

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

Community News Brief

309-421-0761 | communitybrief@gmail.com

FREE

Briefly covering news in Adair, Bushnell, Colchester, Industry, Macomb & South Fulton

Build A Board Game Workshop Offered at WI Museum

Join us for a step-by-step workshop to turn your creative ideas into a board game. This eight-session workshop starts Sunday, January 29th, and meets twice a month. The workshop is recommended for ages 9 and up, and both individuals or teams of 2 to 3 people are welcome to participate. To cover the cost of materials the suggested donation is \$10 for an individual or \$15 for teams. Space is limited and advanced registration is recommended. Visit the Muse-



Build a Board Game
January 29th through May 7th

um's website at www.wimuseum.org or call 309.837.2750 to sign up.

In this workshop, board game designer Rok Locksley will walk you through the steps

necessary to create your own game, learning about traditional game mechanics and innovative spins. Each session will cover topics ranging from the history and cultural impact of board games to learning what makes a game enjoyable. The workshop is great for families who want to engage in an activity together, friends who want to create an interesting two-player game, or solo folks who want to build their own game.

See Museum on page 4

One Book One Community Festival 2023

The Shared Community Action Group, working with the City of Macomb, the Macomb Public Library, the YMCA, Edison School, the Macomb Park District, the Housing Authority of McDonough County, the Western Illinois Museum, Western Illinois University, and the University of Illinois Extension, is inviting the community to participate in the series of events

See Festival on page 6

Books Inspired by Friendship

YOUNG CHILDREN

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS +

TEENS & ADULTS



The Color of Friendship
by Adrienne Graham



I Will Always Write Back
by Cathin Alifrenta & Martin Ganda



Brian's Song
a screenplay by William Blinn

Navigator Withdraws ICC Application

Navigator Heartland Greenway LLC, the company that is proposing a CO2 pipeline through McDonough and surrounding counties, filed a motion with the ICC to withdraw their application on Friday, noting they plan to refile in February and expand the project.

However, their withdrawal comes amidst a tidal wave of opposition, and because they have been unable to secure a sequestration site for the project.

Read more in Friday's edition of the Community News Brief.



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POLICE REPORTS

McDonough County Sheriff

1/12

Clifford Fred Holden, 40, Macomb, was arrested on a foreign warrant

Korey Andrew Cheatham, 23, Chicago, was arrested on a McDonough County warrant

1/13

Michael Antonio Garza, 31, Macomb, was arrested on a McDonough County body attachment warrant

McKenzie Thunder Doyle, 21, Macomb, was charged with retail theft/disp merch less than \$300

Christine Elizabeth West, 49, Havana, was charged with retail theft under \$300

Justin William Hoyt, 41, Macomb, was charged with domestic battery, resisting a peace officer

1/14

Robert Walter Rempert, 69, Colchester, was charged with DUI/alcohol

Carrie Ann Van Fleet, 41, Macomb, was charged with DUI/alcohol

William Wayne Cramer, 43, Macomb, was

charged with criminal trespass to residence 1/15

Andrew Blake Swan, 31, Ipava, was arrested on a foreign body attachment warrant, DUI/alcohol

Cyrus Kenneth Henderson, 42, Macomb, was charged with battery

Paige Marie Johnson, 28, Macomb, was arrested on a foreign body attachment warrant

WIU Office of Public Safety

On Jan. 20, at 3:18 p.m., a student reported a plastic mirror cover on her vehicle was damaged while parked in the Thompson Hall parking lot. Damage was estimated at \$200.

On Jan. 22, at 1:43 a.m., a student reported to the Office of Public Safety (OPS) she was sexually assaulted by a male known to her. The assault occurred in the late hours of Saturday, Jan. 21 in a residence hall.

On Jan. 22, at 12:47 p.m., OPS and the Macomb Fire Department responded to a fire

alarm at Westbrook House, at 800 Westbrook Circle. A cell phone charger had caught fire, but was put out with an extinguisher. No damage estimate was available.



