



Your Award Winning Hometown Newspaper

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## Another Successful Back to School Bash is held

In what has become a n annual tradition, the Back To School Bash was again held last week. This not only gives students an opportunity to find their school classrooms, deliver their school supplies, but also is a wonderful opportunity for the citizens of the community come together to meet the school personnel as well as meet old and new friends.

Although a light rain fell in the early morning hours, the sun began to shine in the afternoon and the weather became ideal. A large crowd was on hand and bushels of hot dogs, cookies and drinks were served.

A highlight of the evening was an opportunity for the school's athletic teams to meet the athletes and give a preview of the coming seasons. Each coach was able to introduce the athletes, and give a few words of encouragement.

As the old saying goes "A good time was had by all," and the Gazette is again looking forward to next year's Bash.



## Old and New Stores arrive on Same Day



Pictured is Jose Estrada in his former store, "Take 2 Video" behind the counter. Also pictured is Estrada in his new store, "Take 2 Video." The pictures were taken on the same day, a few minutes apart, as Estrada has just moved his business down the street to the former Moore Law Office. Estrada's former store housed the soda fountain from the old May Drug Store. This soda fountain has been a mainstay in Columbus Junction for many years. He did not move this counter to his new store, so it will be there for the next owner. Tim Wink currently owns this building. In his new store, Estrada has lots more space. He will continue to rent movies and serve sandwiches (such as hamburgers, tenderloins, etc.), french fries, and ice cream. He has managed to use a few "finds" from both buildings, including antique blackboards, old bottles, and a sign that says, "Thanks—Call Again. Peter Pan Bread." Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, was his first day of business in the new building.

## City sports new sidewalks in residential areas

Anyone driving around Columbus Junction in the last few weeks has had to change his/her driving habits to deal with the street work and roads closed. The main repairs were done coming down Main Street Hill and on Gamble Street going west from the water tower. The curbing was in bad condition here and the water wasn't draining correctly to the storm sewer inlets.

Thus old curbing was torn off and the strip of the street next to the curbing was also removed and replaced to help the flow of water.

This repair work is funded by tax dollars from the state of Iowa and is based on population. This money must be used on streets and sidewalks.

This is one of many construction projects that are being completed around our community. This is truly has been a time of progress in our town, and along with many other projects, such as the Youth 4-H Center and the large school project, things will be happening in town for a long time to come.



## Motor Vehicle Safety Checkpoint

The Louisa County Sheriff's Office, and assisting law enforcement agencies, will be conducting a Mo-

tor Vehicle Safety Checkpoint on Saturday, September 1, 2012. The Motor Vehicle Safety Checkpoint will be conducted between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., near the intersection of Highway 61 and 170<sup>th</sup> Street in Louisa County.

Law enforcement will be attempting to identify driver's violating motor vehicle laws including improper motor vehicle licensing, non-licensed drivers, seatbelt and child safety seat usage, equipment violations, and un-insured motor vehicles.

## Sheriff's Office to participate in Labor Day traffic enforcement

The Louisa County Sheriff's Office will participate in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" special Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), an initiative of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Louisa

County Sheriff's Office will devote heightened enforcement on Louisa County roads from August 23<sup>rd</sup> through September 5<sup>th</sup>. During the STEP project, the Louisa County Sheriff's Office will focus on removing drunk and impaired drivers from the roadways.

**School's now in session. Please watch for students as they travel to and from school!**

## Briefly -

### City to hold public hearing

The City of Columbus Junction will hold a public hearing (on proposed drawings, specifications, form of contract and estimate cost of construction) and a regular meeting today, Wednesday, August 22, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the New Civic Center/City Hall.

### Lions Club Pancake Breakfast

The Columbus Junction Lions Club will be holding their Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, September 1, and Sunday, September 2, at the Community Senior Center, 125 E. Walnut St. All-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, eggs, syrups, coffee, milk and juice will be served from 7:00 to 11:00 a.m. Cost is adults - \$6.00 and children under 12 - \$4.00. Come and support our fundraiser; help support our annual scholarship awards, free vision screening for preschoolers and financial assistance for individuals with vision and hearing impairments.

