

# Looking Back at 2018

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cial village board meeting in Cerro Gordo to discuss the future of policing in the community.

The Bement Village Board approved a \$500 donation to the community's Beautification Committee. Karla Bradley was on hand at the meeting to explain some of the group's future plans and volunteer efforts.

The Atwood Chamber of Commerce will hold the annual community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31.

The Cerro Gordo Fire Women's Auxiliary once again hosted Breakfast with the Easter Bunny which was a huge hit with the kids.

Hannah Wallen of the ALAH Knights girls' basketball team has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Lincoln Land Community College.

Students at all three area high schools participated with different activities as part of a National Day of Protest against school violence. All demonstrations, which were voluntary, were peaceful and respectful.

Harvey returns to the State Bank of Bement location on Bodman Street which is a traditional sign of spring in the community.

Ron Miller, Village of Hammond Water Superintendent, was named the 2018 Runner Up for Water System Operations Specialist of the Year at the Illinois Rural Water Association annual conference held in Effingham.

Katie Helm was presented with an Outstanding Citizen award to during the monthly Cerro Gordo Senior Citizens luncheon.

The Community Unit District #305 School Board voted not to renew the coaching contract of head football and basketball coach, Dale Schuring. Schuring will remain as Math teacher at the high school.

The Cerro Gordo School Board voted unanimously not to renew the contract of librarian Amy Williams.

Hannah Foran was selected as the Most Valuable Player for the CGB girls' basketball team and Tim Winters was selected as the Most Valuable Player for the Broncos boys squad.

## April

Cerro Gordo Community School District #100 broke ground Friday, April 6 on the renovations and additions to the Junior High and High School buildings.

The Bement Village Board rehired Randi Riddle as assistant pool manager for the 2018 season. The board also approved repairs to the baby pool not to exceed \$5,000.

Madison Brown of Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School volleyball will be playing at the collegiate level with the Georgia Southern Eagles.

Bill Fleming recognized for forty years of service as Worship and Music minister at the First Baptist Church of Atwood.

The Little Okaw Valley Conference Principal Awards luncheon was held at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur. The following student athletes were honored: Macy Hollingsworth (ALAH); Logan Hall (ALAH); Will Wittmer (Bement); Hannah Foran (Bement); Tim Winters (Cerro Gordo); Karly Jones (Cerro Gordo).  
Bement High School held the Junior/Senior Prom at Allerton Park. Hailey Foran was crowned Prom Queen and Austen Brown was named Prom King.

Administration, faculty and staff held a retirement party for three retiring school district employees. Bill Walsh (Head of Maintenance), Pamella Grohmann (Music/Choral Director) and Bonnie Swango (Elementary Teacher) were all feted at the party.

Ryan Jefferson has been named as the new head football coach for the Arthur

Lovington Atwood Hammond Knights.

After much discussion and a joint meeting both the Cerro Gordo and Bement school boards approved the existing co-op arrangements between the two schools.

Kenli Nettles, sophomore at ALAH HS, broke two school records this past week. She bested the 300 meter hurdle mark set by Susie (Stuart) McKee set in 1988. She also surpassed the high school girls triple jump record.

The Bement 7th grade girls take home the first place trophy from the ALAH Junior High Invitational.

## May

Ryan Wood has been hired as the new Instrumental Music instructor and band director at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School. The drum majors for the 2018 fall season for the Marching Knights are Gabe Hallford, Nisa Asghar and Taylor Nichols.

The Bement Lions Club hosted a Spring Vendor Blender at the Lions Club Community Building on Macon Street in Bement.

The Cerro Gordo Eighth Grade girls track and field team brought home the first place trophy from the Jr. High Okaw Conference track meet held in Arthur.

The ALAH HS bass fishing team of Dawson Miller and Caleb Branch took home the IHSA Sectional championship at Lake Shelbyville. The pair will advance to the state meet.

Nathan Riley of Cerro Gordo High School caught the biggest bass fish of the day in the state of Illinois and earned CGHS the Sectional Championship held at Clinton Lake.

