

Arthur Through My Eyes

This week I would like to highlight a longtime business in Arthur - "A.J.'s Auto Body".

Alvie Jess grew up in the Arthur area south of town. He has a son in Indianapolis and a daughter in Camargo.

One of his first jobs was working for Ervin Yoder at Ho-

lizon Home Center, where he started out delivering lumber, cabinets, etc. and then moved up to the position of warehouse foreman.

He was always good at working on cars, so in 1994 he started doing that full time in a 2 1/2 car garage in Cadwell. He

soon grew out of that location and moved to 211 North Hickory here in town (where Luke Miller now has his "300 Performance" business working on pulling tractors, etc.).

Five years later, in 1999, the present location of "A.J.'s Auto Body" became home at 111 North Vine.

When A.J. bought the property, there was a 2 story brick building and a round roof block building. He tore down the 2 story building and had his shop in the remaining building for many years. He was always planning on building a new space for the business, so when the round roof building caught fire in 2012, that sped things along and the new building that we all now know and see, was built. He was still using the round roof building as a warehouse until the roof blew off in 2017, due to straight line winds, then that building was torn down as well. Lots of transitions for this business owner.

Outside of the auto body work, another very significant portion of the business is screen printing, which A.J. has offered since 1999. He bought and learned the craft from Bill Nease in Atwood, who used to do screen printing for him. Bill had a stroke and wanted to retire from the business, and after doing a lot of research in the area to find other facilities that did small orders, A.J. came up empty, so decided to buy the business from Mr. Nease. That is why to this day, if you want to buy one t-shirt, hat or jacket, you can. They have no minimums. Bill sold A.J. all his equipment and taught him how to use it.

Screen printing can be done on many surfaces, most commonly on cloth materials. They offer printing on t-shirts, hats, jackets, etc.

Many in the Amish community use his services to print Bible verses on cloth material. Yard signs can also be made with screen printing.

Another service offered is vinyl decals which can provide lettering for signs, vehicles,

trailers, etc. They also can do plaques, trophies, mugs and awards.

When I asked A.J. what percentage of the business is printing, he shared that initially it was about 50-50 with the auto body, but now it is about 75% printing and 25% auto body.

A.J. is a certified painter and took many classes over the years in car repairs and learned alongside other people who did it. He presently has 2 full time employees and 2 part-time employees, but does all the auto body work himself.

When I asked him what he has appreciated most about having a business in Arthur he responded, "75% of our

business comes from local residents and I appreciate that very much."

He also mentioned that it's encouraging when other businesses in town do business with him because it influences who he also wants to do business with in return, saying it's good to help and support each other like that.

When asked what he appreciates most about Arthur he added, "I think it is a good community and a good place to work and live. It's my hometown. It has a lot to offer that a lot of other small towns don't."

Always Learning More,
Trudy Feyereisen

Real Faith For Real Life

From Pastors of the Arthur Ministerial Association

The Harvest

Just the other day I stepped outside early in the morning to join my husband on a walk. As I did the crispness of the morning greeted me. Sunrise was a while away, but I noticed we were washed in light from a source other than the sun. Looking up I noticed an amazing harvest moon. It all seemed to work together.

Since that morning I have noticed the farmers at work in the fields and have been reminded once again that God works in the details of our lives.

For example, he designed that moon to give a little extra light for the harvesting of crops.

We know that often Jesus taught using stories that reflected the occupations of the time.

Because of this farming illustrations abound throughout the scripture.

In Mathew 9, he reminded his disciples of the need for

more workers, more harvesters. Here he said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field,"

Here we are some 2000 years later still declaring and asking for the same thing.

Now more than ever, there seems to be a need for workers who are willing to sow and harvest in the spiritual fields.

Don't let our fear stop us from this most holy assignment. And don't assume another messenger will be sent.

Look around you this morning for that person in need of harvesting may be your neighbor of many years or a longtime friend across the street. We all need to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

God Bless
Pastor Jill Bunker
Arthur United
Methodist Church



Church Directory

ATTEND THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE

ARCOLA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - USA, 311 E. Jefferson, Arcola. Church School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 10:30 a.m. Phone 268-3212

ARCOLA FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE - Rev. Ivan Jess 268-4769, 276-3020; Sam Miller, SS Supt. 202-6094. Sunday School, 9:30am Morning Worship, 10:30am; (Sign Language Interpreter) Sunday Evening Service 6:00pm; Wednesday evening Bible Study 6:00pm; Missionary Meeting second Wednesday night of each month.

