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- ALONG ROUTE 66 • THE BOOK BUZZ
- A LETTER FROM AUNT LEA • ILLINOIS HISTORY
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EDITOR'S NOTES

May sure was a LOOOONG month, wasn't it? But June is finally here and it appears that the situation is improving for those of us the live in Illinois. I hope no one goes totally crazy with the lifted restrictions and still takes precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 so we don't find out that this relief is only temporary. Keep washing your hands. Practice social distancing, and wear masks.

We normally insert our annual Antique and Vintage Guide & Map in our April issue, but with the approaching shut down when we were preparing it, we thought it best to hold it until a later date. Well, that date is here! If you haven't already found it, our Annual Antique/Vintage Guide & Map is included with this issue. Keep this pull out section handy and use it to plan your shopping excursions all year, and even next spring. Make sure if you are traveling some distance to call the stores and inquire about hours and policies they are following to make sure they are open, and you are prepared. I know they will all be so happy to see you though!

And speaking of the shut down, the

delay in printing the antique guide, etc ... I know it has been rough for some of you to find issues of *The Buzz Magazine* the last few months, but this month we are almost back to normal. We still won't have copies at many of the restaurants, but many will have them too. If the restaurant you are ordering from does take out or delivery, and they normally have *The Buzz*, ask if they have the current copy. If they do, they will be happy to include it with your order!

Of course, there were not enough events scheduled to include a calendar of events again this month, but we will start printing that again, once more events are being scheduled.

The weather this spring has been erratic and it's hard to know what to do, or when to do it. The garden has been unpredictable, except now that I am on press deadline it seems the weeds have decided to accelerate their growth! The other plants will just have to wait a little longer for me to relieve them of these mooching invaders.

I could have the grandkids pull weeds while I am working, I guess. On second thought, perhaps not. They will either pull the wrong things, or stomp on the plants, or get into a fight, stung... who knows. It's better to wait for grandma to supervise.

However, they are having a great time in the pool, like they always do. Those kids just LOVE to be in the water. The door to my office opens to the patio and pool area so I usually open the door and pull the screen so I can observe them more efficiently. Today they just bobbed around in the shallow end for hours discussing various things. It was quite comical, but also a bit sad. They are getting so big. They soon will be 12 and 13 years old! And the extent of their vocabularies just amaze me. I guess they did learn a few things being home-schooled for the past several months!

Look for the July issue of *The Buzz Magazine* on June 29 and 30. A few days early but I didn't want to be working on it over the Independence Day weekend, plus that would put us behind on production for August.

I'm not sure what July will bring, but with the way things are now, who can be sure of anything? Well you can be sure that

we will keep bringing *The Buzz Magazine* to you every month, as long as we are able.

One last thing. We talk about it all the time, supporting small business, shopping local. This is our mantra always. It is the small businesses that support the local sports team, your entire community, and their advertising that brings you *The Buzz*. Thank them in person whenever you can, but especially now, thank them by spending money with them and keeping their doors open. A world without small businesses would not be good on so many levels.

Until July - be safe, be healthy!

~TLC

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I am going to have to start checking the grands to see if they are growing fins or developing gills, they are in the water so much! The top photo was taken five years ago! The bottom photo was taken today (May 27, 2020). Boy, oh boy, have they changed. But their love of the pool has not!

A Letter from Aunt Lea

What a time we are having. When the quarantine started in March, we had no idea what we were in for. I liked how a young woman at the grocery store described the situation: "I feel like we're living in a history book one hundred years from now." True that. And in the beginning, we believed the quarantine would be for just a short time, so it even took on the air of an adventure. Everyone began compiling to-do lists for their stay-at-home time. Many of those lists included cleaning and organizing.

Sis mentioned that she was going to clean and reorganize her kitchen cabinets and china hutch. I got caught up in the frenzy and announced that I was going to start my spring cleaning. One of the many reasons I am so devoted to Sis is the fact that she very rarely throws the B.S. card on me. By rights, she could have come back with, "You and I both know you will not do that." Instead, "Absolutely!" was her reply. I love Sis. Cleaning and projects have certainly been on my mind lately.

Earlier in March, my 89-year old aunt was in the process of moving to a smaller place. I drove down to help her get packed. I climbed a stepladder and started taking things down from the tops of her kitchen cabinets. At this point, I'll let you in on one of my favorite cleaning hacks, something I assumed both my aunt and I were hip to. Here is my Pro Tip: Go up high with your treasures! Display things on a shelf or atop a cabinet and you can worry much less about dusting!

Well, imagine my dismay when I realized that the things I was lifting from the tops of her cabinets weren't dusty. "Auntie, everything up here is clean as a pin," I said in disbelief. "Oh, I'm sure that's not the case," came her (89-year old) reply. "None of this stuff is dusty! You don't actually clean up here, do you?" "Well, of course I do, don't you?" After a sharp intake of air, I strategically became terribly preoccupied with the stepladder I was on, concerned that a rung might be loose. Not to be taken lightly, that one.

Later, Hubby and I were sitting on the couch reading when I received a text from my niece. She reported that she had just finished an addition to their chicken coop, which would allow them to add to their flock. Oh, and she had built more shelving in the basement for her garden canning. After that, she had gone over all with a crisp coat of white paint. I texted, "That's wonderful!" and went back to my book. Another text came in. I sat up straighter and uttered an, "Oh My." Hubby looked up from his book. "What's that?" I handed him my phone. Niece had come back with, "So what projects are YOU tackling during this stay-at-home time?" Sitting up straighter and looking alarmed, Hubby said, "I asked

you just the other day if we shouldn't be getting things done during all this!" We hurriedly thought through the projects we could be "tackling." "I know - we'll paint the basement!" declared Hubby. I quickly texted her back, "Oh us? We plan to paint the basement. We've wanted to do that since we moved in." I sat the phone down, feeling quite ill as to what we had committed ourselves to. Came back her reply, "Cool. What colors are you going with? And when do you start?" Not to be taken lightly, that one.

One of the domestic tasks I truly enjoy is lining the insides of cabinets with contact paper. When we moved in, I rushed about the house scrubbing cabinets and drawers all over the house. Scrubbing deep inside a new cabinet, I can be fairly put off by the idea that I'm cleaning someone else's dirt. I don't know where that dirt has been, after all. I like to be on familiar terms with my dirt. "Thank goodness I'm getting this taken care of," I think to myself. I then carefully measure, cut and place the contact paper in the cabinet.

Lining the cabinets with contact paper is one of those projects in which your mind is free to wander in pleasant ways. I take up the question of who's voice would I rather have: Whitney Houston's or Gladys Knight's? It goes back and forth, but I decide on Gladys, because I would dearly like to sing, Heeeeeeeee's leavin'! Leavin' on that midnight train to Georgia! That is until Ms. Aretha comes to mind, then I have to change the subject.

Mind wandering can also veer into the maddening, of course. Why in the world can't I figure out Grandma's recipe for salmon patties? Where in world is my watering can? It takes several tries to get the contact paper in place properly and I work and work. Always with the air bubbles. It occurs to me that perhaps lining cabinets with contact paper is the female equivalent to males' marking their territory. It is a way for the lady of the house to claim her space. "This is my cabinet and don't you dare put your Tupperware in it!" I finally finish and it is a good feeling. I decide to leave the Linda Ronstadt vs. Karen Carpenter conundrum for another project. And from now on, I am more at home with the dirt and dust since I have the assurance that what is in the cabinet is our own dirt and somehow it doesn't seem nearly as ...dirty.

Here is to having work and projects to keep one's mind occupied during stressful times. I think about Sis, Auntie and Niece. Here also is to having people in one's life to live up to.

Your Aunt Lea is thinking of you and grabbing a paint brush. Reach her at Auntielea19@gmail.com. **And please visit her blog at Letterfromauntlea.wordpress.com.** 🐛

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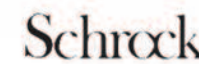
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Life Insurance Companies Have Been Turning Away New Customers. The Time to Act is Now!

There has never been a better time to reevaluate your or your family's need for life insurance and update your coverage as soon as possible. Several major life insurance companies have made decisions to either withdraw products, or not accept applications for older Americans or those in poor health all due to the Covid-19 healthcare crisis.

Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, among others, has put a hold on life insurance sales to people age 70 and older and those applicants that exhibit poor health. This is due to the fact that older people with underlying medical problems are dying at much higher rates from Covid-19 than younger people. Prudential has announced that they are suspending the sale of 30-year term insurance policies for the foreseeable future. American International Group, Nationwide Mutual Insurance, Pacific Life Insurance Company, and Principal Financial Group are among the large insurers that are limiting the size of so-called Guaranteed Universal Life policies which are highly sensitive to low interest rates.

The overall effect of the Covid-19 crisis will have long-term implications on the life and health insurance industry. I am certain that after this crisis is over many insurers will look to update mortality tables. Due to the high number of deaths from Covid-19, life expectancy tables are likely to decrease, which would logically lead to an increase in the cost of life insurance going forward. In addition, life and health insurance companies earn much of their profit by investing their customers' premiums in bonds until claims come due. Therefore, this lower interest rate environment that we currently find ourselves in will shrink the profitability of insurance company assets which are invested primarily in long-term and intermediate-term US government securities.

"The extraordinary low-interest-rate environment that we all live with today is certainly not good for Americans looking to save, nor for the life insurance industry,

but the value of protection products with guarantees will increase in this unpredictable environment," said Theodore Mathis, Chairman-elect of the trade group The American Council of Life Insurance and a Chief Executive of New York Life Insurance Company.

Life insurance carriers gather information about the people who apply for their products. They ask a lot of questions and use the applicant's medical history and actuarial tables to help decide the rates for each applicant. The Covid-19 mortality is very difficult to predict, causing insurers to be cautious in issuing new coverage.

"The ultimate rate of mortality from Covid-19 will evolve over time," says a March 16, 2020 report from the Society of Actuaries. So if you are planning to buy life insurance in the near future, your best bet is to act quickly. It is possible that some companies may even temporarily suspend their acceptance of new life insurance applications.

We at Wall Street Financial Group believe there has never been a better time for Americans to evaluate their need for life insurance for themselves and their families and perhaps take action now as many carriers have not yet responded to this crisis. We can assist you by emailing tools to evaluate your need for life insurance. We can then arrange a Zoom conference where we will have the ability to bring up proposals on the screen share them with you and then email them to you for your consideration. In addition, most carriers have responded to the crisis by allowing us to submit applications electronically making it more convenient for all parties and avoiding needless delays and contact.

If you believe our services would be a value to you or your family, feel free to reach out to us for a no-cost, no-obligation consultation by calling our toll free number 1-800-303-9255. We can arrange a time to chat or schedule a Zoom meeting with our staff in the comfort of your own home.

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We wanted to remind our readers that our partner, Riverbender.com, offers daily podcasts with the top local stories for news, sports and weather.

And thanks to the work of David Olinbittle, host of the RiverBender Daily Newscast, you can now hear a quick one minute recap of Governor Pritzker's afternoon address. The governor's address covers the latest information pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic and all safety precautions that he and the CDC are recommending for the residents of Illinois.

As soon as the governor is finished with his afternoon address, David writes a quick recap and makes it available for you on Rivebender.com in audio format. This free service began on March 27, 2020, and will continue as long the governor continues to give us a daily update.

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PHOTOS BY



The Drive-In Theater ... an American Icon

The Drive-In Theater Celebrates 119 years as an American Icon • Litchfield's Skyview Drive-In Celebrates 70 Years on Route 66

BY TARA L. CALE

If you are reading this, chances are that you have been to a drive-in theater at some point in your life. You probably took your children, and possibly your grandchildren. But there is a chance that in the near future, the drive-in theater will no longer be an option for family entertainment. Like many great American icons, the drive-in theater is going by the wayside. I find that sad.

The drive-in movie theatre is truly an American invention, and truly an American Icon, albeit a dying one. In the early 1900s there were attempts at opening outdoor theaters, but the first true drive-in theater, as we know them today, opened on June 6, 1933, in Camden, New Jersey, by a gentleman named Richard Hollingshead. His inspiration came from watching his mother who found it uncomfortable to sit in the seats of a regular movie theater. So he began experimenting with showing movies in the drive-

way of his home. He tried several set up variations and finally found what he thought was the best set up for the projector, screen, sound and spacing between cars. He applied for a patent, which was granted, and shortly thereafter opened the Automobile Movie Theatre. Hollingshead charged 25 cents per car and 25 cents per person. His slogan was, "The whole family is welcome, regardless of how noisy the children are."

There was a drive-in theatre where I spent my teen years. We loved going there because you could take a car load for very little money so you still had money to spend at the concession stand. You got to hang out with your friends and have a good time, and even be a little loud or rowdy, and no one minded much - because that's just how it was at the drive-in.

In more recent years I took my grandchildren to the Skyview Drive-in in Litch-

field. It was a frequent excursion for us. I think they loved running around and playing football, soccer and frisbee with the older kids in the green area beneath the big screen as much as they enjoyed sitting in lawn chairs outside the vehicle, wrapped in blankets, munching their popcorn and watching the maybe "not so latest" movie - but still possibly one they had not seen. Back then the drive-in usually featured two movies, for much less than the price of one at the regular theater. But the grandkids rarely remained awake until the end of the second feature. Often, neither did I.

