

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

APRIL 2023 • VOLUME 75 • ISSUE 4

## Delight at the Museum

KIDS DAY MARKS  
LAUNCH OF ORU-FUNDED  
ACTIVITY BOOK

## STAR TREC

EFFINGHAM TRAIL CUTS  
A PATH WORTH TAKING

BOARD  
CANDIDATE  
NOMINATIONS

CALL BEFORE  
YOU DIG

SMART TECH

MEMBER MAIL

CO-OP KITCHEN



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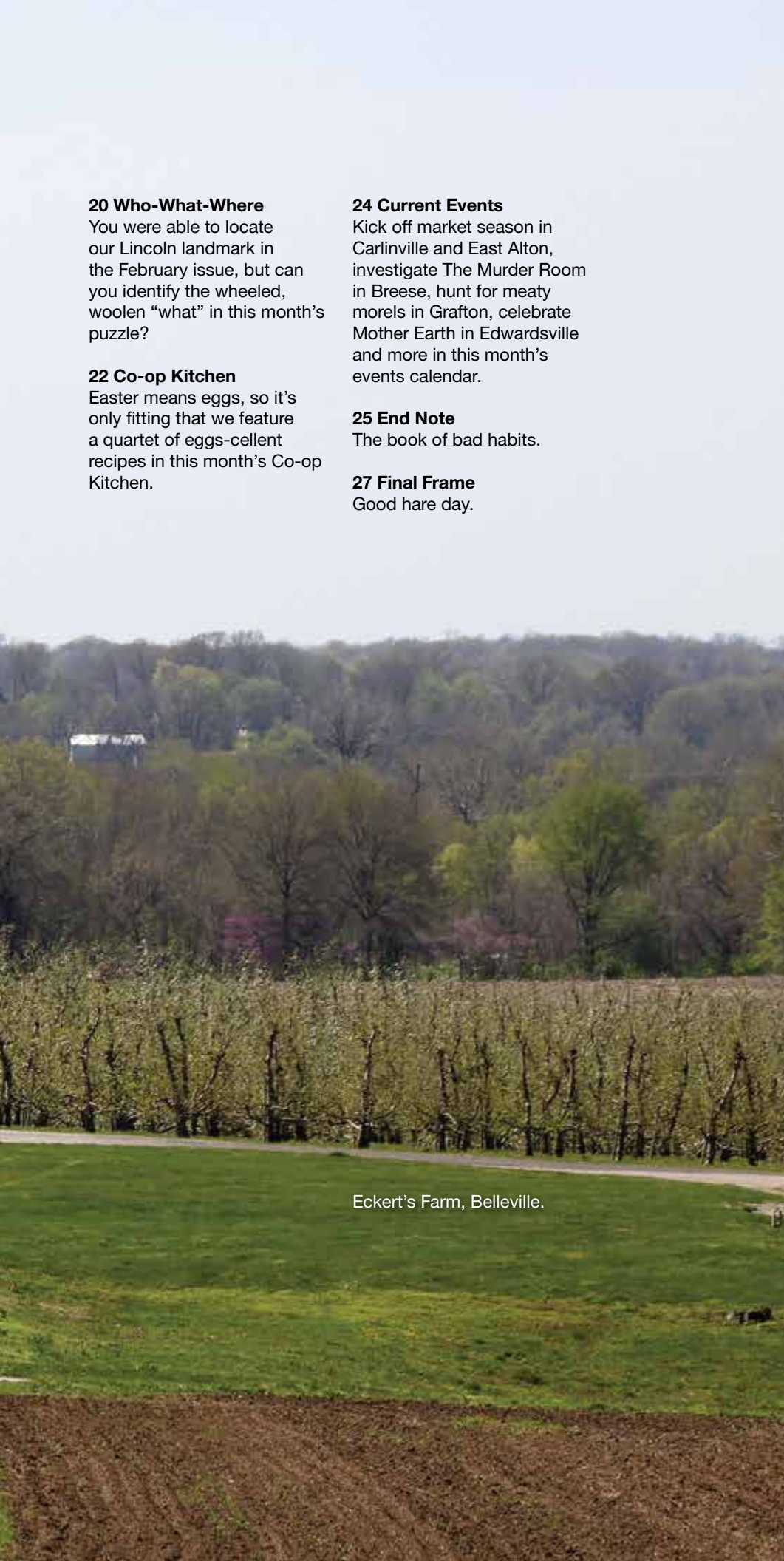
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Phone: (800) 637-8667. Office Hours:  
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### ON THE COVER

You can view an array of unusual artifacts at the DeMoulin Museum in Greenville, Ill. The museum recently published a coloring and activity book, funded by Operation Round Up, to educate and entertain kids who tour its collection. See our story on page 10.



### CO-OP REMINDERS

**April 7** Offices closed for Good Friday.

**April 10** Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.



### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest news and notes, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. You'll find us at [facebook.com/SWECI](https://facebook.com/SWECI) and [twitter.com/sweci](https://twitter.com/sweci). Search for Southwestern Electric on YouTube and Instagram. You can listen to our podcast, Wireside Chat, on Apple Music, Spotify, Audible and anywhere podcasts are found.



## E-BILLING PROVIDES QUICK, EASY WAY TO AVOID FEES ASSOCIATED WITH POSTAL DELAYS

Paperless billing — or e-billing — provides a simple, reliable solution to penalties associated with postal delays and late payments. An e-bill is an electronic billing statement delivered to your email address. Our e-bill looks like our paper bill. Since it's sent to your inbox instead of your mailbox, it always arrives on time.

In addition to our e-bill, we also offer electronic notifications you can use as reminders, or to confirm your payment has been made. You can receive our reminders, alerts and notifications by text, voice mail and email.

Maybe you'd prefer not to think about your bill from month to month. With our Auto-Pay service, you won't need to. Auto-Pay automatically deducts your monthly payment from your checking account, or debit card or credit card. It's safe, convenient and reliable. Like our e-billing options, Auto-Pay is free and simple to set up.

If you'd like to know more, please call Southwestern Electric's billing department at 800-637-8667, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Our team will be happy to help you.





# Co-op Offers Rebates For High Efficiency Heat Pumps, Electric Water Heaters, Smart Thermostats

Our rebate program will help you save money on the replacement or new installation of air source heat pumps, geothermal systems, electric water heaters and smart thermostats.

Members are eligible for one rebate per category per year. All rebates will be applied as a bill credit upon receiving the completed rebate application and proof of purchase.

Rebate forms are available on our website at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com). You can email your completed application and proof of purchase to [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com), or mail it to: Julie Lowe, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. You're also welcome to drop off your materials at our Greenville office.

**Have questions?**  
**Call Julie Lowe at**  
**(800) 637-8667**  
**or email her at**  
**[julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).**



## HEATING AND COOLING

High efficiency heat pumps can significantly increase the comfort of your home while lowering your energy bills. If you're thinking of upgrading to or installing a new air source or ground source heat pump, our \$300 rebate will help you offset some of the cost.

To qualify for the rebate, your heat pump must be the primary source of heat in your home. It may be installed in a newly constructed home, or replace electric resistance heat, propane or fuel oil heat. Installed backup heat must be electric, and the condenser and coil must be replaced and/or installed as a matched set.

Requirements for air source heat pumps include:

- At least 16 SEER
- 9 HSPF

Requirements for ground source (geothermal) heat pumps include:

- For closed systems—at least 17 SEER; COP 3.6
- For open systems – at least 21.1 SEER; COP 4.1

## WATER HEATERS

Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of your home's energy use. Choosing an energy efficient water heater can help you reduce your monthly water heating bills.

To qualify for our \$250 water heater rebate, you can install an electric water heater as part of a newly constructed home, or replace an existing gas water heater with an electric model.

Your water heater must be at least 50 gallons and one rebate is allowed per home.

On-demand water heaters qualify for this rebate.

## SMART THERMOSTATS

A smart thermostat learns your lifestyle and adjusts the temperature of your home automatically, helping you use less energy and save money.

With a smart thermostat, you can control your home's temperature settings, even when you're at work or on the road. Connected to your Wi-Fi, your smart thermostat allows you to monitor and change your home's temperature from your smart phone, tablet or PC.

You can install a smart thermostat as part of a newly constructed home, or replace an existing manual or programmable thermostat.

To qualify for our \$50 rebate, your smart thermostat must be:

- Energy Star certified
- Internet-enabled



# Hide & Seek: *Quips & Comments*

**W**ith more than 500 emails and postcards coming our way in January and February, it's safe to say our new reader contest is being well received. We expected messages like "Willie Wiredhand is on page 24," accompanied by your contact information — but many of you are leaning into the spirit of the game and adding quips and comments which communicate your warmth and personality. We've included some of your notes here.

