

Zion News

"If Easter says anything to us today, it says this: You can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there." - Clarence W. Hall

We are in the midst of Holy Week. Christians will observe Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday the next few days. All of these days hold special meaning for many of us, but, let's face it, not everyone feels the same way even though it is estimated that 80 percent of Americans celebrate Easter in some way.

Like Christmas, Easter has become commercialized. Approximately 180 million Easter eggs are sold each year. In 2022, \$24 billion dollars was spent on Easter.

Easter has become a time for family gatherings, which is a good thing. According to some pastors, church attendance increases between 50 to 100 percent on that Sunday, which is also a good thing.

People wax philosophically and poetically about Easter and relate it with springtime. Each new budding plant, the leafing out of trees, are all signs of renewal and hope. Passover is celebrated in the spring, so it is pretty obvious that the chain of events of Holy Week took place during the spring. It is a good thing to think of Easter as a spring-like time of renewal and hope.

There are those who focus on the passion of Christ, his suffering and sacrifice. They are mournful and sorrowful for all that transpired the days

before Easter. Great musical works have been composed to remind us of this tragedy, and it is good to remember Christ's ultimate giving of himself as a final expression of his love for us.

And, of course, there are those who celebrate the good news of Christ's resurrection. They rejoice at the news that there is triumph over death, which is a good way to face whatever the future holds.

But no matter where a person is in their faith journey during Eastertide, from belief in the Easter Bunny to shouts of "He is risen," this season can be one of rebirth and renewal and one's heart made new with hope.

So, above all the observances and celebrations of these holy days, let us celebrate the life of Christ to its fullest. Let us know and act upon the truths he taught us. Let us emulate the absolute love he had for everyone and follow in his footsteps toward a new dawning of mercy, justice, and peace in the world.

Easter is for everyone to know that Christ's truth could not be contained by the grave.

Upcoming birthdays: Apr 13-Karol Suhl Allen, Apr 13-Steve Suhl, Apr 19-Wade Willoughby, Apr 22-Alana Heit Chapman, Apr 29-Elise Hackett.

Zion's Easter Service begins at 9:00 AM this Sunday. Rev. Leroy Allison will be the guest pastor. Everyone is welcome.

Many good things happening in our schools

HOPE YOU VOTED

Realized too late that I forgot to mention the election that was held on Tuesday this week. All of the voting was for local positions and offices but those are sometimes more important and impact our lives than the state or federal elections do. Hope you all remembered to vote!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

Had the pleasure of attending this event on Sunday afternoon where 16 new students, all sophomores through seniors, at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School joined the 19 students who are already members of National Honor Society. The induction ceremony is put together and led by the students. Kendall Huffman is the sponsor for NHS. Jared Blaudow, a Tuscola graduate and also a member of NHS and son of Jerry and Margo Rutledge Blaudow, (AHS

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

'60 and '67), grandson of long-time Arthur attorney John Rutledge and Sarah who taught in the Arthur school system, gave the keynote address. (More on Jared and his family below). Jared did a wonderful job of reminding the students as to what is important in their lives and how to achieve success through taking responsibility and being positive among other things. The focus of much of the ceremony was on the four pillars of NHS - Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character. Principal Steffanie Seegmiller, (AHS '86) closed the program with congratulatory remarks. Of course much picture taking ensued afterward. Have to say it is very heartening to sit there, see all these fine young people knowing our future is in good hands. Congratulations to all involved!

BREAKFAST AND BASKETBALL

I have hesitated to mention this in the column as I wasn't sure how much Jared and his wife Cara wanted this publicized but think people should know what this young couple is doing. The Blaudows have three children in our school and host a Friday morning 'breakfast and basketball' event for kids first through eighth grade. The focus is on having a good time while learning some life lessons in a positive way.

This week their guest speaker is Ty Pence, St. Joe Ogden student and athlete, and recently named WCIA basketball player of the year. Ty also happens to be Jared and Cara's nephew, also a grandson of Jerry and Margo. So good to see a young couple mentoring our young people in this way. Thank you!

MANY OTHER GOOD THINGS HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS

The Arthur Junior High Scholastic Bowl team won the JHOC (Junior High Okaw Conference) championship this past week. Congrats to them!

Arthur Grade School 4th graders had an amazing time at the Engineering Open House. They were able to see new and upcoming technologies being developed at the U of I and even participate in interactive activities.

Looks like our Arthur grade school students spent much of last week celebrating Dr. Seuss on his birthday week. Classes did a variety of projects. Second grade finished their week by visiting Building 1225 in Sullivan and then watched a performance of "Seussical the Musical" at the Little Theatre.

A group of FFA members visited the Capitol this past week for Illinois Ag Legislative Day. They delivered baskets and lunches to our Representatives and Senators.

ALAH High School students Brady Moore and Evanger Wiley attended Coles Moultrie Electric Coop Youth Day in Springfield to learn more about state government. Congratulations to Evanger (daughter of Toby and Beth, granddaughter of John, Sharon, Marvin and Mary Ann), who was selected to attend the Youth to Washington Tour in Washington DC in June!

