

Honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice

Briefly -

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

"I have always been interested in reading the names that the Gazette publishes each Veterans' and Memorial Day of those individuals who lost their lives in the various wars," said local businessman Bob Reid, "and I thought that it would be great if we had a brick at the All-Veterans Memorial in Grandview for each of these veterans." Thus began an undertaking of the Reid Family that kicked off this year.

Bob, Sue and Rob Reid are the owners and operators of Reid's Mechanical Inc., and through their generosity the Louisa County Viet Nam Veterans recently received a check from the Reids for \$500 to purchase ten bricks at the Memorial.

"This is a great gift," said Memorial Committee member, Duane Lukavsky, "and it is our hope that other individuals will come forward to help so that in the near future we can have a brick immortalizing every Louisa County Veteran who made the ultimate sacrifice."

This is an opportunity for everyone to help, regardless of the amount that they can give. Each brick costs \$50, and all proceeds are used to maintain the Memorial and surrounding grounds. "If someone isn't able to give enough to purchase a brick, any amount will certainly help," said Lukavsky. All funds are held by the Committee until enough is collected to purchase bricks.



Rob Reid, of Reid's Mechanical Inc. of Columbus Junction presents a \$500 check to Duane Lukavsky for the Louisa County Viet Nam Veterans to purchase bricks for Louisa County Veterans who were killed or missing in past wars and conflicts.

Through the generosity of the Reid Family, ten veterans will now have a brick at the Memorial honoring their service, and hopefully more people will step forward so all of the

Veterans who are named bi-annually in the Gazette will soon have a brick. If you would like to help, or have questions, contact Duane Lukavsky, Jay Schweitzer or Larry Dessner.

(On a side note, the Reids' generosity did not end here. They also recently gave \$250 to the Columbus Music Boosters and \$250 to the Columbus Athletic Boosters.)

Meet the Site Coordinator at Community Health Center

April, 2008 - Brenda Keller is hired as the Registered Nurse and Site Coordinator for Southeast Iowa's newest Community Health Center, the Louisa County Center in Columbus Junction. Up to this point she has worked in Long Term Care at Sunrise Terrace in Winfield for most of her career.

Early May, 2008 - Keller is working full time in the Burlington Clinic to train and realizing that Clinic Care is different than long term care in many ways. She is barely keeping her head above water as she crams in learning about charts and immunizations and vaccines, all those small tests - like pregnancy and strep, what it will take to handle scheduling and what it will take to have an oral operator (dentist office).

Mid May, 2008 - Working long days setting up the new office in Columbus Junction.

May 23rd, 2008 - The doors open to patients at the new clinic! But that is just the beginning for Keller, now there is the marketing to think of, the meetings to attend - like Community Club and Louisa InterAgency and there is an Advisory Board to host.

Monday, June 9th - Donny Orr comes to the office to tell Brenda and the staff that there is a real threat of flooding and they need to think about evacuating.

Tuesday, June 10th - The "Wall of Sand" is being constructed around them, but the clinic stays open and saw patients. That night the staff packed up and boxed everything they could.

Wednesday, June 11th - Staff moved papers and furniture to storage in Columbus City...and began to help in the community as needed.

Saturday, June 14th - Well...that's when the clinic was really in deep water.

Early July - Brenda works with Executive Director Ron Kemp to plan for a mobile clinic as soon as possible.

Friday, July 11th - The clinic begins seeing patients in a mobile unit parked in the Roundy Elementary Parking Lot, where they stayed for almost a month.

2nd Week of August - Mobiles are moved to the building site on Colonels Drive...and it's back to that drowning feeling again for the staff as they work through hooking up plumbing, power, phones and IT.

Mid October - One more time (and actually there will be one MORE time) moving into a new temporary building, setting up



plumbing, phones, IT and power again. Moving furniture again, setting up files again and all the while trying to see patients and help them feel comfortable and cared for.

November, 2008 - February, 2009 - A time of organization and getting the word out. More patients for a while, then a slow down over the holidays, then back to busy, but they're not in over their heads. Healthcare they can do, healthcare is their mission - bring it on they say!

What a wild ride Brenda Keller, RN has had in the last 8 months! Has it all been worth it? "Yes," says Keller. Why? "Because I like helping people, I like seeing the kids and making them feel better, I like to make a difference in people's lives."

