



# ARTHUR GRAPHIC-CLARION

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Serving Eastern Moultrie, Western Douglas, and Southern Piatt Counties

Arthur, Illinois 61911

## Tentative FY 2024 Budget approved for CUSD 305

### Student enrollment numbers are dropping

By ARIANA R. CHERRY  
Staff Writer

The 2023-2024 FY Tentative Budget was approved at the most recent Arthur school board meeting on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. "We try to be as conservative as possible when we put these numbers together. It is a solid budget and we fell into tier four this year," Superintendent Shannon Cheek stated. The EAV dollars and enrollment is how the state decides how much funding the

school district will receive and what tier it is put into. The Arthur school district received an additional one time payment \$890.

"Our EAV continues to grow each year but when your enrollment is dropping, that is not such a good thing. But even with those two factors, I feel like we have built a pretty solid budget. We fell into the black this year, but the fund that we need to monitor the most is our transportation fund. Those

rates continue to go up. We are projecting a deficit in that account and will have to monitor and see what happens. There is a chance that we might need to do a transfer of funds," explained Cheek.

The June 30, 2024 projected fund balance for the Education Fund is \$6,156,182 (current balance as of 6/30/2023: \$4,835,662). The Operation and Maintenance fund was projected at \$1,208,990 (current balance as of 6/30/2023: \$1,171,050). Transportation is projected to be at \$388,128 (current balance as of 6/30/2023: \$483,442).

The working cash fund is projected to be \$1,046,713 (current balance as of 6/30/2023: \$902,483).

Cheek also spoke with concern about the enrollment numbers in the school district dropping. "We have seen a pretty significant decrease since 2020. This school year, we have a pretty small senior class. The last five or six years, there has been a steady and consistent decrease. Covid played a role in part of it, as we lost students due to Covid.

Outside of that, I do not have any other explanation," he said. Other items discussed/voted

on:

-The district received two donations. Two flag poles were donated by Lyondell in the amount of \$6,000. Bill Wade donated a variety of weight equipment to the weight room which was estimated to be over \$11,000.

-An intergovernmental agreement with Douglas County Health Department was approved. The district has not been able to fill the position of school nurse for lack of qualified applicants. A nurse will be shared between the school district and the Douglas County  
**See CUSD 305 on page 8**

Historical District Enrollment (August)					
	2023-2024	2022-23	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020
AGS	258	277	291	335	383
AHGS	226	232	249	257	270
LGS	153	159	182	160	179
ALAH	286	316	308	310	328
Bridges/Beacons	3	8	6	4	9
DHH	2	2	2	1	1
Life Academy	4	7	7	4	10
TLC	9	9	9	11	12
ISVI		0	0	0	0
NeuroRestorative		0	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1010</b>	<b>1054</b>	<b>1083</b>	<b>1193</b>

## Community Worship Service to Celebrate Arthur Sesquicentennial

A Community Worship Service is being planned by the Arthur Ministerial Association and local churches to celebrate Arthur's Sesquicentennial celebration during Cheese Festival weekend.

Everyone is welcome and local churches are encouraged to join this service if they would like.

The service will begin at 10:00 am at Penn Station on Sunday, September 3. We will give thanks to God and praise the Lord for the many years of Christian community we have had together here in Arthur for the past 150 years.

The Cowboy Church that meets at Penn Station will provide 30 minutes of music from 9:30 am to 10:00 am before the service. Refreshments will be served during that time so all

are encouraged to come early and fellowship.

The 10:00 am service will include participation from local pastors and churches. Reverend Mike Johnson will be bringing the morning message. Mike was the long-time former pastor at Vine Street Christian Church in Arthur and is now retired and living in Indiana.

A short history of Arthur churches will be shared by Mayor Rod Randall and a couple of special music numbers will be shared as a part of this service as well.

An offering will be received for the Arthur Grade School Backpack program which provides weekend food for children and families in our community. Please join us for this Community Worship Celebration!

**COWBOYS...CLOWN.....COWGIRLS.** The Heart of Amish Country Pro Rodeo returned to Arthur for two nights of family entertainment over the weekend. Pictured below left is saddle bronc riding, at right is "Man in the Can" rodeo clown Ronald Burton, and below right is girls' barrel racing. Participants came from over 12 states to compete. The specialty act this year was the Rawhide 'n Dusty Show featuring bull-whip popping techniques and performing on the top of the trailer teeter-totting. Wrangler and Rural King along with many local sponsors made it possible to bring Lattig Rodeo Productions back for a second year.

## 2023 Cliff Kauffman Memorial Tractor Drive, Sept. 4

Cliff Kauffman was taken from his family and friends in an accident on the farm on September 2, 2017. He was a family man that enjoyed working on the farm, but one of his hobbies was going on tractor drives with his family and friends in the summer. In honor of Cliff, we are hosting our 5th Cliff Kauffman Memorial Tractor Drive in his memory. The event is being held on Monday, September 4, in Arthur. A 30-mile route will take drivers on a scenic country cruise through the Heart of Illinois Amish Country that includes the communities of Arthur, Chesterville, Arcola, and Humboldt

Registration/Check-in begins Monday morning at 6:30 a.m. at Yoder's Kitchen located on Route 133 in Arthur with the tractor drive departing at 8 am. The restaurant will be open at 6:30 for those that arrive early and would like to grab a bite before the drive. A rest stop will be held at Du-

Wayne Miller's farm in Arcola and lunch will be served at the Arthur Firehouse at approximately 12:00 pm.

To participate in the drive, the driver must be driving a tractor that can maintain a

speed of 10 miles per hour. You are invited to come out to Yoder's and see the tractors and drivers prior to departure. You may also watch along the tractor drive route which is provided.  
**See Tractor Drive on page 10**



5th Cliff Kauffman Memorial Tractor Drive set for Monday, September 4.



## News Briefs

### Upcoming Events:

**August 25&26-** Menonite Relief Sale @ Otto Center

**September 2-4-** 50th Annual Cheese Festival/150 Sesquicentennial Celebration

**September 2-** Founder's Day Dinner @ Penn Station  
**September 3-** Community Worship Service @ Penn Station

**September 8&9-** Town Wide Garage Sales

### Buy Your Tickets

This is the last week to make reservations to attend the once in a lifetime event - the Founders' Day Dinner on Saturday, September 2.

Tickets are \$30 per person and are available at the Arthur Municipal Office, 120 East Progress Street, during the regular business hours of 7:30 AM - 3:30 PM or by calling (217) 543-2927.

### Grief Share Support Begins September 6 at Atwood First Baptist Church

If you are grieving a loss, find hope and healing after the death of a loved one by joining Grief Share, a weekly grief support group at the First Baptist Church Chapel in Atwood. Meetings will begin on Wednesday, September 6 and run through November 29. There are two sessions: 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. The two sessions are available to accommodate anyone interested.

This is a Biblically based program and Christian led, but participants do not have to be affiliated with a church to attend. Everyone is welcome.

If interested, please contact Stella Lambdin (stellartours@gmail.com or phone 217-254-8721). Register at: [griefshare.org/findagroup](http://griefshare.org/findagroup).

Stella says they are starting new for this year with new videos. The first session of the group was in August of 2021 with approximately 15 participants.

Don't be alone in your grieving, there are others to share their feelings and compassion. Call or register today.

### 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.

