

Arthur Through My Eyes

This week I had the genuine pleasure of interacting with George Fritz of the "Wood Loft" downtown.

Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

Stay focused, avoid getting smoked

I called a friend last week who is caring for their spouse at home. Just to ask how she is doing. Her husband is struggling with some health issues that aren't going to get better before he sees Jesus face to face. I'm sure it takes all she has to keep him going with the respect and tenderness that develops through the commitment of a forever relationship. She said things were challenging, but okay, nothing that she hadn't anticipated. Then she continued, "You've got to stay focused or you're going to get smoked." I took her meaning to be: if you're inattentive to issues that arise, if you don't deal with them right away, you're going to find that you and maybe others will be in some difficulty or worse.

I've been thinking about what she said all week. You've got to stay focused or you're going to get smoked. There are days when I feel that my life is a delicate balancing act. One false move and the whole structure is going to come crashing down around me. We live with over-booked schedules and too many commitments. Our parents or other family members may not be aging gracefully and require one eye to be kept on them at all times. Keeping up

with the ebb and flow of finances in an inflated post-pandemic world might be providing more challenge than our checkbook can handle over a two-week period. Perhaps it's school, work, or some other area of life that makes our hair stand on end.

How is my focus? Am I keeping the main things the main things? What takes priority so that I can get done what needs to be done when it needs doing? Distractions and adverse situations are a significant part of this life. More than once, Jesus told His disciples and the gathered crowd to be ready. "Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks." - Luke 12:35-36. Jesus' emphasis is on the time of His return. I think the meaning of His words spill over to other areas of our life as well. Helping to keep us focused and to avoid getting smoked.

Lord Jesus, please help us to be attentive and not get overwhelmed. Amen.

Much love and many blessings,
Pastor John Stewart
First Baptist Church of Arthur

George, originally from the Chicago area, initially worked for Schrock for many years after he and his wife Deb and their first child moved to Arthur after graduating from college in forestry.

George and his son Adam opened the "Wood Loft" in 1982, adjacent to "The Villa" on the south side. George's wife Deb grew up in Arthur, as her Mom Pat ran "The Villa" and her dad ran "Delbert's" across the street. When Pat was killed in a local auto accident, George stepped in to take over "The Villa". In 2003, after 10 years or so operating both businesses, fine ladies clothing was phased out as ladies clothing evolved into more casual attire, and the "Wood Loft" expanded into that space.

"The Wood Loft" is known primarily for selling Amish made furniture, but as George walked me around the store, I learned it was so much more.

Originally, it was a showroom for local Amish furniture builders who, at the time, didn't advertise directly to the public.

As years passed, these local craftsmen moved away from furniture into other items and so now, most of the furniture sold comes from Amish communities in Indiana and Ohio. They carry furniture for any room of the house: dining room tables and chairs, bedroom sets, entertainment centers, bookcases, desks, hutches, etc.

As the market evolved into online business, George has found that as Arthur continues to attract tourists, people search "Arthur", find their store online, shop ahead of time, and

then make a trip to Arthur to make a purchase.

George commented that it's the image of Arthur itself and the fine quality items it's known for, that contribute most to their current business. What is so neat about "The Wood Loft" is that every item is custom made to fit the desire of the customer - switching table or chair legs, wood, color. That is their "niche".

One of their "specialty items" that they sell primarily via online orders is their custom made gun cabinets. Customers contact George and let him know exactly all the specific details they are looking for and then he designs it, draws up a plan and sends it off to one of his quality, trusted builders. It's quite fascinating! He showed me one gun cabinet that had a pull out desk, book shelf and an attached door into a concealed safe room. It was super cool! Had no idea such amazing craftsmanship is taking place there and that George is gifted in the area of design. These cabinets are shipped fairly regularly all over the country.

People surprisingly also travel a long way just to buy from their selection of 100 different varieties of coffees and teas and to see their dog "Loki" - a 13 year old chocolate lab.

They also have items from local artisans on sale via consignment including full size quilts and quilt table top items, cutting boards, unique drop shelves, exotic wood treasure boxes, well made wooden outdoor chairs and local honey. They also have items from the local United Methodist Church

Christmas bazaar on sale.

Some very unique, specialty items include: a beautiful selection of landscape photographs from photographer Curt Carter of Tuscola, lead glass items (nativity scene and Chief Illini) made by Arthur residents Al Froman (retired superintendent of the school district) and his wife, Sue and hand crafted pottery by Dwain Naragon, former professor of pottery at EIU in Charleston. Touring the store was like going through a gallery. A delight to the eye and mind!

