

## Flood recovery brings business changes



Interior view of the Econ-O-Mart Grocery Store

By John Carpenter  
Gazette Staff

(The following update is sponsored by Andy Carpenter Productions)

As recovery efforts continue in the town's business district, new changes are becoming evident.

Work is in full progress at the Econ-O-Mart Grocery store, and an opening is still anticipated for late September to early October. Patrons will notice a number of changes when they return to the store. A newly expanded service counter is being constructed further into the store, so it will no longer be adjacent to the doorway. The deli is being expanded and will allow a more convenient traffic flow. Coolers and freezers will be grouped together to allow more user friendly access. Interior walls have

been removed to give the store a more open appearance.

Drywall is now being installed in the medical facility, and the office layout is starting to take shape. The overall floor plan of the medical facility will remain close to the original, but new walls and fixtures will give the facility a definite new look. Work is hoped to be completed within the next six weeks.

But one of the biggest improvements will be in the Hy-Vee Pharmacy. The pharmacy will expand their business quarters to the east, giving much more room for inventory, customer comfort and services. Floor plans have now been completed, and although preliminary work has begun, work in earnest will start after the medical facility is completed.



Interior view of the Medical Facility



View of area for new Hy-Vee Pharmacy

## Alliant Energy Foundation provides grants to area organizations

### Medical Facility, Senior Center and Daycare Center receives recovery support

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA – The Alliant Energy Foundation is pleased to announce the allocation of Rebuilding Our Communities Grant awards to three Columbus Junction non-profits directly affected by the recent flooding. Rebuilding Our Communities Grant program was established to provide unrestricted grants to help non-profit groups throughout Alliant Energy's utility service territory with recovery from this summer's flooding.

The devastating flooding that inundated much of Iowa in June severely impacted Columbus Community Medical Facilities. Eight feet of water filled the building which housed the dental, pharmacy and medical clinics. Temporary locations have been obtained in nearby communities, but these have resulted in travel difficulties for many of the clients served. Columbus Community Medical Facilities will use the \$10,000 grant from the Alliant Energy Foundation to offset a portion of their rebuilding costs due to the flood damage.

The senior citizens in the Columbus Junction area have enjoyed the activities offered at the Columbus Community Senior Center and the congregate meals served daily. The center suffered major flood damage and the entire facility will need to be rebuilt. Recovery plans are underway and the Columbus Community Senior Center Board hopes to re-open the center in Spring 2009. The Alliant Energy Foundation grant of \$5,000 will be used toward the cost to rebuild.

As the only day care facility in the Columbus Junction area, the loss of the Columbus Community Children's Center was felt by many in the community. The center shut down for nearly two weeks until a temporary location was found. When flood waters receded, center staff discovered that all cupboards, counters, carpeting, windows and doors in the center were ruined and need to be replaced. The center will need new drywall, insulation and furnaces, along with outside mulch and landscaping. The \$5,000 Rebuilding Our Communities grant from Alliant

Energy will assist the Children's Center as they rebuild the daycare and restore full service to families.

"We are committed to helping Columbus Junction rebuild," said Tom Aller, President-Interstate Power and Light Company, an Alliant Energy company. "We hope these grants will help provide some immediate relief that organizations need to continue providing services to their clients."

The Alliant Energy Foundation has allocated \$1 million for the Rebuilding Our Communities Grant Program. Non-profit groups in Alliant Energy's utility service terri-

tory can apply through October 1<sup>st</sup> for \$5,000, \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$20,000 unrestricted flood recovery grants.

Non-profit groups can request funds by submitting a brief application form explaining their need and the population they serve that was affected by the flooding. A determination of grant eligibility will be made within 14 days of submission.

To be eligible, an organization must be a registered non-profit organization as defined by Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code. Organizations are encouraged to review eligibility guidelines before applying.

Government entities (i.e. schools and public libraries) are not eligible for this program.

Over the past ten years, the Alliant Energy Foundation has contributed more than \$26 million across the Alliant Energy utility service territory to projects and organizations through a variety of programs and worthwhile initiatives. To learn more about the Foundation and its Rebuilding Our Communities Grant Program, please visit [www.alliantenergy.com/foundation](http://www.alliantenergy.com/foundation); or request an application from the Foundation office by calling (319) 786-4852.

## Columbus Cheerleaders attend ICCA Clinic



Members of the 2008-2009 Columbus Cheerleading Squads attend an ICCA clinic at Clear Creek Amana High School on August 16. The cheerleaders learned several new cheers and chants as well as a dance and jump techniques. Pictured above are: Sayra Moreno, Tania Barragan, Laura Wittmann, Elena Guerrero, Kirsten Reed, Laura Arguello, Trisha McKean, Katherine Sietz, Jessica Amigon, Tasha Musgrove, Astrid Ambriz, Lizzie Morris. Submitted photo.

