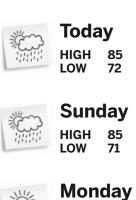
## **Our County**

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

#### WEATHER



HIGH

LOW

The Voice

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GIS Continued from page A1

The GIS Center will also use the services of a land surveyor from McClure Engineering, based in Ma-

comb. Sperry said according to information from the 2010 Census, the total population of the combined school districts is 10,520, which breaks down into seven school board representation districts with a population of 1,502 each.

The combined population includes Prairie City, which is part of the B-PC District, and St. Augustine, part of the Avon School District.

"Obviously, there's two communities that are going to factor heavily into this district," Sperry said of Bushnell and Abingdon, which hold the bulk of the population. "Each one of those districts will effectively have two (school board) districts per community."

Avon will receive "just over one" school board representation district," Sperry said, and the other representation districts will be filled by the outlying areas. Drafting the legal description will take about a month to complete, Sperry said, while the GIS Center will finish drawing the new school board representation boundaries in a few weeks. Between now and the March 20, 2012, election, the Committee of 10 will hold informational meetings about the proposed consolidation and visit services clubs and community organizations to talk about the committee's work.

The next Committee of 10 meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, July 28, at B-PC High School. Committee of 10 Chair Jerry Arthur said that now that each school board has voted each board approved a motion to do so during Wednesday evening board meetings - to be petitioners, the consolidation petition could be formally approved by the committee at the July meeting, in keeping with the Sept. 26 deadline to file it with the Knox County Regional Office of Education. Because the bulk of the consolidated district's equalized assessed valuation will be in Knox County, the petition will be filed with the Knox County Regional Office of Education. For more information about the Committee of 10, including meeting dates and the complete recommendations for the consolidation, visit https://sites. google.com/site/abingdonavonbpc/.

### MACOMB Kay Harris honored by McDonough **County League of Women Voters**

On Thursday, the League of Women Voters of McDonough County honored the late Kay Harris, a longtime member of the Macomb community and one of the founding members of the league.

Harris was a local activist with many interests, especially environmental policies affecting Macomb, the county, the region and the state. She was also the driving force organizing the in League's workshops on how to run for public office. She was also a candidate for several offices.

The League of Women Voters of Macomb began in 1965.

#### TIF Continued from page A1

West Prairie School District Superintendent Dr. Jonathan Heerboth, however, believes the plan could be a drain on local education funds.

On Thursday, Heerboth addressed the hearing audience, saying there is evidence that the TIF will cause educational programs, and possibly schools, to close.

Heerboth said property values in Colchester have increased annually and depriving the district of that added property tax revenue, whether there is development or not, could be devastating.

on the school district," Heerboth said.

within the proposed TIF



SALLY ADAMS/THE VOICE

"The school district

wants to see Colchester

do well, and Colchester

wants to see the school

district do well," Moran

said. "I'm here to tell you

that the impact on the

school isn't quite as bad

as what the doctor is

making it out to be, but

I'm not saying that

there's not an impact.

There is a lot of give and

could help the school dis-

trict using TIF funds, if

TIF money isn't used, it

could go back to the tax-

ing bodies, and the city

council has the power to

remove any plot of land

McDonough County

Clerk Gretchen DeJaynes

expressed concern that

too much of Colchester

is included in the district,

more than 50 percent of

the city's property value.

essarily against a TIF dis-

trict, but the more EAV

included, the more

it hurts the taxing bod-

town that his blighted,

but that could be amend-

Moran said he wants

to have an open conver-

sation with all taxing

pen without it?," Moran

asked. "We know the his-

tory of Colchester.

'What's going to hap-

body representatives.

Moran responded that

She said she's not nec-

from the TIF district.

Moran said the city

take here.'

Pictured, from left are Mary Kubasack, Janel Harris, Tom Storie and Sara Boeckelman. A bench has been placed in front of the former Harris and Harris law firm. Dedicated to Kathrvn Lawson Harris. the bench was donated by the League of Women's Voters of Mc-Donough County for her many civic contributions.

