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# Gazette Christmas Shopping Trip # 4

*Briefly -*

By Mary Masonholder Wilson

I am sad to say this is our last shopping trip. They have been a lot of fun and I hate to see them end.

This week, most of our businesses are dealing with gift certificates and those are always a great gift idea! They also can be a great help to the shopper.

**Community Bank of Columbus Junction and Columbus Junction State Bank:** Obviously both banks have cash and that is often the favorite gift of anyone! Louisa Bucks are available to shop locally. There are also collectible coins. There are the Presidential silver dollars and the quarters of the states. Another great idea is to get a gift certificate for their travel clubs. Community Bank has the Community Bank Travel Group with Carol Ann Howell and State Bank has the RSVP group with Ramona Wink. These trips are wonderful! Think of the person who doesn't get out much. This would be a great idea. You don't have to be a member of the group to go on these trips; and anyone is welcome to go. So give someone the gift of travel, camaraderie, and a good time.

**Mincer Ford and Wiele Motors (both are on Highway 92):** These two businesses have the ultimate gift—a new car or a new used car. Wow! That would be a fun gift! If that is not in your budget, consider a gift certificate that could be used for an oil change or a wash and detail job. The gift certificate could also be for an amount rather than for a particular service.

**Lynn's Highway Service Center (Highway 92):** Once again a gift certificate is the perfect gift from this business. This would work for any age group too. Everyone needs to keep up his/her car.

**Larry's Body Shop (Toddtown):** Like the other businesses, Larry Cutler will do work on cars, and you can get a gift certificate. However, Larry is offering a free estimate on cost of repairing a damaged car. This is a great idea to consider!

Now let's look at some restaurants.

**Saddle Bronc (Conesville):** Gift certificates are given here. A special feature is their Wednesday night chicken wings, and they are



Mary and John making a final check of their Christmas List

good. Also during Lent, they have fish every Friday night; and occasional fish fries during the rest of the year. Many people in this area love fish!

**Bryn Mawr (located on Highway 92 a few miles west of Columbus Junction):** This restaurant has been in this same location for years and has consistently provided good food and a cozy atmosphere. Their steaks are well known, and many groups schedule parties there. Gift certificates are available. They also still have a dinner of the month card, which is purchased and then once each month for a year, a couple can eat and have one of the meals already paid. This gift would last a year long!

**The Thirsty Camel (located on Highway 70 North of CJ):** The Camel, as it is called, has a wide-open serving area and offers an extensive salad bar with the meals. Their specialties are chicken wings on Wednesday nights and Uncle Bill's Mexican food on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. These are real favorites and draw a crowd, but the rest of the menu is good too. Gift certificates are available. Also sweatshirts and hats are for sale with the Camel name.

Now for some miscellaneous businesses.

**La Perla de Mexico (Main St.):** They are specializing in products. Some examples are mole sauce, Habanera chips, Nopalitos (cactus), Mango nectar and other juices, salsa, beans, Pasta Alimenticia, Chili Ancho, and much more. Besides food, they also carry blankets, sweatshirts, ect.

**Brother's Landscaping:** Landscaping doesn't just mean a plan for plants, trees, and shrubs. It could be: however it also is the planting of trees, lawn care, and lawn mowing. What a great gift, especially for someone who may be elderly and unable to care for his/her own lawn. Gift certificates are available. The brothers are Paul Halstead at 319-212-0437 and Tom Halstead at 319-648-2559.

**Casey's General Store:** Gift cards can be purchased here for many different things. They will work on pizza, food items, doughnuts, etc., and even gas. The location on Highway 92 is easy and convenient. A gift card from Casey's would be a great gift for anyone at any age. It would be easy for you to get and easy for

them to use!

We hope you have enjoyed our shopping trips. Most of all we hope you have gotten some ideas that will help you in your shopping, make life easier, and help Columbus Junction. These businesses want you to come in to browse and come in often. Hopefully you will find something to buy. If you don't find anything the first time, go in another time. Also you may need to really look around the store. Sometimes great items are a bit hidden.

If the owner does not speak English, don't worry; just smile and look around—most prices are on the item and that's what you need to know. Shopping in Columbus Junction can be a real adventure and a real pleasure. The more business we keep in town, the more businesses that may want to come here. Let's make Columbus Junction a shopping destination so great that out of town people want to come here.

John and I want to wish you the happiest of holidays! Thanks for going shopping with us. It has been a great pleasure to have "your company"!

