

Zion News

"Count your blessings, name them one by one." - Johnson Oatman, Jr.

Johnson Oatman, Jr. was born on April 21, 1856, in Lumberton, N.J. His father was a local merchant and the best singer in town. Young Johnson could not sing as well as his father, yet he grew up wanting to make some musical contributions of his own. He worked in the family business, but soon gave that up to study for the ministry.

Johnson hoped that life held some important plans for him. At 36, he realized that it did when he discovered he had a musical talent and could write songs for other Christians to sing.

He penned approximately 200 songs per year and eventually wrote over 5000 songs. Through his musical compositions he had found a way to "preach the Gospel."

Of all the songs Oatman wrote, the people's favorite was "Count Your Blessings" written in 1897. Gipsy Smith, a famous evangelist of the time, said of the song, "Men sing it, boys whistle it, and women rock their babies to sleep to it."

In early January, businesses take inventory of their stock on hand. Computers can now keep track of inventory on a continuous basis, but before computers, businesses might close a day or so for their employees to conduct a physical inventory check of all their goods and merchandise for tax purposes. Each item was counted one by one.

Perhaps the start of a new year is a good time to take a personal inventory of what is good and what is not so good about one's life.

Sometimes a person might feel like they are physically, mentally, and emotionally overwhelmed by life. There is too much to do, which causes stress and anxiety. Sometimes a person thinks that other people's lives are so much better than theirs. That's when it may be helpful to especially start taking inventory of one's blessings.

The positive action of counting one's blessings and adopting an attitude of thankfulness can be just the response needed to overcome the things that bring a person down.

Willie Nelson said, "When I started counting my blessings, my whole world turned around."

Let us make this year a time of increased awareness of all the blessings around us. They can be found in the humblest and most obscure parts of our lives where we have never noticed them before.

Happy birthday wishes go out to: Jan 15-Barb Smith, Jan 19-Natalie Harris, Jan 22-Megan Lebeter, Jan 24-Phyllis Romine, Jan 26-Rod Randall.

If you would like to receive our monthly Good News email, send a request to ramonacarlye@yahoo.com.

Zion's Sunday worship services begin at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

Take the CUSD 305 survey and share your opinions

NEED YOUR INPUT!

I'm sure the following will appear elsewhere in the local papers but I just wanted to add my 2 cents. Please do not just throw your survey in the trash or believe that your input and ideas don't matter. The school district is truly interested in learning what community members think. While most questions on the survey are making a choice there are a couple of places where you can add comments. Please do. We all want what is best for our students and our schools but if community members don't let our administration and school board members know well, to be honest, don't complain. And for goodness sakes, if you have questions, ask them of our administrators and school board members. You may or may not like the answers but at least you will know. From the district page: "Arthur CUSD 305 has sponsored a survey to share your opinions about our district and its facilities. Feedback is appreciated from all community members. The survey can be taken online at research.net/r/CUSD305survey, scan the QR code on the flyer in the mail or on the image below, visit the Arthur CUSD office at 301 E Columbia Street to pick up a paper copy, or call the Arthur CUSD office at 217-543-2511 to have a copy mailed to you. Respond by January 20 please."

ARTHUR PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAM

From the library page: "Hey teens! Join us as we take a cu-

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

linary trip to Cuba on Saturday, January 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. We'll be celebrating the unique tastes of Cuba as we prepare a few Cuban-style favorites—Cubanos (Roast Pork Sandwiches), Black Beans and Rice, and a delicious Black Bean and Mango Salsa. This class is designed specifically for teens, grades 5th through 9th. The class is limited to 8 teens, and there is no cost to attend. Please call the Arthur Public Library District at 217-543-2037 to register."

CONGRATULATIONS

Meant to share this last week. To the winners of the Arthur Woman's Club Christmas Decorating Contest! The winners were (with corrected addresses): 1st place, Ruben Dias, 216 E. Park Street; 2nd place, Jean Weger, 502 N. Walnut; 3rd place, Treston and Brianne Eads, 1028 Red Bird Lane; 4th place, Brian and Susan Dyer, 317 S. Maple. Hope to have more entries next year as there were many who could have entered but did not. Thanks to those who participated!

ILLINOIS GATORADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Another award for Kaden Feagin who has been named the Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year. It was nice to see that part of this award was based on grade point average and that Kaden finished his senior

year with a 3.66 gpa. He graduated at the end of fall semester to begin working with the University of Illinois football team in their spring campaign. This award makes him eligible to be chosen as the national player of the year for the company. Congratulations once again Kaden!

