

FREE Midweek Brief

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 | communitybrief@gmail.com | 309-421-0761 | Briefly Covering Your Local News

First Responder's Day Hosts over 600 Children



Last Friday the McDonough Quality of Life Youth Task Force hosted First Responder's Day for area children grades 2nd-4th at Chandler Park in Macomb. The Macomb Police, K-9 Unit, Macomb Fire Dept., OPS and WIU EMS, McDonough Sheriff Dept., LifeGuard, Emmet Chalmers and others were on hand to interact with the children in a friendly and inviting environment.

2024 Illinois State Fair Breaks Attendance Records for 4th Time Under Pritzker Administration

Growth attributed to new attractions, cooler temperatures & overall improvements

SPRINGFIELD, IL - Today, Governor JB Pritzker announced record-breaking attendance totals for the 2024 Illinois State Fair. More than 773,000 people attended the 11-day event, the highest number on record since industry standards were enacted.

"Each year, the hardworking team at the Illinois Department of Agriculture manages to improve the Illinois State Fair with innovative new offerings, bigger and more diverse entertainment options, and an unwavering commitment to spotlighting Illinois agriculture," said Governor JB Pritzker. "Grandstand artists like the Jonas Brothers, Keith Urban and Miranda Lambert drew big crowds. We were especially excited to have Lil Wayne break the Grandstand attendance record by selling more than 15,000 tickets."

The 2024 state fair attendance figure exceeded 2023 by nearly 66,000.

New this year on Governor's Day at the Illinois State Fair was a naturalization ceremony where Governor Pritzker welcomed nearly 200 new citizens to the United States from 49 countries around the world. The ceremony finalized the process to integrate into American society and accept the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

In addition to a robust Grandstand lineup, events such as horse and auto races, truck and tractor pulls, a circus, rodeo and demolition

See State Fair on page 7

Billy's Labor Day SALE

SOFAS, LOVESEATS, SECTIONALS, RECLINERS, OTTOMANS, END TABLES, COFFEE TABLES, DINING TABLES, MATTRESSES & MORE!

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POLICE REPORTS

McDonough County Sheriff

9/7

Miguel Angel Gonzalez, 25, Bardolph, was charged with violation sex offender registration

William Jay Whitlock, 24, Macomb, was charged with battery

9/8

Donny Taft Lewis Freeman, 40, West Burlington, IA, was arrested on a foreign body attachment warrant, driving on a suspended/revoked drivers license

Willie Outlaw, 47, Davenport, IA, was charged with domestic battery

9/9

Van Eldon Chaney, 33, Colchester, was arrested on a McDonough County warrant

Chelsea Kay Forrester, 30, Pekin, was arrested on a foreign warrant

Edward Shaw Davis, 29, Macomb, was charged with a violation to an order of protection

Brooklyn Alize Rice, 20, South Holland, was arrested on a McDonough County body attachment warrant

All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

TODAY'S JOKES

Q: What was the ghost's occupation?

A: A spook keeper!

Q: Who won the skeleton costume contest?

A: No body!

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Community News Brief

The Community News Brief is a product of Community News & Market.

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Death Notices

Gary D. Applegate

72, of Macomb

Gary D. Applegate, 72, of Macomb passed away at 9 p.m. Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at Wesley Village Healthcare Center in Macomb.

Funeral services were held Saturday, September 14, 2024 at Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home in Macomb with Pastor A. Lee Unger officiating. Burial in Bardolph Cemetery in Bardolph. Full military rites conducted by the Macomb American Legion and Macomb VFW.

Memorials may be made to Wesley Village or the HSMC New Animal Shelter. You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at clugston-tibbitts.com.

Leann Baum

65, of Pekin (formerly of Ipava)

Leann Baum, 65, of Pekin Illinois, formerly of Ipava for most of her life, went home to hug Jesus Saturday, September 7th.

Services were held on Monday, September 16th at Shawgo Memorial Home in Astoria, Illinois. Pastor Drew Klinedinst officiated.

Memorials in Leann's memory may be given to the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition, Illinois Chapter. You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at shawgomemorialhome.com.

