

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Important Congressional Race Coming Up

To the Editor,
Last week's article, "General Primary Elections Offer Lots of Options", did not properly identify one of the most important races, the U.S. representative for the 16th District. The uncontested primaries will place Paul Nolley and Darin LaHood against each other in November. We have been praying and protesting outside of Darin LaHood's Peoria office every month over ten months because of the reprehensible policies the current congress has enacted. November will be a chance for us to vote for a person that will represent us and

our beliefs. Visit www.nolley-forcongress.com for details. His plans include,

Save Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid, End Corruption & Pay-to-Play Politics, Preserve and Protect Family Farms, Strengthen Unions & Workers' Rights, Revive Manufacturing & Blue-Collar Careers, Pass Pro-Family Policies, Stand Up for Women's Rights & the Marginalized, Fully Fund & Rebuild VA Care, and Restore Civil Liberties & Protect Human Rights.

*Sincerely,
Patrick Sloan*

Marshall County Poor Farm Cemetery

**Country Road 650N
One Mile East of Yankee Lane
or One-Quarter Mile West of
County Road 875E**

The County Poor Farm operated from 1857 to 1942 on an 80-acre parcel in Section 16 of Steuben Township. It is bounded on the south by County Road 650N/Gimlet Creek Road and it is transected by County Road 875E. It is located on the north side of County Road 650E, one mile east of Yankee Lane or one-quarter mile west of County Road 875E.

In the days prior to a statewide welfare system, those who were marginalized and identified as "needy, homeless or those with mental illness", were sent to the County Poor Farm to live and work. Illinois county poor farms were largely phased out after the Social Security Act of 1935 and the shift to a statewide welfare system in 1932. Many were converted into nursing homes, repurposed as county offices, or closed and sold for private development, though some sites now have a remaining cemetery or are preserved as historical areas.

Extensive documentation exists for the Marshall County Poor Farm in records at the Marshall County Courthouse, since the County operated it, the Marshall County Historical Society, and the archives of surrounding newspapers. The Marshall County Historical Society has documents that

Remembering with love and respect for those who cared for and respected the "less fortunate" who lived at THE MARSHALL COUNTY FARM

I was blessed to have Marjorie for a music teacher while in Sparland grade school and do remember the "County Farm" as my family and I have always called it. Growing up close by as a child and knowing all the Wiley family well. My brother Gale as a teenager drove the horses that pulled the hay rope thru the haymow to "put up hay"

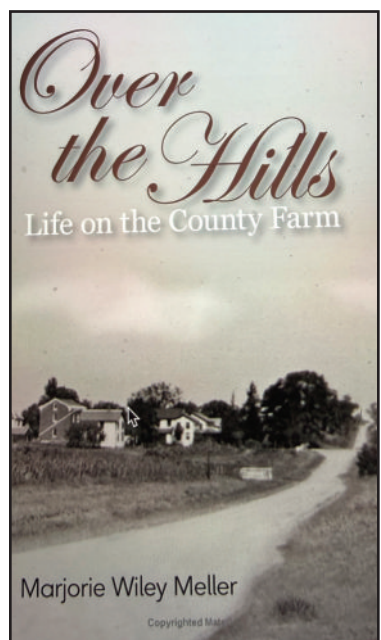
Then I watched Emil Metzger tear down all those out buildings west of the house brick by brick Dean rented the farm from Mr Metzger for 5 years 1960 then he offered to sell it to us over the next 12 years with a handshake contract. The Marshall County Poor Farm Cemetery was the final resting place for residents of Marshall County and the County Farm who needed a burial plot. It had been neglected through the years and when we rented and later purchased the farm we cleaned and cleared it and my family has kept it mowed and treated it with respect for the past 65 years and know my family will continue to respect it for years to come.

share and describe the life of the 'in-mates' as they were referred to and the operation of the farm. This document will focus on the Marshall County Poor Farm Cemetery. Many lived out their life at the County Poor Farm and died there.

The so called "Potter's Field," located in the southwest corner of the 80-acre Poor Farm is the resting place for more than two dozen residents and other marginalized people. One of these people is S.W. Stewart who was unjustly lynched at Hall Cemetery east of Lacon in 1898.

The Find-A-Grave database includes the names of the persons known to be buried at the Marshall County Poor Farm:

- Sarah Bemis:** 1831 – 25 Oct 1903
 - Stephen Podnoske:** 1853 – 18 Dec 1904
 - Joseph Farr:** 1861 – 9 Jun 1883
 - Marie Pond:** ? – 30 Jul 1914
 - Robert Griggs:** ? – Dec 1881
 - Francis Thomas:** 1833 – 18 Nov 1908
 - Jacob Hepp:** 1870 – 25 Jan 1943
 - Mandy Way:** Aug 1848 – 8 Nov 1915
 - Peter Kauntzman:** ? – 9 Jan 1884 S. W. Stewart ? - 1898
 - Samuel Maurer:** 1856 – 15 Mar 1915 and others.
 - Fred Mier:** 11 Nov 1872 – 7 Feb 1941
 - Steve Moreland:** ? – 1915
- Respectfully Submitted
Donna Sloan*



If you want to read more about life at The County Farm I suggest you order the well written book By Marjorie Wiley Meller from Amazon

*Respectfully,
Lucille Probyn*

Court News

(From Toluca Front Page)

Warranty Deed.
Grantor: Paul W. Knobloch Exec. Grantee: Heather Rose Jenkins, Daniel I. Knobloch, Nicole Ann Knobloch. Section 10, Township 13N, Range 8E, Govt Lot: --NW, Notes Ex Pt. Executors Deed.

