

APRIL 2019

# Illinois Country Living

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beautiful  
*Nauvoo*

TRAVEL  
Find your own  
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Midwestern  
cuisine with  
a twist

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# Illinois Country Living

APRIL 2019  
VOLUME 76 • NO. 12



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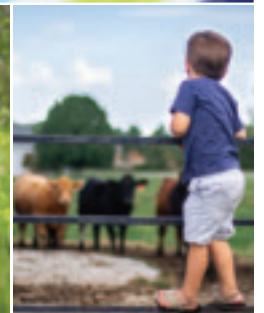
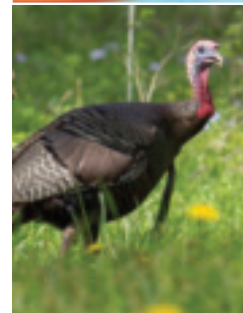
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# Celebrating 100 years – Illinois Chamber of Commerce

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO**, in 1919, Illinois, America and the world were changing in every way. World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, and Congress recognized womens' right to vote.



Todd Maisch is President and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and has made engaging coalitions of employers the cornerstone of the Chamber's reputation as the state's leading business advocate.

Prohibition became the law of the land, the genius Einstein's theory of general relativity was confirmed, and you could buy a pound of butter for about 65 cents. Business and technology were booming. The Radio Corporation of

America was formed, the first dial telephones were installed and the practice of "cross-selling" was added to the English dictionary.

There were also dark times. The gambling "Black Sox" disgraced America's pastime and race riots tore businesses, families and Chicago apart, raising awareness of African Americans' struggles throughout the country.

In 1919, amid a flurry of change and choice, 24 industry leaders from around the state gathered together in Quincy to figure out how to best promote and protect the business climate in Illinois. As a result, on August 2, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce was officially chartered by the Secretary of State, uniting the voices of Illinois business.

The Chamber was active from the start as the major force behind the formation of the Illinois State Police and the State Planning Commission. We drafted a resolution to President Roosevelt urging him to, "make available to the Allies the untold resources of our nation," a year-and-a-half before Pearl Harbor and experienced a massive post-WWII growth in the 1950s.

Always advocates for improving our education system, the Chamber led the effort to

establish a State Board of Education in the 1960s and formed the first business political action committee in Illinois in the 1970s.

We pushed for sales tax reform in the 1980s, selected our first female president and garnered support for NAFTA in the 1990s, and led the fight against the 50 percent income tax increase and new service tax in the early 2000s. Over the last decade, we have focused on lowering property taxes, improving workforce opportunities, and promoting pro-business reforms throughout the state.

A lot has changed in a century, but our core principles and commitment to our members remain steadfast. We are encouraged by all those who fought for business policies that work before us, and we will continue that fight to make Illinois a better place for all those who will come after us.

As a new governor is now in our mansion and an exceedingly large freshman class has taken their seats in our statehouse, our efforts, and yours, are needed more than ever.

Whatever the future holds for us in Illinois, know that every day, in every battle, we are fighting for you. Cheers to our 100th new year and to stronger business and a stronger Illinois in the next century.



*"A lot has changed in a century, but our core principles and commitment to our members remain steadfast. We are encouraged by all those who fought for business policies that work before us, and we will continue that fight to make Illinois a better place for all those who will come after us."*

Illinois Country Living is a monthly publication serving the communications needs of the locally-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives of Illinois. With a circulation of almost 189,000, the magazine informs cooperative consumer-members about issues affecting their electric cooperative and the quality of life in rural Illinois.

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# Eye Doctor Helps Illinois Legally Blind To See

*High Technology For Low Vision Patients Allows Many To Drive Again*



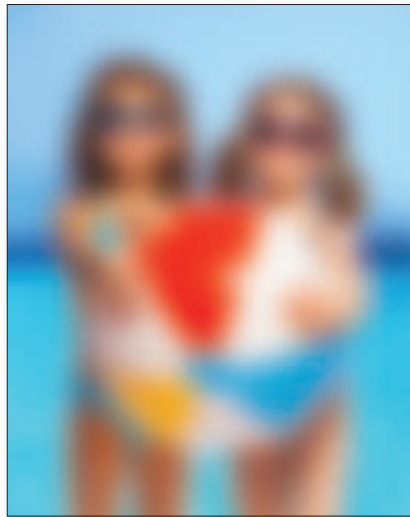
**F**or many patients with macular degeneration and other vision-related conditions, the loss of central visual detail also signals the end to one of the last bastions of independence: driving. A Mascoutah optometrist, Dr. Marianne McDaniel, is using miniaturized telescopes that are mounted in glasses to help people who have lost vision from macular degeneration and other eye conditions.

"Some of my patients consider me the last stop for people who have vision loss," said Dr. Weingart, one of only a few doctors in the world who specialize in fitting bioptic telescopes to help those who have lost vision due to macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, and other debilitating eye diseases.

Imagine a pair of glasses that can improve your vision enough to change your life. If you're a low vision patient, you've probably not only imagined them, but have been searching for them. Bioptic telescopes may be the breakthrough in optical technology that

will give you the independence you've been looking for. Patients with vision in the 20/200 range can many times be improved to 20/50 or better.

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and vision loss in people over 50. Despite this, most adults are not familiar with the condition. As many as 25% of those over the age of 50 have some degree of macular degeneration. The macula



*A scene as it might be viewed by a person with age-related macular degeneration.*

is only one small part of the retina; however, it is the most sensitive and gives us sharp central vision. When it degenerates, macular degeneration leaves a blind spot right in the center of vision, making it difficult or impossible to recognize faces, read a book, or pass the driver's vision test.

Nine out of 10 people who have macular degeneration have the dry form. New research suggests vitamins can help. The British medical journal BMC Ophthalmology recently reported

that 56% of patients treated with a high-dose combination of vitamins experienced improved vision after six months.

While age is the most significant risk factor for developing the disease, heredity, smoking, cardiovascular disease, and high blood pressure have also been identified as risk factors.

Macular degeneration accounts for 90% of new legal blindness in the U.S. While there is currently no cure, promising research is being done on many fronts. "My job is to figure out everything and anything possible to keep a person functioning, especially driving," says Dr. McDaniel.

"Bioptic telescopes can cost over \$2,000," said Dr. McDaniel, "especially if we build them with an automatic sunglass."

"The major benefit of the bioptic telescope is that the lens automatically focuses on whatever you're looking at," said Dr. Weingart. "It's like a self-focusing camera, but much more precise."

To learn more about bioptic telescopes or to schedule a consultation, give Dr. McDaniel or Dr. Weingart a call. You can also visit our websites.

[www.lowvisionofsouthil.com](http://www.lowvisionofsouthil.com)

**1-802-350-6599**

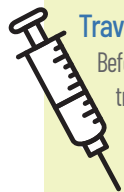
Office located in Mascoutah, Illinois  
**Marianne McDaniel, O.D.**

[www.FoxValleyLowVision.com](http://www.FoxValleyLowVision.com)

**1-800-341-8498**

Located in Oswego, IL  
**Ronald Weingart, O.D.**

## APRIL CHECKLIST



### Travelers beware.

Before you plan that summer trip abroad, be aware that measles remains a common disease in many parts of the world. Make sure you and your family are up to date on measles vaccinations.

### Safety first.

Help keep loved ones safe by changing and testing all batteries in home smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.



**Save energy.** With the weather warming, consider hanging laundry outside or on a rack to dry instead of using your clothes dryer.

### Tip of the month: Every appliance has two price tags – the purchase price and the operating cost.

Consider both before buying and look for the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Cutting cord clutter

There's no doubt about it. Today we have more cords and cables on our tables, desks and countertops than ever before. It is an epidemic of clutter, chaos and confusion. But is there a better way?

Phones, tablets, cameras, Bluetooth devices and other gadgets give you two options for charging. You can plug them into the USB port of your computer or use the USB wall plug adapter (which always seems to disappear!) that you can plug into any outlet. Both options work fine. Unless you have a family with multiple devices. Sometimes two outlets just won't cut it.

The simple solution is to use a power strip and plug everything into that. Some power strips even come with USB ports.

Another solution is to install wall outlets that have both traditional three-prong outlets and USB ports. This solution is simple. However, it does require replacing the existing wall outlet, and some people may be uncomfortable doing this. You should consult a licensed electrician if you have any questions.

It's worth noting that both options, power strips and wall outlets with USB ports, have two potential downsides. The first is that cords will be visible, so clutter could still be an issue. The other downside is that power strips and outlets do not have the capability to prevent overcharging or turn off power once the device is fully charged.

Several years ago, overcharging a device was a potential problem and it led to diminished battery life. However, today's modern electronics come with enough "smarts" built in to prevent overcharging. This has helped prevent damage to

the battery and eliminate the dreaded vampire load. Vampire load is power used by devices when they are simply plugged in and not actually performing a task. It's essentially wasted energy.

If you are looking to tidy up charging cables and use devices like a Bluetooth speaker, you may want to invest in a USB charging station. Charging stations allow multiple devices to be charged in a sleek and elegant tabletop station that hides the cables. You can use short USB




**Today, we have more devices than ever before, and that means more cords and cables on our tables, desks and countertops. Luckily, there are options available to help you cut the cord clutter. Source: Steve Johnson**

cables that are tucked away, and the charging station plugs into an outlet, only using one cord. Some charging stations also support wireless charging for devices equipped with that capability.

