

# Zion News

Thought for the day: "Have nothing to do with goddess myths and old wives' tales; rather train yourself to be godly." - 1 Timothy 4:7

For centuries, well-educated and literate people thought it to be of the utmost importance to get out of bed on the right side. The belief was that to get out of bed on the left side provided easy access for evil spirits. To this day, people will still ask those who seem to be having a bad day if they "got out on the wrong side of the bed."

There's nothing in the Bible about the left side of the bed providing access for evil spirits. It's simply a superstition, a belief that really has no basis in fact, yet has been regarded as truth by many people.

If you've ever knocked on wood to keep something you said from happening, or made a wish before you blew out your birthday candles, then you've participated in practices that are rooted in superstition. But does that make those things inherently wrong?

The answer to that question is a subjective one - what do those actions really mean to you? If you see these practices as nothing more than fun, and don't assign spiritual power to them, then there's probably nothing wrong with what you're doing. How-

ever, if you truly believe you can manipulate the unseen world through practices like these, you may be treading into unbiblical superstition. The ultimate question is this: Where do you seek spiritual power? Instead of trying to find power in the material world, find it in Christ alone - not unbiblical myths!

One power we have as Christians is the power of prayer. We need to renew our prayers for Todd Martin and his family. Jerry Hale, who just celebrated his 90th birthday this past week, and BJ would appreciate our prayers, as they settle into their new location in Arcola.

Our prayer concerns continue to include Katana Ponder, J B and Jean White, Bobby and Reagan Miller, Jim and Jackie Tholen, Sharon Parsano, Donna Schultz, Jeff Romine, Ben Valerio, David Walker, Elsie Warnings, Betty Sawyer, Wilmer and Lela Otto, LaVerne Smith, Jim Dycus, Marvin Helmuth, and Henry Schrock.

A big "Praise the Lord" is extended for the new sound system at the Arthur Home. Rev. Gartung led the worship service there a couple of weeks ago, and thought the sound system was awesome!

Also, another big "Praise the Lord" was for last Sunday's Pulpit Exchange that

the Arthur Ministerial Association had organized. Rev. Gartung and his wife, Ruthie, enjoyed their time spent at the Arthur Baptist Church and thought its congregation was "a sweet group of people!" Also, the people of our church enjoyed the visit from Rev. Bruce Weiman of the Methodist Church who led the worship service and then participated in our Christian Conversations afterwards.

Carol Randall and her siblings helped celebrate their parents', Dolores and Leland Lust's, 70th Wedding Anniversary this past week. They want to thank everyone who sent cards and called them on the phone to congratulate them.

Social media today: "A lie can travel half way around the world while truth is just putting on its shoes."

Rev. Gartung welcomes your calls and email. You may reach him at 460-1892 or at dennis@gartung.me. He and his wife, Ruthie, would be glad to visit with you. Just give them a call or send an email.

Zion's worship service starts at 9:00 AM each Sunday with various Sunday School activities following at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome.

## Cerro Gordo Village Board meeting

(Continued from Page 1) ute for Martin. Martin will be out of town for vacation in February. His wife Linda Martin was present to voice her concerns. She asked if the hearing could be done virtually, to which it cannot. "We paid for a condo, it is non-refundable, we spent thousands of dollars. We are not driving back for this meeting."

Village Attorney Susan Nicholas stated that she has no control over the statute. "We are bound by the open meetings act with the electoral board. It does have some extensions for someone to conduct by phone or hospital for illness, but one that is very excluded is vacation." Adding, "The intention of the board (electoral) is to rule on the objection that has been filed. I have no control over who is on the board."

Village President Dennis Ridgeway voiced his concerns as well. "We would rather the county board or state board of elections take care of this too." To which Nicholas added, "They shifted several public bodies over in Cook county several years ago, but they didn't shift Municipalities and I don't know why."

Mrs. Martin expressed her concerns over the legality issue and brought up what if Martin were to resign from the village board. Even if he were to resign, he would still be jurisdictionally required to serve on the Electoral Board.

Mrs. Martin voicing her concerns over as to why this was even filed stated, "I am bitterly disappointed. I expect this kind of behavior from Springfield and Washington D. C. but in a village of 1,500 people."

Trustee Tim Allen stated that the objection was filed by him due to time, stating, "The basics are in 2018 the State of Illinois when running for municipal office, a candidate must file between December 10-17. He did not file in that time period."

The electoral board hearing is scheduled for February 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building in Cerro Gordo. Martin is not scheduled to leave for vacation

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# Cerro Gordo, Bement School Boards Meet

(Continued from Page 1) the bus wouldn't come back to get them because it was a home game so there was no transportation." To which board member Kyle Rodgers replied, "You're talking about a game in CG where we would drive...that's on us, because we should have a bus."

