



Photo provided by Nancy Gartner

The Princeton-Illinois chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution hosted Rodney Johnson of "Flags of Freedom" at their Nov. 1 meeting.

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Princeton DAR Chapter learns about I-80 flag display history

The Princeton-Illinois chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution hosted Rodney Johnson of "Flags of Freedom" at their Nov. 1 meeting.

Johnson, accompanied by his wife, Terry Johnson of Quilts of Valor of Illinois Valley, spoke about the four 30-by-60-foot flags that fly at each corner of Exit 56 on Interstate 80.

The flags fly on 153-foot poles as a tribute to honor past, present and future armed forces members and veterans. The flags have flown since Sept. 10, 2005, and earned Princeton the "Governor's Hometown" award.

The chapter also hosted its annual coffee and donuts event at the VFW/American Legion on Nov. 11, following a ceremony at Veterans Park despite cold and windy conditions.

DAR membership is open to any woman over 18 with direct lineage to a male or female patriot of the American Revolution. For more information, visit dar.org.

Putnam County Library to screen WWII documentary Dec. 2

The Putnam County Public Library District's Granville Branch will host a movie matinee screening of "American St. Nick" at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2.

The 54-minute documentary tells the true story of U.S. Army soldiers who revived a banned Saint Nicholas Day celebration in Nazi-occupied Luxembourg during World War II.

In December 1944, the 28th Infantry Division paused their frontline duties to lift spirits in Wiltz, Luxembourg, a town that had suffered under four years of German occupation. The Nazis had banned the local language, restricted religious practices and outlawed the beloved Saint Nicholas Day celebration.

The screening is free and open to the public. The library is located at 214 S. McCoy St.

For more information, call 815-339-2038.

— Shaw Local News Network

• SPIRIT MATTERS

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I have read much on the spirituality of death, and it is not unusual for the dying to report the presence of something in the room with them that is invisible to others.

Often, the dying report winged figures, such as angels, as well as the presence of deceased family and friends in the room.

These incidents occur across all faiths, traditions and cultures and are corroborated in countless reports by nurses, hospice workers, death doulas, family members and friends.

So, if Liz Cheney says she saw a sky full of clouds in the shape of angels the night before her father died, I am apt to believe she wasn't just imagining things.

Angels are messengers from God.

How those messengers take form will always be a mystery to us, but if they bring a sense of hope, peace and goodwill during our darkest days and nights, then it should not be too much of a stretch to believe they are real.

• *Spirit Matters* is a weekly column by Jerrilyn Zavada Novak that examines experiences common to the human spirit. Contact her at jzblue33@yahoo.com.



PCHS DAR Winner Annou



Putnam County High School 2025-2026 DAR Good Citizen Winner

Putnam County High School recognize **Cadie Bickett** as the 2025-2026 Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen. This prestigious award, sponsored by the Putnam County Chief Senachwine DAR Chapter, recognizes outstanding students who exemplify the core values of **dependability, leadership, and patriotism.**

Cadie, the daughter of **Jessica and Matthew Gensini of Grant** and **Tyler and Rachel Bickett of Princeton, IL**, has been selected as the 2025-2026 DAR Good Citizen and staff for exemplifying these qualities throughout her academic and involvement in the community. As a student at Putnam County High School, she has consistently demonstrated responsibility, a caring attitude, helping others, and a positive influence among her peers. Cadie's leadership extends beyond the classroom, showcasing her dedication for service and her pride in contributing to both school and community activities.

In addition to her academic achievements, Cadie has demonstrated a deep commitment to patriotism and civic responsibility, exemplifying the very ideals celebrated by the DAR Good Citizens Award. She has contributed more than 100 hours of community service, including planning and delivering **FFA Harvest Goodie Bags** and packing **Goodie Bags** with the **Bureau County Lions Club**—acts of kindness that demonstrate her genuine desire to serve and support others in her community.

Looking ahead, Cadie plans to pursue a degree in **Agribusiness** at **Valley Community College** and continuing to a **state university**. With her strong work ethic and dedication, there is no doubt she will continue to excel in her academic journey and future endeavors.

The Putnam County High School community, along with the Chief Senachwine DAR Chapter, extends its heartfelt congratulations to this well-deserved honor. **We wish her the very best as she pursues her goals and makes a positive impact in the world.**

Congratulations, Cadie, and good luck in all your future endeavors!