As we've said in the past, you are the best part of this magazine. Thank you for sharing your time, enthusiasm, humor and kindness. You made us smile.

.....

I found the image on page 24. I had fun looking for it and reading the articles along the way. Whoever wrote the contest instructions, let them know I loved the style of writing and the humor. Have a fantastic day.

—Bonita Joyce-Duke, Maryville

The image is on the bottom of page 24. I like this new game, by the way! I at least feel like I have a better chance of winning!

—Jamie Elkins, Edwardsville

Our 3-year-old daughter found Willie on page 24!

—Andrew Bywater, Edwardsville

We found the Willie Wiredhand picture on page 24 in the January 2023 issue of the Southwestern magazine. Please enter

us in the drawing to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. We really enjoy reading the monthly Southwestern. Thanks for your efforts to help us remain informed!

—Robert & Myra Farrell, Edwardsville

I found the image on page 32 (Ha!). Actually, it is on page 24 of this wonderful edition of The Southwestern. Have a great day!

—Kay Lange, Alhambra

Happy New Year! Nice to see this new contest. I already loved the magazine and read it back to front whenever it comes in and this adds a nice new challenge. Thanks for that! I found the picture of Willie Wiredhand on page 24. I am looking forward to the next one.

Have a great day!

—Thomas Slegt, Maryville

Love the magazine and loved even more searching for Willie Wirehand with the grandkids.

We found him on page 24 of this month's issue. Thank you for all you do for us!

—William & Cheryl Acker, Sorento

We found Willie on page 24. Love the new contest no matter how unorganized you are at this time!

—Larry R. Frank, Spencer, Ind.

I found Willie Wiredhand! He is on page 24, in Current Events, beside the January 21st event for Telescope Night in Godfrey. I've played your contest since 2009 when we purchased my parents'

home and moved in, with no luck of winning. Now that I've found Willie I'm gonna enjoy reading the magazine! Bless you all for your work!!

—Sandra Lappe, Vandalia

I found the image on page 24. I enjoyed the humor in the article explaining the new contest and rules. I'm a teacher and having a list of people that can't follow instructions is quite amusing to me!

—Michelle Dempsey, Edwardsville

The little guy is on page 24 of the most recent edition of the Southwestern. I sure enjoy the info you provide to us in it.

—Carol Ruffner, Mason

The image like Willie Wiredhand is located on page 24—bottom of the second column in The Southwestern. I sure enjoy reading The Southwestern! Thank You!

—Marge Glassmaker, Alhambra

The image is on page 24! I appreciate the humor of the article and it's a fun contest!

—Maggie Krumwiede, Collinsville

The image is on page 24 near the event about the January 21 telescope night in Godfrey.

Thanks for the new contest. Looking forward to finding the images, or whatever it is "that catches our eye."

—Nancy Kahl, Alhambra

Found the image on page 24. Always enjoy reading your magazine.

—Cheryl Klenke, Edwardsville

Willie Wiredhand was hiding on page 24, lower left corner. Seeing Willie brought back memories of my father's SWECI uniform shirts with Willie on the shoulder.

—Mac McCormick, *Holiday Shores*

I found him on page 24, and he's cute!

—Karen & Louis Ravetta, *Edwardsville*

For the Hide and Seek contest...January 2023 issue...I found the image of Willie Wiredhand on page 24. (It was easier than looking for a hidden number!)

—Betsy Kelleher, *Granite City*

The image can be found on page 24 close to the January 21 Telescope Night at Godfrey. I like this new contest. It's a challenge to glance at every page to see if the image is there. Also, it ensures that each page gets looked at!

—Carl Loyet, *Alhambra*

I found Willie Wiredhand on page 24. It will be fun searching every month.

—Jack Manion, *Collinsville*

I found Willie Wiredhand on page 24. I enjoy these contests, keep it going. Thank you.

—David G. Suckow, *Altamont*

I carefully perused all of the pictures looking for the hidden icon, only to discover it in plain view atop the black box on the "Current Events" section on p.24!

—Karen Johnson, *Edwardsville*

## Hide & Seek Feb. Winner

Congratulations to Karen Ash of Maryville. Karen was the winner of our February Hide & Seek contest. She found President Lincoln on page 23 of the magazine. Karen will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. Thanks to everyone who participated in our February contest. You'll find Hide & Seek rules and this month's image at right.

# Reader Contest

**O**ur Hide & Seek reader contest works like this: We've hidden an image in the magazine. Your job is to find it. The image may be a photo, illustration, icon, logo — or any other graphic that catches our eye. This month's image resembles the nest pictured below.

The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see here. We may change the color or make the image black and white. It may be reversed or upside down or reversed and upside down or — you get the picture.

If you find the image, email us or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, and the page number where you found the image.

Please email us at [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) or send your postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

Entries must be postmarked or in our [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) inbox by the first day of the month following the month of publication. For our April contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by May 1.

Each month we'll choose one winner in a random drawing. Our winner will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. We'll publish the name of this month's contest winner in the June issue of The Southwestern.

## RULES TO PLAY BY

- One entry per membership per month.
- A membership can only win once per calendar year.
- No phone calls, texts, walk-in traffic, carrier pigeons, singing telegrams or other clever means of communication that may occur to you.
- Please respond *only* by emailing us at [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) or by sending a postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.
- Entries submitted by other methods will be disqualified.
- Entries emailed to other Southwestern Electric email addresses will be disqualified, deleted, then disqualified again, just to be safe.
- Entries mailed to other departments or included with other correspondence will likely never find their way to the editor. If they do, they'll be disqualified. Also, he'll add you to his list of people who can't follow instructions. It's a long list and not one you care to be part of.
- April contest entries must be in our inbox or postmarked by May 1.
- We'll never hide the image on the front or back cover or on the page where we list the rules.



# Board Candidate Nominations

## *Filing Deadline: May 25*

**A**s a not-for-profit cooperative, Southwestern Electric is both owned and governed by its members — the consumers who receive their electricity from the co-op. A board of directors, consisting of nine members democratically elected by their peers, is responsible for overseeing the general direction and financial stability of the organization.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into three voting districts. Three of the nine board seats — one per voting district — are open for election each year. District I encompasses the co-op's territory in Macoupin, Madison and St. Clair counties; District II includes Bond, Clinton and Montgomery counties; and District III covers Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Marion and Shelby counties. The three directors whose terms expire in 2023 are Marvin Warner in District I, Sandy Nevinger in District II, and Annette Hartlieb in District III.

Potential board candidates are advised to begin their preparations for the 2023 election soon. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the 2023 Nominations Committee will be published in the May issue of The Southwestern.

Any Southwestern Electric member interested in running for a seat on the board, or who would like to submit another member's name for consideration, must notify a Nominations Committee member from the appropriate district prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 25.

If the nomination deadline is missed, members may also file for candidacy

**Any Southwestern Electric member interested in running for a seat on the board, or who would like to submit another member's name for consideration, must notify a Nominations Committee member from the appropriate district prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 25.**

by petition. Such a petition, bearing the names, addresses and signatures of at least 15 Southwestern Electric Cooperative members, must be filed at the co-op's headquarters by Monday, June 26. Any candidate who doesn't file by June 26, 2023 will not be eligible to run for election until 2024.

All members 18 years of age or older and in good financial standing with the co-op are eligible to serve on the board of directors, so long as they meet the qualifications set forth in Section 5(B) of the bylaws. The relevant sections of the cooperative's bylaws are reprinted on the next page for your reference.

The results of the 2023 board election will be announced at Southwestern Electric's 85th Annual Meeting of Members, which will take place on Saturday, September 9. Each director will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning on September 9 and ending on the date of the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Questions about board service and the election process should be directed to Susan File, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's vice president of member services. She may be reached by telephone at (800) 637-8667, or by e-mail at [susan.file@sweci.com](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com).

## SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC 2023

Verify your voting eligibility today. In a joint membership, either person who signed the membership application may vote. With an individual membership, voting rights are granted solely to the person who signed the application.

Names of Nominations Committee members appear in the May issue of The Southwestern.

Board candidates should express their interest in running for a seat on the board by contacting a Nominations Committee member from the appropriate district by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 25.

Board candidates who missed the nomination deadline may file for candidacy by petition. The petition for candidacy, with required signatures and residency information, must be filed by June 26.



# Candidates for the Board of Directors: Qualification & Nomination Guidelines

## Section 5 (B): Qualifications

To be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative, such person:

1. Shall not be a Close Relative of an incumbent Director;
2. Shall not be an employee or agent of the Cooperative;
3. Shall not be, directly or indirectly, employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to, among others, the Members of the Cooperative;
4. Shall not be, directly or indirectly, interested in any contract, permit, franchise or other similar agreement or authorization to which the Cooperative is or may be a party;
5. Shall be a Member in good standing with the Cooperative and receiving energy or service from the Cooperative at his primary place of abode;
6. Shall be a Natural Person;
7. Shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age; provided, however, that a duly elected officer or duly appointed agent of any Member which is not a Natural Person shall be exempt from the qualifications stated in Section 5(B)(6) and Section 5(B)(7) if such Member is in good standing with the Cooperative and receiving energy or service from the Cooperative.

