

Area artists wanted for spring community arts fair

Calling all artists in Arthur and other surrounding communities.

A fundraiser to help support outreach endeavors in the Arthur Community will be holding its first ever Annual Spring Community Creative Arts Fair.

The goal of the fundraiser is to raise money for the outreach programs that AUMC (Arthur United Methodist Church) uses as its ministry to help the community. Those programs include the AUMC

Food Pantry, Wednesday Night Community Meals, God's Closet, the youth programs and the Arthur Ministerial Association.

With its Administrative Assistant Ariana R Cherry being an avid lover of the arts and an artist herself, and Pastor Jill Bunker's husband, Ken who also has a talent for art, the two couldn't think of a better and more unique way to raise money for community outreach.

While there is an art gal-

lery with very beautiful pieces of art in Arthur (Jerry Winters Gallery), Cherry noticed there really hasn't been many programs in the community that both involve and support area artists. So she wanted to create a fair where both amateur and professional artists could gather together to both sell their art and help support community outreach.

There will be no fees for artists to have a booth at the art fair. Artists may donate a

percentage of their earnings to the cause, but it will not be required. Tables and chairs are available for artists to use to set up their booths. More information will be given to those who are interested in signing up for the art fair.

One way that the art fair will be raising money is by choosing a "People's Choice Award." Each art vendor will have a jar at their booth and visitors will be able to leave a monetary donation in the jar of their favorite artist. The

artist with the most money in their jar will be the winner and will win an award. Donations to browse and shop at the art fair will also be taken at the door.

The Spring Community Creative Arts Fair will be held in the Fellowship Hall at the Arthur United Methodist Church. They are in search of 10 artists who are interested in participating. Amateurs are welcome-as well any high school art students! The tentative date for the art

fair is Saturday, May 6 from 1-6 p.m.

If you are an artist and would like a chance to support this new endeavor and fundraising opportunity, then you can contact either Ariana Cherry or Pastor Jill by calling the Arthur United Methodist Church at 543-3159 or sending an email to the arthurunitedmethodistchurch@gmail.com. The cut-off date to sign up as an art vendor at the art fair is March 25.

Thompson, ROE # 11 to emphasize school safety and security

School safety and security is being widely prioritized across the nation and the Regional Office of Education #11 is without exception.

As Regional Superintendent, Dr. Kyle Thompson said he sought to begin a school safety and security initiative as it was imperative that school district leaders and elected law enforcement leaders build collaborative relationships and partnerships.

In January, Sheriffs from all seven counties in the region attended a roundtable with nearly 30 superintendents and agency directors in attendance, engaging in conversation, sharing concerns, and solidifying their multidisciplinary commitment to school safety. Clark County Sheriff Bill Brown acknowledged, "They (our superintendents) definitely take the safety of our students very seriously. This meeting that was coordinated by the Regional Office was very beneficial to all of us." Coles County Sheriff Kent Martin agreed, "This was a great opportunity to learn what superintendents are concerned about and share what we (law enforcement) are seeing in the field."

Over the course of the next 9 months, ROE #11 will be hosting a myriad of professional development opportunities on the topic of school safety and security, partnering with experts to provide the necessary training and resources to address the gamut of safety and security needs of our school districts. "A productive learning environment for students is first and foremost a safe and secure learn-

ing environment," Thompson said. "It is our responsibility to help our schools provide learning environments as safe and as secure as possible, and we hope these training opportunities this year show we are taking that job seriously."

In late February, we are bringing Dr. Steve Webb, 2021 National Safe School Leadership Award Winner, board certified Workplace Violence and Threat Assessment Specialist, and author of the book Education in a Violent World, to the region for a Site Vulnerability Assessment training. District teams including superintendents, principals, counselors, social workers, school resource officers, and other designated staff are encouraged to attend and participate in this half-day training. From Dr. Webb: "As we learn more about the tragedy in Uvalde, TX, it is important to understand the impact that school specific vulnerability assessments can have on school safety and protecting students. Current challenges to school safety practices and the steps necessary to conduct basic site vulnerability assessments in our schools will be outlined. This training will also provide a vulnerability assessment simulation for better understanding."

During our March superintendents meeting, Detective Rich Wistocki will be presenting a keynote titled 'Appropriate Protocol for School Staff in Sexting/Cyberbullying Incidents.' Additionally, a March session for teachers titled 'Keeping Students Safe by Staying Up to Date' will contain two separate presentations. First, Alyssa Castle-

man from the Office of the Attorney General will provide an overview of Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC). Then, local officers Erica Roa and Brett Compton will relive their popular Regional Institute Day session titled 'Response Options for Active Shooters & Current Drug & Alcohol Trends.'

In May, we will host a two-day training titled 'Identifying and Intercepting School Violence through Cyber-Investigation' with Det. Rich Wistocki. District teams are encouraged to attend and participate in this two-day training. From Det. Wistocki: "Law enforcement and school officials must know how to proactively respond to threats of school violence online, especially when there is "leakage" threatening students and school personnel. Being trained to identify the perpetrator immediately provides law enforcement and school officials the ability to act quickly and effectively to reduce the threat of school shootings and other forms of violence."

In August, Dr. Steve Webb will return to the region for a Student Behavioral Threat Assessment training. District teams are encouraged to attend and participate in this training in which Dr. Steve Webb will describe current issues and challenges with conducting behavioral threat assessments in our schools and what we can do to enhance our "Learner Mindset" in creating an effective behavioral threat assessment process. This training will analyze and utilize research-based threat assessment systems Salem-Keizer-

Webb and Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG)."

