



The Prairie Land BUZZ MAGAZINE

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**11TH ANNUAL
ANTIQUE/VINTAGE
GUIDE & MAP
INSIDE!**



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The Buzz Magazine's 11th Annual

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GUIDE
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23. Belleville Flea Market • 200 S. Belt West @ Both-Clair Freeway • Belleville
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46. Decatur Coin & Jewelry • 104 N. Main Street • Decatur
47. The Drive-In Antiques & More • 2905 N. Oakland • Decatur
48. Antiques by the Rail • 604 E. Cerro Gordo Street • Decatur
49. Firehouse Flea Market • 550 N. Morgan • Decatur
50. Redman's Furniture • 523 N. Morgan • Decatur
51. Never Forgotten Thymes Antiques • 726 E. Cerro Gordo Street • Decatur
52. Wabash Depot Antique Center • 780 E. Cerro Gordo Street • Decatur



A special pull-out section printed as a supplement to

The Prairie Land
**BUZZ
MAGAZINE**
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TO BE INCLUDED IN THE
2024 GUIDE & MAP
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A free download of this map is available @
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This map is not intended to provide a precise representation of the location of individual participating businesses, but rather a general overview of general locations. For specific locations, see the addresses listed or refer to the addresses listed in individual business ads on accompanying pages.

Also Inside ...

**THE HISTORY BEHIND THE BUZZ MAGAZINE...AS REQUESTED
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MARY HARRIS "MOTHER" JONES
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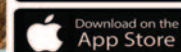
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WHERE CAN I FIND THE BUZZ MAGAZINE?

**THE MAY 2023 OF THE BUZZ WILL BE DELIVERED
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ALTON: Alton Exchange Mall • Alton VFW Alton Visitor's Center • Altonized Credit Union Alton Little Theatre • Alton Truck Stop • Auto Butler Best Western Premier Hotel & Conference Center Big Lots • Castell's Restaurant • China Buffet China King • Country Meadows Antiques • Duke Bakery Farm & Home • Farmstone Roots • Halpin Music Hayner Library • Hit-n-Run • Frank's Restaurant Lerie's Hidden Treasures • Lockhaven Golf Course Mineral Springs Mall • My Just Desserts National Tire & Battery • One Stop Shop • Poputopia Post Commons • Riverbender.com • Schnucks Spencer T Olin Golf Club • Theodora Farms Tucker's Automotive • US Bank **EAST ALTON:** Hit-n-Run • Ken's Coins **AUBURN:** Bewitching Botanicals • Carol Rae's Thrift Shop • Slaughterhouse Brewing Company **BELLEVILLE:** Belleville Flea Market • Blanquart's Rusty Gem Vintage Market • Local Lucy's Gift Shop • Schnucks **BENLD:** #5 Mine Winery • Benld Library **NEW - EJ'S BISTRO AND GAMING** • Nature's Bliss • TJ's ZX Convenience Stop • Randy's Market **BETHALTO:** Eagles Nest Restaurant • Hit-n-Run Imo's Pizza • JR's Flooring • New China • Roma's Pizza • Schnucks • The Mail Box Store **BREESE:** Applebee's • Dairy King • Eddie's Rise 'n Dine PJ's Diner **BRIGHTON:** Altonized Credit Union Spring Garden Restaurant • Shell **BUNKER HILL:** Bunker Hill Library • Country Vibes Vendors & More • Jumpin' Jimmys **CARLINVILLE:** Boente Shell • The Body Depot • Carlinville City Hall Carlinville Hospital • Carlinville Library • Catholic Charities Thrift Shop • Collected Boutique • Dottie Jo Boutique • Grandpa Joe's West End • Hawthorn Coffeehouse & Boutiques • It Is What It Is Antiques & Collectibles • Lighthouse Antique Mall • Lighthouse Too • Mother Road Antiques • My Sister's Closet • Plaza Cafe • Potrillo's Mexican Grill Rabbit Hole Thrifts Sievers Equipment • Starr's Primal Meats • Wall Street Financial • Wood Duck Bar and Grill **CARLYLE:** Clinton County Historical Society Old 50 Cafe • Ten Pin Antique Mall **CARROLLTON:** Bev's Baskets & Bows • The Pharmacy Plus **CENTRALIA:** Poor Boys Portable Buildings and More **CHATHAM:** AJ's Corner Apple Barn Beads-n-More • Farmstead Primitive Co Sangamo Brewing Company **COFFEEN:** Caseys Hair Designs **COLLINSVILLE:** ABRA Auto Body • Antiques & Accents by Vadna • Collinsville Area Recreation District 10 • Collinsville Historical Museum • Collinsville Public Library • Edible Arrangements • New China Restaurant • Ravanelis Restaurant • Rich's Record Emporium • Rural King Schnucks • Sizzor Shak Salon • Spirito's Italian Store Suncatchers • Swing City Music **COLUMBIA:** Birds Nest Designs • Schnucks **COTTAGE HILLS:** Circle K Convenience Mart • Cottage Hills Bar & Grill • Polly's Restaurant **DECATUR:** Plume Body Shop • Rusty Rooster Antiques • The Drive-In Antiques • The Whistle Stop • Never Fogotten Thymes Antiques • Wabash Deopt Antique Center **DIVERNON:** Rusty Star Marketplace • Tammi's Treasures, Antiques & More **DONNELLSON:** JR's Mini Mart • Petroski Windows, Doors & Floorcovering The Loose Caboose **DORSEY:** Aljets Automotive **DUPO:** Daugherty Public Library • The Shoppes @510 **EDWARDSVILLE:** All Natural Pet Center Bella Milano • Chicken Coop Collectables • Circle K Convenience Mart • Dierbergs • Edible Arrangements • Edwardsville City Hall • Edwardsville Flea Market • Glazy Squares • Goshen Butcher Shop Green Earth Grocer • Jerry's Tire Sales • Los Tres Amigos • Madison County Archival Library Massage Luxe • My Treasure House • Sacred

Grounds Cafe • Schnucks • Sgt Peppers Cafe • The Store • Wang Gang Asian Eats • Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop **EAST ST. LOUIS:** Schnucks **ELSAH:** Green Tree Inn **ELWIN:** Elwin Antique Mall **FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS:** Schnucks **FARMERSVILLE:** Bank & Trust • Boente Shell • Farmersville Public Library • The Rooted Home **GILLESPIE:** Gillespie City Hall • Gillespie Public Library • Gotcha Latte E-Cafe • Miner's Restaurant Sullivan's Drug Store **GIRARD:** Debbie's Underground Hair • Docs Just Off 66 • Magic Beans Coffee House • Kruse Automotive • Money Talks Thrift Shop • Pleasant Hill Village • Boente Shell **GLEN CARBON:** Allison's Comfort Shoes & Boots Eden Village Retirement Center • Exactime Watch & Clock • Glen Carbon Heritage Museum • Glen Carbon Public Library • Meridian Village • Office Max Our Health Club Spa • The Sports Academy • US Bank • Weeping Willow **GODFREY:** CHIC-N-PIG Dentistry with TLC • IMO's Pizza • McDonald's Mr. Donut • My Antique Store • Professional Hearing Associates • Quantum Vision Centers • Round Table Restaurant • Shang Hai House • State Farm/Karen Wilson **GRAFTON:** Aerie's Winery Drifters • Grafton Pub • Grafton Zip Line • Grafton Visitor's Center • Grafton Winery • Reubel Hotel Rustic Retreats • Schnucks • Tara Pointe Inn **GRANITE CITY:** Apple Tree Restaurant • Gateway Medical Center Pharmacy • Granite City Township Hall • Great Wall Chinese Buffet • Hit-n-Run Jerry's Cafeteria • Mama Mia's Restaurant • Novel Idea Bookstore and More • Old 6 Mile Museum Schnucks • Sissy's Space Boutique • Ravaneli's Restaurant • Re.Viv.AI • Teri's Route 66 Diner **GREENFIELD:** Bev's Baskets & Bows • Broken B **GREENVILLE:** Almira Manor • Corner Cafe Greenville Public Library • Third Street Market **HARTFORD:** Hartford Public Library **HAMEL:** DK's Market • Poor Boys Portable Buildings and More • The Other Place on the Hill • Weezy's Bar & Grill **HIGHLAND:** 2 Beloved Boutique • Broadway Bar & Grill • Highland Chamber of Commerce Highland Emporium • Huddle House • Urban House Restaurant • The Chocolate Affair • Highland Nutrition Center • Highland's Tru-Buy • Lee's Fine Jewelry • Michael's Restaurant • Peacock Bakery & Cafe • The Refined Sellers • Vintage Vibe on Main **HILLSBORO:** Hillsboro Public Library • Hillsboro Rental • Sage on Sage • The Dressing Room Consignment & Resale Shop • TCCU-Taylorville Community Credit Union **HOLIDAY SHORES:** Behmes Market • Gilliganz Bar & Grill **IRVING:** Grandma's Kitchen **JERSEYVILLE:** 2nd Time Around Consignment Shop • Beyond the Backyard Gate • Farm & Home • Jersevyville Community Hospital • JCH Hope Chest Resale Store • Jerseyville Library • State Street Antiques and Collectibles **KEYESPORT:** Dean's Convenience Stop • Keyesport Village Hall **KINCAID:** Kincaid Diner **LEBANON:** Cobblestone Eatery • Lebanon Visitors Center • Moon Penguin's Emporium • Robin's Nest Antiques • Tiadaughton House **LITCHFIELD:** A&D Electrical Supply • The Briar Rose • Casey's (Union Ave) • Denny's Restaurant • **NEW - EJ'S BISTRO AND GAMING** • The George Press Hair 51 Salon • Hearts United Thrift Store • Holiday Inn Express • Jubelt's Bakery • Litchfield Indoor Flea Market • M&M Sevice Company • Nelson Audiology • Quality Inn • St Francis Hospital Gift Shop • Sullivan's Health Mart Pharmacy • TCCU-Taylorville Community Credit Union • Time Out & Relaxation Massage • UJs Convenience Store **LIVINGSTON:** Country Inn Cafe • Pink Elephant Antiques **MARYVILLE:** ABRA Auto Body

Maryville Public Library • Red Apple Restaurant **MEADOWBROOK:** Homestead Craft & Flea Market • Round 2 Relics **MITCHELL:** Hen House Restaurant **MT OLIVE:** B&K Bakery • Mt Olive Public Library • Mt Olive VFW Hall • Route 138 Cafe **MORRISONVILLE:** 6th Street Market Caseys **MOWEAQUA:** The Rusty Shoe • Perfectly Picked **NOKOMIS:** Demi's Diner • 16th & Main Mercantile • UJ'S Convenience Store **O'FALLON:** Dierbergs • Schnucks **PANA:** Anarchy Disc Golf, Games & Hobbies • Beyond Burlap Home Decor & More • County Market • Dutch Mill Flea Market • Pizza Man • Shell • Spring Garden Restaurant • TCCU - Taylorville Community Credit Union **PANAMA:** Nu-Way Deli **PAWNEE:** Kreckel's Custard & Hamburgers **POCAHONTAS:** Pocahontas Antiques • Pocahontas Flea Market Powhatan Restaurant • Nuby's Steakhouse • Village Square Antiques **PONTOON BEACH:** McDonalds Uncle Linny's Restaurant **RAYMOND:** Boente 108 Shell (West Frontage Road) • Raymond Public Library Tosi's Diner **ROSEWOOD HEIGHTS:** First Stop Bake Shop **ROXANA:** Roxana Public Library **SORENTO:** City Hall **SPRINGFIELD:** Abe's Old Hat Antiques & Country Store • Coz's Pizza & Pub Ity Bitty Fashion Trunk • Lincoln Library • Maid-Rite • Mel-O-Cream Donuts All Locations • Murphy's Loft • Serenity Manor • Springfield Vintage Springfield Visitor's Center • **NEW- STELLA COFFEE & TEA** • The Barrel Antique Mall • The Track Shack **STAUNTON:** Animals Doctors Veterinary Clinic • Concordia Hall & Bowling Alley DeCamp Station • His Service Station • Itch'n to be Stitch'n • Max B. Mullins & Mayfields • Mercantile on Main • Neal's N-Gauging Trains • Pearl Essence Studio • R & B's Restaurant • Route 66 Storage & Flea Market • Russell Furniture • Staunton Public Library • Sullivan's Pharmacy & Gift Shop • Super 8 Motel • Vintage Station • Your Enchanted Crystal **ST. JACOB:** Homtel Communications **SWANSEA:** Schnucks **TAYLORVILLE:** Angelo's Pizza Dear Yesteryear • Little Luxuries • Rebecca's Antiques • ReThreads Consignment & Thrift Store Taylorville Chamber of Commerce • TCCU - Taylorville Community Credit Union • The Best 4 Less • The Lock-Up Gym • The Wooden Flower Storehouse on Market • Unique Enchantments Wonder & Rhyme **TRENTON:** Dairy King • IGA of Trenton • Mannhard Hardware, Home Decor and Gifts • Warehouse 300 Vintage Marketplace **TROY:** Alfonzo's Pizzeria • Tri-Township Public Libray Troy Family Restaurant **VRIDEN:** Books on the Square • Circle K Convenience Mart • Jamie's - The Diamond Mine • Silvernicks Unique Treasures • Sly Fox Bookstore • Wildflower Patch **WATERLOO:** Dreamland Palace German Restaurant • Schnucks **WITT:** Witt Village Hall **WOOD RIVER:** Belk Park Golf Course • Cleary's Shoes and Boots • Hing Wah • Mama Mias Restaurant • Meyer Jewelry Riverbend Resale • Rustic Roots • Suncatchers Wood River Library **WORDEN:** The Chirping Frog • Worden City Hall • Worden Public Library

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EDITOR'S NOTES

I believe spring is finally here! The weather has been gorgeous lately. Perfect timing for our Annual Antique and Vintage Guide & Map that is inserted in this issue. The Antique Guide is a favorite among readers near and far - even from other states. They will keep this guide all year until the updated issue comes out next April, to plan their day and weekend excursions. Our area is abundant with antique malls and quaint little vintage shops, plus various markets. Make sure you take a look. One day when you are bored with nothing to do, get it out and take a little road trip.

There is no time to be bored around my household. Especially in the spring, and since it stays lighter, longer. There is so much yard work to do. Fortunately for me, the two oldest grandkids who

live in Missouri are on Spring Break from school so they are here helping Grandma catch up on raking leaves, picking up sticks and getting the garden prepped, among other things.

Our recipes each month, in *Buzzin' Around the Kitchen* and *Follow My Fitness* are always very popular. Many readers say they make them each month and some have become their favorites. I really love both recipes this month. Since Chef Anthony turns in his recipe pretty early, I had the chance to make it and try it before publishing and it is very good! The great thing about both recipes this month is they are fast and easy.

By the way, if you enjoy a certain story, or monthly column, feel free to email the author. Our writers love hearing from our readers. Their contact



information is normally posted at the end of most of their monthly submissions. But, if for some reason I forgot to include that info, you can always mail to thebuzzmonthly@yahoo.com and I will make sure they get it.

Last but not least for this month, a shout out to my mother, **KATHE HOOTON**, who will celebrate her 83rd birthday on April 30th! Happy Birthday Mama!

Talk to you next month!
~ TLC

IT'S TIME FOR A ROAD TRIP!

2023 ANTIQUE/VINTAGE GUIDE & MAP

VINTAGE • ANTIQUES • COLLECTIBLES • REUPPOSED RUSTIC • ROADSIDE FINDS • ESTATE TREASURES • FLEA MARKET

For All THREE States Counties of ILLINOIS • CHRISTIAN COUNTY • GREENE • MERRY • FRANKLIN • FRANKLIN • MORGAN • PEORIA • MONROEVILLE • SANGAMON • ST. CLAIR

USE THIS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO PLAN YOUR BEST SHOPPING ESCAPES!

Please Note: The information contained within was accurate at the time of printing. If you are traveling during a period of a certain business listed here, it would be wise to call in advance to make sure their hours have not changed and that they will still be open for your visit. This map is also downloadable on our website at www.thebuzzmonthly.com.

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A Supplement to our April 2023 Issue • Volume 14 • Issue 181

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Look for our 11th Annual Antique/Vintage Guide & Map inserted into this month's issue of The Buzz Magazine!

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The History Behind The Buzz Magazine... as Requested

I was going to wait until next year - when we celebrate our 15th anniversary - to write this updated story about *The Prairie Land Buzz Magazine*. But lately we have had so many new readers, and new advertisers ask us about how the magazine got its start, and asking us to print that information, so...here it is.

It could be quite a long story, but I will try to edit it down enough just to give you the basic facts, and maybe a few little quirky or interesting points.

My background officially is in retail management. I used that education to manage the tool and hardware departments at an independent family-owned lumber company/home center in Missouri (much like the Lowes, Home Depot and Menards you are familiar with today). This was back when such departments were male dominated, so being a woman certainly added a twist, and some controversy to my assumption of these departments. Later, I had the opportunity to move into the field of advertising and marketing with this company, including graphic design, with this company. That company celebrated their 100th year in business shortly before the family decided to retire. I was employed with them during their last 20 years of operation. When they closed, I started my own marketing/advertising company, doing for other small businesses what I once did for this large business under the name Studio T.

Tony worked for the State of Illinois as a Corrections Officer, and later moved into the position of Parole Officer. We met after I moved to Illinois in 2005.

We opened a bar & grill in Litchfield and operated that - unsuccessfully - for two years. This was 2007-2008, during the great recession. Not a good time to do a new business start up, we soon found out. During these two years I was still handling the advertising and marketing for companies in three states: Missouri, Kansas and Illinois. But the recession hit them also, and many of my clients opted out of their contracts. When the recession hit the hardest, I lost 75% of my business in just two weeks.

Small businesses all around were closing down. I was in a quandary as to what to do for income. Advertising, marketing and graphic design had been my life for over two decades. Small businesses couldn't afford an ad in their local paper, let alone afford to pay me to handle their marketing. My job applications were rejected because I had "too much experience" and they couldn't pay

what that would warrant, or ... I didn't have experience for the job I applied for.

Tony said one day, "What can we do to utilize your skills and experience AND help out other small businesses that are struggling?" Personally, I had no ideas. But he did. And let me emphasize at this point that he has always been the brains behind *The Buzz*. It was his idea from inception.

I made a mock up of our idea to present to potential advertisers and went to small businesses around Montgomery and Macoupin County soliciting ads to try to put out our first issue. We didn't ask for any money up front - we wanted businesses to feel comfortable that we were not trying to scam anyone - no payment was due until they had a copy of the magazine in their hand.

Our first issue, printed by The Journal News in Hillsboro, was black and white, except for the front cover which had color. It was only 12 pages and cost every penny I had in my savings account to get it printed, with ad sales barely enough to cover the printing, let alone make a profit.

The first issue of *The Prairie Land Buzz Magazine* was printed in time to be distributed the first week of December 2009. The advertisers were pleased, and people that discovered the magazine commented that they enjoyed the stories, and the concept and mission behind the magazine: to promote pride in the region, its heritage and its people, by sharing their positive and uplifting stories, and to provide a cost effective means of advertising for the many locally owned small businesses, to aid in their success. It was our mission originally, and remains so to this day.

Originally, the work and details of ad sales, story writing, ad composition, invoicing, delivery - everything involved in producing the magazine and getting it distributed - fell on me. Tony was still employed full time as a corrections officer.

But soon people started noticing this new publication. It was something different. Always positive. Nothing political or religious. No national news. No police reports. Just local "feel good" stories.

