

The year in review (continued from January 4)

June 30
 • July 2, is the Arcola Pop the Top Car Show that will take place downtown Arcola.

• Mae Gentry, a 2021 Arcola grad, is a member of the Illinette Dance Team. Not only did she get to perform at all home football games and all men's basketball games, including the memorable 74-72 victory over Iowa to win the Big Ten regular season championship, but she went to Ireland where the Illinettes participated in two parades, including the St. Patrick's Day Parade at Dublin.

• Terri Scaggs, an Arcola graduate, has earned her fifth Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette Boys Area Tennis Coach of the Year honors. She helped the Champaign Centennial tennis team win their second straight sectional title.

July 7

• The Thomas Monahan Company celebrated its 100th birthday Friday. The Monahan local legacy in the broom corn industry is even older.

• Kestley Moore was part of the 4x400 team that won the USATF (United States Track and Field) Illinois Association Junior Olympics title in a meet at the University of Illinois' Gary Wienke Track last June 24-26.

July 13

• No action was taken last week by the Arcola City Council on drainage issues at Prairie Lake.

• The 2022 Miss and Little Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Queen pageant =crowned 2022 Little Miss is Whitney Fryman (Sullivan) and 2022 Miss Moultrie-Douglas is Julia Kerkhoff (Tuscola).

• For the 2021-22 basketball season (girls) Arcola placed third in the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association All-state Academic Team in Division Five.

• Arcola's Justin Otto showed off his medal from Tuscola's Firecracker 5K run Saturday. Otto placed second in the men's 30-39 age group between Tuscola's Kenny Hogue and Arcola's Justin Smith.

July 20

• Mayor Jesus Garza worked with the non-profit La Casa Michoacana in Chicago and Carbondale, to secure \$240,000 in funding for people who are here legally and working toward citizenship but did qualify for previous funding.

• The Arcola School Board is considering a proposal to place a health clinic inside the school or somewhere on the school grounds.

• New Rotary Club officers installed for 2022-2023 were Winnie Storzum, President; Julie Mills, President-Elect; Sandy Arthur, Vice President; Suzi Saunders, Secretary; Karen Kennedy, Sergeant at Arms; and Karen Yardley, Treasurer.

• Mark Klingler led after each of the first three rounds, but Bruce McNary made him sweat in the final hole at the 2022 Kaskaskia Country Club Men's Championship.

• The Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference recognized 15 Eureka College football players as scholar-athletes for the 2021-22 academic year, including Arcola's Austin Hopkins, a 2020 graduate and a 5-8, 182 pound linebacker for the Division III Red Devils. It was the second year Hopkins was honored with the award.

July 27

• Reyna Torres Mendivil, general consular for Mexico in the Chicago consulate, visited Arcola last Wednesday, and she came bearing gifts. Visiting Arcola High School, she delivered several boxes of books that can be used to help Spanish-speaking students.

• Community-wide garage sales are set for Aug. 5-6.

• Randy Williams, representing the Arcola Foundation, presented a check for \$1,000 in support of the Arcola Recreation Program to Fredy Moreno, president of the Arcola Rec Program.

• Over the summer the Arcola football team has competed in four different seven-on-seven tournaments, lifted weights three times a week and most recently had a team camp last July 18-21.

Aug. 3

• The Arcola City Council reluctantly raised sewer rates Monday night. City Administrator Bill Wagoner explained that the city would have to raise its rates in order to qualify for a state grant that would help pay for new sewer lines on the south side of town.

• Gov. JB Pritzker's office announced two grants in Douglas County — one for \$184,000 for Aikman's Wildlife Adventure and one for \$305,000 for the Illinois Amish Heritage Center between Arcola and Arthur.

• Classmates of the AHS Class of 1972 gathered at Kaskaskia Country Club on July 23 for their 50-year reunion. An entertaining auction and other donations raised \$2,030 for purchase of memorial books to be presented to Arcola Public Library.

Aug. 10

• Joining Arcola's unique Hippie Memorial, Raggedy Ann and Andy statue, 16 artistic, beautiful murals showing Arcola's brilliant history painted by The Walldogs, and the 'Sweeping Beauties' collection of 13 oversized, brightly painted, fiberglass brooms, will be a statue of the great Ben Franklin.