Grantor: Gregory W. Shirley. Grantee: Jerry W. Shirley. Section 29, Township 29N, Range 1W, Govt Lot: --SW, Notes E 1/2, S 1/2, Ex E140A. Warranty Deed.

Grantor: Leroy F. Poignant Jr. Grantee: Gary Benz. Section 8, Township 30N, Range 2W, Govt Lot --NE, Notes Pt. E 1/2.

Gardening

(From Toluca Front Page)

fresh additions. Be among the first to discover the latest in vegetable gardening trends and get ready to transform kitchens with a harvest of vibrant and enticing produce.

Extension educators Jamie Viebach and Bruce Black will lead the spring series sessions. To find more information and to sign up for each session, visit go.illinois.edu/FourSeasons.

Can't make a session? Every program is recorded and available on the Illinois Extension Horticulture YouTube channel. Videos are available about two weeks after the live program.

Illinois Officials Say The State Is Mostly Insulated From Trump's Election Threats

Illinois election officials and community leaders say they are confident the state is mostly insulated from the Trump administration's aggressive moves and heated rhetoric on election administration as Illinois' March 17 primary approaches.

Republican county clerks cautioned, however, that while they weren't fazed by President Donald Trump's messaging or proposed changes to voting laws, they are concerned about how federal cuts to cybersecurity initiatives could affect future elections in the state.

Last month, Trump suggested Republicans should "nationalize" elections and "take over the voting" in select unspecified places despite the Constitution's express delegation of election administration to the states.

In January, the FBI seized hundreds of boxes of 2020 election ballots in Georgia's Fulton County - and more recently, issued a subpoena to Arizona for its voting results - after Trump's repeatedly debunked claims of widespread voter fraud in those swing states. The Trump administration also made major cuts last year to the cybersecurity agency responsible for bolstering state election security.

Read more: Illinois is one of 23

states and D.C. that are being sued for voter information.

Critics warn these moves are a signal the administration may look to expand its use of aggressive tactics to counter potential Republican losses in the midterms, but many Illinois election officials pushed back on the notion of a looming federal intervention or a fundamental rupture between local and federal officials.

"There is a lot of talk," said Sangamon County Clerk Don Gray, a Republican. "But until I see (the federal government) take concrete action, there's no sense in stirring up people's fears or cynicism."

JOHN'S ELECTRIC
Distinctive Electrical Service
Certified-Licensed-Insured
Since 1966
Four Generations of Excellence
Guaranteed Quality
Workmanship and Material
John: 309-238-2927
John Rice, Owner
2120 Old Stage Coach Rd.,
Magnolia, IL 61336

LACON CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
Beth Ann McKee, D.C.
Michael D. Girone, D.C.
Chiropractic Physicians
Phone (309) 246-2566
1109 5th St.,
P.O. Box 226, Lacon, IL

Kennell's Meat
LOCAL BEEF
Whole ♦ Halves ♦ Quarters
Ribeye ♦ T-Bone ♦ Hamburger
We Have Most Cuts Available
Home Phone (309) 248-7355
Don's Cell (309) 696-8634 Bill's Cell (309) 696-0492

QPR Suicide Prevention Training

Three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide.

This training is available at no-cost through a grant from SAMHSA

REGISTER HERE

Hosted by: Marshall County Mental Health Board
Friday, March 27, 2026 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Lacon Area Community Center 405 N. Washington St. - Lacon, IL 61540

Key components covered in training

- How to Question, Persuade, and Refer someone who may be suicidal
- How to prevent suicide
- Common causes of suicidal thoughts and behaviors
- The clues, risks, and warning signs of suicide
- How to get help for someone in crisis
- Local resources and referrals
- Prevalence of suicide in the US, Illinois, and our communities

Question. **P**ersuade. **R**efers.

Question. Persuade. Refer.
Ask A Question, Save A Life©

A NEW HORIZON AT THE CENTER

Kennell's Meat
LOCAL BEEF
Whole ♦ Halves ♦ Quarters
Ribeye ♦ T-Bone ♦ Hamburger
We Have Most Cuts Available
Home Phone (309) 248-7355
Don's Cell (309) 696-8634 Bill's Cell (309) 696-0492