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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Chatter BOX

Chili dinner Feb. 3

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.

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.

New healthcare option for Douglas County students

By Colleen Lehmann
DCHD Public Health Liaison

February will be bringing some exciting changes for the Douglas County Health Center and the residents and communities it serves. Perhaps the most impactful of these is the Feb. 6 grand opening of DoCo Health Center — a clinic offering medical and mental healthcare services to Douglas County students and their families. It will be housed at DCHD's main location on Route 36 outside Tuscola.

Appointments can be made for on-site and virtual visits, as well as walk-in when scheduling allows. Services include routine medical assessments, acute care, physicals, mental health counseling, and health education.

Hours of operation for DoCo Health Center are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Most private insurances and Medicaid programs are accepted, and a sliding fee schedule will be utilized for uninsured and underinsured patients.

Expanded hours

Providing increased opportunities for care is a continuing goal for DCHD, and to that end, the nursing services department at Tuscola Outlet Mall J600 location will be offering additional hours once a month. Every second Tuesday, beginning on Feb. 14, J600 will stay

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ARCOLA ROTARIANS pictured from left are: Jesus Garza, Suzy Saunders, Jennifer Shafer, Vicki Gilbert, Wilmer Otto, Kris Graves, Winnie Stortzum, Sandy Arthur, Dixie Curry, Jane Seaman, Julie Mills, Karen Kennedy, Larry Howell. Submitted photo.

Rotary raises funds for new Community Center stove

The Arcola Rotary Club recently finished their matching grant project of providing the Arcola Community Center's kitchen with a new stainless steel gas stove, as well as painting and cleaning the kitchen.

This project was spearheaded by Rotarian Bill Wagoner, who suggested the need for the new stove. The original stove, which was poorly working, is believed to be about 50 years old. The new commercial 6-burner gas stove has a large griddle and cost over \$4,500.

Rotarian Jesus Garza provided above-and-beyond assistance, including painting the kitchen and much-needed cleaning of the stove's exhaust hood with the help of his daughter. The club members also acknowledged the

Douglas-Moultrie CEO group for their help in thoroughly cleaning the kitchen.

Members of the Arcola Rotary Club are problem-solvers who take action to create lasting change, both in the local community and beyond. Members share friendship as they unite in service.

The Arcola Rotary Club meets twice monthly on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The morning meeting on the second Thursday of the month is at 7:15 a.m. at Jo's Diner in Chesterville; and on the fourth Thursday of the month, members meet in the evening at 6 p.m. at the Arcola Community Center.

For more information, call the club's president, Winnie Stortzum, at (217) 372-7550, or email: wastortzum@gmail.com.



A NEW SIX-BURNER stove has been installed at the Community Center following fundraising by the Arcola Rotary Club. Submitted photo.

Bickel explains Search and Rescue mission

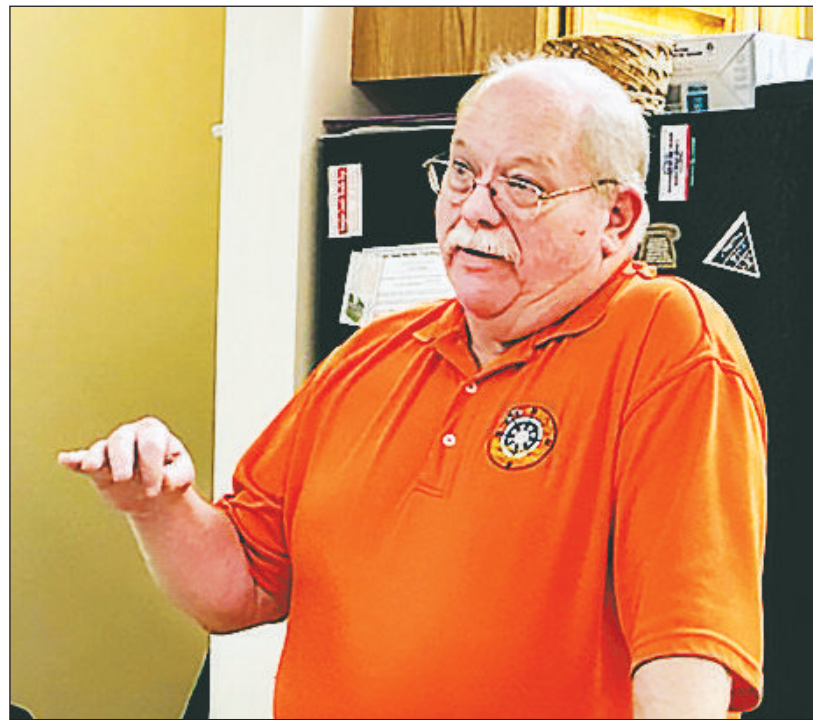
Dick Bickel, chief of the Douglas County Search and Rescue team, gave an informative and interesting presentation to the Arcola Rotary Club at last week's meeting.

Bickel's 47 years in public safety led him to become an advocate and founding member of the Douglas County Search and Rescue. He spoke of his concern for others and developing a passion for searching for lost individuals. Witnessing the emotional responses of people when a lost family member is found and returned home is overwhelming and profoundly satisfying, he said.

Founded in September 2002, the Douglas County Search and Rescue unit is volunteer-based and self-funded. It is an active team, devoting time to train regularly and providing public information to raise awareness about their services.

Their sole purpose is to educate and locate individuals that have gone missing in Douglas County communities. The members train to be prepared for any search.

In addition to searching for lost individuals, they are continually looking for other volunteers to help with all phases of their services. If you think that you would like to be of assistance in any way, call the Search and Rescue office at (217) 253-5338 or email EMA@douglascountyil.com.



Bickel



PHYLLIS KREMNETZ stands next to an iron lung. She spent time in an iron lung in 1952 during the polio epidemic. Submitted photo.

Kremnetz recounts 1950s polio epidemic

By Phyllis Cunningham
Kremnetz

The most boring summer of 1952 has mercifully come to an end. Our high school fall semester starts today, Sept. 2, 1952.

I was not allowed to go anywhere or participate in any of the fun summer activities like swimming, hanging out with my friends, going downtown for an ice cream cone or dancing to the juke-

box music at the sweet shop on Main Street. The only thing I was allowed to do was to go to church on Sunday. My parents and all the other parents were terrified of this new enemy called POLIO!

One day, I woke up with a terrific headache and the hot weather did not help matters at all! I walked the two miles to school and tried to tough it out until the lunch hour. I finally had to give up and the

principal sent me home. By late afternoon I was deathly ill. I could not stand any light, sound, or movement in the bedroom at all. The pain all over my body was unbearable, and I started running a high fever. After that I don't remember much until Sunday.

I remember mother was giving me a sponge bath and I was so tired I just wanted her to leave me alone and let

me sleep. Dr. Cunningham was due after church to make a house call (yes, doctors made them back then).

Dr. Cunningham examined me and immediately went to the phone and called for an ambulance. He told my parents that it was polio!

A friend of ours was a nurse and home on vacation and she rode up in the ambu-

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