

How much water this Spring?

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Are we looking at another 2008? This is a question on many people's minds as we are in the grip of another severe winter. Reports of six to eight inches of snow were reported during late last week's storm, with frigid temperatures and high winds. Although snowfall hasn't been unusually large in our area, communities in the northern part of the state have received a number of heavy snows already this winter.

As these snows melt and move towards the rivers, they will pass over already heavily saturated ground. The community experienced record rainfalls this past fall, and there were very little places for that moisture to go. If this year's snow melt is rapid, and we toss in any large spring rains, the area could be a sitting duck for more flood problems.

But the situation is somewhat different than it was in 2008. The city has taken a number of steps after that flood that will help. Two large pumps have been purchased and placed at low areas which will help move a good deal of water over the levee. Also, the city has completed quite a bit of work on the existing levees. Last week's Gazette reported the disappointing news that the city was declined on a CDBG grant for additional levee work, but the story did indicate that city leaders are not giving up on pursuing the funds.

"Even if we had been given the grant, we wouldn't have been able to do anything for this spring's flood-



Snow piled at the former Mobil Station on Walnut Street



Downtown Park at corner of Walnut and Main Streets last Saturday morning

ing anyway," said Mayor Dan Wilson, "but some of the other steps we have taken since the flood has made us better prepared to take action in the event of flooding."

Wilson pointed out that the city was able to learn a lot from the flood of 2008, and would make some changes in the way a flood is fought.

"Our defenses are stronger, we have

more equipment, and we learned where our weak spots are. We certainly are ready to take the offensive if it becomes necessary."

It is important to note that a number of unusual items came together in 2008 to cause the damage. The snow melted rather quickly, heavy spring rains were experienced throughout Iowa, and both the Cedar

and Iowa Rivers came to a head at nearly the same time.

If Iowa experiences a slow snow melt, with below average to average spring rains, the disaster of 2008 should not be repeated. As Mayor Wilson stated, "All we can do for now is monitor the situation, hope for the best, and take immediate action if it becomes necessary."

2009 Year in Reivew, Part 2

April 1, 2009 – Night Burn scheduled for Marr Park.

Hispanic Culture Immersion weekend held.

Former resident Nate Boulton appeared on television program discussing worker's compensation issues.

Corps of Engineers studies possible levee changes in community.

Habitat for Humanity dedicates tenth home in County.

Obituaries include Howard L. Barnard.

April 8, 2009 – Columbus Junction and Wapello team up with Alliant Utilities and Trees Forever in Branching Out Program.

Victory Christian Center Church hosts "Town Hall for Hope" broadcast.

Farm Bureau agents Marvin Buffington and Patricia Woepking earn Farm Bureau Silver Awards.

Crawfordsville and Wapello receive CDBG Funds for water and sewer projects.

Rachel Harris and Sofia Valdez win blue ribbons at Special Olympics in Eldridge.

Keep Iowa Beautiful schedules spring visit to Columbus Junction.

Popcorn and a Movie under the stars scheduled for Senior Center parking lot.

April 15, 2009 – Birthright in Wapello reopens after flood repair.

Tri-Rivers schedules conservation tour.

Great River Region Partnership conducts surveys on local labor market.

City begins discussion on demolition of flood damaged buildings.

Columbus FFA holds annual banquet and alumni meeting.

Columbus Junction Lions Club members cleaned road ditches from the Iowa River to Indian Creek.

Obituaries include Richard C. Pugh, Ethel Rose Fisher Benhart, Phyllis M. Steele.

April 22, 2009 – Mother/Daughter salad supper held at Letts Bible Church.

Mary Beth Carey retires after 38 years of teaching in the Muscatine School District.

Melinda Rees honored by American Cancer Society for her volunteer efforts.

Wildflower walk held at Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area.

Work begins in community in preparation for Keep Iowa Beautiful visit.

Plants and Things offers Michael York Swinging Bridge photograph for sale with proceeds to be used to repair Swinging Bridge.

United Fund begins accepting applications for funding support.

American Legion Auxiliary sponsors Poppy Poster contest for 4th – 8th grade students.

April 29, 2009 – CJ Speedway opens season.

William J. Paris Conservation Scholarship established.

Columbus Middle School students celebrate Earth Day.

Obituaries include Robert R. Murdock, Mary Hafner, Evelyn Louise Long, Larry Arthur Cheney.

Muscatine Area Council on Youth Leadership reports record participation.