SPEAKING OF

Beth Wiley. She shared a picture with me Sunday after church that was taken on her graduation from Arthur High School in 1992 when she was Beth Daily. It showed Beth along with Beth Jurgens Padovan. Also in the picture was Beth Wiley's dad John Daily and Beth Padovan's dad Doug Jurgens who were 1959 AHS graduates PLUS their grandfathers, Edmund Daily and Glen Jurgens also AHS graduates in 1931. Bet that combination has not happened too often if ever! Thanks for sharing Beth!

KNIGHTS BASKETBALL RECOGNITION

The News-Gazette recently recognized several of our girls basketball players. Claire Seal was named to the first team; Charley Condill to the second team; Kailee Otto, special mention; and Kaci Beachy, honorable mention. Once again, congratulations to all!

SPORTS REPORT

Because of the weather as I mentioned last week, spring sports have been rather hit or miss but the softball team did

See TOWN TALK on page 3

LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Township of Bourbon in the County of Douglas and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Bourbon Township Shed, 370N CR 425E Arthur, IL 61911 for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said township; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

1. Call to Order
2. Nomination & Election of Moderator
3. Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Announcement of 2024 Annual Town Meeting - April 9, 2024.
5. Supervisor's Annual Financial Report
6. Road Commissioner's Inventory List
7. Other business - Declaring surplus equipment.
8. Consider motion to adjourn.

Dated March 27, 2023
Jodi Clayton, Township Clerk
published 04/05/2023

MANNEQUINS

Background: Red barn and crib, south of Atwood, Illinois

by Don S. Chambers



LEGAL NOTICE

VILLAGE OF ARTHUR

Clarifier Improvements & Select Plant Demolition 2023 NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals for the Village of Arthur, 2023 Clarifier Improvements & Select Plant Demolition, will be received by the Village of Arthur, Illinois, 120 East Progress Street, PO Box 139, Arthur, IL 61911 the office of the Village Clerk until 10:00 a.m. April 27th, 2023, and will then be publicly opened and read.

The Base Bid work generally consists of demolition and disposal of the existing clarifier equipment and accessories, old pump station, Imhoff tank, flow diversion box, and piping, furnishing and installation of new clarifier equipment and related appurtenances, flow meters, piping, fittings and accessories, sitework, seeding, plumbing, and related accessories and appurtenances as specified and shown on the plan drawings. This work also includes electrical, and controls work as detailed in the plans and specifications titled "Village of Arthur Clarifier Improvements & Select Plant Demolition 2023."

The Contract Documents, consisting of Advertisement for Bids, Instructions for Bidders, Proposal, Bid Bond, General Conditions, Special Provisions, Payment Bond, Performance Bond, Notice of Award, Notice to Proceed, Change Order, Specifications, and Addenda may be examined at the following locations: The Bidding Documents may be examined at the following locations: Arthur Village Hall, 120 East Progress Street, PO Box 139, Arthur, IL 61911, 217-543-2927; and the Office of the Engineer: Farnsworth Group, Inc., 400 West Jefferson Avenue, Suite A, Effingham, IL 62401, 217-342-5668.

The Bidding Documents are available at the Engineer's project bidding website, <http://bidlist.f-w.com/>. The Bidder may register for this project at the website in order to receive a username and password to access, view and print the Bidding Documents. For any questions or issues accessing the Bidding Documents from the website, contact the Office of the Engineer. Terms and Conditions will need to be accepted by the planholder prior to obtaining an electronic copy of the Bidding Documents.

ments on the Project Bidding website. Electronic Document access will only be provided to interested bidding companies and/or equipment companies. Electronic copies are provided at no cost. Printing of such documents will be the responsibility of the planholder in accordance with the website Terms and Conditions.

Each proposal shall contain the name of every person or firm interested in the same and shall be accompanied by bid bond, certified check, bank draft, or cashier's check payable to the order of the Village Clerk, Village of Arthur, in an amount not less than 5% of the proposal.

The Village of Arthur reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive or not waive any informality in the bids, and to accept any bid which it deems most favorable to the Village. It is agreed that this bid may not be withdrawn for a period of 45 days from opening thereof or it will be subject to forfeit the 5% Bid Bond provided with the bid.

It is anticipated that a Notice of Award of a contract will be issued within 30-to-60 days of the date bids are received and that a Notice to Proceed will be issued within 10 days of the date of the Notice of Award if contractor provides proper insurance and bonding in a timely manner.

Work on this project is subject to the Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130). Prevailing Wages, as determined by the Illinois Department of Labor and the current Prevailing wage ordinance approved by the Village Board, shall be paid. The contractor is required for submitting all certified payrolls for the awarded project and for any subcontractor work to the IDOL website pursuant to Public Act 100-1177. Work on this project is subject to the Illinois Substance Abuse Prevention on Public Works Project Act (820 ILCS 265) as enacted by P.A. 95-0635.

BY ORDER OF THE
VILLAGE BOARD, VILLAGE OF
ARTHUR, ILLINOIS
Rhonda Rhodes, Village Clerk
published 04/05/2023

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