

Affecting the way of life in Louisa County

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

A number of area organizations will have an effect on the way of life in the county this year because of grants from the Community Foundation of Louisa County. At a breakfast meeting last Monday morning, the Community Foundation awarded \$98,703 in grants to forty-five groups representing sixty-one projects in all corners of the county.

The amount granted was up significantly from last year, when thirty-three groups received a total of \$58,200. The money comes from gambling funds throughout the state, and are earmarked to counties without a casino. "I believe the reason that the totals are up this year," said Board member Gary Todd, "may be because there were new casinos established, thus making those counties ineligible for this funding. It's hard to say what next year may bring, but we are hopeful that we can again distribute this amount of money."

Board President Paula Buckman stated that in addition to these grants, the Foundation received and distributed \$58,600 in donations to be used for flood relief. "We are pleased to be able to help non-profit groups in the county," said Buckman, "and we were also pleased to have a direct hand in helping flood victims."

Since its inception four years ago, the Community Foundation of Louisa County has awarded \$254,000 to area groups. Following are the 2009 recipients of Foundation grants:

Community Foundation, operational funds, \$3,500; Columbus Junction Civic Society, Outreach and Farmers Market, \$2,850; Hispanic Cultural Festival, expenses, \$1,500; Roundy Elementary, After School Program, \$2,600; C.J. Senior Center, floor tile, \$2,500; Columbus Women's Fitness Center, relocation expenses, \$1,000; Columbus Junction Popcorn and Movie Under the Stars program, \$1,250; Columbus Community Heritage Center, Preservation Project, \$810; Columbus Development Center, Computer and accessories, \$2,500; Columbus High School, National Archery Program, \$1,250; Fairview Church, Church Restoration, \$1,500; Girl Scouts, Discover The Leadership in You pro-



Members of Louisa County Responders receiving a Foundation Grant check

gram, \$1,250; Grandview Fire Medical First Responders, EMS Outerwear, All-in-one, Communications Upgrade, \$4,700; Grandview Park Restoration Committee, Shelter House and Sidewalk Replacement, \$3,700; Grandview Township Fire Department, A Cry For Help Program, Decontamination Cleaning Units, Put Your Thinking Caps On Program, \$5,118; Keck Memorial Library, WILBOR Program, Gaming Program, Encourage and Challenge Young Readers, \$1,800; Keck Players, prop stage, \$850; LDG, Contractors Network Program, \$6,000; LDG Shop Louisa, Online Marketing Campaign, \$3,500; Letts Community Park, Park Expenses, \$2,425; City of Letts, Generator and Light, \$4,300; Letts Library, Update Non-Fiction Juvenile Books with CD's, \$1,000; Louisa-Muscatine PTO, Playground Equipment, \$2,100; Louisa County Ambulance, Upgrade Communication Equipment, GPS, EMS High Visibility Outerwear, \$5,200; Louisa County Conservation Board,

Langwood Electric Improvements, \$1,500; Louisa County Emergency Management, Disaster Preparedness Education and Equipment, \$1,000; Louisa County Extension 4-H, Lego Dynamite FIRST Lego League Team, \$500; Louisa County Habitat For Humanity, House # 11, \$3,000; Louisa County Izaak Walton League, Clubhouse, \$1,250; Louisa Initiative for Entrepreneurship, start up, \$2,200; Louisa Soil and Water Conservation, Water Quality Improvement Training, \$800; Morning Sun Development Corp., Morning Sun Community Center, Phase 2, \$3,500; Morning Sun Friends of Mellinger Memorial Library, Library Projector, \$1,000; Morning Sun Hays-Scott Legion Post 112, Legion Flag and Gun Renovation Project, \$1,000; Morning Sun Community Betterment, Welcome Sign Landscaping and Lights, \$1,500; Spring Run Pioneer Cemetery Association, Inc., Spring Run Cemetery Improvement Program, \$1,700; Stork's Nest of Louisa County, operating expenses,

\$1,000; Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation, Conservation Home Tours, \$500; Wapello High School Library, Flood Your Mind..READ Program, \$1,000; Wapello Kiwanis, Safe Seesaw, \$1,000; Wapello Parks and Recreation Dept., Community Parks Enhancements, \$2,500; Wapello City Pool, Repairs, \$3,000; Wapello School District, High School Beautification Project and Educational Disc Golf Experience Program, \$2,000; Wapello Community Ambulance Service, John Deere Gator, \$1,250; Wapello Elementary School, Transportation for Summer Enrichment College for Kids, \$500; Wapello Fire and Rescue Dive Team, Equipment, \$500; Wapello Fire and Rescue, Locker Replacement, \$2,500; Wapello Trees Forever, Tree Planting, \$800.

Foundation board members are Paula Buckman, Jim Everett, Elias Gutierrez, Vivian Jennings, Nancy McGill, Ken Purdy, Gary Todd, Kent Wollenhaupt and Rondalyn Weyrick.

