

Zion News

"And God said, 'I have determined to make an end of all flesh; for the earth is filled with violence through them . . .'" - Genesis 6:13

Just how big is the story of Noah's Ark and the Flood?

Well, one scholar claims that he has found over 500 references to the flood in ancient manuscripts. Another Biblical scholar has found 61 ancient flood stories from around the world that were similar to the Genesis story of Noah. There are also over 20 fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls that refer to Noah.

The story has fascinated people for millennia. Modern movies have been made about it, from the very funny, yet thoughtful, "Evan Almighty" with Steve Carrel to "Noah" starring Russell Crowe.

As children in Sunday school, many of us heard only part of the Noah story. We especially remember Noah bringing into the Ark all the animals of the world two-by-two. Here are a few more details about the story.

Noah became God's "new" Adam after the flood. There were ten generations between Adam and Noah.

Only a few times did God speak directly to people in the Bible. Most of the time God spoke in dreams. However, God spoke directly to Noah.

The Ark was said to have been built of Gopher wood, which may actually have been the wood of the Cypress tree.

The Ark was 300 X 50 X 30 cubits, a 6 to 1 ratio used by modern shipbuilders. If you use the ancient Egyptian cubit measurement, that would have made the Ark 450 feet long and 75 feet wide.

God partnered with Noah to

get the animals into the Ark. God told Noah to "bring" and "take" the animals implying that Noah might have to help gather them.

God said, "Two of every sort shall come to you," but he also said to take seven pairs of clean animals and birds.

Noah may have built the Ark without any interference. The Bible says nothing about other people. The Muslin holy book, the Quran, however, talks a lot about the people taunting and mocking Noah about building a great big boat on dry land.

The water rose 23 feet above the mountaintops, and even though the rain stopped after 40 days, the inhabitants of the Ark had to remain there for over a year until the waters receded and the earth dried out.

So, what are some of the lessons from the Noah story that are useful for us today?

- God will strike down wickedness, but will also show mercy.

- We fear great natural disasters, but God will keep us safe.

- It's better to be on God's good side than on his bad side.

- If God wants you to do something, no matter how silly it may sound, like building a huge boat on dry land, and collecting animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things, then do it.

Obedience to God is the central lesson of Noah's story - listening to what God says and then following through with what he wants us to do. That's how we make it through the storms of our lives.

Zion's Sunday worship service begins at 9:00 AM. Everyone is welcome.

Arthur History Fact #60

2023

On September 2, 2023 Arthur celebrated the 150th Anniversary of its founding on September 2, 1873 with a Founders' Day Dinner held at Penn Station in downtown Arthur.

The event was well-attended by members of the community and by those who once lived or went to school in Arthur.

The evening's program included an "interview" with Arthur's founder, entertaining Arthur history, and the opening of the time capsule from 1973.

BE PART OF ARTHUR'S HISTORY!
Purchase your tickets for the Founders' Day Dinner at the Municipal Building or by calling (217) 543-2927.

Pictures taken during the event, as well as a guest registry of attendees, will be enclosed in the new time capsule to be opened in 2073!

ALAH Fine Arts Boosters: Band could use your help

OUR TOWN ARTHUR

A big thank you to WCIA for choosing to spotlight our great community last week. There were features each day showcasing just some of the great things we have to offer. Hope you were able to see them or can find them on the WCIA facebook page or their website. Stories at the Illinois Amish Heritage Center; former Knight softball player at Arizona State, Mackenzie Brown; with Jerry Winters at the Winters Gallery, with James Aikman at the Aikman Wildlife Adventure and Paul Kuhns at Pauly's BBQ.

And on CI Living on Friday they did a nice feature at Amish Country Heirlooms. Karen Gingerich did a great job talking about their beautiful store and all they have to offer. Another story was about Eberhardt Village and all its various facilities. Also stories about Cass Concepts productions which is behind the show "Noah Zark" now playing until the end of October at Penn Station and Graham Vet Clinic which had its grand opening on North Vine this past Saturday.

Although personally I would have liked to have seen more people downtown on Friday I am hoping many were at home watching. Those of us there had a great time enjoying the interviews, seeing the queens, cheerleaders, football players and coach and listening to Mackville, appreciating the firemen and the free food they supplied, cheese cutting competition, showcasing the Rural Patriot mural, Glen and Rhonda Rhodes talking about the upcoming Mennonite Relief Sale at Otto Center, news about the Legacy of Love Foundation, not to forget the golf cart competition. The Herschberger boys did a great job with their golf cart (with a little help from grandma Marsha I'm sure) and they represented what our area is all about with their farm theme and were well deserving of their win. I didn't vote but if I had I would have voted for them for sure! All in all, it was a great day and a great week. Village President Rod Randall who was dressed, along with wife Carol, in costume appropriate to 1873, shared news about the upcoming sesquicentennial celebration to be held on September 2, 2023, 150 years to the day of Arthur's official founding date. To paraphrase Rod, "our town is what is because of the commitment, volunteerism and service for 150 years to keep this town vibrant, energetic and as exceptional as it is."