ARTHUR MENNONITE CHURCH - 710 E. Park St., Arthur. Worship begins at 10:30 am each Sunday. Christian Education classes for all ages begin at 9:30 am. All are welcome, come and join us! Call 217-543-2781 for more information. Ministry Team: Glen Rhodes, Minister of Discipling & Administration; Emily Kauffman, Minister of Outreach; Nancy Kuhns, Minister of Community Life & Worship. Website: arthurmennonite.org Email: arthurmennonite@gmail.com

ARTHUR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH - 530 N. Vine St., Arthur. Pastor: Doug Davis, Worship 10:00am; Children's Church every Sunday morning at 9:30am, Nursery provided. Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm, Wednesday: Service 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. 543-2672.

ATWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 229 S. Main, Atwood. Pastor Don Gerkin. Phone 578-2880. Sunday School 9am; Church, 10am; Bible Study 6:30pm

BOURBON BAPTIST CHURCH - David Babb, Pastor, Sunday Worship, 9:30am; Sunday School 10:45am; bourbon.baptistchurch@yahoo.com

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - Missouri Synod. 1 mile south of Sullivan on Highway 32. Glenn Strohschein, Pastor. Sunday Morning Service 10:00am; Sunday School 9:00am; Saturday services 5:00pm. Online services: www.worshipanew.com

FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH - 320 Surrey Lane, Arthur, Timothy Froese, Pastor. Sunday School 10am; Sunday Worship & The Word 11:15am; Wednesday Night Bible Study 7pm. Website: www.facarthur.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (ABCUSA) - 120 E. Park, Arthur. John Stewart Pastor; Sunday School 9am, Worship 10am; American Baptist Women's Ministries meets 2nd Mon. 7pm; Prayer chain, 543-2296. For other activities and information, call church 543-2592 or Internet at www.firstbaptistarthur.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 231 N. Illinois, Atwood, 578-2555. Woody White, Pastor. Sunday School 9am; Morning worship 10am; Youth 5:00pm; Discipleship Class 6pm; Woman's Bible Study Tues. 9am; IGNITE Children's Ministry Weds. 6:30-8pm. Child care provided at all services. Website www.firstbaptistatwood.org

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - 300 Northline Rd., Tuscola, 253-2084, Sunday School 9:30am; Morning Worship 10:30am; Evening service 6pm; Wednesday Evening 6:30pm. A Ministry for Everyone: Sunday School for all ages, King's Kids, Teen Dept. Homebuilders & more! www.faithtuscola.org

LOVINGTON FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - Corner of County (Route 32) and Church Streets. Worship 9:30am; Children's Church 4 yrs.-1st grade 10:15am; Sunday School 10:45am for all ages; Wednesday night Bible Study, 6:00pm. Craig Swinford, Pastor.

LOVINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 241 S. Broadway, Lovington. Worship 10:00am. Rev. Leland Legg.

FAITH FAMILY FELLOWSHIP - 228 N. Broadway St., Lovington. 873-8791. "Real Faith, Real Life". Sunday Service 10am. www.lovingtonfaith.org

EAGLE MOUNTAIN - Assembly of God. Pastor Darin Elder, 253-4444, 401 E. Sale St., Tuscola. Sunday Services, 10am and 6:30pm and Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm Nursery and children's ministries provided during all services.

SUNNYSIDE MENNONITE CHURCH - Larry Rocke, Senior Pastor, Luke Goss, Assistant Pastor. Sunday School 9:30am; Services 10:30am

COWBOY CHURCH - Penn Station, 122 E. Progress, Arthur. 217-273-4202. Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. Darrell Helmuth, Minister. Everyone welcome.

JONATHAN CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH - "Forward in Christ, United in Love, Come as You Are". 1425 Jonathan Creek Rd, Sullivan, 728-4369. Website: jcreek.org. Email: jonathancreekchurch@yahoo.com. Pastor Tim Henderson. Sunday Worship: 8:00am Traditional Service, 10:00am Con-

temporary Service; 10:00am FROG (Fully Rely on God) Super Kids Church (for children 4-12); 6:00pm Believers Meeting (Contemporary Service.) Corporate Prayer: Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Family Night: Wednesday Evenings @ 6:30-8 pm Summer Schedule: 5/15, 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 7/3, 8/7. Will start back weekly in September. Lite meal at 6:30-7pm then break up into classes til 8pm. Bus Service Available Call 521-9576 for bus info. Jonathan Creek Christian Church a Regional Life Transformation Center; LovingPeople to Life; Everyone Welcome.

NORTH VINE MENNONITE CHURCH - 312 N. Vine, Arthur, Brian Petersheim, Sr. Pastor; Mike Helmuth, Asst. Pastor. Sunday School for all ages 9:30am; Message 10:30am; Sunday evening services 6pm. No services on last Sunday night of every month. All are welcome.

