



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

Vol. 127 No. 5

CCHS Students Hold Peaceful Sit-In Administration responds with Empathy and Understanding

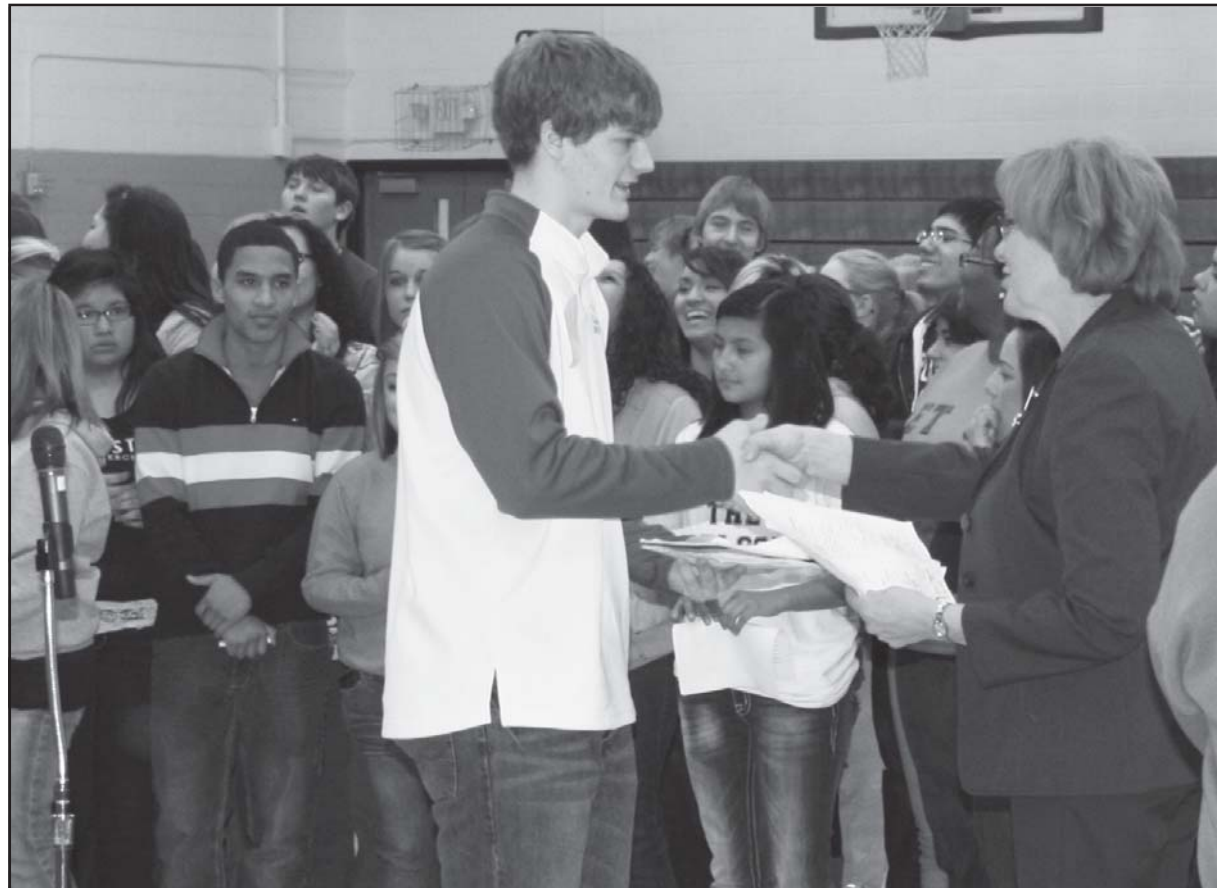
Distraught at the thought of losing teachers they admired, Columbus students staged a "sit-in" Friday morning. Although no names had been attached to the list of positions to be reduced, the students felt that both Deb and Nate Carlson were at risk, so to show their support, they planned a demonstration by going to the gym and sitting on the bleachers instead of going to class.

Superintendent Dr. Marlene Johnson learned of their intentions on Thursday and created a "learning experience" from their actions. Yes, there would be a sit-in, but the students would be asked to speak about their feelings and fears. First Amendment rights would be in force, and a lesson on government and responsibility would take place.

At 9:00 Principal Jeff Maeder addressed the student body who had gathered on the south bleachers; this included over 200 students from seventh through twelfth grade. (Students who wished to remain in class were allowed to do so, and some chose that route.)

Maeder informed the students that anyone who wanted to speak would be allowed one minute. Speakers were to go to the mike set up on the east side of the gym; they were to give their name and then make whatever comment they wanted. Using anyone's name in vain was forbidden. The audience was told they could clap, but no booing would be allowed.

After Maeder's introduction, Superintendent Johnson spoke briefly about the value of this democratic experiment, and she, too, cautioned the students to keep it positive. She also reiterated the fact that there were some actions that would have to take place to keep the school viable. A \$450,000 deficit could only be ad-



ressed by cutting positions. She stressed that at this point positions are being cut—not specific people. Names will be determined later.

