



SECTION

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Connecting our communities

March 22, 2023

BRIEFS

Blood drive in Atwood

Spring is near! As the seasons change, the American Red Cross is reminding the public that the need for blood doesn't take a break. Blood and platelets remain at risk of running low this month. Donors are crucial to helping the Red Cross avoid a blood shortage in the weeks to come.

Donors of all blood types, especially type O donors and platelet donors, are encouraged to make and keep appointments to donate. Book a time to give by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities March 16-31

Atwood
3/23/2023: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., United Church of Atwood, 210 North Main Street

Download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Amplify your impact - volunteer!

Blood donor ambassadors help greet, check-in and thank blood donors to ensure they have a positive donation experience.

Volunteers can also serve as transportation specialists, playing a vital role in ensuring lifesaving blood products are delivered to nearby hospitals. For more information and to apply for either position, visit red-cross.org/volunteertoday.

Weather forecast

Wednesday: A 50 percent chance of rain. Cloudy, with a high near 59. Breezy, with a south wind 18 to 23 mph, with gusts as high as 34 mph.

Wednesday Night: A chance of rain, with thunderstorms also possible after 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 53. Breezy, with a south wind 18 to 22 mph, with gusts as high as 33 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%.

Thursday: Rain. High near 66. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Thursday Night: Rain likely, mainly before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 41. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52.

Friday Night: A chance of rain. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 55.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 38.

Sunday: A chance of rain. Partly sunny, with a high near 61.



GOSPEL ECHOES PRISON MINISTRY. The 21st Annual Benefit Auction and Haystack Supper was held this past Friday night at the Otto Center. Organizers were pleased with the great turnout for supper as attendees could also purchase ice cream, soft pretzels, and baked goods to compliment the evenings activities. The auction was successful as well and included such items as furniture, quilts, buildings, tools, toys, gift certificates and much more. Proceeds from the event goes toward sponsoring prison Bible Studies as several from the surrounding area go to the prison and conduct chapel services and seminars.

Arthur to receive ARPA funds for water tower repainting

By Dominik Stallings

The Douglas County Board meeting authorized the use of \$282,300 in American Rescue Plan Act funds (ARPA) for a joint water project with the Village of Arthur. The Board also agreed to an inter-governmental agreement between Douglas County and Arthur for the repair and maintenance of an elevated water tower. The expected cost for the project is approximately \$315,000. Arthur will fund the remaining cost of the project, \$32,700.

According to the ordinance, the water storage tower in Arthur is in need of repair and maintenance as the water tower was last painted in 1996, 26 years ago. The average life span of a water tower paint system is 20 years.

The interior and exterior surfaces of the water tower will be sandblasted and repainted. Currently, the tower has mold and mildew buildup, which is described as an unpleasant visual sight rather than posing any threat to the tower's structural integrity.

The Board also authorized \$110,000 in ARPA funds to purchase air packs and other protective gear for Arthur Fire and Ambulance. The Board agreed to an intragovernmental agreement for the purchase as well.

In other news, the Board authorized an amendment to the Douglas County fiscal year 2023 budget. The amendments include the correct salaries of the State's attorney, \$146,188; pub-

lic defender, \$131,569; 9-1-1 Administrator, \$60,000.

The budget didn't include items from the Sheriff's Department's budget, including the "Vehicle Diesel/Gasoline" line item for \$69,000

The budget incorrectly recited insurance premium payments. The correct amount is \$750,000 for general services expenses.

The budget did not include grant money left over for courtroom projects that were completed in the Circuit Clerk's #77 Court Improvements fund. The line was added to reflect the grant's expense of \$60,033.

The budget did not include newly created funds for storage documents. \$25,000 for the Recording Document Storage and \$10,000 for the Vital Records Document Storage.

Douglas County Clerk and Recorder Judi Pollock said the changes could have been done at the end of the fiscal year but chose to do it sooner.

The Board approved the agreement renewal between Douglas County and road commissioners for the maintenance of county roads at the contract price of \$1,600 per mile for one year starting April 1.

The Board also heard from Cultivate Power regarding a potential solar farm near Arcola. According to the company's website, it is a distributed solar and storage platform. Their focus is cultivating land into distributable renewable energy projects and ensuring that the projects benefit local communities.

'We Quilt Our Town' to feature quilt show, auction and author Chiaverini

The Decatur Quilters Guild will hold their 41st Quilt Fest titled "We Quilt our Town" Friday and Saturday, April 14 and 15, at the Decatur Civic Center, downtown Decatur. As a special feature, author Jennifer Chiaverini will be a guest speaker. Chiaverini is author of The Elm Creek Quilt series

and many historical fiction books such as Switchboard Soldiers, The Women's March, and Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker. Library Sponsors include Warrensburg, Mt. Zion, Macon, Genealogy Society and Maroa. Admission to the Quilt Show is required to attend her presentation. The Quilt Fest will have fabric

and quilting related vendors offering specials, and demonstrations. There will be a sew-along project, "Quilts for the Veteran", for attendees to sit and sew a block. The Guild gift boutique will be open, as well as door prizes throughout the two-day event and a Silent Auction offering quilts and quality

hand-sewn projects with proceeds going to Project Read, a local organization focusing on literacy. Quilt appraisals by Lynn Contri will be available by appointment throughout the event.

"We Quilt our Town" is a judged

See QUILT SHOW on page 2

ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE!

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 31ST
7:00AM - 5:00PM





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904 E Columbia St
Arthur, IL 61911 | (217) 543-3113

Illini Prairie CEO at Douglas County Retired Teachers Association



ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, Illini Prairie CEO students spoke at the Douglas County Retired Teachers Association meeting held at the Smith House in Tuscola. Pictured are student, Kaci Beachy, Arthur Lovington Atwood Hammond HS; facilitator, Hannah Myers; and students J'lea York and Aaliyah Garza, Arcola High School. Mark your calendars for the 2023 Illini Prairie CEO Trade Show which will be on Tuesday, April 25 from 5-7 at Yoder's Kitchen in Arthur.