



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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Former area resident earns Sullivan Brothers Award

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By Peggy Senzarino

Four Mason City Police officers and three Mason City firefighters will receive the Sullivan Brothers Award of Valor from Governor Terry Branstad at a November ceremony in at the State Capitol. The presentation will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, November 7th at the East Rotunda of the Capitol.

Officers Charlie Conner, Tiffany Creekmur, Ed Walthal and Lane Siefken along with firefighters Aaron Beemer, Peter Bieberl and Lt. David Orr are being

honored for their "life-savings actions" when a car carrying three Mason City high school students plunged into the Winnebago River in October 2010.

This is the highest honor which the state of Iowa can bestow on a peace officer or firefighter, according to Police Chief Michael Lashbrook.

The driver of the car, Dustin McMurray and passenger Tyler Ridder survived the crash. Another passenger, Colby Schmidtke, died from injuries suffered in the accident.

The Sullivan Brothers' Award of Valor is given to peace officers and firefighters who, while serving

in an official capacity, distinguish themselves by the performance of a heroic act in excess of normal demands of police or fire service where the person was fully aware of the threat to his or her personal safety.

(Editor's Note: Lt. David Orr is the son of Donald and Dorothy Orr of Columbus Junction. He is married to the former Tammi Plecker of Columbus Junction and they have two sons, Spencer and Owen. Dave has been on the Mason City Fire and rescue Department since May of 1995. Dave and Tammy's address is 7138 275th Way, Clear Lake, Iowa.)



Lt. David Orr

Columbus Day - Sensory Delights

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

A human body has five senses—sight, smell, taste, feel, and hearing. All of these senses were on acute overload in Columbus Junction during Saturday's Columbus Day.

Without a doubt, the weather was the overriding factor in making this such an outstanding day. The temperature reached the 80's and was a joy for any body to feel. The sky was a clear blue and the sun shone on everything the eye could see. The trees in town were in their best glory with reds, yellows, and oranges providing an "umbrella" that only Mother Nature can provide. A light breeze caused the trees to shimmer and twirl their multi-colored beauty. Anyone walking under this canopy could feel that this beauty was beyond compare.

Tastebuds were tempted everywhere. The Lion's Club had an all-you can eat breakfast of sausage biscuits and gravy at the Senior Center. Honey and jams were available if you preferred, and they dripped off the sides of the hot biscuits in sweet delight.

Uptown there were street vendors with more food. In front of Elvira's Beauty Shop, there was a huge cast iron pot boiling hot pork that smelled wonderful. It was shredded and turned into tacos with some people squeezing fresh lime juice onto them. Pico de gallo was served on the side and went well with the tacos. In front of the New York Dollar Store was more food with Gorditas of all types—chicken, pork, tongue, plus rice and beans. Sauces were there for the choosing. At La Perla De Mexico, there was an unusual icy drink made of watermelon. There was even cotton candy available to those with a sweet tooth. Of



2011 Columbus Day Distinguished Citizens: Marlin O'Donnell, Mike Grothe, Aurelia Torres, Arlene Clark and Jeff Clark standing in for his Dad, Don.

course there was also the traditional Columbus Day food, free ham sandwiches and milk donated by Tyson and Economart and passed out by State Bank.

Music for the ears was heard and dance was seen throughout the morning. The Columbus School Beat for Peace group, under the direction of Mr. Paul Corbiere, entertained with heart-thumping drums and xylophones. Then the Columbus Hip-Hop dancers, "Fallen Technique" performed with movements that would cause most bodies to collapse. Victory Christian Church had melodies and harmonies praising God and the glories of life. What a variety of entertainment!

The antique car show was the best

ever. There were lots of cars of different vintages this year, and they were polished to a great shine. It was in memory of Jack Cecil and his family was there in full force. If you attended the car show during Jack's life, you may remember that he had a "talking" dog in one of the cars—controlled by Jack from a distance—talking to the onlookers as they passed. Of course, everyone wondered who and where the person was that was talking to him/her. Jack would stand back and laugh.

