

Zion News

"And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." – Genesis 12:2.

Hopefully, many of you watched the recent State of the Union Address. Amid the applause and cheering, the opposition's booing and heckling of the President, one thing is still evident – we live in a blessed nation.

There is no doubt there are deep divisions among Americans. It has been that way since this nation's founding - Patriots versus Tories, men in blue verses men in gray. But among all that division there has remained a spirit of hope, hope that this nation, as Lincoln put it, would "form a more perfect union."

US News & World Report recently published its 2022 rankings of the world's best countries. The results are interesting.

The United States moved up two spots to fourth place in the overall best country to live in behind Switzerland, Germany, and Canada.

In the most forward-looking category, the US was third behind Singapore and Japan. This category ranks how well a country is prepared for the future.

The United States ranked #1 as the most agile country in the world. For a country to be agile, it must adapt and respond to whatever obstacles it faces. To do this, a country needs to be efficient in its actions, adopt and accept modern solutions, and be able to meet changing circumstances.

The most powerful nation in the world is still the United States. However, China and Russia are a close #2 and #3. Power is not just determined by military might, but as how much influence a nation has world-wide.

What nations could then call themselves "blessed?" The United States ranks high in almost every category. China and Russia only rank highest as being "powerful." China is officially an atheistic state. Russia has gone from an "irreligious/atheistic" country to a population of Roman Orthodox Christians who do not necessarily trust the church because of its close ties to the government.

Does religion affect the quality of life in a nation? Even though studies show that religion in America plays less of a role than it did twenty years ago, there are strong indications that religion plays a significant role in social and economic growth in our country.

A study from the Pew Research Center also showed that the wealthier a country is, the less religious its people tend to be, except America. According to this survey, 54 percent of Americans said religion was very important in their lives – more than double the percentage in the next three wealthiest economies.

According to Pew, the United States is also unlike similarly wealthy countries in that Americans put a greater emphasis on the correlation between belief in God and morality.

Yes, America is a blessed nation, and will remain so as long as its people cooperate despite their differences in a spirit of hope, generosity, respect, and love toward one another.

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." – Abraham Lincoln

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

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

Watching sports online is great option when away from home

AIKMANS IN FEBRUARY

Mini-Me February from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday in February. Scavenger hunt, games around the park, prize raffles and crafts. They will also be doing animal enrichments. Check out their facebook page and website for more information. Or call 217-268-3500.

WELCOME HOME

I kept hearing about the new housing on the north end of Arthur but hadn't had a chance to check it out. Well, when I learned who one of the newest residents out there is I definitely had to go take a look. Very nice housing. Looks like some duplexes and maybe apartments. Know they are very much still in the working stage getting them ready. But what I was really excited to learn is that my cousin Lynne Ellen Ray Massey is one of the first residents out there. Lynne has lived in Decatur for many years and I cannot tell you how happy the family is that she has returned home. As are many of her friends here in Arthur. Got a chance to see her today in church which also made me very happy. Lynne's mother, my great Aunt Frances Lamb Ray, was a sister to my grandmother, Lala Lamb Honn (also known to many as Mom or Mom Honn). 'Mom' and Frances (or Aunt Sancy as we called her) were 21 years apart in age..... no kids in between! Frances was only about 7 weeks older than my Aunt Mimi (ok, we liked nicknames in our family) who was my mother's (Phyllis/Pibby) older sister. Mimi was 11 years older than Mother (do you see a pattern here?) Of course our mom and dad had to continue that with Kent being 11 years younger than Sally and 13 years younger than me. Anyway, that's a long way of explaining and saying WELCOME HOME LYNNE ELLEN!

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

OF ILLINOIS

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

Located in Decatur with Always Arthurite Rikki Weger as its director is holding a Mardi Gras event for adults on Fat Tuesday, February 21, from 6-9 p.m. Ticket price is \$60 per person/\$110 per couple and includes food, drinks and music. Sounds like a fun, safe way to kick off the Lenten season.

