

Zion News

"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching." - 1 Timothy 5:17

Last October marked the thirtieth anniversary of Clergy Appreciation Month. In 1992, the second Sunday in October was also designated as a special day to show appreciation of clergy and other church leaders, and it is now known as Pastor Appreciation Sunday. It is on October 8 this year.

Zion began celebrating Pastor Appreciation Sunday a few years ago when Pastor Dennis Hanner became our pastor in 2010. However, Zion has always had a long-standing tradition of showing appreciation toward our pastors.

In the olden days of Zion, appreciation for the pastor was shown mainly at Christmas when parishioners might give the pastor freshly-baked items from their kitchens, or a couple of chickens, or a pig for Christmas dinner. At one time there were offering envelopes that had a box to check on them that indicated this was a gift for the pastor or, more precisely, directing that the money inside was to be used only in support of the pastor.

Later, people would put presents of all kinds around the church's Christmas tree for other members of the congregation, Sunday school teachers, students, and, of course, the pastors and their family. Often these gifts to the pastor were

cards of appreciation with cash inside because, let's face it, most pastors are underpaid for the hours they put in.

The tradition of gift-giving after our church's Christmas Eve Service has diminished to a great extent from where it was years ago. But it is much better that we set aside a special time like Pastor Appreciation Sunday to focus on our pastor and how much we appreciate the things they do for us.

There are many creative ways we can show our appreciation toward our pastors, but here are some ideas of what NOT to do:

Don't get your pastor a book of the world's greatest sermons. Don't get your pastor a Bible because, if they don't have one, you better get another pastor.

Don't get your pastor a tie or a necklace because, when they open the box they will be thinking, "How many times do I have to wear this so it looks like I am grateful?"

Don't get your pastor anything to read, watch, or listen to that "we can sit down and talk about later." And, don't get your pastor another "Praying Hands" statue.

If your church has not been recognizing Pastor Appreciation Sunday, maybe this is the year to do it.

Zion's worship service starts at 9:00 AM each Sunday. This coming Sunday Rev. Kenneth Roedder will lead the worship service. Everyone is welcome.

Facts for Families

By Cheri Burcham, Family Life Educator

Early Childhood Needs – Birth to Five Illinois

I would love to share this article that my previous "intern" and friend Kayli Bontrager has written about the wonderful agency that she is now representing. Kayli says: Birth to Five Illinois Teams across the State have worked over the past year to gather community input and create Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessments that highlight the strengths and needs in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC). The report for Region 11, which covers Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie, and Shelby Counties, includes local parent and family experiences and other information gathered from community members and local, state, and federal sources.

Each of Birth to Five Illinois' 39 Regions were formed as part of a statewide system that brings local communities together to address ECEC needs and support access to services and funding. Birth to Five Illinois' mission reinforces the statewide goal of Illinois becoming the best in the nation for families raising young children.

Region 11 staff worked with families, ECEC professionals, community members, and community resources to collect local information and experiences. Through surveys, meetings, and interviews, the Region 11 Team found that many families are struggling with the lack of ECEC opportunities, especially fami-

lies living in rural communities.

Of the 8,122 children under the age of six living in this Region, 76% do not have a slot in a licensed or license-exempt childcare center or home. A parent in Douglas County said, "The bottom line is that we do not have enough programs or childcare spots available for the children in our area. My children should not have to sit on a waitlist."

Region 11 Action Council and Family Council members came together to review the information collected and discuss local strengths, needs, and recommendations. Below are five needs highlighted in Birth to Five Illinois: Region 11's Early Childhood Regional Needs Assessment.

More infant and toddler care slots and full-day preschool opportunities.

1. Public transportation for local programs.

2. Hands-on and available mental health, social-emotional, and behavioral resources.

3. Increased staff appreciation and support.

4. Before and after school care in smaller, rural school districts.

You can view the full report for Region 11 at www.birthtofiveil.com/region11/#report. For more information or to learn how you can share your voice, please contact the Region 11 Team at www.birthtofiveil.com/region11/#contact.

Check out the De-Lan(e)-o-squash tribute at TGPP

DE-LAN(E)-O-SQUASH

Some of you may have seen my facebook post about this but I was surprised when I headed out to the pumpkin patch last week (Anne Pate and I were going to get the schoolhouse ready for the season) and Mac asked me to hop on the golf cart. He wanted to show me something. Well we headed out to the patch and as we went he told me that they had done something special with the old wooden ladders we had given to them. Mac loves ladders as anybody who has been to TGPP knows. As we were cleaning out the garage and getting ready for the garage sale Jason had asked Mac if he would like the old wooden rung ladders we had in various places. Some of them were Daddy's and some of them were Delano's. Of course Mac said yes and he was pleased to get them. As we approached the entrance to the patch itself Mac showed me the display he had set up with those ladders which contain several varieties of squash arranged very artistically as only they can do things out at the patch. Mac told me they were calling it the De-Lan(e)-o-squash, obviously a play on Delano's name. Not only clever but very touching that he would think to do this as a way to pay tribute to Delano and remember him. Needless to say I was thrilled and told Mac he had made my day. So, as you visit TGPP this fall, make sure you take special note as you enter the patch itself and remember Delano as you do! He would love it too!