Bement approves purchase of breathalyzer for the police department and security cameras for city parks.

The Atwood Woman's Club again stepped forward to beautify the downtown area by filling the planters along Main Street. The Atwood Village Board provides the funding and the Woman's Club members provide the labor.

The Village of Hammond held their annual Clean Up Day on May 19.

Konnor Waterhouse of Cerro Gordo and Jazzi Hicks of Bement medaled at the IESA Class A State Track and Field meet. Waterhouse finished second in the seventh grade boys 100 meter dash. Hicks finished third in the seventh grade girls shot put.

Seventeen seniors graduated from Bement High School on Friday, May 25. Hannah Leigh Foran was he Valedictorian and Will Wittmer the Salutatorian.

The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School girls track and field team finished eighth in the team standings at the IHSA Class 1A state track and field meet held at Charleston. Sophomore Kenli Nettles medaled in the high jump, triple jump, 100 meter hurdles and the 300 meter hurdles. Hannah Wallen and Tyra Winger also participated in the state finals for the Knights.

Kara Blickensderfer was selected as Prom Queen and Michael Barnes was picked as Prom King for Cerro Gordo High School.

In the last game of the regular season for the ALAH softball team the Knights gave the Hatchets of Windsor/Stewardson-Strasburg all they could handle W/SS pushed across the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to take the game 4 - 3.

Kadie Daily of Cerro Gordo-Bement softball has signed to play the sport at Missouri Baptist University. A signing ceremony was held at Cerro Gordo High School.

The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School boys track and field team are once again Little

Okaw Valley Conference champions. The Knights scored 95 points outpacing the field and runner up Arcola who had 75 points.

2018 ALAH HS Prom King is Will Cohan and Prom Queen is Kyla Carson. Sixty-five seniors graduated from Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School on May 25. Macy Hollingsworth was the Valedictorian and Abi Duzan the Salutatorian.

Commencement at Cerro Gordo High School was held on Saturday, May 26. Karly Jones is the Valedictorian for the CGHS Class of 2018. Faythe Read is the Salutatorian.

Logan Hall, senior at ALAH HS, brought home the state championship in the 1600 meter run and was runner up in the 3200 meter run. Hall will be attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the fall. He is participating in cross country as well as track and field. Teammate Kobe Wells finished in second place in the Class 1A high jump for the Knights.

The Cerro Gordo Village Board approves contract with the Piatt County Sheriff's Office for policing in the village.

## June

The Old Glory Festival in Bement was held on Saturday, June 9.

Zip Code Day is coming to Cerro Gordo on Saturday, June 16. The "official" day is actually Monday 6/18/18 but organizers moved the festivities to Saturday so more people could attend.

Makenna Green of the ALAH HS FFA Chapter was honored for at the Illinois State FFA Convention for being the state's Grain Production Entrepreneurship Proficiency winner.

The Piatt County Fair in Cerro Gordo was held between June 14 and June 17.

The Atwood Main Street project is underway.

The Village of Bement is working on a resolution for the Morris property.

The Ninth Annual Amish Country Tractor Cruise made its way from Arthur to Garrett, Atwood, Voorhies and Hammond before returning to Arthur. The Harris Agricultural Museum was a stop along the way. Over 150 tractors participated in the event.

Piatt County Habitat for Humanity is building their 14th home in the county. The site of the most recent build is in Hammond. Mike and Nikki Minear are the home owners.

## July

The Cerro Gordo Civic Center was the site for the retirement party of Dr. William Shackelford. "Doc" had served Cerro Gordo and the surrounding area since 1956.

2018 Junior Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair is Andrea Dehart. 2018 Little Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair is Bentley Parsons. 2018 Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair is Ashley Mattingly.

Bement holds annual Independence Day celebration with a 5K run, parade, games at the Forest Preserve Park and fireworks. Heritage Sunday was held on Sunday, July 8 on the lawn of Bryant Cottage State Historic Site. Hammond celebrated the Fourth of July with the Fire Department's pancake and sausage breakfast. The parade, games at the ball diamond and fireworks were held later in the day.

