

City Council reviews flood recovery work

By Jim Rudisill

Although the outlook for several Columbus Junction businesses impacted by flooding this year remains unclear, city officials are hopeful the city's main grocery store will be back in operation in a few weeks. Mayor pro-tem Mark Huston told the city council during its September 10 regular meeting that he had heard reports the Econ-O-Mart Grocery was hoping to reopen by the first of the month.

"It will be nice to have a grocery store back," council member C.P. Pierce said after hearing the news.

Most of the city council's past several meetings have focused on flood recovery efforts and Huston included the news about the grocery store in the most recent update. Officials also said other businesses appeared to be moving forward with repairs or planning efforts.

The renovation and expansion of the Casey's convenience store was progressing and might also be ready by October 1, according to the officials. The officials also said they had heard reports that repairs on the doctors' office would not be far behind the grocery store.

Huston also said there apparently had been an inspection of the Columbus Motel, which suggested progress might be made on starting repair work there. Cleanup work at the bowling alley also apparently had started, although there were no details on either of those repair efforts.

Huston however said the news was not as encouraging for some re-



Construction work at Casey's General Store in Columbus Junction

covery efforts.

He said he had no information on recovery operations for the Subway restaurant. He also said he was not expecting any recovery assistance for non-profit groups that had been impacted by the flooding. He said the senior citizens center and the fairgrounds could be two local non-profits that might miss out.

"To be honest, the assistance for the fairgrounds and the senior citizens

is the surest deal," he reported.

The city however continues to receive assistance for flood damage.

Officials said three blowers, which help aerate the city's sewage treatment lagoon, will likely be replaced because of earlier flood damage that has already knocked out one blower.

In final action, eight residential properties that were damaged during the flood have also been identified by

the city as possible buy-out sites. The properties will be added to the county's list because there are not enough for the city to conduct its own program. Local officials said all eight might not qualify for the buy-out program once they are inspected.

The buy-out program is being coordinated through the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission.

Shirley Pfeifer to receive 2008 Retired Outstanding Art Educator Award

By Kathy Almelen (CCHS Art Teacher)

Shirley Pfeifer, retired Art teacher from Columbus Community Schools, will be receiving the 2008 Outstanding Art Educator Award from the retired division. She will be receiving this award at the Art Educator of Iowa Convention in Dubuque on October 3, 4, and 5th. This is the letter I wrote in support of her:

I wish to nominate Shirley A. Pfeifer as IOWA'S Outstanding Retired Art Educator of the year 2008. She has impacted students and peer teachers with a quiet and strong knowledge of art and the art of teaching.

Completing 30 years of teaching she retired from the Columbus Elementary art classroom. For 15 years she was the total department in three attendance centers. Shirley's job needs time expansion. In 1972 a high school / middle school teacher was added to complete the visual arts department. She inspired CEO's, doctors, lawyers, artists, architects

and educators in her classroom program.

Prior to retiring from the classroom, she served on the Art Educators of Iowa Board as an area representative. Ms. Pfeifer served our state organization, Art Educators of Iowa, as the Youth Art Month Chairman. She held this job for 4 years. Shirley was active in the local Columbus Education Association and served on many committees with many leadership roles. She was a faculty member of the Summer Arts Experience at Columbus. She was the go-to person for any idea; she was always so busy, but everyone knew she would get the job done and done well.

Mrs. Pfeifer participated in education of two communities, her home community of Washington and her teaching community of Columbus Junction. After retirement in 1995 Shirley served as a substitute when needed in the art room. She knew the students, who their moms and dads were, and, of course, the extended family of most of her students. Working to organize an after-school pro-

gram for the United Methodist Church, she had a Wednesday evening activity for the "Kids Club." She scheduled her travels to be home on Wednesday for this educational commitment.

Shirley is currently President of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society. This is one of many organizations in which she has accepted leadership responsibilities. She has served as officer and is past president of the Washington Historical Society and is a very active preservationist. Shirley is a master gardener, and is the 4-H Washington county fair garden department chairperson. She has served as an organizer of the retired teachers of Columbus Community. She has been an active leader in many diverse organizations of both of her communities.

Ms. Pfeifer has participated in and attended Art Educators of Iowa state conventions and has attended many National Association of Art Educators conventions to learn and visit art and artists in many areas of the country. She has supported her



educational community by attending workshops, participating in bus tours, and setting her traveling goals to include trips to European museums and galleries throughout the United States. I have asked her to help me in many emergencies. She helped reduce draft in my garage classroom by designing and creating fan and vent covers. She has wrapped the traveling art show Columbus Community entries for many years. She will help make a trip to get supplies; she is always my "go-to person" if I have to contact someone for help during school hours. Shirley is an avid reader and keeps my "current events of art" board full of cutting edge information.

