



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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## CCHS Library receives donation of books from CCHS Graduate

By Sandra Martin

The Columbus Community High School Library recently received a donation of two new volumes of psychology books: *Psychology in Plain English* and *More Psychology in Plain English*—both copyrighted 2012. That fact, in itself, is fairly mundane, but the author of those two volumes is Dr. Dean Richards, a 1974 graduate of Columbus Community High School. That makes the addition of the works far more impressive.

In an email to Library Aide Debbie Hills, Dean explained his contribution: "Teachers and support staff from the Columbus Community School District were very important in making it possible for me to learn and develop my potential, and thus they're part of who I am today. This small donation is the least I could do to acknowledge that early help."

The books are written in a reader-friendly style so that any layman can understand the basics of psychology. The first volume concerns itself with the nature of science, the basics of psychology, and an introduction to research techniques. The second volume focuses on Freud and many of his philosophies. It, too, is written in a down-to-earth voice that is filled with dry humor.

Chapter titles such as "Mental Illness by Committee" and "We Hold this Truth to be Self-evident: We aren't all Created Equal" invite the reader into the book with lightheartedness for such an often deep subject. Most chapters begin with

quotes from unusual and diverse sources including Weird Al Yankovic, the Bible, Archie Bunker, Franklin Roosevelt, and Dave Barry—to name just a few.

Richards writes with a definite Midwest flavor and often talks directly to his readers: "You've got to allow me some fun."

He tells personal stories such as the time in fourth grade when he discovered how interesting and powerful a dictionary could be. He began by looking up "bad words" to discover their origins and meanings.

The blurb on the back cover of the book reads: "Through anecdotes, personal examples, wicked humor, and explanations honed through more than 30 years and more than 700 psychology classes, Dr. Richards covers some of his most popular classroom topics." That is a very accurate portrayal of Richards' works.

Also, on the back cover of the books is a brief biography that says, "Dr. Dean Richards grew up on a dairy farm near Columbus Junction, Iowa, but he left cold, damp winters and hot, humid summers behind forever after finishing graduate school. He now lives in Los Angeles with his lovely wife, Dr. Andrea Richards, enjoying periodic visits from their now grown children, generating almost all his own electricity from clean, silent solar panels, raising backyard tomatoes, working on the next volume of this series, and teaching psychology online as well as on site for a myriad of universities."

That sounds very much like the



student who in high school won 5 straight science fair competitions, worked hard on his family farm, and found time to play his clarinet in the Columbus band. Those who knew Dean will probably remember his "wicked" sense of humor that he utilizes within the books.

The dedication of the book is to "...my wife Andrea, and our children Matt, Ben, and Rebecca, sources of most of my practical experience in psychology as well as my motivation for most of what I do." Interestingly enough, the illustrator who has added often hu-

morous line drawings to his text is his daughter Rebecca.

Mrs. Hills noted, "During times of budget constraints, gifts such as Dr. Richards' are very important to small libraries such as ours. These books are written in an easy-to-understand format which makes them user-friendly as a reference tool for a high-school level library."

Dean has included an email address where he can be reached by anyone who wants to reconnect with him: <deanrichardsbooks@gmail.com.>

## Columbus Junction State Bank holds annual meeting

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

"A very stable and healthy year" is how Columbus Junction State Bank President Mark Huston described the operations to shareholders last week. The bank reported net earnings after taxes of \$576,738, and showed asset growth of nearly \$2 million dollars. Loans remained steady, and the bank showed a growth of \$2 million dollars in deposits. The bank's primary capital increased to 9.25%, well over the regulatory requirements.

Huston reported that the agricultural economy remains strong, and the downtown business community is stable. Huston reported on new additions in the business sector, including a new convenience store, a new tire store and new ownership in the car wash. Huston also explained that the city continues with the construction of the new water plant and the levy project.

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Bank chairman Tom Huston spoke of the progress in the construction of the new community college and expansion of the school building. "These projects will greatly enhance our community as well as the school, and we have always been pleased and proud of our association with the school."