Flora M. Weaver

104, of Bushnell

Flora M. Weaver, 104, of Bushnell, passed away at 6:00 am on Saturday Sept. 14, 2024 at Courtyard Estates of Bushnell.

Graveside services were held Tuesday Sept. 17, 2024 at the Bushnell Township Cemetery. Pastor Jeremy Peters officiated.

Memorial are suggested to the Bushnell VFW or to the Bushnell Rescue Squad.

Martin-Hollis Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.martinhollisfh.com.

Carol S. Johnson

64, of Plymouth

Carol S. Johnson, age 64 of Plymouth, passed away at her home in Plymouth, on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Celebration of life and burial at Blackburn Cemetery will take place at a later date. Jones Mortuary in Colchester is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorial is to the family of Carol to help with expenses. Condolences and memories can be expressed to the family at jonesmortuaryfh.com.

Tanner Michael Wetzel

28, of Augusta

Tanner Michael Wetzel, 28 of Augusta, is at rest after surrendering to complications of leukemia after an honorable battle on Sept. 8th, 2024 at 1:43am.

A formal ceremony will be followed by a celebration of life, held on October 19, 2024 at 2:00 pm at the Smokin' Gun Hunting Lodge, 995 E Co Rd 1550, Hamilton, IL for all that respected and loved Tanner. Dinner and drinks will be served.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Barnes Jewish Hospital, Siteman Cancer Center, an education fund for his beloved nephew and niece: Oliver and Isabella Wetzel and also to aid with the cost of Tanner's headstone.

Monetary donations can be made out to Tanner Wetzel Memorial and mailed to: 7280 E 10th Street, Tennessee, Illinois 62374.

Debbie L. (Coffey) Wade

66, of Macomb

Debbie L. (Coffey) Wade, 66, of Macomb passed away at 1:37 a.m. Saturday, September 14, 2024 at the Elms Nursing Home in Macomb.

Cremation rites have been accorded. There will be no services.

Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at clugston-tibbitts.com.

Kurt Plate

59, of Astoria

William Kurtis Plate, 59, of Astoria, IL passed away at 4:50 am on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at his sister's home in Lewistown.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A visitation will be held from 2 to 4 pm on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at Shawgo Memorial Home in Astoria. Memorials may be made to the Astoria Fire and Rescue Squad.

Betty Gene Link

98, of LaHarpe

Betty Gene Link, 98, of LaHarpe, Illinois, passed away at 7:40 a.m. Saturday, September 14, 2024 at Oak Lane Nursing & Rehab in Stronghurst, Illinois.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home of LaHarpe is assisting the family. Friends and family may sign the book and view from 9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at the LaHarpe Christian Church. No formal visitation will be held. A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at the LaHarpe Cemetery.

A memorial fund has been established for the LaHarpe American Legion Auxiliary. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Betty's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

Robert "Bob" Cain Emory

Robert Cain Emory was born the 5th of five children to Chester Ray Emory and Lucia Bernadine Cain on September 11, 1936. He passed from this Earth on September 13, 2024.

Graveside services with full Military Rites will be held on Saturday December 21, 2024 at 12:00 pm noon when his immediate family will gather at the Prairie City Cemetery. His extended family and friends are welcome to join. Pastor Brett Fisher will officiate. Memorial contributions are suggested to McDonough District Hospital Hospice Program or to the Checkrow Community Church. Martin-Hollis Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.martinhollisfh.com.

See more Death Notices on page 5

Death notices (name, death date and services) run free of charge. Families who wish to have a complete obituary published in the Tuesday or Friday Community News Brief newspaper (including picture, family, work history, 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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Community Calendar

Blandinsville

SATURDAYS

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!

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

Bags for Boobs Cornhole Tournament

at Slup's Bar. Registration at 12:30, play begins at 2 and \$20 per team. There will be drink specials, t-shirts, 50/50 drawing, silent auction and hot dogs, sides and dessert (free will donation). Bucket Fish will be playing from 3-7pm.