## Section 4 (D): Election of Directors

At each annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, Directors shall be elected by secret written ballot cast (except as otherwise provided in this section) by the Members present at such annual meeting and qualified to vote under the terms and conditions of the Bylaws. Such election shall be conducted as follows:

1. Appointment of Nominations Committee: The Board of Directors shall appoint, not less than one hundred fifteen (115) nor more than one hundred forty-five (145) days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, a Nominations Committee which shall consist of nine (9) Natural Persons, three

from each Directorate District. Members of the Nominations Committee shall not be employees, agents, officers, or Directors of the Cooperative, shall not be known candidates for Director, and shall not be Close Relatives of employees, agents, officers, Directors of the Cooperative, or known candidates for Director.

2. Candidates Nominated by Nominations Committee: On or before eighty-five (85) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, the Nominations Committee shall:
  - a. Nominate as many Natural Persons who meet the qualifications stated in Section 5B of these Bylaws as the Nominating Committee deems desirable to be candidates for election to the Board of Directors; and,
  - b. Post a list of the names of such Natural Persons so nominated by the Nominations Committee at the principal place of business of the Cooperative.

3. Candidates Nominated by Petition: In addition to those candidates named by the Nominations Committee, any fifteen (15) or more Members of the Cooperative may nominate such other Natural Persons as candidates for election to the Board of Directors by filing with the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than seventy-five (75) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative a written petition bearing the signatures, names and addresses of at least fifteen Members of the Cooperative nominating such other Natural Persons as candidates for election to the Board of Directors and listing the candidate's name, address, age, and telephone number. The Secretary of the Cooperative shall post such petition at the principal places of business of the Cooperative where the list of nominations made by the Nominations Committee was posted.

4. Notice to Members of Nomination of Candidates: The Secretary of the Cooperative shall mail or cause to be mailed to the Members notice of the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative at least fifteen (15) days but not more than sixty (60) days before the date of said annual meeting a statement of the names, addresses, ages, and telephone numbers of all candidates nominated for election to the Board of Directors. Such statement shall identify the Directorate District to which such candidate may be elected, and such statement shall identify which candidates were nominated by the Nominations Committee and which candidates were nominated by petition filed by Members of the Cooperative.

## VOTING AND ELECTION OUTLINE

Members may vote absentee at the cooperative's headquarters (525 US Route 40, Greenville) Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., August 25 - September 8.

Members may vote for board candidates during the co-op's annual meeting, Saturday, September 9. The time and site of Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 2023 Annual Meeting of Members has yet to be determined.

Members elected to the board begin serving a three-year term September 9, 2023. Their term ends on the date of the 2026 annual meeting.

Election results are published in the October issue of The Southwestern. A summary of the annual meeting appears in the November issue.

# SOME THINGS OLD, *Something's New*

## DEMOULIN MUSEUM PUBLISHES ORU-FUNDED ACTIVITY BOOK

by Joe Richardson

Nothing is as it seems. It's a midwinter morning and 30 people are seated in a room that's housed one congregation or another since the 1880s. Young and old, from near and far, they arrived on foot and by car to pack this place with its Gothic arches, ornamental glass, Concord red carpet — and relics.

But the building is no longer a church. It isn't Sunday. And the crowd hasn't gathered for a sermon. They're here to investigate artifacts, pick up an activity book, and lean into a little magic.

The artifacts are year-round residents. The magician is not. He's on site to celebrate Kids Day, an event hosted by

the DeMoulin Museum to commemorate the publication of an activity book developed by museum curator John Goldsmith and funded by Operation Round Up. "The museum has become a popular attraction with kids, so it was natural that we'd want something for young folks to take home as a remembrance of their visit," Goldsmith said. "A coloring and activity book offered the best opportunities to engage children in a meaningful way."

Goldsmith designed the book to recall exhibits, artifacts and experiences at the museum. "The DeMoulin Museum tells the diverse story of DeMoulin Bros., but not in a dry, stuffy way," he said.

"We're about fun." Kids Day and the activity book are the latest in a series of promotions — speaking engagements, on-site events, media interviews, school programs and group tours — Goldsmith uses to tell a strange and textured tale more than a century in the making.

### TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Since 1897, DeMoulin Bros. & Co. has produced some of the country's finest band uniforms. But there was a time when the DeMoulin name was synonymous with trick guillotines, paddle machines, exploding telephones, electric chairs, branding irons and bucking goats.

In the early 20th century, lodge regalia and paraphernalia — including initiation devices — were DeMoulin's stock-in-trade. The company crafted forerunners to magicians' cabinets; innocuous-looking tools, appliances and furniture that secretly housed explosive cartridges,



Families packed the DeMoulin Museum for Kids Day, a January celebration featuring close-up magic, museum tours and the launch of an Operation Round Up-funded activity book.



electric charges, powder blasts and spring-loaded slaps to the seat of the pants.

Courtesy the imagination, invention and industry of DeMoulin Bros. & Co., lodge initiates nationwide were subjected to all manner of momentary indignities before being accepted into organizations like the Woodmen of the World, Knights of Pythias and Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

When Vaudeville was in vogue and slapstick ruled the stage, devices from DeMoulin Bros. were in high demand. Interest waned after World War I, and in 1955 the company shuttered its long-standing lodge paraphernalia division.

Today, the devices are largely gone — but not forgotten. You can view an array of unusual artifacts at the DeMoulin Museum in the company's hometown of Greenville, Ill., where Goldsmith offers tours through the company's history, sharing a sampling of odd and arcane inventions, including a faux guillotine, branding iron, electric gauntlet, bucking goats, collapsing chairs, sliding stairs, elaborate costumes worn by lodge elders and initiates, and photos and personal effects that chronicle the history of DeMoulin Bros. and the men and women who built the company.

From the scorch marks of spent cartridges to the worn wood of a knife-trick table to the elegant lettering of paper labels, more than a century of story stands inside the DeMoulin Museum. Its mix of mostly humorous, mildly macabre artifacts makes it a popular stop for roadside America aficionados. "I'd like to think we've put Greenville on the radar of travelers who weren't familiar with the town," Goldsmith said.

But the museum is more than a warehouse for odd artifacts. Its mission is to tell the story of the founders, employees, and unique products of DeMoulin Bros. & Co., Greenville's first and oldest industry, Goldsmith said. "At its essence, it's a story of American industrialism and ingenuity: first-generation American brothers, whose parents were French and Swiss immigrants, who launched a company that's still in business 131 years later. But there are so many other layers: the people who worked there — many



John Goldsmith, DeMoulin Museum curator, demonstrates a lung tester, one of many arcane devices manufactured by DeMoulin Bros. in the early 1900s.

of them artisans in their own right — the things they made, from quirky initiation devices to breathtaking band uniforms. Our goals are to make the museum a fun, family-friendly, memorable experience and to tell the story in an engaging way, with professional-looking exhibits."

### MAKING MEMORIES

While the museum was Goldsmith's idea, the collection didn't begin with him. "The seeds were planted by my mother, Norma Goldsmith, a 50-year employee of DeMoulin Bros., who passed away in 2007. The heart of the museum began with her personal collection and inspiration to preserve and tell this story," he said. "She would be amazed by what the museum has accomplished since its opening."

The DeMoulin Museum opened on Main Street in March 2010. Its collection of rare and unusual artifacts eventually outgrew the building, and in February 2018, the museum moved to South Prairie Street. Goldsmith adds choice items to the collection as they surface online, at auctions or through referrals. He introduces new exhibits and updates existing displays annually.

The museum has attracted 11,000 visitors representing 30 states and Bolivia, Canada, China, Ecuador, Great Britain, Mexico and Spain.

*Continued on next page ►*

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The DeMoulin Museum is family-friendly and offers multiple photo opportunities to enliven your social media feed. You'll find more on the museum at [www.demoulinmuseum.org](http://www.demoulinmuseum.org), [facebook.com/goatmuseum](https://facebook.com/goatmuseum) and [instagram.com/demoulinmuseum](https://instagram.com/demoulinmuseum), or by calling (618) 664-4115. Admission is by donation.

### SEASONAL HOURS

September through May: Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. June through August: Friday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Sunday 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Group tours are welcome and can be scheduled for any day of the week.