Senior Center reopens after flood recovery is completed.

Columbus Benefited Fire District takes delivery on new fire truck.

May 6, 2009 – Extension Office offers free Parent Education Courses.

Iowa Pork Queen visits Columbus Schools.

FFA holds blood drive.

Local churches schedule National Day of Prayer.

Colonial Manor announces plans for Nursing Home Week.

Honor Tour sets to depart within week.

Columbus Students receive \$84,000 in awards at award banquet.

May 13, 2009 – Fish 'n Fun Day held at Langwood.

Columbus High School 2009 graduates honored.

Columbus Schools pass policy prohibiting use of all tobacco products on school grounds.

Hispanic Cultural Exposition held at Farmers' Market.

Phase One of Keep Iowa Beautiful revitalization of community completed.

Relay for Life begins passing toilet seat around to raise funds.

Oscar Mayer Wiernermobile visits Columbus Junction.

Obituaries include Milo Markus Viner, Richard A. Knupp.

May 20, 2009 – Family Night held at Roundy Elementary.

Vanessa Espinoza chosen as Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student. Roundy teacher Michelle Dickey

receives U.S. Cellular grant for classroom funding.

Relay for Life teams begin to form.

Honor Tour returns from Washington, D.C.

Tom Huston named 2009 Columbus Distinguished Graduate.

Obituaries include Pearle L. "Poss" Call.

May 27, 2009 – Area Veterans honored for their service.

Special feature published on Louisa County Lions Clubs.

Columbus Parenting and Advanced Animal Science Class helps decorate graves in Columbus City.

Sheriff Curt Braby attends signing of Senate Bill 340 (The Adam Walsh Act.)

Polly Prior receives Shining Star Award for work on rebuilding Senior Center.

Reported that FEMA assistance in Louisa County exceeds \$20 million.

Obituaries include Samuel and Jackie (Haupt) Langstaff.

June 3, 2009 – Jolly and Vance Families pledge \$10,000 to Louisa Interpretative Center.

Great Beginnings Preschool holds 2009 graduation.

Wapello Junior and High School JEL members produce creative project to remind citizens of dangers of tobacco use.

American Legion Auxiliary give Teddy Bears to local ambulances.

Colonial Manor receives Excellent State Report.

Plank Implement sold to Bennett Farm Equipment.

Sandy Martin announces retirement after 36 years in Columbus Schools.

Obituaries include Louise Padgett.

June 10, 2009 – County Conservation Board holds Cricket Camp at Chinkapin Bluffs.

Heritage Museum receives Cotter School memorabilia.

Boysen Family contributes \$10,000 to County Interpretative Center.

Columbus Fire Station receives mural in memory of Molly Edmondson.

R.F. "Bo" Morrison and Sam Sands honored as 50 year Legion members.

Open house held at Senior Center.

Obituaries include Evelyn Irene

Williams.

June 17, 2009 – Ham radio operators demonstrate emergency capabilities.

Polliwog Nature Camp held at Langwood.

Professional Rodeo booked for Chief Wapello Days.

Master Gardeners hold "Garden Walk."

Habitat for Humanity breaks groundbreaking in Wapello for 11th Habitat Home.

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack visits Columbus Junction.

Bobbie Shirkey named new administrator of Colonial Manor.

Obituaries include Charles Buser.

June 24, 2009 – School Board reviews extra-curricular activity rules.

The book, *One Week in June, The Iowa Floods of 2008* is released.

Wapello students attend JEL summit in Grinnell.

Heavy rains cause flooding in community. Senior Center again damaged.

Diana Ogier Stout recognized for her volunteer efforts with children.

Obituaries include Laverne "Vernie" Dvorak, Herbert "Stub" Harbison.

Part 3 continued next week

Ladies have good time with hats

In August of 1992 a picture of several Columbus Junction ladies wearing hats appeared in the Gazette. The photo was taken by Ramona Wink, and featured members of the C.J. Coffee Klutch at a hat party at Sime Roundy's home. Connie Lewis served as the official hat judge.

Attending the party were Juanita Sands, Connie Lewis, Bev Hafner, Jan Rueckert, Jeannette Masonholder, Ruth Dircks, Charlotte Morrison, Darlene Oak, Dee Griffin, Wilma Masonholder, Joyce Snyder, Laverta Evans, Jos Pedersen, Mary Bowen, Sime Roundy, and Margaret Robertson.

