

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## TODAY, May 8

•The 56th Annual Altruistic Coffee will be held from 7 to 10:30 a.m. at First Christian Church, 215 W. Elm St., Canton. Proceeds go to helping Fulton County residents with needs.

**ONLY** •University of Illinois Extension will host a program on "The American Red Cross" at 10 a.m. at the Fulton County Extension Office in Lewistown. The program is free of charge and open to the public.

•Courtyard Estates, 160 E. Walnut St., Canton, will host a complimentary Coffee Hour for the public at 10 a.m.

•The Better Breathers Club meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the Graham Wellness Center, 235 W. Walnut St., Canton. The program is free of charge and open to the public. For more information call 647-4087.

•Canton Township Board meets at 4:30 p.m. at township offices.

•Banner Village Board meets at 5 p.m. in the village hall, Banner.

•The annual Ice Cream Social at Lincoln Elementary School in Canton will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

•The Fulton County Board Property Committee will hold a special meeting at 5:30 p.m. in Room 100 at the Fulton County Courthouse in Lewistown to purchase/lease or rent equipment of tractor/in-loader/mower.

•Fulton County Board Finance/Insurance Committee will meet at 5:45 p.m. in room 201 of the Fulton County Courthouse in Lewistown.

•The Fulton County Arts Council will accept entries from 6 to 6:30 p.m. for its Fine Art Show at the Graham Hospital Atrium Gallery. The show will be on display until July 10.

•Fulton County Board will conduct its regular monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Fulton County Courthouse in Lewistown.

•Clerical Committees of Canton City Council will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Historic Depot, 50 N. Fourth Ave./Donald E. Edwards Way.

•Cuba City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. at the city building.

•Lewistown City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. at city hall.

•Buckheart Township Board will conduct its regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. at township offices in St. David.

## WEDNESDAY, May 9

•First Presbyterian Church of Canton will hold its annual Strawberry Festival from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

•Fulton County Housing Authority Board will meet at 1 p.m. at Maple Manor, 250 S. Main St., Canton.

•The Heart of Illinois Regional Port District Executive Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room at The Heartland Partnership, 100 SW Water St., Peoria.

•Fulton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will meet at 3:30 p.m. in room 307 of Fulton County Health Department, 700 E. Oak St., Canton.

•Spoon River Public Library District Board of Directors will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the public library, 201 S. Third St., Cuba.

•Canton School Board will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in the boardroom of the administration building, 20 W. Walnut St.

•Joshua Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. at the township office in Fiatt.

•Smithfield Village Board meets at 7 p.m. in the town hall.

•Fairview Zoning Board of Appeals will meet at 7 p.m. at the village hall, 325 Carter St.

•Astoria School District Board will meet at 7 p.m. at the high school.

•Farmington Area Public Library District Board of Trustees will meet at 7 p.m. at the library.

## THURSDAY, May 10

•Graham Hospital Service League will sponsor an SB Chocolate Fundraising event in the lobby conference room of the hospital from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and tomorrow.

•Canton Board of Fire and Police Commissioners meets at 3:30 p.m. in the Director's Room at the city building, 2 N. Main St.

•The Humane Society of Fulton County will host a Business After Hours from 5 to 7 p.m. at the animal shelter, 22988 IL Hwy 9, Canton.

•The Wee-Ma-Tuk Drainage District Board of Commissioners will meet at 6 p.m. at the Putman Township Office Building, 101 N. First St., Cuba.

•Dunfermline Village Board meets at 6 p.m. at the village hall.

•Cass Township Board meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Cass Township Hall in Smithfield.

•Fulton County Amateur Radio Club meets at 7 p.m. in the Canton Red Cross meeting room, 51 N. Second Ave.

•The Church of the Brethren, 269 E. Chestnut St., Canton, will host Alanon at 7 p.m. The program, for those affected by others who drink alcohol, is free and anonymous. Use the east-entrance door.

•The Surgical Weight Loss Support Group meets from 7 to 8 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 275 Linden St., Canton.

## FRIDAY, May 11

•Graham Hospital Service League will continue to sponsor an SB Chocolate Fundraising event in the lobby conference room of the hospital from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

•Pleasant Township Board meets at 7 p.m. at Ipava Village Hall.

## SATURDAY, May 12

•Kiwanis Club of Canton will conduct its 33rd annual Fishing Derby for area youths from 8 to 11 a.m. at McCamey Lake in Lakeland Park, Canton. The event is free of charge for children ages 13 and under accompanied by an adult. If the weather is questionable, a "go" or "no go" announcement will be made after 7 a.m. on WBYS-AM 1560.

•Canton Veterans Memorial Committee will hold an auction beginning at 9 a.m. at the Donaldson Community Center in Wallace Park, 250 S. Avenue D. All proceeds will go to the estimated \$15,500 cost of a monument featuring a bronze eagle on a pedestal at the Canton Veterans Memorial being built at Lakeland Park.

# CANTON THEATER

Continued from A-1  
Not as much in Chillicothe these days.

Former Chillicothe Mayor and current theater-backer Irv Latta explained how the local Optimists Club acquired their theater in late 2009.

The group loved spreading its share of the largesse from a Halloween fundraiser called Spider Hill to youth groups, but the project outgrew them. When they learned Vern Reynolds was selling his Chillicothe theater, the Optimists tried another route to the same goal. They raised \$50,000, got a \$50,000 grant from the city and borrowed \$160,000 to buy the theater as its new youth project.

With a lot of support from the community, the Optimists cleaned and refurbished the theater. Local businesses help underwrite the costs, including a free movie every week. Attendance is rising, to the point where first-run movies like "The Avengers" are available. And 31 youth groups get a share of the profits.

"That's the secret," Latta said. "They know we don't keep it."

In Canton, Spoon River Partnership for Economic Development has an option to purchase the two-screen Garden Theater, also owned by Vern Reynolds, until May 18. The preliminary budget includes an extensive remodeling — from roof to facade to sprinklers. Adding in new equipment and furnishings, the total cost is expected to be a bit less than \$1.4 million.

While building inspections must be completed and details checked, Canton's expenses already are

higher than Chillicothe's. That's partly because the Canton plan addresses a looming crisis for smalltown theaters — the industry-wide shift to digital films, which may make some facilities obsolete as early as next year. Just projection booth expenses are almost \$250,000.

"It's not a cheap answer, but you've not got a choice," Meade said.

So the theater deal is a combination of tax increment financing (TIF) and private funds. SRPED is seeking 501(c)3 status for a not-for-profit group to run the theater long-term. Meanwhile, the working board which has been exploring the idea has money in the bank.

"So far we have raised approximately \$200,000," said interim SRPED executive director Missy Towery. "That's all money we've raised privately. We haven't even begun our public fundraising."

If it passes, the theater stays open as-is for awhile, then starts renovations which may not be finished until next year. Arrangements are being worked out with Reynolds, according to Towery. She also heads the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, and cites multiple benefits to the theater deal, particularly since a survey of students and seniors shows heavy support.

