Vincent was honored with an Individual Volunteers Award by the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.



The Governor's Volunteer Award program is coordinated by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service and the Governor's Office. For more information, visit volunteeriowa.org/awards or call 515-725-3094.

What do kids here need?

Open invitation to youth and adults. Share your ideas on what things (activities, support, resources, etc) youth in Louisa County need at the Youth Advisory Forum. Come out for a fun discussion in one of 4 com-

munities during the upcoming year.

July 18th, Letts Community Center; **October 17th**, Extension Office, Wapello; **January 16th**, Morning Sun Community Building; **April 17th**, Columbus Junction Civic Center.

All meetings will be from 7-8 pm and light refreshments will be available. Hosted by Tessa Pugh, Youth Development/ISU Extension in Louisa County; contact tessa@iastate.edu or 319-523-2371.

Visit

www.thecolumbusgazette.com



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