

Area teens honored for rescue actions

Helen Thompson is here today, because some fast acting teenagers, that were in the right place at the right time, making the right choices, rushed to Mrs. Thompson's the day the tornado ripped through Grandview, Fruitland and Muscatine. "I proudly nominated this fine group of individuals as recipients of the Governor's Lifesaving Award" stated Rep. Sands, "for their actions in rescuing Helen Thompson that day."

The Governor's Lifesaving Award was presented August 8, 2008 at the Iowa State Fair. The pictured recipients were nominated by Representative Tom Sands for their quick thinking and fast actions in rescuing Helen Thompson following the June 1, 2007 Tornado. Joining the award recipients were State Fair Board Director Bob Schlutz, Helen Thompson and Rep. Tom Sands

Pictured in the front row: Wes Gatlin, Ben Gardner, Caleb Bashore, Travis Hargrave

Back row: (standing; Keith Stigers, Jordyn Schaper, Bob Schlutz, (seated: Corey Clevenger, Dillon Cooney, Trevor Schaper, Dakota Hoben) standing Tom Sands, Helen Thompson, Max Bloomquist



2008/08/08 10:50 am

Habitat for Humanity receives \$5,000 grant from Alliant Energy

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – August 29, 2008 – The devastating flooding that inundated much of Iowa in June severely impacted numerous homes in Louisa County. Typically, Habitat for Humanity works with families wishing to become a Habitat partner family. However, due to the widespread need for housing assistance in Louisa County, Habitat for Humanity will modify their approach and provide help for families to rebuild or repair their existing homes.

In Louisa County, 182 homes were destroyed and 128 homes sustained major damage. For many families, the equity in their homes was their main asset. Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will bring in qualified volunteers and professional contractors to assist qualified families with the repair and rebuild work, most of them on a volunteer basis.

Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation, Habitat for Humanity will use the funds to purchase materials and contract professional help to get people back into their homes. The dollars are coming from the Foundation's Rebuilding Our Communities Grant Program. The program was established to provide unrestricted grants to help non-profit groups throughout Alliant Energy's utility service territory with recovery from this summer's flooding.

"We are committed to helping our communities rebuild," said Tom Aller, President-Interstate Power and Light Company, an Alliant Energy

company. "We hope these grants will help provide some immediate relief that organizations need to continue providing services to their clients."

The Alliant Energy Foundation has allocated \$1 million for the Rebuilding Our Communities Grant Program. Non-profit groups can apply through October 1st for \$5,000, \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$20,000 unrestricted flood recovery grants.

Non-profit groups can request funds by submitting a brief application form explaining their need and the population they serve that was affected by the flooding. A determination of grant eligibility will be made within 14 days of submission.

To be eligible, an organization must be a registered non-profit organization as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code. Organizations are encouraged to review eligibility guidelines before applying. Government entities (i.e. schools and public libraries) are not eligible for this program.

Over the past ten years, the Alliant Energy Foundation has contributed more than \$26 million across the Alliant Energy utility service territory to projects and organizations through a variety of programs and worthwhile initiatives. To learn more about the Foundation and its Rebuilding Our Communities Grant Program, please visit www.alliantenergy.com/foundation; or request an application from the Foundation office by calling (319) 786-4852.

Businesses begin to return



Life is beginning to return to a sense of normalcy in town as it is anticipated that Dr. Gary Englert will return to his former office at C.J. Plaza next Monday, and Lowe Insurance returned to their home location on Tuesday. Word has not been received from Community Action who is housed in one of the offices, but hopefully they will be also returning soon.

Bill Ohde named Ducks Unlimited Professional of the Year

WAPELLO, Iowa – Ducks Unlimited has named Bill Ohde its 2008 Iowa DU Professional of the Year for his outstanding dedication and commitment to waterfowl and wetlands conservation. Ohde serves as a wildlife management biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources at the Odessa Wildlife Management Unit in southeast Iowa.

"DU is pleased to recognize Bill as this year's recipient, and we commend him for the tremendous job he does to effectively manage our state wildlife areas in southeast Iowa for waterfowl and other wildlife," said Eric Lindstrom, DU's regional biologist for Iowa.

Ohde, a native of Iowa, received an M.S. degree in Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University. He began working with the Iowa DNR in 1980. Today, Ohde and his staff manage approximately 17,000 acres of state wildlife areas across five counties and provide technical assistance to private landowners and other agency partners. Ohde's other duties include coordinating various inter-agency projects and committees, conducting wildlife surveys and overseeing waterfowl banding and wildlife disease surveillance operations for the Odessa Unit.

"I'm truly honored to receive this award. I attribute much of my success to the hard work and dedication of my staff and the strong support from our department's administrators," Ohde said as he accepted the award at a recent Iowa Natural Resources Commission meeting. "I have

always been impressed with the work Ducks Unlimited does, including their work on the breeding grounds in Canada."

Water level management at Lake Odessa has become a controversial issue over the past several years with local residents. DU's director of conservation programs for Minnesota and Iowa, Ryan Heiniger, says DU supports Ohde and DNR's efforts to actively manage water levels in the lake to optimize habitat conditions.

"We recognize the immense challenges Bill and his staff face, and the recent flood events have made management issues increasingly difficult," Heiniger said.