Bushnell

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20

Music Trivia

Hosted by B-PC Elementary PTO at 6pm at the Bushnell VFW, 181 E. Hail.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

Grills Gone Wild

at 12pm at the Bushnell VFW. This fundraising event is to support the Bushnell Community Swimming Pool. Come for a day full of activities including the major event- GRILL COMPETITION including a free lunch with entry and "People's Choice" voting. This event also includes: Music by Samuel Brooks, Children's Face Painting, Bags, Full bar, silent auction, large live auction, and more.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24

Friends Feeding Friends Community Meal

at the Community Christian Center in Bushnell from 4:30 to 6:30PM.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27

B-PC Homecoming

Homecoming parade line up at 3pm, parade starts at 4pm. The Homecoming Football Game will be played on Friday, Sept. 27th at 7:00pm vs. Flanagan Cornell. Homecoming Dance Saturday from 7-10pm.

Colchester

EVERY MONDAY

Move & Groove and Story Hour

Move and Groove is held from 9:45-10:45am Music & physical literacy skills help prepare early learners. Story Hour is held from 10:45-11:45 with stories, songs, crafts and fingerplays.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

Senior Center Soup Luncheon Fundraiser

at the Senior Center from 11am-2pm. Serving vegetable and chili soup and steamburg-ers. Free will donation accepted.

Macomb

EVERY TUESDAY

Al-Anon meeting

AlAnon will meet at 3 pm on Tuesdays at the University Baptist Mission house 309 North Sherman. AlAnon is a 12 step meeting for family and friends of alcoholics and drug addiction.

THURSDAY & SATURDAY

Macomb Farmers Market

You can find your Macomb Farmers Market every Thursday & Saturday morning, from 8 a.m. to Noon, in Chandler Park. Pick up ready-to-eat breakfast, lunch, & snack foods; locally grown produce; locally raised beef, pork, lamb, & chicken; homemade baked goods of all sorts; locally produced honey, jam, & syrup; locally made personal care products; locally grown live plants & fresh flowers; & many different kinds of locally produced hand-crafted goods.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18

Antique & Collectibles Club

Meets 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7pm at City Hall.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20

Extending the Prairie Table Dinner

Prairie Land Conservancy 8th Annual Extending the Prairie Table Fundraising Dinner at the Macomb Field House from 4-8pm and includes a 3 course meal, music by Dick and Joe Marcott and silent auction. Cost is \$75 online or at the Prairie Land Conservancy office, 321 W. University Dr., Macomb.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

Camp Ellis Presentation

Julie Terstriep will give a presentation on Camp Ellis during World War II, and her family's experience when the government took over their farmland to build the camp. The presentation will be held at 5:30 PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 123 S. Campbell Street, Macomb, IL.

Flea By Night

Save the date for our annual Flea By Night market with food trucks, live music and vendors from 6-9pm hosted by Bold Brew House.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26

Annual Mary Olive Woods Lecture

will take place at the Sandburg Theater at 7pm. Dr. Valerie Copper, Duke Divinity School, will speak about her work on her next book, Segregated Sundays: How racially segregated worship feeds political divisions.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27

Unlock the Power of Your Phone

The Macomb YMCA Senior Center will hold a class Unlock the Power of Your Phone with Gizmo Guides! At 12:30pm at the YMCA Senior Center, the cost is free for 60+. This class will guide you through the basics—making calls, sending messages, and more—so you can use your phone with ease. Reminder: Charge your phone the night before class so it's ready to go!

MHS Homecoming

Parade Sept 27th, Football game at 7pm vs Breese Mater Dei. Homecoming dance Sept 28th from 7-10pm

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

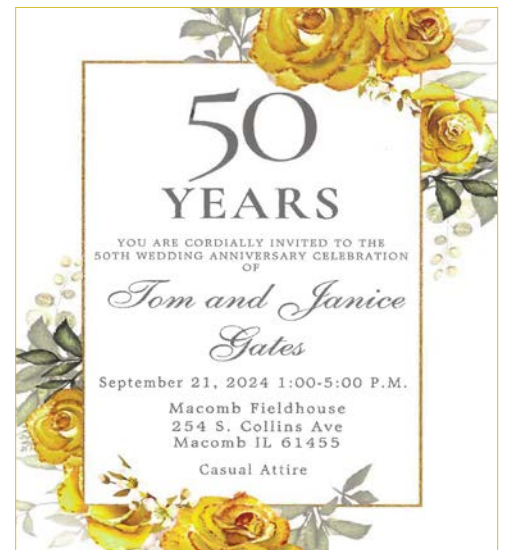
Out of the Darkness Walk

Check-in at 9am at City Hall, walk starts at 10am. Register or donate at afsp.org/MacombIL

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25

I'd Rather Be Reading Book Club

Come and join for coffee/tea and conversation and stay for the fun! All are welcome at the Macomb YMCA Senior Center at 9am.





