

## Doing things the "Roundy Way"

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

"Humbly Significant." A rule of good writing states that one should not use a contrasting adverb and adjective in the same sentence, however I feel that this phrase may be the best way to describe our community's good friend, Beryl Roundy, who passed away last week.

No one who has lived in the area over the years could not know the significance that Beryl and his wife, Sime, have had on our community. In some way their generosity has had an impact on every person. If you go to the doctor, the Roundys donated the real estate for the clinic. If you go to the pharmacy, again the ground for this facility was donated by the Roundys. If you attend the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church, the Roundys were large contributors to the new church building. If you visit the library or city hall, the Roundys were major donors to the building. If you or a family member eat at the Senior Center, Beryl was a major help in restoring the center after the flood of 2008. Scores of Columbus students have been recipients of scholarships from the Roundys. And of course, when your children or grandchildren go to school each day, they are walking into a building that was built because of a generous donation from the Roundys. And these gifts not only affect our generation, but will have an impact on generations well into the future. In addition, a trust established in Sime's name now makes annual contributions to numerous community organizations and causes, and will for years to come. I'm sure I have left out other areas where the Roundys have helped, but this is only part of the story of their legacy.

Beryl was a humble man. Although he had every right to, I never saw Beryl exhibit an air of self-importance or bragging. He was everyone's friend, and was always

interested in what others were doing, and was thrilled with their successes. I was fortunate to be Beryl's neighbor for thirty years, and whenever Beryl was on his morning walk and I was in the yard working, he would always stop and see what I was doing. The visit would never be more than a couple of minutes, but he always took the time to stop. I remember when my youngest son, Tony, was about six years old, he asked me if he could go to a pond that he saw in the timber. I told Tony that it belonged to Beryl, and let's just go ask him. I found Beryl in his back yard, and when I passed on Tony's request, Beryl bent down and said to Tony, "That's what I built it for, to be used. Go out there anytime you want to, Tony."

A friend of mine told me that when he was young his mother died. It was during the depression, and his Dad had a lot of struggles supporting their large family. He said that whenever any cookies in Beryl's cookie case would be broken or get slightly stale, Beryl would put them in a bag and place them under the counter. Then when this person's Dad would come in to buy groceries, Beryl would hand him the bag for the kids. This friend said that he probably would never have tasted a cookie when he was young if it hadn't been for Beryl.

Another person told me that his Dad said that during the depression, when Beryl and Sime were struggling to keep their grocery store open, no one was denied credit. Although Beryl and Sime sometimes undoubtedly went without eating, they made sure that others had enough to eat. And more than likely, many times the Roundys were probably not paid, but I would doubt they ever held a grudge over it.

But what always impressed me the most about Beryl was his optimism. I never heard Beryl say much about the past, he was always interested in tomorrow. Every May, when Beryl would return from Arizona, he would charge into the Gazette and change his address back to Columbus Junction, then say to me, "What do we have happening this year?" He



This sign not only designates the road by the American Legion, it also reminds us of a way of life practiced by Beryl and Sime Roundy.

always wanted to be a part of progress, and never felt there was an obstacle that couldn't be overcome. The flood of 2008 that hit the Economart Grocery store best illustrates this point. Beryl was at the store as soon as the water receded, and was insistent on going in. I remember looking back behind the Gazette and seeing Beryl, 97 years old, in rubber boots carrying things out of the store. He wasn't there asking for any type of Government hand-out, he just wanted the store back for the community. He kept saying, "This town needs a store, and I'm going to get it back for them." I was told that Beryl said to one individual, "I'm not only going to get the store back as soon as possible, but it will be an even better store, even if it costs a million dollars." And through his insistence and tireless efforts, he did get an even better store back for the community.

Beryl was also very proud of his military service. He would delay his

trip back to Arizona every year until after the Columbus Day Parade so he could ride on the American Legion's 50-year member float.

Service to his country, devotion to his beloved wife, compassion for his fellow man, and concern for his community. All with an aura of exemplary integrity and modesty. Beryl, you and Sime were truly community treasures, and we are all better off because of your time with us. We will certainly miss both of you, but your legacy will live on forever in the hearts of the Columbus Community.

