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LAKE OF EGYPT LIVING

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Each year four print issues of *Lake of Egypt Living* are distributed to Lake of Egypt residents free of charge. If you live outside of the Lake of Egypt, you can purchase a subscription by visiting lakeofegyptliving.com. Subscriptions are \$30 for one year (four issues).

STORY IDEAS & EVENTS

Send your upcoming events and story ideas to hello@lakeofegyptliving.com.



FROM THE PUBLISHER

When we began *Lake of Egypt Living*, our goal was to create a united lake community. Our hope was to provide a medium where our lake friends, both full time residents and those who are not as lucky (YET) to live here full time, can be aware of all of the neat things that go on everyday on our lake. It has been such a gratifying experience to have our neighbors call, text, or email story ideas to us... things that we would never have known about without a friendly tip. By extension, our readers would not get to read about some of our fantastic community members.

One thing that has become obvious to us at *Lake of Egypt Living* is that our lake is definitely experiencing growing pains. We can not tell you how many people have called, emailed or text us with questions and concerns they have about various things that happen in and around our community. Our plan is to provide a forum where these items can be discussed and possible solutions can be presented and hopefully implemented. We plan to present a question with each new issue of the magazine and provide a forum on our website where these issues can be discussed in a positive and productive manner and solutions can be tendered.

Many of our neighbors have very different opinions on VRBO or Vacation Rental By Owner in their different subdivisions. Some feel that the constant turnover of renters who may not be respectful of their neighbors is a big issue, while others feel that having the ability to do a short term rental raises property value on the lake. We would love for you to vote on the poll on our website: lakeofegyptliving.com and comment on the provided message board.

Also, please let us know what issue you think needs addressed in the next issue.

Best,

Micah

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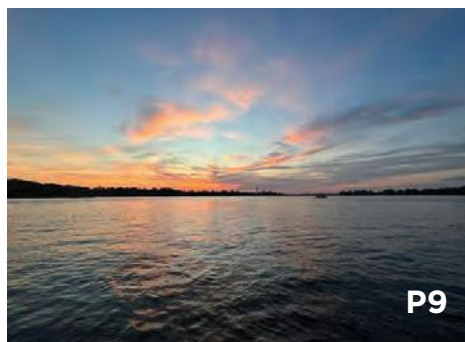
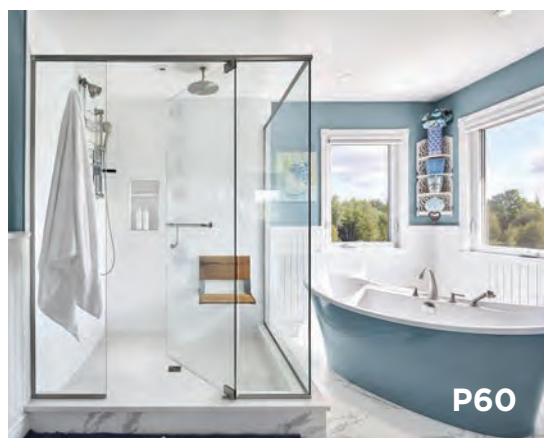
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what's inside



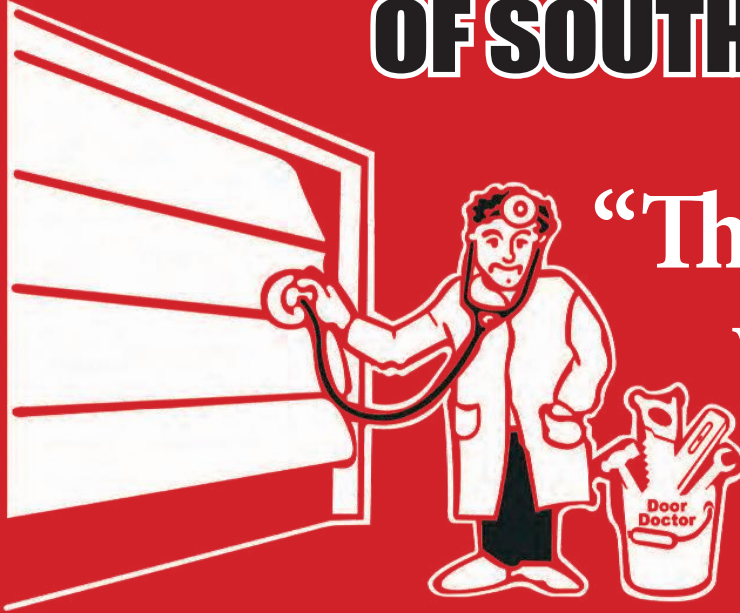
We want to see you! Share your favorite lake moments by tagging us on Instagram and Facebook or submit them at lakeofegyptliving.com.

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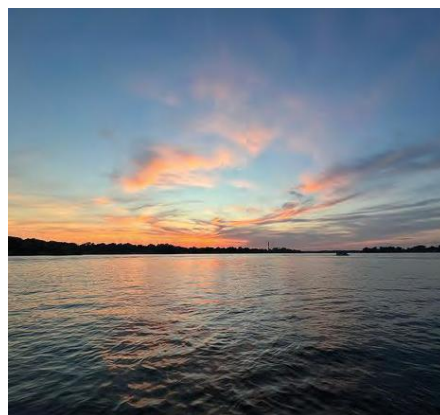
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RESTORING

BY TERRANCE GEESE

AN ICON



SCOTT FOX has had a romance for about 20 years with a rare boat.

Fox is the uncle of David Fox and has been a key person in the development of the businesses of his nephew. He was a driver and the mechanic for the Fast Fox Courier Service when David started the service. His nephew says the business could not have been a success without Uncle Scott. Then, Scott Fox is the man who built the work barges of Lake of Egypt Docks. Again, nephew David found his uncle's skills phenomenal. You could define Scott Fox as a tinkerer with fantastic abilities.

While he has been a key person to businesses, there is another side of Scott Fox, a lady in his life that has taken on increasing importance. She is a boat, one that once was declared to be a boat that never would float again. Now, she is close to re-entering the water.

It has taken 20 years to reach that point.

She was a tired and shaky old gal when Scott first met her. In fact, he purchased the hardware from her for \$3,000 back 25 years ago and she was in such bad condition, her hull was tossed

in free of charge.

"The boat was beyond fixing," he recalls. "I took the boat home and stripped every board off of her," he says. "Then, I bought two big mahogany planks, 10-inch by 12-inch by 20-feet long. I had a sawmill cut them up and I replaced all the boards on it," he says. "The bottom is epoxy."

The old, discarded boat carried with it a most honorable pedigree. It is a 1949 25-foot Chris-Craft Sportsman. Only 208 boats of that designation were made, Fox has determined. The boat had been a part of the line Chris-Craft had discontinued in 1946 because wood was not available due to World War 2.

"In 1949, they decided to start building the Sportsman as the flagship of Chris-Craft," he says. Chris-Craft laid down 208 hulls that year and of those 208, 60 had one major difference, the hull was a few inches wider, Fox says. It was 2 inches wider in the middle and 6 inches wider in the back.

The boat was the most expensive model of Chris-Craft.

The boat Fox has lovingly labored on is one of those 60, which increases the value. "There are few of them left," he says.



“Being wood, not a whole lot of them have survived.” Fox says he was able to trace the history of the boat with the assistance of a maritime museum in Maryland. They were able to track it through its serial number. “I put that serial number back on the boat,” he says.

That particular model has sold for as much as \$225,000, he says.

Rebuilding his Sportsman has been a task much more extensive than replacing the mahogany. “It has 25 coats of

varnish on it,” he says. “I keep putting it on until it fills the wood grain.

“Inside, all the wood was rotted. And the seats, all I could use them for was a pattern. It has an all-new floor, the motor has been completely rebuilt from top to bottom,” Fox says.

In search of perfection in the construction, Fox says, “I went and bought an industrial sewing machine and did the seats myself.”

Fox said he did have a volunteer helper when layers of epoxy and mahogany were being applied to the bottom, an elderly gentleman.

“Unfortunately, that old boy passed away before he got to see it afloat,” he says. “That’s sad.”

Fox says he has made a few revisions, such as a minor departure from solid red seating. He also installed a blower to suck fumes from the motor, a big water pump (the original was a hand pump) and a second battery.

“The 175 horsepower, dual carburetor motor weighs over 1,000 pounds and it is 6 volts, so it takes a lot to crank it,” he says.

Launch date for the boat, a boat that last was in the water about 50 years ago, was expected for the 65th birthday anniversary for Fox.

After the launch, Fox says he won’t be idle.

“I have got tractors to work on, boats to work on and I just built a house,” he says. “I’ve got to tear the old house down.” ■



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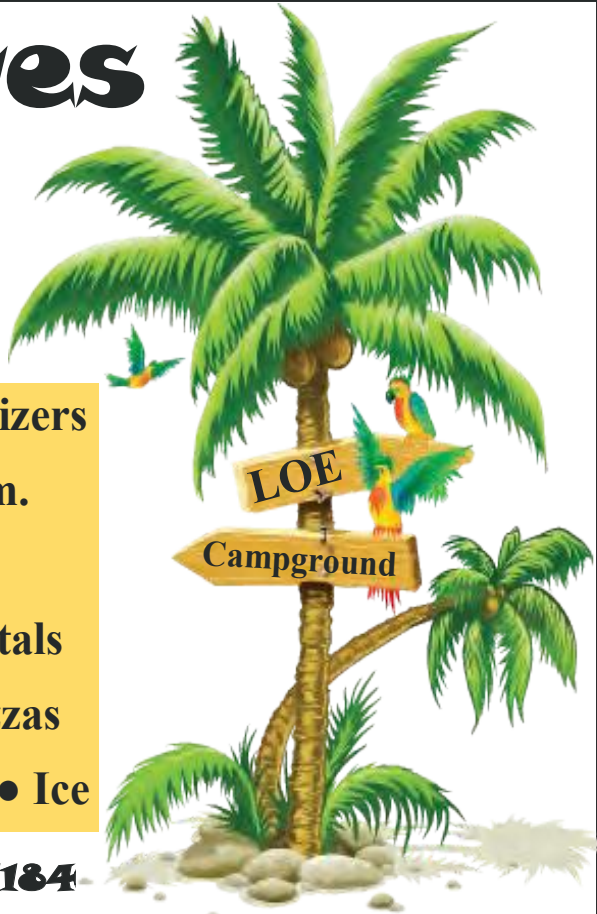
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BY MARK FAULKNER

BY NOW you've heard of The Lake of Egypt Country Club. It's right in your back yard. But what do you know about us? What does one do at LOECC? What do you suppose you would do if you were a member?

Well, if you were one of the 253 current members of the Club you might be doing any number of golf related activities. And by the way, we also have a grill, a bar, and a pool. So, it's not always just about golf. Here's an idea of what goes on in a typical week at The Lake.

The week begins with the Monday Morning Men's League. Every Monday about 25 to 40 mostly retired guys show up around 7:45 to drink coffee and visit until Brad announces the teams and they tee off at 8:30. 18 holes later they congregate in the clubhouse or on the deck with a sandwich from the grill or a cold beverage waiting for Brad to announce the winners. An enjoyable afternoon of jokes and tall golf tales follows until it's time for honey-dos or a rerun of Gunsmoke calls.

Tuesday morning means it's Ladies' Day. These 15 to 20 ladies have come together to grow the League and made it fun for everyone. Whether it be 9 or 18 holes of golf, an afternoon of cards, having lunch or sitting on their shaded deck enjoying a few adult drinks, they make a day of it.

On Thursdays if you can manage to get away from work or whatever else holds you back there's a good chance you'll get included in a group text inviting you to be at the Club by 1:30 for "golf" before Men's League at 5:30. There's a chance that some golf might be played (if it's not too hot or too cold or too windy or too rainy, etc.) but there is for sure going to be some fun had! These guys are much better story tellers and drinkers than they are golfers. Even if you weren't on the group text you'll be welcome on the deck. You will certainly learn a lot!

