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A Dismal Columbus Day

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

April showers may bring May flowers, but October showers bring, No Columbus Day. How sad: Many townspeople spend months getting ready for this day, family members come to town and have get-togethers. Shriners, street vendors, car show people, musicians, old tractors and owners come to Columbus Junction to be part of the festivities. Then, too, floats were made, the distinguished citizens were ready, the band gathered, the fire trucks shined, politicians were in town, and more—all for the parade. But it didn't happen.

Once again, Mother Nature showed that She had the power. City leaders held their breath during the day, hoping the sky would clear for the parade. Early in the morning the run had to be canceled—not only was it raining, but also there was lightning and thunder. No one could run in that. Late morning, the Roundy Elementary percussion group, Beat for Peace, pulled out due to the rain, along with the dance group, "Fallen Technique". The car show people also did not come in this weather.

Many of the tractors did show up

and parked across from the ham sandwich give away at the CJ State Bank. Yes, come rain or shine, the ham sandwiches will be given out to the people, and given out they were.

City leaders held out until noon to decide if the parade would be a go or not. There was a small window from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM that the parade could possibly have gone. The rain had dropped to more of a mist. However, at noon, the radar for 2:00 PM, parade start time, did not look good, and hard as it was, the call was made to cancel the parade for the safety of everyone.

The people who braved the weather to come to town still had some fun. The Lion's Club breakfast at the Senior Center was so well attended they ran out of food, luckily pretty much near the end of serving time. The petting zoo was still at the Vet Clinic for those who made it. People who were on the streets found other people to visit, and some were doing their early Christmas shopping at the bargains available in local businesses.

Steve Tomfeld, city worker, had made a new metal sculpture of a bug,

and it was on display by the cows. A few street vendors did venture out for a few hours. Those who did and those who stayed around to buy had a good time. The Bull Bash was canceled, but it will happen next Sunday at the Louisa County Fairgrounds, so not everything was lost.

All in all, this year's Columbus Day was a day where folks had to

"make their own fun." Families, class reunions, and friends seemed to find gathering places, and much of the usual camaraderie still happened. Life is what you make of it, and the people of Columbus Junction make the best of any situation. For now, let's start planning for next year. Maybe someone can come up with a "rain plan" or meeting place for all to go and visit if this kind of weather happens again. Until then, we'll dream of the next Columbus Day.



Chautauqua Park receives new sign



By Donna Carpenter

Chautauqua Park was recently the recipient of an attractive new sign. It was designed by Chad Murphy of Artistic Designs of Hills. Steve Tomfeld and Jeff Carey installed the top of the new sign and Dale and Travis Hill did the stone work. This is part of a set of eight interpretive signs that will be placed throughout the park. The signs will allow visitors to complete a self-guided walking tour. A dedication ceremony will take place in early November. REAP, Roundy, and Foundation Funds contributed to the park improvements.

Elvia's Salon and Spa completes new downtown makeover



Pictured is the staff of Elvia's Salon and Spa after their downtown renovation. It opened just in time for Columbus Day. Stop by and see the new renovation, the staff will be proud to show their new quarters.

Pam Tomfeld joins United Fund Board

Pam Tomfeld is the newest member of the board of directors for United Fund of Columbus Junction joining the group at their September meeting. Also serving on the board are Sue O'Donnell, President; Tessa Pugh, Vice President; Phil Kaalberg, John Carpenter, Debbi Murry, Carlota Ramirez and David Lekwa, board members. Tomfeld is a Letts native and works for the Louisa-Muscataine school district as a pre-school instructor. She and her husband Steve are well known for their leadership in the Circle of Pride Motorcycle Club.

United Fund of Columbus Junction serves Columbus Junction and surrounding communities including Columbus City, Fredonia, Conesville and Letts. Contributions come primarily from workplace campaigns. Tyson Foods employees are the organization's largest donor group. This summer the group awarded over \$25,000 to 34 organizations including libraries, fire departments, scout troops, after prom committees and 4-H clubs. The fund raising drive that will support 2013 activities is currently underway.

Paula Buckman wins United Fund Chili Taste-Off



Paul Buckman's entry in Friday's United Fund Chili Taste-off was voted most popular giving Louisa County Habitat for Humanity bragging rights and a year of hosting the traveling trophy. Five organizations participated including Columbus Community Heritage Museum, Polly Prior, cook; Prevent Child Abuse, Lori Kuntz; Columbus Softball Association, Craig Helmick and Friends of the Library, Cathy Crawford. The event kicks off the organization's 2013 fund drive and gives donors an opportunity to meet some of the people behind

United Fund supported organizations. Louisa County Habitat for Humanity is currently building their twelfth home which is located in Columbus City. The United Fund Board would like to thank silver cord volunteers Alondra Solis, Gabby Villagrana and Claudia Lopez, the cooks and all of the tasters for making it a memorable and fun event

A New Friend in C.J.



Briefly -

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet on Thursday at the Senior Center.