### GETTING THERE

The museum is located two blocks southeast of the square in the former Central Christian Church building, at 205 South Prairie Street, Greenville, IL 62246. Follow I-70 to Exit 41. From the overpass, follow US 40 (The National Road) east about two miles. At the stoplight, turn left onto 4th Street/Dudleville Road. Follow 4th Street about 1.5 miles north. Turn right on Winter Avenue. Follow Winter Avenue five blocks. Turn north onto Prairie Street. You're about two blocks away. After you cross Vine Street, the DeMoulin Museum will be on your left.

► *Continued from page 11*

"Last summer we had a visitor from the Chicago suburbs who stopped by. She walked in and the first words out of her mouth were, 'Where's your Knife Board?' The Knife Throwing Board is one of the initiation devices made by DeMoulin in the early 1900s. I pointed her towards the device, then she asked, 'Will you strap me to the board? And do the knives?' With this device, the initiate is strapped to a board, while a lodge member 'throws' knives. The knives are actually released by a mechanism on the back. I obliged her wishes and she was a happy visitor."

Goldsmith discusses museum history with Susan File, Southwestern Electric's Vice President of Member Services and Operation Round Up program coordinator.



The DeMoulin Museum is funded through frequent fundraisers, donations, merchandise sales, and a \$1,000 annual contribution from a museum fund administered by the Kingsbury Park District. It's staffed by a team of 20 volunteers. "They are a very dedicated group, ranging in age from 17 to 80-plus. Some are DeMoulin retirees. Most have no connection to the factory, but love the vibe of the museum," Goldsmith said.

An \$800 grant awarded by ORU in 2022 largely funded the museum's activity book, which includes 12 pages of DeMoulin-themed puzzles, illustrations for coloring, and trivia. The museum

published 500 copies, distributing dozens Jan. 21, 2023, during Kids Day.

ORU awarded a \$750 grant to the museum in 2014, which sponsored the production of a free-standing interactive exhibit that complements the museum's band uniform collection.

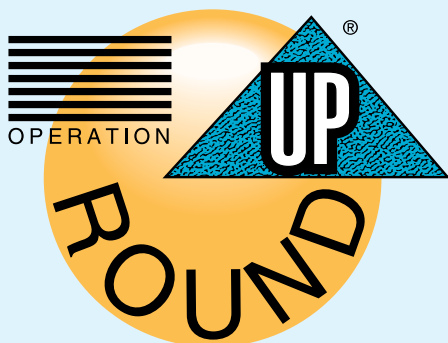
While Goldsmith appreciates every item at the museum, two artifacts are among his favorites. "We have a Low Dow Buck, a 1920 version of a DeMoulin lodge initiation goat, that my mom and I purchased from an antique dealer in Paducah, Ky., in September 2001. It was our first goat." The other standout artifact is a DeMoulin Trick Chair he purchased in 2008 from an antique mall in St. Joseph, Mo. "That was the only DeMoulin buying trip my dad rode along on. He passed away a couple months later. Every time I see those pieces they bring back fond memories."

Which hints at the DeMoulin Museum's deeper mission.

The building is more than a repository for artifacts salvaged from abandoned lodges and darkened meeting halls. It's a library of lost tales.

While visitors revel in the art, ingenuity and artifice of a bygone age, they

## OPERATION ROUND UP: MEMBER SUPPORTED, COMMUNITY MINDED



Neighbors helping neighbors. That's what a co-op is about. And that's the idea behind Operation Round Up (ORU), a charitable program governed, funded and supported by Southwestern Electric Cooperative members.

"The mission of ORU is to broaden the many services and events we enjoy in our communities that would otherwise not be so readily available or available at all," explained Susan File, vice president of member services and ORU coordinator. "With the average ORU donation being \$6 per year, together we can make a positive difference and bridge some of the social and economic gaps we have in and around our service territory spanning 11 counties," she said.

Enrolling in ORU is easy. You can check the enrollment box on your electric bill or online, or contact Southwestern Electric Cooperative at (800) 637-8667.

After you sign up for ORU, Southwestern will round up the amount due on your monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. Your donations are placed in the ORU account. Each quarter, an independent committee of Southwestern Electric members reviews ORU grant requests.

Committee members are appointed by Southwestern Electric's board of directors. Current ORU committee members include Diane Schmid and Charlotte Weber, both of Edwardsville, representing District I; Sue Backs and Mike Emken, both of Greenville, representing District II; and Brady Kramer of Farina and Angela Reeter of Vandalia, representing District III.

"The committee first confirms if the organization is exempt from payment of income tax," File explained. "From there, they review the latest financial statements to see the organization's overall financial health, which gives



fail to notice the museum's curator guiding them down a path from present to past and back again, as he educates, enlightens and entertains, deftly executing the most impressive trick DeMoulin Bros. ever played — making tomorrow's memories, today. *S*

## CO-OP CONNECTION

The DeMoulin Museum greeted its first visitor in 2010. Southwestern Electric was founded in 1939. But the two organizations share a connection that's more than 140 years old. "Our building was originally the Grace Episcopal Church, constructed in the 1880s," Goldsmith explained. "The church closed in 1953 and sat vacant until 1963 when it was purchased by the Central Christian Church, a new congregation seeking a home." It stood at the corner of 3rd and Spring Street, on property owned by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, when the co-op occupied what's now the Greenville Municipal Building. "Central Christian purchased the church from Southwestern, with the stipulation the building be moved — which it was," said Goldsmith, "to where's it's been ever since."



Docent Tom Varner explains the mechanics of a DeMoulin Bros. lifting machine to museum visitors.



insight into its performance, operations, cash flow, and its track record of serving more with increases in donations. We look at how many people would benefit from our donation, how much of each donation is used internally within the organization itself versus externally, if the organization does other fundraising, and how well its mission fits a need in or around our service territory."

Operation Round Up grants help to fund programs and services supporting youth, veterans, food pantries and community initiatives. To date, ORU has awarded 239 grants totaling \$174,115.80.

At present, 2,414 Southwestern Electric members are enrolled in Operation Round Up.

"I think we'd be remiss if we didn't recognize our members who voluntarily choose to donate to the Operation Round Up program. Without our members' participation and funding, this program

would be an idle vehicle. With our members' participation, this vehicle is put into motion for bettering our communities overall," File said.

"I can think of several projects that I'm particularly proud of, but also several deserving projects that we were not able to fund in the early years simply because we did not have funds to share," she noted. "With that said, I would encourage organizations to fill out an application again, if it's been several years since submitting their last application to us."

**Enrolling in ORU is easy. You can check the enrollment box on your electric bill or online, or contact Southwestern Electric Cooperative at (800) 637-8667.**

## A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

File expressed her deep appreciation for longtime Southwestern Electric Cooperative member Michele McEvers, who recently retired from the Operation Round Up committee.

"Michele was an inaugural committee member from ORU's inception in 2005 through the end of 2022 in District II. For personal reasons, Michele felt it best to step down from the committee towards the end of last year," File said. "She was very devoted to the program and an outstanding advocate for many organizations worthy of an ORU award.

"Our program is but one example of how Michele's patience, kindness, and concern for others positively impacted our community," File noted. "Hats off to you, Michele, and thank you for your volunteerism!"

# Get Smart

## GROWING NUMBER OF SMART DEVICES AIM TO BLEND CONVENIENCE, COST SAVINGS

**A**s the world gets smarter, so, too, do our devices.

Smart plugs, smart power strips and smart thermostats are just a few of the devices that have been introduced to make life easier. While those are some of the more popular and widely available appliances, they're not the only products on the market aimed at making energy savings more comfortable and convenient.

Here are a few other household gadgets that can help you conserve time, energy and, ultimately, money.

### SMART LIGHT BULBS

Like electrical outlets, light bulbs are present in virtually every room in your house. And like smart plugs, smart light

bulbs offer the ability to control the lights in your home from a smartphone, tablet or other smart device. Smart bulbs can be turned on or off remotely or set to timers, and some even connect to your smartphone and can be set to turn on or off automatically depending on your location and proximity to the home.

Along with those functions, another great feature of some smart bulbs is the ability to change colors. Mood lighting has never been easier!

Smart light bulbs can be purchased virtually anywhere these days. Cost varies with the bulb's functionality, but most smart bulbs are relatively inexpensive, especially compared to prices just a few years ago. Couple that with the fact that smart bulbs

use less energy and last longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, and the product is one that makes sense for any homeowner.

### SMART AIR CONDITIONER

Smart thermostats are great, but not everyone has central air. For those who turn to air conditioner units for keeping cool during the hot Midwestern summer months, a smart air conditioner can keep you from sweating high energy bills.

Smart air conditioners let you control things like temperature and fan speed, and allow you to schedule it to kick on or off from a phone or tablet. Those features allow the user to save money by only cooling rooms when they're occupied or about to be occupied. Energy usage reports can give you a breakdown of how and when the unit is working.