That brings us to the Thursday Night Men's League. Eight teams of four plus extras tee off at 5:30 to enjoy nine holes and a 6-pack followed by burgers and fries, a cold beer or two and a couple hours of camaraderie. This tradition of over 40 years has remained constant and is probably the most popular function within the Club. More friendships and Saturday golf games have come from Men's League than from anywhere else.

On Sunday morning if you are looking to join a group and you have \$7.00 you are always welcome to join Laney's group (or



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Keith's group, or Donnie's group...depending on who made the tee times this week). How the teams are made from these 20-24 guys remains a secret and never seem fair, but the fact is you don't want to win this event. The winning team must pay the tab at the end of the afternoon and the winnings never cover the cost of the tab. But I promise the fun you will have is definitely worth the money.

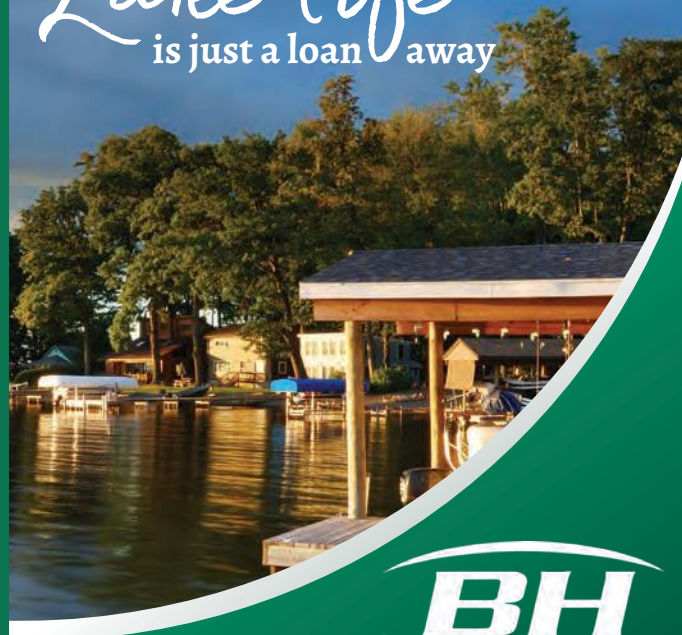
If you like the more laid-back lifestyle we have something for you also. The large swimming pool is a great place to relax and unwind with family and friends or daily from 10:00 to noon you'll find five to fifteen coffee drinkers on the deck discussing anything from their first car to who kicked the table leg. Join these folks and they'll ask you a hundred questions. And then you'll be one of them.

If any of this sounds like you, maybe you belong here. And maybe you should belong here. For being the largest private membership club in Southern Illinois, we're a pretty tight-knit bunch. Come join us. We think you'll fit right in.

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THE OF THE LONELY CANADA CALL GOOSE

BY LES WINKELER



AUGUST CAN BE a grind in Southern Illinois.

Weeks of intense heat puts a strain on flowers, trees and lawns. Temperatures frequently reach triple digits. At times the air is so stifling it seems you can touch it.

Many of the songbirds that were welcomed with great expectations in April and May have left their nests. Most are preparing for long flights back to their wintering grounds, others are already gone.



The Dog Days is an apt description for this time of year. However, this is Southern Illinois. Things change rapidly here. Temperatures will begin moderating in a month. Temperatures may still soar during the day, but we'll wake up to a bracing coolness that makes the rest of the days bearable. And, in the evenings we'll start to notice the lonely call of the Canada goose. Oh, it will be sporadic at first, but in just a couple of weeks the honking will be a regular feature at sunset. And, little by little you'll notice the fall migration of waterfowl is underway.

The vocal nature of the Canada goose makes them the most noticeable, but if you start checking the shorelines of Lake of Egypt, Crab Orchard, Little Grassy and Devils Kitchen lakes its clear our world is changing rapidly.

The American coot, actually a member of the rail, family is one of the most noticeable early arrivals. Coots are communal critters, usually swimming and feeding in large groups. They are frequently seen near the shorelines and are readily identifiable by their white beaks and their peculiar rocking motion when they swim.

Blue-winged and green-winged teal are also among the early arrivals. However, they are a bit more introverted than the coot. You're more apt to see them in the backs of wooded coves.

And, by mid- to late-October, ducks of all shapes, sizes and colors descend on Southern Illinois. Waterfowl bring a touch of color to the normally drab fall and winter of Southern Illinois.

The male wood duck is an explosion of color. He looks like he rolled off a Peter Max palette.

The northern shoveler is such a colorful, gaudy animal that some waterfowl hunters refer to them as "Hollywoods". The ringneck duck, with its jet black head, brilliant white chest and back and blue beak, outlined in white, appears to be headed for a state dinner.

The aptly named pintail duck projects a regal bearing while the gadwall is the peasant of the waterfowl world.

And, these are just the dabbling ducks. Ducks fall into two categories, divers and dabblers. Divers are larger and are primarily vegetarians. Divers are smaller, faster and eat small fish and mollusks. They are stunning in their own right.

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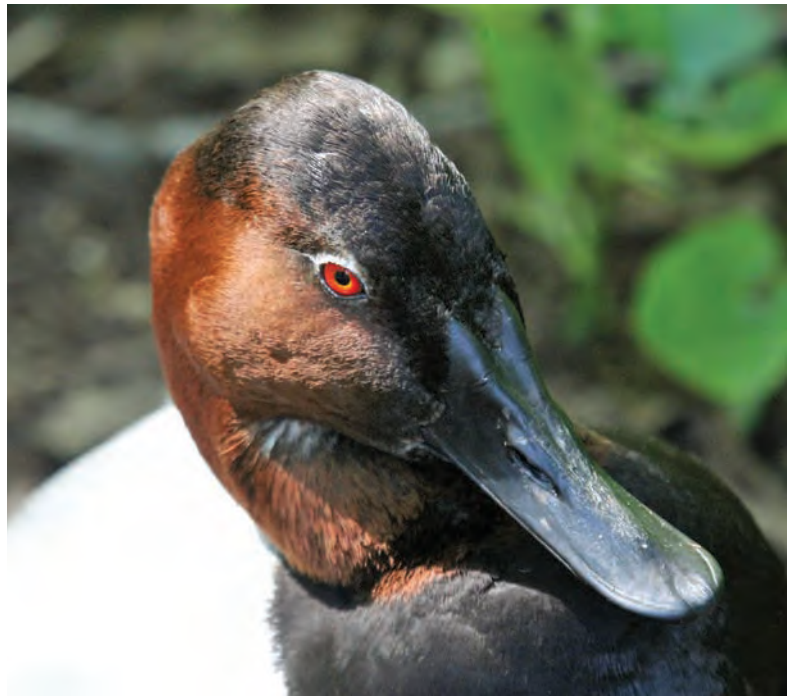
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The male hooded merganser looks like a space alien from a Hanna-Barbera cartoon while the bufflehead competes with the wood duck for most colorful honors. And, the male ruddy duck, has a blue bill, milk chocolate feathers on the body and a jet black head. Unfortunately, his breeding plumage is only visible in March, just before the spring migration.

If that isn't enough, keep your eyes peeled for snow geese and greater white-fronted geese. Both species flock to Southern Illinois in fall and winter. ■



DID YOU KNOW?

- The female is called a goose and the male is a gander. The young are know as goslings.
- They form flocks to fly south for the winter
- The Canada goose has webbed feet for swimming.
- A group of geese has many collective nouns, including a "flock", "chevron", and "string" of geese.



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A FAMILY AFFAIR:

50 years of dock building heritage on the Lake of Egypt

BY TERRANCE GEESE



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE of his two sons, Brennan and Ryhan Fox, is the goal that keeps David Fox focused each day in the operation of a premiere Lake of Egypt business, Lake of Egypt Docks.

Fox says he credits a deep faith for his opportunity to establish businesses that will provide for the young men.

“God has really guided me in the right direction,” he says, although at times he wondered why various events were unfolding the way they were.

A major example is the dock business.

Pictured above David Fox and family



“I tried buying this business about seven years ago,” he recalls. The owner was not ready to sell. Then, in November 2020, he got a call: “Hey, David, I am ready to sell; are you ready to buy?”

He recalls he was not in a position to say yes, but there was an answer. The dock service had always operated from the marina owned by Jody Perrotto and Micah Merrill, the Egyptian Hills Marina. Fox knew he needed them as allies, and soon they came on board.

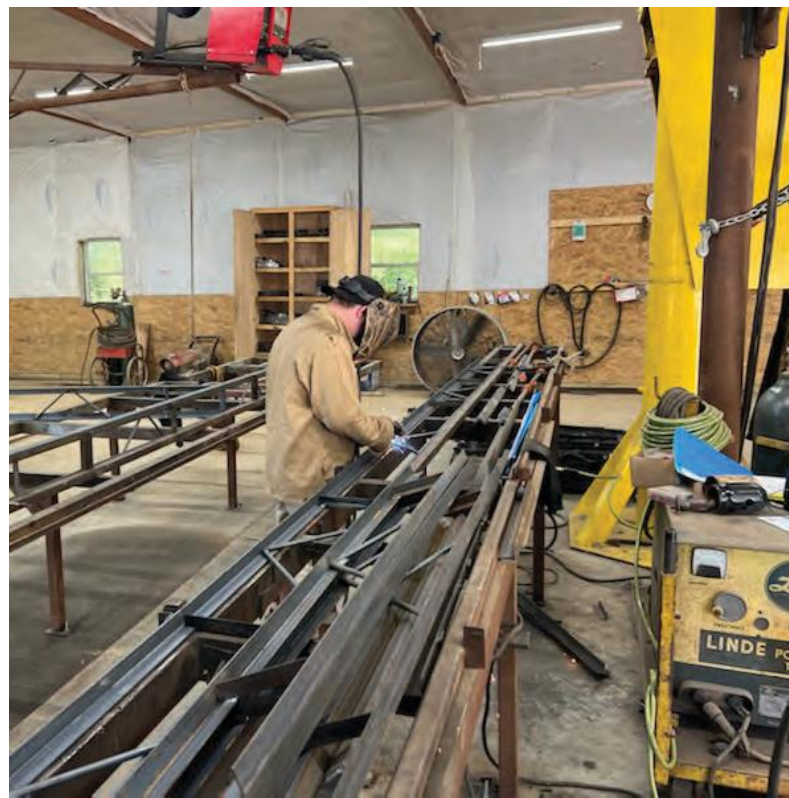
“God was guiding me in the right direction. I prayed about it a lot and I was trying to buy it for six years, but it just was not the right time. A solution was crafted that created an opportunity for the boys and leveraged all of the abilities of the family. We all spend time consulting on building Lake of Egypt Docks into a successful business. Now what it will turn into for both boys, Brennan age 20 and Ryhan 19, is something that will always be in their lives. Business will be good.”

David Fox says his entry into the dock business could not have come at a better time. Lake of Egypt was set to boom, and that boom continues.

“The (current) economy has not affected us at all,” he says. “This lake is very unique. We’ve got lots and lots of people from the St. Louis and Chicago areas, and it has been that way for a long time. People will come down here from St. Louis and spend \$650,000 to \$700,000 on a home because in St. Louis, that is just a basic house.”

That, David says, has kept the real estate business in good shape, and the dock business is the same. Even in the dips of real estate values, Lake of Egypt remains relatively steady, he says.

Interest rates, rising cost of goods and the general state of the economy may have slowed Lake of Egypt real estate a bit in the past few months, but “the price of real estate is still high. The real estate people here will tell you if you want to sell your (Lake of Egypt) house, just contact them. They have a list of five or six people looking for \$500,000-plus homes, and they sell relatively fast.”



David Fox points out Lake of Egypt Docks is a firm built around quality of the product and, while the business is anchored at Lake of Egypt, building your dock is a complicated process, from design to fabrication in Creal Springs to galvanizing in St. Louis.

