



Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy

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Chatter BOX

Way to go

Congrats to Erika Vandevier of Arcola, who received recognition for both the Dean's List and the President's List for the Fall 2022 semester at Southeast Missouri State University.

Chili dinner

Arcola Masonic Lodge 366 A.F. & A.M. will be hosting a chili dinner fundraiser on Friday, Feb. 3 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Community Center, 111 S. Locust St., Arcola. The dinner will include all-you-can-eat chili, peanut butter sandwiches and desserts. Door prizes will be available. Money raised will be used to support the Mason's community service projects throughout the year.

Quilters unite

Quilters are invited to gather Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. in the Arcola Center to share their time and mutual interests with other quilters. For information contact 217-417-1388.

Senior potluck

Arcola Seniors are invited to attend a potluck lunch at the Arcola Senior Center on Jan. 20. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. Seniors are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

Blood drive

D&M Woodcrafts will host a Community Blood Drive with ImpactLife, the provider of blood components for local hospitals. The blood drive will be from 2-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 421 E. County Road 200N, inside D&M Woodcrafts. To donate, contact Marlin Schrock at 217-268-3266 or visit www.blood-center.org and use code 71155 to locate the drive. You may also call 800-747-5401. Appointments are required.



ARCOLA 8th grader Evan Rardin (2) doesn't let the size of his Tuscola defenders deter him. The 8th grade won the conference championship Jan. 12 after defeating Tuscola's East Prairie Hornets 35-32. Photo by Nancy Rairden.

Still 'no' on school soccer

Arcola school Superintendent Dr. Tom Mulligan again recommended against starting a soccer program at the school based on a recent survey of students. The Board took no vote on the matter last Wednesday.

Mulligan said the soccer question is "an important issue" and one that he takes "very seriously." He said the district will continue to conduct surveys regarding all possible sports.

He said if junior football league numbers decline and summer soccer continues to grow, the district could have "a very different conversation." He added, though, that a big interest in elementary school does not necessarily mean good participation in high school. "It's hard to know," he said.

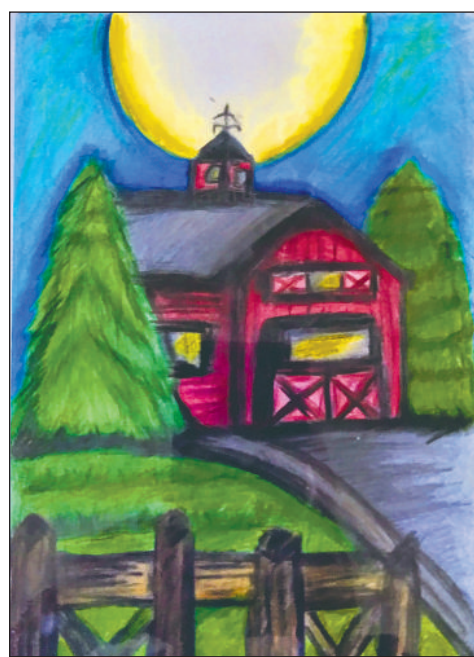
A handful of community members attended the meeting to push for soccer, including Mayor Jesus Garza. Garza said he doesn't think the survey numbers are reflective of the interest in soccer. There are 130 kids in the summer rec program, he said.

Myranda Crist suggested that the wrong students were surveyed. She said fourth grade interest in soccer "tells a different story from this year's eighth graders." She said soccer would provide another area to help students feel like they are part of something. "What would it take to make it happen versus all the reasons it can't?" she asked.

Mike Gomez said he understands the strong football tradition in Arcola as he played football here. He said if money is an issue, he's confident the community would raise the necessary funds. "What do uniforms cost? I'll pay for it if I have to."

Mulligan said it's not about the cost; he said he thinks building a soccer field is even doable financially. He doesn't think the school has the enrollment to support a soccer pro-

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FORMER RESIDENT of Arcola & 1999 graduate of Arcola High School, Ariana R. Cherry has been chosen as the Mattoon Arts Council Featured Artist of the month. She now resides in Arthur. Her art will be displayed at the Cross County Mall in Mattoon from Jan. 15 to Feb. 15. She also sold several pieces of her art at the last Mattoon Artworks Festival (hosted by the Mattoon Arts Council) last spring in May. Cherry plans on participating again at this year's festival to be held on May 13. Her future goal is to publish a book of short poems and stories that also include her illustrations. Cherry also sells her art online in her eBay store. Submitted photo.

Student proposes Mexican-style plaza for Metropolitan Block

Arcola senior Karina Warfel impressed the City Council Monday night with a detailed presentation for repurposing the empty lot where Metropolitan Block once stood. Warfel is in the CEO program, which includes entrepreneurial students from throughout the county.

Warfel proposed creating a plaza based on one in Cadereyta Jiménez, Mexico, where many of Arcola's Hispanic residents hail from. The idea behind the proposal is to help celebrate Arcola's rich history with Mexican immigrants.

The plan includes a mural depicting the Catholic churches in both Arcola and Cadereyta, both named after John the Baptist. The mural also would include a significant reference to the broom corn connection between the two cities.

Warfel also proposed a pavilion with a large, raised stage for



Warfel

musical performances as well as space for outdoor vendors. She suggested that the vendors would bring increased traffic to the downtown area and could grow into larger businesses that would then move into empty storefronts.

She suggested that the plaza could be shaded to create a green space for children and families. The plaza would promote business and community

pride as well as celebrate both the broom corn history and Mexican connection, she indicated.

The plan also called for large letters spelling out Arcola, similar to the plaza in Mexico. Warfel said the letters would provide a photo op that would be free advertising for the city.

IN OTHER BUSINESS Monday, Sharilyn Kibler asked the city to consider dedicating the corner of Oak and Washington streets to Curtis and Doris Atteberry with an honorary street sign. She said the couple contributed a lot to the community and that Doris had put a lot of effort into beautifying the corner.

The Council also accepted the resignation of Officer AJ Roley and approved the zoning report, which included a new home permit valued at \$96,000 for Ty and Patricia Rogers in the 100 block of North Arcola Avenue; the fee was \$128.



Arcola senior Karina Warfel proposed this mural for downtown as part of a plaza on the old Metropolitan Block to celebrate Arcola's broom corn history and Mexican connection. The plaza is based on one in Cadereyta Jiménez, Mexico.