

City Council continues to work with FEMA

By Jim Rudisill

Meetings with federal and other flood recovery officials are continuing, Columbus Junction officials learned during the city council's December 10 regular meeting. Mayor Dan Wilson reported that he expects to meet this week with officials from the National Republic Bank of Chicago to discuss the future of the Columbus Motel. At previous council meetings, officials said the bank holds the loan for the building, but is unsure where the previous owner is.

According to Wilson, he has talked with a representative of the bank on previous occasions and is optimistic the bank is interested in resolving the building's future.

"They want to do what they can to get the motel back in operation," he reported.

He acknowledged however that he did not know what that meant, but hoped more details might be available after this week's anticipated meeting.

Wilson said other city officials also reported possible progress in other areas of the community.

Council members Mark Huston and Hal Prior are both expected to meet this week with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials. Huston will meet to discuss recovery efforts at the Louisa County Fairgrounds and Prior will discuss efforts to renovate the Columbus Senior Citizen's building.

In other action, Wilson said the council briefly discussed the city's preparations for this winter season. He said the city's salt supply had improved with three additional loads acquired since city workers reported a shortage last month.

In final action, Columbus Community Development Center staff members Mallory Smith and Nitza Lopez-Castillo presented their monthly report to the council on economic development and other programs. The two reported the liaison committee for the community health center recently held its monthly meeting and reported the facility replaced after the flooding was working well. There have been additional efforts to winterize it and an open house will be held in January. The health center has applied for state assistance through the JumpStart Program to recover some of the expense associated with the flood.

Workers at the Tyson Foods plant have been supportive of the United Fund, the two reported. During a November 3-December 10 sign-up, around \$11,000 in payroll deductions were pledged.

A micro-lending program aimed at providing entrepreneurial assistance to area residents with marginal borrowing opportunities is continuing to be developed. Geode RC&D will act as a fiscal agent for the program, which is expected to be kicked off in January or February. A grant application to the Community Foundation of Louisa County has been submitted.

Smith also reported she had attended a meeting of the Columbus Junction Economic Development Commission to discuss entrance signage into the community. The commission is continuing to investigate options.

Experiencing 3 seasons in 24 hours



The Columbus Junction State Bank's thermometer on Monday morning registering 4 degrees.

Only in Iowa can you experience three seasons in less than 24 hours. On Sunday area residents woke up to a balmy fall day as temperatures reached 55 degrees by early after-

noon. Rain began to fall in the afternoon and was accompanied by thunder, reminiscent of a spring rain. However winter then descended overnight as temperatures fell from the

earlier 55 degrees to near zero. Single digit temperatures and ice greeted residents as they began their week on Monday morning. The Iowa we all have come to love.

3-D Fabrication - another community asset

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

Recently dining at Lee's Alley Café I was introduced to a business that I had no idea was there let alone the talent that was displayed there. If you have not visited the 3-D Fabrication business then you are truly missing out on some wonderful affordable gifts for someone special or that hard to buy for person who has everything. Once inside and getting a tour of their shop and numerous tools I decided people need to know exactly what went on in this business.

Four years ago Mike Drayfahl of rural Columbus Junction was working a Precision Machine Shop out of his garage when he decided he needed more work space. With all the tools required doing his job he decided it was time to expand. At first he looked into running his Fabrication business on his property and expanding his existing shop but because of zoning laws for Louisa County he was not able to have a business on his property due to it being zoned agriculture. He then began searching for a location in Louisa County when he learned that the old Smithcraft building owned by Ron Murry was for sale. "The building was just what I needed, it had plenty of space, so I bought it," says Mike.

Mike also works full time at All Steel as a Tool and Die Maker and hopes that someday his Fabrication business will allow him to earn a decent living. When not at All Steel you will find him busy in his shop welding or creating and designing.

Approximately one year ago Roger Snyder merged his business S & W Metal Work in with Mike's 3 D Fabrication business. Roger is also a certified welder. Roger and his wife, Cheri have been doing custom metal art welding for approximately a year and a half at their home in Arkansas and selling their items on eBay.

Roger and Cheri had moved from Columbus Junction to Arkansas and own a fishing resort. Their resort does really well for 7-8 months of the year; the other 4-5 months are slow so their extra income from their metal arts business helped. Last year the lake at their resort was 43 ft. above normal pool and the fishing was terrible. We lost half of our business in cancella-



Pictured l-r: Roger and Cheri Snyder and Mike Drayfahl

tions," remarks the Snyders so Roger came back to Columbus Junction to work and when things at the resort slowed down Cheri also came back to Columbus Junction and helps at the shop.

Mike and Roger are hoping to attract area people and businesses to contract fabricating work from them. Online access gives them a chance to bid jobs that are open in the surrounding area. Their business carries a 2 million dollar insurance policy allowing them to also bid contracts for the bigger companies. They are able to travel to jobsites with their portable equipment and welcome customers to bring their items to their shop. "No job is too big or too small," agree the men.

In February Cheri will be returning to their resort in Arkansas to get things ready for spring. Their regulars are already starting to call for reservations. The Snyders plan to eventually sell the resort and move back to CJ permanently. "We miss the kids and grandkids, when the grandkids start school they want to be here for all of their activities," agree the couple.

The Snyders have a plasma cutter and other tools which will become a part of 3D along with the other existing machines already at the shop like, 2 portable welders, lathes, plasma cutter, drill presses, mig welder, 2 mills and surface grinders.

If you are looking for a truly unique one of a kind gift. Then stop

in and look at the items on display. They do custom orders or special orders, cutting items from metal, plastic or aluminum. "It's a small part of our business that helps to pay the bills," states Mike and Roger.