Johnson, Maeder, and Curriculum Director Jeni Laughlin then took seats at a table in front of the microphone, giving each student their full attention, and the flow of students began. Luis Cabrera took the lead beginning with the statement, "I wanted to say that we are upset, mad, and sad. Teachers that we dearly love and appreciate and who make sacrifices for us are leaving us because the school board has to make these budget cuts." Following his statement, a seemingly unending line of students

walked to the mike to express their dismay and support for the teachers they cared about.

The audience applauded every student speaker as he/she approached the mike, listened attentively at each statement, and applauded again as the speaker returned to the bleachers.

The students were respectful throughout the demonstration which continued for well over an hour. At 10:35 Nate Carlson strode to the mike and thanked the students for their overwhelming support, but then told them it was time to go back to class. After streaming onto the floor in one mass body,

the students reluctantly returned to class.

At that point students were given the opportunity to leave written questions in a box for the superintendent to answer. These questions will be addressed in homeroom sessions this week.

Dr. Johnson commented, "The students are frustrated. They understand the need to reduce spending, but they don't like the process it takes to place names to positions. We have great kids, and this sit-in provided them a voice in a respectful manner. I thought they did a great job articulating their concerns."

CJ Mayor Dan Wilson to be honored with Leland McCosh Award from SEIRP

At the SEIRP (Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission) Full Board Meeting to be held on Thursday, March 28th, the Leland McCosh Award is to be presented to Dan Wilson, Mayor of Columbus Junction. The Leland McCosh Award is presented each year in memory of Leland McCosh in recognition of outstanding public service provided by the recipients to citizens of his/her community, county, and the greater area of Southeast Iowa.

Dan Wilson: A Columbus Junction City Council Member was pleased to nominate Dan Wilson for the 28th Annual Leland McCosh Award. Dan has served as Mayor of Columbus Junction for 14 years; his first term was 1994 to 1998, and his current tenure began in 2002. Notably Wilson was at the helm for the City of Columbus Junction for the flooding of 2008. His well-developed leadership skills were exemplary in preparation, impact

and recovery in a time of crisis.

Other accomplishments under Mayor Wilson's leadership in Columbus Junction include: the addition of two housing developments at Colonial Heights and New Heritage Village; the City taking ownership of Highway 70 in the city limits; a new civic center was built; a comprehensive plan developed

and updated; a 3 city water sewer system was created that Columbus Junction manages; and the Community Development Center was created, to name a few.

In addition, Mayor Wilson was a founding board member of Louisa Development Group and Wildcats First and as an active member of various clubs and organizations.

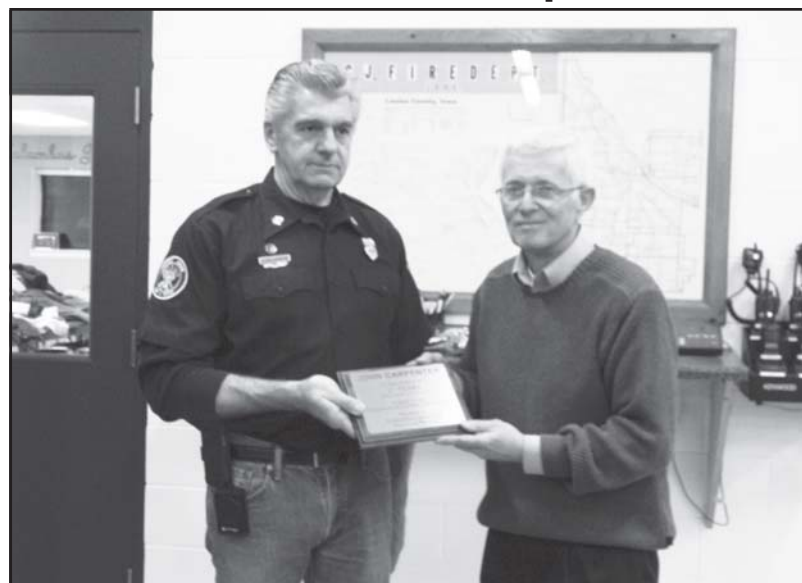
2013 Junior Duck Stamp Contest

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is accepting entries for the 2013 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest, which in Iowa is administered by Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Entries for the contest must be postmarked by March 15, 2013 and mailed to Neal Smith NWR, P.O. Box 399, 9981 Pacific Street, Prairie City, IA 50228.

All students in Grades K-12 are eligible to participate in the contest. Participation in the contest is a great way for students to learn about waterfowl, wetlands and conservation while applying their artistic skills. A downloadable entry form and information about the contest, including rules and regulations can be found online at www.fws.gov/juniorduck.

