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**BEST BETS
THIS
WEEK**



1 Pinhook Days in Industry: A variety of events are planned through Sunday morning, including a parade at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, a variety of musical entertainment throughout the day Saturday and a joint church service at 10 a.m. Sunday at the park's shelter house.

2 Ice Cream Tasting Festival at The Old Dairy: From 2 - 4 p.m. Saturday the event will feature 12 flavors of ice cream for tasting. Admission is \$6. Money raised through the event will benefit the Western Illinois Museum.

3 Cinema Under the Stars: Starting at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, the Western Illinois Museum will show "The Red Badge of Courage" on the side of its building at 201 S. Lafayette St. Admission is free. Other showings of other movies will be held June 25, July 16 and Aug. 27.

4 Macomb's annual Heritage Days celebration: From Thursday through Saturday the annual event will be held in downtown Macomb. Scheduled events include a Saturday parade, hours of entertainment and a Civil War commemoration theme.

5 10th annual Carl Hunt and Glenn Torrance memorial golf outing to support the St. Jude's Run: A fundraising golf outing will be held at Gold Hills Golf Course on Saturday. The event begins at 8 a.m.

SPRING LAKE

Family fishing



JODI POSPESCHIL/THE VOICE

Ve'Ja Huston, 2, of Macomb, gets some fishing tips Thursday night from her grandfather, Ron Huston, of Macomb. Ron was at Spring Lake with his family enjoying the recent string of pleasant weather and temperatures.

A tiff over Colchester's TIF

By Nathan Woodside
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Concern arose Thursday night concerning the impact that Colchester's proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district could have on the West Prairie School District and other affected taxing bodies.

During a public hearing that is required for TIF district establishment, city-hired consultant Keith Moran, of Moran Economic Development, Edwardsville, outlined the plan and its potential positives to a group of citizens and officials.

Moran said Colchester is in need of an economic boost, adding that 95 percent of the structures that fall within the TIF district are over 35 years old, and 80 percent of them are showing deterioration.

Additionally, there is a high level of vacancy in downtown storefronts.

The TIF district, as proposed, encompasses most of the downtown and extends to include expanses of property along Illinois Route 336.

Moran said that area is prime to attract new development, possibly a gas station or truck stop and other travel-targeted businesses.

The plan would provide financial incentives for building improvements and new development within the district, but deprive all taxing bodies of increased property tax revenue brought by increased assessed property value for the next 23 years.

The philosophy of the TIF is that encouraging growth within the district would lead to improvements and property value increases outside the district, resulting in higher property tax revenues in the long run.

"I think it's pretty evident that this city has been in a decline for a number of years," Moran said. "The city council, in more ways than just this TIF district, is trying to do what they can to improve the conditions and get folks to reinvest and get folks to clean up their property. The TIF district could be the mechanism to move the city in a positive direction."

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PIECE TO PEACE TREASURES

Sudoku through sewing

By Sally Adams
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Just like the mind bender puzzle, Sudoku, each individual square is assigned a number and the correlating fabric was not to be repeated within the nine square section or in the same row.

That's the quilting lesson several sewing students learned this week as part of a camp for kids at Piece to Peace Treasures in Macomb.

Quilt store owner Kathleen Percy has run kids camps in her shop for seven years, with this year's participants learning how to make a soduko quilt.

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SALLY ADAMS/THE VOICE

In the past week, Hazel, above, has made a sudoku quilt at Kathleen Percy's Piece to Peace Treasures summer camp program. Percy has run camps in her quilt shop for the past seven years.



Local drive leads to life-saving donation

By Ryan Hagan
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When 22-year-old Macomb native Dalton Patrick joined the National Marrow Donor Program in 2009, he had no idea that he would give an infant boy a chance to live just two years later.

Patrick joined the program at Farm King in an effort to help Randall Severs, who at the time was battling cancer. While he wasn't a match for Randall, Patrick received a call this summer that he could be a possible donor for an infant boy - and he was.

At St. Louis University Hospital, Patrick sat connected to an apheresis machine for three and a half hours. The machine extracted blood-forming cells, platelets, and white blood cells from one arm and returned plasma and red blood cells through his other arm.

After the donation, Patrick said he experienced some aching in his bones due to a injections of a drug called filgrastim, which moves stems cells from bone marrow into the blood steam.



Dalton Patrick

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GIS Center begins process of redistricting

By Lainie Steelman
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The Bushnell-Prairie City, Avon and Abingdon three-way school district consolidation will be on the March 20, 2012, primary election ballot and Western Illinois University's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Center has started the redistricting process.

During a special joint school board meeting Thursday night at Abingdon High School, conducted by the Committee of 10, which formed last year to complete the recommendations for a consolidated district, GIS Center Director Chad Sperry spoke about the process for redistricting and drawing the boundaries for school board representation.

The redistricting process must be completed now so the paperwork, which will include a legal description that defines the new taxing body and boundaries for a new seven-person school board, can be filed with the consolidation petition.

Sperry said the GIS will use population information from 2010 U.S. Census to complete the redistricting process.

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Macomb HERITAGE DAYS, 2011
Thursday, June 23 - Sunday, June 26

150th Civil War Anniversary
The Illinois National Guard Unit B Battery 2 will be the grand marshals of this year's Heritage Days parade. The unit recently returned from a one-year tour of duty in Egypt. Eighty-eight men and women serve in Bravo Battery 2, under the command of Sergeant First Class Shawn Hopper.