

It's time to nominate a Distinguished Columbus Graduate

Columbus Community Schools believes that a Columbus education and diploma enables students to do great things. We believe that there are Columbus graduates who have done great things and they deserve recognition by Columbus for their achievements as adults.

This "Distinguished Graduates Program" enables our public to nominate worthy graduates for consideration and selection to a "Wall of Fame". Selected winners will be recognized at the Graduation of Seniors Ceremony in May.

The criteria for being considered and possibly chose is:

1. Must be a graduate of a High School in the Columbus Community School District. This would include Cotter High School, Conesville High School, and Columbus Junction High School, as well as Columbus Community High School.

2. The individual must have an accomplishment of significant achievement or contribution.

(Example: Career, country, community, or mankind)

The Nomination Procedure is:

1. An individual or groups may make the nomination of a person annually.

2. Nominations must be made in writing and must include name, graduation year and profile of accomplishments.

3. Nomination deadline is March 19, 2010.

4. Inductions will occur during the Columbus Community High School Graduation Ceremony.

5. Selection will be made by unanimous vote of the Selection Committee.

6. An individual may nominate more than one candidate.

7. Please submit additional information about the nominee on separate sheets of paper.

8. Individuals not chosen the first year will automatically be included with the group of nominees the second year.

9. Return nomination papers to Columbus Superintendent's Office - 1210 Colton Street, Columbus Junction, IA 52738 - 1-319-728-2911.

The deadline for nominations will be March 19, 2010. The selection committee will meet following that date, and the announcement will be in early April. Nomination papers can be found at the Superintendent's Office - 1210 Colton Street. I can also bring them to you if desired, as well as letting people know that the "Word" document can be emailed directly to an email address.

Regional Solid Waste Agency audit released

Ann M. Menke, CPA, PC of West Point, Iowa today released an audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009, on the Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency.

The Agency had total receipts of \$540,406 during the year ended June 30, 2009, which included contributions from its city and county members of \$64,988 and transfer fees of \$450,107.

Disbursements totaled \$520,500 for the year ended June 30, 2009, and included \$232,954 for landfill transfer fees and \$195,963 for operating contractor fees.

The significant increase in receipts is due primarily to the increase in transfer fees. Receipt increases were offset in large part by a similar increase in operating expenses over the prior year.

A copy of the audit report is available for review in the office of Auditor of State and the Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency. The report can also be accessed on the Auditor of State's web site at <http://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/reports.htm>.

LDG holds County Business Festival



An enthusiastic crowd attended the Business Festival hosted by the Louisa Development Group Thursday, January 21 at the Morning Sun Community Center. Eighteen exhibitors displayed their products and services and answered questions. It is the Development Group's intent to stimulate relationships between businesses and cities through quarterly events such as this one. LDG wants to thank Randy Foor, Jason Delzell, and Dave Duncan for their work in organizing this event.

CJSB Bancorporation and Columbus Junction State Bank report a very satisfactory year to stockholders

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Shareholders of the Columbus Junction State Bank and CJSB Bancorporation learned that 2008 proved to be a very good year for the operations of both corporations at their annual meeting last week. The bank again experienced growth in all financial areas. Assets increased by \$1 million, with deposits increasing by \$650,000. Earnings were up by nearly \$22,000, with total capital accounts growing by nearly \$330,000. The bank's primary capital increased from 8.84% to 9.33% of assets. The bank continues to maintain capital well above the regulatory requirement.

President Mark Huston commented, "We are presently in the midst of remodeling the bank's interior, and hopefully we will be finished by the end of February. It has presented some challenges, but we are getting along." Regarding the bank's year, Huston said, "It's been a good year for the bank, and presently we have not seen many of our customers experiencing layoffs. Our loan portfolio remains strong, but we have always looked closely at collateral values, and do not lend very far outside of our area." Huston noted that the bank is participating with Community Bank in the loan for the new assisted living facilities adjacent to Colonial Manor. He further explained that the staff remained stable in 2008, and the bank employs two bi-lingual college

students on a part-time basis.

