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BUZZ MAGAZINE

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY • NOV 30TH



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LIVE VIDEO ONLINE FEATURING
OUR BUSINESS OF THE MONTH

THE CRISTAL LANTERN
IN MOUNT OLIVE



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November 29 & 30



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WHERE CAN I FIND THE BUZZ MAGAZINE?

The December Issue of The Buzz Will Be Available Dec 2-4

ALHAMBRA: Hitz Memorial Home
ALTON: Alton Exchange Mall • Alton VFW Alton Visitor's Center • Altonized Credit Union • Alton Truck Stop • Best Western Premier Hotel & Conference Center • Big Lots Castelli's Restaurant • China Buffet China King • Country Meadows Antiques Farm & Home • Halpin Music • Hayner Library • Hit-n-Run • Frank's Restaurant Mineral Springs Mall • My Just Desserts National Tire & Battery • River Bender Community Center • Riviera Maya • Post Commons • Spencer T. Olin Golf Club Tucker's Automotive • US Bank **EAST ALTON:** Hit-n-Run • Ken's Coins **AUBURN:** Lisa's Antique Mall • Rusty Star Marketplace **AVISTON:** Aviston Family Restaurant **BENLD:** #5 Mine Winery Benld Library Firehouse Salon • TJ's ZX Convenience Stop Randy's Market **BETHALTO:** Dairy Queen Eagles Nest Restaurant • El Mezcal Mexican Restaurant • Hit-n-Run Imo's Pizza • New China • Roma's Pizza Sweet Ashley's Cottage • The Mail Box Store Weeping Willow **BREESE:** Dairy King Family Care Pharmacy • PJ's Diner **BRIGHTON:** Spring Garden Restaurant Riviera Maya • Rusty Rhino Emporium • Shell **BUNKER HILL:** Bunker Hill Library Function Junction Antiques & More Jumpin' Jimmys **CARLINVILLE:** Always in Touch • Blackburn College Boente Shell The Body Depot • Carlinville City Hall • Carlinville Hospital • Carlinville Library Catholic Charities Thrift Shop Cherry Tree Gifts & Souvenirs • Deb's Ceramics Grandpa Joe's West End • It Is What It Is Antiques & Collectibles • Lighthouse Antique Mall • Macoupin County Courthouse • Magnuson Grand Hotel • Michelle's Pharmacy • Mother Road Antiques • My Sister's Closet • Nana's Hidden Attic • OLDE Plaza Cafe • Plaza Cafe Coffee Shop • Sievers Equipment • Starr's Primal Meats • Tangled Vine Restaurant • The Mercantile @ Whiskey River • Wall Street Financial • Wood Duck Bar and Grill • Uptown Tavern **CARLYLE:** Centerstone Inn • Clinton County Historical Society • Old 50 Cafe • Ten Pin Antique Mall **CARROLLTON:** Bev's Baskets & Bows Beyond the Backyard Gate The Pharmacy Plus **COFFEEN:** Caseys Hair Designs **COLLINSVILLE:** ABRA Auto Body Antiques & Accents by Vadna • Collinsville Area Recreation District • Collinsville Historical Museum • Collinsville Public Library New China Restaurant Rich's Record Emporium • Rural King • Sizzor Shak Salon Spirito's Italian Store Swing City Music Zapata's Mexican Restaurant **COTTAGE HILLS:** Circle K Convenience Mart Cottage Hills Bar & Grill Polly's Restaurant **DIVERNON:** Country Place Antiques **DONNELLSON:** JR's Mini Mart • The Loose Caboose Antiques • Petroski Windows, Doors & Floorcovering **DORSEY:** Aljets Automotive **EDWARDSVILLE:** All Natural Pet Center • Bella Milano • Circle K Convenience Mart • Edwardsville City Hall • Edwardsville Public Library • Edwardsville Flea Market Glazy Squares • Goshen Butcher Shop Green Earth Grocer • Jerry's Tire Sales • Los Tres Amigos • Madison County Archival Library • Massage Luxe • Peel Pizza • My Treasure House • Sacred Grounds Cafe • Sgt Peppers Cafe • The Store • Wang Gang Asian Eats • Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop

ELSAH: Green Tree Inn **FARMERSVILLE:** Bank & TrustShell • Farmersville Public Library • Jack Flash Convenience Stop **GILLESPIE:** DeeDee's Floral and Designs Gillespie Public Library • Kevin Polo Law Office • Michelle's Pharmacy • Miner's Restaurant • Randy's Market • Sullivan's Drug Store • That Crazy Fish Store and More Wimanoma's Pride Antiques & Collectibles **GIRARD:** Doc's Soda Fountain • Magic Beans Coffee House • Kruse Automotive Shell **GLEN CARBON:** Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots • Eden Village Retirement Center • Exactime Watch & Clock • Glen Carbon Heritage Museum • Glen Carbon Public Library • Office Max • Our Health Club Spa US Bank **GODFREY:** Mr. Donut • My Antique Store • Professional Hearing Associates • Round Table Restaurant • Shang Hai House **GRAFTON:** Aerie's Winery Drifters • Grafton Chamber of Commerce Grafton Pub • Grafton Zip Line • Grafton Winery • Reubel Hotel • Rustic Retreats Tara Pointe Inn **GRANITE CITY:** Apple Tree Restaurant • Central Laundry Gateway Medical Center Pharmacy • Granite City Township Hall • Great Wall Chinese Buffet Hit-n-Run • Jerry's Cafeteria • Mama Mia's Restaurant • Novel Idea Bookstore and More Ravanelli's Restaurant • Re.Viv.Al • Terry's Route 66 Diner **GREENFIELD:** Bev's Baskets and Bows **GREENVILLE:** Corner Cafe • East Main Gifts • Greenville Chamber of Commerce/ Tourism Center • Lisa's Resale & Antiques • Third Street Market **HAMEL:** Poor Boys Portable Buildings and Amish Store • The Other Place on the Hill Weezy's Bar & Grill **HETTICK:** Jackson's Fox & Hound BBQ **HIGHLAND:** Broadway Bar & Grill • Urban House Restaurant The Chocolate Affair • The Giving Tree Highland Nutrition Center • Highland's Tru-Buy • Michael's Restaurant • Peacock Bakery & Cafe • Tibbetts House Bed, Breakfast & Books & Games • Windows on Broadway **HILLSBORO:** Books & Moore • Hillsboro Public Library • Hillsboro Rental • Hillsboro Hospital • Sage on Sage - Holistic Living Store The Dressing Room Consignment & Resale Shop TCCU-Taylorville Community Credit Union The Refinery Vintage Goods **HOLIDAY SHORES:** Behmes Market Gilliganz Bar & Grill **HONEYBEND:** Country Bend Campground **IRVING:** Grandma's Kitchen **JERSEYVILLE:** 2nd Time Around Consignment Shop • Farm & Home • Jerseyville Community Hospital JCH Hope Chest Resale Store • Jerseyville Library • Linn's Shoes • Lost Treasures • Lula Bells Gift Shop State Street Antiques and Collectibles **KEYESPORT:** Blind Daddy's Dean's Convenience Stop • Keyesport Village Hall **KINCAID:** Kincaid Diner • Kincaid Food Market **LITCHFIELD:** A&D Electrical Supply • The Briar Rose • Casey's (Union Ave) Denny's Restaurant • Diamond Trailer Sales Fast Stop Travel Center • The George Press Hair 51 Salon • Hearts United Thrift Store Holiday Inn Express • Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes & Fries • Jubelt's Bakery Litchfield City Hall • Litchfield Vintage Mall Minndora's Salon and Speciality Photography Miss Patty's Antiques & Flea Market Nelson Audiology • Our Hometown Pharmacy Phyllbena's Antiques, Vintage & Repurposed Quality Inn • St Francis Hospital Gift Shop

Sullivan's Health Mart Pharmacy • TCCU-Taylorville Community Credit Union • Time Out & Relaxation Massage • UJs Convenience Store • Whiskey River Dry Goods Company **LIVINGSTON:** Country Inn Cafe Pink Elephant Antiques **MARYVILLE:** ABRA Auto Body • Red Apple Restaurant **MEADOWBROOK:** Homestead Craft & Flea Market • Round 2 Relics **MILLERSBURG:** Millersburg General Store **MITCHELL:** Hen House Restaurant **MT OLIVE:** The Cristal Lantern • Mt Olive Public Library • Mt Olive VFW Hall • Route 138 Cafe **MORRISONVILLE:** 6th Street Market • Extreme Pool & Patio **NOKOMIS:** Demi's Diner • KROGER • New 2 You Nokomis City Hall • Nokomis Gift & Garden Ugly Mug Coffeehouse • UJ'S Convenience Store **OLD RIPLEY:** Sheila's Resale 'N Antiques **PANA:** County Market • Dutch Mill Flea Market and Antiques • Favorite Finds Pizza Man • Shell • Spring Garden Restaurant TCCU - Taylorville Community Credit Union **PANAMA:** Nu-Way Deli **PAWNEE:** Harness Room Eatery • Kreckel's Custard & Hamburgers • No. 10 Tavern **POCAHONTAS:** Pocahontas Antiques Powhatan Restaurant • Nuby's Steakhouse The Refined Cellar • Village Square Antiques **PONTOON BEACH:** McDonalds • Uncle Linny's Restaurant **RAYMOND:** PK's Liquor • Raymond Public Library • Tosi's Diner **SORENTO:** Sorento Municipal Center **STAUNTON:** ALJETS Automotive Animal Doctors - Steinnmeyer Veterinary Clinic • Cavataio's Restaurant • DeCamp Station • First National Bank • Glenwood Assisted Living • Heritage Health Assisted Living • His Service Station • Itch'n to be Stitch'n • Pearl Essence Studio • R & B's Restaurant • Rooster's Pub • Route 66 Storage & Flea Market • Russell Furniture • Staunton Hospital • Staunton Public Library • Sullivan's Pharmacy & Gift Shop • Super 8 Motel Vintage Station **ST. JACOB:** Hometel Communications **TAYLORVILLE:** Angelo's Pizza • Dear Yesteryear • Farmhouse Signs KROGER • Little Luxuries • Ma & Pa's Treasure • Rebecca's Antiques & Posh Boutique • ReThreads Consignment & Thrift Store • TCCU - Taylorville Community Credit Union • Sunny Knoll Organics • Talia's Cookies • The Cottage Rose Gift Shoppe Little Luxuries • The Wooden Flower **TRENTON:** Dairy King • IGA of Trenton Mannhard Hardware, Home Decor and Gifts Warehouse 300 Vintage Marketplace **TROY:** A&R Paints and Crafts • Alfonso's Pizzeria The Trendy Cottage • Tri-Township Public Libray • Troy Family Restaurant **VIRDEN:** Bailey's Closet • Circle K Convenience Mart Jamie's - The Diamond Mine • Silvernicks Unique Treasures • Sly Fox Bookstore Tattered Treasures • Wildflower Patch **WITT:** Village Hall **WOOD RIVER:** Belk Park Golf Course • Cleary's Shoes and Boots Madison's Tea Room • Mama Mias Restaurant • Meyer Jewelry • Riverbend Resale Rustic Roots • Hing Wah • Wood River Library **WORDEN:** The Chirping Frog Worden City Hall • Worden Public Library

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Here I sit on the evening of Halloween, snow on the ground and my little space heater under my desk, as my office has doors on both ends, and neither seal well, so the wind is whistling through. Crazy weather for the last day of October. Brittany sent me a photo of the kids Halloween costumes. I knew what they were already, as they visited last weekend and I helped them get everything together for the costumes, but I had not seen them wearing them with full make up before tonight. The photo is to the right, as you can see.

Speaking of the last day of October, which means tomorrow is the first day of November... November will be the final month of 10 years of *The Buzz Magazine!* We will kick off 11 years with the December issue. And what a crazy ride it has been, especially this last year. First we partnered with the Riverbender.com, then we changed sizes and switched to a glossy cover and now.... we just confirmed yesterday that starting next month we are going to add six Schnucks & Dierberg stores in the Metro East as distribution points and NINE (drum-roll please) Schnucks & Dierberg stores in

ST. CLAIR COUNTY to our distribution - including Belleville, Fairview Heights, Cahokia, Waterloo, Columbia, O'Fallon and Swansea! This takes us up to 8,000 copies being delivered to over 400 distribution points in 10 counties every single month!

being thankful to just this one day of the year. It is true that everyone has problems, some big, some small, some may seem monumental. But if you are reading this, then you are living and breathing, so you have something to be thankful for. There is ALWAYS something to be thankful for. Look for those things. Focus on those things. And **BE THANKFUL**.

The main thing I want to cover this month though is about how important it is to shop small, and shop local. Yes, Small Business Saturday is November 30: the Saturday after Thanksgiving and Black Friday. And it is very important to support small businesses on that day. But it is more important to support them at every opportunity. In addition to dedicating the front cover to this topic, you will see many references to Small Business Saturday and shopping small issue throughout this issue. You'll even see more than one story on it. The first one written by me, on page 11. I encourage you to read it before you start your holiday shopping, and keep it in mind any time you need to make a purchase. It's so much more than just **Small Business Saturday**.

The same philosophy applies to Thanksgiving. Please don't limit giving thanks and

Don't forget to save this month's insert, the Official Guide to **A CHRISTMAS IN CARLINVILLE!** This event gets bigger and better each year and if you have never attended, maybe this can be the year you do, and quite possibly it will become an annual tradition for you, like it has for so many.

I hope I didn't forget anyone or anything. If I did, I will try to make up for it next month. Please join us then as we kick off our 11th year of *The Buzz Magazine!* In the meantime...Let it snow!

SHOW YOUR LOVE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

#SHOPSMALL

When you see something at an independent store that costs a little more, try to remember that Amazon and eBay don't buy ads in the local football program, WalMart won't donate prizes for your silent auction and Target doesn't have kids playing little league in your local community. Small business owners DO, and they offer better customer service because they do it face. Support local small business owners... the back bone of this country!



You can probably see that Bayleigh was a vampire for Halloween but for most readers I will have to explain Kaiden's costume, green wig and all. He is Villain Deku, which is an anime character and apparently all the kids out trick or treating loved his costume, especially the girls, and he was eating it up!

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A Letter from Aunt Lea

Let's face it. October is a tough act to follow. With her beautiful colors and bright blue weather, gregarious October draws us outside, both physically and mentally. Being outside to work in the yard or walk down a country road, or for any darn reason, is pleasant. Our thoughts go farther afield too. Leaves come down from the trees, opening vistas previously hidden to us. Our eyes view a wider world, and our thoughts become wider too. Who knows what I'll grow in my garden next year? And while I'm at it, why don't we start composting? October whispers in my ear that I can really do anything I set my mind to.

Who then can blame November for being loath to compete with her showy predecessor? Instead, November takes a different tact altogether, with muted colors and temperatures that bring us back inside. Our thoughts naturally turn inward as well; we become more contemplative. And so, for her lovely contribution to the human condition, November brings Thanksgiving and its focus on gratitude.

As I count my blessings this Thanksgiving, I will be grateful, in part, for friends. Grateful for old friends; the friends that grow dearer with each passing year. I'm grateful for new friends. As I've gotten older, my definition of friend has become less age-based. I now enjoy friends both considerably older and younger than me. And I'm grateful for friends that are a complete and total surprise. The friend you didn't see coming. The friend you made in spite of yourself.

The story of this friend begins years ago with me starting a new job. I had landed a job I was most proud to have. I enjoyed the tasks of the job; the purpose of the job. The job was demanding; it required my ability to apply all that I had learned and communicate it effectively to others. I enjoyed my workmates. Everyone was helpful and pleasant. (Cue the ominous music.) Everyone that is, except this one gal.

And this gal was a real pain. She was sure of herself, quick to offer her opinion, and slow to back down from a professional disagreement. She was a real fashion-plate too; always perfectly coiffed and accessorized. Simply put, it was easy to see that this gal thought she was Miss Thing. This was a problem. She had clearly not received the memo that when it came to this job, I was pretty sure that I was Miss Thing.

We began to circle each other. Assignments that required the two of us working together quickly became strained. She had this utterly annoying habit of being able to think more quickly than me. My suggestions for solving a problem would often be met with her explanation of, "Yes, I thought of that too, but it won't work because blahdy blahdy blah." What was most irritating was the number of times she was right. Yes, this

gal truly got on my very last nerve.

What turns two people toward each other in friendship? I try to put my finger on when the two of us began to decide no blood feud was necessary. Just a gradual happening of little things, I guess. I remember taking her suggestion without questioning it in an important meeting. I remember her laughing at one of my silly jokes. I remember beginning to admire her quick wit and wicked sense of humor. I remember her coming to my office to ask my opinion. Who would have thought? We had blossomed into friends.

Our job required a great deal of traveling and the end of an assignment might find us a bit slap-happy. Our greatest achievement in this regard was getting kicked out of a convenience store. There we were in our power suits, getting way too boisterous over a vintage video game. When the clerk strongly suggested our departure, we were both flabbergasted and chagrined. However, it eventually became quite a badge of honor for the two of us good little social service types. "Yeah, that's right! We get rowdy! Stand back!"

After a time, we both moved on to different jobs, but we certainly kept up with each other. Sharing our problems and worries; our goals and achievements. And laughing. Lots of laughing. I came to appreciate her no-nonsense style of communication. If she told me something, I believed it. She had a knowing way about her.

Fast forward several years later to when I landed in the hospital. As she came striding through the door, I was instantly calmed. My Kate-Spade-purse-carrying pal sat by my bed and declared, "There is simply no reason to let yourself go while you're in here. I've brought you glamour products."

I self-consciously raked my hand through my hair. "But Jo ...," I said weakly. She gave a wink and said, "Let's see what we have in here."

Out of the bag came caring. Handing me some scented moist towelettes, she said "Now when you want to freshen up, you can use these." She ran one across my arm. "Doesn't that feel nice?" The bag included a collection of comfort products like hand lotion, candles, dry shampoo, etc.

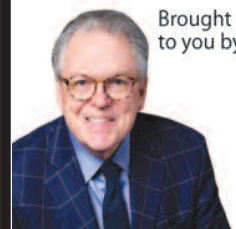
"Now get yourself kicked out of here so we can go to lunch. You'll be better soon. I know it."

After she had gone, I sat up straighter in my bed and arranged the sheets. I put on some lotion and began examining that bottle of dry shampoo. "No need to just let myself go while I'm in here," I thought to myself.

"... My only prayer is while I live, God make me worthy of my friends." Frank Dempster Sherman. 🐛

Your Aunt Lea is thinking of you and looking for her turkey platter. Reach her at Auntie Lea 19@gmail.com.

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Is a Recession Just Around the Corner?

The yield curve has been inverted before every U.S. recession since 1975, even though sometimes it happens months or years before the start of a recession. So what is a yield curve and what does it mean when it is inverted? The yield curve is a graph depicting yields on multiple maturities of US Treasury bonds. Typically it slopes upward as short-term rates are lower than long-term rates. An inverted yield curve is a situation in which long-term rates are lower than short-term interest rates on US Treasury bonds. This suggests that a recession is expected in which interest rates will be reduced in the near to mid-term.

The US Federal Reserve's preferred measure to gauge an inverted yield curve is the difference between the 10-year and three-month treasury yields. The Federal Reserve considers the yield curve to have inverted only when the difference in yields for these two securities remains negative for 10 consecutive days. The inverted yield curve has consistently predicted a recession in each of the five occurrences in the last five decades. The yield curve is a key measure among many that point to economic distress. However this does not mean that a recession is absolute.

While the yield curve is an important indicator of a potential recession, it is not the only thing that is causing investors anxiety. The possibility of extended impeachment hearings certainly could cause investors to be nervous. Markets do not like uncertainty and they tend to overreact to both good news and bad news.

This is quite possibly one of those times in the history of the market that many investors will be engaged in a "flight to quality". A "flight to quality" is a risk reduction strategy that is often employed when investors believe markets are overheated or a recession is em-

inent. It commonly has investors selling existing stocks that would appear to be adversely affected by a recession. Put more simply, investors and professional money managers begin selling more volatile stocks in favor of highly defensive stocks that often may benefit from a recession. Highly defensive stocks include electric, natural gas, water and telephone utilities as well as consumer staples. Consumer staples are companies that manufacture products that we consume everyday including, but not limited to, paper goods, food, beverages and household products such as cleaning and personal care. Certain industries that often prosper in a market downturn are fast food providers such as McDonald's, deep discount retailers including Walmart, TJ Maxx, Ross Stores and Dollar General just to name a few. Credit card processors often do very well during a recession as people tend to use their credit cards more during economic downturns.

Another key aspect of the "flight to quality" is shifting investments from equities to interest-bearing investments such as U.S. Treasuries. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Powell has indicated the possibility of still lower interest rates and this can make long-term bonds extremely attractive low-risk investment. These will be attractive as a short short-term play as long as interest rates continue to decline and remain low. However when rates begin to rise, it becomes a good sell signal for long-term bonds.

The possibility in the next several months that we may be watching impeachment hearings is certainly a cause of concern for investors. If you believe that you should reduce your risk in your portfolio, now is an opportune time to examine your current positions and the risk that you are currently taking.



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Top Reasons You Should Shop Small Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY IS NOVEMBER 30TH

BY TARA L. CALE



Did you know there are more than 29.6 million small businesses in the United States, employing nearly 48 percent of the nation's workforce? According to the Small Business Administration (SBA), small businesses account for the largest number of employers - 99.9 percent.

Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, is a perfect opportunity to show your local businesses that you appreciate them. Personally, I try to shop local, with small business, whenever possible. The fact is, I can't get everything I need with small local business, but what I can, I do - and cost is never a factor. Don't limit yourself to shopping local only on Small Business Saturday either. Buying local has a positive effect on your wallet and community any time of year.

You will find little blurbs about shopping local throughout this issue of *The Buzz*. And here are more reasons you should shop local, and skip the major retailers, whenever you can.

When you buy small, you're helping a local company stay profitable and encouraging growth. A growing small business can afford to take on additional employees, reducing unemployment rates in your area.

The SBA estimates that small business owners create two out of every three net new jobs in the U.S. That number could go up if consumers shifted just 10 percent of their spending to local businesses.

Why should you care? Unemployment precedes poverty. Not only does it cost more to be poor, neighborhoods start to decline as occupants are strapped for money to maintain their homes. Crime rates increase. So do your local taxes as they increase to pay for more law enforcement, social services, etc.

By patronizing local businesses you're also creating more job opportunities for friends, family and neighbors. That means they likely won't be hitting you up for a loan down the road!

Consider that for every \$100 you spend at a local small business establishment, \$43 goes directly back into the community. But when you give your business to a national

chain, only \$13 return to your community. That's a big difference.

Benefits to the community reach even deeper than your money going to someone local. The small business spends money in your community to do business, such as paying employees and buying needed utilities, equipment and inventory supplies. Those other local businesses recirculate the money back into the community in the same manner. Also, the business owners and employees spend the money they make in the local economy. Buying local equals building a strong local economy.

In addition to building up the economy, small business owners also often give back to their local community. As residents with a deep stake in the welfare of the community in general, it's not surprising that small businesses give a higher percentage of revenue to their communities than national chains. Small businesses also tend to be generous with their goods and services.

Many household names like Tom's of Maine, Ben and Jerry's, Callaway Golf and Dogfish Head got their start as small businesses. It wasn't just their products that pushed them over the 500-employee mark that kicked them up into the big business category; it was also their customer service.

Small businesses have a small client base compared to big box retailers, and they want to keep their customers. They need your business more than larger business due to typically smaller customer bases and smaller markets that they serve. They are more likely to go above and beyond to add value, which can include more attentive customer service.

Although you might find a one-stop shop for all your consumer needs in a big

box store, there's nothing like the relationships you'll build when you shop small. Local business owners learn about their repeat customers' needs and preferences, often anticipating your need, special ordering items or staying open late for just for you. That translates to more money saved in both time and fuel.

Whether it's locally grown organic food in a mom-and-pop restaurant or market, handmade clothing or other retail items, your local small business person is usually sharing their passion with the world. Hand-hewn furniture might not be as cheap as putting something together from a big box store prefabricated kit. However, you'll have a quality piece that lasts over time and might even become a family heirloom.

And although there's a YouTube video for nearly everything these days, nothing replaces the expert advice from someone who has "been there, done that." Whether you're trying to figure out which plant won't bake or freeze in that bare spot in your yard or the best deck paint to whether all seasons, it's good to talk to someone who has the experience and knows what they are talking about. This is your local small business owner.

When money's tight, it's easy to charge your purchase to one of the fairly easy-to-get big box store credit cards, keeping you in the habit of using major retailers. If your store card is co-branded with a Visa, American Express, Discover or Mastercard logo, you can also use it at your local small business. Dillard's, Sam's Club, Costco and Walmart are just a few co-branded store cards you might have in your wallet.

