

Zion News

"Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." – Philippians 2:4

The Apostle Paul talks a lot about how to be social with others. However, his version of being social seems quite different from today's version of social media and social networking.

What's it all about? Our brains are wired to be social animals. Even our basic survival instincts tell us that an existence with other people protects us, helps provide food for us, and keeps us reproducing our kind. Yet there is more.

This is a season when academic institutions from high schools to colleges and universities celebrate the tradition of Homecoming. This is social networking of the best kind – face-to-face and personal.

Even though the NCAA, Trivial Pursuit, and Jeopardy claim that the idea of Homecoming originated at the University of Missouri, we all know it started in 1910 at the University of Illinois. And Homecoming has been a strong tradition in the heart of the Midwest ever since.

But the interest in events like Homecoming seems to be waning as evidenced by lower attendance at such interpersonal activities. It's a symptom that seems widespread and may stem from a growing attitude of social distancing. Perhaps social distancing is becoming the preferred method of self-survival. Too bad.

It is becoming more difficult to motivate people to leave the

comfort of their room where they are surrounded by their TV, computer, cell phone and all the other necessities to be "connected" with the world. To venture out and be with others is not of utmost importance when the world can come to us.

But it is important to physically be around others, and the impact of impersonal contact is aiding division among people, reduced attendance at in-person events, and a reduction of people in the pews of our churches.

Will the trend for people to become less physically social ever turn around? Probably not. So we should cherish the few physical social contacts that we have – family, friends, and others we can touch and breathe the same air with.

Something Dr. Robert Randall, a favorite son of our church, has said during funeral services sums it up, "It's not what you've become, or what you've accomplished, or how many places you've been, or how much money you have that's important – in the end, it's who you have beside you."

And that's why some of us hold on to traditions like Homecoming in spite of all the new ways we can network without making human contact. That's why fellowship among members of a congregation is one of the most important reasons for going to church on Sunday.

Zion's worship service starts at 9:00 AM each Sunday. This coming Sunday Dr. Jennifer Little will lead the worship service. Everyone is welcome.

The Great Pumpkin Patch opens this Wednesday

TGPP OPENING

The Great Pumpkin Patch is opening today, Wednesday, September 20 and will be open Wednesday through Sunday from now until October 29. They will also be open on Columbus Day, Monday, October 9. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. And don't forget to stop by the Homestead Bakery when you visit!

MUSIC AT TGPP

Always enjoy the different artists and musical groups that play at the Patch on the weekends and the first weekend will have someone very special entertaining the crowds. That someone is Always Arthurite and AHS grad Jonny Collier, son of Ed Collier and Lynn Marner. Jonny will be playing on Saturday afternoon, September 23 from 12:30-4:30 and then will be downtown at Blondie's Bar from 7-9 p.m. that evening. Welcome home Jonny!

MASTER MAZE

I don't know a lot about this but here is some basic information. They do have a facebook page for more. They are open September 15 to November 4 on Fridays and Saturdays only. Times are 2 p.m. and the last entrance time is 8:30 p.m. They have live farm animals and a family game area as well as food available for sale. The location is 1634 CR 2000N, Arthur. May have to check it out!

PROUD GRANDPARENTS

While this young lady is not a native of our town her grandparents, the Rev. Leroy and Marilyn Allison, have become fixtures and a real asset to our community. So happy they decided to stay here once Leroy retired and they can definitely be considered to be Always Arthurites. But this piece is about their granddaughter, Reilly Allison. Hopefully there is an article about her elsewhere in the paper. Like Leroy and Marilyn, I don't totally understand all the scientific information but my gosh how impressive is she? I have no doubt we will be hearing more from her in the future and that the work she is doing will be for the betterment

Town Talk

By Marty Yeakel

of society and the scientific community. Congratulations to Reilly and to her family for their support!

VISITORS FROM GEORGIA

I am definitely not the 'hostess with the mostest' but I did have company this last week. Delano's cousin, Dixie from Georgia and her husband were here to spend a few days and visit with Delano's mother. Dixie's mother and Delano's mother were sisters and Marilyn (Delano's mother) is the only surviving sibling. Dixie's aunt, her dad's sister and her husband, were also able to come to Arthur and we all met at Yoder's for lunch. Madonna and her husband Bob are both in their 90s. They live near Lake Paradise and I have to say I enjoyed them quite a lot. Both were very sharp, lively and just fun in general. I learned more about their family as well which I will share next week. It was good to see Dixie and Tom but I have to admit it's good to have my house to myself again!