What George appreciates most about having a business in Arthur is "the comradery we have business to business, being part of a downtown community."

And when I asked him what he appreciates most about Arthur he replied, "The people. People are immersed in the community and so active working together, whether it be in a

church, club, or organization to put on different events and festivals, the fireworks, etc. to keep the community vibrant." Yes! Let's excel still more, Arthur! We've got a good thing going!

Excited Once Again by a New "Discovery" in Our Small Town,
Trudy Feyereisen

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Appropriation Ordinance for the Village of Arthur, Illinois, has been prepared in tentative form and is available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk at 120 E. Progress Street, Arthur, Illinois.

A public hearing will be held on said Appropriation Ordinance at the regular Village Board meeting in the Village Council Room, 120 E. Progress Street, Arthur, Illinois, on Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

The Village Board of Trustees of Arthur, Illinois published 05/24/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

Owner: Arthur CUSD #305
301 E. Columbia Street
Arthur, IL 61911
Architect: BLDD Architects, Inc.
100 Merchant Street
Decatur, IL 62523-1217
(844) 784-4440

Contractors are invited to submit an offer for Arthur CUSD #305 Summer 2023 Paving. Offers will be received at the District Office 301 E. Columbia Street, Arthur, IL 61911 before 2:00 p.m. local prevailing time on Thursday, June 15, 2023. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

The project consists of: select paving work at Arthur Grade School, Atwood Hammond Grade School, and ALAH High School.

A single stipulated sum bid will be received for all work.

Visit www.bldddplanroom.com to view project bid documents online.

Contractors may obtain electronic documents free of charge. Printed documents may be obtained at cost from Decatur Blueprint, (217) 423-7589.

A Bid Bond and Performance and

Payment Bond will be required.

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers, or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

The successful bidder must agree to conform to the current rules and regulations of the Fair Employment Practices Commission.

Attention is called to the provisions of Equal Employment Opportunity.

Contractor shall not pay less than the prevailing rates of wages as determined by the Illinois Department of Labor to all laborers, workers and mechanics performing work under this contract, and shall comply with the requirements of the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1-12).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at ALAH High School, at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. Tours of project sites at Arthur Grade School and Atwood Hammond Elementary School will be provided immediately following the meeting. Persons interested in visiting the site at a time other than the Pre-Bid Meeting shall contact Justin Woodard, Director of Maintenance at (217) 542-2146.

published 05/24/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DOUGLAS COUNTY - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of
ELENORE R. MOBERLEY, Deceased
NO. 2023-P-11

NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of ELENORE R. MOBERLEY. Letters of office were issued to Marla Goss, 5530 North Route 48, Decatur, Illinois 62526, and Michelle Chaplin, 109 Jones Boulevard, Tuscola, Illinois 61953, as Independent Executors on May 10, 2023 whose attorney of record is Crossman Law Office, 225 South Vine Street, Arthur, Illinois 61911.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk in Room 204 Douglas County Courthouse, Tuscola, Illinois 61951, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before November 24, 2023 being six months from the date of the first publication, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is re-

quired by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Marla Goss,
Independent Executor
Michelle Chaplin,
Independent Executor

Document Prepared By:
KENNETH M. CROSSMAN
Attorney #: 6315286
225 South Vine Street
Arthur, Illinois 61911
217-543-3336
crossmanlawoffice@gmail.com
published 05/24, 05/31, 06/07/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT DOUGLAS COUNTY - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of
ROBERT DEAN STEWART SR., Deceased
NO. 2023-PR-9

NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of ROBERT DEAN STEWART SR. Letters of office were issued to Mary V. Stewart, 1724 East County Road 700 North, Tuscola, Illinois 61953, as Independent Executor on April 12, 2023 whose attorney of record is Crossman Law Office, 225 South Vine Street, Arthur, Illinois 61911.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk in Room 204 Douglas County Courthouse, Tuscola, Illinois 61951, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before November 10, 2023 being six months from the date of the first publication, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is re-

quired by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Mary V. Stewart
Independent Executor
Document Prepared By:
KENNETH M. CROSSMAN
Attorney #: 6315286
225 South Vine Street
Arthur, Illinois 61911
217-543-3336
crossmanlawoffice@gmail.com
published 05/10, 05/17, 05/24/2023

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT MOULTRIE COUNTY - IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of
GERALD E. HALE, Deceased
NO. 2023-PR-10

NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of GERALD E. HALE. Letters of office were issued to David Crist, 207 North Oak Street, Arthur, Illinois 61911, as Independent Executor on April 10, 2023, whose attorney of record is Crossman Law Office, 225 South Vine Street, Arthur, Illinois 61911.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the circuit clerk in Suite #7, 10 South Main Street, Moultrie County Courthouse, Sullivan, Illinois 61951, or with the Independent Executor, or both, on or before November 10th, 2023 being six months from the date of the first publication, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representatives are required

by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representatives and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

David Crist
Independent Executor

Document Prepared By:
KENNETH M. CROSSMAN
Attorney #: 6315286
225 South Vine Street
Arthur, Illinois 61911
217-543-3336
crossmanlawoffice@gmail.com
published 05/10, 05/17, 05/24/2023



Church Directory

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

ARCOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - USA, 311 E. Jefferson, Arcola. Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. Phone 268-3212

ARCOLA FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE - Rev. Ivan Jess 268-4769, 276-3020; Sam Miller, SS Supt. 202-6094. Sunday School, 9:30am Morning Worship, 10:30am; (Sign Language Interpreter) Sunday Evening Service 6:00pm; Wednesday evening Bible Study 6:00pm; Missionary Meeting second Wednesday night of each month.

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH - 710 E. Park St., Arthur. Worship begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. Christian Education classes for all ages begin at 9:30 am. All are welcome, come and join us! Call 543-2781 for more information. Ministry Team: Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discipling & Administration; Jeff Marnier, Minister of Worship and Youth; Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach; Nancy Kuhns, Minister of Community Life. Website: arthurmennonite.org Email: arthurmennonite@gmail.com

ARTHUR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH - 530 N. Vine St., Arthur. Pastor: Doug Davis, Worship 10:00am; Children's Church every Sunday morning at 9:30am, Nursery provided. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm, Wednesday: Service 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. 543-2672.

ATWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 229 S. Main, Atwood. Pastor Don Gerkin. Phone 578-2880. Sunday School 9am; Church, 10am; Bible Study 6:30pm

BOURBON BAPTIST CHURCH - David Babb, Pastor, Sunday Worship, 9:30am; Sunday School 10:45am; bourbon.baptistchurch@yahoo.com

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - Missouri Synod. 1 mile south of Sullivan on Highway 32. Glenn Strohschein, Pastor. Sunday Morning Service 10:00am; Sunday School 9:00am; Saturday services 5:00pm. Online services: www.worshipanew.com

FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH - 320 Surrey Lane, Arthur, Timothy Froese, Pastor. Sunday School 10am; Sunday Worship & The Word 11:15am; Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm. Website: www.facarthur.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (ABCUSA) - 120 E. Park, Arthur. John Stewart Pastor; Sunday School 9am, Worship 10am; American Baptist Women's Ministries meets 2nd Mon. 7pm; Prayer chain, 543-2296. For other activities and information, call church 543-2592 or Internet at www.firstbaptistarthur.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 231 N. Illinois, Atwood, 578-2555. Woody White, Pastor. Sunday School 9am; Morning worship 10am; Youth 5:00pm; Discipleship Class 6pm; Woman's Bible Study Tues. 9am; IGNITE Children's Ministry Weds. 6:30-8pm. Child care provided at all services. Website www.firstbaptistatwood.org

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - 300 Northline Rd., Tuscola, 253-2084, Sunday School 9:30am; Morning Worship 10:30am; Evening service 6pm; Wednesday Evening 6:30pm. A Ministry for Everyone: Sunday School for all ages, King's Kids, Teen Dept. Homebuilders & more! www.faithtuscola.org

LOVINGTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - Corner of County (Route 32) and Church Streets. Worship 9:30am; Children's Church 4 yrs.-1st grade 10:15am; Sunday School 10:45am for all ages; Wednesday night Bible Study, 6:00pm. Craig Swinford, Pastor.

LOVINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 241 S. Broadway, Lovington Sunday School 9:15am; Worship 10:30am Larry Bricker, Minister.

FAITH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP - 228 N. Broadway St., Lovington. 873-8791. "Real Faith, Real Life". Sunday Service 10am. www.lovingtonfaith.org

EAGLE MOUNTAIN - Assembly of God. Pastor Darin Elder, 253-4444, 401 E. Sale St., Tuscola. Sunday Services, 10am and 6:30pm and Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm Nursery and children's ministries provided during all services.

SUNNYSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH - Larry Rocke, Senior Pastor, Luke Goss, Assistant Pastor. Sunday School 9:30am; Services 10:30am

COWBOY CHURCH - Penn Station, 122 E. Progress, Arthur. 217-273-4202. Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. Darrell Helmuth, Minister. Everyone welcome.

JONATHAN CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH - "Forward in Christ, United in Love, Come as You Are". 1425 Jonathan Creek Rd, Sullivan, 728-4369.

