

Zion News

"There needs not a great soul to make a hero; there needs a god-created soul which will be true to its origin; that will be a great soul!" - Thomas Carlyle, "On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and The Heroic in History" (1841).

Twenty years ago, on June 21, 2003, J K Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" was released and became the fastest-selling book ever. People are fascinated with the magical and mystical, the supernatural and superheroes.

If you are watching the movie trailers for this summer, it is obvious that superheroes are popular with children and adults alike. From Aquaman to the X-men, superheroes have a huge effect on the box office. Of the 100 highest-grossing movies of all time, more than a quarter of them are superhero themed.

Why are superheroes so popular?

One thought about why superheroes are popular is that the human brain is hardwired for heroism. According to author Bill Delvaux, "The heroic is an imprint that's been left inside all of us because we're

made in the image of God. Even though that imprint has been marred by the fall, there's something that remains. We know what's good, right, and true, but we also know we don't live up to it."

This longing for the heroic can become applied to political figures, sports figures, and even fictitious characters. It causes people to look for a picture of heroism that they want to see in the world and in themselves.

There are now apps and books that introduce young people to Bible heroes who exhibit superhero powers, but are different than the secular superheroes of today.

First, Bible heroes were real people. They walked, and talked, and breathed the same air as we do. We share with them the same joys and sorrows, triumphs and disappointments that we experience. We can relate to them for this reason.

The lives of Bible heroes teach us human history and lessons we can learn from that history. We can learn practical lessons from their lives and avoid encountering problems through their wisdom and example.

Biblical heroes, just like the superheroes in the movies, can be flawed and oftentimes weak. However, Bible heroes teach us to depend on God for strength and power. In moments of weakness we are made strong.

But, most importantly, Bible heroes point us to the greatest superhero of all.

It is the One who made the leper walk, the blind to see, the sinner to be set free. It is the One who died and rose again. As called by one of the longest running musicals on Broadway, he is "Jesus Christ Superstar."

If ever there is one worthy of "hero-worship," he's the One.

Our Sunday Worship Service begins at 9:00 AM. This coming Sunday, Ken Bunker will be our guest speaker. Everyone is welcome.

Jace Green doing radio internship this summer

JERSEY BOYS!

The first of many great offerings at the Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan this summer. Knew many around here had been to see it and there were lots of rave reviews which were well deserved. So much talent and the young man who played Frankie Valli, Justin Albinder, has an unbelievable voice. Think he was actually channeling the 'real' Frankie. Expect to hear more from him in the future. Learned a lot about the group I did not know. How much of it was how it actually happened I'm not sure. Plan to do some reading up on the group, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, to see if I can separate fact from fiction. Other shows are "Great American Trailer Park," June 22-July 2; "Driving Miss Daisy," July 6-16; "Million Dollar Quartet," July 20-30; "Escape to Margaritaville," August 3-13; "A Second Helping, The Church Basement Ladies Sequel," August 17-27. Visit thelittletheatre.org or call 217-728-7375 for more information and tickets.

ALAH GRADUATE NEWS

Always Arthurite Jace Green, ALAH '22, is doing an internship at WYXY Radio out of Champaign this summer. 99.1 on your radio dial, WYXY plays classic country music which I, for one, enjoy. Jace is working with the station's ag director, Gale Cunningham and I know can be heard through the noon hour sharing ag related news and doing interviews. He may be on at other times too but that is when I have heard him. Throughout high school Jace did some emceeing and I know he is pretty comfortable behind a microphone.

ALAH ATHLETE ACCOLADES

Congratulations to Josie Carrillo (freshman) and Emma Edwards (senior) for receiving News Gazette All Area Honorable Mention recognition for Track & Field! Since Josie is a freshman, expect to hear more

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

from her over the next few years and best of luck to Emma as she moves on to college.

SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENT

Should be a couple of pictures and a short story about a recent sesquicentennial event at the community building. Rob Fustin shared some of his extensive genealogy work that he has done on his family, particularly his connection to Michael Warren, a founding father of our town. It was very nice of the Moultrie County History Center to host this event here in Arthur for their monthly meeting. Warren and his wife had 13 children and we know of at least one other descendant of his here in town. Surely with all those kids there are more. If anyone knows of any connection, please let me know so I can share with the sesquicentennial committee.

