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City asks for volunteers in flood clean-up

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

There is still work to do in the wake of the recent flooding in town. Items from the flood work such as sandbags, building materials, etc. still are in the areas that were affected. The City Council is planning a workday this Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to Noon to help clean up these items.

The City Council and employees will be on hand, and any volunteers that can help are encouraged to come to the water plant. You are requested to wear long pants, boots and bring gloves. With all of the work that is being accomplished in this area by business owners, the council felt that a clean-up will help these individuals in their efforts to get back up and running.

Following is an update on the situations of the businesses that are recovering from the flood. This feature is sponsored by Andy Carpenter Productions:

Econ-O-Mart: A new floor is being installed, and remodeling will begin as soon as plans are finalized.

Gips: Now open for business.

Louisa Veterinary: Still operating out of the west side of the building. Work continues on the reception and office areas.

G&W Auto Parts: Now open for business.

Bowling Alley: Fundraising efforts are underway.

Senior Center: Fundraising efforts are underway.

Water Plant: Final work in the



Some of the flood related items still remaining in the eastern area of the business district

office area is being completed. Other areas in the plant are back in use.

Fire Department: A new floor has been installed, and cabinets and interior doors are being installed.

C.J. Plaza: Lowe Insurance, Dr. Englert and Community Action are still in their temporary locations. Phone and computer hookups are now being installed and occupancy

should be soon.

L&B Staffing: Now open for business.

Caseys: Work continues on the expansion.

Subway: No word received yet on the status of the business.

Dollar General: Now open for business.

Colonel's Kids: Now open and

students have returned.

Schlutz Enterprise: Now open for business.

Community Health Center: Temporary trailers have been placed and are open for business.

C.J. Motel: No word regarding the status of this business has been received.

County faces waste reduction issues after flood clean-up

The Louisa County Transfer Station in Wapello, Iowa has a problem: Too much garbage. Since the start of the flood in June, the amount of waste stored at the transfer station has increased because of problems created by the 2008 flood.

Under normal conditions waste brought in to the transfer station is temporarily stored until it can be hauled away to an approved landfill. As people work to recover from this year's flood, garbage is being brought in faster than it can be hauled away. The pile has been growing and could even become hazardous.

Too much waste has become a major problem for Louisa County. As the staff at the transfer station struggles to deal with debris from natural disasters, a reduction in garbage volume from residences would be helpful.

Now, more than ever, it's important for Louisa County residents to help reduce waste where possible by reuse and recycling. Reuse refers to using an item several times before it is discarded and avoiding "single use items". Changing daily habits can

make a huge difference over a long period. For example, using a lunch cooler with sandwich box each day instead of a pre-packaged lunch can save on waste and money.

Louisa County residents can also aid the waste problem by recycling. In Louisa County, most residents can recycle magazines, newspapers, office paper, plastics 1 – 5, clear glass and almost all metals. By utilizing city curbside recycling pick up, residents can greatly reduce the volume of their garbage. Rural, Letts, and Fredonia residents can take advantage of the recycle drop off bins located at the transfer station. By reducing the amount of garbage that must be land filled, residents can help alleviate some of the storage problems at the transfer station.

For more information on recycling in Louisa County visit the LCCB website at www.lccb.org and click on "recycling." Also watch these newspapers for more waste management information. The recycling page and columns are provided by the Louisa County Conservation Board with funding from the LRSWA.

Ag Secretary Northev to visit area counties

Stops in Louisa, Des Moines, Lee and Henry Counties Planned to Visit with Iowans

DES MOINES – Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northev today announced that he will be visiting four counties in Southeast Iowa on Thursday, Aug. 21st as part of his effort to meet with Iowans in each of the state's 99 counties again this year. Northev is meeting with residents to discuss the status of agriculture in the state and answer questions.

Northev will host town meetings in Wapello, Burlington and Donnellson and will speak at the Henry County Farm Bureau annual meeting in Mt. Pleasant. "I learned a lot about all that is going on in agriculture last year by traveling the state and meeting with Iowans and I'm confident this year will be no different," Northev said. "I'm excited to hear from Iowans, both farmers and

non-farmers alike, about the issues facing agriculture and the opportunities available through this industry."

The details of the visits follow here:

Thursday, Aug. 21 - Louisa County – 12:00 p.m., Farm Bureau Office, 245 S. Hwy 61, Wapello; Des Moines County – 2:00 p.m., Chamber of Commerce Office, 610 N. 4th St., Burlington; Lee County – 4:00 p.m., Pilot Grove Bank, Community Room, 414 N. Main St., Donnellson; Henry County – 6:30 p.m., Speak to Henry County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Manning Hall, 607 S. Jackson St., Mt. Pleasant.

Northev, a corn and soybean farmer from Spirit Lake, is serving his first term as Secretary of Agriculture. His priorities as Secretary of Agriculture are the opportunities in renewable energy, conservation and stewardship, and telling the story of Iowa agriculture.

Photos from the 2008 Iowa State Fair



Pictured above is Bay Boysen of Columbus Junction posing with her 4-H Reserve Grand Champion Market Hog at the 2008 Iowa State Fair. Bay and her sister, Adair had a successful state fair with Bay showing swine for 4-H and Adair showing in FFA.

Submitted photo.