The stockholders voted to set the number of directors at eight, and re-elected Thomas H. Huston, T. Mark Huston, Kevin A. Van Heiden, Jack Estle, C. Eugene Walker, Stephen Wilson, Larry Mincer and Daniel Wilson. A Directors' meeting followed the annual meeting and the board elected the following officers:

Thomas H. Huston, Chairman and Trust Officer; T. Mark Huston, President and C.E.O.; Kevin Van Heiden, Vice President and Cashier; Tom Sands, Assistant Vice President and Loan Officer; Heather Kingsbury, Assistant Vice President and Compliance Officer; Doris Mougin, Assistant Cashier; and Nancy Brown, Assistant Cashier.

Columbus Junction State Bank donates to L-M Playground fund



The Columbus Junction State Bank recently donated \$1,000 to the L-M PTO to help on the new pre-school playground. The cost for the pre-school playground will be \$40,000, with a total cost for the complete L-M playground renovation at \$213,000. Pictured above is State Bank President, Mark Huston, presenting the check to PTO member, Carmen Waddell.

Collect Coupons to help our Veterans

The American Legion Auxiliary collects name brand coupons for our Veterans and active duty military personnel to use in military commissaries. You can donate your coupons by placing them in the decorated boxes located at the following Columbus Junction businesses: The Community Bank, 229 Main Street, the Columbus Junction State Bank, 134 Main Street, and Plants and Things, 208 Main Street. Each coupon must have a bar code on it to qualify but the expiration date is not an issue. Veterans in military commissaries CAN still use OUT of DATE coupons.

Other items such as: Lap Robes (4' x 5' or 3' x 4'), microwaveable popcorn, crossword puzzles and toilet articles can be donated by contacting either Arlene Johnson (319-728-8266) or Anita Braden (319-728-2355).

ISU Extension Office offers students opportunity to intern in Louisa County

Families Extension, which oversees programs in Louisa County in Parent Education, Child Development, Family Life and Nutrition education is again offering grants for a student internship experience this summer. ISU Students that live in and near Louisa County are encouraged to apply on campus or online before the February 15th deadline.

One to four grants (\$3600 total) will be awarded. A former Extension educator, Laura Heddleson, gifted the College of Human Sciences money for these grants to support student experiences that prepare individuals for a career in Extension or community outreach. Students applying for this internship should have interest in Extension work. They will spend their summer gaining hands-on experience with Extension educational programming and delivery.

For further information students should go online to the school of Human Sciences Financial Aid and Scholarship Website at www.hs.iastate.edu/scholarships/ or contact Kathy Vance at the Louisa County Extension Office at 319.523.2371 x202

Briefly -

City Council to meet tonight

Columbus Junction city council will meet tonight at 5:30 at City Hall for a public hearing and the regular council meeting.

Concert for a Cause

Esterlyn, an up and coming Christian rock band, will be performing at the Columbus Community School's Auditorium on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. The 7:00 p.m. concert is a benefit with all proceeds going to the Louisa County Ambulance Service. Esterlyn has opened for popular Christian rock bands such as Kutless, Thousand Foot Krutch, Pillar, Fireflight, Stellar Kart, Disciple and more. The concert is being sponsored by Victory Christian Center, 122 Ninth St, Columbus Junction, IA. For more information on purchasing the \$10 general admission tickets, contact the church by either calling 319-728-5720, going to the church website, www.vccjunction.org, or by contacting a Columbus Junction ambulance volunteer.

