

IN THE KITCHEN WITH LAINIE

PAGE A5

BIERMAN NAMED WIU INTERIM BUDGET DIRECTOR PAGE A3



INSIDE TODAY

YMCA



Senior center hosts ice cream social - Page A3

IN THE KNOW

New casinos could go to Quinn in October

By Benjamin Yount
Illinois Statehouse News

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois lawmakers approved five new casinos in May, but the bill isn't expected to reach Gov. Pat Quinn's desk until October.

"I find it curious that if the House and Senate vote for something...that they don't swiftly send it on to the governor," said Quinn on Wednesday. "I am prepared to use (my veto powers). I have done it in the past, but I don't have any particular plan right now."

State senators are holding the plan to add one casino in Chicago, two in its suburbs, and one each in Rockford and Danville with a special legislative maneuver.

The governor has expressed skepticism about the casino legislation to add five new casinos and expand gambling opportunities at racetracks and Illinois' 10 existing riverboats, yet he has not said what changes he would like to see in the bill.

Quinn supports a new casino in Chicago, but not the proposed casino in Danville.

Also, he's all but declared he will not allow slot machines at the racetrack at the Illinois State Fairgrounds.

State Sen. Terry Link, D-Waukegan, said he wants to give Quinn as much time as

See QUINN - Page A2

COLCHESTER

Sugary attraction



RYAN HAGAN/THE VOICE

Two male ruby throat hummingbirds dine at dusk at the rural Colchester home of Noel and Judy Oliver.

Home draws hundreds of hummingbirds

By Ryan Hagan
news9@mcdonoughvoice.com

On warm, humid July evenings, Noel Oliver and his wife, Judy, enjoy sitting on their front porch in rural Colchester. Although the small radio between the deck chairs colors the air with the sounds of St. Louis Cardinals' strikes and home runs, it doesn't mute the small chirps of about 30 hummingbirds that flit around five sugary feeders.

The hummingbirds have made the Oliver home a designated feeding spot after Noel and his wife began putting out feeders two years ago. Most of the hummingbirds are

the ruby throat variety, which can dart up to 60 miles per hour. Recent raccoon attacks to the feeders have given the Olivers some pause, but they hope to continue supporting the birds.

The couple makes one gallon of feed each day and uses 10 pounds of white sugar a week, which according to Noel's research means there are approximately 1,000 birds visiting their porch daily. In addition to their sugar feed, the hummingbirds enjoy digesting flower nectar and spiders.

Peak rush hour for the birds occurs in the early morning and at dusk.

See BIRDS - Page A2

Murder case moved to Monmouth

By Nathan Woodside
news1@mcdonoughvoice.com

The second trial of a Macomb man accused of beating his girlfriend's daughter to death will be moved to Warren County.

Circuit Judge Gregory McClintock ordered the second jury trial of 32-year-old Daniel Belknap moved to Monmouth during a hearing Thursday in Macomb. Proceedings are scheduled to begin Aug. 29. Defense attorneys Ramon Escapa and Daniel Fultz filed the change of venue motion earlier this year citing potential difficulty in finding impartial jurors.

Belknap is being retried in the 2006 death of then 5-year-old Silven I. Yocum, who died of head injuries. He is charged with first-degree murder.

The girl, who was the daughter of Erin

Yocum, was found having a seizure in Belknap's rural Macomb home on U.S. Route 67 in September 2006 and died six days later after her life support was removed.

McClintock granted a change of venue last month during a hearing, but refrained from naming a new venue. At the time, Galesburg, Monmouth and Springfield were mentioned.

Springfield is in a different court circuit than McDonough County and the media-blitzed murder trial of Nicholas Sheley is scheduled to begin on the same day in Galesburg.

Also on Thursday, Special Prosecutor Ed Parkinson indicated that he would file a second count against Belknap, aggravated battery to a child.

See TRIAL - Page A2

Businesses mixed on festival impact

By Lainie Steelman
news2@mcdonoughvoice.com

The four-day Cornerstone Festival wrapped up Sunday night and local businesses give a mixed report on the economic impact of this year's event, the 21st year the Christian music and arts festival has been held in rural Bushnell.

Cathy Palmer, manager of the BP gas station, 859 N. Cole St. in Bushnell, said the traffic flow seemed to be "down a little from last year, traffic-wise, but was still decent."