Much of Iowa's landscape was plagued by heavy rains and frequent flooding this year as cities, highways, cropland and wildlife management areas, including Lake Odessa, endured significant flood damage. "As Iowans continue the clean-up and rebuilding effort, it reminds us how important wetland and floodplain habitat can be to help reduce the severity and economic impact of flooding," Lindstrom said.

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest and most effective wetland and waterfowl conservation organization with more than 12 million acres conserved. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands "nature's most productive ecosystem" and continues to lose more than 80,000 wetland acres each year.

Briefly -

Ice Cream Social for Frank Best

WAPELLO, Iowa - Voters are invited to join Frank Best, candidate for State Representative of the House District 87, while enjoying homemade ice cream. The ice cream social will be held from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Louisa County Democratic Headquarters, 323 N. Second St., Wapello. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$15. Checks should be payable to Best for State House. Reservations may be made with Jeremy Jansen at jjansen@iowademocrats.org or by calling 920-91-5875. The Columbus City Democrat is facing incumbent Tom Sands, R-Columbus Junction, in the November General Election.

CCHS Class of 1988 plans reunion

The Class of 1988 is planning their 20-year reunion for Columbus Day, October 11, 2008. We would like to contact as many classmates as possible. Anyone with knowledge of regular and/or e-mail addresses please contact Shari (Cecil) Vonnahme at 728-2403 or swolfe11@hotmail.com or Sarah (Prior) Davis at 319-254-1111 or tsdavis@farmtel.net.

Grandview/Letts Lions Club to hold anniversary dinner

On Saturday, September 13, 2008, the Grandview/Letts Lions Club will be celebrating their 25th anniversary with a dinner at the Grandview Bible Church (206 W. Monroe), at 6:30 p.m. All Lions from the Iowa District 9SE have been invited, along with District cabinet members and special friends of the club. The speaker will be Past International Director Dave Stoufer. The cost is \$10.00 per person and you can send your reservations (by September 6, 2008) to: Royce Bonnichsen, 15427 145th St., Columbus Junction, IA 52738 or call him at 319-729-2321. Email Sharon Turner at skturner-52754@yahoo.com. Come help the Grandview/Letts Lions recognize this milestone.

Half Hour Club to meet

Half Hour Club will meet September 9th at 12:30 pm for a salad luncheon at Columbus City United Methodist Church with officers in charge. Program Books: Kay Perkins-Good Samaritan Shoe Box project. Time to pay dues also.

Hanft Reunion planned

The descendants of John and Helena Smith Hanft will hold their annual reunion on Sunday, September 7th at the Columbus Junction Chautauqua Park.

County Mental Health Steering Committee to meet

The Louisa County Steering Committee for mental health services will meet on Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the local mental health center, Life Solutions Behavioral Health ~ ResCare, Inc., 512 Isett Ave. in Wapello. The meeting is open to the public, and is very informal. Participants can speak as little or as much as they are comfortable doing; or just come to listen and learn what is going on with mental health services in our county. The meeting on September 23, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. is a great opportunity to tour the local mental health center and recovery center, and also to hear reports by two individuals who recently attended the Iowa Empowerment Conference. Please join us on September 23!

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet on Tuesday, September 9, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., at the River Forks Access in Fredonia.

Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet on Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room at the Musser Public Library, 304 Iowa Avenue in Muscatine. All amateur radio operators and those interested in learning more about amateur radio are invited to attend. For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

Breakfast Buffet in Ainsworth

It is time for another breakfast buffet at the Ainsworth Opera House at 284 Railroad St. We will be there on September 6th from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. The cost is \$6 a person, children 12 and under are free. Of course, we will have biscuits and gravy, sausage, mush, breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, rolls, scrambled eggs, hash browns, and drink. This is a fundraiser for the Opera House, so we hope to see you there.

Soil Commissioners terms to expire

Four of the five Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner positions will be on the November ballot. Current terms are expiring for Mary Boysen, Michelle Rees, Sam Willson and a 2-year term for Chris Ball.

Methodist Women Quilt Show

Columbus Junction United Methodist Women will host a quilt show at the church on Saturday, September 20, 2008 from 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Admission is free will at the door. UMW will also be serving lunch. If you have quilts you would be willing to share for the show, please contact Marcia Pavey at 728-7261, Laura Mincer at 728-2171 or Marie Greene at 728-2269.

Railroad Club to hold show

The Washington Model Railroad Club will hold its annual train show and swap meet on Sunday, October 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall (606 W 3rd St., Washington, IA 52353). All scales will be represented. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$1 for children 6-12, early arrivals - \$5. Swap tables to rent: \$18 each. There will be a food stand in the building. For more information, contact Mike Worley at 319-653-3782.

American Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday evening, September 9th at 7:00 p.m. Vivian Loyd will be hostess.

Thunder in the Sand



Motorcycles were the talk of the town last weekend as another successful "Thunder in the Sand" event brought thousands of visitors to Columbus Junction. Pictured above is the annual Lions Club pancake breakfast which was moved to the American Legion this year. Hopefully it can be returned to a recovered Senior Center by next year. Thunder in the Sand is sponsored by the Circle of Pride Motorcycle Club, and proceeds from this event and the spring "Hog Wild Rodeo" are donated to area organizations.