Freelance writers started contacting us about writing stories for us: Cheryl Eichar-Jett was the first. She has been providing *Along Route 66* since September of 2012. Next, local writer/historian Tom Emery reached out. He began contributing in December of 2014, regularly writing *Illinois History*, but also submitting other local and national historic stories. Now we have sev-



This is a photo of Tony and I when adopted our current Doberman pup Magnum - who was anxious to join the business, and now pens his own column each month on pet related topic... *Magnum's Corner*.

eral writers on board to help fill the pages with interesting, timely and relevant content: *Just Chill Entertainment* by Justin Childress; *The Prairie Land Gardener*, originally authored by Abby Dillon, owner of LaBella Fiori Greenhouse and Garden Center in Staunton, now authored by Kris Hart of Litchfield, a local organic hobby farmer; *The Investment Buzz*, submitted each month by Carl Zeidler from Wall Street Financial Group in Carlinville; *The Book Buzz* by Carl Rishel, owner of Sly Fox Bookstore in Virden. *Buzzin' Around the Kitchen*, a very popular monthly column, features a recipe each month, authored by a local chef writing under the pseudonym of Chef Anthony to remain anonymous - and even *Magnum's Corner*, penned by my own sweet baby boy, (Magnum the Doberman). And we can't forget about Roger Kratochvil! Roger is a retired teacher, high school principal, coach and former scout for the St. Louis Cardinals. He now writes about his life experiences, and we are thankful to have him as a contributing writer for *The Buzz*. But we are thankful for all of our writers. Because after about five years of publishing *The Buzz*, and the growth we experienced, it was getting too much for just one person to handle. Remember, I alone was selling all ads, designing all ads, doing the interviews and photoshoots for all stories, writing those stories, putting it all together, getting it to the printer and then delivering it... by myself.

Soon, at the request of current businesses/advertisers in Montgomery and Macoupin counties, we began to distribute *The Buzz* to Madison County.

Next, we had a delivery company contact us about handling the delivery there. That was a true God-send. I got lost in Alton several times, and Madison County is so large, adding that to my delivery schedule meant 4-5 days of delivery, instead of 2-3.

In February of 2019 we partnered with

another company that helped us grow even more - Riverbender.com. Riverbender.com is a digital marketing company and owner John Hentrich had been watching and following *The Buzz* for some time. He reached out, met with Tony and I, and we formed a partnership that has been beneficial to both companies. Riverbender.com has helped us increase our exposure in the Riverbend area. They sell ads into the magazine, help with delivery, manage our website and provide numerous other benefits that make *The Buzz* a better magazine for everyone. The partnership has also allowed us to expand our services to our clients/advertisers, including the option to offer digital marketing, website design and more.

Over the last 14 years the magazine has grown exponentially - more than we every anticipated or imagined. We have gone from a small black and white publication on newsprint only with an average of 12-24 pages, distributed in just two counties to a full color publication, averaging 68 pages per month, with glossy covers, distributed to over 400 locations, in 60 towns, in 12 Illinois counties every single month!

Fortunately, Tony is now retired from the State of Illinois and has assumed the responsibility of the majority of ad sales, allowing me more time to concentrate on stories and ad design.

His amazing ideas to improve *The Buzz* never stop. Eleven years ago we added an annual *Antique & Vintage Guide*, a special insert as the supplement to our April issue every year (find it in this month's issue). Modeled after that we also now offer a fall insert, *Shop 'Til You Drop*, in August that is open to all retailers, and another in November, the *Shop Small, Shop Local Holiday Shopping Guide*.

We continue to stick to our original mission: to promote pride in the region, its heritage and its people, by sharing their positive

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The cover of the February 2019 magazine announcing the partnership between The Prairie Land Buzz Magazine and Riverbender.com. Shown are Tara Cale (Buzz) and John Hentrich (Riverbender). Note, at that time The Buzz only covered six counties. Now, just five short years later, the magazine is distributed monthly in 12 Illinois counties.

and uplifting stories, and to provide a cost effective means of advertising for the many locally owned small businesses, to aid in their success. We strive to keep content (stories) and ads at a 50/50 ratio. And we do everything in our power to keep our ad prices reasonable so small businesses can afford to advertise. In fact, in 14 years of publishing *The Buzz* - even though we have increased our distribution enormously, were hit just as hard as anyone during COVID, and still deal with increased production costs and gas prices - we have only raised our ad prices once. When the printer raised our prices four times in a single year - we had to adjust our prices. Still, the increases were minimal because although we do have to make a profit, our focus is on promoting small businesses and aiding in their success.

By the way, we quickly outgrew the printing capabilities of The Journal News, and now print at Breese Publishing. Our print process includes heat-set press, which means the ink of the pages will not transfer off on your hands or clothing. It's like "ironing" the color onto the pages.

We have been through numerous struggles over the years, some that have made us ask WHY? at the time, but things always seem to work out for *The Buzz* for the best.

We are extremely grateful and thankful for our writers, readers and advertisers that have made it possible to bring you this publication free each month for the last 14 years.

Tony and I are getting older now and think that in another 5-6 years we may want to "retire" and enjoy our golden years. Several options are on the horizon, including selling the business to someone else, or the possibility of our grandchildren taking it over. One thing we know for sure though is we do not want *The Buzz* to stop. Even in the age of "digital" this printed publication shows no signs of decline. At least for now. Perhaps that will change in the future when someone else - maybe our descendants, who are more in tune with the digital age take over....

But for now, Tony and I plan to continue providing you a high quality printed publication, with positive and uplifting stories about the people and small business of Illinois, free each month. We look forward to starting our 15th year in December. 🐝

For more information email thebuzzmonthly@yahoo.com, visit www.thebuzzmonthly.com or follow us at [facebook.com/ThePrairieLandBuzz](https://www.facebook.com/ThePrairieLandBuzz).

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If a Second Opinion Can Save Your Life, It May Also Save Your Retirement

Many investors take more risk than they should and a market like 2022 is an excellent reminder that bear markets can cause large drops in investment portfolios that sometimes will take years to recover. So a natural question is, how do you know if you are taking too much risk? One way to measure how much risk to take has been with us a long time and it's called the Rule of 100. If you subtract your current age from the number 100, the end result is how much of your money should be in the market. The Rule of 100 reduces your exposure to market risk as you get older and it is a great method of protecting the principle of your investments. The balance of your money should be in interest bearing accounts that are protected against market losses. Three great examples are investing in U.S. Treasuries, Certificates of Deposit and Annuities, where you are protected against market declines. However variable annuities do not fit this model as your money rides up and down with the market.


If your portfolio does not follow the Rule of 100, it may be time to get a second opinion on where and how your money is invested. If you choose to get a second opinion, you should be certain that the person you are talking to works for a registered investment advisor and is held to the fiduciary standard. A fiduciary must always put their clients' interests ahead of their own. It is the highest standard of law and several professions are held to the fiduciary standard, including - but not limited to - physicians, attorneys, a Bank Trust officer and employees of a registered investment advisory firm.

Another valuable tool for investors to understand is the sequence of returns risk. Sequence of return risk is the risk that market declines in the early years of retirement, coupled with the ongoing need to withdraw from your retirement accounts to support your lifestyle, and could significantly reduce the longevity of your investments.

If you experience market declines early in retirement, and are also living in a period of rising inflation, the risk of running out of money becomes very real. Many retirement withdrawal strategies, such as a 4% withdrawal rule, may be difficult to support if you're withdrawing funds during a declining market. So a combination of low market returns and significantly higher inflation create a "perfect storm" for a retirement portfolio.

In order to minimize this risk, you should be looking at investments that are far less volatile than the overall stock market. Defensive investments are those that normally don't decline significantly during a period of market turmoil. Some good examples of these are healthcare, utilities, consumer staples and deep discount retailers.

Fewer than half adults can correctly answer three basic financial questions regarding interest rates, inflation and risk diversification, and approximately 40% of Americans say they haven't even tried to figure out how much to save for their retirement.

If you would like a no-cost, no-obligation second opinion on your investment portfolio and your plans for retirement income, please reach out to Carl or John Zeidler at Wall Street Financial Group by calling 800-303-9255. 



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Grandma, Tell Me About the Good 'Ole Days...

Oat Threshing, Corn Husk Mattresses and Corn Crib Swings

This is a continuing series based on the journal of Lena Temeyer, the maternal grandmother of the editor, Tara Cale. To read the entire series, which started with the February 2023 issue of The Buzz Magazine, visit www.thebuzzmonthly.com.

When I was growing up, oats were cut with a binder, hitched to four horses. The bundles of oats were dropped on the ground and the men (sometimes older children helped) would set the bundles up in shocks. The shocks were left standing to go through a "sweat." Then it was threshing time.

A big old steam engine came into the yard, pulling a threshing machine behind it. It was placed wherever they wanted the straw stack. Neighbors came in with teams and wagons to haul the bundles of oats to the machine - and some to catch grain as it came out of the spout. There were one or two men to stack straw. There were sometimes 20 or more men helping and the neighbor ladies came to help cook the meals for the men. When they had one farm done, they moved to the next farm, and repeated the process.

Back then there were more flies than there are now. Usually one woman would take a tree branch to chase the flies away. We did have fly poison, called Daisy Fly Killer. It was on black paper that we put in a shallow pan of water with sugar, and when the flies ate it, they died. We didn't have fly spray for our cattle or horses, or around the house. The cows would switch their tails at the flies and hit you in the face with them as we milked. The work horses had fly nets when they were hitched up. These nets were made of leather strings put together so you could through them over the horse after the harness was on. The strings hung down and flopped as the horse walked, helping to "shoo" away the flies. The driving horse, or buggy horse, had a bit fancier net. It was made of string or cord that was yellow or red. They also used a dust lap rode when riding in a buggy, to keep the dust off their clothes. By the time I was grown and out riding, the dust robe was past.

I don't remember much about corn picking, other than what I was told. I know they paid around 3-4 cents per bushel. If a man

put in a good days work he would pick 80-100 bushels, but that was the exception, rather than the rule. They had to get up very early in order to feed and harness the horses and be in the fields by daylight.

When we shelled corn the sheller would put the cobs in one pile and the husks that had been left on the corn in another. I sometimes helped my mother pick out the nice husks to make a mattress with. Oh what a job it was to make a mattress! After shaking out the dusk and silks we put them in a type of sack, made of ticking, about the size of the bed. The sack was sewed shut except for a small place in the middle, where you could reach in and stir the husks up so you didn't get more pushed into one place than the other. When it was full enough, it would go on the bed. The husks would eventually mat together and the mattress couldn't be used any more, but they lasted a year or two. We put a feather mattress over the top of the husk mattress. The feathers came from the ducks and geese we raised. We actually picked them off of the birds. Don't worry though, about every six weeks the geese and ducks shed their feathers. If we didn't pick them off, they would pick them off themselves and throw them away. When the birds were laying eggs though, you couldn't pick their feathers or they would stop laying. And you couldn't pick feathers after October they had to have time to grow new ones for winter. The feather mattress was made the same way as the husk mattresses, only with heavier ticking so the feathers wouldn't poke through. And it was sewed completely shut for you know how feathers are if they get out! The bedrooms were always cold in those days so most everyone had a feather mattress over a husk mattress to help stay warm in the winter. and I suppose they were hot in the summer, but I don't remember that they were.

Some of the older children would swing on a swing in the corn crib. There were two ropes fastened on to 2 x 4's in the crib, 12 feet apart, then two 1 x 12 boards side-by-side in the loops of the rope hanging down. Several people would straddle these boards and they would swing forward and back. Sometimes they got pretty high, and the boards would bounce. They wouldn't let me swing because they thought I may get my fingers pinched between the boards. I think too it was partly that if I went home with pinched fingers, Papa would scold. He didn't like for us to play



When it came threshing time, there were sometimes 20 or more neighbor men that helped. When they had one farm done, they all moved on to the next. Neighbor ladies came too, to cook the meals for the men.



In the early 1900s, mattresses were made by hand using corn husks as filler. A more luxurious mattress, made from the feathers of ducks and geese on the farm, was put on top, especially during the cold winter months in Illinois and Iowa.

too wild of games.

I started school when I was seven. That was the time to start then. Two of my sisters, Freada and Edna, were going too. I don't remember my sister Anna every going though. Edna was five years older than me, and Freada was a year older than her.

We walked to school. If we took the road

it wouldn't have been two miles to the schoolhouse, but we cut through fields, making it much less. Sometimes on the way home we would pull a turnip out of a friend's turnip patch and eat it on the way home. There was a little stream along the way where we could wash off the dirt. Sometimes we would find elderberries to pick and eat.

We moved to Iowa when I was eight, and after we go to Iowa, none of those other three girls every went to school. 🐷



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Bringing Joy to Others With Art

The Garage on Leonard in Springfield

By Tara L. Gale

Springfield resident Sarah Thomas was always the artistic type, but she was told throughout her early and teen years that you can't make money with art. So she chose the traditional route of getting a higher education and what would be considered a respectable career. She had been working in the social services industry for many years and was, in fact, working towards her Master's in that arena. Weeks before obtaining that degree she lost her mother after a prolonged illness.

"After graduating, I spent countless hours searching for openings, submitting applications, writing cover letters, and completing interviews," Sarah told me. "I was just feeling like I was in a rat race and needed an outlet."

The loss of her mother also caused Sarah to look at life differently.

"I realized that if you want to do something, do it now. Don't wait for the right time or you'll just keep making excuses. And the

right time may never come. THIS is your time, your journey, do with it as YOU want."

With that in mind, Sarah finally took the initiative and to sign up for the introduction to stained glass class - something she had been planning to do for quite some time.

"I was so excited for the first class to start, and once I made my first score on the glass, I was hooked!"

Suddenly the stresses of her life at that point began to dissipate. Scoring glass and creating beautiful art let her explore her creativity once again, and that made her very happy.

She completed that beginner stained glass course and before she knew it, her husband, Nick, who had seen her soul start to flourish with love for this new passion, surprised her with her own grinder so she could continue her newly found love at home.

"Little did he know he was setting the foundation for the biggest, riskiest jump

I was about to take," she explained. "I hopped off one rollercoaster and jumped right onto the next one, even passing up the express lane."

Sarah left behind a career she had pursued for over a decade, and chose to take a path that filled her creative soul while also bringing joy to others.

"I took a risk to leave the 'safe route' and jumped straight into the world of being an artist and a maker. I instantly had those that supported this decision, but I also had the ones that were skeptical of me 'wasting' my degree."

Sarah spent months to further educate herself on the art of stained glass (she is constantly researching, learning and educating herself on this unique art) to improve her techniques, and the quality of her finished products.

Sarah began selling on an online marketplace platform to test out the waters and by

the summer of 2022, started selling her work at local craft markets. She has continued to grow from there: she has her creations in two local boutiques - Bewitching Botanicals in Auburn, and Wildly Rooted Boutique in Springfield - and will venture to her first market outside of the Springfield area on Saturday, May 13th, when she is a featured vendor at the now very popular Small Town Dreamers Market in downtown Farmersville.

"Starting my own business and selling my creative works has been the riskiest decision I've made to date. But that scary jump has been a beautiful journey!," she exclaimed.

Sarah added, "I still do a little happy dance each time an item sells- no matter the size. Every sale matters to me. Selling something I've made with my own hands is never going to lose excitement! My very first stained glass sale was on a well-known online marketplace platform - within the first two weeks of my start-up. It was early in the



Photos shown illustrate the creativity and diversity of artist, Sarah Thomas, owner of Garage on Leonard. All creations shown are original designs including top left: "Going in For the Kill," (photo by Jordan Minder Photography), top center, "Snake Flash Mirror." Top right, various yard stakes, some incorporate nature's elements like agate slices. The bottom left photo shows some of Sarah's tealight holders (photo by Jordan Minder Photography), and bottom right are some of her whimsical plant stakes. Disclaimer: If you put stained glass mushroom stakes in outdoor potted plants, there is a chance a squirrel will try to eat them. Fair warning!



morning and I was chatting with my sister while she was on her way to work. My phone gave a notification sound that was unfamiliar to me. I looked at the screen and started celebrating - hollering 'woot woot' 'oh yeah!!' and making other various sound effects and dance moves. I was so excited I could barely get the words out! So ecstatic! I told my sister, 'I did it! I sold my first piece!!!!' I couldn't believe that a person who lived STATES away, whom I had never met, wanted to spend their money on something I had created. I was grinning from ear to ear. Then I took a quick selfie, bedhead hair and all - it was a moment worth capturing. Some business owners like to save their first dollar and frame it but I wanted to save that smile, that joy, that gratitude I felt in nurturing my soul. That to me is more frame-worthy than any money."

Sarah's stained glass work started with plant stakes and suncatchers but quickly expanded to zinc framed panels, custom pieces, tealight candle holders, business card holders, propagation stations - and the list continues to grow. She also likes to incorporate things other than just glass into her work, such as snake shed, charms, and crystals - adding a little touch of nature and beauty.

Sarah's work is created in her garage,

hence the name, Garage on Leonard. However, Garage on Leonard is not an open studio - you can't just come and shop. It's solely where she creates. At times she does allow customers to pick up orders at the garage, but for the most part, the garage is her private solace, the place she feels most at home and in touch with her creative spirit, and her art is sold through the two previously mentioned boutiques, local markets and online.

Many of the items she creates are "market exclusive", which means you won't find them at the boutiques, or online - the only time you will see them, and be able to purchase them, are at the markets.

According to Sarah, working with glass is much like being a sculptor and a painter combined - smashed together.

"I get to build this beautiful creation by breaking down sheets of glass and grinding them down. After soldering the shapes together, a second creation is born, waiting to be seen when the sun shines through and the glass dances in the light. It's like getting two separate pieces of art."

"I have a playfulness about me, and I think that is why I love what I do so much - it's all play to me. I get to create unique designs and play with colors, textures, and shapes and

bring them all together to create beautiful pieces that also bring joy."

Sarah emphasized that her creations are all hand drawn. Well they used to be...she has recently become more tech savvy and has some computer programs to help her digitize her patterns for creations - but they are all still original. She does not use templates.

Sarah said the rewards of working as a creative come in many forms.

"In one way the most rewarding aspect of being an artist is having freedom. The free-

dom to create and express myself through my creations, and the freedom of working for myself. But it doesn't just end there, because just as equally rewarding is the satisfaction of bringing joy to others with my art." 🍄

For more information about Garage on Leonard and Sarah's creations, visit www.thegarageonleonard.com, www.instagram.com/the_garage_onleonard or on Facebook at [TheGarageOnLeonard217](https://www.facebook.com/TheGarageOnLeonard217).

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Left: Pontiac's world-famous Route 66 mural.
Above: The historic Street Car Diner in Gardner.
Below: The Red Carpet Corridor logo.



Along Route 66

2023 Annual Red Carpet Corridor Tour is May 6-7

BY CHERYL EICHAR JETT

Illinois Route 66 is rich with annual events that celebrate the Mother Road, including several that have endured for quite a few years. One of these is the Red Carpet Corridor (RCC), a two-day, self-guided tour along the approximately northern one-third of Illinois Route 66. Each community along the Route plans and manages its own festivities, making up a lively mix of live entertainment, car and motorcycle shows, festivals, antique and craft sales, a variety of food, and Route 66 souvenirs.

According to this year's Red Carpet Corridor press release, "Food, snacks and treats will be in abundance, and there are plenty of historic sites, outstanding free museums, and unique mom and pop businesses to help create a nostalgic journey for all to experience. Visitors can simply enjoy the drive, or stop and participate in activities, or do a little shopping in any of the great stores or at trademark yard sales from town to town."

