

## All-Weather track resurfaced and ready to go

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

Since the summer of 1987 the all-weather track at the high school has served numerous school events as well as a place for adults in the community to walk.

The track was built in 1987 at a cost of \$120,000. The Booster Club approached the school board and asked if the Club would raise half of the funds needed for the track, would the school board put up the rest. The board agreed, and fund-raising began.

Meters were sold to the public for \$50, and after extensive efforts, the \$60,000 was raised. Eight lanes were constructed, with the cost of a lane in 1987 being \$10,000. The balance of the costs were for excavating, new fencing and moving of the bleachers. (Lane costs today are in the area of \$30,000 per lane.) At the time the track was built the school was told to expect a life of about 15 years before resurfacing would be necessary.

But the track held up better than expected. Because of the drainage, and proper excavation methods used, our track served for over twenty years. However, wear became evident last year, and plans were made to begin a resurfacing project.

The new surface cost \$90,000,



The newly resurfaced track at the Columbus High School

and was paid for with the 1 cent sales tax. Along with the new surface, existing drains have been cleaned out and new tiling was installed in areas where drainage was a problem. As-

phalt around the concession area was also repaired at the same time.

The track resurfacing was completed in late July, and an inaugural event was held last Saturday as the

Wildcat Youth Cross Country Camp participants exhibited their skills. The track is now ready to again serve both young and young at heart in the Columbus Community.

## Working to improve the quality of life in Rural Louisa County - A review of the area Rural Water Initiative

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

If you visited the exposition building at the Louisa County Fair, or have been reading the Supervisors' minutes, you are aware that the possibility of bringing rural water to Louisa County is being explored. Supervisor Frank Jamison began investigating the idea of rural water some time ago. "I initiated this process because I am always looking for ways to improve life in our county," said Jamison, "and I felt that giving our rural residents the opportunity to have consistent, healthy, and abundant water would be a great improvement. It is important that we offer these services for our county to have a chance to grow."

Jamison first contacted the rural water association at Rathbun, but they weren't interested. However, they suggested the Wapello Rural Water Association since they were supplying water in Washington County. When Wapello Rural Water expressed an interest, the supervisors then initiated an engineering study. The study indicated that a rural water program would be feasible. At that point the Supervisors contacted people willing to serve on an advisory Board. Bob Shafer was elected by the advisory board to serve as chairperson help move the process on.

The project hasn't been approached lightly, as the supervisors

spent a good deal of time weighing costs against benefits. "We discovered that the costs to the county wouldn't be overwhelming," said Jamison, "as Wapello Rural Water would supply us with the water. We would need to build two storage facilities, one on the east side and one on the west side of the river. If we could get the required 70% of rural residents to sign up, their original fee of \$1,000 each would pay to run the pipe." Residents wouldn't be required to pay the total \$1,000 immediately, as a \$250 annual payment plan would be available.

Although there would be some costs in engineering fees to the county, the Supervisors determined that the benefits would well exceed the expense. These benefits would include: soft water to rural homes; availability of water if electricity is down; no future need for rural residents to replace wells; and water that is purified and tested regularly by the EPA. Another benefit is that a farm would not be required to abandon their existing wells. "We could supply water to the home and still allow the farmer to use his well for livestock," said Jamison.

The study found that the cost to rural residents would remain affordable. The minimum monthly fee would be \$33.00, and then \$2.60 per thousand gallons of water used. Further rate tiers, if necessary, would be



determined after the system is operating. The \$33.00 minimum payment would be earmarked to recover the start-up costs and on-going maintenance of the storage facilities. "Rural residents who feel they are now receiving water at no cost need to consider that studies indicate a deep well cost in the area of \$100 per month when you consider electricity, maintenance, and eventual replacement," said Jamison, "with rural water we can eliminate all of these expenses."

A brochure that goes into considerable detail answering questions on rural water is available at locations throughout the county, and two public meetings to answer questions have been scheduled. The first meeting

will be Monday, August 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wapello Ambulance Facility on Highway 61 in Wapello; and the second meeting is Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge in Columbus City. A 70% signup of all township residents is required to move the process forward. In speaking for the Board of Supervisors, Jamison stated, "Our mission is to find ways to continually improve the quality of life in rural Louisa County, and we strongly feel that rural water will be a major step in that direction. I would encourage every rural resident to try to attend one of the public meetings and ask questions. It would be a shame if this project was lost because of misinformation."

## A New Look on Main Street



Pictured above are Ronnie Murry and Phil Mincks painting the exterior of the Panaderia Bakery on Main Street. The new colors have certainly given a brighter look to the downtown area.