Build up reward points by using your credit cards at small businesses. Although

small businesses pay a transaction fee, the amount is typically less than 5 percent per transaction. Debit transactions cost them more than credit. Visa and Mastercard transactions cost the least, which explains why American Express and Discover credit cards aren't accepted everywhere. And many small retailers have a rewards program that allows you a certain dollar or percentage savings after you have spent a designated amount.

Need a few more reasons to shop local - reasons that hit you a little harder in the heart? Small businesses owners are your friends, family and community members. When you buy from a small mom or pop business, you are not helping a CEO buy a third vacation home. You are helping a little girl get dance lessons, a little boy get his team jersey, a family pay a mortgage, a student pay for college or a mom or dad put food on the table.

When you see something at an independent store that costs a little more, try to remember that Amazon and eBay don't buy ads in the local football program, Walmart won't donate prizes for your silent auction and Target doesn't have kids playing little league in your local community. Small business owners DO, and they offer better customer service because they do it face. Support local small business owners... the back bone of this country!

Remember too, small locally owned business are not just retail stores - although there enough of those to keep you in retail bliss for a lifetime! But they are also your local automotive repair shop, restaurant, dentist, butcher and even your local magazine (I had to throw that in there!).

Every business advertising in this magazine is a small, locally owned business. Show them some love this Small Business Saturday, and each and every opportunity that you can. Or one day your favorite store or restaurant may no longer exist. Make a pledge to shop local, dine local, support local businesses, and our communities will all prosper because of it! See it here, buy it here, keep it here.

It all starts with you... 🐝

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Be Thankful for the Freedom to Read

BY BARBARA ADAMS

November is the month that reminds us of the importance of being thankful for all we have been given. We are reminded to be thankful for the food we eat by the feast we enjoy at the end of the month. Mother Nature reminds us to appreciate her with broad brush strokes of color in the landscape. Cold November nights remind us to be thankful for the warmth and protection of our homes. And the abundance and diversity of the books available to us, uncensored, and the right to read them, without restriction, are a freedom that is not universally enjoyed around the world. So as you read

one of these great new books, reflect on the freedom to read.

Perennial favorite John Grisham is back in top form with his new and 33rd book, *The Guardians*. Grisham's story of a young man wrongfully convicted of murder starts in a small fictional northern Florida town where a young lawyer is murdered - shot at his desk in his office. With no witnesses and no known motive, the police quickly find their suspect - a young black man, Quincy Miller. Miller is run through the system - quickly tried and convicted and sentenced to life. Twenty plus years later enters Cullen Post, former lawyer, turned minister, of Guardian Ministries, a not for profit that takes on possible wrongful convictions. As he digs into Miller's case it becomes apparent that indeed Miller is innocent - and that the real persons responsible don't want Post to dig any further. Grisham books not only entertain, they inform readers about the intricacies of the legal system, and this one excels at both. Read it, enjoy it - and then learn that it is based on a true story.

Grisham's 33rd is absolutely nothing when it comes to James Patterson books. Just say "too many to count." And he's getting a jump on the holidays with *The 19th Christmas* - the latest installment in his Women's Murder Club series. If you missed the first installment some eighteen years

ago, the Women's Murder Club is the name for four women - a homicide investigator with the San Francisco Police Department, a medical examiner, an assistant D.A. and a reporter on the crime desk of the San Francisco Chronicle - who find themselves involved with the murders cases that plague the streets of San Francisco. But now it's December, and with the holiday approaching, each of these women are enjoying a relative calm in their respective positions. Crime is down. The streets are quiet. For now. Little do they know that a criminal mastermind has enlisted a band of criminals to divert attention from the deadly act he has planned for Christmas morning. Unfortunately, unless you are a diehard Murder Club fan, this one might disappoint. It's Patterson. It's a really quick, light read. Which is exactly why people read Patterson.

With the intelligence community in the news these days, a true story from a CIA agent may be more entertaining than any fiction on the market. And Amaryllis Fox's story of her ten years in the CIA in the new *Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA* is just that. Recruited at age 21 as a graduate student, she starts her career in the CIA as an analyst but was moved quickly to the Counterterrorism Center. At 22, Fox is recruited into advanced operations and tells of her six months at "The Farm", where she

was trained in the skills agents need to operate undercover. In the field, she is deployed as a spy in the Middle East and Asia to infiltrate terrorist groups, using as her cover the art world - posing as an art dealer specializing in art works of remote tribes and indigenous peoples. Fox also tells of the toll her work took on her personal life. This book is an eye opener as to the work of our young undercover operatives in the world we find ourselves in today.

Another work of non-fiction getting lots of buzz is Ronan Farrow's bombshell new book, *Catch and Kill*. If you aren't following the works of this terrific young journalist, you are missing some really powerful work. By now everyone knows of the downfall of Harvey Weinstein and NBC news anchor Matt Lauer. Each received their due in headlines. But Farrow goes deeper than the headlines, and goes far beyond the story of just those two men. He has written an account of the power and influence behind the scenes that enabled and protected the serial abusers for years in not just the television and movie industries, but politics and government, and, beyond that, the extraordinary and frightening ways that those power brokers tried to keep their story from coming to light. The title, *Catch and Kill*, comes from the method used by certain media moguls in purchasing the exclusive rights to embarrassing stories about famous people (the "catch") and then not publishing the story (the "kill") to protect those individuals. This is an amazing work of investigative journalism which powerful forces tried to keep from coming to light, which Farrow details, which tells you how important it is to read. Keep your eyes on Farrow. He's just getting started.

For something a bit more light-hearted, the ever popular Bill Bryson has a new book *The Body: A Guide for Occupants*. Bryson's books are witty and informative at the same time. Always engaging, this time Bryson turns his eclectic pen towards the human body. Addressing each part of the body, for instance the chapter on your mouth and throat are entitled "Down the Hatch", you then work your way to the chapter entitled "Into the Nether Regions". We'll just let you guess what that one is about. If you liked your first Bill Bryson book, you'll like this one too. It's always a fun journey with Bryson - whether it's discovering Australia (*In a Sunburned Country*) or walking the Appalachian Trail (*A Walk in the Woods*) or traipsing around Great Britain (*Notes from a Small Island*), he always takes his readers on an unforgettable read.

These are just a few of the new releases you'll find on the shelves of your favorite bookstore this month. If you find time after raking those leaves, or instead of raking those leaves, settle in with a good book. And appreciate the freedom to do so. Be thankful. And just read. 🦃

Barbara Adams is an attorney and the owner of Books & Moore in Hillsboro.



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Top Children's Book for 2019 Holiday Giving

BY GEORGE RISCHER - SLY FOX BOOKSTORE

Books make lasting gifts for children and adults alike. Publishers routinely produce a cornucopia of children's books for holiday giving. I've culled the lists to create these curated selections:

PreSchool & Elementary (up to age 8)

The Crayons' Christmas by Drew Daywalt and Oliver Jeffers, (\$19.99) - the creators of *The Day The Crayons Quit* bring the colors back for this special Christmas edition with ornaments, a poster, and a pop-up Christmas tree.

Dasher by Matt Tavares (\$17.99), a young adventurous reindeer follows her destiny and meets a man in a red suit named Santa, who has a sleigh.

The Little Fir Tree by Christopher Drew, (\$17.99), what happens to a Christmas tree after Christmas is over, a retelling of the classic Hans Christian Anderson tale.

I Spy Christmas by Jean Marzollo and Walter Wick (\$14.99), newly updated with bonus riddles, new search-and-find look,

and a trimmer size.

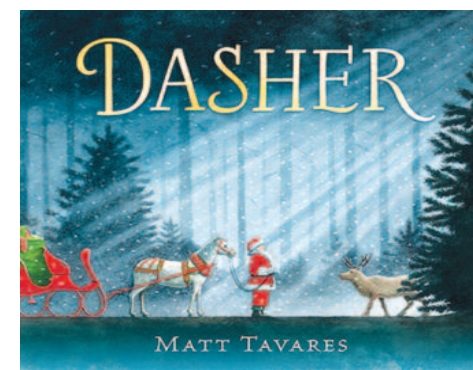
The Scarecrow by Beth Ferry and illustrated by The Fan Brothers (\$18.99), a scarecrow saves a fallen baby crow creating a bond between them, but will it weather the seasons?

The Hundred-Year Barn, by Patricia MacLachlan and illustrated by Kenard Pak, (\$17.99), a hundred years ago a small boy witnesses his community build a grand red barn that stands as a symbol of peace, stability, caring, and community.

The Shortest Day by Susan Cooper and illustrated by Carson Ellis (\$17.99), Newbery medalist Cooper and Caldecott honoree Ellis team up to herald the winter solstice.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, The Illustrated Edition (Middle Grades 9-12) by J.K. Rowling and illustrated by Jim Kay (\$47.99), the fourth in the unique illustrated editions of this widely popular series.

Child of the Dream by Sharon Robinson (\$16.99), Jackie Robinson's daughter offers



a memoir of 1963, coming of age at the dawn of the civil rights era.

Complete Baking Book for Young Chefs by America's Test Kitchen Kids, (\$19.99), ultimate baking book for young chefs.

The Tyrant's Tomb by Rick Riordan, (\$19.99), book four in the Trials of Apollo series.

The Mysterious Benedict Society and the Riddle of Ages by Trenton Lee Stewart, (\$18.99), book four of this popular series.

Return of the Temujai by John Flanagan, (\$18.99), book eight of the Brotherband Chronicles by the author of the Ranger's Apprentice series.

The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys (**Young Adult Ages 12 and Up**)

The Fountains of Silence (\$18.99), an 18-year-old boy uses his camera to reveal the reality of life in 1950s Spain under General Franco.

Beverly, Right Here by Kate DiCamillo, (\$16.99), revisiting the world of *Raymie Nightingale*, DiCamillo focuses on tough-talking, tenderhearted Beverly.

The Last True Poets of the Sea by Julia Drake, (\$17.99), inspired by Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, teenaged Violet searches for the lost shipwreck her great-great-grandmother survived and grapples with her family's history of mental illness.

Thirteen Doorways, Wolves Behind Them All by Laura Ruby, (\$17.99), in the midst of the Great Depression and after their mother dies, two sisters are left, presumably temporarily, at an orphanage; but when their father returns for a visit with a new woman and out-of-town train tickets, the sisters realize they are now on their own. 🐺

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Prairie Cardiovascular Names New President

John A. Scherschel, MD, FACC, FHRS has been named president of Prairie Cardiovascular in Springfield, IL. Dr. Scherschel is the fourth president in the group's 40-year history and succeeds Marc E. Shelton, MD, FACC, FESC, who was appointed vice president and chief physician executive of Hospital Sisters Health System in March.

Prior to being named president, Dr. Scherschel served as a clinical cardiac electrophysiologist at Prairie since 2014.

"It has been a privilege to care for patients alongside the talented and committed providers and colleagues at Prairie," said Dr. Scherschel. "The last five years have given me insight into this tremendous organization, and I am honored to take the lead and continue the tradition of providing world-class care to the residents of central and southern Illinois."

Dr. Scherschel received his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Ball State University and his doctor of medicine degree from Indiana University School of Medicine where he also did his internal medicine residency and later served as chief resident in medicine. He completed his fellowship in cardiovascular disease and was a post-doctoral research fellow as well as a fellow

in clinical cardiac electrophysiology at the Krannert Institute of Cardiology at Indiana University School of Medicine.

He and his wife, Catherine, have three children, Elizabeth, Christopher and Caroline. Scherschel enjoys boating, biking, gardening and spending time with family.

Dr. Scherschel is a member of the Heart Rhythm Society and the American College of Cardiology where he sits on the Electrophysiology Council.

Dr. Scherschel's new title became effective October 21, following approval by the HSHS Board of Directors. He will continue seeing patients in a limited capacity.

About Prairie Cardiovascular:

Physicians at Prairie Cardiovascular are nationally recognized as leaders in cardiovascular care. More heart patients are cared for by Prairie than any other program in Illinois. Prairie currently has more than 70 board certified physicians and 50 clinic sites in Illinois. Prairie is a national leader in the innovation and development of new diagnostic and treatment procedures and continues to advance medicine with a very active research program. For more information, visit www.prairieheart.org.



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Visitors to Lincoln Memorial Garden enjoy stopping on one of the footbridges, a look at the pond, viewing one of the eight stone council rings, shown above. Lake Springfield is seen in the background.

Lincoln Memorial Garden & Nature Center

100 Acres of Natural Beauty in Honor of Abraham Lincoln

BY CINDY LADAGE

Lincoln Memorial Garden, located on the shores of Lake Springfield, is a woodland and prairie garden with over 6 miles of trails which leads you on a journey through the Illinois landscape Lincoln would have known. Depending on the season you visit, you could discover springtime dogwoods in full bloom, colorful prairie wildflowers of summer, burnished autumn leaves, or snow-covered maple trees bursting with sap. It is one of my favorite spots in Central Illinois. My family has enjoyed walking the trails here for years and I have traversed the paths myself since I was a teen. The history draws me, but it is mostly the beauty of trees and the shoreline of Lake Springfield that calls to a special place in my heart. Together this combines to create a wonderful, peaceful setting and a perfect backdrop if you are looking for a place for family or nature photos.

Although Abraham Lincoln never walked these actual trails, the 100-acre garden is similar to the paths that Lincoln would have walked when the 16th President was alive. To honor his memory, the garden is filled with plants native to the states that Lincoln lived in during his lifetime, in Kentucky, Indiana, and finally, Illinois.

A visit to the Lincoln Memorial Garden is not complete without a stop in the Nature Center. Visitors enjoy stopping on one of the footbridges, a look at the pond, gazing at the Lake shoreline, or taking in one of the

eight stone council rings. You may also want to stop and read one of the Lincoln quotes inscribed on the dozens of wooden benches found throughout the garden.

The Abraham Lincoln Memorial Garden story begins with Harriet Knudson, a Springfield woman that gained support from Springfield officials. Not originally a Springfield resident, Knudson, was born in Montana. As nurse that training in Chicago, she met her husband Dr. T.J. Knudson, and later they moved back to his hometown of Springfield in 1910.

Interested in gardening, this determined woman was a founding member of the Springfield Garden Club and was able to get Springfield officials on board for the garden project.

Next she persuaded the Garden Clubs of Illinois to adopt the garden as a project in 1934. The area selected was the area surrounding the newly created Lake Springfield, which was formed from 1931-1935. Prior to creating the lake, the area was farmland. Knudson convinced Springfield officials to donate the land for the project.

The vision for the garden was Harriet Knudson's, but it was the famous landscape architect, Jens Jensen, that designed it.

Jensen was 74 when he came to Springfield. His work emphasized natural environments and native materials. The Danish born Jensen is one of the most famous landscape architects. He had

previously worked with Frank Lloyd Wright and designed using the Prairie School of landscape architecture.

Jensen was known as one of Illinois' earliest conservationists by the time he arrived in Springfield to design the Lincoln garden project. He is quite famous for designing several Chicago city parks, plus the estates of both Henry and Edsel Ford in Michigan. He is also well known for designing estates of several Chicago businessmen in the city's North Shore area, and landscapes and parks throughout the Midwest. It is in part because of the design of this famous landscape architect that Lincoln Memorial Garden was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

According to the history section of the Lincoln Memorial Garden website, Jensen's "...basic plan for the Garden incorporated a series of connected paths bordered by various arrangements of native plants. The design included eight council rings, circular stone benches to provide inviting, casual relaxation spots for Garden visitors."

When walking the nature paths at Lincoln Memorial Garden, visitors can expect to see a variety of native Illinois trees like groves of oaks and hickory trees along with small flowering trees such as Redbuds and Dogwoods along with shrubs and flowering plants and grasses.

On occasion you may also spy wildlife

like red fox, raccoons, opossums, squirrels, coyotes, rabbits, chipmunks, deer, and turtles while walking the trails. Bring binoculars to watch birds if you are a birdwatcher.

Each year in mid-November, Lincoln Memorial Garden kicks off the Holiday Season with an annual market featuring unique hand-crafted items perfect for Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts and decorations.

This year the market opens on Friday, November 22, with a special evening event from 4 to 7 p.m. This is an opportunity to be among the first shoppers. Volunteers will be serving light refreshments, wine and cider as an added bonus for early shopping.

The event continues on Saturday, November 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Sunday, November 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. The special holiday sale offerings include centerpieces, swags, wreaths and one-of-a-kind Christmas tree ornaments. Talented area artisans from the Springfield Civic Garden Club gather during October and November to make each unique creation. All of their labor is donated, so the articles are affordable and exceptional.

The sale is held in the Lincoln Memorial Garden Nature Center, home to the Split Rail Shop, a year-round gift store offering everything from books, jewelry, toys and garden items to beautiful glass birdbaths and hand crafted wind chimes. It is the perfect



During a trip to Lincoln Memorial Garden in Springfield you may want to stop and take a break at one of the dozens of wooden benches inscribed with quotes from Abraham Lincoln.



Depending on the season you visit Lincoln Memorial Garden, you could discover springtime dogwoods in full bloom, colorful prairie wildflowers of summer, burnished autumn leaves, or snow-covered maple trees bursting with sap.

place to find unique items and stocking stuffers.

Admission is to the holiday market is free, and all of the funds raised by the shop and the special holiday sale provide funds for educational programming.

For the second year in a row, they will be taking family photos with Harriet Knudson's horse drawn sleigh during the Holiday Market weekend. This is an affordable way to get your holiday photo taken; Santa Claus will be on hand for photos, too!

On Sunday, December 8, children ages 5 through 12 will be able to attend a holiday ornament workshop. Children will have the opportunity to construct a nature-themed ornament. All craft items will be supplied for this event. The program will run from 1:30 to 3 p.m., and the cost is \$15 for members and \$20 for nonmembers. Registration is required and can be found on their website.

And watch for updates on their Holiday Market Facebook event page: [https://www.facebook.com/events/1425218](https://www.facebook.com/events/1425218690958525)

690958525.

Several other events to enjoy are held at the Garden each year. These include Indian Summer Festival, Maple Syrup Time, night hikes, pancake breakfast, off site craft sales and camps for kids during the summer months. Best of all though is just stopping by and walking the trails at your leisure with a camera in hand. It is easy to forget your troubles while the trees sigh overhead, leaves crunch under your feet and the sun reflects from the on the water along the shoreline. Bring a book to read as you sit

on one of the Lincoln benches and forget your troubles for a spell. Fall and the Lincoln Memorial Garden beckons!

Lincoln Memorial Garden is located at 2301 Lakeshore Drive in Springfield. Garden Hours are daily, from sunrise - sunset. The Nature Center is open Tuesday - Saturday: 10 am - 4 pm; Sunday: 1 pm - 4 pm. For more information, log onto www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org or call 217-529-1111. 🐾

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The Overstock Shop in Litchfield, shown above, offers quality brands from trusted retail chains up to 75% below retail prices. Items vary from clothing, furniture, home decor and toys to tools, appliances and more. Inventory changes weekly.



Retail Prices Drop at The Overstock Shop

SAVE 50%-75% OFF RETAIL PRICES ON BRAND NEW, BRAND NAME PRODUCTS

BY TARA L. CALE

Five years ago Karry and Roxanne Hartman decided they wanted to own their own business, but they wanted it to be one that would help others too.

After considering several options, they decided to start dealing in liquidation sales. This way they could offer quality, brand name products to consumers at deeply discounted prices.

Not quite ready to take the big leap of leasing or purchasing a building when they were just starting out, they first operated their business from the garage at their home. But soon it just wasn't enough space, and they opened a small store front on Old Route 66 in Litchfield.

In less than two years, they had outgrown that space as well and were fortunate

enough to find a much larger building, with plenty of storage, and plenty of parking for customers. The Overstock Shop opened at 817 W. Union/Hwy 16 in Litchfield in 2018.

The Overstock Shop works with major retailers such as Target, Walmart, Home Depot, Macys, Sears, Costco and others..

"Our goal is to be able to price items at 50% off retail," Karry said, "But often we can go as much as 75%."

Items available at The Overstock vary but include clothing, electronics, furniture, toys, tools, camping equipment, health and beauty products, appliances and even home improvement materials such as doors and windows. They also have phone chargers and accessories, designer purses, such as

Coach, Michael Kors and DKNY.

Looking for an area rug? Automotive supplies? Dishes or cookware? Light fixtures or even a new kitchen sink? Chances are, they will have it.

"You never know what you will find," Karry explained. "Our inventory updates weekly, and most items sell fast."

"If you see something you want, you should buy it when you see it," Roxanne elaborated. "If you leave and come back, chances are, it will be gone. What we have is all we have, when it's gone, it's gone."

Some examples of the savings you can find at The Overstock shop are:

Nova 16 piece dishware set - retail \$69.99, priced at The Overstock Shop for \$39.99.

Mr. Coffee Espresso Machine - retails at multiple big box stores for \$99.99 - The Overstock Shop Price is just \$49.99.

Mosquito Tent - retail \$159.99, The Overstock Shop price, \$75.99.

And currently summer shoes are just \$2.99 per pair, because The Overstock Shop needs to make room for a new shipment of shoes arriving soon.

Let me emphasize, the products at The Overstock Shop are not used, or yard sale merchandise. Items are all new, most available in original packaging - quality brands you know and trust - but at a fraction of the cost you would pay elsewhere.

To illustrate this point, The Overstock Shop is an Amazon fulfillment center.

"Over 40% of the items found in our



Roxanne Hartman and her sidekick Nacho invite you to come in to The Overstock Shop today to start saving money on items you need and use daily.

store can be ordered online and shipped to your home through Amazon,” Karry explained. “It ships to your home, through our store. But...if you purchase it through Amazon, you are going to pay full retail price. If you walk through our doors, pick it off the shelf and take it home with you, you could save from 50%-75%.”

Now that’s a savings you just can’t ignore! And consumers are not ignoring it. Just recently the Hartmans did an “in-house audit” to find out just how much consumers were saving when purchasing items from The Overstock Shop.

“It wasn’t very scientific,” Karry laughed. “We just picked one week randomly and evaluated the sales of all items sold that week at our discounted prices against what the customers would have paid if they had ordered through Amazon or purchased them at full retail price from a major retailer.”

Savings for that week - just one week - totaled \$5,700.00. That means customers shopping The Overstock Shop are realizing over \$319,000 in savings per year!

Have you been to The Overstock Shop yet? If you have, have you been there lately? It has quickly turned into one of our favorite, and most fun, places to shop. We love saving money. And who doesn’t?

Maybe you don’t think The Overstock Shop is ‘your kind of store.’ Maybe you think The Overstock Shop couldn’t possibly

have anything you want or need. I encourage you to take the time to go in and look around. Remember the inventory changes weekly, so visit often. Right now is a great time to save on Christmas lights! You can also follow them on Facebook for posts about specials arrivals. And if you are looking for something specific. The Overstock Shop has a “wish list.”

“We can’t guarantee we can find the items you are looking for, but we will certainly try,” Roxanne commented. The “Wish List” has worked for many customers.

Are you ready to save on Christmas gifts? Are you ready to save on basic home necessities, home decor, the clothes you wear, the tools you need? Those little extras you didn’t think were in your budget, can be in your budget when you get them at The Overstock Shop!

The Overstock Shop is located at 817 W. Union in Litchfield - across the street from Dairy Queen. They are open Monday through Saturday, but exact hours change with the season, so that is another reason to follow them on Facebook. If you are driving a distance to visit, please call ahead in case of inclement weather or a questionable holiday. They are closed most major holidays.

For more information call 217-556-1718. Karry and Roxanne would love to see you! 🐾

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Countdown to Jerseyville's Christmas Season Kickoff

5th Annual Downtown Country Christmas Festival to be Held on Small Business Saturday

Mark your calendars: Jerseyville's annual Downtown Country Christmas Festival takes place this year on Saturday, Nov. 30 throughout the city's downtown business district and the Courthouse Square. The festival will mark its fifth year with this Small Business Saturday 2019 event.

"This event is a staple in the community," said Michael Ward, the City of Jerseyville's tourism coordinator who also serves as the festival's coordinator. "It has been building over the past four years all because of a wish first made by a little girl from our community."

That influential young lady from Jersey County is Tess Drainer, whose mother first shared with local charity Isaac's Ray of Hope about Tess's wish to share her love of everything about the movie "Polar Express" with everyone.

From that wish, this community wide festival was born annually marks "everything Christmas."

"This fifth anniversary will continue the tradition of holiday excitement for every child, also bringing back some wonderful memories for the adults in the community who attend. The festival is all about kids and families. It also celebrates the small businesses in our town and county, providing an additional platform for everyone to show their support and emphasize their continued importance," Ward added.

