

Indoor groundbreaking held for new health center

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

An indoor groundbreaking was held last Thursday at the Community Club's noon meeting. Representatives from the Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa attended the meeting to update the Club on their construction progress, and commemorate the new building with an official groundbreaking.

Ron Kemp from the Health Center explained the organization's structure, and detailed services that are available. All services are presently available in the organization's temporary facilities, but a \$1.9 million construction project on a permanent home is now underway in Columbus City. The building will be 8,000 square feet, with all of the funding being provided by federal dollars.

According to Kemp, the organization has a board of fourteen members, with the majority being patients of the facility. The board meets regularly and discusses services offered and potential services that may be needed.

Kathy Vance, board member, stated, "This is a fabulous asset to our County. With the new facility, we will be positioned to serve the whole county." Vance explained that



the services are not free, but they will not turn anyone away. Fees are charged on a sliding scale based on household size and income.

Columbus City Mayor Mark Shear was on hand to participate in



the groundbreaking. Shear said, "Columbus City is very fortunate to have this facility. The city government is prepared to provide any help that is needed."

Pictured above left is Community

Health Center representative Ron Kemp addressing the Community Club. Above right is board member Kathy Vance and Columbus City Mayor Mark Shear breaking ground for the health center.

Briefly -

Low Insurance to host CJPM

Low Insurance will be hosting CJ.P.M. on Tuesday, December 29, 2009 at the American Legion Building in Columbus Junction beginning at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Local banks set holiday hours

Columbus Junction State Bank and Community Bank have announced the following holiday hours. Christmas: the bank lobby and drive-up will close at noon on December 24th, will be closed all day December 25th, and will be open until noon on Saturday, December 26th. New Years: the bank lobby and drive-up will be open until 3:00 p.m. on December 31st, will be closed on January 1st, and will be open until noon on Saturday, January 2nd.

Heritage Center sets holiday hours and January program

WAPELLO – The Louisa County Heritage Center will be closed December 25 through Jan. 1, 2010. The Louisa County Historical Society's first program of the new-year will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 10, 2010, at the Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 N. James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello. The Society has invited several hobbyists to display their collections and to share stories about them. Refreshments will be served. As always, admission is free.

Washington County Conservation Center holiday hours

The Washington County Conservation Education Center at Marr Park will be closed December 24, 25, 26 and January 1 for the holidays. The Center will, however, be open December 27 - 31, including Tuesday and Wednesday of that week.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service in Morning Sun

The First United Presbyterian Church in Morning Sun invites you and your family to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! Join us on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, at 5 p.m. for a very special, candlelight worship service. We will also be serving communion and ALL are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper. After worship, there will be a soup supper for everyone to enjoy. Come and celebrate the Reason for the CHRISTmas season, the reason for every season, CHRIST! MERRY CHRISTMAS from our family of faith to you and your family!

Iowa Workforce Development announces holiday hours

Des Moines – Iowa Workforce Development administrative and field offices will be closed to the public on Thursday, December 24th; Friday, December 25th, Thursday, December 31st and Friday, January 1st. Individuals may still access services online at www.iowaworkforce.org when the office is closed.

"IWD offices are traditionally closed on December 25th and January 1st," stated Director Elisabeth Buck. "Agency leadership, in cooperation with AFSCME and the Governor's Office made the decision to close offices on December 24th and the 31st as well."

Although IWD offices will be closed on the 24th and 31st, unemployment benefit payments will process as usual. Those receiving paper checks may see a delay due to postal holidays and the non-delivery of mail.

Gazette sets holiday hours

The Gazette office will close at Noon on December 24th, and will be closed all day on Christmas Day. The Gazette will be open normal hours on December 31st and will be closed on New Year's Day. There will be no change to deadline hours.

Abate of Iowa brings Santa to town

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

The kids at Colonel's Kids Daycare and KFC Preschool received a special visitor last Monday.

Santa Claus came to get last minute requests, and hand out special gifts to the youngsters.

Santa was sponsored by Abate of Iowa's District 24. Abate of Iowa is a statewide organization that is dedicated to promoting motorcycle rights. Abate Iowa was organized in 1975, and has grown to chapters throughout the state.

