



ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911



STORM DAMAGE. Widespread damage was caused by destructive winds on Thursday afternoon toppling trees and scattering debris everywhere. Pictured on the left are large limbs on the roof at the home of Ann Huffman and on the right is a partial tree that did not survive the winds at the home of Joyce Stephenson on Surrey Lane.

Bad Air Followed By Bad Storms

Last Wednesday more than a third of the US population was under some type of air quality alert from the Canadian wildfire smoke as massive clouds of haze and smoke crossed the border, prompting officials to alert the public to take safety precautions. In Arthur it was at a level of 251, "Very Unhealthy", and may have set a record. Vacation Bible School stayed indoors for the morning and t-ball games

were rescheduled as well. A Code Red alert was issued for many Midwest cities as residents, especially those with heart or lung disease, older adults, pregnant women, and young children were advised to avoid outdoor activities and protect themselves from exposure. The Air Quality Index runs from 0 to 500, where levels of 50 or below are considered healthy. The higher the index

level, the more dangerous the air quality. Canada is seeing its worst fire season on record as hundreds of blazes rage across the country with more than 250 burning "out of control," according to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre. Fast forward to Thursday, a damaging line of storms roared through the area shortly after lunch and was classified a "Derecho", a storm

that produces a wind damage swath of more than 240 miles and includes wind gusts of 58 mph or greater along most of its length. Several well-separated wind gusts over 75 mph and often 80 to 100 mph gusts are common. Downed power lines along with trees and limbs could be found throughout town in the aftermath of storm that moved rapidly leaving a trail of debris.

Several residents and some businesses were still without power until late Friday afternoon. The National Weather Service in Lincoln on Saturday confirmed 5 tornadoes in Central Illinois. Air quality improved as the storm blew the harmful smoke from the wildfires on to the east and cleared the air in its wake.

Arthur School Board approves 25 cent increase to lunches

Final year of Aramark contract with 11% increase approved

By **ARIANA R. CHERRY**
Staff Writer

After several years of not adjusting lunch prices, the Arthur School Board approved a \$0.25 increase at their most recent school board meeting held on Wednesday, June 21.

The school district is currently looking at a loss of \$17,000 due to unpaid lunch bills, increases in food and operating expenses.

With the new increase the costs of elementary student lunches will be \$3.15 and the cost for junior high and high school will be \$3.25. There also was a \$0.10 raise for the cost of breakfast.

Superintendent Shannon Cheek stated, "For the district to break even, they should be charging about \$3.80, but with the \$0.25 increase, it should at least get the district moving in the right direction."

Along with approving an increase to school lunches, the board also approved its final year for its Aramark food contract. The district has been under contract with them for five years.

Next year, there is a plan to go out and take bids to see what other companies are available. The cost to this year's Aramark contract was raised 11% due to inflation.

Other items discussed/voted on included:

- Board approved a new contract with Miller Bus Service. At the end of the district's three-year contract, they plan to start seeing what other options they may have. "We might want to do this sooner than later, and not in the last year of the contract," said Cheek. "We are hoping to have that conversation toward the end of the 2023-2024 school year," he added.

- Fiscal Year 2023 amended budget was approved after holding an Amended Budget Hearing. There were no major changes from September of last year. Cheek informed the board that the transportation fund is operating at a deficit

due to proration and lack of payments. "We will continue to monitor it and see where payments come in this year," he stated. "Fortunately, our work-

ing cash fund is healthy with a \$883,000 balance," Cheek added.

- A resolution was made to declare the old scoreboard

and used technical equipment excess district property. There are about 150 desktop computers, chromebooks, monitors, and projectors that are available. It was recommended that the district charge \$25 for

chromebooks, \$50 for desktop computers and \$25 for monitors. The information will be put out for the public, and then the district will take some sealed bids and then open **See CUSD 305 on page 7**



ROTARY GUESTS. Dr. John Lee, M.D. and members of his team spoke at the Arthur Rotary weekly meeting on June 15. Pictured are Warren Leevy, Benita Leevy, Lorrie Durbin, RN, BSN, Dr. John C Lee, Rick Weger, Rotary program chair, and Rikki Parker, Executive Director of the Children's Museum of Illinois.

John Lee, M.D. Guest Speaker at Rotary; Building 5 Eye Models

Dr. John C. Lee, M.D. from Decatur was the guest speaker at the June 15 Rotary meeting held at Yoder's Kitchen. Dr. Lee's service area includes counties in Illinois and Indiana as he presents programs and holds screening sessions to organizations, churches, schools, and even to the Federal Aviation Administration.

A graduate of the College of Medicine, Eye Residency, and Fellowship training in Glaucoma at the University of Iowa, Dr. Lee started his general private practice over 43 years ago when he came to Decatur in 1979.

Over the years he has consulted with hundreds of patients



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with advanced eye disease who came to him hoping to have their

vision restored. Unfortunately, he had to inform them it was too late.

This led him to start the Midwest Sight Foundation in May of 2014. Their mission is to educate and screen the general public to determine those at risk for glaucoma and other potentially blinding diseases.

Understanding the merit of visual presentations and learning, the Foundation created a three-foot size eye model as a resource for teaching at presentations and classrooms. In 2019 Dr. Lee designed an interactive display, "A Peek Inside," for the Children's Museum of Illinois in Decatur. The 7-foot diameter

model has a 4-foot-wide opening to allow visitors to enter. Many local companies, Richland Community College welding classes along with John Hearn helped to construct the eye model. Additional interactive features were added last year.

Five additional interactive eye models are being built in rural Oreauna under the direction of Warren Leevy, one of which will be going to Seoul, Korea and one to the University of Iowa.

Today there are 40 million totally blind in the world, 2 million blind in the United States and 5,000 totally blind in Illinois from glaucoma.

News Briefs

Upcoming Events:

- July 5-9- 92nd Annual Moultrie-Douglas Co. Fair
- July 8- Bee Event @ IL Amish Heritage Center
- July 9- Southern Gospel Music @ Penn Station
- July 12-15- Central IL. Shop Hop
- July 14- Legacy of Love Fundraiser @ Penn Station
- July 15- 3rd Saturday Market Bazaar @ Otto Center
- July 21- "Our Town Arthur"/Downtown
- July 28- Pickers Auction @ Tri-County Auction Facility

Prayer Meeting Set for July 8

The Arthur Area Promise Keepers monthly Prayer Breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 8 at 7:00 a.m. at Yoder's Kitchen.

Our topic for prayer and discussion will be "Freedom in Christ."

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

Southern Gospel Music July 9

A night of southern gospel music will take place at Penn Station in downtown Arthur on Sunday, July 9 starting at 4:00 p.m. Performing will be Collage of Faith, Larry Purdeu, and New Creation. A love offering will be taken and a concession stand will be available.

Affordable Health Screenings Coming to Arthur

Residents living in and around the Arthur, Illinois can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Penn Station will host this community event on August 3, 2023. The site is located at 122 E Progress St in Arthur.

Screenings can check for:

- The level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health.
- HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels
- Diabetes risk
- Kidney and thyroid function, and more

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Have A Good Week!