All that and Keller is on home turf, as she grew up in Conesville, graduated from Columbus High (as a Wehmeyer) and has a child that graduated last year and another at CHS now (and a 3rd child in a younger grade in Winfield.) Keller says she feels a part of this community, she does business here, knows people here and feels that she belongs here (though she lives in the country outside town).

And of course, things are finally starting to fall into place. The real water went down a little faster than the figurative water that has been lapping at Keller since she began, but she is starting to swim and can see a time when she'll have her head above water and her feet on the shore. She even says she feels the sand in her toes at times already!

You can meet Brenda Keller, Site Coordinator and Registered Nurse on Friday, February 27th from 4-6 pm at the Clinic Open House - or call and get an appointment to meet her any time! Next week: Bio #4, He Said, She Said, They Said.

Ruben Zuniga plans fund raiser for "Iowa Most"

Ruben Zuniga, along with his family and friends, will be hosting a fund raising dinner at St. Joseph's Catholic Church this Saturday beginning at 3:00 p.m. You are invited to eat at the Church, or carry-outs will be available. Ruben will be traveling to Guatemala to work with a team that treats patients for cleft lip, cleft palate, teeth extractions, tubes in ears and fenulectomies. All proceeds raised will be used to purchase supplies. Come, enjoy a great meal, and help make "Iowa Most" another successful trip.

Senior Center Update



New doors were recently installed on the Senior Center

We continue to make excellent progress towards a planned summer reopening of the Columbus Senior Center with several significant results to report since the last update. The really good news this week was that the long awaited new front door has finally arrived, and was installed this week. It looks great and has significantly brightened the interior appearance. Also since the last report the Senior Center was the recipient of a grant from the Community Foundation of Louisa County to assist in the rebuild of the flooring. This is a greatly appreciated award from the CFLC, which will be used soon for our new floor covering!

Installation of the new furnace/ac heat pump system is now complete as all components are now installed

and functional with only final close-out tasks remaining. All of the exterior wall insulation is now in place and nearly all of the exterior walls are now completely covered with 5/8 inch sheetrock. All of the ceiling is now also insulated and covered, with the exception of a portion of the kitchen. This has greatly increased the efficiency of maintaining heat in the building, as it is not being lost through the roof. We now have the new energy efficient ceiling lights, which will be installed after the ceiling is finished, and painted.

Watch for the next update in a couple weeks on your Senior Center's progress towards return as a viable part of the Columbus community. As always the community's continued great support is sincerely appreciated.

County Audit Report released

Eide Bailly LLP reported that the County had local tax revenue of \$15,248,647 for the year ended June 30, 2008, which included \$622,073 in tax credits from the state. The County forwarded \$11,001,187 of the local tax revenue to the townships, school districts, cities, and other taxing bodies in the County.

The County retained \$4,247,460 of the local tax revenue to finance County operations. Other revenues included fees, fines and charges for service of \$735,485, operating grants and contributions of \$3,215,328,

capital grants and contributions of \$137,653, unrestricted investment earnings of \$165,768, local option sales tax of \$490,389, and other general revenues of \$130,535.

Expenses for County operations totaled \$9,216,063, a 6.4 percent increase from the prior year.

A copy of the audit report is available for review in the County Auditor's Office or the Auditor of State, and on the Auditor of the State's web site at <http://auditor.iowa.gov/reports/reports.htm>.

Breakfast Buffet in Ainsworth

It's that time to satisfy your taste buds with a trip to the Opera House. We will be doing our Breakfast Buffet on Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 7 am to 10 am. Cost is \$7 for adult, children 10 and under free. We will be serving biscuits and gravy, bacon, sausage, hash browns, scrambled eggs, breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, pancakes, rolls, coffee cake, and more plus coffee, juice and milk. Come join us at the Ainsworth Opera House for our first fundraiser of the new year.

Happenings at the Library

Story hour is on Tuesday, February 17, after school until 5 p.m., for kindergarten through 3rd grade. We will celebrate February - story, crafts and movie. If school dismisses early or is canceled, we will reschedule story hour.

