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Main Street Gifts and Antiques opens

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

Every business has a "feel." A new business, *Main St. Gifts & Antiques*, has nothing but a "good feel." It is relaxing; it is cozy; it has lots of interesting items to buy; and is owned by Melanie DeVore. It will open Thursday, March 1st in downtown Columbus Junction.

Melanie DeVore is not new to downtown CJ. She started her path to entrepreneurship by way of the summer Farmer's Markets four years ago after retiring from the University of Iowa. There she sold baked goods, homemade aprons, garden produce, and hand-crafted wood items. She later expanded to all-year sales at the downtown business, *Pride of Iowa Market Place* building. There, Melanie added such items as homemade potholders. However, what made them unusual was that some of her fabrics were sent to her by a friend in Japan. They were so beautiful; they were actually works of art.

However, with the closing of *Pride of Iowa Market Place*, Melanie decided to open her own business and found a location at 204 Main Street, which is located beside *Special Effects*. She named her business *Main Street Gifts & Antiques*.

Once again, Melanie expanded her merchandise in this new location. For many years, she and her husband Tom have patronized antique shops and estate sales, and now she will be selling many of these items, (even furniture), from her new store. She will also have a sewing center with fabric, thread, needles, etc. A gar-



den center is located in the store also with plans for bedding plants and hostas to be sold outside of the store in the spring.

Other items in the store by other vendors will once again be hand crafted. Some of them are: Wire Works beaded utensils, concrete designs, braided rugs, greeting cards (some of them done by scrapbookers and nature lovers), jewelry, and vintage linens. *Simply Soothing products* have been relocated to this store and lotions, creams, candles, warmers, melts, etc. will be available.

Baked goods made by Melanie are egg noodles, cookies, tea breads, salted nut rolls, scotcharoos, granola, brownies, and granola bars.

The wood pieces for sale in the store, such as cutting boards and serving trays, are made by Melanie's husband, Tom. Tom has been a local carpenter, gardener, and wood craftsman extraordinaire for many years. I know from personal experience about Tom's work with wood; he built our house. He has also built the counter, shelves, and a quaint pergola structure for the store.

In the spring, there are plans to host wine tastings!

The store hours will be Wednesday—Friday 9 A.M. until 4 P.M. Saturday hours will be 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. The store will be closed Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.

Having a store with hand-crafted gifts, antiques, and vintage collectibles will be a great asset to Columbus Junction. Stop in on opening day, Thursday, March 1st, and other days to "feel" for yourself just how good this store is!

A Visit to the Corner Market

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

A place you might want to visit is the Corner Market, located in downtown Wapello at 340 N. 2nd St., which is the north end of town. Kevin and Patty Hardin own this combination market, restaurant, and meeting place.

The Hardin's have a large meat counter that stocks choice or above grade meats. Kevin even cut the rib-eye steaks heart-shaped for Valentine's Day customers. Their

hamburger is custom ground, and they have pork tenderloins along with a variety of other meats.

They also stock a few grocery items, but this is not a grocery store. They have milk, butter, bread, etc. However, another favorite feature is their deli with freshly made salads that many people buy "to go". There are both fruit and vegetable salads. You also can order these items and the meats packaged in quantity. In fact, the Hardin's will cater events.

Their restaurant area is small, but cozy. They have sandwiches, such as tenderloins and chicken tenderloins, burgers, and their specialty bacon burger. Each day there is a lunch special for \$5.50. This might be such food as lasagna, beef and noodles, creamed turkey, tater-tot casserole, or



ribs and fried potatoes.

The Corner Market also features a meeting and/or banquet room for rent that holds a lot of people. Meals, coffee, etc. can be served to the groups meeting here.

Special features planned are a Woman's Luncheon on March 10th with a guest speaker, author and inspirational speaker, Jolene Philo.

Tickets are available at the Community Bank of Columbus Junction and Wapello and the Corner Market. In October a grilling contest will occur and those with a zest for the grill are invited to participate.

The hours of the Corner Market are Monday—Friday 10 A.M. to 6 P.M. and Saturday 9 A.M.-12:30 P.M. They are closed on Sunday's. Stop in and see what's available!

CCHS Students participate in ISU Honor Band



On February 3rd and 4th, members of the Columbus Community High School Band Program participated in the Iowa State University Honor Band. Students are accepted through a nomination process that was submitted in November. This year Columbus was fortunate to have 7 students accepted, Delaney Howell, Hannah Parker, and Laura Wittmann in the Cardinal band and Dalton Howell, Erica Ramirez, Desirae Tisor, Kenan Todd in the Cyclone band. The Iowa State University Honor Band has 3 bands, which are the Gold ensemble, Cardinal ensemble, and Cyclone ensemble. The Gold ensemble is comprised of All State students, and the Cardinal ensemble is comprised of 11th and 12th graders from throughout Iowa. The Cyclone ensemble is comprised of 9th and 10th graders throughout the state. Iowa State does an excellent job of bringing in nationally recognized conductors, particularly conductors that work well with students. This was an excellent opportunity for Columbus' students and I am very excited at their participation this year.

Briefly -

Legion Fish Fry

The American Legion will be holding a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, March 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.