Cerro Gordo School District #100 discusses possible handbook changes and random drug testing.

Lake Fork United Church of Christ held their annual ice cream social on July 14.

The second annual Rachel's Race was held in Hammond on July 4. There were 120 participants in the race this year. Austin Romine was the overall winner.

The annual flag garden

ceremony as held on the commons in Cerro Gordo on July 4. The Cerro Gordo American Legion Auxiliary Post #117 hosted the event.

The Safe Routes to School project continues in Bement. The village board also approved \$2,000 for landscaping around the band shell in Veterans Park.

Work has begun on the eight lane all-weather track at Cerro Gordo High School.

Atwood Police join forces with agencies statewide for the 2018 Illinois Speed Awareness Day campaign.

Cerro Gordo water main project comes to an official end.

## August

Brad Underwood, men's head basketball coach at the University of Illinois, was the guest speaker at the Back to School assembly held at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School.

The Atwood Fire Department battled a residential blaze on August 9 with the aid of Arcola, Arthur and Hammond departments.

Bement Superintendent of Schools Sheila Greenwood stated that the budget is solid for the district and is in a much better place than five years ago.

The 25th Annual Apple Dumpling Festival took place on August 18 and 29 in Atwood. Some highlights of the two day festival were: the parade; Shalynn's Shuffle 5K, musical entertainment, food of all kinds, car show, small carnival for the kids and much more. Of course, apple dumplings and ice cream!

The Fourth Annual Bird Run in Cerro Gordo had over 80 golf carts and 215 participants. The fun fundraiser is sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Post #117 of Cerro Gordo.

Work on the Atwood Water Tower is set to begin and the tower will get a thorough cleaning.

## September

The Bement Marching Bulldogs are set to participate in five marching band competitions this fall. The Bement Musical Instructor is Sarah Fairbanks.

Rain, rain and more rain. In the immediate area anywhere between 3 - 4+ inches fell in early September.

The Cerro Gordo-Bement Broncos football team scored their first victory of the 2018 campaign with a decisive battering of Shelbyville in a game played in Bement. The final score was CGB 42 Shelbyville 22.

The Knights football team earned their first win of the 2018 season with a victory over Martinsville. It was the first win for new head football coach Ryan Jefferson.

The First Presbyterian Church of Bement is celebrating 150 years of service to the community and surrounding area. The celebration service was held on August 19.

"Be the Nice Kid" is the theme for Cerro Gordo Elementary School this year.

ALAH HS volleyball took home the championship trophy from the Arcola Invitational for the second straight year.

Cerro Gordo Broncos volleyball won five matches at the Blue Ridge Invitational to take the championship. CG then followed up with another impressive tournament showing at the Decatur LSA Invitational where they took second place. The Broncos spikers are ranked in the top ten area teams by the Champaign News-Gazette.

Luke Brewer of Bement takes first place in the inaugural Bulldog Run. The race was the first ever hosted by the BHS program and was held at Allerton Park.

Emma Harris was chosen for Homecoming Queen and Austin Romine as Homecoming King during coronation at ALAH HS on Saturday, September 29 to conclude the weeklong

celebrations. This year's Homecoming theme was All things Disney.

A \$10,000 grant was made from ADM Cares to the Cerro Gordo school district. The grant provides access to STEM projects offered by Richland Community College and Heartland Technical Academy STEM programs.

The Atwood Village Board reports that striping is to be completed on Main Street.

Kiersten Rogers is the 2018 Bement Homecoming Queen and Dylan Upton is the 2018 BHS Homecoming King. Homecoming weekend was highlighted with a pep rally, chili supper, parade and alumni banquet.

## October

Woody's Clock Shop to bring the gift of time to Atwood.

Cerro Gordo High School celebrated Homecoming the first weekend in October with a bonfire, parade, football game and Homecoming dance. The 2018 Cerro Gordo HS Homecoming Queen is Paige Barnes. The Homecoming King for 2018 is Brady Greenwood. The Broncos defeated ALAH in overtime 41 - 34 for the Homecoming win.

