

Tulips bloom in honor of Red Ribbon and a Promise

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

Enrique Camarena worked for the United States as a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration when he was kidnapped and killed while working on a special assignment in Mexico. In honor of his death, California Congressman Duncan Hunter and High School friend Henry Lozano launched Camarena Clubs in his hometown of Calexico, CA. Hundreds wore ribbons to honor the sacrifices made by Enrique and others on behalf of all Americans.

Their Red Ribbon Week gained momentum when Nancy Reagan brought it to national attention and eventually they became sponsored by the National Family Partnership (previously known as the Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth). Currently, it is the annual catalyst to show intolerance for drugs in our schools, work places, and communities. Each year during the last week in October, more than 80 million young people and adults participate in Red Ribbon Week. Columbus Middle School participated in Red Ribbon Week last fall. Middle school teachers, Kari Pedersen and Sara Sullivan worked with Michelle Lukavsky, MS counselor to plan activities for the children.

During Red Ribbon Week 2007, schools and communities were in-

ited to participate in "PLANT THE PROMISE." Columbus Middle School Students were given the opportunity to plant red tulip bulbs that would signify their commitment to being drug and alcohol free through their high school years. Most all Middle Students planted a red tulip. There were 240 tulip bulbs planted by the Flag Pole in front of the school. When they bloom they will be in the shape of a Red Ribbon. Students have been very excited this week to notice that the tulips are in bloom.

If you happen to walk past the school, stop and take a look at what these students have planted. But, furthermore, please take the time to think about what these students have promised and if you see them encourage them to continue with their promise.

Pictured at right are Columbus Community 6th grade students looking at the Tulips they helped to plant. The tulips are in the shape of a Red Ribbon.

The students in the picture are clockwise from top left: Diana Garcia, Yvette Aguilar, Efrain Barajas and Peter Cano.

This is an example of one of the many items that are celebrated at Columbus Schools. We always enjoy reporting on the activities of our young people.



Reception scheduled to honor outgoing State T.T.T. President Renea Jay

By Deb Bean
Gazette Staff

In our community we have a lot of people that are committed to groups or organizations. One such person is Renea Jay of rural Columbus Junction. April 5th Renea will step down as the Iowa State President of the National T.T.T. Society. Her local Chapter R members will throw a reception to honor Renea for her commitment and dedication to T.T.T. The reception will be part of the state convention, being held this year in Pella on April 4-5. A number of Chapter R members are playing significant roles throughout the convention. Local minister, Ramona Wink, will be the keynote speaker during the Friday afternoon session.

Renea is a 1980 graduate of Columbus Community High School, wife to Mike and mother to Sam, Joe and Jon. For the past seven years she has served on the Iowa State Executive Board and dedicated herself to the society.

T.T.T. (Tri-T as it is pronounced) was founded in Mount Pleasant in 1911 when two friends, Bess Cook Budde and Gladys Stewart Walters, noticed that boys had plenty to do in the summer, but girls did not. Along with a few other friends they established the first T.T.T. chapter. This group of women donated their time, talent and treasures to send girls to camp. T.T.T. is a nonprofit, philanthropic organization dedicated to providing an educational camping experience for young girls who might



T.T.T. Members make quilt block coasters for their upcoming State Convention. Pictured in front row, left to right: Fay Jay, Laura Mincer, Linda Pierce, Stephanie Duncan. In the back row, l-r: Marsha Gerot, Mary Beth Carey, Julie Heindel, Linda Corpman, Renea Jay, Trish Woepking.

not otherwise have the opportunity. Their belief is that camping creates an atmosphere that will provide each girl the chance to learn her own worth, develop initiative, learn self-expression, and live in har-

mony with others.

Columbus Junction, Chapter R of the National T.T.T. Society was installed as a Chapter in July of 1935. Since that time they have sent over 200 little girls from the Co-

lumbus Junction area to Camp Wyoming in Wyoming, Iowa, and in the early years to a camp in Minnesota, which was owned by the society.

All Veterans Memorial Bricks available for sale

By Connie Street

GRANDVIEW, Iowa - Bricks are once again for sale for the All Veterans' Memorial at Grandview.

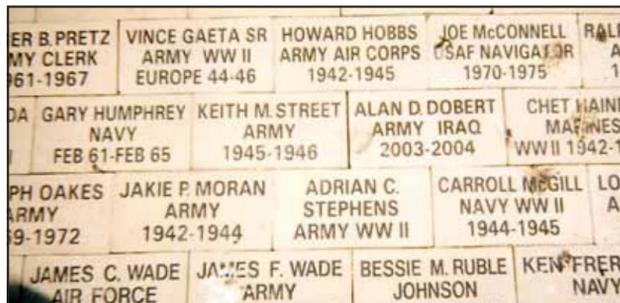
The All Veterans Memorial at the intersection of U.S. Highway 61 and Iowa Highway 92, Grandview, was dedicated July 4, 1991. The memorial features an Army Air Guard "Huey" helicopter that was used in Vietnam. It was installed and dedicated in 1999.

There is space for 1,600 bricks. The names of Vietnam veterans are inscribed on the bricks leading to a circle under the helicopter. Bricks with names of all honorably discharged men and

women in all military branches including Army Air Corps or Nurses, the Reserves and National Guard can be placed in the circle. About half of the available bricks have been sold.

Each brick costs \$50 and is tax deductible. Once ordered, it takes about six weeks to have the bricks inscribed and placed at the memorial.