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH - Washington & Pine Streets, Arcola, 268-3766. Rev. Angel Sierra, Pastor. Sunday Mass 9:30 a.m.; Weekday Mass Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Confessions Wednesday 6:15 p.m. or by appointment. Affirmations Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Email: johnbaptist@consolidated.net

LIFEPOINTE CHURCH - 700 E. Main, Arcola. Nondenomination/Spirit-Filled Church. Ph. 217-268-4586. Rev. Gephard and Judy Warman. Sunday Worship Service: 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Pastor Rogelio Gutierrez - Spanish Church. Sunday Worship Service: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 p.m. Friday Service: 7:00 p.m.

ARTHUR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - 128 E. Illinois, Arthur. Pastor Jill Bunker. Worship 8am & 10am; Sunday School 9am Nursery for Sunday School and 10am Service. www.arthurunitedmethodist.org

VINE STREET CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 249 S. Vine, Arthur. Pastor Bob Silvanik. Sunday School 9am; Worship 10am. Christian Women's Fellowship meets first Wednesday each month 1:30pm, September-June. Nursery and air conditioning.

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST - P.O. Box 252, Arthur. 2 1/2 miles south of Garrett. Church Worship 9:00am; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m

LOVINGTON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD (ANDERSON) - 301 W. State St. Lovington, IL 61937. Pastor Rodney Houser. Phone 873-4749 9am Sunday School, 10am Morning Worship, Wednesday 7pm Midweek Services, adult and childrens ministries.

PRAIRIE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH - 2423 CR 500 E, Lake City, IL 61937. Phone 677-2464. Nursery available for all services. Sunday School for K4-Adults 9:30 a.m. Worship and Children's Church 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening services 6:00 p.m. Wednesday night Bible Study 7 p.m. with Flyer's Club (K4-1st Grade), King's Kids (2nd-6th Grade) and Teens (7th-12th Grade) every Wednesday (Sept.-May). Email: info@prairieviewbaptistchurch.com Website: www.prairieviewbaptist.com

LOVINGTON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - 360 W. Springfield Rd. Sunday School 9:30am, Morning Worship 10:30am, Evening Service 6pm, Wednesday Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study, 7:00pm Church phone: 873-5116. www.fblovington.org

NEW LIFE CHURCH - R.R. 1, Sullivan, IL 61951 (3 1/2 miles east of Sullivan on the Cadwell Rd.) Ph. 728-4200 Dave & Debra Dolan, Pastors; Liz Dolan, Minister of Music; Debra Dolan, Secretary. Sunday Worship 9am. Wednesday Worship Service (for all ages), 7pm. Website www.newlifesullivan.org

CORNERSTONE FELLOWSHIP -212 E. Third Street, Arthur. Sunday Worship services 10am, Sunday evening worship service 6:30 pm. Everyone warmly invited to join us for worship.

UNITED CHURCH OF ATWOOD -210 N. Main St., P.O. Box 379 • Atwood, IL 61913 • 578-2832. Mike Drake, Pastor. Non-Denominational Christian Church. Service: 10:00am. Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-Noon

Obituary

Rita Jane Goodman

Rita Jane Goodman, 85 of Arthur, IL passed away at 10:04 AM on Saturday, September 16, 2023 at the Arthur Home.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at the Vine Street Christian Church, 249 South Vine St., Arthur, IL.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, September 22, 2023 at the church. Burial will follow in the Arthur Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

A full obituary will appear in next week's B-section.

Town Talk

from page 2

from the weekend update put out each Friday from the high school: "Our students are heavy into planning for Homecoming Week, September 25-30. There have been sign ups for our traditional powder puff football game, macho volleyball game, float designing and hallway decorating. Hallway decorating will happen on Sunday afternoon the 24th, yes, believe it or not students love to come into the building on their off day! We will run a fun schedule during homecoming week to allow students the ability to participate in float building during the school day. The parade will also run during our school day to allow everyone the opportunity to be in, or watch, the parade before dismissal. It is going to be such a fun week. We hope you will encourage your students to join in!"

