



# ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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**2023 MISS A.L.A.H. ROYALTY CROWNED.** The 2023 Miss A.L.A.H. pageant was held on Saturday, February 25 at Penn Station. Pictured is (front row) newly crowned 2023 Little Miss A.L.A.H. Harper Hale along with 2022 Little Miss A.L.A.H. Maelee Stirrett. (Back row) 2023 Miss 1st Runner-Up Kathryn Perez; 2023 Miss Congeniality Chloe Sadowski; 2022 Miss A.L.A.H. Kendall Burdick; 2023 Miss A.L.A.H. Regann Bowles; 2023 Junior Miss A.L.A.H. Emeline Greathouse; 2022 Junior Miss A.L.A.H. Emmalee Nall; 2023 Junior Miss 1st Runner-Up Layla Beck; Addison Dixon, 2023 Junior Miss Congeniality Addison Dixon; and 2023 Junior Miss 2nd Runner-Up Shelbey Grimsley.

## Bowles, Greathouse, and Hale Crowned 2023 A.L.A.H. Royalty

The 2023 Miss A.L.A.H. pageant, sponsored by the Arthur Area Association of Commerce and the Atwood Chamber of Commerce, was held Saturday, February 25 at Penn Station in downtown Arthur before a packed house.

Winning the title of 2023 Miss A.L.A.H. was Regann Bowles. She is 18 years of age and the daughter of Ryan and Jami Bowles of Atwood. She is a senior at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School and was sponsored by Frenchie's Boutique. Pageant history was made Saturday

night when Regann became the first queen to hold all three titles, 2010 Little Miss Atwood, 2019 Junior Miss A.L.A.H., and 2023 Miss A.L.A.H.

Kathryn Perez, 16, was the daughter of Nick and Meredith Perez of Arthur, and her sponsor was Epsilon Sigma Alpha International. Miss Congeniality went to Chloe Sadowski, 16, daughter of Devo and Erin Miller from Arthur and Robbie Sadowski, sponsored by The Great Pumpkin Patch.

Other contestants included Addison Yeakel, 16-year-old

daughter of Jason and Tiffany Yeakel of Arthur, sponsored by Crossman Law Office and Maggie Benedict, 15-year-old daughter of Jerrod and Christy Benedict of Atwood, sponsored by Chantell Benedict Photography.

Capturing the title of 2023 Jr. Miss A.L.A.H. was Emeline Greathouse. Emeline is the 13-year-old daughter of Jay and Tracy Martin of Arthur. She was sponsored by AP Technologies.

Layla Beck, 12, was named 1st Runner-Up. She is the daughter of Bobby and Erin

Beck of Atwood, and her sponsor was Ainsley's Birthday Bags. Shelbey Grimsley, 14, received 2nd Runner-Up and she is the daughter of Justin and Tiffany Grimsley of Arthur, sponsored by Legacy Land Company. Junior Miss Congeniality went to Addison Dixon, 12, daughter of Cortnee Hack from Hammond, sponsored by Top Knot Pet Grooming.

Other contestants included Adyson Cusick of Arthur, 14-year-old daughter of Mike Hopkins and Kimberly Cusick, sponsored by Arthur Fire Department and Gracelyn Romine from Atwood, 14-year-old daughter of Ryan and Nikki Romine, sponsored by Master-Brand Cabinets.

The title of 2023 Little Miss A.L.A.H. was won by Harper Hale. Harper is the 7-year-old daughter of Jeremy and Stephanie Hale of Arthur and Collins

Oil was her sponsor.

Other Little Miss contestants included Mia Perez of Arthur, 7-year-old daughter of Nick and Meredith Perez, sponsored by Mitch Webb Wrestling Memorial Scholarship; Alice Watkins of Arthur, 7-year-old daughter of Jordan and Kendra Watkins, sponsored by Watkins Farm & Trucking; Arianna Henderson of Atwood, 7-year-old daughter of Daniel Henderson and Jessica Henderson, sponsored by Whitney Roofing; and Reese Wierman of Atwood, 5-year-old daughter of Justin and Andrea Wierman, sponsored by Visual Image Salon.

Miss contestant Addison Yeakel was the top seller for raffle tickets with 114 tickets sold.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was 2019 Miss A.L.A.H. Kyla (Carson) Grover.