The firm has been centered around Lake of Egypt for more than 45 years. Now, its services are in a tri-state market.

“We build docks for Belleville, O’Fallon and Perryville, Mo.,” Fox says. “We really are getting into a tri-state area,” he says.

And the firm appears headed toward a quad-state operation. “That is where we want to be. In the next five years, we will probably be looking at Kentucky Lake and being in Indiana and Missouri,” he says. “We build new docks, and everything is



Keith & Amy Becker

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“We will get a call from a customer saying, ‘I need a dock.’

“The sales person, Ryhan (David's youngest), will go out and meet with them. Its size, size of the well (where the boat goes), how many slips do you want and are you going to put pontoons in those slips or fishing boats or ski boats in those slips?”

It all matters when you are getting a custom dock.

“Sales gets things going,” David Fox says. “We offer a lot of options.”

Next, a quote is put together and sent to the customer. When accepted and a deposit is in hand, the material gathered by sales and the customer is sent to the office for a blueprint.

At that point, the family aspect of the business shows its hand.

David’s father, who worked for 40 years at AMAX Coal Company at the Saline-Williamson county line, was a draftsman and engineer for the coal company.



“He helps us out in deciding on the things we can, and can’t, put together,” David says. After the drafting of prints is complete, the work goes to the firm’s fabrication company in Creal Springs.

The dock starts on its way to looking like a complete product. “We create all of these docks in Creal Springs from scratch. The frames will be built, and we put them on a truck and take them to St. Louis to AZZ Galvanizing to be hot-dip galvanized.”

Hot-dip galvanization is a process of coating iron and steel with zinc, which alloys with the surface of the base metal when

immersed in a bath of molten zinc at a temperature of around 842 degrees F.

After the galvanizing, the dock metal work is brought back to Southern Illinois to what David Fox calls the woodshop. Transport of the docks is an almost in-house operation as Fast Fox Courier Service is used. David started that business after his career with Walmart and the firm handles expedited freight.

After the newly galvanized dock arrives at the woodshop, Ray Schmitz begins his magic.



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“Ray has worked for me for about 14 years,” David says. “(The dock) will be fitted for floats and will be covered with whatever the customer has decided,” he says. “It could be treated lumber or composite, which comes in lots of different colors, or concrete. “That’s when Brennan (David’s oldest son) takes over the reins. He handles all of the operations. He will get the dock into the water, get the roof on it.

“He is one-on-one with the customer, letting the customer know where the dock is in the process.”

Once all is complete, the customer makes a final check and Brennan Fox supervises placing the dock at the customer’s location.

Building of the new docks is only half of the business of Lake of Egypt Docks, David Fox says. One of the things that has happened at Lake of Egypt is a transition from a lazy-life body of water to today’s vibrant use of the lake.

“Over the past couple of years, I think COVID-19 drove people to the lakes and camping,” he says. “The lake has become very populated. There are about 21 homes going up on the Peninsula right now and there are about a hundred lakefront lots that are sold. With that population comes more boat traffic. The boat traffic has become so intense on weekends, the boat traffic damages the docks, breaking welds and anchors. Lifts get broken.

“That is the second half of our business,” David Fox says. “Every morning we have seven work barges that leave the marina. They have welders, cutting torches and tools needed for repairs. We go out and do repairs all day long,” he says.

Along with his father and the two sons, an uncle, Scott Fox, also has played a key role in David’s business career and in development of Lake of Egypt Docks.

Scott Fox started working with David in 2008 when Fast Fox was getting its start with one truck. He was a driver, worked on the truck and did sales.

“I probably would not be where I am in the transportation business without him,” David Fox says.

When the dock company entered the picture in 2020, Scott Fox played a big role in revamping the work barges. They needed to be replaced, and he proceeded to build seven new barges.

Now, he is in charge of the safety of the barges and safety of the entire operation.

Each Friday you will find him at the marina with a checklist to assess any problems with the barges, all of the safety factors and devices. Then, he checks the engines and does an all-around check of the seven barges for safety.

Scott’s son, Brian Fox, is the dock company’s lead technician, David Fox points out.

David Fox, a longtime Wal-Mart executive and store manager, has arrived at this point in his life with lots of hard work. The



Pictured above the Lake of Egypt Docks team

son of a coal miner, he grew up in the Garden Heights area of Harrisburg and started work at Walmart in Harrisburg at age 15. But pushing carts was not his only labor. He also worked at McDonald’s, Shoemaker Lumber and, on weekends, washed cars for Buddy Pool Motors.

His Walmart career, during his 20 years with the firm, was meteoric. Promotion after promotion led him to be a division manager with stores in many states.

Illness in the family and missing out on the events of his sons led to his return to Harrisburg as store manager.

“It was the greatest time of my life. I got to move back home,” he says.

He remains proud of the accomplishments of his Saline County crew before his departure from Walmart and building of his “after retirement” businesses.

When he arrived back in Harrisburg, Walmart had not had a profit in 10 years. Walmart annually pays a bonus, a percentage of a store’s profit, and Fox said it was a concept many Harrisburg employees did not know existed.

“One of the proudest things that has ever happened for me, after the first year each employee received a \$900 bonus,” Fox says.

Hard work and business knowledge and inspiring his employees has served both Fox and now, clients of Lake of Egypt Docks, well.

With David’s many years of success in business it’s hard to imagine that Lake of Egypt Docks will not be another chapter in the Fox family’s success stories. ■

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Looking Back

BY DIXIE TERRY

WHEN THE Southern Illinois Power Cooperative opened its newly constructed lake to the public in 1963, a new life-style was begun around the beautiful 92-mile shoreline.

The roads in and around the lake were mostly narrow gravel or even dirt single lane trails, that led to the farms scattered around primitive Johnson and Williamson Counties. It took many years to upgrade those roads to their present state.

As lots were sold, small cottages and cabins were built, mostly for weekenders and vacationers. The McMansions would be built much later. Most of those original structures have been razed or replaced with finer homes.

There was no water or sewer service, with each lot owner making do with outdoor privies and well water, or a direct line from the lake and their own water system.

When word got around, by word-of-mouth, or from ads placed in metropolitan publications, (no Facebook then!) by developers, people arrived in droves to purchase the available lots, many from the St. Louis and northern Illinois areas.

Some of those early purchased lots became the site of tents, campers and rustic housing, before homes could be built.

However, subdivisions began to be developed, with new roads being constructed, and finally, water and sewer services were built, a long story in itself.

For a few years there was very scattered telephone service and since this was long before the arrival of cell phones, city folks could really "get away from it all," after arriving at the lake, where even electricity was unavailable in some areas.

There was no fire protection district in the early days of the lake community development. A volunteer fire department was organized, after a few years, with fundraisers held in the subdivisions around the lake to finance the first equipment and a building on Lake of Egypt Road, which is now used as a storage facility. The so-called "new" Lake of Egypt Fire Protection building was constructed much later.

The Lake of Egypt Association of Property Owners (LEAPO) was organized by the lake's first realtor, Blanche Jones, with a group of residents interested in forming a liaison between the power co-op and those living on the lake. That active organization continues today.

As the development of subdivisions continued, Eagle Point Bay, in Johnson County, became the largest and remains so today. It was originally founded by Inland Development Corporation of Murray, Kentucky.

Rules and regulations by each subdivision varied, and those by the power co-op were made to be followed for the good of all

concerned.

By 1996, a headline in the "Marion Daily Republican" newspaper, proclaimed "Lake Safety in Jeopardy."

"If they don't abide by the laws, they're gonna be off the lake," said Jerry Jones, at a recent LEAPO meeting. Jones, speaking in his capacity as SIPC plant lake supervisor, a newly created position, made it clear that an emphasis of water craft safety was in effect.

"This lake has always been family-oriented, but we can see a change, Jones stated. "We see the problems and I don't have all the answers," but he promised that water safety problems will be turned around.

A concern of many users of the popular recreational lake is the unsafe and illegal operation of the increasing number of jet-skis or personal craft as they are called by the industry.

The lake security patrol has been instructed to "crack down" on operators of water craft, seen driving in an unsafe manner. A new phone number to the power co-op will be announced in the near future said Jones. "Anyone seeing an unsafe handling of water crafts is requested to call.

Jones said first-time offenders are given a warning, but the second time, "they're off the lake for good."

At this time, the SIPC was installing additional buoys and repainting the present ones as part of their upgraded water safety program. The buoys are used to mark shallow water and no-wake areas and would have official Coast Guard markings.

Beginning in October of that year, boat docks in disrepair or in danger of floating into the lake, were to be condemned and the owner forced to dismantle or repair said boat dock.

The Shoreline Agreement, which each property owner is required to sign and pay \$25 annually, for lake use, has also been rewritten, requiring a proof of adequate liability insurance.

And, so it was, in August, 1996, on the beautiful Lake of Egypt. ■



Dixie Terry and her husband lived in Crestwood Estates, on the ski area of the lake, from 1986-2000. At that time she was an active LEAPO member and reported on lake activities and development of the lake, for the Marion Daily Republican and The Southern Illinoisan, as well as other publications.



HOMES & LOTS

NEAR THE LAKE OF EGYPT

HOMES

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\$899,900 3bed 2.5bath 3,703sqft 0.7acre lot.....	1291 Nicklaus Ln, Marion, IL 62959
\$715,000 4bed 3bath 3,344sqft.....	250 Cherry Pt, Goreville, IL 62939
\$680,000 5bed 4bath 3,216sqft 8,400sqft lot.....	175 Oak Cir, Goreville, IL 62939
\$490,000 3bed 2bath 2,500sqft 0.77acre lot.....	11606 Trevino Ln, Marion, IL 62959
\$470,000 4bed 2bath 2,583sqft 0.36acre lot.....	645 Pyramid Ln, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$465,000 5bed 5.5bath 4,728sqft.....	800 S Lakeshore Dr, Goreville, IL 62939
\$379,000 4bed 2.5bath 2,520sqft 0.42acre lot.....	12138 Laguna Dr, Marion, IL 62959
\$371,999 3bed 2bath 2,230sqft 0.48acre lot.....	410 Wagon Creek Loop, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$369,000 3bed 2bath 2,640sqft 0.4acre lot.....	185 Faith Dr, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$324,900 3bed 2bath 2,141sqft 0.27acre lot.....	681 Rosetta Way, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$299,000 3bed 2bath 1,400sqft 1.39acre lot.....	000 Marina Cir, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$299,000 3bed 2bath 1,400sqft.....	3660 Parish Ln, Goreville, IL 62939
\$299,000 3bed 2bath 1,400sqft.....	3680 Parish Ln, Goreville, IL 62939
\$279,900 4bed 2bath 2,592sqft 0.4acre lot.....	13360 Lakeview Dr, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$115,000 3bed 2bath 1,360sqft 1.12acre lot.....	2095 Eagle Point Bay Rd, Goreville, IL 62939
\$99,900 3bed 2bath 1,568sqft 8,000sqft lot.....	45 Scott Dr, Goreville, IL 62939
\$53,500 2bed 2bath 980sqft 0.34acre lot.....	230 Birch Tree Dr, Goreville, IL 62939



