



ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911

Petition for Village Board Trustee Questioned

The Municipal Officers Electoral Board for the Village of Arthur held a special hearing on Friday, December 30, at 5:15 p.m. to address a letter of complaint regarding a petition for an Arthur trustee position. Members of the committee include Village President Rod Randall, Village Clerk Erica Carter and the senior member of the board. Since Matt Bernius is the senior member of the board, and Submitted the letter of objection, the position for electoral board went to Dave Tiffan. Those in attendance included Randall, Carter, Tiffan, Jeremy Hale, Rob Fustin, Shirley Hale and David Hale and Stephanie Wierman, Regional Manager of Arthur Graphic.

A letter was received on December 27, 2022 at 1:33 p.m. from Arthur Village Trustee Matt Bernius. The letter states, "As a registered and legal voter, as well as a member of the current Village of Arthur Board of Trustees, I would like for this letter to serve as an objection to the petition submitted by David Hall for the position of Village of Arthur Trustee. The submitted paperwork lacks a receipt for the Statement of Economic Interest as required by Illinois Compiled Statutes (10 ILCS 5/7-10, 7-12, 8-8, 10-5), therefore making his petition invalid. I ask that you void the petition submitted by Da-

vid Hale due to this deficiency."

The meeting was opened to public comment and Jeremy Hale, son of David Hale, stated the objection letter received by his dad was invalid because there was no date or time posted on the copy he received, which is mandated by the state. The objection letter was served by a Moultrie County Sheriff's Deputy on December 29, 2022. According to information from the Illinois State Board of Elections, "Nomination papers shall be deemed to be valid unless objections are filed in writing, with an original and two copies, within 5 business days after the last day for the filing of nomination papers." It went on to say, "Objection petitions that do not include two copies thereof shall not be accepted." Jeremy Hale asked the board how do they know there were two copies beside the original? Erica said the original copy was dated and time noted, but this was the only place this was posted.

The Nomination Process, Petition Requirements, in the 2023 Candidate's Guide published by the State Board of Elections gives an in-depth discussion of requirements for filing nominating papers. Nomination papers filed by a candidate shall consist of the following:

1. Statement of candidacy;
2. Nominating petition sheets;
3. Receipt for filing a Statement of Economic Interest;
4. Loyalty oath (optional).

Carter said that she had gone through David Hale's paperwork with him when he turned it in on December 19, 2022 at 4:40 p.m. and found he was missing the Statement of Economic Interest. She told him that by state law he had to have this paperwork. Hale told her he had talked to the State Board of Elections and they told him he didn't have to have it at this time.

Hale said two wrongs don't make a right. At that time, Randall called for a vote of the committee whether to sustain the objection or to overrule the objection due to the lack of having his statement of economic interest. The vote was unanimous in favor of Bernius's objection therefore making the nomination petition invalid.

Hale has the right to appeal the board's vote within 5 days of the decision of the Electoral Board. The candidate or objector aggrieved by the decision may file a petition for judicial review with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Court hearings are to be held within 30 days after the filing of the petition and a decision delivered promptly thereafter. He also has the option to run as a write-in candidate in the April election with a deadline of February 2, 2023.

Hale has the right to appeal the board's vote within 5 days of the decision of the Electoral Board. The candidate or objector aggrieved by the decision may file a petition for judicial review with the Clerk of the Circuit Court. Court hearings are to be held within 30 days after the filing of the petition and a decision delivered promptly thereafter. He also has the option to run as a write-in candidate in the April election with a deadline of February 2, 2023.



Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Queen Julia Kerkhoff

Kerkhoff to compete in State Queen Pageant

Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Queen, Julia Kerkhoff, will be one of 73 young ladies competing for Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Title at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield the weekend of January 20-22, 2023.

Julia's interview portion will be held on Friday, January 20. Her preliminary—which consists of speech, swimsuit, and evening gown—will be on

Saturday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend, and the tickets can be purchased at the door for \$25.00 each. Finals will be held on Sunday, January 22. At that time, they announce the top 15 and the non-finalists recognized. The top 15 will then start over with all four categories along with answering three pop questions on stage.

Illinois Department Of Agriculture Shares Strides Made In 2022

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) shared accomplishments made in 2022 to support our state's number one industry. From the opening of the state's first craft grow facility, to increasing Future Farmers of America (FFA) funding to ensure the future of agriculture in our state, to the success of the state fairs, great strides were made to further the success of agriculture in Illinois.