The Jersey County Business Association

is among the list of host sponsors of the event, which is held annually to coincide with Small Business Saturday.

JCBA Chamber Director Beth Bear said, "As a hallmark community-gathering event, the Downtown Country Christmas Festival also brings upwards of 5,000 people to downtown Jerseyville on Small Business Saturday, providing phenomenal numbers of shoppers for the merchants, vendors and exhibitors who participate.

"The economic impact is very visible, as is the sense of community spirit. Community businesses, whether downtown or around town, notice significant increases in sales and growth in their markets as a result," added Bear.

An extensive lineup of holiday activities to spark the season's spirit - no matter what age you are - will take place from 2 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 30 in the heart of Jerseyville's downtown, along State and Pearl Streets, and the perimeter. However, there is a new opportunity to spark that spirit that is happening beforehand to help cover the costs of hosting the Downtown Country Christmas Festival by the nonprofit group that organizes the event each year.

On Sunday, Nov. 10, the 1880 Pizza Pasta House, located at 210 South State Street in Jerseyville, will be the spot for to fill hungry bellies while visiting with some of the most beloved Disney characters. Six professional portrayals of these characters



It was the wish of one young Jersey County resident, Tess Drainer, pictured here with Jerseyville's own official Santa Claus, to bring the holiday spirit alive to the entire community. From her wish, the annual Downtown Country Christmas Festival in Jerseyville was born. Photo courtesy of Downtown Country Christmas Festival/SLS Photo Designs

will be in the restaurant to visit with. You'll also have the chance to sample some of the cuisine that the new dining venue has to offer. Photo and souvenir opportunities will also be available. Tickets are on sale now for dining reservations at either the 12 noon, 1:30 and 3 p.m. time slots. Spots are filling

up fast, though, so now is the time to make your reservations. Visit Julie's Graphics, 103 Lincoln Ave., Jerseyville, or call 618-639-3548 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday to secure your dining times.

Volunteers for the Festival itself are still,

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Holiday hayrides, hosted by the Tri County Antique Club, are just one part of what makes each year's Downtown Country Christmas Festival in Jerseyville an especially unique way to spark the Christmas spirit within.
Photo courtesy of Downtown Country Christmas Festival/Melissa Meske

and always, needed. Everyone involved from the planning, coordinating, building, decorating and staffing is a volunteer for this community-building event – and the Festival Committee is continually in need of additional help. If you are interested, willing and able to help in any capacity, please let Ward of any Festival Committee member

know right away.

For complete details about the fifth annual Downtown Country Christmas Festival in Jerseyville, visit downtowncountrychristmas.com, email downtowncountrychristmas@gmail.com or call 618-791-4462. 🐝



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When Business Blooms

Bev's Baskets & Bows Celebrates 25 Years

BY TARA L. CALE

Twenty five years ago Bev Goode started a small gift shop in her home in Greenfield. She also made custom bows and gift baskets. She was doing a lot of silk floral designs for family and friends, and soon local townspeople began asking for fresh floral designs as well.

So a week before Valentine's day she ran a small ad in the local paper offering her services. The ad ran on a Friday, and by Wednesday she had over 100 orders.

"That was quite a few more than I expected," she laughed, "So I had to call in some friends and family to help get all the orders out!"

But that response solidified something in

her mind she already felt in her heart... there was a real demand for this type of business in town.

"The house was totally littered with flowers and ribbon and trash by the time we finished those orders," she added. "My husband said if I was seriously about operating this business, I had to find a different location than our home."

So she did.

In March of 1997 Bev's Baskets & Bows opened at 609B Main Street in Greenfield, where she still operates to this day. Originally she focused on fresh and silk flower arrangements and filled orders for numerous weddings, funerals, homecoming dances,

proms and special holidays. But as the years progressed she started adding trendy gifts and home decor. Today she also carries greenhouse plants, unique gifts - including Melissa and Doug toys - trendy home decor, ladies boutique clothing and offers tuxedo rental - which goes nicely with one more thing she specializes in - wedding planning.

In 2010 Bev began renting various props for weddings and it was an instant hit. Such a hit that she now has a separate building to house all the props and items available to make a wedding unique for the brides to "shop."

Items available for event rental range from old wooden barrels, chalk board signs,

candles, arches, florals, greenery, backdrops, ceiling drapes, swags, center pieces, accent pieces, linens and more - anything and everything you need, from rustic to formal, can be rented from Bev's Baskets & Bows. An added benefit is that not only are items available to rent for one day, saving you a ton of money, but Bev's Baskets & Bows also offers complete set up and take down of your entire wedding, reception or special event, if you so desire, to help take some of the stress out of your special day.

"We can be a small part of your wedding or handle it all, and we do travel," Bev explained. "We have done weddings from as far away as St. Louis and Effingham.

No matter how large or how small, Bev's Baskets & Bows can handle it all - effectively, efficiently and affordably.

"Sometimes we just go in and set up the center pieces for the tables. Sometimes we will just decorate the reception hall. It depends on what is requested," she explained. "Then there are events like a barn wedding we did that had 72 hours of labor. That was a big one!"

According to Bev, wedding season, when she was the busiest, used to be May through September, but now you just never know.

"Fall weddings are very popular now," she said, "And I used to never book weddings in January. This coming January I have four."

And as if one floral and gift shop plus the wedding planning services wasn't enough to keep Bev and her small staff busy, in 2013 she opened a second store in Carrollton. Bev's Baskets & Bows in each town has the same line of gifts and boutique clothing, but each has their own individual floral designers. All wedding planning is handled through the Greenfield location.

In addition to the gifts, florals, boutique clothing and wedding planning, they offer delivery of florals plus balloon and candy bouquets to numerous areas: Greenfield, Carrollton, Carlinville, Medora, Chesterfield, White Hall, Roodhouse, Kane, Jerseyville and Eldred.

Be sure to visit Bev's Baskets & Bows at

either location soon and you will no doubt leave with a must have gift or home decor item. The Greenfield store is located at 609B Main Street and can be reached by calling 217-368-2263. Greenfield will host their Christmas Open House on Small Business Saturday, November 30. The Carrollton store is downtown at 502 N. Main Street and their phone number is 217-942-9119. Their Christmas Open House will be Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9. Currently the stores have separate Facebook accounts although Bev is considering consolidating them to one. And if you are planning a wedding, be sure to give Bev a call and find out how she can take away some of the stress while making it a beautiful, unique and memorable event. 🐝

Opposite page: Bev's Baskets & Bows specializes in complete wedding planning services, providing everything from the flowers, to reception hall decorations, complete set up and take down, including prop rental. From rustic weddings to florals, Bev's has everything needed to make your wedding unique, beautiful and memorable. Above: Bev's Baskets & Bows, with locations in both Greenfield and Carrollton, is also a full service floral and gift shop with trendy gifts and home decor, boutique clothing and delivery of floral, balloon and candy bouquets to a broad area.





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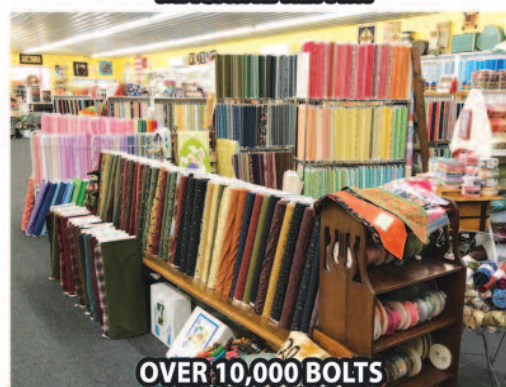
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Don't Burn Those Leaves- Use Them to Make Your Own Free Mulch!

BY ABBY DILLON

It's November and gone are the days when we would spend hours raking up leaves for the kids to jump in. Then, we would rake them up again to make a little leaf maze for them to run through. Once, I even made a house diagram, made of leaves, complete with three bedrooms and two baths, of course. But my children have grown and these days my husband and I look forward to a more practical use for all of these leaves.

Leaf Mold. It sounds gross, but actually, decomposed leaves make a fantastic form of compost that has a rich, earthy scent and a dark, crumbly texture. Leaf mold is much simpler to make, compared to traditional compost which must have layers of materials and requires turning. All that is neces-

sary is a pile of leaves. A wire bin can be used to collect leaves and keep them contained while they decompose. Even better, those tall paper yard-waste bags are perfect for holding leaves and the bag decomposes right along with the wet leaves.

How long does it take for leaves to decompose? Because leaves are considered a "brown waste," made primarily of carbon, they take a while to break down. It can take up to two years for whole leaves in big pile to decompose. However, in a bag or a wire bin you should see some results within six to twelve months, depending on the weather and the type of leaves. Even better, if you care to speed the process up, simply mulch the leaves first. Leaves that were shredded up in the mower will break down much



A wire bin can be used to collect leaves and keep them contained while they decompose.

Leaf mold is a specific type of organic material that is best used as a soil conditioner. It doesn't add much nutritional matter, however it does improve the soil's structure, texture and water-holding ability. It creates ideal conditions for establishing an ecosystem of beneficial microorganisms. Leaf mold is a renewable alternative to peat. Adding leaf mold to the garden soil will double the water holding capacity of a sandy soil. In a heavy clay soil, leaf mold breaks down the clumps, creating a well-drained loam that is so often recommended.

ing it into the top six inches of soil. Be careful not to allow too much of the compost to cover any plant stems. This can cause the stem to rot or may provide a haven for munching insects to infect the plant.

My favorite part of the concept of composting with leaf mold is that it's a renewable source of organic matter that is FREE! Who doesn't like FREE? 🐝

Abby Dillon is the owner of La Bella Fiori Greenhouse and Garden Center in Staunton. Find out more at www.labellafiori.com.

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The Studio in Staunton - a Yoga and Wellness Studio - offers classes for all ages, skill and fitness levels. Top photo: A beginner class focuses on basic movements, stretches and balance. Also on this page: Students practice more advanced movements and techniques. Opposite page: Chair yoga is beneficial to help those with limited mobility begin to become more active, flexible and healthy. More times for this class have recently been added to the schedule due to its popularity.

Improve Overall Wellness With Yoga

The Studio in Staunton Offers Classes for All Ages and Fitness Levels To Improve Quality of Life for All

BY TARA L. CALE

The building at 107 West Main Street in Staunton was originally built in 1908. It housed Dietiker Men's and Boys' store for about 50 years and when Dr. Poonam Jain started her Dental Practice next door in 2007, she felt the beauty and character of the building and its calming and peaceful presence were the perfect setting for a yoga studio. However, it would not be until 2014 when the adjacent building caught fire that the building of the studio would start.

After a lot of planning and hard work, the building was transformed into a yoga studio. The plaster on the east wall was removed to expose the original brick behind it. The original tin ceiling tiles were restored to their amazing beauty and after many long days of restoration, The Studio in Staunton was ready to open.

The Studio in Staunton - a Yoga and Wellness Studio - made its debut on November 1, 2015 - this month marks their

four year anniversary.

Yoga, as most of you know, is an ancient practice, rooted in Indian philosophy. It began as a spiritual practice but has become popular as a way of promoting physical and mental well-being. And although classical yoga also includes other elements, yoga as practiced in the United States typically emphasizes physical postures, breathing techniques and meditation.

The health benefits of yoga are vast. Research suggests that yoga may help improve general wellness by relieving stress, supporting good health habits, and improving mental/emotional health, sleep and balance. Many people have reported that yoga relieved low back and/or neck pain, menopause symptoms and helped manage anxiety or depressive symptoms associated with difficult life situations. Some have said that yoga helped them quit smoking, lose weight and generally eased the symptoms of

chronic disease and improved their quality of life overall.

And really, it just makes sense, right? Yoga helps get you moving. Being more active will accomplish all the things mentioned above. Get moving - right? Yoga can help you do that in a simple, non-stressful, low impact way. And as you progress through the classes, everything gradually gets better!

"The goal of The Studio in Staunton is to help people obtain a deeper awareness of their body," Dr. Jain explained. "The major objective is to improve flexibility and balance and teach the use of the breath to bring the mind into the body, promote living in the present moment and to improve overall quality of life."

Everything needed for each class is provided by The Studio - mats, bolsters, rails and ropes. All you need to do is show up, with a positive attitude. And no matter what

your experience or skill level is, The Studio in Staunton has a class just for you. They even have "chair" classes for novices that have limited mobility or flexibility.

"The chairs assist students that have difficulty getting down on the floor and back up again," Dr. Jain said. "At first they start the exercises sitting in the chair. Later many graduate to using the chair to help them get up and down. Eventually, they may not need the chair at all."

One of the things The Studio in Staunton has that is lacking in many yoga settings is rope walls.

"The ropes allow for deeper extension and also aid in balance, to alleviate the fear of falling during the exercise," said Dr. Jain. "With the fear of falling eliminated, the student can maximize their movements and gain greater benefits."

The rope walls are used for strength exercises as well. The Studio in Staunton



also has a barre room, which is a fusion of yoga and ballet. There are no size restrictions and no age limit for doing yoga - with the exception that the student must be old enough to be able to maintain attention during the class.

“We have students 80 years old and older,” commented Dr. Jain.

You can be in great shape, completely out of shape, or somewhere in between. No matter your age or fitness level, yoga can help you attain better health and overall well being.

The Studio in Staunton offers multiple classes each week. The instructors are highly trained and experienced and each has 200 hour Yoga Alliance certified training. The beginner series, for all age and fitness levels, meets Sunday mornings from 9-10 a.m., followed by Yoga for Stress Relief from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday is Yoga with Mike from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga is from 10-11 a.m. and Yoga for all levels is from 7-8 p.m. On Wednesdays there are chair Yoga classes from 5:30-6:30

p.m., Yoga for all levels from 7-8 p.m. and Meditation from 8-8:30 p.m. Sunrise Yoga is at 7:30 a.m. on Fridays. Other classes include Hot Yoga and Rope Wall Yoga. Due to popular demand, the Studio has recently added additional Chair Yoga classes on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

The Studio in Staunton offers package deals for yoga classes at very affordable and discounted rates. Everyone is encouraged to drop by and try a class at any time, or as often as they want, on a pay-per-class basis. Hot Yoga and Rope Wall Yoga are \$15 per class for all ages. All other Yoga classes are \$7.50 each for ages 60 or older, and \$10 each for all others. The 12-week Beginner Series is \$150.00 for the entire series or \$15.00 per class.

The Studio in Staunton is located in downtown Staunton at 107 W. Main Street. For more information, a complete schedule and updated information visit www.Facebook.com/The Studio in Staunton or call 618-978-1847. 🙏



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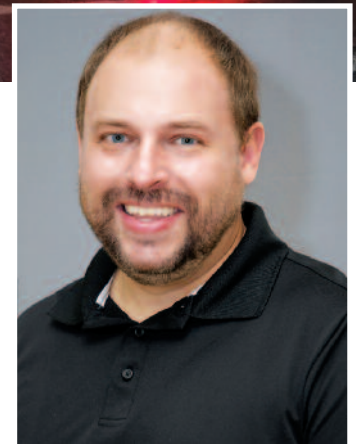
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Right: Tom Varner, writer, educator, photographer, and Route 66 traveler.

Above: Cruiser's Cafe, site of the hat heist, at Houck, Arizona.

Left: The Painted Desert in Arizona.

All photos by Tom Varner

Along Route 66

Writer-Photographer Tom Varner: A Local Man's Adventure on Route 66

BY CHERYL EICHAR JETT

Local writer and educator Tom Varner tried to run away from his father's Route 66 influence, but these days he's fully embracing it. He has just had his first article in the national magazine *Route 66* published, has a popular Instagram account, and, from his first full-length Route 66 trip in 2018, has some quirky adventures to share.

As so often happens, Varner's Route 66 exposure began with his parents, although he says that as a college student, he "cut myself off from many things I enjoyed and loved as a child." But as an adult, he's recently returned to his "roots" - or "routes"- particularly rediscovering a full-

blown love for Route 66.

His parents, Gary and Corrine, actually met on Route 66, on a Presley bus tour from Chicago to Los Angeles. Gary already had an interest from his childhood, and Tom remembers their home being decorated with Route 66 signs and memorabilia by his father as he grew up. Now, Varner works in Litchfield, a Route 66 town. And his brother lives in Tulsa, another Route 66 city.

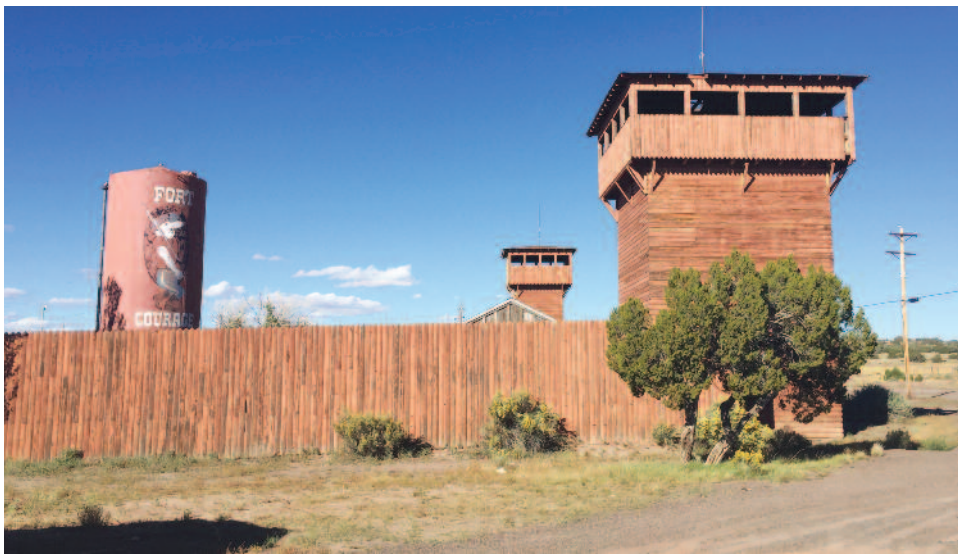
As his interest in the Mother Road came back to him, Varner made several partial trips on the Eastern (Illinois-Missouri) end of the route and began an Instagram account to share his excellent photos. He employed

his writing skills to annotate his photos on social media and to begin writing travel articles. (You can follow Tom at Instagram@TomVarner.) He completed the full Chicago-to-Los Angeles span of the famous highway in October 2018 with his drive from Oklahoma City to Los Angeles. That trip really gave him insight into the significance of the beloved "Mother Road" in our country's history.

Varner made that Oklahoma City-to-Los Angeles trip in just 13 days, but he packed it chock-full of not only Route 66 attractions and scenery, but side trips. Several excursions provided him with some rather strange

occurrences, which became fodder for his *Route 66* magazine essay.

His first incident occurred at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, an hour-plus drive south of Route 66. Fort Sumner was the location of the incarceration of Navajo Indians in the 1860s after their forced march, the Long Walk. It was also the site where ex-lawman Pat Garrett shot and killed Billy the Kid. The Kid is buried in the old fort cemetery, and Varner didn't want to miss stopping there. He describes what happened: "As I entered the cemetery and headed toward the grave..., I felt a very sharp and distinct jolt of pain above the sock line on



Above: The now-closed Fort Courage tourist attraction at Houck, Arizona.
Below: One of the local burros in Aotman, AZ and the grave of Billy the Kid, Fort Sumner, New Mexico.



my right ankle. For a moment, the pain was intense...how many people can say they were stung by a baby scorpion at Billy the Kid's grave?" The mark stayed with him throughout the rest of his trip.

Varner's next strange anecdote stemmed from a visit at Houck, Arizona, to the now-closed and mostly abandoned Fort Courage, a 1970s-era tourist attraction built to resemble the fort in the old TV series "F Troop." As he walked through the silent fort, a large black horse rounded a corner about twenty feet away from him. The horse stopped, just until Varner turned to start walking back toward the entrance to the fort, and then followed him. When Varner stopped and turned around, the horse stopped. When he started walking backwards, the horse followed, matching his pace. At that point, Varner broke into a run back to his car. Looking back, he saw the horse had stopped briefly at the entryway before streaking past to disappear around the corner of the blockade. With one more look back as he drove away, Varner spotted the horse once more in the entryway, standing guard.

In Williams, Arizona, the "next moment of the absurd" occurred. At Cruiser's Cafe, he found a booth, ordered his food, and,

having been raised to remove his hat at a meal, set his hat down on the booth seat. When he came back from the restroom a few minutes later, his hat was gone. After looking all around, he finally spotted it – under the chair of a small boy eating with his family. "When our eyes met, he grimaced in the knowledge of being caught," Varner said. He retrieved his hat silently, met with equal silence from the family, ate his meal, and continued his trip.

His 66 journey ended, as most do, at the Santa Monica Pier. The trip, the legendary sites he saw, and his "absurd" experiences prompted his essay for *Route 66* magazine.

When not being stung by a scorpion, stalked by a horse, or getting his cap stolen on a Route 66 trip, Tom is an avid reader and loves movies and community theatre. He's been a part of Hard Road Theatre Productions in Highland, Illinois, for many years. I don't know about the rest of you, but I can hardly wait to hear what adventures he will have on his next Route 66 trip! 🐛

Cheryl Eichar Jett is the author of numerous books and articles on Route 66. You can follow her travels at www.route66chick.com.

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New Artifact at Demoulin Museum Tells WWII Story

A one-of-a-kind artifact was recently donated to the DeMoulin Museum in Greenville. A doll from the 1940s with a unique connection between DeMoulin Bros. and World War II is now featured at the museum.

In December 2017, the museum was contacted by the heirs of Susan McCracken White, an Alabama resident, concerning a doll she owned while growing up in Greenville. The doll's outfit was made by DeMoulin.

According to her son, David White, "My mother received this doll as a child. Its uniform was made by DeMoulin Bros. and modeled after the uniform her father was wearing during World War II. The doll has long been referred to as the 'daddy doll' in our family. It was her wish to see that this doll was donated to the DeMoulin Museum after her death."

Susan's father was William L. McCracken, a Greenville native, who ran his own dental practice in Greenville until joining the US Army Dental Corps from 1943 to 1946. Dr. McCracken was Chief of Dental Service for the 55th Field Hospital, serving with this unit at Hawaii and Okinawa. He was discharged as a captain and later move to Alabama where he had a successful career in dentistry.

DeMoulin Museum curator John Goldsmith is thrilled to showcase the doll.

Goldsmith said, "Although the company was manufacturing military uniforms for the war effort, the uniform worn by this doll is a one-of-a-kind DeMoulin creation made specifically for Susan. We may never know which DeMoulin employees were involved

in this special project, but their handiwork will be permanently displayed, thanks to Susan McCracken White."

White passed away August 26, 2017. The "daddy doll" was shipped to the museum in February of this year. Johnson's Signs and Designs of Greenville created a special case for the doll, which is now permanently on display at the DeMoulin Museum.

During the month of November, in conjunction with Veterans Day, the museum will spotlight military uniforms made by DeMoulin Bros.

Founded in 1892 as a manufacturer of lodge paraphernalia and regalia, DeMoulin Bros. & Co. of Greenville, Illinois is one of the nation's leading makers of marching band uniforms. The company's diverse production history has included graduation caps and gowns, choir robes, church and lodge furniture, and lodge initiation devices.

The DeMoulin Museum, founded in 2010, pays tribute to the founders, employees, and amazing products created by this unique factory. Though the museum contains examples of many of DeMoulin's creations - it is the only public museum in the United States to have gathered so many lodge initiation devices - including the Bucking Goat; Invisible Paddle Machine; and Lifting and Spraying Machine - which have attracted visitors from over 30 states.

The DeMoulin Museum, located at 205 S. Prairie Street in Greenville, is open Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, call the museum at 618-664-4115 or visit their website at www.demoulinmuseum.org.



Former Greenville resident Susan McCracken (White), as a child with her "daddy doll." The doll's uniform was made by DeMoulin Bros. and modeled after the uniform her father was wearing during World War II. It was her wish to see that this doll was donated to the DeMoulin Museum after her death. She passed away August 26, 2017 and the doll was shipped to the museum this past February, where it is now on permanent display.

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Low Carb Broccoli Gratin with Swiss and Parmesan



INGREDIENTS

8 cups fresh bite-size broccoli flowerets
 1 1/2 cups finely grated swiss cheese
 8 T mayo (use a combination of light and full-fat mayo if you prefer)
 1 1/2 T fresh squeezed lemon juice
 3/4 tsp. Dijon mustard
 fresh ground black pepper to taste
 3 T finely chopped green onions
 1/4 cup finely grated Parmesan cheese

DIRECTIONS

Blanch the broccoli just two minutes in boiling salted water, then drain well.