Hollingshead never made a profit with his Automobile Movie Theatre and sold it several years later to a new owner who moved it to another location. The concept of the drive-in theater caught on though, and expanded rapidly. By 1940 there were over 20 drive-ins that had opened across the

United States. Eventually, Hollingshead's patent was ruled invalid and it was at that point that the number of drive-ins exploded. With the patent invalid, anyone could open a drive-in theater without having to pay royalties. Drive-in numbers peaked in the late 1950's - early 1960's. During that time, generally considered the golden age of drive-ins, there were over 4,000 drive-in theaters across the United States. But that golden age didn't last, and in the 1970's the number of drive-ins began to decline rapidly.

Drive-ins are an important part of American pop-culture history, and they remind people of the "good old days" but now, the number of drive-ins that are still in operation are few and far between. In fact, there are only around 300 drive-ins in the entire United States today. Nine of those are in Illinois - Earlville, Galesburg, Gibson City, McHenry, Newton and Sterling ... and in



Currently Skyview Drive-In is only allowed to fill 350 of their 700 available spaces due to COVID-19 restrictions. At the time of printing it was required that movie goers stay in their vehicles unless visiting the restroom or concession stand, but by the time you read this, the restrictions may have changed. Follow Skyview Drive-In on Facebook or visit their website for current information.



Above: The marquee at the entrance of the Skyview Drive-In holds information about upcoming movies and events.



Left: The Sky View is in the Route 66 Hall of Fame and hosts a Wayside Exhibit, shown, at the front of the property. This exhibit, placed by the Scenic Byway, tells stories of patrons and some history of the prop

The Buzz coverage area, Belleville, Springfield and Litchfield - the location of the drive-in featured in this story.

The Skyview Drive-in in Litchfield is the one of only four drive-ins left operating on Historic Route 66 in the entire United States, and the only one on Route 66 in Illinois. The Skyview opened in 1950 and has been in seasonal operation ever since. This year marks the theater's 70th Anniversary.

The Sky View is in the Route 66 Hall of Fame and hosts a Wayside Exhibit at the front of the property. This exhibit, placed by the Scenic Byway, tells stories of patrons and some history of the property.

Originally owned and operated by Frisina Enterprises, the The Skyview was sold to Mid America Theaters, and eventually to Norman and Del Paul. The Paul family sold the theater on March 1, 2016 to Pastro Properties Inc, comprised of Litchfield residents and business owners, Mike, Debbie, Nick and Mindy Pastrovich. The Pastrovich family has enjoyed taking a more hands on approach of the theatre over the last four years and is excited to be a part of both local and Route 66 history.

In the 1990s to early 2000s there seemed to be a modest comeback in drive-in theaters. But the industry was dealt a crippling blow when the movie industry started converting movies from film to digital format. It saved the movie industry significant amounts of money but required drive-in theaters to purchase new and expensive pro-

jectors (that could cost over \$60,000 each). However, some survived. The Skyview in Litchfield is one that did.

Today many drive-ins have found creative ways to stay operational. There are a number of large drive-ins on the West Coast, in Texas and in Florida that hold weekly Swap Meets on their lots on the weekends. The booth rental revenue they obtain from the Swap Meets helps them stay in business. They are also several drive-ins which have been kept open by charitable efforts from their local communities through fundraising drives to help them secure the funds needed to purchase digital projectors. And there are even a few drive-ins that were taken over by the local governments or local social organizations and turned into non-profits to keep them afloat. The hope is, that with these efforts and more, we can not only keep the drive-ins we have now, but foster an environment in which more can operate profitably.

The Skyview Drive-In in Litchfield is also researching additional opportunities to create enough revenue to keep it open and profitable. Photo shoots can be scheduled at the drive-in, through Minndora's Specialty Photography (owned by one of the drive-in's owners, Mindy Pastrovich). Currently the theater is working on an overnight excursion for the Girl Scouts. Live concerts and comedy shows are also a consideration. And the drive-in's season will culminate with an event the Pastrovich family imple-

mented since they took ownership, their annual Scavenger Hunt and Classic Car Show. This event is co-sponsored by Creepers Car Club. Hints for the Scavenger Hunt this year are still undetermined due to the complications from COVID-19 but most likely they will be shared via the Skyview Drive-In and Creepers Car Club websites and Facebook pages. Participants can find "stickers" of various classic cars throughout the summer months, and possibly even find swag bags of items that may include Skyview tickets and other goodies. The hunt ends with a classic car show at the Skyview Drive-In.

Things are a little different at the Skyview right now due to COVID-19 restrictions. They have 700 spaces for cars, but now can only fill half of those, as every other space must be left empty. At the time of printing it was required that you must remain in your car unless using the restroom or visiting the concession stand, at which time you must maintain social distancing. That meant no sitting in the backs of, or outside of, your vehicle. You cannot open your back hatch. Bathrooms are cleaned regularly and the staff wears masks and gloves. That may not be the same experience you remember at the drive-in, but by following these guidelines, it allows them to be open to provide you and your family an opportunity to get out, relax and have a good time. And although the kids are not allowed to run and play in the "green" area before the

movie, the Skyview is working on ways to keep the younger clientele entertained.

"On opening night this season the ladies from The Briar Rose here in Litchfield came out in their dinosaur costumes to entertain the children," Mindy Pastrovich said. "Our focus is providing quality, affordable entertainment for the entire family."

Plus, information released around time of printing indicates that possibly by the time you read this, you will be able to open and sit in your hatch, or sit in lawn chairs outside your vehicles.

The Skyview Drive-In is located at 1500 N Historic Old Route 66. Movies are shown every Friday and Saturday, and every second Sunday, through October 11 (this year). Gates open at 7:30 p.m. and movies start at dusk (approximately 8:30). Admission is \$7 per person (ages 5 and under are free). A hotline is set up for current information - call 217-324-4451. You can also find them on Facebook for additional details or visit www.LitchfieldSkyview.com.

The season closing car show event at the Skyview Drive-In will be Saturday, October 17. Admission is \$10 (5 and under free) and includes the car show and movie.

For more information about the Skyview Drive-In in Litchfield, public relations or events, contact Mindy Pastrovich at 217-556-1929 or email mindy@minndoras.com.

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 16 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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- **Ongoing Preventive Measures:** We are closely monitoring CDC and federal, state and local Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines for health and safety.
- **Connective Technology:** Our partnership with Caremerge assures families and residents stay digitally connected and informed about their loved ones' ongoing care and wellness.
- **Therapy Continues:** Important physical, occupational and speech therapy services have been adjusted using in-room therapy and social distancing practices.
- **Caring, Supportive Staff:** We are fortunate to have ample resources and dedicated employees. Our Cedarhurst Response Team vigilantly monitors the safety of our communities around the clock.

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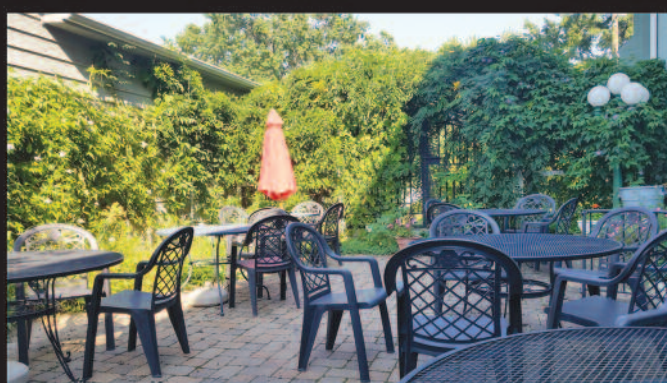


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Where Customer Service Is As Impressive as The Food

It's a Pie, It's a Cobbler, It's a Sonker!

BY CHEF JACK WUNSCH

Here's a recipe that you don't hear of or see much in the Midwest. With its roots in North Carolina, this is a dessert you would expect Aunt Bea to serve in Mayberry. But this is the easiest way to put a delicious, quick dessert on the table that the family will love.

It's a sonker! Wait...What!? I know what a cobbler is. I've heard of New England's brown Betty. Are you sure it's not a pan dowdy or a crisp? It's not a pie. Then it must be a cobbler. Some people may call this a slump or a grunt. No, it's a sonker and here's a recipe that may become a staple for your family.

A sonker is an excellent "covered dish" that can be taken to picnics or parties. (In case you don't remember, a picnic is where family and friends gather outdoors and enjoy food, fellowship, and outdoor activities. The rules for gathering as a group have changed, but the fact that food provides comfort, joy, great memories, and in-depth conversation, has not.)

A sonker is a deep, delicious casserole of warm fruit or soft sweet potato. The sonker was made to feed everyone who was working on the farm during the summer. It began as a way to stretch fruit that was past its peak ripeness.

There's even a Sonker Festival held in Lowgap, NC. They serve strawberry, blueberry, blackberry, cherry, sweet potato sonkers and many more. Today, I want to

highlight the first berry of the spring – strawberries. The recipe is shown.

If you search the internet, you'll find several variations. This is the one my grandmother used, which I love most because of the addition of butter. Butter makes everything delicious!

And as a bonus, here is a recipe for:

EASY PEACH SONKER (gluten free/dairy free)

1 box gluten free yellow cake mix
1 16-oz bag frozen organic peaches
1 15-oz can peaches in light syrup
1 tbsp local honey (optional)
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp cinnamon
¼ cup dairy free "buttery" spread, melted. (Earth Balance brand works)
10-oz seltzer water. You can use strawberry or peach flavored.

Directions:

Place peaches into 9x13 or other deep baking dish. Drizzle honey on top of fruit.

In a mixing bowl, very gently stir the dry cake mix with melted butter, vanilla and seltzer water. Stir gently just until wet. Do not use a mixer.

Pour batter over the top of the fruit and fold in the fruit. Sprinkle cinnamon on top.

Bake 45 minutes or until golden brown and bubbly in 350-degree oven. 🐝

Strawberry Sonker



INGREDIENTS

1 stick butter, unsalted, melted
5 cups whole strawberries, (stems removed, macerated)
1 tsp vanilla
1 cup plus 1 tbsp sugar
1 cup self-rising flour
1 cup milk

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Make sure oven rack is in center. Melt butter in 9x13 deep baking dish. Coat dish with butter. Set aside.

In cast iron pan or saucepan, stew fruit

and 1/4 cup of the sugar sprinkled on top, just until bubbling to get the juices flowing. If you macerate the strawberries, there will be enough liquid. If not, you can add 1 or 2 tbsps water. You do not want this too runny.

Mix flour, the rest of the sugar, vanilla and milk in a mixing bowl and pour it into the baking dish. Some people prefer to wait and pour the batter over the fruit after it's in the dish.

Once batter is poured in dish, pour fruit and all of the juice in the dish. Don't worry. The batter will rise to the top.

Bake for 45 minutes or until top is golden and juices are bubbling.

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Grill Chicken Like a Chef with this Little-Known Technique

BY CHEF JACK WUNSCH

It's finally June and the weather is warmer, the breezes are nicer. You can smell your neighbor's grill in the distance as you finish mowing your lawn. It's hard to get the thought of grilling in your own backyard with your favorite frosty beverage out of your thoughts. Now, the big question is, what to grill? So many choices.

The most popular items Midwestern families like to grill are chicken, burgers and steaks. Beyond that, most backyard grillers dabble with the occasional thick cut bologna, hot dog or sausage. Most anything tastes good cooked on a hot grill. The more char, the better. The advanced grillers can teach all of us a thing or two! I've seen some masterpieces prepared on an outdoor grill. It all depends on your technique when you're grilling food.

Technique?

One main thing our instructors in the kitchen kept repeating to us again and again is this, "Technique produces the best flavor!" After years in the kitchen I've been fortunate to continue my education and my experimentation. Now I know what they meant.

There are many techniques. Many of them you are familiar with and use in your kitchen. The basic techniques include boiling, frying, baking, roasting, poaching, grilling, pan fry and sauté, and many others. It's not enough to identify the many techniques and tell yourself, "Sure. I can boil an egg." Maybe you can, but you probably

don't know the "proper" way chefs boil eggs. That's only because we are faced daily in the kitchen with using the correct technique at the correct time. To cook anything correctly to produce delicious results requires knowing the proper technique. But this article is about grilling outdoors.

When you search the internet for grilling and Bobby Flay, the first thing that comes up is grilled chicken, followed by too many grilled chicken recipes to count. Each one is more delicious than the next. But the one thing you won't find in any of those recipes is the proper technique for perfect grilled chicken.

Most of us turn our grills up as high as we can get it to prepare for our grilled masterpiece. This is good if you're wanting to clean your grill, but for most grilling, except searing steaks, it's not necessary to get your grill screaming hot.

