

McDonough County The Voice

WIU BOARD APPROVES INCREASES

PAGE A12

ARTS CENTER PLANS WINE TASTING

PAGE A2

THE WEEKENDER

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011
Vol. 156, No. 104 - \$1.25



5

**BEST BETS
THIS
WEEKEND**



1 Sodbuster Days in Good Hope: A weekend of food, entertainment, a parade and community church service runs through Sunday in the village.

2 Benefit for Roxie Vawter: A benefit for cancer survivor Roxie Vawter will be held Saturday at the Gold Hills Golf Course, just west of Macomb. A cookout begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by an auction and raffles at 6:30 p.m. and music and dancing at 7:30 p.m.

3 Exhibit at West Central Illinois Arts Center: "Explorations in Identity" will run concurrently with "Connectedness: A History of Women's Clubs" at the Western Illinois Museum. The Western Illinois Museum is open from 1 - 4 p.m. on Saturdays and hours at the Arts Center are 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

4 Ukulele Workshop at the Western Illinois Museum: From 1 - 3 p.m. Saturday the workshop will teach those with little or no ukulele experience. The class is being taught by Mike McGowan.

5 Benefit for Debbie Kessler at the Macomb Eagle's Club: Debbie was recently diagnosed with cancer. There will be a motorcycle run, auction, raffles, food and music. Food will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the Gin Ridge Band playing from 8 - 11 p.m.

School's out...



JODI POSPESCHIL/THE VOICE

This group of seventh and eighth graders walked home together on Thursday, the last day of classes in the Macomb School District.

Local auctioneer goes global

Lowderman part of new National Geographic show

By Nathan Woodside
news1@mcDonoughvoice.com

Local auctioneer Cody Lowderman, of Lowderman Auction and Cattle Company, recently found himself in front of the National Geographic television cameras while practicing his trade in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Lowderman will appear as an auctioneer on the National Geographic Channel's show "Seized and Sold."

The show is scheduled to air on June 19 at 7 p.m., and feature a short segment where Lowderman sells real estate that had been seized by the U.S.



NATHAN WOODSIDE/THE VOICE

Local auctioneer Cody Lowderman is part of the National Geographic television show "Seized and Sold."

Marshal's Service.

For Lowderman, it's not too big of a deal.

The show has already aired once, but Lowderman wasn't around to watch it.

"I just got a couple of phone calls and texts giving me crap about it," Lowderman joked. "Some people, I guess it would float their boat."

See SHOW - Page A2

County issues its first civil union license

By Lainie Steelman
news2@McDonoughVoice.com

Illinois' civil union law went into effect Wednesday, and one Macomb couple was among those across the state to receive long-awaited legal recognition of their partnership. McDonough County Clerk Gretchen DeJaynes said the couple arrived at the courthouse when the doors opened at 8 a.m. because, "They wanted to be the first."

As of Thursday afternoon, no other couples have applied for a civil union license in McDonough County, but DeJaynes said she has fielded questions from several interested people.

DeJaynes said she has also fielded over 50 inquires from various media outlets asking about the one McDonough County couple, and it's because of that intense scrutiny that the couple is requesting privacy as they begin a new phase of their life.

See UNION - Page A3

Committee votes to retain Hickman

By Patrick Stout
news5@McDonoughVoice.com

The McDonough County Board's Road and Bridge Committee voted unanimously Thursday to recommend that the full board vote next week on a resolution reappointing County Engineer Tom Hickman. He has served in the position for six years.

Hickman said a consent letter was received from the Illinois Department of Transportation and that it has been attached to the board resolution. Because of the state motor fuel tax allocation distributed to counties, IDOT has a voice in the appointment of county engineers.

In other business, County Board Chairman Scott Schwerer told committee members that the county board has no official authority over the location of hog farms.

See RETAIN - Page A3

Walking willingly into the face of destruction



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN LEONARD

Retired Army veteran John Leonard, of Macomb, was amazed by the tornado damage he witnessed during a recent relief mission trip to Joplin, Mo.

Macomb man went to Joplin, Mo. just to see how he could help

By Ryan Hagan
news9@mcDonoughvoice.com

MACOMB - "I'm not a hero. I'm just a good Samaritan," said 62-year-old retired Army veteran John Leonard of his recent trek to tornado-torn Joplin, Mo.

On Thursday, May 27, with no connections to Joplin and no previous experience helping with disasters, Leonard began the six-hour drive to Joplin - alone.

"I didn't know where I was going, didn't know what I was going to do when I got there, but I knew I had to go," he said.

After exiting the interstate and entering the destruction, Leonard began looking

for ways to help.

"When you first get there and you see the devastation your jaw just drops. How did anybody survive this?" Leonard said.

Although names were painted on some streets, no signs or landmarks survived the tornado, rendering Joplinites strangers in their own city.

On the first day, Leonard helped people clear brush and sort through many of the three- to four-foot debris piles. The next day, he began volunteering, despite hot temperatures, at Grace Baptist Church. He knocked on doors and made lists of things people needed.

