

Dr. Wever donates Dental Clinic in Mexico

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

When Willy Wever, now Dr. Willy Wever of Integrity Dental in Columbus City, married his wife Sue, they started vacationing seventeen years ago at her parent's resort location. That location was in Manzanillo, Mexico, and little did he know then that today he and his family, which now includes two sons, would be working on opening a dental clinic there in addition to his current local clinic here. Manzanillo is located about half way down the west coast of Mexico on the Pacific Ocean. It has pleasant climate and lovely beaches.

It was about four years ago that Dr. Wever, who knew of an orphanage there, decided after a visit, that he and his family felt "led to provide for them more than just financially." Wever said, "Sue and I fell in love with the kids. There were 62 of them ranging in ages from six months to seventeen years." (At age 18, the orphanage no longer keeps them.) These children were placed in the orphanage, not necessarily because they had no parents, but because they had been neglected or abused and were therefore removed from the home.

Wever developed the idea to start a dental clinic there and contacted the Children's Foundation in Loveland, Colorado, who had founded the orphanage in Mexico. They were excited about Wever's idea and together they and Wever knew that the first step was to find a building. It was decided in November of 2010 to add another floor onto the existing orphanage for the dental clinic. An architect, who had worked with the foundation, drew the plans and estimated it would cost around \$15,000 to build. Back home in the United States, Dr. Wever told others of his plan, especially those at the Dental College, and several of these colleagues donated the larger equipment to have a one-chair clinic. In Febru-



ary of 2011 the equipment was crated and sent to Loveland, Colorado. The Fire Department in Loveland is a sister with Manzanillo, Mexico, and they were planning to take fire equipment there. The firemen there will then also take the dental equipment to California and then on to Manzanillo. Dr. Wever explained that he was advised to ship the equipment this way rather than a truck straight to Mexico due to border regulations.

The equipment should be arriving in Mexico soon, and Dr. Wever and his family plan to fly to Manzanillo this fall and receive it. They will see that it is properly stored until the dental clinic building is completed. Construction is set to start on this structure in January. The money for this has already been raised.

Dr. Wever is quick to point out that the money for the building and

the initial donation of equipment is complete. However, there is still much need and further donations will be taken. As of yet, there is still more equipment needed. He said, "There are no hand-held instruments for a dentist to use. We need instruments for teeth cleaning, extractions, etc." Also it is hoped to have in the future more than a one-chair clinic. Anyone wishing to donate to this project, should contact <http://www.childrensfoundationinc.com>. Wever also says that "This is our project; it is not our clinic." He plans to spend two weeks a year functioning as a dentist there, and he is looking to find other dentists to do the same. He also says that a non-medical person could volunteer there to do other things. Some churches come as a group and help in ways such as helping the children with their schooling. The Children's Foundation helps

with housing for volunteers.

In the future, Dr. Wever also sees this dental clinic helping adults and other children in the community. The orphanage/clinic is in a low-income area. This naturally makes it accessible to adults who may need the same care as the children.

The word "orphanage" is not allowed in Mexico, and so this home is called "Casa Hogar Los Angelitos Manzanillo." This means "House Home" for "The Little Angels." The Vision at Casa Hoga Los Angelitos is "to provide a loving and secure home atmosphere, educational opportunity, spiritual and moral foundation, as well as emotional and physical health in a manner that can truly change the lives of children brought into our care." Dr. Willy Wever and his family are indeed making this Casa a better place for these little angels, and their smiles will surely attest to this.

Leading the Way

By Andrea Wilson

(This article is part four of a four-part series focusing on the cultural mosaic of Columbus Community and how this small Iowa town is embracing individuals from all walks of life.)

In the spring of 1965, there were no Hispanics living in Columbus Junction, Iowa. That summer, Roger Salazar, a Texas resident originally born in Acuña Mexico, came to Southeast Iowa to visit his brother who was working in Muscatine. Here in a small town called Columbus Junction, he found something he liked, and he decided to stay and build a future. Shortly thereafter, in the fall of 1966, Roger enrolled in Columbus Community High School as a freshman. He was the first Hispanic at CCHS, the first Hispanic football player on the CCHS team, and in 1969 Roger became the first Hispanic to graduate from Columbus Community High School.