One of the considerations when purchasing a smart air conditioner, along with price, is the size of the unit. If the unit is too big or too small for the room it's cooling, it will operate less efficiently, offsetting some of the good of investing in a smart device in the first place. To figure out the right-size smart air conditioner for your space, calculate the room's square footage and multiply it by 20 to get an estimate of the British Thermal Units (BTUs) needed. If your room is 400 square feet, you will want your smart air conditioner to be 8,000 BTUs, for example.



PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPS



Smart air conditioners are less omnipresent than their light bulb companions, so check with your local hardware store or retailer to see if they sell them in-store. If not, many retail websites offer shipping.

### SMART SMOKE DETECTOR

Many smart products are aimed at making life more comfortable. Smart technology doesn't stop there, though, and your home's safety can benefit from technological advances as well.

A smart smoke detector can alert homeowners in different ways and with more accuracy than traditional smoke alarms. Smart smoke detectors send alerts to your phone or other device, and ones with the ability to speak are able to notify people in the home of which room the fire or smoke is in.

The industry standard is the Google Nest Protect, though numerous products exist in the market – many of which can be found on the shelves of local hardware retailers. On top of the



PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE

added safety, the Nest Protect tests itself to gauge battery life and sends a notification to your phone to let you know it's running low, rather than the random chirping that accompanies traditional smoke detectors. In that way, smart smoke detectors do provide added convenience as well as the safety components that make them worthwhile investments.

## GREAT OUTDOORS

Smart technology doesn't just exist inside the confines of your home or office. Here are a few outdoor products that can help you conserve energy while also beautifying your home's exterior.

### SMART SPRINKLER

Ever water your grass right before a storm rolls in, or go days without turning on the sprinkler because you're just too busy? Never again with a smart sprinkler, which can be set to a schedule and uses real-time weather data to determine when to kick on and off.

### SMART LAWNMOWER

This might sound like something out of a Back to the Future movie, but smart lawnmowers now exist to cut your grass for you while you relax by the pool or inside in the conditioned air. A perimeter wire lets the mower know where the boundary of your property is, and sensors tell the mower when it needs to recharge and when it's done mowing.



### SMART OUTDOOR LIGHTS

Like the indoor light bulbs, smart outdoor lighting can be on a timer and can be adjusted for brightness, color and other settings as desired. No backyard party is complete without them!

View, Pay,  
Create,  
Update,  
Alert,  
Report,  
Send &  
Receive?




There's  
an app  
for that.

Look for SWEC IL on Google Play or the App Store.



# KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

## *Call Before You Dig*



**F**rom where you're standing, your yard may look peaceful — but there's a lot going on underfoot. Most utilities — Southwestern Electric included — deliver services underground. To avoid personal injury and damage to underground lines, state law requires you to contact Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE), Inc., before any digging project, regardless of the project size or depth.

You can call JULIE at 8-1-1 or enter your locate request at [illinois1call.com](http://illinois1call.com). Both the call and JULIE's services are free.

When homeowners inadvertently cut or damage lines during routine projects, the results can take a staggering toll in terms of costly delays, environmental or property damage, liability, personal injury and loss of life.

All digging projects — from relatively small tasks like planting a tree or shrub to more complex projects like installing a deck, fence or home addition — require a call.

Any number of utility lines may rest where you intend to dig. What appears to be the perfect place to plant a shrub or set a post may be home to water, electric, gas or sewer lines.

When you call 8-1-1, you'll speak with a JULIE call center agent. The agent records the location and description of your project site, and notifies affected member-utility owners and operators. The utilities send a professional locator (JULIE personnel do not perform locating or marking services) to mark the approximate location of their underground utility lines with small flags or paint.

JULIE's call center agents are available to receive and process requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week at either 8-1-1 or (800) 892-0123. Homeowners can also submit locate requests online via E-Request, a free, web-based program, at [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

Projects that require notifying JULIE include, but are not limited to, planting trees, bushes or shrubs; putting up a fence or tent; installing a swing set, a mail box post or water feature such as a pool, pond or fountain; building a deck; or preparing a new garden or landscape area.

For a free copy of JULIE's Homeowner's Guide with information about the one-call process, visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

All digging projects — from relatively small tasks like planting a tree or shrub to more complex projects like installing a deck, fence or home addition — require a call.

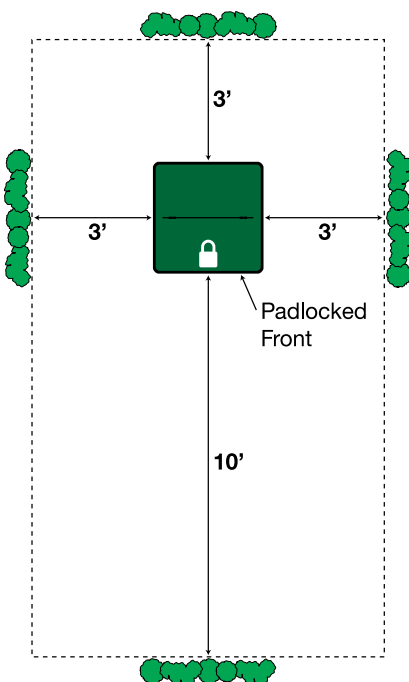




## BURY ME NOT

If there's a pad-mounted transformer in your yard, please don't bury it. It isn't dead. To the contrary, there are live electrical components inside the cabinet. Our crews need to work with those components now and then. By planting thorns around your transformer, or fencing it in, or burying it, you're making it more difficult to restore power to your neighbors and yourself during an outage. You're also compromising your safety and possibly the integrity of Southwestern Electric's distribution system.

A pad-mounted transformer isn't the most attractive feature in your yard, but it is one of the most useful items on your property. Please help us maintain it by following the guidelines we've provided here.



## FIVE STEPS TO SAFETY

There are five important steps to every safe excavation project

1. Pre-mark the proposed dig area.
2. Call or click before you dig.
3. Wait the required time for facilities to be marked (two business days).
4. Respect the marks.
5. Dig with care.



# Star TREC

Effingham County trail springs to life, with something for everyone

Words by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

There are trails best trudged in autumn, with fallen leaves and twigs snapping under foot on well-worn paths, and then there are trails meant to be trekked in spring.

Though it would surely be a scenic stroll in fall, the Trail Recreation Effingham County (TREC) Trail is one of those that shines brightest with vibrant colors in bloom. That's because the roughly four-mile point-to-point trail near Effingham is made for activity, the kind that usually comes with warmer weather. The paved, well-maintained trail weaves through rolling woodlands and farmland and is utilized by walkers, runners and bikers alike.

One of the most unique aspects of the trail is the wooden approach to a bridge — Ryan's Crossing, as it's called — that crosses the Little Wabash River. Leading up to the bridge, the pathway is flanked on either side by railings reminiscent

of an old wooden roller coaster, or perhaps an Atlantic City boardwalk. A similar railing accompanies a switchback path that zigs and zags to its culmination, a modest but still noteworthy overlook best appreciated during a late April sunset.

For the nature lovers, trail patrons have been known to spot no shortage of deer and wild turkeys, among other wildlife, during walks. And, as you can see in the accompanying photos, when spring is in bloom there is an abundance of green, purple, pink and other brilliant colors to catch the eye. Just as the trail is easy to traverse, so, too, is parking, with multiple lots at both the west and east ends of the trail.

Ample parking, accessible trails, something for everyone — the TREC system checks a lot of boxes for those looking to get out and about this spring. Be sure to check it off your list sooner than later.

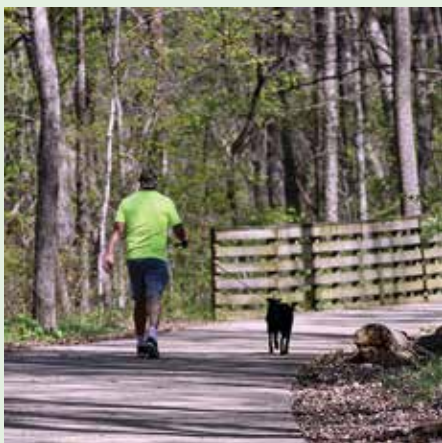






## GETTING THERE

As noted, there are multiple ways to get to the trail, but the westernmost lot is the trailhead parking area on Fairview Drive in Effingham. To get there, take Interstate 70 east to exit 159 for Fayette Avenue. Turn left onto Fayette Avenue, then right onto Outer Belt West. Two lefts — the first onto County Road 1500 North, the second onto North Nazarene Road — and a right get you to Fairview Drive and, a few hundred feet later, the TREC trailhead parking lot.





## WHO • WHAT • WHERE

For many of us, historical monuments are more than landmarks recalling events and people long past.

They're harbingers of home.