*(I know that there are many others who have memories and comments on the Roundys. We will be happy to publish any of your thoughts in the Gazette. Just address your letters to the Editor, Columbus Gazette, PO Box 267, Columbus Junction, IA 52738, and we will reprint them.)*

## Another Great Louisa County Fair completes a successful run



Gazette Correspondent Isaiah Sents was one of many local 4-H and FFA Members who exhibited livestock projects at the 2011 Louisa County Fair. Sents is shown above with his project "Sophie" after winning the "Horseless" Showmanship class on Tuesday. "A very successful fair" was the term heard from nearly everyone last week as great weather helped bring record crowds to nearly every event. The Gazette, in partnership with the Wapello Republican will again publish the Fair Souvenir Edition listing all of the fair results as soon as they are received and finalized.

Make your plans now to attend the 2012 Fair, as work is already underway for next year.

## Briefly -

### Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Verlinda Prior will be hostess.

### Carey Reunion planned

The Annual Carey Reunion will be held starting at noon on Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Langwood Education Center and Camp in Louisa County. A potluck lunch will be served. The family is celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion. For questions, please contact reunion secretary Bob O'Donnell at 319-728-3083 or visit the Facebook Event page "80<sup>th</sup> Carey Reunion".

### BBQ at Columbus Jct. UMC

Everyone is invited to the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church for a Summer BBQ on Sunday evening, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. Great food will be provided: BBQ, potato salad, melon, ice cream and cookies. A free-will donation will be accepted. All proceeds will go to the local Community School Supply Mission.

### CCHS Class of 1976 plans reunion

Members of the CCHS Class of 1976: Reserve the dates of Friday and Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be having our 35<sup>th</sup> class reunion! Letters will be sent to you and you can get updates at <https://sites.google.com/site/cchswildcat1976>.

### County Line Club birthday party

County Line Club will be celebrating their 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a Dutch-treat dinner at the Thirsty Camel, north of Columbus Junction on August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. All former members, their spouses and friends are invited to come and share their memories of times past. It all started when Nell Clegg sent out invitations to come to her house for an afternoon of fun in August of 1921. A good time was had by all and thus started a neighborhood club that has stood the test of time. In the beginning, you must have lived on the County Line in order to be a member. Over time, the area has expanded. Please call Helen Edwards at 319-657-2012 if you would like to join in the fun. That way, you can be sure of a place for you.

### Grandview/Letts Lions Blood Drive

The Grandview/Letts Lions Club is sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-6:30 p.m. at the Letts Library-Community Building. To donate, contact Marvin or Margaret Thomas at 319-726-3286. Please eat before donating and bring Photo I.D. Last date to donate elsewhere: 6-9-2011. The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center is giving a \$50 gas card away each week to a blood donor. Come to the Lions Blood drive and you just might win free gas!

### Great Beginnings Registration

Great Beginnings Preschool, located at the Methodist Church in Columbus Junction, is accepting registrations for the coming school year. If your child is three or four-years-old and you are looking for a proven preschool program, please stop by the church and pick up an application. Tuition help is available for families that qualify, as well as the Vendor/Voucher program for four-year-olds. Great Beginnings Preschool offers classes taught by a certified teacher of early childhood education and reading. Please call 319-728-3157 or 319-728-2669 if you have any questions.

### Guys and Gals Car Wash

The Guys and Gals 4-H Club of Louisa County will be having their 2nd annual car wash Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grandview Shell Station on the corner of Highways 61 and 92 in Grandview. The price is free will donation. Hope you can make it.

### Louisa County Tractor Ride

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Louisa County Tractor Ride will be held on Sunday, August 21, 2011, sign in at 8 a.m. at the Wapello Elevator. The ride will be a total of 51 miles with a 10 m.p.h. minimum. Roll out is at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be at Letts City Park and it will be provided by Elder Implement and served by Louisa County Cattleman's Association. For more information contact Lee Harris at 868-7872, Dan Harris at 850-8188 or Dwight Schaper at 728-8961.

### Letts Library Puppet Show

The Letts Library is sponsoring a puppet show by Eulenspiegel Puppets today, Wednesday evening, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Letts Community Center. There will be drawings for kids and adults, but you must be present to win.

### L-M Class of 1986 plans reunion

Louisa-Muscatine Class of 1986 will be celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> class reunion. Class members are invited to gather for dinner and social time at the Button Factory Restaurant, 215 W Mississippi Drive, Muscatine. A room has been reserved and we will order from the menu. The reunion will take place on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Any questions please contact Tammy Paul at 563-263-5737, or Tim Sprague via Facebook.

### School Supply Drive

School Supply drive (sponsored by the United Methodist Church) at the Economart 1-5 PM Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup>. Supply list for Columbus Schools will be available. Any items or cash donations will be appreciated. Items may also be dropped off to Cindy Burroughs at Community Bank.

