

# CELEBRATING 150 YEARS



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AUGUST 30, 2023

## 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 a.m. at Penn Station on Sunday, Sept. 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 a.m. to 10 a.m. before the service. Refreshments will be served during that time so all are encouraged to come early and fel-

lowship.

The 10 a.m. service will include participation from local pastors and churches. The Rev. 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!

See more about local churches on pages 10-11



MARK BARRUM inside Billie Barrum's drug store and soda fountain at 133. S. Vine St., Arthur, circa 1900.

## 50th annual Cheese Festival Sept. 2-4

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival to be held on Saturday, Sept. 2 through Monday, Sept. 4.

On March 24, 1973, Erland Kondrup, owner

of the Arthur Cheese Company, hosted an open house. There were free samples of the company's award-winning cheese, plant tours, and a no-limit Swiss cheese special at 94 cents per pound.

This year's event will keep many Cheese Festival traditions alive such as the free cheese giveaways, free submarine sandwiches, Cheese Eating Contest, Cheese Curling Competition, and the Cheese Carving Contest.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2, there will be the Ceremonial Cutting of the Cheese. A large wheel of cheese will be sliced by guest cheese cutters. In the past, local politi-



cians, athletes and other celebrities including Coach Lou Henson of Fighting Illini fame, have been guest cheese cutters. This year, a person from the past, Michael H. Warren, founder of Arthur, will be cutting the cheese along with some of his descendants still living in Arthur.

The parade also kicks off on Saturday at 3:50 p.m. Tradition is that the parade starts at 3 plus one minute for every year the Festival has existed. It should be an extra-special parade with, hopefully, additional participation because of Arthur's Sesquicentennial. See more about the Cheese Festival on page 4.

## Michael Warren returns to Arthur to share story of town's founding

Approximately 200 people will be on hand at the Founders' Day Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 2, at Penn Station for a fun evening celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Arthur on Sept. 2, 1873.

There will be a display of Arthur memorabilia to view, video clips from the past to watch, music, and good fellowship.

This event will feature a grilled pork and grilled chicken dinner, birthday cake and ice cream, an interview with a guest from the past - Michael



Michael Hoblican Warren and his wife, Eleanor Ann Warren

H. Warren, entertaining Arthur history, and the opening of the time capsule from 1973.

Guests may begin gathering at 5:30 p.m. at Penn Station in downtown Arthur. The dinner will begin at approximately 6 p.m.

Those attending are encouraged to wear clothing representative of the time of Arthur's founding or of any other era that represents a time in Arthur's past.

The Founders' Day Dinner not only honors the founding of Arthur in 1873 by Michael Warren, but it also honors all those throughout Arthur's history who founded schools, churches, businesses, industries, parks and libraries, clubs and organizations, fire departments, police departments, and municipal government that have made this an exceptional community for 150 years.

See more on the founding of Arthur on page 3.

## Time capsule to be opened Sept. 2

At the Founders' Day Dinner, on Sept. 2, Arthur's time capsule will be opened and the contents that were placed inside it during the Village's 1973 Centennial Celebration will be revealed.

Progress Industries manufactured the welded-aluminum time capsule and it has been resting for fifty years in a concrete vault located in the floor of the Welcome Center since the time that building

was constructed in 1973. The vault was then covered by a granite stone that is engraved "Open in 2023."

During the Founders' Day Dinner festivities, the time capsule will be opened and the contents passed out to those present, or their family members, who can be identified as the proper recipients of the items. Unclaimed items at the dinner will be available a week or later at the Municipal Office.

After its opening, the time capsule and some of its miscellaneous contents will be on display at the Arthur Public Library.

The time capsule will be re-used and placed back into the vault at the Welcome Center sometime later this year. Before that, the public will have an opportunity to help fill the capsule with items for future Arthurites when it will be opened again in 2073!



Arthur's time capsule

Continued on page 3.

## Education Foundation announces essay winners

The Arthur School District #305 Education Foundation sponsored a contest for the best essays about "What My Town's Sesquicentennial Means to Me." Winners were awarded \$100 for their essays.

Laila Sanchez's essay was the 6th Grade winner, Hadden Fabert was the 8th Grade winner, and Adyson Hopkins's essay was selected as best overall.

Adyson will be reading her essay, "150 Years of Arthur," at the Founders' Day Dinner on Sept. 2.

(See more Sesquicentennial essays on page 4)

### 150 years of Arthur

By Adyson Hopkins

Laughter, Joy, Comforting, Loving. These are words you could use to describe my hometown. While that is an accurate depiction, my town means much more to me than words can describe.

I was almost 4 years old when I moved to Arthur. Being a little girl, I knew the moment I first saw all the horses, that

this was the place for me. Little did I know that this town would soon become a big piece of me. With that being said, I have taken pride in knowing that this place I call home is close to its 150th anniversary. Arthur's Sesquicentennial means to me togetherness, compassion, and traditions.

When I was living in a bigger city, it was harder to feel as close to everyone as I do here in Arthur. That is one of my favorite things about Arthur. Along with the closeness, comes compassion.

When I was going through

the hardships of my knee surgery, I had many friends, neighbors, teachers, etc. checking up on me. I was even sent get-well baskets and cards! The love I felt from the people who reside in this town is something I will never forget. My mother just recently had surgery. She also had a bunch of people there for her. This town never disappoints me with their love for one another and their town.

Back in February, I competed in the 2023 A.L.A.H. pageant. Fortunately, I was lucky enough for the Arthur Fire Department to sponsor me. In

our pageant, we had to make a commercial speech for our sponsor. My grandpa, Duane Hopkins, happens to be one of the headmen there.

As I dove deeper into the research on the fire department, I realized many traditions the firefighters and EMT's have created. This showed me that from generation to generation, they have never stopped caring about their town. To me, that is what my town's sesquicentennial is all about, the compassion, togetherness, and traditions. Those three things are the pillars not only

the Arthur Fire Department was built on, but as well as Arthur itself.

Growing up here in Arthur has been a blessing. I hope that more generations can enjoy this town and make memories the way I have. If someone were to ask me what my town's sesquicentennial meant to me, my answer would always be compassion, togetherness, and traditions that have embellished this town for many bloodlines.

(Adyson's essay was selected as overall best essay by the District #305 Education Foundation Board of Trustees.)

# Happy 150th Birthday, Arthur!



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