

# Zion News

“So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.” – Mark 16:19

The Gospel of Mark ends with this verse and the next. While the above verse seems like it describes a concluding event in the life of Christ, the following and final verse of Mark’s scripture starts with, “And they (the disciples) went forth and preached everywhere.”

This Thursday, May 13, is Ascension Day. Ascension Day takes place thirty-nine days after Easter Sunday and commemorates Christ’s ascension into heaven. It is often referred to as the 40th day of Easter.

According to scriptures, Jesus and his eleven disciples went to Mount Olivet on which the village of Bethany sits. There he blessed the disciples and was taken into heaven.

This event is commemorated differently by religious groups. It is a significant religious holiday for the Amish community who observe it by even closing their businesses.

However, a majority of Protestant churches do not observe Ascension Day to the same degree as other religious holidays are celebrated. That is unfortunate because at this event Jesus gives us his final words while on earth about how Christians should act, what his followers should tell the world, and foretells the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which is just ten days into the future.

## Douglas County Ag in the Classroom focused on soybeans and earth day for April

Douglas County Ag in the Classroom focused on soybeans and earth day for April. More soybeans are grown in the United States than in any other country. The top soybean-producing states are Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Indiana.

Illinois raises 427 million bushels of soybeans per year. Decatur, Illinois is known as “Soy City” because they process so many soybeans at ADM. The complete soybean is used at their facility. The hull becomes additives and livestock feed. The beans are flattened into flakes and oil is extracted. This oil is separated into lecithin to use in baked goods. Flakes are also processed into flour and this high protein flour improves the shelf life of baked goods.

Every day is Earth Day on the Farm! Farmers’ livelihoods depend on their ability to use the land. It is in their best interest to protect the land and water which

Ascension Day is not the final curtain on Christ’s mission on earth. It is more the start of the mission he intends to be carried out by his followers, then and now.

Take time this Thursday to imagine what an event this would have been for the disciples and how precious it would have been to hear the last words of Jesus. The last word of the Gospel of Mark is “Amen.” Maybe it should have been “Awesome!”

Please continue to remember these people on our prayer list: John and Trudy (Beauchamp) Feyereisen, Natalie Lynn Harris, Arnold and Marlene Schultz, Jean White, Leland and Dolores Lust, Cassandra Helms, Brent Morgan, Roger Kibler, Mike and Debbie Gentile, Margaret Knobloch, and Phyllis Romine.

Birthdays coming up include: May 13-Rob Drake, and May 27-Michael Wiloughby.

Anniversaries include: May 14-Jerry & B J Hale, and May 21-Tyler & Nicole White.

Thoughtful advice: “If you die in an elevator, be sure to push the Up button.” – Sam Levenson, American humorist

If you would like to participate in any of our Zoom activities, or receive our weekly Good News email, send a request to ramona-carlyle@yahoo.com. Sunday Zoom Bible Study begins at 9:00 AM followed by Christian Conversations at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome to participate.

they rely on. Farmers use reduced tillage to help the soil stay in place. They use careful applications of fertilizer. Farmers plant grass along fields to protect streams and rivers. These are called buffer strips and they collect soil and fertilizer, so it does not leave the field.

This month in Ag in the Classroom younger students made “Sprout Houses” to germinate seeds. The bags were hung in a window, or someplace warm, and the seeds would sprout in a few days. This is an excellent way for students to observe germination. Other classes practiced seed dissection or had activities based on the water cycle.

The soybean fields in Douglas County are helping to feed people around the world. Douglas County Ag in the Classroom is supported by Douglas County Farm Bureau, Douglas County Ag Center, and Illinois Ag in the Classroom.

## New shop opens in Aschermann building

### SHOP HOMEPLACE

This cute shop has recently moved downtown from its former location just off Route 133. It’s in the back part of the old Aschermann Motor Company building with an entrance off of Park Street, across from the grade school. Lots of different items from clothing to jewelry to home decor and gift items. They are open on Mondays and Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Tuesday and Sunday. They have a very active facebook page with lots of pictures to give you an idea of what they offer. Stop in and check them out!