"Lots of families were doubled up and

tripled up," he said.

Leonard also helped a young couple find a motel room.

He said their dog is now their only possession.

"I talked, prayed and cried with them. People just needed hugs. I saw a lot of sadness and heartbreak," Leonard said. "Most of the people that I saw on Friday had not been back to the area. They couldn't find their house. When they did find their house, they were just standing around - in a daze. I talked to a lot of people and a lot of them cried on my shoulders. It was very emotional."

See JOPLIN - Page A2

INSIDE

MDH adopts a classroom - Page A12

INDEX

Weather	A2
Calendar	A2
Obituaries	A3
Opinion	A4 - A5
Business	A6 - A8
Lifestyle	A6 - A8
Comics	B5
Astrograph	B4
Classifieds	B6 & B7
Sports	B1 - B8





Our County

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

WEATHER

Today
 **HIGH 88**
LOW 68

Sunday
 **HIGH 85**
LOW 67

Monday
 **HIGH 89**
LOW 70

JOPLIN

Continued from page A1

Leonard told the story of a man who ran from his house to find his mother. In describing the tornado the man said, "You could tell when it was coming and it sounded like there was a train right beside you. It was so loud. You couldn't hear anything."

For about 45 minutes, Leonard talked with a local man. "His house got destroyed. His mother's house was down the road about a mile and right after the storm he ran down - he was stumbling over power lines and debris in the road and couldn't find the house," Leonard said. "There were just bodies and body parts in the area he went through. Then he started crying. He said, 'I saw one guy had a board through his head.' He had a beer in his hand. He said, 'This is the first beer I've had in 30 years.' He found his mother and his mother was okay. Just minor scratches. The destruction is just as far as you can see in all directions."

Leonard said it looked like a line had been drawn separating areas of total destruction with areas of partial livability. Most of the residential areas were homes with to low- to middle- income inhabitants. Trees stand barren without needles or leaves. Cars look like they had been run through compactors. "I saw heavy six- to eight-inch I-beams to put signs on. The signs were gone. The I-beams were just wrapped around each other. What kind of equipment can do that? They were just twisted. What a force. You could heat them up and you couldn't twist them," he said.

Leonard said, "All the traffic lights were out so it was very congested. There were a lot of sightseers driving around... miles and miles of traffic backed up. They would always have four or five police at major intersections directing traffic." He also said utility



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN LEONARD

The line of destruction, caused by the recent tornado in Joplin Mo. is distinct. Macomb resident John Leonard felt compelled to drive to the area to see what he could do to help after hearing of the damage.

companies had responded quickly - setting up new power line poles and repairing gas lines.

Leonard said there was basically no cell phone service while he was in Joplin.

Having only minimal service, he was able to periodically text and make quick calls home. Satellite trucks have been set up, and he expects service to be back to normal soon.

While the tornado destroyed one third of Joplin, television and electricity outages prevented the rest of the city's 49,000 residents from knowing that the massive tornado struck.

"It's not hard to find something to do down there," Leonard said. "Just park your car and start walking."

He said there are plenty of supplies, but no one to pass them out. Because many people in the area have little money, mone-

ary donations are needed. The best way to help is to call a Joplin church or the United Way to ensure donations go directly to victims.

"Every church that survived had relief workers out the next day. Very quick responses," he said. Support from World Relief and United Way was in progress.

Leonard also said small contracting help is needed; many people are having difficulty finding contractors to focus on smaller, less drastic repairs.

Exhausted after three days of helping and sleeping in his car, Leonard returned to Macomb Sunday night.

"In a year, if you go down there, you're going to see a big bare stretch," he said. "It's going to be cleaned up, but is going to be a big park-like thing. It's going to be naked. There is not a leaf left. There was no paper there,

there were no leaves there, there was no dust there. It was gone. All you see is timber. Bricks, timber, mortar. It wasn't dirty - as far as trashy, it was not. Anything light was gone," he said.

Leonard said he didn't hear a harsh word during his stay in Joplin.

"There was no anger," he said. "There were a lot of 'whys.' A lot of people were thankful even though their house was completely destroyed. They would look at you and say, 'We didn't lose it all. We're still here.'"

The United Way of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas serve Joplin directly.

Donations can be made and volunteer opportunities sought by calling (800) 427-4626.

Currently, the office has an abundance of water and clothing but needs cleaning supplies and bleach.

SHOW

Continued from page A1

Lowderman Auction Company is contracted by Williams & Williams, a company from Oklahoma, to conduct auctions around the country to sell real estate seized by the U.S. Marshal's Service. Lowderman said he's usually out doing simi-

lar work about five or six days a month.

During the filming of the show, Lowderman sold an empty lot in Brooklyn for over \$1 million and two houses for a little less than \$200,000 each.

Lowderman said he recently sold a farm in Missouri that had been seized because the owner had been indicted for running a ponzi scheme.

"Seized and Sold" regularly features items taken as part of high profile cases, such as Bernie Madoff's estate.

