

Obituaries

Carl Barbee

Carl Leroy Barbee, 89 of Atwood, passed away at 9:50 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2018 at his residence.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 11, 2019 at the First Baptist Church, 231 North Illinois St., in Atwood. The Rev. Lanny Faulkner will officiate. Burial with Military Rites will follow in the Mackville Cemetery. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 10, 2019 at the Church. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Carl was born on Dec. 13, 1929 in Tuscola. He was a son of John and Lectna Juanita (Cockrill) Barbee. He married Bonnie Earley on May 24, 1974 in Douglas County.

Survivors include his wife, Bonnie of Atwood; five children, Terrie Price (Gary) of Lawrence, Kan., Danny Barbee (Kathy) of Gibsonburg, Ohio, Cindy Murphy (Mick) of Arcola, Karen Burton (Larry) of Atwood, and David Stewart of Emerald Hills, Calif.; 15 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Myron Barbee (Janice) of St. Joseph, and Dale Barbee (Nancy) of Atwood; one sister, Shirley Hawn of Danville; and several nieces and nephews.

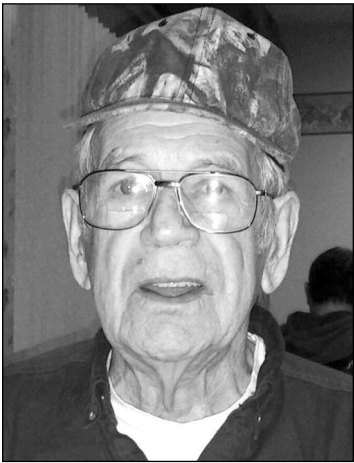
He is preceded in death by his parents; one son, Michael Stewart; and seven siblings: an infant brother, Catherine O'Neil, Marie Conner, Mary Jolly, Faye Barbee, Floyd "Bill" Barbee and James Barbee.

Carl was a Combat Army Veteran of the Korean War. He was a member of the Tuscola Christian Church, the Tuscola VFW and the Moose Lodge in Tuscola.

Carl worked at DeKalb in Tuscola for 47 years.

He enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and taking care of dogs. Carl was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and will be greatly missed by all.

Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church in Atwood, Atwood-Hammond Christmas Needy, for the food pantry, or the Douglas County Animal Shelter.



my Personal side

By Craig Hastings



I would be much better off if I could find a way to lose all interest in Washington, D.C. I've said this before; I'm a simple man with mostly simple ideas and have never claimed to be any more than of average intelligence. But, today, Thursday Jan. 3, is the day the newly elected members of Congress were sworn to the oath of their respective offices. There has been much press coverage of the debates over whether Nancy Pelosi would once again be sworn in as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Would her fellow Democratic House members by a majority support her or would the younger members rally to nominate someone else? Someone that might bring new ideas and a new meaning of what the party represents. If you followed the primary election debates leading up to the November general election you will recall many democratic candidates promising not to support Ms. Pelosi as their choice for Speaker. Today democrats and republicans alike witnessed some more of the "lie to get elected" strategy of many newly

elected democrats and the democrat reruns of last fall. Yes, without a snag Ms. Pelosi was confirmed House Speaker.

I don't care one grain of sand that Ms. Pelosi is the newest Speaker of the House. I do care so many people running for office lied about their intentions to push for a new, more in touch, majority leader. The Speaker of the House of Representatives is the ignition key for the motor that drives the Democratic Party. I think today could have been the first day moving in a new direction for the Democratic Party. I was hoping the newer foundation blocks would put pressure on the crumbling blocks of old and start the rebuilding of the party for the sake of the nation's future. Two years ago the republican voters, tired of the worthless, frail, and ineffective by choice, and rooted in Congressional members of both bodies, voted for the genesis of their party. I believe to this day, two years later, people that voted for Donald Trump on election day were not voting for the man Donald Trump, but for new

ideas.

How could we? Not many really knew Donald Trump other than a rich land developer with his name on a bunch of high-end motels and hotels. Donald Trump for sure hadn't proved his worth in the political ring of Washington, D.C. or even Mayberry RFD. He hadn't run to be elected to anything that any of us knew about. He wasn't considered a long shot to win; he was counted as a no shot by all the experts that call these things. These guys and gals even laughed when questioned by media about his chances to win. Donald Trump won the republican nomination because the odor emitting from him wasn't as bad as the stench of the other 16 candidates. Voters had reached an opinion of "How could he be any worse than what we've lived with for the past 20 years?" The voting by odor continued through to the general election. By Election Day the Clintons had gassed the room so badly that the voters were running for their lives. Donald Trump had been elected President of the United States before circulating fans could clear the room.

I think because democrats have control of The House they have been afforded an opportunity to turn voter opinion around. With some cooperation with the republicans, democrats could show that they have

the country's best interests in mind and help move this country forward. Even if you can't stand President Trump's character, there is no denying he has gotten America up and running again after years of stagnation. Foreign powers fear American military power again. America is no longer paying every other country's tab as it pertains to the expense to maintain world order. My strategy as a democrat would be to work with republicans in order to be considered an equal partner in the prosperity of America by 2020.

If the democrats could do this, and they could, the only matter at hand for the 2020 presidential election would be to find a candidate that's squeaky clean, soft-spoken, humble when humiliated, and doesn't tweet! How could they lose? Let's all admit that Donald Trump is not the most likable person we ever met. He might not even be the hundredth most likable person we ever met! What he is, is hard working, tireless, and he loves America. The best thing that could have happened for Donald Trump in his bid to be reelected in 2020 was for Nancy Pelosi to be voted Speaker of the House. And she was.