Mix together grated Swiss cheese, mayo, lemon juice, Dijon, and finely chopped green onion to make the cheese topping.

Put drained broccoli in a low-sided glass or crockery casserole dish, then spread the cheese topping over the top. Sprinkle the finely grated parmesan over the top.

Bake about 30 minutes, or a little longer if you like it well-browned. Serve hot.

Yield: Makes 8 servings

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 30-32 minutes

Total Time: 45-47 minutes

Follow My Fitness

For the Love of... Broccoli

BY TARA L. CALE

Thanksgiving will soon be here and if you're like me - and most people are I think - you will probably eat some things you that may have hidden fat, hidden calories or at least are not very healthy. But they sure taste good, don't they? And my problem is not what I eat that day, but also the next, and the next! I have a hard time not utilizing all leftovers, completely.

Eating healthy can taste good, and this Broccoli Gratin with Swiss and Parmesan recipe proves that. It's a great option for a low-carb Thanksgiving side dish, and may keep you from feeling so hungry for some of the other things that are hard to pass up.

Personally, I love broccoli with cheese anyway. Or broccoli and cauliflower with cheese. Green beans with cheese. Grilled

cheese... okay I love cheese! But I got side-tracked - this is about broccoli!

Broccoli Gratin with Swiss and Parmesan is both low-carb and gluten-free, so if you're looking for a more carb-conscious vegetable option for Thanksgiving, I think this recipe is perfect. I think this time I may even throw in some chopped onion and bacon, that sounds yummy doesn't it? Maybe some mushrooms...

Don't be shy to alter the basic recipe however you want to suit your taste. Just be aware of what you add, and the carbs, calories, etc that you are conscious of and how it changes the original recipe.

Happy Thanksgiving to all! 🐝

The BEST EVER Chocolate Pie

BY CHEF ANTHONY

Last month I told you about how macaroni and cheese was a staple at family gatherings (yes, I will be completing in the mac-n-cheese war this upcoming Thanksgiving with the recipe from last month), but there is another constant when we all get together. My Grandma's Chocolate Bishop Pie.

Originally this pie was a rare treat that we got only when we visited Grandma. And she lived in a different state, so once or twice a year was it. (She also always had mac-n-cheese, go figure!). I grew up thinking this was a sacred recipe that she developed herself. No one I knew, other than family, had ever tasted, or even heard of this pie. I never saw it served elsewhere. And even my own mother did not have the recipe. So yes, it was a very rare treat and we were in awe of Grandma for making it.

Then one day my mother announced that she had gotten this recipe from Grandma. And Glory Be, it's been at every family gathering since.

I have not met a single person that does not only like this pie, but can't wait until the meal is over so they can have a piece. Sure we will have pumpkin pie, sweet potato pie, maybe even some apple pie, at Thanksgiving. But I can guarantee there will be no less than two of Grandma's Chocolate Bishop's Pie, and most likely, at least four. Because if someone doesn't get a piece, they will not be happy. And we can't have that.

This recipe is how Grandma made it, homemade crust and all, but I am here to tell you, it is almost as good in store bought graham cracker crusts too. So give yourself a little break this year, buy the premade shells and make this pie! 🍪

Grandma's Chocolate Bishop's Pie



INGREDIENTS

CRUST

- 8 graham crackers, crushed
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

PIE

- 1 large box instant chocolate pudding
- 1 large box instant vanilla pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 1/2 gallon ice cream — chocolate or vanilla is fine, or get creative with chocolate chip or mint

TOPPING

- Cool Whip
- chocolate bar, for garnish

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. Mix together crushed graham crackers, sugar and butter in a medium bowl.

Grease a 9-inch glass pie plate and press the graham cracker mixture into the bottom of the plate and up the sides of the dish.

Bake crust for 5-8 minutes and set aside to cool. Turn oven off.

Once the crust is completely cooled, mix pudding and milk together. Start with half of the ice cream and incorporate, and continue to add until achieving a desired consistency. Pour into a crust and place in the refrigerator.

Let pie sit overnight, or about 8 hours. Once ready to serve, top with Cool Whip and shave a chocolate bar over the topping for garnish. Slice and serve cold.



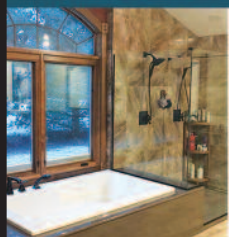
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Gettysburn Address Resonates 155 Years Later

Two Minute Oration Considered Among the Greatest Speeches in American History

BY TOM EMERY

Seldom have two minutes meant so much.

November 19 marks the anniversary of the Gettysburg Address, a two-minute oration that is considered among the greatest speeches in American history.

The address was part of ceremonies to dedicate a soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg, where the epic Civil War battle had been fought four months before, on July 1-3, 1863. Edward Everett, the Massachusetts politician and famous orator who had run against Lincoln in the 1860 election, was to deliver the main address.

The President's appearance was almost

an afterthought. On November 2, Gettysburg lawyer David Wills, who created the cemetery and organized the ceremony, invited Lincoln to add "a few appropriate thoughts."

Lincoln, two personal secretaries, and three Cabinet members took the train from Washington to Gettysburg the day before the ceremony, and the President spent the night in Wills' home.

Thursday, Nov. 19, 1863 proved warm and bright, and Lincoln led a procession to the cemetery, which contained only a third of its eventual 3,512 graves. The others had yet to be moved from their scattered burials

across the battlefield.

An audience of over 15,000 heard a stirring two-hour oration from Everett, followed by the President. In a mere 272 words and ten sentences, Lincoln summarized the meaning of the Civil War and why the war must be fought and won.

Lincoln began his address with the famous words "four score and seven years ago," or eighty-seven years, referring to the 1776 Declaration of Independence that he considered the basic document in American history. His oration is also cited for both its Biblical references and its moral tone.

"It was like a sermon," said Dr. Wayne Temple, a nationally respected Lincoln authority from Springfield, IL. "There was a definite religious tone to his words. In many ways, he spoke from the soul."

Contrary to popular myth, Lincoln did not scribble the speech on the back of an envelope on the train trip from Washington. An early draft was partially completed in the White House on executive mansion stationery. Lincoln wrote the remainder at Wills' house the night before the ceremony.

Some medical researchers believe Lincoln was on the cusp of a mild case of smallpox. He had complained of weakness on the train trip, and his personal secretary John Hay remembered Lincoln's face as "a ghastly color" during the address. He was sickly that evening and ill for several weeks afterward.

The President was also burdened by the sickness of his young son, Tad, in Washing-

ton. First Lady Mary Lincoln, remembering the loss of another Lincoln child the previous year, believed the President should skip the Gettysburg appearance in case he was needed at home. She sent periodic telegrams with updates on Tad's condition while her husband was in Gettysburg.

The audience response is debated. Some historians, such as Shelby Foote, label the reaction "barely polite." Other onlookers were unaware that the President's speech had even begun, and were surprised that it was finished.

However, many believe the speech was well-received, and that Lincoln quickly detected that reaction. Dr. James Cornelius, the former Curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, notes that the crowd showed its appreciation.

"There was a hesitation after he spoke, and that may have been partly due to the brevity of the address," said Cornelius. "But the audience clearly responded well. Reliable sources indicate there was a stomping of feet, cheers, and applause."

Also debated is Lincoln's opinion of his performance. Ward Hill Lamon, a former Lincoln bodyguard who was marshal for the event, wrote that the President told him afterward the speech "won't scour," a reference to plowing.

Cornelius, though, argues that the President had "obvious pride in the speech. The New York and Washington papers reprinted the speech in its entirety, and the response is reflected in the number of handwritten copies that were requested of Lincoln."

A total of five personal copies were requested. Everett was among them, writing Lincoln the next day that "I should be glad...if I came as near the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes." Everett's copy is held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield.

Reaction in the media was split along party lines. The Democratic *Chicago Times*, long a critic of the President, called the speech "silly, flat, and dishwatery." Others in the press were moved. The *Springfield (Mass.) Republican* declared it "a perfect gem," and the *Chicago Tribune* wrote the address "will live in the annals of man."

Today, most historians consider the Gettysburg Address one of Lincoln's two greatest orations, along with his second inaugural.

"Lincoln reminded people that the Union was worth fighting for," said Cornelius. "As his words said, a new birth of freedom was coming. The many who had died could not be allowed to die in vain, and those freed by the Emancipation Proclamation could not be allowed to taste freedom only briefly." 🐼

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and researcher from Carlinville. He may be reached at ilcivilwar@yahoo.com or 217-710-8392.



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Loss of Carl D. Bradley is One of Lake's Largest Shipwrecks

BY TOM EMERY

The most famous shipwreck in Great Lakes history is the loss of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* in 1975. Seventeen years before, another November storm also claimed a heralded freighter, with an even greater casualty total.

That was the wreck of the *Carl D. Bradley*, a 639-foot steamer that broke up in northern Lake Michigan amid brutal weather conditions on Nov. 18, 1958.

Only two of the ship's 35 men survived the sinking, which is one of the last great shipwrecks on the Lakes and the largest up to that time. Like so many other major wrecks on the Lakes, the *Bradley* went down on its last run of the season amid the infamous gales of November.

Launched in April 1927, the *Carl D. Bradley* was owned by U.S. Steel and hauled limestone for the Michigan Limestone & Chemical Company, based in Rogers City, Mich. Named for the late President of Michigan Limestone, the self-unloading freighter was the largest ship on the Lakes until 1949.

The *Bradley* drew a depth of 33 feet with a capacity of 14,000 tons of crushed stone. In 1929, the ship delivered a record cargo for the Lakes at the time, when it carried 18,114 tons of limestone - enough for three hundred rail cars - for deposit at Gary, IN.

Though the ship was the pride of the company and was one of the busiest on the Lakes, 1958 had proved a down year, as a labor dispute forced the *Bradley* out of commission for several weeks earlier in the season.

In addition, the ship had grounded twice in the previous year, incidents that both went unreported. The *Bradley* was scheduled to receive a new hull in the offseason in 1958 and apparently, it was overdue. Rumors

abounded that the ship was full of rust and had to keep the pumps on full volume.

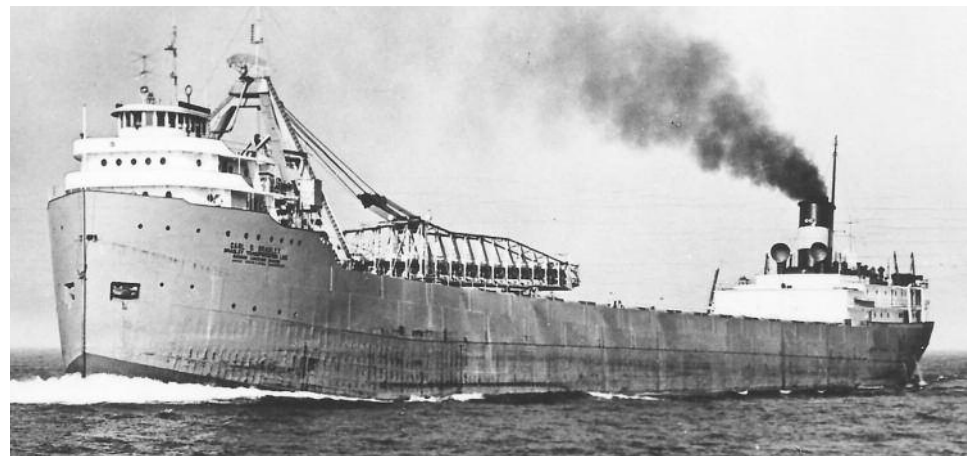
Even the captain, Roland Bryan, had concerns. In a letter to a lady friend, he wrote "this boat is getting too ripe for much weather," while in another letter, he penned "the hull is not good...have to nurse her along."

In mid-November, the *Bradley* made its final run of the season - or so the crew thought. The ship dropped a load of limestone at Gary and was sailing for dry dock and the scheduled repairs. The *Bradley* was mere hours from docking when Bryan received a call from the company, ordering one more run from Rogers City.

This last-minute directive annoyed the crewmen, who were worried that they may not make it home in time for Thanksgiving. But the *Bradley* carried out its mission, dropping off its cargo at Buffington, IN, on November 17. At 9:30 that evening, the *Bradley* cleared the Buffington harbor on the way back to Rogers City.

By then, the weather had severely deteriorated. A massive cold front was sweeping over the Upper Midwest, dropping temperatures in Chicago over 20 degrees on the seventeenth. At 4 p.m. on November 18, winds on Lake Michigan were gusting at 65, with waves topping forty feet.

Though the November 1958 storm was one of the worst on the Lakes in recent memory, the men of the *Bradley* were not concerned, as many had seen that kind of weather - or worse - before. Now empty against raging seas, the ship loaded its ballast tanks with 9,000 tons of water, hugged the Wisconsin shoreline for most of the trip north, and eventually turned deeper into Lake Michigan, nearing Gull Island in the archipelago on the north turn of the lake.



The wreck of the *Carl D. Bradley* claimed even more lives than the loss of the famous *Edmund Fitzgerald*. Only two of the 35 men manning the ship survived.

At 5:30 p.m. with the *Bradley* twelve miles southwest of Gull, First Mate Elmer Flemming radioed Rogers City, saying they expected to arrive around 2 a.m. He had barely uttered those words at 5:31 when a "loud thud" was heard, and the stern began to sag.

It was clear that the *Bradley* had suffered a major fracture, and was breaking up. Contact with the ship was lost at 5:45, only fourteen minutes later. Several cries of "Mayday" went out, and a voice, possibly that of Bryan, was heard in the background screaming for men to "run, grab life jackets."

Nearby, the 250-foot German freighter *Christian Sartori* tried to make it to the site, but the vicious seas forced a four-mile trip of ninety minutes. The captain of the *Sartori* later reported that he saw an explosion coming from the *Bradley*, likely the result of boilers that blew up when mixed with the cold lake water pouring into the dying ship.

The famed Coast Guard cutters *Sundew* and *Hollyhock* were also ordered out, but to little avail in the horrid conditions. The captain of the *Hollyhock* later compared the seven-hour run from Sturgeon Bay as "a visit to hell."

Four men from the *Bradley* managed to make it onto one life raft, and two of them perished before the tiny craft was found by

the *Sundew* at 8:37 a.m. the next morning. The two survivors, Flemming and 26-year-old deckhand Frank Mayes, reportedly had icicles in their hair.

Eighteen bodies were eventually recovered, and Rogers City, a small town of 3,873, was rocked by the tragedy. Mass funerals were held as the community tried to come to grips with the disaster.

Like many high-profile shipwrecks, the inquiry was controversial and convoluted. Though Mayes fervently repeated his story that the *Bradley* had ruptured, U.S. Steel denied his testimony and eventually fired him.

Adding to the discord was a finding by a California firm hired by U.S. Steel to survey the wreck, an effort that claimed the ship was in 375 feet of water in one piece. As a result, the inquiry, and succeeding media reports, claimed the ship was lost to "an act of God."

Some modern observers believe that had the inquiry concluded that the *Bradley* was in two pieces, U.S. Steel would have been accused of improper maintenance, with a much higher liability. The company settled with the victims' families for much less than they were asking.

In 1997, a dive confirmed Frank Mayes' version that the *Carl D. Bradley* had, in fact, broken in half. 🐼

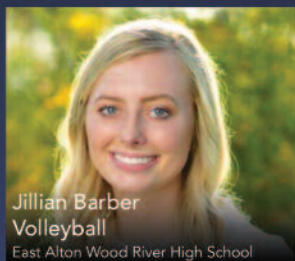
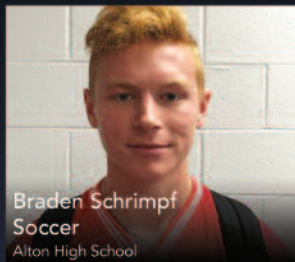
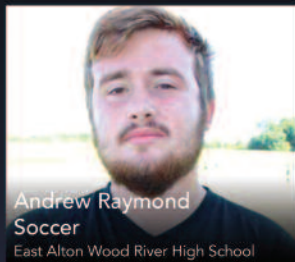
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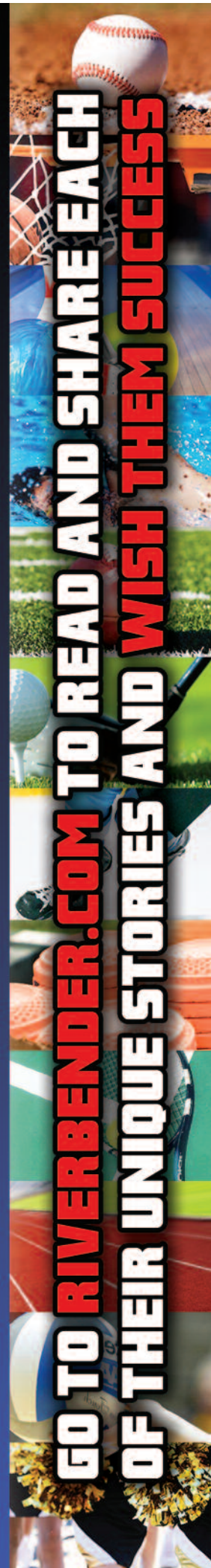
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Historic Building in Farmersville For Sale

With a rich, vibrant history and a recent upgrade, the Farmersville Opera House is ready and waiting to once again be a focal point for the community. From the early 1900s to the mid 1950s the building was used for everything from church and school activities to dances, variety shows and more. Some more seasoned Farmersville residents remember bands like the Jivin' Five and the Gifford Players being regulars at dances and wedding receptions held in the second floor stage area of the Opera House. Believed to have been built around 1900, this is the time Farmersville became a sort of boom-town when the coal mine opened. Opera Houses were frequently erected in small towns during this era, however the stone with "Opera House" engraved on Farmersville's building

Until 2011 when a group of Farmersville residents began a common quest to revive the old building, it had stood virtually still and worn by time. The Farmersville Revitalization Committee, comprised of Rose Cawthon, Mary Jane Schmidt and Teresa Todt, made it their mission to save and restore the old building. The committee held numerous fundraisers and applied for

and received a grant from the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation. Many generous donors contributed and the village board helped as well. All dollars raised went to give the old building a facelift.

A new roof and gutters were installed, brick work, including tuck pointing was completed and new windows installed, including store fronts. Today, the building is totally secure.

Located on the north side of the village square, the building is owned by the Village of Farmersville. They are currently in the process of accepting sealed bids. Bids can be submitted to: Farmersville Village Clerk, P.O. Box 265, Farmersville, IL 62533 or for additional information, anyone is welcome to attend a village board meeting, held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Farmersville Town Hall. (If Monday falls on a holiday, the meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of the month.) For interested individuals who wish to view the building, arrangements can be made by calling 217-341-5783.

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Town Wide Small Business Saturday Planned for Taylorville

BY TARA L. CALE

A local event planner has taken the bull by the horns to organize the first ever Town Wide Small Business Saturday event for her hometown of Taylorville.

Megan Dain Weddings and Events is the force behind this effort to get people to Taylorville for a festive shopping bonanza. There are over 60 businesses already on board and 25 vendors participating in this special event to be held Saturday, November 30, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

A scavenger hunt and walking bingo are planned to get shoppers to as many as the participating businesses as possible, and each business will also have their own individual celebration at their store. This may

include refreshments, special drawings for door prizes, special sales and more.

Headquarters for the event are at US Bank, located at 108 W. Market Street. This is where you can pick up your shopping maps, bingo cards and selfie scavenger hunt details. Vendors, including Megan Dain Weddings and Events, will also be set up at the bank.

Rosati's Pizza at 114 W. Market Street will feature vendors upstairs and offer free appetizers, while supplies last.

"The businesses of Taylorville are thrilled and excited that Megan took it upon herself to get this ball rolling," commented Sheila Yost, owner of Cottage Rose Gift

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Shopee in Taylorville, of the many businesses participating. "There are so many specialty shops here in town that have been combining forces to help Taylorville be recognized as a 'shopping destination', and this event is really going to reinforce that concept."

Although a lot of planning has already been done, and much of the event is confirmed and in place, the event is still growing with more businesses and special happenings being added frequently. Stay updated by joining their event page at [Facebook.com/events/2694040537281891](https://www.facebook.com/events/2694040537281891).

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Brothers from Whitehall Both Played Major League Baseball

BY TOM EMERY

Over 400 sets of brothers have played Major League Baseball, including such famous names as DiMaggio, Aaron, Alou, and Niekro. A pair of brothers from Greene County are among them.

Monte and Chappie McFarland, who were both born in White Hall, made it to the majors around the turn of the century, the highlight of their respective careers in professional baseball. Monte briefly pitched for the franchise that became the Chicago Cubs, while Chappie was part of the starting rotation for the St. Louis Cardinals.

The elder of the two was Monte, born Lamont Amos McFarland on Nov. 7, 1872. A 5'10, 175-pound righthander, he broke into pro ball in 1895 and that September, started two games for the Chicago Colts. The franchise was renamed the Cubs in 1903. McFarland picked up complete-game wins in both starts for the Colts, who were fourth in the twelve-team National League at 72-58.

Monte also made four appearances, with three starts, in 1896 for the Colts, who finished fifth at 71-57. However, he took the loss in every appearance, finishing 0-4 with an adjusted ERA of 9.00. Control was clearly an issue, as he gave up 21 walks in 25 innings against only three strikeouts.

It would prove to be his last major-league action. Monte spent the rest of his career in the minors, spending part of the 1901 campaign and all of the 1902 season at Class A. The current designations of Class AAA, AA, A, and rookie level began in 1963. In earlier days, leagues were classified in descending order as AA, A, B, C, and

D. From 1903-05, McFarland served as a player-manager with the Decatur franchise in the Class B Three-I League, one of the top minor league circuits of the Midwest. Afterward, he was player-manager for Three-I franchises in Dubuque (1906) and Clinton, Iowa (1907).

Bill Kemp, librarian/archivist of the McLean County Historical Museum in Bloomington, has extensively studied the Three-I.

"The league was one of the more stable and longer-running of the low minor leagues," he said. "It was not uncommon for the better players in the league to make the jump straight to the major leagues." Monte's last pro action was with the Clinton, Illinois franchise of the Class D Illinois-Missouri League in 1910. That season, he may have played against Jacksonville, a league member that year. Monte McFarland later was an umpire in the Class D Wisconsin-Illinois League, and died at age 41 from pneumonia in Peoria on Nov. 15, 1913. He is buried in White Hall Cemetery.

Meanwhile, his younger brother Chappie, who was born Charles Amos McFarland on March 13, 1875, was carving his own career in pro ball. An Illinois College product, the 6'1 righthander made his pro debut with the Dubuque franchise of the Class B Western Association in 1898. During the 1901 season and for part of the next year, he was also in the Three-I, with Cedar Rapids.

Chappie first appeared in the majors with the Cardinals in September 1902, pitching in two games. He was a regular in the St.



The White Hall baseball team in 1896. Monte McFarland is in the back row on the far right. Chappie McFarland is in the front row, far right.

Louis rotation in 1903, with 25 complete games in 26 starts as he logged 228 innings and fashioned a 3.07 ERA.

However, the Cardinals of that era were a laggard, low-income franchise, and did not sustain any success until executive Branch Rickey developed a farm system, the first of its kind, in the 1920s. In 1903, St. Louis finished dead last at 43-94 with a weak-hitting lineup that gave Chappie very little support, forcing him to settle for a 9-19 record.

The Cardinals improved to 75-79 in 1904 and Chappie's record went with it. He was 14-18 with a 3.21 ERA in 269.1 innings, picking up 28 complete games in 31 starts while fanning a career-high 111. But St. Louis slid back to a 58-96 mark in 1905 despite Chappie's best efforts. He was 8-18 with a 3.81 ERA and 22 complete games in 28 starts, logging 250.1 innings.

Chappie ultimately split the 1906 season between three franchises, St. Louis, Pitts-





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burgh, and Brooklyn, which was then named the "Superbas" in an era before their legendary Dodgers run. In all, he saw action in only 13 games with a 3-5 record and a 2.87 ERA.

His last major league appearance was with Brooklyn that August 7. In his career, Chappie appeared in 106 major league games with a 34-61 record and a 3.35 ERA.

Much of the rest of his career was spent in the minors at the Class C level. He spent the entire 1908 season and part of 1909, his last year in pro ball, with the Houston franchise of the Texas League.

Chappie ultimately settled in Houston and opened the city's first vaudeville theater. He later managed three movie houses in the city and was also the proprietor of a hotel. Despite controversies of the era, he continued to show movies starring comedian Fatty Arbuckle, much to the chagrin of the city's Board of Censors.