### Back to School Bash set

Mark your calendars for the Back to School Bash, Monday, August 15, 2011 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited, parents, students, school personnel, and the general public. Let's all come together and help kick off the best school year ever.

### New SEIBUS services

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission is pleased to announce that SEIBUS will now be offering additional Medical Shuttle service to Iowa City. This service will be on Wednesdays and will start on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. SEIBUS will also continue to offer their Medical Shuttle service to Iowa City on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The fare for the new day will remain the same as the current Iowa City routes \$30.00 round trip. Reservations are required and should be 24 hours in advance. Please call 1-866-753-5107 for additional information.

### This week at the Farmers' Market

Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion parking lot, now until October 14<sup>th</sup>. 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, contact Nitza or Mallory at 319-728-7971.

**LOUISA COUNTY RELAY 4 LIFE**  
AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
AUGUST 6, 2011

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

10:00am	Setup Begins
12:00pm	Opening Ceremony
3:00 - 5:00pm	Survivor Registration
3:00 - 5:30pm	Silent Auction
4:00 - 5:30pm	Survivor Dinner
4:00 - 7:00pm	Team Registration & Money Collection

**EVENING PROGRAM**

6:00pm	Color Guard - VFW & American Legion
	Star-Spangled Banner - Margaret Englert
	Welcome Speech - Mike Jay
	Invocation - Faye Fedlam
6:30 - 7:00pm	Pie Auction - Monte Delzell
7:00pm	Survivor Ceremony
	Introduction of Survivors
	Pennies From Heaven - Velinda Prior
	Survivor Lap
	Caregiver Lap
	Team Introductions
	Pictures - Amy Tobias
	Please pause after team name is announced for team pictures on the track
Dusk	Luminaria
9:30 - 12:00am	Games & Music
	DJ - Steve Hamilton
	Karaoke Contest
	Minute to Win It
	Miscellaneous Games
12:00am	Closing Ceremony

### At the Columbus Community School Grounds

#### SPONSORS

ARLEY K. AVON FOUNDATION  
DR. PAUL BRADSHAW ORGANIZATION  
CITY OF COLUMBUS CITY  
COLUMBUS JUNCTION STATE BANK  
COMMUNITY BANK OF COLUMBUS JUNCTION  
COMMUNITY BANK OF WAPELLO  
DORSEY HADLEY FURNACE HOME  
EASTERN IOWA LIGHT & POWER  
EOKLAND & SPORTS CONSTRUCTION  
FAHNER & ELEVATOR & EXCHANGE  
IOWA STATE BANK  
HELP US 2! HELP OTHERS  
H-VAE DOUTSIDE  
JIM BOBI TALKING  
KING & SONS  
LOUISA COMMUNITARIANS  
LOUISA COUNTY AMBULANCE  
MOORE PLUMBING & HEATING  
MUSCATINE FOODS COOPERATION  
PJ TALKING  
SHAWNEE ENTERPRISES  
STACEY-LEWIS FURNACE HOME, LTD.  
TERRANT FURNACE  
TYSON FRESH MEATS  
TOWN OF COLUMBUS CITY  
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HEALTH CARE-WAPELLO CLINIC  
VAMPIRE PLUMBING HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

#### A SPECIAL THANKS TO

DANA & DORIS BRONKHORST  
DUSTY-OLA  
ECONOMART  
JACK & JILL WAPELLO  
JIM THOMPSON  
KENT FEED  
LOUISA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
PETER O'LEA  
PLANTS & TREES  
STEVE HAMILTON  
YOUTH'S GOLF CARTS  
WAPELLO STATE BANK  
COLUMBUS  
SANDY REED  
DORIS MOURIN  
HEIDI HARTSOCK

The Louisa County Relay For Life celebration has been an ongoing event in our county for many years, and will again be celebrated this Saturday at the Columbus Schools. The event has rotated between the Wapello, Columbus and L-M Schools. Over the years hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised by Louisa County citizens, and all of the proceeds have been directed to research to put an end to this life taker.

The life of everyone in our county has been touched in some form by cancer. Whether it was a family member, a friend, or a personal battle, this disease continues to plague our way of life. But we don't have to just lay down and take it, we can fight it. And one of the best ways to continue this fight is to take part in our County Relay For Life. It not only drives another nail into this dreaded disease, but it is a fun way to come together with our friends and neighbors and enjoy an afternoon and evening together.

So come on out, bring your walking shoes, join a team, and help make this the year that we finally win our fight against the disease that has affected so many of our lives. Help us create a world with less cancer and more Birthdays!