

Letter to the Editor

What has changed that the park board wants to run everything

To the Editor:
 First of all, I am writing this letter on behalf of myself, not the Moultrie-Douglas Fair Board, even though my husband and I have been directors for many years. I love being on the fair board. I have loved going to the fair since I was a kid and still do.
 The situation with the Arthur Park District remains a mystery to me. They keep saying they are not trying to push the fair away, but the way they are act-

ing, it appears to be the opposite. You have to have room to have a fair and that seems to be disappearing.
 We celebrated our 91st year of the fair this year. That is a lot of fairs, lot of cattle shows, lot of corn dogs, lemon shake-ups, French fries and oh so many carnival rides. I love the cotton candy and just the smell of fair food. We laugh and call it grease week.
 All of that aside, the park board and fair board have been almost a pair until recently. No one said anything when the buildings were erected and the buildings have not moved since they were put there. Until just recently, the buildings

belonged to the fair and the ground belonged to the park district. Now the park district has decided they are taking claim of the buildings because they sit on park land. How can things change like this? First it is okay, now they want to control all of it.
 When the Jurgens Family granted the ground to the park district, I am sure they would have never believed something like this would happen. Back then it was probably a Gentleman's Agreement aka hand shake. They didn't think papers like this were necessary. Now if paperwork is around someplace on the land or an agreement when the fair moved to park land, it hasn't shown up.
 Why does one board want to be in control of everything?

Isn't that being a little selfish? There is no unearthly reason why both boards cannot work together. The fair runs the fair and the park runs the park. The fair paid for the buildings when they were first erected, and with the help of state rehab money, have maintained these buildings. The merchant's building has mold that needs to be taken care of, but the fair board doesn't want to spend money to take care of it until this "sticky" situation is resolved.
 What has changed that the park board wants to run everything? We teach our children to share from the time they begin to understand. Why can't two boards run by adults manage the same thing?
 The last I heard, the Woman's

Club and Lions Club have not been contacted by the park board that they are taking over their buildings. How come? Are they not included in the "take-over?"
 This is the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair even though a lot of people call it the Arthur Fair. People come from all over to attend the fair and the many activities. While in Arthur I am sure many of them visit the restaurants and Amish stores while they are there. Not everyone can eat "fair food." Wow, that would be bad. However, it does bring loads of people to Arthur. If they don't buy then, they will definitely return.
 I hope everyone understands why I wrote this letter. Fair board directors are from all over the county, not just from

Arthur. We care about the fair and want to see it continue. If you are interested in things working out between two boards, write your letter, let us know. Let your voice be heard!
 I have heard the park board is interested in adding more ball fields. If that is the case, they want control of the buildings so they can be in control if one is in the way of adding a field.
 To add insult to injury, after taking over our buildings that we built and continue to maintain, they plan to be kind enough to ask us to lease them for the fair. How nice! This needs to be resolved in a civilized manner with no hard feelings. Can that be accomplished?
 Sincerely,
 Doris Elmore

Arthur History Fact #9

1872

On October 25, 1872
 the first train wended over a track laid on the ground following the contour, except where grades were absolutely necessary to keep it out of the water.

Going west from Arcola,
 the first water tank to provide water for the steam locomotives was built at what is now called Chesterville.

Then going west another five miles
 it was necessary to have a passing switch, so one was made near a road that had been laid out at right angles with the track.

The road at that time started nowhere and ran nowhere, but there were those who said it was the county line.

This passing track was called
Glasgow.

Town Talk

from page 2
 that if it's good enough for the major leagues, it's good enough for a little baseball team out of Ivesdale!"
PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM/ MEDAL OF HONOR
 There is a difference and thanks to Sue Gass and her knowledge of all things related to veterans and the military for bringing this issue to our attention here at the paper. Now that there is a 'B' section, many articles are being submitted from all over the Better Newspaper chain (the owner of this paper and 15 others). It seems in last week's paper there was a problem with the headline on the article about a Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree,

