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Food, Fun and 4-H Youth Center

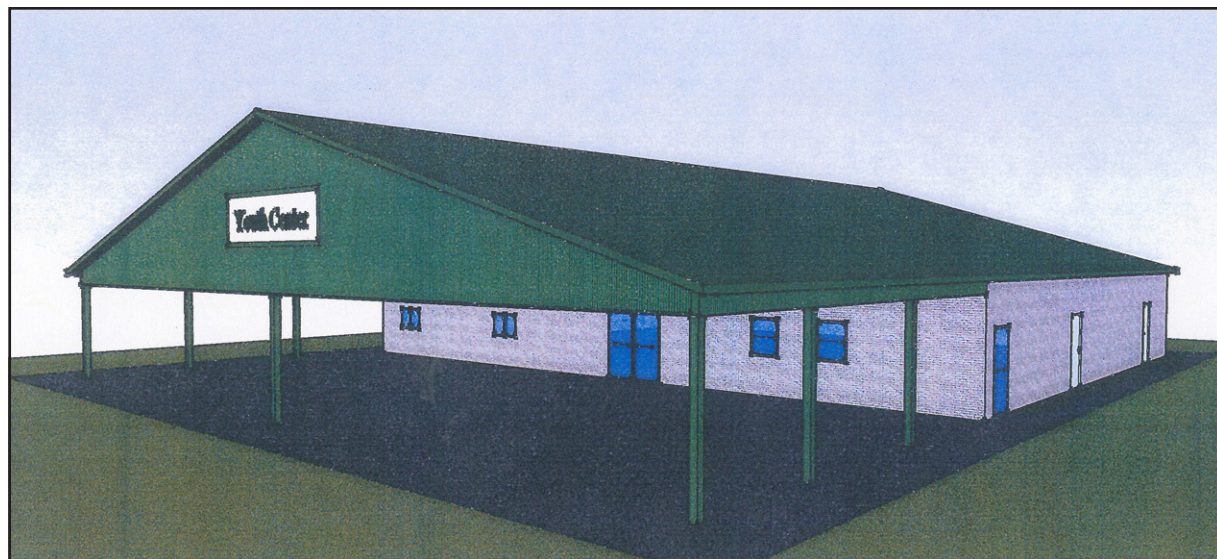
By Mary Masonholder Wilson
Gazette Staff

If you are looking for some fun and food this Saturday night, look no further than the American Legion building in Columbus Junction where the Louisa County 4-H and Fairboard are holding a soup supper, dessert auction, and "rock" auction. (These are two rocks donated by Kings Material, Inc. One is decorated for Iowa colors, the other for Iowa State).

County 4-Hers are working to raise money towards the Youth Center Building that is to be constructed at the Louisa County Fair Grounds. The cost of the new building is estimated at \$500,000. 4-H youth are working to help with this project in many ways, but one way is one dessert at a time. Following the soup supper this Saturday, there will be an auction of desserts provided by the 4-H families. Tessa Pugh, county 4-H coordinator, is hoping to have at least 150 desserts or more for the auction. The evening is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the auction starting at 6:00.

Just what is this new building? According to Bob Schlutz, Chairman of the Louisa County Fair Building Committee, floodwater over the years has done much damage to the fair buildings, but one wooden building in particular has been hard hit. This building is currently used for 4-H activities, miscellaneous meetings, and is the Fair Diner for food services. An alternative building needs to be considered to replace this building.

The new building would be located just north of the Variety Theater and measure 80 ft. x 96 ft. It



would consist of a 35 ft. X 80 ft. porch/patio area that would provide space for picnic tables, talent shows, 4-H events, and a senior citizen area. The porch area would be served by a pass-through window from the new kitchen that would provide food services. A congregate room (50 ft. X 60 ft.) would serve large parties, or functions (i.e. Habitat for Humanity dinners, cattlemen's functions and meetings, and 4-H exhibit hall for the fair). A pass-through window from the kitchen would also serve this area. The proposed building would have heating, air conditioning, and other essential services installed in the ceiling in case of high water.