MTC Issues Alert

McDonough Telephone has received several calls from customers asking about a spam email they've received to their mtcnow.net email, which is a phishing attempt.

The email comes from "MTC POSTMASTER," which is NOT their email address. It's also signed "MTC Webmail Management Team," which the company would NEVER use to sign emails.

The company would NEVER ask you to authenticate your information by clicking a link.

In response MTC has increased their spam filtering security measures to try to protect their email customers, but there are hackers and scammers who can still occasionally slide through the filters. As a reminder, please be vigilant whenever you open an email from an unknown sender, and don't click on links in emails unless you're sure of the sender. If you ever have questions about an email authenticity, please call MTC office to verify the email.

TODAY'S JOKES

Q: What do you call an old snowman?
A: Water.

Q: How does a snowman get to work?
A: By icicle.

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Macomb Fire Department Weekly report
01/14/2023 TO 01/20/2023
HAZARDOUS CONDITION: 1
SERVICE CALLS: 4
GOOD INTENT: 2
FALSE CALLS: 5
EMS: 41
FIRES: 2

Happy Birthday GRACE BAKER
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Macomb Awards Basic Needs Grants to Twelve Local Programs

The City of Macomb announces it is awarding \$4,200.00 each to 12 applicants for the Basic Needs Non-Profit Grant Program. The Basic Needs Non-Profit Grant Program supports local non-profits providing food, shelter, and clothing to those in need in the City of Macomb to support their ongoing efforts. This program was allocated \$50,000 by City Council from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

1. CASA of West Central Illinois
2. Genesis Garden
3. Giving Gardens of First Presbyterian Church of Macomb
4. McDonough County Habitat for Humanity
5. The Samaritan Well, Inc.
6. St. George's Clothes Closet
7. United Way ROE Homelessness



8. Western Illinois Regional Council
9. Loaves & Fishes
10. Salvation Army
11. Good Food Collaborative
12. First Christian Church

Supporters Donate Over \$42,000 - Helps Over 525 Children thru Project Santa

Thanks to generous donations and support from the public, over 525 children received gifts, food and clothing during the holiday season through Western Illinois Regional Council's (WIRC) Project Santa program. WIRC officials say the program's success was due to toy and coat drives, fundraisers, monetary donations, donations of blankets and winter wear, sponsors, and people donating their time to shop for and sort gifts.

"We are blown away by the amazing generosity from the community," said WIRC Project Santa Coordinator Jamie Roth. "There are so many hardworking parents in our area that are struggling financially, and we are grateful that community members are willing to help them with seeing the joy on their children's faces when they open gifts. On behalf of WIRC, thank you to everyone who helped these families through the agency."

WIRC's Project Santa program has been helping income-eligible parents in Hancock,

See Project Santa on page 5



Photo by Jamie Roth, WIRC

Each year, volunteer "elves" organize thousands of gifts and clothing items purchased for children enrolled in WIRC's Project Santa program.

Obituaries Sponsored by **CT Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home and Monuments** Macomb | Blandinsville **ctfh@macomb.com 309-833-2188**

Death Notice

Edward E. Wilson

87, of Bushnell

Edward E. Wilson, 87, of Bushnell, passed at 11:54 am on Jan. 22, 2023 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. He was born March 24, 1935 in Mt. Sterling, to Hershel and Frances (Brown) Wilson. He married Betty Lou Faler-Stewart on June 20, 1954 in Bushnell; she survives.

Funeral services will be held at 2PM Saturday Jan. 28, 2023 at the Experience Assembly of God in Bushnell, where visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Pastor David Hughes will officiate. Burial will be in the Bushnell Township Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Experience Assembly of God Church.

Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.martinhollisfh.com

Death notices (name, death date and services) run free of charge. Families who wish to have a complete obit published, including picture, family, work history and hobbies and other information should request the Community News Brief to the funeral home that is handling the services OR submit it directly to communitybrief@gmail.com. Cost is \$45 and includes a laminated copy of the obituary.

