



CABOT TUSCOLA donated items to the Arcola Special Olympics for competitions. The items included were baseball/softball gloves, golf barrier netting, golf balls, golf tees, stakes, and items for their 1st aid kit. Tammy Bennett, SHE manager, Nancy Ayala, sr. project engineer, Suella Dye, North American regional FMO quality systems manager, and Kim Murphy, North American FMO technical manager, presented the items on behalf of Cabot to the Arcola Special Olympics Team. Alternating L to R: Tammy Bennett, Bradley Tayler, Nancy Ayala, Kassidy Bissey, Cameron Edwards, Amy Irwin, Eric Plummer, Josiline Gauna, Coach Jaimi Humphrey, Coach Beckie Headrick, Tyler Lankin, Steven Lankin, Suella Dye, and Kim Murphy.

Arthur’s ‘Great Bank Robbery’ of 1899

It was a bone-chilling zero degrees outside that early morning in January. A little after 12 midnight, six masked bandits, having already stolen some of the tools they would need for their crime from other businesses in town, chiseled and punched out the lock on the protective grating door of the First National Bank of Arthur and then pried open the north side entrance door of the bank. When the robbers got inside, they found the steel grating door of the vault open, so they found themselves in front of the vault without further hindrance. The vault had 30-inch thick brick walls and a floor of solid concrete. The vault had two sets of doors, each made of half-inch hardened steel. But these obstacles proved little resistance to the expert safe-crackers. The armed bandits were soon standing in front of a Hall time-lock “burglar-proof” safe in no time. The safe had a 4-inch thick steel door and a money chest inside with 2.5-inch thick walls. Just then, a young German fellow from Blue Island, who had come to visit his cousin, Joe Kanitz, came to town. The Kanitz family was sick and he had come to find a doctor. Thinking the two bandits who

were standing outside the bank as lookouts were night watchmen, he asked them where he could find the residence of the town’s doctor. “Right in here,” remarked one of the bandits and, to his amazement, the young man found himself looking into the muzzles of two large revolvers. The robbers pulled him off his horse, marched him into the bank, placed the young man on the floor, and compelled him to remove his shoes. They searched his pockets, but took neither his money nor his watch. One bandit kept a gun on their young captive while the two lookouts returned to their positions outside the bank. They told the young man there would be an explosion in a few minutes, but if would remain quiet he would not be hurt. The safe-crackers did not try to drill the safe, but, instead, were going to “blow” it with nitroglycerin. By using a blowpipe or air pump, they carefully injected the nitro into the top crack of the door. The young captive was getting nervous at all these events and, when he saw one of the robbers get a rope, he thought, “If it was hanging me they were after, I’d better be getting out.”

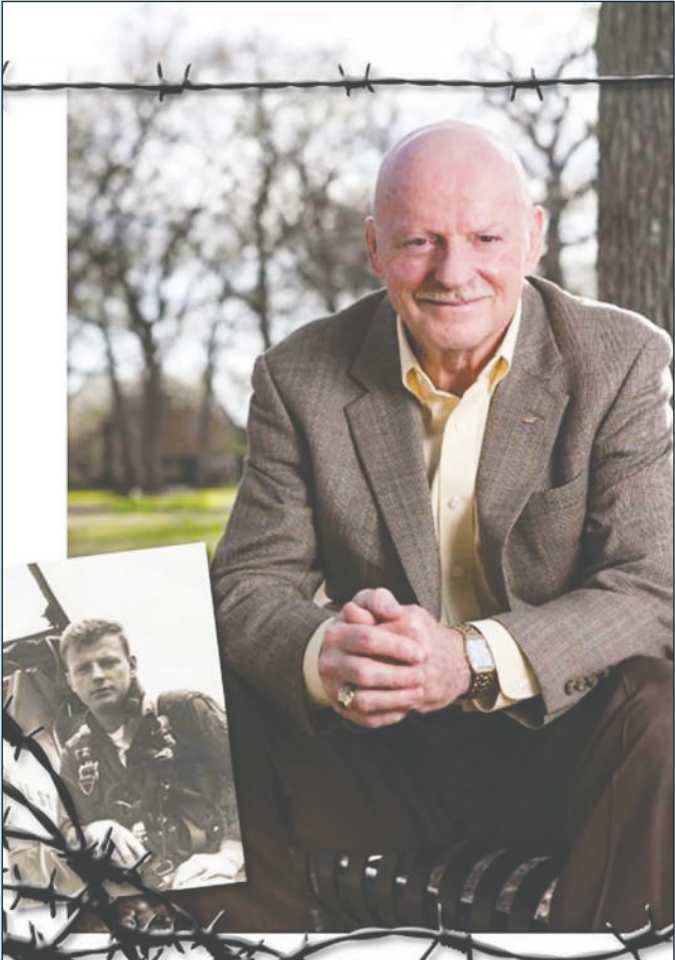
One of the robbers lit a long fuse that led to the safe while the others took cover. The explosion propelled steel parts from the safe through the front window of the bank and through the window of the Odd Fellows building clear across the street. The young man ran and, with all his might, jumped against the guards and fled out the door. As the young man ran across the street without his shoes he fell down on the frozen ground, and the bullets from the bandits’ guns passed over his head. He sailed up Vine Street yelling, “help” and “murder” at every breath. The robbers, after letting their prisoner escape, hurriedly gathered up all the valuables they could find in the blown safe, and made their way to the Vandalia train house where they stole a hand car and headed to Arcola on the railroad tracks.

