

Hook, Line and Sinker

With Tony Hooker

The ancient Greeks referred to this time of year as Dies Caniculares, because they associated this time of year with the star Sirius, the Dog Star from the Canis Major Constellation. The dog days have indeed set in around these parts. Summer Rec baseball and softball are drawing to a close. School sports are in slow mode before practice will ramp up in earnest beginning the first week of August. Vacation Bible School sessions at area churches have drawn to their successful conclusions, for the most part and children have settled into their indolent summer routines by and large.

What this means for me as a newspaper man is that I have to dig deeply to find events

that are worthy of being in the sidetracks or south county spotlight. Frankly, there's not a lot going on around our town for most of July.

It's a time of family gatherings and trips to the lake and friendly arguments about the exploits of the Cubs and Cardinals, with an occasional Indians or White Sox or Dodgers fan being an outlier.

The MoDo county fair will be in full bloom by the time these words hit print, and myriad other county fairs and festivals will be ongoing for most of the next four to six weeks, if you're into that sort of thing. I am, but my waistline can only take so many foot long pronto pups, and I save those calories for Ag Days, the first week of August

in Villa Grove.

Speaking of Ag Days, there are plenty of opportunities for folks to help out with the festival. Too often these days, people are content to sit on the sidelines and judge others rather than pitching in and making their opinions known. If you have an idea about Ag Days or the City Bonfire that's coming up in October, or November's Christmas tree lighting festival, let your alderman know. Even if they're not directly involved, they'll know who is and they'll steer you in the right direction. Many hands make light work, always. Fresh perspectives sometimes rejuvenate old projects. Maybe you'll have an opportunity to make a lasting impact. Maybe you'll

make new friends. Maybe you'll set a good example for someone who looks up to you. Maybe you'll learn a little bit about why decisions are made.

One thing is certain. It sure beats complaining on social media without even trying to make positive improvements, to my way of thinking.

I hope that you all enjoy this month, named in honor of Julius Caesar. It won't be long before July's languid days give way to August's frenetic pace. Back to school. Pep Rallies, football games, volleyball matches and the inexorable march toward autumn and winter. I think it's time for a swim.

Wise or Otherwise

cont'd from pg. 4

near the (insert river, lake, ditch)" Followed later by "How DID your clothes get wet?"

"Okay, start making a list so we can run into the store" (This was said on almost every trip to the campground after we first unpacked)

"Don't throw one more thing in that fire!"

"That didn't go off, let's go check it" (Insert hysterical parent reaction right here to dud firecrackers after kid says this!)

"There are no sharks in Lake (Shelbyville, Decatur, Mattoon, Carlyle or in Illinois....period!)"

"How did sand get in there? I think we brought half the beach back with us"

"How long as this (insert any food item) been sitting out?" (Mom discreetly deter-

mines it to be okay, slips back into cooler)

"Please tell me the motor just died and we aren't out of gas" Usually heard on boat in middle of shark-free lake.

"I WILL pull this car over!"

"No, you cannot join the carnival" (After night at Fair might reconsider!)

"Is that pineapple or banana? Coconut? EWWW" (How many fridges are left with yellow, blue and green popsicles at the end of the summer after the red, orange and purple are all gone?)

"Are we there yet?"

I hope you enjoyed the summer conversation this week. Have a safe and happy summer. Be wise but create lots of memories otherwise!

Douglas County Courthouse News cont'd from pg. 3

Barrett G. Sheffer, 31, of Chicago was ticketed June 23 for driving with no valid driver's license southbound on I-57 at Mile Post 204 in Arcola Township. Ticket was filed June 25.

Cade M. Robinson, 18, of Tilton was ticketed June 22 for driving 76 mph in a 45-mph zone westbound on U.S. 36 at Main Street in Atwood. Ticket was filed June 25.

Jerry F. Hayfort, 26, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was ticketed June 23 for driving while license is suspended and driving while registration is suspended northbound on I-57 at Mile Post 207.5 in Arcola Township. Tickets were filed June 26.

Gage Harrison Russell, 17, of Tuscola was ticketed June 25 for operating an uninsured motor vehicle westbound on U.S. 36 at County Road 300 East in Garrett Township. Ticket was filed June 26.

Chad Jon Schnoor, 41, of Ashton, Iowa, was ticketed June 23 for driving while license is suspended southbound on I-57 at Mile Post 206 in Arcola Township. Ticket was filed June 26.

Patricia A. Ross, 18, of Chi-

cago was ticketed June 22 for driving with no valid driver's license southbound on Progress Street at U.S. 36 in Tuscola. Ticket was filed June 26.