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To create a partnership through life's journey between community, staff, residents, and families. Together we strive to maintain dignity, comfort, and trust.



Community Calendar

Blandinsville

EVERY SATURDAY

Story Hour and Crafts

Saturdays at The Blandinsville-Hire Library at 10 AM. Snacks will be available. Check out the many new kids and young adult books. Spend some time at the library and take a book home to read!

Bushnell

EVERY MONDAY

Coffee Club

Every Monday Morning is coffee club from 9-10am at Courtyard Estates of Bushnell

SATURDAY, FEB. 4TH

VFW Breakfast

Serving biscuits and gravy, sausage, eggs, hash browns, pancakes and french toast from 7-10 a.m at the Post 1422 Hall located at 181 E. Hall in Bushnell. On-site, takeout, and curb service available. For takeout and curb service please call 309-333-9919.

FEB. 5, 12, 19 & 26

Celebration of Historic Quilts

held at the Bushnell Historical Society Heritage Room from 1-4pm. If you have a quilt that shows Bushnell/McDonough County history, genealogy or other connections to West-Central Illinois and would be willing to show it off, contact Jerry Eisele at 309-331-0164 or email jeromeeisele@gmail.com, Elaine McGinnis (leave message) 309-772-2347, Judy Brooks (leave message) 309-772-2352 or Judy Ashton 309-299-5020.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25TH

70s Music Trivia for B-PC Baseball

at 7pm at the Bushnell VFW. Put on your bell-bottoms and platform shoes and help support B-PC Baseball with a night of Name that Tune Music

Trivia. \$10/person, teams up to 10 ppl, Must be over 21 years of age.

Macomb

SATURDAY, JAN. 28

Macomb FFA Alumni Trivia Night

at the VFW, Macomb at 6:30pm. Cash bar, tea, lemonade & snacks provided. Register your team by emailing: thorman.ryan@yahoo.com

MAC Battle of the Brushes

held at the Macomb Arts Center, doors open at 6:30pm and the first round starts at 7pm. Food, cash bar, raffles, silent and live auction, music and fun!! Cost is \$25 for advance tickets and \$30 at the door. No one under 20 will be admitted unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. For more information email info@macombartscenter.org.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

"Birds, Brunch, and Beverages"

the Prairie Land Conservancy is hosting a bus tour of the MS River from 8am-5pm to see birds, eat brunch and have some beverages at local establishments. \$65 (includes brunch). Deadline to register is Jan. 25, 2023. For more information call or email: 309-833-4747, pc@prairiehillsrcd.org

Friends of the Library Annex Book Sale

will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Library Annex, 109 E. Jefferson St. This sale features

Mysteries, Fiction, Science Fiction, Classics and Media. All proceeds are invest in the public library.

St. Paul Music Trivia Night

at 7pm in the school gym. This event is open to the public. Registration link coming soon. Follow St. Paul School on Facebook for updates.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

"Casino Night" Fundraiser"

fundraiser for the new Animal Shelter Building at the Macomb Dining Company from 7-11pm. \$50 per person, registration opens Feb. 1 at HSMCIL.ORG

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

BBBS Music Trivia Night

Featuring Dan's DJ and Karaoke at the VFW for Big Brother Big Sisters. Doors open at 6pm. Cost is \$20 per person or \$150 per team of 8. Ticket purchase includes free drink ticket, light snacks and beverages. Call 309-837-5437, email sbaca@bbs-mv.org or pickup your ticket at the VFW Post 1921.

Submit your calendar item or photo to communitybrief@gmail.com

Museum

Continued from page 1

There will be an opportunity to playtest your homemade board games in April and a final celebratory reveal that coincides with Lizzie Maggie's birthday on May 7th.

The workshops will be held twice a month on Sundays from 1:30-3:00 pm at the Western Illinois Museum. Following are the dates and topics for each session.