Reflecting on these firsts is something that Roger takes pride in. He could have never imagined that Columbus would continue to grow as it has with so many more Hispanics following in his footsteps. His early years were spent working to

assimilate and fit into the community as much as possible. His goals were to take advantage of the opportunities provided for him and build a strong foundation with his life and his family.

Roger describes Columbus as a very welcoming town, and it is safe to say, he has paid Columbus back for her hospitality in dividends. He's been a homeowner and taxpayer since he married his high school sweetheart, Laurie, in 1972. From 1970 until 2002, he was a member of the Columbus Community Fire Department, spending two terms as Fire Chief. On top of thirty+ years as a civil volunteer with the fire department, he also served as a member of the Columbus Junction City Council.

Roger describes his experience on the fire department as one of the best of his life, and it's clear he has passion for serving. "It gives you a feeling of accomplishment to go into someone's house and help. A fireman is a special name given to special people that dedicate their lives to saving others. Under no circumstances will there ever be hesitation to respond to a life threatening situation."

A man of principle, hard work, and dedication, Roger sets an ex-



ample for incoming Hispanics of how much the community has to offer for people willing to work hard and take advantage of the resources and opportunities in front of them. While he may not have seen himself as a role model at the time, his life experience speaks for itself and his legacy carries on. His son, Sean, now manages the Columbus Community Ambu-

lance and first response team, continuing a family tradition of service.

For a small community, Columbus provided a strong foundation for Roger's life and goes on to do the same for many others. But as history continues to write Columbus' story through many new faces, we will always remember the first.

Area Wind Energy Conference scheduled

They're popping up across the countryside and on city rooftops. They're tall and thin, often a striking white, almost silver, and at this time in Iowa they always seem to be moving. Which means they are making energy for their owners; saving them dollars on their energy bills — Right? They are Wind Turbines. Reminiscent of the good old windmills of days gone by, but they are not about water, they are about energy. And you think it sounds like a great idea. But how do you know if one of those stately wind turbines would be a good investment for your home, your operation or your busi-

ness?

Find some of the answers to these questions and others at a Wind Energy Mini-Conference presented by ISU Extension in Des Moines County on Saturday, November 12th. The day will start early with coffee and tours of the new Des Moines County offices in Mediapolis, Iowa. At 9 am presentations begin with ISUE Ag Engineer Greg Brenneman, who will outline Wind Energy Basics—Large or Small. He is followed by Alliant Delivery System Planner Mike Goater how your energy company can be involved and what the answers are to all those questions about sav-

ings on your energy bills — and the opportunities, if any, to "sell" extra energy. The morning will finish with two Southeast Iowa wind turbine owners. One uses wind at his home and farm, the other at a car dealership.

Both gentlemen are passionate about being a little more green, but say that the process of going with wind energy "wasn't just a breeze" like some think. Delzell was pleased to be asked to participate but says, "I am looking forward to sharing my story and explaining both the upside and downside of investing in wind turbines."

Registrants will be served lunch from the locally owned and operated 61 Chophouse and then are invited to visit both the Chase Farm and Delzell Brothers Dealership to see the wind operation up close.

A \$20 registration fee will get you an early morning tour of the new offices, the wind conference information; lunch from the 61 Chophouse and a field visit at both the Delzell Brothers Chrysler-Dodge Dealership north of Mediapolis and the James Chase home and farm just south of Mediapolis.

There is limited space available, so register soon at 319-394-9433 or by emailing Mary Steffener at steffene@iastate.edu.

Briefly -

Request from Colonial Manor Board

It has come to the attention of some of the members of Colonial Manor Nursing Home and Assisted Living Board that there is much trespassing on the land to the west and north of the home that is timber and farm ground. Currently, there is hunting with guns heard close in the area and the riding of four-wheelers, etc. Be it known, that this property is owned by the Colonial Manor and has been posted with "No Trespassing." signs. This also includes the area behind the Colonial Heights residential homes. Please respect these signs and refrain from being in this area.

School Board to meet

The Columbus School Board will meet on Tuesday, November 8th at the White House.

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet for their November meeting on the 8th of the month. Kay McConahay will be hostess.