Her education and inquiry has not stopped with retirement; she continues to take workshops and makes as many baskets as she can fit into her active calendar. Currently, she has accepted a call to become a mentor for a new teacher in a neighboring community. The call went out to people who could help mentor, and without hesitation, she accepted the challenge to impact the future of our profession.

I am proud to bring Shirley A Pfeifer's name forward and recommend her as recipient of the 2008 Iowa Teacher of the Year in the Retired Category of awards. This award is long overdue. Thank you so much, Shirley.

Sincerely,
/s/ Kathleen Almelen, Secondary/Middle School art instructor, Columbus Community Schools.

Briefly -

Benefit planned for Don Turner

A benefit for Don Turner and Family will be held on Sunday, September 28th at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds in Conesville, Iowa. The benefit will begin at 2:00 p.m. A silent auction, 50/50 drawing, and food with a free will offering. Don is suffering from Chronic Necrotizing Pancreatitis. To donate or for more information please call Mary Sue Brenneman at 319-530-2997, Mindy Meeker at 563-260-4367 or Stacy Meyers at 319-430-1847.

C.C.I.C. to meet

C.C.I.C. will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Columbus City Hall on Tuesday, September 23rd. The hostess will be Judy Swailes.

C.J. Lions to hold blood drive

The Columbus Junction Lions Club will hold a blood drive on September 24th, at the Legion Hall, from 1-6 p.m. To donate, call Marie Greene at 728-2269. Please bring your I.D. and eat before donating. The power of one donation can help three. You do the math.

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.

CCHS Class of 1998 plans reunion

The Columbus Junction Class of 1998 is planning their 10-year reunion for Saturday, September 27th at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds at 6 p.m. We would like all classmates to attend. Please call Stacy Storm at 563-260-2877 if you have any questions.

Congregate Meals seeks volunteers

The congregare meal site is looking for volunteers to help with the delivery of our meals on wheels. Do you have a spare 30 minutes? That's all it takes. Looking for organizations, individuals and any groups that would like to give us a helping hand. Please call Barbara at 319-728-2412, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:30-1:30. We are also looking for a donation of a couple card tables. If you have one that you are no longer using, please think about donating it to the meal site.

Candidate Forum scheduled

Louisa County will hold a Candidate Forum on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, at the Wapello Ambulance Barn at 7:00 p.m. Come meet the candidates running for Supervisor, and local House and Senate seats. You will have an opportunity to ask them questions and hear their views. All County Residents invited. The Forum is sponsored by the Louisa County Farm Bureau.

Habitat to hold yard sale

The Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will be holding a yard sale at the former Stella's Smart Shop on the corner of Second Street in Wapello, on Friday, September 19th, from 10:00-4:00; and on Saturday, September 20th, from 8:00-2:00. There will be many nice items, and also baked goods.

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!

Masonic Birthday Party scheduled

The Columbus City Lodge 107 will hold its 150th birthday supper on Monday, September 29th. All Lodge members are invited to a ham and bean supper. Social hour will start at 6 p.m., and dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. The Grand Lodge of Iowa will be conducting a 3rd Degree of Masonry at 7:15 p.m. Let's welcome the Grand Lodge with a great turnout.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, September 18th at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at the Good Earth Restaurant on Hwy 61. Meet at Janet's to car pool at 11:00 a.m.

Storytime at the Library

At the Library - Story time on Tuesday, September 30 after school. Kids from kindergarten through 3rd grade. Stories and crafts for a fall festival. Stop in the Library or call 728-7972 to register.

C.J. United Methodist Women to hold 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.

Williams Family reunion planned

The descendants of Richard and Jane Williams will gather for the 72nd Annual Williams reunion, Sunday, September 21, 2008 at the Chautauqua Park, Columbus Junction.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Civic Center.

Meeting scheduled to determine future of Oakville

Oakville will host a Community Meeting on Tuesday, September 23 from 5-7:30 pm in the Community Building. The meeting is open to all residents or former residents of Oakville and Eliot township who were affected by the June floods.

The meeting will give residents a chance to consider the future of Oakville.

For more information about the meeting, call the Oakville Long Term Community Recovery (LTCR) Office at 319-766-2160 or call John Boyle

at 202-431-7980.

LTCR office is located in TriOak Foods in Oakville. Oakville and Eliot township residents are welcome to stop by at anytime. Office is open 10a -6p, Monday through Friday.

Flood of 2008 continues to pound community

It appears that the flood of 2008 is going to continue pummeling the Columbus Community well into the fall. Over seven inches of rain was reported in the area last weekend, and with the already saturated soil, there was no where for the moisture to go but up.

Pictured at right is the fairgrounds on Monday morning as water again seeped onto the grounds causing another round of flooding. Also, numerous creeks reported flooding after the weekend rains, and water could be seen standing in ditches in town and rural areas.

2008 will long be remembered as the year of water by area residents.