Palmer also said the weak economy might have impacted attendance at this year's festival. John Herrin, Cornerstone Festival director, commented last week that he thought attendance might be down this year because of the weak economy and unstable gas prices, but he hoped the final numbers would equal 2010's attendance, which was around 10,000.

See FEST - Page A3



RYAN HAGAN/THE VOICE

Visitors to the recent Cornerstone Festival in rural Bushnell return from a dip in the lake on the festival grounds.

Hancock County Nursing Home to close on Oct. 1

The Hancock County Nursing Home Board of Directors voted recently to cease operations, on Oct. 1.

Facility officials said over the past several years, the number of Medicaid residents has risen dramatically and the shortfall in Medicaid reimbursement proved "too much to overcome."

The Hancock County Nursing Home Association has been in existence since March 1966 and the Hancock County Nursing Home began serving residents in 1970.

Board officials said, over the years, the nursing home industry has evolved, giving seniors a much broader choice of services to senior citizens.

See HC - Page A2

'In Its Time' store opens in downtown Macomb

By Sally Adams
news7@mcdonoughvoice.com

Another new business has chosen to call Macomb's downtown square home. In Its Time, located at 118 North Side Square, is open and ready for business. Owner, Sally Talbert opened her business a few weeks ago.

Talbert's parents, Numa and Ruth Crowder, came to Macomb 54 years ago. Besides being a minister, her father also built homes while her mother worked as an education aid for many years. One of four children, Talbert graduated from Macomb High School in 1974 and met her husband while attending Western Illinois University. Her husband served as a minister in Bluffs for 11 years and Talbert has been a preacher's wife for 13 years. Her husband now works as a truck driver, listening to sermons while he drives.

Talbert has dabbled in numerous aspects of the business industry with a few experiences in owning her own. Besides becoming a new business owner, she also works for Sodexo and is the secretary at the Roseville Christian Church. Previously she has worked in several furniture stores, including Brenner Furniture, as the editor of a newspaper in Winchester, a real estate agent and an insurance salesperson.

See STORE - Page A2



SALLY ADAMS/THE VOICE

In Its Time opened on Macomb's downtown in mid-June. Owner, Sally Talbert, along with the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce, will host the shop's ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, July 14 at 11:30 a.m.

INDEX

Weather	A2
Calendar	A2
Obituaries	A3
Opinion	A4
Lifestyle	A5
Religion	A6 & A7
Comics	B4
Astrograph	B3
Classifieds	B5 & B6
Sports	B1 - B6



Our County

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

WEATHER

Today
HIGH 85
LOW 68

Saturday
HIGH 88
LOW 72

Sunday
HIGH 87
LOW 75

TRIAL

Continued from page A1

The charge had not been filed into McDonough County court documents before press time on Thursday.

Parkinson also made a motion asking that testimony given by a forensic pathologist in the first trial, who has since died, be allowed into the second trial.

al. During the previous trial, Bryan Mitchell, who performed the autopsy on Yocum, testified that injuries the girl sustained couldn't have been caused by a fall.

Mitchell, who performed autopsies in several high-profile cases such as Kathleen Savio, wife and alleged murder victim of Drew Peterson, died in March 2010. Parkinson's motion to allow Mitchell's testimony

was granted without objection.

A final pretrial hearing in the Belknap case is scheduled for Aug. 3.

In 2008, a jury convicted Belknap of first-degree murder and he was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

He was found guilty of causing critical head injuries to Silven Yocum.

In November, the conviction was overturned by the Third District Appellate

Court in Ottawa, granting him a new trial.

The ruling was due to an Illinois Supreme Court rule requiring judges to ask each potential juror whether prosecutors have the burden of finding the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. That did not occur during jury selection for the Belknap case.

Belknap remains lodged in the McDonough County Jail on \$1 million bond.

CALENDAR

Saturday

LAHARPE
Murray Mershon, Rock & Roll Strut All Night Benefit: 5 p.m.-? The Annex, LaHarpe. Event includes entertainment, raffle, live auction and 50/50 drawing.

Sunday

MACOMB
Jazz 102: Third in a four-part series on jazz education: BeBop Ann Collins 2 p.m. Western Illinois Regional Arts Center. Free.