Moran responded that when the state provides state aid to schools, the property value is taken into consideration, so at least a portion of that tax money will be made

Moran also noted that school enrollment has been going down "significantly." He said enrollment has dropped by 98 students since 2004.

Heerboth noted that all taxing bodies, including the fire district, county, and the library, among others, would be hurt similarly.

Heerboth noted that because of these losses in tax revenue, taxpayers would foot the bill the school district must levy in expenses related to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, Social Security, liability insurance and bond costs.

Heerboth also questioned the amount of housing included within the district, which offers tremendous incentives to low-income ies. develop housing.

Moran responded that the district boundaries

#### **CALENDAR** Saturday & Sunday **INDUSTRY**

Pinhook Days - "A Salute to Agriculture": A variety of events, entertainment and displays are planned for the community's annual celebration, including a car show beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday, a parade at 10:30 a.m. Saturday and joint church services in the park's shelter house at 10 a.m. Sunday.

#### Saturday

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 varietv 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.

#### LAHARPE

Cpl. Joshua D. Palmer **Tribute & Remembrance** Ride: 8 - 9 a.m. - sign-up. The Annex, LaHarpe. Ride kicks off at 10 a.m. Donation dinner and auction to follow at the Annex at 5 p.m. The event is open public.

# up.

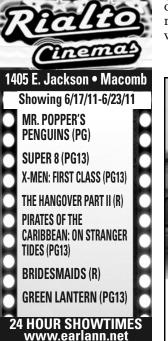
"The TIF district will have a significant impact

According to evidence submitted by the superintendent. the school district has received about \$30,000 more per year in tax revenue from property value increases alone

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#### CELLS **Continued from page A1**

However, Patrick reported a complete recovery after three days. According to the program's website, donors' stem cells should regenerate in four to six weeks.

Patrick won't know the

district.

"Should that continued for the next 23 years, you can see that's a significant amount of money that would no longer be going to the school district," Heerboth said. "Our school costs increase every year, so we're counting on this kind of an increase in our Equalized Assessed Valuation to cover the increase in inflationary costs...It's a little bit more every year, and our costs go up a little bit every year. We count on that little increase every year to make it up."

boy's condition or name

for at least six months

He says it's part of an

patients from becoming

emotionally attached be-

fore it's clear that the do-

nation was successful.

Patrick says he would like

to meet the boy he helped

Donating stem cells is

in the future.

after the donation.

it's yet to be seen what include everywhere in work will be done in the TIF district, so it's unfair to assume that money would go to low-income housing.

"It would be unfair if we weren't using TIF dollars to support homeowner housing given the fact that there is a need," Moran said.

There's been more folks He added that the plan is to improve the housleaving town than coming, which would ining to town. There's more crease the number of of a history of folks not families in Colchester, investing in Colchester which would increase than investing. How much worse does it need school enrollment, leadto get? That's the quesing to more educational funding from the state. tion I'm trying to pose."

he said.

ed

Patrick is pursuing a double major in history and geography at Western Illinois University and is considering a teaching career. He graduates this fall.

To learn more about stem cell donation, visit the National Marrow Donor Program's website, marrow.org.

#### June 26 MACOMB

Project H.O.P.E.'s monthly Soup and More **Dinner:** 4 - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church of Macomb, 400 E. Carroll St. For free transportation call Patricia at (309)

#### June 27

333-7747.

MACOMB

**McDonough County Democratic Central Committee,** 6:30 p.m.,

## Print Exclusives PRINT

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

• First Bankers Trust becomes VIBE sponsor -Page 12A

• May real estate transactions - Page 9A.





a relatively simple proce-

dure akin to donating blood through the Red Cross. "It's not a burden," effort to keep donors and Patrick said, "There's nothing to it."

Patrick did not get paid for his donation. He said his only incentive was the satisfaction of helping others. "The greatest feeling in the world is just giving people a chance to live,"