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Louisa County Code Red update

Louisa County will be using the CodeRED Emergency Notification System on March 19, 2012 to call the entire county. This call will give Louisa County personnel the chance to operate the system as if there has been a community wide disaster.

The calls will start in the late morning and will continue until the entire database has been attempted. The message will direct recipients to the county web site to add additional contact numbers, and it also asks that recipients spread the word by mentioning the system to family, friends and neighbors.

Staci Griffin, the Louisa County Emergency Management Coordinator, suggests that, "All individuals and businesses should take the time to visit our website and add contact information to include cellular phones and other non-traditional phones as well as email and text addresses. If your contact information is not in the database you will not receive a call when an urgent message is sent."

Business should register, as well as individuals who have unlisted phone numbers anyone who has changed their phone number recently, and those who use a cellular phone exclusively or have VoIP phones (such as Vonage) as their primary numbers.

Griffin urges citizens to log onto the Louisa County website at www.louisacountyiowa.org and follow the CodeRED link on the right hand side of the page. Those without Internet access may call 319-750-1128 Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm. Required information includes a physical street address for location purposes and a primary phone number. Additional phone numbers, email and text addresses may also be entered.

More information about the CodeRED system is on the website, any questions should be directed to Louisa County at 319-750-1128.

The Emergency Communications Network Inc. (ECN) provides affordable high-speed notification solutions capable of reaching millions of citizens in minutes. ECN's sophisticated network supports a web-based product suite featuring CodeRED® which enables local government officials to communicate time-sensitive, personalized messages via voice, email and text messaging; CodeRED Weather Warning™ which provides automated alerts to citizens in the path of severe weather just moments after a warning has been issued by the National Weather Service; CheckUp Call™ for scheduling calls to check on at-risk individuals, including the elderly, infirm and latchkey kids; and CodeED® for use by school systems to improve communications with their communities. For more information about Emergency Communications Network, visit emergencycommunications.net.

Cookies and Kids Food Drive



The Cookies 'n Kids group, a non-denominational Christian Youth group made up of Columbus Community High School students, conducted a very successful Food Drive this past weekend as a service project for our community. Through monetary donations, donations of non-perishable food items and toiletry items, and the support of the EconoMart, the group was able to provide a rather large quantity of much needed items for the local CAP office.

Extension donates \$10,000 to Youth Center



The Louisa County Council for ISU Extension & Outreach has donated \$10,000 toward the Extension/Fair Office that will be located in the new Youth Center at the Louisa County Fairgrounds outside of Columbus Junction. The 7,680 square foot planned Youth Center will be a multi-use facility featuring a meeting hall, offices, kitchen, a covered patio, and restrooms with showers. The building will be used year round for Fair Board meetings, Extension activities and community events. Extension Council Chair Terri Slater says, "This is an exciting opportunity for us to partner with the Fair Board on

the offices we use during the fair and on a space that will be the location of many 4-H and Extension activities for years to come."

Louisa County has almost two hundred 4-H members participating in twelve clubs. Their presence is most visible during the county fair held annually in July, however 4-H clubs and their members are active throughout the year learning new skills and participating in community service activities. In January the clubs joined together with the Louisa County Extension Council and the Fair Board to hold a very successful fundraiser for the youth Center. The

soup supper and dessert auction raised \$7,590 for the new facility.

For more information about the Youth Center project please contact Susan Pretz, Secretary, Louisa County Fair Association or Bob Schlutz, Youth Center Committee Chair at 563-299-6916.

Pictured above: Food at the 4-H soup supper fundraiser was organized by the Fair Board and these 4-Hers, L-R: Kale Kiesewetter, Molly Kirk, both from the Guys & Gals 4-H Club; Lindsey Pretz of the Go-Getters, Alia Lawrence from Shooting Stars and Kayla Stigers, also from Guys n Gals.

County Law Enforcement to participate in sSTEP Program

Don't Press Your Luck- Drive Sober and Remember to Buckle Up

The Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau is announcing that the Louisa County Sheriff's Office and an additional 250 law enforcement

agencies from around the state will be on the roads beginning March 15th and through March 18th for this year's second special Traffic Enforcement Program (sSTEP) wave. They will be looking not only for drunk drivers and safety belt violators but for all traffic violations.

With the record number of traffic fatalities (59) that occurred this January and February, officers will be stepping up their enforcement activity in hopes of slowing down that trend throughout the rest of the year. Of the 59 fatalities in the last two months, 30% or 17 were unbelted and

8 were identified as unknown.

