

IN THE KITCHEN WITH LAINIE

PAGE A5

LOCAL CITIES: SHOW US THE MONEY

PAGE A8



INSIDE TODAY

PAGE A8



Local ABATE signs up its 100th member

IN THE KNOW

Dispute over grill ignites altercation

By Nathan Woodside
news1@mcdonoughvoice.com

A Macomb man was arrested Thursday after a fight stemming from the city's annual spring cleanup.

According to reports, police were dispatched to 904 E. Carroll St. in Macomb for a physical altercation involving several individuals.

When officers arrived, witnesses at the scene accused 22-year-old Trenton E. Hay of striking one female family member and one other male following a disagreement.

Reports state Hay and the male victim were driving around Macomb looking for curbside items that had been thrown out as part of the city's annual spring cleanup.

Hay reportedly spied a grill that he wanted and asked the male victim to load it in his truck, but was denied. The victim told Hay the grill was too rusty.

The pair returned home, but reports said Hay remained angry over the incident.

During a physical altercation, Hay allegedly struck the male as well as another female who attempted to intervene.

Neither victim required medical treatment.

Hay was charged with two counts of domestic battery and lodged in the McDonough County Jail. During an initial court appearance on Thursday, his bond was set at \$1,500.

Fire damages house



NATHAN WOODSIDE/THE VOICE

Smoke and flames shoot from a vent in the roof of a home at 610 N. Monroe St. in Macomb on Thursday afternoon as a firefighter leads a water hose into the attic.

Firefighters called to North Monroe Street

By Nathan Woodside
news1@mcdonoughvoice.com

A quick response by Macomb crews to a house fire on North Monroe Street Thursday afternoon may have saved the home from being a total loss.

According to Macomb Fire Chief Andy Taylor, at 1:48 p.m. 911 dispatchers received a call that smoke was coming from the roof of a home at 610 N. Monroe St.

When fire crews arrived, heavy smoke was billowing from the chimney and vents that lead to the roof.

Taylor said firefighters gained entry to the home through the front door to find that the blaze had burned through the ceiling from the attic and was beginning to affect the first floor of the home.

"We actually got it extinguished pretty quickly," Taylor said.

He noted that the home sustained significant ceiling damage in a bathroom and one bedroom.

"Most of the rest of the house is in pretty good shape," Taylor said. "It's definitely not a loss."

The home is owned by David Recor. Taylor said he believes family members lived at the home, but he hadn't been able to confirm details before press time.

No one was home at the time of the fire and there were no injuries.

Taylor said the cause of the fire is under investigation, but it was determined that the flames originated in the attic.

See COUNTY - Page A2

MCDONOUGH

County voting districts stay the same

By Patrick Stout
news6@McDonoughVoice.com

As a direct result of the 2010 federal census, the McDonough County Board passed a reapportionment resolution Wednesday, Board Chairman Scott Scherer said this would not result in any changes to the county's three voting districts.

New census figures show the population of District 1 as 11,324, District 2 at 10,711, and District 3 at 10,577. Scherer said voters would continue to elect seven members per district for a county board total of 21 members.

The county board also adopted an ordinance establishing a fee for civil union licenses to be sold at the county clerk's office, effective June 1 in compliance with Illinois law.

The license fee will be \$40, the same as for a marriage license.

Board members approved a resolution asking consent of the Illinois Department of Transportation to renew the contract of County Engineer Tom Hickman. Because of the state motor fuel tax allocation, IDOT must agree to the appointment of county engineers in Illinois.

See COUNTY - Page A2

B-PC superintendent to head IASA board of directors

By Lainie Steelman
news2@McDonoughVoice.com

Bushnell-Prairie City Superintendent David Messersmith will soon take on an important leadership role among the state's education professionals. On July 1, he will become president of the Illinois Association of School Administrators' Board of Directors for the 2011-12 term.

During a regular B-PC Board of Education meeting Wednesday night at the B-PC High School library, IASA Executive Director Brent Clark officially recognized Messersmith as the next president and presented him with an IASA ring.

"A lot of responsibility will come onto his shoulders in the next 12 months," Clark commented. "He's a great guy and he's done a phenomenal job here."

Among Messersmith's duties for the state's advocacy organization for school administrators will be conducting the meeting at the IASA annual conference, scheduled for April 25-27, 2012, in Chicago.

He'll also address Illinois school board members and administrators at the "Triple I" conference Nov. 18-20 in Chicago. The conference is joint one including IASA, the Illinois Association of School Boards and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials.

The IASA Board of Directors meets six times per year and members serve without compensation.

See BOARD - Page A2

MDH grounds get facelift



RYAN HAGAN/THE VOICE

Robert Bowman, Jordan James, Jeff Vancil, Vicky Wallen and Jill Foster update MDH's grounds with the hospital's Campus Beautification Project.

Project paid for by hospital employees

By Ryan Hagan
news9@mcdonoughvoice.com

The Campus Beautification Project, a program sponsored by McDonough District Hospital employees, is designed to give the facility's campus a fresh look. With a \$20,000 budget, Jeff Vancil of Hart's Nursery, of Bushnell, is leading a team to add more flowers, mulch, boulders and trees to the grounds. He will also be providing maintenance to the campus throughout the year.

MDH employees Jill Foster and Vicky Wallen said the plans will allow employees and patients to immediately see the project's impact as renovations to the hospital's Grant Street side and entrances are currently being made. Both hope to expand the project to update the hospital's entire landscape.

The updates are just one project of the

hospital's Professionals Reach Out in Service (PROS) organization. About 350 of the hospital's 550 employees regularly make monetary donations to form a better work environment and support health-related programs and events throughout MDH and the community. Other PROS projects include: providing employees with insulated tumblers to reduce styrofoam use, supplying first-aid kits to kids at Farm Safety Day and providing healthy snacks and employee events among others.

In addition to the Campus Beautification Project, the hospital is making major renovations to its laboratory, which should be completed in July. Plans to overhaul the emergency room are also in development.

Those interested in contributing to the project may contact MDH's Public Relations Department at 836-1557.

Graves named Treasurer of the Year

By Sally Adams
news7@mcdonoughvoice.com

After 24 years of serving as the McDonough County Treasurer, Angela Graves has been named the 2010 Treasurer of the Year for Zone II. She was recognized for her "distinguished service to the Illinois County Treasurer's Association."

The award was presented to Graves on May 10 in Springfield, just one day shy of her anniversary. The state of Illinois has four zones, each containing 25 - 26 counties. Every year, four awards are given by the Illinois Association of County Officials.

They are given at the annual spring conference, which takes place over the course of three days. Each year, the awards are given as a surprise to the recipients.

There is an awards distribution committee where nominations are sent. Decisions are made based on whether they are a "go-to" person and if they exemplify a county treasurer.

Tina Wooddell, office deputy, nominated Graves. Wooddell was notified April 20 that Graves was to be a recipient of the award.

See GRAVES - Page A2

INDEX

Weather	A2
Calendar	A2
Obituaries	A3
Opinion	A4
Lifestyle	A5
Religion	A6 & A7
Comics	B5
Astrograph	B4
Classifieds	B6 & B7
Sports	B1 - B8