SPORTS

Looks like the 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams are taking part in the JHOC (Junior High Okaw Conference) tournament this week. They both won on Saturday against Arcola and the tournament continues all week with our girls playing depending on wins and losses. Have also noticed that the matches are being broadcast on the ALAH Volleyball page.

High school boys basketball picked up a game with Dietrich last Friday night. We didn't come out with the win but it was a good game. This week the boys play Arcola on Tuesday and Cumberland on Thursday for Senior Night. They start regional play on Saturday.

The girls high school basketball team started regional play at Paris on Monday evening. That tournament also continues all week depending on winning. Go Knights!

ANOTHER SIGNING

For one of our high school athletes. Alisha Frederick

signed her letter of intent to play softball at Parkland College this coming school year. Alisha is also quite a talented volleyball player but it seems softball is her first love. Many of her fellow students and teammates were on hand this past Friday for that. Alisha is the daughter of Wes and Christy Frederick. I also happened to come across a post on facebook for Keira Hohlbauch, daughter of Kevin and Jill (Johnson) Hohlbauch who goes to school in Arcola. She signed to play softball at Eureka this next year where her sister KayLee also plays. I noticed that Alisha, Ashley Seegmiller and Kailee Otto attended Keira's signing. I believe the girls may have played travel softball together. The Hohlbauchs were also at Alisha's signing. Nice support for an athlete from a nearby school. Congratulations to all!

WATCHING ONLINE

Also want to thank Jill for letting me know I could watch our high school girls basketball game with Arcola on the Arcola High School Sports youtube channel last week. Being away from home I really do appreciate having this option. Of course our girls winning is also nice too. Thankfully the NFHS network finally got its act together and I have been able to watch some of our other games online. Got to enjoy seeing

our girls once again on Senior Night against Cumberland and getting another win. Nice to see Kaci Beachy, Charley Condit and Kailee Otto honored and recognized. Have also been enjoying my family and others waving at me after the game. Of course, like an idiot, I waved back! The camera stays on and I like to watch the crowd as our fans tend to hang around a long time.

SESQUICENTENNIAL NEWS

Should see elsewhere in the paper a story about the District #305 Educational Foundation sponsoring an essay contest for the students in our communities since all four - Arthur, Lovington, Atwood and Hammond - are celebrating this year. Know there are several events scheduled in all the communities and hope to share more about those in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

YOSEMITE FIREFALL

Found this on facebook with a neat video showing this phenomenon: "IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR! Yosemite National Park's natural Firefall starts next week and continues through the end of February. Light from the setting sun will shine on Horsetail Falls at just the right angle to illuminate the upper reaches of the waterfall. When conditions line up perfectly, Horsetail Falls glows orange and red at sunset!"

WHAT A GAME!

Sometimes these games don't live up to the hype but this year's Super Bowl sure did. I really didn't care much who

See TOWN TALK on page 3

MANNEQUINS

Background: Class of 1935 pillars in front of ALAH High School, Arthur, Illinois

by Don S. Chambers



Upcoming Programs at the Arthur Public Library

The Arthur Public Library announces upcoming programs for February and March.

Feb. 16 - Tales and Tunes With Trudy 3:45 PM

Feb. 20 - Board meeting 6 PM

Feb. 23 - Tales and Tunes With Trudy 3:45 PM

March 2 - Tales and Tunes With Trudy 3:45 PM

March 2 - VFW 5:30

March 4 - Speaker Alex Kor

will be at the Arthur Public Library at 1:00 PM. His mother and father both were survivors of the Holocaust. Alex's parents opened the Holocaust museum in Terre Haute and his mother Eva Kor, whom you may have seen interviewed on tv, continued to speak of her experiences throughout her life. Alex will be at the Arthur Library to continue his parents legacy.

