



SECTION

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July 26, 2023

BRIEFS

Parade entries needed for "Big Cheese" Labor Day Parade

Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival is celebrating its 50th anniversary this Labor Day weekend and the "Big Cheese" parade, sponsored by the Arthur Area Association of Commerce, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 2. The Village of Arthur Sesquicentennial celebration will also be held in conjunction with this year's festival.

The parade will step-off at 3:50 p.m. and lineup begins at 2:30 p.m. in the old Progress Tank facility located at 402 E. Progress St. Parade forms are going out this week as everyone is invited to be a part of the event. The committee strives to make it one of the best parades of the late summer and one of the highlights of the Cheese Festival.

Forms are also available at the Arthur Welcome Center, Arthur Graphic-Clarion newspaper office, or contact Stephanie Wierman at 217/620-7460.

Young Marines Info Meeting July 29

The Kaskaskia Valley Young Marines will be holding their first informational and signup meeting this Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Arthur Fire House. This is a national, non-profit youth education and service program for boys and girls age 9 through 18 and open to any youth throughout the Central Illinois area. A second meeting is planned for the same time and location on Saturday, Aug. 12.

Senior movie night at the Moose

The Tuscola Moose is hosting a free movie night for Douglas County residents age 60 and over. The August movie will be at 12:30 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Tuscola Moose. Call Connie at 217-898-3321 or 217-599-1324 to reserve a seat.

Atwood blood drive

ImpactLife is holding a community blood drive from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. in Atwood. The donor bus will be in the Kirby Clinic parking lot, 108 S. Main St. Appointments are required. Call 800-747-5401 or visit online: bloodcenter.org/group. The group number is 71038.

Rat Race Registration Underway

The Arthur Woman's Club Rat Race will be held during the 50th Annual Cheese Festival this Labor Day weekend. The race will be held on Monday, Sept. 4 at 7:30 a.m. There is a 10K course as well as a 5K course. Registration can be done online, on a paper form, or the day of the event. Please go to arthurcheesefestival.com to get a form or submit an online registration.

The race will be timed, and medals given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place male and female participants in each age category. The top male and female finisher for each race (first to finish the course) will be awarded a plaque as well as a monetary gift. They are accepting donations to sponsor the race. If you would like to donate, please reach out to a Woman's Club member or Stephanie Born-treger at 217-254-3647. There is no one-mile fun run or cheese chaser race scheduled for this year. Come out and join in the fun.

Relief Sale Ice Cream Social

The Arthur Mennonite Relief Sale's annual ice cream social will be held at Arthur Community Building on Monday, Aug. 7 from 5-8 p.m. Pulled pork BBQ sandwiches and chips will be offered along with cake and cobbles and homemade ice cream. Donations will be accepted, and the funds raised will be used to cover pre-sale expenses such as advertising, paper goods, etc. Please, come as you are. Come and enjoy the great food.

County minute clerk says goodbye after 38 years at the courthouse

By Dominik Stallings

In the Douglas County Courthouse, a "mysterious circular staircase" connects the offices to different floors in the building. Rebecca Lucas realized it was time for her to retire when it was getting harder to go up and down those stairs. Back in her day, she could run up and down them in her heels.

Lucas spent her last working day celebrated by friends and colleagues at the Courthouse on July 14. Lucas started her first day on Jan. 29, 1985, 38 years ago.

"Becky has been the heartbeat of this courthouse for years and she will be missed beyond measure," said Circuit Judge Kate Watson.

She was first introduced to the Douglas County Courthouse when Frank Lincoln won the judge election. Before that, she worked as his secretary when he was in private practice.

Lucas said working in a courtroom was intimidating and exciting at the same time when she first started.

As a deputy minute clerk, she recorded court proceedings, managed the minutes of the court and took care of other office duties in the judge's office. Nowadays, Douglas County keeps court records digitally. But when she first started, Lucas had to do everything with a typewriter. She wrote directly into court files and had to organize files with ledgers.

Not a computer in sight, at first.

Nelly Gilpin, a former

court reporter, worked closely with Lucas. She remembered when the Courthouse first received computers. It was quite difficult at first. They didn't receive a lot of training on how to use them. They both came in on a Saturday when someone was supposed to show them how to use them.

"It was trial an error, but mostly trial," said Gilpin.

