

FREE Midweek Brief

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 | communitybrief@gmail.com | 309-421-0761 | Briefly Covering Your Local News

Auditions set for *Wizard of Oz* production at The Legacy Theater

Auditions for the Missoula Children's Theatre production of *The Wizard of Oz* at The Legacy Theater in Carthage, will be held on Monday, Jan. 27, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Performances will be held on Saturday, Feb. 1, at 2 and 6 p.m. at The Legacy Theater.

There are roles for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Approximately 50 local students will be cast to appear in the show. Up to four students will be cast as assistant directors. There is no guarantee that everyone who auditions will be cast in the play.

Students wishing to audition must arrive by the 4 p.m. starting time and stay for the entire two-hour session. The first rehearsal begins approximately 15 minutes after the audition.

This is a group audition. No advance preparation is necessary. Students should be ready to come and have a good time.

Rehearsals will continue in two sessions each day between 4 to 8:15 p.m. at The Legacy Theater, Tuesday through Friday, Jan. 28 to 31. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be distrib-



uted at the conclusion of the audition.

Although not all cast members will be needed at every session, students who audition must have a clear schedule for the entire week and if selected, be able to attend all rehearsals required for their role and be available for all scheduled performances.

Tickets for both shows are available now online, www.thelegacytheater.com, or

See Auditions on page 2

Denim for Dollars employee campaign

The latest recipients of the Spoon River College Denim for Dollars employee campaign for 2024 were Fulton-Mason Crisis Service, Girls Unplugged, and the Spoon River College Foundation (hardship funds and food pantry), with each receiving \$283.31.

The college created the Denim for Dollars campaign in 2023, allowing employees to wear jeans throughout the work week for a \$25 donation every six months. The money is then divided and distributed to different organizations twice a year. During July through December, \$850 was raised, and a total of \$2,475 was raised for the entire year.

Regular recipients are Girls Unplugged, SRC Foundation, Fulton-Mason Crisis Service, and WIRC-CAA Victim Services, and employees have the option of nominating other charities or organizations to also receive a percentage. Past recipients that have been nominated and received funds are The Canton Learning Collaborative, Linda's Fund, Humane Society of McDonough County, Cuba Food Pantry, The Good Pantry, and W.D. Boyce Council (Boy Scouts of America).

Girls Unplugged is a free community-led after school group for 5th through 8th grade girls at Ingersoll Middle School and is sponsored by Canton Park District, MidAmerica National Bank, Spoon River College, and YWCA of Canton.



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TODAY'S JOKES

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A: The rest are weekdays!

Q: What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet?
A: Supplies!

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Nancy Hall



Nancy, a proud native of Macomb, recently returned to her hometown after two decades. Her time away deepened her appreciation for Macomb and the charm of western Illinois, reigniting her passion for the community and its unique opportunities.

With a professional background spanning video production, fine art gallery sales, event planning and professional counseling, Nancy brings a unique combination of creativity, interpersonal skills, and strategic thinking to her real estate career. She uses these talents to showcase the magic and potential of Macomb, helping others discover the opportunities this special town has to offer.

Nancy's mission is to infuse Macomb with new energy by highlighting its strengths and opportunities, sharing her enthusiasm for the community, and connecting with those seeking a town as special as this one. Known for her creativity, optimism, and results-driven focus, Nancy is passionate about helping her clients succeed.

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Community News Brief

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

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Open 10-5 Monday-Friday & 10-3 Saturdays

Call for subscription information

Auditions *continued from page 1*

through the box office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mondays and Fridays or call 217-357-9479.

The Missoula Children's Theatre is a non-profit organization based in Missoula, Mont. This coming year they will help more than 65,000 student cast members take the stage to the applause of their families, friends, community, neighbors and teachers.

The performance in Carthage is made possible by The Legacy Theater, Ramsey Financial Services, The Tracy Family Foundation, the Illinois Arts Council, and the United Way of the Greater River Region. For any questions, contact director@thelegacytheater.com or call the number above.