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The Cafe

On Wednesday, Sept. 18, Tyler Clark performs from 5:30-7:30pm

The American Legion

Dixieland Band led by John Cooper plays Tuesday, Sept. 17 from 7-9pm in the American Legion Post 6, 221 E. Washington St., Macomb. No admission, but there is a free-will offering during the show.

Forgottonia Brewing

Lake Jam will be performing for the first time at Forgottonia Brewing Friday, Sept. 20 at 7pm in the beer garden.

Slup's Bar-Blandinsville

Bags for Boobs on Saturday, Sept. 21 registration at 12:30pm-play begins at 2pm and Bucket Fish will be playing from 3pm-7pm.

The Bernadotte Cafe

Sunday, Sept. 22 at 1pm Craig Gerdes performs - A natural-born storyteller with a stage presence that not only engages with the crowd but ebbs and flows with the rhythm of the true beats of Country music.

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BUSHNELL VFW POST 1422
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Death Notices

continued from page 3

Evelyn C. Weber

A Evelyn C. Weber, 95, passed away at Lincoln Community Care Center, in Lincoln, Missouri, on September 16, 2024.

Arrangements are pending at Wilson & Triplett Funeral Home in Kahoka.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.wilsontriplett.com.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF ILLINOIS

DID YOU KNOW?
12 Voting Facts

- 1 Only US Citizens can vote in elections.
You can only vote once in each election.
- 2
- 3 Voting by mail is accurate and secure.
Machine counts are more accurate than hand counts.
- 4
- 5 Voting machines accurately record votes.
Election officials must certify accurate results.
- 6
- 7 Noncitizen voting is illegal and rare.
You can't vote online or by text message.
- 8
- 9 Voting equipment is never connected to the internet.
There is a paper record for every ballot cast in Illinois.
- 10
- 11 Automatic voter registration is accurate and secure.
Illinois' new driver's license for noncitizen residents can't be used to register to vote.
- 12

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Community News Brief

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State Fair

continued from page 1

derby contributed to the success of the fair this year. Carnival revenue was also up significantly over 2023.

"Some of the credit goes to mother nature for the cool, dry weather, but that's only part of the story. We worked purposefully to offer something for everyone at the Illinois State Fair. Promotions and discounts made the fair more budget friendly for families with expanded free entertainment options as well," said Illinois State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark. "Planning is already underway for the 2025 Illinois State Fair with an emphasis on introducing new elements while maintaining the traditions people expect and love."

The Governor's Sale of Champions posted record-breaking sales. The Grand Champion Steer sold for a combined \$110,000, and the Land of Lincoln Grand Champion Steer sold for \$65,000.

2024 State Fair Impact:
Estimated local/regional economic impact of more than \$86 million*

Sales tax revenue of \$2.6 million*
\$323,775 raised at Governor's Sale of Champions to support youth in agriculture
62 charities volunteered more than 20,000 service hours at the Illinois State Fair

Illinois state agencies partnered to provide the following community services:

Illinois Secretary of State issued 273 driver's licenses; 58 ID cards; 17 REAL IDs; 219 license plate stickers

Illinois Department of Natural Resources issued 440 licenses and permits

* Source: Regional Economics Applications Laboratory at University of Illinois

Governor Pritzker and the legislature invested more than \$85 million in infrastructure improvements to address years of deferred maintenance throughout the fairgrounds.

Updates included repairs to roofs, sidewalks and a pedestrian tunnel, parking lot paving and tuck pointing. The Coliseum, considered the crown jewel of the fairgrounds, benefitted from an electrical overhaul, underground plumbing, new seating, new restrooms, an elevator and an HVAC system that allows for year-round use.

Planning is now underway for the 2025 Illinois State Fair, which will run August 7-17.

Be sure to follow the Illinois State Fair on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for the latest news and updates.