FIELDS OF GOLD

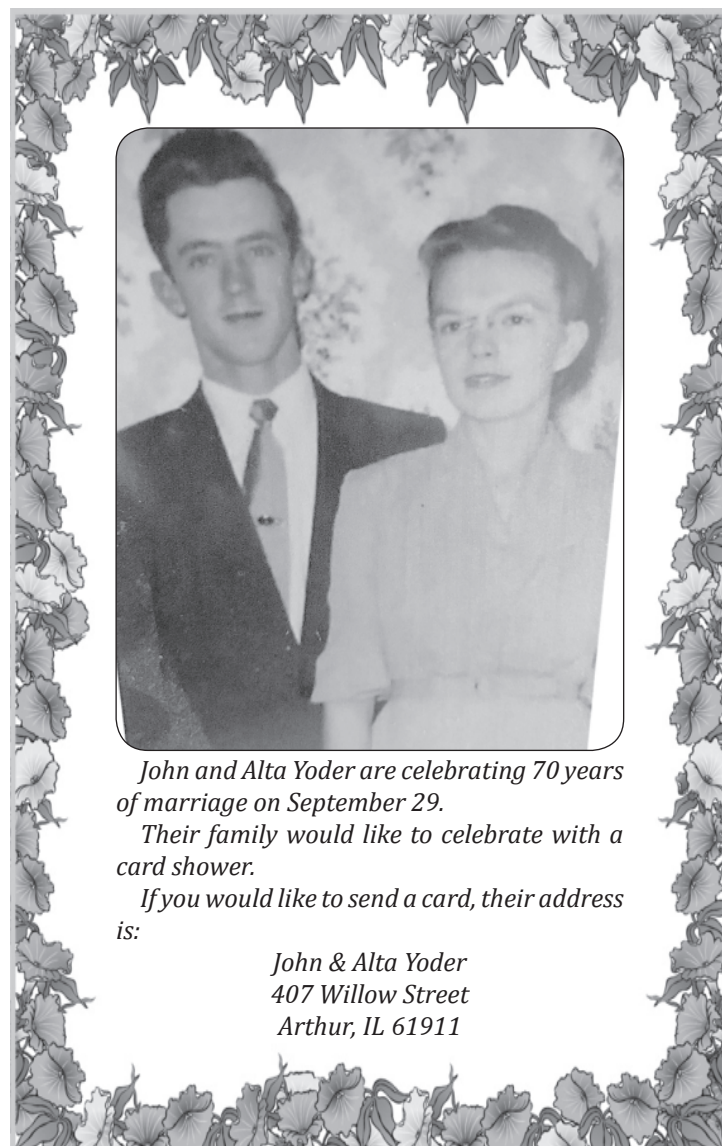
This film that tells the story of A.E. Staley had its debut this past weekend in Decatur at the Lincoln Square Theater. At least eleven members of the Staley family were in attendance. Family members also took a tour of the office building built by A.E. Staley which was the centerpiece of his agribusiness enterprise. Evidently the film will be available for the public to view over the next few weeks at the Lincoln Theater. Information from the press release says this about the film: "Fields of Gold" takes viewers on an awe-inspiring journey through time, narrated by the Emmy Award-winning actor Peter Coyote. The documentary chronicles the remarkable life of Augustus Eugene Staley, an ordinary farmer born in 1867 who carved an extraordinary path to become the driving force behind an agricultural empire. From his humble beginnings, Mr. Staley's story unfolds to reveal his ownership of turn-of-the-twentieth-century baseball and football teams, most notably the Decatur Staleys football squad. This team, under the leader-

ship of figures like George Halas, Charles "Chic" Harley, and Edward "Dutch" Sternaman, would go on to make history as the Chicago Bears in 1922." It looks like Julie Staley and her husband Mark, who is a great grandson of A.E. are a couple of the driving forces behind the film. Hoping this becomes available on one of the streaming services so we can see it in our homes. Will let you all know if that happens.

FROM TED SANDERS

Some of you may remember Ted and Keisha Sanders when they lived here in Arthur about 15 years or so ago. He was the band director and she taught in the grade school. He also directed our Methodist church choir and she sang (and had a beautiful voice). If I remember right they had two children when they left here and had their third after moving. Their oldest son, Ayden, graduated from high school a couple of years ago and now attends Virginia Military Institute. Daughter Audrey and son Owen are in high school in Ottawa where they now live. All the kids are very talented especially musically, which is not surprising. Ted sent me a message the other day sharing a memory from his days here and how they were able to use that experience. Here is what Ted had to say: "Had to share an Arthur memory as football season is underway! Our youngest, Owen, plays JV and has been pulled up to varsity. He's also in the band. We told him that we knew a wonderful young man from Arthur who would play football and do the field show in his football uniform. Well, the coach and band teacher worked it out and it has made a big impact on the youth in our community seeing that kids can do both sports and music!" Nice to know Ted's family was able to use the example for our program to enable Owen to be a part of both the band and the football team. Sure do miss that family!

And that's -30- for the first day of fall! (my favorite time of year)



John and Alta Yoder are celebrating 70 years of marriage on September 29.

Their family would like to celebrate with a card shower.

If you would like to send a card, their address is:

John & Alta Yoder
407 Willow Street
Arthur, IL 61911

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