



Birthplace of Johnny Gruelle, creator of Raggedy Ann & Andy



# ARCOLA RECORD-HERALD

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Volume 151 — Number 42

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

12 PAGES

## Chatter BOX

### Correction

Congrats to Patricia Rios for making the Dean's List at SIU-E. A typo last week had her down "Bios." We apologize for the goof.

### Another Dean's List

Eunice Perez of Arcola, was named to the dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University during the recently completed fall 2017 semester. To qualify for inclusion on the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale.

### Senior potluck

The next senior potluck is at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 16, at the Arcola Center. Bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship.

### 'Man Up' moves

The "Man Up" men's Bible study group has changed day and location. The new schedule is 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. Saturdays, the first and third Saturday of each month. It will meet in the cafe' area of Carriage Crossing. Participants are encouraged to come when they can to "connect around the Word of God." This is open to any man of any age and from any church background. The next meeting is on Saturday, Feb. 17.

### Cola Wars plates

Have you ordered your Arcola "Cola Wars" license plate yet? The Alumni Association is taking orders till March 3. You can order them at Arcola First State Bank, Lindenmeyer Insurance and the Law Office of Kosic & Stout.

## Mayor responds to petition concerns

By David Porter

Mayor Larry Ferguson closed out Monday night's Arcola City Council meeting by responding to concerns raised by petition regarding the proposed 56-unit Rider Place housing project. The city has committed more than \$500,000 in funding (including fee waivers) toward the project that seeks federal funding as well. (See Petition opposes housing project in the Feb. 1 Arcola Record-Herald.)

Ferguson began by saying Arcola has more than enough water allotment for the project. Arcola buys its water from Illinois American through a joint Arcola/Tuscola

water line. It passes up to 150,000 gallons per day to West Prairie.

Ferguson said he estimates on the high side that the housing project would use about 3 percent of Arcola's water supply at 8,000 gallons per day. He said Arcola has 426,000 gallons per day available and uses about 390,000 GPD.

City Administrator Bill Wagoner later clarified that the spread is even larger than Ferguson was recalling from memory. Arcola uses less than half of its water allotment, he said.

The agreement with Illinois American is for up to 495 GPD and the city uses just under 242 GPD.

West Prairie is allotted 150,000 GPD and uses 100,000, he said.

Ferguson said the city's sewer plant likewise can handle the additional flow. He said the plant currently operates at about half its capacity.

He said safety for children crossing Rt. 133 to get to school would be addressed through reduced speed zones and flashing lights for starters. He said he was offended that anyone would think that the city would not include safety measures for children.

See CITY COUNCIL on page 2

## City bans 'pop up' residential eateries

By David Porter

The Arcola City Council passed an ordinance Monday to try to crack down on unlicensed home-based food sales. But not all such sales are banned.

In 2014, the state legislature passed a bill known as the "Cupcake Law" that allows people to sell certain types of baked goods out of their homes if the governing city or county adopts a corresponding ordinance.

Monday's local decree sets a penalty schedule for violations but also makes room for cupcakes. And apple pies, breads, cookies, pastries and other baked goods deemed non-potentially hazardous.

But if you make an awesome cheesecake or pumpkin pie, don't plan on selling it out of your home in Arcola. Crème pies, custards, sweet potato pie and some stuffed pastries are banned under the ordinance. "... Food that requires time and temperature control for safety to limit pathogenic microorganism growth or toxin formation" is not allowed. Anything not considered a "baked good" also is prohibited.

The ordinance is intended to combat the issue of "pop up" restaurants in town where

See CITY BAN on page 3



NETA RUNYON, right, an election specialist with Liberty Systems demonstrates how to use new balloting equipment to Jerry Stout of Arcola and Judith Turner, of Villa Grove. The county leased 20 units to replace machines that were about 20 years old. The touch screen units will be used in 17 precincts with the remainders as backups and training units. The county demonstrated the new machines last week in Tuscola. Feb. 20 is the last day to register to vote, but "grace" voting will be allowed for late registrants until election day. Photo by David Porter.

## Alumnus: Reflecting on 90 years in Arcola



Frances Sisk Thompson  
Photo by Nancy Rairden

By Sue Stout

As Arcola Alumni Association continues its recognition of an elite group of Arcola High School graduates who have reached the age of 90 and beyond, local resident Frances Sisk Thompson is now honored. She shares her memories of historic events in high school and the life she has enjoyed since her 1944 graduation.

Frances Virginia Sisk was the sixth of seven children of Benjamin Mose and Dora Lee Lewis Sisk. Benjamin, Dora and their four children moved from the Winchester area in the hills of southeastern Tennessee to rural Arcola in 1925. One son, W.J., died as a young child in Tennessee. Their third daughter, Frances, was born in their home southeast of Arcola on October 18, 1926. Their fourth son, Harold, was also born at home in 1929. Frances' father was a farmhand at Whisnand Seeds and Henley Seeds of Arcola, while her mother worked at home and cared for their children.

The Sisk family moved to different farm homes as Benjamin changed jobs. Frances attended a country school in northern Coles County until March of her third grade year. She next attended Cofer school east of Arcola until March of the following year, and then Allison school northeast of Arcola until she completed fifth grade in 1937. While at Allison school, Frances' teacher was Mrs. Bessie Van Cleave Little, who also taught her own younger siblings Robert, Christine and Delores Van Cleave at that time. Frances remembers that Mrs. Little's husband brought all materials and saws to the school in order to help each student with a woodworking project. Frances made a small cabinet that she kept for many years.

The Sisk family then moved to East Jefferson Street in Arcola and Frances attended sixth, seventh and eighth grades at the East Side Grade School. At the time of her eighth grade promotion in 1940, Frances received the



Thompson, Class of 44

class American Legion Award.

Thompson explains three of her siblings attended Arcola High School. Her oldest sister, Ozzie Sisk Ruef, was eighteen years older than Frances and did not attend AHS. Her sister, Hettie Sisk Gritton, attended AHS with the Class of 1932. Frances remembers her brother Forrest Sisk attended high school in Mattoon while he stayed with another family. Her brother Horace graduated

at Arcola High School in 1938 and Harold was a 1947 graduate.

Frances and her classmates entered ATHS in the fall of 1940. Frances describes herself as a quiet student who "pretty much kept to myself" until her Junior and Senior years. She devoted much time to her studies and "would never even talk to a boy!" At Arcola High School, Frances was a four-year honor student and was also involved in Glee Club, Arco-Lite, Junior and Senior class plays and served as an officer of the Masque and Gavel organization. Masque and Gavel was a National Honor Society that promoted quality speech and dramatics.

Times have certainly changed over the decades as Frances notes girls were not allowed to wear slacks to school and she does not recall the luxury of "snow days" while she was in high school. She continues, "While I am asking for pity, I might add

See THOMPSON on page 9



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