Future Workshop Dates:

Feb 12th - Good Game

Feb 26th - Game Changer

March 12th - Game Time

March 26th - Balance

April 3rd - Game Demos

April 23rd - Final Match

May 7th - Celebration

Space is limited; register for the workshop online or contact the Museum at 309.837.2750 or info@wimuseum.org.

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Project Santa

Continued from page 3

Henderson, McDonough, and Warren counties in Illinois since 1983. Monetary donations made directly to Project Santa added up to over \$42,000, which was sorely needed to help children in the program. In 2022, the agency spent around \$100 on toys and clothing for each child. Through a grant provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the agency was also able to provide some food to each family. Thanks to coat drives and monetary donations, many children were also able to receive a coat and/or winter wear items like scarves and hats.

Project Santa is a non-religious social service program; people of all faiths are welcome to apply. Project Santa gives the gifts to the parents unwrapped, so the parents can have a direct, hands-on experience in giving gifts to their children based on their own family

traditions.

In 2022, WIRC officials say 445 children from 175 households were fully enrolled in the Project Santa program. An additional 81 children from 27 households were assisted in a limited capacity through toy, food and clothing donations.

Project Santa is a massive undertaking both by WIRC team members and volunteers, as it helps hundreds of children across a four-county area each year. Five full days are dedicated only to shopping, and it takes the efforts of many volunteers over several weeks to sort all of the gifts that are purchased. Enrollment for the program typically starts in late-September, and the gifts are distributed to the families in mid-December.

WIRC helps people and communities in western Illinois. To learn more about their services and programs, call their office at 309-837-2997, find them on social media, or visit their website at wirpc.org. WIRC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

DOES RACE STILL MATTER?
why black and white Americans have difficulty talking about race

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Spring 2023 Semester
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2nd 8-week classes begin March 20.

Summer 2023 Semester
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4- and 8-week summer classes begin June 5.

Fall 2023 Semester
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Festival

Continued from page 1

to celebrate reading and cross-community collaborations through the One Book One Community Festival.

The books chosen for the festival revolve around the theme of friendship and include Adrienne Graham's *The Color of Friendship*, a picture book for children; Caitin Alifrenka and Martin Ganda's *I Will Always Write Back*, an account of the authors' friendship that may have special interest for middle schoolers but is a great read for teens and adults as well; and William Blinn's *Brian's Song*, the story of Chicago Bears running backs Gale Sayers and Brian Piccolo's friendship.

As central to the festival as these books are, their shared theme of friendship is being supported by discussions and activities that broaden the connections among readers and deepen the meaning of friendship.

Bill Maakestad, well known area musician, will open the festival on Friday, Jan. 27, at the Wine Sellers in Macomb when he dedicates

his regular Final Friday concert to songs about friendship. He will be joined by friends in an exploration of the many facets of friendship. All proceeds from his performance will go to support the One Book One Community Festival. His concert is scheduled from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, at 11:00 a.m. the Macomb Public Library will show the movie, *Brian's Song*, a story so powerful it prompted the publication of the screenplay and continues to move viewers as they watch two Chicago Bears' football stars cope with crises and become close friends.

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 1:00 p.m., Ronald Pettigrew, Director of WIU's Veterans Resource Center, will lead a discussion of *Brian's Song* in Room 180 in Western's Malpass Library. The story of how Sayers and Piccolo met, defied racial stereotypes, and became pillars of strength for each other clearly shows the meaning of friendship.

On Friday, Feb. 17, at 5:00 pm the Western Illinois Museum invites guests to celebrate

friendship with engaging activities such as friendship bingo, writing gratitude postcards, and discussion. The highlight of the program will be a concert featuring tenor Alfonso Cooper, Jr. that begins at 5:30 pm. Dr. Cooper will be joined by several of his students and accompanist Curtis Baum. Together, through song, they will examine the critical importance of human connection. A cash bar and refreshments will be available.

