

EFFINGHAM

WINTER 2023 — HOLIDAY EDITION

MAGAZINE

Holiday Recipes

**BARN &
BOTTLE
WINERY**

**UPDATE ON
LAKE SARA
PROJECTS**

**A PASSION
FOR HOLIDAY
DECORATING**





Willow Breeze

Sarah Bush Lincoln
Hospice House



Making Every Moment Count

Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospice believes in embracing life's final journey with dignity, compassion, and the utmost care. With peaceful surroundings, a serene atmosphere and rooms designed for tranquility, Willow Breeze is a sanctuary of comfort where your physical, emotional and spiritual needs are met.

Offering:

- Eight private suites for people of all ages
- Walk-out patios that overlook a landscaped pond
- Covered patio to enjoy the outdoors
- Walking path partially around the pond
- Family quiet rooms that accommodate overnight guests
- Family kitchen and coffee bar
- Library, work space, chapel, activity room
- Visiting hours 24 hours a day, seven days a week



Come for a Visit

We invite you to visit Willow Breeze, take a tour, meet our dedicated team, and learn about how we can support you and your family during this significant time.

For more information or to schedule a visit, please call SBL Hospice.

1-800-454-4055

 Sarah Bush
Lincoln
Trusted Compassionate Care



Hundreds of Dining, Bedroom, & Living Room Items
IN STOCK NOW!



ILLINOIS' LARGEST AMISH FURNITURE OUTLET

HAVE YOUR FURNITURE DELIVERED OR TAKE IT HOME TODAY!

468 E Springfield Rd, Arcola, IL 61910 • 217-268-3355 • KauffmanAmishFurnitureOutlet.com

EFFINGHAM

WINTER 2023 — HOLIDAY EDITION

MAGAZINE

CONTENTS

- 12 | LAKE SARA PEARSON PENINSULA
PARK PHASE II COMPLETE
- 18 | TEEN GOES ALL OUT FOR HOLIDAY
DECORATING
- 34 | ROUTE 45'S PATH THROUGH
HISTORY
- 45 | HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT A THRIFT
STORE



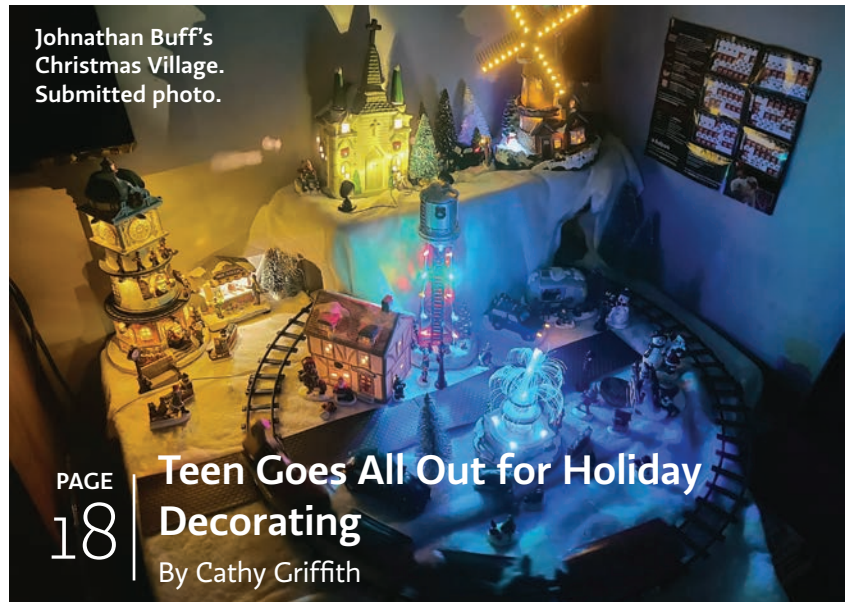
Lynzee Hagen's dog, Walter. Submitted photo.

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 | FROM THE EDITOR &
CONTRIBUTORS
- 8 | FOOD & DRINK
- 26 | FLASHBACK
- 28 | HOLIDAY PETS
- 30 | HOLIDAY RECIPES
- 38 | EFFINGHAM AREA CALENDAR OF
EVENTS
- 44 | HOME & GARDEN
- 46 | PARTING SHOT: HOLIDAY
MEMORIES

FEATURE STORY

Johnathan Buff's
Christmas Village.
Submitted photo.



PAGE
18

Teen Goes All Out for Holiday Decorating

By Cathy Griffith

PUBLISHER

Amy Winter

amy.winter@effinghamdailynews.com

EDITOR

Jeff Long

jeff.long@effinghamdailynews.com

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Cathy Griffith

cathy.griffith@effinghamdailynews.com

ART DIRECTOR

Natalie Reidford

CONTRIBUTORS

Nick Taylor

Devin Walk

SALES SUPERVISOR

Jody Hardiek

jody.hardiek@effinghamdailynews.com

ADVERTISING SALES CONSULTANTS

advertising@effinghamdailynews.com

DeeAnn Bauguss

Julie Harkins

CONTACT US

(217) 347-7151

E-MAIL

news@effinghamdailynews.com

Effingham Magazine is published quarterly by the Effingham Daily News at 201 N. Banker St., Effingham, IL 62401. Reproduction or use of editorial or graphic content in any manner without permission is prohibited.

Copyright © 2023 by CNHI, LLC.
www.effinghamdailynews.com
Please recycle when you're done with it!

Effingham Magazine on the web

Check out current and past magazines at
effinghamdailynews.com/news/magazines/

ON THE COVER: Liam Campbell emerges from a snow tunnel he dug with his dad during a snow storm in 2022. Submitted by Sarah Campbell.



**Whirlpool Kitchen
Appliances Help You
Through Every Step of
Your Holiday Meal**

Whirlpool®

When You're Building
More Than A Kitchen.

You're Making Holiday
Memories.

*YOU CREATE THE COZY.
WE'LL PROVIDE THE WARMTH.*



Turn to the experts



Turn to Carrier for quiet, efficient heating
you can depend on all winter.

When you're spending more time in your home, you want your indoor
air to be comfortable and healthier. That's why we offer a range of
innovative heating solutions that not only deliver quiet, efficient
warmth, but can also be paired with our Infinity® air purifier for
advanced filtration that can inactivate airborne coronavirus trapped
in the filter.* So you can enjoy home comfort and peace of mind.

Learn how it works at carrier.com/purifier.



©2020 Carrier. All Rights Reserved.
*The Infinity Air Purifier has demonstrated effectiveness against the murine coronavirus, based on third-party testing (2020)
showing a >99% inactivation, which is a virus similar to the human novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19.
Therefore, the Infinity Air Purifier can be expected to be effective against SARS-CoV-2 when used in accordance with its directions
for use. Airborne particles must flow through your HVAC system and be trapped by the Infinity filter to be inactivated at 99%.

318 W. Jefferson Ave.
Effingham
www.probstrefrigeration.net

Probst

REFRIGERATION & HEATING INC

Trust your home to expert care

**Call Today
For A Quote!**

(217) 342-6441
Hours: Monday-Friday
7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - Noon

From the editor & Contributors

We love this time of year. Especially because of all the holiday decorations.

Holiday decorating is the passion of Johnathan Buff. The 15-year-old's favorites to decorate for are Halloween and Christmas. That passion was evident when Cathy Griffith visited his home in early October.

If you missed his spooky display on the edge of Effingham across from the Y-Yard, be sure to take a drive by the Buff home at Christmas. He always has big plans. Decorating for that holiday starts promptly the day after Thanksgiving. From the time he wakes up on that day, he's "chomping at the bit," according to his mom, Jamie.

As usual for our winter Effingham Magazine, we're stuffed with stories having to do with the holidays.

Devin Walk shares memories of Christmas as he grew up in Altamont.

We also share some of our favorite holiday recipes contributed by Effingham Daily News readers over the years. And be sure to check out photos of pets dressed for the holidays, also shared by readers.

On other topics, we update you on all the work being done at Lake Sara. And we visit with Melissa and Andy Voelker, owners of Barn & Bottle Winery, which has been open for a year.

From our family to yours – happy holidays!



Jeff Long
Editor



Jeff Long is the editor of the Effingham Daily News. He is a 1987 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and has worked for newspapers in England, Pennsylvania and Virginia. For 13 years, he was a reporter and later an editor at the Chicago Tribune. A past president and current board member of the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors, he lives in Altamont with his wife, Karen.



Cathy Griffith is news editor of the Effingham Daily News. She is a 1998 graduate of Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. She has worked at the Daily News for 22 years in news and magazine publications. She is a lifelong resident of Effingham, where she resides with her husband, Tim, and daughter, Leah.



Nick Taylor covers Effingham County, Altamont, Teutopolis and Dieterich for the Effingham Daily News. He graduated from Butler University in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. As the son of two Indiana attorneys, he worked as a paralegal assistant at Taylor Law Firm in his home state before moving to Effingham in the summer of 2022 to begin a career in journalism.



Devin Walk is a history writer from Altamont. Since 2017, he has been a writer and admin for memoriesoftheprairie.com and runs an Altamont history Facebook page. He is also a freelance web designer and marketer who graduated from Bradley University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in advertising.



Merry Christmas
from
JEDCO
SALES, INC.

Wishing you a season filled with joy & happiness.

217-342-3407 | 2313 Hoffman Drive
800-284-1057 | Effingham, IL

www.jedcosales.com

Let us help **YOU** *Get Noticed*

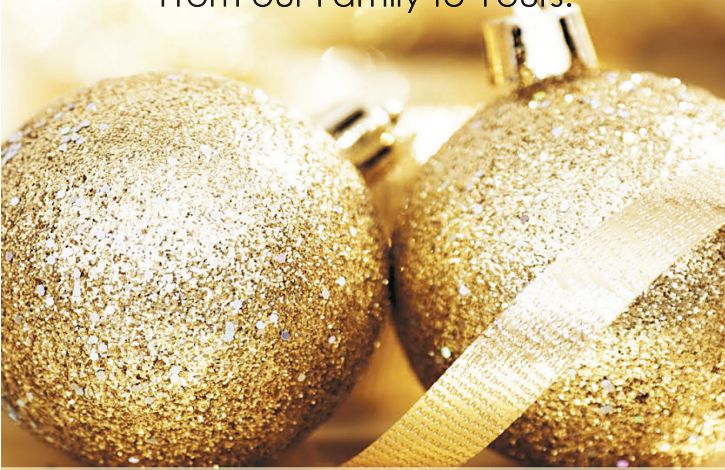
- ~ Clothing Programs
- ~ Promotional Products
- ~ Event T-shirts
- ~ Business Gifts
- ~ Online Company Stores
- ~ School Uniform Programs



Milano & Grunloh
Engineers, LLC
engineering | surveying

LEE R. BECKMAN, P.E., P.L.S. | DOUGLAS C. GRUNLOH, P.L.S.

Happy Holidays!
From our Family to Yours.



114 West Washington Avenue | Effingham, Illinois 62401
Phone: (217) 347-7262 | (800) 677-2714
E: mgengineers@mgengineers.com | W: mgengineers.com

THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY MUSEUM
110 E. Jefferson Ave., Effingham, IL.

Tells the story of local people and the things which mattered in their lives like...

The churches they attended. Their personal interests.



The products which they produced.



Their successes in local sports and beyond.



Their business workplaces and their skills.







PLEASE VISIT THE
EFFINGHAM COUNTY MUSEUM
for visiting hours www.effinghamcountymuseum.org




**We're proud to be
a part of Effingham**



Story
Cathy Griffith
Effingham Magazine

Photos
Cathy Griffith
& submitted

Barn & Bottle Winery

'The more wineries you have around, the better it is'

A couple times a year, Melissa and Andy Voelker would go on a wine trail with friends in Southern Illinois. They enjoyed it so much it would eventually lead them to open their own winery.

The venture started 10 years ago when they planted grapes on their property in Altamont so Andy could begin making his own wine. After doing some research, he made his first batch in 2016 off the first crop of grapes. It was a Niagara sweet wine.

Every year, they would add to the vineyard. In 2021, Andy entered four of his wines into the Illinois State Fair and medaled in all four, earning gold for two.

"Friends and family had always told me my wines were pretty good," said Andy. "It was just an affirmation that it was good wine."

The couple knew their homemade wine was ready for business. The two EMS workers also

were looking for another career.

"We worked EMS in Effingham County for 25 years for Effingham City/County Ambulance. We had always talked about what are we going to do when the knees give out and the back gives out and then City/County closed. Then we really started rolling with it - 'We're going to do this. We're going to build this winery,'" said Melissa.

They knew it wouldn't be easy.

First, they needed to know if their three sons would be able to help. While Melissa is retired, Andy still works as a paramedic. The sons were 100% behind the venture.

Next, the couple began building the winery in a pole barn they had on the property during the pandemic, which led to a sharp rise in building material costs. Andy worked on his days off with some retired contractors to finish the winery.

Owners Melissa and Andy Voelker stand behind the bar of their Barn & Bottle Winery in Altamont. Cathy Griffith photo





"We tried to do as much as we could to save as much money as we could," said Melissa.

