

Columbus notches another Hoover Scholarship

By Sue Finke
Gazette Staff

On October 9, 2010 Marina Ramirez competed in the Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award competition in West Branch Iowa. Marina won the competition with an oral presentation of her project in front of a distinguished judging panel.

Her project was HOME FIRST and the purpose of this project is to meet and educate parents on the importance and values to prepare children from birth to 3 years of age for school through a School Readiness Program. She will receive a \$5,000 scholarship.

The Herbert Hoover Uncommon Student Award is a \$5,000 scholarship program for Iowa high school juniors. The program annually identifies and honors up to 15 Iowa high school juniors who propose and then accomplish a project of their own choosing and design. Grades, test scores, essays and financial need are not evaluated.

Uncommon Student Projects are driven entirely by student interests, what do you like doing? What are you good at? Think about how you can make your interests into a project. Are there issues in your school or your community you would like to tackle? You may already be working on something or have accomplished a goal. In that case, base your proposal on that and take it to another level. Usually in the areas of entrepreneurship, community/humanitarian service, conservation and technology.

Columbus has had other com-



Pictured is Marina (right) with her mother, Marilyn

petitors in this competition:

2009 Vanessa Espinoza (winner) with a project of Its Never Too Late; focusing on Hispanic adults who don't have the education most Americans receive.

2008 Olivia Romero (winner) with a project of Keeping Columbus Kids Safe (In Memory of Tanya Beruman); focus is a bike safety program dedicated to teaching children

the importance of bike safety.

2007 Taylor Stout (finalist) with a project of My Amigo, Mi Friend Mentoring Program, the focus is a mentoring program based upon the Big Brother Big Sister Program of America but formed to meet the needs specific to the Columbus Junction community.

2005 Joseph Jay (finalist) with a project of The Daily Show with Joe

Jay; designed to bring entertainment and news to the people of Columbus Junction by filming activities around the community and then showing them on the local cable station.

1999 Andrea Wilson (winner) with a project of A Lasting Memory of an Uncommon Person: A Student Confronts the Devastating Disease of Alzheimer's.

Congratulations, Marina.

It was a Columbus Day to Remember

Temperatures in the 90's, sun shining, a large crowd on hand, what else could we want for a memorable Columbus Day?

In contrast to last year, when it snowed during the morning of Columbus Day, remarkable weather helped bring out one of the largest Columbus Day crowds in recent memory last Saturday. The Columbus Day committee had scheduled a number of events, and all were well attended.

Events included a Lions Club breakfast, car show, tractor show, A morning run, Community Church service, petting zoo, a performance by Beat for Peace, dancers and entertainment on Main Street, free ham sandwiches, vendors on the downtown sidewalks, flea markets, a carnival and a 90 minute parade.

Pictured at right is, left to right, Columbus Junction Mayor Dan Wilson, Community Club president Susan Pretz, and distinguished citizens Mark and Jennifer Huston and Bonnie and Jim Gabriel.

More Columbus Day pictures are featured on page 6 of this issue.



Wildcats First Group hosts steak fry for teachers



The Wildcats First Group hosted a steak fry last Friday afternoon for Columbus Community teachers. The school had scheduled an in-service after the early out on Friday, which was held at Cedarcrest Country Club. After the service a steak dinner was served to the teachers, school employees and their spouses. The steak was donated and prepared by Tyson Foods.

The weather was ideal, which allowed the participants to enjoy the club's grounds while dining and visiting. Pictured above are some of the teachers in attendance. Nearly two hundred participants and guests were served, and the Wildcats First Group wants to extend a special Thank-You to Tyson Foods for their donation.

Puppets at the Library



The Library extends a heartfelt thank you to the Eulenspiegel Puppet Theatre Company for coming to Columbus Junction! Fourteen students, from 2nd grade to 8th grade, participated in the presentation of "The Flea." Rehearsals took place on Friday Oct. 1st after school, on Saturday Oct. 2nd, and on Sunday Oct 3rd before the show. This comes to a total of 9 hours of practice learning how to manage their puppet characters and to listen and learn their cues. Everyone worked hard, had a great time, and demonstrated dedication to this project. In addition to rehearsal time, 16 children participated in a puppet-making workshop. With the expertise of the Eulenspiegel Puppet producers 16, cool puppets were created by 16 very creative children.

Thank you to our very own 14 students, to the Columbus Community Schools for the use of the auditorium, and to the 50 people who attended the production. Our very own Civic Center was a great place to rehearse. This entire weekend would not have been possible without the financial support of the Carver Trust and our own Community Development Group.

Briefly -

Friends of the NRA Auction

9th Annual Friends of the NRA Banquet and Auction Friday, October 15, 2010 at Whispering Pines Golf Course, 1963 North Tipton Rd. Muscatine, Iowa. Doors will be open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00 per person, For more information contact Mike or Susan Deahr 563-264-5731 or Lloyd Deahr 319-627-2410, <http://www.friendsofnra.org/ia/events>.

