

Zion News

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you . . . to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another . . . to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy Nation." – George Washington.

In the early days of the COVID pandemic, some government officials, in the name of trying to fight the spread of the disease, wanted churches to close to avoid "high risk, low reward" behavior.

This leads to a continuing discussion about what, if anything, do churches contribute to society.

Last week's Zion News talked about the church's impact on volunteerism in America. Dr. Byron Johnson, Director of the Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University says, "Churches are phenomenally important to society. The bulk of volunteering in America is done by people that come from places like churches. Americans give more than a billion dollars a day to charities. A significant portion of that comes from people that sit in pews of congregations."

What else might church do for society? Since 2001, Gallup polls have conducted annual "November Health and Healthcare Surveys." In the midst of the COVID pandemic, the results of the 2020 survey showed a drop in overall mental health for Americans – however, church-goers were an exception.

Frequent church attendees was the only group in the U.S. that did not experience a mental health decline in 2020.

Research also indicated that church attendance helps lower the frequency of deaths from despair, which includes drug and alcohol related deaths and suicide. So, by going to church people are less likely to kill themselves, or others for that matter.

With all the mass shootings that have already taken place this year, the public is still asking, "Why?" The answer is staring them in the face – America has become less involved with churches, and politicians, role-models, teachers, students, leaders, and everyone else need to become strong advocates of church attendance in their words and actions.

One politician of note viewed attending church a high priority in his life. Even if his schedule was hectic, and it was challenging to get there, he remained a devout church-goer.

The Morristown Presbyterian Church in New Jersey has a stained glass window depicting him receiving Communion at their church during the war – the Revolutionary War.

For George Washington going to church may have been "high risk" in the sense of the difficulty getting safely there and back, but for him it was "high reward." And the quote above shows, he must have thought it "high reward" for the nation as well.

Happy birthday wishes go out to: Feb 3-Riley Robinson, Feb 7-Donna Kilburn, Feb 8 – Brian Dukeman, Feb 12 – Margaret Knobloch, Feb 15-Ruth Korte, Feb 22-Lisa Heit Kibler, and Feb 22-George Washington.

If you would like to receive our monthly Good News email, send a request to ramonacarllyle@yahoo.com.

Zion's Sunday worship services begin at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

Lots of birthdays to celebrate in February

THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

February is a good month for our family with several birthdays. Nephew Matt's on the 2nd (groundhog day) as well as 'the older brother I never had,' Larry Icenogle, another groundhog. Uncle Bill Honn's was on the 8th and cousin Steve Honn on the 18th. Sister Sally celebrates on the 21st. Here's what I found on the internet about the second month of the year: "Like January, Februarius was established to fill in the old monthless wintry period. Its name derives from the word februum, a reference to purification rituals. (Or to Februs, the god of purification.) Around the middle of the month, Romans celebrated a purification festival called, among other names, Februatius or Februatium. Whatever the exact origin, the month's association with purification is apt. By February, Romans were busy purging their fields in preparation for spring planting. And with a new year around the corner, the time was ripe for a clean slate." And of course there is Valentine's Day and Lincoln and Washington's birthdays.

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS HOLIDAY DECORATION FUNDRAISER

This class at ALAH High School is making and selling bunnies with bow ties. Images of the project can be found on the school's facebook page. They are painted with exterior paint and decorated with a bow tie. The bunnies are 36" tall and 18" wide and cost \$40. The bunnies will be completed as orders come in and hopefully all will be ready before March 31. To meet the deadline all orders must be in by February 8. You can pay for your order upon completion and you will be contacted when they are ready. They can be picked up at the ALAH Wood Shop which is located across from the gym entrance. The students will really appreciate your support.

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

Call the high school (217-543-2146) for more information or to place an order if you do not have online access.

1000 POINTS

Congratulations to senior Wyatt Hilligoss for achieving this mark at last Friday night's basketball game at Argenta-Oreana. Need to do some research as to just how many basketball players at our high school have reached this goal. Quite an achievement!

UPCOMING SPORTS

And last week. The boys basketball team finished their part of the Lincoln Prairie Conference tournament Friday night, played again on Tuesday night at Okaw Valley and will play Cerro Gordo on Friday night at home. Girls basketball had games last week with Okaw Valley, Cerro Gordo and Central A&M. This week they played at Tri-County on Monday and at home vs. Marshall on Tuesday.

