

## The Bonham Line

If memory serves me well, the first time I met Bob Doan, he was principal at Bement High School. The wife and I owned the Cerro Gordo newspaper, and we purchased the Bement paper after a couple of years.

I personally attended school board meetings, so I probably met him at one of the meetings or in his office while I was visiting to get some information concerning a school event.

In Arthur, Bob took on several jobs and roles after retiring from education. The role he was best known for among the community was that of economic development coordinator.

Whoever chose Bob for that job couldn't have found a more dedicated and loyal person for the office. During his tenure as development coordinator, Bob attended meeting after meeting with similar groups—some as far away as Effingham and Springfield.

All the time he promoted the village of Arthur as a great place to have a business and live.

He wrote a weekly column, "Growing in Arthur," for this newspaper. He conversed daily with business owners and their employees to find out what they needed to improve their businesses.

He encouraged residents to get out and vote when the sales tax referendum was on the ballot. In fact, that was an on-going project.

I don't know how stern a school administrator he was, but I do know he was friendly—a person who seemed to be busy but still had time to stop and chat for a while.

He was a true orange and blue University of Illinois fan as evidenced by his affiliation with the Quarterback Club. But when the Illini games were done, he always came back to Arthur. You can be sure while he was attending a University of Illinois activity, he was also filling someone's ears with information about the good things Arthur has to offer.

Mayor Rod Randall said during Monday night's village board meeting, "Bob's service to this community and his positive way of representing Arthur to those outside this community often went unnoticed and was often under-appreciated."

Although this seems to be the case, I believe the way Bob promoted Arthur was definitely noticed, and I am sure those who worked alongside him in these efforts greatly appreciated his contributions.

Certainly, he will be missed. Educator, coach, truck driver, entrepreneur, and community development director—no matter what shoes Bob filled, he delivered. Rest in peace.

-rwb-

## Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarships available to assist students

Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation is a private foundation dedicated to the youth of Douglas County.

Up to \$2,000 in scholarships are available to assist students pursuing a college degree in agriculture. Interested students may apply each year for consideration.

Applicants can receive up to one award per year of school; however, the applicant must re-apply every year.

Applications are now being accepted at the Douglas County Farm Bureau for consideration and are due by Friday, February 22, 2019. Applications are available at the Douglas County Farm Bureau office or on their website, [www.douglascfb.com](http://www.douglascfb.com) under the

Foundation tab.

Successful applicants will meet the following requirements:

—Enrolled in an Agriculture related field of study.

—Completed one semester of college course work.

—Submit a copy of college transcript.

—Submit a letter of application telling about yourself (500 word maximum).

—Parent or applicant must be a member of the Douglas County Farm Bureau.

For more information about Douglas County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarships, contact the Douglas County Farm Bureau office at (217) 253-4442 or at [douglasmgr@douglascfb.com](mailto:douglasmgr@douglascfb.com).

## Correction

There is a clarification we need to make on last week's story on Dicks Pharmacy in downtown Arthur.

Cindi Reed is the owner, and Brandon Kenworthy is the pharmacy manager.

We regret the oversight.

# The weather outside is not so frightful

By KENT A. STOCK  
Staff Writer

Our winter has started out somewhat mild, and, sorry winter lovers, it can stay that way in my opinion. We have had lots of rain, which, if it were snow, we might see it all melted by May. But so far, the temperatures have not been conducive to seeing the white stuff, let alone finding it "stick."

Ironically, to find "our" winter you have to go south and southwest. It is snowing and very cold in places like Oklahoma and Arizona while we are basking—okay that is a bit of an exaggeration—with temperatures in the 40s and 50s.

January has a way to go, let alone winter, so I'm sure Old

## Town Talk

Man Winter is saving up something special for us down the line. I just hope 2019 is not like 2018 where we ended up with very little spring or fall.

I shouldn't complain because I live in an environment that ranges from 68 to 71 degrees year-round. It is perfect until I have to leave the house!

Happy January, everyone; only three weeks left.

**What's in a Name?**  
Each year several lists come out of the most popular baby

names for the prior year. This top ten list of baby names for 2018 is from HSHS St. Mary's and shows boys and girls listed together. I love these lists and thought I would share this one with you, my correspondents.