The RCC is traditionally held annually on the first weekend in May, and this year's 16th Annual event is scheduled to kick off at 8:00 am on Saturday, May 6, at the Joliet Area Museum and Welcome Center and run through 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 7. New this year, the event has expanded to include Bloomington-Normal at the southern end of the 100-mile-long stretch of Route 66. That addition adds up to a total of 14 communities

participating: Joliet, Elwood, Wilmington, Braidwood, Godley, Braceville, Gardner, Dwight, Odell, Pontiac, Chenoa, Lexington, Normal, and Bloomington.

"Bloomington-Normal is honored to be included in the Red Carpet Corridor for the first time. We will have live music, a car show, and participants can visit a 1930s gas station and a Route 66 museum," said Terri Ryburn, proprietor of Ryburn Place at Sprague's Super Service on Route 66 in Normal. In addition to the live music and car show, Downtown Bloomington will also feature food trucks/vendors, and the Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66 Visitor Center will be open. In Normal, a photo opp with replica gas pumps awaits visitors at Sprague's Super Service – a restored unique 1930s Tudor-style two-story gas station.

A sampling from some of the other communities includes: **Joliet** – the Old Joliet Prison Welcome Center will be open. **Elwood** – Antique tractors exhibit. Wilmington – Hula contest, live music. **Braidwood** – Car show. **Gardner** – Elvis tribute artist. **Dwight** – Kansas City Barbecue sanctioned event. **Pontiac** – Swinging Bridges Arts Festival. **PLUS** – in most communities – special sales (art, baked goods, antiques, craft, flea, garage); food (vendors, trucks, tents, restaurants); museums and historic sites open (look for souvenirs, refreshments, special exhibits,

and/or free admission). A complete list of activities is on the event website.

Previous RCC attendees will know that each year, a special souvenir commemorative item, such as a postcard or puzzle piece, is given to attendees, with a designated pickup location in each participating community for their unique item. This year, the commemorative give-away for each community is a customized currency bill which includes a photo of an iconic attraction and historical information. Get to each location before the weekend ends to collect the full set of unique bills.

Partnering organizations this year for Red Carpet Corridor include the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway, Heritage Corridor CVB, and Bloomington-Normal Area CVB. A complete schedule and listing of events and commemorative giveaway pickup locations for all 14 communities can be found at: ilroute66redcarpetcorridor.com.

The original idea for the event came from Betty Estes, Pontiac's first tourism director, who served in that capacity from 1999 to 2005. Betty developed a habit of keeping a piece of red carpet in her car. When she met bus tours as they arrived in Pontiac, she whipped out the red carpet to roll out in front of the bus. For her, it was easy to extend the concept to begin working with neighboring Route 66 communities such as Dwight, Odell, and Chenoa to develop a plan for

a self-guided tour event that showcased the various 66 communities' attractions.

The first Red Carpet Corridor event was held May 5-6, 2007. The list of early event organizers also includes John Weiss, Illinois Route 66 preservationist and author. Ellie Alexander, Pontiac's second tourism director, served as the RCC Chairperson for nearly a decade. In 2015, Alexander handed the reins to Debyjo Ericksen, who still serves as the RCC Chairperson.

"As we celebrate our 16th year of the Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival, I can tell you that this truly is a labor of love for everyone involved with the Festival planning," said Ericksen, Festival Chairperson. "Local Route 66 historian John Weiss, one of the initial organizers of the festival, helped start this event as a 'teaser' for Route 66 enthusiasts to get a small glimpse of what each community offers, enticing them to come back to explore more. The Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Festival is a self-guided, kitchy experience of the most famous two-lane highway in America." 🚗

Cheryl Eichar-Jett is the author of numerous books and articles about Route 66. Find her at www.route66chick.com and www.cheryleicharjett.com.



Above: The 1932 Standard Oil Gas Station in Odell. Below left: Joliet Area Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center sign. Below right: The "Cruisin' with Lincoln on 66" Visitors Center at the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington. Photos by Cheryl Eichar Jett.



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Father/Daughter Team Treasures Common Bond

The Passion Behind Decatur Coin and Jewelry Started With a Sock Full of Coins

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

"I became interested in coins when I was about 10 years old," he said. "My father worked at a coal mine and they paid him with silver dollars. He brought the coins home in a sock and laid them 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 had been located in downtown Decatur since 1972.

And Bennie isn't the only Strumpher with an affinity for coins. His daughter, Samantha, is happily following in her father's footsteps.

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

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

And she has 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 is their ethics and service that makes their business stand out from the 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% on the dollar. We have paid out over 20 million dollars to people just like you over the years."

He added, "We are professional numismatists and travel the coin show circuit buying investor grade coins that we seldom encounter here locally. 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 just sold a few years ago for a couple of hundred dollars are worth thousands of dollars today."

Decatur Coin and Jewelry buys and sells rare coins, paper money, diamonds, watches,

gold and silver jewelry, costume jewelry, turquoise, Native American items, Civil War, military and political items as well as many vintage collectibles. They offer competitive buy/sell prices on American Eagle gold and silver bullion coins, 999 silver rounds and bars and other gold/silver products.

Bennie and Samantha stay busy enjoying their work and customers.

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

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

Decatur Coin and Jewelry is located at 104 N Main Street in Decatur - their home for over 50 years. Store hours are Monday through Friday, 9am-4pm except from 1-1:30 pm for lunch. Weekends are by appointment only and they are closed on all major holidays. For more information call 217-899-4346 or 217-423-0041, find them on Facebook or check them out online at www.DecaturCoinandJewelry.com.



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Good Times and Great Food Come to Litchfield

EJ's Bistro and Gaming Opens Downtown

BY TARA L. CALE

Every small town needs a locally owned family restaurant. A place where you can grab good food fast, or sit down and enjoy a meal you didn't have to cook yourself. Many small towns in the area have such a destination. Witt has Grandma's Kitchen, Nokomis has Demi's Diner, Raymond has Tosi's Diner, Bunker Hill has BG's Pub. Mt. Olive has Tilley's. The list goes on. Even my own little town of Farmersville has Caddyshack.

Litchfield has many restaurants, mostly due to their proximity to major highways like Interstate 55 and Historic Route 66. Fast food and chain eateries are plentiful. Their choices of small, locally owned eateries has

dwindled but still includes: Maverick Steaks & Spirits, Jubelt's Bakery and Restaurant, Pizza Man/Ice Cream Man, Gianni's Pizza and Italian Ristorante, and The Ariston Cafe - all located close to each other, and also by the majority of other restaurants in town. And now you can add another to that list. Residents from Litchfield and surrounding communities and downtown businesses in Litchfield have given an overwhelming thumbs up to the new locally family owned restaurant to open downtown - EJ's Bistro and Gaming.

EJ's is owned and operated by the husband and wife team of Ed and Jessica Rieffer. They are not new to small business own-

ership, in fact Jessica has a salon and gaming parlor in Benld also, but she has always wanted to own a restaurant, so the couple made it happen.

"We didn't want to lease a building, we wanted to buy one. We had been looking for some time," Jessica explained, "This location was available, and at the right price."

EJ's Bistro and Gaming opened on January 1st of this year and the business has been going strong since. In fact, Thursdays through Saturday, it's a wise idea to make reservations!

EJ's is located in the heart of downtown Litchfield, right on the main drag of State Street, featuring both street level and upstairs

dining and gaming space. The menu includes appetizers, sandwiches, salads, burgers and pizza, BUT... don't be thinking it's not special. First of all, most of the items are made fresh, in-house with only the highest quality ingredients. The Rieffers smoke their wings in house, as well as their pulled pork and ribs. Ribs are not on the menu but are often a daily special - we will get to that later. Other items made in house include their nacho chips, marinara sauce, pizza, queso sauce, ranch dressing and chili. The french fries are all hand cut and all of their gourmet burgers are hand-pattied usually only fresh 100% beef. You must try one of their gourmet burgers. You will be able to taste the dif-



I realize we have pictured a lot of burgers, but EJ's Bistro and Gaming is known for their gourmet burgers and hand cut fries, so it makes sense. Above is their Triple Threat burger. To the right is the Cheeto Burger. Also shown is their famous chili burrito (the chili is made fresh in-house) and above that, one of their many plate specials - barbeque ribs. The ribs are smoked in-house also, along with their pulled pork and chicken wings.



ference immediately. int to try everything eventually!

Getting back to the daily specials - they often include their in-house smoked ribs, homemade lasagna or spaghetti (featuring their in-house made marinara, of course!), meatloaf or other family-style home cooked dishes. The Friday special is always farm fresh catfish.

Jessica told me that soon they will also be offering an all-you-can-eat buffet. So be sure to follow them on Facebook to stay updated!

The bottom level dining is arranged around a large central bar where you can order your favorite adult beverage. EJ's has eight beers on tap including: Blue Moon, Modela, Stag, Miller Lite, Amber Bock, Michelob Ultra, Busch Light and Bud Light. They have pool leagues on Wednesday and Thursday nights, dart leagues on Monday, and will soon be scheduling live music and offering Karaoke.

"We just want to provide a fun place where friends and family can gather for good

food and to have a good time together," Jessica said.

Looks like that mission has been accomplished! I'm going to let the photos do the rest of the talking.

EJ's Bistro and Gaming is located at 308 N. State Street in Litchfield. They open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 am, except for Sunday, when they close at midnight. Food is available during all open hours. So if you are someone that needs a burger at 10 p.m. they have you covered. To contact them, call 217-324-FOOD (3663). Follow them on Facebook to stay updated on daily specials, upcoming events and more.

UPDATE: Shortly before going to press, Ed and Jessica let me know that EJ's is now open also in Benld! The menu at the Benld location is limited - to basically burgers, phillies and pizza, and the hours are different: Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am-8pm. Check them out at 207 W. Central Street or for carryout call 217-839-8008.

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Speakers include Brother Jerome Lewnard of the Viatorians, who will read the eulogy, Irish Consul Kevin Byrne, Tiim Drea, president to the Illinois AFL/CIO. Music by Wildflower Conspiracy.

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Magic by Randy Thompson

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Small Independent Presses Publish Great Books

BY GEORGE RISHEL

April is both National Poetry Month and Independent Bookstore Day (April 29) month—making it appropriate to look at some recent books from small independent presses.

Copper Canyon Press in Washington state has published quality poetry for fifty years. This year it collected outstanding poems over its half-century of publishing in *A House Called Tomorrow: Fifty Years of Poetry* from Copper Canyon Press edited by Michael Wiegers. The result is a collection of beloved poems: representing Pulitzer Prize-winning books, debut collections, works in translation, and rare books from Copper Canyon's early days.

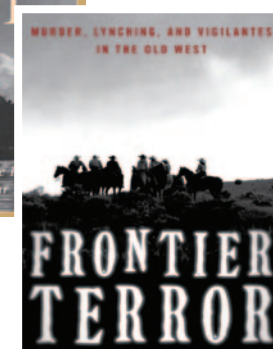
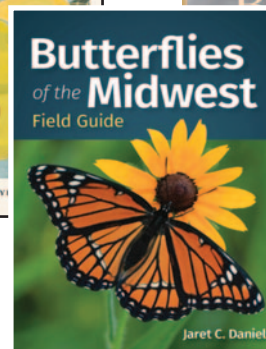
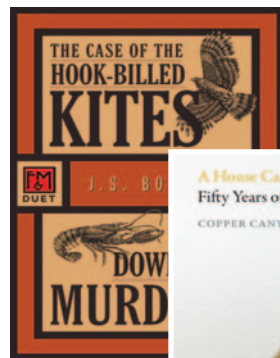
Lyons Press in Connecticut has been publishing great books on sports, military and the outdoors for 40 years. One of its newest is *Crash Boat: Rescue and Peril in the Pacific During World War II* by George D. Jepson. *Crash Boat* is the compelling story of an armed United States air-sea rescue boat crewed by volunteers during World War II in the South Pacific. Only months earlier, they had been civilians, living the best years of their lives. In the Pacific, they conducted dramatic rescues of downed pilots and clandestine missions off of enemy-held islands at great peril and with little fanfare. Their vessel, nicknamed *Sea Horse*, and her crew completed over thirty rescues at sea, weathered typhoons, fought a fierce gun battle with Japanese forces, experienced life from another age in isolated native villages, carried out boondoggle missions, and played a supporting role in America's return to the Philippines.

Groundwood Books, a British Columbia publisher of nature books, offers this spring a children's picture book, *The Invitation* by Stacey May Fowles and Marie Lafrance. One beautiful fall day, Fern opens her mailbox and finds an invitation to a super-special surprise at the museum — but Fern doesn't like surprises! Luckily, Fawn offers to come with her to the party. Fawn gently suggests twists to her story and a fun new cast of characters — the chipmunk who could show them a shortcut, the grumpy bear who could clear their path, the brave dentist who might treat the bear's toothache — until they arrive, and Fern is able to enjoy the wonderful surprise happening around her.

Two Dot, an imprint of New England

publisher Globe-Pequot, is publishing an account of the lawless West in *Frontier Terror: Murder, Lynching, and Vigilantes in the Old West* by Michael Rutter. The nineteenth century was a time of opportunity in the West, but it was also fraught with lawlessness, racism, and extreme violence as territories became states, freemen and immigrants settled alongside white homesteaders, and the first unions changed the way we work. The author examines the growing pains of the American West through the lens of vigilantes, outlaws, mob violence, and lynchings.

Felony & Mayhem launched in 2005 with the goal of bringing out-of-print mysteries back into print. One of its first titles was *The Killings at Badger's Drift* by Caroline Graham, the book that brought us *Midsomer Murders*. This spring it has combined two stories in one offering: *The Case of the Hook-Billed Kites/The Down East Murders* by J.S. Borthwick. Sarah Deane is an English teacher by profession, but with these first two adventures she discovers that sleuthing — of the strictly amateur variety — may be where her truest passions lie. The first book takes Sarah, still a grad student at this point, out of her natural New England habitat and into the wilds of Texas, where her maybe-boyfriend is keen on a spot of birdwatching. But birds are not all that she spies through her binoculars, and so the adventures begin. In *Down East*, Sarah is glad to be back on home ground, but somebody, it appears, is not happy in any way at all, and Sarah is forced (and secretly thrilled) to put her new-found detecting skills to use again.



Touchwood Editions, another British Columbia publisher, specializes in beautiful books for food lovers, history buffs, and avid readers. In its series under the *Prairie Gardener* label, this spring it adds *The Prairie Gardener's Go-To for Fruit* and *The Prairie Gardener's Go-To for Perennials*, both by Janet Melrose and Sheryl Normandeau. With a primer on what exactly counts as fruit (scientifically and culturally) and prairie-friendly lists of species and varieties for every space and inclination, you'll soon know your drupes from your pomes, your berries from your pepos and be well on your way to harvesting the fruits of your own labor. For the second book, the pair dedicate a chapter to perennial vegetables and another to mitigating common pests and diseases. The final chapter is a perennial hall of fame, an extended list of recommended plantings for color, native species, rock gardens, ground cover, fragrance, spring champions, and all-season displays. Janet and Sheryl give you the information you need to make your perennial garden as successful as you can while promoting biodiversity and creating a healthy habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

Stan Tekiela may be known to many as the author of the popular *Trees of Illinois* and *Birds of Illinois* field guides published by Adventure Publications. Both of these books have new, updated editions this spring. Along with them Adventure Publications is also releasing in May *Butterflies of the Midwest Field Guide*. This handy book by acclaimed author and professional entomologist Jaret C. Daniels makes field identifica-

tion simple and informative. It features 198 species of butterflies (and common moths) organized by color for ease of use. Detailed photographs present the species as you'll see them in nature, and a "compare" feature helps you to decide between look-alikes. The information is applicable to Illinois and Missouri as well as other Midwest states. Grab the *Butterflies of the Midwest Field Guide* for your next hike, walk in the park, or visit to your garden — to help ensure that you positively identify the butterflies that you see. 🦋

George Rishel is the owner of *The Sly Fox Bookstore*, located on the West Side Square in Virden. Find *The Sly Fox* on Facebook or at www.slyfoxbookstore.com.

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Adding Interest to Pork Chops

BY TARA L. CALE

I love pork. Okay, I love any meat really, but pork loin/chops is one of the allowed/recommended meats on my food program. However, too much of anything can get boring, so I am always looking for new ways to make it more interesting. And although cheese and prosciutto (or deli ham) is not on my list, sometimes I just have to add a little variety. My program is based more on fat and calories, so having this with a nice side salad kept me on point in my daily food diary. This is a nice low carb option, with only 1 gram per serving.

If you don't like pork, it could be that you have never had it cooked correctly. If you are

not using a meat thermometer, I encourage you to do so. This will ensure your meats are cooked long enough to be safe, without overcooking and drying them out, which is when you lose the tasty juices and also may find the meat to be tough.

I loved this recipe too because it is fast and easy. It's quite colorful as well, which always enhances your dining experience.

And now that the weather is getting nicer, take time each day to get outside for 15-30 minutes, preferably walking. But if nothing else, sit outside and soak up the sun, the sights and the sounds of spring! It will do you good! 🐷

Prosciutto-Pepper Pork Chops



INGREDIENTS

- 4 boneless pork chops
- 1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 4 thin slices prosciutto (or deli ham)
- 1/2 cup julienned sweet red peppers
- 2 slices reduced fat provolone cheese, cut in half

DIRECTIONS

Sprinkle pork chops with garlic powder and pepper. In a large nonstick skillet, cook chops in oil over medium heat, until a thermometer inserted in pork reads 145°, 4-5 minutes on each side.

Top each pork chop with prosciutto, red peppers and cheese. Cover and cook for 1-2 minutes or until cheese is melted. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

1 pork chop: 237 calories, 12g fat (4g saturated fat), 72mg cholesterol, 483mg sodium, 1g carbohydrate (1g sugars, 0 fiber), 28g protein.

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Get More Food from Fewer Plants

BY KRIS HART

When it comes to gardening, so many people think they can't do it because they don't have enough space. You can provide enough food for your family by growing one plant per type per person. In many cases, depending on your family's appetite, even fewer may be needed! To get a huge production from each plant you will want to ensure that your plant is so healthy that it produces an abundance of blossoms. Next, you will want to make sure that every blossom gets pollinated.

Providing your plants with proper nutrition to get your desired results can be free and simple. There are several ways to acquire the fertilization you need. You will want to make sure it is water soluble so that your plant can utilize it immediately. The easiest way is to ferment some banana peels in water for several days to a couple of weeks. Blending them up first will make the process of drawing nutrients out happen quicker. Once your peels are fermented, strain them out and save the water. You will find that your water has darkened. To fertilize, dilute this down to 5 parts water with 1 part banana water. You will want to apply this when your plants begin to produce blossoms. This is the perfect time to apply your fertilizer and encourage that blossom production.

Once your plants start producing tons of flowers, you will want to ensure that they are all getting pollinated so that your plants actually fruit! You can trust nature to handle

this for you, or you can take matters into your own hands and hand pollinate your blossoms. All you have to do, is have a small paint brush or cotton swab and go from flower to flower exchanging pollen from one plant/flower to the next. The best time to do this is in the morning. Most flowers open in the early morning. The plants that are a little trickier are your cucumbers, squash, and melons. These plants have male and female flowers. You will need to pollinate your female blossoms with your male blossoms. They are pretty easy to distinguish once you know what you're looking for. If you aren't familiar, female blossoms have an immature fruit just behind the flower, a little balloon shaped bulge. This is what will grow into your fruit should the flower become pollinated. The flowers that have no bulge are your male blossoms.

