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You could be in this picture next year

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

Okay everyone, it's almost St. Patrick's Day again. That magical time of the year when the non-Irish are asked to give gifts of value to those that are Irish. (I will be in the Gazette Office on March 17th in the event anyone would like to honor this wonderful old custom).

But actually, what I wanted to talk about was this year's parade, Columbus Junction's Second Annual Salute to the Irish. It will be held on Wednesday, March 17th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. We will organize in front of the Columbus Junction State Bank, and march to the viaduct (or the tavern if you run out of energy). If you do make it to the viaduct, there's nothing wrong with backtracking to the tavern when it's over.

As I said last year, the requirements to participate in a St. Patrick's Day Parade are any one of the following: You are Irish; You know someone Irish; or You would like to be in a parade. If you meet any of these requirements, you're eligible.

Again, I have received permission to paint a green stripe down Main Street. We will be painting the stripe at 5:00 in the evening on Sunday, March 14th. But this year I would like to invite anyone who is interested to come and help. We can each go just a few feet so everyone



Four generations of graffiti artists. Left photo: Me, my son, Andy, my granddaughter Jenessa after painting the stripe last year. Right photo: My Dad, third from the left, painting a green stripe down Emmetsburg's Main Street in 1958. Next year you can have your picture here.



can have an opportunity to be a part of this time-honored tradition. What I did discover last year was the formula: one roller wide, one block, one

gallon. So we will try to keep on the same formula for this year.

So, get your green ready, and come on out on the 17th. Like my

Dad used to say, "There should be more parades. They don't cost anything, and a lot of people can have a lot of fun."

City Council makes plans for Beryl Roundy's 100th Birthday

By Jim Rudisill

Plans to honor one of Columbus Junction's leading philanthropists later this year are underway, Mayor Dan Wilson told the city council during its regular February 24 meeting.

Wilson said he had recently received a letter from Kay Huston alerting city officials on the celebration being planned for Beryl Roundy's 100th birthday later this year. Wilson, who said he strongly supported the effort, said the citywide event is being planned for August 7.

"This is a chance for us to recognize and thank him for all he has done," Wilson told the council.

Roundy and his late wife Sime were leaders in supporting a variety of efforts in the community.

Officials listed several projects in which the Roundys were major

supporters and contributors, including the first pledge for the new Civic Center; support for construction of the new American Legion building; a \$1 million challenge donation that sparked construction of what eventually became the Sime Roundy Elementary School Building; support for the medical facility and a variety of other community improvements.

"He's done a lot for the community," council member Hal Prior agreed.

In other action, the council approved the city's 2010-2011 budget, which lists expenditures of \$1,279,036. The budget was approved following a public hearing, which drew no comments from the public.

The new budget is \$15,761 less than the current budget, although the city's general fund actually is pro-

jected to grow from \$567,547 to \$568,786. The tax rate will rise from this year's \$11.57 per \$1000 valuation to \$11.68. Officials pointed out that 55 cents of that valuation is passed through the city's budget to the Columbus Benefited Fire District.

Besides the general fund, the only other fund projected to increase next year is the solid waste fund, which will go from the current \$122,500 to \$124,400. The meter deposit, road use tax, water and sewer funds all show slight decreases compared to this year's figures.

In the general fund, the city's police department continues to show the largest expenditures, although the over-all department budget will fall by more than \$16,500. According to the projections, the department is expected to spend \$320,235 next year, compared with \$338,781 for the

current fiscal year.

Although the new budget does not include any water rate increases, officials said that might change if the city is awarded grant funding to relocate its water treatment plant. In the meantime, the total water fund spending is projected to drop from \$246,000 to \$231,650. Most of the decrease is from lower professional services, water plant operations and spending on wells. The new budget will take effect on July 1, 2010.

The council also learned Wilson and members of the city's public works staff had recently met to discuss the potential for flooding this spring.

"We're not pushing the panic button, but we want to be prepared," he said, adding he was hopeful there would be gradual melting and gentle rains this spring.

Community Foundation grants \$1,284 to "Everyone Reads" Program



Gary Todd, Community Foundation Board, presented a grant check for \$1,284 to Doug Graber and Sandy McElhinney for their elementary "Everyone Reads" program. Submitted photo.

