

Earth Week poster and essay entries due

To help promote the upcoming Earth Week events, Keep Columbus Beautiful and the University of Iowa students are running a poster contest for grades K-6 and an essay contest for grades 7-12 for students in the Columbus Junction school district. The instruction forms were distributed in the Columbus Junction schools on Wednesday, February 24th.

Winning entries will be used to promote Earth Week events happening in Columbus Junction this spring and the importance of waste reduction, recycling and beautification throughout the community. In addition, entries will be displayed at local businesses in Columbus Junction throughout April.

Participants in both the poster and essay contest are asked to work along the following format: What would you do to Keep Columbus Beautiful?

Students are asked to incorporate the three themes of Keep America Beautiful along with the above statement in their posters or essays. The three themes of Keep America Beautiful are (1) litter prevention, (2) waste reduction & recycling and (3) beautification.

All posters and essays should be submitted at the Columbus Junction Schools on or before this Friday, March 12 and winners will be announced on or before March 26. Two winners will be selected from each grade and the winning students will receive prizes that are reusable and sustainable. On top of individual winners, the two classes with the most poster and essay contest entries will win pizza parties! If you have questions, would be interested in displaying the poster entries at your business when the contest is completed or are interested in donating sustainable prizes for winning entries please contact Liz Levy, elizabethlevy@uiowa.edu or 917-848-4344.



Pictured above is Karl Burhop, a University of Iowa student hanging an interactive poster in the Hy-Vee Pharmacy in town. The inset is a view of a portion of Main Street on Monday. As the snow now clears, some of the winter trash is becoming evident. Now's the time to reinvigorate our Pick Up program.

Community Development Center Communication Survey University students are currently completing a communications assessment for the Community Development Center. The survey is being conducted through computer kiosks located in town, paper surveys and online at www.columbusjunctioniowa.org. Please take a moment to visit the website or stop by the kiosks to complete the survey! A Facebook group, "Columbus Junction Earth Day 2010" has been created to direct residents to the survey. In addition, the students created posters that are currently hanging in Columbus Junction businesses to survey the community's interest in different Earth Week activities. When you spot a poster around town, simply select the categories you may be most interested in and place a sticker in that box.

If you are interested in paper, electronic or poster surveys to hang in your business or church, please contact Andrea Heffernan, andrea.heffernan@gmail.com or 319.621.1579. The surveys will be located throughout town until the middle of March.

Upcoming Weekly Sustainability Series in the Columbus Gazette

Keep your eyes open in the upcoming editions of the Columbus Gazette for some sustainability tips from the Urban Planning students at the University of Iowa who have been working with Mallory Smith at the Community Development Center to plan events for Earth Week 2010 in Columbus Junction. In gearing up for these events, the students will be contributing weekly articles to the Columbus Gazette focused on sustainability. Upcoming topics include: Greening your kitchen, gardening/composting, home energy efficiency tips and a brief report on waste and recycling in Columbus Junction and Louisa County!

Former area resident escapes harrowing situation

(The following story was made available on an internet news site called The Dominion Post.)

An American tourist has described a brush with death after she was picked up by an unexpected gust of wind and thrown down a cliff while parapenting.

Katie Nielsen, from Seattle, had been in New Zealand for just a week when she booked a tandem trip off Te Mata Peak near Havelock North

on Friday.

She and local guide Gary Sayer were preparing to take off when the gust picked them up and threw them down the near-vertical slope.

"We were just getting ready to go and there was a big gust of wind. We just started tumbling. It was quite a ways. It all happened very quickly. It was pretty clear we weren't going to stop in a hurry."

Strapped together in a tandem

harness, the pair tumbled about 30 metres before managing to stop their fall. Neither were seriously hurt.

Mr Sayer helped save their lives by digging his heels in, Ms Neilson said. "There was definitely a moment when I thought we were not going to stop, and I had time to think about what that would mean." The pair had to wait on the near-vertical slope for 90 minutes until rescuers arrived and abseiled down to them.