General Wilma Vaught, who has ties to Douglas County. The headline called it the Medal of Honor which is something entirely different. The Medal of Honor is awarded for action of heroism as in saving lives in a military action where you risk your own life to save others. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is, as noted in the article, the nation's highest civilian honor. Some of the other recipients besides Vaught at this year's ceremony were Simone Biles, Steve Jobs, John McCain (both posthumous), and Denzel Washington, so, as you can see, the Medal of Freedom is and has been given to people in all walks of life. Appreciate Sue pointing out that there is a vast difference in the two honors. I know for myself I would probably not have caught or real-

ized that there is a very definite distinction between the two so I suspect the writer of the headline and article, which was submitted from another paper in the chain, did not know or catch that either. Thank you Sue for educating all of us!
BEATLES AND BASEBALL IN SPRINGFIELD
 As regular readers know, there are many things about our state capital I love (and some I don't but we won't go there). We love the many historical sites and in particular the Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Well, when sister Sally and I saw that the event billed as "The Ultimate Beatles Tribute" was going to be held at an outdoor FREE concert in Union Park across from the Museum we thought we needed to check it out and we were so glad we did. Although the evening started a little rainy and misty, it soon cleared off and the weather was gorgeous while we enjoyed, with 1000 or so of our closest friends, a great evening of music and nostalgia. The guys portraying the Beatles were pretty authentic down to their Liverpool accents. They were also quite talented musically and we thought 'George' did an especially good job on the electric guitar. I have shared on my facebook page some pictures and a 14 minute video clip someone recorded and shared on youtube. Sure brought back a lot of memories and questions about what

might have been.
 And then Saturday night we headed back to Springfield and the Lucky Horseshoes baseball stadium where the team was honoring Lucas Otto who had played for them the last two seasons before the tragic accident that took his life. It was a very special and emotional evening from dad Steve and brother Marcus throwing out the first pitch to the many mentions of what Lucas had meant to the team to the unveiling of the banner retiring Lucas's #30 which came as somewhat of a surprise to all in attendance. But we were all so happy to know that the organization felt it was an important thing to do. There was a large contingent of family, friends, classmates in attendance to honor Lucas and share in the moment. Very impressed with the Horseshoes organization and all they did to make the night special. I said in church Sunday it was a great evening and thought later that maybe that wasn't exactly the right way to describe it since it would have been so much better if we could have all been there to see Lucas play of course. But what made it great was the support shown by so many for Lucas, his family and all those who knew and loved Lucas as he loved everybody in his life. LIVE FOR LUCAS, LAUGH FOR LUCAS, LEAD FOR LUCAS, LOVE FOR LUCAS!
And that's -30- for a Happy 20th Anniversary to Yoder's Kitchen!

Church Directory

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

ARCOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - USA, 311 E. Jefferson, Arcola. Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. Phone 268-3212

ARCOLA FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE-Rev. Ivan Jess 268-4769, 276-3020; Sam Miller, SS Supt. 202-6094. Sunday School, 9:30am Morning Worship, 10:30am; (Sign Language Interpreter) Sunday Evening Service 6:00pm; Wednesday evening Bible Study 6:00pm; Missionary Meeting second Wednesday night of each month.

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH - 710 E. Park St., Arthur. Worship begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. Christian Education classes for all ages begin at 9:30 am. All are welcome, come and join us! Call 543-2781 for more information. Ministry Team: Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discippling & Worship; Jeff Marner, Minister of Administration & Youth; Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach; Nancy Kuhns, Minister of Community Life. Website: arthurmennonite.org Email: arthurmennonite@gmail.com

ARTHUR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH - 530 N. Vine St., Arthur. Pastor: Doug Davis, Worship 10:00am; Children's Church every Sunday morning at 9:30am, Nursery provided. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm, Wednesday: Service 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. 543-2672.

ATWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH-229 S. Main, Atwood. Pastor Don Gerkin. Phone 578-2880. Sunday School 9am; Church, 10am; Bible Study 6:30pm

BOURBON BAPTIST CHURCH - David Babb, Pastor, Sunday Worship, 9:30am; Sunday School 10:45am; bourbon.baptistchurch@yahoo.com

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - Missouri Synod. 1 mile south of Sullivan on Highway 32. Glenn Strohschein, Pastor. Sunday Morning Service 10:00am; Sunday School 9:00am; Saturday services 5:00pm. Online services: www.worshipanew.com

FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH - 320 Surrey Lane, Arthur, Timothy Froese, Pastor. Sunday School 10am; Sunday Worship & The Word 11:15am; Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm. Website: www.facarthur.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (ABC/USA)- 120 E. Park, Arthur. John Stewart Pastor; Sunday School 9am, Worship 10am; American Baptist Women's Ministries meets 2nd Mon. 7pm; Prayer chain, 543-2296. For other activities and information, call church 543-2592 or Internet at www.firstbaptistarthur.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 231 N. Illinois, Atwood, 578-2555. Woody White, Pastor. Sunday School 9am; Morning worship 10am; Youth 5:00pm; Discipleship Class 6pm; Woman's Bible Study Tues. 9am; IGNITE Children's Ministry Weds. 6:30-8pm. Child care provided at all services. Website www.firstbaptistatwood.org

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - 300 Northline Rd., Tuscola, 253-2084, Sunday School 9:30am; Morning Worship 10:30am; Evening service 6pm; Wednesday Evening 6:30pm. A Ministry for Everyone: Sunday School for all ages, King's Kids, Teen Dept. Homebuilders & more! www.faithtuscola.org

LOVINGTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - Corner of County (Route 32) and Church Streets. Worship 9:30am; Children's Church 4 yrs.-1st grade 10:15am; Sunday School 10:45am for all ages; Wednesday night Bible Study, 7:30pm. Craig Swinford, Pastor.

LOVINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 241 S. Broadway, Lovington Sunday School 9:15am; Worship 10:30am Larry Bricker, Minister.

FAITH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP- 228 N. Broadway St., Lovington. 873-8791. "Real Faith, Real Life". Sunday Service 10am. www.lovingtonfaith.org

EAGLE MOUNTAIN - Assembly of God. Pastor Darin Elder, 253-4444, 401 E. Sale St., Tuscola. Sunday Services, 10am and 6:30pm and Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm Nursery and children's ministries provided during all services.

SUNNYSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH - Larry Rocke, Senior Pastor, Luke Goss, Assistant Pastor. Sunday School 9:30am; Services 10:30am

COWBOYCHURCH - Penn Station, 122 E. Progress, Arthur. 217-273-4202. Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. Darrell Helmuth, Minister. Everyone welcome.

JONATHAN CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH - "Forward in Christ, United in Love, Come as You Are". 1425 Jonathan Creek Rd, Sullivan, 728-4369.

Website: jcreek.org. **Email:** jonathancreekchurch@yahoo.com. Pastor Tim Henderson. **Sunday Worship:** 8:00am Traditional Service, 10:00am Contemporary Service; 10:00am FROG (Fully Rely on God) Super Kids Church (for children 4-12); 6:00pm Believers Meeting (Contemporary Service). **Corporate Prayer:** Tuesdays at 6:30pm. **Family Night:** Wednesday Evenings @ 6:30-8 pm Summer Schedule: 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7. Will start back weekly in September. Lite meal at 6:30-7pm then break up into classes til 8pm. **Bus Service Available** Call 521-9576 for bus info. Jonathan Creek Christian Church a Regional Life Transformation Center; LovingPeople to Life; **Everyone Welcome.**

NORTH VINE MENNONITE CHURCH - 312 N. Vine, Arthur, Brian Petersheim, Sr. Pastor; Mike Helmuth, Asst. Pastor. Sunday School for all ages 9:30am; Message 10:30am; Sunday evening services 6pm. No services on last Sunday night of every month. All are welcome.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH - Washington & Pine Streets, Arcola, 268-3766. Rev. Angel Sierra, Pastor. Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.; Weekday Mass Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Confessions Wednesday 6:15 p.m. or by appointment. Affirmations Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Email: johnbaptist@consolidated.net

LIFEPOINTE CHURCH - 700 E. Main, Arcola. Nondenomination/Spirit-Filled Church. Ph. 217-268-4586. Rev. Gephard and Judy Warman. Sunday Worship Service: 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Pastor Rogelio Gutierrez - Spanish Church. Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m. Friday Service: 7:00 p.m.

ARTHUR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 128 E. Illinois, Arthur. Pastor Jill Bunker. Worship 8am & 10am; Sunday School 9am Nursery for Sunday School and 10am Service. www.arthurunitedmethodist.org

VINE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 249 S. Vine, Arthur. Pastor Bob Silvanik. Sunday School 9am; Worship 10am. Christian Women's Fellowship meets first Wednesday each month 1:30pm, September-June. Nursery and air conditioning.