Website: jcreek.org. Email: jonathancreekchurch@yahoo.com. Pastor Tim Henderson. **Sunday Worship:** 8:00am Traditional Service, 10:00am Contemporary Service; 10:00am FROG (Fully Rely on God) Super Kids Church (for children 4-12); 6:00pm Believers Meeting (Contemporary Service.) **Corporate Prayer:** Tuesdays at 6:30pm. **Family Night:** Wednesday Evenings @ 6:30-8 pm Summer Schedule: 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7. Will start back weekly in September. Lite meal at 6:30-7pm then break up into classes til 8pm. **Bus Service Available** Call 521-9576 for bus info. Jonathan Creek Christian Church a Regional Life Transformation Center, LovingPeople to Life; **Everyone Welcome.**

NORTH VINE MENNONITE CHURCH - 312 N. Vine, Arthur, Brian Petersheim, Sr. Pastor; Mike Helmuth, Asst. Pastor. Sunday School for all ages 9:30am; Message 10:30am; Sunday evening services 6pm. No services on last Sunday night of every month. All are welcome.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH - Washington & Pine Streets, Arcola, 268-3766. Rev. Angel Sierra, Pastor. Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.; Weekday Mass Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Confessions Wednesday 6:15 p.m. or by appointment. Affirmations Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Email: johnbaptist@consolidated.net

LIFEPOINTE CHURCH - 700 E. Main, Arcola. Nondenomination/Spirit-Filled Church. Ph. 217-268-4586. Rev. Gephard and Judy Warman. Sunday Worship Service: 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Pastor Rogelio Gutierrez - Spanish Church. Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m. Friday Service: 7:00 p.m.

ARTHUR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 128 E. Illinois, Arthur. Pastor Jill Bunker. Worship 8am & 10am; Sunday School 9am Nursery for Sunday School and 10am Service. www.arthurunitedmethodist.org

VINE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 249 S. Vine, Arthur. Pastor Bob Silvanik. Sunday School 9am; Worship 10am. Christian Women's Fellowship meets first Wednesday each month 1:30pm, September-June. Nursery and air conditioning.

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - P.O. Box 252, Arthur. 2 1/2 miles south of Garrett. Church Worship 9:00am; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m

LOVINGTON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD (ANDERSON) - 301 W. State St. Lovington, IL 61937. Pastor Rodney Houser. Phone 873-4749 9am Sunday School, 10am Morning Worship, Wednesday 7pm Midweek Services, adult and childrens ministries.

PRAIRIE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH - 2423 CR 500 E, Lake City, IL 61937. Phone 677-2464. Nursery available for all services. Sunday School for K4-Adults 9:30 a.m. Worship and Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening services 6:00 p.m. Wednesday night Bible Study 7 p.m. with Flyer's Club (K4-1st Grade), King's Kids (2nd-6th Grade) and Teens (7th-12th Grade) every Wednesday (Sept.-May). Email: info@prairieviewbaptistchurch.com Website: www.prairieviewbaptist.com

LOVINGTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 360 W. Springfield Rd. Sunday School 9:30am, Morning Worship 10:30am, Evening Service 6pm, Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study, 7:00pm Church phone: 873-5116. www.fblovington.org

NEW LIFE CHURCH - R.R. 1, Sullivan, IL 61951 (3 1/2 miles east of Sullivan on the Cadwell Rd.) Ph. 728-4200 Dave & Debra Dolan, Pastors; Liz Dolan, Minister of Music; Debra Dolan, Secretary. Sunday Worship 9am. Wednesday Worship Service (for all ages), 7pm. Website www.newlifesullivan.org

CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP - 212 E. Third Street, Arthur. Sunday Worship services 10am, Sunday evening worship service 6:30 pm. Everyone warmly invited to join us for worship.

UNITED CHURCH OF ATWOOD - 210 N. Main St., P.O. Box 379 • Atwood, IL 61913 • 578-2832. Mike Drake, Pastor. Non-Denominational Christian Church. Service: 10:00am. Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-Noon

Dutch Valley Meats, Inc.
• Hickory Smoked Hams & Bacon
• Fresh Beef & Pork
• Freezer Bundles
• Deer Processing
On the curve on Rt. 133 in Chesterville
Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
(217) 943-3354
www.dutchvalleymeatsinc.com

ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION
113 E. Illinois • Arthur, IL
543-2151
www.thearthurgraphic.com

Since 1994
A.J.'s AUTO BODY
111 N. Vine Street, Arthur, IL 61911
217-543-3691
ajsautobody@consolidated.net
Division of A E Jess Inc.