The parade was a lot of fun and also provided moments to remember. Watching the Legion color guard march with our beautiful flag under the yellow maple trees along the parade route makes one proud to be an

American. This year's 50 plus Legion members were riding in golf carts instead of their usual float, and Aurelia Torres sang a beautiful rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner." Old cars, horses, the Shriners entertaining us on their crazy modes of transportation, floats, politicians, businesses—all make the Columbus Day parade what it is and something to cherish each year.

Many get-togethers, reunions, and home barbecues were held Saturday, and many people were in their yards enjoying the fine weather, the festivities, and being with family and friends. It was a great day to let your senses feast on the joys of small-town life.

Bovine News

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

There is joy on Main Street Columbus Junction! A calf has been born to the cow that is on display downtown, and the birth occurred just in time for Columbus Day. The calf has drawn quite a bit of attention. People are talking about it; even calling and texting others about the happy occasion. More people are coming to CJ for a look or a picture.

The "baby" is pretty much a replica of its metal mother. Its head is made from an old cream can. (Too bad it can't dispense cream for that morning cup of coffee!) The calf has the same beautiful eyelashes and a tail that looks as if it could swish with the best of them. It is white with black spots, just like its mother, and has perky ears. Small children have been seen sitting on it. The calf, however, does not yet have a bell: perhaps it will when it "ages".

The young bovine is certainly enjoying the attention and the beautiful sunshine. Its mother is proud of her new offspring and loves it when people come to admire them. Columbus Day brought lots of attention and smiles to the faces of onlookers.

Also Columbus Day was the end of the contest to name the cow. For \$2.00, anyone could submit a name, and the money would be donated to help fight juvenile diabetes. Following the parade a drawing was held, and the name for the cow pulled out was "Snowflake." The name had been submitted by someone named Devon. He can pick up his prize for winning at the Gazette. Thanks to all who donated to this worthy cause.

Will there be another calf? Only time can tell.



City Council actions

By Jim Rudisill

A new sidewalk repair program in Columbus Junction is progressing well and city officials are optimistic the program will continue to win support from local residents.

Officials reviewed the program's progress during the council's regular September 28 meeting. The mandatory plan was approved by the council in August, after a voluntary program failed to generate repairs on

critical sections of the community's sidewalk system.

The new plan set up a priority ranking system for 10 different sidewalk sections in the community. It also maintained a cost-sharing component that was part of the voluntary program. Officials reported at the time the council approved the new plan that property owners along some of those sections had shown an interest in participating.

One of those sections was the number one priority for the plan, the sidewalk south of the school along Colton Street. According to the plan, 2500 feet of sidewalk was proposed for replacement; and council member Mark Huston told the council last week the city's sidewalk construction crew had made good progress on replacing that section. City clerk Julie Heindel said three more projects were ready to go as soon as the current effort is completed. Huston said moving forward with the high priority and visible Colton Street section was ap-

parently paying dividends.

Mayor Dan Wilson agreed and said property owners who might be interested in participating in the program should contact the city. Under the program, owners will pay 50% of the installation cost, but that cost will be lower because city employees construct the walks. Wilson said property owners can arrange to have a cost estimate developed for their section.

In final action, the council agreed to hold Trick or Treat Night on Monday, October 31, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Briefly -

Cedarcrest sets Annual Meeting

Cedarcrest's annual stockholders meeting (potluck) will be held on Sunday, October 16th at 6 p.m.

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

CJ Trick or Treat Night set

Please note that Trick or Treat night in Columbus Junction has been set for Monday, Oct 31st from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Conesville Methodist Fall Supper

Conesville Methodist Church will be having their annual fall supper Thursday, October 13, at the Community Center in Conesville. The menu includes chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes and gravy, ham balls, green beans, salads, rolls, pie, cake and beverages. Serving begins at 5 p.m. There will be a free will offering.

Conesville Post Office meeting

A community meeting will be held to explain the discontinuance feasibility study of the Conesville Post Office into the Lone Tree Post Office. The meeting will explain the process and address community concerns. Postal representatives will be at the Conesville Community Building on Thursday, October 20, 2011, from 6-7 p.m. to answer questions and provide information about our service. You may wish to discuss and submit your questionnaire at that time. Written comments may be hand-delivered to the Conesville Post Office.

