

Chief Senachwine Chapter, NSDAR Holds February Meeting At Henry Public Library

The February 6 meeting of the Chief Senachwine Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, was held at the Henry Public Library. The meeting was called to order by Regent Jean Galetti. Members learned about "Barn Quilts of Bureau County" from Valerie Jensen of rural Bureau County, which preceded the business meeting.

The theme of the day was "Happy Birthday, America 250" with red-white-blue decor and birthday cake. Members sang an early "Happy Birthday" for America's 250th Founding, officially celebrated on July 4, 2026.

DAR chapters are founded on the promise of service, and Regent Galetti praised the members for submitting 2399 total service hours in the community, state, and nation. The original goal was 1290 hours of service during 2025.

Regent Galetti reported on her co-hosting a program sponsored through the America 250 Illinois program at the Granville Library. She also revealed her DAR Members Class project, that of creating a QR Code for the chapter. Members use their phones and the Code to access expanded DAR information.

Vice Regent Sandy Miller is also enrolled in the course and her class project is researching the Revolutionary War practice of soldiers carrying pharmaceutical-suitable drugs gleaned from their pollinator gardens. Miller also reported on the 12 Madonna of the Trail statues,

created by DAR state organizations, honoring the intrepid women who pushed westward. Statues are placed along Rt. 40 and part of Rt. 66. Each monument is located in one of the 12 states from Maryland to California.

Chairmen of nine committees provided reports. Plans are already being made for State Regent Marria Blinn's visit in Sept. A light lunch will be served. Orders are being placed for America 250 yard signs.

The next meeting will be held on Fri., March 6 at the First Presbyterian Church in Henry, beginning at 1:30. An Awards Ceremony, followed by a program and reception, will recognize Good Citizens honorees from Henry-Senachwine, Midland, and Putnam County high schools.



A barn quilt, one of many, is pictured at the February meeting of the Chief Senachwine DAR Chapter. The barn quilt was featured in the "Barn Quilts of Bureau County" presentation by Valerie Jensen of rural Bureau County.

Illinois Soybean Farmers Welcome Federal Aid But Fear Long-Term Damage

Farmers, many of whom voted for Trump, say they'd prefer stable trade over a government check

by Rebecca Pieder, Illinois News Bureau
Illinois soybean farmers are set to receive special federal payments at the end of February meant to offset losses from last year's trade disruptions. But while farmers welcome the relief, many say it will only provide temporary respite.

Illinois soybean farmers have been caught in a cost squeeze after years of financial pressure tied to rising input costs, shifting export markets and falling grain prices. The strain intensified when China - Illinois' largest export market for soybeans - sharply reduced purchases amid escalating tariffs imposed by the Trump administration, prompting Gov. JB Pritzker to declare a state of emergency for Illinois agriculture last fall.

While China has recently increased U.S. soybean purchases under a different trade agreement, many farmers worry that the country's shift toward suppliers in South America could have lasting effects on Illinois agriculture.

Lance Muirhead, a seventh-generation farmer in Macon County,

calls the temporary federal help - known as bridge payments - a "necessary evil."

"I hate to rely on government aid, and especially ad-hoc payments like that," Muirhead, 29, said. "It's just a Band-Aid and it's not covering the whole wound."

Illinois is the top producer of soybeans in the country, harvesting over 639 million bushels in 2025 - approximately 17.4 million metric tons. In 2024, the U.S. exported 26.8 million metric tons of soybeans to China, with Illinois alone accounting for \$1.4 billion in sales.

In 2025, China halted imports of U.S. soybeans for several months before a November trade agreement in which China committed to purchasing 12 million metric tons - a target that represents a sharp decrease from 2024 levels, and which ultimately wasn't fulfilled until early 2026.

In December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the "Farmer Bridge Assistance Program," authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act. Of the \$12 billion being made available, the USDA said, \$11 billion is earmarked for farmers who produce row crops, to cover the losses felt during the suspension. Those include corn and soybeans,

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MISC.

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Fun Fact

Photoperiodism is a physiological reaction of plants and animals to darkness and light. Plants are classified according to photoperiods: "short-day" plants, "long-day" plants and "day-neutral" plants. Along with temperature variations, in animals photoperiod provokes changes in the color of fur and feathers, migration, hibernation, reproduction and body development.

Source: wikipedia.org

King Crossword

(ANSWERS ON PAGE 8)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Lawn coating
 - 4 Daring deeds
 - 9 Droid
 - 12 "That feels so good!"
 - 13 Host
 - 14 Ruckus
 - 15 Type of cable
 - 17 Sine qua —
 - 18 Feathery wrap
 - 19 Garish
 - 21 Mellow yellows
 - 24 Winter blanket
 - 25 Mauna —
 - 26 Fire sign?
 - 28 Emulate Scott Hamilton
 - 31 Grecian vessels
 - 33 Evergreen tree
 - 35 "Zounds!"
 - 36 Army doc
 - 38 Karaoke prop, for short
 - 40 Assoc.
 - 41 Friendly
 - 43 Crude dwelling
 - 45 Brit's word of surprise
 - 47 Where Ger. is
 - 48 Help
 - 49 Timepiece attachment
 - 54 Blasting stick
 - 55 Follow
 - 56 Luau dish
 - 57 Sneaky chuckle
 - 58 Karaoke lights
 - 59 Bradley and Asner
 - 6 Fed. health law
 - 7 Camping shelters
 - 8 Family cars
 - 9 Something to jump on
 - 10 Skunk's defense
 - 11 Theater award
 - 16 Jurist Fortas
 - 20 Stirred
 - 21 Grad
 - 22 "Encore!"
 - 23 Range of radio frequencies
 - 27 Skirt edge
 - 29 Like lemons
 - 30 Jittery
 - 32 Thailand, once
 - 34 Gets smart
 - 37 Embroidery yarn
 - 39 Waterpark slides
 - 42 Actress Loy
 - 44 Wall St. whiz
 - 45 Tub session
 - 46 Queue
 - 50 Doctrine
 - 51 Mimic
 - 52 Silent assent
 - 53 Insult
- DOWN**
- 1 Apply cream
 - 2 Listener
 - 3 "— goes there?"
 - 4 Soft felt hat
 - 5 Diplomat's post

COUNTY CLERK ANNOUNCES EARLY/ GRACE PERIOD VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Jill M. Kenyon, Marshall County Clerk, announced that eligible voters can vote early starting February 20th without having to offer a reason or an excuse for wanting to vote early.

The early voting law allows voters to cast a ballot. Early voting will be conducted in the Clerk's office during regular business hours, weekdays.

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; excluding Holidays.
The law prohibits a person who voted during the early voting/grace period from voting at their regular polling place on March 17th, 2026. The votes cast during the early voting/grace period will be counted on Election Day.

Prior to 2006, voters who wanted to vote early had to request an absentee ballot and offer a reason such as being physically incapacitated or out of the county on Election Day.

The last day for voter registration is February 17th, 2026. (Excluding Grace Period)
Grace Period will begin February 18th through March 17th, 2026, in the office of the Marshall County Clerk & Recorder. You will need to bring 2 pieces of mail showing your current address as well a current driver's license, a state-issued ID card or another government-issued ID with a photograph.

For information about Early Voting or Grace Period, contact the Clerk's office 309-246-6325 Press 2 then 1 at 122 N. Prairie, PO Box 328, Lacon, IL 61540.

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