2025 Winter Farmers Market

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Death Notices

Donna Arlene Traser

90, of LaHarpe

Donna Arlene Traser, 90, of LaHarpe, Illinois, passed away at 11:00 p.m. Sunday, December 29, 2024, at the Bickford Senior Living Center in Macomb, Illinois.

A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, January 24, 2025 at the LaHarpe Cemetery with Rev. Rick Goettsche officiating. Following the service, the family will receive friends at the Union Church in LaHarpe.

Banks & Beals Funeral Home is assisting the family. A memorial fund has been established for the Union Church. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Donna's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

George Ira Beckman

80, of Bushnell

George Ira Beckman, 80, of Bushnell, passed away on Tuesday Dec. 31, 2024 at his residence. He was born on July 15, 1944 in Macomb, to Alfred J. and Jeanette (Botts) Beckman. On June 8th, 1968, George married Jane E. Venhuizen in Morrison.

Cremation Rites have been accorded as per his wishes. A Celebration of Life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the George Beckman Scholarship Fund in support of the Building Trades and Vocational Education established at the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Bushnell. Martin-Hollis Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Please sign the guestbook and leave condolences at www.martinhollisfh.com

William Dale Root

72, of Rushville

William Dale Root, 72, of Rushville, passed away at 1:14 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2025 at Blessing Hospital in Quincy.

Cremation has been accorded, there will be no services. In lieu of flowers if anyone wants to give you may donate to a tree in his honor.

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Larry Keith Dickey

78, of Macomb

Larry Keith Dickey, age 78, passed away at 5:55 PM on December 25, 2024 at St. John's Hospital in Springfield Illinois.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Grave side services were held at Oakwood Cemetery Thursday, January 2, 2025. Full Military Rites were conducted by The Macomb American Legion and The Macomb VFW.

Memorials may be made to the Macular Degeneration Association. Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home in Macomb is in charge of arrangements. You may sign the guestbook and leave online condolences at clugston-tibbitts.com.

Marilyn A. Moon

97, of Macomb

Marilyn A. Moon age 97 of Macomb, passed away, Tuesday, December 31, 2024, at McDonough District Hospital in Macomb.

Funeral services will be 11:30 A.M. Thursday, January 9, 2025, at the Jones Funeral Chapel in Colchester, with Rev. Jim Clayton. Burial will follow the services at Oakwood Cemetery in Macomb. Visitation with the family will be from 10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Thursday, January 9, 2025, at the funeral home. Friends may view and sign the book at the funeral home from 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M. Wednesday. Memorial is to the Susan G. Komen Fund. Condolences and memories can be expressed to the family at jonesmortuaryfh.com.

Richard A. "Red" Grisham

88, of Macomb

Richard A. "Red" Grisham, 88, of Macomb, formerly of LaHarpe, passed away at 5:50 a.m. Wednesday, December 25, 2024 at The Lamoine Assisted Living & Memory Care in Macomb.

The funeral services for Red were held at the LaHarpe Christian Church with Pastor Nate McCarter officiating. Burial with Military Rites, followed in LaHarpe Cemetery.

A memorial fund has been established for the LaHarpe Christian Church, LaHarpe American Legion or the LaHarpe Fire Department. To leave an online condolence for the family, please visit Red's obituary at banksandbeals.com.

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Karen Douglass

79, of Avon

Karen Douglass, 79, of Avon, Illinois, passed away at 1:06 a.m., Sunday, December 29, 2024.

Funeral services were held Monday, January 6, 2025, at the Avon Federated Church. Interment will be in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, London Mills.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Avon Federated Church and left in the care of the funeral home. Moore Memorial Home, Avon, is handling the arrangements.

Ralph Tatge

98, of Stronghurst

Ralph Tatge, 98, of Stronghurst, IL passed away peacefully at Oakwood Estates in Stronghurst, IL on January 1, 2025.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at Banks & Beals Funeral Home in Stronghurst. The funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 8th at the Stronghurst Christian Church. Burial, with military honors, will follow in Stronghurst Cemetery. Friends and family are invited to return to the church after the internment for food and fellowship. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials be made to Oakwood Estates Retirement Village, Stronghurst Christian Church and Stronghurst - Raritan Volunteer Ambulance Service. Please visit Ralph's obituary at banksandbeals.com to leave a condolence.