Carlie M. Ray, 20, of Tuscola was ticketed June 28 for driving while license is suspended and operating an uninsured motor vehicle on Appar Avenue at Prairie Street in Tuscola. Tickets were filed June 29.

Summer T. Stewart, 33, of Arcola was ticketed June 24 for driving while license is suspended southbound on North Chestnut Street at West Main Street in Arcola. Ticket was filed June 29.

David Richard Antonio Meade, 19, of Delton, Michigan, was ticketed June 24 for driving 90 mph in a 70-mph zone southbound on I-57 at Mile Post 206 in Arcola Township. Ticket was filed June 25.

Travis T. Munster, 42, of Cisco was ticketed June 21 for illegal use of electronic device westbound on U.S. 36 east of Main Street in Atwood. Ticket was filed June 25.

Lawrence C. Barbee, 58, of Decatur was ticketed June 23 for improper display of reg-

istration plates westbound on U.S. 36 west of County Road 2050 East in Murdock Township. Ticket was filed June 25.

Meghan Ryan Marcel, 28, of Tolono was ticketed June 22 for operating a motor vehicle with expired registration (expired April 2018) eastbound on Harrison Street at Douglas Street in Villa Grove. Ticket was filed June 25.

Demetrius A. Few, 41, of Chicago was ticketed June 24 for improper lane usage on U.S. 36 at Progress Boulevard in Tuscola. Ticket was filed June 26.

Jameson D. Arbuckle, 17, of Villa Grove was ticketed June 28 for driving 80 mph in 55-mph zone at 825 North County Road 000 East. Ticket was filed June 29.

Dennis L. Plank, 41, of Arthur was ticketed June 30 for driving 80 mph in a 55-mph zone at 650 East Highway 133 in Arcola. Ticket was filed July 2.

Marriage Licenses

A marriage license was issued July 3 to Jeffrey DeWayne Snyder and Michelle Diane Cotton, both of Atwood.

Real Estate

Prairie State Bank and Trust granted James W. East and Sharon S. Mellor a release for a parcel in SW 15-15-9 (1480 East County Road 640 North, Tuscola).

Morton Community Bank granted Nemecio Ortiz a release for Lots 7 and 8 of McCann's First Addition, Arcola (266 Lincoln Avenue, Arcola).

Morton Community Bank granted Reuben J. Troyer and Sarah J. Troyer a release for a parcel in SW 33-15-7.

Steven L. VanDeventer Sr. and Jimmy Kay VanDeventer granted Villa Grove State Bank a mortgage modification for a parcel in SW 1-15-9 (809 North County Road 1675 East, Camargo).

Ronald C. Hudson and Charlotte M. Hudson granted Casper Kellems and Mary Kellems a warranty deed for Lot 7 in Block 4 of Riverside Addition, Villa Grove (711 South Spruce Street, Villa Grove).

Terence Ryan Conlon granted Debra K. Piercy a warranty deed for Lot 4 in Block 1 of Richman's Second Addition, Villa Grove (205 North Richman Street, Villa Grove).


Debra K. Piercy granted Keller Mortgage LLC a mortgage for Lot 4 in Block 1 of Richman's Second Addition, Villa Grove (205 North Richman Street, Villa Grove).

Donald R. Smith and Donna J. Smith granted Yale Monroe Reynolds a warranty deed for a parcel in NW NW 2-14-9 (275 North State Route 130, Arcola).

LEGAL NOTICE

The Villa Grove Community Unit School District #302 of Douglas and Champaign Counties, Illinois, in compliance with the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act has determined that the Prevailing Rate of Wages for the Villa Grove Community Unit School District #302, is the same as that determined by the Department of Labor of the State of Illinois for Douglas County. This determination of prevailing wage is available for inspection by any interested party at the Office of the Board of Education of Villa Grove Community Unit School District #302, 400 North Sycamore Street, Villa Grove, IL 61956.

Carol Ezell, Secretary
Villa Grove C.U.S.D. #302
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Join EDP Renewables for a

Wind Farm Tour

Learn about wind energy and the operations of a wind farm at Top Crop Wind Farm in Dwight, Illinois. Transportation and lunch will be provided.

Thursday, July 19

Please arrive for the tour at 7:45 a.m. at 124 S. Broadway Ave, Newman, IL 61942

Buses will depart Newman at 8:00 a.m and will return by 4:00 p.m.

Space is limited. RSVP by July 16th to broadlands@edpr.com or 800-970-6841 and reserve your spot today.



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