

Douglas County Health Department Recognizes Winners of Clean and Silver Spoon Establishments

Clean and Silver Spoon Awards
 Submitted by Aaron Patrick, Environmental Health Specialist
 The Douglas County Health Department would like to recognize the following food establishments with a "Silver Spoon Award" for a perfect inspection or a "Clean Spoon Award" for an inspection score of 95 or higher earned during the month of December, 2018; Inspections are spread over an entire year, and only the winners of December, 2018 are listed.
 In 2019 the Douglas County Health Department will begin

using the Illinois Department of Public Health approved 2017 Food Code. The code does not use a scored inspection and the Clean and Silver Spoon awards will be determined under this new method. In 2019 the Clean Spoon will go to all establishments found to be in satisfactory compliance with minimum local ordinance standards met, and the Silver Spoon Award will go to establishments with no violations. Each establishment will be required to post an inspection placard.
 Silver Spoon Award (Score 100%)

- Joe's Pizza
- ALAH High School
- Brookstone Estates
- Pizza Man of Newman
- Newman Rehabilitation & Healthcare
- Flesor's Candy Kitchen
- Jo's Country Diner & Catering
- It'll Do Atwood
- 4 Way Stop
- Clean Spoon Award (Score 95 - 99)
- Roselen's Coffees & Delights
- Shae's Pub & Grub
- Douglas County Jail
- Tri-City Country Club
- The Douglas County Health Department will keep an on-

going list of Silver and Clean Spoon Award winners for the 2018 year and future years on the department's Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus, and website. In this way, the monthly list will always be available.
 The Environmental Staff of the health department would welcome conversation about this program and other topics concerning the food program. We can be reached at 217-253-4137 or by email through our website, www.dchealthdept.org.

Country Financial and IL Farm Bureau team up for Winter Crop Meetings

As 2019 gets underway, the Illinois crop planting season won't be far behind, and there are plenty of tools and updates to help farmers plan and prepare for a successful season.
 Upcoming winter crop seminars are scheduled across the state to assist farmers on a variety of topics, including Federal Crop Insurance offerings, using drones to provide an aerial view for crop monitoring, navigating the crop insurance claims process should devastation hit your farm, and a market outlook on grain prices for 2019.

COUNTRY Financial®, Illinois Farm Bureau and other organizations are pleased to team up for these winter crop seminars, and offer dozens of talks throughout Illinois to better equip farmers and growers with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions for their operations. Below, is an upcoming event in your area. For additional scheduled seminars, visit COUNTRYCrop.com
 When:
 Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 (presentation begins at 9:00 a.m., lunch to follow at noon)
 Where:

Sullivan First United Methodist Church, 216 W Jefferson St, Sullivan, IL
 Speakers:
 Doug Yoder, COUNTRY Financial Crop Agency Manager
 Mark Gebhards, IL Farm Bureau Executive Director, Governmental Affairs and Commodities Division
 This presentation will include crop insurance and government policy updates.
 Meeting Contacts:
 Steve Bonnett - (217) 728-4992
 Tyler Harvey - (217) 728-4214

About COUNTRY Financial®
 COUNTRY Financial is a marketing name for COUNTRY Life Insurance Company®, COUNTRY Mutual Insurance Company® and their respective subsidiaries, located in Bloomington, IL. COUNTRY Financial serves about one million households and businesses throughout the United States and offers a wide range of insurance and financial products and services.

Villa Grove Post Office: Still delivering cont'd from pg. 1

and touch someone anywhere in the country. Our employees see that connection and we get to be a part of it because we get to process it and deliver it.
 Any major changes coming down the pike for the Villa Grove office and for the Postal Service in general?
 We're still going to do business as usual. There will be changes, but what's not going to change is the importance of mail service to people and communities. We'll continue to provide that essential service because we're still the only ones who will go to

every address in the United States.
 If someone were to want to become a postal service employee, is that a possibility?
 We have a number of job openings right now, and if people have an interest, they can go to our web site, usps.com, and look under the employment link there. They're listed by jobs and also by areas and locations.
 How does one become a postmaster?
 They start as a clerk or a carrier and start to become more familiar with operations and then they'll have a

