



# ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911



**MEMORIAL DAY.....REMEMBER AND HONOR.** Members of American Legion Post #479 conducted the annual Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 29 in Arthur Cemetery. Pictured is Post Commander Terry Ferchow, master of ceremonies, along with guest speaker retired Gunnery Sergeant James Cazel. Following a salute by the rifle squad, Taps was played by American Legion member Dick Hein.



Jody McGrath representing the American Legion Auxiliary and the VFW and Barb Eckstein, President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #479, placed the wreaths at the Soldier's Memorial.

## Community honors its veterans on Memorial Day

"It is a day all Americans should take a moment to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Memorial Day is a day for both grief and celebration, reflecting on the tragic loss of life and recounting the cou-

rageousness of their service," guest speaker retired Gunnery Sergeant James Cazel told those in attendance at the Memorial Day Service conducted Monday, May 29, at the Arthur Cemetery.

"For many Americans, the

last Monday in May marks the unofficial start of summer, a long weekend with a family barbecue or gathering of friends. For those who served in the military, Memorial Day holds a greater significance, as it commemorates the brave

men and women who lost their lives defending our great nation."

At the core of our military lie unique themes: the selfless desire to serve and the willingness to sacrifice to defend our nation. The origin of Memorial

Day, first observed over 155 years ago and then known as Decoration Day, was to beautify the graves in memory of those who fought and died to preserve our union during the Civil War. The holiday's name

*See Memorial Day on page 7*

## First Neighbor Bank Breaks Ground for New Arthur Branch

First Neighbor Bank, a Community Bank based in Toledo, IL, and wholly-owned by First Neighborhood Bancshares, Inc., broke ground on May 30, 2023 at the site of its new Arthur, IL location (601 S Vine St) at the intersection of 133 and Vine Street. Construction of the facility will follow on the new

Arthur banking facility and First Neighbor anticipates that it will open in the first quarter 2024.

"The financial center will create a significant presence in Arthur and will provide a warm and inviting place for our customers to interact

*See Bank on page 7*



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## Arthur CUSD #305 Proudly Announces Comprehensive Curriculum Advancements

Arthur CUSD #305 is thrilled to share the remarkable progress made by its dedicated staff in the enhancement of curriculum from the fall of 2021 to the spring of 2023. Through rigorous collaboration, careful planning, and a commitment to educational excellence, the district has successfully identified curriculum priority standards for each course, developed scope and sequencing for all

subjects and grade levels, and established pacing guides for new teachers.

"The amount of work, collaboration, and dedication the staff has committed to this process has been exciting to witness," said district Superintendent, Mr. Shannon Cheek. "We are at a point where new staff members who enter the district now have a tangible roadmap

*See CURRICULUM on page 7*

## Cheese Is Back On Our Main Street

As we approach the Arthur Cheese Festival in September where we'll be celebrating 150 years as a town, it's good to know that we will again have cheese being sold on our main street of Vine.

During a dialogue about this need between George Fritz of "The Woodloft" and Anita Krutsinger of "The Arthur Flower Shop" George said, "We need cheese on main street."

As the conversation continued about options, it was concluded that it would be best for Anita to house the cheese as George would have to buy coolers, whereas "The Flower Shop" already has them. Anita



shared, "I have a cooler in the store. I have a big walk-in cooler in the back. I can do it."

Anita also has experience *See CHEESE on page 2*



**STRAWBERRY JAM SIZZLES.** Despite the the above average temperatures on Friday and Saturday, festival goers didn't seem to mind the early summer heat as Arthur kicked-off the festival season this past weekend. Vine Street was lined with over 35 vendors in downtown-Arthur many news ones and several that have been coming for years. The 2-day event brought in numerous shoppers to the area as store owners and vendors alike were pleased with sales. Pictured is 2023 Little Miss A.L.A.H. Harper Hale, 2023 Jr. Miss Emme Greathouse, and 2023 Miss A.L.A.H. Regann Bowles handing out samples of strawberry fudge compliments of Arthur Flower Shop and strawberry angel food cake bites donated by the Homestead Bakery

## News Briefs

### Upcoming Events:

- June 7- Gunny Sack @ Penn Station
- June 14- Connie & Friends @ Penn Station
- June 17- 3rd Saturday Market Bazaar @ Otto Center
- June 18- Father's Day
- June 21- Summer Toy Auction @ Tri-County Auction Facility
- June 21- Gunny Sack @ Penn Station
- June 28- Midnight Express @ Penn Station

### Prayer Meeting Set for June 10

The Arthur Area Promise Keepers monthly Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, June 10 at 7:00 a.m. at Yoder's Kitchen.

Our topic for prayer and discussion will be "Spiritual Drought Prevention."

All area men are encouraged to attend and join in this time of prayer and fellowship.

### Fireworks Priority Seating Wristbands on sale

The Arthur Rotary Club is excited to be hosting the 2023 edition of the Freedom Celebration Fireworks on July 1. They hope you are looking forward to it too!

Once again, they are selling Priority Seating wristbands in advance of the celebration. Priority Seating is in Jurgens Park - starting along the lane south of the pool house toward the t-ball diamond, on the gravel lot south of the main diamond, and in the fenced area on the north side of the football field.

Wristbands are available for adults and school age children for \$10 each. Seating within the main ball diamond and other areas of Jurgens Park is still free. Skip the lines and much of the crowd by sitting in Priority!

Wristbands go on sale on Friday, June 1 at Arthur First Bank and Oye's Hardware. Money from wristband sales allows the Arthur Rotary Club to provide scholarships, support our schools, and help other local organizations that serve our community.

Donations toward the fireworks display are always welcome and can be made at the State Bank of Arthur.

### Rotary seeks donations for fireworks

The Arthur Rotary Fireworks has become one of the biggest, and literally brightest, events in the region, and they are looking for sponsors to help pay for the display. There are several different levels of giving from as little as \$50 to more than \$5,000.

The event this year starts off at 4 p.m. Saturday, July 1, with an evening of entertainment featuring Captain Rat and the Blind Rivets, food vendors, kids activities and, around 9:30 p.m., a moving display of fireworks including hundreds of shells, the Ultimate Fireball, Vesuvius and the Wall of Fire complete with the Rural Patriot. Sponsors will be featured in advertising and will receive VIP seating on the west side of the Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond football field.

Donations can be made at The State Bank of Arthur.

John Adams once said, of the significance of Independence Day: "It will be celebrated with pomp and parade, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other," and Arthur plans on doing its part. The Arthur Rotary Fireworks promises a spectacular celebration with the best and biggest display in the area.