• Ian Connor, Vern Kuhns, Jay Gingerich and Russ Brough fired a 13-under par to capture the Majors at the Kaskaskia Country Club on Sunday.

Aug. 17

• Arcola Supt. Dr. Tom Mulligan urged the School Board to take more time to consider whether to allow the Douglas County Health Department to place a health clinic on school grounds.

• Arcola continued its "Our Town" tradition Friday with a community rally downtown. The celebration of the start of the school included introductions of student athletes and band members followed by a game of last-broom-standing.

• Mayor Jesus Garza presented Gary Lampe, city foreman, with a plaque for 30 years of service to the city.

• Football captains, Austin Kutz, Michael

Gauna, Braden Shonkwiler and Grant Wilson came up with this season's slogan of "Embrace the fight".

• Arcola HS seniors Grant Wilson, Braden Shonkwiler, Michael Gauna and Austin Kutz were selected as team captains for the 2022 Arcola Purple Rider football team.

Aug. 24

• Vernon Kuhns, the owner of Graber Buildings Inc., purchased the Tuscola "Do It Best" Home Center. The sale will close Sept. 1 and includes a lumberyard, auto repair and Awesome Machines equipment and rentals.

• Country music artist Jake Worthington is the headliner for this year's Broom Corn Festival Sept. 9-11.

• The Arcola Heavyweight Junior Football League team started its season with a tough 13-2 victory over Cerro Gordo/Bement. The game was stopped at halftime due to inclement weather.

Aug. 31

• Craig Virgin will serve as the Grand Marshal in this year's Broom Corn parade.

• Imee Climaco spearheaded fundraising to place a bench downtown listing Broom Corn Festival Parade Marshals throughout the history of the half-century event. It will be dedicated at 12 noon Saturday, Sept. 10.

• On a great night for the 2022 season-opener at Memorial Field it was the Tuscola line that helped them top Arcola 30-13 in the 108th Cola War on Friday.

• Brock Miller, a 2011 Arcola graduate, edged his brother Clayton Miller, a 2017 Arcola grad in a playoff. Both shot 148's in the Men's Douglas County Tournament.

• The Arcola/Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond boys golf team improved to 8-1 with five victories in two meets. Thursday, Arcola topped Meridian, Sullivan and Shelbyville with a sizzling 153 as they won by 15 shots over second place Sullivan.

The week began with a 169, which beat Clinton (180) and Okaw Valley (235), improving to 8-1.

• In the season-opener played in the Arcola junior high gym as Nancy Stiff Gym is not ready for use yet it was a tall Sullivan team that got the best of the Lady Riders Thursday. The Lady Redskins won 25-19, 25-16.

Sept. 7

• The Arcola Ministerial Committee chose Ilisha Budd as the recipient of the annual Carroll V. Moore scholarship.

• Congratulation to the newly elected officer team for FFA: Bailey Hendrix, Cody Coombe, Haris Mayhall, Hunter Drake, Kaitlyn Townley, and Rowan Mayhall.

• Arcola's volleyball team couldn't take advantage of seven first set service errors by Neoga as the Lady Riders struggled with hitting (10 kills, 15 errors) in a 25-18, 25-20 non-conference match last Thursday.

• Remi Roberts-McGeehon scored both touchdowns for the Arcola heavyweight Junior Football League in a 42-12 loss to Tuscola Saturday at Thomas-Bradford Field. The heavyweight dropped to 1-2.

• Arcola/A-L-A-H girls finished with a 275 as Reyli Vega and Lilly Vanda led the way with 67's at the Kaskaskia Country Club.

• Monday in the Labor Day Scramble at the Kaskaskia Country Club Nick Suding, Kyle Shay, Corey Roberts and Justin Woodard dominated the competition winning with a 15 under, which was five shots better than Shawn Vanausdold, Logan Brough, Paula Murray and Micki Blaney. Josh Cornwell, Tyler Drake, Zack Kingery and Steve Howell were third with nine-under.

Sept. 14

• Heather Skinner resigned as Douglas County Corner Sept. 1. Lisa Edwards, former Chief Deputy Coroner took over the position until the end of Skinner's term, which ends in two years.

• COVID cases continue to be recorded, here and throughout the country. On the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) website, 28 Illinois counties are in the high transmission category regarding COVID cases, Douglas included.