After pushing the opening date back more than once, the Voelkers were finally ready to open Barn & Bottle Winery in October last year.

The couple said the winery has been well received in the Altamont community and the area.

"It still amazes me. We've been open a year, and we'll have days where it's people that are just from out of town," said Melissa.

That includes people from all over the state and the Midwest.

"We've had a couple from Michigan who came down to St. Louis, and they Googled and saw where we had five stars. So, they drove all the way up here from St. Louis to visit us, and they spent a couple of hours here and took several bottles back with them," said Melissa.

The winery community has also been supportive.

"At our grand opening, we had both Arpeggio Winery and Willow Ridge's owners visiting and seeing how we were doing," said Melissa. "And we've had Tuscan Hills employees in here all the time. We've worked with Dennis Vahling. He's been really helpful."

Andy said there's no competition between the wineries.

"The more wineries you have around, the better it is," he said, noting it creates a destination for wine lovers.

The Voelkers have nine wines, ranging from dry and semidry to semisweet and sweet, as well as a port (dessert) wine. Andy notes every wine has its place.

"We have a dry that goes so well with a good steak. Then we have a sweet white wine that you can sit with out on your front porch on a hot afternoon," he said.

To the couple's amazement, one of the biggest sellers besides wine is the slushies.

"We're always trying new things," said Andy. "I've got new wines coming out. I've got new wines in my head."

The winery also serves appetizers such as Bosco sticks and pizza. One thing you won't find is hard liquor or gaming machines.

"We've always tried to make sure that this place is family-friendly. There's families that bring their kids here. It's really an easy place to do that because we're not a bar, and we just have some small appetizers, so we're not really a restaurant," said Andy.

"We get a lot of young families that feel comfortable coming here and having a glass of wine and eating a pizza with the kids," added Melissa.

The wines are entirely manufactured at the winery. They have all the equipment to make, bottle, cork, and label them. They also have lots of help.

"Whenever he gets a batch ready, we get our kids together, get our friends. We would not be here without our friends," said Melissa.

The kids and their families help out in every aspect of the business any chance they get from picking grapes to mowing to working behind the bar. Everybody has their role, which Melissa said has worked well.

"He (Andy) is the wine – anything from working

Clockwise from left:
Brandon Voelker scoops up grapes after they have been picked. Also in the photo is his mother, Melissa Voelker. Submitted photo.
Andy and Melissa's granddaughter, Myla, is up for early morning picking at the vineyard. Submitted photo.
Barn & Bottle Winery features an array of locally produced wine. Cathy Griffith photo.

in the vineyard to how to serve it at the tasting bar to bottling. I'm in charge of events, the kitchen, layout. I get their input. My daughter-



Barn & Bottle Winery has ample indoor seating for events or just an afternoon with friends and family.

Cathy Griffith photo.

in-law she's quality control. She makes sure everything looks good. She's always on top of things. She finds a method for making it organized and flowing. Then my oldest son, Benjamin, he handles the computer system and scheduling and music. Brady is supposed to be the grounds crew. He's our heavy equipment operator. Brandon, when he comes home, he's everything," she said.

Naming the wines is also a family affair.

They want the names of the wines to either be farm-related – they also farm soybeans and corn – or special to them or their children.

"When it came to naming our sweet concord, our oldest son said we have to name it Helen's Red, and that's my mother-in-law. He said because she was the sweetest lady I know and she loved the color red. Our middle son named our dessert wine Slip Away because that's a term in the military and he's a paratrooper," said Melissa.

When naming the winery, they needed something that represented their life – and Barn & Bottle fit.

"We just want to be a little hole in the wall that people feel comfortable coming to. We're not el-

egant. We're not hoity-toity. We're just country folk, country wine," said Melissa.

Both are familiar with farm life. The winery is located on property Andy's grandfather purchased, and his dad farmed, and now he is farming. They live just across the pond from the winery. Melissa grew up south of Altamont on a farm.

"Wouldn't have it any other way. The kids, they're all about the farm. We hope our grandchildren will want to continue, too," said Melissa.

The couple believes they have accomplished what they set out to do: creating a comfortable gathering place for friends and family.

"It's nice to see. You'll have a couple sitting here or a family sitting here, and then all of a sudden, somebody else comes in they haven't seen for however long, and they sit down and start talking. It's almost like the coffee shop in town," said Andy.

"When you can sit back and hear people just laughing, it just makes you feel so good. That's what I wanted," said Melissa.

As the winery marks its first anniversary, the couple has no future plans for the time being.

"Right now, I'm pretty comfortable with what we have. I would just like to get this first year under our belt. I think we're in a pretty good place right now," said Melissa.

Barn & Bottle Winery is located at 10810 N. First St., Altamont. Fall hours are Fridays and Sundays 1-5 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Winter hours starting in December are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and 1-5 p.m. on Sundays. The winery also is available for events. For more information, call 618-322-7327.

Barn & Bottle Winery features an outdoor sitting area. Cathy Griffith photo.





Hometown Christmas
presented by the effingham county chamber
downtown effingham business committee

Saturday, December 2 3p-5p

SHARE IN CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS & FAMILY FUN WITH HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES, TRACTOR TRAIN RIDES, LIVE REINDEER, ENTERTAINMENT, HOT DRINKS, KETTLE CORN & FUN IN SANTA'S WORKSHOP!

SANTA & FRIENDS WILL BE DASHING THROUGH DOWNTOWN IN A LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE!

Letters from Santa

PARENTS OF CHILDREN 12 & UNDER - SUBMIT YOUR SANTA LETTER REQUESTS BEFORE DECEMBER 4.

MORE INFO ON EFFINGHAMCOUNTYCHAMBER.COM




PET SUPPLIES
One stop shopping for all of your family pet care needs.

Pet Supplies, Habitats & Aquariums

- Small Animals, Reptiles & Amphibians
- Tropical Fish & Plants
- Birds & Reptiles

NOAH'S ARK PET SHOPPE
117 W. Jefferson, Effingham
Ph. 217-347-6624
noahsarkpetshoppe.com

Shop Wednesday-Saturday
10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Closed Sunday-Tuesday

Like us on facebook



Compassionate Care to Ease Your Journey



Bauer Funeral Home has been serving the Effingham area since 1932. Our staff will provide you with dedicated and compassionate service during your difficult time of need. We will guide your family in creating a meaningful ceremony to honor the life and memory of your loved one.

BAUER FUNERAL HOMES

Family Owned - Carole Bauer
Brian Young • Mallory Loker • Eric Althoff • Chris Bauer

1212 W. Evergreen Ave. Effingham, IL 217-342-2177
302 E. Main St. Teutopolis, IL 217-857-3800

www.bauerfh.com

COME AND CLAIM YOUR TREASURE

TREASURE BINS



LIQUIDATION

RESTOCK	RESTOCK	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS
FRI	SAT					
\$10	\$8	\$5	\$3	\$2	\$1	CLOSED
PER ITEM	PER ITEM	PER ITEM	PER ITEM	PER ITEM	PER ITEM	CLOSED FOR RESTOCK
10AM - 6PM	10AM - 6PM	NOON - 6PM	10AM - 6PM	10AM - 6PM	10AM - 6PM	CLOSED

1705 B Ave. of Mid America
Effingham, IL | 309-306-1206

LAKE SARA PEARSON

Phase II complete; more projects ahead

Story & Photos
Nick Taylor
Effingham Magazine

A man walks toward the shore of Lake Sara following the ribbon-cutting held in October for the completion of the second phase of the Lake Sara Pearson Peninsula Park project. The playground area near the water was added during the first phase of the project.

The beach at Lake Sara was once one of the most popular spots in the Effingham area. Over the years, it seemed as though fewer residents were spending their time at the spot where many residents fondly remember spending their childhood summers.

In an effort to bring life, energy and fun back to the beach, the Effingham Water Authority Parks and Recreation Committee, in coordination with the Lake Sara Forever Fund, has been working to return the beach to its former glory with the Lake Sara Pearson Peninsula Park project.

The first phase of the project included a pirate-themed playground, a wilderness-themed playground, two disc golf courses and a fishing dock.

Work on phase two of the project began this summer.

Phase two includes a new workout area with equipment that allows residents to keep track of their personal workout data, a fitness challenge course, a half-mile walking trail, four pickleball courts and a volleyball court.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in October to celebrate the completion of the second phase of the project.

"We designed it so the aerobics stuff faced the playground, so you can watch your kids or your grandkids and get your exercise at the same time," Tom Ryan, chairman of the Eff-

ingham Water Authority Parks and Recreation Committee and a trustee of the Lake Sara Forever Fund, said during the ribbon-cutting ceremony. "We hope you'll enjoy what we've created here."

Several ribbon-cuttings took place simultaneously at each of the newest additions to the park. This was followed by a pickleball tournament and a competition at the new fitness challenge course, where residents of all ages competed for the fastest time.

After the ribbon-cutting, Ryan reflected on the long process he and others have gone through to get the park to where it is today.

According to Ryan, the community indicated in their re-

N PENINSULA PARK



sponse to the surveys he sent out for the first phase of the project that it wanted to see more activities for younger children at the park – which is why the first phase included the addition of two playgrounds.

The wilderness-themed playground is for children aged 2-5, while the other playground, which resembles a pirate ship, is for children aged 5-12.

“But we really didn’t have all the ages covered, and that’s part of our overall strategy which is ‘Fun, fitness, sometimes tranquility and memories for all ages,’” Ryan said. “We now have a broad spectrum of things that all ages can enjoy.”

Ryan explained that the area where the park sits today had been left essentially abandoned before the Effingham Water Authority and Parks and Recreation Committee managed to purchase a lease for the entire 30-acre area.

“This area used to be ‘the place’ that everybody went to in the 1960s through the 90s, but as a business model, it didn’t really work as water parks and stuff got huge,” Ryan said. “And the expenses and regulations made it costly.”

After assuming control of the property, they began working with architectural engineers from the Farnsworth Group to

develop a master plan for the new park.

Prior to beginning his work on the Peninsula Park project, Ryan said he helped with over three miles of shoreline stabilization at Lake Sara.



Michael Brummer of Teutopolis tries out the new workout equipment that was recently installed as part of the Lake Sara Pearson Peninsula Park project as his daughter, Mariana Brummer, sits by his side.

“My team started as erosion control, and we did seven years of shoreline stabilization,” Ryan said. “And when we finished that, we then went over to this because this place was abandoned.”

Although they finally had the land for the park after two years of negotiating, it didn’t look much like it did decades prior.

“They’d sold off all the equipment,” Ryan said. “They’d shrunk the beach half the size of what it was before.”

Despite almost having to start from scratch, they have managed to begin this significant transformation of the park thanks to both individual donors and two \$400,000 matching Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grants from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, with one being awarded in 2020 and the other in 2022.

So far, Ryan said roughly \$2 million has been spent on the project, and he said a total of over \$3 million has already been raised through grants and donations.

The landscape architectural manager at

Tom Ryan, chairman of the Effingham Water Authority Parks and Recreation Committee, addresses residents during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in October to celebrate the completion of the second phase of the Lake Sara Pearson Peninsula Park project.



A group of area residents stand in front of the new pickleball courts by the beach at Lake Sara during a ribbon-cutting ceremony held in October to celebrate the completion of the second phase of a project aimed at bringing life back to the beach area.

the Farnsworth Group, Bruce Brown, also attended the ribbon-cutting in October to see the product of his team's work on the second phase of the project.

Brown believes that one of the primary reasons why the Effingham Water Authority Parks and Recreation Committee has been awarded back-to-back OSLAD grants is because of the compelling story Ryan has shared regarding the history of the beach and his dream to bring it

back to life.

"It's pretty gratifying," Brown said. "You're never really quite sure until you build it."

Brown's team helped create the 3-D model used as a template for the project, but he explained that seeing a model of the plans pales in comparison to seeing the park in person.

"That makes all the challenges along the way worth it," Brown said. "It's just one of those projects where you watch the whole community come together."

"We have powered through just about anything that has been thrown our way."

According to Brown, the project has gone well so far. He noted that everybody involved is trying to ensure every aspect of the park is "top notch."

"We haven't cut any corners," Brown said.

While the first phase of the park project catered primarily to young children, the second phase has made available new activities for teens and young adults at the beach, including the fitness challenge course, which Effingham Water Authority Parks and Recreation Committee member Sara Roepke refers to as the "ninja course."

"We didn't want to neglect the teenagers and the 20 somethings," Roepke said during the ribbon-cutting.

With this recent addition as well as the new walking trail and workout equipment, there is



something for visitors of all ages.

"People can do rehab out here if they've got a shoulder injury or something," Roepke said. "In the winter too, you can come out here, as long as you're willing to put a jacket on."

According to Roepke, the workout equipment has been designed with a seal that enables it to endure outdoor conditions, and users can scan a QR code with their phone that allows them to track their workouts and set goals for themselves.

"It records your previous workout," Roepke said. "So you know what you did the day before if you come out the next day."

Ryan noted that the equipment can be adjusted to best suit each user's strength or age.