They have books with thousands of designs to choose from and are making animals like: turkeys, deer, fish or other special items for that hard to buy for person like, names signs, motorcycles, sports teams, trucks, hunting scenes, fishing boats, Halloween items. They are able to custom design from the computer as well or are more than happy to use your own design. Items can be painted or burnt with a torch creating a unique and beautiful finish. In the shop they have a display with a variety of items reasonably priced for sale. As far as hours they don't have any set hours but someone is always there. Cheri, Roger's wife helps out when she can add her creative ideas. You may find her painting, designing or plasma cutting. "Once we get an idea we all put in our two cents and can usually create something that is not only pleasing to us but pleases the person buying it," smiles Cheri.

We work great as a team and enjoy working together. Another partner to 3-D crew is Mike's wife, Celia. Celia is City Clerk at Wapello. "Her responsibility at 3-D is their book keeper and tax adviser. It is a big job especially at tax time. We are lucky to have her input and help," says Mike.

So if you need something welded or repaired or are looking for a truly unique gift for yourself or a hard to buy for person stop in and see Mike, Roger or Cheri at 3-D Fabrication located at 217 2nd Street across the street from the post office. The same entrance is used for 3-D as used for Lee's Alley Café. You can also call 3-D at 319-728-2504 or email them at threefab@iowatelecom.net.

Briefly -

Christmas at the Columbus Heritage Museum

Please visit the museum to see the special Christmas exhibits: post-cards, quilts, sleighs, and Santas. Open: Saturday from 9 a.m. - Noon. Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Drawing for Christmas items and books on Saturday, December 20th, and on Sunday, December 21st. Drawing will take place the 21st and winners will be contacted by phone by December 23rd. Also: Columbus School photos still needing names for pupils.

Holiday Social at Colonial Manor

Colonial Manor will host a holiday social on Saturday, December 20th. Piano music will begin at 9:00 followed by coffee, juice and donuts. Stop by to enjoy some music and a treat with your family or a friend.

Santa Claus in Ainsworth

Santa comes to Ainsworth on Saturday, December 20, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Ainsworth Opera House, 284 Railroad Street, Ainsworth, Iowa. Refreshments, Santa pictures, crafts and Santa writing.

Santa Claus in Fredonia

Santa Claus will be at Fredonia City Hall on Saturday, December 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Christmas Concert at C.J. United Methodist Church

The public is invited to a Christmas Concert entitled "The Spirit of Christmas" on Saturday, December 20, 2008, 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church featuring the CJ United Methodist Church Bell Choir Quartet, Tara Crawford (Flute), Melanie DeVore (Acoustic Guitar and Vocals), Marsha Gerot (Piano), The Muscatine Symphony Orchestra Brass Quartet, Jill Sterner (Vocals), Aurelia Torres (Vocals), and the CJ United Methodist Church Praise Band. Come enjoy your favorite Christmas songs performed in the beautiful candle-lit sanctuary and enjoy fellowship and refreshments following the concert. The concert is free to the public. A free-will offering basket will be placed in the entrance with the proceeds benefiting the CJUMC Music Department.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Civic Center.

Mr. Corbiere doesn't miss a beat



Mr. Corbiere doing what he loves, teaching.

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

Columbus Elementary Music teacher Mr. Paul Corbiere has been named as one of five Jubilation Foundation Fellows to receive grant money for 2008.

Jubilation Foundation Fellowships are awarded to individuals who have given many years of their lives and have achieved high level of expertise in making young people feel fully alive through rhythm as expressed in dance, music and poetry.

A written statement about Mr. Corbiere on the Jubilation Foundation website: "Paul Corbiere, an extraordinary teacher received a \$5000 Fellowship. The man does not miss a beat. With years of experience and Masters of Percussion Performance from Ohio State University, Paul Corbiere helped secure a \$110,000 grant to bring Beat for Peace to 23 Title I schools in Palm Beach County, reaching thousands of children. Established in 1995 at Starlight Cove Community Title I Elementary School, Beat for Peace is a music-based intervention built out of the collaborative efforts of classroom teachers, music teachers, and school counselors. He is currently making a splash in Columbus Junction, Iowa, bringing his talent, enthusiasm, and dedication to students and the broader community."

"With this award, Paul will help support the Beat for Peace program at Starlight Cove Elementary in Palm Beach County, Florida; invest in more instruments for his classroom, and

invest in his own professional development through workshops and lessons. "

The history of the Jubilation Foundation is founded by three friends and colleagues who experienced, independent of each other, what fellow human beings have been experiencing since the beginning of history: the cohesive power of rhythm, as expressed through words, music, and dance. These folks are ethnomusicologist Charlie Keil, professor of music education Pat Campbell, and amateur musician Becky Liebman.

Their respective paths led them to each other, where they could swap stories, confirm hypotheses, and validate observations. When the opportunity appeared to direct financial resources in a way that could help unlock and fulfill the human desire for "keeping together in time", as William McNeil aptly put it, these three took it. They all helped to create the Jubilation Foundation in March 2008.

The Jubilation Foundation's Mission Statement is that when people are happy, connected, and fully alive, life is good for the individual and the community. The Jubilation Foundation will help young people feel fully alive through rhythm as expressed in dance, music and poetry. We strive to bring forth the joyful side of human nature to strengthen communities.

Columbus Junction and Roundy Elementary are honored to have Mr. Corbiere a part of our children's lives, and our community's life.

Junctionopoly Now Available

The Junctionopoly game is in and available at some downtown locations for \$25. Also, if you wish to order one and have it delivered, you can contact Stephanie Duncan at 728-2061, Joy Clark at 728-2654 or Cindy Johnston at 728-5032, or the United Presbyterian Church or United Methodist Churches in Columbus Junction. This would make a great Christmas gift, and also help the Churches' youth groups.