Other details of the building that Schlutz cited are that it would be built at an increased elevation of 2.5 feet to protect against future rainwater flooding. The walls would be 10 feet in height and constructed of architectural decorative block to help eliminate damage from floodwaters. This would also reduce structural damage possibilities and allow for quick, ef-

fective cleanup if future floods were to occur. The city of Columbus Junction has been granted \$695,000 to raise the fairground levees to a level to help mitigate the flooding of the fairgrounds. The building would also include new restrooms and showers that would serve the campground area. This would be a great asset to the county, and the camp area at the Louisa County is the only fairgrounds camp with electrical services and wireless internet provided.

Schlutz reports that Casey's General Stores and Community Foundation of Louisa County each have committed to a \$50,000 donation toward this much-needed project. Muscatine Foods has committed \$25,000.

The people associated with the fairboard are really "gung-ho" about this project. Susan Pretz says, "I'm really excited; this is a big improvement for our fairgrounds. I'm hoping it will attract a new group of people to our fair." Bob Schlutz added, "The Louisa County Fair is an important part of our county. The

youth of tomorrow are the people who are going to inherit the benefits of this building. I believe that as we work together to make this happen, it is for the good of everyone in our county."

Individuals may leave or mail contributions for this Louisa County Youth Center at Columbus Junction State Bank, 134 Main Street, Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738 or Schlutz Enterprises, 260 Colonel's Drive, Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738. Contributions may also be given to Brian Townsley, President of the Louisa County Fairboard, who lives in Morning Sun. His phone number is 563-260-7393. There are various levels of giving, such as Friend, Partner, Leader, Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

Come on down to the Legion Saturday night, eat some great soup, and bid on a dessert. Who knows, you might even get an Iowa or Iowa State rock! It promises to be a lot of fun, and your contribution goes to a wonderful cause!

2011 - The Year in Review Part 2

April 6, 2011 – The Gazette congratulated and thanked all of the area's citizens for their generous responses to the earlier published story about the Family in Need and again for their responses to the food and clothing drive for the fire victims.

Corey Grothe organizes an Empty Stroller Empty Shoes Walk in memory of his younger sister, Nora.

Timothy Miles and James A. Mitchell are identified as the fire fatalities.

Plans for the Spring I-Club Banquet in Washington are announced. C.J. Lions Club and volunteers from Columbus Schools picked up trash along Highway 92.

Public Health Week schedule is released.

Obituaries included Timothy Miles, Margaret J. Gipple and Dorothy M. Black.

April 13, 2011 – 2010 Census figures are released and they indicate Louisa County's population remained steady.

A reprint of Helen Aringdale's book, "Do You Remember?" is released with the hopes that book proceeds can be used to establish a scholarship at Columbus Schools in Helen's memory.

McGruff the Crime Dog visited area schools.

Weaver Family gives a memorial donation to the Community Foundation.

Columbus FFA held their 2nd Annual Consignment Auction.

Obituaries included Gary Steven Crawford, Ruth Elizabeth Hanft and Arlene Jones.

April 20, 2011 – Lisa Piper is chosen as Columbus Community Distinguished Graduate.

John Mickelson is named Employer Supporter of the Guard and Army Reserve Volunteer of the Year. School Board decided to table the hiring of a new Curriculum Director.

Iowa River Water Trail Dedication Float scheduled.

Times and locations of area Easter Services were published.

The Gazette published a guide to products and services for homeowners.

Annual Parent/Member FFA Banquet is held.

City Council establishes new water rates and details sidewalk replacement plans.

Obituaries included Ila Jane Hartsock, Paul Raymond Bell and Alan Gary Willis.

April 27, 2011 – Volunteers come forward to pick up trash in the community in celebration of "Keep Columbus Beautiful Week."

Tyler Rosenboom establishes Tyler's Crew to help fight Juvenile Diabetes.

The remaining portion of the C.J. Sale Barn is razed by the school to provide more operating room.

A Feed Sack Display is held in Ainsworth.

C.J. Library and the Extension Office team up in Global Youth Service Day.

The Washington Theatre announces their Grand Reopening after their devastating fire.

May 4, 2011 – Cinco de Mayo is celebrated on Main Street.

Michelle and Dakota Snyder donated some of their hair to Locks of Love.

Columbus Schools announce that the ITBS and ITED scores are up at Columbus Schools.

Victory Christian Center Church organizes fundraisers for Louisa County Ambulance.

