

# Zion News

"Learn not the way of the nations . . . for the customs of the people are false." - Jeremiah 10:2-3.

In the following verses, Jeremiah warns against idolatrous actions, "A tree from the forest is cut down . . . men deck it with silver and gold, they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move." Sounds like decorating a Christmas tree doesn't it?

Sometimes things that seem to be simple seem to become complex when you start really thinking about them. Observing holidays can be one of those things.

There are those who believe it's wrong to observe holidays, even to celebrate Christmas and Easter since the way we celebrate them have some association with pagan holidays that existed before the time of Christ.

This debate can rage on, but, of course, religious holidays always need to seek out the truth and meaning of the observance, whereas people have always wanted and needed reasons to just celebrate life. It's hard to believe that is wrong. So we have holidays and lots of them.

Studies have shown there are several benefits for us to have holidays. They can reduce stress and provide relaxation, which has physical and mental health benefits. Holidays can provide a sense of well-being, improve family relationships, and boost happiness.

Another study suggests that a "holiday" can reduce a person's physical complaints and improve a person's quality of sleep and mood, and that this effect can last over an extended period of time.

It is amazing how many holidays and observances there are today and June is full of them. Some lists include over 125 special days in the month of June and as many as 31 month-long observances.

On one list, June 21 had the most "holidays" with 13, while June 28 had only one - National Tapioca Day.

The monthly observances of June seem to center often on nature: Great Outdoors Month, National Rose Month, National Oceans Month, National Rivers Month, National Camping Month and so on.

The observances of June 21 range from Go Skateboarding Day to National Dog Party Day to World Day of Music. And, of course, there's the Summer Solstice on June 21.

Some of these observances may seem nonsensical and insignificant, but they have usually been "established" to bring joy, and sometimes introspection, into one's life.

Christians can keep their holy days holy and the other holidays in proper perspective.

Our Sunday Worship Service begins at 9:00 AM. This coming Sunday Rev Roedder will be leading the worship service. Everyone is welcome.

## Graduation, Memorial Day and Strawberry Jam

### EARLY DEADLINE

Because of the Memorial Day holiday this is being written at the beginning of the weekend instead of the end. Some things about Memorial Day and the weekend will have to wait for next week's column which will be the first one in June...ALREADY!

### ALAH GRADUATION

Attended the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond graduation Friday night. It was a beautiful evening to celebrate our young people. Someone told me that 1100 chairs had been set up and I would say that most of them were filled. The new scoreboard dedicated in memory of Lucas Otto, ALAH 2020, was up and, appropriately enough it was also Lucas's 21st birthday. Brady Moore, four year class president, Charley Condill, salutatorian, and Emma Edwards, valedictorian, all gave wonderful speeches and were great representatives for their class. A class, by the way, that is and was extremely accomplished in so many ways in spite of the fact that much of their high school was disrupted, unfortunately, by a pandemic. A class that earned \$1.5 million in scholarships and awards. Pretty darn impressive! The link to the video of the graduation can be found on the school's facebook page, Arthur CUSD #305. Congratulations ALAH Class of 2023! You have made so many in our communities proud!

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

While I have to write this early I hope you all enjoyed your weekend. Started out, as

## Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

mentioned above, with a fantastic commencement for our high schoolers. I'm sure for many the weekend was followed with lots of graduation parties, family get-togethers, cookouts, camping, traveling and just relaxing. Hope some of you were able to get out to Eberhardt Park on Sunday afternoon to hear Mackville as they celebrated their 15th anniversary. Thanks once again to the American Legion Auxiliary for placing the flags along Vine Street and in front of the schools. Can't tell you how impressive it was and how much I felt a welcome home as I drove back into town on Thursday afternoon from Wisconsin. Because I was gone I couldn't help but Sally and some other family members pitched in along with I am guessing the usual crew. Linda Perrine is the organizer each time and we appreciate just how organized she is with having everything ready to go. I think I have mentioned this before also but many, many moons ago and one of the first times the flags were placed was also on a Memorial Day weekend. Delano and I had been to Indiana for the weekend and were so pleased to see our town's expression of patriotism with the display of the flags along our main street as we came back into town. Thank you to all those who

gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can have the freedoms we have today.

### CEMETERY VISITS

Our family, like many others, take the Memorial Day holiday as a chance to visit the cemeteries where we have family. Sally and I will be going to Zion, Humboldt, Arcola ending our morning at Arthur for the 11 a.m. service there. Every year it's the same story. We try to remember what Daddy, Mother and later Kent had to say about our family history. While we have some of it written down, we don't have all the stories and we need to record them since I'm pretty sure we will be the last to know them. Sally and I are also keeping our fingers crossed that at least some of the peonies will still be in bloom by Monday. They always seem to come on just a bit too early. Right now the white ones are virtually gone but we still have some pink and deep pink that look good. Love peonies but they just don't last long enough. Hope you were able to remember family and friends as we did.