Author Adrienne Graham, an elementary teacher at Lincoln School, will read her *The Color of Friendship* on both Saturday, February 18 and February 25. From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on February 18, she will be joined by children's librarian Tiffany Erickson at the Macomb Public Library. The reading on February 25 will take place in the Community Room at PrairieView Apartments from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. On both dates, the children attending the readings will have a chance to put their own spin on *The Color of Friendship* through coloring activities.

These events are free and open to the public, but in addition to these celebrations of friendship and community, several schools, churches, and other organizations will be participating in the festival through book discussions and activities related to the books' themes. For further information contact Virginia Diehl (virgin-iadiehl@gmail.com), Lisa Torrance (lfulkers@illinois.edu), or Janice Welsch (jrwelsch@gmail.com).

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Tri-State Sports Report BITES

Vol. 1, Edition 7

Wednesday, January 25, 2023



Photo by Andrea Ratermann

Clayton Hunt (14) moves toward the basket against Macomb's Ian Case early this month. The Cyclones dropped a contest Saturday to Havana.

Suns one short against Chargers

AUGUSTA, Ill. (Jan. 17, 2023) - After a dominating win one week earlier, the Southeastern Suns hosted the Illini West Chargers for the second time in 8 days, Tuesday, Jan. 17.

The outcome, this time was much different, as the Chargers had Colby Robertson, who proved to be a difference maker in a 42-41 win.

Danny Stephens led all scorers with 24 points.

Southeastern had a good look at a final shot, needing a three, but Griffin Tippey couldn't get the shot to fall. Carter Hitz was able to get the tip at the buzzer to make the final score

Reece Shoup led the Chargers with a team high 19 points in the victory.

Ducks fly past Cyclones

SCIOTA, Ill. (Jan. 22, 2023) - Though the West Prairie Cyclones boys basketball team has showed marked improvement, the sledding is still rough for the one-win squad.

Saturday, the North Fulton Wildcats helped to continue the rough ride, with a 54-27 win, in Sciota.

Jace Weaver proved to be the thorn in the side of the Cyclones, with 25 points in the game, and didn't play much in the fourth quarter.

Free-throw shooting was not a strong suit for either team, but could have kept the Cyclones in the game.

In the second quarter, alone, West Prairie was just 3-of-8, and finished the game 7-of-15.

Adam Vail was the lone bright spot for West Prairie, from the free-throw line finishing 3-of-4.

The Wildcats were only marginally better, as a team. North Fulton finished 11-of-22 from the line.

Weaver was 7-of-11 from the charity stripe.

Denver Mitchell, who fouled out in the fourth quarter, led West Prairie as the only player in double figures with 10 points.



Photo by Andrea Ratermann

Southeastern's Owen Rigg guards A-Town's Kellen Hook during the Macomb-Western Holiday Tournament. Rigg and the Suns have some tough games down the stretch this season.

HELP WANTED



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ATTENTION Students and Adults

TSSR Game Time Live is looking for on-air talent, as well as camera operators for its broadcast team. If you are interested in giving broadcasting a try, or want to gain a little experience while making a little money - give us a call!

309-331-3804 - hulettpublpro@gmail.com

Tornadoes down Spartans

ABINGDON, Ill. (Jan. 14, 2023) - The A-Town Tornadoes are a vastly improved varsity basketball team at this point in the season, in comparison to where they were at the start of the season.

Saturday, the Bushnell-Prairie City Spartans learned firsthand just how improved they are in a 58-41 Prairieland Conference loss at Abingdon-Avon High School.

The Tornadoes controlled the game from the jump, using outstanding shooting to open a 16-9 lead at the end of the first quarter, which set the tone for the entire game for A-Town. In fact, they finished the quarter 4-of-4 from the free throw line, and made a pair of threes to help reach their quarter total.

B-PC on the other hand struggled taking care of the basketball in quarter number one, which in turn set the tone for the Spartans for the remainder of the game, as well. Mixed with poor shooting, overall, and B-PC had the start of a long evening.