The local chapter was started in a motorcycle shop in Wapello, and now includes nearly 130 members. The local chapter has been sponsoring Santa Claus to local preschools for over twenty years.

ABATE stands for — A Brotherhood Aimed Towards Education. ABATE works for the motorcycle enthusiast.

ABATE is a not-for-profit organization registered in the state of Iowa.



ABATE is a neutral organization that allows ALL riders to unite in brotherhood to safeguard our rights and still remain individuals with differing views. ABATE of Iowa believes that all motorcyclists are brothers with a common interest.... **RIDING FREE**

An exciting change is coming to CodeRED

We are pleased to announce an exciting new change to the wonderful system Louisa County has in place: CodeRED. With our current system those individuals that have a form of Caller ID have seen the number 999-911-9999 appear for a CodeRED notification. Starting

January 1, 2010 the new number will be 866-419-5000 and your alpha display should read Emergency Communications Network. One of the wonderful new benefits to this will be that should you miss the call, and not have an answering machine, you will be able to place a call to the number on your ID and the message will be replayed for you!

Are you a registered Code Red user of Louisa County? When the system was put in place all numbers in the phone book were automatically placed into the data base, but if you have moved locations, or are a new resident to the county with a new phone number, or your number has changed, we do not have your current information. The best way to fix this is to simply go to www.louisacountyiowa.org. On the left side of the screen use the drop down and go to Emergency Management. In the middle of the next page is the CodeRED link. Click on it and put in your information. This will update our system with your most current information, and delete the obsolete identification. Some general information about CodeRED we would like citizens to know;

This is a computer-based system. There is not a human on the other end of the phone, therefore you have to answer the phone and say "hello" in order for the recorded message to begin. If you do not speak and you have any type of background noise (television, radio, etc.) the system recognizes this as an operator message and disconnects the call.

This is an intelligent system with reports. If you feel you have not received a call, there is a report as to what happened (to a certain degree) and we may be able to trace as to what happened.

There are several ways for us to utilize the system when we are choosing which geographic areas to notify. Most are via mapping features, so your current address is imperative in order to receive correct notifications. You may also register cellular phones, but please note that all numbers registered with the system will be called each time your residence is within our target area.

If you have any questions or concerns, you are more than welcome to contact Staci Griffin, Emergency Management Coordinator at 319-750-1128.

Community may receive trees from Power Fund

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

City officials and interested individuals were brought up to date last Monday on a Power Fund Program available from Trees Forever.

The program is designed to deliver a sustainable tree planting program to maximize and quantify energy and carbon reductions in the planting of 2,500 trees in ten Iowa communities affected by the flood of 2008.

The funding would come from the Iowa Power Fund and the State Energy Program with possible matching dollars from Trees Forever programs and partnerships.

Those communities selected to participate are Cedar Rapids, Marion, New Hartford, Muscatine, Parkersburg, Waverly, Keokuk, Columbus Junction, Cedar Falls and Palo.

Of the 2,500 trees, 30% will be planted to maximize energy efficiency in flood effected or low income residences and 70% will be planted to maximize energy efficiency for building structures in public areas that are owned by public entities.

It is the responsibility of local communities to determine areas that will meet these requirements. Then after these areas are determined, a plan will need to be drawn up and submitted for consideration.

The program was presented by Roger Hunt from Trees Forever. According to Hunt, a combination of grants from the Power Fund, Keep America Beautiful and other agencies could help our area receive trees that will go a long way to not only beautifying the community, but aid in energy efficiency.

A minimum of three planting events are scheduled in each community, with one in the spring of 2010, one in the fall of 2010, and one in the spring of 2011.

The public is invited to help make suggestions as to areas that will benefit. More will be reported as further meetings are held.



Area citizens attend Power Fund Program update

Bright Star

Stars shine on the glistening snow,
Bright eastern star leads path to Bethlehem,

To manger, where Jesus was born on Christmas,

Enjoy stars and bright lights,
Remember meaning of Christmas,

Merry Christmas to everyone,
God Bless the Coming New Year.

/s/ Elizabeth Miller, 2009