CWO Prince and Princess of Hearts

The Columbus Women's Organization is looking for candidates for their annual Prince and Princess of Hearts Contest. Children 0-5 years of age are eligible for the contest, which will run from Friday, January 29th through Friday, February 12, 2010. Deadline for entry and photos is Wednesday, January 27th at noon with all entry material delivered to Twyla Peters at the Columbus Medical Clinic, or Kirsten Shellabarger at Horak Insurance. Prince and Princess of Hearts will be determined by the largest amount of money donations in that child's name at these locations: Columbus Junction State Bank, The Community Bank and the Econ-O-Mart, between Friday, January 29th through Friday, February 12th, 2010. The Prince and Princess will be crowned on Saturday, February 13th, 2010 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. The winners will each receive a \$50 Savings Bond donated by Community Bank and the Columbus Junction State Bank, and get to ride in the Columbus Day parade. **MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!** All proceeds from the contest benefit the Senior Girls Dinner, annually sponsored by the C.W.O.

Walk for exercise at Roundy Elementary

Do you walk for exercise, would you like to walk inside? Roundy Elementary School is open to the public for anyone that wishes to walk inside. The school's hallways are open from 6:00 - 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday whenever school is in session. There is no need to call before coming, but if you have questions, please give the school a call at 319-728-6218.

Fredonia town meetings schedule

All Fredonia city meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month at city hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. Sewer and trash bills are due by the 20th of each month. If they are not paid by the 20th, a \$25 late charge will be assessed. If you have any questions regarding city business, Mayor Al Sonderberg can be contacted at 563-571-0226.

L-M PTO Soup Supper

L-M PTO will hold a soup supper on Thursday, January 28th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the High School cost of supper \$5.00 per person. Proceeds will go to the Playground Fund. The supper will be followed by the only home wrestling dual meet L-M vs. New London.

PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Bev Nielsen on Monday, February 1 at 7:00 pm and co-hosted by Ruth Buser. The program will be presented by Melanie DeVore on her trip to Denmark. All members are encouraged to attend.

Pleasant Grove Church pancake supper

Pleasant Grove Community Church is having their annual Sausage and Pancake Supper on Wednesday, February 3rd, from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Join us for a night of fellowship and good food, as we hope to see everyone there. Free Will Offering.

Free concert at C.J. Presbyterian

Sunday, January 31 at 2:30 p.m., the CJ Presbyterian Church will host a free concert of Christian music. Performing will be "Fellowship", a men's quartet consisting of Jay Hauenstein, Paul Duncan, David Duncan and Brian Cummings, accompanied by Jill Bowen. Also featured, from Winfield, is "Selah." Members of the women's group are Deb Lowe, Liz Wasson, Barb Phelps, Linda Haight, Deb Remick, Kim Davis, and accompanist Mary Kilpatrick. Following the concert, refreshments will be served. If you enjoy Christian music of all kinds, be sure to mark Sunday, January 31 on your calendar. We hope to see you there!

Red Cross Rendezvous

You can help the American Red Cross through a generous contribution of cash or an auction item for Rendezvous for the Red on Friday, March 5, 2010. March is Red Cross Month and it would be the ideal time to support your local Red Cross unit. If you would like to donate, please call Janet Winter 319-726-5908 or the Red Cross office at 563-263-6124.

Pheasants Forever Banquet

The Pheasants Forever Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 6th at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds. Doors will open at 4:00 p.m., with dinner at 6:00 p.m. There will be a live and silent auction, games and raffles. All proceeds will benefit habitat for pheasants. Tickets are available at the door.

School Board to meet

The Columbus Community School Board will hold a special meeting on Monday, February 1, 2010 at the Administration Office.

FFA Alumni meets tonight

"The Columbus FFA Alumni will be holding a meeting on Wednesday, January 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ag Room at the High School. Anyone interested in joining or finding out more about what the organization does, please do not hesitate to join us that evening. If you have questions, please contact Katie McWhirter at 319-728-2231 x 3621."

2010 Louisa County Fair dates set

The dates for the 2010 Louisa County Fair are: July 24 - Parade and Fair Kickoff; and July 26-31 - Fair. The dates for the State Fair are August 12-22.