## New Energy Supplier Available in July

### New cloud based record system for the Arthur Police Department approved

By ARIANA R. CHERRY  
Staff Writer

Mayor Rod Randall announced that since signing the electrical aggregation contract with SIMEC, LLC on the village's behalf, that an alternate supplier, Homefield Energy will be available for residents to choose beginning July 2023 through July 2024. The price will be \$0.08299/kWh plus capacity product-which equals to be about 11.3 cents per kWh. Randall noted that this will be slightly less than Ameren's current rate, which is set to increase in July 2023.

The village approved the purchase of VP cloud based records management system for the Police Department from Brownlee Data Systems in the amount of \$3,880. Police Chief Mike Goodman informed the board that the current system was installed in 1998 making it 25 years old with no updates and very minimal support. The new management system will offer updates, the ability to transfer all of the old data and have support. The police staff will also be able to see information from other sur-

rounding areas for example if an individual has had other citations from other towns.

Chief Goodman also reported that he is advertising for the current open position. The department is advertising on the law enforcement website for up to 60 days with the listing being a featured listing for five days. He also stated that the Mattoon Police Department has a certified list of possible applicants that they may share with him as well.

In other news, it was reported that Douglas County shared \$282,300 of its ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) with Arthur to pay for the Village's water tower restoration. Moultrie County shared \$200,000 of its ARPA money to help pay for approximately half of the cost for sewer plant repairs, primarily a new sludge press system that allows the village to send dried waste materials to landfills instead of it being in liquid form and having it shipped in tank trucks. The board would like to thank both counties for almost \$500,000 of improvements to Arthur's water and

sewer infrastructure. This will allow a great amount of savings to our residents.

Treasurer, Mike Hilgenberg reported \$12,553.32 in expenditures.

It was announced "Our Town" from WCIA Channel 3 News will be in Arthur on Friday, July 21. Planning will begin soon on what activities to be held that day.

The village is seeking bids for the improvement of the landscaping around the Welcome Center and the basic annual care of the Welcome Center and its parking area along with the landscaping of the gazebo parking area. In the past, this had been contracted out including the Community Building's landscape, but the Public Works department has decided to take care of that area.

Erica Carter informed the board that she is still researching trash companies for a city-wide clean up day. She noted that the village could possibly be looking at the option of renting out a few dumpsters in place of the curbside service.

## Trip to Prehistoric Times at Arthur Public Library

The Arthur Public Library took a trip to prehistoric times on Saturday February 11, 2023 with Rock Springs Conservation. Taylor Buley from Rock Springs came and gave a presentation about dinosaurs. She also brought with her a dino foot replica and some recreated dino claws. During the program children learned about what the dinosaurs ate, where they roamed, and what scientists believed they looked like. Taylor also went into how fossils are created and harvested from the earth, when the dinosaurs walked the earth and how they went extinct. If you missed the program and are interested in learning more about dinosaurs, come to Arthur Library and check out one of our many books on dinosaurs. A big thank you to Taylor and Rock Springs for visiting our library. Meranda Meadows photo and information



## News Briefs

- Upcoming Events:**  
**March 4-** Alex Kor @ Arthur Library  
**March 4-** Gathering on the Prairie Antique Show @ Otto Center  
**March 4-** Knights Glow BINGA @ Kaskaskia Country Club  
**March 9-** Class of 2025 Spaghetti Dinner @ ALAH High School  
**March 10&11-** Home & Garden Expo @ Otto Center  
**March 10&11-** ALAH High School Play  
**March 11-** ALAH FFA Alumni Breakfast @ Arthur United Methodist Church  
**March 16-** Class of 2026 Trivia Night @ ALAH High School

**ALAH FFA Alumni Breakfast**  
 The ALAH FFA Alumni and supporters will be hosting a biscuit and gravy breakfast on Saturday, March 11 at the Arthur United Methodist Church. Serving time will be from 6:00-9:00am and there will be a silent auction with some amazing baskets to bid on as well. Donations only accepted for breakfast and to-go containers will be available.

**Lovington Blood Drive**  
 The Lovington First Christian Church is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday March 9 from Noon - 5:30. Walk Ins are Welcome! To register for an available time slot, go to Red Cross Blood.org. Thank You For Your Support!

**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.

**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