Some charging stations claim to eliminate vampire load, and some also claim to offer different charging rates to different devices. Given the number of stations available both online and at big-box retailers, it's important to read the reviews and learn from the experiences of others.

For the latest currents news go to [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop)

The most important aspect is finding one that has enough space to accommodate your current devices and those that you may add over the coming years.  **Source: Brian Sloboda, NRECA**

## Overhead gizmos keep you electrified

Have you ever wondered what's on an electric utility pole?

Utility poles are packed with electrical devices, so it's best to stay away from them. The equipment and devices up there vary from pole to pole, but think of a utility pole as a layer cake, with the electric equipment at the top. Most noticeable are the wires, supported by the crossarms and/or insulators. At the highest levels, they could be high-voltage transmission wires carrying power long distances. More often what you're looking at are medium-voltage distribution lines carrying power into neighborhoods. Beneath those may be service wires with stepped-down power ready to be used in a home or business.

It's important to remember that those are bare wires, which is why you hear regular warnings to stay away if a storm knocks power lines to the ground. That's also why the wires are attached to insulators that keep them from being in contact with the wood, steel or other supporting materials.

Just below the electric lines hangs a variety of electric equipment. The big metal cans are transformers that convert high voltages to low voltages. Devices that look like stacks of big gray donuts could be protective lightning arrestors (or reclosers) that act like a fuse or circuit breaker, shutting down the line when they detect a problem. Collections of what look like metal cereal boxes are "capacitors" that help improve the efficiency of power flow and regulate voltage. Other switches and regulators monitor and adjust the flow of electricity as energy use changes throughout the day.


Some of the lines you see might be ground wires that carry static electricity (such as lightning) into the earth or balance the flow of power and help ensure safe operation of the system, or they could be guy wires to keep the pole straight.

The lowest layer carries non-electric lines: cable TV, telephone, internet and traffic light



**Never nail posters of political candidates or lost pets to utility poles, which can tear a lineworker's protective equipment, interfering with their safety while on the job.**

controllers. There's one more layer—any of those lines might go under the ground to get to a house or meet up with other underground lines.

These are the basic parts of an electric utility pole, and now you know how poles get power to the people!  **Source: Paul Wesslund, NRECA**


## Readership survey highlights your confidence

Illinois Country Living was pleased to learn it received high marks of confidence from its readers in the most recent readership survey conducted by New York-based GfK MRI, a leading U.S. audience research firm.

More than 87 percent of surveyed readers reported strong loyalty by reading three or four of the past four issues, and 78 percent of those read all four. That's loyalty!

Readers' top areas of interest were the articles about energy efficiency/conservation, recipes, cover stories and local electric co-op news, and they hold onto articles for future reference or to share with others.

In this digital age, a surprising 97 percent reported they prefer to read the magazine in a print format over an electronic one.

The research firm claims a 95 percent confidence level that its findings are representative of the entire readership of 187,000. 




## The skinny on obesity and cancer

A new study by the American Cancer Society suggests cancers, thought to be driven at least in part by excess weight, are on the rise among people under age 50 – particularly millennials – considered to be between ages 20 and 37.

"There's been a significant rise in young patients having colorectal cancer," says Dr. Ajaz Khan, oncologist with OSF HealthCare Saint Anthony Medical Center. "And also upper GI malignancies, such as esophagus or gastro cancer. We've noticed a continual rise in that over the last 10 years."

Dr. Khan says while it's not entirely clear as to the risk factors causing the cancer spike, he suspects one is increased carcinogens from diet and food intake.

The study reports the rates of colorectal, endometrial, pancreatic and gallbladder cancers in millennials were about double the rates seen in people born in the 1950s. Dr. Khan believes screenings, particularly for colon cancer, which is now advised only for persons over 40, should be expanded.

He is also worried that, if we're seeing obesity-related cancers among millennials, what about future generations? He believes families need to work more closely with their primary care physicians, incorporate diet and exercise into their lifestyles and monitor their body mass index (BMI). 

**Source: OSF HealthCare**

### 3 Steps to Energy Efficiency

**1**

Identify ways to save energy when using appliances and electronics in your home. Buy ENERGY STAR-rated appliances when possible and turn off electronics, such as computers and gaming consoles when not in use.



**2**

DIY projects can help you save energy. Caulk around drafty windows, use LED bulbs and check insulation levels in your home.



**3**

Check with your electric co-op about energy-saving programs.



### Social Security Q&A

**Question:** How can I protect myself against identity theft?


**Answer:** First, don't carry your Social Security card with you. Keep it secure at home with your other important papers. Second, don't readily give out your Social Security number. While many banks, schools, doctors, landlords and others will request your number, it is your decision whether to provide it. Ask if there is some other way to identify you in their records.

If you are the victim of identity theft, you should report it right away. To report identity theft, fraud or misuse of your Social Security number, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) (the nation's consumer protection agency) recommends you:

- Place a fraud alert on your credit file by contacting one of the following companies

(The company you contact is required to contact the other two, which will then place alerts on your reports.):

- Equifax, 1-800-525-6285
- Trans Union, 1-800-680-7289
- Experian, 1-888-397-3742

- Review your credit report for inquiries from companies you have not contacted, accounts you did not open and debts on your accounts you cannot explain.
- Close any accounts you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently.
- File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place.
- File a complaint with the FTC at 1-877-438-4338 (TTY 1-866-653-4261). 

**Source: Social Security Administration**

## Visit Fulton, IL



**45th Annual Dutch Days Festival - May 3 & 4, 2019**

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900 MAX. STARTING/700 RUNNING WATTS  
2 HP (63 CC) 2 CYCLE GAS GENERATOR

- 5 hour run time @ 50% capacity

NOW **\$89.99**

COMPARE TO POWERSMART \$126.10  
MODEL: P550  
**SAVE \$36**  
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**3 PIECE TITANIUM HIGH SPEED STEEL STEP BITS**

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- Drill 28 hole sizes from 1/8" to 3/4"

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MODEL: 15504PKSM  
**SAVE 85%**  
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**30", 4 DRAWER TECH CART**

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- 12,600 cu. in. of storage
- 580 lb. capacity
- Heavy duty gas struts hold lid open at 90 degrees

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- Weights 83.65 lbs.
- 21" L x 10-1/8" H

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COMPARE TO K TOOL \$151.42  
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Customer Rating ★★★★★

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COMPARE TO BOSCH \$169.99  
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**SAVE \$40**  
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**18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY**

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- 1000 lb. capacity

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Customer Rating ★★★★★

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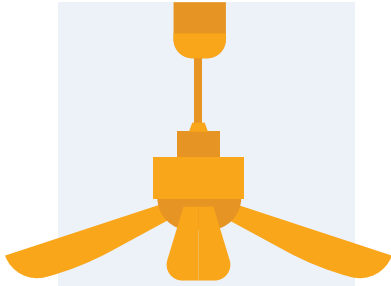
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LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 8/21/19

\*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 8/21/19.

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Although your first thought for cooling may be air conditioning, there are many alternatives that provide cooling with less energy use.

### Beyond air conditioning

Although your first thought for cooling may be air conditioning, there are many alternatives that provide cooling with less energy use. A combination of proper insulation, energy-efficient windows and doors, daylighting, shading and ventilation will usually keep homes cool with a minimum of energy use in all but the hottest climates. Although ventilation should be avoided in hot, humid climates, other approaches can significantly reduce the need to use air conditioning.

Energy.gov offers several tips for energy-saving cooling:

- Set your programmable thermostat as high as is comfortable in the summer and raise the setpoint when you're sleeping or away from home.
- Clean or replace filters on air conditioners once a month or as recommended.
- Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; when replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

- During summer, keep the window coverings closed during the day to block the sun's heat.
- Select energy-efficient products when you buy new cooling equipment. Your contractor should be able to give you energy fact sheets for different types, models and designs to help you compare energy usage. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when purchasing new products. 💡

Source: Energy.gov



PHOTO CREDIT: FLICKR USER NTM1909

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Located half way between Chicago and St. Louis, Peoria is the largest city on the Illinois River and oldest European settlement in the state.

Enjoy concerts and festivals in the area, including Tailgate N' Tallboys Music Festival on the Riverfront! See big names like Alabama, Jamey Johnson, Aaron Lewis and Kane Brown! Peoria, once known as the Whiskey City, is home to several breweries and unique night life including a modern day speakeasy and historic railway station transformed into a cocktail bar with live music. Be a part of history by visiting Pour Bros. in Peoria Heights - Illinois' first pour-your-own taproom! Pour Bros. also hosts The Courtyard Concert Series, featuring free shows every Saturday night throughout the summer and fall.

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## LET'S GO!

Would you like to see your event in the magazine?

Go to [www.icl.coop/datebook](http://www.icl.coop/datebook), click the green box "post your event" and fill out your information. Don't forget to click submit. Datebook events are chosen from those on the website calendar.

### Southern Illinois Sheep and Craft Festival

**APRIL 13** Festival includes fun activities for the entire family including working sheep dog demos, sheep Olympics, kid's corner and sheep shearing.

An exhibit area will feature spinning and weaving demonstrations, craft items and a broad selection of lamb cuts for purchase.

