

The Bonham Line

Were you trying to drive on Thursday afternoon, December 27?

I go to the courthouse in Tuscola every Thursday afternoon. The trip on that particular day was especially memorable due to the wind.

I have a small car that sits low to the ground. Usually it isn't affected much by the wind, but Thursday was different.

The gusts coming out of the southeast made it very interesting to stay on my side of the road, especially on U.S. 36 heading east.

I can only imagine what it would have been like driving a panel truck, delivery truck, or semi. In fact, I saw very few "higher profile" vehicles on my way to Tuscola.

I met a UPS truck and a Fed Ex van on my return trip. I was westbound, and they were going east. Both vehicles had a distinct pitch to the north due to the wind.

It was also fascinated by the clouds that were being pushed along diagonally by the wind.

As strong as the wind was here, I heard no reports of major damage. I know in Tuscola, it blew part of a huge tree down on a house on Niles Street, east and south of the courthouse.

And parts of rural Crawford County was without power for a few hours after a roof blew off a home and cut power lines, according to my cub reporter (sister) back home.

We have been extremely lucky so far. Before this last week, when can you remember the temperatures hitting the middle 50's around Christmas?

-rwb-

The talk of Arthur this week has been about the closing of the R & I Restaurant. As explained in the cutline accompanying the photo on Page One, Tim Mast plans to lease the business and re-open it.

The restaurant has been a popular eating establishment since Red and Irene McMullen opened it in 1981.

It is always sad to hear that a business is closing, yet, as the old saying goes, "As one door closes, another opens."

It's a new year, so we wish all businesses in the Arthur area, good profitable 2019!

-rwb-

American Legion Auxiliary welcomes district president

The monthly meeting of the Arthur American Legion Auxiliary Unit 479 was held on Thursday, December 20, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at Eberhardt Village.

We started the evening with a meal in the dining room with members who live at Eberhardt Village.

After eating, we moved to the room where we usually have our monthly meetings.

President Barb Eckstein introduced us all to our guest, District President Edith Hall.

She thanked us for having her. Here are the highlights of her information:

—Unit chaplain should report deaths as they happen. Don't wait until March.

—We are in need of more donations in order to keep our Education Scholarships going.

—The theme for the Essay Contest this year is "What are my Responsibilities as a U.S. Citizen?"

—Write down the hours we spend on baking or buying cookies for veterans.

A new category this year for the department convention in July is "Hats." Hats are made and then modeled at the convention.

Department treasurer named places within our district we can donate to: Illiana, Mantino, Decatur, Springfield, and Mattoon outpatient clinics.

The family caravan will be in DeLand in January.

The Junior Girls Conference will be in April at Utica, Illinois.

National Convention will be in Indianapolis, Indiana. Edith thanked us again for inviting her to speak.

Then our president rapped the gavel. Mary D. led us in prayer and we remained standing in honor of our dead.

Roll call was given. Five officers, three members at large, and one guest made a total of nine present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer was absent, so there was no report.

Vivian received her pointsettias for Gold Star Mother and said it was very pretty. Barb will deliver one to Jean Strader, our other Gold Star Mother.

We have one new member, Jean Heiple. She has been involved in Auxiliary before. We are very glad to welcome her.

Linda Perrine had two updates for us. First, we can still donate cookies to the Mattoon veterans, but they prefer to bag them themselves, and they actually prefer boughten cookies.

Linda will take cookies in January. I will take them in February, and Wileva has some to donate tonight.

Linda said information for essays is at the high school.

Chaplain Mary Daugherty read a patriotic poem by Edgar A. Guest for our closing prayer.

We do not meet in January. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Gay Davis

Oh, January, we meet again...

By KENT A. STOCK
Staff Writer

January is the longest month of the year is what Mom used to say, and I believe she may have been right. Winter is not my favorite season, and the middle month, all 31 days' worth, can seem to stretch out longer than the calendar pages say it does.

I don't mind snow, but don't care for ice and I can deal with cold that is why I have a closet full of winter gear to keep me toasty. Mother Nature is always trying to show off her full repertoire of weather for us though, and we end up with bitter cold, take your breath away wind, and more snow than is useful for aesthetic purposes.

However, it is here, and we live in the north. I don't have the energy to go anywhere else unless the Graphic decides we need a staff writer in Florida. I don't really see that happening But, we'll all muddle through somehow and have faith that spring will "spring" eventually hopefully, in my frosty opinion, in March and not May.

I am hoping for a healthy New Year and that will make everyone Happy! Be good to us 2019; make us healthy, wealthy,

and wise. You have your work cut out for you.

Decatur Honors

Champaign has wrapped up their all-area squads, and now it is the Decatur Herald and Review's turn. For football, four Knights earned Honorable Mention nods. They are Isaac Ashenfelter, Adam Day, Lucas Otto, and David Shipman.

In soccer, Alexa Miller of Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School, who is just a freshman playing on a co-ed team, earned Honorable Mention from the Decatur paper. Honorable Mention nods were given to these Arthur Okaw Christian athletes in soccer: Ian Lowry, Sean Mast, Michael Miller, and Evan Oliver.

Taylor Powell of ALAH was picked for First Team honors by the Herald and Review for the All-Area volleyball squad. Marissa Herschberger earned Honorable Mention distinction.

In the other sports, they pick

an athlete of the year and a coach of the year. That is it. I like the way the News-Gazette picks the top athletes but gives nods to others as well. So far, no one from either publication has asked my opinion, which I am certain is an oversight on their part.

In any case, congratulations to all our student athletes who were honored by the big city dailies! Well done!

