

Dedicated to the welfare of others

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Twenty-nine years of service to the Columbus community will soon be coming to an end for a local individual. On September 30th, Marcy Gerst-Meeker will be retiring as a Family Development Specialist with the Community Action Program.

Marcy began her career when the office was located in the basement of the Post Office. "Our only source of heat was electric heaters," recalled Marcy, "and I remember that we had a toilet, but no sink. We had to use hand-wipes to wash our hands." At that time the office handled government commodities, and they were shipped from Ottumwa to Mt. Pleasant. Marcy had to drive to Mt. Pleasant to pick up the commodities and unload them down the Post Office stairs. "Along with the commodities, we had a small food pantry in the Post Office," Marcy said, "Today our food pantry is much larger." The office also had a clothing center, but now the office gives clothing vouchers for use at Goodwill stores.

In 1986 the office moved to north Main Street, and in 1993 they moved to their present location at C.J. Plaza. Their present location was one of the areas seriously hurt by the flood of 2008. "With the help of wonderful volunteers, we were able to move out in one day," said Marcy, "Sandbags would work for a while filling sandbags, and when a truck would back up to our office, they would come over and start loading things. We relocated to the Columbus City Market, and were back in business within a few days." The office was able to return in September of 2008. In looking back on her many



Marcy Gerst-Meeker prepares to say good-bye to her clients and co-workers at CAP

years of service, Marcy has seen many changes. "In the beginning all of the applications were filled out by hand," she said, "but today we do it all on a computer." One thing that concerns Marcy is the increased demand for the services of her office. "I see more families living in one home now," said Marcy, "and our clients are moving up the economic scale. More working class families are now needing help, and the upward trend is continuing."

Services that the office offers include the food pantry, clothing vouchers, energy assistance and winteriza-

tion applications, appointment referrals and assistance, WIC (women and children) applications, the Head Start program (located in Wapello), and Family Development Self Sufficiency Programs. Marcy also serves on the Southeast Iowa Legal Aid advisory board, the Homeless Board of southeast Iowa, and for nine months of the year travels to CAP Committee advisory meetings.

"I've enjoyed working with my clients, colleagues, and the Community Action Program," said Marcy, "but it's time to step down." Marcy and her husband, Orville, plan to

spend time with their family; especially their grandchildren, Megan and Logan Fleenor; and do some traveling. "Maybe now we can do some of the things we've wanted to do for years," said Marcy.

The community is going to miss you, Marcy, and your dedication to the welfare of others will be hard to replace. A reception for Marcy is planned for Thursday, September 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Stop by 205 E. Access Road on the 30th and say good-bye to an individual who has dedicated her career to the welfare of others.

Floyd Pine inducted posthumously into Iowa Transportation Museum



The late Floyd Pine

(Submitted by Gordon Pine)

Late Floyd Pine inducted into Iowa Transportation Museum, Grinnell, Iowa.

The late Floyd J. Pine, a former resident, business owner and early aviator, was inducted into the new Transportation Museum as a "Hero by Example" on September 17, 2010 in Grinnell, Iowa. The museum honors "Heroes of Valor," "Heroes by Example" and "Heroes of Industry and Technology."

From 1923 to 1955 Floyd was owner and manager of Pine Brothers Automobile dealership. From 1931 to 1951 he was also an aviator and owner of various aircraft. In 1932 Floyd and brother, Ernest Pine, also an aviator, started Pine Brothers Aviation Company. Floyd was instrumental in obtaining local and state approval, and Federal Government funding to build a local airfield and hangar north of Columbus Junction.

In 1936 Floyd was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives, serving until 1942. He was committee chairman of aeronautics in 1937, chairman of motor vehicles in 1939, and chairman of National Defense in 1941.

Floyd was active in community affairs, serving on the Columbus Town Council and as Mayor. In 1944 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Columbus Junction State Bank, and served many years.

Floyd died at 64 years of age on August 27, 1956 in Phoenix, Arizona. He was survived by his now late wife, Ruth Pine, and sons, Gordon and David Pine.

Those attending the ceremony were son, Gordon and Pauline Pine, Louisville, Kentucky; granddaughter, Kimberly and Houston Dougherty and son, Fenn of Grinnell, Iowa. Kimberly is the daughter of David and Barbara Pine of Gig Harbor, Washington.

Great time at Morning Sun Care Center CNA Olympics

Pictured is Mark Wagner, Human Resources Director, times the Blind-folded Feeding event at Morning Sun Care Center's CNA Olympics that were held Sunday, Sept. 12. Linsey Pytel is being fed by Emily Toller (pictured here). "The event was a lot of fun, but it also helps you see things through the eyes of the residents," says Linsey. "It's different being on the receiving end of the spoon!" Staff and residents both enjoyed the beautiful fall day and the other events, which included the Bedpan Toss, Wheelchair Drag Races, and One-handed Bed making. Submitted photo.