April 13, 2019, all day  
 ● Monroe County Fairgrounds, 4177 IL Hwy 156, Waterloo  
 Free admission  
 618-920-1833



### Kid's Workshop: Essential Concepts of Wilderness Survival 1.0

**APRIL 13-14** For kids ages 9-16, learn how to prepare for the wilderness and survive the forces of nature. On day one, learn wilderness preparation, shelter building, water purification and foraging. Day two covers fire starting and natural land navigation. Parents/adult guardians are welcome. Participants must provide their own snacks, lunch and water and dress appropriately for outdoor conditions and hiking. A small backpack to carry food and supplies is a must. Space is limited.

April 13-14, 2019, Sat., 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sun., Noon-5 p.m.  
 ● Dickson Mounds Museum, 10956 N. Dickson Mounds Rd., Lewistown  
 Free admission, registration required by April 10  
 309-547-3721 or [www.illinoisstatemuseum.org](http://www.illinoisstatemuseum.org)

### Starved Rock Lodge Spring Mega Hikes

**APRIL 27-28** Hikes leave the lodge promptly at 8:30 or 9 a.m. Board the Starved Rock Trolley with a pair of guides and travel to the east end of the park to begin your trek. Hikers return around 4:30 p.m. Included in the cost is trolley transportation, guides, a boxed lunch and a specially designed performance t-shirt. Late arrivals will not be refunded.

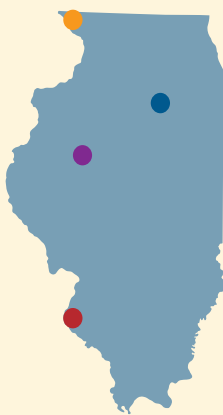
April 27-28, 2019, 8:30 or 9 a.m. hikes  
 ● Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center, 2688 E. 873rd Rd., Oglesby  
 Reservations required, \$37 per person.  
 For information or reservations call 815-220-7386



### General Grant's Home Front Reenactment

**APRIL 27-28** Experience the 1860s through a living history encampment and Civil War battle reenactment. Battles will occur at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Enjoy the Sanitary Fair, a Civil War ladies bazaar supporting the troops, with beautiful handmade items for sale.

April 27-28, 2019, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
 ● 91 Bouthiller St., Galena  
 Admission \$5, free admission for those in full scout or military uniforms  
 224-639-3436 or [tristatehistoricalpresentations.blogspot.com](http://tristatehistoricalpresentations.blogspot.com)



# Outages happen, so please be patient.

Our line personnel work around 7,200 volts of electricity in all kinds of weather conditions for sometimes days at a time. Ignoring safety protocol to turn your power on faster can be deadly. Rest assured that we're doing everything we can to restore your power as quickly and safely as possible.

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*The power of human connections*



## Q&A: Breaking down seven energy-saving claims

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Dear Pat: When it comes to saving energy, it can be confusing to figure out what works and what doesn't. I know you usually just answer one question, but can you let me know what you think about a few things I've heard over the years? - KEELEY

DEAR KEELEY: SURE. FIRE away!



PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANE JUBAN

Burning wood produces radiant heat, which feels great if you're near the fire, but it can also send large amounts of room air up the chimney.

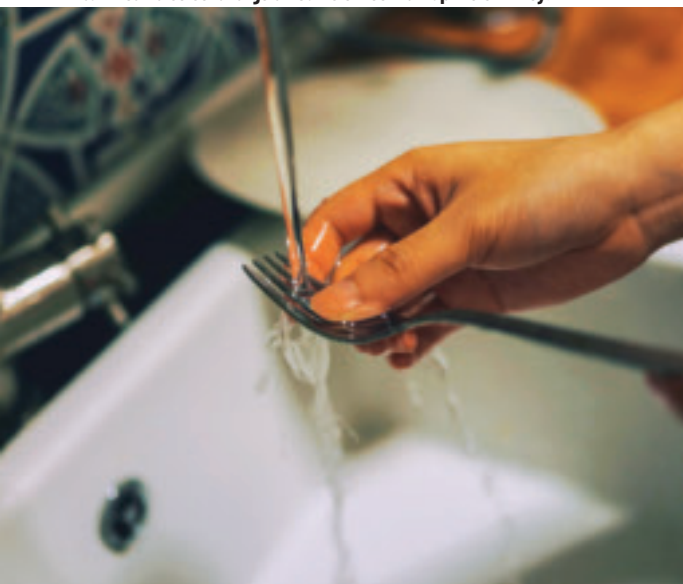


PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANE JUBAN

Washing dishes by hand typically uses more energy than the dishwasher.

**Q: Is it true that turning lights off and on uses more energy than just leaving them on?**

**A: Not true.** Turning off lights definitely reduces energy use. Turn off LED and incandescent bulbs every time you leave the room. The situation is a little different with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs). Turning them off does save energy but can shorten the life of the bulb. The rule of thumb for CFLs is to turn them off any time they won't be used for 15 minutes or more.

**Q: Would replacing my old windows with new, more efficient ones really cut my energy use in half?**

**A: No.** While replacing inefficient windows with new, energy efficient windows can cut the heat loss through windows in half (or more), windows typically account for only about 25 to 30 percent of your space heating costs. The amount of energy you use for heating and cooling is likely one third to one half of your total energy use, so replacing your old windows might only reduce your total energy costs by about 10 percent. When you consider the high cost of new windows, you may not recoup your investment for 15 or 20 years, or even longer.

**Q: Burning wood in my fireplace should save on my heating costs, right?**

**A: Possibly,** but certain conditions need to be met. The wood should be dry and burned efficiently in a properly-installed, properly-placed, high-efficiency wood stove or fireplace insert. Otherwise, it's likely you'll lose as much heat through your chimney as you're distributing throughout the house.

**Q: My kids claim using the dishwasher is just as efficient as washing dishes by hand. Are they right?**

**A: Yes - in fact, it's usually more efficient!** Properly used dishwashers actually use less water while doing a better job, and as a bonus, they will save you more than 200 hours a year. For maximum energy savings, make sure your water heater is set to about 120 degrees and use the most efficient wash/dry settings.

**Q: I've heard it's better to heat individual rooms with an electric space heater and keep the doors closed to trap the heat. Is this true?**

**A: It's possible to save money with an electric space heater if you use it only a few hours a day and reduce your home's thermostat setting by a couple degrees.** Space heaters can cause fires, so they need to be used wisely and should never be left unattended. Which brings us to your next question...

**Q: Should I close the vents in rooms that aren't being used?**

**A: Most experts advise against this** because closing supply registers forces your furnace or A/C unit to work harder. They advise keeping all your vents and doors open. If your system supplies too much heat to some rooms and too little to other rooms, you should talk to a heating and air conditioning professional about modifying your ductwork.

**Q: Does the age of my home determine how energy efficient it is?**

**A: Newer homes tend to be more efficient** because energy codes have improved, but every home can have hidden energy issues, no matter its age. If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your home, it's best to schedule an energy audit with a professional.

**This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on energy efficiency myths, please visit: [www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).**



Watering chores, water bills! Sweating behind a roaring mower!  
Spraying poison chemicals and digging weeds...



...you can end such lawn drudgery – here's how!

## THE ONE TIME, LIFETIME LAWN SOLUTION!



Mow your Zoysia lawn once a month – or less! It rewards you with weed-free beauty all summer long.

# 7 Ways Our Amazoy™ Zoysia Lawn Saves You Time, Work and Money!

## 1 CUTS WATER BILLS AND MOWING BY AS MUCH AS 2/3

Would you believe a lawn could look perfect when watered just once? In Iowa, the state's biggest Men's Garden club picked a Zoysia lawn as "top lawn – nearly perfect." Yet, this lawn had been watered only once all summer to August!

In PA, Mrs. M.R. Mitter wrote, "I've never watered it, only when I put the plugs in...Last summer we had it mowed 2 times...When everybody's lawns here are brown from drought, ours stays as green as ever." *That's how Amazoy Zoysia lawns cut water bills and mowing! Now read on!*

## 2 NO NEED TO DIG UP OLD GRASS

Plant Amazoy *your way* in an old lawn or new ground. Set plugs into holes in the soil checkerboard style. Plugs spread to create a lush, thick lawn, driving out weeds and unwanted growth. Easy instructions included with every order.

## 3 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

No weeding means no costly chemicals. Since Amazoy Zoysia lawns naturally resist insects, you'll save money, while helping to protect the environment. You'll never have to expose your family and pets to the risk of weed killers and pesticide poisons.

## 4 FOR SLOPES, PLAY AREAS, BARE SPOTS AND PARTIAL SHADE

You can't beat Amazoy Zoysia as the low-cost answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, places that have partial shade and erosion on slopes.

Meyer Zoysia Grass was perfected by the U.S. Gov't, released in cooperation with the U.S. Golf Association as a superior grass.

## 5 IT STAYS GREEN IN SPITE OF HEAT AND DROUGHT

"The hotter it gets, the better it grows!" Plug-in Zoysia thrives in blistering heat, yet it won't winter-kill to 30° below zero. It just goes off its green color after killing frosts, and begins regaining its green color as temperatures in the spring are consistently warm.



Thrives from partial shade to full sun.



Plant it from plugs.