Beat for Peace Fundraiser

The Beat For Peace is trying to fundraise for our trip to St. Louis to perform. Our expenses are busing, hotel and food. We are working with the Roundy Parent Night committee and providing a Tostada Dinner Night on October 23rd to help raise money for our trip. The Tostada Dinner will be \$5.00 a plate. Many of our BFP parents have donated food and supplies so that any money we raise will go for the group. More donations are always welcome. You may contact Griselda Cuellar if you wish to donate food for the dinner.

Blood Checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor will be at the Columbus Senior Center on October 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. to do blood glucose, blood sugar and blood pressure checks. We hope to see you there!

Bull Bash rescheduled

The Bull Bash (from Columbus Day) has been rescheduled to Sunday, October 21, 2012, at the Louisa County Fairgrounds.

FCCLA to hold can drive

The Columbus FCCLA will be holding a canned food drive Wednesday, October 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in Columbus Junction. If you would like to donate and will not be home, call Lois Mincks at the high school (728-2231) ext. 3332. The cans collected will go towards the Community Action Program (CAP) of Columbus Junction.

Master Gardeners to meet

Louisa County Master Gardeners will meet Tuesday, October 23rd at the Extension Office in Wapello. This meeting will be a potluck supper at 6:30 P.M. to be followed by election of officers for the next year. The theme of the potluck supper is something you grew in your garden this year.

U of IA Clinic

The University of Iowa's Mobile Clinic program will be holding upcoming clinics in Columbus Junction to provide physicals, health screenings, health education and other services. The clinics will be on Saturday, October 20th and Saturday, November 17th from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Wilma Sime Roundy Elementary School.

Historical Society Program

The Louisa County Historical Society's program for October will be held at 2 pm on Sunday, October 21st at the Louisa County Heritage Center. Please join us to hear the program "Abandoned Towns of Louisa County" presented by Deb Olson.

Public Health planning meeting

The Louisa County Public Health Emergency Planning multidisciplinary planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2012, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Wapello Ambulance Barn on Highway 61 in Wapello. The focus of the meeting will be implementing a countywide coalition to coordinate emergency response activities related to public health and safety. Kathy Vance will once again moderate the meeting.

Morning Sun 5K Fun/Run/Walk

The Morning Sun PTO is sponsoring a Haunted 5K Fun Run/Walk. This will be held on Saturday, October 20th with registration beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the race to start at 6:00 p.m. The fee is \$20 per person. We will also be giving each runner a glowstick as it will be dusk when we start. Ages groups will be as follows: 12 and under, 13-19, 20-29, 31-39, 40-49, 50 and over. There will be medals awarded to the top male and female in each age group. There will also be a costume contest. The top 3 runners with the best costumes will win a prize. The run will start at the Morning Sun school and end at the school. The run will be held rain or shine with no refunds. For more information please call Jill Townsley at 563-260-5335 or email jbcattle@louisacomm.net.

Pleasant Grove Fall Supper

The Pleasant Grove Community Church of rural Columbus Junction will be holding their annual fall supper on Wednesday, October 24th from 4:30-7 p.m. All are invited. There will be a free will offering.

Roundy Fall Festival

Join us at Roundy Elementary on Tuesday, October 23 from 5:30-7:00 pm! Come see what students at Roundy have been busy doing in their classrooms these past 9 weeks. Have fun going on a scavenger hunt, visiting the elementary art show, making bookmarks, and listening to Beat For Peace perform a brief concert. There will also be several local and county organizations with information to share. Beat For Peace will be sponsoring a Tostada Supper that evening from 5:30 to 7:30 pm in the lunchroom to help raise funds for their upcoming trip to perform in St. Louis. Cost for the supper is \$5.00 a plate. We can't wait to see you there!

Senior Center Harvest Day

Local senior meal sites sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging will be hosting a Harvest Day theme lunch today, Wednesday, October 17th. The meal is available to anyone over age 60 (and his or her spouse of any age) regardless of income or residency. Contributions to cover the cost of the meal are requested. Reservations are required by noon on Tuesday, October 16. The meal will feature foods associated with the fall harvest - yellow squash, mashed potatoes, apple cake and whole-wheat dinner rolls with chicken parmigiana. Call your local senior meal location: Columbus Junction at 728-3148; Wapello at 523-8455 and Winfield at 257-6921.

St. Joseph's Harvest Breakfast

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is sponsoring a Harvest Breakfast at the Columbus Senior Center on Sunday, November 4, 2012. Serving is from 7-10:30 a.m. The menu includes: Sausage gravy and biscuits, breakfast burritos, ham, scrambled eggs, assorted rolls and breads, fruit, milk, juice and coffee. A Country Store and Bake Sale will also be taking place. The cost is \$7.00 for adults (\$6.00 in advance), and \$3.00 for children ages 5-12. Advance tickets available at the Columbus Gazette, Columbus Junction State Bank and Community Bank.

Youth Forum scheduled

Open invitation to youth and adults. Share your ideas on what things (activities, support, resources, etc) youth in Louisa County need at the Youth Advisory Forum. Come out for a fun discussion today, Wednesday, October 17th at the Extension Office, 317 Van Buren Street in Wapello from 7-8 pm. Hosted by Tessa Pugh, ISU Extension in Louisa County, contact tessa@iastate.edu or 319-523-2371.

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