

# Ballenger Jr. receives “Best of Show Award” at LC Fine Arts Show

Sherry Humphreys, Chairman of Louisa County Hometown Pride, Corp., presented awards to area artists at the 8th annual Louisa County Fine Arts show held at the Morning Sun Community Center, Sunday, September 28th. The juried art show included 91 works of art by thirty-two artists from Southeast Iowa or who are formerly from this area. The judges for the event were Margaret Ertz of Des Moines, IA and Susan Reiner of Cedar Rapids, IA. Following are the results of the show.

**Best of Show-\$500**  
Eldon Ballenger, Jr of Fruitland, IA-“Geometric Gem” a 3-Dimensional maple wood piece

**1st Place - \$200**  
2-D Art: Brianna Faith Rivers, Wapello, “Our Choice to Cluster”, Oil, Wine & Tea on Canvas

3-D Art: Justin Meier, Burlington, IA, “Me, Myself and Eye”, Metal Sculpture  
Photographic Art: Shelly Servadio Elais, Wapello, IA, “Ruffles”, Digital Photography

**2nd Place - \$100**  
2-D Art: John Carlson, Burlington, IA, “Wail”, Oil on Canvas

3-D Art: Dani & Kathy Henke, Wapello, IA and New Zealand, “Speaks Volumes”, Pit fired ceramic, paper, wire and banned books

Photographic Art: Teran Buettell, North Liberty, IA, “Spherical” Digital Photography

Pat Cocklin Emerging Artist Award (18-30) - \$200

Ella Kann, Swedesburg, IA, “Eyes of Our Rainforest”, Acrylic on Canvas

**Best of Louisa - \$100**  
Kristina Lihs, Wapello, IA, “Reach for

the Stars”, 3-D Mixed Media People’s Choice Award - \$100  
Mim VanWinkle, Burlington, IA, “End of Day”, Watercolor

The Louisa County Art Show is a project of Hometown Pride Louisa County, Inc (HTPLC) to promote the arts and feature area artists. HTPLC is a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of Louisa County residents through county and community enhancement. The event would not have been possible without the following sponsors and volunteers: Columbus Discoveries Thrift Store, Louisa Communications & Mutual Telephone Company, Mediapolis Savings Bank, Riverside Casino & Golf Resort, Bank, Al and Diane Bohling, Buckman’s Guesthouse, Cloverdale Farm, Tayler & Jordan

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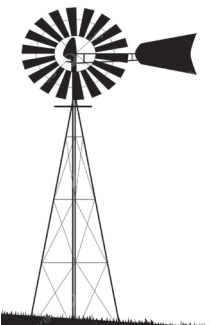
*A fond look back at  
Columbus Junction, Iowa*



By  
Helen L. Aringdale  
Edited by  
John Carpenter

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR LOUISA COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONNA L. MCKEAN Probate No. ESPR017591 NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To all persons interested in the estate of DONNA L. MCKEAN, deceased, who died on or about August 27, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on September 25, 2025, the Last Will and Testament of DONNA L. MCKEAN, deceased, bearing the date of April 5, 2010, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Donald Sturms was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the District Court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this Notice or one month from the date of mailing of this Notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against said estate shall file them with the Clerk of the above-named District Court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by later to occur of four months from the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this Notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated this 29th day of September, 2025.

s/ Donald Sturms  
Executor of the Estate  
533 30th St.  
Rock Island, IL 61201

Phil Parsons  
Attorney for Executor  
206 West Main Street  
P.O. Box 308  
Washington, IA 52353

Second Publication Wednesday, October 8, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette  
Published Wednesday, October 1, 2025 in the Columbus Gazette

### PUBLIC NOTICE

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
COLUMBUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Tuesday, September 30, 2025

The Board of Directors of Columbus Community School District convened a special board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at the Administration Building in Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Present were, President Carol Zuniga, Vice-President Todd Heck and Directors Dan Heindel, Darin Mapel, and Andy White. In addition, Business Manager and Board Secretary Neil Mills was present.

Board Meeting  
Agenda  
Todd Heck moved to approve the agenda.  
Seconded by Dan Heindel.  
Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

New Business  
Andy White moved to go into closed session to evaluate the

### PUBLIC NOTICE

professional competency of an individual under Iowa Code 21.5(1) (i).

Seconded by Todd Heck.  
A roll call vote was taken: Mapel yes, Heck yes, White yes, Heindel yes, Zuniga yes.  
Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

The board went into closed session at 6:32pm.  
Dan Heindel moved to return to open session. Seconded by Andy White. Ayes: five Nays: none. Carried.

The board returned to open session at 8:29.  
There were no action items from the closed session.  
Darin Mapel moved to adjourn.  
Seconded by Andy White.  
Ayes: five. Nays: none. Carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

/s/ Carol Zuniga, School Board President, /s/ Neil A. Mills, School Board Secretary  
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