

Cerro Gordo Electoral Board Hearing Finalized

By CHRISTY JANKOWSKI
Staff Writer

Since December 26, the Cerro Gordo Electoral Board has met to make a decision on the objection that Village Trustee Tim Allen filed against Tom Hyde's desire to run for candidacy as a trustee in the upcoming April consolidated election.

The basis upon which Allen filed the objection was due to the timelines of the candidate's filing with the State Board of Election in

Municipalities in Illinois.

The objection stated he filed too early.

The guidelines in Illinois for Municipal counties is to file candidacy from December 10-17.

Hyde states that he trusted Village Clerk Tina McCarty to take his candidacy papers to Piatt County. She recanted stating that it is her job only to take a sheet of paper stating the candidates to the county, not a candidate's filing.

The board reached a decision to allow Tom Hyde to remain on the upcoming ballot, with one dissent from Village President Dennis Ridgeway.

Hyde has received 72 signatures on his petition for village trustee from the community.

The final hearing took place Monday, February 4 at 9:00 a.m. for over 3 hours at the Municipal building in Cerro Gordo.

Village President Dennis

Ridgeway, Trustee Mike Martin, and James A. Jankowicz from Record & Jankowicz Attorneys at Law served as replacement for Village Clerk Tina McCarty after she recused herself after being called in as a witness.

Attorney Amy Rupiper with Foltz and Rupiper Attorneys at Law from Monticello, was present to represent Tom Hyde. Trustee Tim Allen represented himself.

After much deliberation and examination on both sides the Electoral Board came to the conclu-

sion there were three main components to base their decision upon. The board discussed that common miscommunication to be the main culprit of the hearing in the first place.

The board came to the conclusion that allowing Tom Hyde to run as an Independent candidate for Cerro Gordo Village Trustee in the Consolidated April 2019 election. There are two Independent candidates running for village trustee positions.

Editor's Note: A more detailed article will be in next week's edition.

Atwood Authorities Respond to Overdose

The Atwood Police Department and Atwood Fire Protection District responded to the 200 block of W. Forest Ave. for an overdose victim on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Police were first on scene and located a 15-year-old male on the living room couch. The male showed signs that he was suffering from a drug overdose. The officer administered Narcan and treated the juvenile until volunteers with the Atwood Fire Protection District arrived.

The juvenile became combative with first responders and was later transported to Decatur Memorial Hospital, by Arrow Ambulance, for treatment.

Atwood Police Chief Rob Bross states that the Atwood Police Department would like to remind residents that the department established the Helping Hands Initiative last year to combat the opioid epidemic.

Residents are encouraged to call the police if they or someone they know needs

assistance. Those choosing to participate may turn in their contraband without fear of being charged with possessing a controlled substance.

The Atwood Police Department will assist the participant in finding and transportation to a treatment facility.

Those living outside of Atwood that would like assistance are encouraged to call their local police, sheriff's department, or mental health facility.

Award-winning outdoor writer among seminar presenters to be at 8th Annual Outdoor Expo

What has become one of the area's top winter events, the Eighth Annual Central Illinois Outdoor Expo will be held Friday, February 8 and Saturday, February 9. The venue for the show will once again be the Otto Center located on County Line Road one quarter mile south of downtown Arthur.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults. Kids under 12 free.

New hours this year are Friday noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Expo will have a full slate of vendors offering gear and supplies ranging from hunting, fishing, archery and taxidermy to hiking, boating, bird calls, lures, generators, and chainsaws as well as information on conservation of our natural resources.

The list of vendors has grown each year and 2019 is no exception. If you and your family like to spend time in the great outdoors, then the Outdoor Expo will be a fantastic way to preview all the latest equipment and information to help you do just that.

New to the 2019 CIOE is the addition of a Quantum Sport fishing simulator. The fish fight on the fishing simulator screen is completely synchronized with the feel on your rod and reel. Experience virtual fishing... as the fish strikes, the rod bends, the reel screams and the fight is on!

Also new to the Expo this year will be a hit with kids of all ages. Wildlife on Wheels brought to you by Aikman Wildlife Adventure will feature small animals with which you can get an up close and personal experience! This special exhibit will be open on Friday, Feb. 8 from 5-8 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For the kids there will be a gaming area that includes bow/bb gun target shooting provided by Cross Trail Outfitters Illinois.

Over the next few weeks organizers are working on finalizing even more new things to do at this family friendly event.

Seminars will be held both days of the event by

area outdoor experts. The seminar schedule is as follows:

- Friday, Feb. 8
 - 6 p.m. – Shane Zach (School's Out Sport Fishing Charters)
- Saturday, Feb. 9
 - 10 a.m. – John Carr (Shelbyville Fishing)
 - 11 a.m. – Mike Roux, (Advanced Turkey Hunting)
 - 12:30 p.m. – Shane Zach (School's Out Sport Fishing Charters)

The Central Illinois Outdoor Expo is particularly pleased to welcome Mike Roux who is an award-winning outdoor writer. Roux is a freelance writer for more than 100 outdoor magazine and newspapers. Adding to his list of talents, he is also an accomplished speaker who annually books several speaking engagements nationwide including banquets, game dinners and other outdoor events.