As a matter of fact, one of the best-kept chef's secrets to perfect grilled chicken has two parts. First, set your grill or coals to low-to-medium-low heat. Second part is to start with the skin side down first. Now don't touch the chicken. Don't start turning it every minute or two. Let it cook slowly. Maybe move it to avoid a flare-up, but if you have your heat set correctly, just be patient and let the flavor develop. If the heat is set just between medium and low, you will only leave a slight char on the chicken, which is exactly what you want.

This technique will produce perfect



grilled chicken because as the fat slowly renders, the chicken stays moist and the skin becomes crispy. It's that simple. As the fat slowly renders, it also bastes the meat with those delicious juices filled with chicken-fat-flavor. It could take as long as 20 minutes or a little longer to produce grilled chicken perfection.

While you're being patient as you're grilling chicken, now is a great time to teach yourself how to take advantage of that medium-to-low grill and treat yourself to some grilled fresh vegetables. All you need are fresh vegetables, washed and trimmed, tossed in olive oil and sea salt and put on the grill. What a depth of flavor grilled vegetables adds to your dishes!

Now for the big finish. After being patient and standing guard over your chicken, now your chicken is almost ready for the table. For most of us, it's time to slather on the sauce. Here's another reason for a low to medium-low heat. Let your sauce lightly glaze your perfect grilled chicken for a few more minutes to produce that sticky-sweet-smoky-spicy bite of perfect grilled barbecue chicken.

If you find your patience and use the technique for great grilled chicken, then you'll be so proud of yourself as the compliments to the chef roll in at your next barbecue. I'm not sure what it is about we Midwesterners, but not much beats a mouth-watering bite of barbecue chicken off your own grill.

And for those of you that are wondering...the technique to perfect boiled eggs is to never crowd your eggs in the pan and cover the eggs with about 1/2 -inch of water. Cover and bring to a boil. Add a teaspoon of vinegar or salt if you want, but it's not necessary. When the water comes to a full boil, turn off the heat and let the pan sit covered for 10-12 minutes. Leave eggs in pan for up to 14-15 minutes for a firmer yolk. I "sacrifice" one egg after 10 minutes to check the yolk for doneness. I love a hot boiled egg with a soft yolk. One of my "guilty pleasures" and a healthy one, too. In the restaurant kitchen, we wait until the timer hits 13 minutes, then we pour cold water over the eggs to stop cooking and then

If you read this to the end, you got a bonus tip! 🐔

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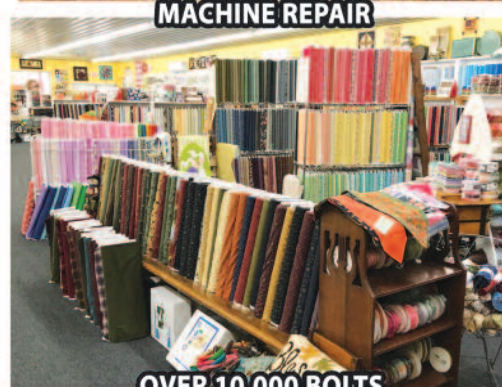
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Eat Well to Keep Your Immune System Strong

BY TARA L. CALE

This month's column was sent to us by HSHS Medical Group & Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois. I did include a recipe though, because I have learned how much you all love recipes and let me know about it if, for some reason, one is not included.

I really love this recipe too because I love a) salad b) strawberries and c) spinach. And right now my garden is full of spinach and strawberries so it's perfect! Plus it's packed with tons of healthy foods and nutrients! You can also use this recipe with different fruits. Try blueberries, blackberries, raspberries or peaches. And you can make a different fruity vinaigrette. Use the same recipe and substitute the fruit jam of your choice to change up the flavor.

Eating well does help keep your immune system strong. So let's hear now what HSHS Medical Group & Prairie Heart Institute of Illinois have to say about that...

By now, chances are you know the advice on protecting yourself and others from COVID-19: Keep your distance. Wear a mask. Wash your hands. And so on. But here's something you might have overlooked: Eat healthy foods.

Eating nutritiously has always been a way to stay healthy. A healthy diet strengthens your immune system, and a strong immune system helps protect you from illness. And while no one food or diet can prevent illness or the coronavirus, eating healthy can help your body prevent, fight and recover from infections during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables is associated with a decreased risk of many chronic diseases," said Katharine Beberman, MS, RDN, LDN, a registered dietitian with the Joslin Diabetes Center

Affiliate at HSHS Medical Group. "In addition, the immune system and stress response could be weakened by nutrient deficiency."

What does healthy eating look like?

Of course, it's best to keep your immune system healthy all the time, not just when a virus is going around. That means focusing on a well-balanced diet filled with nutritious foods like fruits, vegetables and whole grains.

According to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, these nutrients can help strengthen your immune system:

Beta carotene. This can be found in plant foods like sweet potatoes, spinach and carrots.

Probiotics. These good bacteria can be found in cultured dairy products like yogurt. Protein. This may be especially helpful in healing and recovery. You can find this in plant and animal products, such as milk, eggs, beef, chicken, fish, nuts, beans and seeds.

Vitamin A. This helps regulate the immune system and protect against infections. Look for it in broccoli, spinach, eggs or milk and cereal fortified with vitamin A.

Vitamin C. Look for this in citrus fruits. It helps the immune system by increasing the amount of antibodies in your system.

Vitamin D. Find it in fatty fish and eggs, as well as drinks fortified with vitamin D.

Vitamin E. This works as an antioxidant. Antioxidants decrease inflammation. Find vitamin E in fortified cereals, sunflower seeds, vegetable oils and peanut butter.

Zinc. This may help wounds heal. You can find it in wheat germ, beans and tofu. But zinc is best absorbed from animal sources like beef and fish.

The best way to get the nutrients your immune system needs is to include a wide variety of healthy foods in your diet.

"Start with small changes – maybe include one to two more servings of fruits and vegetables a day, or try switching out sugar-sweetened beverages for water," Beberman said. "Making small, gradual changes is much more practical and sustainable than trying to change everything all at once."

Healthy food choices are usually a better option than a supplement. Overloading on specific nutrients won't give your immune system a super boost. And taking too much of some of them can actually do more harm than good.

"We can promote a strong immune system by living a healthy lifestyle, not only eating a diverse, balanced diet, but also through managing stress, being physically active and getting enough sleep," said Beberman.

About HSHS Medical Group: HSHS Medical Group is the physician organization of Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS). Launched in 2009, HSHS Medical Group is a critical component of the HSHS Care

Integration strategy, which focuses on bringing physicians, technology and patients together to improve the overall health of our communities. HSHS Medical Group is comprised of over 1,300 colleagues in locations throughout Central and Southern Illinois and is powered by the Franciscan history of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis. Our faith-based identity led us to the single most important tenet of the HSHS Medical Group philosophy — patient-first care. For more information about HSHS Medical Group, visit HSHSMedicalGroup.org.

About Hospital Sisters Health System: Hospital Sisters Health System's (HSHS) mission is to reveal and embody Christ's healing love for all people through our high quality, Franciscan health care ministry. HSHS provides state-of-the-art health care to patients and is dedicated to serving all people, especially the most vulnerable, at each of our 14 Local Systems and physician practices in Illinois (Belleville, Breese, Decatur, Effingham, Greenville, Highland, Litchfield, and Springfield). For more information visit www.hshs.org or www.hospital-sisters.org.

Strawberry Spinach Salad with Avocado



INGREDIENTS

For the salad:

- 1 package (5 ounces) organic spinach
- 8 ounces strawberries, halved (about 2 cups halved strawberries)
- 1 large avocado, sliced
- 1/2 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup feta crumbles
- 1/3 cup raw sliced almonds
- 1/4 cup chopped shelled roasted pistachios

For the balsamic strawberry vinaigrette dressing:

- 3 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, grated or finely minced
- 1/2 teaspoon dijon mustard
- 1/2 tablespoon strawberry jam (or jam of choice)
- Freshly ground salt and pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

In a mason jar or small bowl, add all of the dressing ingredients. Shake or mix well to combine. Taste and add additional salt/pepper, if necessary.

Toast the almonds on the stovetop: add the almonds to a pan and place over medium heat, stirring occasionally for 2-5 minutes until almonds are slightly golden brown. Remove from heat and allow to cool.

Add spinach to a large bowl, layer on the strawberries, avocado slices, red onion, feta, toasted almonds, and chopped pistachios. Feel free to add dressing now or set it out for individual servings. Top salad bowls with extra toasted almonds and drizzle each bowl with 1/4 of the dressing. Serves 4.

This salad is best enjoyed the same day you make it to keep things nice and fresh, but will also be delicious the next day too.

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Grow a Lot of Food in Just a Little Space

BY KRIS HART

Whether you have a huge space for a garden or not, you can still grow lots of food! Here are a few ways to maximize your growing potential: growing vertically, inter growing and container gardening.

Growing vertically will maximize your growing potential by creating a smaller footprint of each plant, leaving more space free for more plants. One winter squash plant can take up 20 square feet on the ground. Growing this plant on a trellis will take this plant's footprint down to about 1-2. This leaves you about 18 more feet to inter-plant other crops! Anywhere you trellis a plant up, you now have room underneath to grow more smaller crops!

Having large plants on the ground will beckon pests and traps fungus growing moisture under it's foliage. The best thing you can do is offer your plant enough support to hold up the entire plant off of the ground. This discourages both fungus and pests. One arched cattle panel can hold one large melon or squash plant or 4 small melon or cucumber plants. The plants that produce large fruits may require some support for their fruit. Pantyhose, t-shirt slings or produce bags will grow with the fruit and can be tied to the trellis to hold the fruit up while it ripens. Trellis growing is that it also makes harvesting much easier!

Using stakes is another way to help

plants grow up rather than out. Help a bush variety squash grow up by placing 2 stakes on either side of a young plant. As the leaves and fruits grow larger on all sides of those stakes, they will support the plant vertically without tying. Three stakes set in a tee-pee fashion can support one small melon or squash plant. As the plant grows, tie runners to the stakes in a spiral manner around the tee-pee as it grows larger. Support the fruit. This is also a great option for beans, peas and cucumbers, although these wont require such sturdy supports.

If in-ground gardening isn't feasible, consider container gardening. Vertical planters are a great option. Greenstalk planters are very well crafted and made in America! They start at \$99, but if you are looking for something more economical, you can make one out of used buckets! You can also buy pots or grow bags, or you could salvage old washtubs, 5 gallon buckets, tin cans, or milk jugs! Just cut your opening in the top and punch some drainage holes in the bottom. You can even vertically grow on trellising in large containers. Simply stuff a stake woven through a little piece of fencing down in the container, add your soil, and grow two cucumbers or several bean plants. Stuff one large teepee and grow a sugar baby watermelon or winter squash plant. Stuff two stakes and grow that summer



You can build your own stacked container garden or purchase one commercially. The planter shown above is available at www.GreenStalkGarden.com and features a patented watering system.

squash. Stuff one tall stake and grow an indeterminate tomato!

Another great space saving idea is to use a shoe organizer! Hang on a wall and fill each pocket with soil and plant small varieties like dwarf tomatoes, strawberries, herbs, flowers, or beans! Rain gutters also make great small variety planters that can be fastened to a wall or railing.

Hopefully you find this inspirational and strive to grow lots of your own food this year! Happy gardening! 🌱

Jean Flores from central Texas shows what it looks like to grow a zucchini vertically using garden stakes.



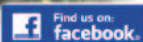
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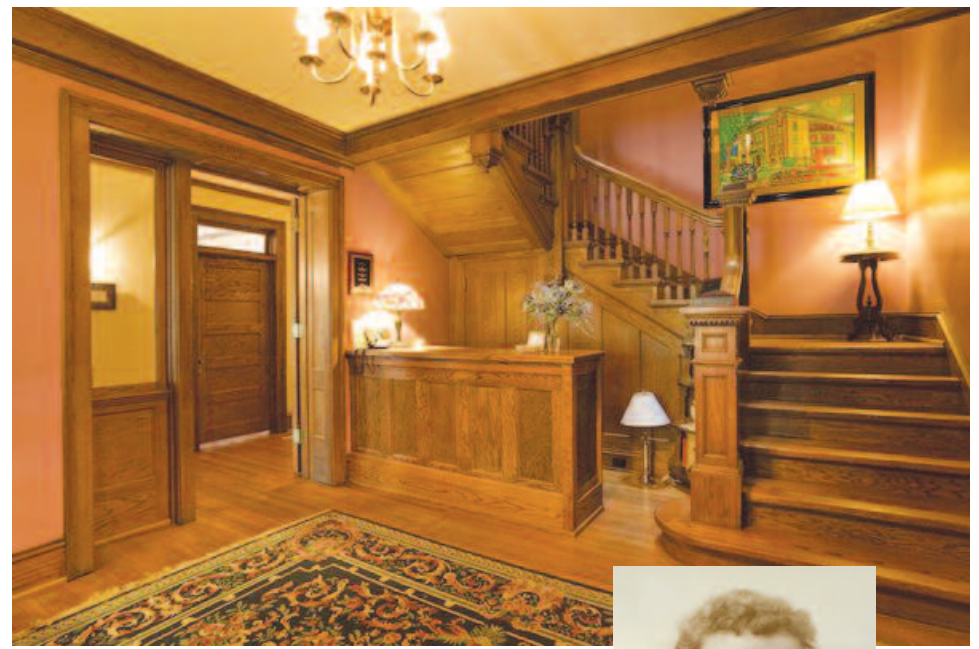


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The Inn at 835, now a Bed & Breakfast was originally a prestigious apartment building constructed in 1909 by Bell Miller. Photo courtesy of Conn Hospitality Group.