LOTS / LAND

\$250,000 0.6acre lot.....	000 Cut off Rd, Tunnel Hill, IL 62972
\$250,000 0.6acre lot.....	Cut off Rd Lots 4 & 5 and 6, Tunnel Hill, IL 62972
\$90,000 1.03acre lot.....	Parrish Ridge Rd Lot 238, Goreville, IL 62939
\$89,800.....	.30 Water Front Dr, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$87,500.....	.0000 Mark Dr, Goreville, IL 62939
\$82,900.....	180 S Lakeshore Dr, Goreville, IL 62939
\$79,900 1.12acre lot.....	Rocky Pt Lot 279, Goreville, IL 62939
\$61,500 1.03acre lot.....	Parrish Ridge Ln Lot 244, Goreville, IL 62939
\$59,000 1.03acre lot.....	Parrish Ridge Rd Lot 258, Goreville, IL 62939
\$58,000.....	.Egyptian Hills Dr, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$49,900 0.8acre lot.....	000 Egypt Shores Rd, Creal Springs, IL 62922
\$44,900 1.03acre lot.....	Deer Ln Lot 108, Goreville, IL 62939
\$38,700 0.38acre lot.....	.Saluki Way Lot 75, Goreville, IL 62939
\$29,900 2.94acre lot.....	Parrish Ridge Rd Lot 405, Goreville, IL 62939
\$25,000.....	.Bermuda Ln Lot 47, Marion, IL 62959
\$24,900 0.25acre lot.....	Luxor Landing Ln Lot 31, Goreville, IL 62939
\$20,000 0.56acre lot.....	520 Timberwolf Dr, Goreville, IL 62939
\$19,999 1.01acre lot.....	480 Saluki Way, Goreville, IL 62939
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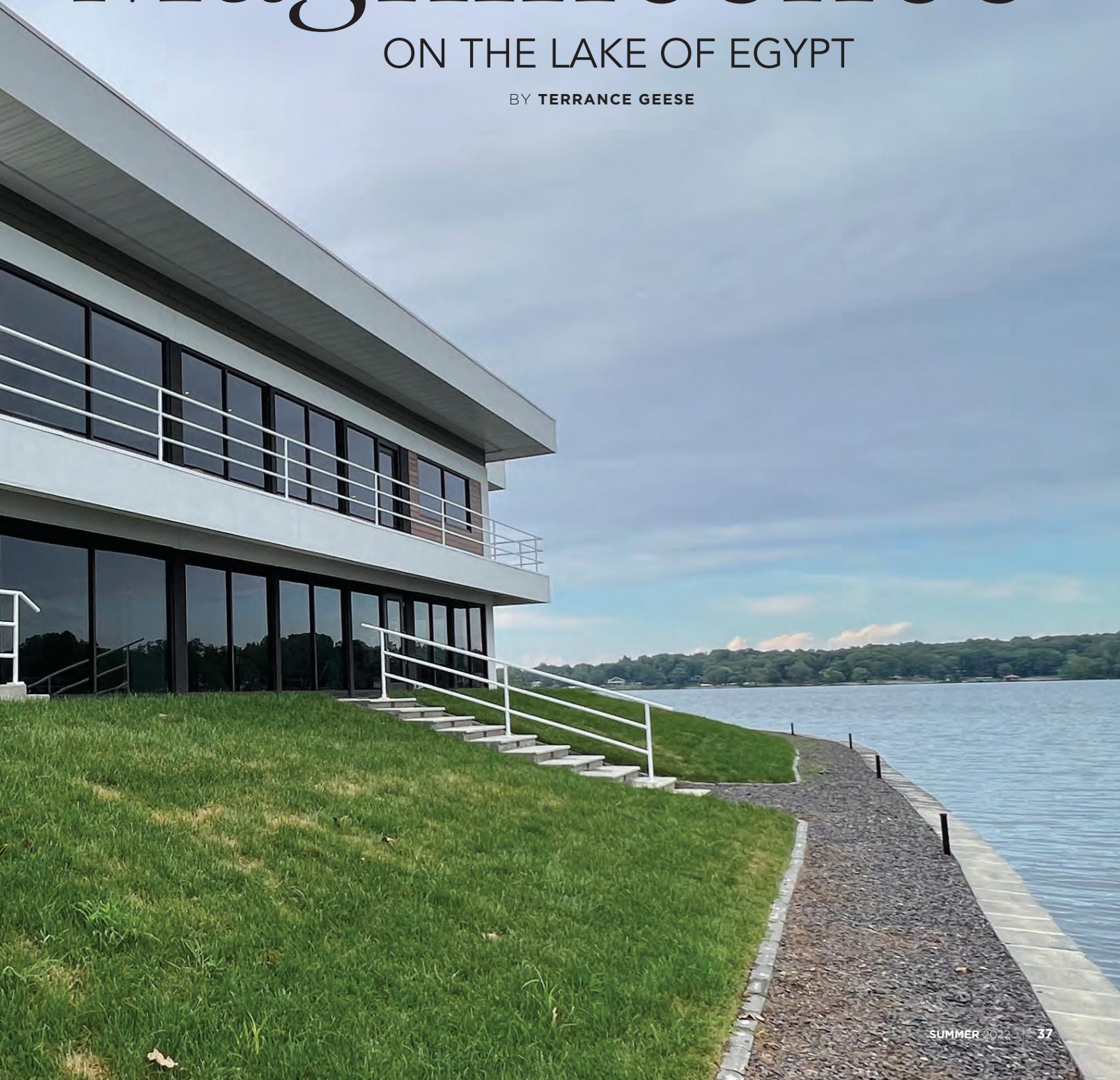
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ON THE LAKE OF EGYPT

BY TERRANCE GEESE





CHUCK AND SUTTON DECKER had lived for many years only a stones-throw from Lake of Egypt, yet it took COVID-19 to acquaint them with the lake.

The Murphysboro couple is among the many who thought Lake of Egypt is a housing area, not a recreation mecca. They learned the lake area is both, and they found they loved the location.

Avid fans of the water and lakes, Chuck and Sutton Decker had never been on Lake of Egypt until COVID arrived.

“We always take our family on a vacation,” Chuck says. “Normally that had been to Florida, a cruise ship or something similar,” he says. In 2020, the Deckers had scheduled a vacation for Table Rock Lake near Branson, Mo., but because of COVID, plans were canceled.

Chuck says he later was complaining to a friend that he had to cancel the family vacation plans. The friend asked if he had ever heard of Lake of Egypt. Of course, Chuck had heard the name, but had never realized what the lake had to offer. “We had lived (in the area) 40 years, but we never had visited Lake of Egypt,”

Chuck says, and that was despite the fact the family had boated all their lives. However, “we sail, and this is not a sailing lake,” he says. The sailing had been at Crab Orchard Lake, which has a bigger, wider main body of water. The couple had started sailing right after their return to Murphysboro from law school, he recalls.

The friend referred him to Micah Merrill of The Resort at Egyptian Hills saying, “He has some nice little cabins down there.”

“Out of desperation, I called Micah and we brought the family down,” Chuck says. “We spent a four-day weekend on the lake, and we said, “This is very nice, and so close to home.”

The Deckers were so impressed, they asked Merrill to help them find a pontoon boat to purchase, and they soon began their rapid romance with the lake that culminated in the birth of one of the lake’s most talked about homes.

While on their new pontoon boat, the Deckers happened upon a lakefront lot with a weather-beaten “for sale” sign. Within about a month, they had become owners of a pontoon boat and a







lakefront lot at Lake of Egypt.

“We didn’t know anything about (the lot), but we absolutely fell in love with the place,” he says.

Had the Deckers talked to long-time lake dwellers, they most probably would have been told they just bought an impossible lot.

Sure, it did have lots of lakefront, but the lot was very long and narrow with a long shoreline. The shoreline goes from the point several hundred feet further to the next lot, Decker says. “There was only a small, narrow place on the north end to put something,” he says. “It presented a real challenge to come up with a structure that would fit.

“We have always liked a more contemporary feeling. We were out on the pontoon boat just looking at the lot. I sketched the house out; what I thought would go on the lot,” Chuck recalls, and the completed home “pretty much looks like the sketch.”

Constructing the new home was not without a lot of stress-filled moments.



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The Deckers knew the point was rocky, but they thought it was shale, and it was, to a point. At about 5 or 6 feet, “we hit absolute, solid stone,” Chuck says.

There were no breaks in the stone; no fissures. Just stone. Construction was at a halt until a 30-foot track hoe with a huge jackhammer began work on the stone.

“The hammer had a stinger about 4 feet long. We had him in there for about five weeks, breaking up that rock a little bit at a time. That slowed us considerably,” Chuck says. Then, with COVID, “We had horrible supply chain issues. Originally, the design called for the house to be concrete and steel. We couldn’t get a delivery date for the steel and we couldn’t get a price,” he says. “So, I switched the design.”

The Deckers moved to a panel system, SIPs panels, that are very heavily insulated, supported by steel beams. When the panels are put together, Chuck says, they have a lot of structural

integrity.

Chuck says the construction is attracting attention at the lake because “you don’t see anything like this, especially around here.”

While the method of construction is a familiar one in parts of the country, the Deckers believe their home is a bit different.

“I used the same materials, I just did it a little differently,” he says. “We tried to make a balance so it would sit well on the lot.” That, he says, is made easy because the site is so beautiful.

The home is different, so the result is “you either like it or you don’t,” Chuck says.

Chuck says he was “kind of bossy” during the construction but that wasn’t a problem because a friend of more than 40 years, Dan Black of Black and Sons Construction of Mt. Vernon, was the general contractor.

“I had the good fortune to build a house with a good friend,” Chuck says. “It is as much his house as ours,” he says, explaining

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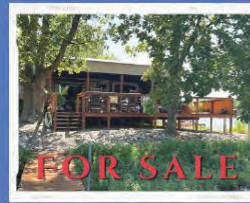
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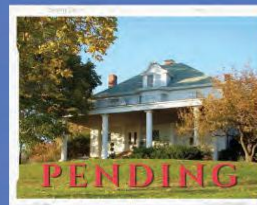
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he had the ideas, but Black, who is an engineer, made it work. “I couldn’t have done it without him.”

The interior of the house is dictated by the structure, Chuck says. “It is as open as we could make it, with visual dividing. There is a lot of glass on the lake side,” he says. “We wanted to make views of the lake the main part of the interior of the house. We tried to orient the house so we could see the water from wherever we sat.”

The Deckers say one of their favorite times is looking toward the lake in the moonlight. They proclaim that view to be “just spectacular.”

When you are on the water, “You can see wonderful, beautiful homes around the lake, and I like to look at those homes,” Chuck says.

Along with their love of the lake, the Deckers also collect classic cars, and they win national honors for some of their 12 cars. Chuck is hard-pressed to define any one car as a favorite. “I love every car we have,” he says. “I like cars that are rare and, in my opinion, are beautiful or interesting in one form or another. I want them to be different. Just like the house, I want them to be unique,” he says.

The desire for uniqueness extends throughout the house. Chuck designed various metal additions and Black brought them to reality in a metal manufacturing firm he owns. As an example, “We designed a railing system. I just drew it out for him. He could construct them and he could install them,” Chuck says. The house has some unique features (because of the combination of owner and contractor working together.) “I might have been able to think them up, but I could not get them in place without his help,” Chuck says.

Completion date for the home was partially dictated by a son’s busy schedule. A lawyer in Atlanta, he scheduled a vacation and plans were made months in advance by the Deckers for a moving date of June 13 of this year, just before the vacation. “I called the contractor and said, ‘the moving vans are coming June 13.’







“Somehow they got it ready. They were still working as we moved in. It worked out fine. We moved in, and they helped us.”

