



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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Colonial Manor gains two Columbus Grads

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

Columbus Community is an area that likes to keep "its own." It is sometimes difficult to do that with young people today who think big cities are the place to be. However two of Columbus School's past graduates have settled into positions at Colonial Manor and both the town and Colonial Manor are very proud of them.

They are Karen Diaz and Jennifer Pretz. Both girls recently received their RN (Registered Nursing) degrees from Indian Hills College and are now working at Colonial Manor.

However, it should not be said that they NOW work at Colonial Manor. Both girls have worked there throughout high school and college. Karen started working there in 2006 and Jennifer started in 2007.

Columbus Community Schools offered an in-school program at one time for students to get a degree as CNA's (certified nursing assistants). Both girls took this class and started their careers by putting their new skills to work at the Manor. Following high school graduation, they then went on to get their LPN (Licensed Practical Nursing) degree and then their RN degrees.

It is a real feather in the cap situation that these two talented young ladies have returned to both our town and our local nursing home to hone their skills and work at their careers.

These girls also are familiar with the patients and know the town and families to further add to their already great knowledge. There is nothing more comforting to a patient than someone who knows them well



Jennifer Pretz and Karen Diaz

and cares for them in an attentive way.

Both Karen and Jennifer are continuing with college work now as they work at the Manor. Jennifer is taking classes in Leadership Management in Heath Care, which would allow her to be a director in a hospital or nursing home. Karen will start this summer to work towards a BSN (Bachelor's of Science in Nursing) degree. Molly Bausch, Business Manager of Colonial Manor says, "Colonial Manor is very fortunate to

have two young ladies of their caliber working here. The Manor is also happy to have been a part of their lives and educational process."

Jennifer Pretz commented, "It is great to give back to the community. The Manor has been a great place to work. They have planned around my school schedule. They really tried to make sure my hours were regular. My coworkers also have been very encouraging."

Karen Diaz added, "I'm thankful

that Colonial Manor has allowed me to grow not in just the aspect of a person, but also in my career. I'm also thankful for their support as they have encouraged me throughout these years and the support has come from the administration all the way to my coworkers, nurses, and CNA's."

Jennifer Pretz and Karen Diaz are two great "catches" for Columbus Community and Colonial Manor. We hope they remain "keepers" for a long time.

State Bank reports on good year to Shareholders

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

"A very satisfactory year" was how Columbus Junction State Bank President Mark Huston described the bank's operations to shareholders last week. The bank reported net earnings after taxes of \$415,000, and showed asset growth of nearly \$2 million dollars. Loans increased by \$3 million dollars, with deposits showing a growth of over \$1 million dollars during the year. The Bank's primary capital was reported at 8.86%, well above regulatory requirements.

"In today's market, consumer lending remains flat as we are also

competing against dealer financing on bigger items," said Huston, "but we are open to any opportunities that come our way. I don't anticipate much change in this situation in the immediate future." The bank did have an opportunity to complete a large commercial loan this year, and does participate in the loan for the Assisted Living addition at Colonial Manor. Huston also commented that the farm economy had another good year with grain prices remaining strong, and he did not foresee any downturn this year. Huston reported that the bank has been able to avoid many of the problems that larger institutions have faced in the real es-

tate market because they are not interested in selling or buying real estate loans. "We have always emphasized single family real estate loans, and stick to traditional real estate guidelines," he said. Huston also stated that the bank has a very capable and stable staff. "Our good employees are one of our biggest assets," said Huston.

Chairman Tom Huston reported on major construction projects that are to be undertaken by the city and school. "We remain a progressive community, and these new projects are evidence of this. We are very proud of our town, and are anxious to help in any way we can."

The Stockholders voted to set the number of directors at seven, and re-elected Thomas H. Huston, T. Mark Huston, Kevin A. Van Heiden, C. Eugene Walker, Stephen Wilson, Larry Mincer and Daniel Wilson.

A Directors' meeting followed the annual meeting and the directors 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; Shelly Heindel, Assistant Cashier and Compliance Officer; Doris Mougin, Assistant Cashier; and Nancy Brown, Assistant Cashier.

2011 - The Year in Review Part 3

July 6, 2011 – Community gardens sprout up on road to Columbus City.

Natalina Sents, Kara Exline, Kim Erwin and Katherine Seitz visit Spain.

FFA Alumni schedules tractor ride.

Canoe Program held on Lake Odessa.

Louisa County JEL students attend state summit.

Immigration Clinic opens at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

Obituaries include Wilma Wasson and William Robert Call.

July 13, 2011 – American Legion asks community for help in marking newly found Civil War Veterans' graves.

An alumni football game pitting Columbus Alumni against Camanche us announced.

Candidates for Louisa County Fair Queen are announced.

Candidates for Louisa County Fair Princess contest are announced.