Jim Dickson

James T. "Jim" Dickson, 61, of Tuscola, passed away at 7:24 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, 2019 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Private services will be held at the Family Cemetery. Hilligoss Shrader Funeral Home, 705 South Main Street Tuscola, is assisting the family with arrangements.

Jim was born Aug. 6, 1957 in Champaign the son of James Richard and Mary Sue Cox Dickson.

He is survived by a son: James Palmer Dickson of Tuscola; two brothers: Craig Dickson of Champaign, and Brad Dickson of Paxton, and a sister: Teri Dickson of Tolono.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Jim was a 1975 graduate of Tuscola Community High School. He received a Master's in Education from the University of Illinois. He taught Agriculture at the Gibson City and Chrisman Schools. Later, Jim became a truck driver for several trucking companies in the area.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be shared via: hilligossshraderfh.com.

DRILL

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"The officers used a heavily loaded .38 Winchester simulation round that surprised even us as to just how loud it discharged," Hastings added.

"We do not bring the most popular AR 15 rifle to the schools nor do we use a semi automatic 9mm, .40 cal. or .45 cal.," Thurston added. "The risk of malfunctions using simulation rounds in these weapons is greater than what we chose this year. That's not to imply there is any kind of safety risk to us, but this year we

dispersed quickly into each school, and we didn't want to hinder the element of surprise by having to stop to clear a weapon of a malfunction."

Following the drill, the officers met with groups of teachers to discuss and answer a variety of questions.

"Most of these questions might never have been thought had the simulation drill not been conducted," Hastings said. "The three of us police officers today talked among ourselves afterward. We all agreed that because we are exposed to firearms and the sounds, the smell, the smoke, and empty casings being dumped on the floor that we become immune to the horror all of these components represent to people that have nothing to do with weapons nor do they ever want to. We are

willing to sit down with as few as one or as many as 20 staff at one time and just talk about whatever they want to talk about to better prepare them for a shooting event in one of our schools."

Smith said a Teacher Institute Day works best for this particular type of drill, because staff members are present without students.

"We aren't trying to scare anyone," Smith said. "It's more to just give staff the opportunity to recognize what an incident would sound and feel like. We did it several years ago and received great feedback, so, with new staff members, I wanted to do it again."

Smith mentioned this time around was much different than even just a few years ago.

"There was less nervousness and more openness from the staff," Smith said.

"I don't know what this says about society, but I sadly think the thought of an incident happening is just so much more of a common idea for people. Overall, the drills went over well."

Following winter break, on Monday, Jan. 7, Smith reviewed feedback and questions from teachers.

"The big one is how to decide when to hide and when to run," Smith said. "Also, some are interested in doing the same kind of drill for students. This would take some planning and discussion before we considered something like this. I really appreciate all of the help the Tuscola Police Department and Mayor (Dan) Kleiss provided us during the drill and maybe even more importantly all of the help they give us on a daily basis."

IHSA

Continued from PAGE 1

the first two games, and what is going to happen to rivalries.

"Whether I agree or disagree does not matter, we need to embrace the change and move forward, our goal in two years remains the same, play for a state championship," he said. "Instead of conference titles we need to chase District titles."

One scenario has Tuscola playing at the 2A class level along with area teams Bismark, Casey Westfield, Oakwood, Georgetown, Gibson City, Oblong, Villa Grove-Heritage, and Westville.

"That takes away some of our traditional rivalries, and adds some travel time," he said. "What I am most concerned about is lower level games. If we play in our district, more travel, if we need to find games we might not get a full schedule. Our program is built at the freshman and JV level and those kids getting games and enjoying some success."

Coach Jeremy Clodfelder from Paris has some of the same feelings.

"If we go 3A the closest two schools will be Rantoul and Hoopetstown, the others are on the west side of the state, like Havana and McComb, that's a lot of time on the bus," Clodfelder said.

"I jokingly told some people we need to invest in a charter bus company, because there are going to be some long trips. In the long run it will help stop the conference realignment, but in the short term you are already hearing schools that our wanting to now change things up because of other sports now that football is not involved. A lot of the states that have done this instituted it across the board for all sports."

Tuscola Athletic Director Ryan Hornaday has some of the same feelings.

"I foresee major unintended consequence to all this," he said. "Conferences will break up and re-align for basketball now, the state could just be trading one problem for another. We have a great relationship with the (Central Illinois Conference) schools and are going to lose some of those rivalries. I see more travel in our future, possibly a decrease in strength of schedule, and I'm definitely going to have some issues hiring officials and contracting lower level games. Trying to find the first two games is already proving to be a big task. I looked at a map that eliminated any school that is relatively the same size as Tuscola and have reached out to a dozen or so schools that presumably would not be in our district, more travel, it is incredibly frustrating."

Coach Sementi's Take

I have personally coached football in Illinois for the past 25 years, and the two things that I find interesting from the IHSA Proposal 23 are: 1) 523 schools were eligible for the playoffs this past fall and 560 total schools playing football, why did 700 schools vote? That's at the least 140 schools without a horse in the race, 2) What happens if there are not exactly 512 football playing schools? Fewer schools would mean some teams would not have seven district games, forcing them to fill in mid-season bye weeks. That adds what essentially would be a third scrimmage with the chance of players getting injuries in a contest that doesn't matter. More than 512 schools would mean more than seven district games are needed, which is not fair to those schools. Or will you just not play every team in the district, which opens the door for strength of schedule if a team doesn't get to play the worst team in their district, or, vice versa, doesn't have to play the best team in their respective district.

I do feel it will alleviate conference issues after the first two-year class assignments. Teams will not be looking for easier routes to the playoffs and leaving conferences because of scheduling football games with the need to find six victories.

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