It is important to note that most plants put off all male flowers when it first starts to blossom. So if you cannot find any female flowers at first, don't worry. They will come! When you do find your female flowers, just pick a few male flowers and pull the petals off of them revealing the stamen. Carry these stamen around to all of your female flowers and rub the stamen all over the inside of the female flowers, ensuring that they are indeed pollinated. This will make sure no female flower goes unpollinated providing you with a maximum amount of fruit production in your garden.



When you find your female flowers, just pick a few male flowers and pull the petals off of them revealing the stamen. Carry these stamen around to all of your female flowers and rub the stamen all over the inside of the female flowers, ensuring that they are indeed pollinated. This will make sure no female flower goes unpollinated providing you with a maximum amount of fruit production in your garden.



I hope this information is helpful and you get out there and get your hands dirty! Please feel free to share your experience and tips on my Instagram or Facebook page @Bottom-ViewFarmIL. 🐝

Kris Hart lives in Litchfield and has a small hobby farm making strides towards sustainable living and organic/heirloom gardening. Contact her at kris.hart17@yahoo.com.

Female blossoms have an immature fruit just behind the flower; a little balloon shaped bulge. This is what will grow into your fruit should the flower become pollinated. The flowers that have no bulge are your male blossoms.



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What is Bloat in Dogs?

BY MAGNUM THE DOBERMAN

Bloat is a condition in which food or gas stretches a dog's stomach, causing abdominal pain. While it is more common in large breed or deep-chested dogs (Dobermans, such as myself, Great Danes, like my sister, Boxers, German Shepherds, Standard Poodles, Irish Setters, St. Bernards, etc), any breed can develop bloat. Depending on the severity, bloat can be fatal if not treated within an hour or two.

Our stomachs are located in our upper abdomen and normally contain a small amount of gas, food, liquid, and mucus. When we eat, food enters the stomach from the esophagus, then is broken down by digestive enzymes. From the stomach, the food moves into the small intestine and down the gastrointestinal tract.

When bloat occurs, a dog's stomach begins to expand, or distend, and cuts off blood flow to the abdomen as well as the stomach itself. This may cause injury (even death) of the stomach wall and, without treatment, eventually other organs. Bloat can also put pressure on the diaphragm, a thin muscle that separates the chest from the abdomen, leading to trouble breathing.

In severe cases of bloat, a dog's stomach twists and fills with gas. This is called gastric dilatation and volvulus (GDV) and is considered one of the most painful, severe emergencies in veterinary medicine. This degree of bloat cuts off blood flow to the stomach and the lower half of the body, making it impossible for food to pass into the intestine. In extreme cases of GDV, a dog's stomach can rupture, and the spleen can also be injured. This is a very serious health emergency and, if untreated, a dog with GDV will die within hours.

All cases of bloat require immediate medical attention to determine the severity. If bloat is treated immediately, it is often curable.

Simple bloat, where the dog's stomach has not twisted, can sometimes be managed without medication, but may require fluids or other treatments.

Other degrees of bloat, including GDV, can also be curable if diagnosed in the early stages. These conditions are usually treated with immediate surgery.

Bloat is a very uncomfortable, often painful, health crisis for dogs. As a result, a dog with bloat may:

- Dry-heave (also called retching) without vomiting any food. Sometimes a dog might spit out white foam when trying to vomit, which is usually mucus from the esophagus or stomach.
- Have abdominal distention (this might not be visible in the early stages of bloat)

- Experience sudden anxiety, pacing, an inability to get comfortable or constantly moving around the room/house.
- Be guarding their belly or looking back at their belly
- Position themselves in downward facing dog pose, where the dog's back half is up and upper half is down
- Have pale gums, pant and drool or collapse
- Have a racing heartbeat (tachycardia)

It's unknown why bloat and GDV occur in dogs, but there are suspected risk factors that can increase the chance of bloat.

Risk factors that increase the chances of bloat in dogs are:

- Ingesting large amounts of food or water too quickly
- Weighing more than 99 pounds increases the risk by about 20%
- Age (Older dogs are at a higher risk)
- Being deep chested
- Exercise immediately after eating.

Treatment of simple bloat can be quite straightforward. Dogs are usually hospitalized to receive large amounts of intravenous fluids and sometimes medicine. They're also walked often to stimulate movement of the gastrointestinal tract to help move the gas and food quickly through the body.

A dog with GDV requires more intense care that typically includes:

- Intravenous fluids with electrolytes to aggressively treat shock and improve circulation to vital organs.
- Pain medications and often antibiotics to treat discomfort, shock and any death of tissues from the loss of circulation.
- A procedure to decompress the stomach by removing gas from the stomach to allow blood flow to the lower half of the body. In some instances, this helps untwist the stomach.
- Electrocardiogram (ECG) to monitor for any heart abnormalities which frequently due to toxins from decreased circulation.

With GDV, surgery is performed as soon as the dog is as stable as possible. Depending on the severity of bloat, a vet may have to untwist the dog's stomach and/or spleen, and remove any part of the stomach wall that may have died due to loss of blood flow. The vet may also stitch the stomach to the body wall in a procedure called a gastropexy, which will significantly reduce the chance of developing bloat in the future.

Dogs with simple bloat tend to bounce back to their normal lives and routines 1-2 days after receiving fluids and taking frequent walks.



PET OF THE MONTH - DINO

Dino (pronounced Deee-No) is a 4 1/2 year old cocker spaniel that lives in Staunton. His "Dog Mom," Sarah Gruhlke, owner of Mercantile on Main in Staunton, is his favorite person.

Following GDV surgery, a dog will remain in the hospital until pain is controlled, blood tests indicate normal enzyme levels, and the dog is eating and drinking well on their own. Length of time in the hospital depends on the dog's health history and severity of bloat, and may be anywhere from 1-2 days, to up to 7 or more.

Regardless of the type of bloat or treatment, vets suggest the same steps to lower the risk of bloat in the future:

- Never leave large bags or bins of food accessible to your dog to avoid overeating.
- Wait at least 1 hour after a meal or drinking

a large amount of water for any exercise or playtime.

- Feed small meals a few times throughout

the day instead of 1 or 2 large meals

- Avoid gorging on water when drinking

You may also discuss preventative surgery with your veterinarian if you have a breed at higher risk of bloat. This can often be performed during your pet's spay or neuter procedure. A word of caution/advice - this is not a cheap procedure - but it could save your dog's life! 🐾

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Doctor's Buggy on Display at Grafton Museum

A buggy owned by Dr Frank Brecht arrived at the Edward Amburg History Museum, 950 E. Main St., Grafton and is now on display for the visiting public.

Dr. Brecht was educated in Chicago public schools before attending St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. He received his Doctor of Medicine in 1895. He and his family resided in Brussels and Grafton for most of his professional career.

Dr. Brecht used the buggy as he visited his patients in Jersey and Calhoun Counties. He died in 1942 and is buried in Scenic Hills Cemetery in Grafton.

Dr. Brecht's buggy was driven in the

1965 Dedication of the River Road parade and was also driven in the 1968 Sesquicentennial of Illinois parade in Grafton. The buggy was completely restored by the Amish Yoder family in Arthur, Illinois. Linda and Larry Burton of rural Grafton have donated it to the Grafton Historical Society for display at the Museum.

The Edward Amburg History Museum is open Thursday through Sunday and holiday Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Additional information about the Museum is available on the GraftonIL app on both Apple and Google platforms. 📱

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- 5PM-12AM FISH & BEER TENT
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INTRODUCTION OF LITTLE MR & MISS IRISH DAYS
CONTESTANTS
CORONATION OF LITTLE MR & MISS
- 8PM-12AM LIVE: SILVER DOLLAR BAND
- 10 PM PRIZE DRAWINGS
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FRIDAY

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- 2PM HILLBILLY GOLF
- 4PM-6PM LIVE MUSIC (TARA 2X CHECK)
- 4PM-12AM FISH & BEER TENT
- 6PM FOOT RACES FOR
PRESCHOOL - 6TH GRADE
- 6PM-10PM CARNIVAL RIDES • GAMES AND EXHIBITS
- 6:30PM PASTURE POOL
- 7 PM OPENING CEREMONY AND
INTRODUCTION OF QUEEN CANDIDATES
- 7:30 PM BINGO
- 8PM-12AM LIVE BAND: DEJA VOODOO
- 10PM PRIZE DRAWINGS
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- 11 AM TRUCK & TRACTOR SHOW
BAGS TOURNAMENT
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4PM PARADE
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Cream Cheese Chicken Tacos



INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 2 cups shredded chicken
- 1 bunch green onion, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 10 medium corn tortillas
- Cilantro
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- Olive oil

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425° F. While it is warming up, heat up the cream cheese in a medium sauce pan on low, stirring frequently until melted completely. Add in the garlic, green onion, shredded cheddar, salt and pepper. Stir to thoroughly combine. Remove from heat and set aside.

Heat about 1 Tablespoon of olive oil in a skillet. Once it heats up, fry the tortillas, one at a time, until they are a little brown on each side, but still pliable. Remove from skillet and place on paper towel to drain. While the first one drains, add another to the skillet.

Without getting too far ahead on tortilla frying, start filling the tortillas with the cream cheese mixture and placing them standing up, side by side, in a cake pan or any type of baking dish.

Once all tortillas are fried, filled and placed in the baking dish, place in oven and bake for about 10 minutes, or until the shells start to turn brown.

Buzzin' Around the Kitchen

Another Win for Busy People That Want a Super Fast, Super Easy and Super Good Meal

BY CHEF ANTHONY

That's quite a heading, isn't it? But that's exactly what I thought after making this recipe. When reading it, and before actually preparing it, I didn't realize how fast and easy it was. And the finished product is just delicious!

You can make it even faster if you pick up a rotisserie chicken from your local market. I used boiled chicken breast... boiled because I wanted the chicken to be super tender.

Another key factor in keeping this fast and easy is to make sure the filling is ready to go before you start frying the shells. Now, if you don't like corn shells, by all means, use flour, or even low carb, but you may have to adjust the frying and/or baking times. But you can switch this recipe up so many ways to make it your own. For instance, instead of shredded cheddar, use a Mexican

blend of cheeses. Add taco seasoning in with the cream cheese filling. Get creative!

As far as toppings go, I didn't use any except a sprinkling of chopped cilantro and a squeeze of lime. But the options there are endless: lettuce, tomatoes, avocado, salsa, etc. A little guacamole might be good!

For a side, take your pick. For this meal, shown in the photo, I just used Rice-a-Roni Mexican Rice. It cooked while I did the rest of the preparation of the tacos. You could try a nice side salad, or rice and beans. Whatever you decide, your entire family will love these easy-to-handle tacos and they will think you spent a lot of time making them. You don't have to tell them any different!

I discovered they are not too bad heated up in the microwave the next day! 🐔

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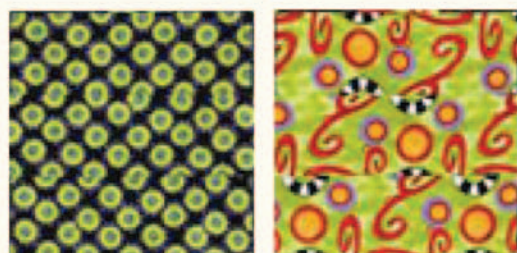
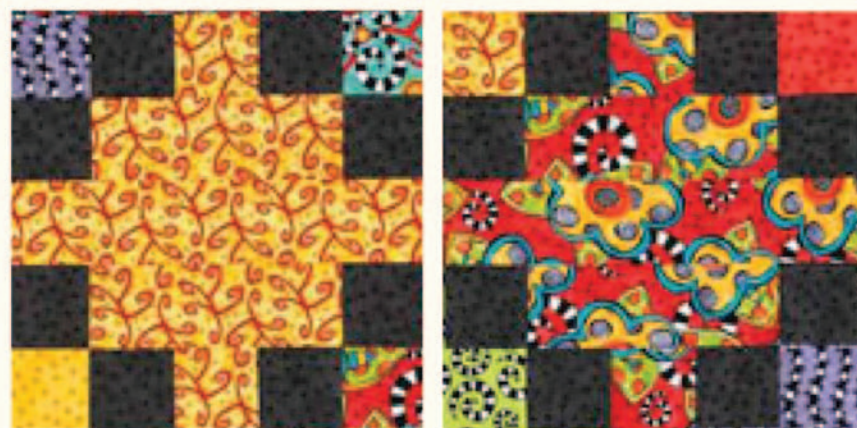
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MLK Assassin was Illinois Native

King Died 55 Years Ago

BY TOM EMERY

Most consider Martin Luther King, Jr. to be the greatest civil rights leader of all. Sadly for Illinois, his alleged assassin is a native son.

April 4th marks the 55th anniversary of the assassination of King, who was gunned down in Memphis in 1968. James Earl Ray, the man who many believe pulled the trigger, was born in Alton and spent time there at various points over the next four decades, sometimes with criminal intent.

Ray pled guilty to the killing of King, but later recanted. His role is still debated by researchers today, and some believe he was innocent, a bit player in a murky conspiracy. Among the doubters are members of the King family, who have stated their belief that the reverend was not killed by Ray, but by a massive government plot.

Gerald Posner, however, disagrees. Posner, an attorney and investigative reporter from New York City, has authored over a dozen books, including the widely acclaimed 1998 work *Killing the Dream*, an intricate analysis of Ray and the King assassination. He cites, among other things, the numerous inconsistencies in Ray's stories and finds no conclusive evidence that disputes Ray's guilt.

"Do I think that Ray was the trigger man? Absolutely," said Posner, who has appeared on The History Channel, CNN, CBS, Fox News, and NBC. "The question is why. There are many reasons why he may have done it."

Posner notes that little is known on Ray's time in Alton, and few have delved into his earlier years. "A lot of people have researched Ray and the assassination, and have looked into every detail," he remarked. "But not much has ever been done on his connections to Alton. People really don't talk much about that."

James Earl Ray was born in a two-room basement apartment in a simple frame house near the corner of Ninth and Belle streets on March 10, 1928. He was the first of eight children of George and Lucille Ray, who had married in 1926.

George, who was nicknamed "Speedy"

because of his slow way of talking, was a small-time hood who preferred crime to honest work. A former inmate at the Iowa State Penitentiary, he used over a dozen surnames in his life. Lucille, who came from a decent family, eventually became a disheveled individual who slid into alcoholism.

George's many misdeeds and inability to hold a real job relegated the Ray family into a life of economic misery in one of the poorest areas of Alton. One of the largest brothels in the city was just a few doors down.

"I think it's hard to overstate the degree of hard existence, with a grinding poverty in a poor white neighborhood," said Posner. "It was a hardscrabble, tough life."

James' middle name came from his uncle Earl, who was in prison for most of his life. It carried on a family tradition.

"Ray came from a heralded history of petty criminals," remarked Posner. "His father, grandfather, and uncle all had criminal backgrounds steeped in crime. They were always trying to beat the system, rather than work within the system."

Brothers John and Jerry also spent plenty of time behind bars. Both would later produce books claiming their brother's innocence in the King assassination.

When James was a year and a half old, the Rays left Alton and moved north, eventually settling in the Missouri towns of Bowling Green and Ewing. However, James would make his way back to Alton on several occasions.

In May 1944, James, then sixteen, dropped out of the eighth grade and returned to the River Bend, where he lived with his maternal grandmother, Mary Maher, in her boarding house on Broadway.

Maher was one of the few positive influences in Ray's life. "I think Ray felt comfortable in Alton. It gave him a feeling of stability," said Posner. "When he was with his grandmother, he was away from the anger, hatred, and violence of his father, and his mother's increasing drinking.

"His grandmother was one of the few people who dealt with him in saying, if you want to work, then here's what you do. She always helped him find jobs," continued Posner. "She provided a different atmosphere



Martin Luther King, Jr., believed to be the greatest civil rights leader of all time, was assassinated 55 years ago on April 4, 1968 in Memphis TN.

than his home life, because role models of any kind for James in that household were nonexistent."

The next few months were one of the brighter times in Ray's sordid life. With his grandmother's help, he found a job in the dye department at International Shoe Company in East Hartford for 77 cents an hour. Ray commuted to his job by streetcar. Production at the company was high because of World War II, and Ray racked up plenty of overtime.

In December 1945, Ray's account at the Alton Bank and Trust Company totaled \$1,180. "That was an amazing amount of money for someone like him at the time," said Posner. "That he saved that much money is remarkable.

"He could have spent it drinking and whoring, or bought himself a truck to go out partying," continued Posner. "But he did what his grandmother would have wanted, to save it."

He was also around his uncle, Willie Maher, and a close relationship formed, albeit briefly. "They did everything together," said Posner. "They went to football games, and played pickup baseball."

However, Ray became fond of a German friend at work, Henry Stumm, who was a German nationalist and follower of Adolph

Hitler. Some believe that Ray enhanced his already-racist views from his connection to Stumm.

"I don't view Ray as a racist in the sense of someone in the Ku Klux Klan, whose life is driven by racism," remarked Posner. "But Ray had a denigrating view of blacks, who were the only ones below the poor whites like Ray's family on the socioeconomic scale."

Ray's job at International Shoe abruptly ended in December 1945 when he was fired as the company stopped its military shoe production with the end of wartime.

"There was one window in James Earl Ray's life, and that was in Alton at that time," theorized Posner. "There was a span of about a year where he had the option of going straight, not have a life of crime. He had a steady job, and was saving some money. He had a chance to turn himself around. But when he was fired, he gradually fell back into the life he had before.

"It's certainly easy to speculate. But what if he hadn't lost the job with International Shoe?" wonders Posner. "Would things have turned out differently? Would he have killed Martin Luther King in 1968? It's very possible that he wouldn't have. But we'll never know for sure."

Ray then enlisted in the Army in February



Alton Native James Earl Ray pled guilty to killing King, but later recanted. He was convicted and died in prison in 1998, professing his innocence until his death.



Gerald Posner has authored over a dozen books, including "Killing the Dream", an intricate analysis of Ray and the King assassination. Posner is convinced of Ray's guilt.

A total of \$27,230 was taken in the incident. Witnesses described the men as similar in height and build to the Ray brothers, and the robbers fled in a waiting getaway car that drove deeper into Alton – rather than making a run out of town. The shotgun, masks, and clothing were found near Willie Maher's home on Fourth Street.

An FBI investigation could not definitively tie the Rays to the robbery, though the House Select Committee later determined that "substantial, albeit circumstantial" evidence existed to link the Rays.

Light is among the believers. "Oh, yeah, that's who I think it was," he said. "I heard it from informants, and we knew what they had been doing." Light also believes that James was the robber who went from counter to counter at the bank.

A 2008 CNN report asserted that the Alton bank heist bankrolled Ray in the months leading to King's assassination. Ray used cash for a number of subsequent purchases, including for a 1962 Plymouth on July 14 – the day after the incident at the bank.

Four days after the robbery, Ray arrived in the Montreal area, the first stop in a string of travel that took him to Mexico, Los Angeles, and elsewhere in late 1967 and early 1968.

At 6:01 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was standing on the second-floor walkway of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis when he was felled by an assassin's bullet. An investigation determined the shot was fired by an assailant standing in a bathtub in the upstairs room of a boarding house, some 207 feet away.

The killing sparked unrest in dozens of cities, including Alton. Ray, who fled to Canada and on to London, later claimed that he was swept up in an intricate plot involving a shadowy figure named Raoul. Many discount Ray's claims as fantastic and believe that he fired the shot.

The King family is not among them, believing that their father was the victim of a government conspiracy that involved the CIA, FBI, Army intelligence, and President Lyndon B. Johnson.