Louisa County Master Gardeners to sponsor first Garden Tour.

Louisa County Fair Board sets up endowment fund.

Victory Christian Center holds "Mega Sports Camp."

Columbus Youth Soccer teams are recognized.

Marion W. Steckel's obituary is published.

July 20, 2011 – New crosswalks appear on downtown streets.

Connie Gray and Gordon Hankins are featured in "People Magazine."

August 6th is set as Louisa County Relay for Life weekend.

Veterans' Benefit Fair is set for July 28th.

Dr. William Wever is elected as a director of Delta Dental.

"A Taste of the Civil War" is featured at the Library.

A complete Fair Schedule is published.

Elsie Jane Smith's obituary is published.

July 27, 2011 – Keetyn Townsley is named as 2011 Fair Princess.

Kolby Keltner is named 2011 Fair Queen, Eli Sents is named 4-H Fair King and Megan Pretz is named 4-H Fair Queen.

The discovery of the deaths of the six Littleton Brothers from Toolesboro in the Civil War is published.

Farmers' Market holds Salsa Contest.

Port Louisa Wildlife Refuge road reopens.

Boyd Buser, DO is elected to American Osteopathic Association Board of Trustees.

August 3, 2011 – Columbus Junction loses longtime friend as Beryl Roundy's death saddens community.

Levee project begins on Odessa Wildlife Complex.

Area citizens receive 2011 Soil and Water Conservation Awards.

Obituaries include David Falter and Beryl Roundy.

August 10, 2011 – Wildcats First Group plans second "Back to School Bash".

Dr. Robert Shafer establishes Shafer Educational Trust.

Conesville Watermelon Days schedule is published.

Mona McCulley is named Farmers' Market Salsa Queen.

Hilda Edwards' obituary is published.

August 17, 2011 – City Council assured that water projects are moving forward.

"Center for Community Action"

moves into former city hall building.

County Sheriff warns citizens of reports of asphalt and contractor schemes in area.

Columbus Schools' Family and Consumer Science rooms sports new look.

Obituaries include Maxine Clevenger, Shirley Dickinson, and Preston Edmondson.

August 24, 2011 – Owners of new Grace Chin Grocery Store are introduced.

School Board reveals potential expansion plans.

Women's Marketing Grain club kicks off meeting.

2011-2012 School year kicks off.

4-H members attend workshop to improve on clothing and fashion knowledge.

William Gilkey's obituary is published.

August 31, 2011 – Polly Prior, Danny Peters, Robert Reid, David Duncan and Eric Totemeier announce candidacies for School Board.

Area farms are recognized as Century and Heritage Farms by State Fair.

"Doc" Dill inducted into 4-H Hall of Fame at State Fair.

Katie McWhirter wins National Classroom Study Award.

Andrea Wilson writes feature article on Bernabe Rodriguez.

City Council discusses mandatory sidewalk program.

New sign designating Civic Center, Library and City Hall is placed adjacent to Highway 92.

September 7, 2011 – Voting is set for proposed school expansion plans.

Colonel's Kids Day Care celebrates 10th Anniversary.

Tom Sands is recognized for job growth voting record.

Running Wild Trail announces successful race.

Health and Wellness Fair scheduled in Morning Sun.

FCCLA holds membership drive.

CJ Lions Club inducts Dorothy Orr and Kay Duncan as new members.

September 14, 2011 – New Fair Horse Arena opens at Fairgrounds.

Representative Tom Sands announce re-election plans.

Homecoming Week kicks off at Columbus Schools.

American Legion announces that all 19 Civil War Veterans' graves that were recently discovered now have markers.

Jazmin Mogler will represent Columbus Junction at Miss American Princess Pageant.

Hope Bible Church completes entrance ramp.

Dorothy Arlene Hanft's obituary is published.

September 21, 2011 - Andrea Wilson writes of the accomplishments of Edith Osorio.

School Board discusses busing mix-up issue.

Antique Road Show held in Morning Sun.

Historical Society schedules Fall Festival.

City Council reviews test well results.

The obituary of Larry Frank Sheetz is published.

September 28, 2011 – Columbus City Lodge is honored for greatest growth.

Cross Country Runners run for memory of teammate Claire Hamilton's father, Gary.

Columbus earns Safe and Supportive School Grant.

A special feature recognizing all County 4-H Clubs is published.

New observation deck at Port Louisa is dedicated.

Obituaries include Albert Brown and Gary (Gomer) Hamilton.

Briefly -

Legion Auxiliary collects Long Johns

The American Legion Auxiliary (Post 100) is collecting long johns (underwear) for the VA Hospital in Iowa City. Donations can be dropped off at the Columbus Junction Public Library. Long johns will be delivered to the VA Hospital at the end of January.