An interior shot of the Inn's beautiful lobby. Courtesy of Conn Hospitality Group.



An undated portrait – the only one known to exist – of Miss Bell Miller. Courtesy of Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library.

Along Route 66

The Inn at 835 and The Legacy of Bell Miller

BY CHERYL EICHAR JETT

On the early alignment of Route 66 through Springfield, Illinois, there stands a stately yellow brick building at 835 S. Second Street. Since the mid-1990s, this bed and breakfast has been known as the Inn at 835. But before that, it was named the Bell Miller Apartments.

And who was Bell Miller?

In an era before it was common for women to go into business, she was a successful businesswoman. She was a prominent member of Springfield society, whose father was a downtown merchant and a pioneer to the area. Bell was a pioneer in the business world, creating a successful floral nursery before constructing a luxurious apartment building with a new air of respectability.

William B. Miller was born in 1831 in West Virginia. He moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1856 where he married 22-year-old Isabella Shryer, and then to Worthington, Indiana, where he worked in the dry goods business. Three years later, the couple moved farther west, to Springfield, Illinois, where William established the W. B. Miller Hardware on the west side of the downtown square. William and Isabella had three children – Louis, Clara, and Bell, the youngest, born in 1870.

As a girl, Bell was already interested in growing plants. In the 1905 *American Florist* she was quoted, “I was a school girl in short dresses when I first began greenhouse growing. My house was a dry goods box sunk into the earth and lettuce was my first crop. I made my house with my own hands, as my father kept a hardware store and gave me carpenters' tools which I learned to use.” She added carnations and violets, selling them to her neighbors and using her profits for a bigger greenhouse. Eventually, she did so well that she quit school with the intent of going full-time. “...my brother persuaded our mother to give me \$1,000 and let me enlarge my plant,” Bell explained. “This was the only money ever given me. The plant has been extended since with money earned by it. The \$1,000 was used to build a house for carnations. That was twelve years ago and ever since the business has grown.” At the time of that 1905 article, Bell was about 35 years old, and was by then established as one of the foremost florists in Springfield. Her greenhouse buildings covered a city block on property behind the family home on South Second Street.

By 1909, Bell had decided to invest in constructing an upscale apartment building

on property just south of the Miller family home. She hired George H. Helmle, a well-known Springfield architect, as the designer. Bell's venture was on the cutting edge of a new wave of apartment buildings – luxurious, spacious, and attractive to professional people. These features, unlike older apartments, which were often cramped and dingy, imparted respectability to an apartment dwelling. The imposing three-story building was designed and built in the Classical Revival style with an entrance pavilion and a wide frieze and cornice at the roof line. It was a multiple dwelling building type known as a six-flat, with six 2,000-square-foot apartments, two to each floor. By December 1909, the Bell Miller Flats were completed and ready for occupancy. Notable early tenants included one of the first Springfield female doctors, Dr. Elizabeth Matthews, and J. S. Vredenburg of the Vredenburg Lumber company.

Bell and her sister Clara, both unmarried, continued to live in the Miller family home for many years after their parents' deaths, as did their brother Louis. Louis, however, married Margaret Kimball in 1883. Bell did move into her apartment building in later life. She died in 1940 at age 70 and is buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield.

In the mid-20th century, some updating was done to the apartments, after which little was touched until the 1990s. The time capsule remained, just waiting for someone to

love the building like Bell did. The Miller family home next door fared less well, as it became low-income apartments before burning down. The site of the family home is now a 100-car parking lot serving the Inn at 835's customers.

In the 1990s, along came Court and Karen Conn. They were off-premise catering business partners, looking for a bed-and-breakfast investment. “We spent three years looking at properties and finally found the right one - we'd been driving right by it for years!” Court Conn said with a laugh. They zeroed in on the Bell Miller Apartments, as it checked all the right boxes for their project. But, since the building wasn't actually for sale, they had to convince the owners of their love and respect for the building. Finally realizing Karen and Court's good intentions, the owners agreed to sell. The Conns began a three-year restoration, got married there in 1996, and then opened their beautifully-restored bed-and-breakfast and wedding venue in 1997.

Now, this lovely lodging and event venue is rightfully on the National Register of Historic Places. At the edge of the Aristocracy Hill neighborhood south of downtown, it adorns that historic area on the early alignment of Route 66 through Springfield. 🏡

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

Summer Jobs

BY ROGER KRATOCHVIL

Summer is just about here and high school and college students are running around trying to get a summer job. Your son wants to get a car as he has now gotten his drivers license, and his dad has told him if you want a car you need a summer job to pay for the license and insurance. Daughter wants some nice clothes and other nice things, or maybe a car, and her parents have told her she needs a summer job.

Now is a very difficult time to try and find a summer job with the fast food places and restaurants having trouble staying open. Years ago you could cut grass during the summer or for the girls, baby sit. My son and daughter both started cutting grass in about 7th grade and did it through their high school years and made enough money to pay their immediate needs. Today there are so many lawn services and the grass cutting jobs are not always available to the students. Baby sitting is down now too because so many parents are at home because of the virus. When I hired baby sitters for my kids, they were more plentiful, and you knew them and their families well. We used Patty Hagen, Terry Rosenthal, Pam Kuenneth and Susie Steinebach totally, and with a buck or two an hour, they were always affordable. Today, they make more money, but the jobs are not that plentiful.

So where are these summer jobs? Years ago Laclede Steel would hire about 300 high school and college students to work for about a dollar and fifty-four cents an hour (the prevailing wage). It was a good job, a little dangerous, and you did about everything they needed you to do in the mill. You got work experience in a hurry. Most of the jobs were dirty and filthy. You had to work and if you did not, a man by the name of Rusty Clark, wearing a gold helmet with huge letters saying Rusty across the front, would appear any place in the plant, and he was the most feared man in the plant because if he saw you loafing, you would be fired on the spot. Probably a third of the 300 met that fate. But, it was a good job for a young man because you grew up fast and the pay was good for the times.

I spent two summers working there, and still remember hating the graveyard shift (midnights). The work was very dangerous, but being young, nothing scared you. Working on the hot strip was dangerous and you had to wear wooden blocks on the bottom of your pit shoes because your shoes would catch fire. You worked 20 minutes on the strip and 40 minutes off to recover and cool

off. Rats were everywhere so you were always on guard especially when you were helping a craneman load steel joists onto a truck and you were his chainman. When you got to the last load on the ground to put on the truck, I use to hook it up and then ride the load up onto the truck because I knew that many rats would be under that last load. I was never disappointed. But, again, being young even made that exciting.

Other plants like Olin, Granite City Steel, Owens-Illinois and Western Cartridge company all hired summer help. As a high school principal I had a special education teacher named Laura Hartman James and she told me she worked at Granite City Steel every summer in the plant. Her dad worked there so these tough jobs were not just limited to boys. It was also where I saw racial discrimination. The plant had one locker/shower room for the minorities, and one for the Caucasians. In the plant cafeteria, there was one long table exclusively for minorities. I had never seen that before. I worked with a number of African Americans and they all worked hard as it was demanded of us all. On a lighter note, I admired their skill in shooting a slingshot. Many workers had them and would put a small piece of steel in the slingshot, and pick off the rats as they walked on the girders high above.

The coal mines also hired summer help. Friends Bill Berg and Charlie Petrolina still talk about working during the summer on the tippel where the coal came up out of the mine. When the coal was screened that was where they worked and they would be full of dust when they finished their day. It was hard work and unhealthy too, but it paid good for a summer job.

Township Road Commissioner "Ots" Oltman use to hire a couple of high school students at a time to do road work. Everyone got a week or two and that helped a lot. I remember working with fellow student John Mihelcic along with Johnny Chilovich, "Goom" Liebschner, "Honey" Zippay, and Chuck Hood. The last four were a lot older and were regular township employees. Present road commissioner, Toby Osmoe, told me that he has a problem getting workers now to do the work. Times have changed.

The State of Illinois use to hire summer help too. Depending on your politics, the political party in power's kids got to work. I, at the time, had parents who were Democrats. In my available years a Repub-



lican Governor by the name of Bill Stratton was Governor. Later when Democrat Otto Kerner was elected, I got to work a week for highway boss Joe Dragovich.

The county government also hired students for summer help. The guys would work for the county highway department and the girls would work for the other offices. I know that Donnie Stankoven, Circuit Clerk and County Board Chairman Dave Thomas were always good at hiring students to make some money for school. Others probably did too, but I have no first hand knowledge of that.

Often students got to work in grocery stores as check out workers or carry out groceries. There are still jobs like that today. My wife Mary worked at Bahn's Grocery in Mt. Olive as well as many others like Ron Ulrich. Bill's IGA in Staunton still hires students to do those jobs like bagging groceries and stocking shelves. It is amazing to note that Mt. Olive had about 7 grocery stores in town including Krogers, Droste Mercantile, Bahns, and Franzen's Store. Now we do not have one grocery store that can make a living. Sad!!

I once had a summer job as a "chaser" for a loan company, S.W. Coe Investment Company out of Springfield. Coe was a small loan company with the maximum loan being \$1,000.00 When someone would not pay back the loan, I had to personally go see them to make some arrangement for pay back. All of my clients were not necessarily law abiding citizens. Since I was about 16 or so, I had to go with a regular employee. Once I had to go to St. Louis to bring back a car that a loan had been secured on. The car was in terrible shape. You had to floor-board the brakes to get it to stop. It lost oil and water and you could not drive it over 35 miles an hour on the interstate back to Springfield. It had no reverse gear so you had to be careful where you parked. I left St. Louis about 3:30 and got to Springfield about 10:30 for this normally 2 hour drive. I got a flat tire near Farmersville and luckily it had a spare, but no jack. So I had to walk about 5 miles to the nearest farm house at night for help. The farm family was great, and they got me going. I was a nervous wreck by the time I got to Springfield. My date at 6:30 was gone, ending that relationship. Remember no cell phones then.

To this day I am wondering why they wanted me to bring this "pile of junk" home only to be probably junked. There are many other examples of this job including finding a fugitive from the law and demanding he make payment. In giving me that assignment they forgot to tell me that he was a fugitive.

One job was that of an operator of an addressograph-multigraph printer. It printed all of the forms for the Coe Company. I had one suit and I had to wear it each day with a tie to run this messy press. I don't think that suit stood the test of time because if there is ink I am going to wear some of it before the day is over.

Farms would often hire students to help work on the farm part time. You have heard me say that there is nothing easy when working with concrete. I can add straw bales

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to that same statement. Bailing hay was one of the hardest jobs to do, even for a young man. For a boy trying to get into shape for September football, bailing hay sure helped. One big advantage to this job is that farmers know how to eat. The meals provided by the farmer's wife was second to none in cuisine. And, there was plenty of it. I fondly remember that.

Often the railroads would hire summer help to work on the section gangs. That also was hard work and long hours. Friends Bob Fulton, cousin Buddy Kratochvil, and the late Irv Kruse often talked to me about how back breaking much of that work was, but they never had trouble filling their quotas of employees.

Carrying mail was a good summer job for students. My baseball manager in Springfield, Hank Sellinger, worked at the post office there. He got me the job. For a young man, walking about 16 miles a day is a piece of cake. It is fun and it paid good probably about \$1.60 an hour. I know Springfield streets so well because we had a different mail route every week. So, I got to know the town pretty well. In those days you took your mail bag and boarded a city bus with that bag being your ticket. The bus would let you off at a mail box on the street, and in that box was your first bag of mail. You would deliver it to the next large mail box and the mail would carry you on to the next box. You banked on the mail being packed accurately. My first day it was not,

and I worked two extra hours delivering the mail. Sometimes I would guess where I would be at lunch time so when I got to that mail box about noon my lunch box would be in the mail bag along with my mail to be delivered. But, it was fun to do.

I carried mail in Mt. Olive too and also worked in the Litchfield office. All the mail carrying I did was with the understanding that dogs do not like mail carriers, I got bit twice, and both were in Mt. Olive. Tetanus shots from Dr. Laucis were in order both times.

Many of my friends often worked during the summer in the Delmonte vegetable fields near Mendota and DeKalb in Northern Illinois, west of Chicago. Cars full of high school boys would drive there to work 16 hour days picking peas, beans, etc. The pay was good, hours long, but seldom did any of my friends go back for a second year for this job.