Many Mothers' Day activities are planned at Colonial Manor.

Louisa County Public Health holds open house for National Nurses' Week.

The Gazette introduces a new feature, "Book Nook" by Isaiah Sents.

Columbus Senior Class students receive over \$145,000 in scholarships at Awards Night.

May 11, 2011 – Columbus Students in After School Program learn about the environment.

Farmers' Market opens for the season.

Maynyrd's Motorcycle Service opens for business.

Local Girl Scouts send over 30,000 boxes of cookies to overseas troops.

Officer Andy Fry graduates from Law Enforcement Academy.

"Flying High." Ralph Timothy Cummings obituary is published.

Columbus Graduating Class of 2011 was published.

May 18, 2011 – Lisa Piper is honored at CCHS Graduation.

School Board reviews long range plan.

United Fund opens up application process.

Roundy School holds book fair. "Cruise Nights on the Square" begins in Washington.

Marina Ramirez is recognized by Governor Terry Branstad for outstanding academic achievement at a recognition ceremony in Des Moines.

City Council reviews zoning and map ordinances.

A number of Columbus students score high in National Spanish Exams.

Obituaries include Billie Jean Griggs and William Boulton.

May 25, 2011 – Cheryl Curtis, Mary Wilson, Kathy Almelein, Diane Olson, Deb Lowe and Diane Bohling announce their retirements from Columbus Schools. The group represented a total of 210 years of service to students.

The famous Graffiti Barn east of Columbus Junction burned to the ground.

Local law enforcement personnel participate in the "Click It or Ticket" program.

LIFE Microlending holds "First Thursday" Lunch-N-Learn program.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church celebrates First Communion.

Fifth Grade Roundy Students make 1,000 paper cranes.

CCHS holds year-end awards assembly.

Trees Forever plants windbreak at Roundy Elementary.

June 1, 2011 – Jesus Lizarrage returned as Community Development Intern.

A sculpture of birds and flowers made by Steve Tomfeld is installed in the Downtown Park.

Memorial Day activities are celebrated in area communities.

Obituaries include Raymond Wendell Nyenhuis and Teresa Ramirez de Escobar.

June 8, 2011 – A number of "Keep Columbus Beautiful" projects are unveiled.

Columbus Schools approve long

range plan.

American Legion establishes a flag disposal box for public to drop off worn flags.

LDG sets annual meeting.

Roundy Kindergarten Math All Stars featured.

Roundy students receive water safety instructions from U.S. Coast Guard.

Rita Ray's obituary is published.

June 15, 2011 – Numerous volunteers show up to give Chautauqua Park a major face lift.

City Council discussed employee seat belt policy.

Supervisors consider County Precinct changes based on census figures.

A new "Keep Columbus Beautiful" logo is adopted by Community Development Center.

The Gazette publishes a Father's Day feature.

Obituaries include Karl Ray Westfall and Jeannie Hawkins.

June 22, 2011 – Ground is broken for Louisa Interpretive Center.

City Council reviews zoning ordinances.

Mark Pugh is honored by Fire Department for 30 years of service.

Roundy Second Grade Math All Stars are named.

L-M School releases second semester Honor Roll.

School Board discusses personnel issues and test scores.

Obituaries include Mary Milder and William Call.

June 29, 2011 – Debi Durham, Iowa Economic Development Director spoke at LDG Annual Meeting.

The new horse arena at the Louisa County Fairgrounds begins to take shape.

Columbus United Fund distributes funds to 24 local organizations.

New signs are installed on the Civic Center.

Roundy students Jump Rope for Heart.

River Junction Tractor Show and supper is held.

Immigration Office opens satellite clinic in town.

Area 4th of July schedules and events are published.

Tyson Foods scholarship winners are named.

Obituaries include Charles Nelson and Thomas "Tommy" Thomas.

Briefly -

Fair Board and 4-H Soup Supper

Louisa County 4-H Clubs and the Fair Board will hold a Soup Supper and Dessert Auction Fundraiser on Saturday, January 21st at the American Legion in Columbus Junction. Everyone is invited! Help raise money for the planned Youth Center at the fair grounds and enjoy good food and fellowship. The soup supper is from 5-7 pm; supper is \$6 and includes all you can eat chili, vegetable or cheese soup and a drink. The dessert auction begins at 6 pm. All proceeds go towards the planned Youth Center at the Louisa County Fair Grounds.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Senior Center.