City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a Council meeting today, Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 9, 2012. Social Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. Special recognition will be given to the 50-year (1962) class and the 25-year (1987) class. Put the date on your calendar now!

Daffodil Days

Volunteers throughout Louisa County are taking American Cancer Society daffodil orders through Friday, February 17. Daffodils will be delivered the week of March 12. Funds raised during American Cancer Society Daffodil Days will support services to patients and their families in Louisa County. The most popular items for Daffodil Day 2012 Giving Opportunities are a bunch of 10 daffodils; a vase with bunch of 10 daffodils; potted mini daffodils; or bear with a bunch of daffodils. If you are interested in ordering one of the daffodil opportunities, please feel free to contact Jean Bernel at 319-523-3245 or 563-299-5639 or Marsha Gerot.

FCCLA Service Project

FCCLA is looking for active servicemen's addresses as a service project. The FCCLA would like to make up packages to send to area soldiers who are in active duty. If you know someone please contact Lois Mincks, FCCLA Advisor, at Lois.Mincks@columbuscd.org or 319-728-2231 ext. 3332 with their name and address. We will try to get packages to send for Valentine's Day.

FFA to hold Blood Drive

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center announces that the Columbus Community High School FFA will be sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, February 6th from 1:30 pm- 6:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 99 Second Street in Columbus Junction. To donate call Katie McWhirter at 319-728-2231. Walk-ins welcome! Donors must be at least 16 years old, in good health, and weigh at least 110 pounds. A Blood Donor card or other photo I.D. is required to donate; 16-year-old donors must present a signed parental consent form, available from the Blood Center or for download from www.bloodcenter.org. Controlled high blood pressure and diabetics are acceptable.

Guatemala Mission Fundraiser

On Saturday, January 28, 2012, Ruben Zuniga will be holding his annual Guatemala Mission fundraiser meal (Miles of Smiles Team) at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church basement from 5-8:30 p.m. The meals are as follows: (1) four taquitos, rice, beans, dessert and drink; (2) 2 tostadas, rice, beans, dessert and drink; (3) combo - 2 taquitos, 1 tostada, rice, beans, dessert and drink. Children's meals are: (1) 2 taquitos, rice, beans, dessert and drink; (2) 1 tostada, rice, beans, dessert and drink. The cost for the meal is \$6.00 per plate for adults, \$4.50 per plate for children. To place an order, you may call 728-2810.

Jump Rope for Heart

On Monday of this week, Columbus students kicked off Jump Rope for Heart by wearing red. Students in grades 3-6 will be seeking donations for the American Heart Association until Feb. 14. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Vogeler at Roundy at 728-6218.

L-M FFA and FFA Alumni Dinner

The Louisa-Muscatine FFA is pleased to announce that a BEEF dinner prepared by the Louisa County Cattleman's Association and FFA Alumni will be offered on February 2, 2012 in conjunction with the Varsity basketball games with Columbus Junction (Senior Night). Serving will begin at 5:15 through 7:00 pm in the Louisa-Muscatine high school cafeteria. A beef plate dinner with baked beans and potato salad will be \$6 (sandwich only \$4). The dinner is sponsored by the Louisa-Muscatine FFA Alumni Association - all proceeds will be donated to the Louisa-Muscatine FFA annual scholarship fund. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Louisa Longbeards Banquet

The twelfth annual Louisa Longbeards Banquet is being held Saturday, March 3. This event is being held at the Briggs Community Building, Wapello. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for guests to participate in games, raffles, review items for silent and live auction, etc. Supper is served at 7 p.m. Any questions concerning the banquet or becoming a member, please contact Todd Shutt at 319-572-1522 or David Boysen at 319-572-1551. New members are always welcome.

Post Prom Committee fundraiser

The 2012 Post Prom Committee will be sponsoring a brownie/ice cream sundae fundraiser on January 27, 2012 during the junior varsity and varsity girls and boys basketball games vs IMS. Monies raised during this fundraiser will be used to provide entertainment, food and prizes for attendees of the Post Prom Party at the Columbus Junction Fire Station on April 21, 2012.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will be holding a special public meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 5 p.m. in the Roundy Elementary School Library.

Pleasant Grove Pancake Supper

The annual pancake Supper will be held at Pleasant Grove Community Church on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. The Church is located on Highway 92 east of Columbus Junction. A free will offering will be taken. All are invited to come.

Wine Tasting at Two Rivers Lodge

Come enjoy a fun evening during a wine tasting and micro beer sampling at Two Rivers Lodge on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person, which gets you several wine and beer samples plus food and fun. The entertainment will be Kirk Hittner, an acoustic guitar player. Please R.S.V.P. by January 27 by calling 319-726-5322. Must be 21 years old to attend. The Two Rivers Lodge is located at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds, three miles north of Columbus Junction on Highway 70. Watch for the gargoyles.