There's a new doctor in town

The 1st Biography in a Series on staff of the Community Health Center of Louisa County

He's a "trailing spouse". Look the term up, it's used in cases where one half of the married couple "trails" the other half when they make a move for career or education: and most often it's a term applied to the female half of the couple. But in the case of Doctor Yahya El Shinnawy, the new pediatrician at the Louisa County Community Health Center located in Columbus Junction, it's the husband that "trailed" the wife.

And lucky for us, as Doctor El Shinnawy had a fabulous job in the Chicago-Land area and had been there for more than 20 years. That's career history and job security that is hard to give up! But his wife (another doctor) landed a job with the VA Hospital in Iowa City, and as sometimes happens in marriages, the 2nd half started looking for a job near the location the 1st half was working, and voila! The Southeast Iowa Community Health Centers landed an experienced, savvy and engaging pediatrician. (I repeat, "lucky for us!")

Doctor El Shinnawy is originally from Egypt and attended Medical School in Sudan. He later received a Master's in Public Health at the University of Illinois in Chicago and if you looked further into his professional vita you'd see time spent not only in Illinois, but also Pennsylvania – some of those years spent in a set-up similar to the Community Health Center model where he currently works.

But as you might imagine, it's not all work with Doctor El Shinnawy. This lanky 6 foot plus fellow likes a good game of hoops, as well as soccer and racquetball. (He says he used to be an athlete, but he looks as



though he's "got game" left in him.) He and his wife enjoy history and travel. One of his most memorable trips was to England, France and Germany, a trip that included a train trip along the Rhine from which he had spectacular views of the castles in Germany.

The day I met the new doctor he was wearing a pretty basic tie, but as with many of those that specialize in kids' medicine, he has been known to wear something crazy and colorful around his neck, and I don't mean that stethoscope. He is in Columbus Junction two days a week, Tuesday and Friday and he hopes to be kept very busy (not because the kids in Louisa County get sick, just because he would like to see all the kids that ever need a doctor).

You can meet Dr. El Shinnawy and the other staff of the Southeast Iowa Community Health Center in Louisa County on Friday, February 27th, between 4 and 6 pm at the Open House. Next week, "Ella habla Espanol and English too!

Update from the Columbus Community Superintendent Board votes to move 6th grade to Roundy Elementary

The bitterly cold weather has caused Columbus to have four snow make-up days at this point. Extreme cold caused us to have buses that wouldn't start or able to keep running. I appreciate all of the time Joyce Bausch and Mike Jay, as well as Mincer Ford, gave in trying to get the bus fleet running and going. The make-up days will be added on at the end of the school year. Without any more cancellations, the new projected last student day is Thursday, May 28 and the last teacher in-service day is Friday, May 29. Here is what's going on in the district:

6th Grade Moving Back to Elementary: The school board voted Monday night to have the 6th grade placed at the elementary level beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. The administration and board believe that it is a better academic and social fit for the students. Our buildings will now have the configuration of Preschool-6th Grade Elementary, 7th-8th Junior High, and 9th-12th grade High School. Our middle school principal, Mr. Jeff Maeder, will help bridge the change the students have from elementary school to junior high by taking co-principal responsibilities with Mr. Dan Vogeler of the 5th and 6th grade classrooms. Mr. Maeder will work with the teachers on instructional issues there, as well as being the principal of the 7th-8th junior high school. As more details unfold about room placements and schedules occur, I'll share that information with

you.

Teacher In-Service Day Coming January 23: Columbus teachers will be focusing on the issue of 'Students in Poverty' at this in-service. Better understanding of the realities of poverty as well as teaching strategies for those students will be discussed.

ITBS and ITED Testing Coming: Yearly, Columbus students take Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) for the purpose of evaluating student growth in a standardized way so that comparisons can be done statewide. The results of the tests are also sent to the federal government as we meet the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) guidelines. The ITBS will be given in 2nd through 8th grades this year. The ITED will be given 9th-11th grades. The tests at the middle school and high school will be February 2-6. The tests for 2nd and 4th grades will be February 2-6. The tests for 3rd and 5th grades will be February 23-27. Please talk to your child about the importance of trying hard and doing their best. Getting scores that truly reflect your child's ability helps you and your teachers best gauge the progress of your students.

Sports Update: With the school cancellations, there have been games postponed, rescheduled, and cancelled. We still have home games to see in basketball and the wrestlers are highly rated. District tournament competition begins in mid-February.

Briefly -

After Prom Party meeting

There will be an After Prom Party meeting on Sunday, January 25, 2009 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Special Effects in Columbus Junction. All Junior parents are invited and encouraged to attend to help with the planning process. Any questions, please feel free to contact Jacque Chaney (728-8580), Heidi Hartsock (728-7555) or Jodie Edwards (728-3201).