### AND A TIE-IN TO THE STORIES ABOVE

Larry Icenogle, AHS '67, and a retired Lt. Col. from the Army plays taps almost daily at cemeteries near his home in California. He is often at Riverside National where on Saturday he

played for 7 veterans. The cemetery placed 250,000 flags on the graves of fallen veterans. I know it is one of the greatest pleasures of Larry's life to be able to do this for the families and have no doubt it is much appreciated.

### STRAWBERRY JAM FESTIVAL AND MURAL

Is this coming weekend. From the posts on the facebook page it looks like there are going to be lots of food and craft vendors on the street. Merchants will be having their traditional 'sidewalk sales' as well. On Friday Otto Center also has a lot going on south of town. There will be a bake sale all day as well as a mini auction. And of course strawberry pie and shortcake which will be available at Otto Center on Friday and downtown both Friday and Saturday. Weather forecast shows dry but pretty warm. Also it's my understanding that the mural depicting the Rural Patriot that will be on the side of the building next to the gazebo parking lot is to be started on June 1 and completed over the weekend. Looking forward to seeing the progress and completion of that. Enjoy the weekend!

### CHEESE AT FLOWER SHOP

And while you are enjoying Strawberry Jam be sure to stop by the Arthur Flower Shop where cheese is once again available on Vine Street! Thanks to Anita and all the employees for making this happen. Know this is something that has been missed since

See TOWN TALK on page 9

## Letter to the Editor

### Remembering Krista Lewin

I first met Krista Lewin in 2006. She was working for the Mattoon Journal Gazette and came to Arthur to interview me for a story about the Arthur Fireworks. After the interview at the fairgrounds I shot several fireballs for a photo to use with her story, she absolutely loved it and we be-

came instant friends. This was our first meeting but Krista had been a huge fan of the Arthur Fireworks from the very beginning. She talked often of how she first met "Arthur Fireworks chairman" Mark Jones when he burst into the newsroom at the Journal Gazette with great excitement pro-

claiming that Arthur was going to have the best fireworks show in the area!

After our meeting in 2006 Krista and I became good friends, sharing a passion for fireworks, and would talk throughout the year about the next show. She was a tremendous encouragement and was always excited when we pushed the show to new limits. She would write articles for the show even after she stopped working for the newspaper. She would also bring her camera to the show and take many great photos throughout the day and during the show, trying to capture that perfect picture of the fireworks or the Rural Patriot. Several weeks after the show in 2019 she sent me a flash drive with many great photos and a detailed drawing of her idea for the Arthur Fireworks t-shirt. She was very excited when a photo from this flash drive was used on the 2022 t-shirt, an amazing shot of the Rural Patriot.

Several weeks after the show in 2022 she fell ill and passed away. It was a devastating loss and I couldn't imagine the fireworks without being able to call Krista to get excited about the next show. It wasn't long before I noticed on my table the flash drive along with the detailed drawing of her idea and knew that I would do everything I could to make her the shirt she dreamed of. I am happy to say that all of the fireworks used on the 2023 t-shirt were taken by Krista Lewin.

Rest in peace Krista, Thank You for all the good times, and I'm sure what you are experiencing in heaven is much better than fireworks!

Larry Schlabach



MANNEQUINS

Have fun at the Strawberry Jam Festival!

by Don S.Chambers

## In Our Community

### ALAH Knights JFL



Sign up will be on Friday, June 2 from 5:30PM to 6:30PM and Saturday, June 3 from 9:00AM to 10:00AM at the Arthur Fire House!

This program is offered to any boy or girl who will be entering 4th through 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2023-2024 school year.

There will be a sign-up fee of \$80 for one child. \$30 for each additional child.

This fee includes a new personalized football uniform, game pants, pads and helmet. The additional money will go to help with any other costs associated with this program. **Returning players please bring last season jersey to check sizing.**

**Players must show up to sign-ups in order to receive new personalized jerseys!!!!**

**\*\*If this is your first year, please bring a copy of your player's birth certificate and insurance card to the sign ups\*\***

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Justin Wierman at 620-7459.

### Arthur History Fact #52

In the late 1930's Albert Heerd started barbering in Arthur and did so for over fifty years.

Barber shops were good places to catch up on all the town gossip as well as pass along the best jokes going around town.

According to Albert, one of those jokes was about the traditional rivalry between Arthur and Atwood. He said,

"In the barbershop, waiting for a haircut, were two young men. One was wearing an Arthur letter jacket, and the other was wearing an Atwood-Hammond letter jacket.

The Atwood student got up to go to the bathroom. When he returned the Arthur student asked him, 'Did you wash your hands?' to which the Atwood student coolly replied, 'No.'

Pushing the issue, 'Well, in Arthur they teach us to wash our hands after going to the bathroom,' declared the Arthur student.

The Atwood student responded, 'In Atwood they teach us not to pee on our fingers.'"

## NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY

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