Career/Tech council meeting today

Columbus Community School District will hold a Career/Tech Advisory Council meeting today, Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 5:30 pm in the Family and Consumer Science Room. Dinner will start at 5:00 p.m.

Class of 1982 plans reunion

Attention Columbus Class of 1982: It's time for our 30-year class reunion. 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.

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!

Early Childhood Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa Early Childhood Iowa Area Board will be meeting at the ISU Extension Office, 102 W. Main Street, Mediapolis, IA today, Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Etude Club to meet

Etude Club will meet at Colonial Estates on Tuesday, March 6th at 7 p.m. Former members are welcome, as we prepare for our 60th anniversary. For more information, call Dorothy at 319-728-2066.

Grandview-Letts Lions blood drive

The Grandview/Letts Lions Club is sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, March 15, 2012, from 1-6 p.m. at the Letts Library/Community Building. To donate, contact Marvin or Margaret Thomas at 319-726-3286 or email them at: mmthomas@iowatelecom.net. Please eat before donating and bring photo ID. The last date to donate elsewhere was January 19, 2012.

Cattlemen's Banquet scheduled

The Annual Louisa County Cattlemen's Banquet will be held today, Wednesday, February 29th 2012 at the American Legion in Columbus Junction Iowa. The evening starts with a 5:30 pm social time and a prime rib supper starting at 6:00 pm. The evening activities include local FFA chapter presentations, beef industry news, local activities, a scholarship presentation and the evening concluding with an auction and door prizes. Come join the evening. Tickets available at the door for \$15. For more information, contact Tom or Rebecca Bonnichsen at 319-729-2020.

Historical Society soup supper

The Louisa County Historical Society is hosting a soup supper on Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in the dining room at the museum. The guest speaker is Mr. Stark from Washington, Iowa. He will talk about "Little Known Facts About Louisa County." A free will offering will be accepted.

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.

Ham and Beans in Columbus City

The Columbus City Lodge #107 will have a Ham and Bean soup supper Friday, March 2 at the Lodge in Columbus City. Serving will be from 5:30-7:00 PM. A free will donation will be accepted. The public is invited to attend.

Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet Monday, March 12, 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.

Breakfast in Ainsworth

It's time for the Opera House Breakfast Buffet on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012. We will be holding breakfast from 7 to 9 a.m. Cost is \$7 per person. 10 and under free with adult. This is a fundraiser for the Ainsworth Opera House located at 284 Railroad Street, Ainsworth, Iowa. Some of the items on the menu are: biscuits and gravy, bacon, ham, scrambled eggs, cinnamon rolls, fresh fruit and more. Hope to see you there!

P.E.O. meeting changed

The meeting scheduled for March 5th will be changed to March 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Linda Pierce with Sherry Humphreys as co-host. The program will be installation of officers.

Port City Coin Club to meet

The PORT CITY COIN CLUB of Muscatine will hold its annual coin show on March 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, junction of Highways 61 and 38 North in Muscatine. Dealers from Iowa and Illinois will buy, sell or trade U.S. and foreign coins and currency. Admission is free and open to the public. A raffle for a \$5 U.S. gold Indian Head coin and free hourly door prizes are a part of the show. Also, free numismatic literature will be available. More information is available at 563-264-8148.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a special public meeting to review the results of the bond sale today, Wednesday, February 29, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. at the Columbus Administrative Office (the White House).

United Methodist Women to meet

The United Methodist Women, Columbus Junction, will meet at the church on March 7, 2012, for a luncheon. Call to Prayer and Self Denial at 12:30 p.m. Devotions and Leader: Delores Gentzler. Hostess: Kathleen Sands. Members, please attend our first meeting of 2012.

Kindergarten news

Roundy Elementary is preparing for Kindergarten—If your child was born before September 15, 2007 and is not currently enrolled in the Columbus Preschool Program, KFC Preschool, or the Great Beginnings Preschool Program, please call the school at 728-6218.

¿Usted cree que su hijo/a tendrá la edad necesaria para empezar el Kindergarten en el Otoño del 2012? ¿Tendrá su hijo/a la edad necesaria para asistir a la Escuela Primaria Roundy en Columbus Junction, IA este otoño? La Escuela Primaria Roundy se está preparando para Kindergarten—Si su niño/a nació antes del 15 de Septiembre del 2007 y no está inscrito actualmente en el Programa de Preescolar de Columbus, el Programa Preescolar de KFC, o en el Programa Preescolar Great Beginnings, por favor llame a la escuela al 728-6218.

A tu kum 2012, sianginn kaithan tik ah nan fa le kindergarten kai ding an um ma? Roundy Elementary sianginn, Columbus Junction, IA, ah a tu kum nan fa le sianginn kai ding an um ma? Roundy Elementary Kindergarten sianginn nih timh tuah nak a ngei , cu hna cu September 15, 2007, hlan I a chuak mi, a si lo le a tu lio I KFC preschool a si lo le Great Beginnings Preschool a si lo le Columbus preschool i a kai lio mi an si lai. Thawngpang tam deuh theih na duh ah cun hi phone ah hin rak hal khawh a si 728-6218.