

# Zion News

"And they were bringing children to him, that he might touch them . . . And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them." - Matthew 10:13, 16

Even though May 11, 2023 marked the official end of the National Public Health Emergency we have been experiencing since the outbreak of COVID-19, the effects of the pandemic on human behavior may be long-lasting if not permanent.

The rise of the touchless society is upon us. It started with personal social distancing and limiting the sizes of groups and gatherings. It expanded into making all forms of interaction between people as contactless as possible.

Many businesses still separate employees from one another, or from customers, with Plexiglas partitions, promote self-service checkout, and offer apps to buy food and supplies without ever having to come face-to-face with another person.

Will there be long term effects by this physical separation from one another?

Some people herald this new touchless society as long overdue. They claim their personal space and want others to keep their distance. Touchless technology is a booming industry.

Even though touchless technologies may promote safety through social distancing, such technologies reduce human desire for interaction with people, places, and things. Some people predict that as these technologies become more and more commonplace, they may cause sensory deprivation.

Through even casual observation it is apparent that touching is being more and more discouraged. Teachers

are discouraged from hugging a student or even giving them a pat on the back. Students are not supposed to touch other students. Doctors and nurses often refrain from touching their patients as a way of showing compassion or comforting them. A hearty handshake is considered a thing of the past.

People are keeping their distances, keeping to themselves, and there is a large decrease in social interaction in one's everyday life. Obviously, this is contributing to feelings of anxiety and depression because people need people.

Christians understand this. Jesus made that clear. He touched people, he held children in his arms. His touch healed the bodies and souls of people.

It just might be that churches will be one of the few places where people can touch one another in caring and concern for each other, in empathy with those who are hurting, in the joy of just being with one another. Christ knew that humans were never meant to be touchless.

May birthdays: May 27-Michael Willoughby.

Anniversaries: May 17- Cary & Debbie Suhl, May 21-Tyler & Nicole White, May 27-Jason & Mimi Hackett

Things have changed since COVID: "In an unsettling reversal of my teenage years, I am now yelling at my parents for going out." - Reader's Digest.

Our Sunday Worship Service begins at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, April 13, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Douglas County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting, and transacting the business known as:

WEST PRAIRIE BUILDERS  
80 E CR 250 N, ARTHUR, IL 61911  
Dated this 13th day of April, 2023  
No. DBA-001991

Judi Pollock  
County Clerk  
published 05/03, 05/10, 05/17/2023

# Merry Month of May is flying by

## Town Talk

THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY IS FLYING BY

Much too fast for most of us and especially for parents of graduating seniors. And I'm guessing for some of those seniors, although many are probably both wishing for their high school years to be over and anxious about what the future brings. Time marches on and we can't stop it or even slow it down as much as we might want to. As for myself, I always look forward to graduation and celebrating our young people but also with a bit of nostalgia for days gone by too quickly.

### AND SPEAKING OF GRADUATIONS

Our family had the pleasure of attending the Illinois State University 164th annual commencement this past Saturday where Kaylee's boyfriend, Matthew, graduated with his Master of Professional Accountancy. We spent an enjoyable day taking pictures and meeting more of Matthew's family and eating lunch at a place called Mugsy's where the food was very good and the service was great. Jason took us on a short tour of campus remarking on how much the place has changed since he went there in the early 90s (I know that one is hard for me to believe). The ceremony was not until 6 p.m. for the College of Business and we stayed for the whole thing so it was close to 8:30 before we got out of the building. I will say ISU did an excellent job with the shuttles they had running and we were able to get on and off fairly quickly both going and coming back. We are very proud of Matthew and of course wish him all the best. Looking forward to seeing where the future takes him.

### MORE ALUMNI NEWS

Bradley Taylor, 2020 ALAH graduate, recently graduated from Life Academy in Mattoon. Some folks from the Arthur schools were able to be on hand for the ceremony. Stef-

fanie Seegmiller, Kristin Nall and Amy Hooten who all had the opportunity to interact with Bradley at ALAH were, I'm sure, very happy to be a part of Bradley's day. Bradley is the son of Michael and Katrina Taylor, grandson of LeAnne and Galen Tully, and John and Pamela Kutz, and great grandson of the late Max and Lou Fabert. Congratulations Bradley!