Roux has been a professional guide and game caller for over two decades. He has worked with the Pro Staffs of several outdoor (Continued to Page 2)

Atwood American Legion Auxiliary Reports First Blood Drive of 2019 Big Success

The American Legion Auxiliary and the American Red Cross are honored to report that the good people of Atwood and the surrounding area generously donated 34 pints of precious life-saving blood at the drive that was held Friday, January 5 at the United Church of Atwood.

These 34 pints have the capacity to save more than 100 lives, and the Red Cross and Auxiliary are enormously grateful for each donation.

Those who gave blood this time and their total units donated are: John Terril 78, Earl Beachy 47, Gary Appleby 55, Mary Ellen Harris 57, Jim Cullison 42, Debra Freeman 52, Bob Barcus 33, Tim

Walker 40, Joseph Mills 38, Tammy Wilson-Taylor 19, Stephen Jurgens 28, Daniel Schrock 15, Darrick Otto 18, Jerry Clough 10, Dorothy Clough 6, Jim McCollum 16, Sandra Barcus 8, Vernon Schrock 25, Ken Caraway 11, Rusty Stephens 8, Beth Stevens 6, Terry Fogerson 4, Becky Alexander 9, Randy Wilcox 9, Dwight Yoder 5, William Schable 24, Heidi Wenger 17, Maurice Bolt 1, Alora Murphy 1, Steve Vollmer 3.

The next Red Cross blood drive to be held in Atwood is planned for Thursday, March 28 from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the United Church of Atwood.

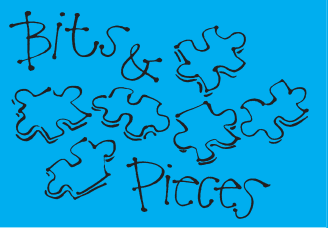
Please mark your calendars and plan to take part in this life-saving effort.



CGB SENIOR HONORED. 2019 CGB Senior night was held on Thursday, January 31 as the Broncos hosted the LSA Lions. Basketball player Erin Reed and her parents Matt and Jill Reed were introduced prior to the start of the varsity game.



ALAH SENIORS HONORED. 2019 ALAH Senior night was held on Saturday, February 2 as the Knights hosted the Okaw Valley Timberwolves. Basketball players and their parents included Marcy Petersheim, daughter of Carol and Lyle Petersheim; Taylor Nichols, daughter of Amy and Josh Nichols; Reagan Miller, daughter of Ron and Michelle Miller; Marissa Herschberger, daughter of Jason and Dorcas Herschberger; Emma Harris, daughter of Stan and Jann Harris; Nisa Asghar, daughter of Barb and Syed Asghar and Shania Alexander, daughter of Beckie and Kevin Alexander.



ALAH Senior Class Fundraiser

Los Gallos Mexican Grill in downtown Arthur will be hosting another fundraiser for the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School Class of 2019 on Thursday, February 7 and Thursday, February 21.

Twenty percent of all bills on those two days will go to the class to help defray the cost of the annual senior trip to Washington DC.

Los Gallos is located at 128 S. Vine Street in Arthur.

4-H Clubs Activities

Atwood-Hammond Prairie Dogs and Camargo Champs 4-H Clubs will be participating in Tuscola IGA Round-up Days February 10 through February 16, 2019.

Funds raised will be donated by the clubs to Douglas County Summer Food Program to be used for items needed not covered within grant monies.

Thank You so much for your support.

Trivia Night coming back to Bement

Looking for something to do? Bement Middle School is hosting their 5th Annual Trivia Night on Saturday, February 23 at the Albert Parker Post #620 American Legion as a school fundraiser. Please consider putting together a team of up to eight people for a night that is sure to be a good time!

The cost per team is \$80. Make checks payable to Bement Middle School.

Due to space constraints, we have a 14 team limit, so make sure to sign up and reserve your space ASAP!

Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the contest will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. The team with the most correct answers after ten rounds will receive a \$200 cash prize. The second place team will receive their entry fee back.

Teams are welcome to bring treats/food and there will be some complimentary snacks available as well. The cash bar will be open during the event. NO OUTSIDE DRINKS ARE PERMITTED.

In addition to the trivia contest, there will also be a 50/50 raffle and some silent auction items. For any questions about the event or to register, please email Andrew Brown at abrown@bement.k12.il.us, (217)412-6934 or Brittany Taylor at btaylor@bement.k12.il.us, or call the school at (217)678-4200. Please join us for this fun night!