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Letts makes plans for major move

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

After years of planning, fundraising, and anticipation, Letts is about to make the move into their new Library and City Hall.

The move into the library is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30th beginning at 9:00 a.m. The Letts Methodist Church, the Grandview-Letts Lions Club and a class from L-M School is set to help, but many more legs and arms are needed. If you or your organization can be on hand to help next Tuesday, it would certainly be appreciated.

The new Letts Library and City Hall is an example of the many wonderful accomplishments that are happening in small towns all across the area when citizens come together to pool their resources and talents to make things happen. The quality of life that we hear about in small towns can be attributed directly to their residents, and Letts certainly stands out as a prime example of this lifestyle.

A grand opening is scheduled for Saturday, December 11th. More will be reported in the Gazette as the date



draws near. Congratulations to everyone in the city of Letts for their determination in making this dream become a reality that will be enjoyed by many generations that follow.

CCHS Alumni gives back to their community

Muscatine Community College Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society had their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive Saturday November 13&20. This year's food drive broke records in the amount of money and canned goods that were donated. Thanks to the help of *Columbus Community High School alumni's*. Columbus alumni's participating were: Jesus Lizarraga (President of the MCC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society), Olivia Romero (Secretary of the MCC Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society), Yeini Sosa (MCC Student), Cindy Flores (MCC Student), and Alejandra Gonzalez (MCC Student). This year, Phi Theta Kappa teamed up with the MCC Student Senate, Business Professionals of America, and the MCC Silver and Blue Volunteer Program. Proceedings were distributed to the Louisa County Community Action, Durant-Wilton Food Pantry, West Liberty SHARE, and the Jesus Mission in Muscatine. "I was impressed by how great we did. We had the most outstanding group of people helping out. The idea of bringing back to our communities was just awesome. Thanks to all who participated and to those who stopped by and donated!" ~ Jesus Lizarraga



Local man's handiwork featured in magazine

(The following story was printed in *Gas Engine Magazine*. It is reprinted here with permission.)

By Jason Denney

Now let me introduce to you Luke Cutler's (Columbus Junction, Iowa) pieced-together tractor. Although it looks as if it were built many years ago, (which was Luke's goal in the first place), he just built it in the winter of 2002 - 2003.

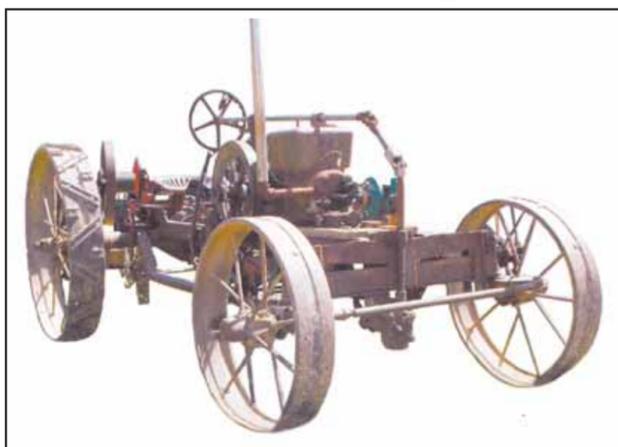
The engine is a 1943 3 HP FMZ, the transmission was pulled from a 1947 Chevy pickup, and the rear end was taken out of a 1947 Jeep pickup, and rolling stock is courtesy of a now-defunct New Idea manure spreader.

As shown in the photos, the tractor is belt-driven, controlled by an idler pulley and lever n the right side. A brake rotor is mounted on the tail

end of the driveshaft just in front of the pinion, as Luke plans to install a hydraulic brake system in the near future. But for now he just uses the friction of the idler pulley to stop the tractor.

An old Allis-Chalmers combine gave up its right angle steering box, and the steering wheel was found on eBay. Although Luke isn't exactly sure what the wheel came off of, he's betting it used to be and old gate valve wheel. The origin of the seat, bought at the Mt. Pleasant swap meet a couple of years ago, is unknown. It has "Western L. Roller Co." stamped on it, which Luke thinks probably stands for the Western Land Roller Co.

When asked why he built the tractor, he said, "I just wanted something



to drive around at the shows." Little did he know how much attention he would get while driving it. People were flocking to him from all around just to take a few pictures of his creation!

FSA reminds producers to vote in County Committee Election

John Bartenhagen, Executive Director of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Louisa County reminds eligible voters that the county committee elections are in progress. Ballots have been mailed and completed ballots must be returned by mail or delivered to the Louisa County FSA office by December 6, 2010. "I strongly recommend that producers vote because the county committee members play a huge role in the Agency, especially at the county level," said Bartenhagen.

"County committee members make decisions on how federal farm programs will be administered locally."