In March 1997, Dexter Scott King, the

youngest son of the slain reverend, met with Ray in a Nashville prison. Ray denied killing King, to which Dexter replied, "I believe you, and my family believes you."

The King family later requested a new government inquiry from the Clinton administration, but the Justice Department offered only a limited investigation. In June 2000, the Department concluded that no evidence of a plot existed, and that Ray acted alone.

Ray died of liver disease in prison on April 23, 1998. In December 1999, the King family prevailed in a civil suit against Memphis businessman Loyd Jowers, who owned a restaurant below the rooming house where the fatal shot was fired.

Jowers had claimed in an ABC-TV interview in 1993 that he had hired King's assassin as a favor to a friend in the underworld. The Kings believed the verdict validated their claim that someone other than Ray was the assassin.

Posner believes otherwise. He states that Ray's desire for notoriety, as well as a possible payday from one of many bounties on King, may have played a factor.

He also states that Ray was apparently not driven by political motives, unlike assassins such as Lee Harvey Oswald, and was much older than many assassins, who are often younger men seeking to change the world. Ray, who was 40 at the time of the King assassination, was actually a year older than King himself.

"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Ray was the trigger man. The more troubling question is why," said Posner. "It's not enough to just say he was a racist. But Ray took those final answers with him to the grave."

"I think that's why so many Americans have difficulty accepting that Ray was the lone assassin, because they don't understand his motive," continued Posner. "Only by understanding Ray is it possible to know why King died and it's puzzling, even for those of us who have studied Ray."

"Ray had peculiar demons," concluded Posner. "The hard part is figuring them out." 🐞

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

1946 and, enamored with Hitler and the Rhineland, requested station in Germany. But he soon became disillusioned, and briefly returned to Alton after a general discharge in late 1948. He still had \$1,400 in the bank, but that soon was spent, and he left for Chicago in June 1949.

He drifted amid various convictions, including a sentence for robbing a Chicago cab driver in 1952 that resulted in 22 months in prisons at Joliet and Pontiac. He was back in Alton in the brutally hot summer of 1954, and was nabbed in a bungled burglary at a dry cleaner in East Alton that August 27.

Ray skipped out after bail and went back to Quincy, where much of his family now lived. He was subsequently convicted of robbing a post office in Adams County, Ill. and sentenced to Leavenworth. Sixteen months after his release, Ray and another man, Joseph Austin, robbed an IGA supermarket in Alton with pistols at 9:30 a.m. on Aug. 7, 1959. The crime netted them almost \$1,000, and they fled in a blue 1950 Buick.

"I was on a three-wheeler, and I chased them into the woods," recalled John Light, who spent thirty years on the Alton police force. "We got his accomplice, Austin. But Ray got away."

He was eventually captured and tied to an armed robbery of a St. Louis Kroger store with another man two months later. Two of the IGA employees identified Ray as the perpetrator, though he only admitted to the Kroger crime. As a repeat offender, he received a twenty-year sentence at the Missouri State Penitentiary.

On April 23, 1967, Ray escaped in a bread truck from the penitentiary. Once again, he would make his way back to Alton.

There, police were not aware that Ray had escaped. "The Missouri State Pen thing was a farce," said Light, who was then chief of detectives in Alton. "They had prisoners working in the office who made the fliers for escapees. They had the wrong photo, wrong everything."

On July 13, 1967, two masked gunmen with shotguns held up the Bank of Alton. "That was a different kind of bank robbery," said Light, who now lives in Oregon. "Normally, bank robbers will go up to one cage, get the money, and run. In this case, one robber jumped from counter to counter and cage to cage, and got away with a lot."

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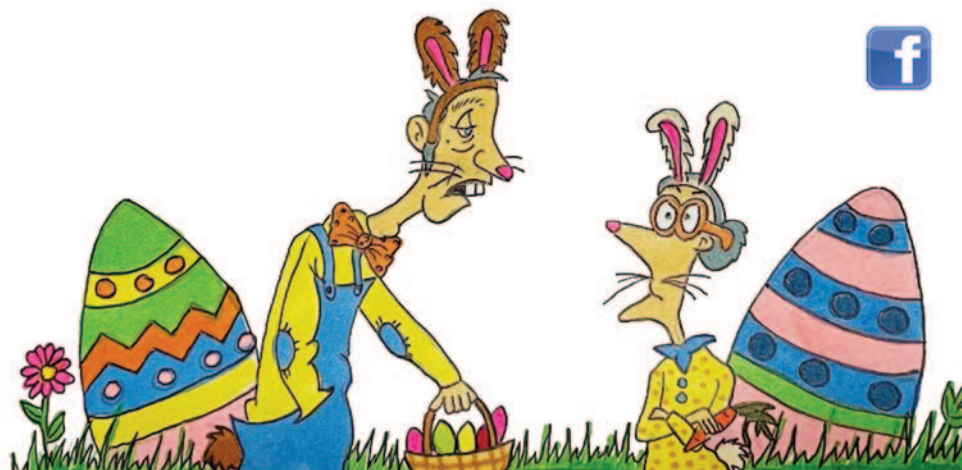


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Celebrating the Life of Mary Harris Mother Jones

Celebration will be Sunday, April 30th, in Mt. Olive

BY JOANN CONDELLONE

Mary Harris Mother Jones, often called the angel of the coalfields, advocate of child mill workers, coal miners, factory workers across America, emigrated as a young girl with her family from Cork, Ireland to Canada and then to the United States. They left Ireland, along with a million of their fellow citizens, to escape the starvation of the Potato Famine.

She was trained as a teacher and was an excellent dressmaker. In Memphis she married George Jones, a skilled iron monger and labor activist. Mary Harris Jones lost her husband and four children to a yellow fever epidemic, started life again in Chicago, only to lose her business and all she owned to the Chicago Fire.

While she was still in her thirties she had survived famine, plague and fire.

That much of her story is not uncommon among the millions of immigrant women and their families who labored to make a decent lives in mines and factories in the 19th century. Most of their stories are found in fragments of documents and artifacts or lost altogether.

Mary Harris Jones became Mother Jones and is remembered and loved today for the life she lived after the great losses she endured, her decades of service to working families after she rebuilt her life as a writer, labor organizer and champion of workers.

Mother Jones was born in 1837, although she often said she was born in 1830, and continued her work until a few years before she died at age 93 years. She lived much of her activist years with little money and few possessions. Friends took her into their home in her old age. Her figure, plump and white-haired, in a long dress traditional for older women, her persistent Irish brogue, and strong, direct languages made her the symbol of the struggle for decent wages and safer working conditions in mines and mills and factories. She traveled the country speaking to and for workers. She was jailed and threatened, but always protected by workers and advocates.

Mother Jones visited Mt. Olive and central Illinois a number of times. She accompanied her friend Eugene Debs to Staunton when he spoke there. She came to several Miners Day programs to commemorate the Battle of Virden at the Union Miners Cemetery and visited her friend, activist Adolf Germer in rural Mt. Olive. Germer states in his oral history that he persuaded Mother Jones to make the Union Miners Cemetery her final resting place. She knew the story of

Virden and the Battle that brought the United Mine Workers Union to dominance in Illinois and across the nation. She knew General Bradley, English immigrant who went into the mines at the age of nine years, and became organizer of coal miners and one of the heroes of the Virden battle.

In 1923 she wrote to the UMWA in Macoupin County and requested permission to be buried in the Union Miners Cemetery with the miners, her "brave boys", as she called them.

When she died in 1930 in the Maryland countryside home of friends her body was transported by train across the country to Mt. Olive. Union men, who had worked alongside her to bring better lives to laborers, accompanied her casket to Mt. Olive. Her funeral was held on December 8, 1930 at the Church of the Ascension on Main Street. It is estimated that 40,000 mourners came to Mt. Olive, a town of three thousand, to say goodbye to their Miners' Angel. Her eulogy was written and read by her good friend and fellow Irish immigrant Rev. Father McGuire, President of St. Viator College, Kankakee, Illinois.

Every year we celebrate Mother Jones' life at May Day in Mt. Olive, a day she chose



It is estimated that 40,000 mourners came to Mt. Olive, a town of three thousand, to say goodbye to their Miners' Angel, Mother Jones.

as her honorary birthday in solidarity with working people. This year Brother James Lewnard from St. Viator will read Father McGuire's eulogy at the Union Miners Cemetery. The Honorable Kevin Byrne, Consul General of Ireland, Chicago, will read a poem by Padriac Pearse, first President of Ireland, that was read at the funeral. Labor leaders will remember her life. Musicians will sing labor songs in her honor at the Union Miners Cemetery.

After the solemn ceremony, the Mother Jones Festival will continue on Main St., Mt. Olive with music, food, children's events,

visits from General Bradley and Mother Jones actors, and the museum will be open so that visitors may see the letter Mother Jones wrote requesting permission to be buried at the Union Miners Cemetery and learn more about Mother Jones and our great labor history.

Mother Jones



whose life was in danger and threatened by gun men; she was thrown into bullpens and jails because her life was spent working for the men, women and children who toiled in the mines, mills, shops and factories throughout this country, but her spirit never weakened. She was always on hand to help the working people against the corporations which believed in using gun men and machine guns against the workers.

Mother Jones was always welcomed to the White House by the Presidents of the United States and was treated with respect by the Presidents.

Mother Jones will never be forgotten. Her name will live forever in the history of the Labor Movement. Mother Jones died poor.

The opposite picture shows a little boy twelve years of age going to work long hours in Illinois in 1894 like many other boys his age, which conditions Mother Jones, John Mitchell and many others, worked hard to abolish.



Mother Jones was 100 years old at the time of her death. She was buried in the Union Miners Cemetery in Mt. Olive with miners, her "brave boys" as she called them.

Funeral Notice

Entered Into Rest, at Silver Grove, Maryland, Sunday,
November 30, 1930, at 11.55 p. m.

Mother Jones

Aged 100 Years, 6 Months and 30 Days

The body will arrive in Mt. Olive, Ill., on the Wabash R. R. at 7:37 p. m. Thursday, Dec. 4, 1930, and will lie in state until Monday morning at the Odd Fellows Temple, where Rev. Father McGuire, of Kankakee, President of St. Viator College, will deliver a Panegyric on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock.

Funeral services will be conducted Monday morning, December 8, 1930, at 10 o'clock at the Church of the Ascension, by Rev. Father McGuire, assisted by Rev. Father Hogan and Rev. Father Knperock.

Interment Mt. Olive Union Miners' Cemetery.
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Active Eagle Nest Visible from I-55 Near St. Louis

Sharon, a Buzz reader from Macoupin County, sent this photo in recently about an active eagle nest along Interstate 55. Her timing is very ironic because it was just a matter of days earlier, that I had seen this nest as Tony and I traveled through that area.

Sharon said, "It's nice to see eagles becoming more common for those of us living in this part of the country. Yet, it's still a thrill to see eagles raising their young. One active nest is easily visible along the north side of I-55 close to St. Louis near mile marker 6. It is almost easier to see the baby eagles as you leave St. Louis. It's common on the north-bound side to see wild turkeys along the right side of the highway picking rocks or spilled grain. If your timing is right to see the turkeys look immediately to your left to see the eagle chicks in their nest!"

Thank you Sharon for your photo and comments! 🐛





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Winner of 1900 Belmont Stakes Trained by Central Illinois Man

BY TOM EMERY

When a Triple Crown is on the line, the Belmont Stakes becomes the most important horse event of the season. The winner of the Belmont in 1900 was trained by a central Illinois native.

H. Eugene Leigh, who was born in Taylorville in 1860, won the race with Ildrim, who rallied from fourth place down the stretch to pull off the victory. It was one of many wins in North America and Europe around the turn-of-the-century for Leigh, one of the sport's most prominent trainers of the era.

In his boyhood days, Leigh was involved in quarter horse racing on tracks across Illinois. He eventually learned how to work on thoroughbreds, which led to the beginning of a lengthy partnership with jockey Tom Kiley, who rode the winner of the 1889 Kentucky Derby, Spokane. Ironically, Spokane was bred at The Meadows, the farm of Gen. Richard Rowett, one mile north of Carlinville.

In 1884, Leigh was hired as trainer of a large racing stable in St. Louis, but his star was rising. On May 15, 1894, Leigh won the 20th running of the Kentucky Derby with Chant, a horse he co-owned that came from stellar bloodlines. Chant was related by blood to the Kentucky Derby winners of 1880, 1885, 1901, and 1906.

Chant won the Derby by two lengths in a relatively slow 2:41 over the one-and-a-half mile layout at Churchill Downs. The race was shortened to its present one-and-a-quarter mile in 1896.

Leigh continued his successful run, and entered a dark colt named Ildrim that he both owned and trained in the 34th running of the Belmont Stakes on May 24, 1900.

The seven-horse race was contested at New York's Morris Park, the home of the Belmont since 1890. The event moved to its

present site at Belmont Park in 1905. The 1900 race was over a mile-and-three-eighths layout.

Ildrim started from the fifth spot and got off to a nondescript start, standing fifth at both the half-mile and three-quarter mile mark. However, one account reported that Ildrim was "skillfully rated throughout" with the guidance of jockey Nash Turner, who provided a "masterly finish."

The same account reported that another animal, Missionary, "was the best horse," but his jockey had "worn him out" in a one-on-one with another competitor. Another contender, Petruccio, suffered when his jockey "waited too long" and sat in seventh at the turn before closing "with a grand burst of speed."

It was not enough to catch Ildrim, though, who bolted from fourth at the turn to win the Belmont by a nose. Petruccio was second, with Missionary in third. The race paid \$14,790 to the winner.

The New York Times reported that "an immense crowd witnessed one of the best finishes in years" and that "when the record of Ildrim's victory is jotted down beside his name, it will be a proud one."

In addition to his Derby and Belmont wins, Leigh also co-owned the American Champion Three-Year-Old Male Horse of 1893, Clifford. He also had a pair of American Champion Two-Year-Old Colts, as he co-owned the 1895 winner, Ben Brush, and bred the 1902 selection, Irish Lad.

In 1898, the New York Times reported that Leigh was training seventy horses in Louisville, where he had rented space at Churchill Downs.

Like many racing personalities of the time, Leigh had an element of hucksterism. He established the LaBelle Stud Farm in Kentucky, sold it for \$101 an acre in 1897,



On May 15, 1894, Taylorville native H. Eugene Leigh won the 20th running of the Kentucky Derby with Chant, a horse he co-owned that came from stellar bloodlines. Chant was related by blood to the Kentucky Derby winners of 1880, 1885, 1901, and 1906. Chant won the Derby by two lengths in a relatively slow 2:41 over the one-and-a-half mile layout at Churchill Downs.

then bought it back two years later for \$24 an acre.

His finances, though, were often in flux. In the mid-1890s, a movement arose to ban betting on New York races, and Leigh was racking up some sizable gambling losses of his own. In 1901, he decided to move his operations to more lucrative opportunities in Europe. In a 1903 interview, Leigh described himself as "broke" when he left for Europe.

There, he raced in England before moving to France, where he operated a stable of over 200 horses at the Maisons-Lafitte Racecourse. In 1904, he received recognition from the French Humane Society for humane treatment of his horses.

However, in 1908 Leigh became embroiled in a scandal that temporarily ended his time in France and may have driven him down on his luck. In 1914, the Times noted that he was selling "pigs for market" in the U.S. as a "rival" to butchers.

He ended up back in France, and in 1922 had the French Champion Two-Year-Old Colt in Epinard. That horse was also named

the American Champion Older Male Horse in 1924. Leigh called the horse his greatest ever.

In his career, Leigh won over a million dollars and saddled over a thousand winners. He died at Maisons-Lafitte on Dec. 10, 1937.

One of Leigh's four daughters, Vera, became a British spy based on her fluency in French, was captured in World War II, and reportedly executed in a German extermination camp in 1944.

Another central Illinois native, John Rotz, was an elite-level jockey who won the Belmont in 1970 aboard High Echelon. Born in Niantic, Rotz was a 1952 graduate of Warrensburg-Latham High School who also won the Preakness in 1962 with Greek Money, one of over 2,900 victories in his career.

The Belmont Stakes is the oldest of the Triple Crown races, first held in 1867. The Preakness was first run in 1873, with the inaugural Kentucky Derby two years later. The term "Triple Crown" was first used by a sportswriter in 1930. 🐾



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It's Hammer Time

A sitcom for people who hate sitcoms

BY JUSTIN CHILDRESS

The 1980s popularized action heroes like we popularize superheroes today. Names like Schwarzenegger, Stallone and Norris were on almost every movie poster and trailer. Shoot-outs, police chases and one-liners were the staple of Hollywood and all ripe for riffing. Satirizing the crime drama and police actioner had been done before with *Police Squad*, that later became the *Naked Gun*,” movies, incredibly only after one award-winning season in 1982.

One action icon never had been lampooned before and that was Clint Eastwood. Show creator and producer Alan Spencer inspired by *Get Smart* wrote *Sledge Hammer* when he was a teenager. A spoof on the crime cop shows with a character part *Dirty Harry*, part Maxwell Smart and Detective Clouseau. Spencer pitched the script to HBO with hard “R” content, complete with language and violence. They weren’t too keen with the over-the-top idea.

But at the time, ABC was looking for something that would get attention. Producer Stuart Blumberg understood the satire right away and ran with it, toned down of course and the show was born in 1986. How actor David Rasche pulls off parts psychopath and lovable baffoon is a spectacle to behold. The show was all gags and zaniness pushed to the limit. Breaking the rules of most sitcoms at the time by not having a laugh track and routinely showcasing the star either brandishing his 44 Magnum service weapon, firing it and even talking to it when others weren’t watching.

The show’s pilot episode, *Under The Gun*, has to be one of the funniest sitcom pilots in history, showing Hammer (Rasche) casually going to the trunk of his car and pulling out a bazooka while a sniper is firing, and destroy the whole 25 story building with it.

We watch Hammer shoot at a target in his

apartment and get upset with his neighbors when they scream and yell at him while he is on the phone. Though the show was no ratings bonanza, it still had enough viewers to keep it on the air.

Poking fun at popular movies at the time with episodes *Witless* satirizing the crime Drama *Witness*, where we see Hammer in an Amish community while people try to kill him and “Hammeroid” lampooning “Robo-cop” where Hammer is a silly half human cyborg.

Co-star Anne-Marie Martin is his much rational partner Officer Dori Doreau, and Harrison Page is Captain Trunk. Page is the Chief Inspector Dreyfus to Hammer’s Clouseau-like character. Trunk vents out his overly stressful and frustrated moods by yelling the titular character’s name every time he is on screen. It really makes you wonder how the actor still has a voice after all that yelling.

Guest stars include the late Actress Conchata Ferrell of *Two and a Half Men*’s popularity and actor John Vernon (Animal House), who portrayed the mayor in the original *Dirty Harry* as well as for the show.

Co-writer and producer Al Jean as well as Oscar-nominated Composer Danny Elfman who did the show’s theme music both worked on *The Simpsons* a couple of years later.

Sledge Hammer tried for a ratings-grab season finale with a cliffhanger ending with a nuclear bomb, even going so far as having popular television host Robin Leach introduce the episode. *The Spa Who Loved Me* actually was a good enough finale to secure a second season.

Though, the idea of a nuclear holocaust opener made things limited, Spencer simply made a sort of prequel season, setting it years



"Trust me, I know what I'm doing."

David Rasche, shown with co-star Anne-Marie Martin, pulls off part psychopath, part lovable baffoon, in the *Sledgehammer* series. The show’s pilot episode, *Under the Gun*, is one of the funniest pilots in history.

earlier and it was clever enough to work. Unfortunately, the second season would be the last *Sledge Hammer*.