• Beau Edwards, a 2022 Arcola graduate, won his third Arcola Broom Corn Festival 5K (3.1 miles) run Saturday under humid conditions. Edwards beat Arcola native Tony Manna.

• Broom Corn Sweeping Contest winners for 2022 are: 1st Place Brian Marchal - London UK with 1.7 lbs., 2nd Place Maria Vega - Arcola, with 1.6 lbs, 3rd Place Eric Downing - Union, Ky., with 1.55 lbs.

• It was the passing game that helped Arcola's Heavyweight Junior Football League team nip Villa Grove 16-12 Sunday.

The Lightweight showed improvement in their 18-0 loss to Villa Grove, falling to 0-5.

• In what was the first Arcola junior varsity football game that was played in its entirety (Tuscola game was stopped short due to inclement weather) the Purple Riders picked up their first win, downing Argenta-Oreana 36-16 Monday at Thomas-Bradford Field.

• It didn't take long for the Arcola football team to get on the board and then take command of the Lincoln Prairie Conference opener at Thomas-Bradford Field on Broom Corn Festival Friday en route to a 47-23 victory over Argenta-Oreana.

Sept. 21

• Arcola school Supt. Dr. Tom Mulligan said he'd like the district to explore the possibility of creating a child care service. He sits on the local economic development board and said the need is one of the top priorities for the city.

• The Arcola City Council took no action Monday on a request to increase the number of "pour licenses" for liquor distribution, which would allow a local gas station to add video gaming. Under state law, gaming establishments must also have license for on-site consumption of alcohol.

Alderman Mark Smith was unable to attend Monday's meeting but sent an email to the Council expressing his views against increasing the number of licenses. He said that numbers don't add up for a "good deal" for the city.

Just this year, gamblers in Arcola have

lost more than \$1 million, he said. Yet, gaming revenue coming back to City Hall is just \$53,000. He said he thinks additional machines would dilute revenue from existing machines for no gain to the city.

• Just before the state comptroller arranged for two used police cars to be donated to the city, Arcola's Libman Company presented a new, \$40,000 squad car to supplement the city's fleet.

• State Comptroller Susan Mendoza and Ron Serpico, mayor of Melrose Park, were in Arcola Friday to donate two squad cars to the city. Mendoza had read in the Chicago Tribune about Mexican immigrant Garza becoming mayor and reached out to see if she could be of assistance in any way.

Following that conversation, she called Serpico to see if Melrose Park had any police vehicles they were disposing of that could be donated.

• On July 30, 2022, the Arcola Schools Special Olympics Team traveled to Springfield to compete in softball skills. Those who received gold moved on to State softball on September 10. Tyler Lamkin, gold in July and gold in Sept., Steven Lamkin, gold in July and silver in Sept., Eric Plummer, gold in July, Amy Irwin, gold in July and bronze in Sept., Joseline Gauna, fourth in July; Bradley Taylor, gold in July and gold in Sept.

• The Illinois Amish Heritage Center is hosting a public horse-drawn slip scraper groundbreaking event Sept. 23, at 4 p.m. at their campus located between Arcola and Arthur, on Illinois Route 133.

• Smoke swirled around the tops of the Total Grain Marketing bins Friday at Arcola, blending in with the clouds. The Arcola Fire Protection District responded and shut down Rt. 45 while the source of the smoke could be determined and mitigated.

• The week started off with a memorable 25-18, 25-22 Lincoln Prairie Conference win over Tri-County, its first since topping the Lady Titans since a 26-24, 26-24 win on Sept. 27, 2015. The last time the Lady Riders beat Tri-County at Oakland was in a 25-22, 14-25, 25-13 victory on Oct. 7, 2013.

• The Arcola/Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond boys' golf team keeps rolling along, winning all two matches last week. The Knight-Riders are 16-1 and have reeled off 16 straight wins.

Monday Arcola shot a 153, beating Altamont (175) and Sullivan (181).

• The last home game for the Arcola Lightweight brought out the best in them as they picked up their first victory of the season beating Tri-County 24-0. However, the Heavyweight dropped a 46-6 contest.

• Arcola's football team led just 13-6 and Tri-County was driving, moving the ball from its own 47 to the Purple Rider 21 when the Titans had a missed snap and Grant Wilson recovered putting the ball on the 26. That started 33 unanswered points for Arcola, who scored on five consecutive drives in a 46-14 Lincoln Prairie Conference win.