"There are two big points for us," she said. "Number one, it's giving back to the youth organizations. That's the most important. Number two, it's also providing those benefits to our downtown restaurants, shops and other businesses."

Perhaps courtesy of Iron Man and Co.



## Bungalows complete at Youth Acres

At top, three of the six bungalows donated by Nancy Elson for Youth Acres are shown. The six bungalows are situated at a site which is named Nancy Elson Cove. The one in the foreground is handicap accessible. Above center and above are the two styles of bungalow interiors. Only electricity remains to be added to the bungalows.

## YOUTH ACRES

Continued from A-1

Canton Ingersoll Middle School Principal Wayne Krus calls the Outward Ingersoll event a great experience for both the students and the Teacher Advisory Period (TAP) teachers.

Krus says the three-day event is a culmination of activities with the middle school concept. Students get outside and learn about nature and have opportunities which are not possible in the classroom.

"Everyone has a good time and the students have the opportunity to excel outside the classroom," Krus emphasizes.

Krus says the move from the London Mills site will be a win-win for everyone because of the traveling time involved.

Krus also credits the hard work of the teachers and Youth Acres Board President John Green. "John has been phenomenal to work with and to help us get the program going and work with our teachers."

Green says that everything is in place to give the students a great experience.

Green may be contacted at 309-635-9829.

## A new transmission line to meet our need for reliable, cost-effective and safe energy

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) proposes to construct new 345 kilovolt transmission lines that will interconnect Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The project, known as the Illinois Rivers Project, is part of a portfolio of Multi-Value Projects (MVPs) that has been approved by the Midwest ISO, a regional transmission organization.

The MVPs will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, improve reliability, and provide economic and efficiency benefits. The Illinois Rivers Project is directly aligned with Ameren's strategic goals of providing our customers with reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy.

### We need your help.

ATXI invites you to attend an Open House.

Tuesday, May 22nd  
American Legion  
270 E Main St  
Ipava, Illinois

Stop by anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

At this Open House, we will explain why this new transmission line is needed and what it will look like. We will answer your questions.

By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 22nd, you will help us determine the best possible routes for this new transmission line.

For more information, please visit our Web site at [ilriverstransmission.com](http://ilriverstransmission.com) or call us at (800) 229-9280.



Visit [ActOnEnergy.com](http://ActOnEnergy.com) and learn how to use less to spend less!

CODE: IRT

# Click It or Ticket focusses on nighttime enforcement

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Police (ISP) today announced their plans to heighten enforcement efforts leading up and through the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Hundreds more safety belt enforcement zones and other patrols are planned over the historically and heavily-traveled holiday weekend. In addition, IDOT also launched a new Click It or Ticket public service announcement to further remind motorists the importance of buckling up.

"IDOT consistently and proactively wants all motorists to be well informed of safe driving practices, including always driving sober and buckling up every trip, every time, and in every seat," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. "Even with last year's front seat all-time safety belt usage record near 93 percent, our long-standing part-

nership with law enforcement further solidifies the crystal clear message to motorists to Click It or Ticket both day and night."

The increase in enforcement has one goal — to save lives during the Memorial Day weekend. Over the past three years, Illinois has seen record lows with regard to vehicle-related fatalities. Enforcement will place a special focus on nighttime activities. Data continues to show that nighttime, from midnight to 6 a.m., is a particularly dangerous time to be on Illinois roadways with more instances of alcohol-related crashes and safety belts less likely to be used. Law enforcement also will be paying particular attention to enforcing the new safety belt law that requires all occupants to buckle up, no matter their seating position.

"Illinois State Police are urging the motoring public to buckle up and drive responsibly when traveling during the busy

summer holiday season," said ISP Director Hiram Grau. "Every second counts when it comes to road safety and our officers will be enforcing all traffic laws and reminding motorists that seat-belts save lives."

The Illinois State Police, the Illinois Secretary of State Police, and more than 500 county and local law enforcement agencies will provide additional safety belt and impaired driving patrols during the two-week mobilization period, which began on May 11. In addition, nearly 1,200 safety belt enforcement zones and 1,000 safety belt and impaired driving saturation patrols are anticipated in this time period as well. Fifty percent or more of these patrols will occur during late-night hours (11 p.m.-6 a.m.). The mobilization also includes impaired driving enforcement, with more than 50 roadside safety checks.

Illinois has an excellent overall safety belt usage rate of 92.9 per-

cent, but reaching that last 7.1 percent is a difficult task. In an effort to capture the attention of the intended demographic, males 18-34, IDOT has partnered with marketing firm Arthur Agency to develop an innovative and unique commercial. This year's PSA features the positive effect of being buckled up and the negative effect of an unbuckled backseat occupant.

"Arthur Agency is happy to again partner with Flowers Communications Group to produce the 2012 Click It or Ticket campaign for the Illinois Department of Transportation," said Dennis Poshard, president of Arthur Agency. "We feel strongly that this year's spots are what's needed to reach our target audience of 18-34 year old males. We hope the message helps prevent traffic fatalities."

For more information about IDOT's Click It or Ticket campaign, go to [www.buckleupillinois.org](http://www.buckleupillinois.org)

# Tougher penalties for fraudulent disabled parking sent to governor

Legislation proposed by Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White to crack down on fraud and abuse of the state's disability parking programs was approved today by the Illinois State Senate. The legislation now moves to the governor's office for his approval.

House Bill 5056, sponsored by State Representative John D'Amico (D-Chicago) and Senator Martin Sandoval (D-Cicero), will toughen penalties for those who abuse parking privileges designed to assist persons with disabilities.

"The message we are sending is simple: if you don't belong there, don't park there," said White. "Stronger penalties will hopefully make people think twice before they deprive a person with a disability from using a disability parking spot."

White first initiated the legislation at a public hearing at the first meeting of his Advisory Committee on Traffic Safety — a committee to make Illinois roads safer, reduce traffic fatalities and to consider increased penalties for those who blatantly disregard traffic laws.

House Bill 5056 seeks to strengthen the penalty for using a placard and/or disability license plates in which the person is now deceased, which under current law falls under the category of general misuse of a placard or plate. The legislation creates a new offense for this egregious act, making it a Class A Misdemeanor, which carries a minimum one-year driver's license revocation and a \$2,500 fine. In addition, the license suspension periods for general misuse of a disability license plate or placard will be increased from 30 days to a six-month suspension for a first offense; from six months to a one-year suspension for a second offense, and from a one-year suspension to a minimum one-year revocation for a third offense. A license revocation requires the offender to meet with a Secretary of State Administrative Hearing officer at the end of their revocation period before driving privileges may be restored.

White is committed to conducting a top-to-bottom review of the state's Parking Program for Person's with Disabilities. He has formed a subcommittee to outline ways to eliminate fraud and abuse of this vital program. White tabbed former U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Sam Skinner to chair the subcommittee.