Iowa's sSTEP Coordinator Randy Hunefeld advised that all law enforcement agencies in the state will be proactive with their traffic safety efforts and constantly continue to educate and enforce traffic laws to change driver behavior.

Briefly -

Sunday Dinner at CJ United Methodist Church

A Sunday dinner after church will be held on March 18, 2012. Serving begins at 11:45 a.m. in the United Methodist Church in Columbus Junction. The menu is: Meatloaf, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, relish, dessert and drinks. Everyone is invited. A free will offering will be accepted. Please plan to attend.

LO-CO Bingo at Historical Society

The Louisa County Historical Society is sponsoring Lo-Co Bingo on Saturday, March 24th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Doors will open at 12:30. Bingo begins at 1:30, seating is limited. Refreshments will be available for purchase. No outside food or drink is allowed. Proceeds benefit LCHS Building repairs fund.

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!

Cub Scout Pancake Supper

The Cub Scout Pack 54 of Letts, Fruitland and Grandview will be holding their all-you-can-eat pancake supper on Monday, March 26, 2012 from 5-8 p.m. at the L-M Elementary School cafeteria. The menu includes pancakes, scrambled eggs, whole hog sausage, coffee, milk and orange juice. The cost is \$6.00 for 7th grade through adult; \$4.00 grades K-6 and seniors (60); and preschool is free. Tickets can be purchased from any cub scout of Pack 54. Tickets can also be purchased by calling Mary Ann at 563-263-8886, Karen at 319-726-4515 or you can purchase tickets at the door.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Columbus Junction Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 7, 2012. The Hunt will begin at 1 pm on the White House lawn - Columbus Community School's Administrative Office on Colton Street. Come join Lisa Exline - coordinator, for a great time and meet the Easter Bunny. Friends of the Library will be there reading Peter Rabbit! Call 728-7972 or 319-750-0801 if you have any questions.

Grandview/Letts Lions Blood Drive

The Grandview/Letts Lions Club is sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, March 15, 2012, from 1-6 p.m. at the Letts Library/Community Building. To donate, contact Marvin or Margaret Thomas at 319-726-3286 or email them at: mmthomas@iowatelecom.net. Please eat before donating and bring photo ID. The last date to donate elsewhere was January 19, 2012.

Great River Trunk Show

West Burlington, Iowa, March 9, 2012 - Great River Gift Shop will host a fashion- accessory trunk show from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 22. Featured items include purses, jewelry and other accessories. The gift shop is located in Great River Medical Center's lobby, 1221 S. Gear Ave., West Burlington, Iowa. The trunk show is sponsored by Great River Friends, a community of donors and volunteers who support Great River Health Systems with their gifts of time, talent and treasure. For more information, please call Great River Gift Shop at 319-768-3480.

P.E.O. to meet

The chapter will meet on Monday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Bev Nielsen with Ruth Buser at the co-host.

Port City Coin Club to meet

The PORT CITY COIN CLUB of Muscatine will hold its annual coin show on March 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel, junction of Highways 61 and 38 North in Muscatine. Dealers from Iowa and Illinois will buy, sell or trade U.S. and foreign coins and currency. Admission is free and open to the public. A raffle for a \$5 U.S. gold Indian Head coin and free hourly door prizes are a part of the show. Also, free numismatic literature will be available. More information is available at 563-264-8148.

School Board to meet

The Board of Education for Columbus Community School District will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Roundy Elementary School library.

Blood Checks at Senior Center

Tami Nichols, R.N. from Colonial Manor will be doing blood checks at the Columbus Junction Senior Center on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Come by and have your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol checked. We hope to see you there!

Shellbark Club to meet

Shellbark Club will meet Thursday, March 15 at 11:30 a.m. at Max's in Conesville. Please meet at Janet Pretz's house at 11 a.m. to car pool.

City Council meets tonight

The Columbus Junction City Council will meet tonight, March 14th at 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center/City Hall.

Visual Support Group to meet

The Louisa County Visual Support Group will meet on Thur. 15 at 2 o'clock. We will meet at the Ambulance Building on Hyw. 61 in Wapello. Bev Paris is hostess this month. We will be having a speaker and then play bingo. Everyone is welcome. Lois Richers 527-2630

Don't Forget - The Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Columbus Junction will be tomorrow, Thursday, starting at 4:30 in front of the State Bank. Thousands are expected to attend this year's parade. See you There!