In the second quarter, however, the Spartans finally did come to life, all-be-it late in the half, behind the scoring of Dalton Strode and Ezra Mason. After trailing by 9 in the second quarter, a late charge made the game 24-22 at the

half with A-Town holding on to just a one possession lead.

Mason hit a three to start the second half, and the Spartans had the lead for the first time in the game at 25-24.

The two teams swapped baskets in the next three pos-

sessions, when the Tornadoes took the lead 29-27 on a three-pointer by CJ Pugh.

The complete B-PC vs. A-Town story was published in the Friday, Jan. 20th edition of the Community News Brief.

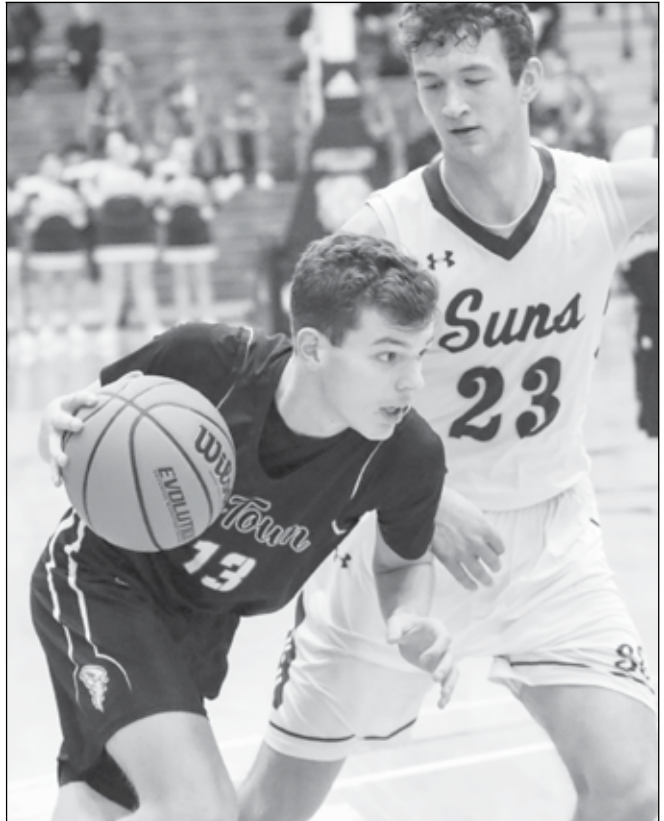
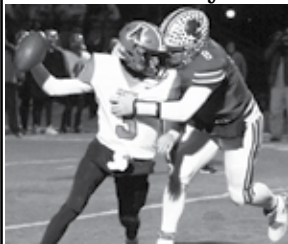


Photo by Andrea Ratermann

A-Town's Drew Foutch drives to the basket against Southeastern's Danny Stephens at the Macomb-Western Holiday Tournament.

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Photo by Andrea Ratermann

The Bombers wrestling squads will have their final regular season home match of the season, Thursday, against Porta. You will be able to watch that match on TSSR Game Time Live. The final home action will come, Saturday, February 3, when the Bombers host the IHSAA Class 2A Regionals.

Bombers defeat Tremont on criteria, 43-42

Quesenberry pin key to Bombers dual meet win

MACOMB, Ill. (Jan. 12, 2023) – Wrestling is known as an individual sport, but the team aspect is a part that is often under-appreciated those outside the wrestling world.

Last Thursday’s dual meet between the Macomb High Bombers and Tremont was proof positive that the individual battles with the meet are just a bricks that build a solid foundation of the team mentality in wrestling.

Still, individuals battle for their team, and no match was bigger this night than Talan Quesenberry’s win at 182 lbs, for the Bombers. The pin at 1:18 of the first period proved to be the deciding match to force the tie, and eventual win for the Bombers.

“I just want to point out real quick, that at 182 lbs, Talan Quesenberry coming out there stepping up huge, getting a pin fall and winning this dual,” Bombers coach Tony Weston said.

Tremont began moving wrestlers and inserting wrestlers to avoid the forfeits, and coach Weston found himself standing at the scorer’s

table, waiting to see what Tremont was going to do before checking in his wrestlers.

