



Survey results reported at school board meeting

Bill Coleman resigns after 22 years

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Staff Writer

Superintendent Shannon Cheek, members of the school board and Rod Wright of Creative Entourage discussed the results of the facility survey that was sent out to members of the communities of the Arthur School District at the most recent Board of Education meeting which was held at Lovington Grade School.

In the communities of Arthur, Lovington and Atwood, only 361 surveys were completed. One of the main reasons that those who voted selected no to the proposal was that they worried that the tax increase would be too much. Another big worry was that the elementary schools in Atwood and Lovington would eventually be closed down and/or torn down. Board member Ryan Nettles pointed out that since the high schools have all consolidated, both the Atwood and Lovington buildings were torn down. People could have some anxiety about their elementary buildings being torn down next. One other concern that voters chose no to the proposal was the uncertainty of the current state of the economy.

After learning some of the reasons why the proposal didn't pass, there was some discussion about approaches to moving forward. Those ideas included renovating the high school and continuing to keep grades six through eight at the elementary schools and then making the necessary renovations that were needed. Forty-seven percent of the voters did agree, however, that it would be ideal to have a centrally lo-

cated junior high. Two-thirds of the voters believed that the high school was in need of extensive renovation.

The top concern when it came to district performance was safety and security-which ranked the highest at 74.8%. Another concern was the students' transitions from junior high to high school. Members of the communities also felt that communication was poor, as it was ranked at just 29%. With communication ranking so poorly, Superintendent Cheek felt that it was of the most importance to get a handle on the issue. Perhaps the district needed to find out what it would take to get community members to communicate since there are different ways to approach that-whether it be by mail, telephone, online, in person, etc. Members of the board and Cheek thanked Mr. Rod Wright for his services - as they were donated to the district.

Moving on to other business, the board voted to continue its Golf Cooperative with the Arcola School District. It was renewed for another two years,

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TOP SPELLERS. Winning the title of county champion was Arthur Grade School student Cameron McGill and runner-up was Margot Howard of Villa Grove. The pair advance to the Regional Spelling Bee in March. Congratulations Cameron!

Cameron McGill 2023 Douglas County Spelling Bee Champion

Eighth grade student Cameron McGill of Arthur was the winner of county Spelling Bee held on Wednesday, February 15 at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur.

Twelve finalists from Arcola, Arthur, Tuscola, and Villa Grove vied for title of county champion. After competing for several

rounds Cameron was the winner spelling the word "churning" correctly and Margot Howard from Villa Grove was the runner-up.

McGill and Howard will move on to the Regional Spelling Bee to be held in Decatur on Saturday, March 11.

Ella Oye, 7th grader at Arthur Grade School, also finished in the top five.

Arcola Superintendent Dr. Tom Mulligan served as pronouncer.

All the participants received gift baskets after the competition and lunch was provided by Yoder's Kitchen.



SCOUT SUNDAY was celebrated at the Arthur United Methodist Church on Sunday, February 12. The Scouts started the service by presenting the colors and leading the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance. As a group they then recited the Scout Oath and Law. The Arthur United Methodist Church has been the sponsoring organization for Scouting in Arthur for over 80 years. Pictured are, front row, Lealand Woolsey and Evan Holt. Second row, Cassie Olivero and Caleb Holt. Third row, Gabe Jacobs, Nicholas Rafferty, Alex Olivero, Andrew Holt, Brian Holt and Dylan Price. Back row, Brian Holt and Ronnie Olivero.

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JHOC CHAMPIONS. The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond 8th grade girls volleyball team took first place at the JHOC tournament last Thursday in Bement defeating the Okaw Valley Timberwolves 25-22, 18-25, and 25-20. They defeated the Cerro Gordo-Bement Bulldogs on Tuesday to advance to the championship. Pictured are Alyssa Ahrendt, Riley Strode, Morgan Casteel, Leighton Poulos, Brynlee Moore, Kenna Blaudow, and Makayla Hays. (Back row) Assistant Coach Dana Tinkle, Reece Oye, Kaley Herschberger, Jaidyn Edwards, Sophie Monts, Isabel Melton, Maleyna Vanausdoll, Jorja Lebetter, and Head Coach Jessica Vanausdoll.

News Briefs

Upcoming Events:

February 25- 2023 Miss, Jr. Miss, & Little Miss A.L.A.H. Pageant @ Penn Station

February 25- Central IL. Rabbit Breeders Assoc. Show @ Otto Center

March 4- Alex Kor @ Arthur Library

March 4- Gathering on the Prairie Antique Show @ Otto Center

March 4- Knights Glow Binga @ Kaskaskia Country Club

Upcoming program at Arthur Public Library

Join The Arthur Public Library on Saturday March 4, 2023 at 1:00 PM for a presentation by Alex Kor, who is the son of Michael and Eva Kor, both survivors of the Holocaust. Alex speaks on a variety of subjects including ethics in medicine, his experiences, and those of his parents. We expect this program to fill up quickly, call 217-543-2037 to reserve your seat.

Arthur Woman's Club Scholarship

Applications Available

The Arthur Woman's Club will award educational scholarships to Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond (ALAH) High School graduating Seniors who are continuing their education. Applications are available at the ALAH High School Guidance Counselor's office and on the Arthur CUSD #305 website.

Applications must be returned to the ALAH High School Guidance Counselor's office no later than Monday, April 3, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact the Guidance Counselor office at 217-543-2146 or Arthur Woman's Club Education Committee chair Sandy Smith at sandysmith52365@gmail.com

Sesquicentennial Essay Contest

District #305 Education Foundation is holding a Sesquicentennial Essay Contest.

The four communities of Arthur, Atwood, Hammond, and Lovington are all celebrating the 150th Anniversary of their founding in 1873.

7th grade through high school students of the District are invited to write an essay about: *What does my town's Sesquicentennial mean to me?*

Three prizes of \$100 each will be awarded to the best 7th grade, 8th grade, and high school student essay.

Return your essay of 500 words or less to your principal's office by March 31, 2023.

Have A Good Week!