## Sports Physicals available at U of Iowa Health Care in Wapello

University of Iowa Health Care - Wapello, 218 North 2nd Street in Wapello, will offer sports physicals on August 13 from 1 to 5 p.m.

Only cash payments will be accepted. Physicals are offered at a special price of \$25. For every physical performed at University of Iowa Health Care - Wapello, a portion of the fee will be donated to the athletic department of the school attended by that student.

It is not necessary to make an appointment to receive sports physicals for the special \$25 fee.

Sports physicals can also be scheduled by appointment during regular office hours, but the special price of \$25 is only available during the stated hours on August 13. The fee must be paid at the time of service and students must bring their signed physical form. The forms can be obtained from any local school.

For more information, call UI Health Care - Wapello at 319-523-8205 or visit [www.uihealthcare.com/familycare](http://www.uihealthcare.com/familycare).

## Briefly -

### Salem Welsh Presbyterian Church information sought

The Salem Welsh Presbyterian Church of rural Columbus Junction has been active for 150 years. A special celebration is being planned for September 27, 2009. If anyone has information concerning the history of the church during its time of existence, please forward the information to Rowland Rees, 12484 X Avenue, Columbus Junction, IA 52738, or to Harold Rees, 28368 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Crawfordsville, IA 52621 by August 20<sup>th</sup>.

### City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, August 12, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

### CCHS Class of 1994 to hold reunion

The CCHS Class of 1994 will be having their 15-year class reunion on Saturday, August 29 at 3:00 PM at the Mary Marr Lodge in Marr Park, Ainsworth, Iowa. The meal will take place at 6:00 PM. Bring the family. There will be a golfing at Cedar Crest at 10:00 AM for those interested. Please contact Vanessa (Van Auken) Proehl at 712-250-2250 or [spiritedchic@hotmail.com](mailto:spiritedchic@hotmail.com) to sign up to golf. For further details contact Vanessa or Shannon (Story) Hampson at [shannonhampson@uiowa.edu](mailto:shannonhampson@uiowa.edu) or 319-360-8256.

### County Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet at 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 20th at the Sub Station on Highway 61 in Wapello. Woody Ross, a Master Gardener, will talk with us about roses. We welcome visitors and if you are just starting to have eye problems, our group may just be the support you need. Lois Richers: 527-2630.

### Fall Festival in Lone Tree

The Lone Tree annual Fall Festival Parade sponsored by the Lone Tree Fire and Rescue will be held on August 15th, at 11:00 a.m. starting with a parade. Line-up will be from 9:00 - 10:30 A.M. at the North Park in Lone Tree.

### Gazette and CEA to sponsor "Meet the School Board" Candidates night

A "Meet the School Board Candidates" night will be held at the High School Student Center on Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Columbus Education Association and the Columbus Gazette.

### New pool hours

The swimming pool will open at the end of the school day, Thursday, at 3:30 p.m. and Friday at 2:00 p.m., August 13-14. The pool will close for the season Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Amateur Radio Club to hold "Hamfest"

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club and the Washington Area Amateur Radio Club will present the 25 Annual Southeast Iowa Hamfest on Sunday, October 4th at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds in West Liberty, Iowa. The hamfest features indoor and outdoor flea market, commercial vendors, license testing, food and drink. Gates open at 7:00 am. All tickets are \$5. Children age 14 and under are admitted free. For more information, visit [www.muscatinehams.org](http://www.muscatinehams.org) or call Tom Brehmer, at (563) 263-3097.

### Sweet Corn Supper to be held in Columbus City

The Columbus City United Methodist Church will be holding a sweet corn supper from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Masonic Lodge in Columbus City. Pork sandwiches, sweet corn, chips, dessert and a drink will be served. A free will offering will be taken. Bring your family and friends for a great evening of food, fun and fellowship.

### Louisa County Tractor Ride planned for Morning Sun

MORNING SUN, Iowa - The 5th annual Louisa County Tractor Ride is planned for Sunday, Aug. 30. There is a 10 mph minimum. The unloading area is at the Morning Sun elevator. Tractors and drivers should meet at 8 a.m. at the Morning Sun Care Center four blocks west of the elevator. The Morning Sun Care Center staff will provide a continental breakfast. Roll out begins at 9 a.m. There will be stops at area care centers along the 44-mile route. Lunch will be provided by Elder Implement and served by the Louisa County Cattleman's Association. For more information, call Lee Harris at 319-868-7872; Dwight Schaper at 319-728-8961 or Dan Harris at 319-850-8188.

### 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 started this week.  
Please drive carefully as you go and return from work.