## Community Club to meet

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

## Family Night Soup Supper in Columbus City

The City of Columbus City will hold its Family Night soup supper today, Wednesday, December 14, 2011 from 5-7 p.m. at the Columbus City Mason Lodge.

## Community Christmas Cantata

Everyone is invited to "Shine on Us," a cantata for Christmas, to be presented at the Columbus Junction United Presbyterian Church by the Church's Adult Choir (and Friends), on Sunday, December 18, 7:00 p.m. The cantata will be directed by Jay Hauenstein; accompanied by Jill Bowen; narrated by Rev. Faye Fedlam.

## City Council meets today

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular Council meeting today, Wednesday, December 14, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

## Christmas Potluck at Colonial Manor

Please join us for a Christmas potluck on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Noon in the Resident Dining Room. Meat, rolls, beverages and table service will be provided. Please bring a dish of your choice to share. We hope you are able to celebrate with us.

## FCCLA requesting servicemen's 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.

## Christmas dinner to be served at Island United Methodist Church

A meal is being planned for the community to share on Sunday, December 25 (Christmas day) from 3 to 6 pm. The meal is free and open to anyone regardless of need. We at the Lighthouse on the Island (Island UMC) want to share the most amazing gift we have ever received, Jesus Christ. We trust this will be a time of building relationships. Please plan to join us on this very special day. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling 563-263-0674.

## Christmas program and candle light service at Letts Bible Church

Letts Bible Church will have their Christmas Program and Candle Light Service at 6:00 PM on December 18th. Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be served following the service. For more information, please call 729-5042 or 726-5108.

## School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, December 19, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the Roundy Elementary School Art Room.

## Blood Checks at Senior Center

There will be glucose, cholesterol, and blood pressure checks at the Columbus Community Senior Center today, Wednesday, December 14, 2011 from 9 a.m. till 11 a.m. Stay healthy for the holidays and have your blood checked.

# Taylor Smith advances in Lions Peace Poster Contest

Taylor Smith a sixth grade student at Louisa-Muscatine School, has taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning a local competition sponsored by the Grandview-Letts Lions Club.

Smith's poster was among more than 375,000 entries submitted worldwide in the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International is sponsoring the contest to emphasize the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

The poster was selected by the art teachers for its originality, artistic merit and portrayal of the contest theme, "Children Know Peace."

Grandview-Letts Lions Club President, Don Foor, said he was impressed by the expression and creativity of the students at Louisa-Muscatine. "It is obvious that these young people have strong ideas about what peace means to them. I'm so proud that we were able to provide them with the opportunity to share their visions." Smith's poster will advance to the district, multiple district and international.

Locally, Smith, Grace Schlutz and Daniel Enriquez were honored



for their participation by the Grandview-Letts Lions Club on November 10, 2011, at the Letts Community Center.

Taylor Smith is the son of Diane and Jim Smith of Fruitland, Iowa.

Pictured from left to right are: Don Foor, President; Taylor Smith,

Peace Poster 1st Place Winner; and Mark Songer District Governor from 9SE. Submitted photo.

## Conservation Stewardship Applications due by January 13th

Iowa farmers interested in signing up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) should submit applications to their local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office by Jan. 13, 2012, to be considered for eligibility during the first ranking period of 2012.

Through CSP, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible producers who conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancements and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change.

"CSP continues to be a good opportunity for conservation farmers to try new practices while receiving payments for their past achievements," said Richard Sims, state conservationist for Iowa NRCS.

Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland, rangeland, non-industrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe. Participation in the program is voluntary.

An updated CSP self-screening checklist is available to help potential applicants determine if CSP is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about CSP eligibility requirements, contract obligations and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices and on the Iowa NRCS website at [www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ConservationStewardshipProgram.html](http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ConservationStewardshipProgram.html).

As part of the CSP application process, applicants work with NRCS field personnel to complete a resource inventory using the Conservation Measurement Tool (CMT). The CMT determines the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities. The applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking and payments.

Through the 2011 CSP signup, Iowa farmers in 93 counties enrolled more than 368,000 acres in CSP, helping to improve water and soil quality, enhance wildlife habitat and address the effects of climate change. Iowans received an average of \$29 per acre during the 2011 CSP signup. Average payments depend on land use, existing stewardship and new stewardship practices. To apply or to find out more about CSP, visit your local USDA Service Center or go online to [www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov).

**Watch for the Gazette's Annual Christmas Edition Next Week  
All of the Santa Letters will be there**