FOOTBALL AND VOLLEYBALL AWARDS

From the Decatur Herald and Review all area recognition. In football Kaden Feagin and Kody Kornewald were chosen to the first team; special mention was given to Mason Allen, Tanner Beckmeir, Caleb Corum, Drew Cotton, Noah Garrett, Chilton Ingram, Jayce Parsons, Jacob Tighe and Landon Waldrop. In volleyball Charley Condill and Alisha Frederick were named to the first team and Kaylee Schrock earned honorable mention. Congratulations to all!

GIRLS HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT AND MORE BASKETBALL

Our Knights girls basketball team came in 2nd in their holiday tournament losing to a tough Mt. Zion team. Kailie Otto and Claire Seal were named to the all tournament team. Congratulations to all! The girls continue this week with a game at LSA on Monday and a JV contest at home with Villa Grove on Thursday. The Lincoln Prairie Conference

tournament begins on Saturday.

OTHER ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

A new year, a new semester and lots of sports taking place. Junior high girls volleyball recently began their season. Home games are played in the Atwood-Hammond grade school gym. They had a match with Sullivan on Tuesday and at Arcola on Thursday.

Junior high boys basketball is currently taking part in the JHOC (Junior High Okaw Conference) tournament this week.

Our Knights boys basketball team had a game on Tuesday at home with Blue Ridge and Friday at LSA. The junior varsity squad is participating in a tournament at Warrensburg on Saturday.

STOCK COUSINS

A couple of weeks ago Adam Fritz forwarded an email to me that he had received on an 'arthurinfo' site. A woman had reached out looking for relatives in Arthur and had sent a picture of her great grandmother, Anna Stock Klink. Adam immediately recognized that this was probably somebody I would know about and he was right. Anna is our great aunt, sister to our Grandpa Martin Stock and daughter of John Herman and Margaret Stock. I have been in touch with Bobbie Gilman who lives in Indiana and a sister of hers who lives in California. I am going to have to make a chart to keep track of the relationships. Unlike our late cousin, Rose Stock Lundquist, who knew how the whole first cousin once removed, etc. worked, I have no idea. Anyway, I am already encouraging them to make a trip to Arthur to show them the Stock 'sites' and to introduce them to our wonderful town. So looking forward to making more connections with these cousins. Thanks again Adam for putting us in touch with each other!

And that's -30- for one day at a time!

Taylor graduates from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

January 3, 2023 - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville completed 2022 Fall Commencement exercises for 1,413 eligible graduates during a series of ceremonies held Dec. 16-17, 2022.

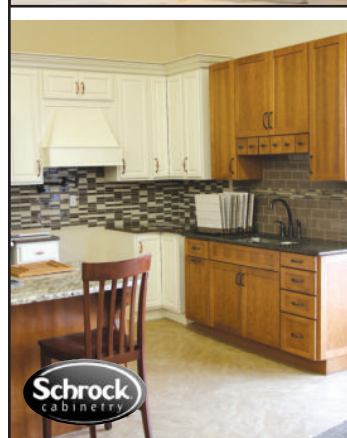
SIUE Chancellor James T. Minor, PhD, conferred bestowed degrees upon students from the Graduate School, College of Arts and Sciences, and Schools of Business, Engineering, Nursing, and Education, Health and Human Behavior.

Birkey's

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and build communities," said Brady Foster.

As president, Brady will assume direct oversight over the operations of the business. Mike Hedge will continue as the Chief Executive Officer, with overall leadership of the business and strategic initiatives as well as overseeing accounting, finance, and IT. As 2023 begins Brady and the team of employee-owners are committed to another year of continual improvement.



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MANNEQUINS

Background: NE of Arthur, Illinois

by Don S. Chambers



Did you know?

January 14 is National Dress Up Your Pet Day.

President George W. Bush was once a cheerleader.

The average coach airline meal costs the airline \$4.00. The average first class meal: over \$40.

Dolphins sleep with one eye open.

During WWII many players were called to duty, so the Pittsburgh Steelers and Philadelphia Eagles combined to become The Steagles.

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Feagin

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ester High School), Athan Kaliazmanis (2020-21, Antioch Community High School), A.J. Henning (2019-20, Lincoln-Way East High School), and Jirehl Brock (2018-19, Quincy Senior High School).

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50

states that sanction high school football, girls' volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport.

He now becomes a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced later this month. In January.

Congratulations Kaden!

Arthur History Fact #32

1910-1920

In 1910, concern was expressed in the Arthur Graphic that the town no longer had a band to play for special occasions like Decoration Day or the 4th of July.

By 1920, high schools in the State were required to have a band, and Arthur had a good one, winning State and National prizes.

So the school band became the band used for special occasions since the other local bands had disbanded.

The director of the high school band during this time was H.D. Darling.

Francis Stevens was the star of the band, though, and he spent the first part of his life after high school as a member of the United States Marine Corps Band in Washington D.C.

NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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