personal desire to use their talents for supervising and providing support for other employees and from there they'll move into supervisor positions. From there, they'll move into postmaster positions. It's usually a journey of getting experience and proving themselves. Then if they want to move on to more challenges, that's an opportunity for them.
 Is there anything that I've failed to ask you? Is there anything you would like to add?
 I just want to add that even though the holiday season is

a demanding time for postal workers, they usually have to work longer hours, they have more things going on and it's a little more stressful, but at the same time, they know that they're providing such an essential service that we know that the holiday season is our time. They know that there is will be additional volume and the stress that comes with that, but we also know that this is our time to serve our customers and our employees, especially those at places like Villa Grove, take a lot of pride in that.

VGH Star Scores 1000th Point



VGH basketball star Aliyah Holloman, a junior at Heritage High School, scored her 1000th point on January 3rd in a 56-29 victory over Arcola. Photo courtesy of Go Time Sports Productions.

Wise or Otherwise cont'd from pg. 4

when we were all standing looking at what was a fairly ugly bird from Upper Zimbabwe or some such exotic locale. All of a sudden there was this horrible honking, screeching noise.
 I was at the end of the line so I turned to my family and said loudly, "What the heck was that?" My family all took a step back and at the other end of the line was a gray crested, bespectacled, nose blower wiping his schnoz with a handkerchief and looking none too happy.
 What did we do, burst out in laughter which really set the bird house alive including the ugly bird from Upper Zimbabwe. I think even the kookaburra was laughing. So we decide to make a speedy exit, laughing hysterically and literally running out of the bird house.
 Our parents were waiting there as the obviously hyster-

ical crowd of kids, grandkids, strollers and whatever else came speeding toward them. I remember my dad's face and knew he was thinking, "Oh good grief, what have they done now."
 "We have to move he is after us." At this point my parents just went along following at a safe distance behind their crazy brood. They were probably concocting a story for the St. Louis Zoo security team when they arrived to check on the disturbance and the disturbed. "We'll tell them it was the heat" which is always a good excuse for a July day in St. Lou.
 The story still makes us giggle to this day. A nice memory while I sit here writing up my plans on how to combine an owl and a penguin. Do I hear a kookaburra laughing?

Learn What you can do to Keep Your Brain Healthy and Strong

St. Joseph - To help the public learn more about establishing and maintaining robust brain health, University of Illinois Extension Family Life Educator Chelsey Byers Gerstenecker will host a free, interactive four-part series called "Brain Health: It's a No Brainer."
 During this free series, attendees will learn all about memory change and aging, including tips and strategies to lessen everyday forgetfulness.
 This four-part series will be held at the St. Joseph Township Library (201 N 3rd St) on Tuesdays in February, 1-2:30 p.m.
 Registration is free for the series, sponsored by Univer-

sity of Illinois Extension and the Alzheimer's Association.
 The four sessions will include:
 February 5 - Hold That Thought
 This workshop will look at the memory process and what researchers say contributes to brain health, as well as strategies for helping with everyday forgetfulness.
 February 12 - Head Strong
 By attending the Head Strong program, you can learn more what you can do to keep your brain healthy and engaged.
 February 19 - Know the Ten Signs
 Presented by the Alzheimer's Association - This program includes a basic over-

view of Alzheimer's disease and covers risk factors, diagnosis, and the benefits of early detection.
 February 26 - Fit Wits
 Fit Wits focuses on learning about how the brain works, normal aging changes and

how to build the brain across the lifespan.
 Participants are encouraged to attend all four sessions, but it is not required; in case of conflicts, handouts will be mailed at the conclusion of the series. Spaces are

limited and participants must pre-register at go.illinois.edu/BrainHealthStJoe or by calling 217.333.7672. Please register by January 26.
 University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and

employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, please call the Extension Office.
 University of Illinois * U.S. Dept. of Agriculture * Local Extension Councils Cooperating

DEADLINES Classified Deadlines- Friday @ 2pm News- Friday @ 2pm Ads- Friday @ 2pm

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