### Your Assurance of Lawn SUCCESS Each Order for Amazoy Zoysia is GUARANTEED

Guaranteed to grow new green shoots within 45-60 days or we'll replace it FREE – for up to 1 year – just call us. We ONLY ship you living genuine Amazoy Zoysia grass harvested direct from our farms. Easy planting and watering instructions are included with each order. Every Reorder assumes success of previous orders (plantings), voiding any previous guarantees, but initiating a **new** one-year guarantee.

## 6 CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS AND WEEDS ALL SUMMER

Your established Amazoy Zoysia lawn grows so thick, it simply stops crabgrass and most summer weeds from germinating!

## 7 NOW 3 WAYS TO START YOUR AMAZOY ZOYSIA LAWN!

1) **Freestyle plugs** come in uncut sheets containing a maximum of 150 - 1" plugs that can be planted up to 1 ft. apart. Freestyle plugs allow you to make each plug bigger and plant further apart – less cutting and planting – you decide.

2) **New Super Plugs** come pre-cut into individual 3"x3" plugs ready-to-plant (minimum 1 per 4 sq. ft.). They arrive in easy to handle trays of 15 Super Plugs. Save more time and get your new lawn even faster!

3) **Amazoy Approved Seed-As** The Zoysia Specialists for 60+ years, we finally have a Zoysia seed available that meets our standards and homeowners expectations.

Learn why at [zoysiafarms.com/mag](http://zoysiafarms.com/mag) or by phone at 410-756-2311.

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**Freestyle Plugs** You decide how big to cut the plugs. Each grass sheet can produce up to 150-1 in. plugs. Plant minimum 1 plug per sq. ft.

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2000	+1000	20	\$165.00	\$45.00	52%

**Super Plugs** Pre-cut plugs 3 inches by 3 inches. READY TO PLANT Packed in trays of 15 Super Plugs. Plant minimum 1 plug per 4 sq. ft.

Super Plugs	Free Plugs	Trays	Your PRICE	+ Shipping	SAVINGS
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120	+30	10	\$125.00	\$35.00	50%
180	+45	15	\$180.00	\$50.00	54%

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We ship all orders the same day the plugs are packed and at the earliest planting time in your state.

# No internet connection?

Five steps to take when the world wide web is down

**YOUR INTERNET IS DOWN.** Now what? This is a situation we have all faced, but do you know how to efficiently and effectively troubleshoot the issue? I want to walk you through the steps I usually take when trying to figure out why I might be having connectivity issues and whether it is

device from being the problem. This could be your laptop, cell-phone, tablet or whatever device is having issues connecting. Most households have multiple devices that connect. The first step should be to check if your other devices are having issues as well. If just

likely your wireless access point, and you should reboot it. At this point, however, the internet is not actually down. You have isolated the problem to your internal wireless network.

**4. Reboot your router.** If all devices, wired and wireless, are not connecting to the internet, the next place to troubleshoot is your router. The first thing you want to do is reboot your router and see if this resolves the issue. Most of the time it does. If rebooting your router does not restore your connection, you more than likely have a problem with your router or the internet service to your house is down.

**5. Call and report the outage.** Before you call your internet provider, call your neighbor if they use the same internet provider to see if they are experiencing connectivity issues as well. If they are, it's time to report an outage with your internet service provider. However, if there is not an outage in your area, you may have a faulty router. You can call your internet service provider and ask them if they can verify connectivity. In many cases the router is leased though the internet provider and they can order a replacement for you.

By troubleshooting before you call your internet provider, you will be better situated to help them determine the cause of the problem. You will have already rebooted your devices and eliminated this step altogether. You will also be able to provide useful information to help resolve the problem quickly.💡



worth my time and effort to call my internet service provider.

First, let's define the two most common problems because they usually are reported as the same problem – the internet is down. One common problem may be that your internal home network is not functioning properly. The other is that you cannot access anything past your internal network. While the internet is down with both, they have different solutions. Here are five steps to take when troubleshooting your internet connectivity problems.

one device is having problems and all others are connecting fine, you can stop troubleshooting your network. It is a device issue.

2. **Is it a wireless issue?** If multiple devices are not connecting to the internet, let's narrow it down to connection type. Determine if the problem is with only wireless devices or all devices. If only wireless devices are not connecting to the internet, move on to step three. If the problem is with both wired and wireless devices, move on to step four.
3. **Reboot your wireless access point.** If only wireless devices are having problems, it is more than

1. **Identify the devices without internet.** The first step in troubleshooting is to eliminate the



**Comment on this column** Visit [icl.coop](http://icl.coop) and click on Powered Up to respond. Your response might even be included in a future column.



**Dan Gerard, CISSP**, is the Chief Technology Officer for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in Springfield.





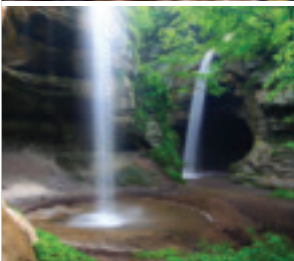
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## Zone in on safety

**ELECTRIC LINEMEN PUT THEIR** lives at risk each day, and distracted drivers add even more hazards to an already dangerous job.

It's always important to drive fully focused; however, drivers should pay special attention when approaching work zones. Slow down and refrain from any activity that would otherwise distract from driving. When it comes to utility work zones, many drivers don't realize linemen are working with live power lines or equipment.

Most people know that working with high voltage power lines and electric equipment is dangerous work, but when they get in their own vehicle, they can forget. Add to that texting, reading the newspaper, or a number of other distractions, and that can spell disaster.

Cell phones play a huge role in distracted driving. If you use it to talk, text or browse while driving, you're 23 times more likely to be in an accident. Just because a vehicle is Wi-Fi enabled doesn't mean you should use it while driving and a hands-free call is still a bad idea. Plus, using a cell phone while driving in Illinois is illegal.

Be sure to slow down when approaching a work zone. Frenzied drivers or drivers of big rigs going too fast could also brush or rattle a utility truck. Even the slightest movement could cause a line worker up in a bucket to move a few feet, putting his or her life in

jeopardy while working on equipment that can carry high voltages.

Some utilities now use cameras mounted on work zone cones to gather information about car speeds, driver behavior and work zone conditions. There are more outdoor cameras everywhere, so a driver not following the law is likely to be caught and may face serious consequences.

Utility crews are not the only workers putting their lives on the line. According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA):

- One work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes
- 70 work zone crashes result in injuries each day
- 12 work zone crashes result in fatalities each week

Before leaving home, be sure to research your route, and when possible, avoid any work zones and use detours. Use your phone settings to automatically advise others you are driving and can't respond. In addition, Safe Electricity reminds you to take the following steps to save lives and avoid accidents:

- 1. Be aware of your surroundings, including others you share the road with.**
- 2. Pay attention and stay focused.** Always keep your eyes on the road, especially in work zones.

Be aware of all orange directional signs. Avoid distractions such as using your cell phone, eating/drinking, adjusting the radio, using GPS, and conversing with passengers.

- 3. Slow down when entering a work zone where lane closures, traffic pattern shifts and reduced speeds are expected.**
- 4. When approaching a work zone, move into the open lane as soon as possible.** Watch for vehicles that could be in your blind spot.
- 5. Rear-end crashes are extremely common in work zones, so keep your distance.** Maintain extra space between your vehicle and the one in front of you and do not cut off any driver, especially long vehicles such as a semi-trailer or bus.

Safe Electricity reminds you that distracted driving injures and kills utility crews and other workers who put themselves in danger every day by sharing their workspace with vehicles on the road.

There isn't a text or a phone call that is worth it. Remember to zone in on safety and save lives. For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



Matt Eisenmenger is a safety instructor for the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and an advisory board member for the Safe Electricity program.



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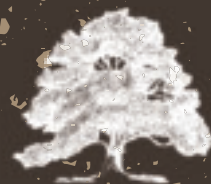


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## Straw bale gardening

Instead of growing plants in pots, try this creative technique.

**ARE YOU LIMITED ON** gardening space this year? Do you hate having to bend down to weed, or maybe you're not quite ready to build more permanent raised beds? Straw bale gardening may be the option for you.

Straw bale gardening is fun for all gardeners but a particularly useful option for people who have poor soil conditions, limited mobility or limited space to garden.

Before getting started, you will need a few basic items: straw bales (hay bales are not recommended because they tend to sprout grass weeds); newspapers to act as a weed mat (unless bales are being placed on concrete or asphalt paving); a fertilizer source that contains nitrogen, like urea, blood meal or bone meal to condition the bales; a water source to wet the bales and water-in the fertilizer; soil or compost if you are directly planting seeds; and a hand trowel to place transplants into the straw bales.

First, decide the design and placement of your straw bale garden. Your garden can consist of one bale to as many as you have space for. Bales can be arranged in a straight line, blocks or even as complex as a labyrinth.

Several layers of newspaper should be lined on the ground under the bales before placement

to prevent grass and weeds from growing around the bales and keep weeding to a minimum. Position the bales so that the baling twine is parallel to the ground.

Once the bales have been positioned, the next step is to condition them. Conditioning initiates a natural composting process within the bales, and during this time, the temperature within will increase significantly. This process will take a few weeks (longer in cooler temperatures), so you will want to plan ahead and do this before you plant. Bales held over from the year before, and still in good enough condition to plant, will not need to go through this step (bales will usually last only one growing season, two at the very most).

