

# Zion News

"It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity." – Albert Einstein (1879-1955).

If you have been paying attention, there has been increasing concern by even the US Congress over the impact of technology on our future lives. In particular there seems to be an urgent concern about the emergence of artificial intelligence and how government should regulate it.

Artificial Intelligence is still in its developmental infancy, yet it can already outperform many human functions and is beginning to surpass human thought processes and creativity. It is writing songs, essay papers, and novels – things once left only to the human imagination.

One of the most important things we have to learn as we deal with technology and artificial intelligence is that it should not be viewed as evil, but should be clearly recognized as having tremendous power over our lives.

Technology is not new. Humans have used simple tools from the beginning of time, the printing press changed human thinking, the industrial revolution ushered in modern conveniences, and the Internet with its unprecedented social media presence have all affected huge changes to humanity.

Technology, though, should probably not be thought of as morally neutral because it influences us every time we use it. We sometimes treat technology more than a just a tool, but as something that makes us what we are – or think that we are.

Although technology as a tool is not evil, it can be subject to misuse and abuse that

makes it produce evil results. A gun is not evil and it can defend the innocent from harm, or kill the innocent indiscriminately. It is the user of technology that determines if it is good or evil. We can't blame the technology. We have to blame ourselves.

It would be difficult to find a scripture in the Bible that condemns technology or artificial intelligence directly. The Bible also doesn't address the fact that technology can expand what humans can do or change what needs to be changed for us to live in a better world. However, artificial intelligence is a true game-changer. It is performing many tasks that our culture was built upon, replacing millions of peoples' job, disrupting society in ways we haven't even comprehended yet, changing everything. This is no longer science fiction, it is reality.

Humans are the ones who have been given the ability to create tools and the ones who can choose how to use them. Christians should remain vigilant, and constantly proactive, that technology is used for the betterment of the human condition, for the conservation of this planet, and for the preservation of human qualities that prove Einstein's over 75-year-old statement wrong that technology has exceeded our humanity.

**Birthdays:** July 26-Marianne Hanner, July 26-Carol Randall, July 29-Ramona Carlyle.

**Anniversaries:** July 14-Greg & Jalane White, July 18-Wally & Barb Smith, July 22-Roger & Lisa Kibler.

This coming Sunday, Rev. Kenneth Roedder will be leading the worship service. Everyone is welcome.

## Our Town Arthur to be featured on WCIA

### REFLECTIONS ON THE MO-DO FAIR

I have stated in years past that there was a time that I did not think the fair could take place unless I spent every waking minute at the fair. Sally and I were in 4-H and showed hogs and then cattle. We were never big winners (although Sally did have a heifer one year that won some awards) but we were in it for the fun and friends we made. And we made many. It's where I met Delano. Now my role is mostly time spent working at the Woman's Club stand, a fair tradition and staple for more than 70 years. Grandkids have outgrown the kiddie carnival rides and hanging with grandma and grandpa. Still enjoy the livestock shows but just never seem to make it down to the grounds to see much of them. And all those fantastic free acts we were able to bring to Arthur all those years! One of my favorite memories is the last night of the fair hanging outside the merchants building until the place shut down and reflecting on the week and its success. People like Doc and Mildred Bradford, Jim Thomas, Max and Lou Fabert, my mom and dad, Bud and Ellen Seaman, and many other longtime fair board members and others involved with the fair. While I still love the fair and am proud of what we do here, there will always be some nostalgia for 'the good old days' and the sadness that so many are gone.

### BUT LIFE GOES ON

And this past week proves that. While we did get the big rainstorm on Wednesday night forcing the closure of the carnival, woman's club stand and other places on the grounds, the Miss Moultrie-Douglas pageant committee prevailed and moved everything inside to the high school gym. Yes, it was hot but from all reports it was also a great evening. I know you will see elsewhere in the paper the names of the new queens, we want to thank Julia, Kimberly and Whitley for the terrific job they did representing our counties this past year. A big thank you as well to Makenna Green, new pageant director for all the work she put in to make the pageant a success. I'm sure Makenna would be the first to tell you she couldn't have done it without a lot of help from family and friends. Tractor pull was finally able to take place and there was a huge turnout for that. It was a busy night for both Lions Club and Woman's Club stands in terms of food sold as well. Friday night was a little quieter and I wish more had gone to see the Dueling Pianos guys. They were not only talented but a lot of fun. Didn't get to see a lot of their show but hope to catch them again sometime. Maybe the fair can bring them back next year? Headed to Wisconsin on Saturday so did not get to see the Warren Zeiders show but saw some video and heard some stories. Looked like another big crowd and everybody seemed to be having a blast. Think he put on quite the show. Was sorry to miss the livestock show on Sunday morning which has become a new tradition and a good one. Look forward to next year and I'm sure the planning has already started for that one, #93!