FORGOTTEN LIFE OF SARAH GRADY

Forgot to mention last week that Sally and I had attended a book signing at Culver House in Decatur. The author is Mary Lynn who wrote the book, "The Forgotten Life of Sara Grady," a few years ago. The book was based on what she had been able to compile from old letters and court records from the early 1900s of this woman but her ultimate fate was a mystery. She has now written a sequel which I have not read

yet. Sally has but she's not giving away the story and I don't want her to. The new book is titled "Sarah's Legacy, It's In the Stars." There was a nice crowd. I think more people than they thought would attend and it was held, as mentioned, in the Culver House, one of those former grand old mansions in Decatur. There are many homes like that in that city and, sadly, too many have gone to rack and ruin. There is a group attempting to save this particular home and what we saw of it inside looked to be in fairly good shape. However the outside was a bit rough and, as we looked at the windows on the second and third floor, we could only imagine what kind of shape those rooms are in. Sally bought a book about the Culver House titled, "My Plot of Ground, The History and Legends of Culver House." Seems the place has quite a history and is probably haunted. Again, I haven't read it yet but I will. And that leads me to....

HISTORY OF THE HEARTLAND

A quite interesting facebook page which is mostly about Decatur history and its buildings. Their fb page states that "History of the Heartland sponsors numerous community events to highlight the need for historic preservation." The page shares many old pictures of

Decatur as it used to be and events happening now in Decatur related to history. Also manufacturing and the farm background of the area. There are pictures of old churches and their history as well as all the info on the latest skirmish with the Powers Mansion on Decatur Street. The one that was up for auction and thought to have been sold but that fell through. Another beautiful old home. If you look through the page from a couple of weeks back you might see a couple of people you know. (Well their backs anyway but think you will recognize.) Anyway, you can quickly get engrossed in all the posts as I'm sure many will remember a lot of Decatur history. Enjoy!

FROM THE INTERNET

And appropriate as we begin summer. "Ever feel like you're constantly swatting and slapping away mosquitoes in the summertime? About 20% of the population is more susceptible to mosquito bites than others, and scientists have been working to discover why. One of the key reasons? Blood type. Mosquitoes, after all, are blood-suckers, and their preferred "vintage" is Type O. In fact, one study showed that those with Type O blood have mosquitoes landing on them twice as often as those with Type A blood. To dig in even further, about 85% of people secrete a chemical signal that lets mosquitoes know what blood type they have — mosquitoes will gravitate toward humans with this

See TOWN TALK on page 3

CUSD 305

School Registration

Registration for Arthur CUSD 305 for 2023-2024 opens in Skyward June 19-23. Registration tile will not appear in Skyward Parent Access if you are logged into the mobile app. Please log into Skyward through a browser window.

If you do not have a computer, internet or need assistance, please call the school to set up an appointment June 19-22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Arthur Grade School: 217-543-2109

Atwood-Hammond Grade School: 217-578-2229

Lovington Grade School: 217-873-4318

ALAH High School: 217-543-2146

Arthur History Fact #55

The Great Bank Robbery of 1899

Part 3

One bandit kept a gun on their young captive while the two lookouts returned to their positions outside the bank.

The safe-crackers did not try to drill the safe, but, instead, were going to "blow" it with nitro-glycerin. By using a blowpipe or air pump, they carefully injected the nitro into the top crack of the door.

The young captive was getting nervous at all these events and, when he saw one of the robbers get a rope, he thought, "If it was hanging me they were after, I'd better be getting out."

One of the robbers lit a long fuse that led to the safe while the others took cover. The explosion propelled steel parts from the safe through the front window of the bank and through the window of a store clear across the street.

The young man ran and, with all his might, jumped against the guards and fled out the door. As the young man ran across the street he fell down, and the bullets from the bandits' guns passed over his head.

He sailed up Vine Street yelling, "Help" and "Murder" at every breath.

To be continued...

MANNEQUINS

Background: University of Illinois South Farms, Urbana, Illinois

by Don S. Chambers



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NEWS FROM THE HEART OF THE AMISH COUNTRY

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