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## Deb Pullin-VanAuken elected president of Iowa 4-H Foundation

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Deb Pullin-Van Auken, of Columbus Junction, a private banker and vice-president of U.S. Bank's Iowa City Office, was elected president of the Iowa 4-H Foundation at the annual meeting held September 21 at the DuPont Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, Iowa.

Deb was an active 4-H'er growing up in Black Hawk County (where her family is still involved in the sheep industry), and she served as a State 4-H Council member from 1979-1980. As a 4-H Foundation trustee, Deb has been instrumental in developing the Iowa 4-H Gala, which began four years ago with the event being held in Des Moines. Over four years, this event has raised over \$135,000 to support 4-H. Fulfilling Deb's vision, this event will expand in 2013 to include a second Gala held in Eastern Iowa. Deb has also been an active supporter of the Iowa 4-H Foundation's Eastern Iowa

Golf Tournament held at Riverside Casino and Golf Resort in August every year.

An active supporter of the Johnson County Heritage Trust, she has served as a board member of the Iowa City AM Rotary Club and has been a member of the District 6000 leadership team. She also serves on the United Way Johnson County's Women's Leadership Council and chairs the Jo Beers Pie Contest and Auction sponsored annually by her Altrusa Club at the Johnson County Fair.

Deb will preside over the 26-member board of trustees that includes Iowa State University President, Dr. Steven Leath. Upon induction, Deb challenged the board to be fearless in their support of the foundation's mission of providing financial resources for youth development through 4-H, and shared a heartfelt story of how she has seen 4-H change lives. Deb shared that "4-H



has been important to me for a long time, and I am happy to have this opportunity to give back to the organization."

Pictured above is publisher of Successful Farming magazine and

Past President of the Iowa 4-H Foundation, Scott Mortimer, handing the gavel to Deb Pullin-Van Auken as she begins her term as the 2012-2013 Iowa 4-H Foundation president.

## A Surprise Snowman comes to Columbus Junction

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Local Steve Tomfeld has recently graced Columbus Junction with another work of art. It is situated in the corner garden downtown at the intersections of Main and Walnut Streets, and it is one big snowman! It was put in place just in time for Family Night in downtown Columbus Junction, December 5<sup>th</sup>, and was meant to be a surprise for the community.

Steve Tomfeld, as he created this work of metal art, wanted to combine two loves of his—Iowa and Colorado. Tomfeld does a lot of mountain climbing, especially in Colorado, and he has now become certified as a mountain-climbing guide after completing classes at the American Alpine Institute. Steve and his wife Pam usually make this Colorado trek at least eight times a year.

Steve and Pam began handpicking rocks in Colorado for this project, knowing that the rocks would serve as the buttons on the snowman he wanted to create. Tomfeld even named the snowman "Rocky" after the Colorado Rockies. Each rock was wedged into the metal body, tapered in back, and then

welded to a cage behind the rock so no one could pull the "buttons" off "Rocky the Snowman".

Tomfeld is a certified pipe and steel welder, thus giving him the skills to create such a fantasy. The body of this "winter creature" is made of four 5/16's mitered-pipe steel and shafting. Tomfeld never weighed this statue, but says it is "mighty heavy." The arms are constructed also out of metal and are structured to look like sticks. He warned that no one should try to climb this snowman, as the arms are sharp.

There is a special story behind the snowman's hat. It is formed to look like a "hobo's" hat. Tomfeld did this hat in memory of a friend of his called "Iowa Blackie." This man was a true hobo, traveling around the country all his life and finally settled in Hampton, Iowa. However, for at least ten years, he came to the biker rallies sponsored by Tomfeld at the Circle of Pride north of Columbus Junction, and the two became fast friends. "Iowa Blackie" passed away last year.

Other helpers on this project were Tomfeld's wife Pam and good friend Fender Werner. They both sanded



and painted. Tomfeld chose not to paint the snowman white. Instead he wanted to leave it in its natural state. He stated, "Metal art is better in its natural state of metal. Also we were then able to put a clear coat of sealer on the metal to prevent it from rusting. Over the years this will be very important."

Tomfeld's art is getting more notice. A University of Iowa art student has observed him working on his

various metal art projects. Tomfeld said he did this project because he wanted to "bring joy to the town. I enjoy seeing people smile."

You will smile when you see this snowman. Stop a minute to look at all the work that went in to welding and structuring this man of snow. It is Steve and Pam Tomfeld and Fender Werner's gift to you, the people of the Columbus Community area. Merry Christmas.

## Christmas Angels in at the EconoMart and Community Bank

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

Are you searching for an "angel" or wanting to be an "angel." If so, you can find them right in Columbus Junction. These "angels" are at the EconoMart and at the Community National Bank on a Christmas tree.

These "angels" are the names of people and/or families who need help this holiday season in purchasing Christmas gifts. Otherwise, without your help, many of these people and their children might not get anything for Christmas.

These names are provided by our local Community Action Program

(CAP), which is located in the area behind Maynard's Motorcycles and across from Casey's, 205 Access Rd., Columbus Junction to be exact.

Here's how it works. Choose a card (which is referred to as an angel, but it really looks like a Christmas card) from one of the trees at EconoMart or Community Bank. On the back of the card, it will say: Family #, Child's #, Sex—M or F, Age, Clothing item and size, Toy. No more than one item of clothing and one toy is listed. Toy items listed should cost \$20 or less. All information on the angel cards protects the

privacy of the people and only a number identifies each person.

Right now, there are 24 families seeking assistance. All gifts purchased for these people must be to the CAP office no later than December 19<sup>th</sup>, so items can be sorted, packaged, and delivered in time for Christmas. Gifts should be wrapped and the original card attached on top so the present goes to the exact person.