Mavis Jean (Oldham) Harmon

96, of Avon

Mavis Jean (Oldham) Harmon, 96, of Avon, Illinois, passed away at 3:53 a.m., Wednesday, December 25, 2024 at Seminary Manor of Galesburg.

Cremation rites have been accorded with a private family service to be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society of Fulton County, PO Box 701, Canton, IL 61520. Moore Memorial Home, Avon, is handling the arrangements. For more information or to leave an online condolence, please visit our website at www.moorememorial.com.

Lyle R. Vail

89, of Littleton

Lyle R. Vail, 89, of Littleton, passed away at 9:55 p.m. on Wednesday Dec. 25, 2024 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Funeral services were held Friday, January 3, 2025 at Worthington Funeral Home with Rev. Stacy Tomich officiating. Interment followed in Rushville City Cemetery with Military Honors. In lieu of flowers memorials may be given to the Littleton Fire Department.

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.

See more Death Notices on page 5

Community Calendar

Blandinsville

SATURDAYS

Story Hour & 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!

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Youth Program

Blandinsville First Christian Church Youth Program every Wednesday for 5th thru High School students from 4pm-5:30pm.

EVERY THURSDAY

After-School Program

Blandinsville First Christian Church After-School Program every Thursday for Kindergarten through High School students from 4:00 pm until 5:00 pm.

Bushnell

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Story time for young learners

Every Wednesday from 10:30-11:30 The Bushnell Public Library hosts Story time for young learners. We read, practice nursery rhymes and finger plays, do a craft, have a snack and enjoy practicing social skills.

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

Music Trivia with Dan Shipman

from 7-11pm at the Bushnell VFW. Proceeds will benefit the Bushnell Swimming Pool. Hope to see you there!

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, JAN. 18

BINGO Night

at 210 E Market St. Hosted by Colchester Fire Protection District.

Macomb

SATURDAY, JAN. 11

Winter Farmers Market

This Saturday, Jan. 11, the Macomb Farmers Market will hold its monthly indoor Winter Market inside Macomb's American Legion hall (on E. Washington between Campbell & Randolph) from 8:30 to Noon. We'll have local pasture-raised meat; seasonal locally grown produce; homemade baked goods; popcorn, honey, coffee, & tea; personal care products made locally from goats' milk & from CBD/hemp; local hand-crafted products; on-site knife sharpening; and more! Next Winter Market: Sat, Feb 8.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

Free Throw Championship

Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, 9am at St. Paul Gym. BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 9-14 Participant's age as of January 1st, 2025. THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN to THE PUBLIC. For more information Contact David Looman, loomandavid@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

PAS hosts Arts-Related Trivia

Test your arts knowledge! Join the Performing Arts Society (PAS) for an evening of arts-related trivia at Park Place of Macomb, 127 E. Carroll St. at 7pm. The cost is \$25 per ticket, \$225 for a corporate table of eight. Corporate tables include signage/logo on the table, premier seating, and multiple mentions during the event. Register at westernpresents.com.

SATURDAY, JAN. 25

IL S3DA Crooked Creek Indoor Regional

10am-3pm Illinois S3DA Crooked Creek Indoor Regional at Crooked Creek Outdoors, 1025 W Grant St, Macomb, IL.

Glow in the Dark BINGO

The 2nd Annual Glow in the Dark BINGO Night date is set for 7pm at Macomb Elks Lodge. This year you can buy your tickets in advance to guarantee your spot! Tickets can be purchased for tables of 6. Event by McDonough County Ag in the Classroom and Macomb Elks Lodge #1009.

Gold Hills Golf Club 1st Soup Cook Off

Join in for the 1st Soup Cook-Off at 3pm. Whether you're a soup connoisseur or just hungry, this event is for you. Bring your favorite soup or just your appetite and get ready to taste some delicious soups.

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Casino Night

The Humane Society of McDonough County CASINO NIGHT will be held at Macomb's Park Place, 127 E. Carroll St. on March 1, 2025 from 7-10pm. All funds raised go towards the construction of a new animal shelter for McDonough County. We're rolling out important details about this year's event on our Facebook page!

