

Fire destroys long time area business

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

A fire Sunday afternoon destroyed a popular area restaurant, The Thirsty Camel. The fire broke out around mid-day on Sunday, and fire departments from Conesville, Columbus Junction, Nichols and Wapello responded.

Despite efforts from the departments, the building was completely destroyed in the blaze. Preliminary investigation indicates that the fire possibly started in the roof area, and then spread to the rest of the building. As of press time a cause of the fire is yet to be determined.

The business is owned by Daryl Hewitt, and was presently leased by Rueben and Dee Deese. The restaurant has been a popular stop for area residents for many years. It is located on the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds, north of Columbus Junction.

No one was in the building at the time of the fire, and no injuries have been reported. Pictured at right are the remains of the building, taken on Monday morning.



A Thanksgiving Story from the Heart

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

With the holiday season upon us once again there is one person who has so much to be thankful for, local resident Lisa Reynolds is celebrating two years of being a post heart transplant recipient. Her new lease on life has her enjoying and appreciating things that most of us take for granted, like shopping trips with her mom and sisters, belonging to and having fun with the Crazy Ladies and spending time with her boy friend, Ose Pugh, her family and all her friends.

In 2007 Lisa was told by her doctors at the UIHC that she was going to need a new heart in order to survive. Lisa's name was placed on the heart transplant registry. On November 17, 2007 tragedy struck a family when they lost one of its members unexpectedly, Kelly Hamdorf. On November 18th Lisa learned that there was a heart for her. Her surgery began after midnight on November 19th, and on November 20th Lisa's new life began with her new heart.

One year after receiving her new lease on life Lisa had to say goodbye to her brother, Dave. On November 17, 2008, Dave died unexpectedly. "I had a hard time dealing with the fact that the donor of my heart died on November 17 and then one year later Dave died on November 17," says Lisa. This year on November 17, Lisa, family and friends met at Donnie Carriers' house in Columbus City and walked to Dave's gravesite and held a memorial. "We are all going to drink a beer in his memory, and some good old "Hodgie" stories were told. We all let him know that we all miss him very much," smiles Lisa.

Since Lisa's surgery she has become email buddies with Kelly's sister, Kerri and through Kerri Lisa had the chance to meet and make friends with a new group of people, Kelly's mom, grandmother and other extended family members. Lisa attended a surprise birthday party for Jan Hamdorf, Kerri and Kelly's mother. "At first it was kind of awkward for all of us but as time went on we all became comfortable and had a really good time. I now have an extended family and will keep in touch with them by phone, mail and email, if not daily then once a week, they have opened their hearts to me and I am thankful," says Lisa.

Lisa still has some emotional feelings she deals with in her healing process but still thanks God for her family and friends continued support. In the past year doctor's visits and medicine has decreased somewhat. She has been released to drive. Lisa continues writing and keeping track of everything in a file and has begun scrapbooking articles and pictures to keep her memories in. "I still don't know who the anonymous donor was that paid my hospital bill at Mercy. "They won't tell me who it was but I will be forever grateful to them. Growing up and living in a small town has also been a precious gift for me, because when I became sick and then following my transplant I was shown so much kindness and



4 generations of Kelly Hamdorfs' family. Front row pictured from left to right sister, Kerri Nykoluk, holding son Andrew, Grandma, Bonnie Fox, Lisa Reynolds, niece, Stasia, mother, Jan Hamdorf. Back row uncles, Wesley and Lawrence Fox.

thoughtfulness from people of this community, people here are great," smiles Lisa.

Lisa attended the annual Transplant picnic in Coralville. This was the 20th picnic held in honor of transplant recipients. There she met another new friend, Tom Howland from Muscatine. Lisa became a friend to Tom when he received a heart on April 11, 2008. Tom lives in Muscatine with his wife, Belinda. "It was good to see Tom again, he looks good and is ornery as ever," laughs Lisa.

Even though these past two years has been a roller coaster ride of emotion for Lisa, accepting the fact that in order for her survival someone had to die. All the doctor trips, tests, medicines and restrictions. Her will to survive and go on with her life was driven by the love of her sons, Adam and Andy, her family and her count-

Logan's Story

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

Imagine being a seven year old kid. Growing up in a happy and healthy family, with your mom, dad, brother, sister and family dog, Daisy sharing in the love of family and sports together, especially football.

Imagine one day finding out that your dad was very sick, with a disease you had never heard of. Imagine finding out that your dad only had a few months to live, watching him go from a healthy man throwing you record breaking passes to a man that had to have Hospice Nurses come to your home to take care of him. Then having to say good-bye to your dad because the disease cancer made him an Angel.

