

Chatter BOX

Pantry looking for larger location

The Arcola Food Pantry is in desperate need for a larger building or a lot they can build on. They say the current location is overcrowded and has grown out of space to serve their clients. Any suggestions or donations would be appreciated. The Arcola Food Pantry serves the entire county and has a lot of new clients each week. If anyone has suggestions or questions please call Janice Gee, director for the Arcola Food Pantry, at 217-962-1640.

Grief share coming to Arcola

"When the holidays roll around, it tends to trigger that vivid reminder of who is NOT here to celebrate it with," recalls Brent Budd, who has turned his personal loss into a door to help others. Budd, whose wife, Alina, passed away from cancer just over a year ago, attended a program last Spring at a Champaign church called "Grief Share", a 13-week educational support group with a spiritual basis, to help him deal with his loss and rebuilding life without his spouse.

Attending this support group helped Budd understand the complexities of grief, and it was so helpful, he went through it again in the Fall, along with recent fellow widower, Michael Sigrist, whose wife Lisa, also passed away from cancer a few months ago.

Wanting to bring the program to Arcola, the upcoming session will be on Tuesday nights starting on Jan. 17 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the First Christian Church.

Both guys found that talking with each other and people going through similar things was helpful and Sigrist agreed to assist in facilitating the Arcola group with Budd. Whether it's feeling the loss of a spouse, child, parent, friend, grief is real, and learning about the nature of grief and how to find peace in the midst of the pain is the goal of this group.

As each person shares how they are moving forward (not moving on!), there is an empathy and encouragement that is provided by being in the company of other grievers. If you are interested in joining, the course is free, outside of a charge for a workbook. To register online, go to griefshare.org and search for the Arcola group, or contact Budd by phone or text at 217-898-8992.

No Council meeting

The Arcola City Council meeting scheduled for this week was canceled.

Theme nights

Arcola sports theme nights are as follows:
Rider Nation Sponsored Theme Nights
1/23- GBB vs. Tri-County (Construction)
1/31- BBB vs. Tri-County (Grape Crush Shirts)
2/3- BBB vs. Arthur Christian (Farmers vs. Farm Animals)
2/6- GBB vs. ALAH (Jersey Night)
2/14- BBB vs. ALAH (Dress Like Your Type)
-JH Student Council is hosting theme night for JH Boys Basketball! The theme nights are:
Jan. 16 - Purple out

Arcola boys finish third in Dieterich Holiday Tourney

By Mike Monahan

DIETERICH – Arcola boys' basketball enters the 2023 portion of its schedule having won three of its last four all at the 38th Dieterich Holiday Tournament improving to 6-7 after being 1-4 at one time.

Arcola nipped Sullivan 39-36 as Jackson Miller hit the game-winner with 5.1 seconds left for a 3-pointer. The Purple Riders dropped a 56-35 game to the eventual runner-up Dieterich, 56-35 in games played Dec. 27. On Dec. 28 in the third place game Arcola put up 80 points for the first time since beating Cumberland 87-79 in triple overtime on Jan. 17, 2017. It is the first time Arcola has won and scored 80 points in four quarters since an 89-85 win over Villa Grove on Jan. 13, 2008. Arcola beat Grayville 80-68 Dec. 28.

"It was really fast paced, but it was really fun," said Arcola's Braden Phillips, a 6-3 sophomore. "It was kind of hard on defense because we had to get set and our scores had been in the 30s and 40s. It was kind of hard to settle into that (defending more) at the beginning, but once we learned how to get back (on defense) we eventually figured it out."

The Purple Riders opened the Lincoln Prairie Conference season Tuesday with a home game



JACKSON MILLER (14) prepares to shoot the game-winning basket in a 39-36 triumph over Sullivan Dec. 27 in the 38th annual Dieterich Holiday Tournament. Braden Phillips (in front of Dieterich's Dane Curry (24) blocks him out. Photo by Mike Monahan.

against Blue Ridge. Friday they travel to Decatur to face Decatur LSA in another conference game.

"I told the guys after the game that this is my 18th year coaching and I am not sure I have been more proud of a team at this time of the season," said Arcola coach Greg Gisinger. "I think we have a

lot of room to grow obviously. These guys have been through a lot. They have been through injuries we had early, guys that were not even able to play this year because of injury (Tanner Thomas). We are just now getting Aldo (Garcia) back. He is starting to get his groove going. It has been

a tough couple of months for us, but the way these guys have fought through adversity. I am not sure I could be more proud of them honestly."

Gisinger was happy to go 3-1 in the tournament.

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Arcola girls end 2022 on a winning note

By Mike Monahan

DIETERICH –The Arcola girls' basketball team ended the 2022 portion of its season on a winning note by cruising past Casey-Westfield for fifth place in the Dieterich Holiday Tournament Dec. 28. Arcola won 47-21.

Dec. 27 the Lady Riders lost two tough games, falling to Dieterich 38-36 and the eventual champions, Marshall, 52-51 in overtime.

"It really wasn't a problem (getting the team back up after two losses)," said Arcola coach Corey Roberts. "We talked about it Dec. 27 and we talked about it again today (Dec. 28). They came ready to go. That can be tough. A lot of times when you have games like that—a heartbreaker against Marshall and then we were too tired for the Dieterich game. It is hard to get them to come back especially in a tournament like this. I am proud of them. I thought they gave great effort today."

Arcola plays host to Heritage Thursday in the Lincoln Prairie Conference opener.

"We were 2-2 down here last year playing two games in one day and a game before and a game after. It is tough on you. I would have really liked to go 3-1 or 4-0 and win the thing. I really think we had the team to do that, but 2-2,

we will take it. We will have a lot of time for practices (before Jan. 5). It was a good way to end the year on a win. We will come back next year and start getting conference games going."

Arcola 47, Casey-Westfield 21

Arcola led 10-6, after trailing for the only time they trailed on the first basket of the game by Casey's Kamryn Smith, when they went on a 6-0 run, including five points by Jacey Kessler for a 16-6 advantage.

Arcola took control of the game against the Lady Warriors, who played a 2-3 zone, with the final 11 points of the half, including seven points by Eva Hopkins.

The Lady Riders went on to outscore Casey 11-4 in the third for a 38-13 advantage.

Kessler had a team-high 23 points.

"The second quarter was our best quarter," said Roberts. "We did a lot of things offensively that we have not done. We were a little more patient. We got downhill a lot more. At halftime Kessler had 13 points and four layups. That is what we have been trying to get out of her; get her downhill. It creates many opportunities for

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ARCOLA SENIOR VANESSA CONDARCO (21) defends the Casey-Westfield opponent in the fifth place game of the 17th Dieterich Holiday Tournament. Arcola went 2-2, including a 41-20 win against C-W. The Lady Riders enter Thursday's home Lincoln Prairie Conference opener against Heritage with a 10-4 record. Photo by Mike Monahan.

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