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - P.O. Box 252, Arthur. 2 1/2 miles south of Garrett. Church Worship 9:00am.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m

LOVINGTON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD (ANDERSON) - 301 W. State St. Lovington, IL 61937. Pastor Rodney Houser. Phone 873-4749 9am Sunday School, 10am Morning Worship, Wednesday 7pm Midweek Services, adult and childrens ministries.

PRAIRIE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH - 2423 CR 500 E, Lake City, IL 61937. Phone 677-2464. Nursery available for all services. Sunday School for K4-Adults 9:30 a.m. Worship and Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening services 6:30 p.m. Wednesday night Bible Study 7 p.m. with Flyer's Club (K4-1st Grade), King's Kids (2nd-6th Grade) and Teens (7th-12th Grade) every Wednesday (Sept.-May). Email: info@prairieviewbaptistchurch.com Website: www.prairieviewbaptist.com

LOVINGTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 360 W. Springfield Rd. Sunday School 9:30am, Morning Worship 10:30am, Evening Service 6pm, Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study, 7:00pm Church phone: 873-5116. www.fbclovington.org

NEW LIFE CHURCH - R.R. 1, Sullivan, Il 61951 (3 1/2 miles east of Sullivan on the Cadwell Rd.) Ph. 728-4200 Dave & Debra Dolan, Pastors; Liz Dolan, Minister of Music; Debra Dolan, Secretary. Sunday Worship 9am. Wednesday Worship Service (for all ages), 7pm. Website www.newlifesullivan.org

CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP -212 E. Third Street, Arthur. Sunday Worship services 10am, Sunday evening worship service 6:30 pm. Everyone warmly invited to join us for worship.

UNITED CHURCH OF ATWOOD - 210 N. Main St., P.O. Box 379 • Atwood, IL 61913 • 578-2832. Mike Drake, Pastor. Non-Denominational Christian Church. Service: 10:00am. Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-Noon

Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

Psalm 40 Revisited

"OK God. This is you last chance! I'm desperate and I need help now! So, I'm going to open this here Bible and whatever scripture it lands on, I will promise to abide by and be your everlasting servant, if you will merely get me out of this!"

Besides me, I wonder if anyone else has ever played this game with God. My hunch is, many of us have. I used to do it every so often, whenever I needed a "quick escape" from some situation I'd gotten myself into. I'm not sure I ever really believed that it could work, but it was always worth a desperate try.

But almost 20 years ago, it worked! It was a most desperate time of my life. I seemed out of options. The sky was beginning to fall. Where to turn now? I pulled out a Bible (from where I have no idea) and set the terms of the bargain I was making with God. I gave God one chance to make this work. The right verse on the right page.

I opened the Bible. Upon the page I opened to, was the scripture that God had waiting for me. Psalm 40. Verses 1-3. I memorized it immediately. I still recite frequently. It's my "go to" scripture. Take a look at it in your Bible. Below is my

reworked version of Psalm 40 for today. For me. From God. See what you think ...

I was indefinitely lost; I slipped and fell; without ever knowing what I slipped on.

I landed hard upon a rock; taking on breaks and bruises from the fall;

A softer landing; say, on a pillow; would not have worked; I needed the rock.

A full and complete realignment, was called for; my insides were totaled; my body was shoddy.

Unlike anything before or since; the rock penetrated my skin; it got inside of me; it felt cool, moist, refreshing.

That rock became my life; it soaked in; it took over; and I became new.

Today, the fractures have healed, though the bruising continues; and the rock that took over; is changing me into a lamb.

I still slip, still fall, still break things; but each time, I'm caught by that rock; and returned to the flock.

Amazing what one rock can do; once it gets inside of you; the rock upon which I fell; became the rock upon whom I live.

NO TURNING BACK,
 Pastor Bob Silvanik
 Vine Street Christian Church

Since 1994

A.J.'s AUTO BODY

111 N. Vine Street, Arthur, IL 61911

217-543-3691

ajsautobody@consolidated.net

Division of A E Jess Inc.

Dutch Valley Meats, Inc.

- Hickory Smoked Hams & Bacon
- Fresh Beef & Pork
- Freezer Bundles
- Deer Processing

On the curve on Rt. 133 in Chesterville
 Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
 (217) 543-3354

www.dutchvalleymeatsinc.com

ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

113 E. Illinois • Arthur, IL
 543-2151
 www.thearthurgraphic.com