"You can dial it in. So you can have a 240-pound defensive tackle sitting next to a 70-year-old grandmother and looking like they're doing exactly the same amount of effort," Ryan said.

The new pickleball courts at the park, which Ryan said are "as good of courts as you can get," have already proven to be a hit with visitors at the lake, several of whom took part in the pickleball tournament that was held after the ribbon-cutting.

"Five years ago, when we did our first survey, pickleball was not high in the rankings, and nowadays it's blown right up," Ryan said.

"Pickleball is a big thing in this area," Roepke said.

Those involved in the development of the park are going to be watching closely to see what features of the park are the most popular with visitors, and Ryan said additional courts could be added in the future if they ever feel that four is no longer enough.

"We have room to expand," Ryan said.

There are also plans to potentially further extend the park's walking trail.

"Eventually, we'd like to have a mile around the whole peninsula," Ryan said.

The trail is shaded with trees that allow residents to comfortably use it in hot temperatures.

"It's all in the trees," Roepke said. "So it could be a day in July, and it wouldn't be too bad."

Additionally, there will be a storybook trail added to the path, which will help keep children on the path entertained.

"The library's taking care of that, so they're going to change that out every so often," Roepke said.

One aspect of the park that is very important to both Ryan and Roepke is its ADA accessibility.

"It's all handicap accessible," Roepke said.

"There's special stuff incorporated into this to make it a better experience for those kids. So

they're not shut out of anything."

There are plans to eventually make the park ADA accessible from the parking all the way down to the lake, where they also plan to have a floating wheelchair.

"There's gonna be a wheelchair launch there, so they can roll it down and they can actually get there in the water and stuff," Roepke said.

However, there are still several other activities Ryan and others involved in the project would like to see at the park, which is something they will continue to explore as they further develop



their master plan this winter.

"I'm a Hoosier by birth, so eventually there's going to be a basketball court over there somewhere," Ryan said.

Ryan said surveys for the next phase of the project have already been completed.

"We've had almost 400 responses to what people want to see," Ryan said.

Both Ryan and Roepke discussed some of their plans for the park. They include the extension of the beach.

"One phase is just going to be infrastructure, so they're gonna build a new bathhouse and put

Charlotte Etter, 2, of Effingham smiles as Betty Brown, Etter's grandmother and a Lake Sara resident, pushes her on a swing added to the area near the beach at Lake Sara as part of the Lake Sara Peninsula Park project.

bigger pipes in, stuff that you're not going to see," Roepke said.

"One of the immediate ones that we are working on with Mike Dirks, the lake superintendent, is to go back to the original length on the beach and move it out 65 feet up north," Ryan said.

Roepke said the goal of expanding the beach is to accommodate the number of visitors using it, which is expected to continue to rise.

"They're gonna make the beach wider and deeper, so it's going to be twice as deep as it is now," Roepke said. "Because if you don't live at the lake and you're not close to a pool or something and it's hot in the summertime, this is your option for swimming."

Additionally, he said there are plans to eventually build a third playground at the park and continue with the park's maritime theme by adding a "California Long Beach pier" which would include slides.

"There's a lot more things we want to do," Roepke said. "The real trick is not doing too much. You don't want this whole thing filled up."

Among the residents at the park for the ribbon-cutting was Michael Brummer of Teutopolis, who spent some time checking out the new additions to the area, particularly the pickleball court, with his wife, Ann Brummer, and their daughter, Mariana Brummer.

"I love it," Michael Brummer said. "We're big pickleball players."

"What a great way to continue to get the community to be active and healthy."

Brummer said he and his family spend their summers at Lake Sara, and he thinks they'll be spending even more time at the beach and the park now that there are new things for his entire family to do there.

"My mom lives on Lake Sara, also," he said. "It's nice that parents can hang out and do their workouts, and kids can run around on the playgrounds. And we're right here together."

Also among those at the park on the day of the ribbon-cutting was Ali Etter and her mother, Betty Brown, who could be seen pushing Etter's 2-year-old daughter, Charlotte Etter, on a swing.

"We live in Effingham, and we have a lot of family that live out at the lake. So we're out here a lot," Ali Etter said. "We love it."

"We love having this in the Effingham community and just having other options to play and entertain our daughter."

Etter said she's particularly glad that the two new playgrounds are now open to the public because they have sections that are suitable for younger children as well as older children.

"She's a daredevil, so when she gets older, that'll be perfect," Etter said. "And then, obviously, the new area is for even older kids, so we'll be able to come out here for years."

Etter said she often takes Charlotte to the beach to play when she spends time on the lake with her parents or has dinner at the nearby Pinky's, a bar and grill, and she said she will probably bring Charlotte to the park even more now that there is so much more for her to do, calling it a "one-



Residents try out some of the newest additions to the area by the beach at Lake Sara following a ribbon-cutting ceremony held there in October for the completion of the second phase of the Lake Sara Pearson Peninsula Park project.

stop" area.

Betty Brown, who has lived on Lake Sara for 38 years, said it's "wonderful" to see the transformation that's been taking place at the beach lately.

"I didn't think I would see all this again in my lifetime, so I remember the way it was," Betty Brown said.

She remembers what the area was like decades ago when there was still a train that would take visitors to the beach from the campground at Lake Sara as well as the mini-golf course that used to be there. She's happy to see that it's being brought "back to life again."

She also likes that the newest additions to the park provide visitors of all ages with a variety of options, and said she'll be coming to the park more often.

"There's something for everybody," Betty Brown said. "The walking path is great, and I can't wait to get on that little bike thing and look out at the lake."

Ryan said the Lake Sara Forever Fund is still seeking donations from the public to fund future phases of the project.

"We still need your help," Ryan said during the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Anyone interested in making a donation can visit lakesaraforever.com



Let The Good Times Roll This Christmas!

24 Air-Conditioned Automatic Lanes
We Have Bumper Lanes!

Book Your Party Today!

- Birthday Parties
- Corporate Parties
- Prom or School Parties

2 Hour Bowling w/Shoes Just \$10

Every Tuesday & Thursday 4-7 pm

Just One More Lounge

- Drink Specials • Gaming Room
- 2 Pool Tables • Dart Board

PAGEL'S Silver Dollar LANES

2300 S. Banker • Effingham
217-342-3939 • silverdollarlanes.com

Like Us On 







EFFINGHAM COUNTY

CHAMBER

At the center of a growing Effingham County, the Chamber is your local resource for...

things to do | employment connections | where to shop growth & advocacy



EffinghamCountyChamber.com
903 N Keller Dr. | PO Box 643 | Effingham, IL 62401

(217) 342-4147
M-F 8am-5pm

TEEN GOES ALL OUT

for holiday decorating

Story
Cathy Griffith
Effingham Magazine

Photos
Cathy Griffith
& submitted



This Halloween animatronic causes quite a fright when someone reaches for candy. It's also one of Johnathan Buff's favorite decorations. Cathy Griffith photo.

Johnathan Buff loves holiday decorating. His favorites to decorate for are Halloween and Christmas.

His passion for decorating was evident during a visit to his home in early October, as Johnathan, wearing a Holiday World shirt, looked over his graveyard of Halloween decorations and realized one needed a spotlight.

The 15-year-old starts placing the spooky decor on Sept. 17, a date he came up with out of the blue. But all year, he is thinking about what decorations he will display and where they will go. He admits he's a perfectionist.

"Yes, if I want something where it needs to be, it needs to be there," he said.

"He plans it for so long in his head that nobody's going to tell him no on where it's going to go," adds his mother, Jamie Buff.

The family's yard was covered in tombstones, witches, skeletons, ghosts and a scary jack-o-lantern and clown. Among them is the not-so-frightful ghost dog from "The Nightmare Before Christmas." A large web hung off the side of the home, complete with spiders.

Johnathan said his urge to decorate for Halloween stems from his joy of trick-or-treating when he was a child and getting scared.

"I just wanted to keep carrying that on," he said.

He approached his mom about wanting to start decorating, and she was immediately on board.

"If you're into it, we'll do it. I love Halloween too. Scary decorations are awesome," she said.

Johnathan started with a graveyard outside the front deck of his home. It was mainly tombstones and a couple of zombies.

Since then, the decorations have grown to encompass the entire front yard, as Johnathan keeps adding to them every year.

"It just gets bigger and bigger," he said.

Johnathan's inspirations come mainly from shopping.

"I usually just go around to every store, and then if I find something unique I like, then I do it. My inspirations would probably be like haunted houses and other people's houses and the store, Spirit Halloween. That's one of my favorite places," he said.

If there is something he specifically wants, Johnathan will save his own money to buy it.

"He already knows where it's going to go in the yard before it's even purchased," said Jamie.

Johnathan also knows where every item is stored in the "decoration shed" behind the house. The shed is crammed-pack full with totes of Halloween and Christmas decorations, and he isn't too worried about running out of room, yet.

"I get rid of the old and in with the new. Usually, I donate to Goodwill, stuff like that. It just depends if there's something I don't want anymore that I don't want to put up," he said.

As for Johnathan's favorite Halloween decorations, that would be "sitting scare witch." The human-sized animatronic sits in a deck chair with its head down, holding a bowl of candy. When someone comes up to grab a piece, the head quickly rises up, its eyes light up, and it emits a cackling laugh followed by "Happy Halloween."

Another favorite is a scarecrow Johnathan said he made from a bunch of stuff lying around.

Living on the edge of Effingham across from the Y-Yard, the Buffs get very few trick-or-treaters.

"Last year, we were ecstatic to get five trick-or-treaters. Nobody ever really comes out here," said Jamie.



Johnathan Buff made this scarecrow from stuff he found lying around. Submitted photo.



This Santa blow mold is Johnathan Buff's favorite Christmas decoration. Submitted photo.

Johnathan started the decorating tradition in 2016. The same year, he started decorating for another popular holiday, Christmas.

Decorating for that holiday starts promptly the day after Thanksgiving.

From the time he wakes up on that day, he's "chomping at the bit," according to Jamie.

While Johnathan also decorates outdoors for the holidays, his masterpiece decor is indoors.

"I have a huge Christmas village inside that I do," he said.

Johnathan buys a piece every year to add to the village. This year, he's adding a mountain with a ski lift.

"You can see people going up into it on the ski lift," he said.

Johnathan notes the village pieces are expensive.

"But it's worth it," he said.

Outside, Johnathan puts up some inflatables and blow molds, which he said are expensive because many of the vintage hard plastic lit displays have been discontinued. His favorite is his Santa blow mold.

Not only does Johnathan like to decorate, he also likes watching shows about it, particularly maximalist holiday decorating competitions. Unlike the minimalist approach to decorating popular in the 2010s, maximalism embraces opulence and bold color and subscribes to the idea that more is more. The trend has grown popular in the past few years. But Johnathan wouldn't exactly describe himself as a maximalist.

"I am kind of a maximalist, but not really," he said.

Johnathan likes to listen to music when he's decorating. For Christmas, he wants to listen to the classics.



Johnathan Buff's Christmas Village. Submitted photo.

For Halloween, it's classics such as "Thriller" and "Monster Mash." But he can't just listen to them from any speaker.

"We have a speaker that is bluetoothed that is a pumpkin and that's the one we have to listen to it out of," said Jamie.

Johnathan doesn't have any plans to pursue decorating as a career. For now, it's just a hobby that he said he will keep doing for as long as he can.

He likes the challenge.

"I try to go better and better each year," he said.

Johnathan Buff's 'graveyard' includes Zero from "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Cathy Griffith photo.



Happy Holidays From Our Family To Yours!

WEBER OPTIKS



TONY WEBER, O.D. • CHRISTOPHER WEBER, O.D. • CONNOR KABBES, O.D.

Where Good Vision is Always in Fashion

CONTACTS • GLASSES • EXAMS

Effingham 217.342.3838

Altamont 618.881.0884

Mattoon 217.234.3648

www.weberoptiks.com

DR. TONY WEBER

DR. CHRIS WEBER

DR. CONNOR KABBES





EFFINGHAM PERFORMANCE CENTER

*Give the Gift
of Entertainment*

with Gift Certificates
or Tickets to a show
at the EPC!



