

Zion News

Thought for the day: “God proved His love on the Cross. When Christ hung, and bled, and died, it was God saying to the world, ‘I love you.’” – Billy Graham

HAPPY EASTER this Sunday! What a special Sunday it is when the Christian exclaims, “He is risen. Amen.”

Easter is the fourth largest gift-giving day after Christmas, Mother’s Day, and Valentine’s Day. It is estimated that 18 billion dollars will be spent this year for Easter with about 2 billion of that spent on 120 million pounds of candy alone. However, consumers spend even more on clothes, food, gifts, flowers and decorations than just candy at Easter.

Approximately, 16 billion jelly beans and 90 million chocolate bunnies are made

for Easter each year to fill children’s Easter baskets. But the best gift that can be given at Easter is taking some time to talk with young people about the true meaning of Easter. So, see you in church this Sunday!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Larry Schrock Family Benefit this past Saturday and to the area churches who hosted the event. It was a great success.

This Thursday, our church will have a Maundy Thursday communion service at 7:00 PM with guest pastor Rev. Kenneth Roeder. There will be a Good Friday service in Arthur at 12:00 noon at the Vine Street Christian Church and an Easter Sunrise service at 6:30 AM at the Arthur Southern Baptist Church.

Also an Easter Sunrise service will be held at the United Church of Atwood on Sunday, April 21 at 6:30 AM. This service is hosted by the Atwood-Hammond Association of Churches. They always serve a delicious breakfast following the service for those who attend.

On April 21, Zion’s Easter service will be at 9:00 AM and Rev Roedder will be our guest pastor. On April 28, Pastor Dennis Hanner will be our guest pastor.

We remember Mary Kolb who passed away this past week. Mary and her husband August lived on the family farm for many years just about a quarter mile west of our church. The Kolb family’s roots go all the way back to the founding of our church in 1871 when almost all the members of the congregation lived within a few miles of the church. August and Mary would attend church every Sunday and sometimes would walk to church on nice days.

Our prayer concerns include Lane Drake and family, Katherine Drake, B J and Jerry Hale, Della Mae Frahm, Craig Chapman, J B and Jean White, Mary Fern Carlyle and her family, Bobby and Reagan Miller, Jim and Jackie Tholen, Sharon Parsano, Donna Schultz, Ben Valerio, Elsie Winings, the Larry Schrock family, Bonnie Gerkin, and Jim Dycus.

Birthdays to remember: Apr 22-Alana Heit Chapman, Apr 29-Elise Hackett, May 12-Rob Drake, and May 15-Nathan Butterick. Also, Nathan & Karen Butterick will be celebrating their wedding anniversary on April 21 and B J & Jerry Hale will celebrate their anniversary on May 14. The church tries to send cards to these special people on their special day, but they would appreciate a card or note from you as well. Our newly revised church directory will provide you with a lot of contact information that is helpful when you need addresses for sending cards.

A final Easter thought: “Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song” – Pope John Paul II

Zion’s worship service starts at 9:00 AM each Sunday with Sunday School activities following at 10:30 AM. Our church would welcome you as a visitor or someone seeking a church home.



National Craft Month was celebrated at the Atwood-Hammond Library during March with a craft display and craft contest. Reva Mulholland received 1st place for her drawing of a deer. Emma Jones was awarded 2nd place for her drawing of a lady, and 3rd place for her dog painting. The girls received a Hobby Lobby gift card for each award.

WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Kent A. Stock

Annual Easter egg hunt story! Happy Easter!

It has taken me over forty years to tell this tale of heartbreak and woe. Over time, the physical wounds have healed but the scars, oh those dreadful scars of the mind, still haunt me. Bright yellow sunshine... not a cloud in sight...a deep, blue sky...all made it a perfect day. Ah yes..... for some....but not for me. It was my first hunt but little did I know it would be my last.

The days preceding the momentous occasion were very normal in the life of a four year old soon to be five. Play, eat, and sleep in no particular order. Life was carefree then but, oh fickle fate, that was all to change. Next year, kindergarten would be starting and I would be forced into the ordered world of matriculation. However one rite of passage was laying directly in front of me....The Hunt.

My parents had prepared for the day by bringing home the intended “quarry” in a neat little carton. We had set up late into the night as a family, even my older siblings, coloring the skins of these creatures with brightly colored dyes. Of course, this was after we gouged holes into the beast and drained all the viscera creating a hollow shell.

Others, it was rumored, threw the prey into boiling water before the coloring process. They would later peel the skin and eat the meat. BEASTS! HEA-

THENS! As far as the tradition of decorating the hide, our family was more of the traditionalist school. We simply used little tablets dissolved in water and vinegar for color, whereas others wrote, drew pictures, or stuck tacky stickers to the little creatures. It was all great fun.

