



Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

## Chatter BOX

### Murder mystery game night at church

Arcola First Church of the Nazarene will be hosting a game night on Saturday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. They will be solving a murder mystery. There will be games for all ages. Pizza and snacks will be served. The church is located at 418 E. Madison Street, Arcola.

### Chocolate retreat for women March 4

Walnut Grove, southeast of Arcola, is hosting a "Café Chocolat" women's retreat March 4. "Come experience this cozy and decadent getaway to be restored and refreshed in your relationship with the friends around you and with Jesus. Together we will delight in God's extravagant grace through a study of the miracles of Jesus, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 4. And yes, there will be chocolate," organizers said.

There is no cost to attend, but participants are asked to bring a salad to share. The event is limited to 25 participants. To register, call the church office (217-856-2155) with name and phone number by Feb. 19.

### Valentine's potluck

There will be a special Valentine's potluck for seniors at 11:30 a.m., Feb. 17, at the Arcola Center. Feel free to bring a dish to share.

### New office numbers

Better Newspapers Inc., which owns the Arcola Record-Herald, is consolidating offices. For news and advertising, please call our Tuscola office at 217-253-5086 or our Arthur office at 217-543-2151.

## School extends Mulligan's contract

The Arcola School Board last Wednesday approved a contract extension for Superintendent Dr. Tom Mulligan. Mulligan had declared in June 2021 his intention to retire at the end of his contract, which was renewed for three years at that time.

The new extension pushes Mulligan's retirement to June 30, 2026, two years past the previous agreement.

"You are stuck with me through the 2025-26 school year," Mulligan quipped. "I am so honored to have the opportunity to be a part of this amazing team for three more years. As I indicated in my retirement letter, I want to assure you that I will bring the same level of passion and dedication in my last three years as superintendent as I did during my first 10 years in the position. I will work hard to ensure a smooth

transition when I leave the position in June of 2026."

Mulligan's base salary is \$172,280, according to the district's website. That does not include \$22,000 in pension benefit.

In other news, the Board also accepted the letter of retirement from School Nurse, Debbie Stenger effective at the end of this school year. "We will be losing a lot of knowledge and experience but we wish her well," Mulligan said.

Also last Wednesday, the Board approved the second reading of school board policies from the October 2022 Press Packet.

approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the early childhood collaboration grant. The district will continue its administrative agent for the grant. This grant of \$50,000 that

the economic development group ACED received is to assist with planning for the early childhood collaboration in town. The funds will allow the district to contract with someone to assist with leading them through the early childhood collaboration.

approved the bid amount of \$37,000 with DEM Services for asbestos removal in the Family Consumer Science Room. This is part of the remodel project that is being done this summer in the Family Consumer Science room.

approved the application and waived the fee for the Arcola Pageant.

approved a three-year renewal at an annual increase of 3% with the fee for the 2023-2024 school year being \$36,657. The district will continue its partnership with QNS for technology support through the

2025-2026 school year.

approved adding an additional track coach for this spring.

approved extending the current cooperative agreement with ALAH for two more seasons.

accepted resignations from Taylor Rippey, paraprofessional, Sophie Fishel, special education teacher, and Craig VanDeveer, junior high girls' basketball assistant.

employed Jennifer Lyons as an elementary school paraprofessional.

approved an MOU regarding increasing hourly teacher pay for summer school and after school tutoring from \$25 an hour to \$35 an hour.

approved contract extensions for the junior high-high school principal and the junior high-high school assistant principal through the 2025-2026 school year.



## Arcola High School names valedictorians and salutatorian for 2023 graduating class

Eleven students from Arcola High School have been recognized as valedictorians for the Class of 2023. Pictured below are (l-r): Reynol Oyervides, Keira Hohlbauch, Vanessa Condarco, Gracie Wagoner, Eva Hopkins, Rachel Sigrist, Karina Warfel, Morgan Doud, Emma Vazquez, Makenna Wagoner, and Austin Kutz. Hailey Trotter (pictured at left) was also recognized as the salutatorian for the Class of 2023. Photos by Nancy Rairden.



**ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS** - Arcola High School Principal Nick Lindsey is pleased to announce that fourteen students from the AHS graduating class of 2023 have been designated as Illinois State Scholars. The State Scholar formula calculation uses a combination of the ACT/SAT test scores, class rank and class size. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state's college access and financial aid agency, presents this prestigious recognition of academic achievement to exceptional Illinois high school students annually. This year, more than 16,700 honorees join the other outstanding students who have been honored since the designation was first introduced in 1958.

Pictured above are (l-r): Kaylee McKinney, Reynol Oyervides, Keira Hohlbauch, Vanessa Condarco, Gracie Wagoner, Eva Hopkins, Rachel Sigrist, Braden Shonkwiler, Morgan Doud, Karina Warfel, Makenna Wagoner, Emma Vazquez, Eadie Budd, and Austin Kutz. Photo by Nancy Rairden.