## Briefly -

### Ice cream social for Frank Best

WAPELLO, Iowa - Voters are invited to join Frank Best, candidate for State Representative of the House District 87, while enjoying homemade ice cream. The ice cream social will be held from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Louisa County Democratic Headquarters, 323 N. Second St., Wapello. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$15. Checks should be payable to Best for State House. Reservations may be made with Jeremy Jansen at [jjansen@iowademocrats.org](mailto:jjansen@iowademocrats.org) or by calling 920-91-5875. The Columbus City Democrat is facing incumbent Tom Sands, R-Columbus Junction, in the November General Election.

### Lions Club plans Biker's Breakfast

The Columbus Junction Lions Club will hold its annual Bikers' Breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, August 30, and Sunday, August 31, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the American Legion Bldg (Note new location). We will be serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, flavored syrups, coffee, juice and milk. Prices will be \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 12 and under - all you can eat! Contributions will be accepted to help fund the restoration of the CJ Senior Center. Everyone is invited!

### CCHS Class of 1988 plans reunion

The Class of 1988 is planning their 20-year reunion for Columbus Day, October 11, 2008. We would like to contact as many classmates as possible. Anyone with knowledge of regular and/or e-mail addresses please contact Shari (Cecil) Vonnahme at 728-2403 or [swolfel1@hotmail.com](mailto:swolfel1@hotmail.com) or Sarah (Prior) Davis at 319-254-1111 or [tsdavis@farmtel.net](mailto:tsdavis@farmtel.net).

### Columbus City Council to meet

The Columbus City Council will meet on Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. at the City Hall.

### C.J. City Council to meet

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular council meeting today, Wednesday, August 27, 2008, at 5:30 p.m., in the New Civic Center/City Hall. The 2002 Squad Car Bids will be opened.

### Empowerment Board to meet

The Des Moines/Louisa County Caring CommUNITY Empowerment Board will be meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 801 Middle Street, Mediapolis, IA, today, Wednesday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m.

### Order of Eastern Star to meet

Emma Beckman Chapter #445, Order of the Eastern Star will have a regular meeting on September 2, 2008, at 2 p.m., at the Masonic Building, Columbus City. Fifty-year members of 2008 will be honored with a pin and certificate of recognition. A time for refreshments will follow the meeting.

### Etude Club to meet

The members of Etude Club will meet in the Columbus Junction home of Dorothy Orr on Tuesday, September 2, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. Please note the time change for this one meeting only. Program booklets will be handed out and discussion will follow as members "PUT ON A HAPPY FACE" for the new year of musical study.

### Aircraft Association to hold rally

Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 111, of Muscatine, Iowa will be having a Young Eagles Rally Saturday, August 30 at the Muscatine Municipal Airport, Muscatine, Iowa. All kids from the age of 8 through 17 are welcome to come down and take a free airplane ride. Registration will start around 8:30 am with flights beginning at 9:00 am and continuing through 12:00 pm. Registration forms must be signed by a parent or adult guardian and are available at the airport. For information call Dean Beranek at 563-506-2665, by email [deanber@lcom.net](mailto:deanber@lcom.net), Dick Walling at 563-264-1679, or Carl Ritter at 309-537-3178. The Program is sponsored through the Experimental Aircraft Associations, Young Eagles Program which to date has introduced over 1,347,000 kids to the fun of General Aviation.

### Hanft Reunion scheduled

The descendants of John and Helena Smith Hanft will hold their annual reunion on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at the Columbus Junction Chautauqua Park.

### Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet on Monday, September 8 at 7:00 pm in the upstairs meeting 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](http://muscatinehams.org).

### Soil Commissioners terms to expire

Four of the five Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner positions will be on the November ballot. Current terms are expiring for Mary Boysen, Michelle Rees, Sam Willson and a 2-year term for Chris Ball.

### Model Railroad Club to hold show

The Washington Model Railroad Club will hold its annual train show and swap meet on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus Hall (606 W 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Washington, IA 52353). All scales will be represented. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$1 for children 6-12, early arrivals - \$5. Swap tables to rent: \$18 each. There will be a food stand in the building. For more information, contact Mike Worley at 319-653-3782.

### Gazette holiday deadline

Due to the Labor Day Holiday the Gazette's deadline for next week's paper will be at noon this Friday.