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Community Bank gives a Heartfelt Thanks

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

Community Bank is holding their annual Customer Appreciation Day again on Valentine's Day this year. It is their way of saying, "thanks."

Community Bank was first started as Peoples National Bank of Columbus Junction in March of 1963. Clyde Crawford was the leader in starting this financial institution when some people felt there was a need for another bank in town after the closing of the Louisa County National Bank. The late Joe and Helen Leonhard were instrumental in this beginning, along with such people as the late Dr. Harry Lowe.

The bank has employed many people over the years in various positions. Some of them from the past were Clyde Crawford, Gary Todd, John Carpenter, Ann Pugh, Helen Howe, Jean Griffin, Margaret Diller, Marie Jones, Midge Utterback, Betty Thompson Knupp, Gary Slight, Steve Bloomquist, and Barb Dotson.

The current employees are Sam Bell, Debbi Murry, Jodi Edwards, Craig Helmick, Jane Phillips, Cindy Grimm, Michelle Snyder, Sara Griffin, Nitza Castillo, Carol Ann Howell, Sofia Torres, Carla Bruns, Debi Humiston, Cindy Johnston, and Cindy Burroughs. Much fun as well as work has been shared by these employees over the years.

Originally the Customer Appreciation Day was held on March 25th, 1964 to mark the first anniversary of the bank. Actually, the celebration lasted a week as Monday through Friday, people could come in and guess the date when the bank's re-



Community Bank employees at the Columbus Junction location

sources would reach two million. The winner would get \$50. In 1972, the Day was moved from March to February 14th to coincide with Valentine's Day.

The bank's 1972 ad read: *Perhaps we have forgotten, in the day-to-day functions of our Bank, to express our sincere appreciation of your continued patronage. In case we have, we've scheduled this appropriate period around St. Valentine's Day as our "Customer Appreciation*

Time" to convey our thanks and let you know that you're really someone very special to us. Thank You for Banking with Us! PS Be our Valentine, stop in and sample the Very Special treatment by our Tellers.

Sam Bell, Columbus location President, says this year's Customer Appreciation Day will be like many others. Coffee, punch, and cookies will be served, and a small gift given, along with a drawing for Louisa Bucks. The bank's message is still

the same as it was in 1972. "It is important to recognize customers and say 'thank you' for your patronage with a day set aside for this purpose," Bell commented.

The bank now has five locations. Besides Columbus Junction, there are banks in Wilton, Wapello, and Muscatine. The Columbus Junction location traditionally celebrates Valentine's Day, as a special day for customers. Stop in February 14th and have some cookies and punch.

New Business opens in Letts



Joy Murphy

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

If you're looking for food while you're in Letts, go to Murphy's Grub & Pub located at 115 Cherry St. Joy and Larry Murphy own it, and Joy is a Letts area local, having grown up there and gone to L-M School.

The restaurant has two signature sandwiches, the Murphy Burger and the Murphy Chicken. Both entrees have the basic meat along with bacon, cheese, BBQ, and onion rings right on the sandwiches. They are very good. Also each day, there is a luncheon special for \$6.00. This varies per day and per week. Every day there are salads, appetizers, and other sandwiches, along with Kid's



Larry Murphy

Meals. Tuesdays are taco nights and pizza can be ordered at any time.

Joy's goal was to bring back business into Letts. She hopes to acquire the locations right next door to the restaurant that were formerly the community center and old library. She wants to expand and put in a gift shop and grocery store there.

In Letts, there are currently no grocery stores, nor a "hang out" place, or meals-on-wheels for locals. This restaurant is quite an asset to the town and future plans, if they occur, will be even greater! The restaurant hours are Monday-Thursday 10:00 A.M. until midnight. On Friday and Saturdays, it is 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 A.M.

Columbus Junction - WOW!

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

Part Two

Having grown up in Columbus Junction, it was a very rare occasion when we went any place on the weekends. Back then, the weekend, at least Saturday, was just like the weekdays. On the farm, we worked on Saturdays. On Sunday's we went to church. If we did anything on the weekends for entertainment, it was always around Columbus Junction. Saturday night it was a big deal if we got to go to "town", Columbus Junction, to go shopping. Friday nights were spent going to school events even if no one in our family was participating in these events. It was just what people did then.

In today's world, often on Monday the question is asked, "What did you do over the weekend?" or "Did you have a good weekend?" This question automatically assumes that you went somewhere or did something over the weekend. This "something" is usually assumed to be outside of CJ, because now to do "something", one must do something BIG.

On the weekend of January 27th, my husband and I stayed in Columbus Junction the whole time. We often do this, so it was not unusual. But after the weekend was over, I was amazed at the things we were able to do right here in our own town.

Friday night was going to the Columbus varsity basketball games: Nothing unusual, but it was very enjoyable. It was parent's night and the senior players were honored. Some of the girls were crying as they realized their basketball days were numbered.

After the game, we met a group of people celebrating a birthday at the 92 Roadhouse. It was fun to be together with friends and this was an easy place to meet. Columbus is lucky to have so many places to get together and eat.

Saturday afternoon found me in downtown CJ trying on dresses. Yes, dresses in downtown CJ. When John Carpenter and I were "casing out" stores for our local Christmas shopping articles, I saw this dress in Espuela de Oro that I liked, but I did not have time to try it on so I had to go back. Then later, I purchased a scarf on Main Street and hit a couple of other shops.

