

State & Region

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? Contact editor Jodi Pospeschil at editor@mcdonoughvoice.com or (309) 833-2114

Sizzle with Fantasy Tan donates to The Crossing food pantry



RYAN HAGAN/THE VOICE

Chrissy Russell, owner of Sizzle with Fantasy Tan, is helping The Crossing Church's food pantry fill its shelves. For five weeks, she ran a prom tanning promotion. If clients brought in two non-perishable food items, they received \$10 off their spray tan. The food pantry is open every third Saturday of each month. Fifty-four families from 13 different locations were served last month, the first time the food pantry was open. Sizzle with Fantasy Tan is located inside the Grand Escape Day Spa building on East Jackson Street. The Crossing Church food pantry will be open Saturday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Pictured above, Josh King, a volunteer with The Crossing Church, stands with the food donation.

West Central Illinois Arts Center to host opening reception Saturday

The West Central Illinois Arts Center (WCI Arts) will be hosting an opening reception on Saturday, May 21, for "Explorations in Identity" a look at the world from the female perspective. Artists from around the region answered the call for works of art on, by or about women. The new exhibit hosts a variety of artists and a variety of mediums. The exhibit includes

large textile pieces, sculptures, paintings, drawings as well as ceramics. The public is invited to join the WCI Arts board for light refreshments during the opening on Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public. The WCI Arts Center is located at 25 East Side Square on the courthouse square in downtown Macomb.

The "Explorations in Identity" exhibit will remain up until June 18. The gallery is open Fridays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The opening reception will run concurrently with the opening reception at the Western Illinois Museum for "Connectedness: A History of Women's Clubs." For more information, please contact 836-2782 or contact@wciarts.org.

LOCAL

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The civilian blood program, created after World War II, currently supplies almost 50 percent of the blood in the United States. The American Red Cross has participated in numerous disaster relief efforts worldwide. These efforts have included the sinking of the Titanic on April 14, 1912, the attack on Pearl Harbor and the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Additional assistance programs that have been created over the course of its existence include: Red Cross War Fund drives (their first raising \$100 million in one week in 1917), the Junior Red Cross, the National Children's Fund, Red Cross Blood Services, Red Cross Aviation Incident Response and Liberty Fund. The American Red Cross is one of over 175 organizations which help victims of disaster.

McDonough County's chapter was officially established April 27, 1917. Nationally, the world was at war and people throughout the community were looking for ways to help those overseas.

The chapter's first meeting was held April 28, 1917, in the Opera House, with those in attendance asked to pay a membership fee of \$1. Headed by the Rev. J.M. Davidson, the committee was formed and included the Rev. Davidson, chairman; Albert Ends, vice chairman; Mrs. Herman Stocker, secretary; B.F. Mclean, treasurer; and Helen Fisher, financial secretary.

With an Army installation less than an hour away, for a short time many of the items the chapter produced were sent to Camp Ellis.

One of their longest standing leaders was chairman Marion Crouse, who ran the chapter from 1961 to 1979. In January 1973, Lulu Fellheimer passed away at the



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the groundbreaking for the Lulu V. Fellheimer McDonough County Chapter of the American Red Cross held Sept. 5, 1973. Pictured, from left, are former Mayor Robert Anstine, Chairman Marion Crouse and McDonough County Board President Robert Ausbury.

age of 90. Her late husband had been a local attorney. They married late in life and had no children to inherit the \$18 million, which they left to the Macomb community. Of that total, \$458,000 was left to local Red Cross chapter. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Sept. 5, 1973, for a building to house the chapter. Building was complete in January 1974. The chapter moved on Jan. 15, 1974, and the building was officially dedicated Feb. 24, 1974. The Lulu V. Fellheimer McDonough County Chapter of the American Red Cross is part of the Lamoine Valley Chapter.

The chapter building serves as a headquarters for all activities of the McDonough County chapter as well as for many city and county organizations. McDonough County's chapter started a blood program in November 1951 and a transportation program in December 1974. The transportation program is available to the general public, senior citizens and the disabled. Service is available Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Rides are free to senior citizens ages 60 and over. On average, the McDonough County Red Cross chapter provides 6,000 rides per year. They also provide house fire response, canteen service to fire fighters, disaster preparedness, service to armed forces and well-checks. These services are funded by local donations and bequests where the transportation is state funded.

In October 2010, the McDonough County chapter merged with the Hancock County chapter and they now serve the two counties. Tye Adair is the executive director of the McDonough County Chapter. For general information on the McDonough County chapter, class and blood drive schedules, or transportation program information call 837-1594, stop by 1224 Maple Ave. or visit www.mcdonough-redcross.org.

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