"The goal of the subcommittee is to eliminate fraud and misuse, and to ensure that disability parking spots are available for those truly in need," said White.

# Chicago mayor Emmanuel says NATO summit already paying off

CHICAGO (AP) — Two days before Chicago hosts a summit of NATO leaders, Mayor Rahm Emanuel said the wide-ranging security measures and months of preparations that went into the event are already starting to pay off.

Motioning to a conference table in his office, the mayor said the president of Latvia had recently joined him to discuss a possible deal in the transportation industry — an example, he explained, of the kind of partnership that might happen between Chicago and other countries whose leaders are spending the weekend here.

"Do I have a contract signed today? No. Did the conversation about a possibility of that happen? Yes," the former White House chief of staff said in an interview. "Many of those conversations happen around these conferences."

The mayor acknowledged the possibility that "some situations" surrounding the summit could be disruptive, apparently referring to potentially large protests. But, he added, "I wouldn't do this if I didn't think this was a great opportunity for the city."

The gathering involving 60 heads of state and another 2,500 journalists offers a rare opportunity to show off Chicago to the rest of the world. For Emanuel, the summit is also perhaps his biggest chance yet to display the connections to business and political leaders that helped convince voters to elect him last year.

At the same time, if the city experiences the kind of confrontations that erupted during similar events in other cities, most notably Seattle in 1999, it could be a setback for Chicago's long-running effort to distance itself from a gritty, some-

times brutal past.

Emanuel dismissed any concerns that police might act as they did at the 1968 Democratic National Convention, when officers clashed violently with demonstrators, or more recently in 2003, when large numbers of people protesting the Iraq War were arrested. The city later settled a related lawsuit for more than \$6 million.

Instead, the mayor pointed to the Occupy movement protests last fall and a May Day protest a few weeks ago — neither of which were marred by significant violence.

There have been two "moments in time in the national conversation where Chicago's police department and Chicago have stood out," he said. "And I think that deserves to be noted."

Emanuel has made it clear that he intends to keep the peace, sometimes in ways that raised concerns among members of the City Council. He pushed, for example, to dramatically increase fines for resisting arrest, explaining that the fines were long overdue to be raised.

He backed down after some aldermen worried that the fines might suggest Chicago was intent on curbing First Amendment expression.

If protesters "do it right, they'll get heard. If they do it wrong, nobody will hear it," Emanuel said. "We are going to do our job to allow them to express themselves but not lose control of the public safety."

In fact, many people are bracing for vandalism and violence. Businesses and residential towers downtown have hired security forces and stockpiled plywood that can be quickly fitted over bro-

ken windows. Many commuters are avoiding the Loop.

If all those foreign leaders and journalists return home with good reviews of Chicago, it could ultimately mean thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars to a city that the mayor acknowledges is still eclipsed by New York and Los Angeles.

"We're the third-largest city in America and yet we rank 10th in tourists," he said. "If we become ninth in tourism, that's 25,000 jobs and a billion dollars' worth of

economic activity."

While much of the summit's focus will be on what happens inside the McCormick Place convention center, the gathering is also part of a narrative of which Emanuel is the star.

"This is his chance to shine," said Dominic Pacyga, a Columbia College history professor and author of "Chicago: A Biography."

"This is his chance to say, 'Look, I'm the mayor of a major city. I'm the mayor of a city that's a major world player.'"

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THE MASON COUNTY

DEMOCRAT

Robert L. Martin, Jr. Publisher

State of Illinois, }  
County of Mason, } ss.

I, R.L. Martin, Jr., do hereby certify that I am the publisher of the Mason County Democrat, a weekly newspaper of general circulation in Mason County, Illinois, and printed, published and placed in general circulation in the City of Havana, Illinois; that The Mason County Democrat is a newspaper which meets the requirements of Section 10 of an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Illinois, entitled "An Act to Revise the Law in Relation to Notices", as amended by an act approved and in effect July 17, 1959, and that said newspaper has been regularly and continuously so printed, published and in general circulation, for more than one year prior to the date of the first publication of the notice hereto attached, and that the said notice, a true copy of which is hereto attached, has been published in said newspaper in

every copy or impression thereof, for 3 weeks successively, the date of the first newspaper edition containing the same being the 2 day of MAY 2012 Number 18 of Volume 163, and the date of the last newspaper edition containing the same being the 16 day of MAY, 2012 in Number 20 of Volume 163.

Dated at Havana, Illinois, this 13 day of July 2012.

R. L. Martin, Jr. Publisher.

Printer's Fee \$ 897.75

(When above amount is filled in this certificate of publication also constitutes a statement of account.)

# SHERIFF'S Report

**Accidents**  
**3:05 p.m.**  
 Rachel D. Fornoff, Kilbourne, was stounded on CR800N near Kilbourne and noticed the railroad crossing she was approaching was steep when she hit the front end of her vehicle on the far left of the crossing, causing her airbag deployment.  
**7:58 p.m.**  
 Marissa E. Jones, Powell, OH, reported she was west bound on US route 136 in Pennsylvania township when an animal ran out in front of her. She swerved to avoid hitting it and went off the road and into the ditch and into the edge of a nearby field.  
**9 a.m.**  
 Frederic W. Bergman, handlerville, hit a deer as he was driving on Route 97 near Havana.  
**Complaints**  
**7:44 a.m.**  
 Mason City, report a big black dog running around in the cemetery.  
**1:09 p.m.**  
 Topelka, domestic battery.  
**3:51 p.m.**  
 Manito, complaint about being talked.  
**5:19 p.m.**  
 Rural Havana, 911 misdial.  
**6:12 p.m.**  
 Rural Havana, complaint about a sale possibly intoxicated walking down the middle of the road with a beer in hand and won't move for traffic.  
**6:30 p.m.**  
 Rural Havana, complaint about loud music.  
**11:20 p.m.**  
 Rural Manito, report a male walking in the middle of the road towards Manito.  
**3:43 p.m.**  
 Rural Topelka, report theft of irrigation wire.  
**5:00 p.m.**  
 Route 10, check on welfare of child walking along the highway.  
**12:59 a.m.**  
 Havana, possible driving under the influence.  
**9:45 p.m.**  
 Rural Topelka, complaint about neighbor shooting a pellet gun at the dogs around the area.  
**10:47 p.m.**  
 Manito, caller found a little boy walking around crying.  
**11:48 a.m.**  
 Forest City, telephone harassment.  
**3:22 p.m.**  
 Mason City, domestic problem.  
**4:04 p.m.**  
 Mason City, domestic problem.  
**5:38 p.m.**  
 Green Valley, fight - transferred to Tazewell County.  
**7:37 p.m.**  
 Rural Havana, report a driver driving very recklessly.  
**2:49 p.m.**  
 Havana, check on welfare of person.  
**7:38 a.m.**