DATE/TIME	SHOW	TOP TIER	LEVEL A	LEVEL B
Nov. 18 2:00 pm Nov. 18 7:30 pm	Branson on the Road - Christmas Style	\$35	\$25	\$20
Nov. 26 3:00 pm	The Prophecy	\$26	\$21	\$16
Dec. 9 3:00 pm	The Polar Express Experience	\$35 VIP	\$15	\$15
Dec. 15 7:00 pm	The Oak Ridge Boys - Down Home Christmas	\$65	\$55	\$48
Dec. 16 7:00 pm	Scott Wattles Christmas	\$25	\$25	\$25
Dec. 20 2:00 pm Dec. 20 7:30 pm	Church Basement Ladies: Away in the Basement	\$45	\$40	\$35
Jan. 20 3:00 pm	Moana Experience	\$35 VIP	\$15	\$15
Jan. 26 7:00 pm	Night Ranger	\$80	\$65	\$50
Feb. 4 5:00 pm	Dinosaur World Live	\$40	\$35	\$28
Feb. 10 7:00 pm	Tusk: The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Experience	\$45	\$35	\$25
Feb. 17 7:00 pm	One Vision of Queen featuring Marc Martel	\$44	\$44	\$44
Feb. 23 7:00 pm	Forever Young	\$48	\$38	\$28
Feb. 24 7:00 pm	Six String Summit	\$20	\$20	\$20
Feb. 28 7:00 pm	Menopause the Musical 2: Cruising Through 'The Change'	\$55	\$45	\$35
Mar. 15 7:00 pm	Buckets N Boards	\$35	\$20	\$20
Mar. 17 2:00 pm	The Price Is Right Live	\$60	\$50	\$40
Apr. 5 7:00 pm	Etta May & The Southern Fried Chicks	\$45	\$35	\$25
Apr. 13 7:00 pm	Buckcherry	\$68	\$48	\$38
Apr. 20 7:00 pm	Wayne Newton: Up Close & Personal	\$69	\$59	\$45
Apr. 26 7:00 pm	EPC Idol Finals	\$10	\$10	\$10
June 1 7:00 pm	Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew	\$20	\$20	\$20



Purchase tickets at the Box Office, by calling 217.540.2788,
or online at www.TheEPC.org or www.ticketmaster.com/EPC.

Quality, compassionate care close to home

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital continues to enhance services and support the community

HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has been a part of the Effingham community for over 148 years. First founded in 1875 by the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, who established Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS), St. Anthony's colleagues are still as committed to their Mission to provide high-quality Franciscan health care as they ever have been.

Below are just a few ways we continue to enhance our services and support community residents to make this a healthier community for years to come.

WITHIN OUR HOSPITAL

- **Inpatient unit renovation:** We recently renovated one of our inpatient care units for adult medical and surgical patients on the fourth floor. The 16-bed unit, which includes private rooms and bathrooms, was modernized to enhance the patient and visitor experience and increase staff workspace. An expanded central nurses' station plus nursing care pods and a waiting area for visitors next to the elevators are just a few of the improvements made to the unit.

Bobbi Kinkelaar, chief nursing officer, shared, "The unit's layout and design was determined by combining input from staff and knowledge of how health care delivery has changed. This design is not only beautiful and comfortable for patients and visitors, but also more efficient for care delivery to help nurses continue to be responsive to patients' needs."



- **Outpatient infusion therapy:** For over 10 years, we have been the local leader for infusion therapy services. Infusion therapy involves receiving medication through a needle or catheter, usually intravenously (IV). IV therapy is used for treatments for bleeding disorders, blood product needs, neurological conditions, nutrition, hydration, chronic inflammatory health issues, catheter care, PICC lines/ports, bone health, antivirals/antifungals, and many other specialized therapies. Specially trained infusion nurses and experienced on-site clinical pharmacists provide compassionate, high-quality IV therapy in a comfortable, healing environment. Offering private rooms with Wi-Fi, café room service, warm blankets, TVs, beds and recliners, infusion services are available every day including holidays.

- **Surgery offerings:** Although no one wants to have surgery, our surgical experts are here when you need them most. Using the latest technology to provide excellent care close to home, our highly trained and experienced surgeons and staff perform a variety of surgical and non-surgical procedures, representing a wide range of specialties including:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| • Endoscopy | • Plastic |
| • ENT | • Hand |
| • Eye surgery | • Podiatric |
| • General | • Vascular |
| • Urology | • Laser procedures |
| • OB/GYN | • Lithotripsy |
| • Orthopedic | |

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

- **Adaptive Try-athlon:** HSHS St. Anthony's Rehabilitation and Wellness recently held their second annual "Meet Me at the Finish Line" Youth Adaptive Try-athlon. Open to kids up to 18 years old who are overcoming physical challenges, the try-athlon of swimming, biking and run/walking events provides the chance to experience self-accomplishment and joy with friends and family cheering them on. We are proud to offer this event to children who inspire us every day with their courage and determination.
- **Community support:** Supporting our Effingham community collaboratively is crucial in meeting area health care needs. For example, we continue to be the main supporter of the Crisis Nursery of Effingham County to help assure this island of safety is available for families in crisis. We are also supporting the Dieterich community through our sponsorship of the new Wright Family Center to purchase the naming rights of the 24-Hour Fitness Center and the basketball court baselines.

We are also proud to partner with the Effingham County Chamber of Commerce in sponsoring and participating in community events. The past summer, we served as sponsors of the EffingHAM-JAM entertainment and water tent, and provided activities for children at the Artisan Fair.

For more information about HSHS St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, visit stanthonyshospital.org.



Bringing More Heart To Heart Country



Sarah Bush Lincoln
Bonutti Clinic

*Offering Cardiovascular Services to
Effingham and the surrounding area.*

Cory Hess, ACNP

Growing up in Teutopolis, Cory Hess had lived and worked in St. Louis for 15 years and is excited to join the SBL Effingham Cardiology Clinic. He is working with SBL Cardiologists Michael LaMonto, DO, and Batlagundu Lakshminarayanan, MD (Dr. Lakshmi).

Additional New Specialties



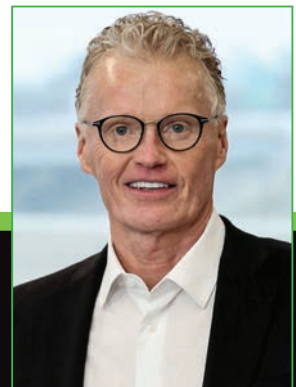
**Employee Assistance
Counseling**
L.J. Welsh, LCPC



Endocrinology
Hannah
Dukeman, APRN



Urology
Keith
Ballinger, PA-C



**Weight
Management**
Doug Kabbes, MD

FIRST FLOOR

Diagnostic Imaging/MRI	<i>Suite 102</i>
Laboratory Services	<i>Suite 101</i>
Physical and Occupational Therapy	<i>Suite 103</i>
Walk-In Clinic	<i>Suite 100</i>
Weight Management	<i>Suite 100</i>

SECOND FLOOR

Cardiology	<i>Suite 201</i>
– Cory Hess, ACNP	
Effingham Medical Clinic	<i>Suite 202</i>
– Katelyn Klosterman, MD	
– Megan Steffen, APRN	
Endocrinology	<i>Suite 202</i>
– Hannah Dukeman, APRN	
Internal Medicine	
– Louis Schwing, MD <i>Suite 200</i>	
Interventional Pain Management	<i>Suite 201</i>
– Brian Ogan, MD	
Occupational Medicine	<i>Suite 200</i>
– Stacia Dennison, APRN – Louis Schwing, MD	
– Jennifer Hess, APRN – Nick Watkins, PA-C	
Orthopedics	<i>Suite 200</i>
– Joseph Ajdinovich, MD – Evan Hakman, PA-C	
– Peter Bonutti, MD – Frank Lee, MD	
– Stacia Dennison, APRN – Didi Omiyi, MD	
– Kayla Deters, APRN – Nick Watkins, PA-C	
– Timothy Gray, MD – Nick Williams, PA-C	
Pediatrics	<i>Suite 203</i>
– Cari Fearday, PA-C	
– Abby Welsh, MD	
Urology	<i>Suite 202</i>
– Keith Ballinger, PA-C	
Visiting Specialists	<i>Suite 202</i>



SBL Bonutti Clinic

1303 West Evergreen Avenue

Cardiology Clinic

Cory Hess, ACNP

217-238-4960

Endocrinology Clinic

Hannah Dukeman, APRN

217-234-7000

Urology Clinic

Keith Ballinger, PA-C

217-258-4186

Weight Management

Doug Kabbes, MD

217-342-5225

SBL Effingham Clinic

905 North Maple

Employee Assistance Counseling

L.J. Welsh, LCPC

217-258-4040

 **Sarah Bush
Lincoln**
Trusted Compassionate Care



Ten years ago, in 2013, Mallory Tappendorf, a second grader at Altamont Lutheran Interparish School, was named the grand prize winner in the Effingham Daily News' first-ever Christmas Card Contest. Tappendorf's depiction of the Nativity with Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus in the foreground and the Three Wise Men walking to the stable, was picked as the best of the best by Effingham County judges.

2C Effingham Daily News

Friday, December 20, 2013



Winners of the first-ever Christmas Card Contest

There is something magical when children think of Christmas. No matter their personal problems, they look to this season as a time of incredible hope and joy. And, as the letters contained in this remarkable issue can attest, it's not even about the toys.

Christmas to a child is a time of happiness. It's brightly lit trees and the sounds of the season playing in the stores. It's the Holiday Ham or the gaily wrapped boxes. It's the story of Our Savior and the gathering of like minds in churches and places of worship throughout the land.

This year the Effingham Daily News asked area second graders to help us capture some of the magic they feel. Hundreds

of cards were submitted from schools throughout this newspaper's six-county coverage area for our first-ever Christmas Card Contest.

We asked a pair of independent judges to help us sort through the entries and award prizes to every participant. Their artwork is highlighted in these pages and in the holiday greetings sponsored by our advertisers.

We hope you enjoy this very special Christmas Card and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

Mallory Tappendorf, a second grader at Altamont Lutheran Interparish School was named the grand prize winner in the Effingham Daily News' first ever Christmas Card Contest.

Tappendorf's depiction of the Nativity with Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus in the foreground and three wisemen walking to the stable, was picked as the best of the best by Effingham County judges.

Second grade students throughout the six-county Effingham Daily News circulation area created Christmas Cards to tell their story of the holiday. More than 30 classes participated with more than 800 students.

Southside Elementary's Angela Ballman and Brownstown's Taylor Claycomb were named runners-up while individual winners were chosen in each second grade classroom.

Ms. Ballman's card depicted the planet earth wrapped

in birthday candles with the phrase "Joy To The World" written in red and green.

Brownstown's Taylor Claycomb showed a rainbow-striped building with an equally colorful skyline and the words "Welcome to Church" written across the card.

Each class that participated was awarded a winner with each child that submitted a card provided a Christmas present from the Effingham Daily News.

Class winners include: Effingham Southside – Carter, Ms. Kinder teacher; Ryka Hodge, Ms. Mankin teacher; Makenna Duckwitz, Ms. Carpenter teacher; Saul Ellis, Ms. Field teacher.

Teutopolis Grade School –

Myles Stortzum, Ms. Schackman teacher; Korynn Westendorf, Ms. Hoene teacher; Sydney Beccue, Ms. Frick teacher; Hayden Jansen, Ms. Jansen teacher.

Cumberland Elementary – Maci Wingler, Ms. Chambers teacher.

Windsor Elementary – Jennifer Armer, Ms. Sentel teacher. Stewardson Trinity – Nathaniel Gracey, no teacher named.

Cowden-Herrick Elementary – Kylee, Ms. Buchanan teacher. Edgewood Grade School – Elie Macklin, Ms. Hayes teacher.

Sigel St. Michael – Elle Hoene, Ms. Probst teacher.

Beecher City – Sarah Doedtman, Ms. Stewart teacher.

Altamont Lutheran – Peyton Osteen, Ms. Spilker teacher.

Cumberland Elementary – Alaina Darling, Ms. Richter teacher. Jadalyn Sower, Ms. Holsapple teacher.

St. Anthony – Anna Zaccari, Ms. Wilson teacher. Allison Green, Ms. Gardewine teacher. Newton Elementary – Abby Menke, Mrs. Martin teacher. Collin Flasch, Mrs. Mammoser teacher. Ian Fehrenbacher, Mrs. Nix teacher.

North Clay Elementary – Camdyn, Ms. Zerrusen teacher. Alexs, Ms. Harrison, teacher.

Brownstown Elementary – Ella Lange and Abi Burney, no teacher's names submitted.

Effingham Central – Morgan Kelley, Ms. Greenwood teacher and Alli Koester, Ms. Frost teacher.



Mallory Tappendorf - Altamont Lutheran



Taylor Claycomb - Brownstown School



Angela Ballman - South Side School

TOP LAWYERS

EFFINGHAM AREA

BASED UPON A SURVEY OF THEIR PEERS



These **LEADING LAWYERS** have been recommended by their peers to be among the **TOP LAWYERS** in Illinois.