On November 20, 2009 I was honored to meet a little boy that has lived all the above, 9 year old, Logan Trumbull from Iowa City held a book signing and reading of his newly published book, Logan's Story.

Logan's dad, 41 year old Ray Trumbull had worked out and stayed healthy until one day in 2006 he started to experience pain below his rib cage which took him to their doctor. Within the next few days he was given the devastating news that he had stage 4 stomach cancer. Logan's dad died, October 10, 2007, Logan was 7 years old.

In Logan's own words, "losing my

less friends. She wasn't ready to leave them behind. Her dream to meet the donor family came true, being able to thank them for the ultimate gift of life, has helped her in her healing process.

Lisa is now making afghans and donating them to local churches and or benefits. Since she has donated she now has people giving her yarn. She feels it is one way that she can help give back because so many people helped her when she needed it.

So as we all reflect upon our own lives and what we are thankful for, Lisa gives thanks to her family, friends, the donor family, the UIHC and to her community for her continued support. "This year I am getting to spend Christmas with my two sons they are both are coming home," cheers Lisa. "I wish everyone a blessed Holiday Season from my heart," tearfully smiles Lisa.

dad made me sad." So Logan came up with the idea of writing a book to help other kids cope with grief and loss. Logan included input from his mom, Deanna, brother, Austin and sister, Jessica.

Logan also asked for help from his neighbor, Mary Moye-Rowley, artist and graphic designer. It wasn't long and Logan's book took on a life of its own. 26 people from the community helped with input into Logan's Story, 17 were from Weber Elementary School in Iowa City which included his teacher, Mrs. Johnson and her 3rd and 4th grade classes.

Logan is a very active football fanatic and his mom, Deanna never expected Logan to sit down and write about living through his dad's terminal cancer and eventual death in 2007. Logan is now a published author, his story has now become a book published right in his hometown of Iowa City at Goodfellow Printing, its beautifully illustrated pictures that the kids in Logan's class drew and Mary articulately illustrated and beautifully written by Logan honoring the memory of his dad. Mary included interactive pages like word searches, word scrambles and dot to dot puzzles once again asking Logan's class for help. She would ask them to tell her ways they could help Logan and his family, like what food would you take to them, they'd make a list and Mary would use their ideas and make a word search. The book was masterfully written to help kids of all

Kelly Hamdorf's family would like people to know that losing Kelly was one of the most difficult things they have ever had to face. However, they are thankful that God gave them the gift of being able to change and save the lives of others. They want everyone to know how important it is to sign a donor card, and encourage you to mark "yes" on your driver's license and discuss your wishes with your family members. They are thrilled that Lisa is doing so well and that part of Kelly lives on through her.

Writer's note: In the United States in 2007 there were 2,210 Heart transplants performed and in 2008 there were 2,163. Each year thousands more adults would benefit from a heart transplant if more donated hearts were available. For more information visit: <http://www.iowadonornetwork.org>

ages understand illness and coping with death through Logan's personal feelings.

In the book Logan speaks of Dee, a Hospice nurse who comes to take care of her dad, and Carol who plays music to help him relax. Because of the care Logan's dad, Ray received during his last months of life, the Trumbull family has designated all proceeds from the sale of Logan's Story to benefit Iowa City Hospice. Deanna Trumbull stated, "we used so many of the Hospice services in so many ways from medical care for Ray, social services, to volunteer hours, they not only cared for Ray, but they cared for us too, we can never thank them enough and Logan's Story is just one way for us to give back some of what they gave us."

Iowa City Hospice is a community based nonprofit that offers care to patients, families and their loved ones throughout the dying and bereavement processes. Services are available to anyone who resides in the seven county service areas of Johnson, Cedar, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine and Washington Counties, regardless of their ability to pay. For more information visit: iowacityhospice.org

I was honored to be a part of the presentation of Logan's Story and hear in Logan's own words how his book came to be. I like everyone else attending was moved to tears by the video and listening to Logan read his story. As part of the media we re-

Briefly -

Blood Checks at Senior Center

Colonial Manor will be doing blood pressure and blood sugar checks on December 10th at the Columbus Senior Center from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Concert at CJUMC

The public is invited to a Christmas Concert entitled "The Spirit of Christmas" on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church. Come hear the wonderful sounds of Christmas music by local performers in the beautiful candle-lit sanctuary and enjoy fellowship and refreshments following the concert (no admission fee).