Voters in Local Administrative Area #2, representing the townships of Eliot, Jefferson, Morning Sun and Wapello received ballots for this year's election. County committee members are elected to office by their peers and serve as the representative voice for agriculture producers in the county, and they are responsible for communicating with USDA to ensure that national programs are adapted to

fit local needs. County committees are responsible for making decisions on issues including commodity loans and payments, conservation programs, disaster assistance programs and emergency programs.

Bartenhagen encourages minority and female producers to serve as county committee members in the future. It is important that the county committee is comprised of members who reflect the demographics of the local agriculture community. Farmers who participate in FSA

programs are eligible to vote. If eligible voters do not receive a ballot by mail, one will be provided by the Louisa County FSA Office. Ballots returned by mail must be post-marked no later than December 6, 2010. New county committee members will assume their role and related responsibilities on January 1, 2011. For more information on FSA county committee elections, please contact the Louisa County FSA office or the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Briefly -

City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular council meeting today, Wednesday, November 24, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Hope Bible Fellowship not to meet

The Hope Bible Church Coffee Fellowship will NOT be meeting the day after Thanksgiving in order that you may have more time to spend with your families. We hope to see you all back on Friday the 3rd of December at 8:30 a.m. Come ready to share your Thanksgiving Day experiences with us all. May God bless you and keep you until we meet again.

Columbus City Family Night

Columbus City Family Night will be held on Wednesday, December 8th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge. A soup supper will be held, and Santa Claus will be in attendance.

Historical Society Christmas Concert

On Sunday, December 5, 2010, the Port City Pearl Chorus (Sweet Adelines - Muscatine) will be providing a half hour Christmas concert at the church in the Louisa County Historical Museum complex. The event starts at 2 p.m. with refreshments afterwards in the museum's dining room. Come and celebrate.

WCEC closed for Thanksgiving

In observance of Thanksgiving Day, the Conservation Education Center at Marr Park will be closed on Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th.

Santa at Morning Sun Care Center

Morning Sun Care Center is excited to announce that Santa Clause will be visiting the care center on Sunday, December 5th from 2:00 to 4:00. The community is encouraged to join Santa and his elves as they welcome in the holiday season. There will be music and holiday treats for all, and donations of gifts for the residents are always appreciated. For more information, contact Terri Smith at 319-572-3017.

Elvis and Patsy Cline at Colonial Manor

You are invited to attend an evening of special entertainment by Elvis Presley and Patsy Cline. Be sure to mark Tuesday night, December 7th, at 7 p.m. on your calendar. The entertainment will be held in the resident dining room. We look forward to seeing you!

Soup dinner at United Methodist Church

Give the cook a break! Come one, come all to the All You Can Eat soup dinner at the United Methodist Church, Second Street, C.J. on Sunday, November 5th. Chili and potato soup, veggies and desserts will be available from 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. What a deal! Good will offering.

City welcomes new Police Officer



Chief of Police, Donnie Orr swore in Andrew Fry as a Police Officer on Monday morning. The City of Columbus Junction wishes to welcome Officer Fry into our community! Above, Mayor Dan Wilson congratulates Officer Fry as Chief Donnie Orr looks on.

L-M Teacher receives "Calling All Teachers" funds from US Cellular

LETT'S, Iowa - More than 120 teachers in Iowa received the exciting news from U.S. Cellular that their classroom projects had been funded through the company's Calling All Teachers campaign. For a second year, the wireless carrier partnered with philanthropic website DonorsChoose.org to fund \$1 million in creative and impactful classroom projects submitted by public school teachers. A donation to Louisa-Muscatine Junior-Senior High School teacher Barbara Noble will benefit 160 students.

U.S. Cellular's giving strategy is focused on education and the pressing needs of schools. Lack of funding has caused many schools to eliminate critical programs and operate on limited resources. Calling All Teachers is one of the initiatives the phone company developed to offer schools help with these financial challenges. "Teachers play a big role in the future of our children," said Don Cochran, U.S. Cellular's director of sales for Iowa. "We are glad to sup-

port them because we know they work hard to make every child's learning experience meaningful and fun."

Teachers across the country posted classroom projects that ranged from the basic to the technically advanced. Some asked for novels, bookshelves and calculators, while others requested LCD projectors, digital cameras and a TI Navigator system. Noble's project was Falcons and Film Making: Tell Me a Story. U.S. Cellular made the commitment to invest millions in education during 2009-10 through its Calling All Communities and Calling All Teachers campaigns.

Recently, the company introduced The Belief Project to address common frustrations consumers have with the wireless industry. This initiative also complements U.S. Cellular's growing catalog of cutting-edge phones, all backed by its nationwide 3G network. To learn more about the company's support of education and The Belief Project, visit uscellular.com or check the company out on Facebook.