

## Help make it the "Best School Year Ever"

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

A few months ago a group of area businesses came together for the purpose of determining actions that could be taken to show the school administrators, personnel and employees our strong support for the school. The group contacted the school administrators and asked the simple question: "What can we do to help?"

Although this was a broad question, the group was convinced that the issues the school is facing has nothing to do with the methods the school is using in their educational programs, it has to do with the unique situation in our community. However, with negative press and low ratings, it is easy for teachers and administrators to become discouraged. It became the goal of the group to show everyone involved in the school that we are proud of their accomplishments, proud to have them as a part of our community, and excited to start a new school year with a determined sense of optimism, confidence, and support.

Through many meetings a number of ideas were discussed, and many of these ideas will be tried, but the first event to be held is a back to school bash, or picnic. Tyson has donated hot dogs, Econ-O-Mart has agreed to help on other items, and

**You are Invited to a  
Community Back to  
School Bash**

**Tuesday, August 17, 2010  
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
South of the White House**

**Students, teachers, parents, relatives, community members,  
everyone is welcome to come and enjoy hot dogs, chips, beverages  
and music. This is a great time to meet the students and school personnel,  
and tour the schools. All classrooms will be open so  
students can bring their supplies that night.**

**Come and help us kick-off  
THE BEST SCHOOL YEAR EVER!  
Sponsored by the Wildcats First Group**

the business group (now named Wildcats First Group) will make all arrangements and provide the labor.

So it's set to go. Next Tuesday, August 17th, everyone is invited to come to the school and help welcome, encourage, and support our school

personnel. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be served, music will be enjoyed, and the schools will be open to tour. This event isn't just for parents and students, it is open to everyone in the community.

Plenty of food will be available,

so why not make an evening of it? Enjoy dinner on us, listen to some great entertainment, and help give everyone at our school a much needed pat on the back and join the community in kicking off "The Best School Year Ever."

## \$40,000 Goal met by 11:00 p.m.

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

Despite the difficult economic times, citizens of Louisa County came through again in their generosity by meeting the annual Relay For Life's goal of \$40,000 before the midnight deadline last Saturday.

This year's Relay was one of the most successful held so far, according to organizers. Approximately fifteen teams participated, and 550 luminaries were purchased.

All of the auctions were well received, and as a special addition, Governor Chet Culver stopped by and donated a dinner for two with he and his wife in the Capital Building in Des Moines. Mother Nature even donated to this year's Relay with wonderful weather.

Total donations are still being calculated, and final figures will be published in a later issue of the Gazette. If anyone was unable to donate, but still wishes to do so, donations can be left at Plants and Things in Columbus Junction. Pictured is the survivor's lap. Photo courtesy of Heidi Koss and Alisha Hulett with Amy Tobias Photography.



## City of Oakville Roars Back after Flood

Submitted by Frank Best

Congressman Dave Loebsack and Governor Chet Culver join Mayor Benita Grooms of Oakville for Oakville's Reunion last Saturday. The Congressman and Governor, along with other local officials, helped dedicate a new park in Oakville. A park built as a memorial to all those that have fought so hard to rebuild a community that was subject to so much devastation do to the 2008 floods.

Other's on hand to honor the people of Oakville's heroic efforts were: State Representative Tom Sands, Louisa County Supervisor Paula Buckman, Louisa County Supervisor Chris Ball and Des Moines County Supervisor Jeff Heland.

Pictured dedicating the memorial park, from left to right: Congressman Dave Loebsack, Oakville Mayor Benita Grooms, Louisa County Supervisor Paula Buckman, and Iowa Governor Chet Culver.



Photo by Frank Best

## Briefly -

### Ainsworth Opera House delays Breakfast Buffets to October

Due to other commitments and business, the Ainsworth Opera House will not be having breakfast buffets until October 2, 2010. Thank you to everyone who has been attending and we will be back as good as ever we hope.

### Carey Reunion scheduled

The 79<sup>th</sup> Carey Reunion will be held at Chinkapin Bluffs in Columbus Junction this Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Lunch will be potluck.

### City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a Council meeting today, Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in the New Civic Center/City Hall. They will open bids for the JD lawn mower.

### This week at the Farmers' Market

The Columbus Junction Farmers' Market is held Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 pm through October 8 at the American Legion parking lot, 99 Second St., Columbus Junction. The market features regional vendors selling Iowa-grown produce, plants, baked goods, eggs, snacks, crafts and more. Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards, IFMNP/WIC checks, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition checks and Louisa Bucks are welcome. Eat local and taste the difference!

### Open House at Great Beginnings

Great Beginnings Preschool, a private part-time preschool offering free transportation, as well as tuition grants for four-year-olds, will host an Open House at the Methodist Church on Second Street on Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Republican Fundraiser scheduled

The Louisa County Republicans will hold their annual summer fundraiser on Saturday, August 28. The fete will be held at the Briggs Civic Center, downtown Wapello. A social time will begin at 6 p.m., with a meal to be served at approximately 6:30 p.m. Featured speakers will be candidate for U.S. Congress Marianne Miller-Meeks, and State Representative Tom Sands. Tickets are \$25 per person (\$15 for students), and are available from Louisa County Republican Central Committee members, and at the door.

### Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet on Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the East Room of the Corner Market located at 340 North 2nd Street in Wapello. The meeting will start at 1 p.m. Llewann Bryant from Keck Memorial Library will be our guest speaker. She will tell and show us what is available for us at the Library as our vision deteriorates. She will also tell us about the changes that will take place due to the new addition. Everyone is invited. For more information call Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.

### Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will hold a meeting today, Wednesday, August 11, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., at the Chinkapin Bluffs Recreation Area.

### Community Bank Travel Club news

There is still time to sign up for our trip to New York City, cruise up New England to Nova Scotia, ending in Quebec City, Canada. Dates are September 4<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. There are twenty-two signed up to date, we would love to have you join us. Also, our Branson trip is November 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>. Great shows, food and fun. The price for a double is \$669.00 per person. Please call Carol Ann at Community Bank if you are interested in either trip.

### Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m., at John's Shamrock BBQ in Ainsworth. This is date night. Please call 319-728-2081 so we know how many are going by August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please note the time change.

## Community Health Center receives \$50,000 Grant for new dental equipment

The Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation has awarded \$50,000 to the Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa, Inc. (CHC/SEIA) Louisa County Clinic in Columbus City, Iowa. The funding will provide new equipment for the Louisa County facility's expanded dental clinic.

"Delta Dental is pleased to support CHC/SEIA in its mission to treat the oral health needs of underserved patients," said Donn Hutchins, president of the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation. "The expanded dental clinic will have a positive long-term impact by improving access to care and serving as a dental home for hundreds of Iowans."

The Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa, Inc. (CHC/SEIA) Louisa County Clinic recently opened its doors to a new 8,000+ square foot healthcare facility. The newly constructed facility will provide medical, dental and behavioral health services for patients in the Louisa County area. CHC/SEIA is one of 14 CHC organizations in Iowa and 1,200 nationwide.

Delta Dental of Iowa is the largest and most experienced provider of dental benefits in the state. As a not-for-profit, Delta Dental of Iowa invests in oral health projects through the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation that focus on access to care, prevention, education and research. The Iowa Company is a member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, a national organization of not-for-profit Delta Dental plans. The national association is the largest dental benefits carrier in the nation providing coverage to 54 million people in more than 93,600 employer groups.

See Page 9 for more photos of weekend community events