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

HOWL260

Join the Macomb Educational Foundation and dueling pianos company HOWL260 at Park Place at 7pm to raise money to help support grants that directly support our local schools!

Carthage

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

Dave Danielson Benefit

at the Eagles Club in Carthage from 5-11pm. There will be a live auction, 50/50 drawing and DJ music by Peggy Day. Dinner will be served at \$10/plate. Dave is facing significant challenges after a recent diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy. For donations call or text Jennifer at 309-569-2440 or Lacey at 573-719-7377.

Ipava

SUNDAY, JAN. 12

All You Can Eat Breakfast at the Legion

7am-11am at the Ipava American Legion. Meal includes biscuits & homemade gravy, pancakes, eggs cooked to order, sausage, toast, coffee, milk & orange juice. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4. Proceeds go to St. Jude



The Café

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Willie Jones & Co 6-8pm
Friday, Jan. 10: Shawn Griffith 7-9pm

The American Legion

Dixieland Band led by John Cooper plays Tuesday, January, 21 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. The Post 6 Big Band led by John Cooper plays from 7-9pm on Wednesday, January 29.

Homemade Daily Specials

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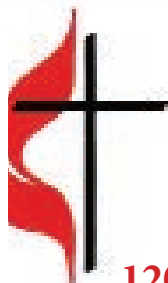
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Wesley Village

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Death Notices

continued from page 3

Gary L. Davis

65, of Monmouth

Gary L. Davis, 65, of Monmouth, IL, passed away on January 2, 2025 at his home.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Per Gary's wishes no visitation or services are planned. Memorials can be made to the Gary Davis Memorial Fund and can be sent to the funeral home. McGuire & Davies Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of the arrangements.

Treva Walker

88, of Macomb

Treva Walker, 88, of Macomb, Illinois (formerly of Augusta, Illinois), passed away peacefully on January 4, 2025 in her residence at Wesley Village in Macomb. She was born April 16, 1936, in Macomb to Harry and Rosann (Smith) Toland.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday January 11, 2025 at Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home in Macomb. Visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, January 11, 2025 at the funeral home.

You may leave condolences and sign the guest book online at clugston-tibbitts.com.

Robert E. Derry

91, of Macomb

Robert E Derry, 91 of Macomb passed away on December 21, 2024 at 10:25 pm in Macomb, surrounded by family.

He was born January 10, 1933 in Plymouth, Illinois to Oral and Violet (Stoneking) Derry.

There will be no formal services as his body was donated to science. A celebration of life will be at a later date.

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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 Wednesday, January 22.

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.

Class will meet in person on Wednesdays, January 22 – April 23 from 2:30-6:30pm. The course will also meet on March 5 from 3-5pm, April 9 from 3-5pm, and May 2 from 1-3pm




for scheduled field trips. Locations of fieldtrips 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 Horticulture Processing 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.

A fully funded scholarship is available each semester for one student. If interested please contact Lily Moser by phone at 309-833-6032 or by email at lily.moser@src.edu. The deadline for applying is January 22, 2024.

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



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The City of Macomb's Public Transportation Department is seeking a skilled Fleet Technician II to maintain, repair, and rebuild gas and diesel vehicles. The role involves troubleshooting mechanical issues, repairing parts and systems, performing preventative maintenance, and determining parts and time requirements with minimal supervision. Candidates must be proficient with technical manuals and diagrams, use tools and equipment competently prioritize safety in all tasks.

Qualifications:

Minimum requirement is at least two years of verifiable experience in repairing, adjusting and replacing components on heavy duty buses and trucks.

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The City of Macomb offers a comprehensive benefits package including vacation hours starting at 24 hours upon hire and increasing with tenure. Employees also receive 24 personal hours per year (pro-rated upon hire), 8 sick hours monthly, and 10 paid holidays annually (with 11 when Juneteenth falls on a weekday). Health insurance is provided with single coverage fully paid by the City, and family coverage is available. Vision and dental insurance are optional, and employees receive \$20,000 in life insurance coverage, with additional coverage available. Retirement benefits include participation in the I.M.R.F. The city matches employee contributions to a 457b retirement plan up 1%. Additionally, tax-deferred day care and medical plans are available through flexible benefits.