The next day, bloodhounds were called in from Sullivan and a Pinkerton Detective Agency man arrived on the scene with some clue as to who the perpetrators were. He reported that the work was done by “experts” who divided up in Arcola. Three went north by freight train that morning and three went south on another train. But the suspects were never caught and had managed to get away with gold, silver, and paper money amounting to \$3,720 along with diamonds valued at around \$300, an amount equivalent to approximately \$150,000 today. The editor of the Arthur Graphic put it this way, “Our city will be familiarly spoken of in the annals of crime yet to be written and we will rank along with Coffeyville, Kansas and other western towns where outlaws have reigned supreme...”



THE “BURGLAR-PROOF” SAFE after its doors were blown off by nitroglycerin.

POW survivor to speak in Monticello Sept. 10



Capt. Dave Carey

Crossroads Church of Monticello has scheduled veteran and POW survivor and nationally recognized author and speaker, Captain Dave Carey, to address the public on the evening of Sunday, Sept. 10, at the Monticello Community Building, (201 N. State St., Monticello). Admission is free and doors for this public event will open at 5 p.m. with Captain Carey beginning his presentation at 5:30 p.m. Captain Carey is a retired U.S. Naval pilot and veteran, whose aircraft was shot down while flying a mission over North Vietnam in 1967. Captain Carey endured over 5 ½ years as a prisoner of war and was later decorated with numerous military awards and recognitions for his service and leadership. Captain Carey is a published author who today serves as a public speaker, and consultant, using his life experiences and Christian faith to motivate, uplift, and encourage diverse audiences, and his numerous corporate clients. Crossroads Church will also welcome Captain Carey to give his testimony and sermon during its regular worship service on Sunday, Sept. 10 starting at 9:30 a.m. at the church building (1602 N 1125 East Rd., Monticello). Crossroads is sponsoring the event in honor of the National POW/MIA Recognition Day which officially is recognized around the United States the following Friday. Copies of Captain Carey’s book, The Ways We Choose, will be available for purchase during the event. For more information about Crossroads Church, visit their website at www.ccmonticello.org. More information is available about Captain Dave Carey at his website, www.davecarey.com.

Annual Arthur Amish Country Cheese Festival

September 2, 3 & 4

Labor Day Weekend

25th

Xtreme

(Inflatables, Zipline)

Open Sat. & Mon. 9 am Sun. 10 am

Vine & West Progress

Pony Rides (Sat. & Mon.)

Festival Sponsors

Arthur IGA

Crossman Law Office

Dicks Pharmacy

McGuire, Yuhas, Huffman & Buckley, P.C.

Shady Crest Market

The Wood Loft

Tri County Welding

Yoder’s Seed/Brandon Yoder

Yoder’s Lamps and Antiques

SESQUICENTENNIAL 150 YEARS ARTHUR ILLINOIS 1873 - 2023

YOU'RE A STRANGER ONLY ONCE

This festival made possible by: Arthur Area Association of Commerce

FREE CHEESE and crackers! 800 pounds of fresh cheddar & colby jack will be sliced and served free to festival goers.

www.arthuril.us

Schedule of Events

SATURDAY

6 - 11 am: Firemen’s breakfast @ Firehouse

9 am: Festival / Vendors / Artie’s Party Zone opens

10 am - 4 pm: Rides: Buggy @ Welcome Center

Pony @ Arties Party Zone

10 am: Ceremonial Cutting of the Cheese @ Intersection of Vine & Illinois

11 am: FREE CHEESE @ Cheese Tent

12:30 pm: 23rd Annual International Cheese Curling Championships @ Illinois & Vine Street

3:50 pm: The Big Cheese Parade

4:30 pm: 23rd Annual Cheese Eating Nationals @ Cheese Tent

6 pm: Founders Day Dinner @ Penn Station (doors open at 5:30 pm)

6 pm: “Country Sky” performing @ Blondies beer tent

7 pm: Festival/vendors close

SUNDAY

10 am: • Community worship service hosted by Arthur Ministerial Association / Local Churches @ Penn Station

• Festival / Vendors / Artie’s Party Zone open

12:30 pm: • Cheese Carving Registration @ Cheese Tent

• Kiddie Tractor Pull registration @ Cheesy Hollow

1:00 - 4 pm: Vine Street Christian Church Ice Cream Social, Heavenly Dips of Homemade Ice Cream @ South Vine St.

1:00 pm: Cheese Carving Contest @ Cheese Tent - Sponsored Arthur Graphic

1:00 pm: Collage of Faith Band performing @ Gazebo parking lot

1:30 pm: Kiddie Tractor Pull on E. Illinois St.

2 pm: FREE CHEESE @ Cheese Tent

2 pm: Corn hole tournament @ Blondies beer tent

5-8 p.m. “Sojourn Rocs” Band performing @Gazebo parking lot

MONDAY

6 - 10 am: Arthur Lions Club breakfast @ Community Center

6:00 am: Rat Race Registration for all races @ Welcome Center

7:30 am: Rat Race 5K & 10K Runs begin

9 am: Festival/vendors open

9:30 am: Rat Race Awards Ceremony

10 am - 4 pm: Rides: Buggy @ Welcome Center

Pony @ Arties Party Zone

11:30 am: 10th annual Bob Doan Memorial Cheese Curd Spitting Contest

12:30 pm: FREE 60-ft. sub sandwich giveaway @ Cheese Tent - Sponsored by Arthur Subway Restaurant

1 pm: FREE CHEESE @ Cheese Tent

3 pm: Festival closes

www.arthurcheesefestival.com