For the Deckers, the building of a unique lake home was an adventure. There were bright highlights, and frustration for months of time at things they could not control due to the effects of COVID. Now with the home complete, they enjoy their time on their point at Lake of Egypt. ■



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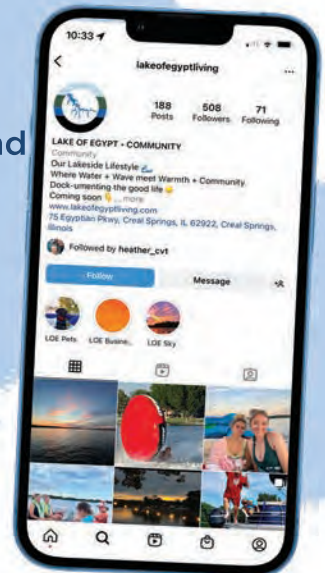
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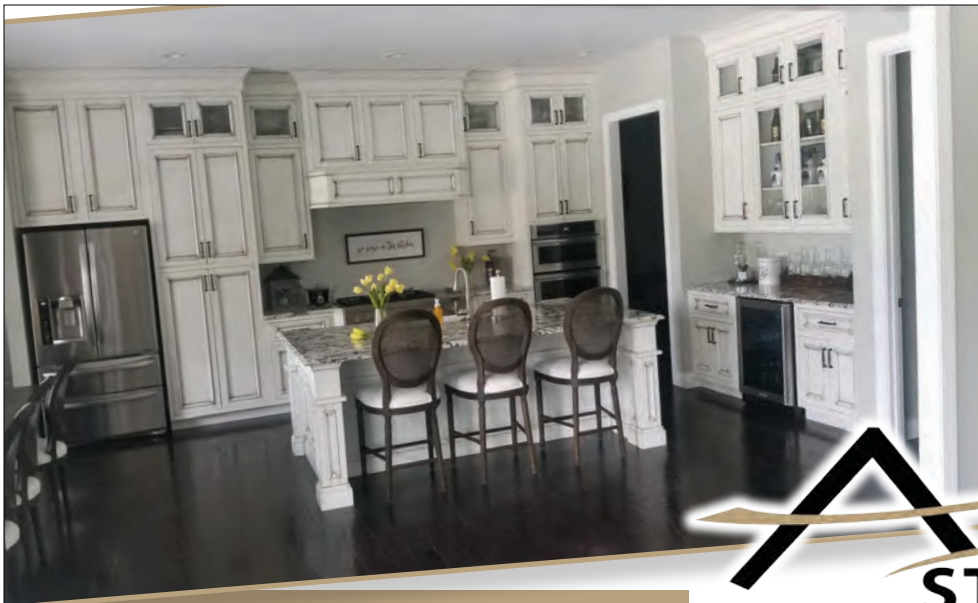
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Puff pastry, *pretty please*

BY VICTORIA SPREHE



THERE IS ONE ITEM that you will always find in my freezer... puff pastry. Or, as the French call it.... *pâte feuilletée*. Puff pastry is a laminated dough that is basically dough layered with butter. It is very similar to a croissant dough except puff pastry does not contain yeast, sugar, or milk. Puff pastry is very flaky, very light and very versatile satisfying both sweet and savory palates.

You can certainly make your own puff pastry if you have lots of time, lots of muscle, lots of butter and a working environment that is ultimately 60 to 68 degrees. If you Google how to make puff pastry you will see all sorts of short cuts: rough puff and quick puff, i.e. My advice is that if you are not going to do it the Julia Child way and you are going to take a short cut you should just use the pre-made, frozen puff pastry. Although you don't get the gratification of creating your own the frozen puff pastry is reliable, quick, and easy. For the following recipes, we will be using pre-made, frozen puff pastry.

Poached Pears in Puff Pastry

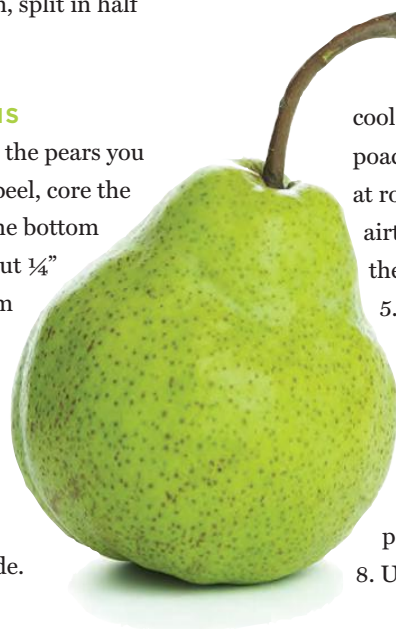
There is just something about the shape of a pear that makes wrapping it up in puff pastry and baking it to a beautiful, golden brown that seems so elegant. Poaching pears is super easy and there are a ton of different and delicious concoctions you can poach them in. This recipe is for poaching in a sweet vanilla cinnamon liquid, but you can use port, white wine, red wine, etc. Spices like cinnamon, cloves, star of anise and cardamom are some great flavors to experiment with too.

INGREDIENTS

- 4 Bosc pears (firm)
- 5 cups water
- 1 ½ cups granulated sugar
- 3 Tablespoons honey
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 1 vanilla bean, split in half
- Puff pastry

DIRECTIONS

1. To prepare the pears you will need to peel, core the pears from the bottom and slice about ¼" off the bottom to create a stable flat bottom. Leave the stems intact if possible. Set them aside.



2. In a sauce pot bring the water, sugar, honey, cinnamon sticks, and vanilla bean to a boil and reduce to a simmer.
3. Submerge pears on their side and cover with a cartouche (parchment paper lid). Simmer for about 15 minutes turning the pears occasionally assuring even cooking and poaching until they are tender (do not overcook).
4. Remove pot from the heat and cool pears to room temperature in the poaching liquid. Once the pears are at room temperature put them into an airtight container and pour liquid over the top. Store in the fridge overnight.
5. Make egg wash by combining 1 large egg, two teaspoons of heavy cream or whole milk and a pinch of salt.
6. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
7. Remove the pears from the chilled poaching liquid. Place pears on paper towels to dry and set aside.
8. Unfold the thawed puff pastry sheet

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1. A Completed Application

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2. A Government Issued I. D.

We need a copy of your Government Issued I.D. Your driver's license will work perfectly!

3. Your Pay Stubs

To prove your income, we need your most recent pay stubs covering the last 30 days.

4. Tax Returns

We will need copies of the past two years of your tax returns.

5. Bank Statements

A complete copy of the past two month's bank statements. We need every page, front and back, even if there is nothing on the last page.

6. Other Proof of Income

If you receive a W-2, we will need copies of your last two year's W-2s. If you receive a 1099, we will need your last year's 1099 Statement. If you receive Social Security, we will need last year's Social Security Award Letter.

7. Proof of Down Payment

This means we need you to show us where the money for your down payment is coming from. This could be your bank statement, the proceeds from the sale of your current home, a gift letter, etc.

8. Insurance

In order to close, you will need to have insurance in place for your new home. Start shopping early!

9. No New Debt

During your new home purchasing process, DO NOT take on any new debt. This is a mistake buyers often make that can change everything for them.



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- (s). Cut out four squares to cover the bottom of the pears. Slice remaining sheet into ½“ wide strips.
9. Place pears on a parchment lined baking sheet and brush them with egg wash. Encase the bottom of the pear with a square of puff pastry.
10. Beginning at the bottom of the pear, wrap puff pastry strips around the pear, leaving the stem exposed. Repeat with remaining pears.
11. Lightly brush puff pastry exterior with egg wash and sprinkle with coarse sugar. Bake for 30 minutes or until puff pastry is golden brown.
12. Allow to cool for about at least 5 or 6 minutes. Transfer to a serving plate and garnish. Some suggestions would be a drizzle of honey, a scoop of ice cream, a dollop of vanilla mascarpone cream or a dusting of powdered sugar.

Breakfast Strudel

Makes 2 Strudels

You can prepare this strudel the night before and pop it in the oven in the morning for a trouble-free breakfast or brunch. You can get creative with the fillings but don't forget the orange juice. The vitamin C will preserve the color of the eggs. Also, be sure the scramble eggs are cooked just until set because they will cook further when the strudel is baked.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box puff pastry (2 sheets)
- 2 Tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 cup frozen cubed hash brown potatoes
- 1 cup red or green (or both) bell peppers, seeded, diced
- ½ cup onion, diced
- 1 cup smoked ham, diced
- 11 eggs
- 2 Tablespoons minced fresh chives
- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tablespoons orange juice



- 1 egg
- 1 Tablespoon water
- 2 Tablespoon Parmesan, shredded

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 450 degrees F.
1. Thaw pastry according to package directions, about 30 minutes.
 2. Melt butter in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat.
 3. Add potatoes and sauté 5 minutes.
 4. Stir in bell pepper and onion; sauté 3 minutes, then add ham.
 5. Whisk eggs and chives together. Add them to the pan and scramble just until set. Season with salt and pepper.
 6. Remove the egg mixture from the heat. Stir in the cream cheese and juice until blended. Refrigerate eggs while rolling the pastry.
 7. Unfold a pastry sheet on a work surface that's been lightly dusted with flour. Roll pastry to 12 x 10", then transfer to a piece of parchment cut to fit a baking sheet. Cut ¾"-1" wide x 3" long strips on each side of the pastry sheet leaving a 4" section down the middle. Spread half the egg mixture down the middle and create a braid with the side strips. (Refer to picture.) Repeat with remaining pastry and egg filling. Transfer parchment and strudels to baking sheets.
 8. Combine the remaining egg and water, brush over top of strudels and sprinkle with shredded parmesan cheese. (At this

point, strudels may be wrapped in plastic and chilled overnight.) Bake strudels for 20-30 minutes, or until golden. Let cool 5 minutes before slicing.

Mushroom, Herb, and Gruyere Cheese Mini Turnovers

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Tablespoon olive oil
- 1 Tablespoon butter
- 2 cups finely chopped Cremini mushrooms
- 1 onion, chopped finely
- ¾ teaspoon dried thyme
- ¾ teaspoon dried rosemary
- salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
- 2 Tablespoons flour
- ½ cup heavy cream
- 3 Tablespoons Chardonnay
- 1/3 cup shredded Gruyere cheese
- 2 sheets of puff pastry, thawed (12 x 12 inches)
- 1 egg + 1 Tablespoon water whisked together

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat your oven to 400 degrees.
2. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Set aside.
3. In a skillet, heat up the olive oil and butter.
4. Add the chopped onion and sauté for about 1 minute.
5. Add the chopped mushrooms, thyme, rosemary and salt and pepper.
6. Cook until the onions and mushrooms are tender and there is no moisture left from the mushrooms.
7. Then stir in the flour and cook for 1 minute.
8. Stir in the chardonnay and cream.
9. Remove from the heat and stir in the Gruyere cheese. Set aside.

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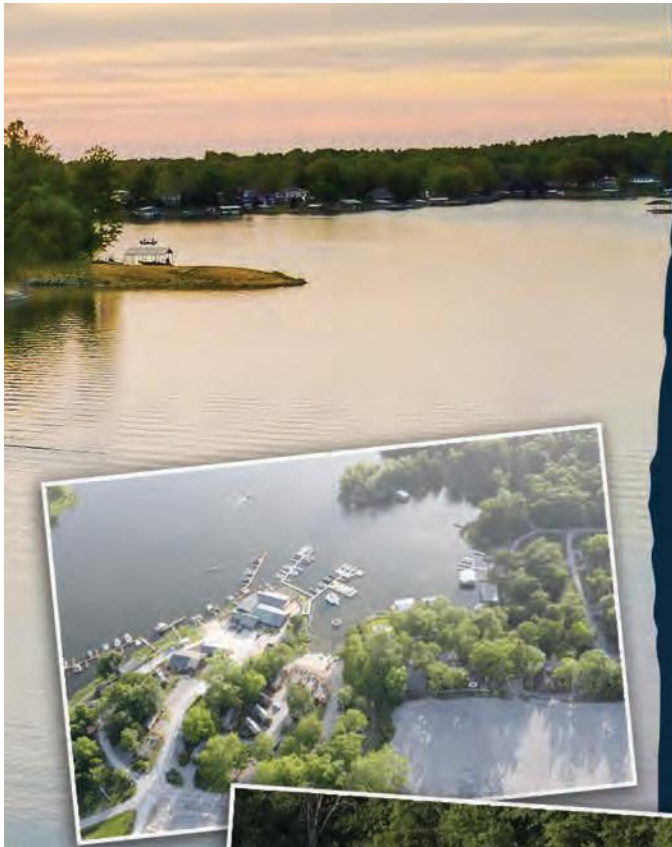
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10. On a lightly floured counter, lay out the puff pastry.
11. Using a pizza cutter, cut the pastry into 16 pieces.
12. Scoop about 1 tablespoon of the mushroom mixture into the center of the dough (do not overfill or they will leak).
13. Then fold the dough in half and then press the edges to seal them.
14. Place the mini turnovers onto your prepared baking sheet, at least 1-inch apart.
15. Brush the sealed edges and tops of the turnovers with the egg mixture.
16. Repeat the above with the other pastry sheet and remaining mushroom mixture.
17. Bake each tray for about 15-20 minutes or until the tops are golden brown.

