

How wet will it get?

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

The above headline is a question many are asking as we appear to be in a winter that won't end. Although we missed the major portion of the snow storm predicted for last weekend, locally snowfall was reported to be in the area of 4 to 5 inches.

It appears that nearly every week this winter has seen some precipitation, and this is on top of an already saturated soil from the heavy rains that fell last fall.

The National Weather service has recently increased the chance that area rivers will flood to 90%. However, the 90% is attributed to minor flooding. The chances, according to the service, are 70% for moderate flooding and 59% for major flooding.

The key will be the amount of rainfall we experience in the spring. Meteorologist Ray Wolf stated in last Sunday's Quad City Times, "What is keeping a cap on things is that the Wisconsin basin does not have unusually high snowfall in it yet, however things can change over time."

So, all we can do now is wait and hope for a moderate snowmelt, with moderate spring rains.



Fairgrounds after the weekend snowfall

University of Iowa students to help with events for Keep Columbus Beautiful and annual Earth Week

Second-year graduate students from the University of Iowa's Urban and Regional Planning Department are busy working with the Community Development Center and Keep Columbus Beautiful to put on a series of events for the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day this coming April.

The students have and will be visiting Columbus Junction throughout the end of April gathering information and planning events. The students are working in subcommittees on three main projects in Columbus Junction: a potential youth outreach project with the schools; a week long celebration of Earth Day to include community clean-up and beautification projects, as well as steps we can take as individuals to help the community towards sustainability. Additionally, the students will be providing the Community Development Center a report that will map Columbus Junction's assets and explore the local communication network.

As part of the student's initial work, electronic survey stations will be spread throughout the community in the coming weeks. The students are hoping to gain information regarding the best communication outlets in our area as well as community input on topics and projects to undertake during Earth Week. The computer survey stations should be appearing within the next couple weeks at the public library and local businesses.

This project is a smaller component of the UI Urban and Regional Planning Department's Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC). IISC's purpose is to apply the talent and knowledge of the students and faculty of the University of Iowa's Planning Program to develop plans and initiatives, which will enable Iowa's small towns to enhance the sustainability of their communities. Aside from Columbus Junction, University of Iowa Urban and Regional Planning students are also



working with the communities of Anamosa, Decorah and Wellman on sustainable initiatives throughout this year.

If you have ideas on how Columbus Junction and Louisa County should celebrate Earth Day or would

like to be involved in the planning process, please contact Mallory Smith at the Community Development Center. In addition, please provide your input when you see the student's electronic surveys around town!

Community Foundation grants \$3,311 to preschool playground



Kent Wollenhaupt, Community Foundation Board, presented Lindsey Dindinger a grant for \$3,311 for a fence enclosure for the new preschool age appropriate playground. Submitted photo.

Representative Sands announces plans to run for re-election

(Wapello)—Rep. Tom Sands (R-Wapello) announced today that he will seek re-election to the Iowa House. Sands represents all of Louisa County, Southwestern Muscatine County and most of Des Moines County, excluding Burlington.

Sands said today "Iowans expect government to be fiscally responsible with their hard earned tax dollars. I have worked hard, and will continue with your support, to defend the taxpayer and continue to find ways to streamline the work of government. I look forward to once again earning your vote to represent you in the Iowa House of Representatives."

Sands is a banker, real estate appraiser, and farm owner. Tom has three grown children and five grandchildren. He and his wife, Catherine, attend the First United Methodist Church of Mediapolis.

Sands is a member of Louisa County Farm Bureau, Iowa Corn

Growers Association & National Corn Growers Association, American Soybean Association, Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Pheasants Forever, National Rifle Association, Charter member Sons of The American Legion Post 100 and past Commander, Louisa Development Group. He is also a former Columbus Junction City Councilman.

"Rep. Sands has been a watchdog of the taxpayers' money. He has been a great listener and thoughtful legislator who crafts responsible legislation that always has the best interest of the taxpayer in mind," said House Republican Leader Kraig Paulsen.

In the House, Sands serves as the Ranking Member of the Ways and Means committee. He also serves on the Commerce, Public Safety, and Rebuild Iowa committees as well as the Transportation, Infrastructure and Capitals subcommittee.

Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation Auction this weekend

Louisa County is the place to be this Saturday to buy unique and interesting outdoor adventures. The Fourth Annual Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation Fund Raising Auction will be held February 27 at Delzell Brothers Showroom at the intersection of Highways 78 and 61. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the auction and program begin at 7:00 p.m.

On the block for bidding are hunting rights, fishing trips, a local foods meal and much more.

Proceeds from the auction benefit Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation. For nineteen years the foundation has worked to provide financial support to projects primarily in the areas of environmental education, park improvements and public aware-

ness. Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation is currently fund raising to provide matching funds for a federal Scenic Byways grant awarded to the Louisa Interpretive Center project.