To start the conditioning/decomposition process, water the new bales thoroughly and keep them wet for three days. As the inside of the bales begins to decompose, they will begin to warm up. On days four, five and six, sprinkle the top of each bale with one cup of ammonium sulfate (21-0-0) or one-half cup of urea (46-0-0) to speed up the process even more. Water the fertilizer in each day after each application.

On days seven, eight and nine, cut the amount of fertilizer per bale in half. Continue to water in the

fertilizer but take care not to water excessively to avoid runoff and leaching of the nitrogen out of the bale. On day 10, stop adding fertilizer, but keep the bales moist. On day 11 and every day thereafter, start monitoring the heat of the bale. This should be done before moistening or a false reading will occur.

Though not necessary, a compost thermometer is a handy tool to monitor bale temperatures. Otherwise, stick your hand into the bales to see if they are still warm to the touch. Continue to monitor the bales daily until you sense them to be less than your body heat; at which time you may safely begin planting.

Plant transplants just as you would if they were being planted in the ground, using the same spacing. Using a sharp trowel, separate a pocket in the straw and place the plant inside the pocket, down to the first leaf, and let the straw fill in around it.

For direct seeding, place a thin layer of compost mixed with soil on top of the bale (deep enough to hold the seed), and plant the seeds directly into the soil. Cover the seeds with a light dusting of soil or peat moss and water.

You can find bales at your local farm or garden centers.💡



Candice Hart is a Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension serving DeWitt, Macon and Piatt counties. She is also a Certified Floral Designer, Illinois Certified Professional Florist and is an award winning floral designer.

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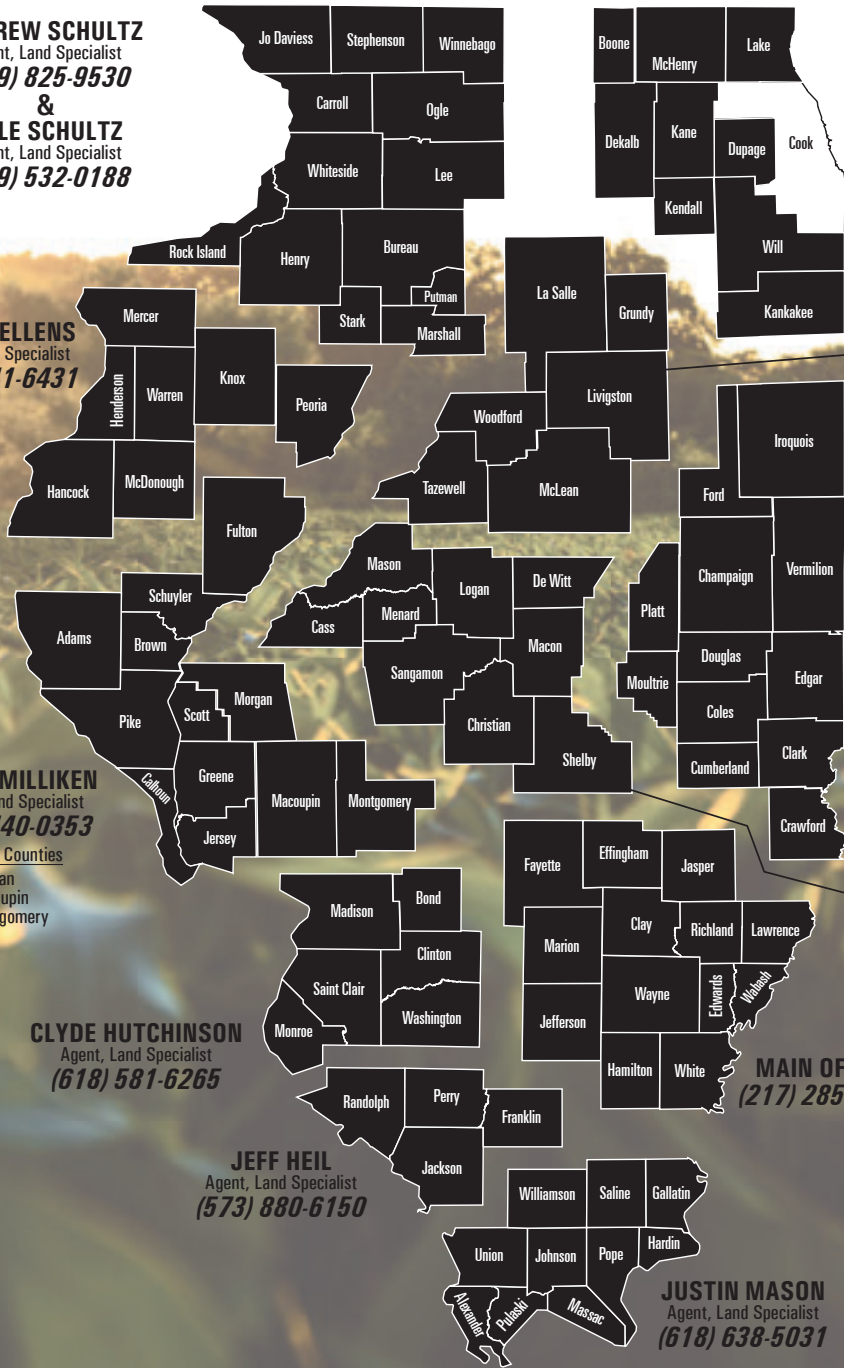
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# The allure of beautiful *Nauvoo*

*By Jerry McDonald*

**AT A LARGE BEND** in the Mississippi River, about 47 miles north of Quincy, lies the village of Nauvoo, a mecca for historians and tourists. The city is split into two unique areas: historic and modern Nauvoo.

Historic Nauvoo was rebuilt by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, or Mormons, and is located on the flats that border the river. Modern Nauvoo, which sits on the high ground above it, is the principal business and residential area. Also, atop the hill is Nauvoo's most distinctive building, the temple, a gleaming white multistory copy of the original that was destroyed over a century and a



Historic Nauvoo is a collection of mostly 19th century buildings, set in a green space, dotted with tall shade trees and intersected by streets with names that recall the families who once settled there. On the high ground, Mulholland Street, the main thoroughfare, is lined with shops and eateries that mark Nauvoo as a tourist destination: Zion Mercantile, Grandpa John's Café, Allen House Gifts, Country Cottage and Neff's Old House Bookstore.

There is an air of tranquility about Nauvoo that beckons you to take a closer look. As you wander through the streets of historic Nauvoo or browse the shops on Mulholland in search of that perfect bargain or memento of your visit, it's hard to imagine that this pleasant village of 1,149 was once a bustling city of 12,000 that witnessed scenes of intense violence and strife. How that came about is an important chapter in the history of Illinois, the Mormon faith and one reason tens of thousands of visitors come to Nauvoo each year.

### History of Nauvoo

The town began in 1829 as Venus, a three-house hamlet with a post office. By 1834, the population increased to about 200 and land speculators renamed it Commerce, a name more aligned with their plans for the town. Unfortunately for the speculators, the financial panic of 1837 put an end to those plans.

However, that would soon change. In 1839, due to the public outcry over the practice of Mormonism in Missouri, the state's governor offered the religion's followers a choice – leave immediately or face execution. Most of the followers fled. Joseph Smith, founder and leader of the Mormon Church, bought several parcels of land on the flats in Commerce and began a settlement there.

### *In 1840, the new settlers changed the community's name from Commerce to Nauvoo, a Hebrew word for beautiful.*

Within a year, several thousand church members arrived and immediately began improvements – draining the swamps of the peninsula and establishing farms, homes and businesses. In 1840, the new settlers changed the community's name from Commerce to Nauvoo, a Hebrew word for beautiful.

Simultaneously, to prevent the persecution they had suffered in Missouri, the Mormons sought and received a charter from the state allowing them to establish

their own militia and to institute a government, basically answerable to no one outside of Nauvoo. By 1844, Nauvoo's population stood around 12,000.

But the prosperity and cohesiveness of the community, its growing commercial and political influence in the state, and the stark differences between its religious practices and those of its mostly Protestant neighbors incited jealousy and fear.

During that same time, a division within the community occurred. A group of followers upset with some of Joseph Smith's practices and politics broke with him. They established a newspaper, which Smith, as mayor, shuttered and destroyed the press. Then as commander of the town's militia, he declared martial law in Nauvoo.

Illinois Governor Thomas Ford called out the state militia, marched to Carthage and demanded that Smith and other officials surrender and stand trial for destruction of the press. On June 24, Joseph Smith, his brother Hyrum and several others surrendered and were housed in the Carthage jail pending trial. On June 27, 1844, a mob stormed the jail and killed the brothers.

Smith's death did not spark immediate retaliation from Nauvoo, but it did encourage the anti-Mormon faction to further acts of violence and intimidation. Over the next two years, Mormons under the leadership of Brigham Young began to depart Nauvoo.

As their numbers dwindled, the anti-Mormon faction grew bolder and many of the faithful left under the threat of death, taking only the clothes on their backs



PHOTO COURTESY OF NAUVOO PAGEANT

and what few things they could quickly gather. By the summer of 1847, the city of 12,000 had shrunk to a town of scarcely 1,000 residents.

One of the things the Mormons were forced to leave was their magnificent temple. Begun in 1841, it was not completed and consecrated until after Joseph Smith's death. Set ablaze by arsonists in 1846, it was furthered damaged in 1848 when the north wall was destroyed by a tornado. In 1867, deeming the ruins a hazard, the city razed it.