These summer jobs taught you responsibility and gave you your first sense of independence as up until then you had to rely on your parents for everything. And, you got to meet a lot of people from other towns as new friends. When I worked at Laclede Steel I met a young man about my age name David Luechtefeld from Collinsville. He now is a retired teacher, coach, and Illinois Senator now who lives in Okawville. We hit it off well and other than the political part of his career, our careers mirrored each other. He was a Division One basketball

star at St. Louis University and I played at Eastern Ill. University. We are both inductees in the Illinois High School Coaches Hall of Fame and we have remained friends to this day. We both have children who have excelled in sports at an advanced level.

Many of the summer jobs were dangerous but when you are young you do not think of it. I remember being on the scaffolds around St. Francis Hospital when it was build. I carried hod along with Brian Machota and Bob "Moose" Claytor for 13 bricklayers. The only bricklayer I knew was Roy Dobrinich, and he was an excellent bricklayer, keeping us on our toes. The scaffolds were not overly stable, and we had to crawl up them to the top each day. But, this is never a problem when you are young. I am sure you senior citizens out there can relate to many of these stories.

The summer construction jobs were some of the best that I had. The pay was good and as long as you did your job, there was no worry. You went home at night not worrying about anything dealing with the job until the next morning. My jobs in education always involved taking the job home with you. The summer job was a change. You worked with friends like Steve Curtis, Charlie Bono, or Jack Kochinski, and even though it was hard work, you enjoyed the company. Friday was payday, and the foreman would often bring a case of beer, and after work we would all be sitting around the equipment drinking a couple, and often

listening to funny stories from Larry Knes, a master storyteller. All of these memories help keep me young even though I just celebrated number 82 in birthdays. You readers all have your own fond stories of summer jobs, and those memories will keep you young too.

I strongly believe that summer jobs for students help mature you and prepare you for when you have to make a living and support your family. I had a summer job almost every summer from 1955 until 1983. I also think it helps prepare you for the handling of money as you have to have it go a long way. I once had a part time summer job where I picked strawberries making five cents a box. It was hard to make any money when one strawberry went into the box and another one went into your mouth! Fortunately, I was working for my uncle or I might have been fired. It was fun though.

Finally, this is mostly my experience and you could put yourself in almost any of my stories. I am sure you remember that time as a hard, but enjoyable part of your life story. I would bet that a couple of you are smiling now just remembering. Continue that, as it is good for your mental health. And, as always, keep up your sense of humor. 🐼

Roger Kratochvil is a former teacher, high school principal, coach and scout for the St. Louis Cardinals. He now writes about his life experiences. You can contact him at kratz@madisontelco.com.



Anyone entering the campus will be screened in their cars at the entry station prior to entering the building. A mask will be given to those who do not already have one. Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent to the Respiratory Triage Tent located near the back ER entrance to be further assessed.

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Manager of St. Clare Center Becky Gudgel, far left, and Paula Endress, director of philanthropy at HSHS St. Francis Hospital accepts a \$1,000 donation check from local Shelter Insurance agent John Blank and the Shelter Insurance Foundation.

Shelter Insurance Foundation Gifts St. Clare Center Food Pantry \$1,000

The Shelter Insurance Foundation and its local agent, John Blank, who has his insurance office at 300 South State Street in Litchfield, recently awarded the St. Clare Center food pantry with a \$1,000 gift to help purchase food.

"I am happy to provide this gift that will benefit the St. Clare Center's clients in Montgomery and Macoupin counties," stated Blank.

Paula Endress, director of philanthropy, and Becky Gudgel, manager of St. Clare Center, thanked Blank for nominating the pantry for the award. "We are most grateful to John and the Shelter Insurance Founda-

tion for this generous gift that will assist us during the pandemic as we continue to provide food for those in need," Gudgel said.

Blank was recently named agent of the year for the state of Illinois and is one of the company's top 150 agents.

St. Clare Center is a ministry of HSHS St. Francis Hospital. It is a member of the Central Illinois Food Bank and is located at 603 North Madison Street in Litchfield. It is open Monday from 10 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. It is also open two Saturdays a month. Contact the pantry at 324-2800 for further assistance. 🐼



Margaret Cross Norton was the first State Archivist of Illinois from 1922 until 1957. She was a co-founder of the Society of American Archivists, served in SAA leadership roles for many years, and edited American Archivist from 1946 to 1949. Her "Catalog Rules: Series for Archives Material" trained generations of archivists.

Illinois History

Margaret Cross Norton is Towering Figure in Illinois Librarianship

First Superintendent of Illinois Archives: Still Revered Today

BY TOM EMERY

A towering figure in state and national librarianship is Margaret Cross Norton, the first superintendent of the Illinois State Archives, who not only overcame social hurdles but professional ignorance. She is still revered in her field today, over three decades after her death.

Norton earned a stellar reputation in archival management, and she supervised the move of the Archives into its own building, a model that other states raced to copy. The building, just south of the Illinois State Capitol, was named in her honor in 1994.

Born on July 7, 1891 in Rockford, Norton earned a bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of Chicago and graduated from the New York State Library School, now a part of Columbia University, in 1915. She found work as a cataloguer in the library at Vassar College,

but ironically, she began to realize that she did not care for library work.

However, at a meeting of the American Historical Association, Norton learned of the extremely poor condition of organization of records across the nation. Inspired, she decided to become an archivist.

On April 1, 1922, Norton was named the first superintendent of the new Archives Division of the Illinois State Library, and quickly began to organize the state's records from scratch. It proved a mammoth task. Many were stashed in various places across the Capitol Building, and had succumbed to dampness, dirt, and vermin.

While searching the Capitol attic, just under the roof in the sixth floor, Norton found the state's territorial and first census records stuffed in a ventilating shaft. Other vital records were found, covered in rub-

bish, under the front steps. Still others were in the basement, further damaged by mud created when rain softened the dirt floors.

There were other hazards in the basement, where Norton recalled cockroaches "as big as mice" and rats "as big as cats." For her own protection, she was accompanied to the basement by the Secretary of State's document clerk, who carried a revolver. Norton was later "given a long piece of pipe (and) whenever a rat came and looked at me, I'd bang on whatever was nearest with that pipe and scare him off."

In an era when few understood the value or meaning of an archive, Norton also dealt with the ignorance of peers. The architect of the Centennial (now Howlett) Building, which originally housed the Archives Division, once asked "by the way, Miss Norton, what is an archive?" She also had to per-

suaire or beg a number of reluctant state officials to turn their records over to her for safekeeping in the Archives.

From these humble beginnings, Norton managed to create an Archives Division that became the envy of the nation. Despite her best efforts, a lack of space in the Centennial Building hampered archival growth, but the loss by fire of the Illinois State Arsenal in 1934, including its valuable military records, made government officials recognize the value of proper archival storage.

In 1935 – in the midst of the Great Depression – the state appropriated \$500,000 to construct a new Archives Building. That figure was supplemented by an additional \$320,000 from the Public Works Administration. At the time, there were only two archives buildings in the nation – the State Archives of Maryland and



The Margaret Cross Norton Building, which houses the Illinois State Archives, is located at 100 W. Jackson Street in Springfield. Twelve levels inside the building hold more than 75,000 cubic feet of state records.

the National Archives in Washington.

The move to build an Archives Building in Illinois is a testament to the foresight and persuasion of Norton, who oversaw even the smallest details of the construction. In selecting proper steel filing cabinets, the successful bidder was required, under Norton's supervision, to open and close a loaded drawer ten times a minute for a total of 100,000 times.

She also oversaw the installation of time switches on lights in the vault, to reduce energy usage and fire hazards. Similarly, Norton insisted on the use of carbon tetrachloride in fire extinguishers, a chemical that would not damage paper or ink.

The genteel Norton also wielded considerable political influence. At the dedication of the Archives Building on Oct. 26, 1938, she spied Gov. Henry Horner in the outer lobby, smoking a cigarette. Norton calmly informed Horner that smoking was not allowed in the building. The governor quickly put out his cigarette.

In the years that followed, many other states requested assistance from Norton and Illinois in designing and managing their archives. The stature of the Illinois State Archives was so great that the National Archives in Washington, in the event of evacuation during World War II, determined to send its most valued artifacts to Springfield for safekeeping under Norton's watch.

Norton held a variety of posts in national archival agencies and taught the first course in archivology ever offered in an American library school, at Columbia in 1940. She authored numerous articles and constantly befriended younger archivists, always encouraging their advancement in the field. The first three African-Americans to achieve professional status in Illinois government were Archives staffers, which made Norton proud.

She retired by choice on April 15, 1957 and rarely returned to the Archives that she had painstakingly supervised. Norton authored books in 1975 and 1981, but rebuffed repeated requests for more writings. She traveled extensively before her death at age 92 on May 21, 1984.

Three decades after her death, Norton remains a godlike figure to archivists throughout America. In a 2009 interview, longtime Archives staffer Elaine Evans noted a spate of recent requests from across the nation for information on Norton. She laughed that "Margaret must be hot this week" to one requester, who replied, "Honey, Margaret's *always* hot!" 🐝

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



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American Red Cross Is In Urgent Need Of Blood Donations

BY DAN BRANNAN

"The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood donations as hospitals resume non-urgent and elective procedures, increasing the demand for blood products," Joe Zydil, St. Louis American Red Cross External Communications Manager said.

"Blood donors are urgently needed to make donation appointments to prevent another shortage like the one that occurred at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March," Zydil added.

"In recent weeks, hospital demand for blood products has grown by 30 percent after sharply declining in early April amid this rapidly changing and complex public health crisis," Zydil said. "At the same time, blood drives continue to be canceled as many businesses and community organizations remain closed. Donors are needed to make and keep scheduled appointments to help meet the current need."

Thanks to Amazon, all those who come to give June 1-30 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.*

"Blood donors have played a vital role in the lives of patients who have needed life-saving transfusions during this pandemic, and patients continue to depend on donors each and every day," said Paul Sullivan, senior vice president, Red Cross Blood Services. "The Red Cross appreciates the support of those who rolled up a sleeve to give in recent months, but the need doesn't stop. We need the public's help to avoid another blood shortage this summer."

It's important to remember that red blood cells must be transfused within 42 days of donation and platelets within just five days. So, they must constantly be replenished. There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus, and the Red Cross urgently needs the help of donors and blood drive hosts to ensure blood products are readily available for patients.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to ensure the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask

while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Local blood donation opportunities through June 19:

MADISON COUNTY

Alton

June 16: 2-6 pm
YWCA, 304 E. 3rd Street, Alton

Bethalto

June 11: 2-6 pm
Leaders Save Lives, 213 N Prairie St.

Collinsville

June 16: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.,
Columbus Plaza, 1 Columbus Plaza

East Alton

June 17: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.,
Greater Alton Church, 506 East Airline Dr

Glen Carbon

June 8: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Glen Carbon Fire Department, 430 Glen Carbon Road

June 10: 1 p.m. - 6 p.m., New Bethel United Methodist Church, 131 N Main St

Godfrey

June 16: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.,
Simmons Bank, 2810 Godfrey Rd.

Saint Jacob

June 11: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Jacob Activity Center, 108 S Douglas St

Worden

June 14: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Worden American Legion, 237 W Wall St.

MACOUPIN COUNTY

Shipman

June 15: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., Shipman Community Center, Keating and Front St.

Staunton

June 8: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.,
Associated Bank, 115 S. Elm St.

