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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Chatter BOX

Trick or Treat hours

Arcola City Council set trick-or-treating hours from 6-8 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28, three days before Halloween on Tuesday.

Distinguished Alumni update

The Oct. 14 Distinguished Alumni Banquet will honor William Robert "Bob" Fortney (1944), Virginia L. Fortney (1952), John Virgil "Jack" Fishel (1956), John G. "Corky" Clark (1962) and Dennis R. "Denny" Thompson (1968). Banquet meal reservations are due Sept. 30. Banquet sponsorships received by Sept. 22 will be included in program booklets, banquet PowerPoint presentation, on the Arcola Alumni Association website and in Arcola Record-Herald advertising. Later sponsorships are welcomed but may not be included in all advertising. Reservation and sponsor forms are available at Yoder's Homestead, Arcola First Bank, First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, on the Arcola Alumni Association website at www.arcolaalumni.org or by calling Sue Stout at 217-840-6605.

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 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.

If you can't make that date, the Tuscola United Methodist Church is hosting a blood drive from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19. Use code 71203 to register on the website.

The Tuscola Moose Lodge is hosting a blood drive from 9 a.m. till 12 noon Friday, Oct. 20. Use code 71315 on the website to register.

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.



GHERE BOWL FRIDAY

Arcola to host historic military family in 75th meeting between Arcola and Villa Grove football

By Mike Monahan

ARCOLA - Two Douglas County towns will square off Friday at Thomas-Bradford Field Friday as Arcola plays host to Villa Grove in a Lincoln Prairie Conference contest in what will be the not only be the 75th meeting between the two schools, but the game will mark the first Ghere Bowl contest.

Arcola leads the series 49-24-1 and the first meeting was in 1904 with Arcola winning 32-0 at Villa Grove. The two teams have met twice in the playoffs in class 1A with Arcola winning in the second round 36-8 in 1985 en route to the state title. The other time was in 1991 with the Purple Riders winning 26-7 in a runner-up season for Arcola.

"I think it is really cool that the two towns are able to do something like this," said Arcola coach Steve Snider. "The 75th anniversary of the two teams playing and the relationship that the family had with both communities. It is incredible and for

**Pre-game ceremony
6:50 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22
Thomas-Bradford
Field,
Arcola High School**

the people to come up with this great idea to make it happen is great. To be out there and honor everybody at a football game that obviously they had great ties in the community is such a cool thing. I get to be part of it in my first year and not even being from here for me to be a part of it is special because it is something that is such a tradition and a big part of the communities."

Russ Ghere, a 1943 graduate of Arcola, was the co-coach at Villa Grove in 1958 with Bill Crum. Ghere took over by himself in 1959 and coached until 1975 and then again from 1979-81. He had a 21-year record of 106-66. Ghere also served as athletic director at Villa Grove and the football field is named

after him. He is a member of the Illinois Football Coaches Association Hall of fame and in 2014 was inducted into the Arcola Distinguished Alumni. He died Jan. 27, 1999. He won or shared six conference titles and led the Blue Devils to their first playoff appearance in the first year of

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The making of the 'Greatest Generation'

By Carolyn Cloyd

The term "Greatest Generation" defines a generation of Americans who were raised during the Great Depression of the 1930s and who came of age, often on the battlefield, or in the factories and fields, during WWII. But more broadly and accurately defined, it was also the era of people who helped mold that generation to great-

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City approves two TIF projects

Raises salaries for police department

The Arcola City Council on Monday approved two requests for tax increment financing (TIF) help.

The first is a 20 percent rebate for Distill Fitness at 202-204 E. Main St. The request was made by Whitney Moody and was approved by the TIF committee unanimously.

The second is a \$50,000 grant to the Arcola Food Pantry for the purchase and improvement of the north building at Rt. 133 and Egyptian Trail. It will be paid in two installments. The Pantry is also receiving funding from the county.

That vote was not unanimous from the TIF committee. Two members voted against the funding because the Pantry is not a for-profit business generating jobs. The votes in favor cited the importance of the Pantry to the community and surrounding area.

The Council accepted both requests unanimously although two aldermen, Terry Foran and Jose Becerra, were absent.

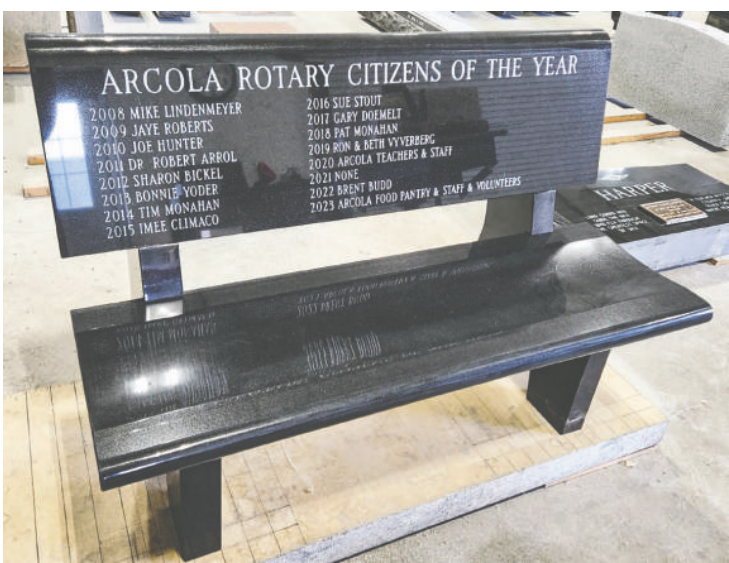
The Council also approved pay raises for the police department. Full- and part-time officers were raised \$1 per hour. Chief Nick Suding's salary was raised from \$63,368 to \$72,000.

Following the meeting, Mayor Jesus Garza thanked everyone who helped make this year's Broom Corn Festival a success. He specifically cited the Chamber of Commerce, city employees, Cassie Yoder of Cass Concepts and his own crew of volunteers.

School approves \$245k for track OKs new bilingual teaching position

The Arcola School Board last Wednesday approved spending \$245,000 to resurface the track. That does not include everything, said Superintendent Dr. Tom Mulligan. The Board can talk about color options later, he said. The vote for the basic upgrade gets

See SCHOOL BOARD on page 3



A new bench was dedicated Saturday in Arcola to honor the Rotary Citizens of the Year. This year, the volunteers of the Arcola Food Pantry were selected as the recipients. Mayor Jesus Garza (seated, left) joined in congratulating the Food Pantry volunteers. At left are images of the front and back of the new bench, which is located across the street from Arcola First Bank.

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