

Swinging Bridge decked out for Christmas

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Starting December 1st the swinging bridge has been illuminated by Christmas lights for first time ever!! Every evening through the holiday season stop by and enjoy the great view.

Thanks to Jim Gabriel, Ana and Geraldo Romero and everyone else who contributed on this wonderful idea.

A considerable amount of work has been accomplished this year on the bridge. Overgrown trees and brush have been removed from the area, which now allows a view of the bridge from Highway 92. General clean-up and repairs have been made on the Bridge entrance, and repairs have been made on the Bridge supports and floor. The Swinging Bridge is now in great condition for visitors to come and enjoy a holiday view.

Columbus Junction Mayor Dan Wilson commented that the work that has been done has definitely minimized the vandalism that has become a nuisance in the bridge area, and he also stated that plans are being made to permanently light the bridge some-



time in the future.

Pictured above are some of the many Christmas lights that have been

installed on the bridge. So if you happen to have an opportunity to travel on Highway 92 on the west edge of town, look towards the bridge. It will certainly help kick off your holiday experience.

Another great Family Night in Columbus Junction

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Despite rather chilly weather, another long time Columbus Junction tradition was celebrated last Wednesday evening with the community's annual Family Night. Although the crowd in town was not as large as some years, there were still a number of area citizens who came to help kick off their holiday season.

The night began with the traditional 4-H soup supper at the American Legion, and after being well fed, citizens were able to visit many businesses that were open showing their Christmas colors and gifts. A downtown treasure hunt was sponsored by the Community Club where participants picked up a map at the Gazette Office, and upon their completion of visiting all of the businesses on the map, the form was then turned into the Gazette Office where a drawing was held with the winner receiving \$100 in Louisa Bucks. Pictured at left is Maria Gomez, this year's winner, receiving her prize from Gazette editor, John Carpenter.

Activities were held at the Library, hot chocolate was served on the street, and many businesses had drawings for door prizes. Sounds of



Christmas carols could be heard on the street as local groups performed at Community Bank, and luminaries helped light the way down to Main

Street. And also, Santa Claus made his annual appearance at Robertson Real Estate. The Community Club would like to thank all businesses who helped to make this year's Family Night a special time for people of all ages.

Up in the sky, it's a bird, it's a plane, it's a.....

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Residents of Columbus Junction may have thought they were being visited by beings from another planet on Monday when they looked up into the sky.

The pictured 600 ton crane with a 300 foot reach arrived in town. The crane was delivered in several pieces and assembled at the American Legion parking lot.

It belongs to the railroad, and will be used to replace four sections of the railroad bridge west of town. The large crane was needed because the railroad intends to finish the work as quickly as possible, thus keeping rail traffic moving with as little disruption as possible.

For those of you who missed it, just look west as you drive over the railroad tracks, you won't be able to miss it.



Conservation District offering spring trees and shrubs for sale

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District is offering trees and shrubs for sale now for planting this spring. These trees and shrubs can beautify a home, provide

summer shade or winter wind protection, and supply wildlife habitat.

Bare root tree seedlings available this season include Quaking Aspen, Pin Oak, Red Oak, White Swamp

Oak, Hackberry, Sugar Maple, Black Walnut, White Pine, Red Cedar, Black Hills Spruce, and White Spruce. Shrubs available for purchase are Red Osier Dogwood, Rose

of Sharon, Rosa Rugosa, and Common Lilac. These trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 10.

The SWCD is also offering high quality, local grown, bare-rooted Chi-

Briefly -

Our Lady of Guadalupe Program

We have put together a beautiful program honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Celebration is scheduled for December 12th we will begin at 6:30 a.m.- 7:30 a.m. with the traditional man anitas with mariachi at St. Joseph's Church. Then at 7:45 a.m. moving downtown Columbus Junction, the stores of Take2 and Rey de Reyes will be serving coffee, hot chocolate and bread while the mariachi plays and dancing happens on Main Street. At 8:15 a.m. the pilgrimage will journey from downtown Columbus Junction accompanied by the image of the virgin and will be going toward the high school. Remember that we will be praying Rosary #46. If you are able to cooperate by praying and singing, please do so, for this is a devotion of faith and also a tradition in gratitude to given favors, or those expected. Then at 9:30 a.m. a bilingual mass will be held in the high school gymnasium followed at 11:00 a.m. by a musical performance from the students of Columbus, Beat for Peace. This will conclude our celebration activities. Please join us in our Celebration. Our Lady Guadalupe Committee 2010.

Christmas Concert at United Methodist Church

The public is invited to a Christmas Concert entitled "The Spirit of Christmas" on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 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).

City Council meets tonight

City of Columbus Junction to meet tonight Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center / City Hall.

Potluck at Colonial Manor

Family, friends and guests - Please join us for a Christmas Potluck on Wednesday, December 15, 2010, at Noon in the Resident Dining Room. Meat, rolls, beverages and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish of your choice. We hope you are able to celebrate with us!

Columbus City Family Night

Columbus City Family Night will be held today, 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.

Ham and Bean Supper to honor 50 year Masons

Columbus City Masonic Lodge #107 will be hosting a Ham & Bean supper honoring all 50-year members, with special recognition to Wayne Barnes and Jack Pugh. The supper will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Masons and their families are welcome.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, December 8, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., at the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

Letts Community Building Grand Opening set

The Grand Opening for the new building housing the Letts City Hall, the Community Room, and the Letts Public Library will be Saturday, December 11, 2:00-6:00 p.m. The Library is also celebrating 100 years of service to the citizens of Letts and surrounding areas. Santa will arrive for a visit at 6:00 p.m. in the new Community Room.

Roundy Elementary Book Fair

The December Book Fair is here at the Roundy Elementary Library! The book fair is open for business with more books than ever. We have over eight crates and many tables of books to page through. This book fair is not a buy one get one free and is sponsored by the Scholastic company. The book fair opened Noon Dec. 6th and will close Dec 21st with hours being Monday - Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday hours will be from 8 until 3. We will be opening on Dec 9th during the Parent Breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and on Dec. 16th we will be open from 6:30-7:30 p.m. during the music program. If you have questions please contact Roundy Elementary at 319-728-6218.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, December 9th at 11:30 a.m. at Dick and Anna Fullerton's home in New London for a Christmas potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to pass. We will car pool from Spring Run Church at 10:45 a.m.

Senior Center Coffee to honor volunteers

There will be a coffee at the Columbus Community Senior Center Tuesday, December 14, 2010 from 9 A.M. till 10 A.M. There will be coffee and treats for all of those who have volunteered at the Senior Center this year. Please come, have coffee and treats and help celebrate the past year.

Visual Support Group not to meet in December

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will not meet in December. If anyone wants to be put on our mailing list, please contact Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.

nese Chestnut trees. Other items available include native grass and forbs, tree shelters for your young trees, stakes, and tree mats.

Profits from the sales of trees and seeds go for conservation education, scholarships and promotion of natural resources in Louisa County.

Orders will be taken until February 28th and trees will arrive in April. For pricing and more information or to order your trees call the SWCD at (319) 523-6411 or stop by their office at 260 Mulberry Street in Wapello.