

Community Club sets Columbus Day plans

Free ham sandwiches to return

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Columbus Day plans topped the Community Club's meeting last Thursday. It was decided that all citizens of Columbus Junction will be named as distinguished citizens this year for their volunteer efforts during this past summer's flood. Also to be honored will be the National Guard who helped so much during the crisis.

A preliminary schedule of events was approved during the meeting. The schedule includes a Lions Club Breakfast; a community Church Service; a petting zoo; a clown appearing on Main Street during the day; a slide show of flood pictures; vendors on Main Street; a car show; a tractor show; big wheel races; downtown performances by the High School Band and Beat for Peace; a special program to recognize all who helped during the flood; and the annual Columbus Day Parade in the afternoon. Locations and times of these events will be announced at a later date.

As a special event this year, the free ham sandwiches with drinks will return. They will be served immediately after the parade on Main Street adjacent to the Columbus Junction State Bank. A large quantity of ham has been donated by Tyson Foods, so there will be plenty for everyone. After the sandwiches are served movies will be shown in a location to be determined and a professional wrestling exhibition will also be held. A dance will be held at the American Legion in the evening.

This year the raffle will be a 50/50 drawing. With the economic impact that the flood has made on area businesses, the Club felt that it would be easier to offer cash prizes for the drawing rather than asking for merchandise from local businesses. Tickets for the raffle will be sold throughout the day, with proceeds helping in flood recovery efforts.

A big day is planned to celebrate our community's recovery and victory over the flood, so be sure to make plans to attend Columbus Day 2008 on October 11th in downtown Columbus Junction. And get your organization, family, or friends together and make a float for the parade, this is a celebration recognizing the will power and tenacity of the Columbus Community, and we would like to make this year's parade one of the biggest yet.

Homecoming Royalty crowned



2008 Columbus Homecoming Royalty were crowned last Saturday. Pictured above are King, Erick Gaytan and Queen, Olivia Romero

Forbes Family brings home Silver Medal

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

27 year old, Sarah Forbes of Conesville proudly wears her new shiny silver medal around her neck. "Dad and I won this," she proudly says as she raises the medal to show her family and friends before adding it to her collection of ribbons and medals from previous events.

Sarah and her dad, Bernard Forbes participated in the Special Olympics Unified Golf Tournament on Wednesday, September 17 at the Muscatine Municipal Golf Course.

Muscatine County Special Olympics is a program of the Muscatine Community Y. Special Olympics director, Ron Miller stated, "approximately 144 Special Olympians and community leaders attended the tournament which is now in its 12th year." "Sarah loves participating in Special Olympic events and as her dad I feel really honored and proud to take part in every event that I can with her, she loves golfing and bowling and those are two things I like as well," smiles her dad, Bernard.

Special Olympians are paired with family or volunteer golfers from the community. The golfers are then separated into teams of three partners each. Each set of partners take home a first place gold medal, second place silver medal and third place bronze medal. The tournament is sponsored by the Muscatine Community Y and Principal Financial Group of Des Moines. There is no fee for the tournament and the Muscatine Municipal



Golf Course does not charge a usage fee for this annual event.

"You can be proud of Sarah. She and her father have been part of our Special Olympics here in Muscatine for several years. Although Bernie won't be able to bowl this year he and Sarah and her brother, Josh have also bowled together on a Unified bowling team in the past. They are a great family," states Miller.

This year Sarah will team up with two bowling friends, Barb Gardner and Dale Turner and Special Olympic Gold Medalist Corey Leonhard and participate in the Special Olympic Bowling in Davenport, Iowa and if they qualify they will go on to bowl at Special Olympics State Bowling in Des Moines.

Miller goes on to say, "We have several family members who golf together on our annual Unified Golf Tournament here in Muscatine at the Muscatine Municipal Golf Course. We host this tournament every year in September and have become the

largest Unified Tournament in Iowa. This year we had registered 72 Special Olympic athletes and they were each paired up with a partner and golfed 9 holes. We have them alternate shots. Most of the golfers are from Muscatine although we did have some from Davenport, Dubuque and Fairfield. This is a popular event that draws partners from all different walks of life and most of our golfers return every year as they have so much fun. Everyone's a winner in our Special Olympic tournaments!"

Muscatine County Special Olympics offers opportunities in the following sports: Alpine Skiing, Aquatics, Basketball, Bocce, Bowling, Cheerleading, Cross-Country Skiing, Equestrian, Golf, Power-lifting, Soccer, Softball, and Track & Field.

For more information feel free to call Ron Miller at the Muscatine YMCA at 563-263-9996 or check out their website at: <http://www.muscatine.org>.

Grandview/Letts Lions Club celebrates 25th Birthday

By Carmen Lawrence
Gazette Staff

On Saturday, September 13, 2008, the Grandview/Letts Lions Club held a celebration at the Grandview Bible Church commemorating the 25th anniversary of the club's charter. Several Lions members from the Grandview/Letts club, members from neighboring clubs, and many high ranking state Lions all came to help the group mark the momentous occasion of 25 years of bringing to life the Lions motto: "We Serve."