Note: Sometimes “Cremini” mushrooms are hard to find, especially

in southern Illinois so this information might help. “Baby bellas” are Cremini mushrooms. If you can’t find baby bella you can substitute shitake mushroom (good luck finding that one, too) and if all else fails just use the all-too-common white mushroom.

Hard to bake too far in advance or the bottoms become soggy.

MORE PUFF PASTRY IDEAS

1. Cut them in shapes, dip the top in melted chocolate and add sprinkles for the kiddos.
2. Make your own homemade toaster strudel.
3. Make turnovers using Nutella, fruit filling, custard, artichoke dip, i.e.
4. Cut strips, sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon, twist and bake for a quick sweet snack. ■



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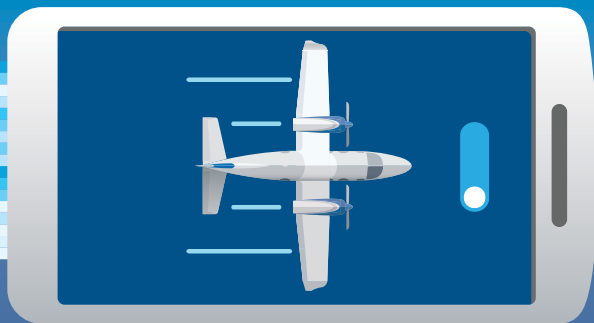
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Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31			32	33	34	
35			36				37				38			
39					40					41				
42				43					44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60					61				62		63			
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

CLUES ACROSS

- Female parent
- NY city
- Israeli diplomat Abba
- Surrounded by
- Car part
- Simple aquatic plant
- Tough skin of fruit
- Finnish lake
- Composition
- Very willing
- One and only
- Cluster cups
- Famed Hollywood director
- Score perfectly
- Important lawyers
- Undivided
- Part of the foot
- Spun by spiders
- Married woman
- Reagan's Secretary of State
- Instruments
- The A-Team drove one
- Short-tailed marten
- Oil organization
- Predecessor to the EU
- "Hotel California" rockers
- Color at the end of the spectrum
- Actress Ryan
- Digital audiotape
- Expression of creative skill
- Scientific instrument
- Dog ___: marked for later
- Israeli city ___ Aviv
- Fencing sword
- Turkish title
- Wise individuals
- Cold wind
- Popular type of shoe
- The territory occupied by a nation
- Tattle
- Chop up
- Actress Zellweger
- Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

- Female of a horse
- Bowfin
- Chinese dynasty
- Small venomous snake
- Global news agency
- Common fractions
- American state
- Tired
- Boxing's GOAT
- Made less severe
- A group of countries in special alliance
- God of fire (Hindu)
- Northeast Indian ethnic group
- Anchor ropes
- They ___
- Apprehend
- Autonomic nervous system
- A theatrical performer
- 2-door car
- Partner to flowed
- Pair of small hand drums
- Former Houston footballer
- Discharge
- Former women's branch of the military
- Partner to cheese
- Witch
- Live in a dull way
- Satisfies
- Snakelike fish
- Consume
- Type of student
- Erase
- Instruct
- Girl's given name
- Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- Every one of two or more things
- Indian city
- Greek letters
- Weapon
- Geological times
- Cycle in physics
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Witness

Sudoku

			2		4	8		
	4	6		8				5
				7	5	1		
4	9			2	7	6	1	
3			9					4
	5					7		8
			8	4				
8	7					4	6	2
9	2					3		1

To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order using the numeric clues provided.



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YOUR *Spa* RETREAT AWAITS!

BY ANGELA ROWE, DDCD

WE ARE TOLD kitchens and bathrooms are what sell a house, but what if you aren't planning to sell? Perhaps it is time to remodel your bathroom to create the spa retreat of your dreams.

First consider the footprint of the space you have available. Depending on the age of the home, you might need to consider adding square footage to create your master retreat. Some possible ways to gain square footage are by taking it from another area of the home, taking it from the master bedroom, or adding onto the home. If your home was built 20 to 30 years ago, it probably has a large, jetted tub. By replacing the large tub that was likely built-in with a modern free-standing tub, you will likely gain valuable space.

The usable space you can achieve will determine if a double vanity is possible and if a linen closet and additional storage space can be added. If your space is limited and you have a linen

closet in the hallway or another bathroom, you might forgo these options for space for a separate shower and tub.

Next are finishes which can be clean and sleek or textural and natural and everything in between. Part of this decision process is the rest of your home décor and your personal preferences. You can still have a modern, updated bathroom while keeping it traditional if that is your style, or switch things up to a more modern twist. If contemporary is your style, go all out with sleek, minimalism.

As mentioned previously, tubs have gone through a big transformation over the last couple of decades. The free-standing tub is today's preference. They can be any style from traditional to contemporary, white to bold colors. The faucet can be either deck mounted or free standing (floor mounted). The deck mounted faucets are going to be less expensive and require



less space.

For the most luxurious shower, add body jets and multiple shower heads. Not everyone likes that much spray, so that is a personal decision. Most commonly, shower walls will be tile, but solid surface is another choice. A built-in bench or seat is a nice touch, especially as we age.

For the sink or basin, there are undermount or over-counter, also referred to as a vessel sink. The over-counter basins have been hugely popular and come in every design style possible. The undermount are less showy but can make face washing and shaving easier for some.

And lastly, flooring can be tricky. You will obviously want flooring that is waterproof or at least water resistant. Ceramic or porcelain tile is a natural choice along with LVT (Luxury Vinyl Tile.) Although tile can be cold under foot, if it is within budget, add radiant floor heat. Flooring to avoid would be hardwood, laminate, and wall-to-wall carpet. If you had your heart set on hardwood, consider one of the plank tiles or LVT that mimic hardwood.

Your home can have the spa retreat of your dreams with planning, budget, and creativity. ■



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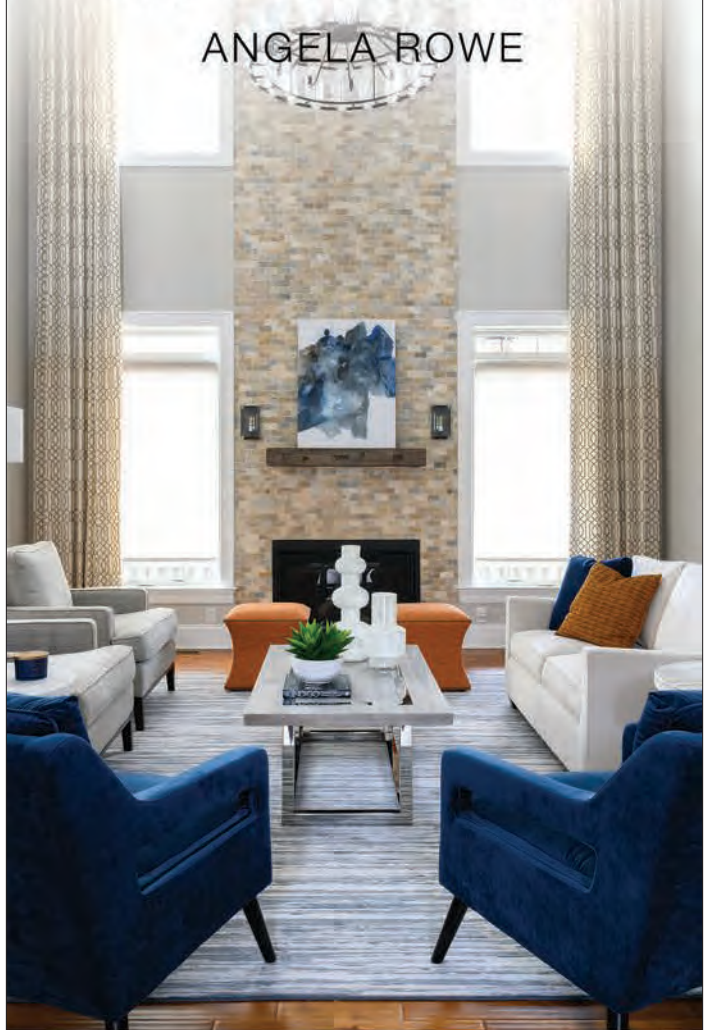


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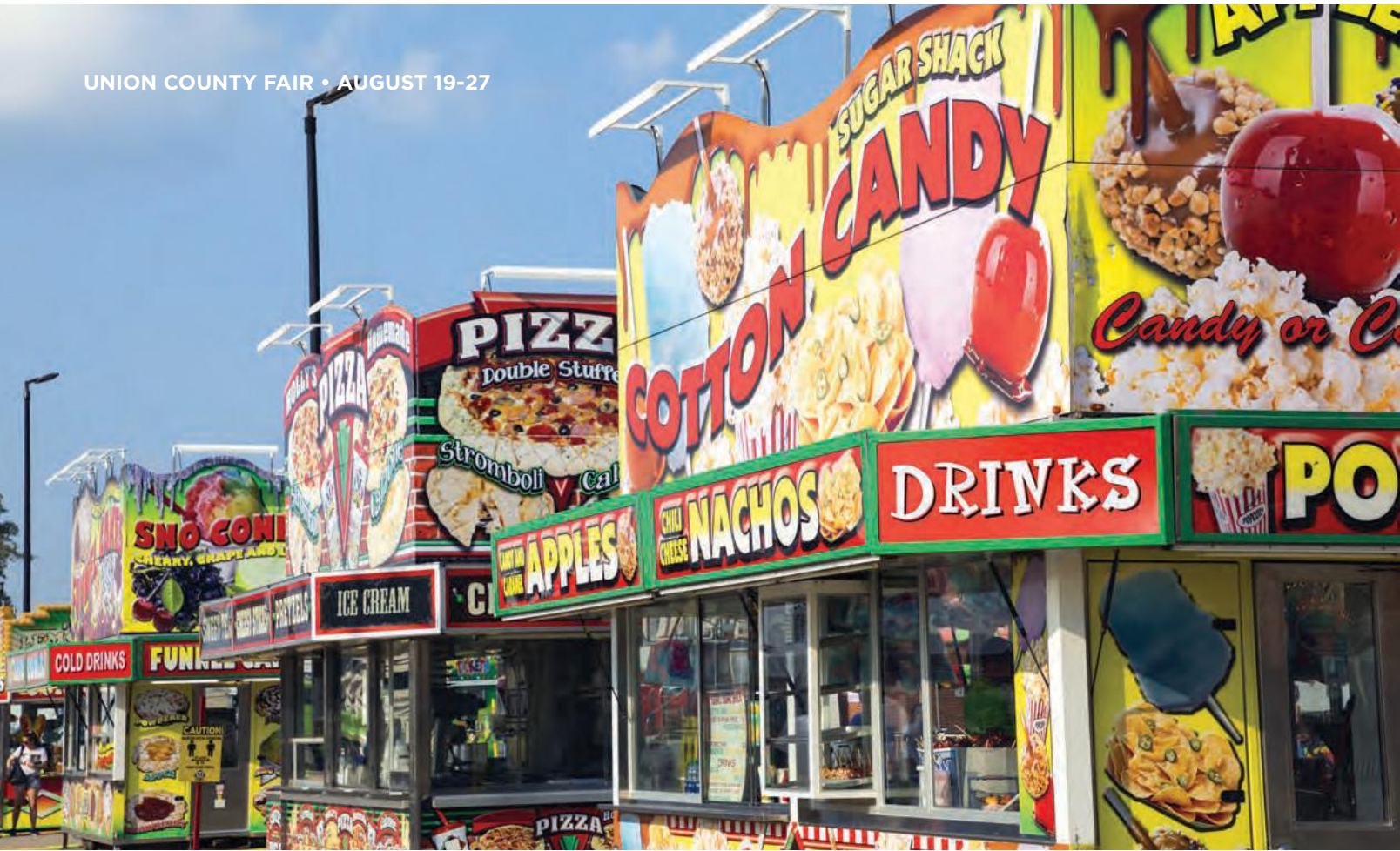


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2022 • SUMMER / FALL

Calendar of Events

Union County Fair

Aug 19 to Aug 27

Fairgrounds

Anna IL 62906

618-833-8923

Carnival games, rides, farm and agriculture exhibits, rodeos, horse racing and tractor pulls, Queen contest, demolition derby and other entertainment in the grand stand.

