

# Community records another win

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

Signs, banners, and displays decorated the yard of Obree Tribal last week as he officially ended his cancer treatments. Doctors declared that Obree's MRI was clear, and he now only needed to have a check-up every three months.

A brain tumor was discovered in April of last year. Since then Obree underwent six weeks of radiation and chemotherapy treatments. After a six week lay-off, he began 4-day treatments every month until recently. He continues to take physical and occupational therapy, and is getting better every day. Obree is back in school on a limited basis, and he takes some courses online. Obree is a seventh grade student at Columbus. He is the son of Tessa Pugh and the grandson of Diana Billingsley and Lanny Pugh of Columbus Junction.

Obree's progress can be charted by going to [www.carepages.com](http://www.carepages.com), then searching for TheOTeam.

Congratulations, Obree, you are an inspiration for the whole community.



# Celebrating 100 years of service to our youth

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

Every community is composed of individuals who live in the community, individuals who work in the community, and individuals who help build the community. Columbus Junction has always been fortunate to have had many individuals who have taken on the builder role, and one of those builders passed a milestone last week. Lucile Smylie celebrated her 100th birthday last Thursday, and her family hosted a birthday party in her honor at Colonial Manor on Saturday.

Lucile Beik was born in Grandview, and attended Grandview schools and later the University of Iowa. After graduation, she began teaching in the Columbus Schools in 1933. She continued her teaching career until 1937, when she married F.D. Smylie.

For the next 38 years she helped F.D. operate the Columbus Junction Sale Barn. She served as book-keeper, custodian, and any other job that needed done. The Smylies sold the sale barn in 1975.

Lucile never lost her love for children and the school system. Numerous school children visited her last week to congratulate her on the milestone. They asked a lot of questions, and Lucile was never stumped. When one asked what was her favorite class in school, she responded,



"Recess." As to her favorite foods, she said that it has always been, "Candy."

The Smylies were always dedicated to the education of our children, and they were instrumental in the

construction of Roundy Elementary School by donating over five acres of real estate on which the school is located. A marker stands today commemorating the generous gift from Lucile and her family.

Even after 100 years, Lucile still looks forward to the future and the excitement it can bring. When asked how she felt celebrating her birthday, she said, "I can't imagine I'm 100 years old, I still feel like a kid."

# City Council unveils capital improvement plan

By Jim Rudisill

Planning for improvements in Columbus Junction would receive a boost under a proposed capital improvements plan, city officials were told during the city council's regular January 26 meeting.

Columbus Junction Community Development Center (CJCDC) Executive Director Mallory Smith and assistant director Nitza Lopez-Castillo unveiled the proposal; and explained its development would assist city officials to create a record of infrastructure projects and help prioritize, coordinate and fund upcoming activities. "It's mostly research and getting everything in one area," Smith said, explaining the plan would include basic descriptions, cost estimates, possible implementation dates and potential funding sources.

"I like the idea," Mayor Dan Wilson said, explaining the proposal would provide the city with a plan of action that would move the city beyond discussion stages. "If you talk about it every year, you never get it in the pipe," he said.

Some of the projects the plan could address are major efforts already underway or anticipated in the city, including park improvements, a levee upgrade and relocation of the municipal water treatment plant. However, other necessary, but perhaps smaller projects, such as beau-

tification, highway modifications and city sidewalk improvements would also be included.

According to a handout provided the CJCDC staff, the city would identify any infrastructure project costing at least \$10,000 in the plan and city officials and staff would begin developing drafts for implementing those projects by this spring. The council would be expected to adopt a final plan in June. "We've never had a plan and it would be nice to have a little more organized," council member Mark Huston said.

Council member Phil Kaalberg questioned how the capital improvements plan would fit into the comprehensive plan the city is planning to update.

"I think (the capital improvements plan) coordinates," Wilson said, adding it would deal more with implementation than a comprehensive plan.

Huston said Columbus Junction has been successful implementing past projects, but needed to look forward to maintain that success. "It would be better if we had a plan," he said.

Huston and Wilson pointed to the success Mediapolis had in targeting and receiving grants and other revenue sources by identifying potential projects and then submitting funding requests to appropriate agencies. "Mepo may have been the only player

in some years," Wilson said about those efforts.

In a State of the City statement he read later in the meeting, Wilson agreed the effort to establish goals and improve planning for the city would help the city continue in its efforts to recover from the effects of the devastating 2008 flood. "The long term view of capital improvements and having a plan will assist us as we continue to grow and progress," he told the council.

Kaalberg suggested a city administrator could have also been an important resource and questioned if planning could help the city reach that objective.

Wilson acknowledged a city administrator would have been a valuable contributor to city planning and recovery efforts, but said the city had been able to move forward because of a committed council and staff. "We have a good team in place that works well together and serves the community very well," he said.

