



# ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911

## Arthur School District contracts speech therapists due to shortage

By ARIANA R. CHERRY  
Staff Writer

At the July meeting the Arthur Board of Education discussed the speech personnel shortage in the district. Contracts for speech therapists had to be utilized to fill the need. "There is this problem all over the area - not just here in Arthur," stated Superintendent Cheek. Last year, the district used Abby Seef, and will be using it once again to service the high school. Abby Seef services the high school remotely at \$90/hour. The district will also be utilizing the services of Ashby Therapy and Mary Johnson. Ashby Therapy costs \$90/hour and Mary Johnson is \$247/day which conducts its services in person. "If the school could find someone else to hire, the cost would be much lower, but it is what it is right now," said Cheek.

The board also renewed its commercial insurance which had an increase of 16% due to inflation. The cost went from \$67,300 to \$79,600.

Other items discussed: -The old scoreboard was declared excess property. The funds from the sale will go to the Athletic Fund. Tech items such as used chromebooks, computer towers and displays were also declared excess property. The sale of those items will go to the Education Fund.

-Cheek reported that there have been weekly meetings concerning the HVAC project. "Everything seems to be going well. The gym unit for Lovington has arrived and has been moved over there. Everything seems to be moving right along," he informed the board.

-The lines on the high school track were painted on Wednesday and there was anticipation that it would be completed by the next day on Thursday. It will be opening back up to the

public soon.

-The parking lot project was slated to begin the week of July 23. "There is no concern about not getting it done before school starts," said Cheek. "There has been a lot going on this summer, a lot of projects and a lot of good stuff," he added.

-The June 2023 bank statement's balance was \$1,734,907.53. The Transportation Fund was \$156,165.73. The Education fund had a balance of \$191,577.30.

### Personnel Report July 19, 2023

#### Non-Certified:

-Consider approval of Craig Swinford to serve as custodian at LGS

-Consider approval of Jesse Wood to serve as custodian at the high school

-Consider accepting Brad Dehart letter of resignation as custodian at AHGS

#### Extra Curricular:

-Consider approval of Morgan Cotton to serve as a volunteer Assistant Football Coach

-Consider approval of Whitney Wynkoop to serve as the JH Assistant Softball Coach

-Consider approval of Whitney Wynkoop to serve as the HS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach

-Consider approval of Mitch Wilson to serve as the HS Assistant Track and Field Coach

-Consider approval of Faith Rund to serve as the Freshman Class Sponsor

-Consider approval of Joel Lee to serve as the Junior Class Sponsor

-Consider approval of Kylie Russell to serve as the Sophomore Class Sponsor

-Consider approval of Rose Hollingsworth to serve as the Mentor Coordinator for the District

-Consider approval of Christian Gomez to serve as the Head Soccer Coach



**GOLF CART WINNERS.** A golf cart decorating contest was held Friday evening during Our Town Arthur with the winners voted on by those in attendance. Pictured are Marty Yeakel, (her golf cart) 3rd place; Patrice Fleming, 4th place; Sally McCarthy (she decorated Marty's golf cart), 3rd place; Marsha Bowyer (with help decorating from grandsons Wyatt and Owen Herschberger), 1st place; Junior Miss A.L.A.H. Eme Greathouse, Little Miss A.L.A.H. Harper Hale, Miss A.L.A.H. Regann Bowles, and Kelley Bean received 2nd place with First Neighbor Banks entry. Prizes were awarded to all the winners and WCIA anchor Jennifer Roscoe along with Regann Bowles announced the winners live during the 6 o'clock broadcast.



**THE LEGEND OF NOAH ZARK PREMIER.** Live theater has once again returned to the area, this time at Penn Station in downtown Arthur. Cassie Yoder of Cass Concepts Productions reunited with writer and composer Wally Nason to bring the fun, family-friendly professional two-man show with singing and dancing and a little slapstick comedy thrown in this mystery musical. Pictured following the VIP opening nights performance is Cassie Yoder, Cass Concepts Productions owner; Trenton Gunsolley (Noah Zark); Camillo Desantis (plays multiple characters); Rod Randall, Village President; and Wally Nason, writer/composer/director. The musical runs through October 28 and tickets are on sale now at [www.CassConceptsProductions.com](http://www.CassConceptsProductions.com)

## New Arthur organization

## Arthur Area Arts Council holds its first two meetings

By ARIANA R. CHERRY  
Staff Writer

The Arthur Area Arts Council held its first two meetings on June 12 and July 18. Presently there are about 12 members of the council: Ariana Cherry, Richard Herschberger, Don Chambers, Dennis Crumrin, Jill Bunker, Karen Good, Bruce Goble, Doris Reynolds, Christy Hopper, Janae Hopper, Marsha Boyer and Betsy Mars.