Manito, criminal damage to vehicle, tires slashed.  
**8:23 a.m.**  
 Manito, damage to mailbox.  
**8:37 a.m.**  
 Manito, criminal damage to vehicle, tires slashed.  
**8:40 a.m.**  
 Topelka, check on welfare of person.  
**4:17 p.m.**  
 Rural Topelka, neighbor trouble.  
**4:21 at 4:39 p.m.**  
 Havana, assist the city with a physical domestic.  
**9:34 p.m.**  
 Cell phone, 911 hang up.  
**10:13 p.m.**  
 Rural Havana, would like an officer to check property.  
**4:21 at 11:54 p.m.**  
 Rural Mason City, suspicious auto inside the fence at the county building.  
**12:50 a.m.**  
 Mason City, domestic dispute.  
**1:08 a.m.**  
 Rural Manito, female reports being beat up.  
**3:04 a.m.**  
 Mason City, report reckless driving.  
**3:51 a.m.**  
 Rural Havana, report someone outside the house.  
**9:27 p.m.**  
 Mason City, report female at the house causing trouble.  
**11:08 p.m.**  
 Rural Topelka, theft of irrigation wire.  
**3:32 a.m.**  
 Mason City, thinks someone was trying to get in the back of the house.  
**8:10 a.m.**  
 Havana, 911 hang up.  
**4/23 at 11:06 a.m.**  
 Mason City, report burglary - neighbor saw someone in a hoodie go into the house.  
**5:27 p.m.**  
 Rural Topelka, order of protection violation.  
**6:22 p.m.**  
 Mason City, report reckless driving.  
**7:45 p.m.**  
 Rural Havana, neighbor's dogs are loose again and trying to get to his dog.  
**Arrests**  
**10:21 p.m.**  
 James B. Fuller, Jr., 24, Kilbourne, was arrested by Mason County authorities for driving on a suspended or revoked drivers license.  
**9:32 a.m.**  
 John R. Gilmore, 31, Kilbourne, surrendered to Mason County authorities to serve a sentence for contempt of court.  
**4:44 p.m.**  
 Tracey C. White, 47, Topelka, was arrested by med for driving on a suspended or revoked drivers license.  
**10:29 a.m.**  
 Deborah J. Pratt, 52, Kilbourne, surrendered to Mason County authorities to serve a sentence for two counts of domestic battery and violation of probation.

**4-20 at 5:16 pm**  
 Terry A. Vanmeter, 34, Mason City, was arrested by Mason City Police on charges of criminal trespass to property and resisting arrest.  
**4-20 at 11:45 pm**  
 John Roberts Watson, 29, Havana, was arrested by Havana Police for DUI.  
**4-22 at 6:22 am**  
 Chris Eugene List, 38, Mason City, was arrested by Mason City Police on charges of domestic battery and resisting arrest.  
**4-23 at 3:50 pm**  
 Helena M. Crandall, 49, Bath, was arrested by Bath Police on an in-state warrant.  
**4-23 at 10:31 pm**  
 Tisha M. Baughman, 27, Fort Madison IA, was arrested by Forest City Police for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration.  
**4-24 at 12:15 am**  
 Jonathan E. Rakestraw, 28, Manito, was arrested by Forest City Police on an in-state warrant.  
**Tickets**  
**4-17**  
 Shane Davis, Polano, Ohio, 71/55  
 Sunni Monday, East Peoria, 95/55  
 Mona Agans, Jacksonville, 73/55  
 James Fuller, Jerseyville, 73/55,  
 DWLS  
**4-18**  
 Tracey C. White, Havana, DWLS  
**4-19**  
 Mary Davis, Springfield, 71/55  
 Mitchell Wernsing, Virden, 76/55  
 Meagan Thompson, Manito, 72/55  
 Meagan Butts, Yorkville, 71/55  
**4-20**  
 Yano Gipson, Holyoke, CO, 75/55  
 Paul Williams, Havana, 70/55  
**4-21**  
 Crystal Madrigal, Decatur, 75/55  
 Arielle Gonzalez - Guerra, Wheaton, 72/55  
 Randy Ralston, Normal, 71/55  
 Tina Tjarks, Strawn, 74/55  
 Erik Whitenhall, Bolingbrook, 70/55  
 Terry Holmes, Virginia, 76/55  
 Barbara Graham, West Dundee, 78/55  
**4-22**  
 Daniel Gaier, Piqua, OH, 70/55  
 Diana Welch, Macomb, 70/55  
 Shane Adkins, Springfield, 70/55  
 Karen Schainker, Petersburg, 72/55  
 Jason Schick, Wheeling, 83/55  
 John Copenhauer, Bloomington, 72/55  
 Jo anne Fisher, Lafayette, IN, 72/55  
 Lester Kobylarczyk, Bourbonnais, 70/55  
 Tony Clifton, Manito, leaving scene of accident.  
*Anyone arrested is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.*



## HHS to present "The Spitfire Grill" this Saturday and Sunday

**A Spitfire Grill meal will be offered one hour before each performance**

The Havana High School Spring Musical is The Spitfire Grill. Performances take place on May 5 at 7 p.m. and May 6 at 2 p.m. The story portrays a feisty parolee following her dreams, based on a page from an old travel book, to a small town in Wisconsin. She finds a place for herself working at Hannah's Spitfire Grill. It is for sale but there are no takers for the only

eatery in the depressed town, so the Grill is raffled off. The hopeful contestants must submit an essay on why they want to win the grill. Soon mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full and things definitely start cookin' at the Spitfire Grill. The show features students Kayleigh Cogar, Hadley Karrick, Timberlee Pratt, Bre Lesemann, Cameron Lippert, Dalton Lowe, Hayden Karrick, and Kate Taylor. Band members include Lil Wurth, AJ Faith, Tyler Ferree, Brian Lesemann, and Dennis Skaggs. Beth Lesemann provided costumes and the set was built by Mr. Phil Foster and the shop class. Carol L. Rainer directs the production.

The production is not intended for young children. The price for show is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and \$6 for K to 8th grade children. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door or from a production member prior to the show. The grill will be open one hour prior to the start of the play each day serving pork chop sandwiches, hot dogs, homemade pie and cookies. Meals including chips and a drink will be available for \$3 to \$6. Support arts at Havana High School by attending this production. Sponsored by Wolters Drug Store.