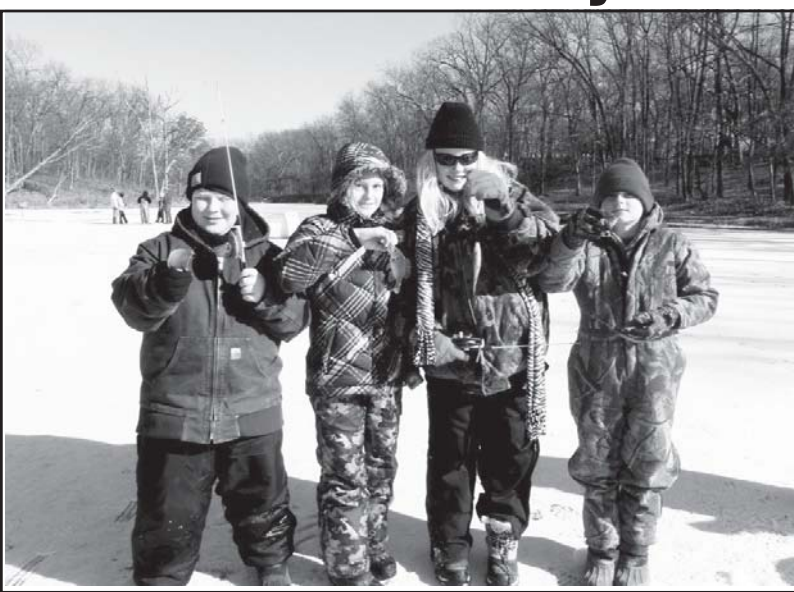
For additional information, or for questions regarding participation in the contest, contact Doreen Van Ryswyk at (515)994-3400 or doreen_vanryswyk@fws.gov.

Carpenter retires after 25 years as a trustee of the Fire Department



Fire Chief Lynn Mincer presents John Carpenter with a plaque, congratulating him on 25 years of service as a trustee of the fire department. He commented that his duties on the department have ended, but he stated that he will always feel proud of the department and his time as a trustee.

Louisa County Youth reel in a Fun Day



On Saturday, January 26, Louisa County Longbeards and Louisa County Conservation hosted the Youth Ice Fishing Derby at Langwood Education Center. Four of the participants reeled in fish at the same time. Pictured from left to right are Ryan McDonough,

Sierra Boysen, Kayla Beenen, and Alex Boysen. The prize winners were Ryan McDonough for Most Fish (12), Brady Hafner for Longest Fish (8.5 inches), and Hunter Hadgell for the First Fish Caught. Submitted photo.

Visit our front
page at

www.thecolumbusgazette.com

Briefly -

Legion Fish/Chicken Fry

The next Columbus Junction American Legion Fish/Chicken Fry will be held on Saturday evening, February 9th. Also, mark March 9th on your calendar as the final one. Come and enjoy the great food and a fun evening.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

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 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 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.

Guatemala Fundraiser

Ruben Zuniga's Guatemala fundraiser, "Miles for Smiles Team" will take place at St. Joseph's Catholic Church basement on Saturday, February 2nd, 2013, from 5:00-8:30p.m. To place an order you may call: 319-728-2810. Meals are as follows: ***Adult Meal \$6.50 per plate** *4 chicken taquitos, rice, beans, dessert, and drink *Guisado with rice, beans, 3 corn tortillas, dessert, and drink (Guisado is pork meat with mexican sauce-not spicy). ***Children's meal-\$5.00 per plate** *2 chicken taquitos, rice, beans, dessert, and drink *Guisado with rice, bean, corn tortilla, dessert, and drink (smaller portion of adult plate).

Legislative Forum scheduled

A Legislative Forum will take place on Saturday, February 2, 2013, with 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.

Amateur Radio testing set

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 5th street parking lot and entrance across from Hy-Vee Drugstore.) For more information, visit muscatinehams.org.

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.

Ainsworth Opera House breakfast

The New Year has arrived and it is time to get the Ainsworth Opera House going. We will hold our first breakfast on Saturday, February 2, 2013. We will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$7 per person, 10 and under free with adult. The Ainsworth Opera House is located at 284 Railroad Street, Ainsworth, IA. Several breakfast items are on the menu. This is a fundraiser for the Opera House. We will also be doing a Red Cedar Chamber Music Event on February 21st, at the Opera House. We will be sending out more details.

Iowa Youth Survey

ALL PARENTS of COLUMBUS 9TH-12TH 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 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.

Chapter CX PEO to meet

Chapter CX PEO will meet on Monday, February 4th at the home of Kristin Wellington. Faye Fedlam will be co-hostess. The February 18th meeting will be at Jill Masonholder's.

Pleasant Church to hold pancake and sausage supper

Pleasant Grove Community Church's annual sausage and pancake supper will take place on Wednesday, February 6th from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Free-will offering will be taken and all are welcome to come and enjoy.

Remember our new
e-mail address:
cjgaz@windstream.net