Honor Tour meeting at Legion

The Honor Tour meeting to answer questions will be held at the American Legion on Thursday, February 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Columbus City Council vacancy

The City of Columbus City has a vacancy on the Council and is looking for anyone willing to serve as a Council Member. Please contact Mayor Mark Shear or City Clerk Lisa Hills or you may submit your name to the City by February 28th, 2009.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet at 92 Roadhouse on February 10th, at 1:30 p.m., for dessert - dutch treat. The program will be Georgia Kost speaking on her trip to Brazil.

4-H photos at Heritage Museum

The Heritage Museum- 122 Maple Street; Columbus Junction—will have the traveling 4-H photos on display for the month of February. Our hours are Saturdays 9 a.m.-Noon and Sundays 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Jump Rope for Heart

Roundy Elementary Students in grades 3-5 are participating in Jump Rope for Heart. Along with learning new jump rope steps they are also learning about things they can do to keep their hearts healthy. Students will be asking for donations for the American Heart Association until Feb. 20. They will celebrate that day during their Physical Education class with all types of jumping activities! If making a donation by check, please make the check out to the American Heart Association. If you have any questions or would like to make a donation please call Mrs. Vogeler at Roundy Elementary at 728-6218.

Kindergarten Round Up

Will your child be old enough to attend school at Roundy Elementary, Columbus Junction, IA, this Fall? Roundy Elementary is preparing for Kindergarten. If your child was born before September 15, 2004 and is not currently enrolled in the Columbus Preschool Program, KFC Preschool, or the Great Beginnings Preschool Program, please call the school at 728-6218.

¿Usted cree que su hijo/a tendrá la edad necesaria para empezar el Kindergarten en el Otoño del 2009?

¿Tendrá su hijo/a la edad necesaria para asistir a la Escuela Primaria Roundy en Columbus Junction, IA este otoño? La Escuela Primaria Roundy se está preparando para Kindergarten—Si su niño/a nació antes del 15 de Septiembre del 2004 y no está inscrito actualmente en el Programa de Preescolar de Columbus, el Programa Preescolar de KFC, o en el Programa Preescolar Great Beginnings, por favor llame a la escuela al 728-6218.

L&M to hold blood drive

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center announces there will be a blood drive on Thursday, February 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the L&M High School gymnasium located on 14354 170th Street, Letts. To donate call Karlee Koester at 319-726-3421, ext. 135. Walk-ins are welcome.

Ham & Bean supper at Masonic Lodge

There will be a ham and bean supper at the Columbus City Masonic Lodge on Friday, February 13th. Serving will be from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. A free will donation will be accepted.

Pleasant Grove Church supper

Pleasant Grove Church is having their annual Sausage and Pancake Supper on Wed, February 11th, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Come join your friends and family for good food, good conversation, and wonderful fellowship. Please tell all your neighbors and invite them to support the "little white church" on the hill. Four miles east of Columbus Junction, 18783 Hwy 92, Free Will Donation.

Prevent Child Abuse meeting

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa - Louisa County Council will meet Thursday, February 5th following the Interagency meeting at the Briggs Center in Wapello. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Contact Lori Kuntz, Stork's Nest at 319-527-6378 for more information.

School Board to meet

The Columbus Community School Board will meet on Monday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at Roundy Elementary Library.

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will have their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00, at the home of Kathleen Sands. Please note the change of meeting place.

Conservation Commissioners to meet

The Louisa County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will meet Feb. 11, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. at the NRCS Office in Wapello. Topics on the agenda will be an update on the annual contractor meeting and cost share projects. For more information please contact the office at 260 Mulberry St. STE 2, Wapello, or phone 523-6411.

Victory Christian Center Talent Show

Would you like a night of FREE entertainment with local talent? Join Victory Christian Center, 122 Ninth St., Columbus Junction, as they host "Spotlight-Talent Show" on Saturday, February 7th, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. This year's line up includes the Columbus High School's Jailbyrds, Breakdown 101 Band and more local area drama, vocal, and comedic talent. It's family entertainment at its best and it is FREE. If you would like more information you may contact Jolene McAfee at 319-728-5720 or www.vccjunction.org

Legion to hold fish & chicken fry

The American Legion will hold a fish and chicken fry on Saturday, February 14th from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Adults, \$8.00