## RECREATION

## Spring into action

pring is really here and sometimes for more than a one day at a time. The tasks that we ve been putting off all to roost.
Humorist Christopher Parker says, "Procrastination is like a credit card. It's a lot of fun until you get the bill."
Unless you have a lifetime license, Illinois resident hunting and fishing licenses expired March 31. Many of us put off renewing because there's no pressing need to reing. Then it slides off the ing. Then it slides off the get about it.
The first thing a conservation officer is going to check when you're turkey hunting or out on the water is whether you have a valid hunting or fishing license. Paying the bill for that procrastination is expensive and time-consuming. Worse yet, there's nobody to blame. The online licensing process takes only a
few minutes. Best get it few minutes
done today.

## done tod

If that tackle box you were going to spend a winter night untangling remains unopened, tim
may have already run may have already run
out. Trying to separate a Daredevil from a crankbait while you well-organized buddy is hauling in lunkers right and left takes some of the fun out of fishing. Not only that, your partner may not be patient and gentle when he has to stop reeling them in to remove a treble hool from your hand. Don't put off putting
the life jackets and the life jackets and floatation devices back in your boat. Do it right now, and make sure you have enough of them for
all potential passengers. all potential passengers.
If your floatation equipIf your floatation equip-
ment is looking old and frayed, replace it.
Before you put the boat in the water, put on your life jacket. Your boating companions are more likely to wear life jackets if you do. Insist that all passengers wear them. Most boating fatalities occur from drowning in lakes and rivers when the boat is within sight of the shore. Life jackets only work if youre wearing
them. Eighty five percent them. Eighty dive perce
of the time, drowning

SEE LITtLE, P16


Campers and staff gather for a picture at one of the Tony Semple Foundation For Hope events. Semple is at bottom left PHOTOS COURTESY OF TON SEMPLE

## Background

Tony Semple and Michigan businessman Craig Mortz started the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope six years ago
"We got the National Football League behind it, and it really too off," Semple says.
The idea, he says, is not to have the biggest organization or put on the most camps. Rather, Semple wants to limit the size and number of camps to stay focused on the foundation's ideals.
"We're not looking to put on 50 camps a year," he says. "Craig Mortz can't be at 50 camps, and I an't be at 50 camps
The two or three camps, four sonal", he says "It's not and personal, he says. "It's not about trying to become the biggest. We he best,""

## Partners

A handful of corporate partners makes the foundation go, Semple says.
Besides the NFL, they are Leupold, Thompson Center Arms, LaCross Footwear and the Wildlife Gallery, a taxidermy studio that provides free services for campers.
"They made us a first-class entity by all coming together," he says. "It has just been a blessing to see the enerosity and the desire to gene ally help others in the corporate community."

## Camps

Michigan is home base, but Michigan is home base, but states, including Missouri, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania
"It's all really fueled by the re-
abilities and other life challenges into the outdoors for hunting and fishing adventures.
More importantly, he says, kids get the chance to talk to other kids who have experienced similar setbacks and learn how
o draw on their inner strength.
Semple, 40, played college football at what is now called the University of Memphis before playing offensive guard retired in 2002
His foundation puts on a series of amps each year, serving 10-20 kids a ear.
But don't expect Semple to have a unch of hunting and fishing stories up ta sleeve. That's not what he wants to talk about at all.
Instead, he focuses on what happens amp, around the campfire or in the lodge.
"We don't just take kids and send them about the experience The passion of hunting brings us together, but it's the roup setting the family atmosphere and

SEE SEMPLE, P16
gion where we get our kids," he

## Kids

Semple has his own boys, ages 6 months and $21 / 2$ years.
He says they are a full-time challenge for him and his wife, Dawn "I feel like I don't get anything done," he says with a laugh. As an outdoorsman, Semple ikes to get his kids outside. But with the outdoors comes a little dirt.
"Dawn says, ' 'I'm doing laundry every single day, and every time you take them out to play its anther load of laundry for me," he says. "And I say, "What do you want me to do? Keep some coveralls in the garage for them to wear?' there is a puddle, they will find it.
 there is a puddle, they will find it."

Semple, a former Lincoln High School football standout and former professional player for the Detroit Lions, formed his foundation so kids with disabilities and seri ous illnesses could go hunting and fishing