### WOMAN'S CLUB STAND

Mentioned this place earlier but deserves some more recognition. From the old days that I have heard about when it was

## Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

nothing more than a tent and a dirt floor to what it is today, this food stand may be one of the first things local people especially think of when they think of the fair. I have heard stories as well about cooking hamburgers and being open until well after midnight when the big country stars were a part of the free acts. I joked for years that the woman's club had the best hamburgers on the grounds. What I didn't add was that we were the only burgers on the grounds. That is up until a few years ago when another foodstand (right next to us!) started serving much the same menu as ours. But this year the people who owned that retired and sold the business and the new owners were not at the fair so, once again, we are still not only the best burgers on the grounds but the only ones! We do want to thank all those who support us. Many local people especially make it a point to stop by the stand (some for more than one night!) because they know they will get good food, good company and that they are supporting an organization that supports the community in so many ways. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts!

### PULLING TEXAS

This organization's facebook page states that they, "Cover and promote all classes of pull-

ing in the Lone Star State as well as other parts of the country." They were at the tractor pull at the Moultrie-Douglas County fair last Thursday night and there are many great pictures and videos on their facebook page of the event and of the vehicles involved, some of which were very interesting. But there is an Arthur connection to this organization. Marcia Barnhart Barham (AHS '69) daughter's fiance and his dad are part of the Pulling Texas organization. Cory Schwab, (the fiance) is the videographer for Pulling Texas. He is from Sugar Land, Texas. Very nice that the tractor pull is getting nationwide recognition in this way. We are all thankful that the tractor pull was once again able to go on. Between covid and rain it has been a few years. Seems it was a big success and there wasn't a spot left on the fairgrounds or on the football field to park. Bodes well for the

Lions Club tractor pull coming up on Friday, August 11 at 6 p.m. in the same place.

### ARTHUR FIREWORKS

Wow! Once again what a show! While we really wanted and needed the rain it was a bit of a bummer that it couldn't be held on July 1 as originally planned but it was a good call as the rain started that evening and didn't stop for a good long while. It was disappointing that we couldn't have the Freedom Celebration parade but the weather forecast did not sound good at all. As it turned out, the forecasters were completely wrong but it's so hard to know what to do. But, an impromptu parade did pop up at 4 p.m. on Saturday with a few entries and featuring a couple of 6-horse hitches which made their way down Vine Street to the highway and out to Yoder's Kitchen and back. Lots of people got the word last minute and turned out for it and, I'm going to say it right here, if you don't think there is an Amish hotline, you would be wrong! The majority of spectators were Amish. So take that all

See TOWN TALK on page 3

## FARMERS

Considering retiring, downsizing, or changing careers? We are a centennial family farm with over 90 years combined experience looking to expand so the 4th generation can start farming. If you would like to help a young farmer get started farming, we would like to talk to you.

### Contact

Phone: (217)-791-0185

Email: jacobadams2013.ja@gmail.com

### MANNEQUINS

Background: Fairgrounds, Arthur, Illinois

by Don S Chambers



### Arthur History Fact #58

#### Give me that old time religion...

Arthur's first church, the Union Church, was established just seven years after the town's founding by moving a country school house onto property donated by the railroad president.

Arthur didn't have their own ministers at the time, so traveling ministers would come to provide for the religious needs of the community.

There must have been quite a group of pranksters during those days for, on one visit, the minister was in for a big surprise – he had a wedding to perform.

The bride and groom proceeded down the aisle and stopped in front of the unsuspecting minister.

The pranksters had coaxed one of the men to dress up like a bride to get a funny reaction from the minister, but the minister went right along with the service and performed the marriage.

On another visit, they had the minister perform a funeral for a man who wasn't even dead. He just laid real still in the casket during the service.

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Monday, July 3, 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Douglas County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

COLBE'S HOME ESSENTIALS

418 N. IOWA ST.

ATWOOD, IL 61913

Dated this 3 day of July, 2023

No. DBA-001997

Judi Pollock

County Clerk

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