Legion Auxiliary collecting Long Johns

The American Legion Auxiliary (Post 100) is collecting long johns (underwear) for the VA Hospital in Iowa City. Donations can be dropped off at the Columbus Junction Public Library. Long johns will be delivered to the VA Hospital at the end of January.

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!

FCCLA in search of Active

Service Personnel Addresses

FCCLA is looking for active servicemen's addresses as a service project. The FCCLA would like to make up packages to send to area soldiers who are in active duty. If you know someone please contact Lois Mincks, FCCLA Advisor, at Lois.Mincks@columbuscd.org or 319-728-2231 ext. 3332 with their name and address. We will try to get packages to send for Valentine's Day.

FFA to hold Blood Drive

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center announces that the Columbus Community High School FFA will be sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, February 6th from 1:30 pm- 6:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 99 Second Street in Columbus Junction. To donate call Katie McWhirter at 319-728-2231. Walk-ins welcome! Donors must be at least 16 years old, in good health, and weigh at least 110 pounds. A Blood Donor card or other photo I.D. is required to donate; 16-year-old donors must present a signed parental consent form, available from the Blood Center or for download from www.bloodcenter.org. Controlled high blood pressure and diabetics are acceptable.

Grandview/Letts Lions Soup Supper

The Grandview-Letts Lions Club will hold their annual soup supper on Saturday, January 21, 2012, from 5-7 p.m. at the Community Center and Library in Letts. The all-you-can-eat menu includes: Chili and Wisconsin Cheese soups, homemade pies, celery, carrots, pickles, crackers and drinks. The cost for tickets is \$6.00; (Ages 6-12) \$4.00; (Ages 5 and under) Free.

Post Prom Committee to meet

The 2012 Post Prom Committee will have its first meeting today, Wednesday, January 18, 2012, at the high school student center at 6:30 p.m. Any junior parent interested in helping with the 2012 Post Prom Party is asked to please attend. Any questions, call Jacque Chaney at 319-728-8580.

New Postage rates announced

Postage rates will increase on Sunday, January 22, 2012. The cost to mail a one-ounce letter increases to 45 cents. Post cards increase to 32 cents. The additional ounce postage remains the same at 20 cents. The Columbus Junction Post Office has been selling the Forever Stamp for the past year. Customers that have the Forever Stamp can still use it at the new rate.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will hold a Public Meeting on January 23, 2012 at 6:30 PM at the District Administrative Office (White House).

Sara Sedlacek to hold Meet and Greet

Sara Sedlacek, Democratic candidate for Iowa House, is hosting a Meet and Greet at the Columbus Junction Public Library on Wednesday, January 25, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the second floor meeting room. This will be an opportunity to talk with Sara about her vision for District 88 and Iowa. She would also like to hear your thoughts and concerns about the district and the state.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, January 19, 2012, at 11:30 a.m. at 92 Roadhouse. Our meeting will follow at Colonial Manor Assisted Living.

Students to hold College Presentation

On Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00 pm, ten CCHS sophomore students will be leading a judged presentation about college and how to pay for it. These sophomores were given a grant by the Gear Up Foundation when they were in seventh grade. Their topic was on the importance of college for Iowa students and reducing college debt. This presentation is targeted for parents of all ages of students. Spanish interpretation will be provided. The students are competing with 37 other schools for a trip to Washington D.C. The presentation will take place at the Columbus Community School Auditorium and the Gear Up Foundation judges will be there for judging. The students ask that as many as possible community members attend their presentation (they would like to pack the auditorium) as attendance will be considered for part of the judging. Please plan on attending!

Valentines for Vets

A complimentary, "Valentines for Vets," concert will be at 7 p.m., February 14 at the Riverside Casino and Golf Resort in Riverside, Iowa featuring country music artist Lorrie Morgan. This concert is sponsored by the Iowa City VA Health Care System and Help Hospitalized Veterans. Veterans, their family members and the general public are welcome. You can reserve your complimentary tickets by sending an email to v4viowacity@va.gov or calling 319-339-7155. The tickets are complimentary because our Veterans have already paid the price.