Lowderman said he's not sure if more of his auctions will be filmed for the show, and he's not sure if he'll watch when his episode airs again on June 19.

"If it works into my schedule, I might flip it on," Lowderman joked.

Last JFL sign-up is today

The last time to sign up for JFL teams in Macomb is Saturday from noon - 2 p.m. at the Patton Park concession stand.

WCIAC to hold wine tasting

The eighth annual WCIAC Benefit Wine Tasting will be held on Saturday, June 11 at 5

p.m. at Taylor's Hall for Events, 125 S. Randolph St., in Macomb.

The event will feature wines available only for this tasting.

There will also be jazz

music by Jesse Mazzocoli and snacks.

Tickets are \$25 with the majority of proceeds going to the WCIAC.

Call 836-9463 for more information.

Thank You

The family of Nikki Mummert would like to thank all of those who cared for Nikki during her illness; Drs. Scott and McPherson of MDH, Dr. Storzhum, for his personal care of Nikki, and to the staff of Heartland Care Center. We could not have asked for more caring and loving nurses and CNAs, than those we found at HHC.

They cared for and about us, as well, and helped to provide us with information in what was very new territory for us. Thanks especially to Theresa - RN who helped to contact Father Prisco so that Nikki could leave this world on the wings of his prayers.

Sincerely,
 Tweed Mummert and Family

Macomb Audiology and Hearing Aid Center

FREE Hearing Aid Consultations
 by appointment
 All questions answered professionally without any commitment expected.

Dr. Christine M. Standard
 AuD., CCC-A
 Audiologist

112 W. Jackson St., Macomb, IL
309-836-5031

Judy Hammond
 M.S., CCC-A
 Audiologist

Office Hours: Mon-Wed-Thur 9am-Noon 1-4pm, Tue & Fri 9am-Noon

CALENDAR

Saturday & Sunday GOOD HOPE

Sodbuster Days celebration: A variety of events are planned throughout the weekend, including food, entertainment and contests. The annual parade will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday. A community worship service in the park begins at 10:45 a.m. Sunday.

Tuesday MACOMB

The Macomb Grandmothers' Club meeting: 11:30 a.m. at Grand Prairie Supportive Living in Macomb.

June 11 MACOMB

The Social Service Memorial Committee of the Macomb Woman's Club will host a Garden Walk from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the Western Illinois Museum, Citizens Bank, MidAmerica National Bank and Vintage Accents.

COLCHESTER

Friends of Argyle Lake State Park - Lake Litter Clean Up: 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Help Friends of Argyle and park staff for this volunteer opportunity to help beautify Lake Argyle. Volunteers will be helping to clean the litter from the lake using canoes and jon boats. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy a picnic after you work. Dress appropriately for the weather. Meet at the parking area near the bait shop.

June 18 MACOMB

Ice Cream Tasting Festival at The Old Dairy: Proceeds from the eighth annual event will benefit the Western Illinois Museum. The event runs from 2 - 4 p.m. and samples of 12 ice cream flavors are available for a \$6 donation.

June 23 - 26 MACOMB

Heritage Days celebration in Macomb: A variety of events are planned around the multi-day event, including entertainment, the annual parade and a carnival.

June 24 MACOMB

Friends of the Library book sale: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., south of the library, 109 E. Jefferson St. All proceeds are reinvested in the library.

June 25 MACOMB

Friends of the Library book sale: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., south of the library, 109 E. Jefferson St. Bag sale from 3 - 4 p.m. All proceeds are reinvested in the library.

Print Exclusives

FIRST PRINT

Below is a list of stories you will find today only in the printed edition of The McDonough County Voice:

- WCI Arts Center plans wine tasting - Page 2A
- First graders take train trip - Page 12A.

Rialto Cinema

1405 E. Jackson • Macomb
 Showing 6/03/11-6/09/11

X-MEN: FIRST CLASS (PG13)
 THE HANGOVER PART II (R)
 KUNG FU PANDA 2 (PG)
 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES (PG13)
 BRIDESMAIDS (R)
 THOR (PG13)
 FAST FIVE (PG13)

24 HOUR SHOWTIMES
 www.earlann.net
 309-833-2626

Theodore J. Pawlias
 Dental Care For The Entire Family

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME!
 501 E. Grant, Macomb
 (Just West of Hospital)

309-837-6344

I bought from Gentry Motor Company because...

"Great service, when I needed to know about things Gentry Motor Company helped."

- Jon S from Plymouth with his 2006 Dodge Charger RT.

GENTRY MOTOR COMPANY
 "Where integrity comes first!"
 309-837-7777

1719 E. Jackson, Macomb
gentrymotor.com
 Find us on Facebook

Reserve the **EAGLES** for your party TODAY!

Birthdays
 Anniversaries
 Retirement
 Receptions
 Showers
 Homecomings
 Graduations
 Reunions
 Meetings

Book your party NOW!
 309-833-5111
 590-2 Deer Road, Macomb