## Stamp

From Page 1

70.4 million pounds of food was collected across the country, resulting in more than 1 billion pounds of food collected since the drive began 20 years ago. Closer to home, letter carriers at the Havana Post Office are getting ready for this year's event and hoping to exceed last year's total of 2300 pounds of food collected. "With the commitment of our employees and the support of community, we're excited to participate in this year's food drive," said Havana Postmaster, Shelley Zellers. "We're asking everyone throughout the community to help us make this the most successful food drive in its 20 year history. Leaving a donation is as simple as leaving a bag of non-perishable food by your mailbox." To participate in the 20th Stamp Out Hunger food drive, people are encouraged to leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable foods, such as canned

soup, canned vegetables, pasta, rice or cereal next to their mailbox prior to the time of regular mail delivery on Saturday, May 12. Havana letter carriers will collect these food donations as they deliver the mail and take them to the local food bank. "Many families are struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table during these challenging economic times," said Zellers. "Food banks, pantries and shelters need our help as more families count on them for support." Partners of this year's drive are the Campbell Soup Company, Feeding America, United Way, AFL-CIO, Valpak, AARP, Uncle Bob's Self Storage, and the National Rural Letter Carriers' Association. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

## Pierre Menard DAR to hold annual meeting

**District Director will be guest speaker**

The Pierre Menard DAR will hold its Annual Meeting Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 10. The meeting will be held at the Country Hills Golf Course near Greenview. Guest speaker will be Anna Marie Koontz, District V Director. Mrs. Mary Kerr will serve as hostess and will give the devotions. Mrs. Bernice Jensen will give the National Defense Message. The roll call will be answered by naming a famous boat. Please make reservations by May 5 by calling Mary Kerr at 217-634-4546 or by mail to Mary Kerr, 13346 Kirby St., Tallula IL 62688-9544

## Little Stars Pre-K screenings will be May 10

Little Stars Pre-K at New Central School will be holding a free preschool screening on Thursday, May 10 at the First Baptist Church from 3:30-6:30 p.m. These screenings are held to inform you of your child's progress and determine if they are eligible for services offered through New Central School. This screening is available for children between the ages of 3 and 5 years old. To make an appointment to have your child screened, please call the Special Education office at (309) 543-6637.

## Mason County Republicans offer scholarships

The Mason County Republican Central Committee (MCRCC) is pleased to announce that it is again offering a college scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the three school districts in Mason County. Applications for the \$500 scholarships will be accepted now through May 20 with the awards being announced on or about July 1. "We are pleased to be able to give our Mason County students a helping hand in furthering their education," stated Tim Sickmeyer, MCRCC Chairman. Sickmeyer said that the scholarships are open to any high school senior from one of the three districts in Mason County who is attending college in the fall. "This is not about politics," said Sickmeyer, "this is about helping our young people further their education and help cut the costs." Students must have a grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and complete an application which is available through their school or by contacting Tim Sickmeyer at (309) 538-4550 or they can email him at tim.masongop@gmail.com.

# A new transmission line to meet our need for reliable, cost-effective and safe energy

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The MVPs will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, improve reliability, and provide economic and efficiency benefits. The Illinois Rivers Project is directly aligned with Ameren's strategic goals of providing our customers with reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy.

**We need your help.**

ATXI invites you to attend an Open House.

Wednesday, May 23rd  
 Community Building  
 205 East First  
 Bath, Illinois

Stop by anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

At this Open House, we will explain why this new transmission line is needed and what it will look like. We will answer your questions. By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 23rd, you will help us determine the best possible routes for this new transmission line. For more information, please visit our Web site at [riverstransmission.com](http://riverstransmission.com) or call us at (800) 229-9280.



Visit [ActOnEnergy.com](http://ActOnEnergy.com) and learn how to use less to spend less!

CODE: IRT

5-2-12 M

# THE COLLEGE Report

Fulton County Dan Chamness

**Justin List**, an Illini Central and the rest of the Webster baseball team completed the first part of the season and the St. Louis Intercollegiate Conference Overall Title. It is nice, but it won't get you every athlete wants to be: national. The Webster baseball team will have a chance to their ticket to the nationals, just to win the SLIAC tournament. Winning any conference is a tall order, only three SLIAC teams own a trophy over Webster. Greenville led the Gorlocks twice. They lost to MacMurray College Eureka College. But, they defeated 20 teams in the C. Webster had a walk in Webster's regular season game, an 8-1 to Greenville. Thus far, List, a .304 batting average. In 56 to the plate, he has 17 hits (homer). He has scored 22 runs, driven home eight runs stolen four bases. Webster is 28-14 overall. They start the SLIAC Tournament playing Westminster College in Highland on May 10 at 2 p.m. **Jonathan Davis** (Lewistown) **Chase Coffey** (Farmington) had an opportunity to compete at the Drake University. Davis finished 20th in the 100-meter run, crossing the finish line in 30 minutes, 54.69 seconds. His time was the sixth best in Bradley University. Coffey joined with three other Illinois Braves to finish the 6,400-meter relay in 17:27.21. The time, which featured each athlete running 1,600-meters, was the fifth best in Bradley history. They lost track athletes long to compete at their division of the national championships, weathered in the NCAA, National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics or the National Junior College Athletic Association. Augustana College's **Josiah Martin** (Canton) earned his fifth title of the year as Augustana defeated Millikin University 5-2. Martin, who worked the final 2.0 innings, allowed no earned runs hits. He fanned a pair. Martin

also worked two innings against University of Dubuque. In the 10-9 loss to Dubuque, Martin allowed one hit. He fanned a pair and walked one batter. Augustana is 25-15 overall and 11-10 in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin. **Brad Wrage** (Farmington) took fourth in the 3,000-meter run at the University of Memphis Invitational, which was held at the Murphy Sports Complex in Memphis. The Southern Illinois University-Carbondale senior finished the race in 8:47.42. Team scores were not kept. **Carthage College** took third in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin Championships, which was held in Bloomington and hosted by Illinois Wesleyan University. **Kendra Koeppen** (Illini Central), a Carthage junior thrower, scored points in two events. The pride of Mason City was third in the hammer throw with a toss of 147 feet, 3 inches. She was also seventh in the discus (118-10) and 10th in the shot put (34-2). As a team, Carthage was third with 113 points. Illinois Wesleyan took first with 204 points. **Nate Blessman** (Canton) and **Jason Pinkerton** (Canton), both University of Illinois-Springfield baseball players, competed against Rockhurst University. Blessman had a pair of multiple hit games, but neither effort led to a victory. He was 2-for-4 in UIS 5-3 loss to Rockhurst. In the 13-4 loss to Rockhurst, Blessman is 2-for-5. Pinkerton did not have any hits, but walked three times, once in each game. Rockhurst also defeated UIS 11-0. The Illinois-Springfield Prairie Stars are 9-37 overall and 3-29 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. **Monmouth College's Megan**

**Butler** (North Fulton) earned mound time in all two of Monmouth's games at the Midwest Conference Tournament. Monmouth lost to St. Norbert College (8-0) and Carroll University (7-6). Sandwiched between the pair of losses was an 8-4 win over Lake Forest College. The senior righty worked 1 2/3 innings in the loss to SNC. She allowed two hits and walked one batter. In the loss to Carroll, she worked 1/3 of an inning. She did not suffer the loss in either case. Fellow Monmouth player **Kelsey Barnes** (Canton) was 2-for-3 and scored a run in the triumph over LFC. Mommouth finishes their season with an 18-18 overall record. They were 6-2 in the Midwest Conference. **Blake McConkey** (Spoon River Valley) was 1-for-2 with a walk as his college team, Eureka College, lost a 16-5 decision to University of Chicago. Eureka is 10-27 overall and 8-15 in the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. **Illinois College's Jaci Forsythe** (Midwest Central) and **Mollie Hoerr** (Canton) both had hits in IC's final game of the year, a 15-9 loss to Lake Forest College. Forsythe was 1-for-1, while Hoerr was 1-for-4. Hoerr also had a hit in the first game of the double header, a 2-1 loss to Lake Forest College. IC was held to six hits. The Illinois College women's softball team was 9-22 overall and 5-3 in the Midwest Conference. **Illinois College's Dakota Vaughn** (VIT) and Knox College's **Gabe Ayers** (Farmington) had an opportunity to compete against each other last week. Ayers, a Knox pitcher, worked 6 2/3 innings allowing five hits. He fanned one batter. Ayers did not earn the victory in the Knox 4-3 win. Vaughn scored one of the runs for IC. Illinois College is 20-12 overall and 5-7 in the Midwest Conference. Knox is 14-17 overall and 7-5 in the MWC.