REMEMBERING

HAMMOND/

SESIQUICENTENNIAL

Congratulations to our neighbors to the northwest on this past weekend's celebration of their 150th year. Wasn't able to get up there but saw lots of great pictures and it looked to be a big success. Some of the most touching photos were of the past Hammond baseball teams. Many familiar names even to me. Kent Brown, Hammond native and longtime sports information director at the University of Illinois was the grand marshal for the parade. A big thank you to Angie Parsons and her team for all they did. I know a lot of work went into the planning so I am very happy to see that things went well. Atwood itself will be having another sesquicentennial celebration during the Apple Dumpling Festival in August and, of course, Arthur will be celebrating during the Cheese Festival on Labor Day weekend. Lots to look forward to for sure!

ALAH FINE ARTS BOOSTERS

From the group's facebook page: "The band could use your help! It's hard to believe it is here already, but band camp starts next week! These kids will be putting in a lot of work over the next several months to bring an awesome show (Ladies of the 80s) to our football games and their competitions! FAB helps to provide them with

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

snacks, meals, drinks, and assistance while they are there. This is an Amazon list of snacks and supplies the band will need over the course of the season. There is also an option for visa gift cards so that things can be purchased for meals that will be provided. We could also use 2-3 rolling water coolers. If you have one that you would donate or lend to the band or if you'd like to purchase one for us, let us know! As always, we so appreciate all of the support from our community! If you are able to donate some items for their upcoming season, that would be amazing! Either way, please share and get the word out to community members, organizations, and businesses that might be willing to help out! There are links on the page to both amazon and walmart to order these items. A great way to help out our students and make sure they get the items needed for camp.

ILLINI PRAIRIE CEO

From the facebook page for this group: "We can't wait to meet the Class of 2024 from Tuscola, ALAH & Arcola! We will kick off the year August 10 with orientation for students, and a parent or legal guardian. You will meet the facilitator and Illini Prairie CEO board members. We will also sign the legal documents, find out about the first day we will meet, and ask any questions you might have! Students, email your facilitator, Emily Coombe (facilitator@illiniprairieceo.com), if you and a parent/guardian cannot make it. We will arrange another time for your orientation." A great program so if you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested be sure to let them know about the upcoming orientation.

AIKMANS BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

This event will take place Saturday, August 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. From the facebook page: "Create some lasting memories with the kids before they go back to school! There will be egg races, a bags competition, and bounce house! This event is included with regular admission! Teachers receive a 20% discount on our Triple Crown Adventure!"

LITTLE THEATRE/MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
Oh so many stories to share about this. At the welcome center on Friday I met two women, one from Virginia and one from St. Louis, who are big fans of

Tyler Rodriguez who portrays Elvis in the LTOTS production of "Million Dollar Quartet." The two ladies have become friends through their common interest and it seems they follow 'Elvis' on many of his tour stops. In fact, while the women were talking to me he (Tyler) texted them to meet him for lunch. The ladies had never been in this area before but were impressed with the Little Theatre and I told them how fortunate we are to have that in our area. They had attended the show on Thursday night and were going back both Friday and Saturday nights as well! Diehard fans for sure. But after seeing the show for myself on Saturday, I totally understood their fan-ship. WHAT A SHOW! So much talent and a really great story to boot. I think one of the most enjoyable things about it was it was so obvious the actors were enjoying themselves and loving every minute of singing, playing and entertaining us all. I don't know who the casting director is for the Little Theatre but they did a fantastic job of putting together this group of players. But there's more to this story. As I was leaving the show with my brother-in-law and sister-in-law I ran into Leroy and Marilyn Allison, Ken and Jill Bunker and John and Jill Strawn who, as it turns out, had gotten tickets last minute and were in the last row of the balcony. Of course they had enjoyed the show just as much as we did. They asked me if I wanted to go eat with them but told them I really needed to get home. Boy, if I had only known. They went to Monicals to eat and ran into Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis and the bass player! Otherwise known as Tyler Rodriguez, Alex Canty and Roy James Brown. Guess the Arthur group had a blast talking to and getting autographs from the guys who were, according to reports, just as nice as they could be and very friendly.

BACKGROUND ON MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET
Seeing the show made me curious about this event which did take place on December 4, 1956 at Sun Records in Memphis. That night Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis got together for an historic jam session. There is a famous photo that was recreated by the cast and shown on the screen during the show. It made me curious to know more about Sam Phillips and Sun Records and just what became of both. At the time of the recording, according to the story shown, Elvis had already left Sun. His contract was bought out by RCA and both he and Phillips seemed to have some regrets about that decision. Also Cash and Perkins were ready to leave Sun for Columbia. It seemed Sam Phillips empire was not faring well but he continued to record some big artists, including Lewis and others and eventually sold the studio which was later moved to Nashville. Makes me want to visit Memphis and find the studio which I am sure is still there. Phillips also had recently invested in a little enterprise called Holiday Inn which was mentioned in the show. So I'm guessing the guy did well in later years even though this was a sad moment for him personally. He was also later inducted into the first Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class as well as the Country Music Hall of Fame and others. Another character was added to the story and I doubt that 'Dyanne' was actually present but don't know for sure. She was the girlfriend of Elvis at the time (supposedly) and really was a nice addition to the show with a terrific voice! Only a few days left and it may be tough to get a ticket but it's a show any of us who saw it would highly recommend.

SOUND OF FREEDOM

Saw this movie last week. There has been a lot of talk about it on facebook but not so much in the news which somehow doesn't seem to think the issue of child trafficking is all that important. Go figure. This is not at all a political movie or issue but a humanitarian one that too many (including me)

See TOWN TALK on page 3

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MANNEQUINS

Background: Mackville performing in Arthur, Illinois

by Don S Chambers



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