SODA FOUNTAIN IS BACK

Hope you all read the story in last week's Graphic about this. Sharon Miller has completed the last phase of her business, Tanning and Treats, located where the drugstore used to be. The tanning part of the business has been open for a few months and Sharon has been working and studying on how best to get the soda fountain up and running. Malts, phosphates and drumsticks in addition to ice cream are available. I stopped in the other day to get my favorite, a cherry coke. Haven't gotten any ice cream yet but saw a couple of flavors I definitely want to try out. The building itself looks quite different but she has kept a lot of the classic architecture that has been there all these years. Best of luck to Sharon and thank you for sticking with this and getting a much missed feature (the soda fountain) back on our main street. Be sure to stop in and support Tanning and Treats!

LIBRARY EVENT OCTOBER 7

From the library facebook page: "The Arthur Public Library will offer AED and CPR training on October 7th from 1:00-3:00 PM. Seating is limited to 16. Please call the library at 217-543-2037 to reserve your seat. We expect these seats to go fast so don't wait."

ILLINOIS AMISH HERITAGE CENTER

From the IAHC facebook

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

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Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

page: "Harvest to Home returns to the Illinois Amish Heritage Center on October 6 and 7 - Fun for all ages! The 2023 show will feature activities surrounding corn and different types of corn such as Broom, Dent, Flint, and Popcorn. Corn will be harvested using hand shucking and mechanical pickers pulled by horses and tractors. Corn shelling using a Minneapolis Moline Corn Sheller will demonstrate how corn is separated from the ear and cleaned. The cobs will be ground into livestock bedding using a cob grinder. Corn will be ground into livestock feed powered by horses. A grist mill will be in operation making corn meal." Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Besides the things listed there will also be buggy rides and a 'train' to transport visitors around the campus, children's activities and displays of antique farm equipment. Not to mention the Moses Yoder and Daniel Schrock homes plus a schoolhouse and work shed. There will also be a kickoff event on Thursday evening from 5-7 p.m. where a meal provided by Farm Credit Illinois will be available. Just one of the many things happening in our area.

SPORTS REPORT

Besides our local school reports I have several sports related things to share but let's

start with our Knight Rider boys golf team winning the Lincoln Prairie Conference meet for the fifth year in a row. That is quite an accomplishment. Golf has become pretty popular here in the last few years and the team is young so expect more great things. The girls team, which is composed of several young ladies playing for the first time... came in 4th! CC Davis, Kendall Schrock, and Canton Wesch (Arcola) earned all-conference recognition. Way to go Knight Rider golf! (we co-op with Arcola in this sport)

Volleyball. Tuesday night was a bit of a tough one for our girls. We played Cumberland and won the first set but it seemed a different Knights team was on the floor for the second. One of those games when nothing seems to go right and it's downhill from there. The girls did rally a bit but lost. The third set seemed to go much the same way. Looked bad, rallied but ultimately lost. Thankfully the junior varsity won their match. So Thursday night at Okaw Valley was a big relief. JV won again and the Knights team we're used to seeing showed up on the floor. Varsity took the match in two sets. This week is a busy one with games at Monticello on Monday, Tri-County on Tuesday and at home with Villa Grove on Thursday to start Homecoming week fun.

Football. Finally! Cumberland has been a bit of a thorn in our Knights side for a few years. Came very close to beating them last year and thankfully made that happen last Friday night in Toledo. Our guys prevailed 14-6 with all the scoring coming in the first half. This week for Homecoming the team will be playing Nokomis, a team that is new to our conference this year. The Knights are now 5-0 and playoff eligible!

Soccer. Have had a hard time keeping up with soccer but I do know they won against Arthur Christian School on Thursday.

Go Knights!

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

Attended another EIU game last Saturday but will have to admit I did not stay for the whole game which turned out to be a big mistake. Stayed through halftime to watch the band and see Zack Woodard and Lauren Ray. Got to sit and visit with Cherryl Conlin as she was there to watch granddaughter Lauren. Both Cherryl and Sally left early. Thought I would stay for a while but Eastern was not doing so well (they were behind 28-14) and it was HOT! Later learned that the Panthers won the game on a very long distance field goal in the last minute of the game. Should learn by now that they just might do this and they pulled last week's game out of the hat too because of a missed extra point by the opposing team. Looking forward to Homecoming on Saturday.

See TOWN TALK on page 3

MANNEQUINS

Background: Wedge's clock

by Don S Chambers



In Our Community

ALAH FFA Alumni Fundraiser

DRIVE THRU

PORK CHOP SANDWICH DINNER

Friday,
September 29

Starts @ 5:00 p.m.
until sold out



Location: Arthur Woman's Club Stand
@ Moultrie-Douglas County Fairgrounds

Sandwich, Chips, Brownie & Water

FREE WILL DONATION

Proceeds will help send
ALAH students to FFA National Convention

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NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY

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