Wilson scored four touchdowns in a span of 11:07 and finished with 12 carries for 113 yards.

Sept. 28

• New teachers in Arcola include Christina McCrate, Baley Milton, Steven Franco, Daniella Clombe, Amanda Helmick, Ixcell Vega, Sophie Fishel, Carrie Benjamin, Kevin Boyle, Madison Cleland, Larry Easton.

• Arcola High School is hosting its homecoming celebrations Friday, October 14th and Saturday, October 15th. The festivities will begin on October 14th with final preparations, a powderpuff football game, and tailgate competition and culminate with the crowning of the homecoming king and queen.

This year's parade will be led by our Grand Marshalls our Grand Marshalls Tedi Jo Young, and Angie Gentry.

Queen candidates are Vanessa Condarco, Makenzie Thomas, Maria Torres, Karina Warfel and Eadie Budd. King candidates are Grant Wilson, Mitchell Myers, Austin Kutz, Michael Gauna and Raynol Oyervides.

• In a tournament that has been going on since 1994 the Arcola volleyball team placed fourth in the eight team Arcola Invitational Saturday. The Lady Riders went 1-3 getting revenge on Heritage with a 23-25, 25-18, 16-14 win to start the 28th tournament. Arcola lost to Heritage 27-25, 27-25 on Sept. 8.

• After four straight football games of the 2022 football season there had been no inclement weather. However, that changed last Friday at Thomas-Bradford Field when rain that was supposed to be from just 5-6 p.m. ended up raining for nearly the entire game at different levels. The rain helped Cumberland coach Lucas Watkins decide to go with the Pirates running game, one that had not done too well.

Oct. 5

• The Arcola City Council approved a change order for the Arcola Water Tower Painting project. This includes the installation of new insulation on the riser pipe in the tower as well as other repairs in the amount of \$19,800. The Council also approved the first pay request for the Water Tower Painting Project of \$212,140. The total cost of the project is currently \$296,100.

• The Arcola School Board is looking at scaling back some of the improvements to the city's baseball and softball fields after bids came in higher than expected. Supt. Tom Mulligan said he thinks there are some areas that can be adjusted without compromising the project during a special meeting Monday night.

• Mayor Jesus Garza says the city will be honoring police officers, city workers, fire department, and A1 ambulances at 11 a.m. Sunday downtown.

Oct. 12

• Douglas County Sheriff Nathan Chaplin said he thinks it would be wasteful to put more taxpayer money into the 37-year-old jail. The county's law and order subcommittee is studying replacing the jail with a 49,000-square-foot facility that would cost up to \$41 million.

• Blue West Capital has completed the sale of a single-tenant MasterBrand

Cabinets industrial warehouse property located at 891 Bob King Drive in Arcola for \$2.4 million. Zach Wright and Robert Edwards, of Blue West Capital, represented the seller in the transaction. The seller was a Midwest-based private equity real estate company and the purchaser was a local 1031 exchange investor.

• Arcola trailed just 7-0 after the opening quarter of Friday's Lincoln Prairie Conference game. However, the Knights scored 21 points in the second quarter and led 28-7 at the break en route to a 49-21 Homecoming win.

• The Arcola volleyball team was eliminated from the Lincoln Prairie Conference tournament Oct. 4 by Cumberland 25-22, 25-17.

• In what was the junior varsity football teams' last game of the season (Cerro Gordo/Bement does not have enough players for a game Monday) Arcola battled Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond at Wilson Field and the game was deadlocked at 14 at the half. The Knights scored the only points of the second half in a 20-14 victory over Arcola.

Oct. 19

• Mayor Jesus Garza addressed the Arcola School Board Wednesday evening to encourage them to consider adding a soccer program.

• Michael Gauna and Karina Warfel were crowned king and queen at the Homecoming Coronation.

• The City of Arcola honored Stephen and Connie Shrader Sunday for 50 years of providing ambulance service here. Mayor Jesus Garza presented them with a plaque, and an honorary street sign will be going up.

• Arcola won its second straight game Monday defeating Urbana University High 16-25, 25-21, 25-14 at Urbana. Last Thursday the Lady Riders snapped an eight-game losing streak in a Lincoln Prairie Conference win over Argenta-Oreana 25-14, 10-25, 25-20 on the road. Oct. 11 Arcola dropped a 25-17, 25-16 match to Okaw Valley at Arcola.