“It’s gamesmanship,” Weston said. “We’ve done it.

“...they went with option c,” he added. “It’s part of wrestling a dual meet.

“(Tremont) inserted people to keep from having forfeits.”

Elliot Parkins wrestled well in the dual to help secure the win for the Bombers, also, but it was the win by Quesenberry that stuck out at the end of the night.

“This guy is a linebacker for the JV football team, had a great season,” Weston said. “Decided, ‘you know what I want to be a better football player I’m going to come out and try this wrestling thing.’

“And, he ends up securing the win to get us over Tremont tonight,” he added.

Read more in the Friday, Jan. 20th edition of the Community News Brief!

GAME TIME LIVE BROADCAST SCHEDULE

Thursday

January 26,
Wrestling
Macomb vs Porta

Friday

January 27,
Basketball
Southeastern vs Payson-Seymour
B-PC vs Brimfield (Boys & Girls Varsity)

Monday

January 30,
Girls Basketball
B-PC vs Lewistown
Boys Basketball
West Hancock vs Macomb (at Warsaw)

Tuesday

January 31
Boys Basketball
Macomb vs North Fulton
Southeastern vs Brown County
West Hancock vs Fort Madison
Girls Basketball
B-PC vs West Central

Wednesday

February 1
Girls Basketball
A-Town vs West Central

Thursday

February 2
Girls Basketball
A-Town vs South Fulton
B-PC vs Peoria Heights
Macomb vs United
CSE vs West Prairie AT Southeastern

Friday

February 3
Boys Basketball
Macomb vs South Fulton

Monday


February 6
Boys Basketball
Southeastern vs QND

Tuesday

February 7
Boys Basketball
B-PC vs Elmwood
Girls Basketball
CSE vs West Hancock at Southeastern
West Prairie vs South Fulton

Wednesday

February 8
Girls Basketball
A-Town vs Stark County




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SRC Offers Cannabis Horticulture Class

Macomb – The Spoon River College Office of Community Outreach is offering a class called Cannabis Horticulture this Spring. This affordable 12-week program prepares students for a career in the quickly growing Cannabis Industry. Classes begin on Tuesday, February 7th.

Cannabis Horticulture will cover the basic botany of the cannabis plant, soil science, fertigation, integrated pest management and cannabinoid testing. Students will receive training online but will also receive hands on experience through lab exercises.

This class is being presented by Thomas Vogel, SRC biology faculty member whose area of expertise is plant anatomy and physiology, propagation, genetics and evolution, Cannabis sativa and science education.

Lecture will be held online and will meet from 5-7pm on Tuesdays, February 7-May 2, 2023. Computer access with internet capability is required.

Lab will meet from 3-7pm every other Thursday from February 23-April 20, 2023. Locations for lab may include Natures Grace & Wellness near Vermont, Stoney Branch Ag Ventures near Rushville, or Spoon River College Outreach Center in Macomb. Students must be able to provide their own transportation to labs.

This class is part of a newer certificate program being offered by the Spoon River College Community Outreach Department. An additional Cannabis Industry class called Cannabis Harvesting & Production will be held in the Fall. Cannabis Industry workshops are sponsored by Nature's Grace and Wellness, LLC. This sponsorship allows the college to offer the classes at a reduced cost to participants.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call Spoon River College at 309-833-6031 or register online at <https://src.augusoft.net>.



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STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* During World War II, the Lay-Z-Boy company had to stop producing recliners because of the war effort. Instead, they used their production facility to mass produce (we hope much more comfortable) seats for tanks and other military vehicles.

* Champagne was originally a holy wine.

* The only people guaranteed to get Super Bowl rings, regardless of a game's outcome, are the referees, though their rings aren't nearly as large or valuable as that of the players.

