



# ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911

## “Rural Patriot Rider” Named Parade Grand Marshal

2023 marks the 20th anniversary of the infamous Rural Patriot Rider making his debut during the Arthur Rotary fireworks show and to celebrate this milestone, he has been named Grand Marshal for this years parade. This also coincides with the mural of the Rural Patriot Rider that has recently been completed in downtown Arthur painted by the Walldogs Dogs team.

Marty Miller of Muldrow, Oklahoma, a cousin to the Schlabach brothers and a horse trainer by profession, portrays the Freedom Rider as he rides his horse Philly carrying the American Flag during the Wall of Fire.

Honoring America and veterans are very important to

Miller and annually this ride allows him the opportunity to share his love of America and freedom with all the attendees at the fireworks show. “It’s an honor to ride in the show,” said Miller. “I ride for our country, for veterans, to honor our soldiers, and the American people.”

Larry Schlabach of the Niagara Falls Fellows is also excited about his cousin Marty Miller riding in the show and for Philly’s second year. “Marty does a great job,” said Schlabach. “When I listen to the cheers from the audience during his ride, it brings a great sense of pride and puts it all into perspective why we do this show every year.”



The Rural Patriot mural in downtown Arthur.

## MCHGS meeting honors Arthur’s Sesquicentennial Celebration

The Moultrie County Historical and Genealogical Society held their monthly meeting on Thursday, June 15 at the Arthur Community Building to honor Arthur’s Sesquicentennial Celebration.

David Bowers, president of the MCHGS, was the host who introduced Rob Fustin, a descendant of Michael Warren.

Warren is considered to be

one of the founding fathers of Arthur as he deeded 20 acres of land on the Moultrie County side of town to the railroad in 1873. The railroad coming through this area is the reason

for towns popping up all over the state.

Michael Warren also held many village offices during his lifetime in Arthur. Warren and his wife Eleanor had 13 chil-

dren, one of them being Nancy Warren Huckleberry who was Fustin’s great grandmother. She had a son, Howard, who was Rob’s grandfather and

*See FUSTIN on page 8*



Pictured are Rob Fustin and David Bowers. David, president of the MCHGS, was the host who introduced Rob, a descendant of Michael Warren.



One of the oldest pieces of memorabilia on display was a pair of Michael Warren’s pants.



DEPLORABLE TAKES FIRST. Fred Helmuth pictured on his Oliver 6850# pro stock tractor won his class Friday evening at the Piatt County Fair held in Cerro Gordo. Helmuth made it look easy with a dominant run of 349.93” before a great crowd on hand on a beautiful summer evening. Tedd Romine of Atwood with a pull of 332.22” took second place.

## ALOLF Raise the Roof Fundraiser Set for July 14

Advance tickets are required

The Arthur Legacy of Love Foundation is sponsoring a “Raise the Roof Fundraiser” on Friday, July 14, at Penn Station in Arthur. Serving will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Advance tickets are required.

Yoder’s Kitchen will prepare a delicious menu of pot roast, party potatoes, green bean casserole, broccoli / cauliflower salad, dinner rolls, and peach, cherry, and strawberry / rhubarb cobbler.

Tickets for “Dine In” or “To Go” may be purchased from any Foundation Board member. They are Joe & Martha Yoder; Bruce & Kathy Oye; Omer & Nancy Miller; Joe & Roseanna Mast; Merv & Barb Helmuth; Melvin & Clara Mae Helmuth; Loyd & Judy Gingerich; Howard & Judy Diener; and Dave & Cathy Allen, as well as at some businesses in the Arthur area.

A minimum donation for tickets is \$25 for adults, \$15

for children 4-10 years old, and children under four years old are free.

Arthur Legacy of Love Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization working to generate funds to help build quality CILA housing for the special citizens of the Arthur community. The first lot has been purchased at the corner of Beech and Second Street in Arthur and plans are being finalized to begin home construction soon.

If you can’t attend the “Raise the Roof Fundraiser” and would like to contribute, donations may be deposited directly to the ALOLF Foundation’s account at the State Bank of Arthur or by mailing a check made out to ALOLF, P.O. Box 222, Arthur, IL, 61911. All contributions to the Foundation are deductible for income, estate, and gift tax purposes.

### News Briefs

#### Upcoming Events:

June 28- Midnight Express @ Penn Station

July 1- Freedom Celebration Parade 2:00 pm

July 1- Freedom Celebration/Rotary Fireworks @ Jurgens Park

July 5-9- 92nd Annual Moultrie-Douglas Co. Fair

July 8- Bee Event @ IL Amish Heritage Center

July 14- Legacy of Love Fundraiser @ Penn Station

July 15- 3rd Saturday Market Bazaar @ Otto Center

July 21- “Our Town Arthur”/Downtown

#### Moultrie County Counseling celebrating 50th anniversary

Moultrie County Counseling will be celebrating its 50th anniversary on June 28 with an open house from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. This is exactly 50 years since the articles of incorporation of June 28, 1973.

The open house will be at the office at 12 West Harrison Sullivan.

Moultrie Counseling has been providing mental health outpatient services since 1973. There are currently 9 counselors and they serve approximately 300 clients at any one point in time. Outpatient services are provided for all ages.

The agency is currently involved in the Community Partnership program with local schools.

The Arthur area is represented on the Board of Directors by Ms. Cheryl Hilgenberg and Reverend Leroy Allison. The Executive Director is David Cole.

#### Arthur Seeks July 1 Parade Entries

The 2023 Freedom Celebration Parade will take place this year in Arthur on Saturday, July 1 starting at 2:00 p.m.

“A Star-Spangled Hometown Salute” is the theme for the 29th annual parade.

Individuals, organizations, churches, and businesses interested in participating in the parade should call Stephanie Wierman at 217-620-7460 to request a form or stop by the Welcome Center at 106 E. Progress to pick up a form.

Sponsored by Arthur Area Association of Commerce, the line-up for the parade will begin at 12:30 pm in the old Progress Tank Facility (402 East Progress St.) and the parade will step-off PROMPTLY at 2:00 pm. Only parade participants are allowed in the line-up area. Drop off area for parade participants will be at 402 East Progress St., which is the entrance to the plant.

The Freedom Celebration Parade route will run west on Progress Street to Vine Street, turns left on Vine Street and travels through downtown Arthur, turns left off Vine Street on to Logan Street, and then left again on Pine Street and ends back at Progress Street.

The Arthur American Legion Post #479 will be handing out American flags along the parade route again this year.

People are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs to watch the parade anywhere along the route with their families, friends, and neighbors. Kids and kids at heart don’t forget to bring a bag for candy!

Parade entries should remember to report to for line up between 12:30 and 1:45 p.m. on July 1.