- Sponsored by:
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  - Knollenberg Real Estate and Auction Service - (217) 482-5351
  - Havana National Bank - (309) 543-3361
  - Walters Drug Store - (800) 627-7548

## Spoon River Valley Chapter farm safety just for kids June 15

The Spoon River Valley Chapter of Farm Safety For Just Kids will hold its annual Farm Safety Day Camp Friday, June 15, at the Mason County Fairgrounds in Havana, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is jointly sponsored by University of Illinois Extension in Fulton and Mason Counties, Fulton County and Mason County Farm Bureaus, Sunrise Ag, and Cargill. There is no charge to attend, but pre-registration is required, by June 1. All kids need to know about farm safety. Topics covered will include Chemical Look-a-likes,

Livestock Safety, Machinery Safety, Fire Safety, Stranger Danger, Firearm Safety, Bug Safety, and Food Safety. There will be a presentation by Bobber the Water Safety Dog, from the Army Corps of Engineers, as the finale. Farm Safety Day Camp is for kids ages six and up. Parents are also encouraged to attend. Lunch is provided. For a copy of the registration form, call the Mason County Extension Office at 309-543-3308 or the Fulton County Extension Office at 309-547-3711. It is also posted on the Extension website, [fulton.extension.uiuc.edu](http://fulton.extension.uiuc.edu) (Click on Fulton County 4-H). Registrations are due by June 1st, and can be mailed or brought to the Mason County Extension Office, 133 South High, Havana IL 62644, or the Fulton County Extension Office, 15411 N IL 100 Hwy, Lewistown IL 61542. You may not register by phone; however, you may fax to 309-543-6239. A parent signature is required on all registrations. Youth who are pre-registered by June 1st will receive a free life jacket at the conclusion of the event. For more information on Farm Safety Day Camp, call 309-543-3308 or 309-547-3711.

If you are a person who needs a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact the University of Illinois Extension Office in Mason County at 309-543-3308. Most of the funds for this free educational program are raised at an Annual Golf Tournament, to be held this year July 20 at Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club. For more information on the tournament, call committee members Donna Miller at 309-338-4789 or Alison Ruth at 217-430-4952.

## White commends Zuckerberg and Facebook for commitment to organ/tissue donation

I want to commend Mark Zuckerberg and Facebook for their commitment to raising awareness for organ and tissue donation by encouraging Facebook users to join the organ and tissue donor registry in their states. As Secretary of State, I oversee one of the largest organ and tissue donor registries in the nation. I am proud of the fact that over five million people have registered to become organ and tissue donors in Illinois, representing more than 50 percent of those eligible to join the registry. Nevertheless, more than 300 people die each year waiting for an organ transplant, and over 5,000 people are on waiting lists in Illinois. My goal as Secretary of State is for there to be an adequate supply of organs and tissue for those in need. Until this happens, I will continue working every day to promote the life saving importance of the organ and tissue donor program. Illinoisans can register by vis-

iting [www.LifeGoesOn.com](http://www.LifeGoesOn.com), calling the Illinois Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Program at 1-800-210-2106, or while obtaining or renewing an Illinois driver's license or state identification card at any state driver's license facility. David and Stacey Dierker and Russell and Joyce Thomas visited Puerto Vallarta Mexico in March and took along their Mason County Democrat.



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Stop by anytime between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

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By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 23rd, you will help us determine the best possible routes for this new transmission line.

For more information, please visit our Web site at [riverstransmission.com](http://riverstransmission.com) or call us at (800) 229-9280.



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5-9-12 M



**Photo by WENDY MARTIN**  
The Havana High School Band, Jazz Band, and Chorus gave their final concert of the year Thursday, May 10, and music awards were announced. The Woody Herman Jazz Award went to Kayleigh Lane and the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award went to Tyler Ferree. Arti Parikh received the Band Director's Award and Blake Brown received the National School Choral Award. The Arion Award went to Rebeka Barker. Not pictured is Devin Smith who received the Drum Major Award. See more band and chorus photos online at [www.masoncountyanet.com](http://www.masoncountyanet.com)

## Eagle Trot and Tot Trot return for a second flight

The Havana Park District Nature Center will be hosting their 2nd Annual Eagle Trot 5 K race, and Tot Trot run on Saturday, June 2 at Riverfront Park.

Eagle Trot runners will take off at 8 am. The course begins and ends at the Nature Center. The entry fee is \$25 before May 25, and \$30 afterward for this Park District fund raiser. Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Male and Female in the following age groups: 19 and under; 20-34; 35-49; 50 and up.

All children in the Tot Trot will receive a medal.

Make all checks payable to: Havana Park District, 200 S. McKinley, Havana IL 62644.

The event will take place, rain or shine.

## Audit

From Page 1

was that the software used to calculate property tax for the county was written in-house by Robb Roper, Data Processing Manager. McPhearson was surprised at how good it was, but concerned that if Roper were unavailable to update it or trouble shoot it, that the county would be in a fix.

He reported that they did extensive testing on the program regarding levies and rates, and they recomputed tax bills and

rechecked distributions from the county to other agencies and the figures were all what they were expected to be.

Gray Hunter and Stenn did find some glitches in the way payroll exemptions were being calculated but made sure those were corrected, the County Board learned.

Overall, Mason County received a good, unqualified opinion.

## Remodeling at Courthouse will rearrange offices

By WENDY MARTIN  
[mcdemo@havanaprint.com](mailto:mcdemo@havanaprint.com)

The office of Mason County Treasurer Candy Tomlin will be moved across and down the hall to the current County Board meeting room, and a new larger, more secure courtroom will take its place, members of the Mason County Board learned at their May meeting.

The change will also require Mason County Clerk Bill Blessman to relocate his personal office. Tomlin's office will require the room he currently occupies, but a new space will be created for him at the other end of the County Clerk's area.

The change is being made because the current County Board meeting room also doubles as a courtroom, and Tomlin's space will accommodate the needs better.