Briefly -

FCCLA to hold blood drive

The Columbus FCCLA will be hosting a blood drive today, Wednesday, September 22, 2010 from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please give and save lives. If you would like to sign up call Lois Mincks at CCHS 319-728-2231 ext. 3332.

CCIC to meet

CCIC will be held at the Columbus City City Hall on September 28th at 6:00 p.m. A cookout / potluck will be held with hotdogs; table service and drinks provided.

City Council meets tonight

Columbus Junction City Council will meet on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. location New Civic Center / City Hall.

CCHS Class of 1970 plans reunion

Come to Columbus Day, October 9th to celebrate our class reunion. Meet by the water tower at 1:30 p.m. to watch the parade. Stop by Steve and Bev Nielsen's home, 830 Colonial Ave., at 5:00 p.m. for a casual gathering. Contact classmates to let them know everyone is invited.

CCHS Class of 1995 plans reunion

The Class of 1995 will hold their 15-year class reunion on Saturday, September 25th. Join us for dinner at 92 Roadhouse at 6 p.m. please RSVP if you plan on attending. For RSVP or more information, check Facebook for Heather Jay Morrison or Anna Sajak Hepker, or call Anna Sajak Hepker at 319-728-7843.

Columbus Day tractor show

The Columbus Day Tractor Show will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2010, on the North End of Main Street in Columbus Junction. Please bring your tractor, or machinery to show, so they are in place by 9:00 a.m. At 12:30 we will take them up to the school to line them up for the parade. Please do not bring candy to throw from the tractors, as we do not want anyone hurt. Please register to Lee and Carol Foster, 20446 Highway 92, Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738, or to OUR SHOP, 106 Main Street, Suite 100, Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738-1028.

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa Early Childhood Area Board (formerly Empowerment Board) will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, on Wednesday, September 29, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

FCCLA to sell yard decorations

The Columbus FCCLA is selling corn-shock yard decorations again this year for \$10 each. They are not self supporting, so need to be tied to a pole. Place your order by Thursday, September 23rd by calling Lois Mincks at CCHS 319-728-2231 ext. 3332 or email at lois.mincks@columbusd.org. They will be made and delivered Saturday, September 25, 2010.

Library sponsors puppet show

Please mark your calendar - Sunday October 3rd at 2 p.m. at the Columbus Community School Auditorium. The Library is hosting the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre's production of *The Flea*. This is a melding of 2 Spanish-American folktales. The production will feature our very own students and live music provided by Ron Hillis. Admission: free! Please call the Library for details 319-728-7972 or email cathy.crawford@columbusjct.lib.ia.us.

Military Women brunch

A Heart to Heart Brunch will be sponsored by Stonecroft Ministries honoring military wives and active duty women. The event will take place on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 from 9:30 - 11:30 A.M. at the Family Life Center, 4601 Utica Ridge Road, Davenport, Iowa. The dress code will be *casual attire*. There will be Giveaways and Special Gifts! Reservations are required for the brunch and free childcare. The deadline for both is: Friday, October 1, 2010. For more information, call Pam at 563-263-8443 or email: heid@machlink.com.

Physical Therapy wellness seminar

Want to lose weight, feel great and achieve optimal health? Then join us on Thursday, September 30, 2010 a 6:00 p.m. for a one-hour motivational seminar at Rendezvous Banquet Hall, 3127 Lucas St. Muscatine, IA to learn simple steps to lose weight and get fit inside a 28-Day Health Challenge! The event is hosted by Muscatine and Columbus Junction Physical Therapy. Call 563-288-6787 for more details. Register at www.ehealth930.eventbrite.com. There is no charge for admission. The special guest speaker is David Bush, Peak Performance Health Coach and former Iowa Barnstormer.

Flu shots at Senior Center

Get a head start on the flu season by getting your flu shots Thursday, Sept. 30, 2010, starting at 9 a.m. at the Columbus Community Senior Center. Getting your flu shot early is the smart thing to do. See you Sept. 30, 2010.

"Jeep for Veterans"

On Columbus Day, October 9th, the American Legion Auxiliary #100 will sponsor "Jeep for Veterans" in the Econ-O-Mart parking lot from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Please help us fill the Jeep with items such as batteries, playing cards, puzzle books, microwave popcorn, powdered drinks, packaged cheese and crackers, packaged cookies, personal items, new briefs and t-shirts, plus many other items. These items will be sent to our veterans overseas. Let's show them we care and express our Thanks for preserving our freedoms.

Train Show in Washington

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

FFA Alumni to meet

The Columbus FFA Alumni will have a meeting on Wednesday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Ag Room at CCHS. ALL parents are invited to attend. Call Brenda Wilson with questions: 319-212-0529.