He lived in one of the city's fine neighborhoods and was playing golf at a local country club on Dec. 14, 1924 when he suffered a fatal heart attack at age 49. Chappie McFarland is buried in Houston.




Brothers are the most common family combinations in baseball history. By comparison, some 240 father-son combinations have played in the majors, while there are five families who have sent three generations to the big leagues. Twenty-one sets of grandfathers and grandsons have played major league baseball. 🐝

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Nativity Walk 4-9 @ United Methodist Church

Hall of Trees 4-9 @ Sacred Heart Catholic Church -
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Christmas Story Time 6:30 pm @ Sly Fox Bookstore

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Before and After the Parade

13th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade 7:30 pm

Santa Arrives After the Parade @ The Community Center
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SATURDAY • DEC 7TH

Breakfast with Santa 9-11 am @ Virden Firehouse

Cookie Walk 9 am @ Sacred Heart Catholic Church
(cinnamon rolls available too!)

Kids Christmas Rock Quest 9-3 (Sure you found them all?)

Christmas Market 9-2 @ Virden Community Center
and First Baptist Church

Nativity Walk 9-2 - United Methodist Church

Hall of Trees 9-3 - Sacred Heart Catholic Church
(Bidding ends at 2 pm)

Lunch Served 11 am @ United Methodist
Church (Nativity Walk) and First Baptist Church
(Christmas Market)

Lincoln's Proclamation Made Thanksgiving Official

BY TOM EMERY

The first Thanksgiving is often associated with the Pilgrims. Over two centuries later, President Lincoln was the first to make it official.

The official designation of 1863 is the most lasting of the nine proclamations for a day of thanks issued by Lincoln during his presidency.

The idea of a thanksgiving was nothing new. On Oct. 3, 1789, George Washington had issued a proclamation for a day of thanksgiving, scheduled for November 26 of that year. It had been celebrated on various days throughout the nation, as many states had their own designations.

"Thanksgiving had much of its actual origins in religious proclamations by bishops," said Dr. James Cornelius, the former Curator of the Lincoln Collection at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. "Forms of thanksgiving had been celebrated throughout much of New England, and continued through colonial times."

The impetus for an official national day of Thanksgiving came from Sarah Josepha Hale, the 74-year-old editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, a popular women's magazine. Hale had written to several previous presidents asking for such a holiday, to no avail.

On Sept. 28, 1863, she wrote Lincoln, urging him to declare "a day of our annual Thanksgiving made a National and fixed Union festival." Noting "an increasing interest felt in our land to have Thanksgiving held on the same day, in all the states... it now needs national recognition and authoritative fixation, only, to become permanently an American custom and institution."

Lincoln had actually made several Thanksgiving proclamations during his administration. On Nov. 28, 1861, he had ordered all government departments to shut down for a local day of thanksgiving, and he requested national days of "humiliation, prayer, and fasting" on multiple occasions. Lincoln also proclaimed thanksgiving for "signal victories" in the Union war effort in April 1862 and another remembrance on Aug. 6, 1863.

On Oct. 3, 1863, Lincoln heeded Hale's call. He issued his own proclamation, declaring the last Thursday in November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise." In 1863, that date would have also been Nov. 26.

"It was not only the anniversary of Washington's proclamation, but it also fell on the same day of the week," said Cornelius. "There's a sense of history in Lin-



Many credit Lincoln as the first President to ceremoniously pardon a turkey, now an annual White House tradition. Lincoln pardoned the bird at the behest of his young son Tad in 1864.

coln's effort."

The words were actually penned by Secretary of State William Seward, and the original draft was later sold to benefit Union soldiers. To be sure, the proclamation was certainly heavy with military reference. Passages such as "in the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity" and "the advancing armies and navies of the Union" called to light the national tragedy of the war.

Still, 1863 had been productive for the North, with key victories at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and elsewhere. "There was reason to celebrate the progress of the war," said Cornelius. "Those were important victories, and Lincoln wanted to remember them."

Scholars have long debated the extent of Lincoln's Christianity, but the 1863 proclamation makes repeated religious references. Phrases as the "watchful providence of Almighty God," "the gracious gifts of the Most High God," "our beneficent Father," and "the Almighty Hand" are sprinkled throughout the document.

"Lincoln saw the day as an appropriate time to give national gratitude for God's plan and goodness," said Dr. Cullom Davis, a nationally recognized Lincoln scholar

from Springfield. "It was yet another reason to be thankful."

"To top it off, the year of 1863 brought a pretty good harvest," remarked Cornelius. "Lincoln saw plenty of reasons to celebrate, and they are all summarized in the Thanksgiving proclamation. References to historical tribute, the military, religion, and agriculture are all found in the document."

The first official Thanksgiving Day in 1863 would bring even more reason for the North to celebrate. On Nov. 25, the day before, Union troops earned an important victory at Chattanooga. The holiday was exactly a week after Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg Address.

Many also credit Lincoln as the first President to ceremoniously pardon a turkey, now an annual White House tradition. Lincoln pardoned the bird at the behest of his young son Tad in 1864.

In 1941, Congress authorized a resolution that switched Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to the fourth Thursday of the month. 🦃

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and researcher from Carlinville. He may be reached at ilcivilwar@yahoo.com or 217-710-8392.



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Civil War Soldiers Celebrated Thanksgiving in the Field

BY TOM EMERY

As in most wars, the men of the Civil War found it excruciatingly difficult to be away from loved ones at holiday time. Thanksgiving was no exception.

The holiday itself has its roots in the Civil War. The first official proclamation declaring Thanksgiving as a national day of remembrance was issued by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, partly in honor of Northern successes in the war that year. Lincoln designated the last Thursday in November “as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise.”

That year, Thanksgiving fell on the day after a crucial Union victory at the battle of Chattanooga. The previous year in late November, armies were on the march during the Fredericksburg and Vicksburg campaigns. Around Thanksgiving 1864, some Union forces were on the cusp of the bloody battle of Franklin, while others were marching to the sea with William T. Sherman.

Due to their harsh surroundings, many Civil War men in the field enjoyed only the most spartan of celebrations. In Kewanee, Illinois, teenage sisters Tirzah and Sarah Vaill received a letter from their older brother, an Illinois infantryman, after Thanksgiving 1861 that described his holiday meal, “hard bread” and salt pork. He added that “during the day I thought of you at home having your nice dinners” and “wishing maybe that you might present a plate to some of us soldiers filled with your own goodies.”

From his camp in Virginia that same year, Private Zebina Bickford of the 6th Vermont Infantry made the best of his day. In a letter home, he mused that “you may think we are homesick today but it is not so,” mainly because of a care package sent from loved ones back in Vermont. The goodies consisted of “a box of clothing and a few nicknacks consisting of eatables” that made “a very good thanksgiving for us.”

With tongue in cheek, he wrote that “you can’t imagine what a lot of fine things we had for supper...a piece of sour bread and salt pork.” However, he gleefully noted that “some of mother’s cookies and doughnuts that came in our box” made the evening memorable. It would be Bickford’s last Thanksgiving, as he died the following April 30.

The following year, Asa Bean, a doctor in the 114th Ohio, enjoyed greater tidings. On Nov. 27, 1862, he wrote that “there has been a surprise party here today for the benefit of soldiers and nurses.” The feast included “roast turkey, chicken, pigeon, and oysters stewed” along with “baked chicken, boiled potatoes, turnip, apple butter, and cheese butter.” Bean, though, lamented that he “cannot eat much without being sick.”

He, too, would die months later.

Elsewhere that year, Federal soldiers stationed at Fort Pulaski, Ga. held their own “fete and festival.” The day’s events included target practice and a rowing match, foot race, and hurdle sack race. Competitions involving a greased pole and a greased pig were also on the agenda, as was a “burlesque dress parade.”

In some cases, Thanksgiving was a time of spiritual reflection. On the first official installment of the holiday in 1863, Sewell Van Alstine, a soldier in the 95th Illinois, wrote in his diary that he “went to town” and “heard an excellent discourse by an army chaplain at the Presbyterian Church.” He also wrote there was “no drill today,” a welcome respite.

In 1864, the Union League Club of New York City pleaded for donations of “cooked poultry and other proper meats” as well as “mince pies, sausages, and fruits” for men in the field. The call brought in some \$57,000 in cash donations, as well as nearly 225,000 pounds of poultry and large quantities of cakes, gingerbread, pickles, apples, vegetables, and cheese. One appreciative soldier saw the deeper meaning, writing that “it isn’t the turkey, but the idea that we care for.”

Others received far less. That year, Lewis Crater of the 50th Pennsylvania recorded in his diary that the Sanitary Commission “issued three fine apples to every man.” Despite the middling fare, Crater and others likely gave thanks that they had survived to see another Thanksgiving during the four bloodiest years in American history.

Tom Emery is a freelance writer and historical researcher from Carlinville, Ill. He may be reached at ilcivilwar@yahoo.com or 217-710-8392.

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Monticello Alum Akins Was Famous Playwright, Screenwriter

Won Pulitzer for Drama in 1935

BY TOM EMERY

Monticello College in Godfrey produced a string of prominent alumni, including Zoe Akins, who gained fame as a playwright and screenwriter. A Pulitzer Prize winner, she also wrote one of the best epitaphs of all time - for herself.

Akins is credited with some 40 plays, including seventeen that became Broadway productions, with several hits. Her scripts became the basis of movies that featured the likes of Katharine Hepburn, Lauren Bacall, Clark Gable, and Betty Grable.

Born on Oct. 30, 1886 in the western Missouri town of Humansville, Akins was a distant descendant of George Washington, among others. Her father was a chairman of the Missouri Republican Party.

The family moved to St. Louis when Akins was a teenager and she later attended Monticello, where she wrote her first play. She subsequently studied at Hosmer Hall prep school in St. Louis, where she was a classmate of acclaimed poet Sara Teasdale. At one point, she reportedly lived

briefly in Morrisonville, in Christian County.

Immediately after her graduation from Hosmer in 1903, Akins became an active writer, producing plays, poetry, and critical works for magazines and newspapers. In 1914, she created her first dramatic work, the play *Papa*, which failed but caught the eye of such luminaries as H.L. Mencken.

In 1919, she had a hit with the play *Declasse*, which starred Ethel Barrymore and ran for 257 performances on Broadway, then a high number. One modern critic called the play "something of a sensation, and her days of waiting were over."

Declasse was later adapted into a 1925 movie that included a young Clark Gable in a minor role. It was one of several film adaptations for Akins, including *The Greeks Had a Word for It*, a 1930 Broadway hit comedy that lasted 253 performances and became a 1932 movie that film critic Leonard Maltin called a "vintage comedy."

The play also became the basis for the

1953 film *How to Marry a Millionaire*, featuring Bacall, Grable, and Marilyn Monroe.

Hepburn's first two films were Akins productions in 1933, including *Christopher Strong*, which Maltin called "intriguing," and *Morning Glory*, lauded by Maltin as a "lovely film" with a "good cast" and a "sharp script." Hepburn won her first Academy Award for Best Actress for *Morning Glory*, which was later remade as the movie *Stage Struck* in 1958, with Henry Fonda and Susan Strasberg.

In 1935, Akins wrote *The Old Maid*, a melodrama set in New York City that won critical acclaim and ran for 305 performances on Broadway. The work earned her the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, and was made into a 1939 movie with Bette Davis in the lead. Maltin called the film "soap opera par excellence."

Akins was a co-writer for the 1937 screenplay *Camille*, starring Greta Garbo and Lionel Barrymore. Labeled a "beautiful MGM production" by Maltin, Garbo received her third Academy Award nomination.

In the 1950s, Akins was credited with several television episodes, mainly screenplays and theatrical works adapted for the small screen. She is the great-aunt of actress Laurie Metcalf, a two-time Tony recipient and three-time Primetime Emmy winner.

Akins died in her sleep in Los Angeles on Oct. 29, 1958, the day before her 72nd birthday. For her tombstone in nearby San



Gabriel Cemetery, she wrote her own epitaph, which remains a classic in its own right. 🕯️

She loved
Shakespeare's sonnets
Paris bonnets
Country walks,
All-night talks,
Old trees and places
Children's faces
Shaw and Keats,
Opera seats,
Lonely prairies,
Tea at Sherry's,
Sunlight and air,
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Mississippi and Missouri Meanderings

Bob Gill, long time Sierra Club member and highly recognized regional nature photographer, will be the featured speaker at the November Speaker Series for the Sierra Club. The meeting will be held at the Old Bakery Beer Company, 400 Landmarks Blvd on Monday, November 11.

Bob notes that "... the rivers have had their natural flows disrupted by dams to favor commercial navigation. They have served as sewers for numerous industries and their spring floods can lead to massive economic destruction."

This highly-visual multimedia presentation will provide an overview of our two

great rivers, exploring the history, geography, and environmental quality of each. Using maps, satellite photos, diagrams and exceptional photographs, it will reflect on how our relationship with these two waterways has changed over the years and will take a look at the problems facing them in the future.

Attendees and friends are invited to have dinner and meet the speaker at 6:30 p.m. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Event Room, adjacent to the dining room.

If you have any questions call or text Chris Krusa at 410-490-5024.

About the Sierra Club Illinois Chapter Piasa Palisades Group:

Lying at the confluence of the Mississippi, Missouri, and Illinois rivers, the Piasa Palisades region of downstate Illinois is a unique ecosystem that contains the beautiful oak-hickory forests of Pere Marquette State Park, the historic Great River Road Scenic Byway, and rich riverine floodplains. Wintering bald eagles roost along the forested limestone bluffs of the Mississippi River while endangered yellow-crowned night herons nest in this area's fertile wetlands.

Unfortunately, this region is part of the St. Louis metropolitan area, putting critical wetland and floodplain habitat at risk from encroaching urban sprawl. Subdivisions and shopping centers now outnumber contiguous forests, industrial farming poses a growing threat to water quality and natural resources, and polluting industries harm the region's air quality.

The Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club has been active in Madison, Jersey, and Calhoun counties for the past 42 years. With more than 700 local members, an established network of activists led by a devoted nine-member executive committee, and positive working relationships with local administrative decision-makers, this group has long been an environmental leader in downstate Illinois. Through its Three Rivers Project, the Piasa Palisades Group has spent the past eleven years work-



Bob Gill

ing to successfully protect this region from sprawl, unsustainable agriculture, air and water pollution, wetlands destruction, and deforestation.

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Are you concerned about environmental issues in Madison and surrounding counties? Then, you may want to join us! The Sierra Club is involved in numerous conservation efforts in the River Bend region. We hold monthly educational meetings about environmental topics and offer local outdoor outings that anyone can participate in. We are also active in issues that affect our community such as air and water quality, land use, and forest issues.

For more information visit the website at www.sierraclub.org/illinois/piasapalisades.

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Across

1. Flower
5. Green sauce
10. Appends
14. Got it! (2 wds.)
15. Revolutionary ____ Allen
16. Ship's personnel
17. She, in Seville
18. Diamond substitute
20. Salmon eggs
21. Helsinki native
22. Unattached
23. Spicy dish
25. Bright red
27. Subsequently
29. Defraud
31. Surrounded by
33. Common conjunction
34. Norse tale
38. Urban air pollution

39. Swarm
41. Gator's cousin
42. Hue
43. Before, to poets
44. Shudder
46. Bum
48. Ridiculous
49. Kind of dog
53. Hurried
55. Hawk's weapon
56. Not there
57. Bother
60. Eliminate completely
63. Sad
64. Bullring cheers
65. Must, slangily
66. Different
67. Completed
68. Minds

Down

69. Yule song
1. Fishing spot
2. Norway's capital
3. Choice
4. Favorable vote
5. Hazard
6. Cultural
7. Leg part
8. Basker's desire
9. First number
10. Role player
11. Salivate excessively
12. Compact
13. Sugary
19. Bed support
21. Evergreens
24. Bushy fence
25. Export
26. Military student
27. Endure
28. Military supplies
30. Sultan's wives
32. Yonder
34. Play part
35. Armored mammal
36. Hoodlum
37. Farm measure
40. Vocal
45. Chinese staple
46. Shade
47. "____ Woman"
49. Endured
50. Artist ____ Picasso
51. Woody or Tim
52. Din
54. Regions
56. Despise
58. Pretense
59. Boat bottom
61. Self
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Saturday, Dec. 7, 11am - 5pm

Participants will visit local businesses to collect a variety of chocolates, enjoy caroling on the downtown streets, horse drawn trolley ride and meet Santa and Mrs. Claus at Grove Memorial Park from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Santa's Chocolate Express will begin at Drifter's Restaurant on the west end of Main Street. Tickets are required for this event and include free shuttle service, a complimentary treat at each participating business, and a holiday shopping bag with a small selection of chocolates and a holiday wine glass.

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 Beds: 4 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 1,602

\$214,900
 109 Birch St
 Bethalto, IL 62010
 Beds: 5 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 1,604

\$129,900
 2609 Mariana Dr
 Godfrey, IL 62035
 Beds: 3 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 1,276

Matt Horn
 Cell: 618-560-8201
 Office: 618-466-1513

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\$695,000
 1401 Kemp Lane
 Godfrey, IL 62035
 Beds: 6 | Baths: 5 | Sq.Ft.: 3,151

\$575,000
 10850 Lockhaven Estates
 Godfrey, IL 62035
 Beds: 3 | Baths: 4 | Sq.Ft.: 3,459

\$550,000
 10760 Lockhaven
 Godfrey, IL 62035
 Beds: 4 | Baths: 4 | Sq.Ft.: 3,203

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 lisa.webb@exprealty.com

<p>\$234,500 2624 Beacon Point Shiloh, IL 62221 Beds: 3 Baths: 2 Sq.Ft.: 1,518</p>	<p>\$224,900 973 Riverview Dr Golden Eagle, IL 62036 Beds: 3 Baths: 3 Sq.Ft.: 1,620</p>	<p>\$69,900 3001 Sunbury Ave Granite City, IL 62040 Beds: 3 Baths: 1 Sq.Ft.: 864</p>
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<p>\$170,000 8003 Godfrey Rd Godfrey, IL 62035 Farm Land</p>	<p>\$90,000 0 Seminary Rd Alton, IL 62002 Residential Lot</p>	<p>\$115,000 833 Lincoln Hwy Fairview Heights, IL 62208 Commercial</p>
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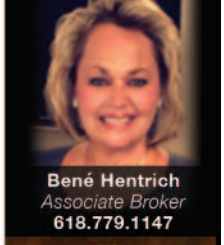
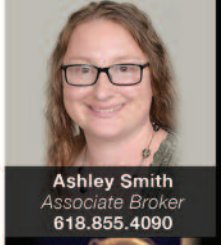
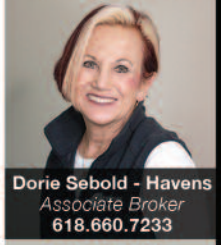
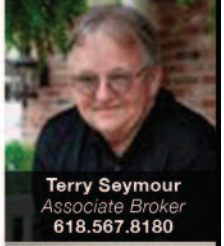
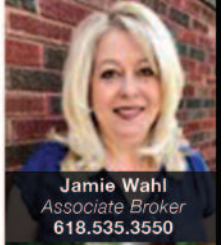
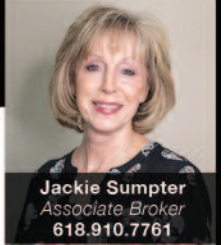
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Broker Owner
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Amy Hillery
Associate Broker
618.520.9850



Cheri Horn
Associate Broker
618.791.5933



Cheryl Halter
Associate Broker
720.480.7480



Sharron Lovato
Associate Broker
618.410.8782



Nancy Crane
Broker
435.773.7800



\$699,000
442 E 12th
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 7 | Baths: 8 | Sq.Ft.: 7,105



\$425,000
5347 Richland Woods Dr
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 4 | Baths: 4 | Sq.Ft.: 3,757



\$297,000
6911 Ivy Lane
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 4 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 2,188



\$189,500
1903 Arrowhead Lane
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 3 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 2,604



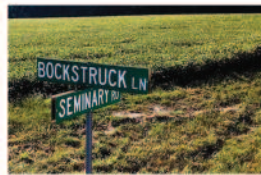
\$219,900
3766 Basse Terre Ct
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 4 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 1,142



\$695,000
1401 Kemp Lane
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 6 | Baths: 5 | Sq.Ft.: 3,151



\$385,000
26582 Lockhaven Hill Rd
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 3 | Baths: 4 | Sq.Ft.: 2,526



\$520,000
2900 Bockstruck
Alton, IL 62002
40 acre lot



\$345,000
7205 Montclair
Godfrey, IL 62035
Commercial



\$219,900
120 Windward Pl
Alton, IL 62002
CONDO
Beds: 3 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 1,970



\$595,000
5777 Schmidt Rd
Brighton, IL 62012
Beds: 3 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 3,459



\$129,900
128 Donna
Hartford, IL 62048
Beds: 3 | Baths: 1 | Sq.Ft.: 1,596



\$285,000
31657 Red Oak Dr
Brighton, IL 62012
Beds: 3 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 1,727



\$249,000
1520 Liberty St
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 4 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 2,910



\$219,000
1700 Central Ave
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 5 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 4,015



\$575,000
10850 Lockhaven Estates
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 3 | Baths: 4 | Sq.Ft.: 3,459



\$305,000
31724 Springman Ct
Brighton, IL 62012
Beds: 5 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 2,060



\$279,000
1702 Blu Fountain Ct
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 5 | Baths: 5 | Sq.Ft.: 3,200



\$231,500
728 Ramona Pl
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 4 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 2,521



\$195,000
5400 Dixon Dr
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 6 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 2,212



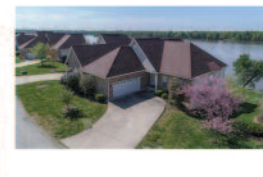
\$139,900
97 Rosewood Ln
East Alton, IL 62024
Beds: 3 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 1,056



\$298,500
1712 Aster Lane
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 4 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 2,400



\$120,000
667 Monaco
Edwardsville, IL 62025
0.57 acre lot



\$229,900
175 Brickyard Dr
Golden Eagle, IL 62036
Beds: 3 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 1,600



\$189,900
520 E 4th St
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 3 | Baths: 3 | Sq.Ft.: 2,233



Steve Atkins
Associate Broker
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Devin Outman
Associate Broker
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Julie Smith
Associate Broker
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Bjaye Greer
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Don Hellrung
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618.830.2405



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Associate Broker
618.917.6764



Jerry Stubblefield
Associate Broker
618.980.0963

DECATUR COIN AND JEWELRY

Father Daughter Team Treasures Common Bond

Bennie Strumpher has had a passion for coins since a young age.

"I became interested in them when I was about 10 years old," he said. "My dad worked at a coal mine and he came home with a sock full of coins - they paid him in silver dollars. So he laid the coins out on the table. They were pretty, and I fell in love with them."

From sorting through silver dollars in a bank vault as a child, to traveling along the trade show circuit with his family as an adult, Strumpher's love affair with coins helped guide his life.

In 2007 he found a place for that love to take root when he bought Decatur Coin and Jewelry, a business that has been located at 104 N. Main Street in downtown Decatur since 1972.

But Bennie Strumpher isn't the only Strumpher with an affinity for coins. His daughter, Samantha, happily followed in his footsteps.

"I went to a lot of coin shows with my dad," she said. "I'd take coins around to dealers and sell them for him. I'd leave with a box full of coins and I'd come back with a hand full of checks or cash."

"She was really little, probably 10 or 12 then," Bennie added.

And she's been by her father's side at Decatur Coin and Jewelry since the very beginning, mostly handling the vintage costume jewelry that customers bring in.

"I love being with my dad and experiencing with him daily the passion he has for this place, and that's helped me create as well," she said.

Handling everything from coins, pocket watches and vintage paper money, to costume, gold and silver jewelry, Bennie and Samantha believe it's their ethics and service that makes their business stand out from others.

"We are a 'pay-it-forward' organization," Bennie said. "If you have something worth a lot of money, we are going to offer you a lot of money, about 90 percent on the dollar. We have paid out over 17 million dollars to people just like you over the past few years." "We are professional numismatists and travel the coin show circuit buying investor grade coins that we seldom encounter here at the shop," he added. "We 'know' where the value is and many of our long

term clients have become wealthy by paying for our experienced eyes. High eye appeal coins we sold just a few years ago for a couple of hundred dollars are worth thousands of dollars today."

Bennie and Samantha are staying busy, enjoying their customers, and enjoying their work.

"I don't have to work. I do this because I enjoy it," Bennie said. "I could have retired a long time ago, but I've been doing this for 40 years and I hope to keep doing it as long as my eyes and health are good."

"I love what I do," Samantha agreed. "I love all the jewelry, and the coins too."