For a brief period, Nauvoo was home to the Icarians, one of the many communal societies that came together and dissolved, usually in dissention, during the first half of the 19th century. Soon after, the arrival of Irish and German immigrants, fleeing the troubles in their own lands and seeking new opportunity in America, guaranteed that Nauvoo would continue as a community. Germans were so numerous and influential that prior

to World War I, Nauvoo was the most

German-speaking town in Illinois.

Although the Mormons had been driven from Nauvoo, it continued to occupy a place in their affections. Susan Sims of the Iowa Des Moines Public Affairs Council of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints explains, "Historically, Nauvoo represents a time when the leader of our church, Joseph Smith, was able to live without being in prison and to teach many of the doctrines that were established during the Nauvoo period. A great many people, who are today natives of Utah, trace their ancestry back to individuals who lived in Nauvoo."

It was that affection that led to the rebirth of Nauvoo and the eventual decision to rebuild the temple.

Sims details how, in the mid-1950s, one of the people with ancestry in Nauvoo started the revival of old Nauvoo. "There was a gentleman whose ancestors had owned one of the

homes that was still standing. It came on the market and he bought it to refurbish as a summer home for his family. But so many people were interested in the house, and he was giving so many tours, that he gave up on the idea of a summer home and began using it as a historical site."

That gentleman, J. LeRoy Kimball, great-grandson of Heber C. Kimball, a famed Mormon prophet, donated the property to the church. In 1962, he was the driving

force behind the creation of Nauvoo Restoration Incorporated, which is principally responsible for the restoration of historic Nauvoo.

What began with Kimball's attempt to rebuild a summer home led to the renovation or reconstruction of several dozen homes and businesses. The visitor's center was built and the new temple was constructed, a replica of the original, on the original site. At the temple's completion in 2002, the church held an open house that drew over 331,000 visitors. Following the open house, the temple was consecrated and now is only accessible to church members.

### **Nauvoo today**

Whatever brings a visitor to Nauvoo, the temple is a must see. Although only those of the Mormon faith can enter the temple, the beautifully manicured grounds are open to everyone. One of the best vantage points for photographs, or to simply admire the architecture, is directly across the street.

Any visit to historic Nauvoo should begin at the visitors' center. Videos and artifacts in the center provide a better understanding of Nauvoo and the people who built it. One of the most impressive artifacts is a sunstone that was part of the original temple.

With over 30 buildings and activities, there is a lot to see and do. A first-time or casual visitor, especially if time is limited, might do well to follow Sims' advice. "I like to take people to the main street businesses – the print shop, blacksmith shop and the tin shop – because that is where we get to talk about the life of the town. The Browning Gun Shop is interesting. In fact, I think it is the most visited building in Nauvoo."

If the name Browning rings a bell, it should. Proprietor Jonathan Browning, an inventor in his own right, was the father of John Moses Browning, founder of Browning firearms, and one of the most influential men in the modern history of firearms. Examples of the work of

**Take a look at our events calendar. There is something happening every month.**



**THE TIN SHOP**



## THE BROWNING GUN SHOP

both father and son are on display in the shop. In addition to touring the buildings, visitors can take ox wagon rides, carriage rides and in the winter, if the weather cooperates, they can see the village from a horse drawn sleigh.

Not all historic Nauvoo belongs to the Mormons. The Joseph Smith Historic Site Visitor's Center and five other sites along Water Street are the property of the Community of Christ, a church formed by those who did not go west with Brigham Young and his followers.

These sites include the Smith Family Homestead, the family cemetery and the Red Brick Store, a replica of the store Joseph Smith owned and operated. It is the only place in the old village where visitors can purchase items. The word is that they have a delicious root beer.

The Mormon legacy looms large in Nauvoo's story, but it is by no means all of it. Alderman Tacy Anozie is an enthusiastic booster. "There's always something going on in Nauvoo. We have great places to eat and great places to shop. We have the Weld House Museum and there are walking tours of the town. Take a look at our events calendar. There is something happening every month."

According to Anozie, Summer is Nauvoo's busiest time, but one of its biggest events is the Bootiful Nauvoo Pumpkin Walk at Halloween. Mulholland Street is lit up with hundreds of carved pumpkins, and most of the shops are open. In August, Nauvoo will host its 82nd Annual Grape Festival. "We have a big wine scene around here," Anozie says. "Nauvoo is home to Illinois' oldest winery."


This is in reference to Baxter's Winery. Established by Emile Baxter in 1857, the winery has remained a family business for five generations. Kelly Logan, co-owner with his wife Brenda, is a direct descendant of Emile Baxter. Brenda Logan talks about the winery. "Today, we have about 12 or 13 varieties of grapes, so our wines range from a Norton, which is a heavy dry red, to a Niagara, which is a sweet white. Our Concord remains the

best seller."

Brenda also explains that like many small businesses, Baxter's works at being a destination. "We have a full-service bar and music on the patio two or three times a month, and we host a home wine makers contest every year."

Last year, Baxter's hosted more than 25,000 visitors and sold about 1,500 gallons of wine, the equivalent of over 7,500 bottles.

Not far from Baxter's, and just across Highway 96 from historic Nauvoo, is a small vineyard. Planted by the Icarians in 1851, it is the oldest Concord grape vineyard in Illinois. Like Nauvoo, it has weathered times both good and bad, yet it still bears fruit today.

Whether you have a few hours, a day or several days, consider visiting Nauvoo. As Alderman Anozie remarks, "There's always something to do in Nauvoo." 



## LEARN MORE

### WEBSITES

[beautifulnauvoo.com](http://beautifulnauvoo.com)

[cofchrist.org/visitnauvoo](http://cofchrist.org/visitnauvoo)

[ldschurch.org/placestovisit](http://ldschurch.org/placestovisit) search "Historic Sites," click Nauvoo, then click "What to expect when visiting Nauvoo."

### BOOKS

*Nauvoo (Images of America Series)*, Author: Glenn Cuerden

*In Old Nauvoo: Everyday Life in the City of Joseph*, Author: George W. Givens

*Old Mormon Nauvoo: Historic Photographs and Guide*, Authors: Richard Neitzel Holzappel and T. Jeffrey Cottle

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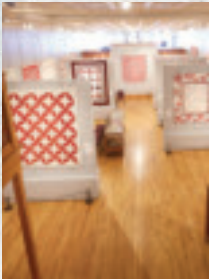
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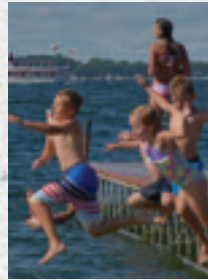
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# ADVENTURE

By Les O'Dell

**RACHEL LEE GREW UP** camping. Her husband Yi did not.

As a child growing up in the western Illinois community of Galesburg, Rachel's family would often spend weekends camping in tents and cabins along the Mississippi River. Yi (pronounced "Yee"), growing up in China, knew nothing of camping until he came to the United States in 1989.

Since then, he's taken to the outdoors. A friend introduced him to hunting in the woods of southern Illinois, not far from the Lee's home in Carbondale. He purchased a pickup truck a few years ago, and, at

Rachel's urging, a recreational vehicle.

"I've wanted a camper for years," Rachel says, "and a few years ago we shared with each other our bucket lists – dreams of things we want to do. He definitely did not have a camper on his list. We both, however, want to support each other's lists. About two-and-a-half years ago, I told him that I really, really wanted to get a camper and go camping. I want to explore the U.S."

She says her argument was boosted by the fact that the couple had traveled extensively internationally but hadn't really vacationed in America.

"There are so many things in the United States with so many environments. I want to see it all and I want to do it in a little more comfort than lying on the ground getting rained on," she explains.

After extensive shopping, the couple purchased a new 20-foot pull-behind camper this year. Yi says he is still nervous pulling it behind

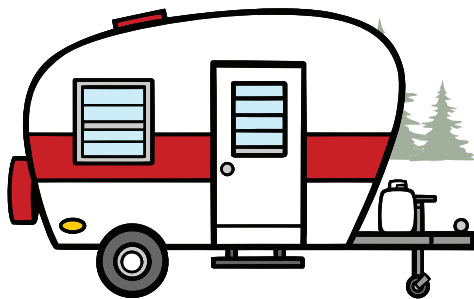
his truck, but he's enjoying being one of what he calls "RV people."

"When she shared with me that she wanted a camper, I was a little bit incredulous. I mean, Chinese people don't buy campers," he adds with a laugh.

Yi explains that he is enjoying his new-found recreation, and he is not alone. A recent study by Kampgrounds of America reports that 77 million American households go camping at least once a year. They find adventures and discover unique places and people – other "RV people."

"Everyone has really been great," he says of those he has met in campgrounds. "They are a unique group of people. Everyone is very helpful with each other, sharing advice and parts, stories and more."

Yi hasn't yet met Robert Myers, but it's a good guess that the two men could become instant friends. Like Rachel, Myers, a semi-retired truck driver from Thomasboro in



Champaign County, has camped his entire life. He and wife Lynn have been camping regularly for two decades, as many as 50 nights a year.

“It’s just relaxing,” he explains. “We like to get out and get away and don’t particularly want to be in a hotel if we don’t have to. It’s nice to have your own bed with you and to come and go as you please.”

Today, the Myers pull a 40-foot fifth-wheel camper with a pickup. Over the years, they have owned a variety of RVs.