Spencer described *Sledge Hammer* as “a sitcom for people who hate sitcoms” and it manages to still have a fan base while on syndication.

Sledge Hammer proves when it comes to

comedy, trust me, the writers and stars knew what they were doing. 🐶

Justin Childress loves movies and has been writing about them for as long as he can remember. Contact him at jchilli1981@gmail.com.

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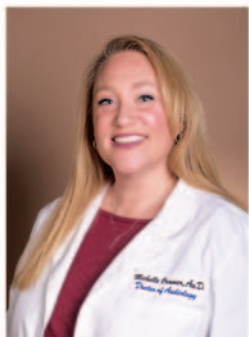
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History Can Be Fun...Really!

BY ROGER KRATOCHVIL

I taught history for a lot of years at Mt. Olive High School. On the first day I always told my students that there were two types of students in class. There were those that love history and there were those who hated history. There was no in between.

For a number of years, I not only coached baseball in the high school, but I also coached for a number of years in the junior high. One time we were on our grade school team bus coming home from a game and my catcher, Don Thomas asked, "Coach, what do you teach in the high school?" I answered, "History." He answered, "I hate history." Four years later in high school, he was a straight A student in history.

You see, most of the time you need a history teacher who loves teaching history. I was one of those. I did not have to go to college to find a good mentor of a best history teacher because he was my own history teacher in high school - Wilbur Green. Mr. Green served in the military during the World War II and his plane was shot down so he served the remaining time in the war in a German POW camp. His brother also served the rest of the war in a camp.

Mr. Green was my mentor and the best history teacher I have ever had. He talked me into going to college. He was an umpire, so he encouraged me to play college baseball, where I did well. He used to walk into a classroom, take roll, throw his grade book on the desk, and begin teaching. I tried to pattern myself after him. We both believed that you should teach from your feet and not your seat.

Often when I was teaching, I would ask myself, "What would Mr. Green have said or how would he have handled that situation?" He was absolutely the best and I respected him immensely as a person and teacher.

This story is about history and how much fun it can be, if you give it a chance. Stories are important in the teaching of history so this effort on my part will be talking about history and then interjecting historical facts and stories that stood out in my many years of teaching that I fondly remembered. Those facts or stories will have an asterisk * at the beginning.

The teaching of history should never be just about remembering dates and then reciting that exact date. It should be more of remembering eras of history and to, for in-

stance, know that the Civil War happened after the Mexican war and before the Spanish American War, etc.

One of the dates I asked my students to remember was 1588, the defeat of the Spanish Armada. That was important because that date changed the mastery of the seas from the Spanish to the English. It was not as important as December 7th or 9/11 to us, but it was an opportunity for all of the students to collectively remember one date year after year. It was popular in my teaching day. It would be in the yearbook and all over.

Several stories resulted from that date.

One time I was at the Turner Hall playing cards and I left to go to the bathroom. Leaning against the wall was one of my students from 20 years before. He said, "Hi Mr. Kratochvil." I responded and asked him how he was doing. He told me he had just gotten out of prison and said to me, "I want you to know I remember 1588 and what it was." He said he never forgot. I wished him well.

Another time as a football coach, we were playing a football game at Hillsboro and one of our players was injured after the game. He was rushed to the hospital and our bus went to the hospital to pick him up. I went into the hospital, and he was on the operating table having his arm sewed up. He looked at me and said, "1588, I bet you thought I would never remember that." I smiled, waited for him, and then took him home on the bus. Sadly, that student, Bernie Franke, was one of my five students to die in Viet Nam. He lives on in my memory.

**The longest inaugural address was 8445 words given by the President who had the shortest term, William Henry Harrison. One month, and then he died of pneumonia. He wrote it himself. In contrast, the shortest was George Washington in his second inaugural, two paragraphs.*

History can be fun if you try to limit the lecture as much as you can. Many average students were very good in history because they loved it and put everything they could into it. One of my students once told me he was not a great test taker, but he liked to talk about history in the class. Most of his grades were in the C or D area in other classes, but in history it was much higher because he liked to participate, and his spoken word counted.

**I like humor in stories and history is full*



of them. My two favorite presidents were Truman and Lincoln. One Republican and one Democrat to be politically correct. President Harry S. Truman was a one-of-a-kind President. The middle name of S stood for nothing. His mother and father had a different middle name for him starting with an S. They couldn't agree, so they left it as just S.

When Truman was in office, he made a huge number of decisions like the dropping of the A bomb, rebuilding Europe after World War II, getting America back after a two-front war, firing General MacArthur, etc. He was from Independence, Missouri and when he came home to Independence on a train after he retired from the White House, many reporters followed him. They asked some of the old timers what Truman did that they remembered the most. Their surprising answer was that he fixed the roads. He was a small-time judge in his younger years and despite all of the worldwide decisions he made, they remembered he fixed the roads. Go figure!

He once gave a speech where he referred to his Republican opponents as spreading manure about him. When they asked his wife Bess about him saying that, she replied, "You don't know how hard it was for me to have him change it to manure."

Politics can be tough on politicians. When Truman was asked about that one time, he replied, "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog."

He was known as "Give them hell, Harry." When the press asked him about that, he replied, "I never did give anybody hell, I just told the truth, and they thought it was hell."

There is a lot of controversy out there now about the teaching of history. Because of social issues that change from generation to generation some people want to change history to match the social issues. That should never happen. One example of that is that when I started teaching history in 1960 there were known facts, that we know today, that we did not know then. For instance, I never heard of the Buffalo soldiers, so I did not teach it. Now we know that the Buffalo Soldiers were black men, who after the Civil War, did not know where to go. There was still extreme racism in the South and even in the North. So many of them went west where your worth was not measured by the color of your skin but by your ability to ride a horse

and shoot a gun. In that way they had equality.

**My other favorite President was Abraham Lincoln. He was very smart, and he had a sense of humor too. Lincoln fought in the Black Hawk Indian War. Some reporters once asked him about his experience in that war and if he had killed Indians. His deadpan response was, "I did not fight many Indians, but I had some bloody battles with the mosquitoes."*

Lincoln's "A House Divided Cannot Stand" speech is still very important today as the two political parties in 2023 continue to not agree and we do need to stand undivided. When you teach history, you have to make sure that humor is a part of it.

When I was teaching about the Boston Tea Party and the colonists dumping the tea in Boston Harbor rather than paying a tax on it, one of my funny students replied to me that it must have been "hot tea." Another time when I asked my students about the famous Confederate prison in Georgia, I gave them a hint that it was a name of one of our faculty with a ville at the end. After they went through every teacher's name including mine suggested by the Principals' daughter, they finally came up with Mr. Anderson and Andersonville.

Twice a year we would have an all-class debate. I would pick two girls one time and two boys the next time that were smart, inquisitive, and talkative to chair a team. The first one was on the Revolutionary War and the second on the Civil War. We separated the class into two sides, had them do their research, come into class and turn the chairs to facing each other. Each chair makes an opening statement, we took turns in making an accusation against the other and a final statement from each chair. Every member in the class must make at least one point for scoring and it can be a minor one. Once I had the two students named Kim. Kim Berg versus Kim Rosenthal and the debate was so good I remember it vividly. It was tough sometimes for me to keep from being stumped by these sharp students.

At one point early in my career, I got tired of hearing some of the students state that they could not wait to get out of Mt. Olive because there was nothing here. That was the year I started teaching a two-week section on Mt. Olive/White City history. It went over very

well. I would address the students by saying do you know who sat in that very chair you are sitting in. Donald Calvin, Class of 1949 and Vice President of the New York Stock Exchange or Don Dobrino Class of 1953 Rose Bowl running back and champion at the University of Iowa or Mike Kreevich, eight year Major League baseball player, or David Martin best-selling author, or John Oltman CEO of a large company, and so on. Don't tell me that there has never been anything here. They got the point as it was their turn now to make something of themselves, or their own history.

**One of the memorable stories I liked to tell was about the rather eccentric Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill. He often liked to do his best thinking in the bathtub, and it was hauled wherever he was during World War II. He enjoyed drinking alcohol and smoking stinky stogies too. Because he did drink, he was often bold and to the point. One time he was talking to a lady who took offense to his words. She said, "Mr. Prime Minister, you are drunk." His response was, "Yes, my lady, I am drunk, and you are ugly. Tomorrow I will wake up and be sober. But, you madam, will still be ugly." She stormed off. That was how he was - to the point.*

You know the American Eagle is America's symbol. Benjamin Franklin wanted the symbol to be a turkey because he said the turkey was smarter, but it did not present any strength, so it was not considered very long.

By the way Abraham Lincoln was the first president to start the tradition of the president pardoning a turkey on Thanksgiving Day. At that time a farmer gave President Lincoln a turkey to eat. The turkey was named Jack by his son Tad. He loved the turkey and pleaded with his dad to not kill the bird. Lincoln relented and spared it thus starting the tradition.

After World War II, America was going through a cold war with Russia whereas Russia was always issuing threats to America. Winston Churchill once described America and their role in these threats. He said, "The American Eagle sits proudly on its perch looking at the world and the Russians keep prodding that eagle with threats. What the Russians do not know is that if they prod that Eagle too much, he may come off of it, and the Russians will not be very successful in getting it back on the perch."

History is just a lot of stories and experiences that occur at a very important point in time. We all hope that we learn from our mistakes, but it very seldom works out that way. No entangling alliances with other countries has always been there and they generally seem to rope countries into a war because they are committed to each other. We never learn, but that is history.

We have great presidents and so-so presidents, and we have bad presidents. All had the ability to get elected. People are fickle and popularity of presidential candidates changes often.

**Franklin Roosevelt was a Democrat and Theodore Roosevelt was a Republican. Both were great presidents. Franklin was married to Eleanor and she was his distant cousin so Roosevelt was her maiden name. Obviously,*

she did not have to change the monogrammed towels that she had. My parents cried when he died in 1945 because they thought he saved them during the depression. Theodore became President because the Republican Party tried to hide him (he was so efficient at what he did that he became a thorn in the party) as a candidate for vice president with William McKinley in 1900.

After all who remembers vice presidents? So, what happened? McKinley was assassinated six months into his second term by an anarchist who was in a receiving line with the president and hid the gun in a handkerchief, and now, Theodore is president of the United States. His political party did not like him that much, but the people did love him. He served until 1908 and again the Republicans will not renominate him for reelection. They nominate William Howard Taft, so Roosevelt creates his own party, the Bull Moose party. In the national election he finishes second to Woodrow Wilson ahead of the Republican Party. Interesting, the Republican Party split itself in two.

John Tyler was a president who had 15 children; eight with his first wife and seven with his second. I guess he did not leave the White House very often. Franklin Roosevelt only had six children but 29 grandchildren.

A good trivia history question is that everybody knows that Samuel F.B. Morse invented the telegraph. Do you know that the F.B stands for Findley Breeze? Very trivial, isn't it?

I only gave you a small taste of history in this story. I know that probably the most popular subject is math in school as many students like to figure out things. But I contend that history can be popular and very interesting if you give it a chance. I barely scratched the surface of interesting historical points. So, I will finish with a final trivia question.

**During World War II, the Germans attempted to send small groups of soldiers through the American lines to get behind them. They were to blow up bridges and disrupt the American army lines. In Germany, they had a school that trained Germans to talk like Americans using all the slang we use and be able to talk sports etc. just like the average American G.I. They were very successful at it until the Americans came up with a plan. It was simple. We came up with a word, raspberry. When they came through the lines they were stopped because they could not pronounce the word without using the letter "p." We say rassberry and the Germans said, rasp...berry.*

That information came to me from Pastor Henry Gerecke, the Chaplain of the Nuremberg trials after World War II when the war criminals were tried. He told me that directly. His son Carl taught in the Mt. Olive schools.

I hope you enjoyed this story and when you remember being in school, I hope you liked the history taught to you. 🙏

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





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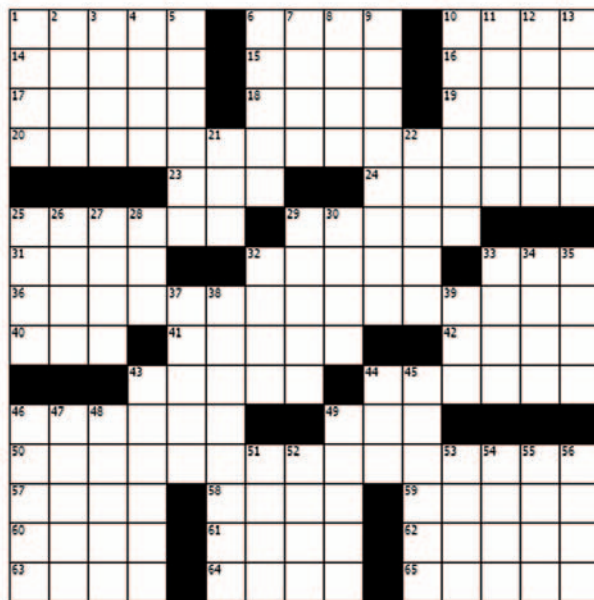


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3. Powder ingredient, perhaps
4. Sermon attachment
5. Pit boss' domain
6. Strong cordage fiber
7. Damascus resident
8. Snooker cushion
9. Automotive, steel or tourism, e.g.
10. Attaints
11. Birchbark boat
12. Noted capitalist John Jacob
13. Dilutes
21. Insect egg
22. Moral philosophy
25. Kiss or show partner
26. Buffalo-to-Albany canal
27. Ski resort next to Snowbird
28. Favored one
29. Benevolence
30. Lode yields
32. Working for the weekend letters
33. Away from the sea wind
34. Argued a claim
35. Catch sight of
37. Come-hither looks
38. They're often etched in stone
39. Female with a wool coat
43. Evil spirit (Var.)
44. Remained unused
45. Like some stations on a car radio
46. Pulls a switcheroo
47. Clairvoyant's cards
48. Tongue neighbor
49. Mottled horse
51. Display one's patience
52. It could cause one to switch gears
53. Bodybuilder's bane
54. Recognizable symbol
55. Sunday utterance
56. Reason for an "R"

Across

1. Montezuma II, for one
6. Bombay wraparound dress
10. Improvisational style
14. Gaucho accessory
15. Where Baha'ism began
16. Type of slinger
17. Team of Johnny Unitas
18. Not tacit
19. Against
20. Seldom
23. Naught
24. Takes the wheel
25. Tempest setting
29. They're drawn to the flame
31. Perry's penman
32. Clark or Gibbs of country music
33. Zoo attraction
36. Hercule Poirot's pride
40. Sheep's milieu
41. Films with casts of thousands
42. Partner of "read 'em"
43. More than lionize
44. Sixth Amendment adjective
46. Film mouse
49. Golf norm
50. Gives up
57. Jack-in-the-pulpit, for one
58. Cause to grimace
59. Replay effect
60. Sport of princes
61. Excalibur's handle
62. All agog
63. First name in slapstick
64. D-Day invasion town
65. Steakhouse selection

Answers Online at Riverbender.com/Answers



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- 2 tbs **Olive Oil Marketplace White Jalapeño Lime Balsamic**
- 1 tbs Dijon mustard
- 1 tbs honey (plus more to taste)
- 1 1/2 tbs fresh cilantro
- salt and pepper to taste



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INSTRUCTIONS

- Combine chipotle oil, yogurt, ranch dressing, sour cream, vinegar, mustard, honey, cilantro and salt in a bowl well blended. Season with pepper. Taste and adjust seasonings, if desired.
- For a little more spice add finely chopped jalapeños.
- Fresh greens, pine nuts and candied walnuts compliment this well.



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April

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

OLD SIX MILE MUSEUM 2023

Come and see what your Six Mile Museum has to offer this year - we're more than just a pretty face!

- May 13 • Mother's Day Tea and Cookies
- June 17 • Yard Sale/Open Air Market
- Aug 27 • Beekeepers Meeting
- Sept 16 • Fall Festival
- Oct 7 • Mrs. O'Leary and the Chicago Fire, burgers and chips for sale
- Nov 25 • Christmas Decorating
- Dec 16 • Christmas Open House

Additionally we will be hosting some life skill events over the summer for youth in our area. The Old Six Mile Museum is located at 3279 Maryville Road in Granite City. Follow us on FB at Old Six Mile Historical Society or call us at 618-975-1836.

MONDAY, APRIL 3

Story time, every Monday @10 am @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Road, Granite City. Enjoy stories, music and crafts, www.smrlid.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

Tiny Trekkers: Spring! at The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Ln. in Godfrey, from 9-11am. Once a week drop off program for ages 3 - 5. Preschoolers will explore our 450 acre preserve through hands-on experiences out in nature. Our Limited spaces available. Registration is offered by the month only; single program registrations are not permitted. Children must be able to use the restrooms independently, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

Wildflower Hike at The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Ln. in Godfrey, from 9-10:30 am. Many of the flowers you'll see in the spring are known as ephemerals due to their short-lived nature. Join one of our naturalists to identify some of these plants before they're gone! thenatureinstitute.org.

Discovery Nature Club: Outdoor Art at The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Ln. in Godfrey, from 3-5 pm. Discovery Nature Club is an after-school drop-off program for elementary students (1st - 5th grade). Students will meet bi-weekly to explore the preserve and learn more about nature. Discovery Nature Club is a fully outdoor program and will occur rain or shine. Participants must bring a water bottle. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear shoes/boots that can get wet and

clothes that can get dirty. Pre-registration is required. thenatureinstitute.org. Legos, 5-7 pm, every Tuesday @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlid.org.

Legos - Come Build with Us! Every Tuesday 5-7 PM. Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Questions? Email ys@smrlid.org or call the Youth Services department at 618-452-6238 ext 720, www.smrlid.org.

Jared Hennings Performance at the Performance Room at Alton Square Mall, 123 Alton Square Drive, from 6:30 - 8 pm. Local Vocalist Jared Hennings returns to present a musical program of jazz standards, ballads and spirituals. Jared and his beautiful voice never fail to move audiences. Join us for an eclectic mix of great music and fun! Register at 1-800-613-3163 or call 618-792-8567 for more info.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4-FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Memories of Route 66 Writing Contest at Edwardsville Public Library, 112 S. Kansas St. Have a good road trip story? Edwardsville Public Library would love to read it! Share your adventure by Friday, April 7 to enter! All entries must be original work describing a true personal experience in 1,000 words or less. Each winner will receive a gift card to Afterwords Books in Edwardsville and have their essay read at a reception on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 2 PM at the library. Free to enter. Send your submission to michaela@edwpl.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4-TUESDAY, MAY 2

LCCC Student Art Exhibit at the Hatheway Cultural Center, 5800 Godfrey Rd. in Godfrey, 8-11 am every weekday. The gallery is composed of 2D and 3D artworks that display the talents of current LCCC students and will be held in the Hatheway Cultural Center (HY 0125). Call 618-468-7000 for more info.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Toddler/Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday @ 10:30 am, Greenville Public Library, 414 W. Main Street, www.greenvillepubliclibrary.org.

Story Time, every Wednesday at 6 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Enjoy stories, music and crafts, www.smrlid.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

LEGO BIONICLE Night -Let's Brick! For Tweens, Grades 5-8 every 1st Thursday, 5 - 7 PM Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave. Questions? Email ys@smrlid.org or call the Youth Services department at 618-452-6238 ext 720, www.smrlid.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

TAYLORVILLE CRUISE IN, the first Friday of every month, 4:30-8 pm, April through Oct 13 on the downtown square. All wheels welcome! Dash plaque to first 50 cares! Open to the public.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Spring Bird Hike at Bremer Sanctuary, 194 Bremer Ln in Hillsboro, from 7am - 9am. Take a guided, easy level hike for 90 minutes leaving promptly at 7:00 AM to view and learn about spring birds at Bremer! Dress for the weather! Wear sturdy shoes or boots, a hat and apply bug repellent. Bring binoculars and a bottle of water. Light breakfast items will be available after the hike. Open to the public. Donations accepted. Canceled if raining, www.bremersanctuary.com.