Decatur Coin and Jewelry is located at 104 N. Main Street in Decatur. Store hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, except on Thursdays when they remain open until 7 p.m. They are closed on the weekend, for all major holidays and from 1-1:30 p.m. for lunch. You can find out more by calling 217-899-4346 or 217-423-0041, by visiting www.DecaturCoinandJewelry.com or find them on Facebook.



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FRI, DEC 6 - SAT, DEC 7
REFRESHMENTS & GIVEAWAYS

NOVEMBER EVENTS



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

IMPACT Center for Independent Living offers Low Vision and Blind Support Group meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 10 am to noon at the Jerseyville Public Library. IMPACT can help you achieve or maintain your independence through many of our programs, www.jerseyvillelibrary.org.

Story Time every Monday and Tuesday at 10 am, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Little Me Story Time, every Monday 10:30-11 am, Pat Huck Community Room at Tri-Township Public Library 209 S. Main St, Troy. For parents and children up to 3 years old. Simple finger games, songs and exercise, www.troylibrary.org.

Pinochle played every Monday, 12-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main St, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo every Monday - doors open at 5:30, bingo starts at 7 pm. Food and drink available. VFW Post 3912, 215 W. Ryder, Litchfield.

Story Time, 7 pm, every Monday night, Six Mile Regional Library—Training & Events Room, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

Spanish/English Bilingual Story Time (Cuentos Bilingües), 7 pm, 1st Monday of every month @ Six Mile Regional Library—Training and Events Room, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

Emotions Anonymous meets every Monday night at 8 pm at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 504 North 7th St, New Douglas. Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason. Contact Larry, madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities Collinsville-Troy from 7:30-9 am at the Gateway Convention Center, 1 Gateway Dr, Collinsville. The mission of the CEO class is to prepare our youth to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs or entrepreneurial thinkers and contribute to the economic development and sustainability of the Collinsville-Troy Area. Contact Donna Green to RSVP at 618-402-9353.

Quilting, 9-11 am, every Tuesday at Jarvis Township Senior Citizens Center, 410 Wickliffe St., Troy. Quilting for all, beginners through seasoned, www.troymaryvillecoc.com.

Story Time every Monday and Tuesday at 10 am, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Preschool Story Time every Tuesday, 10-10:30 am, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Themed stories and a craft, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Bingo played every Tuesday, 1-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Pokeno, 1 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Open Gaming, 4-7 pm, Community Room, Ground Floor, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Video game system available for public use, request a game be put in or bring your own (no "M" rated games), www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

America Reads Tutor, 4-8 pm, every Tuesday @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Tutor available for students K-12 grade, 1 hour sessions, first come/first served basis, www.smrlld.org.

Lego Club, 5-7 pm, every Tuesday @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Grades K-5th, www.smrlld.org.

Emotions Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 6 pm at the Louis Latzer Library, 1001 9th Street, Highland. (Contact Jackie at 618-654-9351 or email: 16bjschu@email) and at 6 pm at the Locust Street Resource Center in Carlinville (Contact Larry, madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560). Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason.

Tabletop Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Grades 7-12 can learn how to play RPG's and board games in the new gaming series, www.smrlld.org.

Troy Women's Association Meeting, 7-8 pm, Troy Community Center, 410 Wickliffe St, Troy. Held the 1st Tuesday of each month. You're invited to attend a meeting and see if TWA is right for you, www.troymaryvillecoc.com or call 618-667-2022.

Square Dancing, 7-9 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Slappers County & Western Dance Club, 7 pm every Tuesday, Tri-Cities Knights of Columbus Hall, 4225 Old Alton Rd, Granite City. For information call 618-877-4250.

TUESDAY, NOV 5-SATURDAY, NOV 9

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 10-5 daily, The Wooden Flower, 1111 Spesser, Taylorville. 20% off storewide (excludes cemetery, furniture and already discounted items), and more, www.thewoodenflower.com.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Duplicate Bridge played every Wednesday, 9 am-12 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Southwestern Illinois College Job Fair, 9 am-12 pm @ the Belleville Campus in the Varsity Gym. Open to all. Call 618-222-5562 for info.

Volunteer Days, 9 am-12 pm, Willoughby Farm, 631 Willoughby Lane, Collinsville, held every Wednesday. Bring your work gloves, water bottle, and positive attitude and help University of Illinois Master Gardeners. Wear appropriate clothing, children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult, no experience needed, www.willoughbyfarm.org.

Chair Yoga every Wednesday, 9:30 am, Granite City Township Hall, 2060 Delmar Ave, Granite City. For information call 618-877-1215.

Baby Boogie every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30 am, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Suitable for all babies and toddlers accompanied by a guardian, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

YogART every Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 pm, Donation Class, Jacoby Arts Center, 627 E. Broadway, Alton, www.jacobyartscenter.org.

Adult Bible Study, 6-7:15 pm, First Baptist Church, 2709 Poplar St, Highland, www.fbchighland.org.

Adult Computer Classes, Wednesdays 6-7:30 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Nov 6- Microsoft Excel: Tables. Registration Required. Call 618-452-6238 ext 730, www.smrlld.org.

Mt. Olive Pinochle Club plays every Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Mt. Olive VFW, 21294 Rt 138, Mt. Olive. 7 games of single deck pinochle - we draw cards for partners. Open to the public, everyone welcome. Call Sharon at 217-999-7668.

FREE Yoga Time every Wednesday, 6:30-8 pm, Community Room, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. No registration required. Ages 16+ welcome, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Story Time every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Lions Club Bingo, 7 pm, every Wednesday at Trimor Bingo Hall 3701 Nameoki Rd, 618-877-7771. 27 games including 3-\$500 bingo games, 2-\$500 raffle games, and 4-\$1000 raffle games. Our mission is to assist folks in Pontoon Beach, Mitchell, Granite City, Madison and Venice who have sight & hearing problems, www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

Pavlov's Dog - The Prodigal Dreamer Tour 7:30 pm, Wildey Theatre, 254 N. Main St, Ed-

wardsville. This night will feature a retrospect of music from Pavlov's Dog and lead member David Surkamp career plus selections from their new album, www.wildeytheatre.com.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Story Time, 10 am, every Thursday morning @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

Veterans' Resource Fair and Community Blood Drive, 10-2, American Legion, 1022 Vandalia St Collinsville, www.discovercollinsville.com.

Pre-School STEAM Story Time, 10:30-11:30 am, Pat Huck Community Room at Tri-Township Public Library, 209 S. Main St, Troy. For preschoolers from 3- 6 yrs old. Includes games, songs, and STEAM activities, troylibrary.org. Bible Study every Thursday at noon at the Women's Ministry Center, 555 E. Bethalto Drive, Bethalto. Call 618-803-9078 for information.

Pinochle played every Thursday, 12-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo, 12-3 pm, every Thursday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1 Columbus Plaza, Collinsville. \$1/card. Great lunch menu changes weekly, www.discovercollinsville.com.

Free Clothes Closet, every Thursday from 11 am-1 pm, Calvary Baptist Church, 3000 Washington Ave, Granite City. No Appointment Necessary. For information contact Shirley at 618-304-3454

FREE Video Game Club every Thursday, 6-7:30 pm, Community Room, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Each month there will be weekly sessions to progress in a narrative driven game, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

Square Dance Lessons, 7-9 pm, every Thursday, Wood River Roundhouse, 633 N Wood River Ave, Wood River. First lesson is free - \$5/lesson after that. Call Bo at 618-288-9838 or email fsemith@aol.com.

Emotions Anonymous 12 Steps for Christians meets every Thursday at 7 pm at the St. Paul Lutheran Church on the frontage road 2 miles north of Hamel. Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason. Contact Larry madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560.

Police Bingo, every Thursday night, 7 pm. No games under \$110. Paper cards & mates, full snack bar, bingo supplies, no smoking, plenty of parking. Proceeds benefit the programs supported by the Granite City Police Dept. including youth athletics. Knights of Columbus Hall, 425 Old Alton Road, Granite City. www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

Alateen Meeting, for young people (ages 9-19) whose lives have been affected by someone who

has a drinking problem. No fees, no memberships. First Christian Church, 310 S. Main, Edwardsville from 7-8 pm. For more information call 618-463-2429 or 618-401-9836.

Bingo, every Thursday 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30), VFW Post 5694, 1900 VFW Road, Highland.

THURSDAY, NOV 7- SATURDAY, NOV 9 HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, My Treasure House, 104 S. Buchanan, Edwardsville. Food, beverages, door prizes and exclusive holiday shopping opportunities. Visit www.mytreasurehouse.com or find them on Facebook for more details.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, Lula Bell's, 519 S. State Street, Jerseyville. Door prizes, refreshments, special sales and more. Keep updated by following them on Facebook!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Fish Fry, every Friday, 4- 7:30 pm, VFW Post 5694, 1900 VFW Road, Highland.

Fish Fry, 4-8 pm, Choice of Fried Cod, Catfish, Jack Salmon and Baked Salmon or Tilapia, Cod cut ups, Shrimp and Chicken Strips. Dinners include 2 sides: choice of cole slaw, potato salad, french fries, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, hushpuppies, mushrooms and onion rings. Eat in or carryout. 618-667-8387. Troy VFW, Troy, www.troymaryvillecoc.com.

Fish Fry every Friday - 5-7 pm, 9 oz catfish filet, fries, slaw, and dessert/\$7.00, fish sandwich/\$4.00. Carryouts available for 25¢ extra. VFW Post 3912, 215 W. Ryder, Litchfield.

Friday Night Fish Fry, 5-8 pm, every Friday at V.F.W. Post 1300, 3401 Century Dr, Granite City. Kitchen open to the public- Eat in, call in and carry out. Cod, fried shrimp, jack salmon & chicken.

Open Play at RiverBender.com Community Center, 200 W. 3rd St, Alton, Every Friday Night from 6-10 p.m. Open to Members, Just \$5, and Non-Members, Just \$10. All Ages Welcome. Come for Arcade Games, Video Games, and Table Games including Pool Tables, Ping Pong, and Air Hockey. Enjoy a DJ & Dance Floor, Movie Theater, Rock Climbing Wall, Concessions, and a Full Service Kitchen, www.RiverBenderCommunityCenter.org.

FREE Open Mic Night at Germania Brew Haus, 7 pm, Germania Brew Haus, 617 E Broadway, Alton. There will be a signup sheet - first come first served. Sound equipment and keyboard on location, bring anything else you may need. For more information call 314-667-4751.

Eagles Bingo, 7 pm, every Friday and Saturday at Tri-mor Bingo Center, 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. Great Prizes and great fun! www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

Western Dance Night, every Friday 7-10 pm, Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2558 Madison Ave, Granite City. \$5.00 door charge. For more information call 618-451-2109.

FREE Highland Munny Band Concert, 8 pm, Downtown Square, 948 Main St, Highland.

Friday evenings from through August 9, highlandmunnyband.wixsite.com/munny-home.

Savoy Brown featuring Kim Simmonds, 8 pm, Wildey Theatre, 254 N. Main St, Edwardsville, www.wildeytheatre.com.

LIVE MUSIC: Jim Bergman, 7-10 pm, No. 5 Mine Winery, 413 E. Central Ave, Benld, www.Facebook.com/The#5MineWinery.

FRI, NOV 8- SAT, NOV 9 CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE: Friday 9-5, Saturday 9-2, Bev's Baskets & Bows, 502 N. Main, Carrollton. Refreshments, door prizes, in-store specials. Find out more on Facebook.

FRI, NOV 8- SUN, NOV 10 BLACKBURN COLLEGE PRESENTS "METAMORPHOS", Friday & Saturday, 7:30 pm, Sunday, 2 pm. General admission \$7, kids \$3, students with any school ID are free! Blackburn College, Bothwell Auditorium, Carlinville.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9 EVERY SATURDAY - Bring in 4 non-perishable food items to be donated to Helping Hands in Staunton and get 20% off your purchase at Pearl Essence by Vicki, - the newest and most unique jewelry store in Staunton, 301 W. Main. Find them on Facebook for more details.

TAYLORVILLE HOLIDAY KICK OFF EVENT, multiple participating Taylorville businesses offering refreshments, special sales, drawing for door prizes and more. Includes Dear Yesteryear, Cottage Rose Gift Shoppe, The Wooden Flower, Sunny Knoll Organics, Little Luxuries, Rebecca's Antiques and Posh Boutiques, Ma & Pa's Treasures, Talia's Bakery and

many others. For more information visit individual retailer's Facebook pages.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

Monthly Electronics Recycling, 9 am-12 pm, the 2nd Saturday each month (except January), Parking Lot at 227 W Main St, across from Spirito's Italian Grocery, Collinsville. Bring your electronics, appliances, televisions, batteries and more that you no longer want or need. There are items that ARE NOT accepted and some that have a minimal fee, www.discovercollinsville.com.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, 9-4, Beyond the Backyard Gate, 838 N. Main, Carrollton, www.beyondthebackyardgate.com.

Saturday Story Time, every Saturday at 10:30 am. Interactive program of stories, crafts, songs and fun for all ages. No registration required. Maryville Community Library, 8 Schiber Court, Maryville, www.maryville.lib.il.us.

Fall Fashions Food and Fun, 11 am-12 pm, First United Presbyterian Church, 201 E. Church St. Collinsville. Doors open at 10:30 am. Fashions by Christopher & Banks. Lunch will be served. Tickets need to be pre-ordered - \$15, www.discovercollinsville.com.

Nintendo Switch Gaming, every Saturday, 1-4 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave. For grades 7-12, www.smrlid.org.

(continued next page)

BLACKBURN COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC AND THEATRE PRESENTS:

METAMORPHOSES

WRITTEN AND ORIGINALLY DIRECTED BY MARY ZIMMERMAN
BASED ON THE TALES OF OVID

BOTHWELL AUDITORIUM

FRIDAY, NOV. 8TH: 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, NOV. 9TH: 7:30 PM
SUNDAY, NOV. 10TH: 2:00 PM

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$7
KIDS UNDER 12: \$3
FREE WITH ANY SCHOOL ID

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THANKSGIVING FEAST

THANKSGIVING DAY BUFFET
Thursday • November 28
10:30 am-1:30 pm

\$23 Adults • \$22 Seniors
\$12 Ages 5-11 • Under 5 Free
Reservations Recommended

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**CARVED HAM • PRIME RIB
ROAST TURKEY WITH GRAVY**
Pasta with Chicken, Bacon & Smoked Gouda
Catfish with Spinach Bacon Stuffing

Plus...

Caesar Salad • Vermont Almond Salad
Assorted Specialty Salads • Cranberry Relish
Vegetable & Cheese Display • Peel & Eat Shrimp
Sweet Potato Casserole • Vegetable Medley
Old Fashioned Corn Bread Stuffing
Whipped Potatoes with Gravy
Cranberry Pecon Orzo Pilaf
Top Your Own Cheesecake Station
Assorted Desserts
Coffee and Tea



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STEM Saturdays, 2pm, 2nd Saturday of the Month, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Grades K-5th, www.smrlld.org.

Saturday Science Lab, the Second Saturday each month @ 3 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave. November 9: Construction Challenge. For Grades 3-8, www.smrlld.org.

Hakuna Matata: Fall Foliage Sunset Cruise 3-5 pm, 215 W. Water St, Grafton. Cruise along the Palisading Bluffs of the Mighty Mississippi for a truly breathtaking experience! Whether you choose to sip on wine, bring a picnic lunch or just enjoy the view, our crew will be sure that your experience is wonderful, www.visitalton.com.

GRANTFORK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 50TH ANNUAL SAUSAGE SUPPER, 3-8 pm, Grantfork United Church of Christ Educational Building All-you-can-eat fresh, homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and milk gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, bread and homemade pies! Adult carryouts available. \$11/Adults, \$5/ages 6-12, Free/under 6 years old. Fried and packaged sausage for sale and United for Others (UFO) Country Corner will be selling goodies for all!

28th Annual Zion Lutheran School PTL Dinner Auction, Crystal Ballroom, 20631 Staunton Road, Staunton. Doors open at 4:00 pm beginning with the silent auction, which will run throughout the evening. Dinner, catered by R & B's, will be served buffet style from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Beginning at 7:15 pm, the oral auction will include plenty of great Christmas gift ideas for everyone in the family. Adult Tickets are \$20.00 each and children grade 8 and under are \$10 each which includes dinner, drinks, and auction admission. Children 3 and under are free. You may also buy and reserve a table of 8 for \$140. Tickets may be purchased at the Zion Church 618-635-2880 or school office 618-635-3060.

Eagles Bingo, 7 pm, every Friday and Saturday at Tri-mor Bingo Center, 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. Great Prizes and great fun! www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

LIVE MUSIC: Jim Bergman, 7-10 pm, No. 5 Mine Winery, 413 E. Central Ave, Benld, www.the#5MineWinery.

SATURDAY, NOV 9-SUNDAY, NOV 10

27th Annual Tiger Band Art & Craft Fair, Edwardsville High School, 6161 Center Grove Rd, Edwardsville. Saturday, 9-4, Sunday, 11-4. Handcrafted items from over 200 vendors. Proceeds benefit the Edwardsville High School band program. Concessions will serve breakfast and lunch. Shoppers can also pick up sweet treats at the bake sale. There will be an ATM onsite. Strollers are not permitted. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 seniors and veterans and children 12 and under have free admission., www.riversandroutes.com.

SATURDAY, NOV 9-SUNDAY, NOV 10

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 10-5 each day, Lisa's Antique Mall, 1-55 and Route 104 Auburn/Pawnee Exit #82. Super sales, refreshments and drawings for \$30 gift certificates all day, each day. More information is available on their Facebook page.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Historic Walking Tour of the Mineral Spring Hotel 1-4 pm, 301 E. Broadway, Alton. From the

sub-basement slaughterhouse to all the most active areas in the building, including the swimming pools, Pearl's room, the Jasmine Lady staircase, and the areas which are inaccessible to most paranormal groups, this walking tour covers everything you ever wanted to know about the Mineral Springs Hotel, www.visitalton.com.

Terry Barber performs the Music of Andrew Lloyd Weber with songs from 10 hit shows at the Alton Little Theater starting at 2pm, 2450 N. Henry St, Alton. With an extraordinarily broad vocal range and natural fluency in many musical styles, countertenor Terry Barber has been featured on some of the world's most storied stages and has worked with many of the music industry's most prestigious figures, visitalton.com.

Hometown Heroes Celebration, 2-3 pm, Gateway Convention Center, 1 Gateway Drive, Collinsville. Celebrate and honor our local veteran heroes. Bring your children to educate them on the importance of respecting and supporting our troops. The ceremony will feature speakers, live music, and a recognition of our Hometown Heroes Banners. Display tables will showcase resources for veterans and their families, www.riversandroutes.com.

Hakuna Matata River Rambler Cruise 2-3 pm, 215 W. Water St, Grafton. Cruise two majestic rivers bordered by soaring river bluffs on the Hakuna Matata. Enjoy the onboard Tiki Bar where passengers can sample tropical cocktails for adults and kiddy cocktails for the younger passengers, www.visitalton.com.

OLD COUNTRY AND BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAM, 5-8 pm every Sunday @ Millersburg General Store and The Melody Inn, 613 Route 143, Millersburg (I-70 to exit 30, then east on 143 for 7 miles). All artists and audiences welcome. For more information call 618-669-2155.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 VETERAN'S DAY - THANK YOU VETERAN'S!

Euchre played every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 9:30-11 am, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Story Time every Monday and Tuesday at 10 am, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Little Me Story Time, every Monday 10:30-11 am, Pat Huck Community Room at Tri-Township Public Library 209 S. Main St, Troy. For parents and children up to 3 years old. Simple finger games, songs and exercise, www.troylibrary.org.

Pinochle played every Monday, 12-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo every Monday - doors open at 5:30, bingo starts at 7 pm. Food and drink available. VFW Post 3912, 215 W. Ryder, Litchfield.

S.T.A.R.S. With Dogs, 6-7 pm. Read your favorite stories to CHAMP therapy dogs the 2nd Monday of every month. Registration is required and available online. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Story Time, 7 pm, every Monday night, Six Mile Regional Library - Training & Events Room, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

Ecological Discussion Group, 7-8:30 pm, every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, La Vista Ecological Learning Center, 4300 Levis Lane, Godfrey. For more information email info@lavistaelc.org or call 618-466-5004.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

Emotions Anonymous meets every Monday night at 8 pm at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 504 North 7th St, New Douglas. Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason. Contact Larry, madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Quilting, 9-11 am, every Tuesday at Jarvis Township Senior Citizens Center, 410 Wickliffe St., Troy. Quilting for all, beginners through seasoned, www.troymaryvillecoc.com.

Volunteer Work Days in Oblate Woods Nature Preserve, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, every 2nd Tuesday of each month, La Vista Ecological Learning Center, 4300 Levis Lane, Godfrey. We provide the tools and lunch. Registration required, www.lavistaelc.org.

Story Time every Monday and Tuesday at 10 am, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.



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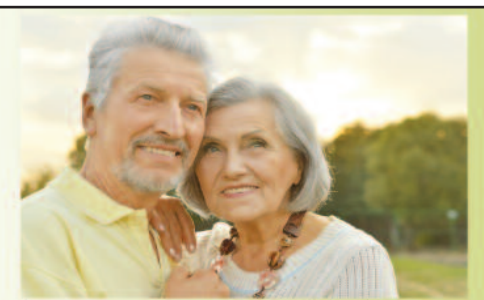
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Tabletop Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Grades 7-12 can learn how to play RPG's and board games in the new gaming series, www.smrlld.org.

Tales for Tails, 2nd & 3rd Tuesday each month, 6:30-7:30 pm, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Students in grades K-8th can practice reading to a furry friend from C.H.A.M.P Assistance Dogs, www.smrlld.org.

FREE Graphic Novel Club for grades 5-12 from 6:30-7:30 pm, 2nd Tuesday of every month, YA Room, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Discuss a current title and share reading experiences. No registration required. Copies of each month's selection available at the main desk, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Book Club for Adults, 2nd Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 pm. New members are always welcome, and it is not necessary to attend every meeting. Books are provided at the Help Desk. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main St, Glen Carbon. www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Troy American Legion Post meets the 2nd Tuesday of every month, 7-9 pm, Troy American Legion, 104 N. Main, Troy, www.troycoc.com.

Square Dancing, 7-9 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Slappers County & Western Dance Club, 7 pm every Tuesday, Tri-Cities Knights of Columbus Hall, 4225 Old Alton Rd, Granite City. For information call 618-877-4250.

Moonlight Hike, 7-8:30, The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Lane, Godfrey. Hike along the woodland trails through the Mississippi Sanctuary or Olin Nature Preserve, illuminated by a full moon. Terrain is light to moderate. Free for current TNI members and \$5 for all others. Registration required, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Duplicate Bridge played every Wednesday, 9 am-12 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Volunteer Days, 9 am-12 pm, Willoughby Farm, 631 Willoughby Ln, Collinsville. Every Wednesday. Bring your work gloves, water bottle, and positive attitude to the Farm and help the University of Illinois Master Gardeners. Wear appropriate clothing. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult, no experience needed, www.willoughbyfarm.org.

Free Chair Yoga every Wednesday, 9:30 am, Granite City Township Hall, 2060 Delmar Ave, Granite City. For information call 618-877-1215.

Baby Boogie every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30 am, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Suitable for all babies and toddlers accompanied by a guardian, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Knee-High Naturalists, The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Lane, Godfrey. A guardian/preschooler activity that runs every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Choose the morning (10-11 am) or afternoon (1-2 pm) session. You and your 3-5 year old can come and learn about nature together; hikes, snacks, story time, and a new book are all part of the experience. \$7/session, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

YogART every Wednesday, 5:30 -6:30 pm, Donation Class, Jacoby Arts Center, 627 E. Broadway, Alton, www.jacobyartscenter.org. Adult Bible Study, 6-7:15 pm, First Baptist Church, 2709 Poplar St, Highland, www.fbchighland.org.

Mt. Olive Pinochle Club meets every Wednesday, 6:30 pm, Mt. Olive VFW, 21294 Rt 138, Mt. Olive. 7 games of single deck pinochle - we draw cards for partners. Open to the public, everyone welcome. Call Sharon at 217-999-7668.

FREE Yoga Time every Wednesday, 6:30-8 pm, Community Room, Collinsville Library, and 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. No registration required. Ages 16+ welcome, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Story Time every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Pere Marquette Lodge Wine Pairing Dinner 6:30-9:pm, 13653 Lodge Blvd, Grafton. Awaken your senses at Pere Marquette's four-course gourmet wine dinner. Enjoy the excellent company of an intimate dinner party as our Wine Expert explains each of the specialty wines and how the flavors of that wine complement each delectable dish. www.visitilton.com.