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/employmentapplication/>

Completed applications for this position must be returned to the Mayor's Office in City Hall open until **January 14, 2025**.

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Did you know...

A full archive of every 2024 edition of our FREE Midweek Brief Wednesday publication is available to view and download on our website - *in color!*

www.communitynewsmarket.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) of McDonough County is in need of volunteer drivers. In August of this year the VAC will be celebrating their 25th year of giving Veterans rides to their medical appointments. Our main destination is the VA hospital in Iowa City, IA. Other destinations can be accommodated if possible. All drivers are volunteers. They must pass a physical given at the VA in Iowa City. We will transport you for that physical. You will be given training on procedures with the van. The average day is six to ten hours depending on appointment times in Iowa City. The van is a standard 4-6 passenger van. If you are interested in helping Veterans please call the VAC office at 309-833-3275. If you do not get me please leave a message. I check messages daily and will return your call ASAP. Thank you for your consideration in helping the Veterans of McDonough County.

Ric Smart, Superintendent, VAC of McDonough County

Letter To The Editor Policy: *The Community News Brief welcomes our readers' opinions, including Letters to the Editor. The Community News Brief would like to remind those submitting Letters to the Editor for consideration of our newspaper's policy. Letters and columns appearing in The Community News Brief are the views of the authors and do not reflect the views of The Community News Brief. Find the full policy in the Tuesday/Friday weekly editions of The Community News Brief.*



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LOST: Masonic Ring in Macomb. If found please call 309-997-0872. Reward.

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FOUND: Cell Phone found in the flower box at the Macomb Train Depot. It is an older style of phone. Please call 309-776-3087 to claim.

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I L Z N C Z N B T S S E R T S I D E Z M Y
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Find the following words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards.

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ANXIETY
AROUSAL

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BEHAVIOR
BEHAVIORIST
CLICKER
COLLAR
CONDITIONING

DESENSITIZATION
DISTRESS
DOMINANCE
ENVIRONMENT
FEAR
FOCUS

INHIBITION
LEAD
MODIFICATION
POSITIVE
REINFORCEMENT
TRAINER

STRANGE BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Shonda Rhimes got the idea for the TV series "Grey's Anatomy" after a doctor told her how hard it was to shave her legs in the tiny hospital shower.

* The first Hershey's chocolate bars with almonds were produced in 1908 because they were cheap to make. The nuts took the place of some of the more expensive milk chocolate, which meant Hershey's could keep the price of the candy at a nickel.

* A website called Myfridgefood.com lets you enter whatever ingredients you have in your fridge and tells you what you can make with them.

* One of the reasons your lungs feel refreshed when walking through a pine forest is because of an anti-inflammatory compound called a-Pinene, found in conifers. It is used as a bronchodilator in the treatment of asthma and is abundantly present in marijuana.

* An estimated 10% of Europeans are immune to HIV infection because they have an ancestor who survived bubonic plague, or "Black Death."

* The Hardy Tree in London's St. Pancras churchyard is named for Thomas Hardy. The Victorian author worked at the burial ground in the 1860s and rearranged tombstones around the base of an ash tree to make room for a railway expansion.

* If you're a man and pee on a pregnancy test and it's positive, you could have cancer.

* Because of the amount of granite in its construction, Grand Central Station produces more radiation than is allowable at a nuclear power plant.

* In India, a statue of Jesus had "holy" water mysteriously dripping from its toes, which worshipers would collect and sometimes drink. A man traced the fluid's source to a clogged toilet behind the wall, condensing on the statue.

Thought for the Day: "A good example has twice the value of good advice." -- Albert Schweitzer

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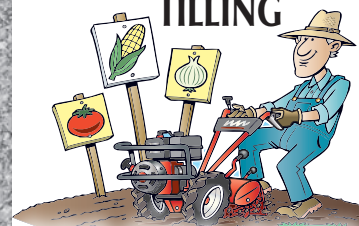
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