"There will be a place for a Judge's Chambers off of Candy's office and it will provide more decorum and security," said Blessman.

In other business board members learned that the safety project on the Chautauqua curve is

progressing and should be done in a little more than two weeks. County Highway Engineer Mike Pedigo also reported that moving on county highways should begin soon, weather permitting.

Pedigo also said the annual maintenance letter on county and township roads was held April 27 and they will be seal coating 16 miles for around \$221,000. Seal coat prices are up 15% over last year, he said.

Blessman also reported that he has been representing the county in discussions with the Tri-County Planning Commission about a proposed economic development. The Finance Committee will meet with them to discuss details.

"We have to have a keen eye and discern if it will be beneficial or just produce another book that lays on the shelf and collects dust," Blessman said.

The County also approved a liquor license for the Central Illinois Dragway outside Havana.

## Bath

From Page 1

improve reliability.

—Provide economic and efficiency benefits.

—Provide local area reliability benefits and voltage support.

The Illinois Rivers Project is directly aligned with the Ameren strategic goals of providing customers with safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy.

At the open house, various experts will explain in detail why the project is necessary and discuss proposed routes. Furthermore, all those who

attend will be encouraged to provide their input.

Additional information about the project is available by at the project website ([riverstransmission.com](http://riverstransmission.com)), where interested persons can sign up for email project updates.

With assets of approximately \$24 billion, Ameren companies serve approximately 2.4 million electric customers and almost one million natural gas customers in a 64,000-square-mile area of Missouri and Illinois.

## Electricity

From Page 1

their community's letter head asking if they want to "opt out" of getting their electricity from Homefield Energy. If they do nothing, then their electricity rates will go down to the bid rate.

According to the guidelines of municipal aggregation, eligible customers are automatically enrolled in the program unless the customer affirmatively "opts-out" of the program. Homefield Energy will notify customers of their right to opt-out with a mailed notice prior to the start of the service period.

Homefield Energy is the resi-

dential electric supply option from Ameren Energy Marketing, a retail electric supplier that operates wholly independently from Ameren Illinois Company. Ameren Energy Marketing is a subsidiary of Ameren Corporation.

In the region there were 12 communities that did not approve the tri-aggregation referendum. They were Bath, Belleville, Bloomington, Collinsville, Danvers, El Paso, Granite City, Millington, Normal, Sheridan, St. Clair County, and Wenona.



The Havana PTO was thrilled to learn this year that the Havana County Market was the company's Grand Prize winner for the Max Dollars for Education program, winning the group \$5,000. Principal Chris Dunker was pleased to receive the check from store director Daren Silva. PTO chair Shannon Olson said every year shoppers get an opportunity to sign up for Max Dollars for Education and support from the community usually results in an award of around \$1,000. She said they had spent most of their funds this year on books requested by teachers, and the big award will help them with their plan to replace the 20-some year old lunch trays at New Central.

## Garden Walk June 10

Five gardens will be featured

The Havana Area Chamber of Commerce will host a Garden Walk on Sunday, June 10 from 1 to 4 pm. Tickets may be purchased at the Havana Nature Center the day of the walk, which will be held, rain or shine.

The tickets, \$12 each, will include a tour of five local gardens and refreshments



## 10th Annual Lawnmower Benefit Run will be July 28

Cody Sutheard is 2012 recipient

The 10th annual Tommy Hackman Lawnmower Benefit Run will be held on Saturday, July 28 to raise money to benefit 16-year old Cody Sutheard, son of Diane Farrow, who has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The Lawnmower Poker Run is organized by Tommy's Mason

County Angels.

Sign up will be at 10 am at Riverfront Park and will take off at 11 am. Hayracks will be available for anyone who does not have a lawnmower.

Participants must be at least 21 years of age. There will be food, game and raffles. Poker hands will be \$10 per hand and high-low hands will split 50% of the proceeds.

For more information call Tommy at 309 213-0484 or Linda at 309 543-1133 or 309 310-0903.

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CODE: IRT

The 2nd Annual Havana Mom Prom was once again a HUGE success! The Event was held Saturday, April 28 at the Town House in Havana with over 200 ladies enjoying an evening filled with food, music, raffles, auctions, prizes and fun. Without the many generous donations of friends, family and businesses (both near and far) our event would not have been possible. Special thanks to The Town House, Eric Murphy DJ Services for spinning the hits all evening and Elizabeth Albers Photography for the memorable Prom photo booth. There were over 160 Raffle items and more than 60 Silent Auction donations from Havana, Kilbourne, Petersburg, Lewistown, Mason City, Oakford, Springfield, Chicago, Arenzville, Bath, Chandlerville, Virginia, Pekin & Springfield and since we do not want to omit any names of businesses or individuals... "THANK YOU" to each and every person or business that opened your hearts to help Miss Maggie Stephens. We want every one of you to know that our Event would not have been possible without your kindness and generosity! Also thanks to everyone that attended that evening and helped make it such a huge success.

You are ALL "heroes" in the life of the child we pick each year!

Congratulations to Miss Stephanie Dorethy who was crowned 2012 Queen; Heidi Fleer was awarded Tackiest Dressed (after a tense dance off with Shellie Brooks) and Abby Kent and Ashley Kirk, who traveled 219 miles from Benton, IL to join the celebration. Noelle Wright won the 50/50 and donated a portion of her winnings back to Maggie.

Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts... can't wait to do again in 2013!

5-16-12 M

FORM 803 CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

Byers Printing Company, Springfield, Illinois.

# Publisher's Certificate

I, Jody Woltman, publisher of the  
Beardstown Newspapers, Inc

do hereby certify  
that I am the publisher of Cass County Star-Gazette

a weekly secular newspaper of general circulation regularly  
published in the City of Beardstown in the County of  
Cass and State of Illinois; and I hereby further  
certify that the notice, a copy of which is attached hereto, in the matter of  
Ameren Meetings

Attach Copy of Notice herein referred to

was published once each week for 3x successive weeks in said  
newspaper, the first insertion being on the 26th day of April, 2012, and the last  
insertion being on the 10th day of October, 2012, and I further certify that the said  
Cass County Star-Gazette was regularly published continuously for more  
than one year in the City of Beardstown in said County, next preceding the first publication of  
said notice, and that I am duly authorized to make proof of matters published in the said  
Cass County Star-Gazette

Given under my hand and seal at Beardstown, Illinois,  
this 11th day of May, 2012

Jody Woltman  
cc:mj

**March Chamber of Commerce  
Co-Business of the Month**



Submitted photo

Congratulations to BEARDSTOWN SAVINGS on being chosen for March Co-Business of the month! Pictured - Front Row: Chelsea Walker, Dawn Seward and Emily Leonhard. Back Row: Travis Schroll, Debbie Worthington, Kandi Owens, Marissa Dutton, Dawn DeSollar and Dale Krohe. Not Pictured: Addie Moranville, Sheri Seward and Kayla Peterson.

