

Preventing it from happening again

By John Carpenter
Gazette Staff

We all were saddened earlier this year with the loss of 17 month old Irving Camargo in a tragic house fire in Conesville. The family grieved, the community grieved, but the event was particularly hard on the members of the Conesville Fire Department who responded to the fire and discovered Irving's body.

"This was very hard on all of the firemen," said Conesville fire chief Danny Conaway, "and we were determined to see that it never happened in Conesville again." The firemen applied for a Save Kids Iowa Coalition Grant, and was recently awarded \$500 for the purpose of purchasing smoke detectors for everyone in Conesville who doesn't have a detector.

"We are going to see that every residence in Conesville has a working smoke detector," said Conaway. So, this Saturday, March 7th, beginning at 10:00 a.m., the Conesville firemen will visit every residence in town and check their smoke detector. If they don't have a detector, or theirs isn't working, a new detector will be installed.

The firemen are asking every residence in Conesville to have



The Camargo home after the tragic fire

someone at home so they can enter and check the smoke detector, or install a new one. Please help, so we

will never have to live through another experience where we lose one of our young people to a tragic fire

again. Little Irving is gone, but hopefully through his memory many other lives can be saved.

Donations roll in for Honor Tour program

By John Carpenter
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A few weeks ago we published a story about the efforts of the Columbus Junction American Legion and Wapello VFW Post, in conjunction with the Muscatine American Legion Post in raising funds to send World War II Veterans to Washington D.C. to view the World War II Memorial. As was reported, it takes \$1,000 to cover the expenses of every Veteran, and six Louisa County Veterans are scheduled to go on the April trip.

Legion member Sam Bell reports that as of today 43 individuals, organizations and businesses have donated a total of \$6,500 to the cause. One of the donors was the United Fund, donating \$500 towards the cause.

The ladies at Community Bank held a jeans day last Friday. They each paid \$5 for the privilege of wearing jeans to work that day, with proceeds going to the trip. Pictured above right is the staff at Community Bank proudly displaying their blue jeans. The ladies plan on holding other blue jeans days for this cause.

The staff of Roundy Elementary also held a blue jeans day to help cover the expenses of a Veteran. The staff was allowed to wear jeans on Friday also, and make a contribution to the trip's expenses. Sam Bell reported that the staff raised \$434.00, and will issue a challenge to the High School and Middle School staff to meet this goal. Pictured at right are



Jane Thomann and Janell Townsley modeling their blue jeans.

All donations can be sent to the Allen Wright Hanft American Legion Post % Sam Bell, Community Bank, 229 Main Street, Columbus Junction, Iowa 52738 or Glenn Allen VFW Post 5166, % Butch Buster, 703 Buchanan Street, Wapello, Iowa 52653



I Donate\$
To the WWII Honor Tour
In Memory of
In Honor of

County Hunter Safety Course offered

A Louisa County hunter safety class will be offered on Thursday, March 26, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 28, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at Langwood Education Center. Students must attend both classes in order to become certified. The course includes classroom lessons as well as live fire and shooting demonstrations.

Iowa residents born after January 1, 1972 and nonresidents born after January 1, 1967, must satisfactorily complete a hunter education course in order to obtain a hunting license. Participants must be at least 11 years old to attend, however certificates are not valid until the child's 12th birthday.

Snacks and drinks are provided both days as well as lunch on Satur-

day. There is no charge for this course thanks to generous donations from the Monsanto Off-the-job Safety Committee. This course is also sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Louisa County Conservation and Louisa County volunteer hunter safety instructors.

Pre-registration is required and enrollment is limited. A \$5 deposit is required to reserve a spot; it will be returned only if you attend class. To pre-register, mail or drop off a \$5 deposit and registration to Louisa County Conservation, c/o Hunter Safety, 12635 Co Rd G56, Wapello, IA 52653. Registration forms and information are available by calling 319-523-8381 or online at www.lccb.org.

Columbus High School to hold Career Fair tomorrow

CCHS proudly presents its second annual Career Fair March 5th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM at the HS gym. This is being offered to all CCHS students in cooperation with 37 local businesses and professionals. The goal of the career fair is that students will begin to think about options other than the usual doctor, lawyer, vet scenarios; as well as to help them to understand the different levels within any given career choice. Not all professions require a four-year degree, some require 2 years, some an apprenticeship, and some on-the-job training. Career research has determined that most people's interests will match 1-2 career pathways within the Business and Marketing, Health and Science, Arts and Communication, Agriscience and Natural Resources, Engineering and Industrial Tech., or Family and Human Services areas. After the areas have been narrowed down, the student can then begin to investigate the different careers within that pathway to see if anything sounds interesting to him/her. Some of the attending careers will also be job shadowed by our juniors in April so that they can experience the career up close. All of this is brought to our students through a partnership with Muscatine Community College, our local businesses, and Columbus Community High School.