Applications can be obtained from the pedestal at the Memorial site or by calling Larry Dessner at 319-728-7351 or Duane Lukavsky at 319-728-8121 and leaving a name and return phone number. Both are members of the Louisa Area Vietnam Veterans. There may be



some applications at the local American Legion and VFW locations.

Completed applications along with checks made out to the Louisa

Area Vietnam Veterans should be mailed to Duane Lukavsky, 213 Orchard Lane, Columbus Junction IA 52738

LDG to hold open house at Louisa Publishing Company

Read the paper every week and wonder how it becomes what it becomes?

Louisa Development Group (LDG) will celebrate member-business Louisa Publishing Co., home of the Wapello Republican and several

other newspapers, at their location at 301 James L. Hodges Ave. in Wapello from 5-7 pm on Thursday, April 10th. Publisher Mike Hodges will be on hand to answer questions and give a tour.

This is the third event in a series

of "Open Houses" for LDG member-businesses. LDG has been working with Louisa Publishing to coordinate the event.

The Wapello Republican is Iowa's oldest weekly newspaper. You'll see newspaper printing presses

and other equipment that help to produce many area newspapers. Louisa Publishing also does more than newspapers - come find out!

If you would like more information on LDG's member events, call 319-527-5182 or email ldg@louisacomm.net.

Briefly -

Ainsworth Opera House happenings

The Ainsworth Opera House at 284 Railroad Street in Ainsworth, Iowa 52201 is holding their Spring Fund Raiser Breakfast Buffet Saturday, April 5th, 2008. Cost \$6 for adult 12 and under free. The menu includes, Biscuits and gravy, sausage, ham, chicken, scrambled eggs, hash browns, fresh fruit, rolls, breakfast casseroles, and drink.

Alumni Banquet scheduled

Continuing the custom of holding the Columbus - Cotter - Conesville Alumni Banquet on the second Saturday in June, the 2008 Banquet will be held at Roundy Elementary School on June 14, 2008. Make your plans to attend the banquet and to schedule your class events to coincide with the date.

American Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Tuesday evening, April 8 at 7:00 pm. Corinne Moyer will be the hostess.

Blood checks at Senior Center

Crystal Brown, R.N. will be at Congregate Meals on Wednesday, April 16th from 10:30 to Noon to take Blood Pressure and Blood Sugar checks.

Etude Club Spring Show

The Etude Music Club presents their annual Spring Show "Music That Moves You," on Monday, April 7, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Columbus Junction United Methodist Church. Highlighting the performance will be the Etude Chorus and Etude Soloists. A Free Will Offering will be accepted. Proceeds will be used for Music Scholarships for high school music students.

Habitat Flea Market trip

Louisa County Habitat for Humanity is taking their annual Kane County, Illinois Flea Market trip on Saturday, May 3. The bus will pick up at the Wapello Sale Barn at 7:30 a.m., and the Muscatine Hy-Vee parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The bus will arrive back at Wapello about 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$55 per person. Please send checks before April 29 to: Ruth Yakle, 110 N. Pine Street, Wapello, IA 52653. Her phone number is 319-523-2381.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 1:30 p.m., at the Nature Center in Marr Park. Dessert will be at Ainsworth Corners. Hostesses are Kay Perkins and Norma Jennings.

LDG Board to meet

The Board of Directors of Louisa Development Group will meet on Monday, April 7th at 3:30 pm in the Prairie View meeting room of the Louisa County Office Complex located at 12635 County Road G56 just north of Wapello. The meeting is open to all current and prospective LDG members. For more information contact Angie Sanders at 319-527-5182 or ldg@louisacomm.net. LDG is a non-profit economic development and marketing organization serving Louisa County.

Lone Tree Firemen's Dance

Lone Tree Fire & Rescue Annual Dance will be held at the Lone Tree American Legion Post 457 on Saturday, April 5th, 2008, from 8:30 PM-12:00 AM. DJ service will be by *The Havelts*. Children welcome with adults. \$5.00 donation.

Barn history at Historical Society

Louisa County Historical Society, 2008-2009 Program, Sunday, April 13, 2:00 P.M. Barn History, by Michael Harker or Rich Tyler: "Visions of an American Icon." Michael Harker on old barns. Mr. Harker is the photographer of a book on barns. Louisa County Heritage Center, 609 James L. Hodges Ave., Wapello, Iowa

The Board of Education of the Columbus Community School District will hold a special meeting/budget workshop/public hearing on Monday, April 7, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., at the Roundy Library.

Wyman School reunion

The Annual Reunion and get-together for all former Wyman School students and teachers will be held July 12, 2008. The school was started in 1912 when 3 one-room school buildings were moved into town. Classes continued there until the school was closed in 1978. The Reunion and Banquet will be at the United Church of Crawfordsville, doors open at 5:30 P.M.; Banquet and entertainment at 6:30. For more information or to make reservations please call Lorraine Frame at 319-257-3401 or John Wittrig at 319-257-3377.

Extension receives Foundation Grant



The Community Foundation of Louisa County (CFLC) awarded Louisa County Extension \$1500 to go towards its Immersion Weekends program. The program will offer opportunities for people to experience Hispanic culture through first hand experiences and workshops. Pictured from l-r, Ken Purdy (CFLC), Kathy Jolly Vance (Louisa County Extension), Nancy McGill (CFLC) and Rondalyn Weyrick (CFLC). Photo by Vivan Jennings.