Acoustic Jams, 6:30-8:30 pm @ The Blum House, 414 W Main St, Collinsville. 2nd Wednesday of every month. Musicians are welcome - acoustic instruments only, www.riversandroutes.com.

Lions Club Bingo, 7 pm, every Wednesday at Trimor Bingo Hall 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. 27 games including 3-\$500 bingo games, 2-\$500 raffle games, and 4-\$1000 raffle games. Our mission is to assist folks in Pontoon Beach, Mitchell, Granite City, Madison and Venice who have sight & hearing problems, www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

David Bromberg, 7:30 pm, Wildey Theatre, 254 N. Main St, Edwardsville. He has played with everyone, he has toured everywhere, he can lead a raucous big band or hold an audience silent with a solo acoustic blues, wildeytheatre.com.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Story Time, 10am, Every Thursday Morning, Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

Pre-School STEAM Story Time, 10:30-11:30 am, Pat Huck Community Room at Tri-Township Public Library, 209 S. Main St, Troy. For preschoolers 3- 6 yrs old. Includes games, songs, and STEAM activities, www.troylibrary.org.

Summer Reading Program, 11 am, Mad Science Performance, Bunker Hill Public Library, 220 E. Warren Street, www.bunkerhilllibrary.org.

(continued next page)

SUNDAY NOV 17 3 PM

Greater Alton Concert Association presents

DEAN CHRISTOPHER'S "RAT PACK TRIBUTE"

Tickets Are On Sale Now
\$25/advance • \$30/door • \$10/Students with ID
CALL 618-468-4222
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 Dick's Flowers • Alton CNB • Alton, Brighton, Carrollton
 Best Western Premier • Alton Liberty Bank • Alton, Godfrey, Bethalto
 Alton Convention & Visitors Bureau Busey Bank • Vandalia St, Edwardsville

Concerts are held in the Ann Whitney Olin Theatre
 in Hatheway Cultural Center on the Campus of
 Lewis and Clark Community College
 5800 Godfrey Road, Godfrey IL

Grantfork United Church of Christ 50th Annual SAUSAGE SUPPER

STILL SERVED FAMILY STYLE WITH HOMEMADE PIES!

Saturday, Nov 9 • Serving 3-8 pm

Grantfork United Church of Christ Educational Bldg
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\$11 Adults • \$5 Ages 6-12 • Under 6 Free

All-you-can-eat fresh, homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and milk gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, bread & homemade pies! Adult carryouts available.

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 Homemade Goodies for All!

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'FOR UNTO US'

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ADMISSION FREE WILL DONATION — join us —

Proceeds benefit victims of domestic violence. For information email SeasonsofLifeChoir@gmail.com

Pinocle played every Thursday, 12-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. www.mainstcc.org.

Bible Study every Thursday at noon at the Women's Ministry Center, 555 E. Bethalto Drive, Bethalto. Call 618-803-9078 for information.

Bingo, 12-3 pm, every Thursday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1 Columbus Plaza, Collinsville. \$1/card. Great lunch menu changes weekly. www.discovercollinsville.com.

Free Clothes Closet, Every Thursday from 11 am-1 pm, Calvary Baptist Church, 3000 Washington Ave., Granite City. No Appointment Necessary. For information call Shirley at 618-304-3454.

Teen Gaming, 3:30-5:30pm, Jerseyville Public Library, 105 N Liberty, Jerseyville. Playing Rocket League on Nintendo Switch. For more call 618-498-9514 or www.jerseyvillelibrary.org.

FREE Care Givers Support Group, 6 pm, the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at The Women's Ministry Center, 555 E. Bethalto Dr., Bethalto. Call 618-803-9078 to register.

Free Video Game Club every Thursday, 6-7:30 pm, Community Room, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Each month there will be weekly sessions to progress in a narrative driven game. www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

Square Dance Lessons, 7-9 pm, every Thursday, Wood River Roundhouse, 633 N Wood River Ave, Wood River. First lesson is free - \$5/lesson after that. Call Bo at 618-288-9838 or email fsemith@aol.com.

Emotions Anonymous 12 Steps for Christians meets every Thursday at 7 pm at the St. Paul Lutheran Church on the frontage road 2 miles north of Hamel. Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason. Contact Larry madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560.

Police Bingo, every Thursday night, starts at 7 pm. No games under \$110. Paper cards & mates, full snack bar, bingo supplies, no smoking, plenty of parking. Proceeds benefit the programs supported by the Granite City Police Dept. including youth athletics. Knights of Columbus Hall, 425 Old Alton Road, Granite City. www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

Alateen Meeting, for young people (ages 9-19) whose lives have been affected by someone who has a drinking problem. No fees, no memberships. First Christian Church, 310 S. Main, Edwardsville from 7-8 pm. For information call 618-463-2429 or 618-401-9836.

Bingo, every Thursday 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30), VFW Post 5694, 1900 VFW Road, Highland.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday. www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo played every Friday, 1-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo, every Thursday 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30), VFW Post 5694, 1900 VFW Road, Highland.

Fish Fry, 4-8 pm, Choice of Fried Cod, Catfish, Jack Salmon and Baked Salmon or Tilapia, Cod cut ups, Shrimp and Chicken Strips. Dinners include 2 sides: choice of cole slaw, potato salad, french fries, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, hushpuppies, mushrooms and onion rings. Eat in or carryout. 618-667-8387. Troy VFW, Troy. www.troycoc.com.

Fish Fry every Friday - 5-7 pm, 9 oz catfish filet, fries, slaw, and dessert/\$7.00, fish sandwich/\$4.00. Carryouts available for 25¢ extra. VFW Post 3912, 215 W. Ryder, Litchfield.

Friday Night Fish Fry, 5-8 pm, every Friday at V.F.W. Post 1300, 3401 Century Dr, Granite City. Kitchen open to the public- Eat in, call in and carry out. Cod, fried shrimp, jack salmon & chicken.

Pokeman Trivia, 5:30-10 pm, St. Jacob Activity Center, 108 S. Douglas St, St. Jacob. Open to all Pokemon knowledge levels. www.troymaryvillecoc.com.

Open Play at RiverBender.com Community Center, 200 W. 3rd St, Alton, Every Friday Night from 6-10 p.m. Open to Members, Just \$5, and Non-Members, Just \$10. All Ages Welcome. Come for Arcade Games, Video Games, and Table Games including Pool Tables, Ping Pong, and Air Hockey. Enjoy a DJ & Dance Floor, Movie Theater, Rock Climbing Wall, Concessions, and a full service kitchen. www.RiverBenderCommunityCenter.org.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM, 6 pm, Christian County Historical Museum, 325 Abe's Way, Taylorville. It is a Scavenger Hunt of the original Christian County Court House, Buckeye Prairie School House, Owaneco Depot, Woodall Museum, Pence Building, and the 1854 John Canty Morrison house. Get a group of friends together for a fun evening starting with a bonfire and weiner roast. \$15/person. Winning members receive T shirts. EVENT AVAILABLE AS LONG AS THE WEATHER IS PERMITTING. For more information contact Linda Blakley, lblakley@consolidated.net or call 217-824-4064, www.christiancountyhistorical.com.

FREE Open Mic Night, 7 pm, Free, Germania Brew Haus, 617 E Broadway, Alton. There will be a signup sheet - first come first served. Sound equipment and keyboard on location, bring anything else you may need. For more information call 314-667-4751.

Eagles Bingo, 7 pm, every Friday and Saturday at Tri-mor Bingo Center, 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. Great Prizes and great fun! www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

Western Dance Night, every Friday 7-10 pm, Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2558 Madison Ave, Granite City. \$5.00 door charge. For more information call 618-451-2109.

Spanky's Dueling Pianos - Winter Concert Series, 7 pm, Wildey Theatre, 254 N. Main St, Edwardsville. Two pianos face to face, and two experienced entertainers taking your requests,

playing everything from 1940's to Top 40, boy bands to girl bands, country to rock and roll, sock hop to hip hop, Rat Pack to Tupac, and everything in between. Appropriate for all ages. www.wildeytheatre.com.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

EVERY SATURDAY - Bring in 4 non-perishable food items to be donated to Helping Hands in Staunton and get 20% off your purchase at Pearl Essence by Vicki, - the newest and most unique jewelry store in Staunton, 301 W. Main. Find them on Facebook for more details.

16th Annual 1M Walk/Run Turkey Trot, 7:30-10:30am. In Drost Park which is just off Rt. 159 and Vadalabene Drive in Troy, www.troycoc.com.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass and free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR, 10-3, Leona & Friends, 1200 N. Old Route 66, Litchfield (inside My Formals). TEN additional vendors will be inside Leona's on this special day to provide one-stop-holiday shopping. For more information visit www.MyFormals.com or find Leona & Friends on Facebook.

Saturday Story Time, every Saturday at 10:30 am. Interactive program of stories, crafts, songs and fun for all ages. No registration required. Maryville Community Library, 8 Schiber Court, Maryville, www.maryville.lib.il.us.

Pie Bake - Off, 11-3, The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Lane, Godfrey. A new fundraising event for TNI to encourage people of all ages to show off their baking skills and share the wonders of The Nature Institute with the community. This will be a fun event filled with delicious pie, music, and a bounce house with price of admission, \$6 for adults / \$3 for kids under 10. Other items such as food, coffee, beer, whole pies, and TNI swag will be available for purchase at the event, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

Stir Up Saturday: A Holiday Foods Program 12-3 pm, Stephenson House, 409 S. Buchanan St, Edwardsville. Participants will stir up a pudding they will take home to bake and also make traditional mince pie filling, based on 18th century recipes. All supplies will be provided. \$40/person - Reservations required, www.stephensonhouse.org.

Flintknapping Class, 12-4 pm, Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center, 30 Ramey St, Collinsville. Learn the basics of Flintknapping. Students must be 14 years or older and wear long pants for protection. The fee is \$30 and payable to the instructor at the beginning of the class. Call 618-346-5160 to sign up, www.cahokiामounds.org.

Nintendo Switch Gaming every Saturday, 1-4 pm, Six Mile Regional Library - Teen Room, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Grades 7-12, www.smrlid.org.

Hakuna Matata: Fall Foliage Sunset Cruise 3-5 pm, 215 W. Water St, Grafton. Cruise along the Palisading Bluffs of the Mighty Mississippi for a truly breathtaking experience! Whether you choose to sip on wine, bring a picnic lunch or just

enjoy the view, our crew will be sure that your experience is wonderful. www.visitalton.com.

Kellsie's Trees of Hope, 6-10 pm, Gateway Convention Center, 1 Gateway Drive, Collinsville. Huge annual gala - volunteers donate and decorate over 100 trees, wreaths and holiday tablescapes to be auctioned and raffled. Guests can sponsor "itty bitty trees" which are delivered with gift cards to children on the oncology floor at St. Louis Children's Hospital with a special message from their donor. The mission is to provide hope to families that have children suffering from cancer by offering support for trips and gifts that might otherwise be unattainable. We are also dedicated to raising awareness and funds to support childhood cancer research and support the education of healthcare providers with an annual nursing scholarship. All net proceeds benefit children with cancer. \$50 for early bird single ticket, \$400 for a table of 8 or \$500 for table of 10, www.riversandroutestates.com.

Eagles Bingo, 7 pm, every Friday and Saturday at Tri-mor Bingo Center, 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. Great Prizes and great fun! www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

LIVE MUSIC: Mary Kirk, 7-10 pm, No. 5 Mine Winery, 413 E. Central Ave, Benld, www.the#5MineWinery.

Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials, 8 pm, Wildey Theatre, 254 N. Main St, Edwardsville. The Chicago Sun-Times says, "Lil' Ed & The Blues Imperials are the hottest purveyors of bottleneck boogie to come of Chicago since Hound Dog Taylor." www.wildeytheatre.com.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Stained Glass Retreat, 9:30 am-6 pm, 13653 Lodge Blvd, Grafton. Join guests for a beginner stained glass retreat and learn the art of stained glass from an Alton Legend! Artist and owner of Alton Stained Glass Works, Lynne Ulett, will be guiding beginners through glass cutting, grinding, foiling, and soldering. To take advantage of this unique and artistic opportunity, you must stay the night to participate, www.visitalton.com.

Bethalto Knights of Columbus Buffet Style Chicken Dinner, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm, OLQP Parish facility, 132 Butcher St, Bethalto. Adults \$10.00 - Children \$5.00 (5 to 10 yrs. old). Adult Carry Outs Available. Public Welcome - Handicap Accessible. All you can eat menu includes fried chicken, chicken strips, mashed potatoes & gravy, mac-cheese, vegetable, applesauce, dessert and drink. Proceeds go to Bethalto K of C Charities and OLQP Parish. For more information email samwaldo86@aol.com.

Hakuna Matata River Rambler Cruise 2-3 pm, 215 W. Water St, Grafton. Cruise two majestic rivers bordered by soaring river bluffs on the Hakuna Matata. Enjoy the onboard Tiki Bar where passengers can sample tropical cocktails for adults and kiddy cocktails for the younger passengers, www.visitalton.com.

Greater Alton Concert Association presents Dean Christopher's "Rat Pack", 3 pm, Hatheway Cultural Center at the Lewis & Clark College, 5800 Godfrey Rd., Godfrey. Tickets are available online or at the Alton Visitors Center. Admission for adults is \$25 in advance or \$27 at the door, and children 12 and under \$10, www.greateraltonconcertassociation.org.

OLD COUNTRY AND BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAM, every Sunday 5-8pm, Millersburg General Store and The Melody Inn, 613 Route 143, Millersburg (I-70 to exit 30, then east on 143 for 7 miles). All artists and audiences welcome. For more call 618-669-2155.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

IMPACT Center for Independent Living offers Low Vision and Blind Support Group meetings on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 10 am - noon at the Jerseyville Public Library. IMPACT can help you achieve or maintain your independence through many of our programs, www.jerseyvillelibrary.org.

Story Time every Monday and Tuesday at 10 am, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Little Me Story Time, every Monday 10:30-11am, Pat Huck Community Room at Tri-Township Public Library 209 S. Main St, Troy. For parents and children up to 3 years old. Simple finger games, songs and exercise, www.troylibrary.org.

Pinochle played every Monday, 12-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo every Monday - doors open at 5:30, bingo starts at 7 pm. Food and drink available. VFW Post 3912, 215 W. Ryder, Litchfield.

Story Time, 7 pm, every Monday Night, Six Mile Regional Library - Training & Events Room, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

Emotions Anonymous meets every Monday night at 8 pm at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 504 North 7th St, New Douglas. Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason. Contact Larry, madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560.

MONDAY, NOV 18-TUESDAY, NOV 19

AARP SMART Driver Class, 8:00 am -12:00 pm, Senior Center, Collinsville. Learn new laws, review safe driving strategies and qualify for a discount on your car insurance. You must attend both days. \$15 for AARP members, \$20 for non-members, to register call 618-344-7787 - LAST CLASS IN 2019.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Quilting, 9-11 am, every Tuesday at Jarvis Township Senior Citizens Center, 410 Wickliffe St., Troy. Quilting for all, beginners through seasoned, www.troymaryvillecoc.com.

Story Time every Monday and Tuesday at 10 am, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Preschool Story Time every Tuesday, 10-10:30 am, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Themed stories and a craft, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Bingo played every Tuesday, 1-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Open Gaming, 4-7 pm, Community Room, Ground Floor, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Video game system available for public use, request a game be put in or bring your own (no "M" rated games), www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

America Reads Tutor, 4-8 pm, Every Tuesday, Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Tutor available for students K-12 grade, 1 hour sessions, first come/first served basis, www.smrlld.org.

Lego Club, 5-7 pm, every Tuesday, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Grades K-5th, www.smrlld.org.

Just Unwind Yarn Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6-8 pm, to knit, socialize, and share techniques with fellow yarn crafters. Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

Tabletop Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Grades 7-12 can learn how to play RPG's and board games in the new gaming series, www.smrlld.org.

Emotions Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 6 pm at the Louis Latzer Library, 1001 9th Street, Highland (Contact Jackie at 618-654-9351 or email: 16bjschu@email) and at 6 pm at the Locust Street Resource Center in Carlinville (Contact Larry, madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560). Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason.

Tales for Tails, 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Students in grades K-8th can practice reading to a furry friend from C.H.A.M.P Assistance Dogs, www.smrlld.org.

Square Dancing, 7-9 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Slappers County & Western Dance Club, 7 pm every Tuesday, Tri-Cities Knights of Columbus Hall, 4225 Old Alton Rd, Granite City. For information call 618-877-4250.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Duplicate Bridge played every Wednesday, 9 am-12 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Chair Yoga every Wednesday, 9:30am, Granite City Township Hall, 2060 Delmar Ave, Granite City. For information call 618-877-1215.

Baby Boogie every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30 am, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Suitable for all babies and toddlers accompanied by a guardian, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

YogART every Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 pm, Donation Class, Jacoby Arts Center, 627 E. Broadway, Alton, www.jacobyartscenter.org.

Adult Bible Study, 6-7:15 pm, First Baptist Church, 2709 Poplar St, Highland, www.fbchighland.org.

Mt. Olive Pinochle Club plays every Wednesday, 6:30pm, Mt. Olive VFW, 21294 Rt 138, Mt. Olive. 7 games of single deck pinochle - we draw cards for partners. Open to the public, everyone welcome. Call Sharon at 217-999-7668.


Free Yoga Time every Wednesday, 6:30-8 pm, Community Room, Collinsville Library, and 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. No registration required. Ages 16+ welcome, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Story Time every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Lions Club Bingo, 7 pm, every Wednesday at Tramor Bingo Hall 3701 Nameoki Rd, 618-877-7771. 27 games including 3-\$500 bingo games, 2-\$500 raffle games, and 4-\$1000 raffle games. Our mission is to assist folks in Pontoon Beach, Mitchell, Granite City, Madison and Venice who have sight & hearing problems, www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

(continued next page)


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MARY KIRK
SATURDAY • NOV 16 • 7-10 PM

JACK KENT
SATURDAY • NOV 23 • 8-11 PM

KERRY LEE
SATURDAY • NOV 30 • 7-11 PM

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Story Time, 10 am, every Thursday morning, Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City, www.smrlid.org.

Pre-School STEAM Story Time, 10:30-11:30 am, Pat Huck Community Room at Tri-Township Public Library, 209 S. Main St, Troy. For preschoolers 3-6 yrs old. Includes games, songs, and STEAM activities, www.troylibrary.org.

Pinocle played every Thursday, 12-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. www.mainstcc.org.

Bible Study every Thursday at noon at the Women's Ministry Center, 555 E. Bethalto Drive, Bethalto. Call 618-803-9078 for information.

Bingo, 12-3 pm, every Thursday at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1 Columbus Plaza, Collinsville. \$1/card. Great lunch menu changes weekly, www.discovercollinsville.com.

Free Clothes Closet, every Thursday from 11 am-1 pm, Calvary Baptist Church, 3000 Washington Ave, Granite City. No Appointment Necessary. For information call Shirley at 618-304-3454.

Adult Game Day for Senior Citizens at Riverbender.com Community Center, 200 W. 3rd St, Alton, Every 3rd Thursday of the month from 10 am-2 pm. Admission \$7. Enjoy playing card games, board games, or Wii with friends. Includes a delicious lunch and dessert, www.RiverBenderCommunityCenter.org.

Taste of Downtown Alton, 5:30-7:30pm in Argosy Casino's Music Hall, 1 Piasa St, Alton. Sample a variety of local flavor from many of your favorite dining establishments under one roof for only \$15. Tickets on sale at Alton Visitors Center, 200 Piasa St, Alton or by phone 618-465-6676, www.visitalton.com.

Bingo for Books, 6 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Play Bingo, Win a Book! Celebrate Family Read Night with us! All ages welcome. Register by calling the Youth Services Department at 618-452-6238 ext 720, www.smrlid.org.

Free Video Game Club every Thursday, 6-7:30 pm, Community Room, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Each month there will be weekly sessions to progress in a narrative driven game, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

FREE PAWS for Reading, 6:30-7:30 pm, Latzer Memorial Public Library, 1001 9th St, Highland. Love dogs and books? Come pet therapy dogs while reading. 3rd Thursday of the month through December. Open to children of all ages, no RSVP required, www.highlandillinois.com.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933

Square Dance Lessons, 7-9 pm, every Thursday, Wood River Roundhouse, 633 N Wood River Ave, Wood River. First lesson is free—\$5/lesson after that. For more information call Bo at 618-288-9838 or email fsemith@aol.com.

Emotions Anonymous 12 Steps for Christians meets every Thursday at 7 pm at the St. Paul Lutheran Church on the frontage road 2 miles north of Hamel. Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason. Contact Larry madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560.

Police Bingo, every Thursday night, starts at 7 pm. No games under \$110. Paper cards & mates, full snack bar, bingo supplies, no smoking, plenty of parking. Proceeds benefit the programs supported by the Granite City Police Dept. including youth athletics. Knights of Columbus Hall, 425 Old Alton Road, Granite City. www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

Bingo, every Thursday 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30), VFW Post 5694, 1900 VFW Road, Highland.

Alateen Meeting, for young people (ages 9-19) whose lives have been affected by someone who has a drinking problem. No fees, no memberships. First Christian Church, 310 S. Main, Edwardsville from 7-8 pm. For information call 618-463-2429 or 618-401-9836.

Bingo, every Thursday 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30), VFW Post 5694, 1900 VFW Road, Highland.

FREE Astronomy Association Meeting, 8:30 pm, Talahi Lodge at the Olin Nature Preserve, 2213 S Levis Ln, Godfrey. Every 3rd Thursday of the month. Join TNI members and friends to observe and record constellations. No telescopes needed, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main,

Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo played every Friday, 1-3 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo, every Thursday 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30), VFW Post 5694, 1900 VFW Road, Highland.

Fish Fry, 4-8 pm, Choice of Fried Cod, Catfish, Jack Salmon and Baked Salmon or Tilapia, Cod cut ups, Shrimp and Chicken Strips. Dinners include 2 sides: choice of cole slaw, potato salad, french fries, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, hushpuppies, mushrooms and onion rings. Eat in or carryout. 618-667-8387. Troy VFW, Troy, www.troymaryvillecoc.com.

Fish Fry every Friday - 5-7 pm, 9 oz catfish filet, fries, slaw, and dessert/\$7.00, fish sandwich/\$4.00. Carryouts available for 25¢ extra. VFW Post 3912, 215 W. Ryder, Litchfield.

Friday Night Fish Fry, 5-8 pm, every Friday at V.F.W. Post 1300, 3401 Century Dr, Granite City. Kitchen open to the public- Eat in, call in and carry out. Cod, fried shrimp, jack salmon & chicken.

Community Tree Lighting, 5:30-8 pm, Lincoln-Douglas Square, Broadway and Landmarks Blv, Alton. Free trolley rides between the Riverbender Community Center (corner of 3rd and Belle) and L-D Square will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive at 6 p.m. for free photos with Santa! Free cookies and hot chocolate, caroling and the blessing and lighting of the Christmas tree are sure to get you into the

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holiday spirit. **A Holiday Open House at the Riverbender.com Community Center** will take place between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Help create the biggest CASTLE OF CANS yet! Bring donations to Alton City Hall, Alton Police Dept. or the Alton Fire Station located at 333 E. 20th St. anytime before 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16. OR just bring your donation with you to the event! A Castle of Cans will be built during the tree lighting and the food will be donated to the Salvation Army, www.riversandrout.com.

FREE Open Mic Night, 7 pm, Germania Brew Haus, 617 E Broadway, Alton. There will be a signup sheet - first come first served. Sound equipment and keyboard on location, bring anything else you may need. For more information call 314-667-4751.

Eagles Bingo, 7 pm, every Friday and Saturday at Tri-mor Bingo Center, 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. Great Prizes and great fun! www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

Western Dance Night, every Friday 7-10 pm, Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2558 Madison Ave, Granite City. \$5.00 door charge. For more information call 618-451-2109.

Fourth Friday Night Film Festival, 7-8:30 pm. Topics include education, ecology, eco-consciousness, future design. If you enjoy ideas that turn our current worldview on its head, you will appreciate the perspectives offered in these films and the interesting conversations to follow. lavistaelc.org.