"We very quickly went from being strangers to being friends. I certainly had time to reflect on what could have happened. I am feeling very fortunate about everything." Nursing just a few bumps and bruises, Ms Nielsen planned to continue her holiday. Hastings fire service senior station officer Dennis O'Leary said the pair were lucky they did not fall further. "It's almost vertical over the side there."

Danny Gipple named 2009 Habitat Volunteer of the Year

About 100 people enjoyed a variety of soups and desserts at the annual Habitat Celebration Soup Supper held on Valentines Day, February 14 at the Morning Sun Community Supper. The theme for the evening was Love of Home and Family, and each guest received a happy heart. The Louisa County Queens' Court provided entertainment during the dinner. Lydia Fisher, Little Miss Louisa County from Wapello, delighted the audience with her dancing. Marisa Summers, Miss Louisa Outstanding Teen from Muscatine and Miss Louisa County, Jessie Howes of Davenport each sang two songs. LCHH wishes the girls good luck at the Miss Iowa Pageant June 12.

Bob Brown led a brief program following the dinner. Danny Gipple was honored with the Volunteer of the Year award. The LCHH board and the volunteers who worked on the Habitat house 11 (the Jenean Davis home) were also recognized. Reverend Dan Doolin, Tom Lanz, Schrock's Lumber and the Harvest Community Christian Church Mis-

sions Team were also recognized for their contributions to the completion of the Davis home. Supporting Partner plaques were given to the following churches, businesses and organizations for the support they have given every year since the inception of LCHH in 1996: the Apostolic Christian Church of Oakville, the 1st Presbyterian Church of Morning Sun, 1st Presbyterian Church of Wapello, United Methodist Church of Letts, United Methodist Church of Letts, Koinonia Bible Study of Morning Sun, Community Bank-Peoples Branch, State Bank of Wapello, Hotel Wapello, and Wapello Kiwanis. The following were recognized for their yearly in-kind support: TriState Envelop and Bandag Inc. for their help with the LCHH mailing; Wapello Self Storage for the storage units provided free of charge; Tyson Fresh Meats for contributing pork for County Fair dinner; and Hotel Wapello for the Chief Wapello lunch and teen dance. Paula Buckman wrapped-up the program announcing that LCHH had been successful in bringing \$195,000 in grants into the



county in 2009; \$170,000 in Embrace Iowa Funds which were awarded in \$15,000 grants for flood victims to use for housing and \$25,000 which was used in the construction of Habitat house 11. She also reported that donations were down from prior years, but LCHH was looking forward to starting construction on a 12th

Habitat home when they have sufficient funds. Names were drawn at the end of the program for door prizes.

Pictured above Ruth Yakle, President of Louisa County Habitat for Humanity presents Danny Gipple with the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award.

Six week Small Business Academy

(Wapello, Iowa) –Business owners and people interested in starting businesses have a chance to hone their skills, pick up some useful tips from area professionals and earn a little money along the way. Registrations are now being taken for a 6-week Small Business Academy to be

held at the Iowa Extension office, 317 Van Buren in Wapello on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 pm starting March 31 thru May 5, 2010. There is no fee to attend the Academy but rather a deposit of \$20. Thanks to funding from the Community Foundation of Louisa County to

LIFE Microlending participants who attend all sessions will have their deposit returned plus \$20 in Shop Louisa Bucks. Topics covered will include how to prepare a business plan, legal aspects of running a business, insuring your business, pricing and management for profitability, accounting and marketing. To register please contact Kathy Vance at the

Extension office at 319-523-2371 ext 202 or VanceK@iastate.edu or Nitza Lopez Castillo or Mallory Smith at the Columbus Junction Community Development Center at 319-728-7971 or cdc@columbusjunctioniowa.org. The classes are open to the general public. Registration is limited so please sign up early.

Briefly -

Legion to hold fish and chicken fry

The American Legion will be holding a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Legion Building. Serving will be from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. the price is \$8.00

Potato Supper in Columbus City

The Columbus City United Methodist Church will hold a potato supper on Saturday, March 20, from 5-7 p.m. at the Columbus City Masonic Lodge. A delicious variety of toppings will be available to choose from along with a variety of salads and desserts. A free will offering will be accepted. Bring the whole family. Good food – good fellowship.

