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Keeping our Talent in the Community

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

With every high school graduation parents, relatives and friends celebrate in the talents of our new graduates. We then follow their progress in whatever fields they choose to enter, and again we all continue to take pride and encourage these graduates. Thousands of young people graduate every year from Iowa high schools, colleges, and vocational schools with talents that supersede our imagination. However, a community will take a special pride when one of these graduates brings their talent back to their hometown and uses it to better the lives of the community's citizens. The Gazette received information last week that this very situation has happened here. Sarah Cutler Hand, a 1995 graduate of Columbus Community School, has received certification from the State of Iowa as a Nursing Home Administrator, and has taken over the official role as administrator of Colonial Manor.

This has not been an easy road for Sarah. After graduating from Columbus Community, Sarah attended Muscatine Community College for two years then Iowa Wesleyan College where she obtained her degree in Psychology and Sociology. She then worked for Family Resources in Burlington as a Family Therapist. Later she worked in Wapello where she worked for New Choices helping individuals with special needs in their homes. In 2007 Sarah came to Colonial Manor and worked in the social services area.

She began taking classes to become certified as an administrator for assisted living facilities, and received her certification in 2009. She has been serving as the administrator for



Colonial Manor's assisted living facility, Colonial Estates. At about that time Colonial Manor lost their administrator, and Sarah was asked to become the Manor's provisional administrator until a new administrator could be found. The Colonial Manor Board of Directors asked Sarah to consider obtaining her certification to become the permanent administrator, so she applied to the State of Iowa requesting information. She was informed that she needed an additional 18 credit hours above her degree, and the hours needed to be in the areas of gerontology and administration.

Along with her full time job, duties as a mother and wife, Sarah began her quest of obtaining full certification in August of 2011. She took classes at Bellevue University and the

University of Northern Iowa. She completed her coursework in December of 2011. She then was required to submit her credentials to the State Board to see if she had the qualifications to set for the Nursing Home Administrator's examination. She was approved to apply for the examination, and took the three hour test last week. "It was the hardest examination I have ever taken," said Sarah, but her diligence and determination paid off as she was informed that she had passed and is certified by the State of Iowa. Sarah now has the distinction of being Colonial Manor's first administrator to have been raised and educated in our community.

Sarah is married to John Hand and they have a daughter, Atlie. Sarah is the daughter of Larry Cutler and

Kay and Tom Huston. She has a daughter, Atlie. "I feel so very fortunate to be in my home town and providing a valuable service, and am so grateful for all of the support that I have received," said Sarah.

And to you, Sarah, the community feels very grateful that you have chosen to bring your many talents back to your hometown, and be willing to serve such a needed role for our citizens. *(As a side note, an anonymous source told the Gazette that when Sarah held her first staff meeting, rather than the typical problems being debated, the meeting was a celebration that one of their own had accomplished such a wonderful feat, and would be poised to lead Colonial long into the future.)*

2011 Year in Review - Part 4

October 5, 2011 - Don and Arlene Clark, Marlin O'Donnell, Aurelia Torres and Mike Grothe are named 2011 Columbus Day Distinguished Citizens.

First Annual Jack Cecil Columbus Day Car Show is scheduled.

FCCLA holds "Pink Out Night" at Volleyball game to support the Gary "Gomer" Hamilton Family.

Connie Lewis receives "Community Caring" Award.

Obituaries included Albert Brown, Barbara Ann Hauenstein and Bernice Mundt.

October 12, 2011 - Lt. David L. Orr receives Sullivan Brothers Award of Valor from Governor Branstad.

Two new cows appear in the Main Street Park.

Louisa County Fair Board announces plans to build youth center.

Muscatine Area Council on Youth Leadership Scholarship winners are named.

Obituaries include Erric Jason Cordova and Leonard Lee Still.

October 19, 2011 - Roundy School holds Positive Behavior Assembly.

City Council is hopeful that bids for city water projects can be let by Spring.

School Board deals with personnel and facility issues.

Town meeting is scheduled to deal with threat to ash trees from Emerald Ash Borer.

Regional Trails Council seeks community input for a Master Plan.

Roundy School holds a rodeo with pumpkins and poems.

Obituaries include: Mary Kathryn Hellscher, Jose Guadalupe Moreno, and Juanita F. Mulford.

October 26, 2011 - Many new improvements are made at Chautauqua Park.

Beat for Peace Group wins Chili Taste-Off at Farmers' Market.

Civic Center honors memory of Lisa Ostrem.

A Christmas Wish Tree is established at Community Services.

CJ Fire Department schedules "Halloween Ball."

Katherine "Katy" Williams' obituary is published.

November 2, 2011 - Dr. Wever donates time to a Dental Clinic in Mexico.

Andrea Wilson writes of how Roger Salazar came to Iowa and became the first Hispanic to graduate from Columbus High School.

Mike Jay announces his resignation as Columbus Cross Country Coach.

Sofia Torres' Family is selected for 12th Habitat For Humanity home in Louisa County.

Many locals in their "Trick or Treat" costumes are featured.

Obituaries include Jeffrey Michael Carney and Tommy Gene Colton.

November 9, 2011 - Louisa County Veterans who gave their lives in various wars are honored.

Shellbark Club celebrates 100th Anniversary.

Casey's Corporation pledges \$50,000 to 4-H Youth Center.

Paper cranes traveling from Columbus School to Japan are featured.

Obituaries include Genevieve Furlong and Marjorie Heindel.

November 16, 2011 - Mary Masonholder Wilson and John Carpenter announce plans for Christmas shopping trips in local businesses.

Veterans' Day ceremonies throughout the county are featured.

City Council unveils community sidewalk improvement plan.