But on that fateful Saturday, I would not be dealing with these tame, store-bought beasts. I would be hunting the kind that came wrapped in plastic and edible on the spot. Oh yes. It would be myself versus nature and what would seem like hundreds of other children of all ages.

I sat in the family automobile in my bright green jacket and my light blue corduroy pants. I had my “gear” with me...a colorful basket filled with an unearthy green plastic substance known as “grass”. It was unlike any grass I had ever seen nor ever would, not even, many years later, in my college days.

But, I digress. The air was thick with anticipation as we pulled into the hunting grounds where it was immediately obvious I would not be alone on this mission. As we parked our vehicle next to the other “tanks” I was able to discern some familiar faces of my comrades from the neighborhood. But there were also many strangers, some rumored to be from out of town. There

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Bement High School Principal Doug Kepley (left) and Andrew Brown, Bement Schools Tech Director and BHS Business and Tech teacher are shown with a \$500 check from Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative. The “Empowering Education Grant” is designed to help fund projects that will inspire and benefit students. The grant money will be used in Mr. Brown’s class for 3-D printing projects. Photo submitted



SPRING FLING A SUCCESS. A great time was had by all at the Atwood-Hammond Area Associations of Church’s Spring Fling Sunday, April 7. An evening of great food and fun was had by the 45 plus attendees from the four churches. Those who came were asked to wear their Easter Bonnet. Sixteen men, women and children came with hats. Once voting was over the winners were First Place Arnold Schultz with his straw hat with a toy tractor top and hanging eggs around the brim (pictured on left). Tied for second place were Adlee Berry and Keely Simpson (pictured on right). We have some very artistic people amongst our church family. The evening concluded with several rousing games of Bingo. Photos and information submitted by Bev Obert

Lincoln Prairie Conference announced

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year. “ALAH is sad to lose the name LOVC but feel great about staying in a conference with some old alliances,” said Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Jared Vanausdoll. “Adding regular season conference games with old rivals like Villa Grove and Tri-County is a plus for us. We continue to feel comfortable with our place in the new Lincoln Prairie Conference and know our athletes will be competitive for a long time to come.”

The Little Okaw Valley Conference was formed in 1970 for the 1971-72 academic year. Seven of the smallest schools in the “big” Okaw Conference made the move to split away to form the original LOVC. Those schools were Arthur, Atwood-Hammond, Bement, Cerro Gordo, Newman, Oakland and Villa Grove.

The fifteen member schools of the newly minted LPC are Arcola, Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond,

Cerro Gordo, Bement, Argenta-Oreana, Sangamon Valley (Niantic and Illiopolis), Okaw Valley (Bethany and Findlay), Decatur LSA, Cumberland, Kansas, Oakland, Hume Shiloh, Villa Grove, Heritage and Farmer City Blue Ridge.

The Little Okaw Valley Conference went through many changes over the last fifty years and this will be the biggest alteration of the entity in its history.

The new Lincoln Prairie Conference will move forward as a ten team football

conference until 2021 when the Illinois High School Association’s divisional play takes effect. In all other sports and activities the new conference will move on as set up as the IHSA divisional plan only applies to the sport of football.

Celebrating Easter in Bement

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Community Council. Another site to see while strolling around town!

With this festive atmosphere there will be a festive event, too. The Bement Health Care Center and Bement Lions Club are co-hosting the annual Easter Egg Hunt which will start at 10:00 a.m. at the Bement Health Care Center on Saturday, April 20. All young bunnies are welcome up through Grade 5 so bring your baskets, buckets and bags to get in on the fun. In case of rain, the hunt will be moved to Walsh Gymnasium at Bement High School.

All the Easter fun has been going on in Bement for

nearly 70 years! The history of the decorations begins in 1952 when Zenaida Drake started decorating her yard for spring. In 1983 the Bement Women’s Club began stringing plastic eggs together to hang in the trees along Highway 105 in Bement...the first Easter Egg Lane.

In 1987 Zenaida Drake passed away and, starting in 1988, the Bement Community Council began decorating Drake’s yard in her memory. In 1989, Bill Drake, husband of Zenaida, donated his wife’s collection to the Bement Community Council. The collection, which is added on to each year, continues to be dis-

played on the lawn of the Bryant Cottage State Historic site with the help of the Lifesavers Club at BHS.

Of course, we can’t forget the big bunny! Harvey prefers his privacy and spends most of his time in a quiet space in storage. For a large rabbit that has been around since the 1950’s (recently a newspaper was found with Harvey dating back to 1962) Harvey is still looking pretty good – ready to look out on Bement for many years to come. He will make his appearance in the State Bank of Bement window as another part of spring and Easter traditions in Bement!

Southern Piatt

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Mailing Address: PO Box 589 • Atwood, IL 61913

Ph: 217-543-2151 FAX: 217-543-2152

Email: recordherald@consolidated.net

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