John L. Barger	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481	AG; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; RE: Comm; RE: Resid; Trust/Will/Estate
Robert G. Grierson	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481	AG; Banking; Close/Private Held; RE: Residential; Trust/Will/Estate
R. Sean Hocking	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481	Personal Injury Defense: General; Products Liability Defense
J. Patrick Lee	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481	Crim Def: DUI; Crim Def: Felonies/Misdemean; Family; PI Def: General
John F. Watson	Craig & Craig LLC	Mattoon	217.234.6481	Insurance/Coverage/Reins; Medical Malpractice Def; PI Def: General
Elizabeth Eberspacher Nohren	Dove & Dove	Shelbyville	217.774.2137	Adoption/Reproductive Tech; Close/Private Held; Family; ADR: Family
R. Samuel Postlewait	Hughes Tenney Postlewait Coale LLC	Decatur	217.428.5383	AG; Close/Private Held; Commercial Lit; RE: Comm; Trust/Will/Estate
Larry A. Apfelbaum	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509	Workers' Compensation
Todd A. Bresney	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509	Personal Injury: General
William J. Harrington	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509	Personal Injury: General
Robert M. Javoronok Jr.	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509	Personal Injury: General; Workers' Compensation
Kathy A. Olivero	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509	Workers' Compensation
John J. Waldman	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509	Workers' Compensation
Jack Kiley	Kiley Klein Ltd	Decatur	217.428.0948	Civil Appellate; Commercial Litigation; PI Def: General; PI: General
Keith W. Casteel	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly	Decatur	217.429.4325	AG; Banking; Environmental; RE: Commercial; Trust/Will/Estate
Edward Q. Costa	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly	Decatur	217.429.4325	Bankruptcy/Workout: Comm; Comm Lit; Credit Rights/Comm Collect
Joshua J. Dubbelde	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly	Decatur	217.429.4325	Close/Private Held; RE: Commercial; RE: Resident; Trust/Will/Estate
Scott E. Garwood	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly	Decatur	217.429.4325	Close/Private Held; Merger/Acquisition; RE: Comm; Trust/Will/Estate
James T. Jackson	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly	Decatur	217.429.4325	Commercial Litigation; Personal Injury Defense: General; School
Mark E. Jackson	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly	Decatur	217.429.4325	Adoption; Med Mal Def; PI Def: Gen; Prod Liab Def; Work Comp Def
Craig W. Runyon	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly	Decatur	217.429.4325	Banking; Cred Rts/CommCollect; RE:Comm; RE:Res; Trust/Will/Estate
Darrell A. Woolums	Samuels Miller Schroeder Jackson & Sly	Decatur	217.429.4325	AG; Banking; Gov't/Muni/Lobby/Admin; RE: Comm; Trust/Will/Estate
Timothy M. Shay	Shay and Associates	Decatur	217.425.5900	Personal Injury: General; PI: Professional Malpractice; Workers' Comp

This **EMERGING LAWYER** has been identified by their peers to be among the **TOP LAWYERS** in Illinois who are age 40 or younger OR who have been admitted to the practice of law for 10 or fewer years.

Kaylee I. Boehm	Dove & Dove	Shelbyville	217.774.2137	Family
Gina Couri-Cyphers	Kanoski Bresney	Decatur	217.429.3509	Personal Injury: General
Jordan T. Klein	Kiley Klein Ltd	Decatur	217.428.0948	Close/Private Held Bus; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; PI Defense: General

Leading LawyersSM
Find a better lawyer, fasterSM

emerging lawyersSM
on a fast track to the topSM

A lawyer CANNOT buy the distinction of Leading or Emerging Lawyer. The distinction was earned by being among those lawyers most often recommended by their peers. For a full description of our research process, a complete list of all Leading or Emerging Lawyers, and to view profiles of the lawyers listed on this page, go to

www.LeadngLawyers.com



Pets are always a big part of family gatherings – since they are part of the family. The Effingham Daily News every year asks readers to submit photos of their pets partaking in the holiday season. Here are a few of our favorites from over the years.



Teryn Weatherly's
cat, Domino



Keri Kistler's dog, Franky



Tony and Katie Hildebrand's
pet cow, Oliver



Lynzee Hagen's dog, Walter



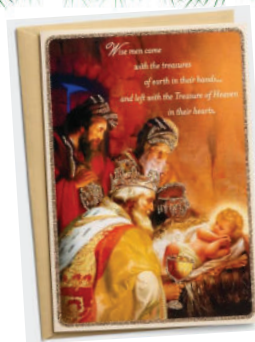
The Flack family
dog and cat



Alyssa Acklin's
dog, Molly

NOW IN STOCK

- Nativities
- 10 to choose from
- Calendars
- Planners
- Children's Books
- Stocking Stuffers
- Coasters
- Ideals Christmas



**Boxed
Christmas
Cards**
**Starting at
\$4.99**

Large Selection
to choose from



Lifeline
Christian Books & Gifts

Lincoln Land Bldg., 1901 S. 4th St., Effingham

Associate
Member of
logos
book store
association



Phone 217-342-3406 | Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9-5:30, Fri. & Sat. 9-6



'Tis the season to
give thanks for
health, happiness,
good fortune and
good people like
you who make
this community
so special at the
holidays and all
year!



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
200 Church St. • Sigel, IL
(217) 844-2231



The Effingham Daily News invites readers every year to submit their favorite holiday recipes. We thought we'd share some of our favorites from over the years in this issue of Effingham Magazine. We can vouch that they are all tasty — because newspaper staff members have tasted them all.



CHEESEBURGER CASSEROLE

By Glenda Sehi

- 1 1/2 lbs ground beef
- 1 - 3 oz. pkg. Real Bacon Bits
- 2 cups shredded cheese
- 1 - 32 oz. pkg. Tater Tots
- 1 - 10.75 oz. cheddar cheese soup
- 1 - 16 oz. sour cream

Brown the ground beef and drain grease. Mix everything together in a bowl and dump in a 9 x 13 pan. You can also add onion, green pepper, and a little milk to moisten. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes.



PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

By Doris Percival

- 3 cups white sugar.
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2/3 cup evaporated milk
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 jar marshmallow crème
- 1 - 12 oz bag peanut butter chips

Mix together first four ingredients. Stir over low heat until it comes to a rolling boil then cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add marshmallow crème.

Mix real good then add chips and mix this real good. Pour in a buttered 9x9 or larger pan.

Let it cool real good before cutting.



JALAPEÑO POPPER CHEESE BALL

By Janet VanSant

- 2 eight oz pkgs cream cheese
- 2 tblsp sour cream
- 3/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese shredded (save 1/2 cup for later)
- 10 slices bacon cooked and chopped (save 1/2 for later)
- 2 jalapeños minced (save 1/2 for later)

Beat cream cheese, sour cream, garlic powder, onion powder and black pepper with an electric mixer.

Add in 1 1/2 cups of cheddar cheese, half of the bacon, half of the jalapeños and half of the green onions. Fold together with a spoon until combined. Shape into a ball.

Mix saved ingredients. Roll ball in the mixture to cover evenly. Wrap ball in plastic wrap and refrigerate.

Serve with crackers.



CROCK-POT SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP

By Connie Berg

One 14 oz. can arti-
choke hearts, drained &
chopped
9 oz. frozen spinach,
thawed
One 8 oz. block of cream
cheese
3/4 cup shredded mozza-
rella cheese
1/2 cup shredded Parmesan
cheese
1/2 tsp. minced garlic
1/4 cup milk
Salt & pepper to taste

Thaw frozen spinach in the
microwave, squeezing out
the water. Be cautious as the
spinach is hot.

Mix all of the ingredients in a
medium-sized mixing bowl.

Place spinach mixture in
the bottom of the Crock-Pot.
Cover and cook on high for 2
hours, stirring frequently.

Serve with tortilla chips.



Happy Holidays from all of us at **Heartland Landscaping, Inc.**



- Holiday Decor & Gifts
- Fresh Greenery &
Decor for Your Pots
- Poinsettia & Greenery
- Holiday Flags & Door Mats
- Grave Blankets • Puzzle Frames



Holiday Workshops

Check Facebook for
Upcoming Class Dates



910 W. Evergreen Ave. | Effingham IL | 217-342-2579



Follow us on Facebook for upcoming events

www.heartlandlandscaping.com

STUFFING

By Nancy Johnson

2 stalks celery, coarsely chopped (about 1 cup)
1 large onion, coarsely chopped (about 1 cup)
1 pound bulk pork sausage
1/4 cup butter (1/2 stick)
2-2.5 cups Chicken Broth or more
1 package (12 or 14 oz) Pepperidge Farm® Herb Seasoned CUBED Stuffing (or Sage & Onion)

Heat the oven to 350°F.

Cook the sausage, celery and onion until the sausage is done, stirring occasionally.

Place the stuffing in a large bowl.

Heat the butter and broth in a saucepan until butter is melted.

Add the broth to the stuffing and mix lightly.

Add the meat to the stuffing and mix lightly.

Spoon the stuffing mixture into a GREASED 9x13x2-inch baking dish (or a 3-quart casserole dish).

Cover the baking dish. (For crunchier stuffing, bake the stuffing uncovered.)

Bake for 30 minutes or until the stuffing mixture is hot. (45 minutes if you have had the dish in the refrigerator.)

For Cranberry & Pecan Stuffing, stir 1/2 cup each dried cranberries and chopped pecans into the stuffing mixture before baking.

For Raisin Stuffing, stir 1 cup raisins into the stuffing mixture before baking.



HOLIDAY POMEGRANATE CROSTINI

By Jewel Brown

1 ½ cups warm water, divided
2 tablespoons honey
1 packet active dry yeast
Two teaspoons vegetable oil
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 ¾ cups whole wheat flour
¼ cup milled flax seed
1 ½ teaspoons salt
8 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 tablespoon honey
Pomegranate arils
Honey, optional

Combine ¼ cup warm water, 2 tablespoons honey and yeast in bread machine pan and let sit for 5 minutes. Add remaining water, vegetable oil, both flours, flax seed and salt.

Program bread machine to dough cycle. Upon completion of cycle, remove dough from bread machine and divide in half. Shape each half into 14- inch loaves.

Place on greased baking sheet. Slash the top of each loaf about ¼ inch deep at a diagonal 3 to 4 times. Spray loaves with non-stick cooking spray. Cover and let rise about 45 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake loaves 20 minutes or until done. Allow loaves to cool.

Cut the bread at an angle into ½ in. slices. Layer slices flat on baking sheet and bake in preheated 350 degree oven for 15 to 20 minutes or until crisp. Allow slices to cool.

Combine cream cheese and 1 tablespoon honey. Spread on top of each slice and sprinkle with pomegranate arils. Drizzle with honey if desired.



TOP 7% *NATIONALLY* Orthopedics



Sarah Bush Lincoln
Bonutti Clinic



Sarah Bush Lincoln Orthopedics was
recognized by Women's Choice Awards
Best 100 Hospitals.

The award is based on Sarah Bush Lincoln's

- clinical performance
- patient experience scores
- advanced technology

The award also recognized SBL in:

- Patient Experience overall
- Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Obstetrics (Top 10% Nationally)
- Outpatient Experience



Sarah Bush
Lincoln
Trusted Compassionate Care

EFFINGHAM

SBL Bonutti Clinic
1303 West Evergreen Ave., Suite 200
217-342-3400

MATTOON

SBL Orthopedics & Sports Medicine
Prairie Pavilion 2
1004 Health Center Drive, Suite 100
217-238-3435

Route 45's path through history — and Effingham County

Story
Devin Walk
for **Effingham**
Magazine

Before state highways and interstates dotted Illinois, traveling to other communities by car was a confusing nightmare. Drivers had to use thick pamphlets for navigation. These crude roadmaps took drivers through a labyrinth of mud-caked paths, creek crossings without bridges, and sometimes privately owned lanes until they brought the driver to their destination. One can imagine the toll these journeys would take on a wooden-spoked car like a Model T.

By the late 1910s, authorities started seeing the potential in automobiles. They knew having a patchwork of shoddy roads wasn't going to suffice. Meanwhile, cities across America were starting to pave their roads, which put less stress on the vehicles of that time.

Illinois allocated money in the 1920s for the development of state highways. In 1926, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved a plan for a national network of highways. This set in motion the creation of Illinois' state highways.

One of them was U.S. Route 45, a 1,297-mile-long highway from Lake Superior in Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico in Mississippi.

The highway is the longest numbered route in Illinois. In Illinois, it starts at the Wisconsin border and moves into Chicagoland, where it passes near O'Hare International Air-

port. It goes south through Kankakee and Champaign-Urbana and enters Effingham County from Shelby County near Sigel and exits the county into Clay County. It eventually leaves the state at Metropolis, crossing the Ohio River into Kentucky.

U.S. Route 45 and its counterpart, the Illinois Central Railroad, played an important role in American history. In the 1910s, the Great Migration started. Millions of African Americans fled the Jim Crow South for better opportunities in the industrial-rich North. More than 500,000 people moved to Chicago alone. A large percentage of African Americans who moved to Chicago from the southern states passed through the area on Route 45 or the Illinois Central Railroad.

The Great Migration's effects could be felt in many aspects of American culture. African American musicians also moved north, which helped make jazz and blues music a mainstay in American culture. These artists traveled to venues from Chicago down to Memphis and New Orleans on Route 45 or the Illinois Central Railroad.

An unlikely place that gained a reputation for being a jazz music hub was Sigel. Through the late 1940s and into the late 50s, Sigel, which is bisected by Route 45 and the former Illinois Central Railroad, hosted major big band acts at Sigel Community Park's Bandstand, usually during mid-summer festivals sponsored by the Sigel Boosters and Sigel's American Legion.

Left: This 2016 Effingham Daily News file photo shows construction on U.S. Route 45 on the Green Creek bridge, about 5 miles north of Effingham. **In this 2015 Effingham Daily News file photo,** a group of volunteers pick up limbs that were cut from trees along U.S. Route 45 in Neoga.