On June 30, 1983, 36 individuals chartered the first gathering of the Grandview/Letts Lions Club. The occasion was sponsored by the Columbus Junction Lions Club, with Lion Kris Johnston acting as the group's Guiding Lion. Out of the original 36 charter members of Grandview/Letts, 13 are deceased and 12 are still active members. The club currently has 33 active members - but they are always looking for new ones. The club's current year offic-

ers are: President, Sharon Turner; 1st Vice President, Scott Gibbs; 2nd Vice President, Don Foor; 3rd Vice President, Earl McGill, Jr.; Secretary, Richard Turner; Treasurer, Royce Bonnicksen; Tail Twister, Jack Carter; and Lion Tamer, Jack Mohnsen.

Starting off the festivities, the 2008-09 Grandview/Letts Lions President, Sharon Turner, welcomed all that were in attendance to the anniversary celebration including dignitaries in attendance. They included: Council Chair Roger Bublitz from Waukon, Iowa; District Governor Bob (Mary) Brown from Oakville, Iowa; Vice District Governor Randy Burton from Blakesburg, Iowa; Past Council Chair (PCC) Bill (Sharon) Maring from Clear Lake, Iowa; Past District Governor (PDG) Gene (Judy) Braddock of Osceola, Iowa; Past District Governor Wayne (Juanita) Ehret of Sac City, Iowa; Past District Governor Bob Stevens of Winfield, Iowa; Past District Governor Junior Williams of New London,

Iowa; Past District Governor Rachel Nicola of Washington, Iowa; Cabinet Secretary Renee Quinn of Winfield, Iowa; and Past International Director (PID) Dave Stoufer of Washington, Iowa.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then led by Grandview/Letts Lion (and 1st Vice President) Scott Gibbs. The club's 3rd Vice President Earl McGill led the invocation and then the group was treated to a buffet style meal catered by Jeff's Market.

After supper concluded, the club treasurer, Royce Bonnicksen gave a brief history of the group. He spoke about the beginning of the group and the involvement of the Columbus Junction Lions Club (specifically Kris Johnston), in getting the club's charter under way. He also spoke about the group's fundraising efforts, the service projects they have been involved with, and then, Royce showed his own personal collection of Lions pins that he has gathered over the last 25 years.

After the history, the club's secre-

tary, Richard Turner, introduced the keynote speaker for the evening, Past International Director Dave Stoufer. PID Stoufer spoke to the group assembled about the importance of leaving your house if you're a Lion. "You have to get out of the house if you want to serve others," he stated.

Stoufer also discussed how Lions can make wonderful impressions on youngsters that will never be forgotten. He then finished by asking every Lion in attendance to renew their vows that they took when they first joined the organization.

After the keynote address, Lion Ed Stuhr introduced all of the Past Presidents for the Grandview/Letts Lions club. Following the past presidents, a couple special dignitaries at the event presented the charter members in attendance with certificates and many thanks. Current District Governor Bob Brown thanked the group for their many years of dedication and service to the community, state, country and internationally, and said he

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.

City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold its regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, September 24, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Lions Club Blood Drive today

The Columbus Junction Lions Club will hold a blood drive today, Wednesday, 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 swolfel1@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.

Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring COMMUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA on Wednesday, October 1 at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Senior Center Fundraiser planned

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 25, 2008, to attend a great Fund Raiser for the Columbus Community Senior Center. Steve Tomfield and the members of the Circle of Pride Motorcycle Club are sponsoring a fun afternoon and evening for the family at the Circle of Pride Rodeo grounds. There will be fun activities for the children in the afternoon with a DJ and a Country-Western band in the evening. Tyson has donated food for the evening. There will be a silent auction during the evening with lots of great things to bid on. This is a great cause to help in the replacement of an asset to our community that was destroyed by the flood. Come out and make a contribution for the rebuilding. See you on October 25, 2008.

Masonic Lodge 150th Birthday supper

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.

Morning Sun Health Fair set

It's Fair time! The Morning Sun Care Center's 7th annual Community health, safety and educational fair is set for Monday, October 27th, from 1-5 p.m., at the Morning Sun Community School gym. Any organization wanting to participate or anyone wanting to volunteer, please contact Angie Smith at 319-868-7751.

Story Time 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.

County Road X17 to be closed

County Road X17 will be closed between 160th Street and State Hwy 92 for bridge construction. The road will be closed to traffic on or about September 24, 2008, and will remain closed to traffic for an indefinite period of time while the construction reaches completion.

hoped the group would be around in another 25 years.

Closing remarks were given by Grandview/Letts Lion Carmen Lawrence. She is the youngest member of the group and was noted as the first female president the group has ever had. She thanked all in attendance for coming to the celebration and then thanked several businesses (including businesses from Grandview and Letts; Tyson Fresh Meats in Columbus Junction; and Riverside Casino and Golf Resort) for supplying the door prizes for the club's celebration.

The door prizes were then presented to a majority of those in

attendance, and the evening concluded with Nancy McGill from Letts, leading the group during the closing song, "God Bless America."

When any group hits the milestone of 25 years, they should be very proud and invigorated to go another 25. Grandview/Letts Lions Club has been exemplary in doing what all Lions do - serving their community, state, country and globally - all while trying to change with the rest of the world. By serving, changing, and surviving for 25 years, Grandview/Letts Lions can be certain that their future will be filled with endless opportunities to serve others.