Lauren Jamison, 8, Columbus Junction tickles the ivories in the Varied Industries Building at the 2008 Iowa State Fair, Tuesday, August 12. Iowa State Fair photo.

Please help your neighbors during the 2008 Flood Relief efforts. All contributions can be directed to the United Fund, and are tax deductible. For more information call City Hall.

United Fund of Columbus Junction

Briefly -

Parent issues warning after suspicious behavior

The Gazette has been contacted by the parent of a student at Columbus Schools that her daughter has received suggestive phone calls from an unknown individual. Also, a newer, dark blue Chevrolet Silverado pickup has been seen driving by their house videotaping the exterior of the house. The parent has contacted legal authorities, but has also asked us to make this information available so other parents can be aware.

C.C.I.C. to go out for dinner

C.C.I.C. will go out to eat on Tuesday, August 26th. We will be going to the La Casa Grande in Washington - the former Captain's Table. We will meet at 5:30 at the Columbus City United Methodist Church to pool rides.

C.J. Lions to host biker breakfast

The Columbus Junction Lions Club will hold its annual Bikers' Breakfast fundraiser on Saturday, August 30, and Sunday, August 31, from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the American Legion Bldg (Note new location). We will be serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, flavored syrups, coffee, juice and milk. Prices will be \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 12 and under - all you can eat! Contributions will be accepted to help fund the restoration of the CJ Senior Center. Everyone is invited!

CCHS Class of 1988 plans reunion

The Class of 1988 is planning their 20-year reunion for Columbus Day, October 11, 2008. We would like to contact as many classmates as possible. Anyone with knowledge of regular and/or e-mail addresses please contact Shari (Cecil) Vonnahme at 728-2403 or swoffe11@hotmail.com or Sarah (Prior) Davis at 319-254-1111 or tdavis@farmtel.net.

Open House at Great Beginnings

GREAT BEGINNINGS will hold an open house on Thursday, August 21, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Openings still available for the 2008-2009 School year. Everyone is invited to stop in at the CJ United Methodist Church Thursday evening. Great Beginnings Preschool Board

Hanft Family plans reunion

The descendants of John and Helena Smith Hanft will hold their annual reunion on Sunday, September 7th at the Columbus Junction Chautauqua Park.

County Tractor Ride scheduled

The fourth annual Louisa County Tractor Ride will begin at Grandview corners near the All Veterans Memorial at 9 a.m. Sunday, August 24. The route begins through Whisky Hollow and Burlington Road with lunch served by the Louisa County Cattlemen Association at Elder Implement in Muscatine. The entire route is about 41-miles. All riders must be on a buddy seat. Everyone will be required to sign a waiver. Contact Lee Harris at 319-868-7872 with questions.

Soil Commissioners terms to expire

Four of the five Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner positions will be on the November ballot. Current terms are expiring for Mary Boysen, Michelle Rees, Sam Willson and a 2-year term for Chris Ball.

Community Club to meet

The Columbus Community Club will meet this Thursday at Noon at the Civic Center.

New school dismissal times

Dismissal Times at the Elementary will change this year – The elementary students will be dismissed later this year. Students that ride the bus will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m., and the students that walk or are picked up by parents won't be dismissed until 3:35 p.m., or after the busses are gone. NO PARKING signs will be posted along the drive, so that we can make sure that there will be enough room for busses to enter the area. On Fridays, bus students will be dismissed at 2:10 p.m., and walkers at 2:15 p.m.

If you plan to pick your child up after school, they will leave the building through the north entrance. (Entrance closest to the football field.) Please pick them up at the north entrance, not at the office. Cars should not enter the elementary parking lot until after the busses have left. Please park in the high school lot, and walk to the elementary if you wish to meet your child at the north doors. Otherwise, students will be walked to the drop off, and you can meet them there, or they can walk to the high school.

Notificando a las Familias de Columbus:

El Horario de Salida en la Escuela Roundy cambiara este año– Los estudiantes de la escuela primaria serán despedidos un poco mas tarde este año. Los estudiantes que toman el autobús serán despedidos a las 3:30 de la tarde y los estudiantes que caminan o que son recojidos por los padres no serán despedidos hasta las 3:35 de la tarde o después de que los autobuses se hayan ido. HABRA ANUNCIOS DE NO ESTACIONARSE en la entrada del estacionamiento a lo largo del camino para asegurarnos que habrá suficiente lugar para que los autobuses puedan entrar en la área. Los viernes, los estudiantes que toman el autobús serán despedidos a las 2:10 de la tarde y los que caminan serán despedidos a las 2:15 de la tarde.

Si usted planea recoger a su hijo/a después de escuela, necesitan salir por la puerta de la entrada al lado norte del edificio. (Esta es la entrada que encuentra más cerca al campo de fútbol.) Por favor recójalos en la entrada que esta hacia el norte, no en la oficina. Los carros no deben entrar al estacionamiento de la escuela primaria hasta después de que los autobuses se hayan ido. Favor de estacionarse en el estacionamiento de la preparatoria y camine a la escuela primaria si desea recoger a su hijo/a en la puerta que se encuentra al norte del edificio. De otra manera su hijo/a tendrá que caminar hasta la área donde esta el anuncio (drop off) bajar a los estudiantes, y se puede encontrar con ellos ahí, o pueden caminar a la preparatoria.