Detective Rich Wistocki will return again in September to address some of our students in ROE #11. While it is impossible for him to reach all students across the region in two days, he will be traveling to various auditoriums to present 'Being Safe Online with my Devices and Gaming System' to students. Also in September, ROE #11 will be hosting Administrator Academy #1231 School Security: A Proactive and Holistic Approach. This academy is presented by former educator and current Vice President of Facility Engineering Associates, Paul Timm. Timm's presentation will center on keys to providing a safe learning environment for students, staff, and visitors. Attendees will learn the most effective and affordable ways to improve school security and emergency preparedness. Those participating will benefit from proven strategies on topics such as active shooter, video surveillance, and grant funding as well as learn how to address current vulnerabilities, implement site-specific strategies, and access the latest helpful resources.

"My hope is when we have finished these trainings throughout the year, all of our administrative teams in ROE #11 feel they are prepared to keep our schools safe and secure, and our parents know we have worked together to make safe learning a top priority. We look forward to bringing everyone together to learn from experts about how to keep our schools safer and more secure,

every day," Thompson said. The Regional Office of Education #11 will continue to prioritize the safety of its school districts and is dedicated to facilitating ongoing collaboration with district leaders, law enforcement, and communities. The safety of our schools

is a shared responsibility and depends on all of us.

For more information about the ROE #11 School Safety and Security Initiative, please contact Regional Superintendent Dr. Kyle Thompson at (217)348-0151 or via email at kthompson@roe11.org.

Lake Land College to host broadcast communication open house

The Lake Land College Broadcast Communication department will be hosting an open house Friday, March 24 from 12-2 p.m. The event will take place after Laker Visit Day and a light lunch will be served.

Attendees will have the opportunity to tour the college's student-run FM radio station, WLKL 89.9, The Max Alternative; TV studio and production control room; and view professional audio equipment and state-of-the-art camera and video equipment as well as industry-standard digital editing software.

Registration for the event is now open at lakelandcollege.edu/visit.

"Anyone who has interest in this field is encouraged to register," Greg Powers, speech communication/broadcasting instructor and director of broadcast operations, said. "Our guests will have the chance to explore our studios and learn more about the many opportunities for careers in this field."

Students in the Broadcast Communication program can earn an associate degree

leading to either immediate employment or transfer to a four-year university. Students can also choose among three certificate programs.

"Lake Land College is one of only a few places where you get started within the first two weeks gaining a sense of comfort behind a microphone and on screen," Powers said.

Those interested in fulfilling general elective credits can enroll in department classes throughout the year. Opportunities within the curriculum include broadcasting live on WLKL 89.9 The Max Alternative, anchoring a newscast, using equipment in the TV production control room and studio, creating a podcast, recording and listening to an audio spot using professional audio equipment, operating state-of-the-art camera and video equipment and experimenting with industry-standard digital editing software.

For more information on the Broadcast Communication Open House or program, contact Powers at gpowers@lakelandcollege.edu or call 217-234-5335 or register at lakelandcollege.edu/visit.

Accounting scholarship application open

In a continued effort to provide valuable resources to accounting students and increase the pipeline of future certified public accountants (CPAs), the Illinois CPA Society and CPA

Endowment Fund of Illinois are excited to announce applications are now being accepted for more than

40 scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 each that will be awarded for the 2023-2024 academic year.

These scholarships provide essential financial assistance to qualifying accounting students across the state of Illinois and reward them for their hard work and academic success. Applicants must be junior, senior, or graduate-level accounting students enrolled at Illinois colleges or universities who

demonstrate financial need, academic achievement, and leadership qualities. There is just one

application to submit for any or all scholarships for which the student is eligible. The application

deadline for the following scholarships is April 1, 2023:

- Illinois CPA Society Accounting Scholarships for seniors or graduate students.
- Herman J. Neal Accounting Scholarships for Black/African American juniors, seniors, or graduate students.
- James A. Sikich Visionary Scholarships for seniors or graduate students.
- Women's Executive Committee Advancing Women in Accounting Scholarships for female seniors or graduate students.

"As the first in my family to

go to college, I had little direction. These resources empowered me, inspired

me to continue my education, and influenced my decision to pursue the CPA credential," says Solean

Nunez, a Western Illinois University student and recent scholarship recipient. "I en-

courage eligible

accounting students to apply for these scholarships. The Illinois CPA Society and CPA Endowment Fund

of Illinois' support can be lifechanging."

For more scholarship information, please visit www.icpas.org/scholarships.

Official Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Douglas County Farm Bureau will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Yoder's Kitchen, Arthur, Illinois for the purpose of hearing reports from officers and employees and electing District Directors from District 1, 2 and 3, and conducting any other business which may properly come before the meeting.
Jeffrey Young, Secretary
Douglas County Farm Bureau

Good Riddance, Rodents.

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APRIL 4, 2023 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION

GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION & VOTING

If you are not registered to vote by the voter registration deadline of March 7, 2023 but you are a qualified resident of Douglas County, you may register to vote in person in the County Clerk's Office located on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse, Tuscola, Illinois and once registered must vote in person at that same time in the County Clerk's office.

FIRST DAY: MARCH 8, 2023
LAST DAY: APRIL 4, 2023

EARLY VOTING

This allows a voter to make application for a ballot and vote without having to be absent from the County on Election Day.

Registered voters may vote early in the County Clerk's Office from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday.

EARLY VOTING BEGINS: FEBRUARY 23, 2023

VOTE BY MAIL

Registered voters may vote by Mail. Voters may request a ballot be mailed by contacting the County Clerk's office at 217-253-2442 or elections@douglascountyil.gov for additional information in mailing a ballot.

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