FFA Auction set for March 28

Looking to sell? Wanting to buy? Either way, the Columbus FFA has you covered! The Columbus FFA and Columbus FFA Alumni will be holding their first annual consignment auction on Sunday, March 28, 2010, starting at noon at the Louisa County Fairgrounds. Farm and heavy equipment, household and related items are all accepted. Consigning times will be: Saturday, March 20th, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday, March 22nd-26th, noon-6:00 p.m. Saturday,

March 27th, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. McWhirter Auction Company and Giardino Auctioneering will be there to make this auction the best it can be. Consignment fees are 6%, all of which will be donated to the Columbus FFA to help with yearlong activities to build leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

For questions, please contact FFA Advisor Katie McWhirter at 319-728-3321 x 3621.

Remodeling nears completion at Columbus Junction State Bank



Although entry is still limited to the South door, one can see how the completed lobby will look at the Columbus Junction State Bank. Most of the temporary wall has now been removed, and the new teller counter and lighting fixtures are now very much evident.

2010 Louisa County Fair dates set

The dates for the 2010 Louisa County Fair are: July 24 - Parade and Fair Kickoff; and July 26-31 - Fair. The dates for the State Fair are August 12-22.

Roundy Elementary prepares for new Kindergarten class

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.

Briefly -

Breakfast in Ainsworth

Ainsworth Opera House will be holding their March breakfast buffet on Saturday, March 6th, 2010. We open at 7 am and close at 9 am. Cost is \$7 a person, 12 and under are free. This is a fundraiser for the upkeep on the building. Many breakfast items will be on the menu such as ham, biscuits and gravy, sausage, scotch eggs, bubble and squeak, scrambled eggs, casseroles, salads, rolls, and drinks. Hope to see you there!

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!

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Tuesday evening, March 9th, at 7 p.m. Arlene Johnson will be hostess.

Basketball Fundraiser

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.

Peoples Partners changes 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.

Saturday Afternoon with Chocolate

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will host "Saturday Afternoon With Chocolate," our annual fundraiser, on Saturday, March 27, from 1:30 - 3:30 at the Wapello Briggs Center. We are planning to have about 30 chocolate items, including cakes, candies, pies, ice cream, and other chocolate desserts. These will also include sugar free items. The cost will be \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children 12 and over. Please plan to come and bring a friend(s) to help us build another house in Louisa County. PLEASE COME AND HAVE A TASTE WITH US TO ENJOY THE CHOCOLATE! Also, come to visit and for getting new ideas to take home with you.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 1:30 p.m., at Columbus City Methodist Church with Phyllis Utter and Roberta Boulton as hostesses. Program: Verl Lekwa - Small Towns, Iowa. Roll call: Where you were raised with memories.

Irish at the Historical Society

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

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!

Historical Society Spruce-up

WAPELLO - The Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 James L. Ave., Wapello, is closed while the museum is being spruced up and new exhibits are being placed. The Louisa County Historical Society hopes to have the museum re-opened on Friday, March 12. Two public events are taking place in the museum dining room on Saturday, March 13. The Louisa County Democratic Party is holding its county convention at 9 a.m. and the society's annual soup supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. A program titled "About the Irish" will be presented after the meal by John Carpenter of Columbus Junction. Cost for the soup supper is \$6.

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.

Louisa Longbeards Banquet

The tenth annual Louisa Longbeards Banquet is being held Saturday, March 6. A prime rib supper will be served at the Briggs Civic Center, Wapello. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for guests to participate in games, raffles, review items for silent and live auction, etc. Jakes members will demonstrate their skills at turkey calling. Any questions concerning the banquet or becoming a member, please contact Todd Shutt at 319-572-1522.

Pleasant Grove potluck

A neighborhood potluck will be held on Sunday, March 7 at 6 p.m., at the Pleasant Grove Church (Hwy 92 east of Columbus Junction). Table service and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and come visit with your neighbors.

School to hold public meeting

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 8, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., in the Roundy Elementary School Library.

Embroidery Club to meet

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.