• Although Arcola's football team scored on three of its first four possessions they were stopped on the first possession of the second half leading 19-6. The Purple Riders stopped Cerro Gordo/Bement on the ensuing drive and scored on its last four possessions for a convincing 45-6 Lincoln Prairie Conference triumph on Senior Night and the 90th Homecoming.

Oct. 26

• Donations collected from school staff, sports teams and clubs funded a new bench on the south side of Arcola High School. The bench is located close to former Principal Lisa Sigris's office. Sigris served the district as principal from 2009 to 2021.

• First Mid Bank & Trust announced the promotion of Fredy D. Moreno to CRA retail loan officer in Champaign and the surrounding communities.

• The Arcola seventh grade, for the second time this season, beat Tuscola. This time it was Saturday in the Junior High Okaw Conference in a 22-19 victory. The Purple Riders beat them 13-12 in overtime earlier.

Nov. 2

• The Arcola Foundation made a donation commitment of \$20,000 over five years to support the city pavilion in downtown Arcola. The Arcola Foundation is dedicated to making Arcola a great place to live.

• Phyllis Bergfield celebrated her 90th birthday Sunday evening in costume as her birthday falls on Halloween. Her family and friends celebrated with a party at the Arcola Center Oct. 30.

• After one round two Lincoln Prairie Conference teams are left in the Class 1A and/or 2A playoffs. Cumberland rolled over Rushville/Industry at Cumberland 34-8 in Class 1A and Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond beat Vandalia in a shootout 41-34. It was the Knights first win in the Class 2A playoffs (were also in Class 2A in 2012 and 2021). Congratulations to both teams.

• Both the Arcola seventh and eighth grade girls basketball teams fell to Monticello Monday. The seventh grade lost 27-5, while the eighth grade dropped a 29-12 decision.

• The Arcola Methodist Church and Arcola Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored Trunk-or-Treat Sunday at the Arcola Masonic Lodge, which opened its doors to the crowd when it started to rain.

Nov. 9

• The Arcola City Council discussed two nuisance issues Monday in committee.

The first issue discussed was a campaign on Davis Street where people have been living on a permanent basis. The site, owned by Tuck Elder in Tuscola, is designed for temporary camping. A city ordinance allows for 180 days of residency per year at a designated campsite.

Police Chief Nick Suding said his department has fielded an increasing number of complaints about the campsite and said there is a drug and alcohol abuse problem there. He noted that not all of the residents are causing problems, but "it's turned into a little party land."

The other nuisance issue is a house at 239 W. Main St. Wagoner said part of a wall has collapsed on the older home and that people continue to live there. There is apparent water damage, and Wagoner said from the looks of worn-out tarps, the problem has been there for some time. He added that the property is also overgrown in violation of city ordinances.

• Anthony Garza, an Arcola junior, and Austin Kutz, an Arcola senior, were named first team unanimous all-Lincoln Prairie Conference football for the 2022 season. Garza was named as an offensive lineman (one of six overall) and Kutz, a wide receiver, was one of three receivers named unanimously. Kutz caught 51 passes for 685 yards and eight touchdowns for the 4-5 Purple Riders, who finished 4-3 in the LPC, good for fourth place in the eight team conference.

Also named to the first team defensive lineman was Garza, while senior Tyson Lewis was first team linebacker who led the team in tackles. Kutz was a first team defensive back.

• Arcola senior Makenzie Thomas earned honorable mention all-Lincoln Prairie Conference volleyball for the past season.

Thomas, a senior middle, was one of three overall to be named honorable mention.

Arcola finished 5-21 overall and 1-9 in the LPC, good for 10th place out of 11 teams.

A total of 11 seniors, six juniors, 1 sophomore were named to the first, second or honorable mention.

• After two weeks of the Illinois High School playoffs all of the Lincoln Prairie Conference football teams have been eliminated as Cumberland was shutout by Greenfield/Palmyra Northwestern 26-0, but trailed just 12-0 at the half. Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond lost to Johnston City 28-8 in a game that was much closer than the final score indicates and the Knights lost Illinois-bound Kaden Feagin on the very first play from scrimmage.

