

# Southern Piatt RECORD-HERALD

Serving the communities of Atwood, Bement, Cerro Gordo, Hammond, Ivesdale, LaPlace and surrounding areas

Volume 129 Number 16

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Atwood, Illinois 61913

\$1.00

## Cheek will be next superintendent at CUSD 305

By ROGER W. BONHAM  
Staff Writer

Shannon Cheek of Mahomet, formerly of Bement, will be the next superintendent of Arthur Community Unit School District 305.

The board of education hired the current Mahomet-Seymour High School principal during a special meeting Thursday evening, April 11, in the superintendent's office at the high school.

"We are extremely excited to have Mr. Shannon Cheek as the new leader for CUSD 305 and feel he is a great fit for the district and communities," commented Jake Kamm, board president.

Cheek will assume his duties on July 1. He succeeds Kenny Schwengel who is retiring at the end of the school year.

The new superintendent and his wife Kim have two daughters, Morgan who is a sophomore at the University of Kentucky and

Raegan who is a sophomore in high school.

"I am extremely grateful and excited to be given the opportunity to lead a district where its students, staff, and communities are dedicated and passionate about education," Cheek said. "My family and I are looking forward to becoming active members of the district."

An open house will be held at a later date to welcome Superintendent Cheek and his family to the district.

Cheek has been employed in the Mahomet-Seymour School District since 1999, first as a teacher and coach then as assistant principal for five years. He became principal in 2011.

He also taught for a year at Heritage High School before moving to Mahomet-Seymour.

Cheek received his Specialist in Education with Superintendent Endorse-



Arthur Community Unit School District 305 Board of Education hired Shannon Cheek of Mahomet to take over as district superintendent on July 1. With the new superintendent, above, are his daughter, Raegan, and his wife, Kim. Photo by Roger W. Bonham

ment from Eastern Illinois University. He received his Master of Educational Ad-

ministration and Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from the University of Illinois.

He grew up in Bement where he attended high school and played sports for the Bulldogs in the 1980s.

The new superintendent was selected from a pool of 32 applicants after completing a nationwide search through the Illinois Association of School Boards that was initiated by the District 305 board

of education in December 2018.

President Kamm thanked district residents for their help in selecting the new administrator.

"The board thanks the nearly 300 community members and district staff who completed a survey in conjunction with the search to help provide guidance to the board on what criteria to use in the selection process," Kamm said.

## Welcome high school sports fans to the Lincoln Prairie Conference

By KENT A. STOCK  
Staff Writer

In December 2017, fifteen of the nineteen members in the Little Okaw Valley Conference voted to leave the league for the 2019 - 2020 school year. It was always known that this group would form a new conference only the name was in question.

The four schools remaining in the LOVC (Martinsville, Palestine, Hutsonville and Oblong) made the determination to keep the conference label, they had

the rights to the name, even though none of the schools

were original members and three of the four joined the conference just five years ago.

Recently a new name was recommended at a principal's meeting for the then unnamed group. The

Lincoln Prairie Conference was recommended to the administrations of the fifteen member schools. The vote was unanimous to move forward as the LPC for the upcoming school

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Several members of the Lifesavers Club at Bement High School served as the construction workers setting up Easter Egg Lane in Bement. The community's festive holiday display along Macon Street was put together last Saturday and will be on display through the coming weekend. Pictured are front row: Ellie Shonkwiler and Tatum Auth. Back row: Luke Brewer, Tommy Bales, Leo Kinsella, Carter Davenport and David Elder (Lifesavers Club sponsor). The lawn of Bryant Cottage will once again be decorated and the Easter Egg tree in Veterans Park in downtown Bement is something new to see this year. Don't forget to drive by the State Bank of Bement and say hello to Harvey! Photo Kent A. Stock

## From Easter Egg Lane to Harvey; celebrating Easter in Bement

By KENT A. STOCK  
Staff Writer

The Village of Bement is once again rolling out the pastel carpet for townsfolk and visitors alike to celebrate spring - the season of birth and renewal. Volunteers from all over the community have helped put together the traditional displays along with a few new additions.

If you have a chance to take a stroll around the historic town, you will notice the very festive, seasonal decorations popping up just like the spring flowers. The Lifesavers Club of Bement High School has staked out the many large wooden eggs, bunnies and chicks along Route 105 made by the Women's Club. The lawn at Bryant Cottage is

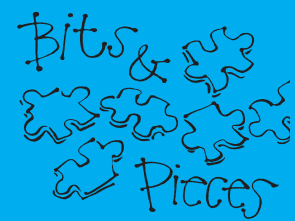
to be full of bunnies, chicks, lambs and, of course, eggs plus "Harvey" will be retuning downtown to watch everyone on Bodman Street from the State Bank of Bement window.

New this year to the decorations elsewhere is the Easter Egg Tree in Veterans Park which has been put together by the Bement

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MAY THE CURE BE WITH YOU! Joey Kretsinger is a junior at Cerro Gordo High School who was recently diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and is currently undergoing treatments to cure the disease. Students at Cerro Gordo Elementary School, Cerro Gordo Jr./Sr. High School and others in the community have been working together to raise funds to support the Kretsinger family and the associated costs that go along with treatment. On Friday, April 12 a school assembly for middle and high school students was held where a large group of Team Joey members got their picture taken in their neon green shirts to show their support for their friend. Photo Kent A. Stock



### Good Friday service

The Good Friday service at the Hammond United Methodist Church will feature special music by "Echoes of Praise" a choir of area singers. Shari Schable leads the choir. The message will be given by Pastor Jim Allison.

The service will start at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 19 and is sponsored by the Atwood-Hammond Area Association of Churches.

All are invited to attend. The offering will go to the Atwood-Hammond Needy Fund. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

### Atwood Chamber Easter Egg Hunt

It is time for the Easter bunny to hop into Atwood for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20 at 10:30 a.m. at the A-H Grade School.

The Atwood Chamber of Commerce, A-H Learn & Serve Team and local businesses will sponsor the event.

Categories are infant to 2 years, 3 years to pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade and 2nd and 3rd grades.

Please bring your own basket. Bring your camera if you would like to take a picture of your children with the Easter bunny.

### Hammond Easter Egg Hunt

Hop on down the bunny trail to the ball diamond this Saturday, April 20 for the annual Hammond Easter Egg Hunt.

The fun starts at Baer Field at 1:00 p.m. with fun and prizes waiting to be found.

This traditional, family friendly event is sponsored by the Hammond United Methodist Church.

### Blessing of the Bikes in Arthur

Everyone is welcome on Saturday, April 27 to join the 6th Annual Blessing of the Bikes hosted by Arthur Southern Baptist Church.

Bikes will meet at Noon at Eberhardt Park's west parking area. After prayer for the riders, we will embark on a ride to Effingham that will end at Witt's Smokehouse. The ride will begin around 12:35.

For information, call 217-972-5867.

All bikes welcome.

Have A  
Great Week  
and  
Happy  
Easter!



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