

Look for our **BIG**
Broom Corn Festival
 preview edition
 in this week's paper



Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, creator
 of Raggedy Ann & Andy



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2023

Chatter BOX

Correction

On the heavyweight roster last week, an eighth grade player should have been listed as Sawyer Maxwell with a weight of 120 pounds.

Senior potluck

Arcola Seniors are invited to attend a potluck lunch at the Arcola Senior Center on Sept. 15th. Lunch will begin at 11:30 am. Seniors may bring a dish to share.

Blood drives

D&M Woodcrafts will host a community blood drive with ImpactLife, the provider of blood components for local hospitals. The blood drive will be from 2-7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 421 E. County Road 200N, inside D&M Woodcrafts. To donate, please contact Marlin Schrock at 217-268-3266 or visit www.bloodcenter.org and use code 71155 to locate the 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, IL from 2:30-7 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call Willard Miller at 217-543-2662.

Quilters meet

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.

New report shows access to maternal care worsens

By TAMMIE SLOUP
 FarmWeek

In rural areas across Illinois, 35.5% of women live more than 30 minutes from a birthing hospital compared to 3.5% of women living in urban areas.

And in 21 counties, pregnant women must travel 28.4 miles or more to the closest birthing hospital. In Douglas County, it's 32.3 miles.

The data comes from a new March of Dimes report that takes a deep dive into maternal care with a state-by-state analysis.

The Aug. 1 report, "Where You Live Matters: Maternity Care Deserts and the Crisis of Access and Equity," is a new collection of reports that shows more than 5.6 million women live in counties with no or limited access to maternity care services. The research shows that for millions of women in the United States, it's more difficult to access maternity care. One of the largest analyses on maternity care access, the report offers insight into the factors that impact pregnancies in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

"A person's ability to have a healthy pregnancy and healthy birth should not be dictated by where they live and their ability to access consistent, quality care but these reports show that, today, these factors make it dangerous to be pregnant and give birth for millions of women in the United States," said Dr. Elizabeth Cherot, March of Dimes president and chief executive officer. "Our research shows maternity care is simply not a priority in our health care system and steps must be taken to ensure all moms receive the care they need and deserve to have healthy pregnancies and strong babies. We hope the knowledge provided in these reports will serve as a catalyst for action to tackle this growing crisis."

See MATERNITY CARE on page 4



KELSEY MOORE RECEIVES her 2023 Miss Arcola crown from 2022 Miss Arcola Jade Garza. Moore was crowned Miss Arcola Saturday on the Arcola Jr. High stage. Photo by Rachel Ray.



LITTLE MISS ARCOLA Oaklee Stenger is fitted with a sash and gown at Saturday's Miss Arcola pageant. Photo by David Porter.



BRYAUNA HUDSON won Miss Congeniality at the 2023 Miss Arcola pageant Saturday evening. Photo by Rachel Ray.



Changing of the guard. Pictured are 2022 Miss Arcola Jade Garza, 2023 Miss Arcola Kelsey Moore, 2023 Junior Miss Arcola Addee Mullan, 2022 Junior Miss Arcola Aymara Leal, 2022 Little Miss Arcola Zamara Leal, 2023 Little Miss Arcola Oakley Stenger, 2023 Pre-teen Miss Arcola Emma Frichtl, and 2022 Pre-Teen Miss Arcola Madison Dunn. Photo by Rachel Ray.