Litchfield Spring Duathlon from 10am-Noon. A favorite race of the spring season with an added 10K road race for runners. Expect a dead-flat run and a one-hill challenge bike ride. Hosted by M&M Multisport Club, www.visitlitchfield.com.

Meet the Artist, Community Curator Exhibition at the Glen Carbon Heritage Museum, 124 School Street, from 11am - 1pm. Join us in celebrating Jane Vieth's art at the Glen Carbon Heritage Museum. With her exhibit up throughout April, enjoy light refreshments and meet the artist at this exhibit opening. This is a free event. See their Facebook page for more info.

Nintendo Switch every Saturday 1-4pm @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlid.org.

LIVE MUSIC: B&B Strings, 6-9 pm @ DeCamp Station, 8767 State Route 4, Staunton, decampstationil.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

VENDOR MARKET the 2nd Sunday each month through October, 10-5:30, @ Lighthouse Too, 18395 W. Frontage Road, Litchfield (I-55 to Carlinville Exit 60).

MONDAY, APRIL 10

Story time, every Monday @10 am @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Road, Granite City. Enjoy stories, music and crafts, www.smrlid.org.

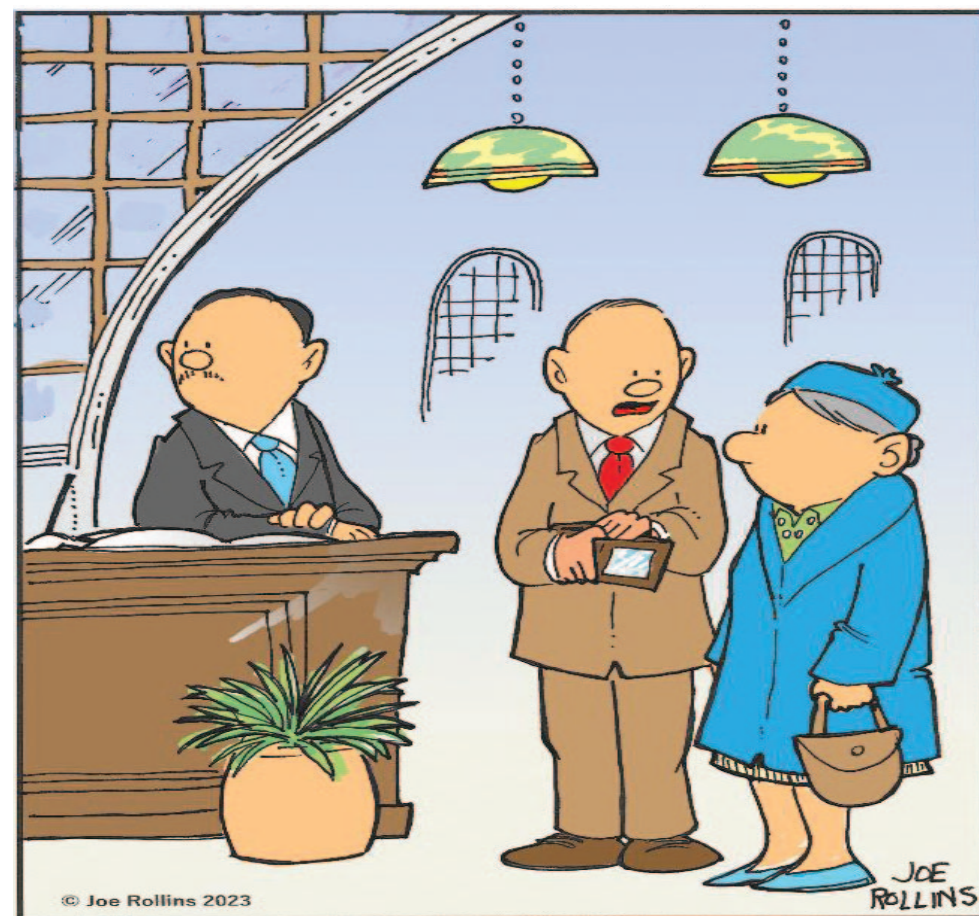
TUESDAY, APRIL 11

Tiny Trekkers: Spring at The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Ln. in Godfrey, from 9am-11am. A once a week drop off program for ages 3 - 5. Preschoolers will explore our 450 acres preserve through hands-on experiences out in nature. Very limited spaces available. Registration is offered by the month only; single program registrations are not permitted. Children must be able to use the restrooms independently, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

Legos, 5-7 pm, every Tuesday @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlid.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Family Story Time at Haskell Playhouse, 1211 Henry Street in Alton, from 10am - 11am. A fairy tale setting for a very special story time! Call 618-792-8567 for more info.



“Have you got a five? He said our table could be ready in thirty dollars.”

Toddler/Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday @ 10:30 am, Greenville Public Library, 414 W. Main Street, www.greenvillepubliclibrary.org.

Story Time, every Wednesday at 6 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Enjoy stories, music and crafts, www.smrlid.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

Branching Out Class - Social Media: Research Help, Sharing, and Collaborating at the Genealogy & Local History Library, 401 State St. in Alton, from 10am-11am. Join our class on how to use social media to further your genealogical research and make connections with other researchers, www.riversandroutes.com.

HOPE Glo Bingo at the Moose Lodge, 7371 Marine Rd. in Edwardsville, from 6-10 pm. Glo Bingo is an exciting twist on traditional bingo - it's full of high energy, music, black lights, dancing, and CASH prizes!! April is Autism Acceptance Month - help us raise awareness, acceptance, and funds with your ticket purchase! Proceeds benefit the communities of Hop, edglenchamber.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Play & Learn For Babies & Toddlers, 10 AM at Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Questions? Email ys@smrlid.org or call the Youth Services department at 618-452-6238 ext 720, www.smrlid.org.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

Bremer Sanctuary Community Workday, 9-11 am, Bremer Sanctuary, 194 Bremer Lane, Hillsboro. Weed pulling, spreading mulch around the viewing platforms, amphitheater area, memorial area, and approaches to the covered bridge. Participants will need to bring their own rakes, shovels and gloves. Stick removal from Timber Trail for the

upcoming mowing season and Housecleaning in our Education Barn are also needed duties. Public attendees will not be allowed to use power tools or our UTV'S, so Bremer stewards will be present if this is needed. Call 217-532-2339 for more info.

Goshen Winter Market at 100 St. Louis St. in Edwardsville from 9am-Noon. Find seasonal winter produce from local growers, eggs, meats, baked goods, crafts, art, and more, goshenmarket.org.

Writers Circle: Short Story at Hayner Library at Alton Square Mall, 123 Alton Square Dr. in Alton, from 9am-Noon. For the novice and the experienced: join us for a writing prompt to get creativity flowing and receive constructive feedback from your peers. Bring a project you're currently working on or use your prompt in guided group discussion. The focus genre of our Writers Circle will change every other month, so be sure to check in! Coffee and tea will be provided. To register, please call 1-800-613-3163. Registration will be limited to 10 people.

Wheels and Walk Festival in Edwardsville from 11am-3pm. Two starting locations: SIUE campus and the N.O. Nelson Complex and ending at Ironworks. Bike, skateboard, roller blade, long board or walk to enjoy live music by Matt Taul, outdoor games, and awesome food and drinks. The first 200 participants who bring a food pantry donation item to the event will receive a \$5 food voucher to be used that day. Drop-off stations for Glen-Ed Pantry and the Cougar Cupboard Food Pantry will be available at the two starting points and at Ironworks. The group with the most participant donations at the event will win a prize! Buy tickets at www.cityofedwardsville.com.

(continued on page 48)

A talk on Christian Science

BE SET FREE

Thursday, April 27 @ 7:30 pm



Location

LaMay's Catering, Inc.

909 East Broadway
Alton, IL

Contact

618-462-0964
www.CSAlton.org

Nicole Virgil, CS

Christian Science practitioner
Member of the Christian Science
Board of Lectureship



Hosted by First Church of Christ, Scientist, Alton-Godfrey, IL
Childcare will be available

Open to the public! Come out and see some awesome rides!

Small Town Taylorville

with the 40 M.P.H. Club

invites you to kick off their

CRUISE SEASON

on the Taylorville Square

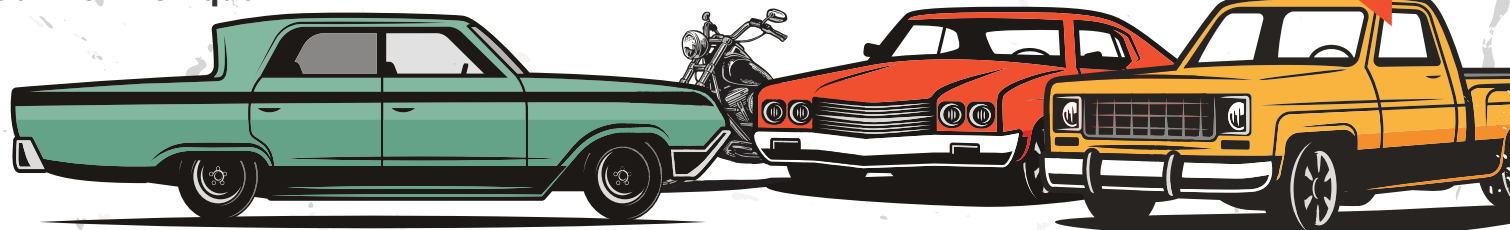
Westside of the Square - Washington St.

1st Cruise
FRIDAY,
APRIL 7

Cars • Trucks • 4x4 • Bikes • Trikes
Vintage • Restored • Off-Road • New • Unique

Dash Plaque for first 50 cars!

All wheels
are welcome!



2023 Season

4:30-8:00 pm

Friday, April 7th
Friday, May 5th

Friday, June 2nd
Friday, July 7th

Friday, August 4th
Friday, September 1st

Friday, October 13th
Trunk or Treat

Riverbend Earth Day is back at The Old Bakery Beer Company, 400 Landmarks Blvd in Alton from 11:30am-4:30pm. An afternoon filled with amazing live music, environmental education, earth-friendly vendors, native plant sale, great food and drinks, and more! See their Facebook page for more info.

Spring Woodland Wildflower Walk at Bremer Sanctuary, 194 Bremer Lane, Hillsboro. A guided tour through Bremer Sanctuary's woodland trails will leave the barn parking area at 1:00 PM and will last approximately 90 minutes. The leisurely hike may feature such native beauties as Bluebells, Dutchman's Breeches, Mayapples, Spring Beauties, Trillium and several varieties of violets. Dress for the weather- Wear sturdy shoes or boots, a hat, and apply bug repellent. Bring a bottle of water. A Native Illinois Wildflower Field Guide may be helpful, but not required. The Education Barn and Meeting Hall will be open for tours afterwards. Open to the public. Donations accepted. Call 217-532-2339 for more info.

Nintendo Switch every Saturday 1-4pm @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

All Wound Up - Simple knitting for beginners, 2-4 pm. Six Mile Regional Library District, 2145 Johnson Road, Granite City. Register at tinyurl.com/allwoundup2 or call 618-452-6238, www.smrlld.org.

LIVE MUSIC: Acoustic Crush, 6-9 pm @ DeCamp Station, 8767 State Route 4, Staunton, www.decampstationil.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15-SUNDAY, APRIL 16 BELLEVILLE FLEA MARKET, held the 3rd Sat/Sun each month year 'round features over 400 vendors with over 600 tables selling a large variety of antiques, collectibles and other merchandise. Belle-Claire Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 200 S. Belt West, Belleville, www.bcfairgrounds.net

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Bethalto Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner, 11:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. @ OLQP Parish, 132 Butcher St, Bethalto. Dine In, All-You-Care-to-Eat: \$12 Adults, \$6 Children (ages 5-10). Drive Thru or Carry Out: \$12 for half chicken or five (5) chicken strips, and choice of three (3) sides. No custom orders available for drive thru. Side Options: Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy. Public Welcome. **FOR CARRY OUT OR DRIVE THRU: PLEASE ENTER FROM PRAIRIE STREET INTO THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT FOR PICKUP.** Proceeds go to Bethalto K of C Charities and OLQP Parish.

Madison County Historical Society Speaker Series, 2 pm, presents Mark Pierce, author of *When the Stars Came Out: Stories of the Mississippi River Festival*, free lecture and book signing. Held at Main Street Community Center, 1004 N. Main St, Edwardsville. Free and open to the public. For additional information call 618-656-1294.

Watch the popular Ruby Leigh perform live at the Staunton Concordia Hall, 709 S. Union St. in Staunton starting at 3 pm, riversandrout.com.

MONDAY, APRIL 17

Story time, every Monday @10 am @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Road, Granite City. Enjoy stories, music and crafts, smrlld.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18

Tiny Trekkers: Spring at The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Ln. in Godfrey, from 9am-11am. A once a week drop off program for ages 3 – 5.

Preschoolers will explore our 450 acres preserve through hands-on experiences out in nature. Very limited spaces available. Registration is offered by the month only; single program registrations are not permitted. Children must be able to use the restrooms independently, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

Legos - Come Build with Us! Every Tuesday 5-7 PM. Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Questions? Email ys@smrlld.org or call the Youth Services department at 618-452-6238 ext 720, www.smrlld.org.

Sit, Stay, Read with Got Your Six Therapy Dogs For children, grades K-8, come practice reading or just talk with a trained therapy dog! Every 3rd Tuesday from 6:30-7:30 PM. Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Rd, Granite City. Questions? Call 618-452-6238 ext. 785, smrlld.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19

Toddler/Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday @ 10:30 am, Greenville Public Library, 414 W. Main Street, www.greenvillepubliclibrary.org.

Trash Bash Earth Day at Pere Marquette Lodge, 13653 Lodge Blvd in Grafton, from 10am - 1pm. Free event and open to everyone! Marquette Lodge encourages you to come out and help keep Mother Nature looking her best as you pick up trash and debris around the Lodge, Visitor's Center, and bike trails. Gloves are highly recommended! The event will be called off due to rain. Call 618-786-2331 ext.338 or see their Facebook page for more info.

Story Time, 6 pm, Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Enjoy stories, music and crafts, www.smrlld.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Branching Out Class - Social Media: Research Help, Sharing, and Collaborating at the Genealogy & Local History Library, 401 State St. in Alton, from 10am-11am. Join our discussion on social media and genealogical research, and anything else related to your family tree, www.riversandrout.com.

Credit Reports, Scores, & Keeping Your Money Safe! In partnership with: St. Louis Regional Financial Empowerment Coalition, 6 PM @ Six Mile Regional Library District, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Learn the basics of a credit report, how the score is calculated and why your score matters everyday. Included at this event - Keep your money safe from predatory financial products and services - Learn what to look out for! Call 618-452-6238 ext. 730 for more details.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21-SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Maryville village wide garage sale from 7am-2pm, www.troymaryvillecoc.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Books and Buns, 9am-12pm, Greenville Public Library, 414 W. Main Street. Used book and cinnamon buns for sale, www.greenvillepubliclibrary.org.

3RD ANNUAL PARKING LOT SALE, 9am-3pm @ Black Crow Designs, 2521 State Street, Alton. The studio will be open and the parking lot will be filled with amazing vendors, www.blackcrowdesignstudio.com.

Earth Day at Edwardsville Children's Museum, 722 Holyoake Rd, from 10am-Noon. Come create art with recycled materials and receive free pollinator seed packets to take home. Free for members or with daily paid admission, www.edwcm.org.

22nd Annual Fishing Derby, 11-12:30, Drost Park @ Pavilion 1, Maryville. Registration at 10 am. This catch and release derby is a free, fun competition for anyone 15 years or younger - no license required. Youngsters should bring a fishing pole, bait and an adult. For more information call 618-233-8965 or email parksandrec@maryville-il.us.

ANNUAL TREEHOUSE WILDLIFE CENTER'S SPRING BABY SHOWER, 10 AM - 4 PM @ TreeHouse Wildlife Center, 23956 Green Acres Road Dow, IL to celebrate our native wild babies. Guests will be amazed by Professor Longhair's Magic Show, enjoy free games, activities, and crafts. Engage with Meet and Greets with several of our Outreach Education Ambassadors. We are adding artisan craft and food vendors this year to create more of a festival feeling. This is a free event to attend and all ages are welcome, as there will be something for everyone to enjoy! Bring a donation and be entered to win some fabulous door prizes. Vendor application on our website: www.treehousewildlifecenter.com Planning on coming to the celebration? We ask that you bring an item on our baby shower wish list below to help staff and volunteers raise and care for our injured and orphaned young wildlife during their time in the clinic. View our full wish list at www.treehousewildlifecenter.com/donate. Requested Baby Shower Donation Wish List.:

- OxiClean
- Bungee cords (all sizes)
- 33 gallon trash bags
- Cotton Rounds
- Dried Mealworms, crickets, or bloodworms
- Bleach and Vinegar
- Goats Milk (canned or powdered)
- Pedialyte (flavored or unflavored)
- Wet or dry cat food
- Purina deer pellet
- Goat starter pellet
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Carabiners
- Frozen produce
- Diatomaceous Earth (Tractor Supply)
- 8qt Rubber feed/water bowls (farm stores)
- Snack, quart or gallon "Ziploc" bags
- Food storage containers S/M/L sizes
- Paper towels
- Storage totes medium to large sizes with lids
- Heating pads (has to be a no auto shut off pad with heat levels)
- Gas Gift Cards to cover transportation of injured animals
- Printer paper

Your donations help us provide the best care for our baby animals so they can be released back into the wild, www.treehousewildlifecenter.com.

Art Talks - Steampunk Costuming at Hayner Library in the Alton Square Mall, 123 Alton Square Dr, from 11am-1pm. Artist and costumer Lynn Carter will introduce us to steampunk and steampunk costuming, a subgenre of science fiction with an aesthetic that combines industrial or mechanical elements with Victorian-era fashion, www.riversandrout.com.

Nintendo Switch every Saturday 1-4pm @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City, www.smrlld.org.

Paws Care Trivia Night and Silent Auction from 5:30-10 pm. A great evening out and a fun way to support a good paws, oops, cause! Montgomery County Paws Care appreciates your support. This

event will take place at 1100 S. State St. in Litchfield, www.visitlitchfield.com.

Dueling Pianos Fundraiser at Grafton Winery Vineyards, 21028 Eckert Orchard Rd. in Grafton, from 6 - 9pm. Benefiting the Great Rivers Choral Society. Tickets are \$25 per person and a grazing table will be available for \$10 a plate. The event will feature a cash bar, raffles, and a 50/50 drawing. Doors open at 6 PM and the show starts at 7 PM. Call 618-786-3001 or see their Facebook page for more info.