The photo not only appeared in the Gazette, but it was then printed on a sweatshirt. Pictured is the sweatshirt, but the photo possibly won't reprint very clearly.

The shirt was sent to Carla Shellabarger by Mary Bowen. Carla has lent it to the Gazette, so if you

Briefly -

Winter band concert at school

The Columbus Community School Bands will present their annual winter band concert on January 18, 2010, at 7 p.m., in the middle school auditorium. Bands performing will be the 5th grade band, 6th grade band, Junior High band and the High School band. The bands will be performing a variety of music including traditional and contemporary band pieces. There will be an admission charge of \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for students. The concert will conclude with a performance of the combined bands. This will bring over 100 band students together – a grand finale performance! Make plans to attend this concert and enjoy an evening of band music.

City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Concert for a Cause to benefit Louisa County Ambulances

Esterlyn, an up and coming Christian rock band, will be performing at the Columbus Community School's Auditorium on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. The 7:00 p.m. concert is a benefit with all proceeds going to the Louisa County Ambulance Service. Esterlyn has opened for popular Christian rock bands such as Kutless, Thousand Foot Krutch, Pillar, Fireflight, Stellar Kart, Disciple and more. The concert is being sponsored by Victory Christian Center, 122 Ninth St, Columbus Junction, IA. For more information on purchasing the \$10 general admission tickets, contact the church by either calling 319-728-5720, going to the church website, www.vccjunction.org, or by contacting a Columbus Junction ambulance volunteer.

2010 Fair dates set

The dates for the 2010 Louisa County Fair are: July 24 – Parade and Fair Kickoff; and July 26-31 – Fair. The dates for the State Fair are August 12-22.

Grandview/Letts Lions soup supper

The Grandview/Letts Lions Club will hold their annual all-you-can-eat Soup Supper on Saturday, January 16, 2010, from 5-7 p.m. at the L-M Elementary School cafeteria. The menu includes chili and Wisconsin cheese soups, homemade pies, crackers, celery, carrots, pickles, and beverages. Tickets can be bought ahead of time for \$5.00 from any Grandview/Letts Lions Club member. Tickets will be \$6.00 at the door. Ages 6-12 cost \$3.00. Ages 5 and under are free.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

Legislative Forum scheduled

There will be a legislative forum on Saturday, January 16, 2010 at the Burlington Public Library in Burlington, Iowa from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Senator Tom Courtney and Representatives Dennis Cohoon and Tom Sands will be present.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Wednesday, January 20th, at 9 a.m., at the home of Janet Gipple for coffee. Please note the change of day and time.

Census workers needed

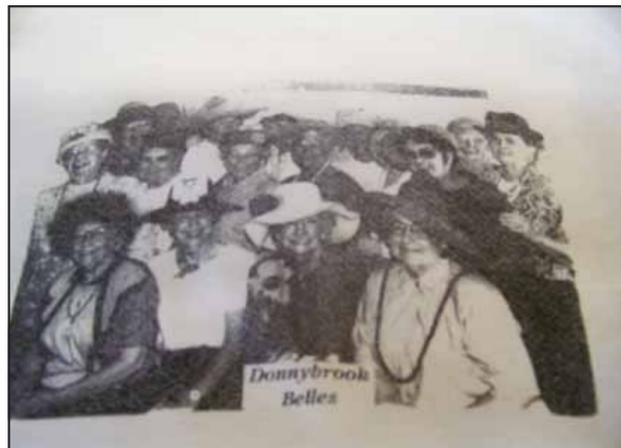
US Census 2010. Work up to 40 hours per week. Temporary Part-time job with 2010 Census. Enjoy good pay, flexible hours, mileage fee reimbursement, chance to serve your community. Call 1-866-861-2010.

Columbus City Council to meet

The Columbus City Council will meet for a special council meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall. Agenda items include review of engineers for water improvement project.

Firemen ask area residents to dig snow away from hydrants

The Columbus Firemen are asking area residents to please take the time to dig out any fire hydrants that are on your property. Precious time will be lost by firemen if they need to move snow away from the hydrants when responding to a fire.



would like to stop in, the shirt, along with the news story will be on display for however long Carla lets us keep it.

Many of these ladies are now gone, but it is great to recall their names and the memories that we have of each of them. All of these ladies, both those gone and those still with us, have played very instrumental parts in our community. Stop in, the shirt is fun to look at.