



## Hostetler/Hochstetler reunion held in Arthur

The official website/facebook page for Descendants of Jacob Hostetler states: "If there is a Hostetler or Hochstetler (or a half-dozen variations of this name) in your family tree, then you may be a descendant of the 1738 Swiss German immigrant Jacob Hochstetler. It is estimated that there are from five hundred thousand to one million of us living from coast to coast in the United States of America, as well as in a number of other countries." There are four main family members that most can trace their origins to - John, Jacob, Barbra and Christian.

The latest Hostetler/Hochstetler reunion was held in Arthur on Friday and Saturday, July 28 and 29. This was the 8th Quinquennial gathering of the organization. Because of the heat, events planned for the Illinois Amish Heritage Center on Friday were moved to the Arthur Christian School west of town which is where Saturday events were also held. An estimated crowd of 350 from 25 states was in attendance on Saturday.

Saturday began with registration and a breakfast of donuts, fruit and coffee. Various seminars and breakout sessions were held throughout the day and included the following seminars. Loren L. Johns, "The Joy of Uncovering Hidden Stories In Your Family;" Ervin Stutzman, "Surprising Discoveries Made While Write the 'Return to Northkill' Series;" Tom Vance, The Illinois Amish

Heritage Center; George Avery, "Archaeology Associated with the Illinois Amish;" Carolyn Cloyd, "Dr. Omer Barnes and the Barnes Family;" David Kent Coy, "The Life and Times of Elder Joseph Hostetler, the Boy Preacher;" Anne Stevens, "Katey Sagal in 'Who Do You Think You Are,' DVD of the original show; Clair Hochstetler: Hochstetler Family History and the Native American Experience;" and Lois and Lemar Mast, "Upcoming Hostetler European Heritage Tour, September 2025."

A sack lunch was available at 12:15 p.m. followed by the general meeting. Andy Helmuth, Arthur, then spoke on his grandfather's life. His talk was entitled, "L.A. Miller - The Arthur Connection for Harvey Hostetler's 'Descendants of Jacob Hochstetler.'" Helmuth told how Harvey Hostetler, the author of the original Hostetler genealogy, needed help to get the genealogy published so he called on a local Arthur Illinois Amish man, LA Miller. LA Miller was, among other things, a dealer in religious books and very active with the Mennonite Central Committee. Andy referenced several articles from the Arthur Graphic-Clarion in the late 1920s, early 1930s that his grandfather had written for the paper.

The board of directors was elected with David Kent Coy of Decatur named President of the group.

See REUNION on page 6



Pictured are descendants of Christian Hostetler. Connie Price, Mt. Zion; Allen Price and Gail Price, Mattoon; Marcia Beckett, Mt. Zion, and Linda Yeakel, Decatur.

## Arthur Village Board discuss new telephone policy for village employees and their families

By ARIANA R. CHERRY  
Staff Writer

Comptroller Erica Carter discussed the possibility of a new telephone policy for both village employees and their families at the most recent village board meeting.

The new policy could also allow family members (spouses, kids) of those employed with the village to be on the same plan and receive the same benefits.

With the new policy, the telephone bills would still go straight to the customers as usual.

While there was some positive feedback for this new policy, there were some questions that were brought to the table.

Would the family members have to go through the village/ Erica Carter if they wanted to get a new phone or if they had an issue with their account? Would the village be responsible if family members didn't make payments on their account?

With these questions, it was decided to postpone the decision until Carter was able to check on the village's financial responsibility and how the accounts would be dealt with.

Other items discussed/voted upon:

- A total of \$43,144.31 in expenditures were reported.

- Thanks and appreciation was given to Christy Miller, Stephanie Wierman, Arthur Police Department and Arthur Public Works and everyone else who helped out during the

Our Town WCIA event.

- Police Chief Michael Goodman reported that Officer Mullens would be graduating from the Police Academy on August 25. Officer Heston takes his Power Test for Academy entry on August 8 and then he begins the Police Academy on August 30.

- A temporary sign application was approved for the Mennonite Relief Sale Ice Cream Social on August 7, 2023.

- A temporary sign application was approved for Penn Station.

See VILLAGE on page 5



**THE FINAL TOUCH.** Almost 28 months to the day, the new cross was placed at the Sunnyside Mennonite Church following the fire that totally destroyed the church back on March 26, 2021. The original cross, made of fiberglass, was partially destroyed in the fire and thought to be salvageable however that was not the case. The new cross constructed of aluminum was made locally by Frontier Manufacturing, LLC just outside of Chesterville. Loyd Gingerich on the ladder had help from Richard Beachy and Noah Yoder two other members of the building committee (not pictured) on the project. The church is hosting an Appreciation/Celebration on Saturday, August 12 that includes a tour of the new facility, food, and ending with worship.



**GRAHAM VETERINARY CLINIC RIBBON CUTTING.** A ribbon cutting and open house celebration was held on Saturday, July 22 at their new location - 528 North Vine. Dr. Heidi Grooms arrived in style driven by horse and carriage from the former location to the new facility. Pictured are (front row) Torri Bickel, Loretta Bickel, Taylor Arlis, Alex Patterson, Tiffany Davis, Maci Mowry, Nick Grooms, Gabby Grooms, Jack Grooms, Grace Grooms, Heidi Gingerich, Blivian Rennert, and Allie Crowe. (Back row) Peyton Simmons, Eldon Yoder, Abby Blythe, Tucker Jamison, Britton, Tanner Typer, Katie Honchell, Lisa Otto, Emma Fortney, and Delaney Gillis. Refreshments and giveaways were on hand for those in attendance.

### News Briefs

#### Upcoming Events:

**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

**August 12-** Sunnyside Mennonite Church Appreciation/Celebration

**August 16-** First Day of School

#### 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 cobblers 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.

Have  
A  
Good  
Week!