We top a hill, round a bend or turn a corner to find a familiar figure standing in front of a courthouse, at the heart of a plaza or atop a plinth, and we breathe a bit easier, knowing we're not far from our door.

Several of you recognized the community that's home to the Lincoln statue which served as our mystery location in February. We've shared some of your responses here.

For this month's puzzle, we're challenging you to identify the item in an unusual illustration. Any thoughts as to what's pictured on the opposite page? The only hint we're offering: A version of the actual item is pictured elsewhere in this issue of the magazine.

We'll share your solutions to this month's puzzle in our June issue. Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy the responses to our February challenge. Thanks to everyone who submitted a solution — and thank you for reading *The Southwestern*.

My husband and I both grew up in Bunker Hill, so we know that Lincoln monument very well! It looks better than ever after having been restored fairly recently.

—April Wood, Troy

Unless I missed the mark, you are in the heart of Bunker Hill, Illinois. I saw that statue every time I drove home from Shell Oil going north on 159.

—Scott Fischer, Staunton

The statue of Abe Lincoln is on the main street through Bunker Hill. I live in

Dorsey, about seven miles from it. The Bunker Hill Beautification Committee always has pretty tulips and flowers planted around the statue in spring — looks very nice.

—Dolores Bertels, Dorsey

We are in Bunker Hill, Ill., on Route 159 heading north out of town. Abe Lincoln has been standing watch over the "Downtown" as long as this old guy can remember, because I wasn't around (119 years ago) on September 7, 1904, at the dedication ceremony with the estimated 5,000 other people.

—Mac McCormick, Holiday Shores

I believe that the wonderful statue of Abraham Lincoln is in the center square in Bunker Hill. Always enjoy this feature of the magazine; this is my first time entering.

—Marikaye Buchanan, Edwardsville

This statue of Abraham Lincoln is located in Bunker Hill, Illinois. The woman is inscribing "with malice toward none" on the stone. Thanks!

—Lori Sneed, Glen Carbon



This statue is in Bunker Hill, Illinois. I have driven past it many times.

—James Smith, Meadowbrook

This is on route 159 right in the center of Bunker Hill, Illinois.

—Mike Jackson, Granite City

Abraham Lincoln is pointing at the kneeling Liberty, which was unveiled in 1904 in Bunker Hill, Illinois. It can be found at the intersection of West Washington Street (Rt. 159) and East Fayette Street. The inscription reads: "With malice toward none."

A bronze plate on the monument is inscribed with the date 1904 and the words: "In everlasting memory of the conflict by which the Union was preserved and in which they took part, this statue of Abraham Lincoln was presented to the citizens of Bunker Hill by the soldiers of Company "B" of the first Missouri Calvary Charles Clinton, Captain."

About 5,000 people attended the dedication ceremony, including survivors of Company B.

Miss Mary True, daughter of Moses True, unveiled the monument.

—Anne Cicero, St. Jacob

P.S. Loved the article *For The Birds!* As always, loved the photos!

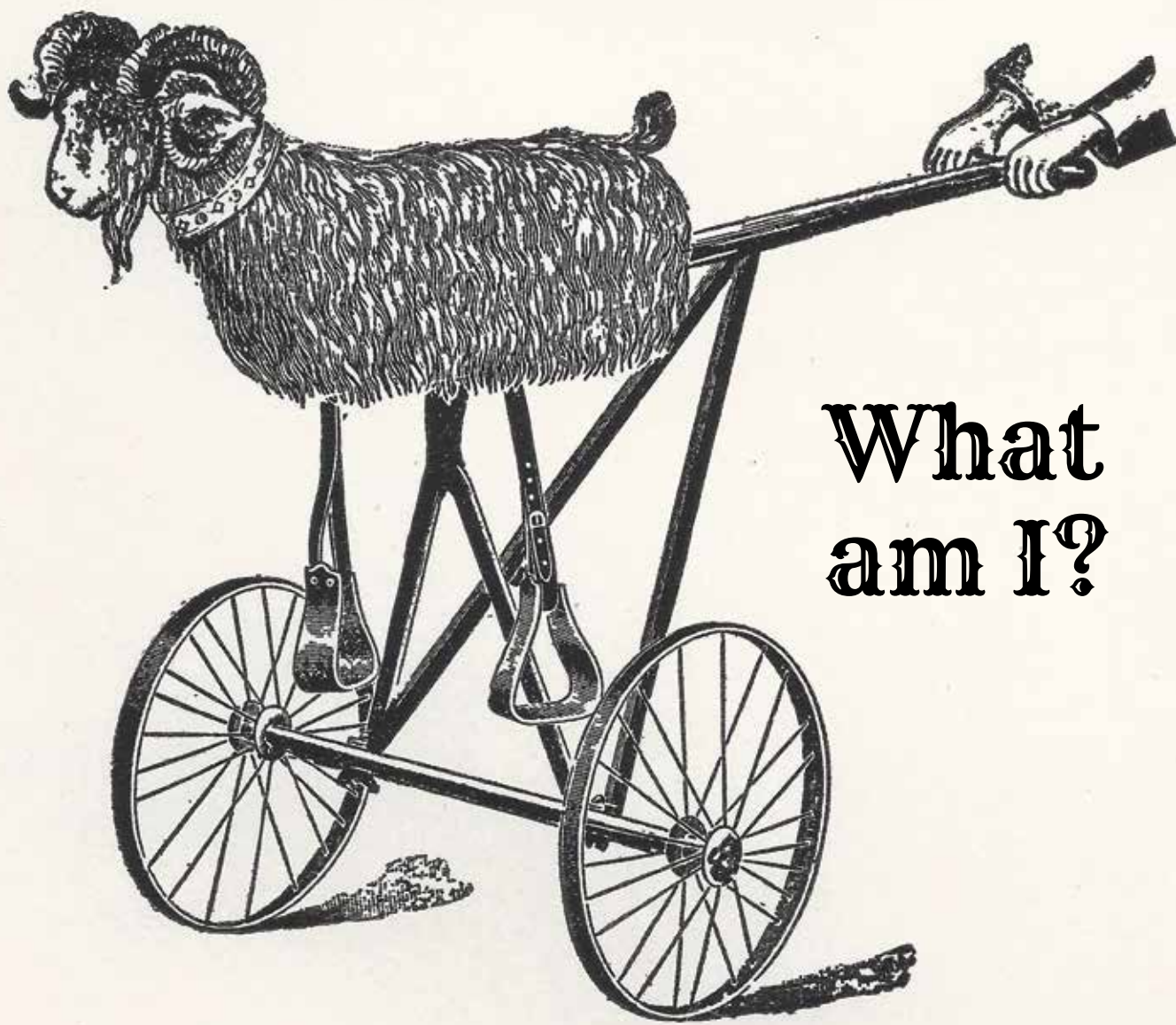
The February 2023 "Where are we" takes us to Bunker Hill, Illinois. The "Lincoln and Liberty" statute can be found at the intersection of West Washington St. and East Fayette St. there.

The monument is composed of an over life-sized standing figure of Abraham Lincoln mounted on a tall, stepped granite pedestal, with a life-sized female allegorical figure (representing Liberty) kneeling on the lowest step.

Liberty, dressed in a long flowing

**Who-What-Where** is a contest that challenges your knowledge of people, places and objects in and around Southwestern Electric Cooperative's service area. Here's how it works: Each month, we run a photo. Your job is to tell us who's pictured, what we've photographed, or where we shot the photo. You can email your response to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com) or send it by mail to Joe Richardson, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please include your name, mailing address, and hometown. If you have a story about our photo topic, include that as well—we love these! The puzzle solution—possibly accompanied by a few words from you—will appear in a future issue of *The Southwestern*.





# What am I?

classical gown holds a stylus in her right hand as if writing the words, “With malice toward none,” which are incised in the granite pedestal.

The statute was unveiled in September 1904.

—*Bill Malec, O’Fallon*

After many years of receiving The Southwestern you have gotten the closest to my home with your cover photo of the Alton bridge and the Lincoln statue, which is just five miles up the highway from where I live.

As a collector of Lincoln memorabilia, I have always been proud to have such a nice Lincoln statue nearby. I’ve been told that the highway I live on was originally an old road dating back to the days

when Lincoln traveled from Springfield to Alton or Edwardsville.

I have enclosed a button I have that was given out at the dedication of the



PHOTO  
COURTESY  
JIM WIEMERS

statue in 1904. I got the memento at the 2002 auction of the late Dr. George Hess, a collector of many historical objects. He served the area from 1942 to 1979, and his office (in an old, refurbished house) stood within yards east of the statue.

Dr. Hess was also an important part of Bunker Hill history. He lived on the second floor of the building for many years. The first floor contained his office; several examining rooms; a waiting room; and a pharmacy, where his nurses bottled and dispensed the doctor’s pills and medicine.