Tickets are \$15/person or \$25/couple and are available in advance from board members and Louisa County Conservation as well as at the door. Admission includes appetizers

and dessert buffet, wine, beer and a bid number.

To order tickets or for more information contact Mallory Smith, Tri-Rivers Conservation Foundation at 319-527-4530, 319-321-3808 or tririvers@lccb.org. For more information and an auction list visit www.tririvers.org.

Briefly -

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The annual Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet will take place on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at Roundy Elementary School. Reserve the date on your calendar and plan on celebrating with fellow graduates!

Basketball Fundraiser set

El Charro is back! On Saturday March 6th from 4-6 pm in the high school student center, Miguel Villagrana will be making El Charro mexican food to help raise money for the Boys and Girl Basketball programs. There will be a Free Will Donation. After, catch a performance of March Winds Blow in the Auditorium. Starting at 7:00 p.m.

City Council meets tonight

The Columbus Junction City Council will meet tonight at City Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. for a public hearing on the budget and the regular council meeting.

Class of 1990 holds reunion meeting

The CCHS Class of 1990 will hold a planning meeting for their 20-year reunion on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, at 7 p.m. at 92 Roadhouse in Columbus Junction. For information, call Chris (Colbert) Kelley at 319-728-3139.

Peoples Partners change meeting date

Community Bank's Peoples Partners travel show for the fall trip to New York and Canada has been rescheduled to March 22nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Bank basement. The meeting was previously scheduled for March 8th. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but we hope you will be able to attend on the 22nd.

Historical Society March Program

WAPELLO - The Louisa County Historical Society will hold its annual Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the Heritage Center, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello. Choice of soups include chili, potato, chicken noodle, bean and vegetable beef. Desserts will also be served. Cost for the meal is \$6. John Carpenter of Columbus Junction will present the program "About the Irish," sharing some Irish humor as well as some history about the people of Ireland.

Coffee Fellowship at Hope Bible Church

Hope Bible Church will be hosting a Morning Coffee Fellowship. There is no charge for this fellowship opportunity. The Morning Coffee Fellowship will meet in the church basement on Fridays from 9-11 a.m. Our church ladies look forward to providing a place for you to fellowship and encourage one another. Hope to see you there!

Legislative Forum scheduled

A Legislative Forum will be held on Saturday, February 27, 2009 with Senator Tom Courtney and Representative Tom Sands at the State Bank of Wapello Community Room. Time: 11:15 AM to 12:15 PM.

Local Lions Club celebrates 30 years

Congratulations to the Columbus Junction Lions Club on their 30th birthday. The club was chartered on February 29, 1980. We are an old club looking for new members. You are invited to join us on the first and third Mondays of the month at the Senior Center at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome.

PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Dana Howell on Monday, March 1 at 7:00 pm and co-hosted by Sherry Humphreys. The program will be Election and Installation of Officers. All members are encouraged to attend.

Unity Hospital Scrub sale

Unity Hospital HealthCare Auxiliary is sponsoring the spring Scrub Sale Thursday and Friday March 4th and 5th from 7am-6pm in the Unity Hospital parking lot. Unity employees may use payroll deduction, check, credit card, or cash. Dressing rooms are on the Scrubs on Wheels trailer. Popular brand names are Cherokee, LaRose, Barco, Rockers, and many more. Size range from XS-5XL. Proceeds benefit scholarships, and equipment for departments in the hospital and clinics.

Embroidery Club to meet

The Embroidery Club will meet March 1st at 6:30 pm. at OUR SHOP. We will be doing Brazilian embroidery or just come and bring what you want to work on. Please call 319-728-5648, to register. Also the Embroidery Club will meet March 3rd at 1:00pm, at OUR SHOP, we will be doing, Brazilian embroidery, knitting or whatever, so please call 319-728-5648 to register. We are doing this to give people an opportunity to get out of the house. If you do not want to do our projects, that is ok.

Kindergarten Round-Up

Will your child be old enough to attend school at Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junction, Iowa this fall? Roundy Elementary is preparing for Kindergarten - If your child was born before September 15, 2005 and is not currently enrolled in the Columbus Preschool Program, KFC Preschool, or the Great Beginnings Preschool Program, please call the school at 319-728-6218.

Women's Health Luncheon set

A Women's Health Luncheon will be held Saturday, March 6th at 12 Noon in the East Room of the Corner Market (340 North 2nd, Wapello).

Get ready for St. Patrick's Day

The second annual Huge St. Patrick's Day Parade in Columbus Junction will be held downtown on Wednesday, March 17th beginning at 5:00 p.m. Watch later Gazettes for more details, but mark your calendars now. The crowds are expected to be even larger than last year, so be sure to come early to find a place.