Junior high volleyball has been busy too and have several matches this week. They also came in second in a tournament at Warrensburg-Latham this past Saturday. Keep up the good work Knights!

MORE THAN SPORTS

I know I write a lot about sports at our high school but lots of other things take place there too. If you have access to facebook the Arthur CUSD #305 page is a wonderful re-

source for finding out more about things like scholastic bowl competitions, Megan Beckmeir's students sharing their drone project with the school board, Family and Consumer Science classes are always trying something new, students visited the LIFT Tech Center in Mattoon, others visited the Arthur Public Library to search through children's books for upcoming projects, and the list goes on. Many exciting things are happening in our schools. And if you want to know more, Principal Steffanie Seegmiller, in her weekend update this past week, reminded all of us that we can call the school and schedule a time for a tour of the building and peek inside the classrooms. "We love walking guests through our hallways." I can attest that every year at Homecoming one of the biggest hits of the weekend is for alumni to come back, reminisce and see what is happening in those hallways they used to walk as Steffanie and other administrators lead the tour.

Thanks to all our Knights for their participation not only in sports but in all the other areas offered to them at our schools.

FIGHTING ILLINI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

These young women under new coach Shauna Green are enjoying a resurgent year for

the program. Currently ranked 22nd and with a record of 17-5, their most recent win was Sunday night against Michigan State. Son Jason and daughter-in-law Tiffany along with youngest granddaughter Addie were at that game and literally had front row seats behind the bench. I believe this was part of Addie's Christmas gift as well. They got to see quite a game and past players recognized and honored.

AWARDS FOR LITTLE THEATRE ON THE SQUARE

For the first time, The Little Theatre On The Square was nominated for 9 different categories in the Broadway World Chicago Regional Awards. The Theatre was up against every other Chicago theatre and won 4 of those categories. Best Musical for Always...Patsy Cline. Best actor in a musical for Brittany Ambler as Louise in Always...Patsy Cline. Best Director of a Musical for Clint Hromsco with La Cage Aux Folles and the biggest. Best Neighborhood Theatre. These were voted on by people all over the country. The Theatre also was named runner-up for Best Costume for John Stephens as Costume Designer for La Cage Aux Folles, Best Theatre for young audiences show for June B. Jones, Jr., and Best Ensemble for La Cage Aux Folles. This proves that the size of the community and budget do not make for better theatre. Sullivan has so much to be proud of, but The Little Theatre On The Square is a shining

See TOWN TALK on page 9

PUBLIC NOTICE

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Douglas County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

Randall Electric
412 N. Vine Street
Arthur, IL 61911

Dated this 11 day of
January, 2023.

Judi Pollock
County Clerk

No. DBA-001983
published 01/18, 01/25, 02/01/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DOUGLAS COUNTY - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of
KIRK L. HOWELL, Deceased

NO. 2023-PR-1
NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of KIRK L. HOWELL. Letters of office were issued to Stephen L. Howell, 415 South Pine Street, Arthur, Illinois 61911 and David L. Howell, 520 North Rhode Island, Morton, Illinois 61550, as Independent Co-Executors on January 11, 2023 whose attorney of record is Crossman Law Office, 225 South Vine Street, Arthur, Illinois 61911.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk in Room 204 Douglas County Courthouse, Tuscola, Illinois 61951, or with the Independent Co-Executors, or both, on or before August 1, 2023 being six months from the date of the first publication, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is re-

quired by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Stephen L. Howell
Independent Executor
David L. Howell
Independent Executor

Document Prepared By:
KENNETH M. CROSSMAN
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Arthur, Illinois 61911
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published 02/01, 02/08, 02/15/2023