Events at the Library

Monday, January 26th, marks the beginning of the Chinese New Year – Stop in at the library for a fortune cookie and make a lapel pin to celebrate the Year of the Ox, 2009! Starting February 1 – a Jigsaw puzzle contest – the individual who places the last piece in the Valentine Jigsaw Puzzle wins a heart shaped box of chocolates. Stop by the library and check out a romance novel.

Benefit planned for Camargo Family

On Friday, January 9, 2009 17-month old Irving Camargo died from injuries sustained from a fire at his home in Conesville. The family lost everything in the fire i.e., clothes, furniture, as well as their home. There will be a benefit on Saturday, January 31, 2009 at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds, located South of Conesville on Hwy. 70 from Noon to 7:00 p.m. Mexican and American food will be served. Cost of the dinner will be a \$10.00 donation per plate for adults or \$5.00 and an article of new clothing (sizes include – Raul Camargo (father): pants - 32/32, shirt – large, shoes – 9 ½; Brenda Villagrana (mother): pants – 1 or 2, shirt – medium, shoes – 6; and Bryan Camargo (8 years old): pants – 10 or 12, shirt – medium, shoes – 2 ½ or 3). Kids 12 years and under \$5.00 per plate. Other activities include General Raffles, Kids' Raffles, 50/50 Drawing, Bake Sale, "Pick Your Own Raffle" and a Pinata for the Kids. For more information or to make a donation contact: Becky Johns (319)725-6612 or Rosie Perez (563)571-0189.

El Viernes, 9 de Enero, 2009 Irving Carmargo murio por heridas causadas por un incendio en su casa en Conesville. La familia perdio todo en el incendio, ropa, muebles, y tambien su casa. Habra una beneficiencia Cuando: Sabado, 31 de Enero 2009. Donde: Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds, Sur de Conesville en Hwy 70. Hora: 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Habra comida Mexicana y Americana. Habra una donacion de \$10.00 por plato. Solo \$5.00 si dona una prenda de vestir nueva (Raul Camargo (Padre): Pantalón – 32/32; Camisa – grande; Zapatos – 9 ½; Brenda Villagrana (Madre): Pantalón – 1 o 2; Blusa – mediano; Zapatos – 6; Bryan Camargo (8 años): Pantalón – 10 o 12; Camisa – mediano; Zapatos – 2 ½ o 3.) Ninos memores de 12 anos \$5.00 por plato. Rifas Generales, Rifas para Ninos; 50/50 Drawing, Benta de Pasteles, "Escoja su Rifa", Pinata para los Ninos. Para mas informacion o para donar, llame: Becky Johns (319)725-6612 o Rosie Perez (563)571-0189.

Columbus Heritage Museum seeks items

Gloria Newell, a member of the Board, is looking for any of the following items for displays: old calendars (i.e. Weber-Huston pocket calendar; unique bottles, color or shape; winter photos from the area (to share, loan, or donate); oral or written histories of winter work or activities that we can type up and have a collection to publish. Thank you for participating! We appreciate any loans or donations/gifts of your items.

Prince and Princess of Hearts candidates needed

The Columbus Women's Organization is looking for candidates for their annual Prince and Princess of Hearts Contest. Children 0-5 years of age are eligible for the contest, which will run from Monday, February 2 through Friday, February 13, 2009. Deadline for entry and photos is Friday, January 30th at noon with all entry material delivered to Twyla Peters at the Columbus Medical Clinic, or Kirsten Shellabarger at Horak Insurance. Prince and Princess of Hearts will be determined by the largest amount of money donations in that child's name at these locations: Columbus Junction State Bank, The Community Bank and the Econ-O-Mart, between Monday, February 2nd through Friday, February 13th, 2009. The Prince and Princess will be crowned on Saturday, February 14th, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. The winners will each receive a \$50 Savings Bond donated by Community Bank and the Columbus Junction State Bank. **MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!** All proceeds from the contest benefit the Senior Girls Dinner, annually sponsored by the C.W.O.

Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners will be meeting on January 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church in Wapello. Business meeting with focus on program and project planning for 2009. All Master Gardeners and MG Interns welcome.

Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet on Monday, February 9, 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.

Washington County Habitat for Humanity annual fund raiser

Washington Area Habitat for Humanity will be serving its Annual Soup Lunch and Supper fund-raiser on Tuesday, January 27th at the United Presbyterian Church. Serving times will be from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. The menu will consist of a variety of soups with raw veggies, crackers, drinks and dessert. Carry-out is available. A free-will offering will be accepted and all proceeds go to help support Washington Area Habitat for Humanity. Anyone willing to help serve at the meals OR provide homemade bars or cookies for the meals, please contact Lee Buchholz at 653-3725. Thank you so much for your support!