Blue Sky Nights

Aug 26

7:00pm - 9:30pm

3150 South Rocky Comfort Road

Makanda IL 62958

618-995-9463

Enjoy a Starry, Starry Night at Blue Sky Vineyard. A relaxing evening celebrating wine, food, music and more in the company of good friends at our Tuscan Sun Pavilion. Please be sure to purchase your tickets online.

Suzu Boguss

Aug 27

800 Tower Square Plaza

Marion IL 62959

618-997-4030

Don't miss this family friendly show and use this opportunity to share and introduce this wonderful music to your

friends, children and grandchildren. Suzu Boguss is one of the most acclaimed female country singers of the late '80s and '90s, who was able to balance country tradition with a contemporary mainstream sensibility, thereby satisfying both audiences and critics.

Shawnee Hills 100

Aug 27 to Aug 28

3760 Ondessonk Rd.

Ozark IL 62972

618-695-2489

There will be miles and miles of great running through the beautiful Shawnee National Forest, the best food, a plethora

of free beverages, and swag to give away. We will also have the kids Fun Run, vendor expo, and the totally rustic Camp O cabins.

Camp Ondessonk, in the heart of the Shawnee National Forest, will play host to the Shawnee Hills 100 race. The runners will get to explore some of the most stunning and extraordinary rock formations and waters falls that Shawnee National Forest is well known for. The course will take you deep into the sandstone canyon systems of Southern Illinois' Shawnee Hills Natural Division while traversing Jackson Hollow, the Bay Creek Reservoir and several waterfalls along the course, including Pakentuck Falls (the tallest free-falling waterfall in Illinois), Jackson Falls, Horseshoe Falls, and Cedar Falls; along with some inspiring views from Salomon's Ridge.

Murphysboro Cruise Nights

Apr 02 to Sep 03

4:00pm - 8:00pm

1203 Walnut Street

Murphysboro IL 62966

618-319-2592

Spring and summer Car Shows.

Registration and Admission is always free. Various themes each month with Food and drink available. Parking begins at Courthouse and goes West to 13th St.

Nitro Circus: Good, Bad & Rad at Rent One Park

Sep 04

6:00pm - 11:00pm

1000 Miners Drive

Marion IL 62959

618-998-8499

Nitro Circus is defined by good, bad, and rad. Since its inception, this wild crew of action sports heroes has traveled the globe, fusing the world's first tricks, bone-crushing fails and comedic moments to create not just a show, but an attitude.

15th Annual Midwest LSA Expo

CEDARHURST ART & CRAFT FAIR • SEPT 9-11



Sep 08 to Sep 10

9:30am - 4:00pm

100 Aviation Dr.

Mount Vernon IL 62864

618-242-7016

Midwest LSA Expo. Inc. specifically created the event to educate aviators about all facets related to the LSA industry including the many different aircraft types, available engines, and LSA performance; promote the sale of LSA's, the use of LSA aircraft for flight training and in rental fleets; and promote economic development in the southern Illinois region.

Carterville Free Fair

Sep 08 to Sep 10

7:00pm - 10:00pm

Cannon Drive

Carterville IL 62918

618-525-8304

This annual event, presented by the Carterville Lions/Lioness Club, is held on Labor Day weekend and includes a Twilight 5K run, pageant, parade, carnival, games, free entertainment, food, and much more. Come see the Ping-Pong Avalanche and the big wheel races!

Cedarhurst Art & Craft Fair

Sep 09 to Sep 11

2600 Richview Rd.

Mount Vernon IL 62864

618-242-1236

Join us the weekend after Labor Day on the picturesque grounds at Cedarhurst Center for the Arts where the Fair attracts approximately 5 to 7,000 visitors. Our Fair is supported by the City of Mt. Vernon, the Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau, plus regional, enthusiastic communities. We invite you to be a part of the weekend festival as we celebrate the finest in American hand-made craftsmanship. Our jury committee is looking for quality artisans in a variety of mediums. In addition to traditional artists and crafters, we welcome applications from Indie crafters, DIY crafters, and those with a unique or unconventional sense of aesthetics.

Veterans On Parade

Sep 10

10:00am - 12:00pm

Main Street Marion

Marion IL 62959

618-993-3379

Marion proudly presents a parade to honor all Southern Illinois veterans. Bands will march & perform plus floats and over 1000 veterans from all branches of service will ride or



SUPER CITY BREW FEST • SEPT 10

march. Entertainment and food at the Fairgrounds along with a memorial ceremony. The annual Veterans on Parade is being held to honor all the men and women veterans throughout Southern Illinois, who have ever served our country in both war and peacetime. For more information email etdvital1@mchsi.com

Riverside Art, Wine & Blues Festival

Sep 10

12:00pm - 8:00pm

Riverside Park, 2610 W. Riverside Park Rd.

Murphysboro IL 62966

618-684-6421

Biggest little Blues Festival in the Midwest, with multiple Illinois wineries, Fine Arts Vendors, Food and Music. Held

in the BBQ capital of Illinois, sample some award winning BBQ. Always the first Saturday after Labor Day and sponsored by Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce.

Super City Brew Fest

Sep 10

5:00pm - 10:00pm

100 Front St

Metropolis IL 62960

618-524-5025

From hop heads, to cider sippers, to grape gulpers, the Super City Brew Fest is an adult beverage festival in Metropolis IL.

The event will take place on September 10th, 2022 at Harrah's Metropolis.

Enjoy an evening of seasonal selections from some of your favorite breweries

and vendors new to you. There will be two different ticket options for General Admission and VIP. The fantastic evening will end with a live concert.

Fall Farm Crawl

Sep 10 to Sep 11

1:00pm - 6:00pm

8151 Illinois 127

Alto Pass IL 62905

618-529-3533

A detailed Farm Crawl map and guide will be provided by those who sign up. Purchase a car pass that admits everyone in the vehicle to visit the farms. By visiting the farms of your choice, you can learn first-hand about the various sustainable farming techniques our local farmers use to grow their fruits and vegetables. Subjects could include crop

rotation, cover crops, insect and weed control, composting and more. This is also a great chance to get to meet local family farmers face-to-face.

The tour includes a wide diversity of growers, including those who produce a variety of fruits, specialty herbs and vegetables; shiitake and oyster mushrooms; as well as chickens, goats and livestock. Other farms feature hops for brewing frosty beverages as well as grapes for our local wines. Produce will be available for purchase at some farms. Beverages and prepared food will be available.

James Gregory

Sep 14

7:00pm - 10:00pm

800 Tower Square Plaza

Marion IL 62959

618-997-4030

For decades, the unforgettable caricature of veteran comedian James Gregory has stood grinning; his shirt untucked, his arms outstretched, a carefree welcome to a down-home, hilarious comedy experience. It's storytelling at its best. The trademark caricature is the essence of humorist James Gregory's comedy: rib-tickling reflections on life from the front porch. The James Gregory show turns the clock back to a time when life was simpler; to a better time, before the death of common sense; a time when people sat on the front porch and actually talked to each other without a cell phone in their ear.

James' success, like his comedy, is the direct result of the values he grew up with. And now, twenty-something years later, it is this unique brand of humor that packs the crowds into his sold-out shows. The absence of vulgarity sets James apart and his stories are carefully crafted art. "I have lived long enough to know people, know life", Gregory reflects. "My comedy is based on my life experiences. It's real, it's funny and the audience loves it. That's



FALL FARM CRAWL • SEPT 10-11

why I'm still in business."

Shrimp Festival

Sep 17

Pope County Courthouse Lawn

Golconda IL 62938

618-683-6246

A "Shrimp Festival" may sound like a crazy celebration in a quaint river town in Southern Illinois but it is one you don't want to miss! No, you won't find shrimp in the Ohio River, but what we do have are local and sustainably farmed shrimp (prawn) from Tanglefoot Ranch and lots of other festivities to enjoy. Come enjoy the streets lined with vendors serving a wide variety of shrimp dishes sure to satisfy every shrimp lover's appetite. Plus, we have much more than just shrimp to eat. You can also find award-winning BBQ along with corndogs, funnel cakes, and much more.

Junque Jamboree

Sep 17

8:00am - 3:00pm

114 N 4th St

Vienna IL 62995

618-638-6495

Located on the Historic Vienna, IL Town Square, with plenty of free parking. Vendor mall with antiques, primitives,

home décor, crafts, collectibles as well as food vendors.

Bandy's Pumpkin Patch

Sep 17 to Oct 31

15020 Pumpkin Patch Road

Johnston City IL 62951

618-983-8676

Open annually from mid September through October 31st; this fun, Fall destination is host to many family fun activities. Walk the corn maze, ride the hayride, slide down the slides or play in the corn pile in the barn. If you think you're a sure shot, take aim with the corn cannon or just sit back by the fire and drink a hot chocolate. Grab a snack from the concession stand (try the sweet rock candy) before heading home with the perfect Southern Illinois grown pumpkin!

Praise the Lard Murphysboro Barbecue Cook-off

Sep 22 to Sep 24

Commercial and South 24th Street

Murphysboro IL 62966

618-684-8902

Nationally recognized as one of the best places to experience and celebrate the competitive barbecue circuit lifestyle, the Memphis Barbecue Network (MBN)



BANDY'S PUMPKIN PATCH • SEPT 17 - OCT 31

and the Kansas City Barbecue Society (KCBS) sanctioned weekend evaluates competitors for fish, wings, chicken, shoulder, ribs, brisket, and the whole hog. Competitors will vie for the coveted titles of Grand Champion, entry into Memphis in May, the Kansas City Royal, and the Jack Daniel's draw.

Live music each night, as well as a market area with a variety of vendors.

IKF-PKB Muay Thai Kickboxing and Boxing

Sep 23
10:00am - 5:00pm
1602 Sioux Drive
Marion IL 62959
618-830-4539

Come out and participate or just be a spectator! This competition is for youth, mens, and women's title and awards. All ages and skill levels welcome!

Magpie Market Days

Sep 23 to Sep 25
10:00am - 5:00pm
1602 Sioux Drive
Marion IL 62959
618-993-2657

This Fall outdoor event will host over 100 incredible hand picked vendors from all over the U.S. Find treasures galore and take in the live entertainment while eating from one of the many food trucks available. This annual event will be outdoors with lots of room on the fairgrounds.