Miscommunication issues were key points of discussion. Whether it be transportation, practice changes, game changes, almost all board members on both sides agreed it was simple miscommunication. The app, Remind, was brought up to use as a majority of teachers and some extracurricular directors already use the application. It is a smart phone application where a teacher or coach can send out information to all participants with a click of a button. Cerro Gordo Board Vice President Tony Piraino stated, "Would it be too much to ask coaches to use technology to notify the Principals, Athletic Directors, or whomever it may need to be?"

Forgeson stated she did not feel comfortable combining all middle sports at once, "I myself feel more comfortable about not doing the whole thing."

Bement Board Member Todd Strack stated, "Having 8th, 7th, 6th graders.. either one, I'm not saying it's all you. It's dangerous not having all of this ironed out yet."

Forgeson also expressed concerns of possible cuts if the sports combine. "We had a lot of Bement people that don't go out for high school sports. They go out for Middle School Basketball, Middle School Volleyball... and then when it comes to High School nope, not doing it anymore." Adding she believes, "My opinion if you truly love the sport, you should be going out for it, I

don't care that we are consolidated."

Cerro Gordo Board Member Debbie Greenwood agreed, "To me it's a cop out. They do not want to work for that position, and that infuriates me because it means that they don't care enough."

Coach Bart Hill was present in the audience and made a remark that cuts would probably not even be necessary looking at the numbers. "I got one question looking at numbers reading this correctly, Boys Basketball 6th grade going into 7th grade next year would be a total of 19 kids?" Adding, "Okaw Valley girls this year had 19 kids and didn't cut anybody. Is it possible if you had a rule ahead that nobody cuts anybody so that everybody stays, everyone grows. And all kids." No one seemed to take issue with this, and with the current 5th grade class only having 19 students at Cerro Gordo, something will have to be done in order to have class teams.

Greenwood expressed her concerns as a coach's wife, understanding that more numbers may mean less playing time for certain students, but those students are still of value to the team.

"Being married to a coach for years...You need numbers, no not everyone will get equal playing time. You need numbers not only to help your starters get better, but those starters help those other kids get better. By having more kids that doesn't mean that's not necessarily a good thing. It means that they...push each other and I think that gets lost in the shuffle sometimes."

There was also discussion on involving Bement with Cerro Gordo's youth league. Cerro Gordo starts conditioning camps as early as Kindergarten for lots

of sports, whereas Bement does not start until 4th grade for most.

Consolidation was also discussed, but both boards agreed their districts should not consolidate simply due to location. Forgeson stated, "A lot of their community members why are they just talking about co-op's sports, why don't we consolidate?"

Cerro Gordo Board Secretary Karen Freese expressed her concern with numbers and supplies as a reason to consolidate, "I just think with resources the way they are especially teachers, coaches etc...and resources that we have it would be easier and more opportunities for our kids."

Jeff Funk stated Bement has no desire to do this at this time. "I don't think we will consolidate...not at this point time...maybe 5 years from now."

Cerro Gordo Board President Todd Henricks remarked that consolidating with Argenta Oreana would be more in favor with Cerro Gordo's district.


Bement agreed that for them if consolidation were to occur, Monticello would be more favorable. Neither district is looking to consolidate with anyone at the moment.

Both Board Presidents will contact their Superintendents and Athletic Directors to work out some sort of plan(s). The plan will be discussed tentatively by the middle of March of 2019. Rodgers stated, "First off we will communicate with Superintendents and then get their blessing. And communicate with Athletic Directors, and then get back in touch, and get a meeting scheduled in 6 weeks."

Denise Strack stated, "If it's going to work, why not? No reason why the communication can't...all the way around."

**WISE AND OTHERWISE**

By Kent A. Stock



## Time to melt hearts

This is actually the last column of January but I am ready to move on from the "longest" month of the year to something else, anything else, even February. We do have holidays in February after all. Groundhogs Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Washington's Birthday, President's Day which, I think is supposed to be Lincoln and Washington combined with all those other guys.

Oh, I'm leaving out one; Valentine's Day. I can take a pass on this day just like I can take a pass on January.

I am a bit of a Valentine Scrooge I guess. I like all the hearts, candy and flowers but each year it seems to be turned in to a needless competition among women that stresses out the menfolk in completely unnecessary ways. Nothing says I love you like anxiety and stress, right?

I liked Valentine's Day growing up because you got to make mailboxes, buy cards and candy then deliver everything to your friends. Total cost of Valentine's fifty years ago was maximum five bucks and your parents paid for that. Total cost fifty years later and you might be looking at \$500 especially if the object of your admiration is adamant about equating love with a dollar sign.

I used to work in a large office setting and every February 14 it was the same. It was literally like the Rose parade as women were called up one by one to the front desk to collect their bouquets of flowers. You could always tell by the reaction if some dude out there came up short in the floral department. Have mercy on anyone that forgets!

I guess I am just bitter and cynical because I don't have a Valentine to send me stuff or buy me things. So, that leaves me with the other special February dates to celebrate. I hear there is a special this week on Groundhog's Day cards so I better stock up!

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Hope everyone has a blessed new year!