

# COMMERCIAL-NEWS

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## Brinegar decides not to run for re-election

BY BRIAN L. HUCHEL  
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**DANVILLE** – Eight years of prosecuting felonies and misdemeanors will be enough for current Vermilion County State's Attorney Randy Brinegar.

Brinegar, now in his second four-year term, confirmed Monday afternoon that he will not seek a third term in office in the 2016 general election.

It was a difficult decision for Brinegar, who has spent the last two decades of his career in the state's attorney's office. He worked 14 years as an assistant state's attorney before being elected to his current post in 2008. He also was

a private attorney for five years in Danville. "It's become a way of life for me," he said. Brinegar replaced former two-term state's attorney Frank Young in 2008.

He admitted to considering the thought of whether to pursue a third term as early as 2012 when he was running for his second term. Brinegar said the idea of whether to step down after two terms "went back and forth in my mind."

In the end, the decision for Brinegar circles around the need to spend more time with family, particularly his children and his grandchildren.

"I made up my mind late last summer," he

said. "One day, I was taking care of grandson for my daughter. We're out playing, and he was asking me a lot of questions. Unexpectedly, that day, it just kind of gelled in my mind."

He also pointed to an out-of-town Christmas dinner a few years ago where a homicide forced to him to leave in order to come back to Danville and request search warrants for the investigation.

"As much as I love it, I'm looking forward to not missing any more holiday dinners," he said.

According to Brinegar, he announced his decision on Monday to allow potential candidates to begin efforts to run for the office this summer, given the various events and parades that take place.

Brinegar added he is unaware of who might be interested in running for the office of state's attorney at this time.

With his decision, Brinegar is stepping away from law as a whole, saying he does not plan to continue work as a lawyer in private practice. Instead, he plans to pursue his hobby of working on old antique cars and trucks.

In addition, Brinegar said his longtime friend already has invited him to volunteer at the Restore on North Walnut Street. He also plans on traveling to see grandchildren in South Carolina.

The office of state's attorney is one of several positions up for election in 2016, including the offices of coroner, circuit clerk, auditor and recorder.



Randy Brinegar

## PLANNING SATURDAY'S DOWNTOWN ACTIVITIES



Jennifer Bailey | Commercial-News

**CHRIS PERRAULT, LEFT,** and Troy Walton with Vintage Villains talk about comic books and other activities coming up with Saturday's Comic Con and Villains Con at the Danville Public Library, Fischer Theatre and Vintage Villains downtown.

## Super heroes to invade downtown

Celebrity appearances include 'The Walking Dead' at first Comic Con

BY JENNIFER BAILEY  
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**DANVILLE** – Don't be surprised if you see children and adults downtown on Saturday in Star Wars storm trooper costumes or dressed as their favorite super hero, movie or comic book character such as Iron Man or The Librarian.

"You're going to see elaborate costumes," said Troy Walton with the downtown comic book, video game and collectibles shop Vintage Villains.

"We'll have super heroes running around here," added Leslie Boedicker, head of outreach and community engagement at the Danville Public Library.

Comic Con at the library, 319 N. Vermilion St., and Villains Con at Vintage Villains, 126 N. Vermilion St., will invade downtown May 2 on National Comic Book Day. The Fischer Theatre also will be part of the day's fun, in addition to kettle corn, cookies and other non-produce vendors from the Downtown Danville Farmers' Market.

Vintage Villains, along with local podcasters The BAPN, are hosting the first Villains Con (comic convention). Doors open at 10 a.m. The library's Comic Con events start at 11 a.m. There will be celebrity signings, food vendors, game demos and tournaments, comic book trivia, costume contests and more.

Walton said this is an event people don't want to hear about the Monday after it happens and wished they would have attended.

He said everyone is encouraged to come downtown and take part in the festivities. Then they won't have to say "I missed that."

About 1,000 people are expected to take part in the one-day convention, Walton said.

