

It won't be long now



Shelves being stocked in the Econ-O-Mart Grocery Store



Masons applying bricks to the exterior of the Casey's Store



Framing work underway at the expanded Hy-Vee Pharmacy



A view looking toward the entryway at the Medical Facility

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Great progress is being made as crucial businesses make strides to return to normal in Columbus Junction after the devastating flood of 2008. Shelves have been installed in the Econ-O-Mart Grocery store, and on Monday workers were in the process

of stocking these shelves. The store appears to remain on track for a Columbus Day opening.

Although progress hasn't been apparent as you drive by the Casey's Store, a complete remodeling of the interior is nearly finished. A new floor was being installed on Monday, coolers and freezers are in place, and

masons were in the process of laying a brick exterior on the building. An opening date is currently forecasted for the end of October.

Drywall, flooring and woodwork is nearly complete at the Medical Clinic. Cabinets are now being installed, and ceiling work is nearly completed. A Mid October opening

date is still being anticipated.

Framing and drywall work is now underway in the Hy-Vee Pharmacy, as well as electrical work. An opening date of mid to late November is projected.

So folks, like the monkey said when he caught his tail in the fan, "It won't be long now."

Members needed to return New You Fitness to the community

Plans are being worked out to return the New You Fitness Center to the community. The Center was damaged in the flood, and a new location is needed. A group of area ladies have made arrangements to obtain the equipment, and at the present time a location is being negotiated.

The idea is to form a non-profit group of women who would pay monthly fees to join the center, and these fees would be used to pay rent and utilities. The fees would remain in line with the structure that existed

at New You.

It appears that a workable location will be available, but what is needed now are members. If you are interested in joining, or would like more details, please contact the Gazette Office at 319-728-2413.

This was a very active part of our community, and it is important that we keep this center going. Membership is open to any woman in the area, and we need your support to make this happen.

More will be reported as further details are worked out.

New at the Library

Bees, Snails, & Peacock Tails – Betsy Franco; Football Double Threat – Matt Christopher; Bully's Travels – Tor Seidler; Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Ray – Johathan Bean; Magic Trixie – Jill Thompson; Things that Are – Andrew Clements; The Faerie Door – B. E. Maxwell; Carlos is Gonna Get It – Kevin

Emerson; The Robe of Skulls – Vivian French; Rapunzel's Revenge

Lie Down with Lions, The Hammer of Eden, Eye of the Needle, The Key to Rebecca, - all by Ken Follett; The Poet, City of Bones, Trunk Music, Chasing the Dime, The Black Echo – all by Michael Connelly; Out of Range – C.J. Box

White Cane Day to be celebrated in Wapello

WAPELLO, Iowa - The public is invited to celebrate White Cane Day at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the Wapello ambulance building, 400 S. James L. Hodges Ave. (U.S. Highway 61) in Wapello. The celebration is a national event being celebrated across the country on the same day.

The Louisa County Visual Support Group has invited area Lions Clubs to attend as well as visual support groups from Des Moines and Muscatine counties to discuss the rights of the visually impaired and the responsibilities of the public when they see a person with a white

cane.

Wapello Mayor Ron Durbin will read and sign a White Cane Day proclamation.

Susan Howard of the Iowa Department for the Blind will give a presentation on the new digital talking machines that will become available in January 2009. The new machines are easy to use and will have better sound quality than the old audio cassette players they are replacing.

Ralph Aufdenkamp of Vision Helpers will explain and exhibit enlargers and other equipment for the visually impaired.

Refreshments will be served.

How about a game of Junctionopoly?

The Young United Presbyterians, YUP, of the United Presbyterian Church and the Columbus Youth Fellowship, CYF, of the United Methodist Church, would like to invite you to participate in a unique fundraising opportunity, "Junctionopoly". The two youth groups along with Pride Distributors inc. will be producing a board game entirely commemorated to the communities of Columbus Junction, Columbus City, Conesville, Cotter and Fredonia.

"Junctionopoly" will play just like your favorite board game, but the properties located around the board will need to be local properties. We need your business' support to make this game a success. You can purchase a property around the outside of the board to advertise your business. Your company's logo and information will be printed in that box and will become a permanent prop-

erty of the "Junctionopoly" game board. The money that you pay to purchase the property helps cover the cost of production of the board game. Half of the money raised from the fundraiser will be donated to the community for flood relief. The remainder of the money will be used towards the organizations' other missions and activities.