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
Attorney #: 6315286
225 South Vine Street
Arthur, Illinois 61911
217-543-3336
crossmanlawoffice@gmail.com
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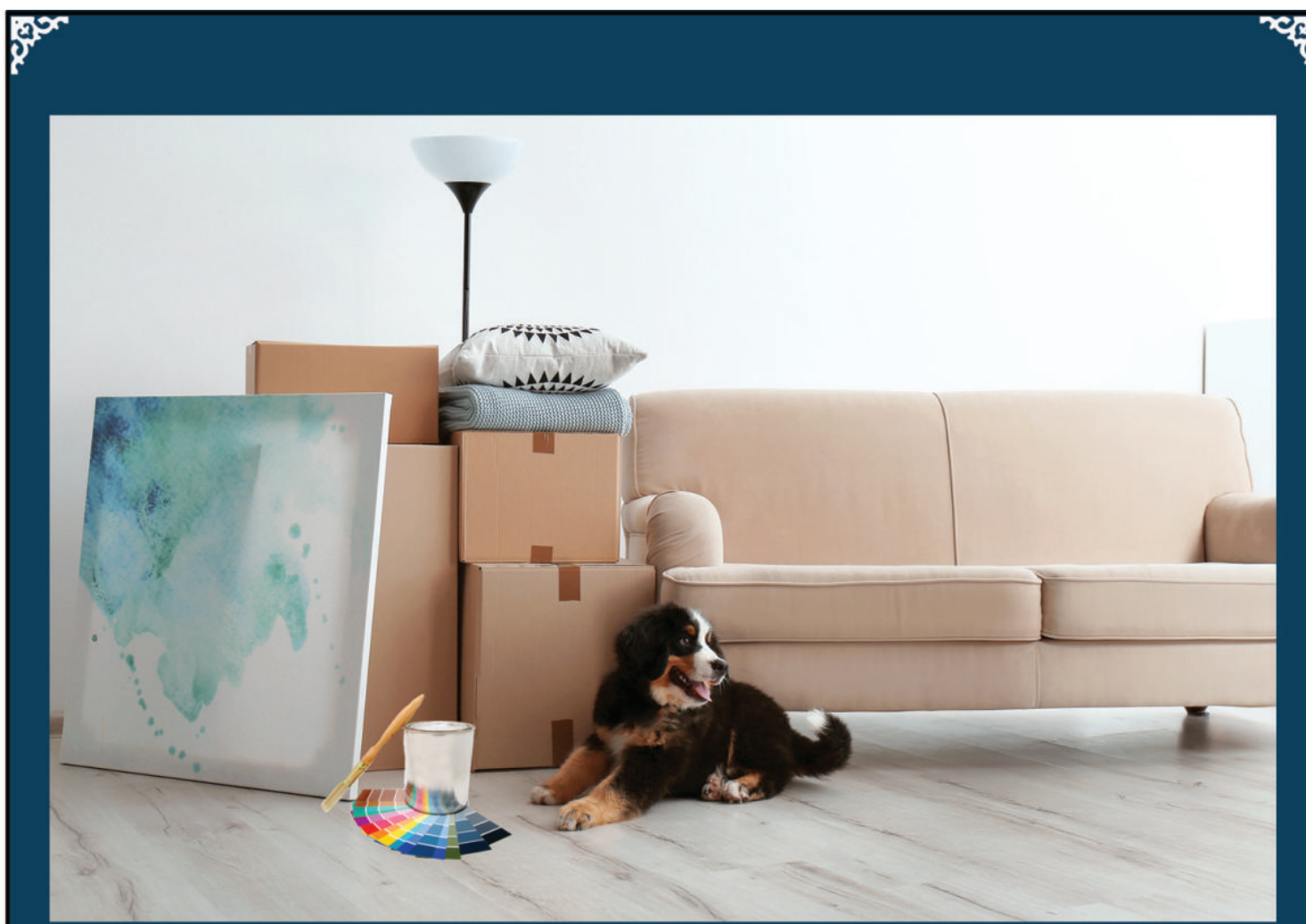
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