There is a lot of history in the area served by Southwestern Electric. Thank you for recognizing my home area.

—*Jim Wiemers, Dorsey*

## FRENCH TOAST BAKE

### Ingredients

- ¼ cup butter melted
- 2 packages cinnamon rolls cut each roll into 8 pieces (save the icing)
- 6 eggs
- ½ cup heavy whipping cream
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 cup pecans
- 1 cup maple syrup

### Directions

1. Pour butter into 13 x 9 inch baking dish.
2. Spread cinnamon roll pieces evenly in dish.
3. In large bowl mix together eggs, cream, vanilla, and cinnamon.
4. Pour egg mixture over rolls.
5. Top with pecans and syrup.
6. Bake at 375° for 30 minutes.
7. Spread icing over top and serve.

# Bake & Cake

## CARROT CAKE

### Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 4 eggs
- 1½ cups vegetable oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 cups grated carrots
- 1 cup chopped pecans (optional)

### Frosting Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese softened
- ½ stick butter softened
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 pound powdered sugar

### Topping

- ½ cup ground pecans (optional)

### Directions

1. Stir together flour, salt, baking soda, and cinnamon and set aside.
2. Beat the eggs in large mixing bowl.
3. Add vegetable oil and sugar to eggs and mix thoroughly.
4. Gradually add the flour mixture to the eggs stirring until well blended.
5. Stir in the carrots and 1 cup of nuts.
6. Pour mixture into a 13 x 9 inch greased and floured baking dish.
7. Bake at 350° for 50 minutes and let cool.
8. For the frosting, mix together the cream cheese, butter, and vanilla then blend in the powdered sugar.
9. Frost the completely cooled cake and sprinkle ground pecans over the top.

Carrot Cake

Prepared &  
photographed  
by Mike Barns





This month's recipes are courtesy of 4-H House Alumni Association's Nurture the Future @ 805 4-H House Anniversary Cookbook (quiche Lorraine), Bond County *Habitat for Humanity* Cookbook (French toast bake and make ahead breakfast casserole), and Fayette County Museum *35th Anniversary Cookbook* (carrot cake).

## QUICHE LORRAINE

### Ingredients

- 1 (9 inch) pie shell
- 4 slices bacon cooked and crumbled
- ½ cup diced ham
- ½ cup diced Swiss cheese
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup of half and half
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon white pepper
- 2 teaspoons finely minced onion

### Directions

1. Spread bacon in bottom of unbaked pie shell.
2. Cover with ham and cheese.
3. Put eggs, half and half, salt, nutmeg, pepper, and onion in blender and mix well.
4. Pour egg mixture over ham and cheese.
5. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

## MAKE AHEAD BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

### Ingredients

- 2½ cups seasoned croutons
- 1 pound roll pork sausage browned and drained
- 4 eggs
- 2¼ cups milk
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 (10 ounce) package chopped spinach thawed and squeezed dry
- 1 (4 ounce) can mushrooms drained and chopped
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese
- ¼ teaspoon dry mustard

### Directions

1. Spread croutons on bottom of greased 13 x 9 inch baking dish.
2. Crumble sausage over croutons.
3. Whisk eggs and milk in large bowl until blended.
4. Stir in soup, spinach, mushrooms, cheeses, and mustard.
5. Pour egg mixture over sausage and croutons.
6. Refrigerate overnight.
7. Bake at 325° for 50-55 minutes or until set and lightly browned on top.

## CURRENT EVENTS

### April 1; May 6; June 3

**CARLINVILLE MARKET DAYS** Carlinville. The first Saturday of the month though October. Locally-made goods, crafts, antiques, vintage and new clothing, jewelry, tools, home décor, baked goods, and produce. This market is part farmer's market, part flea market, and part craft market. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. At the Downtown Square. Call (217) 565-0937 or e-mail carlinvillemarket@gmail.com.



### April 23 MUSHROOM

**FESTIVAL & HUNT**, Grafton. Come join us for live music, unique craft vendors, lunch in the restaurant, locally made wines, and all there is to know about morel mushrooms. The Great Morel Hunt will be held at 1 p.m. (weather and morel permitting). Join fellow hunters as you scan the ground for these delicious delicacies. If you're new to mushroom hunting the lodge will have 2 seasoned hunters out in the woods with you for help. Once the hunt is over, see if you found the smallest, biggest, or most morels to win a free night stay to our lodge. Wear sturdy shoes as you will be on uneven ground. This event is free and open to the public and great for all ages. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. For more information call Arielle at 618-786-2331, extension 338 or visit pmlodge.net.

### April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 2

**WILDFLOWER HIKE**, Godfrey. Many of the flowers you'll see in the spring are known as ephemerals due to their short-lived nature. Join one of our naturalists to identify some of these plants before they're gone. 9 - 10 a.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit thenatureinstitute.org.

### April 14-16, 21-23 THE MURDER ROOM

, Breese. A theatrical presentation by Clinton County Showcase. All performances begin at 8 p.m. except for the last Sunday showing, which is at 2 p.m. \$12 for adults; \$10 for students, senior citizens and active military personnel (with valid identification). Historic Avon Theatre, 535 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. For reservations, call (618) 526-2866 or visit clintoncountyshowcase.com.

**April 15 GOSHEN WINTER MARKET**, Edwardsville. The market will be held on the third Saturday of the month and ends in April. Find seasonal produce, eggs, meats, baked goods, arts and crafts from local growers and artists. 8 a.m. - noon. In the basement of the Newsong Fellowship building, 201 St. Louis Street. Visit goshenmarket.org.

**April 15 THE GREAT MUSHROOM HUNT**, Grafton. This event features hunting for mysterious morel mushrooms, lessons from the Illinois state champion, hiking, eagle watch-

ing, and kid activities. The hunt will take place on the property behind the waterpark. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$15.99 per person online; \$49.99 per family 4-pack; \$24.99 at the gate. Raging Rivers Water Park, 100 Palisades Parkway. Visit facebook.com/ragingrivers or ragingrivers.com.

**April 15, 29 VINE STREET MICRO MARKETS**, O'Fallon. Micro Markets are an abbreviated version of the regular season farmers market. 9 a.m. - noon. Indoors at the O'Fallon Station, 212 East 1st Street. Visit ofallonstation.com.

**April 18 - October 24 FARMERS MARKET**, East Alton. Seasonal vegetables, fruits, and flowers, as well as locally made honey, sauces, desserts, and breads will be available along with local artisan and crafted goods. Every Tuesday from 3 - 7 p.m. Eastgate Plaza, 625 Eastgate Plaza. Call (618) 530-1880

**April 19 TRASH BASH**, Grafton. We can't think of a better way to celebrate Earth Day (April 22nd) than getting our hands dirty picking up trash. This is a free event and open to everyone. We encourage you to come out and help us keep Mother Nature looking her best as we pick up trash and debris around the lodge, visitor's center, and bike trails. Gloves are highly recommended. This is a weather permitting event and will be called off due to rain. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. For more information, call Arielle at

(618) 786-2331, extension 338, find us on Facebook, or visit pmlodge.net.

**April 19; May 19 TELESCOPE NIGHT**, Godfrey. Want to look at the universe through a telescope, but don't own one? Come out to the Talahi Lodge on the night after a full moon and we will have some set up. Bring your own telescope and we can help you use it. We will talk about how telescopes work and look at the moon and other night sky objects. April event 9 - 11 p.m.; May event 9:30 - 11:30 p.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit thenatureinstitute.org.

**April 21-23, 29 & 30 ALICE@WONDERLAND**, Collinsville. The story is laid out in traditional style, except that Alice is distinctly contemporary, complete with cell phone in hand. 7:30 p.m. Goshen Theatre Project, 114 West Main Street. For tickets, visit goshentheatreproject.org.

**April 22 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION**, Edwardsville. The day kicks off at 8 a.m. with registration for the Run Wild! 5k and Fun Run. Runners step off at 8:30 a.m. Event will also feature a native plant sale, positive change discovery day, guided bird walk, yoga, massages, food trucks, and DJ. Watershed Nature Center, 1591 Tower Avenue. Call (618) 692-7578 or visit watershednaturecenter.com.

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### Call to Confirm

Listings are provided by event organizers or taken from community websites. We recommend calling to confirm dates, times and details before you make plans. All are subject to change.

### Submissions

To submit an event for consideration in our calendar, email your event information to joe.richardson@sweci.com. Please use our Current Events format (as seen on these pages) to write your submission. Include a contact number or email and submit your listing at least two months prior to your event.



## END NOTE



by Joe Richardson

In my third year of college, I learned to read. Let me clarify: In elementary, I could link word to meaning, summarize sentences, parse paragraphs and recite key points of a page. Stories spoke to me at an early age. But I never spoke back.