One Last Shout Out From the News-Gazette

The Champaign News-Gazette has finally picked their All-Area Football team for 2018 to cap off their fall awards season. Adam Day and Lucas Otto of the Knights earned spots in the Honorable Mention category. Congratulations to both young men—two good athletes and kids.

Knight Would Like to Hear From You

Mike Conlin, our Arthur Alumni Association president for the past couple of years, went in to the hospital in September for

gall bladder surgery, but there were complications. Those complications were very serious and Mike has been hospitalized ever since.

The good news is he is slowly getting better and would like to hear from his Arthur High friends. He is still in recovery and has some rehabilitation work to do, so nothing like encouraging words to help him along, right?

His daughter, Kelly Maul, said you could send cards and notes to her and she will make sure her dad gets them. The address is Kelly Maul, 17 Valevue Acres Drive, Jacksonville, IL 62650.

We need to get Mike back up and going so he can watch his grandson Ryan play sports for the Jacksonville High School Crimsons plus return to his post as Alumni Association President.

I know Mike has a great sense of humor; he even gets my jokes, so I bet he could use a good laugh. Hope to see you back on Facebook soon, Mike. Get better!

Congratulations Are in Order
I want to give a big, Town

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Looking back at the Year 2018

October

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond Marching Knights received first place in Class AA at the Newton Marching Eagles Band Classic.

An actual cattle drive took place on Friday, October 6, from northeast of town to Arthur Sale Barn. It was quite a sight to see, even in Arthur!

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond heavyweight Knights football team finished the season undefeated. The perfect record earned the JFL Knights the Little Illini JFL Eastern Division title.

Cerro Gordo-Bement edged ALAH in overtime by a final score of 41-34.

Gilly's BBQ of New Berlin, Illinois, won the Central Illinois Braggin' Rights BBQ competition on Saturday, October 13. There were 47 entries in the KCBS competition and 28 in the amateur division (backyard BBQ'ers).

Arthur Volunteer Fire Department brought trucks and equipment to Arthur Grade School as part of National Fire Prevention Week.

The Harvest to Home event at Illinois Amish Heritage Center wrapped up their 2018 season. It was a beautiful couple of fall days although it was on the windy side.

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond volleyball team finished another great regular season of play with a 22-11 overall record. The Knights won the Arcola Invitational and the Little Okaw Valley Conference Northwest Division tournament titles.

Arthur Woman's Club hosted the annual Halloween Festival at the high school on Saturday, October 27, complete with cake walk, costume contest, and other games for the kids.

The Knights boys' cross country team advanced as a group from the Tuscola IHSA Class 1A Regional to the Decatur Sectional.

Los Gallos Mexican Grill opened in downtown Arthur at the site of The Old Heidelberg. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by various town organizations and fellow downtown business owners.

The AAEDC, the Village of Arthur, and others continue to lobby the Union Pacific railroad about the terrible state of the Vine Street crossing and the crossing just west of Arthur on Route 133.

Arthur Odd Fellows Lodge 472 hosted the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond football team to a dinner on October 21. Arthur Odd Fellows donated \$6,000 in 2018 toward the purchase of new football uniforms.

November

Arthur Rotary Club celebrated 65 years of service to the Arthur community at Harris Ag Museum in Atwood. Roger Bonham received the "President's Award" for promotion of Rotary within the community. Gale Pearce received the "Be the Inspiration Award" for his work for the club and the community.

Layton Hall, sophomore at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School, medaled at

the IHSA Cross Country state meet held in Peoria.

The annual Fall Sports Banquet was held at ALAH HS. Most Valuable Player awards were won by Taylor Powell (volleyball), Aiden Stewart (soccer), Lucas Otto (football), and Layton Hall (cross country).

Arthur Ministerial Association held the Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, November 19, at Arthur Mennonite Church.

Antiques Weekend and the inaugural Spotlight Tour kept Arthur and the surrounding area hopping the second weekend of November. The Spotlight Tour was sponsored by Arthur Area Tourism Council.

Colonel Matthew Fritz, an Arthur High School alumnus, delivered an inspired Veterans

Day message to a packed gymnasium at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School. The students treated the veterans to a meal prior to the assembly as well as a reception afterwards. Multiple student organizations participated in the event.

Arthur Village Trustees approved repairs and improvements to the Arthur Welcome Center. The Welcome Center opened in 1973 during the town's centennial celebration.

Arthur Area Association of Commerce kicked off Arthur's two week Christmas celebration with open houses at area businesses and an Old-Fashioned Christmas Shop Hop.

December

Arthur Area Association of Commerce wrapped up the two-week celebration of the holiday

season by co-hosting Breakfast with Santa with Arthur Woman's Club at Yoder's Kitchen on Saturday morning, December 1.

After a morning of very wet weather, the Arthur Lighted Christmas Parade kicked off on time and under the warmest conditions in several years. The kids got to see Santa afterwards, and everyone enjoyed free hot chocolate and cookies.

The festivities in our town wrapped up in plenty of time to avoid the severe weather that did not roll through our area until about 9:30 that night. Earlier in the evening an outbreak of tornadoes hit several western and central Illinois communities with the worst damage in Taylorville.

Arthur Area Historical So-

(Continued On Page 3)

In Our Community

MICHELLE

Olympic Speed Skater.

Grateful blood recipient.





American Red Cross

Arthur Community Blood Drive Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall
128 E. Illinois St
Arthur, IL 61911

Thursday, January 10, 2019
1:00 PM to 6:00 PM

For an appointment please go to redcrossblood.org
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Sponsored by the Lion's Club and Ministerial Association



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