Be an "angel" and choose one or more of these "angels." Family members are each listed separately. You might want to check the family number and try to get all of the ones

in this family so no one is left out. A family is told, "There is no guarantee all children listed on the tree will be 'adopted' (which means taken off a tree)". It would be sad to see some children with no gift while other family members have them.

This program is "angels" helping "angels." Make your Christmas complete by joining in "the spirit of giving." As Tiny Tim said in the end of the famous Christmas story, A CHRISTMAS CAROL, by Charles Dickens after Scrooge finally changes his ways and becomes benevolent, "God bless us, everyone."

## Results of work at Chautauqua Park reviewed

Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, a meeting was held at the Chautauqua Park cabin to review and reveal the results of a year's worth of work on the park area. Many of these improvements were funded by the REAP grant. Present were both local people, who had worked on the project, and members of the REAP Committee. The meeting started in the cabin around a cozy fire as Mallory Smith, Community Development Director, explained what had been accomplished. Zach James helped Smith write the grant. Special guests were Cathy Henry, from the Fish and Wildlife Service and Manager of the Port Louisa Refuge and

Katie Hammond, the Director of the Louisa County Conservation Board. Steve Nielsen also was present as the REAP chairman of the committee for Louisa County. The meeting soon moved outside for everyone to view the new improvements on signs, trails, bathrooms, water fountains, play equipment, and plantings.

Pictured are left front: Cathy Henry, Katie Hammond, and Mallory Smith. Back: Steve Nielsen and Zach James. Right side front: Dan Wilson, Jeff Carey.



Back: Mike Mullinex and Jim Gabriel. Missing from photo: Steve Tomfeld and Fred Lukavsky.

## Briefly -

### Blood Checks at Senior Center

Blood checks will take place at the Senior Center on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 a.m.

### Columbus City Family Night

The City of Columbus City will hold its Family Christmas Night today, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, from 5-7 p.m. at the Columbus City Masonic Lodge. A soup supper, desserts and Santa will be there at 6 p.m.

### City Council to meet tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the New Civic Center/City Hall.

### Low Insurance to host CJPM

Low Insurance will be hosting C.J.P.M. on Thursday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the American Legion Building.

### Colonial Manor Christmas Potluck

The Colonial Manor Christmas Potluck will be held today, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at NOON in the Resident Dining Room. Meat, rolls, beverages and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish of your choice to share.

### Honor Society to hold blood drive

The Columbus Chapter of the National Honor Society will be holding a blood drive at the American Legion this Thursday, December 13 from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m. Their goal is 40 units . . . so everyone is invited and encouraged to donate to help them reach that goal!

### Cookies and kids caroling

Mike and Renea Jay would like you to know that the Cookies and Kids youth group will be caroling today, Wednesday, December 12. If you would like to join us, we would love to have you! We will meet at the Senior Center at 6:00 PM. There will be cookies and coffee and hot chocolate when we get done! If you know of a friend or loved one, in the Columbus Junction area, who would enjoy an enthusiastic group of carolers coming to sing at their house, please give Mike a call at 319-530-6775. We will do our best to get to all requests.

### Cooks Night Out

The last Cooks' Night Out Supper for this year will be held today, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Letts Methodist Church. Everyone is invited to attend. The menu will include Chili or Chicken Vegetable Soup, Sandwiches, Pie, Cookies and Beverage. There is no charge for the supper. For additional information contact the Church Office at 319-726-3541.

### Junior Parents meeting

There will be a meeting for all Junior Parents to start planning for the 2013 After Prom Party on Thursday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Student Center. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend and help with the planning.

### Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will hold a regular meeting today, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the Louisa County Conservation Office.

### School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will be holding a regular board meeting on Monday, December 17 at 6:30.

### Special School Board meeting

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will be holding a Special Public Meeting on Tuesday, December 18, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the Columbus Administrative Office, 1210 Colton Street, Columbus Junction, IA 52738.

### Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 at the home of Judy Prior. We will have a potluck dinner - please bring a dish to pass. Please note the change of the meeting.

### Washington Conservation board to meet

The Washington County Conservation Board will hold its monthly meeting today, December 12, 2012 at 4:30 pm in the Conservation Education Center.

### Washington Diabetes support group

The Washington County Hospital Diabetes Education Center will be having a Diabetes Support Group on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm in the Education Classroom at Washington County Hospital. This is a free session open to all persons with diabetes or their family members. This month's topic will focus on medical numbers and what impact it has on achieving good diabetes control. For more information, please contact Amy Martin, RN, CDE at 319-863-2030.

### A Blue Christmas

For people coping with illness, a loved one's death, job loss or other tragedy, the cheery atmosphere of the holiday season can be alienating and depressing. The holiday season itself, can trigger depression for some people, whether it's the long nights and gray weather or being far away from friends and family. The Blue Christmas Service provides a coming-together of people who understand that life has seasons of sadness, and that grief needs room to breathe in safe places. We need to know that we are not alone. Please join us on Sunday, December 16 at 3:00 pm at the Columbus Junction United Presbyterian Church (Christian Education Building) for an Ecumenical Blue Christmas Service for all those who have suffered loss of any kind.

### Morning Sun Care Center food drive

The Resident Council of Morning Sun Care Center is sponsoring a food drive. Non-perishable food items will be collected at the care center and also at the Bargain Barn through December 15. All food collected will support the Morning Sun Food Pantry. Call Angie Smith at 868-7751 with questions.

### Early Childhood Board to meet

The Early Childhood Iowa Area Board Des Moines/Louisa Counties will be meeting today, Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. at the First United Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle St., Mediapolis, IA.