SAINT CLAIR COUNTY

Belleville

June 19: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Downtown

Belleville YMCA, 200 S Illinois Street
Fairview Heights Blood Donation Center,
10886 Lincoln Trail
7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
June 5-7 • June 12-14 • June 19

11:15 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.
June 4, June 11, June 18
12:15 pm-7:15 pm
June 1-3 • June 8-10 • June 15-17

O'Fallon

June 2: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.,
St Clare School, 214 West 3rd Street

June 8: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Enjoy Church, 251 Regency Park

Saint Libory

June 4: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Libory Fire Protection District, 7322 State Route 15

BOND COUNTY

Greenville

June 16: 1 p.m. - 5 p.m., First Christian Church, 1100 Killarney Drive

CHRISTIAN COUNTY

Moweaqua

June 11: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.,
First Christian Church, 125 East South

CLINTON COUNTY

Breese

June 5: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Breese Fire Department, 50 N Germantown Road

Carlyle

June 16: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Dairy Queen, 910 12th Street

June 18: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 1471 Fairfax Street

Hoffman

June 15: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., Hoffman Village Hall, 110 East Park Avenue

Trenton

June 16: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., St Mary's Catholic Church, 325 South Jefferson

MONROE COUNTY

Columbia

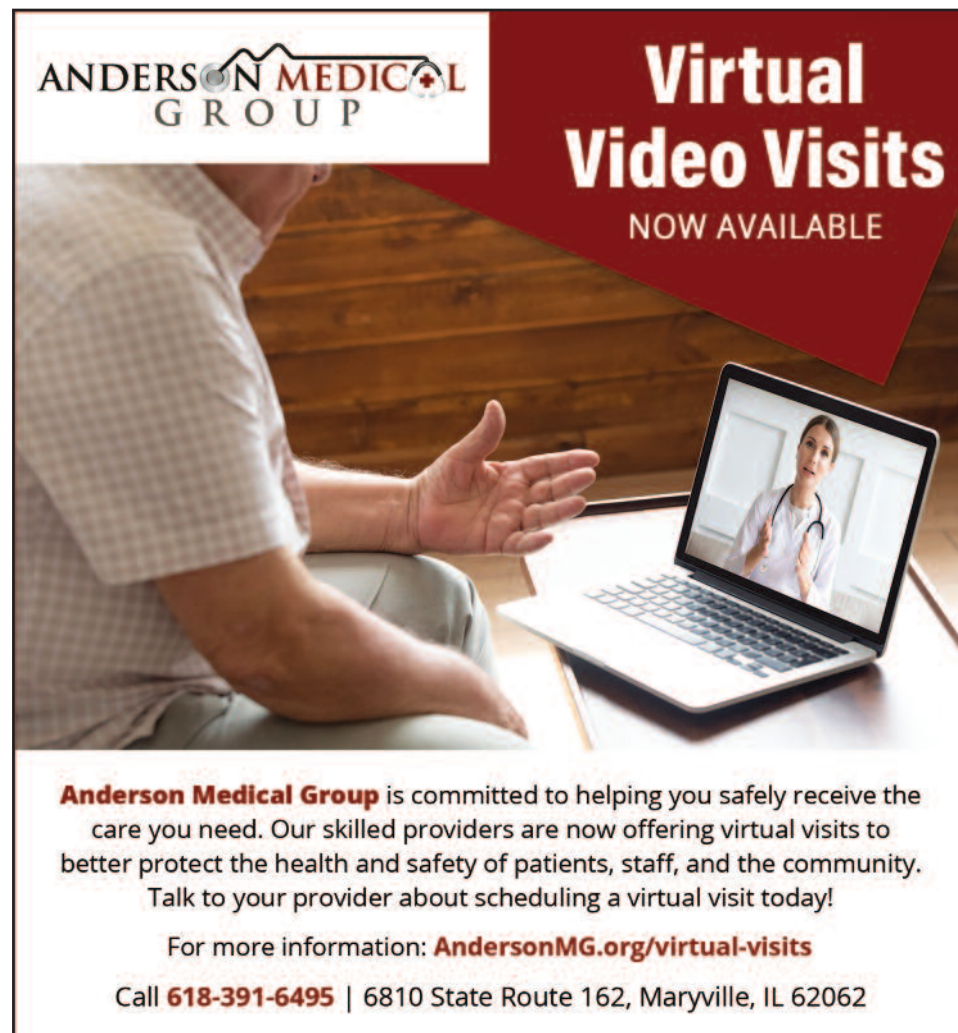
Turner Hall, 211 East Cherry Street
June 5: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
June 12: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
June 16: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Litchfield

June 2: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Litchfield Moose Lodge, 221 North Madison

Healthy individuals who are in good health are asked to make an appointment to donate in the weeks and months ahead by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device. 📱



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Women's Suffrage Explored in New Online Exhibit

A new exhibit, *Women's Suffrage in Madison County*, has just been added to the Madison County Historical Museum's catalog of online exhibits available at <https://madcohistory.org/>. Assistant Curator, Mary Z. Rose, under the direction of Curator Jennifer Van Bibber, has assembled another interesting and educational exhibit for local residents and students of history.

In Illinois, women were given the right to vote in select races in 1913. On election day, they were given a separate ballot, sometimes called the "little ballot" which was placed in a separate collection box. Newspapers sometimes reported "the women's vote." On August 18, 1920, the 19th

Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was passed, granting women the full right to vote. The "little ballot" was retired and, since then, Illinois women have been given the same ballot as men.

There were many reasons for denying women the right to vote in the years prior to 1920, none of them reasonable by today's standards, and some humorous. For example, there was an argument that no decent woman would be seen at the polls, so only uneducated, unsavory women would vote.

Rose captures the unreasonable arguments against women's suffrage and the courage of Madison County women who organized to rally for voting rights. Her re-



Photograph of Illinois Equal Suffrage Association (IESA) officers and delegates at the 1912 IESA convention in Galesburg, Illinois. Courtesy of the University City Public Library.

search and creativity using images from the MCHS collections, articles from Madison County newspapers from the time and other sources have made another excellent exhibit available to Madison County residents and others interesting in learning more about women's suffrage.

Although closed to the public due to COVID-19, the staff of both the museum and archival library are available to help pa-

trons with research projects. Telephone inquiries can be made Wed-Fri 9-4 and Sun 1-4 at 618-656-7569. Enquiries can also be made by e-mail to jlparkin@co.madison.il.us.

Unfortunately, the Madison County Historical Museum is remains closed for renovation. For information about the Madison County Historical Society, call 618-656-1294. or visit www.madcohistory.org.



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Food for 500 Frontline Staff at Anderson Hospital

On Wednesday, May 9, CARSTAR Maryville provided food for all 500 staff at Anderson Hospital, while also supporting local restaurant businesses.

“We wanted to try and do something for nurse’s appreciation week and once we started investigating ways to give back, we heard that the night shift often gets overlooked in initiatives similar to this,” says Kurt Mueller, Owner, CARSTAR Maryville. “Our goal became clear afterwards, we wanted to provide a meal for every staff member, on every shift at Anderson Hospital – because they are all making sacrifices for our collective wellbeing.”

Mueller decided to purchase meals from three locally owned restaurants that are fellow Chamber of Commerce members. Boogies was the first restaurant, providing 250

first shift employees with pasta and garlic bread. Alfonzo’s Restaurant provided pizza and salad for the 150 people in the second shift.

“The night shift was the trickiest to coordinate, because for the others, the cafeteria is open and could serve out the free meals,” continues Mueller. “Conway’s Catering was able to help us with the night shift, where they created boxed meals that staff could simply hand out, ensuring this crucial group was not overlooked.”

Sweet Grandma’s Silly Creations also donated 100 individually wrapped frosted sugar cookies with, ‘Thank You’, written on them and CARSTAR Maryville bought the other 400 cookies to ensure each Anderson Hospital employee received a sweet treat. Employees also received a coupon for each

restaurant good through the end of the year.

“I know how hard the staff works at Anderson Hospital as my mother had her fare share of visits and she was always taken care of incredibly well,” says Mueller. “As a local business owner, I see it as part of my responsibility to give back to the community we serve, so we just had to make this happen.”

Hosting a car wash to fundraise for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, sponsoring little league teams all over the city, raising over \$120,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation over 10 years and raising funds for Kelsie’s Hope Foundation are just some of the other initiatives CARSTAR Maryville has engaged in over the years to give back.

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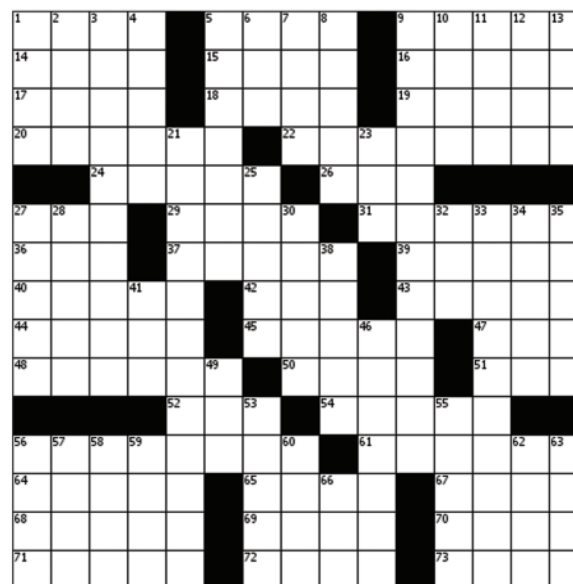


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Down

1. Coddle
2. Snack since 1912
3. Plane-testing chamber
4. Not now
5. Marble type
6. Couple's pronoun
7. Negligible amount
8. Henley or Frey
9. Billowy boomer
10. Unwanted coat?
11. Circle components
12. Where the workers cut the mustard?
13. Setting in Haydn's "The Creation"
21. Conductor, but not of music
23. Celebrated twin
25. Certain mergansers
27. Vandalize
28. Can't help but
30. Feeds the pigs
32. "What a view!"
33. Endangered tropical region
34. Twist into a knot
35. "How I Spent My Summer Vacation," maybe
38. Hawk's maneuver
41. Former California fort
46. Oahu and Maui, e.g.
49. Crumpets go-with
53. One barely passes with it
55. Heavy volumes
56. More than "hmmml!"
57. Peace Prize city
58. Desktop image
59. Sobriquet
60. Cushiness
62. Catch sight of
63. Denmark native
66. Just painted

Across

1. Pipe feature
5. Word with bar or binary
9. Be active on Wall Street
14. Pavarotti solo
15. Surrounding glow
16. Increased the staff
17. Like a pole vaulter's pole in action
18. Alg. cousin
19. "I give up!"
20. Displays peak singing condition?
22. Becomes a face in the crowd
24. Samples
26. Word with split or tail
27. TGIF eve
29. Lifting spots?
31. Substitute for gum or Jove?
36. Vied for office
37. Loaf or loafer parts
39. Some horses
40. Likely ____ (probably)
42. "I'm impressed!"
43. Plant pets
44. Rudder's place
45. Spare the rod
47. Gun owners' grp.
48. "Whoa!"
50. Mediocre
51. It may be in the ointment
52. Nemo's harpoonist
54. Charon's planet
56. Completely losing it
61. Thought the world of
64. Sesame Street name
65. Bowling green?
67. Flat-topped elevation
68. TV sports playback effect
69. Like hand-me-downs
70. Popular cable channel

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Dabblers Creatives Pivots Passion into Small Business During COVID-19

BY MEGAN WIESER

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ruthann Redmon, client of the Illinois Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for the Metro East at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville and owner of Redmon Consulting, has launched DabblersCreatives, an online Etsy shop that sells handmade face masks.

Redmon has worked with the SBDC and Director Jo Ann DiMaggio May since January to grow both Redmon Consulting and DabblersCreatives, with a focus on marketing and networking.

“Jo Ann has helped me get connected and stay focused on the process and how to execute it,” Redmon shared. “She understands that I have both a business and creative side to my brain and has encouraged me to create a balance, helping me to see that I could use both through these ventures.”

“Ruthann is motivated and eager to try new strategies and tackle challenges as she grows her businesses. I am proud of her dedication and hard work. She has a great deal of knowledge and talent to share and I can't wait to see her businesses flourish,” Di Maggio May said.

Redmon was motivated to begin making masks during the pandemic due to the sheer need for face coverings. As masks were becoming a necessity and requirement, she knew she could immediately put her cre-

ative side and sewing experience to good use.

Redmon launched DabblersCreatives as an Etsy shop in mid-April. To date, DabblersCreatives has created over 250 masks. Her shop features reusable face masks crafted in various fabrics and styles. Since opening, she has successfully continued selling masks through her shop and direct to customers all over the country. She has even done custom orders for businesses in the process of reopening, where employees are required to wear face coverings.

In addition to the launch of the shop, DabblersCreatives has also donated over 75 handmade face masks to healthcare workers in both Missouri and Alabama. A portion of shop proceeds goes toward the cost of making and donating additional face coverings for healthcare workers.

The most rewarding part of making the masks, Redmon shared, is knowing that her product is truly helping someone in this time of need.

Redmon is a third-generation farm owner in South Central Illinois and raises woolly sheep as a hobby. Looking to the future, Redmon plans to continue to grow DabblersCreatives by expanding it to include handcrafted art textiles, 100% natural wool products, home décor, paintings, jewelry, and of course, face masks for as long as they are needed.



DabblersCreatives can be found on Etsy. For more information, contact Ruthann Redmon at ruthann.redmon@gmail.com.