My grandmother, Audrey Walk, once told me she saw Louis Armstrong play at the park. In Sigel's 1988 125th Anniversary book, residents talked about Armstrong's car breaking down before his Sigel show. Armstrong's car was fixed at a local garage and Armstrong later sent flowers to the mechanic and his family in appreciation.

Other musicians who performed at Sigel's bandstand included Guy Lombardo, the Glenn Miller Band under the direction of Ray McKinley, and Russ Carlyle. In the 1988 book, residents also recalled dancing in the mud during the festivities and the close proximity of a hog farm. The entertainers from the city were fascinated by the hog farm because many of them hadn't seen a pig before.

Another famous spot in Sigel was Elcy's nightclub, which sat next to the modern-day Kazbar bar. The club, which was started in the 1930s, also attracted major big band and jazz acts including Count Basie and Tommy Dorsey.

As more and more major music acts played at Elcy's, the popularity of Sigel exploded. My grandfather, Bill Wendling of Altamont, graduated high school in 1945. He remembers it being a popular place that local residents flocked to. He would often recount a saying that went along the lines of "Sigel, 200 people by day, 3,000 at night."

Elcy's became well known to men serving in the armed forces. They would stop in from a nearby Greyhound station, most likely the one in Effingham. The club also attracted college students bused in from Champaign-Urbana from Route 45 or arriving by train.

Elcy's also became infamous for alleged backroom gambling from Chicago organized crime mem-

bers. (Being one of the main arteries of travel into Southern Illinois from Chicago, members of organized crime were known to use Route 45.)

By the 1950s, Elcy's music scene transformed from big band to country and pop music with acts like Jerry Lee Lewis later playing there. Its popularity dwindled in the following decades. The building was demolished more than a decade ago.

The 1933 Chicago World's Fair also brought many travelers through the area on Route 45, many of them riding a Greyhound Bus. The Great Depression put a dent in leisure trips for many families, but the fair helped offset the dwindling rider numbers.

The Greyhound station was originally at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Fourth Street, not far from the crossroads of Route 45 and Route 40. This was close to the Benwood Hotel, which catered to many travelers. In 1940, the Greyhound station moved to 303 East Fayette, which is now the Gabby Goat



Left: A paperboy hawks the Chicago Defender in 1940. The newspaper's support of The Great Migration encouraged Southern readers to migrate to the North in record numbers. Library of Congress photo.

Below: A property on Route 45 in Sigel owned by Allen Schumacher shows how gas stations could have appeared in Route 45's heyday. Devin Walk photo.



American Pub and Grill. The next year, local residents started leaving the Greyhound Station to head off to war during World War II.

Restaurants and gas stations became a local staple along Route 45. Trailways, which was north of today's I-57's Sigel exit, was known to travelers throughout Illinois. It was especially renowned for its chicken and pies. One former resident who posted on the Effingham County Courthouse Museum's Facebook page commented that she worked in a suburb of Chicago and people knew where Effingham was because of Trailways and its delicious food.

But the U.S. highway system would later take a backseat to the interstate system. After spending time in Europe during World War II as Supreme Allied Commander, Dwight D. Eisenhower saw a need for a modern highway system like the German Autobahn that could quickly transport troops and supplies. At the end of Eisenhower's first term in the Oval Office, he signed into law the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956. The creation of the interstate

Top: The building that put Sigel on the map for many decades as a famous nightclub, Elcy's, before it was torn down. Effingham Daily News file photo. Bottom: Shown is the location where Elcy's Club in Sigel stood.

My grandmother, Audrey Walk, once told me she saw Louis Armstrong play at the park. In Sigel's 1988 125th Anniversary book, residents talked about Armstrong's car breaking down before his Sigel show. Armstrong's car was fixed at a local garage and Armstrong later sent flowers to the mechanic and his family in appreciation.



system was the largest public works project in American history.

In the 1960s, Effingham County's Interstate 57 section was completed. The interstate ran somewhat parallel to Route 45. Unlike Route 45, it bypassed most downtown sections of the communities it crossed. Traffic from travelers passing through the area, shifted to the interstate, including a downward trend in train passengers.

As the decades passed, many of the gas stations, motels, taverns, and restaurants along Route 45 disappeared, along with the colorful billboards that once stood as reminders of a once thriving vein of activity in the middle of the country.

Sources:

"End of an Era." Effingham Daily News, Oct. 5, 2009.

"Greyhound Post House and G.C. Murphy – jobs from our teen years." Effingham Daily News, June 27, 2021.

"Community Spirit is prevalent in Sigel." Mattoon Journal Gazette & Times-Courier, July 26, 2014.

1988 Sigel 125th Anniversary Book

Effingham County Courthouse Museum Facebook page.





***People's Choice Best Locksmith
& Best Security/Alarm Dealer***

"Locally Owned & Operated For Over 50 Years"



For All Your Security Needs...

- Fire Alarms • Security Systems
- Bonded Locksmith • Access Controls
- Burglar • Medical • CCTV

347-9630 OR 1-800-322-7569

1107 S. Willow • Effingham • IL 62401

Hours: Mon-Fri 8AM - 4:30PM;

Closed Sat. & Sun.

Effingham County Events



Nov. 17 – Pink Friday business sales and specials in Downtown Effingham.

Nov. 17 – Glo Bingo at Effingham Elks Lodge to benefit Bosom Buddies Relay for Life Team. Doors open 6 p.m. Bingo at 7 p.m. Must be 18 or older to attend. Cash Bar, Raffle and Snacks. Tickets available at glo-bingo.com/events

Nov. 17 & 18 – Shimmer & Shine Show. Boutique Blvd returns to Effingham for the greatest shopping event of the season! Come see your favorite Boutiques under one roof for a two-day shopping event! Perfect event to get some Christmas gift shopping done! November 17 from 4 to 8 p.m. and November 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Thelma Keller Convention Center in Effingham.

Nov. 17 – Hairball, A Tribute to Arena Rock at 8 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Hairball is returning for a Rock & Roll experience that will not soon be forgotten! Homage will be paid to some of the biggest arena acts in the world including Van Halen, KISS, Motley Crue, Queen, Journey, Poison and Aerosmith. Hairball's show includes lights, sound, video screens, smoke bombs, confetti and more!

Nov. 17 through Jan. 6 – Holiday Light Show set to music at SDS Technology, 313 Professional Park Drive, Effingham nightly.

Nov. 18 – Branson on the Road Christmas Style. Shows at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. The show includes Christmas music along with old country favorites and plenty of hilarious comedy. Branson on the Road Christmas Style blends mandolin, banjo, guitar, upright slip bass, beautiful rhinestone costumes, hilarious comedy, bluegrass, rockabilly and gospel music.

Nov. 18 – Pursuing Your Spouse's Heart at Effingham Event Center + The Hall Bar & Patio, 1501 W. Fayette, Effingham. Special evening with your spouse featuring speaker Dana Nygaard. Doors open 5 p.m., Dinner by Ochs Street Meats 6 p.m., Speaker at 7 p.m. For tickets contact Sacred Heart Parish office in Effingham.

Nov. 19 – Holiday Craft Fair from noon to 4 p.m. at Dieterich High School, 108 W. Church Street in Dieterich. Free Admission. Lunch served by Dieterich Women's Club. This 23rd annual fair is hosted by the Dieterich Women's Club. Vendor displays include holiday crafts, florals, home décor, doll clothes, baby burp towels, tag blankets, homemade candy, cookies, popcorn, homemade soaps and lotions, wood toys, nativities, ornaments, kids books, hand

crafted jewelry, lasered stones, wind chimes, wooden signs, purses, hair bows, wristlets, wood bowls & tissue boxes and so much more! For more information contact Janelle Eck at 217-343-7629.

Nov. 22 – Walking Through Wonderland: A Visit Effingham Experience in downtown Effingham. You're invited to an enchanting Visit Effingham experience! Walking Through Wonderland will host its 3rd annual walk-thru event on Wednesday, Nov. 22 from 5 to 8 p.m. For one night only, the Wonderland in Lights will close to all vehicles and offer visitors an opportunity to get up close and personal with our larger-than-life light displays. This event is free to the public, but donations are welcome. View the displays at your own leisure, listen and sing along to your favorite Christmas music and wave hello to Santa Claus when you reach the end of the walk. Complimentary refreshments, including hot cocoa and cookies, will be available fireside, while supplies last, courtesy of Dan Hecht Chevrolet-Toyota. Specialty coffees from Fox Holler Coffee, Hometown Pretzels and Macklin Meadow Kettle Corn will be available for purchase as well. Don't forget to stop by the Visit Effingham tent to pick up your free holiday souvenir (also while supplies last). Parking will be limited at Community Park, so please consider using our free shuttle, courtesy of Wad It Up Transportation. The shuttle will run continuously, from 5 to

8 p.m., and will pick up and drop off at the Courthouse Museum parking lot. To extend your festivities, visit Lights on the Lawn in Downtown Effingham to view our larger-than-life, 3-D holiday light displays.

Nov. 23 through Jan. 4 – The Wonderland in Lights will be open to vehicles -- excluding the evening of the walk -- seven days a week. The official season runs from Thanksgiving through New Years Day, from 5 to 9 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and from 5 to 10 p.m. on Fridays & Saturdays. For more information, call the Effingham Tourism Office at 217.342.5310.

Nov. 24 – Black Friday Block Party on Main Street starting at 7 a.m. in downtown Dieterich. Downtown Dieterich businesses to have gift basket raffles and special offers and more!

Nov. 24 & 25 – Winery Winterland at Tuscan Hills Winery in Effingham. Fresh Cut Christmas Trees from 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday. Saturday features Pictures with Santa & Reindeer from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and then Fresh Cut Christmas Trees, Vendors and Drink Specials from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nov. 24 & 25 – Christmas Market at the farm at Our Humbled Homestead Christmas Tree Farm, 3720 N. 200th St., Mason. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Find a tree, pet the animals. Enjoy shopping through Vendors

Nov. 23 – Effingham County FISH Organization sponsors the free Effingham County Thanksgiving Day Dinner at Cornerstone Christian Church in Effingham beginning at 12:30 p.m. Curbside pickup 11 a.m. to noon. Offering delivered meals after 10 a.m. Free and open to all Effingham County residents and their families. Donations greatly appreciated to FISH, PO Box 473, Effingham IL 62401. To reserve meals, call the Senior Center at 217-347-5569 by noon on Monday, November 20. To volunteer at meal, call Susan Elke at 217-868-5913.



Johnson Funeral Home

Serving the Effingham Area Since 1870



Pre-Planning

Let's start the talk of a lifetime together.

Assure yourself and family peace of mind and start pre-planning.

Contact Maddie, our Care Coordinator today.



217.342.2215

johnsonandsonsfh.com

NEWTON PART SUPPLY

BELTS FOR ALL APPLICATIONS



618-783-2347 800 W. Jourdan St., Newton, IL

YOUR HOMETOWN COMMUNITY BANK

First Neighbor Bank is focused on the financial success of the residents and businesses in the communities we serve. Now is a great time to come by and talk to us about a loan or to open a new account. Come see what we have to offer.

Personal & Business Deposit Accounts

Mortgage | Agriculture Loans

Consumer | Commercial Loans

Online & Mobile Banking

Credit Cards /Debit Cards | More...



FIRST NEIGHBOR BANK, N.A.

150 Courthouse Square | Toledo | 217-849-2701

223 E 6th St | Neoga | 217-895-5800

705 E Cumberland | Greenup | 217-923-3125

FirstNeighbor.com

All loans subject to
credit approval.



MEMBER
FDIC

Ranger BOATS



Service Your Boat & Winterize for Spring Fun
Boat Accessories Are Great Holiday Gifts!

Serving Customers
for Over 50 Years!

LAKE SARA MARINA INC



YAMAHA
Revs Your Heart

712 E. Fayette Ave., Effingham, IL 62401
217.342.6344 • www.lsmboats.com • Follow Us On



Dec. 2 – Downtown Effingham Hometown Christmas 2023.

Enjoy the traditions of Christmas in Downtown Effingham with Santa, kids activities, variety of food & non-food vendors, a lighted parade, ice skating, horse-drawn carriage rides, train rides + more family friendly activities presented by the Downtown Effingham Business Group. Mistletoe Market: Showcase your local product, craft, baked goods + more!

who value nourishment, handmade goods and slower more primitive ways of living. Sourdough Bread, Vanilla, Pasture Raised Pork, Lard, Goats Milk Soaps, Dried Lavender, Local Honey, Microgreens, Farm Fresh Eggs and More!

Nov. 25 – Downtown Effingham Small Business Saturday. Downtown Effingham welcomes you to celebrate Small Business. This annual event is all about embracing the magic of shopping small. Join us in strengthening the sense of community in Downtown Effingham. Small Business Saturday is your chance to show your support for our local treasures. Let's come together to uplift our remarkable small businesses. By starting your shopping journey locally, you're making a positive impact on our community. Be the change by making the choice to shop small first this holiday season. Let's make Small Business Saturday an unforgettable experience!