The stockholders set the number of directors at seven, and re-elected Thomas. 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,



Lisa Hills and Doris Mougins

Assistant Vice President and Loan Officer; Shelly Heindel, Assistant Cashier and Compliance Officer; and Nancy Brown, Assistant Cashier. The

Board promoted Lisa Hills to Assistant Cashier and Executive Secretary and Doris Mougins, Assistant Vice President.

## Community Club meets

By Donna Carpenter

The Columbus Community Club met on Thursday, January 17. President Joy Lekwa opened the meeting at noon. Mayor Dan Wilson reported that the city reviewed the year, and accomplishments including the Capital Improvement Plan, new water plant, completion of the new sidewalks, moving the water pipes, as well as many improvements that have taken place in Toddtown. The levy project is beginning. Tom Huston commended the city council for their diligence in completing these improvements and their continued efforts in enhancing the quality of life in Columbus Junction.

The Community Development report was given by Mallory Smith. Community Foundation grants were awarded on Monday. An Academy on Burmese lifestyles is being held. Improvements on the swinging bridge are in the planning stages. The Farmer's Market will be held again. Keep Iowa Beautiful is in the process of making bike racks at the swimming pool. Zach James, of Southeast Iowa Regional Planning is

working on a wellness plan for Columbus Junction. Mallory informed the group of a new city facebook page.

Sara Hand reported that a new boiler is being installed at Colonial Manor. The flu is now gone.

Ken Purdy said that a Foundation Grant meeting is going to be held in Oakville.

Kathy Vance noted that the Extension Office estate planning session was well attended. Intro to iPad and Intermediate iPad classes are going to be offered in February and March. These classes will be taught at the ISU Extension Office at 317 Van Buren St. in Wapello. The intro classes will be held February 19, 26, and March 5 from 6-8 P.M., and the intermediate classes will be March 12, 19, and 26, also from 6-8 P.M. The cost of each class is \$45. Sign up will be through SCC. The number is 319-208-5375. A 4-H soup supper is planned for Sunday, January 27, at the American Legion. Serving will be from 4-6 P.M. There will be mini-auctions of desserts at 4:30 and 5:15. The main auction begins at 6:00 P.M. Supper tickets are \$6.00. Potato, chili, vegetable and cheese soups will be served.

Polly Prior reported that everything is moving along well at the Se-

nior Center and reminded us that volunteers are always needed.

The school is currently reviewing budgets. The band program has a fund raiser at this time. It was reported that the school will have more

parking spaces available after the construction has been completed. Joy has visited the new facilities.

As the meeting adjourned, members were reminded that dues are now due.

## Twelve area children to vie for titles of Columbus Community 2013 Prince and Princess of Hearts

Twelve area children are vying for the titles of Columbus Community 2013 Prince and Princess of Hearts. The Columbus Women's Organization sponsors the contest that will run Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> through Wednesday, February 6, 2013. Winners will be determined by the amount of money donations received in that child's name at these locations: Columbus Junction State Bank, Community Bank and Econ-O-Mart. The winners will be crowned on Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup> 2013, at 10 a.m. at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. WINNERS MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! The Prince and Princess will each receive \$50.00 donated by Community Bank and Columbus Junction State Bank and ride in the Columbus Day Parade. All proceeds from the contest benefit the Senior Girls Dinner. For more information, contact Twyla Peters at 728-2429.

The area children in the contest

include: Kennedy Jadan Woepking, age 4, child of Jason and Danielle Woepking; Tatum Olivia Woepking, age 5 months, child of Jason and Danielle Woepking; Nadia Keller, age 3 months, child of Joel Keller and Aurelia Ramirez; Kaylee Lynn McCullough, age 2, child of Jake and Stephanie McCullough; Dominic Avila, age 10 months, child of Carlos and Bianca Avila; Tate Andrew Travis, age 1, child of Tanner Travis and Abbey Wilson; Olivia Grace Granaman, age 6 months, child of Ryan and Melissa (Harris) Granaman; Jake Andrew Milder, age 6 months, child of Bryant Milder and Ashley Wenger; Clay Daniel Clark, age 16 months, child of Sam and Mackenzie Clark; Dempsey James Carlson, age 1, child of Nathan and Debra Carlson; Savannah Lisette Madriz, age 2, child of Sergio Madriz and Ana Rojas; and Lillyan Joe Pugh, age 3, child of Eric Pugh and Ashley Hill.

