

Health Spotlight October 2005

CELEBRATE RED RIBBON WEEK OCTOBER 23RD-31ST

In 1988 the National Red Ribbon Celebration began to honor Enrique Camarena, a DEA agent who was brutally murder by drug dealers in Mexico. Red Ribbons are worn as a symbol of drug prevention during the last week in October. Locally, Rick Eugene will be sharing a drug free message using comedy and magic in schools throughout Scott and Rock Island Counties during Red Ribbon Week. Also, volunteers will read The Red Ribbon: A Story of Hope in elementary classrooms throughout the community. Join the Quad City Red Ribbon Coalition in promoting a drug free community in October and throughout the rest of the year!



For more information on the Quad City Red Ribbon Coalition, visit www.cads-ia.com.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



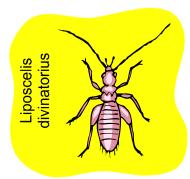
The leaves are starting to fall and children are beginning to make plans for Halloween. It is easy to get caught up in the excitement and forget to be mindful of safety. Both those participating in the events and those who are not observing the holiday should be aware of the following safety tips.

- Motorists should watch for trick-or-treaters who are walking on streets, curbs, medians, driveways, and alleys. Be aware that children may be in dark clothing.
- Guardians should make sure that all children under age 12 are supervised and should review pedestrian/traffic safety rules with the children.
- Costumes should only be made with fire-retardant materials and be not so long that they can be a tripping hazard. If the costume is worn after-dark, it should be made with light colored materials with strips of reflective tape to make the child visible.
- Masks should not obstruct the child's vision and there should be nose and mouth openings.
- Flashlights should be carried by the children in order to be seen and to see more clearly.
- Children should not enter homes or apartments without adult supervision.
- Children should walk on the sidewalks rather than the street. If of the road.

there is not a sidewalk, the children should walk on the left side Treats need to be inspected by an adult prior to eating. For more Halloween safety tips, visit the National Safety Council's website at http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/halloween.htm.

HEAD LICE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT INFORMATION IS NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

The Scott County Health Department is pleased to announce the addition of head lice (Liposcelis divinatorius) prevention and treatment information to our website, www.scottcountyiowa.com/health. This information is aimed at addressing the prevention and treatment of lice with the goal to promote a uniform response to prevention, treatment, and education in our community. This webpage provides information about Scott County's "No Live Lice" policy as well as answers to common questions regarding head lice. Learn about the different treatment options for removing head lice and download the "Check Lice Off Your List" brochure.



LEARN HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

The Iowa Department of Public Health has launched their *Protect Iowa Health* Campaign to encourage Iowans to prepare for public health emergencies. This statewide initiative informs Iowans about public health emergency preparedness by the Iowa Department of Public Health, county public health departments, healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services. The goal of the campaign is to make Iowans aware of potential public health emergencies, how to prepare for them, and what to do if one should happen. The campaign promotes an easy-to-use guidebook featuring information on how to create a communications plan, assemble an emergency supply kit, and cope with an emergency. This free guidebook and information about the campaign can be found at www.protectiowahealth.org.



IOWA'S INFORMATION AND REFERRAL DATABASE FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

In September 2005, United Way InfoLINK achieved accreditation by the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS). AIRS is the professional association for over 1,000 community information and referral providers throughout the United States and Canada. Now resources and support services for your area are available at the click of a mouse. The lowa 2-1-1 website, http://www.211iowa.org/, allows the user to search by county, city, zipcode, and/or by desired service. By clicking on the results of search, the user will be able to see detailed information about the selected program including



contact information, mailing information, program information, service description, other services offered by this program, and program events if applicable. This valuable resource is a great way to learn about the different programs and services offered in your community.

Visit the United Way of the Quad Cities Area at http://www.unitedwayqc.org for more information.