



Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy

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Chatter BOX

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 some delicious 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.

Pantry needs space

The Arcola Food Pantry is in desperate need for a larger building or a lot they can build on. The current location is overcrowded and has grown out of space to serve our clients. Any suggestions or donations would be appreciated. The Arcola Food Pantry serves the entire county of Douglas 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.

Remembering Jack Fishel

Former alderman and mayor leaves fond memories

By Mike Monahan

"It's been a great honor and privilege to be part of this community," said Jack Fishel in the 2013 Broom Corn Festival edition in a story by Chris Slack in the Arcola Record-Herald.

Fishel died Jan. 17 just three days short of his 85th birthday. Mr. Fishel's obituary can be found in the B section of this week's edition.

"I never met anyone that didn't think the world of Jack Fishel," said Marla Chrisagis, daughter of Bryon Bradford, a classmate of Jack's. "It makes my heart smile when I think of Jack."

Bradford was the center and Fishel was the quarterback at Arcola and Fishel started as a freshman at linebacker. He was a four-year starter in

See FISHEL on page 2



Farm Bureau taking applications for Bateman scholarship

The Douglas County Ag Center committee will once again be accepting applications for the Dale Bateman Memorial Ag scholarship. Applications are due by Feb. 20 to the Farm Business Farm Management office in Tuscola.

Last year, the Ag Center committee voted to also include graduating seniors in high school. So for the 2023 scholarship, county high school seniors are encouraged to apply as well.

Requirements for the Dale

Bateman Memorial scholarship are: 1) resident of Douglas County; 2) course of study is agriculture; and 3) and at least a senior in high school as a student. Advanced degree Ag students are also encouraged to apply.

Previous scholarship recipient, Dr. Will Fombelle, DVM, encourages all students interested in the field of agriculture to apply. "This scholarship has assisted countless students in their journey to receive a degree in agriculture, including me," he said.

Dr. Fombelle grew up on a livestock farm north of Atwood. He is the son of Reed and Joann Fombelle. After attending Atwood-Hammond High School, Fombelle graduated from Illinois State University in Animal Science. He continued his studies at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and graduated in 2015. He is a swine veterinarian for Carthage Veterinary Service and is based out Teutopolis.

His goal is to keep his clients' swine herds healthy

and profitable to ensure the longevity of their farms. Will and his wife, Michelle, have three young children.

"My family was a great influence for me on my interest and career choice in agriculture," said Fombelle. "Being able to grow up on a family farm gave me the opportunity to be surrounded by agriculture and to show me the wide array of opportunities of the agriculture industry."

With a strong base as a 10-year 4-H club member,

Fombelle understands the importance of agriculture-based organizations. He is currently a member of the American Association of Swine Veterinarians and the Illinois Pork Producers Association.

"I really enjoy interacting with my clients and their families as I visit farms," Fombelle continued. "The agriculture industry is enormous; but at the same time, it is a tight-knit community of people."

Interested students need to supply grade transcripts,

resume, and information indicating career intent in the field of agriculture. Applications may be mailed or turned in by Feb. 20 to: Dale Bateman Memorial Ag Scholarship c/o East Central IL Farm Business Farm Management at 900 South Washington St., Suite B — Tuscola, IL 61953.

Applications must be sent to this office.

For more information, contact Dennis Ochs at (217) 202-2333 or Pat Titus at (217) 202-5204.

SBL Peace Meal makes improvements to services

SBL Peace Meal has made recent additions to its services that allow the staff to better meet the nutritional needs of its clients.

Peace Meal received additional funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which have created many opportunities to make impactful changes.

From updating the atmosphere of its congregate meal settings to updating the meals themselves, Barbra Wylie, Peace Meal director, and her team have made important changes to ensure clients'

nutritional needs are being met.

The funds from ARPA were a real game-changer for Peace Meal, Wylie said. "These grant dollars are allowing us to do enhancements to our services that we are not able to do with our regular funding," she explained.

One recent change implemented, through the ARPA funds, was making serving materials, such as plates and glasses, more appealing. Wylie said the visual aspect of eating is very important, and in some cases, clients may not be inter-

ested in a meal if the food and drinks are served in dull-colored plates and cups. To combat this, Peace Meal purchased plates whose colors make the food stand out, and nice glasses for drinks, rather than serving milk in cartons, for example.

It may seem like a small change, but Wylie said it improves how people view their meal and are more satisfied with eating it. "It really matters, and we see that these things are making a difference," Wylie said.

Along with the improve-

ments made to the dining experience, the Peace Meal Team now serves targeted second meals to some home delivered meal clients who were found to be most at-risk through the Nutritional Risk Assessment. The assessment is used to evaluate all Peace Meal clients, but those who are most at risk of facing nutritional challenges that could negatively impact their health receive these second meals to combat those challenges.

In addition, clients in some communities are receiving

fresh produce bags. Wylie said for seniors who can't get to the store very often, getting fresh produce is challenging. With these produce bags, Peace Meal can make sure clients receive a variety of fruits and vegetables, as well as education on the importance of those items.

While targeted second meals and produce bags are not currently available in all communities, Peace Meal hopes to expand those services over time.

Peace Meal receives fund-

ing through various channels for its regular expenses, but the recent ARPA funds gave the team a boost to offer even more to people who need nutrition services.

SBL Peace Meal serves seven counties (Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby), through three central kitchens in Mattoon, Toledo and Oakland, as well as local vendors in Bethany, Herrick and Paris. In total, the program provides approximately 800 meals each day.



Meet the SBL cardiology team at the SBL Heart Center. We are pleased to bring these great minds together to care for the cardiovascular needs in our community.

Sarah Bush Lincoln

www.sarahbush.org

Pictured left to right
Cardiologists

B. Lakshminarayanan, MD
Michael LaMonto, DO
Advanced Practice Provider
Allyson Gough, APRN
Interventional Cardiologist
Dean Katsamakis, DO