“We started out tent camping just because that was the cheapest way to start,” he recalls. Over the years, the couple has owned traditional pull-behind campers as well as motorhomes. He says every type of RV has its own advantages and disadvantages, but selection all comes down to personal preference.

Many of today’s campers have all the luxuries and conveniences of home. The Myers’ unit has three slide-outs, room extensions that fit within the trailer for travel, but bump out when parked, giving more living area. In fact, he says his camper has almost 400 square feet of living space, as well as other amenities.

“It has a washer and dryer, a full-size shower and a fireplace,” he says.

Units like Myers’ retail in the \$50,000 to \$60,000 range, but he explains that the cost offsets other vacationing expenses.

“You’re not staying in motels and we’re eating most of our meals in the trailer, so it cuts down on a lot of your expenses when you are traveling,” he says.

Those looking to travel on the “really cheap,” should consider more primitive accommodations – tents – says Steve Smith, manager of WildCountry, an outdoor equipment retailer in Normal.

“With tents, you can do remote camping,” he explains. “You can actually walk on a trail out into the woods and camp with no one

driving by and without having the next camper right next to you. You can be out in the woods with your family and enjoy nature without the hassle and technology. Plus, it’s going to be less expensive.”

So inexpensive, Smith says, that it is easy to vacation on a budget.

“When my daughter was growing up, we went to Colorado as a family every summer. We could spend a week there with just \$800 for everything – gas, food, everything,” he says.

Smith says great camping can be found close to home, too, with lots of recreation areas, campgrounds and state parks throughout Illinois. Myers, who serves as a state officer for Good Sam Club, an international organization for RV owners, agrees.

“There’s an awful lot to do,” Myers says. “Every camping area in the state has something different. You can fish, you can go boating, you can go hiking. There’s so much diversity in Illinois.”

Of course, there’s just getting away from it all. That’s the appeal for Smith.

“Camping is just a great way to hang out with your family and get them away from technology, instead of looking at devices and not talking to each other, they enjoy each other and being together,” he adds.

For Rachel and Yi Lee, camping brings community.

“When we were looking to buy a house, I wanted a neighborhood where everybody knows their neighbors, greets them and sits out front every evening while the kids play outside,” Rachel says. “I know that may be nostalgic and it may not be completely the case anymore. But I think we get a sense of that when we camp. You get to know your neighbors, even if it’s just for the weekend.”

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Go to [dnr.illinois.gov/parks/camp](http://dnr.illinois.gov/parks/camp) for more state park locations and camping information.

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Illinois’ sole national forest has many camping options that includes Garden of the Gods. Go to [fs.usda.gov/shawnee/](http://fs.usda.gov/shawnee/) for more information.



Lynn and Robert Myers



Magnolia's Restaurant & Catering is located on the historic town square in Macomb. The downstairs dining room looks out onto the square. Ward, a horse lover, gives the space personality with equine décor.

## Magnolia's Restaurant & Catering

By Lisa Cherry

**TWENTY-THREE YEARS AGO**, Lisa Ward opened a catering business on the square in her husband Roger's hometown of Macomb. Twelve years ago, at the prompting of her catering customers, she moved her business across the square and opened a restaurant. Magnolia's Restaurant has three on-site event venues and is located right next door to her husband's business, the Forum/Two Dogs nightclub.

Magnolia's is an impressive space, occupying a two-story corner building on the town's historic square. Exposed brick walls and floor-to-ceiling windows in the main dining room add to its ambience, as does its unique equine décor. Horseshoe coat hooks at the tables and paintings of famous horses like Secretariat and Ruffian adorn the walls. Ward, an avid horse lover, worked as a "hot walker" for horses (cooling them down after a workout) when she was 12 years old to earn money for her own mount.

A glance at the specials for the night provides further insight into the heart behind it all. From beer-battered fried cheese to apple and goat cheese points and Colorado pizza (boasting a cauliflower crust with brussel sprouts, bacon, spinach and three-cheese blend), Magnolia's menu is eclectic.

Ward's larger-than-life personality is as much a part of Magnolia's as the food and atmosphere. Born in Baltimore, Md., she grew up in Birmingham, Ala. As a young adult, she relocated to the Caribbean, but had to be airlifted to Chicago after the devastation of Hurricane Hugo in 1989. It was there she decided to make a new start and eventually met her husband Roger. The influence of these different areas is obvious in the variety of menu items she offers—and in the spin she puts on classic Midwestern entrees.

She credits her success first to her husband. Ward often runs menu ideas by him to see if he thinks they will appeal to their customers—though she still puts her own twist on each dish. "He's a Midwestern boy," she says. "He's the reason it works."

An example is one of Magnolia's signature dishes, the Chicken Macomb. Described on the menu as sautéed with Midwest sausage and tomato and drizzled with an oregano cream sauce, Ward says it's "chicken-fried steak with sausage gravy times 1,000."

According to her, "[Roger] is a little bit country, and I'm a little bit rock 'n' roll."



Steak lovers can choose from New York strip, flat iron steak, filet or slow roasted prime rib.



Salmon Fred



Beet Caprese

Other dishes are named after special people in her life, like the Dottie Salad (field greens, strawberries, goat cheese, oranges, onion and sugared pecans) and Sophie's Pasta (spinach, mushrooms, goat cheese, tomato and alfredo). The latter's namesake, a former basketball scholarship student at Western Illinois University, popped in to say hello during our interview.

Another reason for the restaurant's popularity is Ward's commitment to charitable causes. Her love for the community is evident in the roles she's played in fundraisers for Macomb Area Crime Stoppers, "Walking the Runway" for Wesley Village Retirement Center and VIBE (Volunteers Interested in Benefiting Everyone, a group of local business owners).

Her favorite charity event, though, is the Farm to Table Benefit. Years in the making, the fundraising dinner on the streets of the square is truly a community effort. Local business owners including Terstreip Farms, Good Hope Garden and, of course, Magnolia's, all contribute. It's her favorite because it benefits Future Farmers of America, and she says the students work very hard to make the early summer event a success.

Ward remains excited about her business. Self-taught, she loves what she does. And the ideas keep coming. She says the menu is inspired by whatever is fresh, ideas from servers, even nursing home submissions, from which she picks winners. She also peruses old church cookbooks, reinventing recipes, some of which are more than 100 years old. The resulting dishes, like rhubarb crisp and corn casserole, are popular among her patrons. "I love the simple stuff. I always want to do more." She jokes that someday maybe she'll open a buffet place called "Potlucks," reminiscent of church dinners of the past.

Magnolia's caters weddings, banquets, picnics and corporate events. Ward is also a baker; in fact, she makes 101 different flavors of cheesecake. Her peanut butter version is a delicious concoction drizzled with chocolate sauce and powdered sugar.

Other items on the menu to try: Mag's Slow Roasted Prime Rib with Ward's signature sauce and the always popular red smashed potatoes. The impromptu sauce originated at a dinner out with family when Ward, bored with the sauce they were serving, added some unexpected condiments from the table.

The now self-proclaimed Midwestern girl tells me she isn't sure she's done enough. "I didn't change the world. I vote, I recycle and I cook steaks," says Ward. Perhaps she's making a bigger mark than she thinks. 📍



The Farm to Table Benefit, an annual fundraising dinner for FFA, takes place on the streets of the square.

## LET'S EAT!

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## Feeling nutty?

SOMETIMES YOU FEEL LIKE a nut, sometimes you don't! The original tagline wasn't in reference to peanut butter, but it still fits. Some estimate the average kid eats around 1,500 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches by the time they graduate high school. I know mine did, especially if you substitute marshmallow fluff for the jelly.

According to the National Peanut Board, a jar of peanut butter can be found in more than 90 percent of U.S. households. Often found in desserts, it is also an ingredient in an increasing number of savory dishes, especially Asian cuisine. This month's recipe selections are a little bit of both. 💡

- Valerie Cheatham



## Peanut Butter Sheet Cake

Submitted by Nancy Lange, EnerStar Electric Cooperative and Nancy Weaver, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

Servings: 24

### Cake:

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 large eggs, slightly beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup cooking oil
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

### Icing:

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 pound powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 375 F. In saucepan, combine butter, water, peanut butter and oil. Bring to a boil, remove from heat and add remaining ingredients. Stir together. Pour into greased and floured jelly roll pan and bake for 20-25 minutes. Meanwhile make icing by combining in a saucepan milk, butter and peanut butter. Bring to a boil and remove from heat. Add vanilla and powdered sugar and mix well. Ice cake while warm.

Nutrition information per serving: 357 calories; 18.3g fat; 167mg sodium; 46.1g carbohydrates; 4.7g protein.

## Cow Chip Cookies

Submitted by Andrea Lowery, South Eastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Servings: 72

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 stick butter, softened               | 1-1/3 cups creamy peanut butter |
| 1 cup granulated sugar                 | 4-1/2 cups quick oats           |
| 1 cup light brown sugar, packed        | 2 teaspoons baking soda         |
| 3 large eggs                           | 3/4 cup mini M&Ms               |
| 1 tablespoon honey or white corn syrup | 3/4 cup mini chocolate chips    |

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, combine butter, sugar and brown sugar until well mixed. Add eggs, honey and peanut butter and combine. Sprinkle baking soda over oats and add to mixture until combined. Stir in M&Ms and chocolate chips. Drop by teaspoonful onto greased cookie sheet and bake 8 minutes or spread in jelly roll pan and bake for 12 minutes. Cool.