The committee that is organizing this fundraiser is made up of both adults and youth from each of the participating churches. These committee members will be contacting your business in the next week to set up a time to meet with you about "Junctionopoly". If you have any questions please feel free to contact any of the people listed Lori Beenen at 728-4209; Stephanie Duncan at 728-2061; Joy Clark at 728-2654 or Cindy Johnston 728-5032.

Columbus Day Updates Special Recognition Ceremony

A special presentation will be held at the Main Street Grandstand at 1:30 in the afternoon this year. All area citizens that helped with the flood efforts, as well as the National Guard from Mt. Pleasant will be honored. This is planned to be a very big event, so please make plans to be downtown at 1:30 this Columbus Day.

Flood T-shirts

The Flood T-shirts available at the Gazette and Simply Soothing will be the official Columbus Day T-Shirts this year. Be sure to stop in at either business to purchase yours

Columbus Day Car Show

We will again hold a car show on Columbus Day. So, if you have your car ready, plan to bring it to Columbus Day 2008. The Show will be held at the lower parking lot behind the Ivan Arthur building. You can register your car on the day of the show. For information contact Joy Lekwa at 319-728-5101 or Kirsten Shellabarger at 319-728-2414.

Columbus Day Tractor Show

The Antique Tractor Show will be held on Columbus Day, October 11th, on the North end of Main Street. Please have the tractors, engines or implements in place by 8:30 a.m., and we will move up to the school for the parade at noon. Registration will be in front of Our Shop. Any questions, contact Lee or Carol Foster at 319-728-2903 (home) or Our Shop (319-728-5648).

Briefly -

Breakfast in Ainsworth

On Saturday, October 4th, 2008, the Ainsworth Opera House will hold its last breakfast for the year. Serving is from 7-10 a.m. at the opera house (284 Railroad St., in Ainsworth). Cost is \$6 a person. Children 12 and under are free. We will be serving: Biscuits and gravy; bacon; sausage; scrambled eggs; hash browns; waffles; casseroles; fresh fruit; rolls and drink. We will be doing a meal on election day in November instead of breakfast. Hope to see you there!

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.

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, today, 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.

FCCLA to hold fundraiser

The FCCLA will be making and delivering corn shocks for yard decoration on Saturday morning, October 4, 2008. If you would like to purchase one you can do so by Thursday, Oct. 2, by calling Columbus Schools at 728-2231 ext. 3091 and leaving a message with Cheryl Curtis. The proceeds from these sales will help pay students way to leadership conference and for fieldtrips.

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.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet on October 7th at 9:45 at the Columbus Gazette to start our fall tour of places in Columbus Junction. Lunch will be at the 92 Roadhouse. Please note the change of date and times.

Morning Sun Health Fair

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.

Harvest Dinner in Morning Sun

The Morning Sun United Methodist Church will hold its annual Harvest Fest Dinner and Bake and Sweet Shoppe on Saturday, October 11, at the church. A full menu will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Bake and Sweet Shoppe will begin sales at 10:00 a.m. (There will be no early sales). Homemade candy, pastry and food items will be available.

Radio Club to hold "Hamfest"

The Muscatine and Washington Area Amateur Radio Clubs will hold their annual Southeast Iowa Hamfest on Sunday, October 5th at the Muscatine County Fairgrounds in West Liberty, Iowa. The hamfest features indoor and outdoor flea market, commercial vendors, license testing, food and drink. Gates open at 7:00 am. All tickets are \$5. Children age 14 and under are admitted free. There will be hourly drawings for door prizes, including a cash grand prize drawing. For more information, contact Tom Brehmer N0LOH at (563) 263-3097 or n0loh@arrl.net. Also visit www.muscatinehams.org

Trivia Night in Muscatine

Volunteers and Information will be holding a Trivia Night on Friday, October 10th, at the Moose Lodge in Muscatine. (Doors open at 5:30 pm, Games begin at 6:30 pm). Compete against other teams for cash prizes! Register for a chance to win door prizes, too! For more information and to reserve a table for your team of 8 people at just \$10 per person, contact Kerry Bender at Volunteers and Information at 563-263-0959.

Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet on Monday, October 13, 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.

Etude Club to meet

The Etude Club will hold their October 7, 2008, meeting at 7:00 p.m., in the home of Stephanie Duncan with Lorie Hauenstein serving as co-hostess. Members are reminded to bring their chorus music. Following practice, the lesson will be presented by Ashley Mohror on "Pop" music.