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

Kyle and Luke Rogers of Bement High School advanced from the Regional golf round to move on to Sectional play.

The Cerro Gordo High School volleyball team rolled through the LOVC regular season schedule finishing undefeated against NW division foes. The Broncos set a school record with 28 wins in 2018. They also took home the championship trophy from the Blue Ridge Invitational.

The 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.

Oye's Hardware in Arthur helped install the HVAC unit in the new Piatt County Habitat Home located in Hammond.

Cerro Gordo quilters make gifts for mastectomy patients.

The Bement Lions Club will host a costume contest for Halloeen. The fun will be held at the Lions Club Bement Community Building.

The Atwood Chamber of Commerce sponsored the annual Halloween costume parade through downtown Atwood.

The Cerro Gordo-Bement football team lost in the first round of playoff action to Argenta-Oreana. The Broncos made the playoffs for the first time since 2015 and finished the season with a 5 - 5 record.

## November

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

The Cerro Gordo and Bement school boards met together to discuss the future of the CGB cooperative arrangement including possible expansion.

The Arthur-Atwood Lions Club hosted a Veterans Day breakfast on Saturday, November 10 at the United Church of Atwood.

Cerro Gordo School District #100 held a Veterans Day ceremony at Cerro Gordo High School on Monday, November 12. Prior to the assembly students served breakfast to the veterans in attendance. Wayne Handley, a Cerro Gordo native, was the guest speaker. There were musical performances of patriotic num-

bers as well.

The annual Veterans Day program was held at Atwood-Hammond Grade School on Monday, November 12. Ryker Beckmier designed special T-shirts for students who participated in putting on the program. Over 50 veterans and family attended a luncheon hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary at the Legion Home following the ceremonies.

The Bement High School FCCLA held a food drive and collected over 650 items for the local food pantry. Angie Corum is the sponsor for the FCCLA Chapter at BHS.

The Cerro Gordo-Bement boys basketball team started off their season hosting their own tournament. The Broncos did very well and finished second in the turkey tourney.

The Christian Education Committee in conjunction with the congregation of the United Church of Atwood participated in a new project "Operation Christmas Child".

A presentation was given to the Cerro Gordo Village Board about the possibility of a water insurance program for residents.

## December

Christmas on the Hill was again a huge success in Cerro Gordo with activities taking place all over town from the school, to the American Legion to the Civic Center. Santa was welcomed into town during the Christmas parade. Thankfully, the weather cleared before all the activities.

The Mike Walsh Memorial Girls Basketball Tournament was held at Walsh Gymnasium in Bement. The Cerro Gordo Bement Broncos finished in second place.

The Board of Directors of the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair and Agricultural Association elected Jim Fleming as President and Sarah Reedy as Vice President. Michelle Strader will serve as Secretary and Megan Beckmier as Treasurer. The Board appointed Duane Gingerich as a director.

Brad Williams, Cerro Gordo Village President, resigned from his office effective December 3. Dennis Ridgeway was appointed to fill the position. Williams plans to return to the board of trustees but not as President.

Christmas in Bement was held on Saturday, December 8 featuring a vendor blender at the Lions Club Community Building and the traditional parade. The Mike Walsh Memorial 5K was held in the morning with Luke Brewer taking the title of overall winner. The Bement United Methodist Church also held a breakfast buffet.

Atwood held their Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 8 with the fun Elf Run to start the day. Breakfast with Santa was hosted at the Atwood Downtown Diner. On December 9 there was a Christmas House Walk and Christmas at the Café.

Three students at Cerro Gordo High School have been named Illinois State Scholars. They are: Josh Stump, Jake Hayes and Vanessa Gower.

Bement Salvation Army red kettle collections and bell ringers were out in force at the Marathon station and JTA Foods for two weekends.

The Atwood-Hammond Christmas Needy Fund boxed up items that were delivered to 120 homes. Sloan John Deere offered up the use of their facility for the operation.

The Hammond United Methodist Church hosted a Christmas celebration on Sunday, December 23 featuring vocal group "Collage of Faith". There were refreshments served up after the program.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!**