Nov. 26 – The Prophecy, A Tribute to the Trans-Siberian Orchestra at 3 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Experience the power, the music and the magic this Christmas season with this powerhouse group of classically trained musicians that hail from different parts of the states and come together to create nothing short of an electrifying evening of holiday rock!

Dec. 1 – Winery Bingo from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Stellar Cellar at Tuscan Hills Winery in Effingham.

Dec. 2 – FACE Community Choir & Orchestra LIVE Christmas Performance free to public at Effingham Courthouse Museum in downtown Effingham from 6 to 8 p.m.

Dec. 3 – All I Want for Christmas Craft &

Vendor Show at Thelma Keller Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with 90+ Crafters & Vendors.

Dec. 3 – FACE Community Choir LIVE Christmas Performance free to the public at The Cross Chapel, 1900 Pike Ave in Effingham from 2 to 4 p.m.

Dec. 9 – Christmas Market from 2 to 7 p.m. at Edgewood Christian Church. Vendors, Food, Parade, Pictures with Santa, Crafts, Clothing, Candles, Toys, and Art.

Dec. 9 – The Polar Express, An Interactive Movie Experience at 3 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Join us for an interactive movie experience as The Polar Express takes us on an adventure to the North Pole! On Christmas Eve, a young boy embarks on a magical adventure to the North Pole on the Polar Express while learning about friendships, bravery and the spirit of Christmas. Tickets include a goodie bag at the door.

Dec. 15 – The Oak Ridge Boys Down Home Christmas Show at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center bringing four decades of charted singles and 50 years of tradition to the stage featuring their hits along with holiday favorites!

Dec. 16 – Scott Wattles Christmas Show with Firebox Bluegrass Band at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Join the holiday tradition with Scott Wattles and The Blue Suede Crew as they celebrate the season with their Rock 'n Roll Christmas Show performing Christmas classics including "Jingle Bell Rock", "Silver Bells", "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" and more!

Dec. 16 – Cookies 'N Cocoa Illinois at Koerner Distributors Inc in Effingham from 4 to 6 p.m. Free Event for Families! Experience

the hope and joy of Christmas! Free Cookies, Free Cocoa, Free Pics with Santa & meet Mrs. Clause.

Dec. 20 – "Away in the Basement" by the Church Basement Ladies shows at 2 and 7:30 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. This Sunday School Christmas program starts with the children rehearsing up in the sanctuary while the ladies of the kitchen are finishing up the goodie bags and putting the final touches on the Nativity pieces. Little do they know what surprises are in store for them as they are called upon to, once again, step in a save the day. A great show for group travelers!

Jan. 20 – Moana at 3 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Join us for an interactive movie experience as we set sail on an epic adventure! Moana is a spirited teen who embarks on a daring mission to prove herself a master wayfinder and fulfill her ancestors' unfinished quest. During her journey, Moana meets the mighty demigod Maui, and together, they cross the ocean on a fun-filled action-packed voyage.

Jan. 26 – Night Ranger at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Heavy hitting rock legends, Night Ranger has transcended the arena-rock sound and style well beyond that era. Some of its best-selling albums include "Dawn Patrol," "Midnight Madness," "7 Wishes," "Big Life" and "Man in Motion." Night Ranger's popularity is fueled by a number of instantly recognizable hit singles like "Sister Christian," "Don't Tell Me You Love Me," "When You Close Your Eyes" and "(You Can Still) Rock In America."

Feb. 4 – Dinosaur World Live at 5 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Grab your compass and join our intrepid explorer across uncharted territories to discover a prehistoric world of astonishing and remarkably life-like dinosaurs. Meet a host of impressive creatures including a Triceratops, Giraffatitan, Segnosaurus and the Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Feb. 10 – Tusk, the Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Experience at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Five musicians recreate the music of Fleetwood Mac to perfection with note for note renditions, featuring the talents of Mick Fleetwood, John McVie, Lindsey Buckingham and Stevie Nicks. The members of Tusk have been making music together in various combinations and style for over 25 years.

Feb. 17 – One Vision of Queen featuring Marc Martel at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. The World's Most Spectacular Queen Tribute Show is returning for a night of Queen's greatest hits. One Vision of Queen is an explosive, attention-commanding tribute where some of the

**We are driven.
We are Kubota.**



RTV-X900 Utility Vehicle

- 21.6 HP* Kubota Diesel Engine
- Exclusive Variable Hydro Transmission
- Front and Rear Independent Suspension



Standard L Series Compact Tractors

- 24.8 to 47.3 HP* Kubota Diesel Engines
- Powerful Transmission Options
- High Quality, Versatile and Affordable



M6 Series Mid-Size Ag Tractors

- 104.5 to 141.4 HP* Kubota Diesel Engines
- Exclusive Bevel-Gear Front Axle for Easy Handling and Maneuverability
- Climate-Controlled, Grand X Cab with Ample Head and Legroom



BX Series Sub-Compact Tractors

- 18 to 25.5 HP* Kubota Diesel Engines
- Hydrostatic Power Steering and 4WD
- Category 1 3-Point Hitch for Performance-Matched Attachments



BLUFF EQUIPMENT

— WHERE YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME —

1090 US Highway 40

Vandalia, IL 62471

Phone: (618) 283-3277

www.kubota.com

*For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power (HP/KW) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. Optional equipment may be shown.

© Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2016



most iconic rock anthems of all time collide with a theatrical performance style and eye-popping production. The riveting show focuses on the extremely diverse body of the band's greatest hits including "Bohemian Rhapsody," "We Will Rock You," "We Are The Champions," "Another One Bites The Dust," "Under Pressure," "Somebody To Love" and "Crazy Little Thing Called Love."

Feb. 23 – Forever Young at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Forever Young follows one unforgettable group of friends as they discover the greatest hits of all time! Set in a music-filled suburban basement, this heartfelt, true story is guaranteed to take you back to the first time you pushed play, tuned in and set the needle down. Forever Young features hit songs by Billy Joel, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Huey Lewis & The News, Styx, Queen, Michael Jackson, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash, Brooks & Dunn, The Black Crows, Bon Jovi and many more! This multi-award winning production is jam-packed with powerhouse vocals, dynamite choreography and one sensational true story that is guaranteed to make you feel.....FOREVER YOUNG.

Feb. 24 – Six String Summit at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center featuring seven of the area's best guitar players backed up by the amazing Summit Band. The 2024 line-up features: Alex Thoele of Teutopolis, Chain Station, Marty Williamson of Effingham, Hello Dave, Andy Baylor of Champaign, Clockwork Orange, Reverend Robert of Charleston, Superbad, Ted Freezeland of Charleston, Feudin' Hillbillies and Rod Evans of Neoga.

Feb. 28 – Menopause the Musical 2 – Cruising Through 'The Change' at 7 p.m. at Effingham Performance Center. All aboard, sisters! The hysterical sequel to the smash-hit Menopause The Musical is finally here! Five years after their chance encounter in

a department store, we set sail with our beloved ladies for more high jinks on the high seas with a hilarious and heartfelt look at the joys of menopause and friendship – plus hot flashes, mood swings and memory lapses! Join us on a trip of self-discovery, backed by a new soundtrack of toe-tapping parodied hits from the 70s, 80s and 90s. For these four ladies, menopause was not the end, but the beginning of a beautiful friendship where love conquers all, and friendships never fail.



March 9 – Buckcherry at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. From hit songs to platinum and gold records to millions of fans worldwide, Buckcherry beat the odds and built its reputation on live shows and its hit songs. Buckcherry released its 10th album this summer titled "Vol. 10" with songs including "Good Time" and "Shine Your Light."

March 15 – Buckets N Boards at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. A hilarious, high-energy show chock full of amazing percussion, ridiculous songs, spectacular tap dancing, inventive instrumentation and an incredible variety of musical talents! Matthew Levingston and Gareth Sever have handcrafted a fresh and unique comedy experience for the entire

family to enjoy! Regarded as a must see show for any evening out with the family, their unexpected comedy and upbeat personalities will keep you laughing.

March 17 – The Price is Right Live at 2 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. "Come on Down" for your chance to win at The Price Is Right Live! Contestants will be selected from the audience to play classic games made famous by the iconic network television show "The Price Is Right." Prizes will include cash, sought-after appliances, epic vacations and, of course, a brand-new car! Games will include favorites like "Plinko," "Cliffhangers" and "The Big Wheel."

April 5 – Etta May & The Southern Fried Chicks at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Etta May headlines the successful all-female comedy tour, selling out theaters all over the country! Think Blue Collar Comedy Tour with better hair and a bigger attitude! Etta May has performed her brand of clean comedy on Oprah, Showtime, Comic Strip Live, MTV and as a great commentator on "CBS Sunday Morning." She is the winner of the prestigious American Comedy Award's "Comic Of The Year" and so much more!

April 8 – 2024 Solar Eclipse Event sponsored by Dieterich Business Association to be held in Dieterich. Food Trucks, Kids Activities, Special Guest Speakers, More to Come!

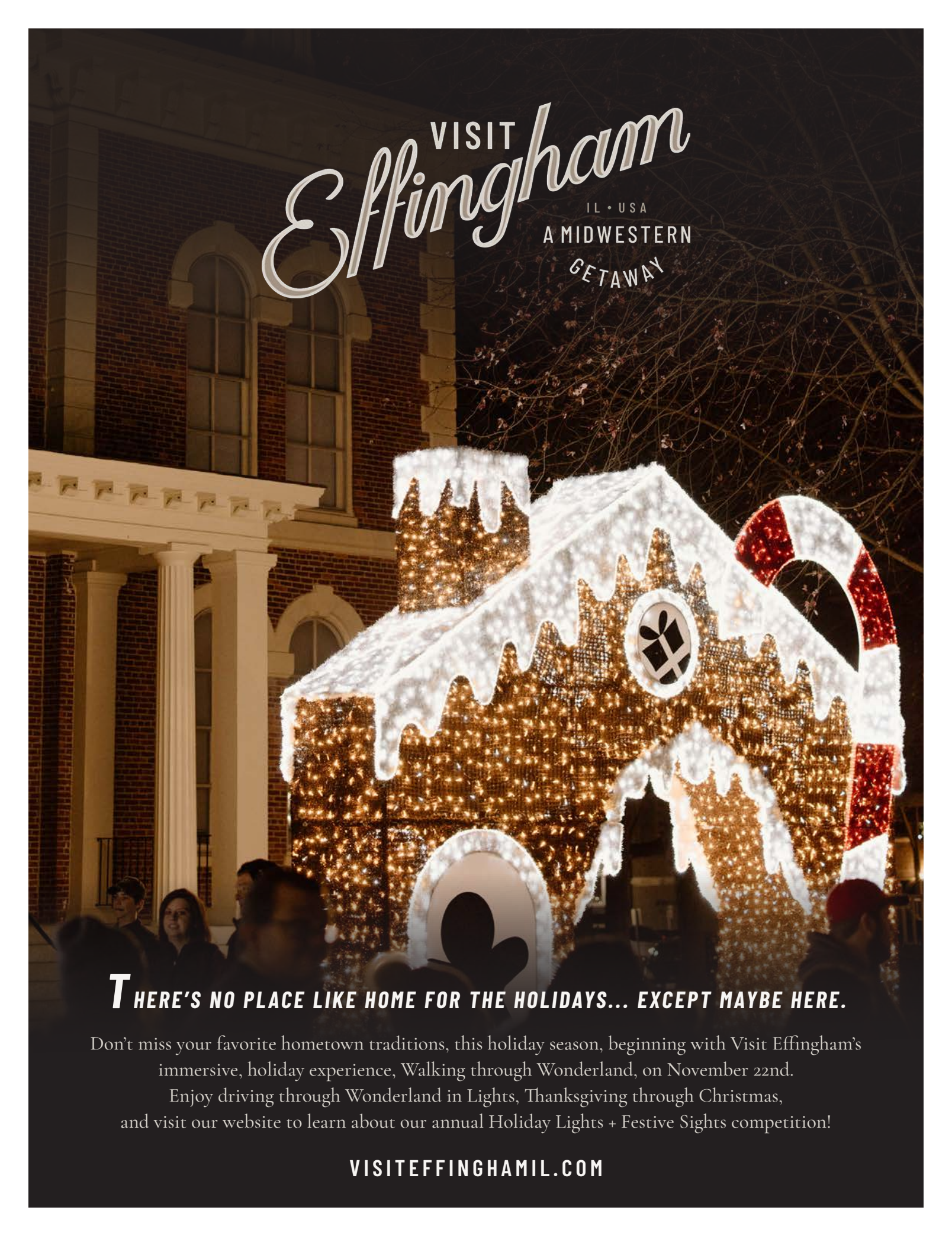
April 20 – Wayne Newton "Up Close & Personal" at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. "Mr. Las Vegas", Wayne Newton is back with a show unlike any he has ever done before. This show is very intimate as he engages with the audience telling stories about his life in Las Vegas, creating a magical evening singing crowd favorites and playing an assortment of the many instruments he has perfected.

