

United Fund plans Chili Taste-Off

Who makes the best tasting chili in Louisa County? Find out October 14 at the Columbus Junction Farmers Market at the Third Annual United Fund Chili Taste-Off. Area non-profit organizations are invited to compete for the traveling trophy that is awarded to the most popular recipe. The chili taste-off kicks off the annual United Fund donation drive by providing prospective donors with at chance to meet the people involved in the non-profit agencies that United Fund of Columbus Junction supports. It is a good time to learn more about the organizations that serve Columbus area residents and to try some delicious food.

For more information or to sign up to bring a pot of chili please contact Mallory Smith at 319-728-7971 or e-mail cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org.

Columbus earns Safe and Supportive School Grant

By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Columbus Community Schools is a winner again! Columbus has been awarded a \$62,000 grant for three years, thus totaling over \$180,000 for a "Safe and Supportive School." This is federal money given to the states to be awarded as grant money, and only twenty schools in the state received this money.

Here's how it works. The students take a survey called the "Iowa Youth Survey", and the results of this determine how the money is spent. Basically, there are three ways the money could go all pertaining to school safety and based on the school survey.

One way is "hardware" to ensure safety. An example would be the school could buy more fire alarms, cameras, etc.

The second is "people". This might mean hiring a school policeman or adding another school family-contact person, such as Georgina Buendia-Cruz, who is already functioning at Columbus Schools in this much-needed capacity.

The third way the money could go is to "programs". For example on September 6th of this school year, Mrs. Mary Pederson, Middle School Guidance Counselor, took Columbus Junior High students to Washington for a "Youth Frontiers Courage Retreat". Some of the goals of this retreat were to "encourage students to accept people for who they are, resist following the crowd, and act with moral courage despite their fears." Anti bullying was the overall theme.

A few Columbus high school students were sent to function as leaders at this retreat, and they commented that the program was so good they wished they could have a day like this. Comments from the junior high students involved were also very favorable. One student said she now felt sorry for the mean things she had done to another girl the day before. Money from this grant could provide more programs such as this for all students, regardless of grade level.

However the money from this "Safe and Supportive School" grant is spent, it is sure to benefit the Columbus students.

Columbus City Masonic Lodge honored by Iowa Lodge for greatest growth



CEDAR RAPIDS - Columbus City Masonic Lodge No. 107 at Columbus City is shown receiving an award for the greatest net growth of any Iowa Masonic Lodge from Grand Master Craig Davis at the 167th Annual Meeting of the Grand Lodge of Iowa on September 16 in Davenport.

Worshipful Master Duncan Bell is shown receiving the award from Grand Master Davis as Junior Warden Matt Storm looks on from the right.

The over 21,000 Masons in Iowa are dedicated to the betterment of themselves, their family, their church, their community, and support of the youth. Membership is open to men at least 18 years old. For more information, either email gs@gl-iowa.org or visit www.grandlodgeofiowa.com.

Cross Country runners to run for special cause at annual invitational



Monday night when Mike Jay and his Columbus Cross Country Teams host their annual invitational at the Cedarcrest Country Club, they won't just be defending their home turf, but will be running for another very special cause.

Their teammate and friend, Clarie Hamilton, lost her father Gary this week to cancer, a battle which the entire Columbus Team has shared with the Hamilton Family. On Monday when the Wildcats hit the 3.1/2 mile course, they will be wearing special purple jerseys in honor of Gary.

"Most people recognize pink in the universal fight against cancer, but the girls pointed out that pink signifies breast cancer," explained Coach Mike Jay. "Purple has been desig-

nated to represent the fight against all cancers, so we chose to run in the purple jerseys Monday".

In hopes of raising money to help the family offset various expenses, Mike Jay and Sports Editor, Tammy Virzi have organized an auction following the awards presentation at Monday's meet. The jerseys worn that night by Wildcat runners will be auctioned off, with proceeds going to Clarie and her family, mom Joyce and sister Anna.

"We have already had tremendous support in this project. Several local businesses (Rueckert Sanitation, Gabriel Construction, Columbus Junction State Bank, Kauffman Electric, Tammy Virzi) and the Columbus Athletic Booster Club have made do-

nations to have the jerseys made. So all of the proceeds accumulated through the auction will go directly to Joyce and the girls", stated Jay.

Anyone wanting to leave a bid or donation for the auction is encouraged to contact Mike Jay at (319)530-6775 or Tammy Virzi at (319)728-2413 or see either one at their Main Street businesses - Northwestern Mutual Financial Office or the Columbus Gazette Office, respectively.

The Wildcat Cross Country Invitational is set to begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Cedarcrest Country Club located west of Columbus Junction on Springer Avenue. The auction will follow at the same location.