# BHS Prom 2012

The Beardstown junior class would like to announce this year's high school prom from them of CandyLand which will take place Saturday, April 28. The theme is based on the popular board game that we all played as young children. Prom attendants are Jennifer Janssen, Nina Arnold, Brittany Troxell, Nolan Arnold, Ben Wedeking, Sergio Perez, Abby Newman, Kennedy Dotzert, Matthew Baker, and Bryce Gibson. Last year's King Dillon Paul and Queen Hannah Young will crown the 2012 BHS King and Queen who will be announced at walk in.

This year's prom waiters and waitresses are: Shania Bacon, Teresa Baralaga, Ross Blakeman, Shelby Carey, Jackelin Chavez, Bailey Cooper, Shelton Cottle, Beyda Diaz, Kaila Kirchner, Summer Lindsey, Whitney Long, Jake Lux, Chad McCombs, Daisy Mendoza, Mariah Miller, Austin Pilger, Jacob Rhoades, Alex Schultz, Paul Schultz, Clayton Schwalb, Stephanie Serrano, Chase Sommers, Loraina Trujillo, Gus Vermillion, and Ariel Wingate. They will perform their dance at walk in.

As in years past, the

school will be open from 1- 2:30 p.m. on Saturday for public viewing of decorations and table settings in the commons. Please enter through the gym doors. Walk in will begin at 6 p.m. in the high school gym and the gym doors will open at 5 p.m. The junior class will provide a concession stand with cotton candy, assorted candy, and water bottles. They will be collecting food items at the entrance to be donated to the local food pantry. Please help support this community service project.

## A-C board reverses class schedule change

By Michael Kloppenburg  
Star-Gazette reporter

A February decision by the A-C Central school board to change the way classes are scheduled was reversed at the April 18 meeting of the school board. In February, the school board voted to pursue forming a traditional schedule where all classes are held every other day. For the last 19 years, A-C has operated on a two-day schedule where each day has four periods and most classes are held on one of those two days in a student's schedule. Each class has a period on one of those two days, called "A" and "B" days, and referred to as an 8-block or block schedule.

The school board moved to pursue the traditional schedule in response to students having problems filling their schedules. According to board members and others, students had periods that they could not find a class and were teacher's assistants or office assistants during those periods, or were taking a second physical education class.

At the March board meeting, A-C Central teachers protested the changes and said it would lead to problems including a need to modify graduation requirements, the number of periods between classes, and the problems associated with getting students from one class to another including tardiness, would increase. The teachers also thought there would be an increase in the amount of late work because class time and other periods where students work on assignments would be cut. The protests caught the members of the board by surprise, and the board decided to re-examine the issue for the April board meeting.

Teachers continued to point out potential problems changing the class scheduling may cause. Junior High teacher Carrie Jo Donnan said teachers with classes in Ashland and Chandlerville, would have to spend time driving the 18 miles between the two schools, and mileage reimbursements would become an expense.

"They will spend time on the road, I assume, on a traditional schedule," said Donnan, "That's something we don't have to do now."

Middle/High school Principal Dan Williams said that the block schedule has been a success.

"My preference has always been the block schedule," said Williams, "I have a real hard time arguing against the success we've experienced."

Board member Jennifer Allen also pointed out the current schedule's success and expressed concern that shorter class periods would likely reduce classroom practice on homework.

"We are being successful," said Allen, "My concern is kids that are going to go home without help, what are they going to bring back? Are they going to understand [the homework]? Is someone at home going to understand it?"

Asked by board member Jeremy Garner how the schedule change would affect his classes, high school science teacher Jeff Pfaffe said he would lose guided practice time that would allow him to help his students with a few homework problems to help them understand them.

"My lesson plans would have to change. I would present a lesson and the bell would ring and I'd be saying 'This is your assignment' at they go out

the door," said Pfaffe.

He also said he could not schedule labs in the same period where he teaches a classroom concept. He would have to spend time on the lab during reviewing the concept or refresh his student's memory before he could start the lab. He concluded saying on the block schedule, "This is broken."

The members of the board continued throughout the month to say that they had been under the impression that the schedule change was needed to fill student schedules with worthwhile classes. Even as they moved away from the schedule change they expressed for a solution to the problem of filling schedules without student being teacher's assistant office assistants, or taking two P.E. classes.

"I want [students] some type of instruction said Garner.

"The understanding was we had to make it easy for kids to schedule classes," said board member Scott Boston, "If that not the case, then there no advantage in my mind to going away from the block."

Boston also asked Williams if changing schedules would increase the number of classes Williams said there would be no difference.

Members of the board said last month they had come out of February meeting with the impression that changing schedules was the way to handle the scheduling problem.

Williams said that the scheduling problem was not a rampant one.

"It's not like 50 or students have two P.E. classes," said Williams "Maybe half a dozen."

As to other possible

Continued Page

## Fire report Beardstown High School

Beardstown Firemen were called Tuesday April 17 to the Beardstown High School complex where paint thinner used in the ag workshop set off the alarm system. There was no fire.

## Eye center employee arrested

A Beardstown woman, Ebangelina Ayala Morales was arrested by the Cass County Sheriff's Department Friday on charges of theft over \$300 from her Beardstown employer. According to Cass County Sheriff Bob Fair, Ayala Morales was employed by Prairie Eye Center in Beardstown when the charges arose. She posted \$3,000 cash bond for a later court appearance.

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## A new transmission line to meet our need for reliable, cost-effective and safe energy

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois (ATXI) proposes to construct new 345 kilovolt transmission lines that will interconnect Missouri, Illinois and Indiana. The project, known as the Illinois Rivers Project, is part of a portfolio of Multi-Value Projects (MVPs) that has been approved by the Midwest ISO, a regional transmission organization.

The MVPs will facilitate the delivery of renewable energy, improve reliability, and provide economic and efficiency benefits. The Illinois Rivers Project is directly aligned with Ameren's strategic goals of providing our customers with reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy.

### We need your help.

ATXI invites you to attend an Open House.

Thursday, May 17th  
Elks Club  
205 East Second Street  
Beardstown, Illinois

Stop by anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

At this Open House, we will explain why this new transmission line is needed and what it will look like. We will answer your questions.

By sharing your thoughts and concerns with us on May 17th, you will help us determine the best possible routes for this new transmission line.

For more information, please visit our Web site at [ilriverstransmission.com](http://ilriverstransmission.com) or call us at (800) 229-9280.



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<b>Aunt Jemima Buttermilk Waffles</b> 12.3 oz. <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>Prairie Farms Sherbet</b> half gallon <b>\$3.39</b>
<b>Butternut Honey Wheat Bread</b> 16 oz. <b>\$1.89</b>	<b>Lawry's Marinades</b> 12 oz. <b>\$1.99</b>
<b>Betty Crocker Suddenly Salad</b> 7.75 oz. <b>\$2.19</b>	<b>Idahoan Flavored Potatoes</b> 4 oz. <b>4/\$5</b>