Guys and Gals 4-H Club Food Drive

The Guys and Gals 4-H Club will hold their 3rd annual food drive on Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Grandview Shelter. The Club will be walking around Grandview and Letts collecting canned goods and receiving donations at the shelter that morning.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet on Tuesday, November 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Colonial Manor Assisted Living Facility. The program will be Kay Perkins. Roll call: Something special to you — person, place or thing. Hostesses are Roberta Boulton and Judy Chapman.

St. Joseph's Harvest Breakfast

There will be a Harvest Breakfast sponsored by St. Joseph's Catholic Church at the Columbus Junction Senior Center on Sunday, November 6, 2011. Serving is from 7-10 a.m. The menu includes: Sausage gravy and biscuits, breakfast burritos, ham, scrambled eggs, assorted rolls and breads, milk, juice and coffee. There will also be a country store and bake sale. Adults \$7, in advance - \$6. Children 5-12 - \$3. Advance tickets available at the Columbus Gazette, Columbus Junction State Bank and Community Bank.

Kingston UMC Dinner

The Kingston United Methodist Church annual Chicken and Biscuit Dinner and Bazaar includes crafts and bake sale items on November 12th from 11 to 1:30. The cost is \$7.00 - adult, 12 and under - \$5.00. The church is located 12 miles north on Hwy 99. Turn east at 205th Street.

Sons of Legion Soup Supper

Sons of the American Legion will hold their annual Soup Supper on Saturday, November 12, 2011 with social hour at 5:00 and supper at 6:00 p.m. All Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Members and Spouses are invited.

Historical Society membership meeting

The Louisa County Historical Society will hold its annual membership meeting and meal on Saturday, November 5th at 5:30 pm at the museum in Wapello. The meal will cost \$8.00. To make reservations, call Lois Bonnichsen (523-8451), Norma McCormick (728-8818), Howard Cooley (868-7691), Leota Schaper (728-8961), or Phyllis Houtz (729-2731). Carol and Tim Nixon will give the program.

Turkey Supper at Lone Tree UP Church

The United Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a turkey supper on Saturday, November 12th from 4:30-7 p.m. Roast turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, home grown sweet corn, salads, rolls, beverage and pies will be served. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10 years.

Minute It to Win It

We will hold our second annual Minute It to Win It on Friday, November 4th. Teams of up to 4 people can sign up in the high school office or with Lori Beenen. Cost is \$20 per team. You are guaranteed 4 games. Admission to watch is \$1. Competition begins at 6:30 pm.

P.E.O. to meet

P.E.O. Chapter C.X. will meet on November 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Emily Bell. Ann Murphy is the co-host. The program will be Thanksgiving Traditions by Mary Wilson. Please let Emily know if you plan to attend.

Chicken and Biscuits at Pleasant Grove

Pleasant Grove Church of God in rural Columbus Junction is having their annual chicken and biscuits supper today, Wednesday, November 2nd from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. with a free will offering. All are invited.

Shellbark Club to celebrate 100 years

Shellbark Club will celebrate its 100th anniversary at the home of Mary Wilson, 831 Colonial Ave., Columbus Junction, Iowa on Nov. 3rd at 2:00 P.M. until-? All members, former members, or any relatives of the club or neighborhood are invited to attend this open house. If you have memorabilia, bring it; if you cannot attend, you may send a letter to Mary.

Shriners Sportsman Raffle

KAABA Shriners of Davenport, Iowa, will be holding their second annual Sportsman Raffle at the Circle of Pride Rodeo Grounds on Saturday, November 5th. For information or tickets you can contact Bill Juhl or any of the local Shriners.

Winfield UMC Turkey Supper

Grab your appetite and come to the Winfield United Methodist Church on Wednesday, November 9th for their fabulous turkey supper with all the trimmings. Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberries, assorted salads, pies, desserts, rolls and drink plus their famous buttered turnips. Located at 204 E. Pine in Winfield, serving starts at 5:00 and carry-outs are available. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults, \$3.00 for 5-10 year olds and 4 years and under free. Good food and good fellowship, everyone welcome.

Vision Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Vision Support Group will meet on the second Thursday of November. We will meet on the 10th at 2 p.m. at the Corner Market. Donna Williams, recently retired from the Great River Medical Center in Burlington, will be our guest speaker.

Amateur Radio Club to meet

The Muscatine Amateur Radio Club will meet Monday, November 14, 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.