The group decided that as an organization, they would represent and support artists from Arthur, Lovington, Atwood and Hammond so that they would coincide with the school district. One of their goals is to hopefully reach out to students who have an interest in the arts.

The council also agreed on its mission statement with the help of its leader, Ariana Cher-

ry. They decided it would be simple, but effective. The mission statement of the Arthur Area Arts Council states: "Supporting local artists and benefiting community outreach." All of the members of the council have a passion for both the arts and helping the communities that make up the school district.

#### Other items discussed:

-The council's first goal is to build contacts. Some ways to build contacts will be distributing fliers to businesses and organizations and taking part in community events. Other ways to build contacts would be to advertise on social media and create and hand out business cards.

-Both Richard Herschberger and Dennis Crumrin felt that it would be beneficial to reach

See ARTS COUNCIL on page 3

## News Briefs

### Upcoming Events:

**July 28-** Pickers Auction @ Tri-County Auction Facility

**July 29-** Kaskaskia Valley Young Marines Meeting/Signups @ Arthur Fire House

**August 7-** Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale Ice Cream Social @ Community Building

**August 10-** "Evening Out on the County Line"

**August 11-** Arthur-Atwood Lions Club Tractor Pull @ Jurgens Park

**August 11-** Pony Sale @ Arthur Sale Barn

**Aug. 18 & 19-** Heart of Amish Country Pro Rodeo @ Jurgens Park

**August 19-** 3rd Saturday Market Bazaar @ Otto Center

### Young Marines Informational Meeting July 29

The Kaskaskia Valley Young Marines will be holding their first informational and signup meeting this Saturday, July 29 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Arthur Fire House. This a national non-profit youth education and service program for boys and girls age eight through eighteen and open to any youth throughout the Central IL area. A second meeting is planned for the same time and location on Saturday, August 12.

### Relief Sale

#### Ice Cream Social

Come join us for the Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale's annual ice cream social. It will be held at Arthur Community Building on Monday, August 7 from 5-8 p.m. Pulled pork BBQ Sandwiches and chips will be offered along with cake and cobbles and homemade ice cream.

Donations will be accepted, and the funds raised will be used to cover pre-sale expenses such as advertising, paper goods, etc. Please, come as you are. Come and enjoy the great food!

### Parade entries needed for "Big Cheese"

#### Labor Day Parade

Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival is celebrating its 50th anniversary this Labor Day weekend and the "Big Cheese" parade, sponsored by the Arthur Area Association of Commerce, will be held on Saturday, September 2. The Village of Arthur Sesquicentennial celebration will also be held in conjunction with this year's festival.

The parade will step-off at 3:50 p.m. and lineup begins at 2:30 p.m. in the old Progress Tank facility located at 402 East Progress Street.

Parade forms are going out this week as everyone is invited to be a part of the event.

The committee strives to make it one of the best parades of the late summer and one of the highlights of the Cheese Festival.

Forms are also available at the Arthur Welcome Center, Arthur Graphic-Clarion newspaper office, or contact Stephanie Wierman at 217/620-7460.



**FLYING LOW.** It's that time of the farming season when you see the plane...the yellow plane in the sky circling around and dropping down just on top of the crops leaving a trail of white chemicals but last Thursday this helicopter was photographed on the Arthur-Atwood crop dusting. Hill Aviation Inc. out of Jonesboro, Arkansas was contracted by Innovative Input Solutions from Springfield for this job on Dawson Farms cornfield. This type of spraying operation requires a lot of very costly specialized equipment, from spray rigs that are semi-permanently installed on the helicopter to navigation equipment that helps the pilot ensure chemicals are spread evenly over crops to mixing and loading equipment to get the chemicals into the helicopter's spray tanks.