I was taught not to.

My grade school saw every text as sacred, not to be defiled by pen, pencil or thought. You didn't write in books. There were no scribbles, no sketches, no underscores or exclamation points. No circled page numbers to act as navigational buoys. No question marks for points of clarification or ragged jags of lightning to call out the quickening of an idea. No arrows to point out the poetry in the prose.

If you left a mark? The next reader would never know.

At end of term, we paged through texts, rubbing away stray scribbles and all signs of the students who made them.

In practice it was budget-smart. When it came to conserving resources, marking up books was a bad habit. Our teachers broke that habit before it was fully formed, instilling in us an awe of the printed page I would carry into high school.

When I picked up books at yard sales, flea markets and secondhand shops, I avoided copies with well-worn covers, dog-eared pages and marginalia. That is to say, I shunned books that were loved. I might be shunning them still were it not for Betty Richardson's book of bad habits.

I had the great good luck of landing in Betty's detective fiction course at SIUE in the early 1990s. When you invested

in Betty's class, Betty invested in you. She shared her time, her talent, her wisdom — and her books. The first time I cracked the cover of a paperback from her personal library I discovered a treatise in all I'd been taught not to do.

For Betty, reading was a contact sport. She underlined passages in red and green. She penned questions, comments and insights in the margins. On this page she affirmed, on the next, she asserted. Chapter by chapter, she summarized, scoffed, wondered, emphasized, and changed my way of thinking.

Authors taught me topics. Betty taught me to read; to dance with a writer, pen in hand, leaving footprints of idea and emotion at the edges of a page. She illustrated how bad habits lead to better understanding.

I'm passing the lesson along.

Pull a paperback from your personal library. Read it with a pen. Interrogate the text. Question the author. Question yourself. Note lines that make you laugh. Phrases that make you cry. Sentences that make you soar. Map the book in thought and feeling from cover to cover. Then drop it at a Little Free Library or thrift shop as a gift to readers who come after — or shelve it as a gift to yourself. Open it in a year or two or 10. The words will be the same. Their meaning won't be. Because you will have changed. For all the story that's set, there's always another experience, a new insight, a deeper understanding, waiting on the page.

Mark it in the margins.

Make a habit of it.

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**April 22** ETHEREAL VISIONS, Lebanon. Join artist Gary Karasek and the Belleville Philharmonic in this unique multi-sensory immersive experience. With Edward Elgar's evocative Enigma Variations as a rich musical canvas performed live by the Philharmonic, the audience will travel through an up-close and enveloping exhibit of large scale art installations and projections on the stage and then observe the artist create a monumental painting in real-time inspired by the music of the moment. Shows at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. Friends \$15; Public: \$18.75. The Hett Center for the Arts, 400 North Alton Street. Call (618) 537-6863 or visit thehett.com.

**April 23** DEMOULIN MUSEUM, Greenville. Join us for a free performance by the Tristan Coan Jazz Trio. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. Concert begins at 1 p.m. The museum will be open after the concert until 3 p.m. DeMoulin Museum, 205 South Prairie Street. Call (618) 664-4115 or visit demoulinmuseum.org.

**April 23** SHELBY COUNTY ART SHOW, Shelbyville. The special exhibit this year will feature the works of Robert Marshall Root (1863-1937), Midwestern tonalist and impressionist artist from Shelbyville. 3 - 7 p.m. Lake Shelbyville COE Visitor Center, 1989 IL-16. For details call Carol Kessler at (217) 827-5690 or e-mail carolkessler1948@gmail.com.

**April 23** TRIVIA NIGHT, Belleville. Join us for the annual Looking Glass Playhouse Trivia Night. Refreshments available. There will be cash prizes, 50-50 raffle, and cookie raffle. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$12 per person for tables of 8-10 participants. Althoff Catholic High School, Heritage Hall, 5401 West Main Street. For reservations, email Gigi at dongi33@aol.com. For more information, visit lookingglass-playhouse.com.

**April 28** TRIVIA THROUGH THE DECADES, Edwardsville. Teams compete to answer questions in categories spanning the 1920s through the present day. Teams are encouraged (but not required) to come dressed in costume from their favorite decade or join the event volunteers in the 1950s. This year's decorating theme is Pop's Diner (1950s). Teams registered and paid by April 21 receive their Mulligans for free. Free beer (while supply lasts), soda and water provided to participants. No outside beverages allowed but food is welcome. Cash prizes for 1st and 2nd place teams. Costume contest during the first intermission with winners crowned Prom King & Queen. Doors open at 6 p.m.; trivia starts at 7 p.m. Teams of 8 players (\$200 per team table or \$25 per person). Tables are limited so don't wait to register. Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House, 409 S. Buchanan Street. To register, call (618) 692-1818 or visit stephensonhouse.org.

**April 29** ALTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: "AN EVENING WITH THE MASTERS", Godfrey. 7 p.m. Adult \$10; children \$5. Lewis & Clark Community College, Ann Whitney Olin Theater, Hatheway Cultural Center, 5800 Godfrey Road. For more information, visit altonsymphonyorchestra.org.

**April 29** MUSIC IN THE CATHEDRAL, Belleville. Enjoy the combined forces of the Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale in Belleville's magnificent Cathedral. 7:30 p.m. Cathedral of St. Peter, 200 West Harrison Street. For tickets, visit bellevillephilharmonic.org.

**April 29** SPORES N MORE FESTIVAL, Windsor. Kick off spring with food trucks, more than 30 vendors, live music, and more mushrooms. A mushroom soup lunch will be available at the American Legion. 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Downtown on Main Street. For details, e-mail ahuff1031@yahoo.com.

**April 29** TROY CITY CEMETERY TOMBSTONE CLEANING, Troy. The Troy Genealogical Society is looking for volunteers to help preserve our Civil War, WWI and WWII Veterans markers. Once the markers are cleaned a flag will be set. VFW Auxiliary and Patriot Guard will be present. Before cleaning, a short story of each veteran will be given to the volunteer so they will also have a bit of history for the marker. Deadline for waiver/registration is April 21. Tombstone cleaning will be held 10 a.m. at Troy City Cemetery, 300-398 South Main Street. For details, see the TGS Facebook page or email TroyGenealogicalSociety@gmail.com or bmcbailey@charter.net, or call Diana Bauer at (618) 667-7074.

**April 30** WEDDING EXPO, Alton. Event will feature vendors from across the region including caterers, photographers, hair and makeup stylists, florists, DJs and bands, dresses and formal wear, desserts and bakeries, photo booths, and travel representatives to help you plan your special day. Post Commons, 300 Alby Street. Call (618) 433-8871 or visit postcommons.com.

**May 5-7, 10-14** DING DONG, Alton. A theatrical presentation by the Alton Little Theater Company. Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Adult \$20; age 17 years of age and younger \$15. Alton Little Theater, 2450 North Henry Street. For tickets, call (618) 462-3205 or visit altonlittletheater.org.

**May 6** FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY: SOMETHING'S FISHY, Godfrey. Head to Cypress Pond to try your hand at fishing. Poles and bait are provided by TNI. All fishing is catch and release. After, complete a fish craft back at the Lodge. Parents/guardians are required to attend with children. 10 a.m. - noon. \$5 members; \$7 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South

Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit thenatureinstitute.org.

**May 6** MAY MARKET HOME & GARDEN SHOW, Lebanon. More than 60 vendors offering spring flowers and plants, crafts, antiques, original artwork, food and upcycled items. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. West St. Louis Street (the brick street). Visit maymarket.weebly.com.

**May 6** SPRING FLING FESTIVAL, Greenville. Enjoy breakfast and lunch in the Lil' Red Barn from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Smok'n on the Farm BBQ Competition starts at 1 p.m. Taste each team's best eats all afternoon with \$10 armband. Event also includes a flea market and swap meet, beer tent and live music. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (rain or shine). American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit american-farmerheritagemuseum.org.

**May 6** TOUR DE STOOGES, Lebanon. This is a rolling start ride with riders beginning as soon after check-in as they choose. All riders must check-in prior to riding to obtain a wristband. The wristband identifies riders for SAG service, rest stops and lunch. Routes range from 9 - 100 miles. After the ride, we spread out, eat and watch Three Stooges shorts until the cows come home. Check-in begins at 5:30 a.m. for long distance riders. All riders must be finished by 4 p.m. when SAG service ends. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Adult \$35; children 5 - 12 years of age \$20; family (2 adults, 2 children from same household) \$80; family child add-on (must be from same household) \$15. McKendree University Convocation Center, Alton Street. To register, visit gatewayeasttrails.org.



A bunny passes  
through an  
Altamont lawn  
on its way to  
Easter.

**THE FINAL FRAME**