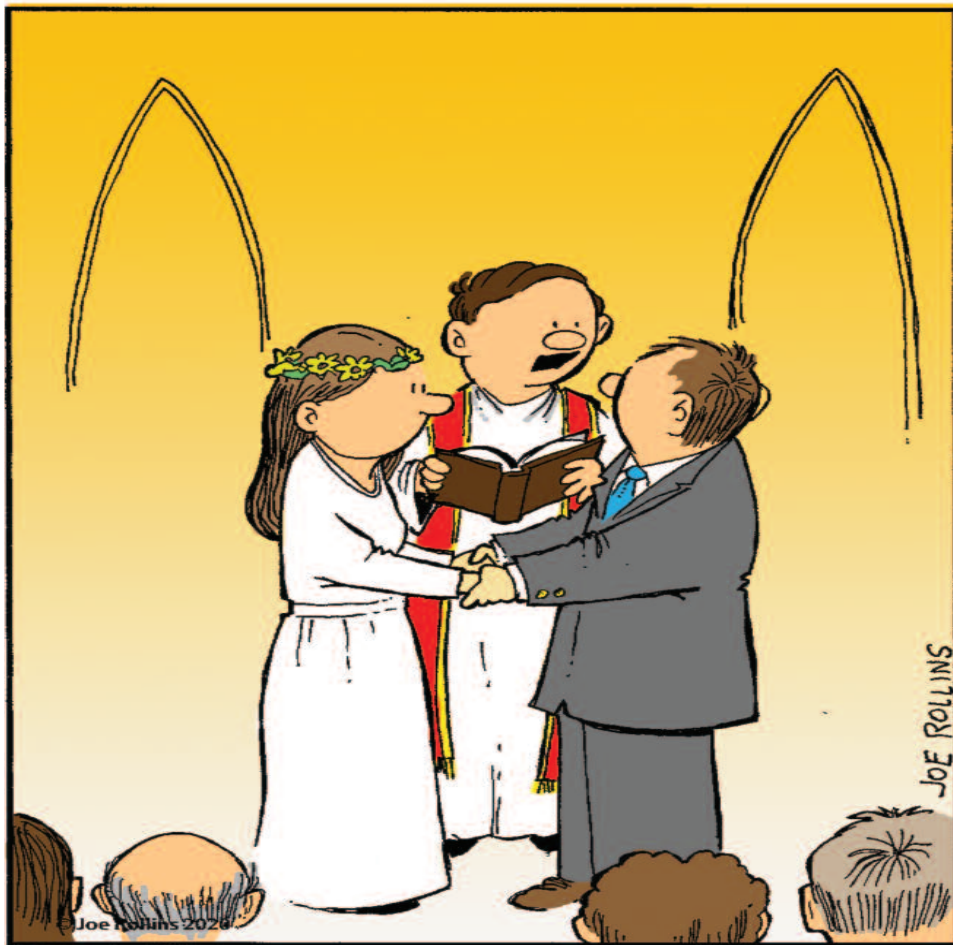
The Illinois SBDC for the Metro East assists start-up ventures like DabblersCreatives as well as existing businesses headquartered in the nine-county region of Calhoun, Jersey, Madison, Bond, Clinton, St. Clair, Washington, Monroe and Randolph. It is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and SIUE as a service to Illinois small businesses.

By aiding entrepreneurs and companies in defining their path to success, the SBDC

network positively impacts the Metro East by strengthening the business community, creating and retaining new jobs and encouraging new investment. It enhances the region's economic interests by providing one-stop assistance to individuals by means of counseling, training, research and advocacy for new ventures and existing small businesses. When appropriate, the SBDC strives to affiliate its ties to the region to support the goals and objectives of both the SIUE School of Business and the University at large.

To learn about the SBDC, contact the IL SBDC for the Metro East at SIUE at 618-650-2929. 🐝

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Goodnight Largely Forgotten in Native Illinois

Texas Cattle Baron Born in Central Illinois, But Few Notice

BY TOM EMERY

Of all the Western cattle barons, Charles Goodnight may be the greatest. A towering figure in the cattle drives of the nineteenth-century, he remains revered in Texas history, nearly a century after his death.

But back where he was born, in Macoupin County, he is barely remembered.

"I know a little about him," said Dan Hauter, the President of the Macoupin County Historical Society, "but not much. Our members know who Charlie Goodnight is, and we get some questions on him every so often. But we really don't hear much about him."

Indeed, few in Macoupin County have even heard of Goodnight, a stark contrast to his legendary status in Western history. In 1958, he was one of the original five inductees into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Goodnight was born south of Bunker Hill, near the Macoupin-Madison County line, on March 5, 1836 and was around five years old when his father, Charles Sr., died of pneumonia. The elder Goodnight is buried nearby, in an obscure rural cemetery.

"There's an iron fence around that ceme-

tery," said Rick Davis, a history buff and amateur researcher who grew up a mile and a half from the site. "But no one pays much attention to it."

Soon after, Goodnight's mother, Charlotte, married a neighboring farmer named Hiram Daugherty, who moved the family to Texas in 1845. The 800-mile trip brought the family to Milam County, near Nashville-on-the-Brazos. For much of the trip, young Charles rode bareback on Blaze, a white-faced mare.

"The whole family left Macoupin County to go to Texas," said Davis, now a news director for radio station WSMI. "There may have been some people in Montgomery County (adjacent to Macoupin) who were also named Goodnight. But there really wasn't anyone left behind, which may have been part of the reason Goodnight has been so forgotten here."

Charlotte left Hiram soon after arriving in Texas "with good reason," as Charles later wrote, though the exact cause is unclear. She married again in 1853, to Rev. Adam Sheek.

Goodnight's life in Texas remains the

stuff of legend. He served as a scout for the Texas Rangers during the Civil War and became a cattleman afterward. By 1866, he had formed a partnership with Oliver Loving and drove big herds up a trail they laid out from Fort Belknap, Tex. to Fort Sumner in the New Mexico Territory. The route was later named the Goodnight-Loving Trail.

Loving died in an Indian attack in 1867. Both men were portrayed in the hit novel, and miniseries, *Lonesome Dove*.

Goodnight continued along the trail, driving 8,000 to 10,000 head per year for nine years, and later worked with John Chisum, whose name also in on another legendary cattle trail.

After a stint in Colorado, Goodnight came back to Texas in October 1876. The next year, he established an enormous ranch with J.A. Adair, a Scotch-Irish businessman, which eventually grew to over 1.3 million acres with 100,000 head.

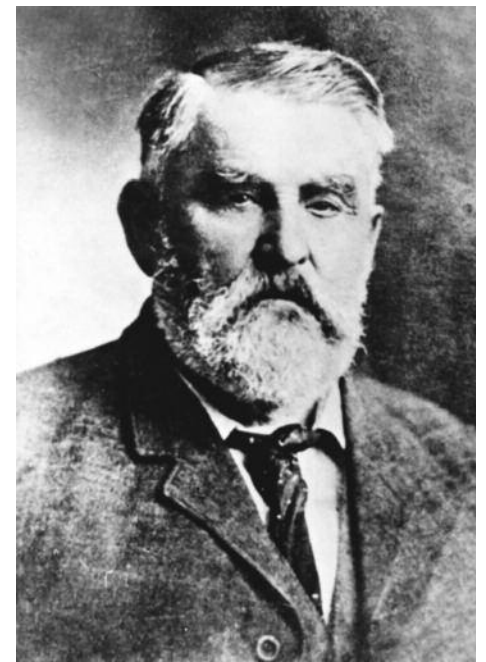
Goodnight was on the cutting edge of technology, and explored artificial watering facilities, permanent ranges, and various forms of breed improvement. He is believed to be the first rancher in the Panhandle to build fences with barbed wire.

Most credit Goodnight with the introduction of Hereford bulls as well as the chuck wagon, a staple on the cattle drives in Western lore.

A somewhat eccentric character, Goodnight did not tolerate drinking, gambling, fighting, or animal abuse on his cattle drives. The massive drives were usually led by his trusty steer, "Old Blue," who often rode back to Texas in a private rail car.

Despite his earlier days of fighting American Indians, he later supported their causes. One biographer wrote that Goodnight "could cuss more eloquently than any man he had ever heard."

Goodnight's wife of nearly fifty-six years, Molly, died in 1926, and he remarried



Charles Goodnight, a Texas legend, was born in Macoupin County, Illinois

the next year to Corinne, a 26-year-old nurse and telegraph operator from Montana who had the same last name, Goodnight. The ceremony took place on his 91st birthday in 1927.

Described by one modern account as a "living frontier legend," Goodnight was sought after by Western scholars in his last years. In July 1929, he finally joined a church, though he had helped establish several houses of worship in the Panhandle over the years. He died of a heart attack at his winter home in Arizona on Dec. 12, 1929.

In the nine decades since his death, Goodnight remains a favorite subject of Western historians. Various streets and roads, as well as a town, have been named in his honor in the Texas Panhandle, where visitors can also take in the Charles Good-

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The Goodnight/Loving trail was a 700-mile route that ran from Young County, Texas, southwest to Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River, then northwards to Fort Sumner, through Colorado, ending in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

night Memorial Trail and some of his restored home sites.

Back in Macoupin County, there are no markers to Goodnight, and most county history sources do not mention him. Davis is one of the handful in the area who has researched Goodnight's early life, and is surprised that others haven't.

"I think it's just one of those things," he remarked. "Goodnight went to Texas and became famous, but no one really picked up

on it here.

"There have been a few people who have looked into him around here, but most people in Macoupin County don't have any idea who he is," continued Davis. "It's a shame, because Charles Goodnight was a really fascinating guy." 🐝

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

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MCT To Reinstate Fares And Partial Express Bus Service

In coordination with the State's phased "Restore Illinois" plan and the region's re-opening strategy, Madison County Transit (MCT) has developed a fixed-route service restoration plan in response to growing demand. Effective June 1, 2020, MCT will be reinstating fixed-route fares and restoring select MCT Express trips to and from downtown St. Louis. Fares were suspended beginning March 18 and MCT has been operating on a modified Saturday-level service (with no Express service) since March 29. For details on MCT's fares, passes, and Free Ride IDs, visit: www.mct.org. A summary of the Express routes can be found below at Riverbender.com.

"This is the first step in restoring vital public transit service for the residents in Madison County and beyond," said SJ Morrison, MCT Interim Managing Director. "Even though restrictions are beginning to loosen, and trips are being reinstated, MCT continues to take every precaution to keep employees and passengers safe."

MCT continues to follow the guidelines

established by the Illinois Department of Public Health, Madison County Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control. Until further notice, drivers and passengers will continue to be required to wear masks or face coverings, practice social distancing, and are encouraged to ride MCT for essential trips only at this time. Buses and relief vehicles continue to be disinfected regularly and fixed-route trips will continue to operate with a goal of 50% passenger capacity. MCT Transfer Stations and the MCT Base of Operations remain closed to the public.

MCT Monthly Passes for the month of June are available for purchase at select Walgreens and Schnucks locations throughout Madison County and the SIUE Information Center. Mobile MCT Passes can once again be purchased and activated on the Token Transit Mobile App. MCT Free Ride and Half Fare IDs which have expired in the last few months will be accepted until further notice. MCT's Free Ride ID distribution sessions will resume at a later date. 🐝




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To provide relief to local businesses that have been hard hit by the COVID 19 pandemic, the Village of Godfrey is introducing a stimulus package called the "Small Business Community Gift Card" program. The concept is to offer online vouchers sold in \$20 denominations. The purchaser pays only ten dollars and fifty percent of the face value will be subsidized by the Village of Godfrey.

Over the next few days, eligible Godfrey businesses will be contacted about participating. Those interested will be given information on getting enrolled. Consumers in support of participating businesses will purchase retailer-specific half-price gift cards online through Riverbender.com. With the exception of gasoline and alcoholic beverages, the cards can be used to purchase any products from retailers.

"The Village of Godfrey values and is

proud of its locally owned business and hopes that this program will provide them support during these tough economic times and moving forward." said Mayor McCormick.

The stimulus program will continue on a first-come basis until \$50,000 of funding has been exhausted. Funding for the program is made available through the Godfrey Business District. Because of the funding appropriation, only retailers that have paid sales taxes into the Business District are eligible to participate.

If you wish to participate, **DONT DELAY**. All eligible businesses will be set up on a first-come basis. To get started call Amy Smith at Riverbender.com 618-465-9850 x231. For more information, contact Mayor Mike McCormick, Village of Godfrey at 618-466-3324. 🐝

Jordan Linafelter from Trenton Designated a Gold Award Girl Scout

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois congratulates Girl Scout Ambassador Jordan Linafelter from Trenton, Illinois for earning her Gold Award through her project, "Teach, Write, Publish, Inspire, Oh My!"

The Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable—earned by a high school Girl Scout who works to address an issue she's passionate about in a way that produces meaningful and lasting change. Whether it's on a local, national, or global level, Gold Award Girl Scouts provide innovative solutions to significant challenges.

Jordan implemented her project by exploring the topic of improving teen well-being to prevent teen suicide and informing her community about the importance of the school club, LifeSavers whose mission is to help teenagers cope healthfully with the challenges of life. She did so by working with her local media outlet, the Trenton Sun, to publish a series of bi-weekly articles about teen empowerment and the LifeSavers club. According to their

website, "LifeSavers is a peer-support suicide and crisis-prevention program designed to help teenagers cope healthfully with the challenges of drugs and alcohol, peer and family relationships, sexual issues, academic problems, aggression, anxiety, and suicide. LifeSavers is a recognized student organization in several high schools in Southern Illinois which have chosen to be pro-active in caring for their student population."

Jordan also shared her research online, designed posters to bring awareness to her community, and worked with LifeSaver members to host a presentation on the subject for peers and community members to learn more at the Base 215 Youth Center in Trenton. And although she had additional plans to promote her project when the pandemic struck, she took her efforts into a virtual setting by creating an educational video about her subject. She did all of this not only to earn her Gold Award, but also to honor an important club at her school and perhaps

most importantly to honor her former advisor, "Mrs. P" who led LifeSavers at Wesclin High School and passed away a few years ago after being challenged by cancer.

Jordan knows, as Mrs. P did, that LifeSavers is a crucial part of the school. By educating her community she creates sustainable outcomes for the successful prevention of teen suicide and also for the continued success of the LifeSavers organization in Trenton. Her community now can see the important role that LifeSavers plays not only in the school, but how it positively impacts young people like herself and families throughout Trenton and the nation.

