



Around the Halls of ALAH

by Nathan Seal, ALAH High School Assistant Principal & District Athletic Director

As you drive by Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond High School, have you ever wondered, what really goes on in our building? Each week we hope to bring you insight into what high school is like in today's world. Whether you loved your own high school experience or look back on it with dread, we hope to give you insight into what it is like to be a high schooler in 2023.

This week comes from Mr. Seal, our ALAH HS Assistant Principal and the District Athletic Director

Did you know... That ALAH will play host to over 150 athletic events this year. This includes JH and HS regular season and tournament games, JFL games, and ALAH youth sports games. Thousands of spectators will fill our stands to cheer on our Knights during the 23-

24 school year. There will be many highs, some lows, and countless memorable moments. Athletics provides immeasurable learning opportunities for our students no matter what sport they are playing at any level.

According to the Journal of Sport Behavior, researchers say that the sportsmanship behaviors of a child might correlate with those of the people watching the sport. The study shows that the instances of good sportsmanship on the part of a child tend to increase with positive behaviors from parents, coaches and other spectators. The findings go on to show that children are picking up on what constitutes acceptable behavior during sports.

So, what do all of these athletic events have in common? Officials. At the beginning of

many of our athletic events, we read the following statement. "Officials spend many nights away from their families each week to provide our students the opportunity to participate. They have no stake in a contest other than their love of the game. They are not going to get every call right; they are human, but without them, games cannot be played. Please show respect and appreciation to

all officials." During my long association with interscholastic athletics, I have witnessed many occasions where officials are not treated appropriately. I am proud of the ALAH community and the sportsmanship and respect that we show our officials on a regular basis. There will be times this year when a call does not go our way and the temptation will be to show our displeasure

towards our officials. Before you do, please remember that adults are the role models for our students and they are always observing our actions.

To the officials at ALAH, thank you. Thank you for ensuring that our student-athletes have games to be played. Thank you for ensuring that our competitions are fair. Thank you for giving your time, energy, and

patience to our sports. To the ALAH Knight Nation, thank you for attending our athletic events and cheering on our Knights. Thank you for your supporting our athletes, coaches, and district in so many ways.

Thank you for showing respect and appreciation to our officials. Without them, we wouldn't have games to attend.

Celebrations from page 1

Junior Miss ALAH; and Harper Hale, Little Miss ALAH helped with the cheese cutting along with Village President Rod Randall, and Fustin, Howell and Randall family members. 'Michael Warren' helped pass cheese slices out to the crowd present at the ceremony.

Other Saturday events included free cheese giveaways at the cheese tent, the Cheese Curling Championship, Cheese Eating Nationals and the Big Cheese Parade. Village President Rod Randall, wife Carol and Warren family members

served as Grand Marshals of the parade.

The Sesquicentennial celebration for Arthur began with the publication of a special edition of the Arthur Graphic Clarion detailing and highlighting many parts of our town's history and founding including articles on founding father Michael Warren and information on the time capsule which was placed in the floor of the Arthur Welcome Center in 1973. This edition also contained information on the 1973 Centennial celebration, the history of our churches, schools and banks as well as many historical pho-

tographs depicting people and places in Arthur over the last 150 years.

The big event took place on Saturday evening, September 2, when over 200 community members and interested parties gathered at Penn Station for a Founder's Day Dinner. Jo's Country Diner provided the delicious meal. Illinois State Senator Chapin Rose was on hand to bring a message from the Illinois Senate. Letters of congratulations from United States Senator Richard Durbin and Governor JB Pritzker were also shared with the gathering. Village Board Trustee Christy Miller welcomed all to the event

and members of the ALAH High School Choir with director Stephen McClarey sang the National Anthem. The invocation was given by Rev. Mike Johnson, former pastor of the Vine Street Christian Church.

After dinner, Richard Bradford, current resident living the longest in Arthur, blew out the candle on the 150th birthday cake to officially begin the evening's festivities. This was followed by an Arthur trivia quiz from Jim Fleming, Village Board Trustee. The ALAH High School Choir then sang "America the Beautiful."

Next up Jim Fleming in- See Celebrations on page 14

Village from page 1

for this year on Tuesday, October 31 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm.

Other items discussed/voted upon included:

- Approval of expenditures \$79,924.22

- Construction engineering on the clarifier and demolition at the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$40,000.00 was approved. The Farnsworth Group will be completing the project which was pre-approved in the Capital Improvement Plan.

- The Farnsworth Group was approved for administration on the IEPA lead service line inventory. They will be surveying for lead piping which is required by state law. The cost will be \$4,000, and will be paid by a grant that the village received.

- A vacant lot adjacent west of the Village Water tower on East Progress Street was declared as surplus property according to Ordinance 09-04A-2023.

- The sale of 223 North Walnut Street was approved for building duplexes for rental

properties to M & L Builders.

- Sign restrictions were waived temporarily for the All Around-Town Garage sales event on September 8 and 9, 2023.

- Village Board President Rod Randall thanks everyone for their help during the Cheese Festival and the Sesquicentennial Celebration. "Everyone did a great job," he said, expressing his thanks. Many of the other trustees echoed Randall's thoughts.

- "It was a great evening, everyone enjoyed themselves and walked away learning some history about Arthur," Matt Bernius said as he spoke about the recent Foundation Dinner that was held at Penn Station.

- "It was a wonderful weekend, thanks to everyone that played a part and Rod did a wonderful job as well. It was a great weekend to be in Arthur and to be a part of Arthur," noted Christy Miller.

- Trustee Jim Fleming also gave his thanks to all the staff and Stephanie Wierman. "It was a good festival and the dinner was great," he said.



The Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond jr. high softball team finished their 2023 season on Wednesday, September 6 losing a close one to Meridian 17-16. Pictured here are the 2023 ALAH Jr. High Softball Knights: First row: Lyla Sutton, Keely Simpson, Alana Perez, Alyssa Dixon. Second row: Laila Sanchez, Annelise Ponder, Annabelle Vanausdoll, Ava Moody, Abby Franklin, Chloe Jones. Third row: Head Coach Jerry Lane, Kyndrie Carter, Bella Romine, Addison Dixon, Claire Sass, Ella Oye, Assistant Coach Whitney Wyncoop.

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