Although the proposal to begin developing a capital improvements

plan was not an action item, Wilson said it was his sense the council was supportive. "I think you've got the nod," he told Smith and Lopez-Castillo.

In other planning action, Smith and Lopez-Castillo also presented a photo inventory of city properties and urged the city to begin discussions on how to manage and use the areas. They also identified whether or not the areas had sidewalks, suggesting the city needed to meet the same sidewalk rules as local residents.

They also presented a new format to the monthly reports they make to the council. The new reports will include a short project description, individuals involved in the project, starting and ending dates and other information. Smith said it should help to streamline the presentations they make to the council.

In final action, the council agreed to hold a public hearing on its 2011-12 budget at its regular February 23 meeting. The council also approved Wilson's appointment of Carla Bruns to the city's board of adjustment.

## Briefly -

### Legion Fish Fry

The American Legion will be holding a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, February 12th at the Legion Building. Serving will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. The price is \$8.00

### 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 28th through Friday, February 11, 2011. Deadline for entry and photos is Wednesday, January 26th 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 28th through Friday, February 11th, 2011. The Prince and Princess will be crowned on Saturday, February 12th, 2011 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.

### Great Backyard Bird Count

The Columbus Junction Community Development Center invites you to participate in The Great Backyard Count (GBBC). This is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. The GBBC count will take place February 18 to 21. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. The Community Development Center will collect Columbus area tallies through Friday, February 15 and will publish the results in the following week's newsletter. Drop them off at City Hall or email [cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org](mailto:cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org).

It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Let's have a Columbus GBBC! See [www.birdsource.org/gbbc/](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/) to begin preparing.

### Habitat For Humanity Soup Supper

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will host their annual Celebration Soup Supper, Sunday, February 27 at the United Methodist Fellowship Hall in Wapello from 5 - 7 p.m. There will be entertainment, a brief recognition program starting at 6:15 p.m., and door prizes. Everyone is welcome!

### Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. at Assisted Living in Columbus Junction. Hostesses will be Kay Perkins and Janet Pretz. The program will be Mallory Smith, the Tri-Rivers Director. Roll call will be a love quote/romantic verse.

### Legislative Forum scheduled

There will be a Legislative Forum on Saturday, February 5, 2011 with State Senator Tom Courtney and Representative Tom Sands at the State Bank of Wapello Community Room from 11:15 A.M. to 12:15 P.M.

### P.E.O. to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Judy Sievers on Monday, Feb. 7th at 7:00 pm and co-hosted by Emily Bell. Mallory Smith, Executive Director, and Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation will give the program. All members are encouraged to attend.

### Pleasant Grove Supper changed

Pleasant Grove Community Church annual Sausage and Pancake supper has been moved to Wednesday evening, Feb 16th, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Please bring friends and family for an evening of good food and fellowship. Free Will Offering. In the event of foul weather, call 319-480-4706 for information or cancellation.

### 4-H Premium Chili Cook-Off

Louisa County Fair Board is sponsoring a 4-H Premium Chili Cook-off and fundraising supper on Saturday, February 12th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Letts Community Center. \$5 all you can eat with all proceeds to benefit the 4-H Premium Fund.

### Guatemala Mission fundraiser

Saturday, February 5th, 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph's Church basement in Columbus Junction, Iowa. Ticket prices are: \$6.00 for adults and \$4.50 for children you may eat in or take out. Menu: 4 Taquitos, or 2 Tostadas, rice and beans, drink and a dessert. Please call the church kitchen for to go orders 319-728-2810. Money goes to help pay for meals, hotels, and other expenses for my Guatemala Mission.

### School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, February 7, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the District Administrative Office (White House).

### Super Bowl Party at CJUMC

Everyone is invited to a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 6, 2011 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church. Bring your favorite snacks to share. Sandwiches will be provided.

### Breakfast Buffet in Ainsworth

Ainsworth Community Center Opera House will hold their first breakfast buffet of 2011 on Saturday, February 5th. We will be open from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Cost is \$7 a person, children 10 and under are free with an adult. Our menu includes biscuits and gravy, link sausage, breakfast casseroles, ham, scrambled eggs, hash browns, fresh fruit, rolls, and more. This is a fundraiser for the Opera House. Hope to see you there!

# Community braces for biggest one of the year

As of press time the area was bracing for forecasts of one of the biggest snow storms in recent years. Preliminary forecasts indicated that the storm would begin on Monday evening with a possibility of up to 3 inches of snow. Then on Tuesday afternoon a second wave will come that could drop in excess of 12 inches of snow, followed by heavy winds creating blizzard conditions. The Gazette will follow with a complete coverage of the storm if preliminary forecasts hold true. Watch for next week's issue.