Saturday evening brought us to the wine tasting event at Two River's

Lodge near the Circle of Pride Rodeo grounds just north of CJ off Highway 70. There was a really good crowd there. The tables were decorated with candlelight and the little hearts that say "Be Mine", etc. It was a good laugh to pick a heart and see what each person got. Then Steve and Pam Tomfeld served a delicious meal of lasagna, salad, relish, hot bread, and buttered corn. There were all kinds of desserts, plus a box of chocolates for people to get a piece of that wonderful flavor. Throughout the evening different wines were tried and compared. Some people took notes, most just enjoyed the various flavors. Steve Bell also had some of his "home brew" there to be sampled. Live music was performed, and it was a very enjoyable evening.

Sunday afternoon the weather was glorious, and it was time for a walk at Chinkapin Bluffs, located just outside of town. The view from the bluff down over the river valley was amazing. The trails made for easy walking, and it was a refreshing activity.

On the way home, it was a stop at the Economat to buy some hot dogs to grill in the nice weather. I am so thankful for this store. We all found out in the flood how much we rely on it and how lucky we are to have a store this big.

All in all, life in Columbus Junction is very pleasant. You know, someone in Columbus Junction ought to hire me to promote this town—hear that Mr. Mayor! You know I'm just kidding—I don't need another job!

Daffodil Days orders taken

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.

Briefly -

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Tuesday evening, February 14th at 7 p.m. Hostesses will be Fran Boline and Tammy Martin.

Legion Fish and Chicken Fry

The American Legion will be holding a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, February 10th at the American Legion Building. Serving will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. A 50/50 drawing will be held along with other raffles. The cost is \$8.00.

Heritage Museum Open House

The Columbus Community Heritage Center, Maple Street in Columbus Junction (former site of Columbus Junction Public Library), will be hosting an open house on Sunday, February 12, 2012 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Limited parking is available. There are displays of Valentines, calendars, agriculture and political items. Some new items within each. Come see the new wall coverings that enhance our exhibits, and some other NEW items. We thank those of you who have been able to donate items to our museum. It's a work in progress!

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Colonial Manor plans Open House

Please join Colonial Manor in congratulating its new Administrator, Sarah Hand. An open house is planned at Colonial Manor on Friday, February 17th, 2012, from 2-4 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

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!

Eulenspiegel Puppets 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.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet Tuesday, February 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the Columbus Junction Civic Center. Program: What's New in Columbus Junction by C.J. town council member. Roll call: Love poem or verse. Hostesses: Doreen Fuller and Anita Braden.

Jump Rope for Heart

Students in grades 3-6 will be seeking donations for the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart until Feb. 14. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Vogeler at Roundy at 728-6218.

Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet at the Corner Market in Wapello on the third Thursday of the month, February 16th. Our meeting will start at 2 p.m. We will be playing large card bingo. For more information, contact Lois Richers at 319-527-2630.

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.

Master Gardeners at Historical Society

The Louisa County Historical Society, 609 Hwy 61 N, Wapello, IA, will sponsor a Louisa County Master Gardener program on Sunday, February 19, 2012 from 2-4 p.m. at the LCHS Museum in Wapello. Jim Everett will present the program, "Floating Islands." Grandview and Letts are hosts. All are welcome.

LO-CO Bingo at Historical Society

The Louisa County Historical Society is sponsoring Lo-Co Bingo on Saturday, February 18th from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Doors will open at 12:30. Bingo begins at 1:30; seating is limited. Refreshments will be available for purchase. No outside food or drink is allowed. Proceeds benefit LCHS building repairs fund. More details in next week's paper.

Longbeards Banquet scheduled

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 today, 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.

Post Prom Committee to meet

The 2012 Post Prom committee will be sponsoring an ice cream brownie sundae fundraiser on Saturday, February 11th during the Columbus Girls district basketball game verses West liberty. Also, the 2012 Post Prom committee will have a meeting Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 6:30 in the student center.

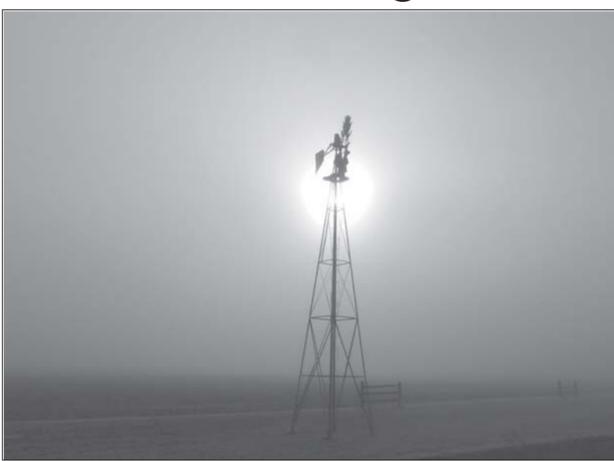
Free Health Screenings at school

University of Iowa's mobile clinic program will be giving Free health screenings on Saturday, February 18, 2012, from 10 AM - 2 PM at Wilma Sime Roundy Elementary School.

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, February 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Corner Market in Wapello. Please let Judy Wilson know if you are going by February 10th.

And then the Fog came



Fog was the trend set last week in the area. This photo was taken by Sam Braden showing the limited visibility. But it still beats snow.