City Council meets tonight

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a regular council meeting today, March 10, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

Potluck at Colonial Manor

Colonial Manor of Columbus Community (814 Springer Avenue) is celebrating 35 years! They want to share this special event with their residents, families and community, on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at 12:00 noon, in the dining room for a potluck lunch. They will supply the chicken, roll and drink. Table service will also be provided. They ask that you bring a dish to share. Everyone is welcome! Piano music will be by Mark Moore.

Irish at the Historical Society

WAPELLO – The Louisa County Historical Society will hold its annual Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the Heritage Center, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello. Choice of soups include chili, potato, chicken noodle, bean and vegetable beef. Desserts will also be served. Cost for the meal is \$6. John Carpenter of Columbus Junction will present the program "About the Irish," sharing some Irish humor as well as some history about the people of Ireland.

Morning Coffee at Hope Bible

Hope Bible Church will be hosting a Morning Coffee Fellowship. There is no charge for this fellowship opportunity. The Morning Coffee Fellowship will meet in the church basement on Fridays from 9-11 a.m. Our church ladies look forward to providing a place for you to fellowship and encourage one another. Hope to see you there!

Democrats to hold pancake breakfast

The Louisa County Democrats will be having a pancake breakfast before its County Convention, Saturday, March 13th. The breakfast will begin at 8:30 a.m., with the Convention following at 9 a.m. It will be held at the Louisa County Historical Museum, Highway 61, Wapello. Everyone is invited.

Conservation Board meets today

The Louisa County Conservation Board will meet today, Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 5:30 p.m., at the Louisa County Conservation Board Office.

Catfish Dinner in Lone Tree

The Presbyterian Church in Lone Tree will serve a catfish dinner on Friday, March 26th, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. The menu includes catfish, baked potato, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, beverage and bar/cookies. Tickets are \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 10 and under. If you have any questions, please contact Carol at the church office 319-629-4900. Thank you for your help!!!

PEO to meet

The next meeting of PEO Chapter CX will be held at the home of Deb Pullin-VanAuken on Monday, March 15 at 7:00 pm and co-hosted by Jennifer Huston. Melanie DeVore will present a program on her trip to Poland. All members are encouraged to attend.

Post Prom Committee to meet

Attention parents of juniors at CCHS: Post prom committee will meet on Wednesday, March 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the high school. Please come and help plan the post prom party. Questions: call Linda Pierce 319-728-7483.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 15, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. in the Roundy Elementary Library.

Shellbark Club to meet

The Shellbark Club will meet on Thursday, March 18th at 11:30 a.m. at the 92 Roadhouse in Columbus Junction.

Roundy prepares for Kindergarten

Will your child be old enough to attend school at Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junction, Iowa this fall? Roundy Elementary is preparing for Kindergarten – If your child was born before September 15, 2005 and is not currently enrolled in the Columbus Preschool Program, KFC Preschool, or the Great Beginnings Preschool Program, please call the school at 319-728-6218.

Habitat to host Chocolate Afternoon

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity will host "Saturday Afternoon With Chocolate," our annual fundraiser, on Saturday, March 27, from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Wapello Briggs Center. We are planning to have about 30 chocolate items, including cakes, candies, pies, ice cream, and other chocolate desserts. These will also include sugar free items. The cost will be \$8 for adults, and \$4 for children 10 and younger. Please plan to come and bring a friend(s) to help us build another house in Louisa County. PLEASE COME AND HAVE A TASTE WITH US TO ENJOY THE CHOCOLATE! Also, come to visit and for getting new ideas to take home with you.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

The annual Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet will take place on Saturday, June 12, 2010 at Roundy Elementary School. Reserve the date on your calendar and plan on celebrating with fellow graduates!

Peoples Partners changes meeting date

Community Bank's Peoples Partners travel show for the fall trip to New York and Canada has been rescheduled to March 22nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Bank basement. The meeting was previously scheduled for March 8th. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause, but we hope you will be able to attend on the 22nd.