FRIDAY, NOV 22 - SATURDAY, NOV 23
26TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE,
Nokomis Gift & Garden, 123 Morgan Street,

Nokomis. Friday 8:30 am-7 pm, Saturday, 8:30 am-3 pm. Friday night wine tasting 407. Both days feature refreshments, door prizes and the opportunity to start - or finish- your Christmas shopping! Come and see our new shop revamp with a holiday flair. Find us on Facebook for updates

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
EVERY SATURDAY - Bring in 4 non-perishable food items to be donated to Helping Hands in Staunton and get 20% off your purchase at Pearl Essence by Vicki, - the newest and most unique jewelry store in Staunton, 301 W. Main. Find them on Facebook for more details.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

The Metro East Model Railroad Club OPEN HOUSE, 10AM to 3PM on the following Saturdays: November 23, 2019; December 7, 2019; December 21, 2019; & January 4, 2020; at their club house located at 180 Summit Street in Glen Carbon, Illinois (the old Glen Carbon Firehouse / City Hall). Visitors are welcome to view the club's trains running on their 18 x 27 foot HO Scale model railroad. Admission is FREE. For more information, please call Bob at 618-476-9228 or Bill at 618-531-1589, or check the web site at www.trainweb.org/memrc.

(continued next page)

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EVERY SUNDAY 8 AM-NOON
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Scrambled Eggs • Bacon • Ham • Link Sausage
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Nature for Beginners - Wildlife in Your Backyard, 10-11:30 am, The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Lane, Godfrey. A series developed for people of all ages who aren't quite comfortable spending time outdoors. Come with an open mind to learn more about the natural world around. Please dress appropriately to spend part to all of the time outdoors, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

Saturday Story Time, every Saturday at 10:30 am. Interactive program of stories, crafts, songs and fun for all ages. No registration required. Maryville Community Library, 8 Schiber Court, Maryville, www.maryville.lib.il.us.

Nintendo Switch Gaming every Saturday, 1-4 pm, Six Mile Regional Library - Teen Room, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Grades 7-12, www.smrl.org.

Holiday Cheers Vendor Market 1-6 pm, 400 Landmarks Blvd, Alton. Kick off the holiday season while you shop from artisan vendors and pick up local produce for your Thanksgiving meal all while enjoying live music and food & drink specials, www.visitilton.com.

Family Game Night, 4-6 pm, The Tibbetts House Bed, Breakfast, & Books, 801 9th St, Highland. 3rd Saturday every month. For more information call 618-772-8161 or visit www.facebook.com/tibbetthouse/.

Eagles Bingo, 7 pm, every Friday and Saturday at Tri-mor Bingo Center, 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. Great Prizes and great fun! www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

HEARTSFIELD, 7:30 pm, Wildey Theatre, 254 N. Main St, Edwardsville, wildeytheatre.com.

Alateen Meeting, every Saturday, 8-9 pm, Gillespie Library, 201 W. Chestnut (side door). For young people (ages 9-19) whose lives have been affected by someone who has a drinking problem. No fees, no membership. For more information call 618-463-2429 or 618-406-9530.

LIVE MUSIC: Jack Kent, 8-11 pm, No. 5 Mine Winery, 413 E. Central Ave, Benld, www.the#5MineWinery.

SATURDAY, NOV 23-SUNDAY, NOV 24
9th Annual Calhoun Art Guild Arts & Craft Sale, Saturday, 10-4, Sunday 11-4 at the Center for American Archeology Old Kampsville Grade-school, 101 N. Broadway, Kampsville, IL. Come out and get your holiday shopping done early. Everything made by local artists: jewelry, gourds, photographs, wood carvings, pottery, journals, quilts, painting, notecards, glass work and more! For more information, call (217) 653-2098, (618) 653-4511 (day of sale), or calhounartguild@gmail.com, www.riversandroutes.com.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24
St. Louis Metro Polka Club Dance, 3-6:30 pm, Polish Hall, 826 Greenwood St, Madison, IL. Fred and Friends is the featured entertainment. Fred Buechner as a solo artist will recreate the sounds of Trio Freddie Band from the 70's and 80's with the help of electronics. He will be joined by guest artists. There is a club meeting starting at 2 PM and if it ends early, the band may start earlier than 3...and typically does, www.folkfire.org/polka.

OLD COUNTRY AND BLUEGRASS MUSIC JAM, 5-8 pm every Sunday @ Millersburg General Store and The Melody Inn, 613 Route 143, Millersburg (I-70 to exit 30, then east on 143 for 7 miles). All artists and audiences welcome. For more information call 618-669-2155.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25
Euchre played every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, 9:30-11 am, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Story Time every Monday and Tuesday at 10 am, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Little Me Story Time, every Monday 10:30-11 am, Pat Huck Community Room at Tri-Township Public Library 209 S. Main St, Troy. For parents and children up to 3 years old. Simple finger games, songs and exercise, www.troylibrary.org.

Pinochle played every Monday and Thursday, 12-3pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N. Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

American Red Cross Blood Drive, 3-7 pm, Korte Recreation Center, 1 Nagel Dr, Highland. Give the gift of life and donate blood, www.highlandillinois.com.

Bingo every Monday - doors open at 5:30, bingo starts at 7 pm. Food and drink available. VFW Post 3912, 215 W. Ryder, Litchfield.

Story Time, 7pm, Every Monday Night, Six Mile Regional Library - Training & Events Room, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrl.org.

Ecological Discussion Group, 7-8:30 pm, every 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, La Vista Ecological Learning Center, 4300 Levis Lane, Godfrey. For more information email info@lavistaec.org or call 618-466-5004.

Adult Game Night, 7-8 pm, First Baptist Church, 2709 Poplar St, Highland, www.fbchighland.org.

Emotions Anonymous meets every Monday night at 8 pm at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, 504 North 7th St, New Douglas. Free and open to anyone in need of emotional support for any reason. Contact Larry, madorin@frontiernet.net or 217-272-4560.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26
Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for Holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Quilting, 9-11 am, every Tuesday at Jarvis Township Senior Citizens Center, 410 Wickliffe St., Troy. Quilting for all, beginners through seasoned, www.troymaryvillecoc.com.

Story Time every Monday and Tuesday at 10 am, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Preschool Story Time every Tuesday, 10-10:30 am, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Themed stories and a craft, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Bingo played every Tuesday, 1-3pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

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A FUN FAMILY EVENT!

Open Gaming, 4-7 pm, Community Room, Ground Floor, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Video game system available for public use, request a game be put in or bring your own (no "M" rated games), www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

America Reads Tutor, 4-8 pm, every Tuesday, Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Tutor available for students K-12 grade. 1 hour sessions - first come, first served, www.smrlld.org.

Lego Club, 5-7 pm, Every Tuesday, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Grades K-5th. For information call 618-452-6238.

Tabletop Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Grades 7-12 can learn how to play RPG's and board games in the new gaming series, www.smrlld.org.

Square Dancing, 7-9 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Slappers County & Western Dance Club, 7 pm every Tuesday, Tri-Cities Knights of Columbus Hall, 4225 Old Alton Rd, Granite City. For information call 618-877-4250.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Duplicate Bridge played every Wednesday, 9 am-12 pm, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville, www.mainstcc.org.

Chair Yoga every Wednesday, 9:30am, Granite City Township Hall, 2060 Delmar Ave, Granite City. For information call 618-877-1215.

Baby Boogie every Wednesday, 9:30-10:30 am, Collinsville Library, 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. Suitable for all babies and toddlers accompanied by a guardian, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

YogART every Wednesday, 5:30-6:30 pm, Donation Class, Jacoby Arts Center, 627 E. Broadway, Alton, www.jacobyartscenter.org.

Adult Bible Study, 6-7:15 pm, First Baptist Church, 2709 Poplar St, Highland, www.fbchighland.org.

Mt. Olive Pinochle Club plays every Wednesday, 6:30pm, Mt. Olive VFW, 21294 Rt 138, Mt. Olive. 7 games of single deck pinochle - we draw cards for partners. Open to the public, everyone welcome. Call Sharon at 217-999-7668.

FREE Yoga Time every Wednesday, 6:30-8 pm, Community Room, Collinsville Library, and 408 W. Main St, Collinsville. No registration required. Ages 16+ welcome, www.mvlibdist.org/collinsville_calendar.

Story Time every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Glen Carbon Library, 198 S. Main, www.glencarbonlibrary.org.

Lions Club Bingo every Wednesday, 7 pm, Trimmer Bingo Hall 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. 27 games including 3-\$500 bingo games, 2-\$500 raffle games, and 4-\$1000 raffle games. Our mission is to assist folks in Pontoon Beach, Mitchell, Granite City, Madison and Venice who have sight & hearing problems, www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

(continued on page 71)



"I knew he shouldn't have had that second piece of pumpkin pie."



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Portrait - The Music of Kansas, 8pm, Wildey Theatre, 254 N. Main St, Edwardsville, www.wildeytheatre.com.

WED, NOV 27-SAT, NOV 30 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE @ The Cristal Lantern, 107 E. Main, Mt Olive. Refreshments, door prizes and in-store specials on home and holiday decor, hand painted ornaments, fun, unique, holiday and inspirational gifts and more. For more information find The Cristal Lantern on Facebook or call 618-225-3649.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Gobble Hobble Fun Run, 7-8 am, Glik Park, 12525 Sportsman, Highland. Join your family and friends on Thanksgiving Day for a 2 mile fun run as a prequel to your turkey feast consumption, www.highlandillinois.com.

Thanksgiving Day Buffet, 10:30 am-1:30 pm, Best Western Premier, 3559 College Ave, Alton. Enjoy an amazing Thanksgiving feast while being serenaded by the harmonious sounds of strolling musicians. Reservations recommended, www.BWPremierAlton.com.

Thanksgiving Feast, 11 am-5 pm, Pere Marquette Lodge, 13653 Lodge Blvd, Grafton. Come out and let us do the cooking as you and your family enjoy our Thanksgiving Feast! We've got all of the Turkey Day traditions plus so much more, www.visitalton.com.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 Stretch & Move Classes, 8-9 am, \$1/session, Main Street Community Center, 1003 N Main, Edwardsville. Classes every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Not held if center closed for holiday, www.mainstcc.org.

Bingo, every Thursday 7:30 pm (doors open at 5:30), VFW Post 5694, 1900 VFW Road, Highland.

Fish Fry, 4-8 pm, Troy VFW. Choice of Fried Cod, Catfish, Jack Salmon and Baked Salmon or Tilapia, Cod cut ups, Shrimp and Chicken Strips. Dinners include 2 sides: choice of cole slaw, potato salad, french fries, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, hushpuppies, mushrooms and onion rings. Eat in or carryout, www.troycoc.com.

Fish Fry every Friday - 5-7 pm, 9 oz catfish filet, fries, slaw, and dessert/\$7.00, fish sandwich/\$4.00. Carryouts available for 25¢ extra. VFW Post 3912, 215 W. Ryder, Litchfield.

Friday Night Fish Fry, 5-8 pm, every Friday at V.F.W. Post 1300, 3401 Century Dr, Granite City. Kitchen open to the public- Eat in, call in and carry out. Cod, fried shrimp, jack salmon & chicken.

Open Play at RiverBender.com Community Center, 200 W. 3rd St, Alton, every Friday night from 6-10 p.m. Open to members/\$5, and non-members/\$10. All ages welcome. Come for arcade games, video games, and table games including pool tables, Ping Pong, and air hockey. Enjoy a DJ & dance floor, movie theater, rock climbing wall, concessions, and a full service kitchen, RiverBenderCommunityCenter.org.

Annual Lighted Christmas Parade, 7 pm, Downtown Square, 907 Main Street, Highland. Stay to watch Santa Clause "light the square" in Historic Downtown Highland. The Parade will step off from the Primary/Elementary parking lot on Lindenthal and travel west to Washington, then North on Washington to finish at the square. The Santa Band will be playing on the square, Mad-

grigal singers will be caroling, there will be carriage ride and holiday refreshments for all to enjoy, www.greatriverroad.com.

Eagles Bingo, 7 pm, every Friday and Saturday at Tri-mor Bingo Center, 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. Great Prizes and great fun! www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

FRIDAY, NOV 29-SATURDAY, NOV 30 Annual Native American Holiday Market, Friday, 12-5 pm, Saturday, 9-4, Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey St, Collinsville. Purchase holiday gift items made by Native American artists and craftspeople. Unique and handmade items will include jewelry, paintings, herbals, weaving, baskets, pottery, metal work, sculptures and more. This is free and open to the public, www.cahokiamounds.org.

Christmas Candlelight Tours, Col. Benjamin Stephenson House, 409 S. Buchanan St, Edwardsville, 6-9 pm both nights. Step back in time to experience an 1820s Christmas. Historically-dressed docents will discuss the rich history of the house as guests take a self-guided tour through the festively adorned rooms. Enjoy a cup of hot wassail, a sweet treat, a story or two, and a warm fire at the Stephenson House to usher in the holiday season. The house will not be open during the day on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 to 12, and children 5 and under are admitted free, www.stephenhouse.org.

POCO, 8 pm both nights, Wildey Theatre, 254 N. Main St, Edwardsville, wildeytheatre.com.

FRIDAY, NOV 29-SUNDAY, DEC 1 ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, Light-house Antique Mall, 19130 W. Frontage Road, Raymond (Carlinville Exit 60 off Interstate 55). Refreshments, special sales, holiday shopping. For more information call 217-324-6111 or find them on Facebook.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, Fri-Sat, 10-5, Sun, 12-5, State Street Antiques & Jim's Attic, 115 N. State Street, Jerseyville. 20% off most items, refreshments and more. For more information find us on Facebook.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY - SHOP SMALL, SHOP LOCAL!

EVERY SATURDAY - Bring in 4 non-perishable food items to be donated to Helping Hands in Staunton and get 20% off your purchase at Pearl Essence by Vicki, - the newest and most unique jewelry store in Staunton, 301 W. Main. Find them on Facebook for more details.

SHOP SMALL SCORE BIG - You could win up to \$250 in gift cards from merchants in Troy, Maryville, St. Jacob and Marine! Every \$1 spent at participating merchants = 1 ticket into the drawing, which will be held on December 6 via Facebook live. Participating merchants and details @ www.troycoc.com.

TAYLORVILLE'S FIRST EVERY TOWN WIDE SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY EVENT - scavenger hunt, walking bingo and more with multiple participating Taylorville businesses offering refreshments, special sales, drawing for door prizes and more. Includes Dear Yesteryear, Cottage Rose Gift Shoppe, The Wooden Flower, Sunny Knoll Ogranics, Little Luxuries, Rebecca's Antiques and Posh Boutiques, Ma & Pa's Treasures, Talia's Bakery and many others. For more information visit individual retailer's Facebook pages.

R.E.H.A.B Exercise Classes, Monday/Thursday 7 pm & Saturday 9 am, Rivers of Life Community Church, 3131 E 23rd St, Granite City. \$2/class or purchase a pass. Free child care. For information call 618-797-7933.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE: 9-2, Bev's Baskets & Bows, 609B Main Street, Greenfield.. Refreshments, door prizes, in-store specials. Find out more on Facebook.

60th Annual Great River Road Run starting at 10 am in Downtown Alton. Race off your Thanksgiving dinner on either the 2 mile route or 10 mile route on the scenic Great River Road, visitalton.com.

Saturday Story Time, every Saturday at 10:30 am. Interactive program of stories, crafts, songs and fun for all ages. No registration required. Maryville Community Library, 8 Schiber Court, Maryville, www.maryville.lib.il.us.

Cookie Crumb Trail, 10 am-4 pm in Highland. Get ready, get set, Shop Small - SHOP HIGHLAND!, www.highlandillinois.com.

The 17th Annual Small Business Saturday Green Gift Bazaar, 10 am-4 pm, 300 Alby St, Alton. Earth Friendly, One-Of-A-Kind gifts that are handcrafted, recycled, up-cycled, made in the USA, or fair trade, www.altonmainstreet.org.

Nintendo Switch Gaming every Saturday, 1-4 pm, Six Mile Regional Library - Teen Room, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Grades 7-12, www.smrl.org.

Downtown Country Christmas Festival, from 2-8 pm, 103 Lincoln Ave, Jerseyville. Holiday fun for the entire family begin with the arrival of Santa Claus by helicopter! Stick around for an evening of entertainment including: Music on State Street, fresh baked goods at Mrs. Claus's Bake Shop, games on Elf Boulevard, photos with Santa, lighting of the Jerseyville Christmas Tree, Rudolph's Red Nose Parade and more, www.downtowncountrychristmas.com.

Eagles Bingo, 7 pm, every Friday and Saturday at Tri-mor Bingo Center, 3701 Nameoki Rd, Granite City. Great Prizes and great fun! www.granitecity.illinois.gov.

Western Dance Night, every Friday 7-10 pm, Fraternal Order of Eagles, 2558 Madison Ave, Granite City. \$5.00 door charge. For more information call 618-451-2109.

LIVE MUSIC: Kerry Lee, 7-11 pm, No. 5 Mine Winery, 413 E. Central Ave, Benld, www.the#5MineWinery.

SATURDAY, NOV 30-SUNDAY, DEC 1 Great Train Expo, 10 am-4 pm, Gateway Convention Center, 1 Gateway Dr, Collinsville. The nation's only coast-to-coast model train show. Designed for the general public, modelers, hobbyists, families, and the just plain curious, www.gatewaycenter.com.

Bethalto Christmas Village, 5-8 pm, 213 N. Prairie St, Bethalto. Celebrate Christmas with a stroll through Central Park in Bethalto, with decorated, lighted Christmas-themed cottages, live music, great food, a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus, holiday vendors and crafters, a live nativity scene, children's craft area, petting zoo, barrel car rides and more, www.visitalton.com

SATURDAY, NOV 30-SUNDAY, DEC 29 CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND Light Display, every Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 5-9 pm @ Rock Springs Park on College Ave, Alton. Drive through the park to view more than 2 million lights, cascading waterfalls of lights, lighted trees and displays, and take your child's photo with Santa Claus in the Enchanted Forest. Admission is \$7 for cars and small vans or \$1 per person for vehicles holding 10 or more persons. There will also be a special walk-through night (no cars allowed) the first Monday after Thanksgiving. Admission for the walk-through night is \$1 per person, www.greatriverroad.com.

SAVE THE DATES!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 FREE Sewing Circle, 1-3 p.m. (meets each month on the second and fourth Sunday.) Bring any period sewing or needlecraft project to share and/or work on in a relaxed setting. Instruction and help are available to those wanting to advance their skills in the production of period garments. Both ladies and gentlemen are welcome to participate. An informal gathering to share skills, ideas, and new information. The Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House, 409 S. Buchanan, Edwardsville, www.stephenhouse.org.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE, 5-8 pm, Rebecca's Antiques & Posh Boutique, 100 W. Market St, Taylorville. Beverages, sweet treats, door prizes and exclusive holiday shopping. www.rebeccasantiques.com.

SPECIAL WALK THROUGH NIGHT @ Christmas Wonderland, 5-9 pm, 2100 College Ave, Alton. See more than 2.5 million lights adorning trees and lighting displays throughout the park. Visitors are sure to be captivated by the holiday spirit. No cars allowed this night, admission \$1/person, www.visitalton.com.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 Granite City Senior Social Club Annual Christmas Party/Dinner/Dance featuring Bill Forness/Johnny Cash Tribute, and 19 E Street Band plus catered meal. \$13/members, \$15/non-members. Doors open at 12:15 pm, meal at 1 pm, followed by entertainment and dancing. Ends at 5 pm. Attendance prizes, and more. For ticket information call Diana @ 618-444-6771.

FRI, DEC 6-SAT, DEC 7 **VIRDEN'S COUNTRY CHRISTMAS**, downtown Virden. Kids Christmas Rock Quest, Christmas Market, Nativity Walk, Hall of Trees, Christmas story time, Polar Express rides, Lighted parade, Santa's arrival, cookie walk and much more. For details visit www.virdenchamber.com.

FRI, DEC 6-SUN, DEC 8 **A CARLINVILLE CHRISTMAS**, Fri 12-8 pm, Sat, 9am-8 pm, Sun, 11 am-3 pm. A magical holiday event held the first weekend of December each year with strolling carolers, great food and drinks, Christmas light shows, specials events and exclusive holiday shopping. Santa on the square, soup and chili dinner, a bell choir, fire truck rides, petting zoo, Magician Chef Bananas, free sleigh rides plus live music and entertainment throughout the day make this a weekend you won't forget, and will keep you coming back year after year. Artisan vendors will be set up downtown on East Main Street and at the Cross Church on West Main as well. Free shuttle service to and from: Carlinville Christmas Market at Cross Church, downtown, The Carlinville Plaza and the Anderson Mansion's Annual Christmas Show. For more information visit www.Facebook.com/A_Carlinville_Christmas, or save the insert in this issue of The Buzz Magazine, the OFFICIAL GUIDE to A Christmas in Carlinville! 🦋

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NOW HIRING FULL TIME TECHNICIANS at Turney Services. Paid holidays and benefit package. Apply online @www.TurneyServices.com.

TURNKEY TAXI CAB COMPANY FOR SALE, includes business with clientele list and 2006 Dodge Grand Caravan. Over 5 years in business with one owner. Making money. Asking \$75K. Serious inquiries only call 217-324-2222.

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PRICED TO SELL QUICKLY House w/2 car garage on 2 lots - corner lot. Needs tax liens paid as well as mowing liens, then commissions. Open offers near asking price. Land is worth \$10,000 a double lot by the park in town. House, Garage and city utilities are worth at least \$7,600. Rental house needs some TLC so be willing to put in a days work and a few thousand for patch roof work and other small jobs in bathroom and kitchen....or the extras if you want more than basic living. 627 N. Taylor Street, Staunton -by ball field - \$17,600 or best offer.

HOUSE FOR SALE 4 BR/2.5 bath with 2 car garage on full basement in Edwardsville. Call 618-623-7311.

PROPERTY FOR SALE - industrial or residential site with city utilities. Various plots to choose from. Two hay crops a year. Virden, IL. Call 217-965-3551.

15 ACRES, timber, creek, utility access. Easement. Near Litchfield's Lake Yaeger off IL Route 16 between Litchfield/Hillsboro. Great for RV, cabin, home site, hunting, investment. Personal owner selling. No contract for deed. No land clearing companies, \$94,000. Call 217-324-3869.

NICE HOUSE FOR A NICE PRICE - Well built 2/3 BR, 2 BA brick ranch. Hardwood floors, remodeled bathroom, 1958 sq ft. 112 Midway Ave, Cottage Hills, IL. Good value for \$86,900. Call for appointment. 618-604-9723. (ufn)

1 BR APARTMENT for rent. Water/heat/ trash included for \$450/month. Security deposit and 1 year lease required. Staunton, 618-444-7222.

2 BR APARTMENT for rent with washer/ dryer hookups. Includes water/heat/trash. Security deposit and 1 year lease required. \$600/month. Staunton, 618-444-7222.

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2005 KEYSTONE SPRINTER 5TH WHEEL CAMPER, good condition, central heat/air, 12' slide, road ready! Call 618-292-6363 for price and details.

FIBERGLASS CAMPER SHELL, well made, heavy duty, no cracks. Fits Ford Ranger pickups with 6 ft styleside bed. Dark grey metallic. Need to sell, have no place to store it, \$375, call 618-259-2720.

4 X 8 TRAILER 1999, with sideboards , tilt bed, new tires, \$350, call 217-533-4699.

2005 Honda 750 Shadow, approx. 8000 miles. With windshield, light cluster bars, rider seat and back rest, leather saddle bags, whole bike cover. In good condition. Only \$3400. Please call 217-710-7957 after 7PM.

2012 KAI SCOOTER 150 cc with only 20 miles on it. Owned by senior citizen that cannot ride. \$1195 or best offer, 217-320-3311.

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RCA 25" ColorTrac, wooden console TV, works fine, \$50, 217-324-3869.

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RCA 25" COLOR TRAC TV, wooden console, works fine, \$50, 217-324-3869.

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(continued on next page)

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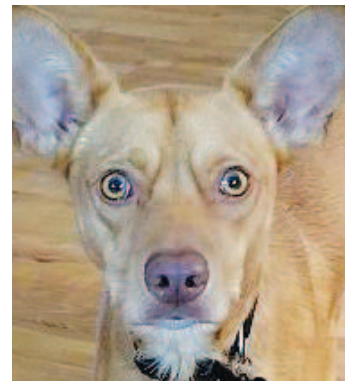


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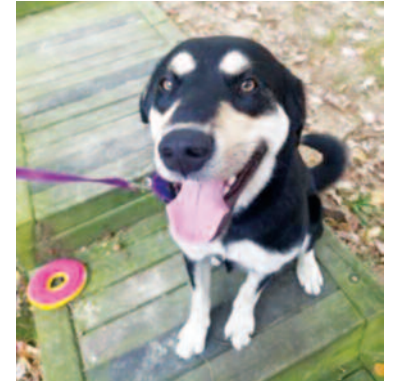
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