Briefly -

Alumni Banquet scheduled

Mark your calendar now for the Columbus-Cotter-Conesville Alumni Banquet, June 13th. Due to cancellation of last year's banquet because of the flood, we will be honoring two 50-year (1958 and 1959) and two 25-year (1983 and 1984) classes. If you'd like to be involved in planning the banquet, contact Jerry Bell or Jim Howell.

School Parent Forum set

The Columbus Community High School and Middle School Staff and administration would like to invite you to attend a Parent Forum on Monday, March 9, starting at 6:45 p.m. in the student center. The forum is open to all parents of students in grades 6-12. Refreshments will be served. The purpose of the forum is to gain a stronger link between parents and school staff at the secondary level, to the benefit of our students' education. The school staff would like you to bring your ideas, suggestions and questions to this meeting. Interpreters will be available. There will be a short, anonymous survey to record your input. It is true that students do better in school when parents are involved in their child's education. Please consider attending this meeting and bringing your ideas on how to form a stronger partnership with Columbus Community Schools.

Story Hour at the Library

Story Hour at the Library will be held on Tuesday, March 10, after school until 5 p.m. Come and help celebrate March! Stories, crafts and BINGO - all to do with Leprachauns and Shamrocks.

CCHS Class of 1989 to hold reunion

Attention 1989 Grads from Columbus Community High School. We are asking for your help. We are in the beginning stages of planning our 20-year class reunion. Time has flown by! The first step is to gather classmate addresses, along with email addresses. Please forward any classmate information to Debbie (Buser) Bunting at debbunting@hotmail.com. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Debbie (Buser) Bunting and/or Jennifer Hills-Dunker at 319-212-0490. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

Grandview/Letts Lions to hold blood drive

The Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center announces that the Grandview/Letts Lions Club will be sponsoring a blood drive on Thursday, March 19th from 1:30-6:30 p.m. in the Grandview Bible Church. If you find that you are often turned away because of iron deficiency, you can start eating foods rich in iron (cheerios, pork, eggs, watermelon, etc) ten days before donating blood. To make an appointment to donate, please call Jack Carter at 319-726-4252.

Great Beginnings Fundraiser

On Sunday, March 29, the Great Beginnings Preschool will be having their annual fundraiser. The event will start at 4:30 p.m., at Columbus Junction United Methodist Church with entertainment. At 5:00 p.m., there will be a spaghetti supper (free will donation) followed by a silent auction of three quilts made by the preschool students. The public is invited to come and join us.

Half Hour Club to meet

The Half Hour Club will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at 1:30 p.m., at the Columbus City United Methodist Church. Hostesses are Arlene Buckman and Janet Vincent. Program: Rosemary Harris.

Conservation District to meet

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

Area Legislative Forums

A Legislative Forum will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009 with Senator Tom Courtney and Representative Tom Sands, at the State Bank of Wapello Community Room from 11:15 AM - 12:15 PM, and from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Muscatine College Student Center.

Masonic Lodge Ham and Bean Supper

The Masonic Lodge will hold a ham and bean supper at the Columbus City Masonic Lodge on Friday, March 13th. Serving is from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Free will donation will be accepted.

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa to meet

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa - Louisa County Council will meet Thursday, March 5th following the Interagency meeting at the Briggs Center in Wapello. 10:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. Contact Lori Kuntz, Stork's Nest at 319-527-6378 for more information.

Relay For Life Committee to meet

Are you ready for Relay For Life 2009? The Louisa County Relay For Life committee will be meeting this Wednesday, March 4th at Columbus City Hall at 6:30 PM to get things rolling!

School Board Budget meeting

The Board of Education for the Columbus Community School District will hold a Special Meeting/Budget Workshop II on Monday, March 9, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. in the Roundy Library.

School Tetanus Clinic

Louisa County Public Health has 62 doses of Tetanus Vaccine that we are making available free of charge for qualifying Junior High/High School students needing a booster. To qualify, you must meet the CDC (Center for Disease Control) underinsured requirements. Those requirements are: You must not have any health insurance or have insurance that does not pay for the tetanus vaccine or be Medicaid eligible. We will have clinics in the Public Health Office on Highway 61 in Wapello on March 19th and 26th from 1-6 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Call the Public Health Office at 319-523-3981 with questions.

Legion Auxiliary to meet

The American Legion Auxiliary will meet Tuesday evening, March 10th at 7 o'clock. Arlene Johnson will be hostess.