Jordan notes, "This project has impacted me in ways I could have never imagined. I got to do things I've never done before such as conducting interviews and being published in the newspaper."

Gold Award Girl Scouts don't just change the world for the better, they change it for good. The Gold Award is earned by girls in grades 9–12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership in developing sustainable solutions to local, national, and global challenges. Since the highest award was established in 1916, Girl Scouts have answered the call to drive lasting, impactful change. The Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable. Along with making a measurable impact on those in her community, Jordan also gained self-assurance in her own ability to make a difference. She hopes her peers and others in the community will



Jordan Linafelter

continue to pass on knowledge about the importance of personal well-being to others.

"I went out of my comfort zone for this project to educate others in my community about the importance of this subject and the LifeSavers organization," says Jordan. She notes that through this experience she has learned how to be successful. "I thank my family for pushing me on this project in many positive ways." Jordan became more confident in her problem solving abilities because of the opportunities her Gold Award Girl Scout project has given her.

Jordan is the daughter of John and Cher Linafelter. She is a member of the Class of 2020 at Wesclin Senior High School in Trenton and plans to join the United States Airforce in service to this great nation. 🇺🇸

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Don't Let Fear of COVID Delay Treatment of Stroke

For patients experiencing a stroke, immediate treatment can be a matter of life and death. Yet, for some stroke victims, fear of exposure to the coronavirus may cause them to hesitate.

A recent report from the American College of Emergency Physicians states emergency departments across the country are seeing patients delaying medical care for non-COVID-19 related emergencies – potentially due to concern about contracting COVID-19 during a hospital visit. Studies show patients who arrive in the Emergency Department within the first three hours of stroke symptoms have better outcomes and less disability than those who delayed care.

Stroke, which occurs when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot, bursts or ruptures, is currently the fifth leading cause of death in the United States.

Signs and symptoms of stroke can include: sudden numbness or weakness, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding speech; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness or loss of balance; and sudden severe headache without a known reason.

An easier way to remember stroke signs and symptoms is to think of the phrase/acronym,

BE FAST:

B – Balance difficulty

E – Eye changes

F – Face drooping

A – Arm weakness

S – Speech slurred

T – Time to call 911

Always call 911 if a stroke is suspected.

“We urge our community members to seek emergency care when experiencing symptoms of a stroke, even in the midst of a pandemic,” says Dr. Jacob Kitchener, interventional and vascular neurologist with HSHS Medical Group in Springfield. “We have highly-skilled, compassionate providers ready to care for you and protocols in place to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including COVID-19.”

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Illinois Tourism Promotes Road Trips Across the State

As Illinois moves through the re-opening phases outlined by Governor Pritzker, various tourism organizations around the state look to attract visitors to safely visit their communities by providing weekly inspiration for road trips.

Recognizing the desire for many to travel safely by car, Market Illinois, a group of marketing professionals from local and regional destination marketing organizations (DMOs), are collaborating to promote all that Illinois has to offer through a weekly blog, "Illinois Road Trip Round Up."

"As we celebrate 'All in Illinois' together, we recognize that we're stronger when we promote opportunities across the state collectively," said Stephanie Tate, Marketing Communications Director for the Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau. "Tourism will be an economic driver as we begin phases of re-opening and this collaboration is ideal to spread the word on the unique destinations around Illinois."

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism in the United States is significant, with spring and summer traditionally bringing substantial business to areas, with sports, conferences, group tours and leisure travel all impacted. Surveys conducted on a national scale show that leisure travel will

be the first sector to return, although travelers will be cautious and will look to trips that are close to home.

To entice leisure travelers to Illinois, every Tuesday following Memorial Day to Labor Day, sixteen participating DMOs will share one trip idea from their region on a timely theme, starting with top biking and hiking trails. Recognizing that areas of the state will be in different stages of re-opening, topics will always feature a destination that is currently accessible and safe for public visitation. Future topics may include outdoor picnic spots, top golf courses, farmer's markets, and more.

"From Rockford to Alton, and the Quad Cities to Champaign, there are numerous activities available to the public for an enjoyable getaway close to home. Whether you're looking for a new spot for a cool summer treat, or the best place to play golf, all of our communities have something to offer," Tate says.

Travelers looking for inspiration in Illinois can follow along every Tuesday on the participating DMOs websites and social media channels where each weekly blog will be posted. Destinations featured include:



Pack a picnic for an afternoon getaway, cast a line and see what's biting or pitch a tent and stay a while at Horseshoe Lake State Park. Whether you're a hunter, a hiker, a boater or just want to soak in some rays, the park has something for everyone. Fishermen will enjoy the lake filled with channel catfish, bass, crappie, bluegill, carp and buffalo. There's no shortage of outdoor activities to see and do at the 2,960-acre park located at 3321 Highway 111, Granite City, IL.

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Lake Lou Yaeger in Litchfield offers a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. Try the extraordinary boating and fishing on the 1,400 acre lake. The Recreation Areas around the lake offer hiking, biking, equestrian trails, campgrounds and a public swim beach (the beach is currently closed due to COVID-19 restrictions). The Route 66 Hike & Bike Trail offers 6.6 miles of unpaved, marked trails for hiking or biking, complete with bike repair stations along the trail. Shoal Creek Conservation Area offers two easy hiking trails. As you walk through native prairie lands, shoreline woods and enjoy magnificent views of the lake, watch for the wide variety of butterflies, birds and plants that visit this beautiful habitat. Lake Lou Yaeger is located at 4943 Beach House Trail, Litchfield. For more information visit www.visitlitchfield.com.



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RIVERBENDER TECH CENTER



Increased Demand Brings New Services, New Hours and New Employee to RiverBender Tech Center

An increased demand brings new hours, new services, and a new employee - Lloyd Maulden - to the RiverBender Tech Center.

"The demand for our services continues to grow," said RiverBender Tech Center owner John Hentrich. "As people rely more and more on their smartphones, tablets, and computers, their need for services also increases. Everything we do these days relies on our ability to get online, so our devices are becoming more critically important every day."

"If you have dropped your cell phone and cracked the screen or your computer has slowed down to a crawl, you know how frustrating it can be to get even the simple things done in our busy everyday lives," Hentrich said. "Online banking, online shopping, email, and so many other tasks, become a real challenge when we can't use our digital devices."

"Even when things aren't broken, there is a need for upgrades and routine maintenance to keep things running smoothly. As an example, Microsoft is no longer supporting Windows 7, which creates significant security risks, especially for those with sensitive, important data or for those who use their computers for business."

Dan Gonzales, who has been with the Tech Center for a number of years, said "To meet demand and to improve our level of service, we are making a lot of changes in 2020. We are extending our hours now until 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and we are opening on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. We are also now offering some additional on-site services which include computer pickup and installation, training, and on-site business support. We can even offer remote dial-in support for customers, with

malware, viruses, or a general tuneup."

If you are not good with preventative maintenance and data backup, they can help with those things as well.

"All too often people make the mistake of waiting until disaster strikes before they think about how they would recover from a mechanical failure or a completely destructive virus," Hentrich said.

"Regardless of whether your data is on your phone or on your computer, do yourself a huge favor and make sure you are prepared for the worst," said Cody Dover, the Smartphone and Game Console Repair Specialist at RB Tech Center.

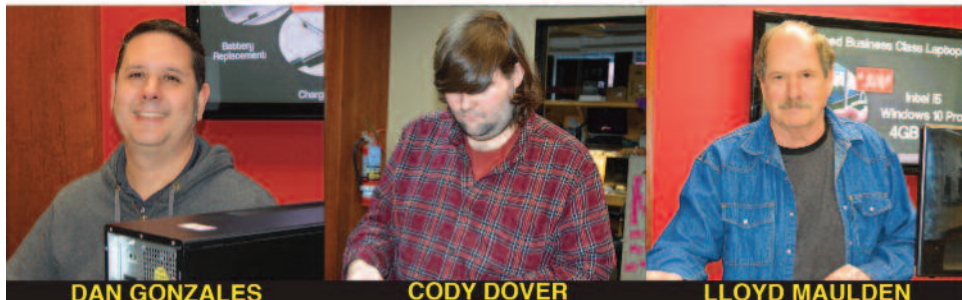
"I've fixed hundreds and hundreds of phones during my five years here and although I can often recover data from broken cell phones, there are many situations where people have lost everything."

New to the staff is Lloyd Maulden.

"With more than 25 years of computer repair experience and a strong desire to provide top-level customer service, he is sure to be an asset to our customers and to our team," Hentrich said. "I'm incredibly excited to have the opportunity to work with Lloyd and to be able to provide the additional services. 2020 is sure to be another great year!"

RiverBender Tech Center also sells inexpensive, refurbished computers, and they have the parts in stock to upgrade and speed up your existing computers. The phone repair business includes cracked screens, battery replacements, charging port problems and more.

The Riverbender Tech Center is located at 200 W. 3rd St. in Downtown Alton right across from Mac's Timeout. They can also be found online at www.RBTechCenter.com or by calling 618-465-9850. 🐾



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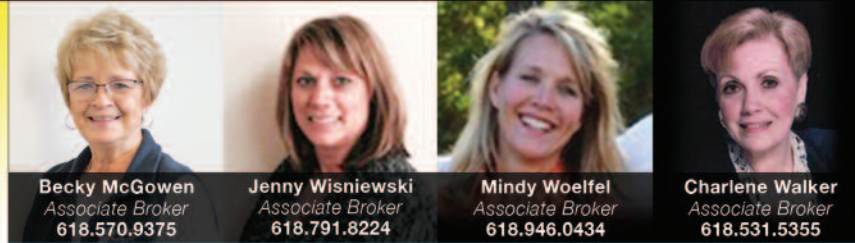
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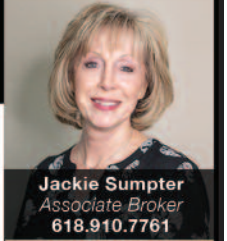


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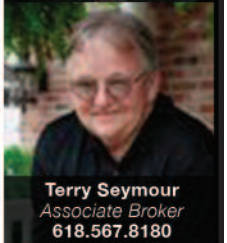
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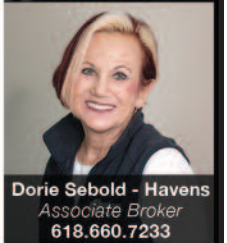
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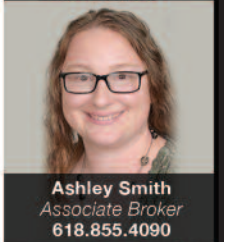
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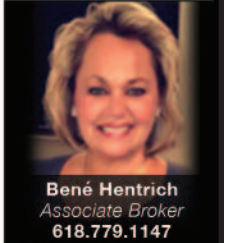
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\$74,900
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\$218,500
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Beds: 3 | Baths: 2.5 | Sq.Ft.: 1,908



\$264,900
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\$239,900
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Godfrey, IL 62035
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\$249,900
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Alton, IL 62002
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\$139,000
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Alton, IL 62002
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\$120,000
128 Donna
Hartford, IL 62048
Beds: 3 | Baths: 1 | Sq.Ft.: 1,596



\$69,000
3707 Western Ave
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 3 | Baths: 1 | Sq.Ft.: 1,180



\$165,900
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Beds: 4 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 2,582



\$125,500
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Pana, IL 62557
Beds: 2 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 1,152



\$119,900
219 W Elm St
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 3 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 1,856



\$350,000
6457 Cedar Ridge
Edwardsville, IL 62025
Beds: 4 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 1,742



\$198,000
9024 Brighton Bunker Hill
Bunker Hill, IL 62014
Beds: 2 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 1,587



\$105,000
4814 Snow White Terr
Alton, IL 62002
Beds: 4 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 816



\$149,900
336 Saint Rose Dr
Godfrey, IL 62035
Beds: 4 | Baths: 2 | Sq.Ft.: 920



\$119,000
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Granite City, IL 62040
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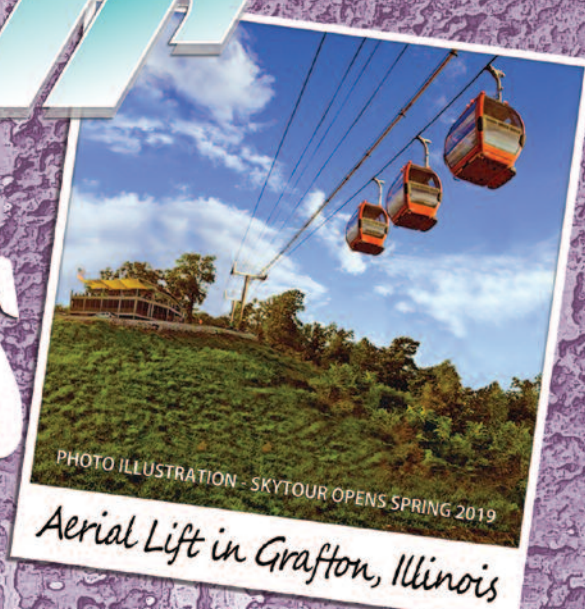
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