

Zion News

"Dog is just God spelled backwards." - John Vlisaker

John Vlisaker was a liturgical songwriter, recording artist, composer, performer, and ethnomusicologist. Ethnomusicology is the study of music from the cultural and social aspects of the people who make it and can be simply described as the study of "people making music."

A prolific composer for more than 50 years, John's words and music have been a powerful influence on the development of new worship materials for the church. He is known for his paraphrasing of biblical text and for his ability to write tunes people can easily sing.

He is perhaps best known for his song, "I Was There To Hear Your Morning Cry." However, he wrote a song that went unpublished, but was included on one of his recordings, that included the lyrics, "Dog is just God spelled backwards."

There are several references in other songs and poetry about "God being spelled backwards is dog" and vice versa. Most of these compositions ennoble the dog by comparing the characteristics of man's best friend with the godly virtues of goodness, faithfulness, and everlasting love.

John's song however, is more than that. He leads us into thoughts about how we humans often respond to the dog. Because we get preoccupied with everyday life or self-

interest, we often neglect our dog even though they are always there to welcome us with steadfast love. A person can lose their patience if their dog doesn't obey their every command. When we get angry and frustrated, we may even take it out on ole Rover and give him a kick if he gets in the way.

After the song tells the story about all the ways we casually view our relationship with our faithful companion, the final line is, "After all, dog is just God spelled backwards," which indicates how we also may be neglecting or undervaluing our relationship with God.

Yes, a pet can bring out the best in us. If you are lonely, they will be happy to keep you company. If you need someone to love, there aren't many other beings that love you the way your pet does.

If you need a laugh, your pet knows just when to offer comic relief. If you give your heart to your pet, they will not break it.

These are all goodly traits of pets, but our relationship with God is the ultimate relationship in our lives. Don't neglect it.

May Birthdays: May 13-Rob Drake, May 27-Michael Wiloughby.

Anniversary: May 21-Tyler & Nicole White.

Our Sunday Worship Service begins at 9:00 AM. This Sunday Rev. Leroy Allison will be our guest pastor. Everyone is welcome.

Questions, please call Darlene Barlow 217-855-9397.

Walk-Ins are always Welcome!
Thank You For Helping to Make a Huge Difference in Someone's Life by Donating Blood!

Red Cross Blood Drive in Lovington

The Lovington First Christian Church will be holding an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday May 11 from Noon to 6:00pm.

Pre-Registration May be made online at Red Cross Blood.org.

Arthur History Fact #49

1946

In the section of Arthur's Centennial book called "When We Wanted to Have Fun," it was mentioned that the card game of bridge had become very popular in the late 1920's.

By 1946, up to six bridge parties were being held in Arthur homes weekly.

In March of 1946 bridge parties were given by:
Mrs. James L. McHose,
Mrs. R.H. Reeves,
Mrs. Marvin Pankey,
Miss Irene Day,
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. McDonald,
and Mrs. M.W. Chandler.

At the writing of the 1973 Centennial book it was noted that, "Bridge clubs are still one important form of entertainment for Arthur citizens."

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Volunteers Needed at the Welcome Center

FIRST GRADUATING CLASS

On May 13, 1892, Arthur's first senior class received their diplomas. All five of them!

VOLUNTEER AT THE WELCOME CENTER

Volunteers are needed at the Arthur Welcome Center! You only need to put in a few hours a week and, frankly, it's a lot of fun meeting people from all over. Now that summer is coming traffic will pick up as it has been doing now that people are traveling more once again. Don't feel like you don't know enough to talk to people. The visitor's guides are a wonderful source of information and someone will be glad to highlight some things you need to know. Heck, I may very well be that someone. And most would be surprised to learn they know more than they think they do. I know I did and I also know I have learned a lot. Frankly, it also gives you a sense of pride to be able to share with others just all we have to offer here in Arthur and the area. Call 217-543-2242 or send an email to td@arthurillinois.us. The website arthurillinois.us is also a wealth of information. Give it a try!

ILLINOIS AMISH HERITAGE CENTER

The Sheep to Yarn to Quilt event is this Saturday May 13 at IAHC. From their facebook page: "There is something for everyone at our Sheep to Yarn to Quilt event. Other activities include period crafts, ropemaking, games and activities for the kids, pony cart rides, and the ever popular petting zoo. A pancake breakfast will be served, and food concessions will be available throughout the day. There will be craft items/materials and locally produced food items available for sale." The pancake breakfast is at 7 a.m. The Illinois Amish Heritage Center is located 3 miles east of Arthur just before Chesterville and will be open on Saturday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Hope to see you there!