July 11-14

MACOMB
McDonough County 4-H Fair: Events will be held each day on the 4-H grounds on the west edge of Macomb.

July 15

MACOMB
Tour of the White Prairie: 6 - 8 p.m.; see http://whiteprairie.com/ - White Farm, 3515 N. 600th Rd., Colchester. For free registration email gerald@macomb.com or call (309) 776-4592

July 16

MACOMB
Tour of the White Prairie: 9 a.m. - noon; see http://whiteprairie.com/ - White Farm, 3515 N. 600th Rd., Colchester. For free registration email gerald@macomb.com or call (309) 776-4592

July 16

MACOMB
Western Illinois Museum offers Walking Tour of Historic Macomb Courthouse Square: Tours begin at 1 p.m. and depart from the Western Illinois Museum. The tours last about one hour and are free and open to the public.

Summer Cinema under the Stars: 8:45 p.m. (dusk). A series of short animated cartoons including Cinderella (1922) Betty Boop (1930s) and Sinbad the Sailor (1935). Films will be shown in the museum parking lot. Each short film averages six to seven minutes; program to run one hour. Free and open to the public.

AARP event with 17th District Rep. Bobby Schilling: 4 - 5 p.m. at Macomb's City Hall. Topics include "What is the Debt Ceiling Everyone is Talking About," and "Are Changes to Medicare and Social Security required to end the national debt?" The public is invited to attend.

July 17

MACOMB
Blues Concert: Patrick Hazell with Sally Weisenburg & Don Berbaum: 2 p.m. COFAC Recital Hall on WIU campus. Admission - \$10 at the door, which benefits the AI Sears Jazz Festival.

July 19

MACOMB
Macomb Area AARP meeting at Macomb City Hall: Business meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Macomb City Hall's Community Room; 10:15 a.m. discussion of AARP's position with Dave Vinkler, legislative liaison. Refreshments will be served.

Print Exclusives

FIRST IN PRINT

Below is a list of stories you will find today only in the printed edition of The McDonough County Voice:
• Bierman named WIU interim budget director - Page 3A
• Brattain to sign books in Macomb July 9 - 3A

STORE

Continued from page A1

Talbert and her husband have owned a car wash as well as a vending machine company. They have also served as foster parents.

"Opening up a consignment shop, especially in today's economy, is something I have always wanted to do," Talbert said.

Talbert's daughter, Heather helps out part-

time at the shop.

The name for the shop came from Talbert's ideology that her furniture is still beautiful regardless of age and from a biblical passage which states that God makes all things beautiful in its time.

Talbert's store offers a collection of lightly used furniture, a small clothing section, a large selection of purses and home decor.

They are constantly getting new items in and their inventory is always changing.

ing.

Items are accepted through consignment. Prospective customers can either bring pieces into the shop or contact Talbert to come out to look at the piece to be sold. If it fits into the need of the store at the time, Talbert and the customer agree on a selling price.

Once the item is sold, Talbert sends the consignee a check for 50 percent of the selling price. In Its Time is currently

taking consignments. For additional information contact Talbert at (309) 333-9056 or 836-6912 or by email at in_its_time@hotmail.com.

In Its Time is open Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Their Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Development Corporation ribbon cutting will be held Thursday, July 14 at 11:30 a.m.

QUINN

Continued from page A1

he needs to become comfortable with the plan. Link has met several times with the governor to discuss the gambling expansion legislation, but Quinn has not said what he wants added or removed from the proposal.

"We're actually helping him, in a sense, by not sending it to him," said Link, who helped write

the casino legislation, and shepherded it through the Senate. "If the governor says I'd like X, Y, Z, and we can agree on X, Y, Z then we would put it into a (new piece of legislation) and right now it would all be done in the veto session."

The fall veto session is scheduled for the last week of October and the second week of November. Link said if there is an agreement with the governor on the legislation, he expects action then.

In the meantime, local leaders who have been promised a casino are waiting.

Danville Mayor Scott Eisenhower is scheduled to meet with Quinn on Thursday.

He said his meeting will be a chance to "sell" the idea of a Danville casino to the governor and answer any questions Quinn might have.

But Eisenhower who has been disappointed by past, failed attempts to bring a casino to Danville, said he does not need to

have an answer from the governor when he leaves the meeting.