• The Arcola seventh and eighth boys' basketball teams opened the season with convincing victories over Martinsville as the seventh grade won 38-8 and the eighth grade triumphed 52-11

• Monday in Arcola Junior High girls' basketball games against Okaw Valley, the seventh grade topped Okaw Valley 21-11 as seven different players scored at least one point. Vanessa Arizpe scored 10 points to lead the eighth grade, but the Riders lost 34-23.

Earlier both the seventh and eighth grade lost to Tri-County at Oakland with no scores or scoring available at press time.

Nov. 16

• The Arcola School Board named Megan (Price) Clark grade school principal effective July 1, 2023. She will succeed Angie Gentry, who is retiring. Clark is currently assistant principal at Arcola Elementary and was first hired in a student support position.

• Mario Campos wowed the audience Sunday with his accordion playing and singing. He was accompanied by Jose Cantu on guitar during a talent show held Sunday at the school. The show was open to all grades and included magic, dancing, singing, art and comedy. Elementary performers besides Mario were Yzabella Cortez, Paulina Alanis, Alan Guennewig, Caeli De Leon, Ximena Lozano, Kamie Roberts, Zuri Diaz, Eliseo Oyervides, Jackson Stanley, Harper Cox and Bostyn Wesch. Jr. high and high school performers were Bella Smith, Tony De La Garza, Evan Rardin, Gerardo Alanis, Shelby Roberts-McGeehon, Aaron Gaona, Alex Hawn, Jake Myers, Andy Castro, Fatima Cabrera, Eadie Budd and Reynol Oyervides.

• Arcola started the 2022-23 season with a bang outscoring Oakwood 17-2 in the opening quarter, including the first six points by sophomore Kacie Sisk, who led the Lady Riders with 18 points as AHS won 45-31.

• Monday the Arcola seventh grade girls' basketball team lost in a low-scoring game to Shiloh 9-8 with all of Arcola's scoring in the second quarter.

Earlier in the week Arcola lost to Martinsville 32-23.

• The Arcola Junior High Boys seventh and eighth grade teams had three games on the road and the seventh grade went 1-2, while the eighth grade went 0-3.

The seventh grade picked up its third win nipping Shelbyville 34-29 last Thursday. They started the road trip at Villa Grove and lost 25-22, its first loss of the season. Monday Arcola battled Mattoon, but lost 33-29. The seventh grade is 3-2.

Nov. 23

• The Douglas County Board designated \$100,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Arcola Food Pantry on Nov. 16. The funds will be used to purchase a new building or build a new one.

• Rankin Publishing, founded by the late Don Rankin and his wife, Linda, has sold two of its four publications to RDG Media. The company retains its flagship magazine, Broom, Brush & Mop magazine and its regional travel guide, Discover magazine. The Rankins formerly published the Arcola Record-Herald.

• Both the Arcola seventh and eighth grade boys' basketball teams topped Heritage Saturday with the seventh grade winning 35-16 and the eighth grade coming away with a 52-35 triumph.

• The Arcola seventh grade girls' basketball team saw its season come to an end Saturday in the Class 2A regional game as they fell to second seeded Armstrong-Ellis 37-6.

Nov. 30

• A total of 43 former members of the Arcola girls' basketball program played in a game Saturday at Nancy Stiff Gymnasium, including several members of the first team, the 1973-74 squad in Brenda Fidler, Pam Edwards and Cindy Shonwiler. Two members from last year's team also played in Avery Kessler and Ariana Warren.

• It was a sweep for both the Arcola seventh grade and eighth grade boys' basketball teams. Monday in the first games in a week the seventh grade downed Tri-County 27-17 and the eighth grade won 42-38. Nov. 21 the seventh grade topped Unity (score not available) and the eighth grade won 34-26. Monday.

The seventh grade is 6-3, while the eighth grade is 5-4.

• The 2022-23 Arcola girls' basketball season opened Nov. 21 and the second game was Monday. The Lady Riders split against the two Central Illinois Conference members, losing to future Lincoln Prairie Conference member Sullivan 46-41 and topping Central A&M 46-37.

Free throws made a big difference in both games.

• The second half proved to be the difference in the Arcola boys' basketball season-opener against Urbana University High at the historic Kenney Gym (built in 1902). The Purple Riders led just 24-18 at the half, but outscored the Illineks 39-27 to win 63-45.