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Wesley Village

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McDonough District Hospital

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Only Available for YMCA Members



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Cars shown are examples of the models being given away, not actual photos.

**HURRY! Only 500 Tickets
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This raffle will only be promoted regionally.

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Weekly drawings for 1 FREE ticket starting August 27th.
Drawing at Tuesday Rotary Meeting.

TO ENTER:
**SEND \$100.00 PER TICKET TO
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P.O. BOX 213
MACOMB, IL 61455**

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

DRAWING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024

Tickets available from Rotary Club of Macomb members. Winners will assume all applicable license and delivery fees and taxes. No substitution of the offered prizes will be made. No one under 18 may participate. The Rotary Club of Macomb reserves the right to withdraw and refund all proceeds. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW.

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WIRC-Community Action Agency (WIRC)
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FOOD PANTRY MANAGER

to lead the GOOD FOOD PANTRY, one of the agency's busiest and front-facing social service programs.

PLEASE NOTE: This position requires management/supervisory experience, and this person will be responsible for leading the food pantry. We are looking for a self-starter who is comfortable speaking to groups and networking in the community to raise awareness and collect donations. Budgeting experience and marketing skills are a plus.

Rate of Pay: \$20/hour at 37.5 hours per week.

Summary: This motivated person is responsible for overseeing the Food Pantry operations and supervising the food pantry staff and volunteers; development and oversight of food pantry budget; and recording outputs and outcomes. They will ensure smooth operations and create a welcoming and dignified environment for those who use services or work in the pantry. This person will also collaborate and assist with the development and support of resource and fund development planning for the pantry, and may assist with other community services initiatives as needed.

Requirements: Managerial/supervisory experience required. High school diploma or equivalent, plus three years of experience required with preference given to those with an Associate degree (or higher) in Business or Communications, and/or work history in a retail/sales environment or social services.

Must have a valid Illinois Driver's license and proof of automobile insurance. Also, must have good organizational skills; be comfortable using technology; be able to communicate and work with a diverse population; be able to represent the program/agency to external organizations; and be comfortable scheduling and supervising staff and volunteers.

Physical demands: Must be able to lift up to 30 pounds and operate a motor vehicle.

Benefits: Full-time benefits package including health, dental, and vision insurance; retirement plan benefits; generous vacation, personal and sick leave; and paid holidays.

To apply: Visit wirc.org/employment/ to complete an application AND submit your resume and cover letter by email to wirc@wirc.org or by mail to WIRC, 133 West Jackson Street, Macomb, IL 61455. Paper applications available upon request. Applications accepted until position is filled.

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VINTAGE TREASURES & TOYS 2: 431 W. Main, Bushnell. Variety of Furniture, glassware, collectibles and toys Wed - Saturday 11-5

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FOR SALE: 2018 red Chrysler Pacifica, 115,000 miles, \$20,000 OBO. Call 309-221-2904.

FOR SALE: 2009 F250, 4x4, short bed super crew, white. AT, diesel. Always shedded and well maintained. Best Offer. 309-833-5697.

FOR SALE: 1999 Chevy Silverado pickup truck. Long bed with bed liner and single cab. 103,000 miles, 2 owners. 5.3 engine. Always kept up on oil changes and maintenance. \$4000. Call 309-333-3119.

FOR SALE: 2005 Saturn, 4 door sedan, 4 cyl. automatic 157,000 mi. Very Good Condition. \$2900/we take trade-ins. A-1 Automotive, 1002 E Jackson St., Macomb, 309-833-2405.

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FOR SALE: 1999 Dodge Durango 4x4 Auto. 170,000 miles. 309-833-2405. **SOLD**

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FOR SALE: One crypt in the Bushnell Mausoleum. \$550. Call 309-221-1959.

FOR SALE: Simplicity zero turn mower, good condition, 33" deck, Briggs & Stratton 18.5 HP motor. \$1000. Call 309-333-7974.

FOR SALE: MEC 650 Reloader 20 gauge, MEC 650 Reloader, 12 gauge, Vintage Lyman Tru-line Jr. 308 Rifle Reloader complete with Power Measure. Call 309-259-0482 before 5 p.m.