Nutrition information per serving: 95 calories, 4.9g fat; 66mg sodium; 12g carbohydrates; 2g protein.

## Jan's Homemade Peanut Butter

Submitted by Jan Dial, Corn Belt Energy Corporation  
Servings: 15 - 2 tablespoon servings

- 1-1/2 cups honey roasted peanuts
- 2-3 tablespoons canola oil
- 2-3 tablespoons honey

Using a Bullet or blender, pulse peanuts to chop, then add 2 tablespoons oil and honey. Pulse again adding more oil, if necessary, until you have reached desired consistency.

Nutrition information per serving: 83 calories; 6.9g fat; 31mg sodium; 3.8g carbohydrates; 2.7g protein.

## WE NEED RECIPES!

### Upcoming monthly topics

Summer drinks

Barbeque

Sandwiches

Please email submissions to [finestcooking@icl.coop](mailto:finestcooking@icl.coop) or mail them to Finest Cooking, c/o Illinois Country Living, P.O. Box 3787, Springfield, IL 62708. Please include your name, address, phone number (for questions), and the name of your electric cooperative. Recipes not included in the magazine can be found on our website at [icl.coop/finestcooking](http://icl.coop/finestcooking).



Recipes prepared, tasted and photographed by Illinois Country Living staff. For more recipes and photos go to [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop). Questions? Email [finestcooking@aiec.coop](mailto:finestcooking@aiec.coop).

Visit [www.icl.coop](http://www.icl.coop) to see more Illinois Country Living recipes.



## Spicy Peanut Chicken

Servings: 4

**Sauce:**

- 1/2 cup natural peanut butter
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2-3 teaspoons sambal oelek or Sriracha
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 garlic cloves, finely minced
- 1 tablespoon water
- Splash of milk

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 large red bell peppers, sliced
- 1-1/4 pounds boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cubed
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Chopped peanuts, optional for topping
- Chopped green onions, optional for topping

In a small bowl or measuring cup, whisk together ingredients for the sauce. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium high heat until hot then add bell peppers. Cook until softened, about 5-7 minutes. Add chicken and cook through, about 7-10 minutes. Pour the sauce on top and toss to coat. Let simmer. Remove from heat, season with salt and pepper, then stir until evenly distributed. Serve over white rice and top with chopped peanuts and green onions, if desired. (Recipe from tablefortwoblog.com.)

Nutrition information per serving: 536 calories; 28g fat; 573.5mg sodium; 29.2g carbohydrates; 44.1g protein.



SPICY PEANUT CHICKEN

## Peanut Butter Pie

Submitted by Mildred Ringhausen, Illinois Electric Cooperative

Servings: 8

- 1 - 9-inch graham cracker crust
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1 cup whipped cream
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- Melted chocolate or chocolate ice cream topping

In a medium bowl, cream together peanut butter, cream cheese, sugar and butter. Fold in whipped cream and vanilla. Pour into crust and chill overnight. Using a fork, drizzle chocolate over top. Chill again for at least 30 minutes before serving.

Nutrition information per serving: 630 calories; 41.2g fat; 435mg sodium; 58.3g carbohydrates; 12g protein.



PEANUT BUTTER PIE

## Asian Slaw with Peanut-Ginger Dressing

Servings: 4

**Dressing:**

- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/2 tablespoon soy sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon peanut butter
- 1/2 teaspoon sesame oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon chili sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon fresh ginger, minced
- 1 large clove garlic, minced

**Slaw:**

- 2 cups white cabbage, shredded
- 2 cups red cabbage, shredded
- 1 cup carrots, julienned
- 1-1/2 cups cooked chicken, shredded
- 1/2 red bell pepper, thinly sliced into bite-sized pieces
- 1 green onion, finely sliced
- 1 package ramen noodles, crushed (discard seasoning packet)
- 1/4 cup salted peanuts, roughly chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, roughly chopped

Combine all dressing ingredients and stir until peanut butter is dissolved. In a large bowl, combine all the slaw ingredients. Add dressing and toss well. Let sit for 10 minutes to allow vegetables and noodles to absorb dressing. (Recipe adapted from curiousnut.com.)

Nutrition information per serving: 307 calories; 15.9g fat; 597mg sodium; 25.6g carbohydrates; 15.8g protein.

## Don't be mistaken for a turkey

**SPRING IS A GREAT** time to get outdoors. Everything is coming back to life. Trees are beginning to bud out, flowers are blooming, hiking trails are getting used and other outdoor activities are picking back up.

Spring is also the time hunters are in the woods actively hunting wild turkeys. Turkey season is divided into two zones within the state and begins April 8 and runs

due to the safety training they have experienced and lessons passed down through generations.

First, turkey hunting ends at 1 p.m. every day. The reason, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) knows other people would also like to get out and enjoy time in the woods. By ending the day's hunt at 1 p.m., this affords everyone the opportunity to enjoy the great

First, go where turkey hunters are not. If you have permission to hunt on private ground, check with landowners to see if they have hunters on their ground. There are also state grounds that do not allow turkey hunting which would be perfect for your outing.

Normal outdoor conversation will alert hunters that you are in the area. The human voice carries remarkably well in the woods, often several hundred yards. You don't have to talk loudly to alert hunters to your presence. Most likely, hunters will know you are there even though you never cross paths visually.

Be careful what you wear. Turkey hunters are hunting gobblers and often catch a glimpse of a turkey's head before any other part of it. Try to avoid wearing red, white and blue clothing. Most hunters count on the color red to tell the difference between a gobbler's head and that of a hen's blue-colored head. White can also

look like the snowball-colored top of a gobbler's head.

Although hunters are taught from a young age not to shoot until they are certain of their target, it is always a good idea not to appear to be something you are not.

We can all share the woods, but precautions should be taken by both hunters and individuals enjoying the great outdoors. If you follow this advice, you can have a safe and memorable outing. 🧠



through May 9 in the southern zone and April 15 - May 16 in the northern zone.

If you are not a turkey hunter, and plan on being outdoors in areas where hunters could be present, there are safety precautions you should take into consideration.

Before I dive into the safety measures, you should know that hunters are cautious individuals. The last thing they want is a shooting accident. This is in large part

outdoors without the fear of an encounter with a hunter or ruining the chance for a hunter to harvest a wild turkey. The best thing you can do to ensure your safety and not ruin a turkey hunter's opportunity is to wait until after 1 p.m. before venturing into turkey hunting areas.

People are eager to get outside, especially mushroom hunters. If you can't wait until the afternoon, there are some safety precautions you can take.

Jason Houser is a full-time outdoor writer and enthusiast from central Illinois who has won numerous awards in the outdoor communication field.

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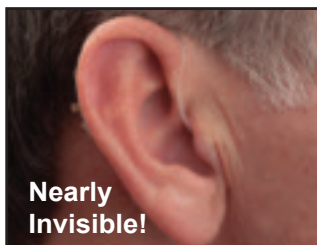
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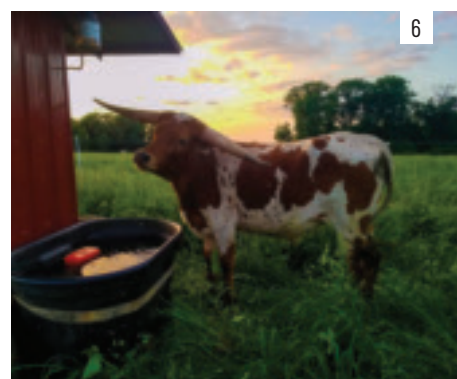
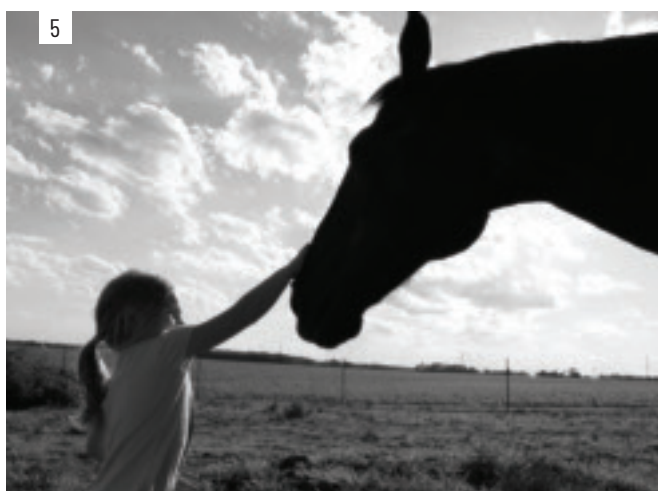
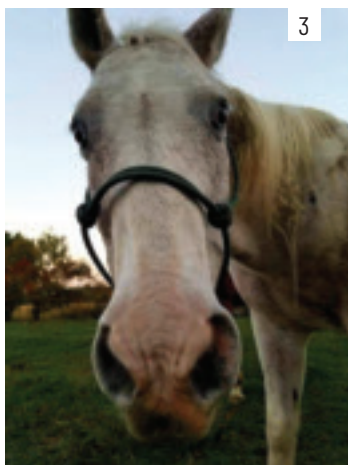
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### UPCOMING THEMES

- June - Summer fun
- July - Stars and stripes
- August - Illinois destinations
- September - Furry friends



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