### RELATIVELY SPEAKING

I think/hope there are other articles in the paper about cousin Mike and Serena Honn's grandkids but just wanted to make a note of how proud all of us are of Emily Kauffman Birkhead and Josh Kauffman. They are the daughter and son of Jennifer Pownall Mohr and Rodney Kauffman. Paul and Lilly Kauffman are their other grandparents. Emily is now Dr. Birkhead having earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. Josh recently graduated from the University of Alabama-Huntsville and will be working as an electrical engineer. Hope you read the article elsewhere in the paper which gives more details about the accomplishments of these two young people. Emily and Josh's sister Zowie lives in Fairbanks, Alaska where she also works in the medical field. Zowie and her husband, Grant, who is in the U.S. Army, are expecting their first baby later this year.

Lots happening for these three and their families. Very proud of them!

### DOUGLAS COUNTY MUSEUM PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

This museum in Tuscola recently held their annual photography contest. Art teacher at ALAH Marylisa Renfro was one of the judges. I'm sure it wasn't an easy task as they had 119 entries. In looking through the winners I noticed a couple of familiar names. Sisters Brooke and Alex Clark of Arthur each won prizes. The girls are daughters of Jordan and Amber Clark and granddaughters of George and Nancy Clark. The photographs will be on display until July so hope you can get up to the museum and check them out at some point. On another note the museum was given a 1940 Chevrolet Special Deluxe car body and decided to turn it into a piece of art and sign for the museum. The museum's hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### SCHOOL NEWS

Had the pleasure and honor of attending honors night at Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School last week. If you want to feel good about the future just watch these young people who we have seen over the years on the volleyball and/or basketball court, on the football, baseball

or softball field, on the track, singing in the choir, playing an instrument, at a scholastic bowl meet, or on the stage who also earned scholarships and awards totaling a WHOLE lot of money. Hope to be able to share that amount with you soon but thinking the school might like to share that first. We have a lot of very well-rounded students who pour their heart and soul into not only academics but many different endeavors. They make us all proud for sure!

### KNIGHTS SPORTS REPORT

Well, after the girls won the conference in softball and the boys track team also won their conference meet with the girls track team placing third, the baseball team was not to be outdone. First of all they beat Okaw Valley on Tuesday, a team that had not lost a conference game since 2019. On Thursday the guys played a double header beating Cerro Gordo/Bement and then Tri-County to secure the conference championship. In the midst of all that the school also had another athlete sign to play after high school. Clay Seal, son of Nathan and Adrienne, will be playing baseball at Lakeland College next year. Congrats to Clay and to all our athletes!

The softball team also won two close games against Arcola and Cumberland on Saturday and played Monday at home against Cerro Gordo/Bement in regional play. Baseball started regional play at home (Lovington) against Pana on Monday

See TOWN TALK on page 9

### MANNEQUINS

Background: Kitchen Seed, Arthur, Illinois

by Don S.Chambers

"Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it, you can never get it back."  
- Harvey Mackay



## Mural

from page 1

ness to the event on Friday & Saturday, June 2 & 3, only. Try one or more of the strawberry items and watch the painting; what a way to spend your day(s).

### Arthur History Fact #50

## 1923

Arthur was celebrating its 50th Anniversary with picnics, parades, and much bravado.

Minnie Reeves was an early Arthur historian whose historical records were the basis of much of the Centennial book of 1973.

In 1929, Mrs. Reeves took a look back at Arthur's first 50 years and read some of the history of Arthur she had written at a Woman's Club meeting.

The history she read was subsequently published in the Arthur Graphic-Clarion along with these personal thoughts:

"It is with a touch of sadness that I look back across the years and note the change that time has wrought. So many of my friends and loved ones are gone. Of the people who were married and living in Arthur when I came in 1879, I can think of but two couples that are left. The others are gone, either one or both, and most of them are sleeping in our City of the Dead."

NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY

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