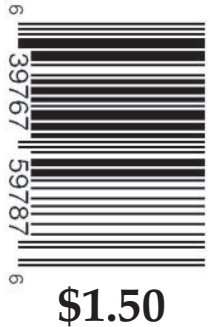




**Rising star and American Idol alum  
Alex Miller headlines Broom Corn Festival  
2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 on Oak Street stage**



Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2023

**Chatter BOX**

**Grand marshals**

Greg and Suzy Saunders have been named Grand Marshals for the Broom Corn Festival parade. The festival is Sept 8-10; watch for our upcoming festival guide. Look for various participation forms here: <https://www.arcolachamber.com/broomcorn-festival>.

**Blood drive**

Central Wood will host a Community Blood Drive with ImpactLife on Monday, Sept. 18. The donor bus will be at 220 E County Road 200 N, Arthur, from 2:30 to 7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Willard Miller at 217-543-2662.

**Arthur turns 150**

Congratulations to our neighbor, Arthur, on its 150th birthday this year. Arcola's milestone was 18 years ago, so when Arthur was getting started, Arcola was graduating from high school. Whet your festival appetite with Arthur's Cheese Festival Labor Day weekend.

**Quilters gather**

Quilters are invited to gather Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. in the Arcola Center to share their time and mutual interests with other quilters. For information contact 217-417-1388.



EMILY ELIZANDO, right, and Athalia Sanchez work with Play-Doh on their first day of Kindergarten last Tuesday at Arcola Elementary School. Helping is their teacher, Aimee Lugo. Photo by David Porter.

**School hears track resurfacing proposal**

By David Porter

It all depends on how big you want to go. The Arcola School Board's building committee on Monday heard a proposal for resurfacing the track with options to increase the number of lanes and carpet the football field with artificial turf. Pricing ranged from \$240,000 to more than \$2 million.

See SCHOOL BOARD on page 3

**City finalizes Schrock Drive funding  
Meets with School Board to discuss new resource officer position**

By Dominik Stallings

Arcola City Council approved \$100,000 from the tax increment finance (TIF) district and \$175,301 from Business District funds for the Schrock Drive Project at the Aug. 21 meeting. The commitment was previously approved and then ratified Monday.

Schrock Drive contains a hotel, gas station, and bar. According to

Bill Wagoner, the project is needed as frequent truck traffic through the area has deteriorated the concrete.

The project was bid out in July with construction starting in September, after the Broomcorn Festival. Beniach Construction will provide construction for the contract. The original estimate for the project increased as the project was

on the back burner for a few years and now sits at \$574,327.

So far, John Boyer has completed potholing work for \$3,000. Milano and Grunlow Construction found all existing utilities within the project area.

Funding for the Schrock Drive Project comes from Rebuild Illinois Motor Fuel Tax funds, Truck Access Route Program (TARP)

funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Non-Home Rule Bond, as well as the Business District funds and TIF #1.

The Council also approved an ordinance for 318 W Washington-nonconforming front setback. That is for a garage and porch for

See CITY COUNCIL on page 4



From left, Miss Arcola Jade Garza, Hannah Guana, and Kelsey Moore

**Miss Arcola Pageant Saturday**

Miss Arcola, Jade Garza and the directors of the Miss Arcola Pageant invite the community to come and cheer on local youth Saturday, Aug. 26, at 6 p.m. at the Arcola Junior High School Stage.

Directors Stephany Helmuth-Garza and Dawn Ard said they are excited for everyone to see the hard work that these contestants have completed this Saturday at the pageant. There will be a small admission fee at the door. Visiting royalty and one chaperone are free along with children under 5 years old.

The mission of the Miss Arcola

Pageant is to teach young ladies poise, confidence, interview skills, and giving back to the community. Our focus is also to build each other up and enjoy making new friends while being role models for girls young and old. These ladies will have a personal interview with the judges, an on stage speech, pop question along with walking on stage in a gown, and business attire. The winners will also compete at the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Pageant in July 2024.

Once they are crowned, they will do several appearances out in

the community. Some of the events they will volunteer at are the Pop the Top Car Show, Broomcorn Festival, Alzheimer's Walk, Moultrie-Douglas Fair pageant, Chamber events, ribbon cuttings, hosting the baby pageant fundraiser at Broomcorn and attending several parades in the county.

If you have an event you would like the queens to make an appearance or volunteer at contact Dawn Ard or Stephany Helmuth-Garza at 618-335-3395.

Photos courtesy of Rachel Ray Photography.



From left, Oaklee Stenger, Summer Adams, Little Miss Arcola Zamara Leal, and Athalia Sanchez



From left, Emma Fricht, Pre-teen Miss Arcola Madison Dunn, Bryauna Hudson, and Kayannah Lemmons



From left, Junior Miss Arcola Aymara Leal and Addee Mulligan; not pictured: Isabella Hood

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