April 26 – EPC Idol Finals at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center. Calling all karaoke singers to the EPC Idol Contest to determine who will be named the EPC Idol and win a \$1,000 cash prize! Preliminary karaoke contests will be held at sponsoring locations with the winners of each preliminary contest to take the stage for a night of performances to determine who will be voted the EPC Idol. During the finals, audience members will vote electronically to determine which of the finalists will win the prize money!

June 1 – Scott Wattles & The Blue Suede Crew at 7 p.m. at the Effingham Performance Center performing a variety of songs including Elvis hits and Gospel music. Audience members young and old are embraced by their talent and will sing along with every word!

A variety of shows are scheduled at the Effingham Performance Center in coming months.



A large, illuminated gingerbread house light display is the central focus of the image. The house is constructed from thousands of warm white lights, giving it a glowing, textured appearance. It features a steep, snow-covered roof with icicle-like light strings hanging from the eaves. A chimney on the left side is also covered in lights. The front of the house has a large arched doorway and a circular window, both outlined in white. To the right, a red and white striped archway is visible. The display is set in front of a brick building with large, arched windows. Several people are visible in the foreground, looking at the light display.

VISIT *Effingham*

IL • USA
A MIDWESTERN
GETAWAY

***T*HERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS... EXCEPT MAYBE HERE.**

Don't miss your favorite hometown traditions, this holiday season, beginning with Visit Effingham's immersive, holiday experience, Walking through Wonderland, on November 22nd.

Enjoy driving through Wonderland in Lights, Thanksgiving through Christmas, and visit our website to learn about our annual Holiday Lights + Festive Sights competition!

VISITEFFINGHAM.IL.COM

Bugged by houseplant pests? Give carnivorous plants a try

Story
Christina Lueking
Illinois Extension

During the chilly, dreary winter months, I enjoy my green houseplants that add a bright spot in my office and living space. So when I was visiting a new specialty plant shop this fall, I had to add a new plant friend, “Ping,” to my collection.

If you have ever dealt with annoying fungus gnats that have crept into your houseplant’s space, you should try a *Pinguicula* or commonly named butterwort.

Butterworts are carnivorous plants commonly referred to as “Pings” from their scientific name *Pinguicula gigantea*. This plant was found in Oaxaca, Mexico, by the famous botanist Alfred Lau. These carnivorous plants have been found to grow in zones 7 to 10 outdoors.

What are carnivorous plants?

These unique plants are defined by their ability to trap, kill, and digest their prey and then use the nutrients from the captured insects. Prey are lured to the plant by a specialized rosette or succulent leaves that function like flypaper.

The leaves have tiny hairs that make a sticky mucus that not only shimmers in the sunlight but produces a fungus or moldy odor that attracts insects. The sticky leaves then trap the prey while the leaf margins slowly roll over the insect. This starts the digestion process.



Butterworts are carnivorous plants commonly referred to as “Pings” from their scientific name *Pinguicula gigantea*. Photo credit: Christina Lueking.

One bonus of this succulent-like plant is that it produces a vibrant-colored flower from early spring to summer. This flycatcher process is great for smaller insects such as gnats or thrips but is not effective for larger pollinators. Research shows that since bumblebees are larger-bodied insects, they will not be threatened by this plant.

Talk about a cool beginner plant for kids. Who wouldn’t love a plant with gooey leaves and a diet of bugs for dinner?

Carnivorous plant care tips

- Do not use tap water or well water. Use distilled or rainwater with low mineral water instead.
- Water using the tray method. Avoid overhead watering of the leaves that may lead to disease issues.
- “Pings” need high humidity. Using the tray watering method will help with this.
- Use soil or growing substrate. This is two-parts peat, one-part sand, one-part perlite or vermiculite.
- In winter, grow indoors with southern exposure light. Use a windowsill or supplemental lighting.
- Use terrariums with LED lighting and good airflow.
- Plant in plastic or glazed ceramic containers. Using porous terra cotta pots will make the soil dry out too quickly.

For more research-based information on carnivorous plants, connect with your local Illinois Extension county office at go.illinois.edu/ExtensionOffice.

Christina Lueking is an Illinois Extension horticulture educator for Bond, Clinton, Jefferson, Marion, and Washington counties.

Gardeners Corner is a quarterly newsletter from gardening experts around the state. Each issue highlights best practices that will make your houseplants, landscape, or garden shine in any season. Join the Gardener’s Corner email list at go.illinois.edu/Gcsubscribe for direct access to timely tips.

ABOUT EXTENSION: Illinois Extension leads public outreach for University of Illinois by translating research into action plans that allow Illinois families, businesses, and community leaders to solve problems, make informed decisions, and adapt to changes and opportunities.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING AT A THRIFT STORE

Story
Mary Riley
CNHI News

It's gift season. Of course, retailers have had holiday decorations up for months and some of you probably even have your shopping done. If so, congratulations. I envy you, especially when you make sure to tell me that you had all of your Christmas shopping done by Halloween. I can only imagine how serene your Christmas is going to be with all the extra time you have now.

I am not one of those super shoppers. I truly want to be, but apparently, I was not born with what has to be a gene for finding the perfect gift for someone 11 and a half months prior to when the gift is given. On the rare occasion I do buy things on sale after Christmas, I inevitably forget about my purchases only to find them years later stuffed in some bin in the back of a closet.

If, like me, you don't already have your Christmas list all checked off, then you know that gift shopping this time of year can be stressful and certainly expensive. Although I think it's always going to be worrying to a certain degree, maybe there's a way we can at least make it less expensive. And while we're at it, a little more sustainable.

I'm sure you've heard the expression, "it's the thought that counts," but do you think that is actually true? If so, then it should be more than okay to regift something you already have or give somebody something that is used, as long as it is thoughtful and meaningful. But there is often a stigma about this practice which is in direct contradiction to the "thought that counts" idea.

A few years ago, I was talking to my son. Let's call him Jacob — which is actually his real name. I don't think I need to protect his anonymity in this particular situation. His girlfriend's birthday — let's call her Karen, which is not her real name but sounds close enough — was approaching. I asked him if he had thought about what he was going to buy her for the occasion. Although he had not decided what to get her, he knew where

he was going to shop. To my surprise it was the local thrift store. Of course, at the time he was still in college and most certainly on a budget, but that wasn't the only reason he was making the choice to go thrifting for her present. We all know he could easily find some inexpensive, mass-produced item online without too much effort.

Why a thrift store? Jacob explained that he and his girlfriend loved to shop at thrift stores to find one-of-a-kind items that were really inexpensive. They would often stumble upon really interesting things that they would never be able to find in other places. And they also could find things that may be gently-used at a fraction of the cost of what they would sell for in a big box store. As a bonus, he knew that by shopping for her gift at the thrift store, "Karen" would be thrilled with the idea he was giving new life to something potentially headed to a landfill. It was a sustainable choice, but he was still able to get her something she truly enjoyed.

This year, in the spirit of being budget- and eco-friendly, why not try shopping at your local thrift store? The trick is to find gifts that would be meaningful to the person that is receiving them. You could look for collectibles or unique items.

I know that Karen likes record albums for the music and the artwork on the covers. If someone on your list is a fashionista, you might look for clothes or handbags that have designer labels. And of course, if you need to find a humorous gift for an exchange, the thrift store is the perfect place. The possibilities are endless.

And by shopping secondhand, not only are you giving items a new purpose, you're also helping to sustain a local business that is often a nonprofit. I call this a win, win, win.

If I recall correctly, Jacob did okay that year for Karen's birthday. It must have worked out, because now they are engaged. Although he did not buy her engagement ring at a thrift store, he did repurpose mine.

I wonder if Karen will get her wedding dress second-hand? I can't wait to find out.

The trick is to find gifts that would be meaningful to the person that is receiving them. You could look for collectibles or unique items.



In this 2014 Effingham Daily News file photo, Garland Bloemker helps load items people donated for the Effingham County FISH/Catholic Charities Christmas Store.



Story
Devin Walk
for Effingham
Magazine

Holiday Memories

Every Christmas the passing of time becomes more evident

When I think back to memories of my childhood in Altamont, those revolving about Christmas are among the most vivid. Growing up in the 1990s and 2000s, Christmas seemed to be an ever-changing experience. But it was still rooted in tradition.

The festivities would start a week or two before Christmas. My mom would have a cookie baking morning. She would invite our family friends, Mike and Debbie, over to help bake. My dad would help cut the Christmas-themed shapes out of the cookie dough. I helped by eating half my body weight in the delicious sugar cookie dough. My grandpa would periodically stop by the house throughout the morning to say “hi” and make sure I wasn’t eating cookie dough because “it has raw eggs in it and that’s not good, Dev!” After doing a quick Google search while writing this, he might’ve been right.

My family has always unwrapped gifts on Christmas Eve night. But first, we would attend the Children’s Service at Immanuel Lutheran

Church, where I usually had a line in the children’s production. Every year, I’d have stage fright – even though it was usually just reciting a Bible verse.

When I got up to the microphone, I’d recite it as quickly as possible. Then I’d go back to my seat and the rest of the kids and I would yell out a rendition of “Away in a Manger.”

The moment the service was over, I’d try my hardest to get my family out of there as soon as possible. When they started getting into conversations with people, I’d get agitated. There wasn’t time for small talk. We had presents at home.

Being the youngest, I could get under the tree the easiest. So I was usually the gift dealer, passing

out presents to everyone. They could always tell which gifts came from me because of the scrunched-up wrapping paper and the loads of Scotch tape attached to the package. Unfortunately, I didn’t inherit my mom’s gift-wrapping talents.

There are many memorable gifts I have received over the years. When I was in elementary school, my parents or Santa gave me a toy pirate ship. My poor Uncle Phil spent hours assembling it. Without his help, I wouldn’t have been able to shoot that reloadable cannon off the ship’s stern. There’s also the time my sister-in-law got me a pallet of Aldi Mac N’ Cheese as a gag gift. College me ended up putting it to good use.

Some of the gifts have even changed my life. In about seventh grade, I got into playing guitar. That Christmas my parents got me my first guitar, one that wasn’t my brother’s. It was a blue agave Fender Telecaster. I’ve had many guitars since then, but that one is still my favorite. I learned many valuable skills and even life lessons playing music on that guitar.

My aunts, uncles, and also my godfather, would get me history books that fostered my love of history that I carry to this day. Meanwhile, my brother gave me CDs that became some of my favorite albums of all time.

However, as I stated earlier, Christmas is an ever-changing event. Every Christmas the passing of time becomes more evident. Each year technology changes. The days of CDs are gone. Now we can ask Amazon Echo’s Alexis to play Christmas music. Gift cards can be sent digitally. We can film Christmas moments with our phones instead of a VHS camcorder.

I remember re-watching those camcorder VHS Christmas tapes a few years ago. They show how much has changed over the years. Our voices sound different. Our clothes have changed. Certain people back then had more hair.

There are now a few empty seats around the Christmas tree. I’ll never again hear my Grandma Wendling’s voice singing Christmas songs, or cram into my Grandma Walk’s house with the rest of the Walks to hear Grandma Walk’s stories.

Every Christmas is another year gone by. It’s a reminder not to take things for granted, especially the happy moments.

This year my family is excited. The new generation of our family, my nephew, who is about 1½, will be having his first Christmas where he can really enjoy it. I’m sure we will savor those moments.



Devin Walk examines Christmas presents in the 1990s.

slumberland
FURNITURE

HOME | SLEEP | DÉCOR

ALL MONTH LONG

BLACK
FRIDAY

up to **60% OFF LIST PRICES** *in-store and online!**



ASHLEY
O'PHANNON
DUAL CHAISE
SECTIONAL
85W 125D 38H
List price \$3999.99
SKU# QK1081577

\$399.99
VALUE!

**FREE
OTTOMAN**
with purchase of
O'Phannon Sectional

SPECIAL PURCHASE - WHILE 400 LAST!

SECTIONAL + FREE MATCHING OTTOMAN BOTH FOR \$999

slumberland
FURNITURE

it's a
good
life.

127 STORES!

shop • find stores
join our e-club

slumberland.com

222 Broadway Ave. East, Mattoon
Call the store nearest you at 217-235-1400



Washington
Savings Bank

Make next year's holiday
Even Brighter!

Christmas Club | 3.00% APY*

Open a Christmas Club Account today
and be prepared for next year's holiday shopping!
A little every payday to make a great next holiday!

*Annual Percentage Yield. The APY is accurate as of 10/26/23. \$1.00 Minimum deposit to open this account. Interest rate and annual percentage yield will remain in effect until Christmas Club checks are issued. No withdrawals are permitted. Account balance plus the accrued interest will be mailed after October 25th each year. The maximum balance is \$10,000.

Member
FDIC

www.washingtonsavings.net



When you find chest pain around the bend.

A heart attack can change life in an instant. Our emergency department equips Prairie Heart's cardiologists with advanced, life-saving technology. We're prepared for the worst—so you can count on the best care when it matters most.

Learn more at stanthonyshospital.org/ER.



HSHS
St. Anthony's
Memorial Hospital



Here with you.