Briefly -

CCHS Class of 1971 plans reunion

CCHS Class of 1971 will be holding their 40th class reunion on October 8, 2011 starting at 5:00 p.m. at the Cedarcrest Country Club in Columbus Junction. Please RSVP to Randy and Nancy Orr by September 24th by calling 319-728-3189 or email Randy_nancy71@yahoo.com also see us on facebook.

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will meet tonight Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center / City Hall for their regular meeting.

Columbus Day Tractor Show plans

Tractors will once again be part of Columbus Day. We will meet on Main Street at the north end. Have them in place at 9:00 a.m. We will move up to the school for the parade at noon. Any questions call Carol Foster at 319-728-5648 at OUR SHOP, between 10 and 4:00 Monday through Friday. Please register at OUR SHOP on Saturday morning.

Cookies + Kids to meet

COOKIES+KIDS will meet for their first meeting of the school year today, Wednesday, September 28th at 6:30 P.M. at the Senior Center. All high school students are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there! For more information, please contact Renea Jay at 319-530-4010. "A Taste of the SPIRIT on Bite at a Time"

Etude Club to meet

Etude club will meet at Colonial Estates on Tuesday, October 4th at 7:00 p.m. former and new members are welcome. For more information call Dorothy at 319-728-2066.

Historical Society to feature WWII Vets

On October 9th at 2:00 p.m. the Louisa County Historical Society, Hwy 61, Wapello, will present a program featuring ten World War II veterans. On January 12, 1995, the ten veterans discussed their military experiences with a group of Wapello Elementary students. Only two of the veterans who participated in this DVD recorded program are living. The veterans who gave the students a brief look at their part in World War II history were: Hilton Odle, Edwin Hicklin, Burl Mackey, Les Perkins, Bernard Gajewski, Bud Webb, Phil Downs, Burt Matthews, Dennis Brennan, and Keith Clark. History comes alive in the program. Don't miss it.

Conservation District to meet

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District would like to advise landowners and producers that with the busy fall construction season upon us, please call before stopping in the office to make sure someone is available to assist you. The office number is 319-523-6411.

Chapter X PEO to meet

Chapter X PEO will meet October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jenny Humphreys. Melinda Rees will be cohostess. There will be no program. Please call or e-mail hostess if you are coming.

Letts Fire Department Fish Fry

The Letts Fire Department will be holding a fish and chicken fry on October 1, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. cost is adults - \$9.00 and Children - \$4.00.

Harvest Fest Dinner at Morning Sun

The Morning Sun United Methodist Church will hold its annual Harvest Fest Dinner, Bake and Sweet Shoppe on Saturday, October 8th at the church. A full menu will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the Bake and Sweet Shoppe will begin sales at 10:00 a.m. (There will be no early sales.) Homemade candy, pastry and food items will be available. For more information contact Irene Kreiger 319-868-7922

Emma Beckman Open House

On Sunday October 9, 2011 Emma Beckman Chapter #445, Order of the Eastern Star will have an Open House from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Masonic Center in Columbus City for the observance of their 100th anniversary. The Grand Chapter of Iowa granted the Charter on October 26, 1911. Friends and members are welcome for this occasion as the one hundred five members of today look forward to the future of the Chapter.

SE Iowa Artists' Studio Tour

The 3rd annual Southeast Iowa Artists' Studio Tour will be held in and around the communities of Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Washington Counties on October 15th (9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and 16th (12 to 4 p.m.). The studio tour is a self-guided tour to 29 different artists' studios. Look for the acorn signs at the artists' studios. For more information and locations of studios, visit their website at: iowastudioutour.org.

Model Railroad Club to meet

The Washington Model Railroad Club will hold its annual train show and swap meet on Sunday, October 2nd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 606 West 3rd Street, in Washington, Iowa. All scales represented. Admission for adults is \$4, children 6-12 \$1. Swap tables to rent: \$18 each. The food stand will be in the building. For more information, contact Mike Worley at 319-653-3782.

This week at the Farmers' Market

Fridays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion parking lot, now until October 14th. The market offers fresh produce, baked goods, homemade noodles, jams and jellies, and plants. Some vendors accept Iowa Farmers Market Nutrition, WIC and Senior Program coupons. Buy fresh and local and taste the difference. For more information, including how to participate as a vendor, contact Nitza or Mallory at 319-728-7971.

School's Delivery Plan for Special Education services available

The Columbus Community Schools' District Developed Service Delivery Plan for Special Education Services is available in hard copy at the Superintendent's Office, Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junior/Senior High Schools, the Columbus Junction City Library and the Columbus Gazette. An electronic version is posted on the district's website at www.columbuscsd.org. The public is invited to review the plan and send written comments to Richard Bridenstine, Superintendent, 1210 Colton Street, Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738 or e-mail to Rich.Bridenstine@columbuscsd.org. All comments will be reviewed by the Columbus School Board.

**Mark your calendars and make your plans for Columbus Day 2011
Saturday, October 8, 2011**