LIVE MUSIC: Silver Creek Acoustic, 6-9 pm @ DeCamp Station, 8767 State Route 4, Staunton. www.decampstationil.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22-SUNDAY, APRIL 23

FARM PLANT SALE, Three Rivers Community Farm, 22935 Chautauqua Road, Elsah, 9-4. Shop for vegetable plants and get seedlings all grown on Three Rivers Farm Saturdays & Sundays in the last two weekends of April! Three Rivers Farm Stand opens Thursday, May 11, 2023! See their Facebook page for more info.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Alton City-Wide Biannual Litter Clean-Ups. Dozens of organizations and businesses pick up litter in their adopted areas which cover the main thoroughfares in town, and registration stations will be available to provide individuals with supplies to clean up their neighborhoods. We hope you will jump on board and pitch in! If you would like to interact with others who are dedicated to picking up litter throughout the year, join the Facebook group Riverbend Trashtag Challenge, www.downtownalton.com.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23-FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Celebrate National Library Week with a Peeps Diorama Contest! All entries must be on the theme "There's More to the Story" and be "Family Friendly" (suitable for all audiences). All entries should be around the size of a standard shoe-box, with maximum size of 12" x 18" by 12". Sides may be removed. All characters in your scene should be made using Peeps. Dioramas can use any type of Peep. Limit one entry per person or family/team. Dioramas with attached entry forms may be dropped off at either Six Mile Regional Library (2001 Delmar or 2145 Johnson Road, Granite City) location between Thursday, April 20th and Saturday, April 22nd. Winners will be awarded in two categories: SMRLD Staff Favorite and Fan Favorite. Voting will be open from April 24th to 12 PM April 29th. Votes can be cast either online or in person at our Delmar location. Winners will be announced at our Peeps Party on May 6th at 1PM. All entries must be picked up at 2001 Delmar Ave by 8PM on Thursday, May 11th. Remaining dioramas will be discarded. All are invited to attend our Peeps Party on Tuesday, May 2nd from 6-7pm at SMRLD 2001 Delmar Avenue. We will make a reasonable effort to keep your diorama safe, and the library is not responsible for any damage to your diorama. By entering your diorama, you give Six Mile Regional Library District permission to display, photograph/film, and share it online. Peeps Diorama Contest Rules & Entry Form at www.smrlld.org/peeps-diorama-contest-rules. If you have any questions, please call 618-452-6238 ext 730 or 755 email damanager@smrlld.org.

(continued on page 50)



BRAVE DAYS

ON THE CARLINVILLE SQUARE

FRIDAY
APRIL 28
2PM-8PM

SATURDAY
APRIL 29
10AM-6PM

**BOUTIQUES • VENDORS • HANDMADE
FOOD TRUCKS • LIVE MUSIC**

*alongside Carlinville's local merchants to bring you a weekend
of cozy spring shopping and fun! Free admission.*

CARLINVILLE, IL

You're Gonna LOVE this Historic Route 66 Shopping Destination

*Sit for a spell in our beautiful
gazebo on the downtown square!*



CARLINVILLE MARKET DAYS

- Vintage Primitives Antiques
- Shabby Chic Collectibles Jewelry
- Crafts Food & So Much More!

AN OPEN AIR MARKET HELD RAIN OR SHINE
THE FIRST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH • 8AM-3PM
APRIL THROUGH NOVEMBER
On the Square in Historic Downtown Carlinville

carlinvillemarketdays.com
For more information on how to become a VIP vendor
contact Perry @ 217-565-0937 or
email: carlinvillemarket@gmail.com

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NEW SPRING ARRIVALS!
Unique Fashion & Home Decor
Accessories • Gifts

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MONDAY, APRIL 24

Litchfield Spring Cleanup. The Spring Cleanup service is offered by the City of Litchfield as a courtesy to residents. Remember that many items can be removed by your regular trash service but take advantage of the cleanup service to get rid of other items that are cluttering up your space (especially your outdoor space) and cramping your style. Please note that no items larger than a household couch or mattress will be picked up. Workers will begin in Ward 1 and continue through subsequent wards accordingly. Please have items at the boulevard by 7 a.m. on April 24. If you have any questions about items that are or are not allowed, information on code violations or general cleanup guidelines, please call 217-324-5253.

Story time, every Monday @10 am @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2145 Johnson Road, Granite City. Enjoy stories, music and crafts, www.smrlld.org.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25

Tiny Trekkers: Spring at The Nature Institute, 2213 S. Levis Ln. in Godfrey, from 9am-11am. A once a week drop off program for ages 3 - 5. Preschoolers will explore our 450 acres preserve through hands-on experiences out in nature. Very limited spaces available. Registration is offered by the month only; single program registrations are not permitted. Children must be able to use the restrooms independently, www.thenatureinstitute.org.

Parkinson's Support Group, 11am-noon, Carlinville Area Hospital & Clinics, Medical Office Building; Community Room, 20613 N. Broad, Carlinville.

I-Cash Event with Representative Katie Stuart, 11am-2pm. Do you have unclaimed property with

the State of Illinois? Find out! Six Mile Regional Library District, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Stop by to get a guided look at the I-Cash website and see if you have unclaimed funds, www.smrlld.org.

Legos - Come Build with Us! Every Tuesday 5-7 PM. Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Questions? Email ys@smrlld.org or call the Youth Services department at 618-452-6238 ext 720, www.smrlld.org.

Secrets of the Puzzle Master: A Conversation with Will Shortz, 7 pm. Registration open: us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D56izr6ASC27_KiVmuKvUg. Will Shortz, the editor of The New York Times crossword puzzle, and the world's only academically accredited puzzle master, discusses crossword puzzles. The author/editor of more than 500 puzzle books, Shortz is also the puzzle master for NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday and the founder and director of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, held annually for more than 40 years. Through his championing of puzzles Will has earned admiring fans from all over the world. In honor of this event, Will Shortz has created a special crossword puzzle all about Illinois. The puzzle will be emailed to all registrants after March 14! A recording of the event will be made available on YouTube until June 30th This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. To request accommodations, please email illinoislibrariespresent@gmail.com, smrlld.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26

Toddler/Preschool Story Time, every Wednesday @ 10:30 am, Greenville Public Library, 414 W. Main Street, www.greenvillepubliclibrary.org.

Teens 12-18: join us for a free showing of Black Adam, 4-6 pm, in our Teen Center in the Performance Room at Alton Square Mall, 123 Alton Square Drive! Oh, did I mention there would be free pizza too?! Be sure to register by calling (618) 433-2872!

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

Teen Craft - Duct Tape Flowers for Grades 7-12. 5-7 PM @ Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Questions? Email ys@smrlld.org or call the Youth Services department at 618-452-6238 ext 720, www.smrlld.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Play & Learn For Babies & Toddlers, 10 AM at Six Mile Regional Library, 2001 Delmar Ave, Granite City. Questions? Email ys@smrlld.org or call the Youth Services department at 618-452-6238 ext 720, www.smrlld.org.

Fire Trucks & fun at Edwardsville Children's Museum, 722 Holyoake Rd, from 5:30-7:30 pm. Come see a fire truck and meet real firemen! Join us for face painting, fire station themed crafts and games, dress up, and sensory stations. And of course, play and enjoy time in the museum. \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Tickets needed for children only, over the age of 1, www.edwcm.org.

Carlinville Area Hospital Farm to Table Dinner, 6:30 pm @ The Campground House @ Suhling Farm, 13742 Suhling Road, Carlinville. Doors open at 5:30. Dinner and music by The Glendale Riders. \$50/person or Table of 8 for \$360. Purchase tickets at Carlinville Area Hospital, My Sisters Closet or Brave Hazel Boutique. For more information contact Jamie @ 217-854-3868 or jbray@cahcare.com.

FRIDAY, APR 28-SATURDAY, APR 29

BRAVE DAYS on the Carlinville Square, Friday 2-8 pm, Saturday 10am-6pm. Boutiques, vendors, handmade, food trucks, live music. A weekend of cozy spring shopping and fun!

Collinsville city-wide garage sale event - over 100 participating residences. The Yard Sale will go on rain or shine! This event is from 7am-3pm, www.riversandroutes.com.

FRIDAY, APRIL 28-/SUNDAY, APRIL 30

CARNIVAL @ Route 66 Litchfield SkyView Drive-in Theater. Bring the entire family for games, rides, crafts and vendor booths too! Carnival hours: Friday 5-10 pm, Saturday 1-5 pm and 6-10 pm, Sunday 1-5 pm. Food Truck and vendor hours: Friday 5-10 pm, Saturday 1-10 pm, Sunday 1-5 pm. Carnival rides, food vendors, craft vendors and so much more! Rides take 3-5 tickets each. \$1/ticket or \$20 for 22 tickets. 4 hour wristbands for \$25. Free entry and free parking. Friday and Saturday at 10 pm, the movie ZOMBIELAND will be playing - view free from your parking spot! Litchfield SkyView Drive-In, 1500 Historic Route 66, Litchfield. For details, updates and more visit litchfieldskyview.com or follow them on Facebook!

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Kiwanis Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, 6:30am-11 am, Moose Lodge, 720 McAdam Drive, Taylorville. Tickets \$7.00/person.

INDEPENDENT BOOK STORE DAY @ SLY FOX, West side of the Downtown Virden Square, 10-3. Exclusive items and more, www.slyfoxbooks.com.

(continued on page 52)



The Belleville Flea Market

Something for Everyone!

APRIL 15-16

THE THIRD FULL WEEKEND EVERY MONTH YEAR 'ROUND

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The Belleville Flea Market is Southern Illinois' Premier Indoor and Outdoor Market. With over 600 tables and 300-400 vendors, we get a wide range of antiques, collectibles and merchandise to sell to the public. Besides our monthly Flea Market, we have regularly-scheduled Gun and Knife Shows, RV and Camper Shows, Antique Shows and so much more.



Find out more at www.bcfairgrounds.net

or find us at [Facebook.com/Belleville Antique Flea Market](https://www.facebook.com/BellevilleAntiqueFleaMarket)

8th Annual Plant Sale



Apr. 22-23,
29-30
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

unique varieties of:
herbs, native
perennials, annuals,
& vegetable starts,
grown organically with
care & knowledge
- ready to thrive in
your garden.



the best plants grown by your favorite farmers.

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Prices range from \$3.50 - \$5.75. Cash & credit card accepted.



THE

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Vintage & Garden Market

**LIVE MUSIC BY
THE ACOUSTIC COWBOY**
Enjoy socializing or just relax and
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Follow **A FARM GIRLS VINTAGE** on Facebook
for a complete vendor list and updates

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**SATURDAY
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10am-2pm @ The Rec Plex

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\$1.00 admission

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Handcrafted Seasonal Items
Garden Goods • Farmer's Market
And So Much More!**

OUR VENDOR LIST KEEPS GROWING! MORE ADDED DAILY!

A Farm Girls Vintage - handcrafted willow furniture and vintage goods

Kelsie's Kitchen - cheesecakes & more

B Happy Tie Dye

Kevin Gilbert - succulent fairy gardens

Pained Glass Art - stained glass

Sage & Prim - vegan soaps and bath products

Ornery Old Crow - garden stones and garden crafts

Styx & Stones - macrame plant hangers and natural healing salves

The Strawberry Finch Boutique

Small Town Grace - children's boutique clothings

Penny's Primitives - vintage goods

Bubblegum by Brummet - handmade adult and children's accessories

The Family Garden - bedding plants, hanging baskets, flowers

Emily Houge - hand crocheted items

Ernst Family Farms - locally grown beef, pork and beefalo

Karen Grigg - wood door hangers

Peggy Kibler - wood crafts and bluebird nesting boxes

Birdy Bakery - handmade bird food

Linda's Love Lites - hand poured candles

Stems & Sprouts - fresh cut locally raised flowers

Christine's Salsa - locally made salsa and sauces

The Crafty Shack - homemade laundry detergent, birdhouses & crafts

Smokehouse Jellies

Farm Glow Candles - hand poured candles and dough bowl candles

Sarah's Wreaths & Things - florals

Reimann Hemp & Honey - local home harvested hemp and raw honey products

Erin's Cookie Creations - homemade decorated sugar cookies

New Direction Farms - handmade goats milk soap

A1A Handmade Cedar Planters

Perry Estell Designs Clothing Boutique

Black Sheep Studio - metal works

Loopy Momma Crochet - crochet items plus jewelry and resin items

Kreative Minds - tee shirts & key chains

Gnana's Gnomes - handcrafted unique gnomes for all occasions

ENJOY THE TACO SHACK FOOD TRUCK AND SOLAR SMOOTHIES

Join the Glen-Ed Pantry for their 2nd annual appetizer hop from 1-4 pm. Hop between University Point II and Trace on the Parkway for specially priced appetizers and drink combos, all while supporting a great cause in our community, www.edglenchamber.com.

LIVE MUSIC: Roaming Home Duo, 6-9 pm @ DeCamp Station, 8767 State Route 4, Staunton. www.decampstationil.com.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29-SUNDAY, APRIL 30 FARM PLANT SALE, Three Rivers Community Farm, 22935 Chautauqua Road, Elsah, 9-4. Shop for vegetable plants and get seedlings all grown on Three Rivers Farm Saturdays & Sundays in the last two weekends of April! Three Rivers Farm Stand opens Thursday, May 11, 2023! See their Facebook page for more info.

SUNDAY, APRIL 30
Chain of Rocks Bridge Duathlon at West Chain of Rocks Road in Granite City starting at 8am. Join fellow athletes for a Run/Bike/Run Duathlon that features the Historic Route 66 Chain of Rocks Bridge! The event is comprised of an out and back run on the Chain of Rocks Bridge, an 11 mile, flat and fast bicycle ride along the levee road, finishing with a final run on the Bridge, www.bigshark.com.

INTERNATIONAL MOTHER JONES FESTIVAL, Mt. Olive. Union Miners Cemetery 12-1:30 p m and @ Mother Jones Museum on Main Street, 1:30-4pm. Food vendors, children's activities, traditional and new labor songs, magic show, reading of Mother Jones eulogy and special speakers, www.motherjonesmuseummtolive.org.

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, MAY 1-FRIDAY, MAY 5
The City of Litchfield is once again offering free brush pick up service. The service will begin in Ward 1 on May 1 and progress through subsequent wards accordingly. You're welcome to leave your brush on the boulevard after April 24, but before 7 a.m. on May 1. You can also drop off brush at the city burn area which is open 24/7. If you have other questions about what is allowed, please call 217-324-5253.

SATURDAY, MAY 6
CARLINVILLE MARKET DAYS, 8am-3pm the first Saturday every month, rain or shine, April thru November. Amazing product and food vendors and more. [Facebook.com/carlinvillemarket](https://www.facebook.com/carlinvillemarket)

days, www.carlinvillemarketdays.com.

THE FARM STAND VINTAGE AND GARDEN MARKET, 10am-2pm @The Rec Plex, 310 S. Main Street, New Douglas. \$1.00 admission. Inside and outside vendors, food trucks and live music. Follow A Farm Girls Vintage on FB for a complete vendor list and updates.

LIVE MUSIC: Mo' Pleasure, 6-9 pm @ DeCamp Station, 8767 State Route 4, Staunton, www.decampstationil.com

SATURDAY, MAY 6 - SUNDAY, MAY 7 SPRING OPEN HOUSE , 9-5 @ La Bella Fiori Greenhouse & Garden Center, 18581 White City Road, Staunton. Visit with Greg Spooner and his amazing Bonzai plants, www.LaBellaFiori.biz.

SUNDAY, MAY 7 FRUELINGSFEST ANTIQUE & GARDEN SHOW, in Maestown. Held the first every May this show has rapidly become one of the best and most anticipated shows in the Midwest. Antique and nursery vendors, food vendors, and more. Free admission, www.maestown.com.

SUNDAY FUNDAY, 2-6 pm featuring live entertainment the first Sunday monthly @ DeCamp Station, 8767 State Route 4, Staunton. www.decampstationil.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 13
REC Fest – the largest recreation and safety festival within the Riverbend! Kick off the summer season with your family at the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton from 10:00A to 4:00P for this FREE, adventure-themed event (rain-or-shine). Over 20 partnering organizations planning to provide fun, interactive activities you are sure to be exposed to something new – climb the rock wall with Upper Limits Rock Gym & Pro Shop, throw a spear (atlatl) with the Missouri Atlatl Association, see what it takes to hit a bullseye with the National Park Service, and so much more! Live animal shows presented by Bob Tarter of NHECM: Animalogy starting at 11:00A and again and 1:00P. In addition to all things recreation, 4th grade students can visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers station to receive a FREE Every Kid Outdoors Pass - an America the Beautiful pass option granting students and their families FREE admission to all National Parks and public lands! What better way to start the summer, www.mtrf.org.

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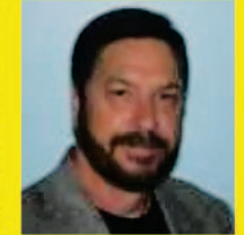
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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BE YOUR OWN BOSS! Local 35 year BBQ Sauce business for sale. Bottled and distributed in Illinois with established loyal customers including major grocery chains, plus great opportunity for expansion. Equipment and inventory included in sale. For more information call 217-652-2800.

IT'S A GREAT TIME TO OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS! Well established Carlinville restaurant for sale, due to recent death of the owner. Location, Location, Locations! Located at the junction of major highways - IL Route 4 and Historic Route 66. This business is ready to open with all appliances, dishware, and furniture included. Interior was recently remodeled. For more information about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, call Goodman Real Estate Agency, 217-854-2200.

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1 BR/ 1 BA with living room and kitchen. \$800/month includes water, heat, trash and wi-fi - you pay water bill. For information or showing call 618-654-4711. NO TEXTS PLEASE. Leave message if no answer and we WILL get back to you!

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ANTIQUE & VINTAGE

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BOOTH #51 at Pocahontas Antiques, 311 W. Johnson Street, Pocahontas. Seasonal Cemetery saddles, quilts, antique, vintage & more by retired florist. Exit 36 Pocahontas Illinois.

ANTIQUE PIE SAFE with punched tin sides, and **HOOSIER CABINET**, both in good condition. 2 **ANTIQUE CHILD ROCKERS**, one is pony style, both in excellent condition. Call for more information 618-335-5532.

SETH THOMAS FRENCH CLOCK - 2 clocks in 1 (calendar and regular) from 1885. In good condition but will need adjusting due to age. For wall or mantle. Asking \$200 - 618-346-4992

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FIREWOOD - 6' bed pick up load for \$100. Delivered from Jerseyville for a bit extra. Call LeRoy for details 618-972-4658 .

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All contents are included! Kitchen has been professionally cleaned and has a 6 burner stove with oven, grill, flat top, 2 deep fryers, exhaust hood, 3 double door refrigerators, 3 freezers, make table, ice maker, pots and pans, utensils, meat slicer, metal tables, shelving, 3 spindle milkshake machine. Dining Room includes tables and chairs with seating for sixty plus serving dishes - cups, plates, glasses, silverware, salt/pepper shakers, sugar shakers, menu covers, waitress tickets, cash register, pie case. Interior was just remodeled 2 years ago with new hot water heater and furnace/AC unit.

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ALN Alton Little Theater presents...

BEER FOR BREAKFAST

By Sean Grennan
Directed by Lee Cox and Gail Drillinger
Produced with Permission from Playscripts, Inc.

Evenings:
September 15, 16, 20, 21, 22 & 23

Matinees:
September 17 & 24

ALN Alton Little Theater presents...

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

By Robert L. Freedman
Music by Steven Lutvak
Directed by Brant McCance and Lee Cox
Produced with Permission from Music Theatre International

Evenings:
November 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 & 18

Matinees:
November 12 & 19

ALN Alton Little Theater presents...

THE FOUR POSTER

By Jan de Hartog
Directed by Kevin Frakes
Produced with Permission from Concord Theatricals

Evenings:
February 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 & 24

Matinees:
February 18 & 25, 2024

ALN Alton Little Theater presents...

ALABAMA Story

By Kenneth Jones
Directed by Lee Cox and Gail Drillinger
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Evenings:
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Matinees:
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ALN Alton Little Theater presents...

WAITRESS

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