

By KENT DINNEBIER

Chandy Clanton promises to turn things upside down during the air show scheduled as part of Fly Iowa 2005 in Clarinda on Sept. 10-11.

A member of the United States Aerobatic Team, Clanton will be leading off the Fly Iowa air shows with a series of skilled piloting maneuvers in an Edge 540 aircraft.

"The Edge 540 is a state of the art, high horsepower aerobatic aircraft that allows her to showcase her unique skills by performing maneuvers that would be impossible with other types of aircraft," Fly Iowa Air Show Coordinator Steve Mowery said.

In addition the red, white and blue design of Clanton's plane is symbolic of the patriotic "Heroes and Legends" theme of the Clarinda event.

"The red, white and blue paint job fits in perfectly with our patriotic theme as we pay tribute to our military heroes and legends, and at the same time remember the sacrifices made on 9-11," Mowery said. "She has an extremely high-energy show that will leave the audience gasping for air as she does seemingly impossible maneuvers in her Edge 540."

Clanton is the daughter of former Clarinda resident and Duncan Aviation icon Harry Barr of Lincoln, Neb.

Following in her father's footsteps, Clanton has been a member of the United States Aerobatic Team since 2003, and is rated to fly various planes ranging from Piper Cubs to sophisticated jet aircraft.

Over the course of her career Clanton has developed a reputation as being among the best of the best at her trade and has performed at the best air show in the world held in Oshkosh, Wis. As a member of the United States Aerobatic Team, Clanton has also competed for top honors all over the world.

Based on her impressive credentials and her tie to Clarinda through her father, Mowery said Clanton was an obvious choice to be the first act booked for the Fly Iowa air show in Clarinda.

"Chandy was the first act we booked, she was that good. She will be the leadoff performer for this show since we wanted a high-energy act to get things rolling. She delivers more than what the crowd expects. She was thrilled to support her father's hometown and graciously agreed to take a weekend out of her busy schedule to participate in the activities here in Clarinda," Mowery concluded.