Diaper Drive underway

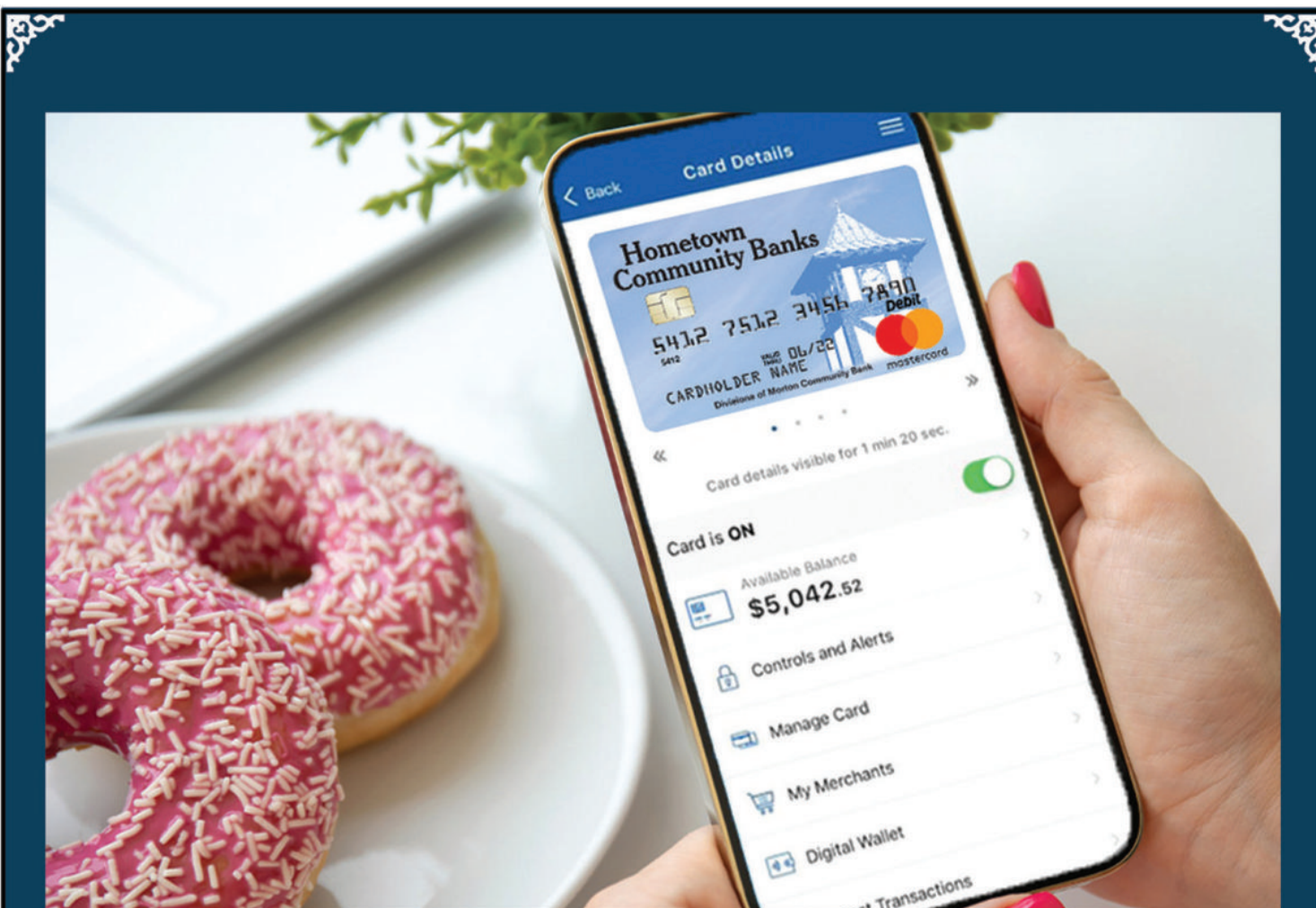
Douglas County Health Department is sponsoring a diaper drive to benefit WIC and FCM clients struggling with this expense.

Collection boxes are in place at both DCHD locations, Tuscola and Arcola Dollar Generals, and Tuscola IGA. All sizes and brands of disposable diapers and wipes, as well as feminine hygiene products, will be gratefully accepted.

MANNEQUINS

Background: Bear Creek Cabinets, NE of Arthur, Illinois

by Don S. Chambers



Track spending this Valentine's Day (and every day!)
with our Debit Card Management feature located
in your Mobile Banking app.

Learn more on our website
www.HometownBanks.com



State Bank of Arthur
A Division of Morton Community Bank
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411 South Vine Street
(217) 543-2111
www.HometownBanks.com

Data and message charges from your carrier may apply.

NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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