Christmas in Branson

Join your friends, make new friends, and experience all the sights and sounds of Christmas in Branson, Missouri. The R.S.V.P. Club of the Columbus Junction State Bank is sponsoring this trip and they would love to have YOU along. You do not need to be a member of the R.S.V.P. Club to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. The days/dates are Monday-Thursday, November 29-December 2. We'll be traveling in style on a first-class deluxe motorcoach with satellite television on board, extra leg room and wireless internet, we stay at a lovely hotel while in Branson, see superb shows (12 Irish Tenors, Doug Gabriel, Debbie Boone, The Gatlin Brothers, Pierce Arrow and The Miracle Of Christmas) and enjoy marvelous meals (3 breakfast and 3 dinners are included in the price. One of our dinners will be at Jack Hamilton's Pzazz Restaurant). We'll also have some spare time to rest, relax, sight see or shop- this trip is yours for the taking and making! Cost is \$850/person double, \$825/person triple, \$800/person quad. Contact R.S.V.P. Club Coordinator, Ramona Wink immediately to sign up. Email- wink123@lisco.net or phone 319-212-0366. Give yourself a priceless Christmas present- experience Christmas in Branson with a Really Special Variety Of People!

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Health and Flu Clinics schedule

Every Thursday through November 18 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Public Health Office - 805 J L Hodges Ave N. - Wapello Sunday, October 24 - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. St. Joseph's Church - Columbus Junction. Saturday, November 6 - Just 2 Moms - downtown Wapello 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. BP Screening and Flu clinic, Monday, November 8 - Morning Sun Health Fair - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Morning Sun Community Center

Coffee and Cinnamon Rolls

Coffee and Cinnamon rolls will be served at 8:00 a.m. at the Assisted Living Facility adjacent to Colonial Manor on Thursday, October 14th the public is invited to attend.

Cookies and Kids

Cookies and Kids will meet Wednesday, October 20 at 6:30 P.M. at the Senior Center. ALL High School students are welcome to attend. Call Mike or Renea Jay at 319-530-4010 if you have questions.

FFA to sell fruit and snacks

The Columbus FFA will be selling fruit, meat, snack sticks, cheese and string cheese, snacks, and Casey's Cares Cards until Wednesday, October 27th. All money goes towards sending students to leadership events, local activities, and contests. If you would like to place an order or have questions, please contact Katie McWhirter at 319-728-2231 x 3621.

Firemen to hold Halloween Ball

The C.J. Firemen will be holding a Halloween Bash on Saturday, October 30th at the fire station from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. featuring Trent Avery and Buckshot. A \$5 donation will be accepted.

Spanish invitation to Congregate Meals

Ay reunion de comida de Lunes a Viernes a las 12 p.m. diario. Estan invitados a venir a comer, precios son adultos de 60 abajo \$3.50 y adultos de 59 arriba \$8.45. Se necesita hacer reservacion por lo menos un dia antes de ir, antes de la 1 p.m. Tiene que pagar en la oficina, localizacion en el Senior Center aqui en Columbus Junction.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., in the Louisa Conservation Office.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will meet Monday, October 18 at 6:30 P.M. at Roundy Elementary. This is the monthly business meeting.

Locals in SE Iowa Artists' Tour

The 2nd annual Southeast Iowa Artists' Studio Tour, a self-guided tour in and around the communities of Des Moines, Henry, Jefferson, Lee and Washington counties, will be held Saturday, October 16th from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday, October 17th from 12-4 p.m. The maps are at www.iowastudiotour.org. The Black Crow sculptures of Cosmo will join Kathleen Almelen in her studio in Washington. Ms. Almelen's studio is on the East side of Washington, Hwy 92, turn N or S.10th Ave., 1 block to Main St. Corner house 921 E. Main. Use the garage entrance to my studio. There are 9 studio's open in Washington County.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, October 21st at 11:30 a.m., at the Chinese restaurant in Mt. Pleasant. We will carpool. Meet at Judy Stout's home or Spring Run Church at 10:45 a.m. Please bring your shoebox filled with items for the Children of Samaritans purse.

Farmers' Market News

The Columbus Junction Farmers Market is held every Friday 4:30 to 6:30 at the American Legion parking lot. The last day for the 2010 market season will be Friday, October 15th. Buy fresh and local and taste the difference.

VCC to host "Spotlight"

Need an evening out with your family? How does a FREE evening out with the family sound for good, clean entertainment with area talent? Bring yourself and the family to Victory Christian Center, 122 Ninth St, Columbus Junction, on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. as they host "SpotLight", a local talent show. This year's line up includes drama, vocal, instrumental and comedic talent including "Three Guys with Soule", a local barbershop quartet. Its family entertainment at its best and it is FREE. If you would like more information, you may contact Jolene McAfee at 319-728-5720 or www.vccjunction.org.

Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support meeting will meet on the third Friday of October. We will meet on the 15th at 1 p.m., in the East Room of the Corner Market in Wapello. Sonny Hamilton DDS will be our guest speaker. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.