### CCHS Holds class reunion

Attention Columbus Community Class of 1982 (and parents): Some of us have been making plans for our 30<sup>th</sup> year class reunion. We still need some addresses; if you can help - that would be great! We want to find as many classmates as possible. Our plans are: Columbus Day Weekend - Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. meet and greet at Rumors and Excuses; Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> watch parade at Rumors and Excuses, 5-8 p.m. dinner at the Thirsty Camel, then go to an exclusive location for a night of fun. Any questions or addresses please call Deb (Sands) Halstead at 319-750-2636.

### Annual Jack Cecil Car Show

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Jack Cecil Columbus Day Car Show will be held on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> from 8-noon. Registration ends at 10 with awards at 11:15. Bring your hot rod, custom, muscle or classic car or truck, even motorcycle to join in raising money for a local family impacted by cancer. This is held in conjunction with the Columbus Day Celebration. Come join the festivities, join in the parade after and have fun with the crowd. We are asking a \$20 entry donation to help raise funds. Top 25 awards, Best of Show, special awards also. Door prizes are being sought. For more information contact Curt Larkin 641-990-4436 or [curt.larkin@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:curt.larkin@johnston.k12.ia.us). Special invite to the class of '82 to bring out your special rides and relive some of the "high school" spirit during your reunion!

### Community Bank Travel Club

The Community Bank Travel Club will meet in the Columbus Junction Community Bank basement on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, to get the details on the group's upcoming trip to beautiful Hawaii. Appetizers will be served at 5:30. The informational meeting with American Vision Travel will start at 6:15. You can R.S.V.P. to Carol Ann by calling 319-728-2226. Walk-ins are welcome.

### Change in OES schedule

Due to the Labor Day holiday, Emma Beckman Chapter 445, Order of the Eastern Star, will meet on September 10, 2012, at 2 p.m. at the Masonic Center.

### Louisa County Tractor Ride

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Louisa County tractor ride will be held on Saturday, August 25, 2012. The ride will be 50 miles, with a minimum speed of 10 miles per hour. The starting point is Liquid Grow in Morning Sun with enrollment time at 8:30 A.M. The roll out time is 9:00 A.M. Lunch will be at Columbus Junction sponsored by Precision Equipment and provided and served by Louisa Cattlemen's Association. For more information, contact Lee Harris 868-7872, Dan Harris 850-8188 or Dwight Schaper 728-8961.

### Republicans to hold fundraiser

The Louisa County Republicans will host their annual fundraiser on Saturday, August 25. The fete will be held at the American Legion Building in Columbus Junction. A social time will be held at 6 p.m., with the meal to follow at 6:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$40 per couple, \$25 for an individual, and \$15 for students. Tickets will be available at the door.

### Senior Meal Sites to host "A Day On the Beach" meal

Local senior meal sites sponsored by the Area Agency on Aging will be hosting a "Day At The Beach," theme meal on Thursday, August 23. The meal is available to anyone over age 60 (and his or her spouse of any age) regardless of income or residency. Contributions to cover the cost of the meal are requested. Reservations are required by noon today, Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Call your local senior meal location: Columbus Junction at 728-3148, Wapello at 523-8455 and Winfield at 257-6921.

### Loebsack announces Rural Development projects

Washington, D.C. - Last week, Congressman Dave Loebsack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved a \$6,751.24 grant in Cedar County, a \$16,894.07 grant in Louisa County, and a loan of \$96,000 in Washington County. The funding comes from the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). REAP provides grants and loan guarantees for agricultural producers and rural small businesses to reduce energy consumption and costs, use renewable energy technologies in their operations and conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy projects. "Investments in renewable energy technologies that reduce agricultural energy use pave the way for our future of energy independence, and reduce energy costs for rural Iowans and farmers today," said Loebsack. "This funding will help bring the benefits of agricultural innovation to rural Iowa." Details of the funding are: \$16,894.07 grant to Darrell Egli of Louisa County to replace an existing inefficient dryer with a new efficient dryer system.

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