Family Night at the Senior Center

The Columbus Community Senior Center will be open Wednesday, December 2 for Family Night. We will be serving cookies and punch. To kickoff this wonderful season of love and sharing, we are asking that when you come to the Senior Center you bring a food item to be donated to the Food Bank. As we all know there are those who are in need and especially at this time of year we need to share. Come on Family Night to meet with friends for sharing cookies and to share a food item. We will be looking for you.

Master Gardeners to meet

The Louisa County Master Gardeners will be meeting on December 1, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Wapello ISU Extension Office (317 Van Buren Street). Drucilla Stephens, B.L.G. 4-H Club, will be presenting an overview of her 4-H Horticulture Project from the 2009 Louisa County Fair. Drucilla was the LCMG 2009 first place class winner and bond recipient. Business meeting to follow. Master Gardeners/Interns welcome.

Christmas at the Heritage Center

WAPELLO - The Louisa County Historical Society will hold its annual Christmas at the Heritage Center program at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6. The Rev. Harlan Winter will lead carols and program at the Louisa Center Church located on the Heritage Center campus, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello. The program will be followed by refreshments in the museum. Everyone is welcome. As always, there is no admission fee.

Search on for Sears Houses in County

WAPELLO - Beginning in 1908 and ending in 1940, Sears sold kits for building houses through its catalog. An entire house in 30,000 pieces could be shipped in two boxcars. Purchasers also received a 75-page instruction book on how to put it together. Prices ranged from \$495 to \$4,115. In 1924 the easy payment plan was \$30 a month including interest. This information was found in the August-September 2009 issue of "Reminisce" magazine. The Louisa County Historical Society would like to know if any Sears houses were built in Louisa County. If you have information, please call the Heritage Center at 319-527-5247.

PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Susie Leonhard on Monday, December 7 at 7:00 pm and co-hosted by Judy Sievers.

Thanksgiving Service at CJUMC

A Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service will be held at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church on Wednesday, November 25 at 7 p.m. Please join us for this very special time of worship and thanksgiving.

H1N1 Vaccinations available downtown on Family Night

H1N1 UPDATE - Get prepared for the holidays and the flu season ahead.

Louisa County Public Health will have an expanded H1N1 immunization clinic on Wednesday, December 2, 2009 from 5 to 8 p.m. in downtown Columbus Junction, Iowa. The immunizations are available for the following high-risk individuals: Pregnant women; Health care workers providing direct patient care; Anyone living with or caring for an infant under 6 months of age; Children and young adults between 6 months and 25 years of age; Anyone under age 65 with the following chronic medical conditions: Asthma, COPD, chronic bronchitis, Cancer, Heart Disease, Congestive Heart Failure,

MS, epilepsy, Lupus, Kidney or liver failure, Diabetes, any autoimmune disorder.

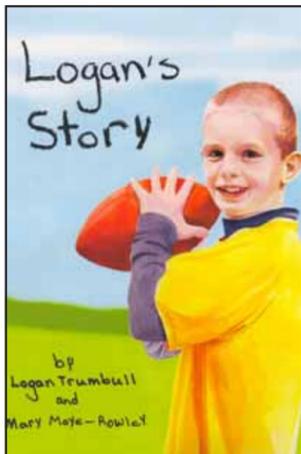
The Centers for Disease Control and the Iowa Department of Public Health is urging everyone in the high-risk groups to obtain the H1N1 vaccine now. Vaccine will be provided free of charge for all eligible persons. The clinic will be held in conjunction with the Columbus Junction Family night. Louisa County Public Health encourages parents to bring children age 6 months to 18 years in for an H1N1 vaccination.

Immunizations will be provided in the Weber and Huston Building at 129 Main Street in Columbus Junction from 5 to 8 p.m.

ceived a book with a video. I purchased books and donated them to the Roundy Elementary Library and one to the Columbus Junction Public Library from our family. If you have a chance read the amazing book written by Logan Trumbull.

This Thanksgiving holiday I have brought you two very different stories but two remarkable in their own ways. As we gather together to celebrate family and life we should all stop and give thanks for the world that we live in. We are blessed in so many ways for our freedoms. Modern technology has allowed us to live and to die with dignity and peace. Lisa through Heart Transplantation was given a second chance at life by the miracle of organ donation while Logan's dad died peacefully with the help of an organization that has the utmost respect and caring hearts for the terminally ill and their families. Logan was encouraged to express his grief through his book. Even though Logan's dad is no longer with him on earth and in Ray's own words on the

video, "I will always be there for my family and everyone I love." Through Logan's Story, his dad's legacy will live on forever.



Logan's Book