* In the 1880s, a railroad signalman named James Edwin Wide taught a South African baboon to perform his job by recognizing the

whistles that indicated a train was about to change tracks. Dubbed "Signalman Jack," the animal performed his duties so well that not only was he formally hired at a salary of 20 cents per day and half a bottle of beer per week, he carried on for nine years until his death from tuberculosis in 1890.

* Trees were not around for 90% of Earth's history.

* Queen lead singer Freddie Mercury's overbite resulted from four extra teeth in his upper jaw. He refused to have them removed, however, for fear the surgery would affect his voice and vocal range.

* In the 2015 film "Jurassic World," Chris Pratt's character carries a stainless Marlin 1895 -- the only firearm on Marlin's website that's

rated for a T-Rex.

* Two churches in Vrontados, Greece, have a particularly unconventional way of marking the Easter holiday: They fire rockets at each other! While they used to use cannons, those were outlawed. The tradition has been carried out for at least four centuries.

Thought for the Day: "The heart of man is very much like the sea, it has its storms, it has its tides and in its depths it has its pearls too."
--Vincent Van Gogh

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For additional details visit www.mcdonoughpower.com/home/careers. Resumes will be accepted until January 27, 2023.

MCDONOUGH COUNTY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CDL AND NON-CDL BUS OPERATOR POSITIONS

The City of Macomb, Illinois is currently seeking applications to fill permanent part-time CDL and Non-CDL Bus Operator positions in the Public Transportation Department. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or equivalent and have a valid driver's license.

The CDL Bus Operator is responsible for providing public transportation to the general public and disabled individuals certified under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) utilizing fixed routes within the City of Macomb. A Class B CDL license with passenger endorsement is required within 180 days of employment. The salary range for the CDL Bus Operator position is \$16.95/hr. to \$22.60/hr. A DOT pre-employment physical, drug screen and background investigation will be required prior to employment.

The non-CDL Bus Operator is responsible for transporting the general public and disabled individuals certified under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) safely to their destinations in and out of McDonough County utilizing door-to-door, paratransit, and micro transit transportation modes. The salary range for the Non-CDL Bus Operator position is \$14.12/hr. to \$18.83/hr. A pre-employment physical, drug screen and background investigation will be required prior to employment.

McDonough County residency requires. Benefits includes pro-rated vacation/personal/holiday pay and IMRF retirement benefits.

General employment applications are available at the Mayor's Office in Macomb City Hall; 232 E. Jackson Street, Macomb, IL or on-line at: <https://cityofmacomb.com/employment-listings/>

Completed applications for this position must be returned to the Mayor's Office in City Hall no later than **5:00 p.m. Monday, January 30, 2023.**

The City of Macomb is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CITY OF MACOMB PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT WATER PLANT DIVISION

The City of Macomb, Illinois is currently seeking applications to fill a position at the Water Treatment Plant. The position to be filled will be one of the following and will depend on applicant skills, license and certifications: Maintenance Worker, Operator I or Operator II.

This position assists in completing services related to water production. The successful applicant shall have the ability to operate the water treatment plant and perform technical tasks; operate small equipment and hand tools; operate heavy equipment, as qualified; and perform manual labor to complete assigned tasks. Following directions and performing recordkeeping are essential. Working safely and independently in an environment that is sometimes undesirable is required. The person hired for this job will work nights and weekends and will report to the Water Treatment Manager.

A Class B CDL license is required within 180 days of employment. Residency within McDonough County will be required along with a pre-employment physical, drug screen and background investigation. High school diploma or GED required. The wage for this position will depend on the position that is filled. City of Macomb full-time benefits include: group health and life insurance; paid vacation, sick leave, and personal leave; deferred compensation plan option; cafeteria plan option; and IMRF retirement benefits.

General employment applications are available at the Mayor's Office, Macomb City Hall; 232 E. Jackson Street, Macomb, IL or on-line at: <https://cityofmacomb.com/employment-listings/>. Completed applications for this position must be returned to the Mayor's Office in City Hall no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2023.

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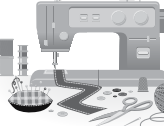
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