FCCLA canned food drive

The FCCLA will be holding its annual canned food drive today, Wednesday, October 12 from 6:30-7:30 in Columbus Junction. Donations will be given to the Community Action Program of Columbus Junction. Members will be going door to door, please give generously.

FFA Alumni meeting

The Columbus FFA Alumni will meet at 6:30 p.m. today, Wednesday, October 12th in the Ag Room. All supporters are welcome.

Fruitland Park Board fundraiser

The Fruitland Park Board will hold a soup supper fundraiser Wednesday, October 19, 4:00-7:00 p.m., 104 Sand Run Road, Fruitland. We will be serving homemade potato, chili and chicken noodle soups, desserts and drinks for \$5.00. Proceeds from the supper will help support plans for Drake Park playground improvements.

Fundraiser for Jordyn Gourley

On Saturday, October 22, 2011, an Octoberfest craft show and benefit will be held at the Wapello High School Gym from 9-2 to support Jordyn Gourley and her family to help with ongoing medical bills. There will be a raffle and silent auction. There is over \$5,000.00 in raffle items to be given away. You do not need to be present to win. Be sure to get your raffle tickets at the door and sign up to win some of these great prizes: Signed Iowa Hawkeye football, tickets to Newton Speedway, children's bikes, hotel packages, toolboxes, grills and so much more. There will be over 70 craft vendors there displaying and selling their one of a kind unique items. This is one craft show you do not want to miss. You are guaranteed to find that perfect something for that special someone. Come help us support a wonderful cause.

Grandview Women's Club to meet

The Grandview Women's Club will be at the home of Marie Murray on Thursday, October 13 at 6:30. Jeff and Karen Varnum will be guest speakers on disaster volunteers.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the Louisa County Conservation Office.

Retired School Personnel to meet

The Louisa County Retired School Personnel will meet on Tuesday, October 18th at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at 92 Roadhouse. We will then tour the Columbus Junction Museum. There are so many interesting things to see there. We hope to see you on the 18th of October.

Roundy Rodeo planned

The 1st annual "Roundy Rodeo" and "Pumpkin and Poems" Family Literacy Night, will be held on Thursday, October 13, 2011, from 6-8 p.m. at the Roundy Elementary School. There will be food, carnival games, raffle prizes, activities and a silent pumpkin auction. This is a fundraiser for the Columbus Community Parents Organization with proceeds going towards field trips, technology, student and teacher incentives and much more for our schools. Join us for a night of fun and support our students and teachers.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, October 20 at 11:30 a.m. at John's Shamrock BBQ in Ainsworth. Please bring your shoebox with you that day if you have made one. Remember the 100th anniversary celebration will be held at the home of Mary Wilson in Columbus Junction on November 3 from 2 p.m. - ?

Sheriff Dodgeball Tournament

On Saturday, December 3, 2011, the Louisa County Sheriff's Patrol will hold its first annual Dodgeball Tournament, at the L-M High School Gym at 10:00 a.m. The cost is \$25 per team. Teams are 4 players, at least one female per team. Players must be 16-years-old or older. To register a team, contact Lindsay or Lisa in dispatch at 319-523-4371 or email louisa_county_dispatch@yahoo.com. Please have your team registered by November 1st. Prize for winning team. Will also have a 50/50 raffle. Concession stand will be open. Tournament will be double elimination.

Wine tasting at Two Rivers Lodge

Let the Wining begin! Two Rivers Lodge is hosting a wine and microbeer tasting on Saturday, October 22 at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person, which gets you several wine and beer samples plus food and fun. Our guest speaker will be Mel Hineman. The Two Rivers Lodge is located at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds, south of Conesville on Highway 70.

Early Area Childhood Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa Early Childhood Area Board will be meeting at the ISU Extension Office, 317 Van Buren, Wapello, IA, on Wednesday, October 19, 2011, at 10:00 a.m.

School Board to meet

The Columbus School Board will meet in the Roundy Library on Monday, October 17th at 6:30 p.m.