EIU/ISU GAME

So we headed down to Charleston on Saturday afternoon to take in this game. Granddaughter Kaylee is a senior at EIU. She cheered in JFL, all through junior high and high school and for two years at Lakeland. She took last year off but decided to take one last shot at cheer. She is happy to have the company of someone she knows as Regann Bowles, ALAH '23 and a freshman at

EIU, is also on the cheer team. Our family has several EIU grads and even a couple of ISU grads. Sally, Tiffany, nephew Zachery, his wife Marissa and I are all EIU grads. Don and Kaylee's boyfriend Matthew are ISU grads. And what a game it turned out to be! Frankly I was sure Eastern would never pull it off but at the end of the game they marched down the field to score a touchdown and the extra point to win 14-13. In addition to cheerleaders we were also able to visit a bit with Zack Woodard who is a sophomore at EIU and the son of Justin and Diane Woodard. Zack plays the trombone in the marching band and needless to say he is easy to spot. He's the tall, skinny one! What we also learned is that Lauren Ray, daughter of Jama and granddaughter of Gery and Cheryl Conlin is a freshman at EIU and also in the band. Maybe next week we'll get a chance to meet Lauren and visit with her. GO BLUE!

SPORTS REPORT

Our Knights football team is 4 and 0 and beat Sangamon Valley last Friday night 55-14. This week's game is with Cumberland who have always been a tough opponent. Unfortunately our guys have to travel there this Friday. Honestly it seems like we have to go to Toledo every year. I know that's not the case but it does seem like it. Good luck Friday night guys!

Volleyball had three games

last week. The girls won fairly easily against Tri-City on Monday night and in the match with Sullivan on Tuesday night. Thursday's game with Cerro Gordo was a different story. While the freshman girls and junior varsity team were winners, the varsity had a little tougher contest. Cerro Gordo/Bement is very good and I won't be surprised if they win the conference. The consolation is that the CGB girls are all seniors so they will be gone next year while our team, composed largely of juniors and sophomores on the varsity right now, will be back next year. This week's games are with Cumberland on Tuesday (thankfully at home) and with Okaw Valley on Thursday.

The golf team has been busy and has several meets coming up. They will be at Mattoon on Wednesday, Moweaqua on Thursday and Charleston on Friday. Thankfully they have had some pretty good weather for their meets.

Cross country had a meet at Tuscola last Saturday where three of our girls, Ruby Burton, Kimberly Krutsinger and Embrey Reardon, placed. They will be at St. Joe this Saturday for another meet. Good luck to all our Knights teams!

HOMECOMING

Homecoming will be taking place the weekend of September 29 and 30 with the traditional parade, tour of the school, football game and the banquet on Saturday night which will be at Kaskaskia Country Club this year. They are also busy at the high school making preparations. This is

See TOWN TALK on page 3

Allison receives PhD

Reilly Allison is the granddaughter of the Rev. Leroy and Marilyn Allison of Arthur. She recently received her PhD in Cell & Developmental Biology. The following is the note she shared with family and friends upon the completion of this phase of her education.

"I successfully defended my thesis on August 31, 2023 at the Medical College of Wisconsin and was awarded a PhD in Cell & Developmental Biology. Because I entered through the Neuroscience Doctoral Program, my PhD had a specific focus on neuroscience. The title of my thesis was "Astrocyte-targeted therapeutics to correct glial inflammatory signaling and neuron loss in SMA and ALS. I was blessed to have my parents, older sister, and grandparents at my defense and to celebrate with them in Milwaukee afterwards!

Now that I have finished my degree, I am starting a new job as a Research & Design Scientist at a company in Madison, WI called Cellular Dynamics Inc (CDI). My job



will be to create and optimize new ways to differentiate stem cells into neural and glial cells so that we can provide these to groups who want to test these cells for basic research or therapeutics. I am really excited to use my experience in this new way and see what the future holds!"

Reilly completed the five year program in four years including the covid year with limited time in the lab. This was both a Masters and PhD program.

MANNEQUINS

Background: Arthur Grade School, Arthur, Illinois

by Don S Chambers



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