They are 1) Ava; 2) Isaiah; 3) Brielle; 4) Elijah; 5) Hannah; 6) Greyson; 7) Isabella; 8) Isaac; 9) Nova; 10) Jaxon.

I think I know of babies or at least little ones whose names are on this list, but I have to say I don't know any named Nova.

I'm thinking the email from Decatur St. Mary's meant Nora. I do know a few of those, but I've been known to be wrong before.

So, if you know of any baby Novas, you need to let me know! No matter what the name, I hope all our 2018 babies have a happy and healthy New Year.

**I Saw the Sign**  
I actually saw several new signs on the outskirts of town on Route 133, both coming in from the east and the west. The signs were earned by two very hard-working athletes from our town who most definitely deserve the recognition.

We'll start with Karly Goodman who is being recognized as

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# Sweeping changes coming to IHSA football

By KENT A. STOCK  
Staff Writer

The division over the Illinois High School Football Association's moving to divisional play may have been settled by a vote of member schools, but the dust has not completely settled on the issue.

In short, IHSA members voted to move from the traditional conference model, in football ONLY, to divisional play based strictly on enrollment and geographic factors, at least as much as possible on the latter one.

The measure failed twice over prior years and rather decisively at that. However, this go around was different, and, to many coaches' and athletic directors' surprise, the change passed by a slim 17 vote margin (324-307-69).

The side supporting the change most frequently used argument was for stability and to stop "conference hopping." Schools searched for a conference which was stable with members, competitive, and could help them reach the five- or six-win plateau necessary for qualifying for the post season.

To keep the right fit for their football program, conference realignments became a yearly rite with all kinds of havoc left in the

wake of these decisions. When a conference switch was made, it was not just a football move but an alteration for every other sport, both girls and boys, into a brand new conference arrangement. New conference set-ups even impacted music and activities such as scholastic bowl. This worked out well for some, but not necessarily for others.

Decades-old conferences such as the Okaw and the Little Okaw dissolved or at least the LOVC will be no more at the end of this school year.

To reiterate, this change does not impact any other sport or activity, and schools can remain in the conference of choice as they see fit except football. In all other IHSA sports, the post-season involves every school, but in football, you only have a certain number of playoff spots—so with the gridiron programs taken out of the equation, those favoring the changes hope to stabilize the conference system by making the need to move a moot point.

For the next two years, 2019 and 2020, the system in place will remain as is.

The football post-season will be composed of conference champions and teams who have won six regular season games. The remaining spots in the field

of 256 teams will come from 5-4 teams that have the most points thus allowing them to earn an at-large bid.

Once the field has been set, the IHSA divides the schools up by class size based on enrollments which include a separate measure for private or what are known as "unboundaried schools."

This leaves many schools not knowing which of the eight classes they will compete in during the post-season until the final field is announced just one week prior to the start of the playoffs.

The new system, starting in 2021, will put the class breakdown right up front.

The eight- or nine-team divisions (some will be nine due to numbers of schools playing football) based on this pre-season classification.

The top four teams in each division will make the playoffs already knowing in which class they will fall.

This will leave athletic directors finding two or just one opponent to fill out the nine-game schedule which is being kept.

The games played outside of the division will help preserve some traditional rivalry games but will not have any playoff

ramifications whatsoever. Post-season will be determined strictly by games within one's division.

Most involved in Illinois High School football don't see the change unfavorably.

Most would agree that something needed to be done, but many wonder how this will all actually play out in reality.

Illinois will not be the first state to go to this format, and, where it is in place, things seem to work out fine.

The "unknown" is one of the factors that put a damper on enthusiasm for the change. The idea of keeping the divisions geographically aligned seems to also be a bit of a concern.

While it may make scheduling easier, it takes lots of decision-making power away from the schools and puts it into the hands of the powers that be at the Illinois High School Association.

If you don't like where they "stick" you, that will be too bad and you will have to wait two years before they review division alignments.

In the end, everyone will have to wait until the divisions are announced in two years, and everyone who follows high school football will have to see how it works out.



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