United Fund updates public on community drive.

Obituaries include: Robert L. Buffington, Daniel Scott Dilts, Patricia Ann Howell, Alice J. Snyder and Margaret "Maggie" Meeker.

November 23, 2011 - Mary Masonholder Wilson and John Carpenter make first Christmas shopping trip in town.

School Board rejects early retirement program.

Pictures of events around Columbus Junction are published.

Great River Health offers classes for a Healthy Holiday Season.

Richard "Dick" Edwards' obituary is published.

November 30, 2011 - Mary Masonholder Wilson and John Carpenter make second Christmas shopping trip in the community.

Schedule of Family Night Activities is published.

Obituaries include: Glen Douglas Beard, Tyson Fredrick Collett and Beverly J. Lorack.

December 7, 2011 - Mary

Masonholder Wilson and John Carpenter make third Christmas shopping trip around the community.

The Pugh Family discusses their recent trip to Wales.

Dakota Hoben elected ISU Student Body President.

Lego Dynamite Team participates in Regional Tournament.

Obituaries include Henry Swailes, Fern White-Bylo, and Pauline Carter Jennings.

December 14, 2011 - Mary Masonholder Wilson and John Carpenter make their fourth Christmas shopping trip in the community.

Columbus students participate in U of I Upward Bound program.

Chapter R, TTT celebrates 75th Anniversary.

Photos of Christmas events around town are published.

Douglas Langstaff's obituary is

published.

December 21, 2011 - Mary Masonholder Wilson describes how one can Christmas shop with little or no money.

Legion Auxiliary begins collecting Long Johns for VA Hospital.

Roundy School holds "Breakfast with Santa."

School Board reviews facility update plans.

December 28, 2011 - Randy Phillips and Tyler Travis return home from Iraq and are met by their families in Middletown.

Columbus students have the opportunity to read their Santa letters from 10 years ago.

Tri Rivers Foundation celebrates 10th Anniversary.

Archie L. Robison's obituary is published

Waste Ban at Transfer Station is resolved for Louisa County

Starting February 1st, Louisa County residents will have a way to dispose of their electronic waste. The Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency has contracted with Weikert Iron and Metal Recycling of Muscatine, Iowa to begin recycling TVs, computers, MP3 players and other E-waste from Louisa County. The E-waste will be collected at the Louisa County Transfer Station located south of Wapello, Iowa.

"We haven't let any of that stuff get dumped since December" reported Kim Hewett, manager of the transfer station. "If any electronic is spotted in one of our truck loads when we're hauling to the landfill, we have to pull the item out and bring it back here".

Now when residents have unwanted TVs, computers or cell phones that cannot be donated to charities, they can be brought to the Louisa County transfer station. A small fee covers the cost of these items being safely recycled and the personal information deleted. Fees are \$2 for any item without a screen, \$5 for screens 18 inches or smaller and \$10 for items with a screen larger than 18 inches. Items should be brought to the transfer station during regular business hours. Personnel in the office will collect the fee and give directions as to where to place the items.

Many old electronics don't have to end up in the trash. Charities such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army will take old, working televisions. Goodwill will also take computers, working or not, and anything connected to them for recycling. The Keck Memorial Library in Wapello will take old cell phones as part of their recycling fundraiser.

The Louisa County transfer station is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. To get to the transfer station find Locust Street, located just south of the Wapello Nursing Home on the South side of Wapello on Highway 61. Take Locust Street half a mile west to "K" avenue. Turn left (south) onto "K" avenue and travel 200 feet. Turn right onto 70th Street. The transfer station will be visible at this point. Pull up to the office/scales for further directions. For more information about E-waste call Louisa County Conservation at 523-8381. This recycling program is provided with funding by the Louisa Regional Solid Waste Agency.

Briefly -

CCHS Class of 1982 plans reunion

Attention Columbus Class of 1982: It's time for our 30-year class reunion. Another planning meeting is set for Wednesday, February 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Deb Halstead's home. We need to get addresses for all classmates. Parents: If you can help out, call Deb at 319-750-2636 or email me at cpmc-jp@yahoo.com.

CCHS 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.

Etude Club to meet

Etude Club will meet at Colonial Estates on Tuesday, February 7th at 7 p.m. Former members are welcome as we are celebrating 60 years of musical memories and scholarships. For more information, call Dorothy at 728-2066.

Eulenspiegel Puppets to be in Letts

The Eulenspiegel Puppeteers will be at the Letts Community Center on Sunday, February 12, at 2 p.m. They will be presenting The Snow Queen. Admission is free. Come and join us for an afternoon of family fun for all. Free snacks and drinks will be available.

FFA to host 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.

Flap Jacks and a Flick

Mark your calendar: On Saturday, February 4 at 10 am - "FlapJacks and a Flick" for kids preschool - 3rd grade will be taking place at the public library. We will be serving flapjacks and OJ while watching the movie "Andre" - the famous harbor seal. We will be in our kids' room that is decorated with our iceberg, harbor seals and polar bears.

Jump Rope for Heart

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.

Conservation Board to meet

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. at the Louisa County Conservation Office.

LO-CO Bingo at Historical Society

The Louisa County Historical Society is sponsoring Lo-Co (Louisa County) Bingo on Saturday, February 18th from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at LCHS building, Highway 61, Wapello. More details in next week's paper.

Legislative Forum in Wapello

A Legislative Forum will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2012 with Senator Tom Courtney and Representative Tom Sands at the State Bank of Wapello Community Room from 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM.

L-M FFA to hold Beef 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 County 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.

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.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, February 6, 2012 at 9 a.m. at the Columbus Junction Civic Center/City Hall.

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.