### AN ALWAYS ARTHURITE GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Susan Blandford Nicoson (AHS ‘91) is on the board of directors for an organization called Giving Hearts a Hand based in Indiana. She was recently at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School to present the Athletics department with a new AED (automated external defibrillator) in honor of Brandon McGill, son of Brad and Laura McGill, who sadly passed away this past December. A little more about the organization from their website: “Giving Hearts a Hand is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that ‘promotes heart awareness in area communities through funding cardiac screenings in high school athletes.’ Giving Hearts a Hand has been fortunate to work with medical facilities and area schools in Central and Southeast Indiana to fund well over 1200 cardiac screenings (EKG & Echocardiogram) since they funded their first heart screening in the summer of 2012! In addition, they have been able to fully fund and/or help with the placement of over 30 AED’s through their ‘raising cardiac awareness’ initiative.” Know the school district and the McGill family are very appreciative

## Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

of Susan’s efforts to obtain this equipment in Brandon’s memory.

### A STILL ARTHURITE AND LIFELONG LEARNER

Tosha Binion Donnals (AHS ‘92) is now a family nurse practitioner. Before and while achieving that goal Tosha spent 25 years in the Illinois Army National Guard. She is the daughter of Debbie Binion Howell and the mother to two sons, Ty and Max. When son Max was 4 he was diagnosed with leukemia and that experience set Tosha on the course to achieving the position she is in today. From a recent UIC article: “Donnals received her Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Millikin University in Decatur in 2015. She became an ICU nurse at Decatur Memorial Hospital. To further her education Tosha selected UIC’s Doctor of Nursing practice program because of its focus on community health and diversity, as well as it being a nationally ranked school, close to home.” Tosha grew up in our neighborhood and still lives close by so have to say personally that I very much admire her accomplishments. Best of luck to Tosha in your continued career in medicine! (watch next week’s paper for more on Tosha)

### KUDOS TO A FUTURE GRAD

From the announcements on the high school facebook page this week: “Junior Brooke Clark just learned that she placed first in the 19th District Americanism Essay Contest. Her essay is headed on to the division level and she has been invited to read her essay at the district commander meeting later this month. This essay topic was not a piece of cake. The contest involves history and English and is always challenging. This year’s title was, ‘How to promote old-fashioned patriotism while recognizing where we have fallen short’ and was chosen by the American Legion. Students had just a couple of weeks to write the essay. We wish Brooke the best of luck in the next steps of this contest and can’t wait to hear!” Brooke is the daughter of Jordan and Amber Clark and granddaughter of George and Nancy Clark. Know how proud they all must be of her. Best of luck Brooke!

### FOOTBALL ALL CONFERENCE AND OTHER HONORS

Our Knights were recently honored with all-conference awards with eight of them making the Lincoln Prairie Conference team (the most in the conference) and Kaden Feagin named offensive player of the year for the conference. The annual football banquet for this short-

ened season was also held recently where several honors were handed out. Elsewhere in the paper you will find details on both the all-conference team and team awards. Congratulations to all and GO KNIGHTS!

### SPORTS REPORT

Lots of softball, baseball being played and track events happening. Both the ALAH Knights softball and baseball teams are listed in the area top 10 in local papers as each have been having a lot of success. Rain has played some havoc recently with games and track events but hoping for good weather the next few weeks. This week both baseball and softball had games with Cerro Gordo on Tuesday at home (Atwood for softball, Lovington for baseball). Knights track teams were at Cumberland on Tuesday. Thursday’s softball and baseball games are in Atwood and Lovington vs. Sullivan. Friday has both softball and baseball teams traveling to Bethany to play Okaw Valley at their fairly new facilities. High school track teams will be at Sullivan on Friday as well. The week will end with softball at Villa Grove at 10 a.m. and baseball at Shelbyville at 11 a.m. Junior high track will have their sectional meet at Maroa-Forsyth beginning at 9 a.m.

### DOUGLAS COUNTY MUSEUM #15

Douglas County farmers and the Farm Bureau. “Who are Douglas County farmers? 735 are ‘farmer operators’ and 403 list farming as

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