## April 14-17



An intergalactic trip back in time

Wgreat to have a great to have a
time machine? Just imagine all the cool things we could do. We could travel back in that we fouled up in the past or speed forward to preview exciting advances
of the future. We could even peer into the same starry heavens ponderec by such luminaries as Galileo
Well for I'm afraid you first two, own. As for the last your think I can help. In fact, if you'd like to see very same sky viewed by anyone throughout recorded hisgo outside and look up. That's right. For the most part, the heavens haven't changed much in all that time. Orion is still Orion; the di
the dippers. the dippers.
There are sul changes, of course. The moon swings across our nighttime sky every month, changing its phase as it goes. The planets wander gracefully among ac from year to year But theres to year. change that occurs in our sky - one that most of us have never noticed. It's what astronomers cal "precession." Precession is the wob-
bling of the Earth's axis the same kind of wobbling experienced by a spinning top. But while a top's precession is easy to see, the
Earth's requires some Earths requires some just one cycle. Because of this, the overall orientation of the heavens tends to shift slightly over time. Precesto point outward in differ ent directions over the millennia. Right now, planet's north axis aims roughly toward Polaris, making it our North Star But this was not the case ages ago. In fact, back when the ancient Egyptians were building their grea

## CALENDAR

Saturday
Nature photography Adorjan, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Lincoln Memorial Garden \& Nature Center,
2301 East Lake Shore 2301 East Lake Shore
Drive. Cost: $\$ 25$ for mem ers, $\$ 30$ for nonmembers. Register online at www.li

## Saturday-Sunday

 Megabuxux Basnu Tournament, launching from the Lindsay BridgeBoat Ramp. Contact: Stev Parker, 741-4255 or

## Tuesday

at Sangcurnaments begin ing from the East Boat Dock at 5:15 p.m. Cost \$25 per boat. Contact:

## Thursday

t Lake Springfield. Takeoff is at 5 p.m. from the Lindsay Bridge Boat Ramp Sign up at the ramp 555 or nitro190@s,741 255 or nitro190@spring

## April 23

Springent in the Trail Bass Circuit will be held. Contact: Steve Parker, 741-4255 or

nitro190@springnet1.com

## April 30

- Illinois Native Plant Society annual plant sale Washington Park Botanica Garden, 1740 West Fayette Ave. Proceeds fund the group's grant program

Send calendar items to Chris.young@sj-r.com or nal-Register, One Copley Plaza, Springfield, IL 62705.

STAR GAZERS DENNIS MAMMANA
northern axis pointed not toward Polaris, bu Thuban, located in the ong, sinuous constellation of Draco.
Draco is a large and an ent star grouping that ppears nightly in our horthern sky. It wraps itestial pole and remains perpetually above the horizon for much of the
After dark this week, utdoors and search for Draco, winding its way be ween the Big and Little dippers in the northern sky. Look for its long string of stars beginning directly between the Big he North Star. Then folow it downward until it nakes back toward Polaris, where it makes another sharp turn and eads downward once gain.
At the lower end of its four stars that form the head of Draco, but modastronomer now this shape as the ozenge. And back to ragon, midway between he Little Dipper's bowl and the Big Dipper's handle, lies the faint star bic for "dragon."
If we wait patiently f nother few millennia we'll again see Polaris and the Little Dipper drift way from the north cele tial pole and watch as Thuban takes its place again as the North Star sort of back to the celes I wonder I wonder if the pyramids

Dennis Mammana, an as ronomy author and photographer, can be reached om and wrore.facebook. com/DennisMammana.

RECREATION RESULTS


## SEMPLE

Continued from P15
he experience of being around the fire - that is what this program is about."
He says those experiences are

## very intimate

Kids and camp staff bond over Christian faith.
"It can be very heartfelt,"
Semple says. "Before the night is over, we might have 40 people sharing stories and kids opening up about how God is real in their lives
and how they pull strength from that.
"It can be a very powerful moAnd the kids end up helping each "They are always lifting the other kids up," he says.
The outdoors experience something many take for granted - By taking kids that are living By taking kids that are living doors, it helps them discover the very real power and gifts they have," Semple says. "It's very special, and that is what these camps are all about.
Semple says he often hears from many of the kids who have attended he camps, especially at important times in their lives.

I get calls from different kids almost every week," he says. "We stay One boy came into camp with ow self-esteem, due to an automobile accident that put the brakes on is life's plans.
"He left camp and he ended up starting his own company that into society," he says. "We were able to take a kid who came in with a negative outlook on life and stop that in its tracks.
"Camp helped him adjust to his new life," Semple says. "It is so awe some to see that."

Chris Young can be reached at 788 1528.

## LITTLE <br> Continued from P15

victims had life jackets in the boat, but th
wearing them.
wearing them.
One of my friends wh routinely harvests a turkey with a bow is try-

\[

\]

been putting that off sinc the Reagan administration.
May
Maybe I need a support group. I'd join a procrasti nator's club if anybody izing one.

Contact George Little at ccmglobal@aol.com.

Premium books available for Illinois State Fair competitions

Premium books for the 2011 Illinois State Fair are available online. forms and prize information for more 1. Other contests, such as the culinary than 8,700 competitive events at the be in by July 15 textile contests, must

Print copies of the premium book Print copies of the premium book
are available upon request. To obtai
one, call Durinda Kirby at 782 -0786 one, call Durinda Kirby at 782 -0786 through Aug. 21 .