Farm Days at Rolling Oak Alpaca Ranch

Sep 24 to Sep 25
10:00am - 4:00pm
1335 Hall Church Road
Makanda IL 62958
618-201-2822

6th Annual National Alpaca Farm Days! The ranch will be open to the public for free - Saturday September 24th 10am to 4pm Sunday, September 25th 10am to 4pm Crown Brew Coffee, Coloring

Puzzle Answers

Answers to the puzzles on page 59

M	A	M	A		U	T	I	C	A		E	B	A	N
A	M	I	D		P	E	D	A	L		A	L	G	A
R	I	N	D		I	N	A	R	I		S	O	N	G
E	A	G	E	R		T	H	E		A	E	C	I	A
				R	O	N	H	O	W	A	R	D		
A	C	E		D	A	S		O	N	E		T	O	E
C	O	B	W	E	B		M	R	S		H	A	I	G
T	U	B	A	S		V	A	N		S	A	B	L	E
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E	A	R	E	D		T	E	L		S	A	B	E	R
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5	1	9	2	3	4	8	7	6
7	4	6	1	8	9	2	3	5
2	8	3	6	7	5	1	4	9
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3	6	7	9	1	8	5	2	4
1	5	2	4	6	3	7	9	8
6	3	1	8	4	2	9	5	7
8	7	5	3	9	1	4	6	2
9	2	4	7	5	6	3	8	1



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Mt. Vernon Fall Fest

Sep 30 to Oct 01

5:00pm - 10:00pm

300 S. 9th St.

Mount Vernon IL 62864

1 618-242-3151

Get ready for the 10th Annual Mt. Vernon Fall Fest September 30 - October 1. Enjoy FREE live entertainment both days on the main stage, try out your favorite festival foods, shop from a variety of vendors, participate in our parade, view

classic cars and trucks, and much more! Free Kids Zone, parking, admission, and entertainment. Enjoy fall in Mt. Vernon at Fall Fest 2022!

Buffalo Day at Bison Bluff Farm

Oct 01

8:00am - 4:00pm

1565 Bethel Church Rd

Cobden IL 62920

1 618-521-5102

Buffalo Day, an event that happens twice a year, is an extremely important day for both us and the animals. It is a day in which we assess the animals, get their weights, tag this years calves, and give the animals any help they may require before releasing them back out on pasture to roam. Buffalo Day is a free event starting around 8am and lasting until the last

animal makes its way down our chutes to be assessed, typically around 4pm.

Heritage Festival

Oct 01

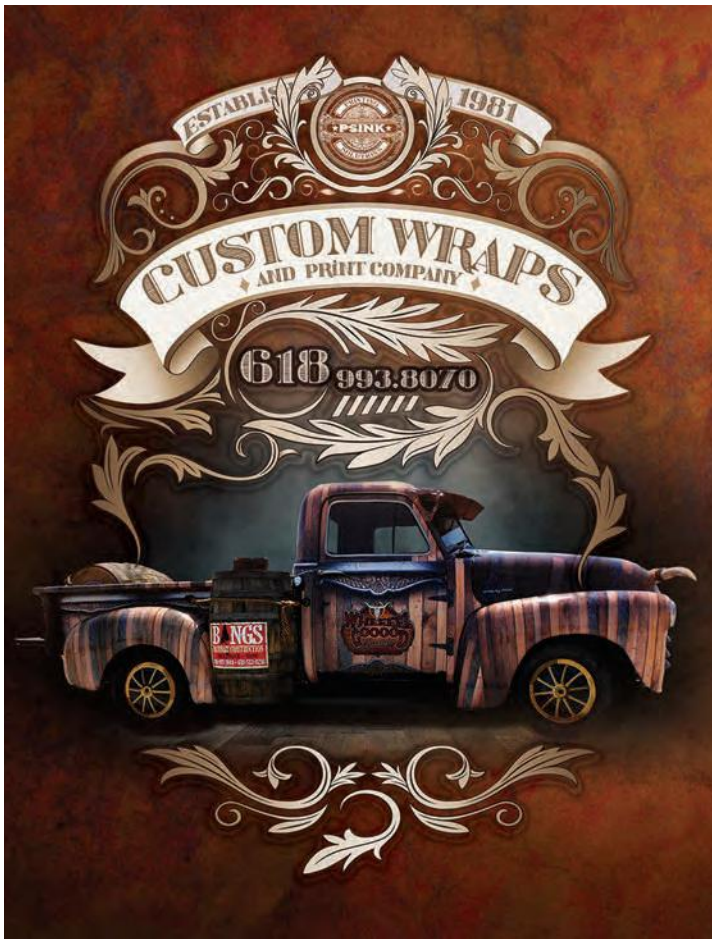
10:00am - 4:00pm

1411 North 27th St.

Mount Vernon IL 62864

1 618-246-0033

A day filled with old-fashioned fun to celebrate Jefferson County heritage. There will be crafts, entertainment, demonstrations, exhibits, vendors, and food. An antique tractor show will be provided by Jefferson County Antique Iron. All the buildings will be open to tour and a children's game and craft area will be provided. Admission is free. ■



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SUGAR AND SPICE... AND SPIRITS

BY DUSTIN ZOELLER

The Story of Cocktails

THE COCKTAIL is one of the great American contributions to the rich history of alcoholic beverages. While beers, wines, meads, and distilled spirits produced and enjoyed from all corners of the world for millennia, the cocktail is a relatively recent development. Many of us take great delight in partaking a fine craft cocktail at our favorite bars and restaurants. Although not commonly known, there is a fascinating story behind the beverage.

Although partially inspired by the “punch houses” popular in 18th century Britain, where patrons would partake in large bowls of spirits mixed with various fruits and spices, the cocktail as we know it today finds its origins in the United States. The definition of the term cocktail originated in 1806 by Harry Crosswell, editor of the New York newspaper *The Balance*, and *Columbian Repository*, when he referred to a cocktail as “a stimulating liquor composed of spirits of any kind, sugar, water and bitters.” Travelers passing through New York would take with them the knowledge of this intriguing new alcoholic beverage. Before long, variations of the cocktail were developed across the country and around the world, with the addition of



new ingredients such as citrus, cream, ginger and mint.

Another contribution to the popularization of the cocktail was made by Frederic “Ice King” Tudor who was a businessman and merchant from Boston. Tudor found success in developing an international ice exporting company that was able to transport ice from colder climates to warmer ports. With ice now more readily available in warmer

climates, soon it was possible for anyone to enjoy an iced drink at any time. As a result, the world soon saw an explosion in popularity and innovation for cocktails.

The cocktail story came full circle in 1862 when New York City saloon-owner Jerry Thomas published *How to Mix Drinks*; or, *The Bon Vivant’s Companion* (commonly known as *Bar-tender’s Guide*). Jerry Thomas is regarded as the father of American mixology, and his

Bartender's Guide was essentially an encyclopedia of mix drink recipes. The guide included not only the classic mixed drinks of old, such as various punches, toddies, sours and slings, but also many of the original cocktail recipes: the Sazerac, the Manhattan, and the Old Fashioned (so-named for adhering to the original formula of spirits, sugar, water and bitters). Thomas helped to usher in the golden age of cocktail culture, and to this day his Bartender's Guide is the standard-bearer for bartenders the world over.

It's worth noting another milestone in the evolution of cocktail culture: The Prohibition Act of 1919. The ratification of the 18th Amendment brought a crushing blow to the alcoholic beverage

industry, with production at nearly every brewery, winery and distillery in America being forced to a halt. Although consumption of alcohol was illegal, cocktails were still being enjoyed at underground establishments known as "a speakeasy." Prohibition brought with it a change in preference from whiskey to gin, due to the fact that gin did not require aging and was therefore easier to produce in secret. The spirits were significantly lower in quality than before, and as a result, honey, fruit juices and other sweets were utilized to mask the taste of the inferior liquors - a tradition that lives on today!

The last 20 years have seen a resurgence in popularity for cocktail culture. This is perhaps most evident when examining a new trend that has popped up in recent years. A number of premium spirit companies have started to bottle ready to drink craft cocktails! All you have to do is grab a rocks glass and pour over ice. This is good news for those of us who don't always have access to swank cocktail bars and professional mixologists. Well-reputed distilleries such as Buffalo Trace and the Barton 1792 Distillery are now offering classic cocktail selections such as the Manhattan, the

Dirty Martini, and the Mai Tai in sizes ranging from half pints to full-size bottles. At Speakeasy Liquors and Lucky's Beer Wine and Spirits we are excited to offer many of these new products at our various locations, including the following premium beverages brands:

HEUBLEIN The Heublein name has been associated with premade cocktails as far back as 1892. The name lives on to this day with many exciting products which include a Manhattan and an Old Fashioned (made with 1792 Bourbon), a Mai Tai (made with Myer's Rum), and a Dirty Martini (made with Wheatley Vodka).

ON THE ROCKS This brand, which was recently acquired



by Beam Suntory, features many classic craft cocktails, such as The Old Fashioned (made with Knob Creek Bourbon), The Manhattan (made with Basil Hayden Dark Rye), The Jalapeno Pineapple Margarita (made with Tres Generaciones Tequila) and The Cosmopolitan (made with Effen Vodka).

HANDY & SCHILLER Produced, aged, and bottled at the world-famous Buffalo Trace Distillery, the name of the products came from the legendary bartending duo of Thomas Handy and John Schiller. This duo worked together at the Sazerac Coffee House in the French Quarter of New Orleans during the golden age of American cocktails. Handy & Schiller offer a Manhattan (made with Buffalo Trace Bourbon) and an Old Fashioned (made with Sazerac Rye).

BULLEIT Bulleit Frontier Whiskey is the latest distillery to get into the premade craft spirit game, releasing their own variation of the Manhattan (made with Bulleit Bourbon), and the Old Fashioned (made with Bulleit Rye).

Many other premium spirit brands have been bringing ready to drink craft cocktails to the market, including Jameson, Tanqueray, Ciroc and Crown Royal—just to name a few. You can find all of these great products and more at our Speakeasy Liquors and Lucky's Beer Wine and Spirits stores. Come visit! ■

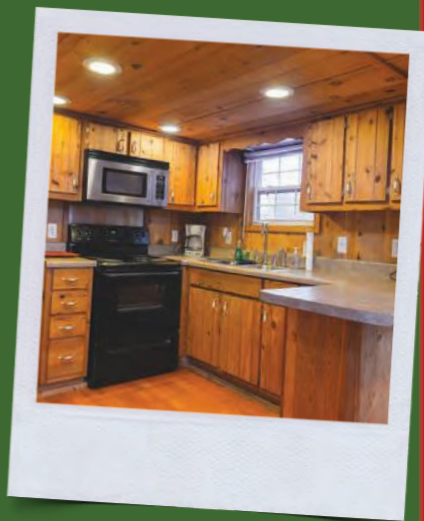


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BY **BRADEN FRITSCHÉ**

ON JUNE 1ST, in response to nationwide increases in electricity costs, local utility provider Ameren increased their rates for consumers in our area by about 40% across the board. This increase is taking place for a number of reasons, the majority of which are directly related to the rising power costs that have resulted from a number of global market pressures which directly impact power supply.

As a response to the increase consumers are seeing on their bill, as well as the looming threat of intermittent brownouts/blackouts, many southern Illinoisans are looking to find affordable and effective ways to decrease their monthly electrical expenses. These changes in behavior can include replacing older appliances with more efficient models, setting thermostats a few degrees higher, and even being more mindful of small loads, like lights and fans, that are often overlooked when reviewing ways to lower consumption.

These methods, while effective, will only provide limited relief, leading many consumers to consider the installation of solar panels as a means of more dramatically reducing energy costs.

By going solar, many consumers will be able to produce enough energy to offset 100% of monthly usage, but even those who cannot offset all energy needs will still benefit from each and every kWh produced by solar due to an immediate reduction in the amount of energy purchased each month.

In addition to a smaller monthly bill, consumers will also lock in the cost of this electricity produced by solar for decades to come, because all future rate increases will have zero impact on the cost of energy the solar system is producing.

There are many incentives in place to help customers with the initial cost of going solar. The Illinois Adjustable Block Program and the Federal Investment Tax Credit (currently 26%) have both been driving forces to help consumers with these startup costs, as these incentives can account for over 50% of the total system cost.

AES Solar in Carterville would be more than happy to provide a free, no pressure consultation for southern Illinoisans who are interested in going solar. Call (618) 988-0888 or visit aessolar.com to get a quote. ■

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