Physical court records are still held on to by the Douglas County Court and are kept in large ledgers that line the walls of the offices within the courthouse.

Gilpin was also a mentor figure to Lucas and showed her the ropes when she first started. The two would help each other out in the office. Sometimes that was covering for another when there were court proceedings or looking at each other's notes. It did not take long until the two became friends.

"We just did things together, you know?" said Gilpin.

Freshly baked pie was one of the ways that Gilpin celebrated her colleagues. For birthdays she would bake pies completely from scratch. Lucas usually received a lemon pie with a moraine filling.

Throughout her career, Lucas worked under several different Judges, Frank Lincoln, Mike Carroll, Robert Broche and now Judge Watson.

"Every one of them listened to what they had to say. I think they treated everybody with dignity," said Lucas.



Rebecca Lucas

One of Lucas' favorite things to do in the courthouse was sit through adoption cases.

"You just feel wonderful when you sit through an adoption," said Lucas. She said she liked seeing the family's faces during those moments.

Lucas remembered a day when she, Gilpin and Judge Lincoln were standing by the window during a large hailstorm. The three of them watched as the hail exploded upon impact on the pavement. They were so mesmerized by the scene that they didn't even think about how much damage the storm just caused to countless cars and houses.

"Going to work, all those people I worked with over the years, they become part

of the family. You spend more time with people at work than with people in your family," said Lucas.

In the future, Lucas' plans on catching up on some of the housework she's let slide for some time. But she also is looking forward to her yearly visit to Florida, as she has done for the last eight years.

Another thing she is looking forward to will be the "world's longest yard-sale" the 127 yardsale. She gets together with her sisters as a sort of family reunion for that event.

Lucas said Katie Patient is replacing her at the Courthouse. She wished her the best and said that she will do will since she understands the technology so much better than she does.

County leases license plate reader cameras

By Dominik Stallings

The Douglas County Board approved the installation of four automated license plate readers (ALPRs) during the

July 19 meeting.

The cameras capture the license plate and description of every vehicle passing through.

"The purpose of this is to

catch the high-level offenses," said Douglas County Sheriff Nate Chaplin.

See COUNTY BOARD on page 6

Arthur-Atwood Lions Club to sponsor ITPA Tractor Pull set for August 11

The ITPA Tractor and Truck Pull will be held on Friday, Aug. 11, at Jurgens Park in Arthur. The pull will begin at 6 p.m. with Classics, 6,850 Pro Farm, Pro Stock Diesel trucks, 9,500 Limited Pro Stock, Pro Stock, and 11,000 Pro Farm.

This will be a great combination of noise, smoke, and dust. Central Illinois has proven their love for tractor pulls and with several hometown pullers participating, a large crowd is expected. The Arthur - Atwood Lions Club is sponsoring the event and will be serving food and drinks. New Life Church will be carrying a giant flag onto the track before the pulls start and three young ladies from the ALAH Chorus will be performing the National Anthem.

There is an admission



fee for anyone 13 and older. Twelve and under are free. Admission will be assisted by the Arthur Christian School FFA. There will be free parking on the grounds with the ALAH FFA, parking cars. Handicap parking is available.

This tractor pull is possible due to the Casteel Family of Lovington and these sponsors: BD Motorsports, EZ Trail, Bella Vista Farms, Central Roofing, Mo-Do Fair, Kate's Trail-

ers, Graber Building Supply, Yoder Farm Drainage, Kitchen Seed, Henry Herschberger Estate, Yoder Seeds, Ervin Kuhns Farm, Willis Kuhns Farm, Custom Screen Printing, Central Plastic, Moultrie-Douglas Farm Bureau, Patriot Farms, Illinis FS, Dansig Insurance, Hydro-Gear, Okaw Prairie Landscape, Harrelson Plumbing & Heating, Pinnacle Point Graphics, 170 Truck Repair, Zancha's Guns & Ammo, Illinois Printing Services, and Kinert Land Services.

Funds raised from the event assist Lions to serve the Arthur, Atwood, Lovington, and Hammond communities to improve health and well-being, strengthen and support those in need through humanitarian services. Lions - WE SERVE!

GET YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT SENIOR CARE ANSWERED!



JANE HUCHEL, RN
WICD CHANNEL 3

INFORMED DECISIONS

Thursday, August 3
6:30 - 8 p.m.



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