



# ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

Vol. 114, No. 12

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911

## Number of Write-In Candidates for Arthur Village Trustees Makes For Unusual Election

With the election less than two weeks away, voting will be different for residents of the Village of Arthur on Tuesday, April 4.

For the first time since the Douglas County Clerk's office can remember, there will be four write-in candidates. Since the candidates did not take out petitions like usual, they made the decision they would like to be a village trustee after the filing deadline but made the deadline to be a write-in candidate. Their names will not appear on the ballot, therefore, the only way they can be elected is by having their name written in.

Write-in candidates for Arthur Village Trustee include Matt Bernius, Isai Gutierrez, David Hale and Christy Miller, with only three to be elected.

There are no candidate's running for the Arthur Park District Commissioners, 2-year term (1 position) and 4-year terms (two positions available).

Arthur CUSD #305 school board members running are all incumbents and running unopposed. They are Beth Wiley, Justin Wierman, Brock Casteel, and Monica Green.



**MATT BERNIUS**

Arthur Public Library trustees running include Beth Singer, Cathy Allen & Martha Yeakel, (4-year terms) and Adam Fritz (2-year term). They are running un-opposed as well.

The candidates for village trustee completed questionnaires for The Graphic-Clarion and their responses follow in this article.

Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day (April 4).

**Matt Bernius**

**Age:** 49

**Address:** 506 S. Pine Street



**ISAI GUTIERREZ**

Arthur.

**Occupation:** Kinze Manufacturing Inc., Sales Manager

**Education:** Bachelor degree: Business Administration

**Children:** Kayla Hodge

**Office Sought:** Village Trustee

**Village Board requires a significant time commitment, normally 2 monthly meeting and possibly any special/committee meetings, as well as reading prep prior to meetings. How will this fit in with your other commitments?** This will not be an issue as I have flexibility



**DAVID HALE**

and have attended these meetings for over 20 years.

**What do you believe is the role of the Village Board in our community?** The village board plays a vital role by providing valuable infrastructure to its citizens through water and sewer. The board also works to provide 24-7 police protection and works to keep streets maintained as well as maintaining its Welcome Center and downtown parking lots.

**Based on what you know about City government, what do you see as top priorities for the Village of Arthur and**



**CHRISTINA MILLER**

**why?** The top priority facing Arthur and other small communities is being able to attract employees to work in Public Works and the Police Department.

**What is your approach to handling controversial and complicated issues?** I believe in hitting it head on and finding out the facts and making decisions that have the villages best interest a priority.

**What skills and experience do you have that you believe would be beneficial to you as a board member?** I have

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### News Briefs

**Upcoming Event:**

**March 24-** Tri-County Farm Toy Auction @ Tri-County Auction Facility

**March 25-** Tri-County Auction Consignment Auction @ Tri-County Auction Facility

**March 25-** Arthur Atwood Lions Club Fish Fry @ Arthur United Methodist Church

**March 25-** Mennonite Relief Sale Kick-Off Banquet @ Yoder's Kitchen

**April 1-** Fish and More @ Otto Center

**April 1-** Fine Arts Boosters Dessert Theatre @ ALAH High School.

**Mennonite Relief Sale Kickoff Banquet**

The Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale will be holding their annual kick-off banquet on Saturday, March 25 at 6:00 pm at Yoder's Kitchen.

This meal and program is a time to support the upcoming sale which will be held August 25-26 at the Otto Center.

The special speaker this year is Andrew Geddert who works with Mennonite Central Committee in the country of Ukraine. He will provide timely updates on outreach and mission in this war torn country.

An offering will be received to support the 2023 Relief Sale.

Please make your reservation by calling Glen Rhodes at 217-273-5026. RSVP is required. The Relief Sale board is thankful for your support.

**Prayer Breakfast**

The Atwood Woman's Club will be hosting their annual Prayer Breakfast on Monday, April 3. This is our first breakfast since the beginning of Covid.

The breakfast will be held at the United Church of Atwood beginning at 9 AM. We shall serve a variety of breakfast items, fruit, juice and coffee/tea.

After we eat the prayer service will be held. The service will include poems, prayers, reading of the club collect and music. We invite you to join us for this event.

**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

## Arthur Board of Education to seek bids to repair school parking lots

### Winning bid awarded to Midwest Track Builders for high school track repair

By **ARIANA R. CHERRY**  
Staff Writer

Superintendent Cheek spoke with members of the board of education about the school parking lots and their condition at the most recent meeting held on Wednesday, March 15. What originally he thought would be a simple fix at the Atwood-Hammond Grade School will actually be much more of a significant repair after a closer look. The area near the playground and east lot where most people usually park is estimated to be around \$61,000. Cheek also said the staff area parking lot was estimated to be a bit lower at just \$10,500. He feels that the parking lots at the Atwood-Hammond Grade School are in need of some major repair and by doing so, could extend their life much longer. The ALAH High School

parking lot is also not in the best condition, but Cheek said it could get by another year by just simply filling in some of the cracks and holes. The Arthur Grade School's parking lot east of the building has been estimated to be at \$43,000. The board approved Cheek to move forward and seek bids. He informed the board that it may not be a reality that all three parking lots could be repaired.

Along with the parking lots at the district schools being in need of repair, the high school track is also in need of some care. The original estimate to fix the track was around \$160-\$165,000. There was only one bid which came from Midwest Track Builders. Their bid was \$170,000 which would take care of filling some cracks and potentially putting in a new surface and paint. They did



**ALAH student Claire Seal assists school board member Brock Casteel with the Oculus that the anatomy class has been using this quarter at last weeks school board meeting.**

would take place during the summer. Board members approved the bid from Midwest Track Builders.

Even though some high costs of upcoming projects were definitely the top concerns at the board meeting, Claire Seal a student in Mrs. Benedict's anatomy class, shared some of the latest technology of how they are learning about the muscular system by using an Oculus - a virtual reality system. Being that it uses VR (virtual reality), this provides a more immersive experience for those who use it. The students even assisted a few of those who were interested in using an Oculus so that they could experience learning about muscles as they had been doing the past quarter. It is just another example of how technology is aiding in learning and making a difference in how students see and experience the world around them. The Oculus for Mrs. Benedict's science classes was purchased with funds from the Timm Trust.

After having some fun learning from one student in Mrs. Benedict's class and I.T. director Mark Smith, Cheek, shared information about the latest information in transportation payments. As usual, the district is still only receiving about three of the four payments that are owed. Although, now they are only getting 70% of what is owed instead of the full amount. During Covid, because many were out of school, most districts were getting the 100%, but now that everyone is back in school, the state is back not sending the entire amount that is owed.

While it was concerning to hear about the transportation payments, Cheek did share some positive news about the district receiving some very nice donations recently. The Knights Youth Sports Association donated \$5,000 to go towards the purchase of new nets for volleyball. The athletic booster club donated \$1,117.65 for new baseball uniforms and M and M Farm Service donated \$500 to support

See **CUSD 305** on page 5



**DOWNTOWN ARTHUR BUSINESS SELLS.** The Heartland Deli and Delights building and all its contents were sold at a dispersal auction held Saturday at the Otto Center. First Bank, with locations in Arcola, Arthur, and Tuscola, was the winning bidder for the Vine Street property which brought \$45,000. President and CEO Dale Boyer stated, "We just wanted to reinvest in downtown Arthur and have no immediate plans as of now for the building." The auction not only brought local bidders and buyers but also several from out of the area and a few out of state. The business was also known as Country Cheese and More and had four previous owners prior to the current owners Joseph and Julie Yoder and Olen and Chris Herschberger purchasing it in January of 2020.