## Briefly -

### 4-H Soup Supper

On Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion in Columbus Junction, a soup supper will be served from 4-6 pm. Supper is \$6 and includes all you can eat chili, vegetable, potato or cheese soup and a drink. The main dessert auction begins at 6 pm. This year, there will be 2 mini-auctions of desserts beginning at 4:30 and 5:15 for those who wish to come and go. Proceeds will go towards 4-H enrollment fees for Louisa County youth.

### City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a public hearing/regular meeting today, Wednesday, January 23, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

### Plans for Alumni Banquet set

The Columbus area Alumni Banquet will take place at Roundy Elementary School on June 8, 2013. 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 (1963) class and the 25-year (1988) class. Put the date on your calendar now! Tickets are \$10 and are available at both Columbus Junction Banks.

### CWO Prince and Princess candidates sought

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 Monday, January 21st through Wednesday, February 6th, 2013. 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 Monday January 21st thru February 6th, 2013. The Prince and Princess will be crowned on Saturday, February 9th, 2013 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.

### Muscatine Amateur Radio testing

The Muscatine Area Volunteer Examiners will be testing for all classes of amateur radio operator licenses on Sunday, February 10, at 1:30 PM at the Flickinger Learning Center, 413 Mulberry Avenue, in Muscatine. (Use the 5<sup>th</sup> street parking lot and entrance across from Hy-Vee Drugstore.) For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

### Muscatine Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet Monday, February 11, at 7:00 pm in the upper-level conference room at the Musser Public Library, 304 Iowa Avenue in Muscatine. All amateur radio operators, and those interested in learning more about amateur radio, are invited to attend. For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

### CCHS parents of 9th -12th grade students urged to complete survey

ALL PARENTS of COLUMBUS 9TH-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS are invited and ENCOURAGED to complete the Iowa Youth Survey from February 4 - March 1, 2013. The survey can be found on the school's homepage at [www.columbuscsd.org](http://www.columbuscsd.org) under Parent Links. Columbus is participating in the Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools grant and parental completion of the survey is a requirement. Please go to the website and complete the 20 minute survey today. Call Dayle Pretz, Grant Coordinator, at 728-2231 ext. 9403 with questions.

### Postage rates to increase

Postage rates will increase on Sunday, January 27, 2013. The price to mail a one-ounce letter will increase to 46 cents. Postcard postage will increase one cent to 33 cents. The Columbus Junction Post Office has sold only the Forever Stamps for the last year. The Forever Stamp automatically converts to the new one-ounce letter rate on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Blood Checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols from Colonial Manor will be at the Columbus Senior Center from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. today, Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> to do blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol testing. This is a free public service. We hope to see you there!

## IMT Group names Horak Insurance 2013 GEM Agency

The IMT Group, a leading provider of personal and commercial insurance products, announced its list of 2013 GEM Agencies today, distinguishing Horak Insurance as one of the qualifying recipients.

The IMT Group recognizes Horak Insurance as one of the highest performing IMT and Wadena Insurance agencies in its territory, which covers six Midwest states (Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin). Of the more than 800 independent IMT Group agencies eligible for consideration, only the top 72 performing agencies received the GEM distinction this year.

Each year, the IMT Group awards the GEM distinction to only those agencies that demonstrate outstanding performance in the areas of rank, growth, loss ratio, and profitability. Last year, Horak Insurance was one of the top 100 IMT Group agencies to produce a positive premium growth or policy count growth. In addition, Horak Insurance also sustained a loss ratio of 52.5% or less for 2012.

The IMT Group has a strong relationship and partnership with Horak Insurance. It is the superior performance and unwavering commitment of agencies like Horak Insurance that enables IMT to continue living up to their slogan, "Be Worry Free with IMT!"

For more information on The IMT Group visit [www.imtins.com](http://www.imtins.com) or Horak Insurance, 115 E Washington, Washington, IA 52353; 319-653-2116.

