



ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911

Arthur School Board approves to seek bids for high school track repair

District receives \$53,840 Emergency Connectivity Grant

By ARIANA R. CHERRY
Staff Writer

"The track is not in good shape. It is beyond repair and beyond "sticking on bandaids on it," Superintendent Cheek said at the most recent Arthur Board of Education meeting. Cheek informed the board that the district had two options in repairing the track. One option was to take down the track and do minor repair for the subsurface and then go back and resurface the track. That option would make the track last awhile. The most expensive option would be taking the subsection down and repouring the track which would cost double. A motion was passed to allow Cheek to seek bids for the repairing of the track.

Those who were in attendance at the meeting got to see a drone in flight. Agriculture teacher Mrs. Beckmier had a couple of her students (Brody Loudon and Nova Shoemaker) give a drone demonstration.

She stated that there are a lot of opportunities with drones for agriculture. Her class has been learning about drones through a program called 4H Drones in Agriculture through the University of Illinois. The class will get to use the drones for four weeks. At the end of the program, students will get to create an obstacle course and fly it. Mr. Smith has also been co-teaching the class.

The board approved using the program Super Eval for evaluation of the Administration Staff. "It will be a really good resource and it is a good value," noted Cheek. The Superintendent Evaluation is \$1,800 and it is \$250 each for other administration evaluations.

Amanda Romine, Director of Student Services and Technology Director announced that the district will be receiving another Emergency Connectivity Grant in the amount of \$53,840. They were a recipient of round one and now, will be a recipient of round three. The district will get 140 chromebooks and it will pay for hot

spots when they are needed. Other grants received include an ISBE Digital Equity Grant in the amount of \$4,000 and a

grant to AHGS from the ALDI Smart Kids Program in the amount of \$500 which will pay for snacks for the after-school

program and during state assessments.

During the Superintendent
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ARTHUR GRADE SCHOOL SPELLING BEE WINNERS. The AGS Spelling Bee was held last Wednesday with 12 students from 4th-8th grades qualifying to compete. Pictured are winners 1st place Ella Oye, 7th grade; 2nd place Trinity Schrock, 4th grade; 3rd place Cameron McGill, 8th grade; and alternate Laila Sanchez, 6th grade. The winning word that Ella spelled correctly was counterfeit. They will be competing at the Douglas County Spelling Bee to be held on Wednesday, February 15 in Arcola.

TIF Request approved to Amish Country Heirlooms Public Works to begin seeking bids to resurface East Illinois Street

By ARIANA R. CHERRY
Staff Writer

The Arthur Village Board approved a TIF grant request by Amish Country Heirlooms at their most recent board meeting. Some of the improvements that need to be done include re-skinning the side of the building, replastering and repainting the backside and repairing the roof since some parts of it have been leaking. Once the weather improves and warms up, the work will begin. The estimated amount of the project is \$30,000.

Permission was granted to Grant Corum of Public Works to begin seeking bids for engineering estimates for the resurfacing of the 100 block of East Illinois Street. "It is in very poor shape and there are cracks everywhere. I would like to put this on the street

budget for the coming year," he informed.

The board approved for Michael Elsberry to attend the IRWA Conference during the time of February 21-23, 2023. Corum informed the board that this was a routine event and that someone from the Public Works department usually attended every year. This is a conference for those who already have a license. There will be no mileage pay since the company truck will be used and no extra fees except for the registration cost. Another trip was approved for Derek Rhodes, who will be attending Wastewater Short School May 22-26, 2023 in Edwardsville, IL through the Southern Illinois University ERTC Program. There will be mileage pay as well as meal and hotel reimbursements. The
See VILLAGE on page 3



ARTHUR HOMES HOST OPEN HOUSE. Well over 80 people from Arthur, Arcola, Decatur, and several other surrounding communities along with city officials were in attendance this past Saturday at Arthur Homes located on Rhema Drive. The 32-unit development still under construction, includes a mix of one, two, and three bedrooms options and features an attached garage along with a balcony/patio. The units are income restricted based on gross income by family size. They are non-smoking and pets are allowed with a fee. According to Director of Operations Jennifer Baldwin was very pleased with the turnout and stated it was their biggest one ever. She added the anticipated date of completion is May.

ARTHUR HOME PIANO FUND DONATION. The Arthur Community Foundation recently contributed \$2,000 to the Arthur Home Piano Fund to help purchase new pianos for both the Arthur Home and Eberhardt Village. The "Arthur Home Piano Fund" was established by the Arthur Ministerial Association at the State Bank of Arthur to facilitate creating meaningful connections with our elders through music. Any individual, church, business, or organization may make a gift to the fund. The Arthur Community Foundation is a non-profit entity which was set up to be a receptacle for gifts and memorials to be used to provide community services for the benefit of Arthur area citizens. Those gifts can be given with no special request in mind or can be designated for a special purpose. Over the past ten years the residents of the Arthur area have benefited from generous lifetime gifts and estate bequests for our parks, schools, library, fire and rescue, nursing home and other civic projects. Gifts to the Arthur Community Foundation are deductible for income, estate and gift tax purposes. Pictured from left are Jenni Marner, Foundation board member; John Stewart, Arthur Ministerial Association member; Glen Rhodes, Foundation board member; Dan Miller, Foundation board member; Christy Miller, Foundation board member.



News Briefs

Upcoming Event:
January 27- Semi-Annual Picker's/Blacksmith Auction @ Tri-County Auction
January 31- Winter Toy Auction @ Tri-County Auction
February 4- Arthur EMT Chili Supper
February 25- Central IL. Rabbit Breeders Assoc. Show

Mackville Benefit Concert At Sunnyside

Mennonite Church
After a devastating fire in 2021, Sunnyside Mennonite Church has rebuilt and Mackville is hosting a benefit concert on Sunday, February 5 at 6:00 p.m. to help purchase hymnals for the church.
A love offering will be taken.
Sunnyside Mennonite Church is located at 477 IL Rt 133, Arcola, IL (Rt 133 Near Chesterville, Between Arthur and Arcola, IL).
For more information, please contact Mackville at mackvillebluegrass@gmail.com or call Terry Schlabach at 217-460-1439.

Calendar Errors

Some errors have been found in Arthur's Sesqui-centennial calendar. The errors involve the basic calendar itself.
If you want, you can get your calendar updated by taking it to Pinnacle Point Graphics, 1059 Columbia Street, Arthur, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM.
They will insert revised pages into your calendar while you wait.

Learn to preserve food safely with Illinois Extension

Home gardening and food preservation have become more popular during the past few years. People are taking advantage of preserving food at home to enjoy the fruits of their labor throughout the year. Learn how to water-bath and pressure can with University of Illinois Extension's afternoon class sponsored by the Arthur Public Library District.
Yes! You Can: Preserving Safely will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Arthur Public Library District, 225 S. Walnut in Arthur. Nutrition and Wellness Educator Caitlin Mellendorf will share up-to-date information to increase confidence in safely preserving at home and explain the steps to get started or refresh current skills. Participants may also bring their dial-gauge pressure canner lids to be tested.
The event is free, but participants should contact the library by Feb. 1 at 217-543-2037 or email admin@arthurlibrary.org to register. For more information, contact Caitlin at chuth2@illinois.edu or 217-877-6042.

Have A Good Week!