"We're very patient people, and we're not losing any faith," said the mayor. "The only disappointment is that the longer this process takes, the longer we have to wait to start generating money for the state."

Quinn said in addition to local leaders, he wants to meet with Illinois Gaming Board Chairman Aaron Jaffe, who has in the past called the casino expansion plan "garbage."

HC

Continued from page A1

"The way the market has developed is certainly a good thing for seniors; they have a lot more choices than they had before. However, for skilled nursing facilities like ours, the market is very tough and we are faced with a dilemma that makes it not feasible to continue serving the community as we have for the past 40 years," said Dan Asbury, Hancock County Nursing Home Board of Directors president.

Asbury said nursing homes are now only one of many choices, but they are used mostly by individuals who cannot be cared for in any other setting. These individuals require more care and resources.

The facility's biggest and fastest growing payer, the Illinois Medicaid program, has chosen to deal with the problem through payments that are far less than

the cost of care. In many places across the country, the number of residents in skilled nursing homes is down appreciably from prior years, small facilities across the country are consolidating with larger systems to gain the economies of scale.

During the last four years, Hancock County Nursing Home has seen a decline in the number of residents, as well as decreases in Medicaid payments from the state that are far below the cost of operating our nursing home. At the same time, the percent of residents who receive public aid has also increased to almost 65 percent, with an increase to 75 percent anticipated over the next couple of years.

The Hancock County Nursing Home Board of Directors has been working with Management Performance Associates, a firm that has extensive experience and expertise in senior services to better understand and analyze how to continue senior services in Hancock Coun-

ty. Studies during the past few years have shown that some of the key reasons in Hancock County Nursing Home has struggled financially are:

- High amount of resident payments moving to Medicaid
- Increase in restrictive state mandates & regulations
- Decreased use of nursing home services

The Board of Directors and administrative team have worked diligently to identify new ways to make Hancock County Nursing Home a self-sustaining operation.

It has conducted exhaustive investigations and explored numerous alternatives, including the sale of the facility to another operator. Unfortunately, there has been no interest in buying the nursing home.

"It was after careful and thoughtful consideration that the board made a very difficult decision to exit the traditional nursing home business," said Asbury.

The Board and admin-

istrative team have been working to make sure that there are enough beds in Hancock County available for current residents. Individual meetings will be held with residents and their family members to discuss and finalize plans for the transitions to a nursing home of their choice, and HCNH will help families in providing transportation for relocation within a 40-mile radius.

The Montebello Health-Care Center in Hamilton has recently opened a newly renovated wing with the capacity to accommodate residents.

In addition, they will be interviewing any of the facility's staff who may want to work at Montebello. LaHarpe Davier in LaHarpe also has some availability. Both of these options will allow our residents to remain in Hancock County, close to friends and family. Officials will also help family members find other nursing homes outside of Hancock County if they wish to do so.

BIRDS

Continued from page A1

During these congested times, the birds use the small, coat-hanger waiting areas around the feeders that the Olivers

have constructed. Noise doesn't phase them, but movement sends the birds to the protective custody of the nearby trees.

There, Noel has found several small nests with pea-sized eggs.

The hummingbirds of

the Oliver's porch are welcome guests on warm nights; they're inquisitive, agile and entertaining individuals who enjoy sweet food, warm temperatures and aren't bothered much by other birds, even the Cardinals.

RECYCLE
REDUCE **REUSE**
RESPOND
Make it second nature



Pet of the Week



"Bocco" is a handsome, 4 year old Pit Bull boy. He is altered, housebroke and Heartworm Negative! He is a sweet guy and knows commands! He'd love a new home with you!

Humane Society of McDonough County
www.hsmcil.org • 309-837-2989
Hours: Mon.-Fri. 11am-5pm & Sat. 10am-12pm
Please remember, donations of kitty litter, cleaning supplies and pet food are always welcome.

THE PET OF THE WEEK BROUGHT TO YOU BY **sodexo** Making every day a better day

SEND US YOUR FOURTH OF JULY PHOTOS

Send photos of the fireworks shows, parades, picnics and other celebrations you attended over Fourth of July weekend. We will run some in the newspaper and some at mcdonoughvoice.com. Send with your name and a daytime phone number to newsroom@mcdonoughvoice.com by July 8.