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION

A press release from this office states: "We are pleased to announce Regional Office of Education #11 2023 4th Annual RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE Award Recipients! Congratulations to these exceptionally skillful and dedicated school professionals who have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and co-workers; play active roles within their schools and communities and have the superior ability to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities." Among those recipients are our own Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond Principal, Steffanie Seegmiller (AHS '86) and Kirby Davis, (AHS '79) who is guidance counselor at Neoga High School. Congratulations to all and especially to our Arthur High School grads!

USI Retirees Breakfast

Anyone who worked for the company USI, Quantum, Equistar, LyondellBasel (or any of its other names) in Tuscola is invited to attend a retiree's breakfast at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur on Wednesday, May 17 at 8:00 a.m. Please call Dan Miller at 217/649-9656 with any questions.

Graduation Dates

8th Grade Graduation:

Atwood Hammond Arthur Lovington will be held on Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m. Arthur Football Field (weather permitting).

High School Graduation:

Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond Commencement will be held on Friday, May 26, 7 p.m. Arthur Football Field (weather permitting).

In case of inclement weather, graduations will be held inside.

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

SUPERINTENDENT CHEEK

I have greatly enjoyed reading Shannon Cheek's pieces in the paper regarding things that are taking place in our schools. This information can also be found on the school's facebook page at Arthur CUSD #305 and on the school's website, cUSD305.org. Lots of information on district plans, school improvement projects, new math curriculum, and summer projects just to name a few. For anyone interested in what is happening or who has questions about our schools these are great resources. And, as Mr. Cheek tells us, they are always happy to hear from you and answer any questions or concerns you might have as parents, grandparents or community members. The administration also welcomes anyone to schedule a tour of our schools. A good reminder that we are all in this together to ensure our students have the best opportunities.

A GREAT WEEK TO BE A KNIGHT

Well it's always a good time to be a Knight but this week has been an especially exceptional one. Our girls softball team is the Lincoln Prairie Conference champions for, I believe, the third year in a row. At the recent Lincoln Prairie Conference track meet here in town the boys team won the

conference meet (also three years in a row) and the girls came in third. In junior high track which competes in the Junior High Okaw Conference (JHOC), the 7th grade girls placed second, the 7th grade boys were meet champions as were the 8th grade girls. Much more coming up these next few weeks as we finish out the school year. GO KNIGHTS!

SPORTS REPORT

Believe the baseball team is also very much in contention for a conference championship as well. They had a game on Monday with Tri-County (unless it got rained out which, as I write this, it looks like that could happen) and Tuesday with Okaw Valley. Next up will be a game tomorrow (Thursday) at home (Lovington) with Cerro Gordo/Bement (senior night). Softball had a game on Monday with Sullivan (unless it was rained out) and Central A&M on Thursday (senior night). They will play on Saturday at Sullivan at an Invitation. Not sure how many games they will be playing.

Track. High school boys will be at St. Teresa on Friday but before that the high school girls track team will have sectionals at Okaw Valley on Thursday. Junior high track sectionals are at Newton on Saturday.

Bass fishing will also be competing on Saturday but no

details have been posted yet. Good luck to all our Knights in their various endeavors.

SEAN HAYES

I have written about Sean before. He happens to be the son-in-law of Larry (AHS '67) and Mary Icenogle and a star of the long-running hit show "Will and Grace" among many other productions both on TV and in the theater. His new show, "Oscar" recently debuted on Broadway and as a result he has been nominated for a Tony Award. Following is his very gracious appreciation for this prestigious award. He said, "Thank you to The Broadway League and The American Theatre Wing for this incredibly humbling nomination...I am honored to be included in such esteemed company. I am forever grateful to Doug Wright and Lisa Peterson for giving me the opportunity, and the stage, to bring Oscar Levant to life alongside a brilliant cast, crew and producers who work tirelessly to make this show so special. It is a privilege to portray someone so complex; someone who is both hilarious and heartbreaking and I am truly grateful and thankful for this beautiful acknowledgment." Oscar Levant was a very complicated man who was also very talented in many ways. This production gives Sean the opportunity to showcase his talents not only as an actor but as a pianist. The Tony Awards show will be on CBS on Sunday, June 11. Best of luck Sean!

And that's -30- for Happy Mother's Day!

MANNEQUINS

Background: Sale Street, Tuscola, Illinois

by Don S.Chambers



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