There will be celebrity appearances, with individual fees for autographs, by two actors from the television series "The Walking Dead," Moses J. Mosely and Theshay West who played character Michonne's pet zombies; actor Robert Lasardo, who's been in lots of television shows and movies such as "Waterworld," "Nip/Tuck," "Death Race," "The Human Centipede III," "General Hospital" and "CSI: Miami" and who also is an author

and will be having a book signing; and legendary WWF wrestler Al Snow. The autograph sessions will be from around 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Attendees will be able to meet the 501st Legion, Star Wars costumed characters, and watch speed painter, John Jansky.

Activities will include Smash Bros WiiU Tournament, Comic Trivia Contest, Warhammer 40K demo, Cosplay Contest, a Children's Costume Contest and more. The Cosplay Contest is where teens and adults dress up and can conduct a skit. The children's costume contest will be judged by Mayor Scott Eisenhauer at 5 p.m. There also will be a Magic the Gathering card game demo. The comic book trivia contest will have different sessions at 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. There will also be late night performances.

"They're mostly hand-built costumes," Chris Perrault, who runs Vintage Villains with Walton, said of Cosplay costumes of people's favorite comic book or other character.

>> See **COMIC CON** // Page **2A**

## District 118 to discuss dress code

Results of survey of parents, students on agenda

BY CAROL ROEHM  
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**DANVILLE** – Danville District 118 school board members will discuss the uniform standard of dress policy at their meeting Wednesday night.

Superintendent Mark Denman said the school board last summer requested a progress report be given on the policy after its first year of implementation.

Associate Superintendent Sharon Desmoulin-Kherat gathered the data that includes how the policy has affected student achievement, attendance and discipline as well as survey results from students, staff and parents.

According to the data, there was neutral or minimal growth in student achievement, a slight decrease in attendance and an increase in the number of detentions in six buildings between the 2013-2014 school year and this school year.

Although no elementary school students were suspended this school year due to the dress code, 284 Danville High School students, five North Ridge students and one South View student were suspended for not adhering to the dress code.

Desmoulin-Kherat reported the majority of staff members in grades 3-12 think the uniform standard of dress has had a positive impact on the culture of the building and that the policy should be continued.

She added parents were generally positive regarding the policy; however, students indicated they did not see improvement in their school due to the Uniform Standard of Dress.

"Parents were generally positive. Fifty-four percent are for it and 22 percent are neutral," Denman said of the survey results.

Of the 3,032 student survey responses across the district, 55 percent of students overall – and 44 percent elementary schoolchildren – said they were not treated any better by other students because they were wearing their uniform standard of dress, and 72 percent of district students – and 64 percent of elementary students – responded they didn't feel proud wearing their uniform standard of dress.

Forty-four percent of students overall – and 74 percent of elementary students – reported that staff helped them or told them where they could get assistance if they were non-compliant with their clothes.

Seventy-nine percent of district students – and

>> See **DRESS CODE** // Page **4A**

### COMING UP

The District 118 school board will hold its next regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, at the Jackson Building, 516 N. Jackson St.

## Teenagers to display art at festival

BY MARY WICOFF  
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**DANVILLE** – Teenagers' artwork with messages will be displayed during I Sing the Body Electric Arts and Health Festival.

Students from 10 Vermilion County high schools and youth programs will have their art on view 1-4 p.m. Sunday in Vermilion Hall, Room 306, at Danville Area Community College. There will be 157 projects by 131 students.

In addition to the high schools, health-based art projects will be exhibited by students from

### FYI

For more information on I Sing the Body Electric, visit [www.presencehealth.org/ising](http://www.presencehealth.org/ising), or call 442-6594.

Kenneth D. Bailey Academy, DACC-College Express, Project Success, Young Women Aware and Young Men Aware.

The 10th Arts and Health Festival is presented by I Sing the Body Electric, an outreach program of Presence United Samaritans Medical Center's Foundation.

This prevention program challenges high school students to develop creative, artistic projects that combat health risks for themselves, their peers, younger students, and the community in general. The youth explore the issues of alcohol, drugs, teen pregnancy, body image, bullying and depression, all of which were identified in the 2014 I Sing the Body Electric health survey as risk factors of utmost concern to them.

"Every year we are astounded by the students' candor and amazed by their creativity," said

>> See **FESTIVAL** // Page **4A**

TODAY'S WEATHER  
**64 41**  
FULL REPORT  
PAGE 6A



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