FOR SALE: 7 1/2 foot Virginia Pine Christmas Tree. \$200 retail. Was put up once. Asking \$75. Email jlhmacomb@aol.com

FOR SALE: Small dog house 32"x32", top lifts up for cleaning. Price \$100. Call 309-255-7423.

FOR SALE: 1970's blue 4 piece Ludwig Black Badge drum set with high hat & 3 symbols, \$500; 4 piece Ludwig Accent drum set with 2 high hats & 3 symbols, \$500. Call 309-255-6076.

FOR SALE: Sturdy folding table 30 in. by 6 ft. Like new. Light ivory color. \$99. Phone: 309-836-2066.

FOR SALE: 1972 Stereo Console, it works, call 309-337-9885.

FOR SALE: 16' X 8' and 10' X 8' white steel insulated garage doors. Call 309-221-4616 for details.

FOR SALE: Triumphs for sale. 2015 Tiger Explorer w/15,000 miles. Loads of accessories, \$8500. 2008 Street Triple 675 w/19,500 miles, fun sport bike, \$3500. Call 309-752-3169.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Two vintage bicycles. Men's 10 speed Hiawatha made by Murray of Ohio and a women's 1985 Murray Monterey cranberry red cruiser. Both in very good condition, always kept in the garage. Price \$200 each. For more information call 309-221-3558.

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FOR RENT: 2-3 bedroom trailers for rent, \$300-\$400 a month with a deposit of equal value required. For questions call 309-837-3020.

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FREE: Silke Roosters, available colors are white, lavender & orange. Call 309-331-4060.

GARAGE SALES

GARAGE SALE: 560 E. Gridley, Bushnell, Sat. Sept. 21, 8am-noon. Kids clothes, especially toddler girls. Misc items.

GARAGE SALE: 3 days-976 Washington Blvd, Bushnell, Thur. Sept 19 4-8pm, Fri, Sept. 20 & Sat. Sept. 21 8am-4pm. Drop-leaf dining room table, dresser w/ mirror, recliner, exercise bike, Men's & Women's bicycles w/ bike helmets, electric snow blower, spiral garden hose, lawn chairs, stadium seats, table power saws, display shelves, custom framed prints, glassware, holiday decorations & giftwrap, housewares, gold jewelry, luggage, pillows, clocks, Boyds Bears & Ty Beanie Babies, doll-size furniture, baskets, books, movies, music, puzzles & more!

SALE: Experience Assembly of God, 295 E. Barnes in Bushnell; Friday, Sept. 20 8am-3pm & Sat. Sept. 21 8am-12noon. Big variety of items. All sales by donation for Youth Missions projects.

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Find the following words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards.

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FACING
FOLD
GRAIN

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LENGTH
MACHINE
NOTCH
PATTERN
PINS

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SEAM
SELVEDGE
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TACK
TENSION

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Beethoven went out of his way to ensure his morning coffee was made with exactly 60 beans per cup.

* In the hit film "Back to the Future," the time machine was originally an old fridge. According to HuffPost, "Ultimately, it was determined that it probably was not a good idea to use a refrigerator in such a manner as kids might want to reenact the scene."

* Up until the beginning of the 19th century, models were not used to show-case clothes. Fashion companies would use dolls instead.

* Pentheraphobia is the intense and disproportionate fear of your mother-in-law.

* To ensure Queen Elizabeth II received her food on time, clocks in the royal kitchen at Windsor Castle were set five minutes ahead.

* While they might look the same, Jenga blocks have subtle differences in dimensions to make their construction less stable. Each brick is a different size and weight, so no two games are alike.

* As a souvenir from his trip to the Middle East, French author Gustave Flaubert brought home a mummy's foot and kept it on his working desk.

* Herrings communicate through farts.

* In 1916, Adeline and Augusta Van Buren became the first women to travel across the country on two solo motorcycles. They made it despite frequently being arrested for the "crime" of wearing pants.

* Galileo's middle finger is on display at the Museo Galileo in Florence, Italy.

* In 2009, a team of scientists searched Scotland's Loch Ness for evidence of Nessie. While the fabled monster remained elusive, they at least recovered more than 100,000 golf balls.

Thought for the Day: "Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." -- Samuel Ullman

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