"Illinois has always been—and will always be—an agricultural state. And this year, we continued to lay the groundwork for a thriving, sustainable agricultural industry for generations into the future," said Governor JB Pritzker. "From waiving all FFA dues for agricultural education students to issuing hundreds of cannabis licenses to social equity applicants, 2022 was full of firsts—and we're only getting started. My administration remains laser-focused on growing and supporting our number one industry, so that farmers and workers have the resources they need to put food on the table for the people of Illinois."

"In Illinois, our agricultural industry powers the economy and feeds the world. Thank you to the Department of Agriculture that provides resources

and support to the skilled farmers, producers, transporters, and workers who make this possible," said Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton. "The amazing accomplishments and growth we saw this year will provide momentum for increased productivity and entrepreneurship in 2023 and beyond."

"This year has brought much success to the current landscape of agriculture in Illinois, but also the future of agriculture in Illinois," said Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello. "With the support of the Pritzker administration, agriculture in Illinois continues to grow. The Department looks forward to moving our state's number one industry forward as we enter 2023."

Supporting Vulnerable Communities and Working Toward Justice

- Issued 88 Craft Grow licenses, 54 Infuser licenses, and 189

Transporter licenses to date. 85% of all new licenses under the CRTA are equity by ownership.

- First Social Equity Craft Grow licensee successfully commenced business operations. Located in Rockford, Star Buds is 66% Black-owned.

- Two licensees were issued operational Infuser permits and successfully commenced business operations. Located in Pekin, Illinois, Krown is 51% woman-owned; MME, Inc., in Homewood, Illinois was also cleared to begin infusing operations. Both businesses are Social Equity licensees.

- Implemented state hemp program in time for the 2019 crop season. Illinois is currently entering our fourth growing season with 2,734 acres planted in 2020.

- Approved 10 community colleges to participate in the **See Agriculture on page 2**

SBL Hospice Volunteer Class Offered in January, February

Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospice is offering a volunteer training class in the New Year, to prepare volunteers to help people and their families in hospice care.

The class is offered two separate days; from 9 am to 4 pm on Friday, January 20, and Friday, February 17. Class will be held

in Prairie Pavilion 2 at the SBL campus, and upon completion, participants will be eligible to become an SBL Hospice volunteer.

The course is free, but registration is required. To register or learn more, contact Jennifer Kirk, SBL Hospice volunteer coordinator, at 1-800-454-

4055, or visit www.sarahbush.org/hospicevolunteer to register online.

The training class will cover an array of topics, including: History and philosophy of hospice, the role of the volunteer, family dynamics, communication and more.

SBL Hospice provides medi-

cal and support services, including nursing, emotional and spiritual care to people who are terminally ill and their family members. As a certified volunteer, participants will be there to support people in their community during difficult times in their lives.



News Briefs

Knights Selected to All-Tournament Team

Congratulations to ALAH boys basketball players senior Wyatt Hilligoss and junior Jayce Parsons on being named to the All-Tournament team at the St Teresa Holiday Tournament held December 21-29.

Red Cross Blood Drive in Lovington January 4

The Lovington First Christian Church will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday January 4 from Noon to 5:30pm.

Individuals interested in donating blood may make an appointment with redcrossblood.org.

Walk-ins are also welcome.

Red Cross Community Blood Drive January 5

An American Red Cross blood drive will be held in the Arthur community on Thursday, January 5, from 1-6 pm at the Arthur United Methodist Church fellowship hall. This drive is sponsored by the Arthur Ministerial Association and the Arthur Lions Club. The Red Cross is asking all donors to call and/or register this time instead of just walking in if possible. Masks are no longer required but please do not come if you are not feeling well or have other symptoms. Walk-ins will not be turned away but a limited number of people will be allowed at each time. One car accident victim can use as many as 100 units of blood. Be the lifeline patients need. Give blood and give life. You can make an appointment online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. Thank you for giving blood!

The Marble Man at Library

Join the Arthur Public Library at 1:00 PM on Jan. 7, 2023 for a presentation from Chuck "The Marble Man" Garrett. Mr Garrett, who has a vast knowledge of marbles, has a collection of over 40,000, some of which will be on display. Call 217-543-2037 to reserve your seat.



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HOPE EVERYONE
HAS A GREAT

2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR