RECREATION

Recreation results: PAGE 16

Brien Murphy

Features Editor brien.murphy@sj-r.com 788-1515



GEORGE

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 winter have come home 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 renew when snow is blowing. Then it slides off the back burner and we forget 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

done today. If that tackle box you were going to spend a winter night untangling remains unopened, time may have already run out. Trying to separate a Daredevil from a crankbait while your 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 hook

from your hand. Don't put off putting 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. If your floatation equipment is looking old and

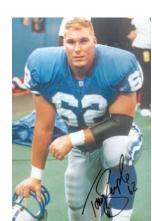
frayed, replace it. Before you put the boat in the water, put on your life jacket. Your boating companions are more likely to wear life jackets if you do. Insist that all passengers wear them. Most boating fatalities occur from drowning in lakes and rivers when the boat is within sight of the shore. Life jackets only work if you're wearing them. Eighty five percent

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 TONY

Outdoor therapy



Tony Semple's camps help kids regain self-esteem through hunting and fishing

BY CHRIS YOUNG

chris.young@sj-r.com

STAFF WRITER

ony Semple's life's journey has taken him from Lincoln High School to the National Football

But Semple knows that not everyone's life takes the pre-

ferred path. And now that his playing days are over, the former football star is helping kids who are facing disabilities or life-threatening illnesses that can put a jarring hit

on self-esteem. The Tony Semple Foundation of Hope, based in Ada, Mich., gets kids with disabilities and other life challenges into the outdoors for hunting and fishing adven-

More importantly, he says, kids get the chance to talk to other kids who have experienced similar setbacks and learn how to draw on their inner strength.

Semple, 40, played college football at what is now called the University of Memphis before playing offensive guard for the Detroit Lions for nine seasons. He retired in 2002.

His foundation puts on a series of camps each year, serving 10-20 kids a year.

But don't expect Semple to have a bunch of hunting and fishing stories up his sleeve. That's not what he wants to talk about at all.

Instead, he focuses on what happens in camp, around the campfire or in the

lodge. 'We don't just take kids and send them out on a hunt," Semple says. "We are about the experience. The passion of hunting brings us together, but it's the group setting, the family atmosphere and

SEE SEMPLE, P16



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

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 took 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

can't be at 50 camps. "The two or three camps, four camps are very intimate and personal," he says. "It's not about trying to become the biggest. We thought, 'Wait a minute. Let's be

the best.'

Partners A handful of corporate partners makes the foundation go, Semple

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 generosity and the desire to generally help others in the corporate community."

Camps Michigan is home base, but camps have been held in other states, including Missouri, Wiscon-

sin and Pennsylvania. "It's all really fueled by the region where we get our kids," he

Kids Semple has his own boys, ages 6

months and 2 1/2 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

likes to get his kids outside. But with the outdoors comes a little

"Dawn says, 'I'm doing laundry every single day, and every time you take them out to play its another 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?'

"What can I do? They're boys. If there is a puddle, they will find it."



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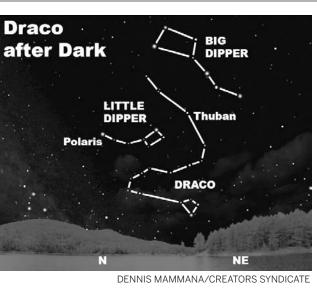
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An intergalactic trip back in time

ouldn't it be great to have a time machine? Just imagine all the cool things we could do. We could travel back in

time to straighten out all 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 pondered by such luminaries as Aristotle, Copernicus and

Well, for the first two, I'm afraid you're on your own. As for the last one, I think I can help. In fact, if you'd like to see very same sky viewed by anyone throughout recorded history, all you've got to do is go 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 dippers are still the dippers.

There are subtle changes, of course. The moon swings across our nighttime sky every month, changing its phase as it goes. The planets wander gracefully among

the fixed stars of the zodi-

ac from year to year. But there's one other change that occurs in our sky — one that most of us have never noticed. It's

what astronomers call "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 25,800 years to complete just one cycle. Because of this, the

overall orientation of the heavens tends to shift slightly over time. Precession causes the Earth's axis to point outward in different directions over the millennia. Right now, our 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 great pyramids, our planet's

Saturday

■ Nature photography

workshop, led by Dick

Adorjan, 9 a.m. to 12:30

p.m., Lincoln Memorial

2301 East Lake Shore

■ Twentieth annual

Tournament, launching

Megabux Bass

Garden & Nature Center,

Drive. Cost: \$25 for mem-

bers, \$30 for nonmembers.

Saturday-Sunday

Register online at www.lincolnmemorialgarden.org.

CALENDAR



STAR **GAZERS**

DENNIS MAMMANA

northern axis pointed not toward Polaris, but more toward the star Thuban, located in the long, sinuous constellation of Draco. Draco is a large and an-

cient star grouping that appears nightly in our northern sky. It wraps itself around the north celestial pole and remains perpetually above the horizon for much of the After dark this week, go

outdoors and search for Draco, winding its way between the Big and Little dippers in the northern sky. Look for its long string of stars beginning directly between the Big Dipper's "pointers" and the North Star. Then follow it downward until it snakes back toward Polaris, where it makes another sharp turn and heads downward once again.

At the lower end of its long, dragon-like body lie four stars that form the head of Draco, but modern amateur astronomers know this shape as the "lozenge." And back toward the tail end of the dragon, midway between the Little Dipper's bowl and the Big Dipper's handle, lies the faint star known as Thuban — Arabic for "dragon."

If we wait patiently for another few millennia, we'll again see Polaris and the Little Dipper drift away from the north celestial pole and watch as Thuban takes its place again as the North Star a sort of back to the celestial future!

I wonder if the pyramids will still exist then...

Dennis Mammana, an astronomy author and photographer, can be reached at mammana@skyscapes. $com\ and\ www.facebook.$ com/DennisMammana.

bass tournaments begin

is at 5 p.m. from the

Sign up at the ramp.

held. Contact: Steve

Parker, 741-4255 or

nitro190@springnet1.com.

Garden, 1740 West Fayette

net1.com.

April 23

April 30

at Lake Springfield. Takeoff

Lindsay Bridge Boat Ramp.

Contact: Steve Parker, 741-

4255 or nitro190@spring

RECREATION RESULTS

TRAPSHOOTING

EDGEWOOD SHOOTING PARK TEAM RESULTS — Standard Mutual 200, LSO 187, Godfrey Insurance 183, Auto Glass 166, Just For Fun 158, LG's 140, CTB 120, Dead Eye 63 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — Rustin

Godfrey 45, Jim Covert 45, Joseph Summerson 43, Dan Clark 41 (April 6 Results)

TEAM RESULTS — Standard

Mutual 229, Auto Glass 214, Godfrey
Insurance 213, Just For Fun 211, LSO 209,

Metro Music 199, Bullet Express 196, LG's 194, Capitol City Arms 177, CTB 135, Dead INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — Joe

Summerson 50, Rustin Godfrey 49, Chuck McDonald 48, Drew Drennan 47, Dan Clark 47, Frank England 47, Mike Miller 46, Dan Crumrine 46, Rich Hoffmann 46, John Thurman 45, Kurt McGinnis 45, Hubert McRill 45, Terry Drennan 45, Bob Perkins

MENARD SPORTSMANS

TEAM RESULTS — The Grainery 208, Trading Post 201, Pioneer 2 200, Tri-County Electric 199, SESCO 197, Creative Hair Dids 196, Wiese 195, Alderman Construction 195, Tallula Sandbaggers 192, Gillmore/Allen Insurance 199, Sangamon Valley, Signs 186, Regulators Sangamon Valley Signs 186, Regulators 186, Ground Breakers 185, J-N-B's 184, Prairie Rush Saloon 177, T&O Boys 170

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS — Steve Bennett 48, Dale Milstead 46, Derrick Butcher 46, Jeff Fricke 45, Harold Dirks 45, Daryl Fornoff 45, Lee Pulliam 45, Gary Feagans 45

CALENDAR

Road races

The Junaia P. Carter M.D. 5K Race, organ ized by medical students at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, will be April 23 at 8:30 a.m. at Washington Park. Advance registration is requested. Registration forms are available from the registration forms are available from the Springfield Running Club, and entry forms will be available from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on race day. Cost is \$18 or \$16 for online reg-istration. There is a \$2 discount for Springfield Road Runners Club and Illinois Medical Coste Manubace. Cloud and Illinois Springrietu rodu kurineis Ciub arto iliniosi Medical Society members. Checks should be made payable to SIU School of Medicine and sent to Office of Student Affairs, SIU School of Medicine, P.O. Box 19624, Springfield, II. 62794-9624. For reg-istration and information, contact Jan Meyers at SIU's Office of Student Affairs, 245-2860, weekfays or email 545-2860 weekdays or email jmeyers@siumed.edu. To register online go to www.getmeregistered.com/ama5k.

The Road to Recovery 5K Run/3K Walk will be May 14 at Washington Park with registration from 7-7:50 a.m., and the event will begin at 8. To register, go to MHCCLorg and download the Road to Recovery registration form. For more information visit MHCCl.org or call 891-

JACKSONVILLE - The 19th annual Passavant-Powerade 5K/10K will be May 28 beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the Westgate entrance to Passavant Area Hospital. Advance entry fee (until 10 a.m. May 25) is \$20, \$19 for Springfield Road Runners \$20, \$19 for springned road runners. Club members. Race-day registration begins at 6:30 a.m., and the entry fee is \$23 with a \$1 discount for SRRC members. Online registration is available at passavanthospital.com.

Golf events

The 26th annual Memorial SportsCare Golf Outing will be June 9 at Piper Glen Golf Club with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. Cost is \$45 per golfer, and the registration deadline is June 3. For more information call 862-0444 or email sportscare@mhsil.com.

Sacred Heart-Griffin High School's 29th Annual Scholarship Scramble golf outing will be June 17 at Piper Glen Golf Course with a morning-round 7 a.m. shotgun start and an afternoon-round shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. Register online at www.shg.org, by searching "SHG Scholarship Scramble Golf Outing" on Facebook or by calling SHG's Advancement Office at 787-9732. The fee ravanuement onice at 787-9732. Ine fee for a morning round is \$100 per person and the fee for an afternoon round is \$125 per person. For more information, call the Sacred Heart-Griffin Advancement Office at 787-9732.

Golf camp

The University of Illinois Springfield women's golf team will host a junior golf camp July 8-9 for boys and girls age 4-17 at The Rail Golf Course. Cost is \$125 Registration deadline is June 27. For more information, call UIS coach Nichole Inkel at 206-8418 or 622-4653.

Basketball tryouts

The Central Illinois Predators will be holding basketball tryouts for its girls fourth-grade club team April 29 from 7:15–8:45 p.m. and May 1 from 6-7:30 p.m. at The Gym of Springfield. Tryout fee is \$20 per person. The registration form a available online at www.predatorsbball.com, or at THE GYM of Springfield 1823 Camp Lincoln Road. Springfield, IL 62704. Registration form and fee are due prior to or at tryouts. For questions call Steve Klunick at \$22-7122 or email stevek@thegym-il.com. olding basketball tryouts for its

GOLF

Tourney results NORTHRIDGE HILLS

(April 9)

1. Derek James 66 (won playoff), 2. Howard Pillsbury 66, 3. Adam Cisne 68, 4. (tie) Mark

Strain and Brad Glynn (69) Net — 1. Brad Glynn 57, 2. Joe Bianco 58, 3. Russann Turner 59

Women's league

THE RAIL G.C. Tuesday League Blind Holes

1. Brenda Heaton; 2. Mary Ann Laurenzana; Low putts: (tie) Mary Ann Laurenzana and Marilyn Egger Holes-in-one

NANCY ANDERSON of Springfield used a 9-wood to score a hole-in-one March 13 on the 81-yard No. 8 hole at King Gate Golf Course in Port Charlotte, Fla.

NANCY ANDERSON of Springfield used a 9-wood to score a hole-in-one March 14 on the 86-yard No. 7 hole at King Gate Golf Course in Port Charlotte, Fla. DAVE LESSEN used a 9-iron to score a

hole-in-one on the 134-yard No. 6 hole at Country Hills Golf Course on April 3. ALLEN NOLTING of Springfield used a -iron April 8 to score a hole-in-one on the

110-yard No. 10 hole at The Oaks Golf Course.

BASKETBALL

Youth results THE GYM

6TH GRADE BOYS — Bruins 37, Chatham Titans 34; Cougars-Shea 40, Chatham Titans 11; Athens Warriors 28, Taylorville 18; Taylorville 35, Predators-Fitch 30; Cardinals 41, Williamsville 21; Chatham Titans 34 Athens Warriors 31: Cougars-Shea 44, Franklin 23; Cougars-Shea 24, Cardinals 22; Franklin 36, Bruins 30; Williamsville 35,

7TH GRADE BOYS — Calvary 41, Wildcats 22; MTI 30, Fly 711 24; MTI 31, Predators-Yeck 15; CTK Cougars 48, Falcons 32; CTK Cougars 57, Williamsville 44; Falcons 51, Predators-Collins 30; Predators Allen 48 Predators-Yeck 32; CTK Cougars 41, MTI 28; A19 56, Calvary 22; Gillespie Miners 45, Calvary 21; A19 44, Fly 711 21; A19 61, Wildcats 13; Williamsville 42, Redbirds-Davis 27; Predators Allen 47, Predators-Collins 25 Falcons 48, Predators Allen 39; Predators Yeck 38, Redbirds-Davis 31 8TH GRADE BOYS

33; Falcons 50, Klunick 39; Ackley 50, Falcons 5TH-6TH GRADE GIRLS TOUR-

NAMENT — Predators Sinclair 27, Rochester Collins 23; Lady Jays 28, Lady Terriers 8; Illini Warriors 35, Lady Storm 11; Illini Warriors 38, Predators Sinclair 31; Plains 6GT 32, Lady Storm 8; Lady Storm 16, Lady Wildcats 15; Lady Jays 29, Plains 6GT 23 Rochester Collins 30, Lady Wildcats 14; CU Elite 30, Lady Jays 19; Rochester Collins 37, Lady Terriers 7; Illini Warriors 50, CU Elite 14
7TH-8TH GRADE GIRLS TOUR-

NAMENT — Diamond Jems 34, Team Simpkins 15; T'Ville Brotherton 36, Predators Neirman 30; Team Simpkins 22, Slammers 21; Peoria Rush 50, Cougars 32; Predators Neirman 42, Predators Freeman 32; Cougars 38, Wolfpack 30; Peoria Rush 50, Litchpatch Sharks 43; Predators Crum 28, Slammers 9 Plains Cardinals 28, Predators Freeman 26; Predators Crum 35, Diamond Jems 34; Litchpatch Sharks 38, Wolfpack 19; Taylorville 39, Plains Cardinals 24; Peoria Rush 39, CU Elite 31; Predators 47, Taylorville 26; CU Elite

SWIMMING

Masters results

ILLINOIS MASTERS ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP STATE MEET At Vernon Hills (April 9-10)

MALE 53 — Nick Merrill: 3. 100 freestyle 54.54, 6. 200 individual medley 2:33.84, 4. 200 freestyle 2:04.90; 6. 100 butterfly 1:04.56; 4. 50 freestyle 24.97

1.04.56, 4. 50 (feestyle 24.7) **FEMALE 46** — Liesl Smith: 4. 100 freestyle 1:03.64; 6. 200 individual medley 2:51.29; 2. 50 breaststroke 37.90; 3. 100 breaststroke 1:23.58; 6. 50 freestyle 29.03; 4. 100 individual medley 1:16.27

TENNIS

Local results

SURPRISE Ariz - The Midwest Team from the Springfield Racquet and Fitness Center recently finished 2-1 in 8.0 division of the United States Tennis Association Senior Mixed Doubles National Invitational Championships at the Surprise Tennis and Racquet Complex. The Midwest Team lost its opening match in a third-set tiebreaker to Arlington, Texas, and then beat Southern California 2-1 and Tucson, Ariz., by default. Members of the Springfield squad were captain Kathy Sigle, Harmon Deal, Julie Heim, David Welch, Susan Lazarides, Greg Piland, Janet Kuhnke, Scott Morton and Doug Ivers.

BOWLING

WEDNESDAY. APRIL 6

.769 R. Wallace . .725 Rex Kinzora .719 Jeff Smith . Fric Mullins Tim Kemp .715 Rob Monroe R. Standridge 708 Chad Dierking .705 Zack Mever .705 Bryan Ritter Drl. Downey .697 Scott Mauck Dan Stewart .679 Fred Knope . Chad Ramey 676 Joe Martin . R. Rakowski .674 Mike Miller . Kent Hill668 B. Willoughby Jeff Skaggs . .664 Dan Sparks . .

Men's 640

B. Rakowski .663 Brett Thomas Randy Fix . .657 Bernie Riddle T. McKane .655 Bernie Riddle .654 N. Weiskopf . C. Walcher M. Branham .649 Justin Howard .649 John Kerska .645 I. Blackwell . . .640 Women's 555

M. Ellington .622 H. James609 Jen Suiter . . .581 THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Men's 640 Dave Barker .786 K. Micheletta .781

Keith Hillen .763 Rich Griffitts .758 Ron Wilson . .755 C. Rokita . . . Brett Lindsey J. Klimtzak . . Tim Geist . .750 M. Graham .739 Karl Burdick .734 John Thomas Keith Hillen Refth Hilleri . 7.34 John Montas Greg Rives . . 721 W. Pitchford Randy Crain . 719 T. Lindsey . . D.Diamond . . 717 B. Morenz . . Jeff Skaggs . . 714 Dean Barnes Justin Jacobs 705 Toby Chiles Toby Chiles . G. Williams . .697 .697 Steve Stead .697 .682 .679 Scott Strode . Chet Hohimer Josh Risse S. Fernandez 675
T. McDaniel
Dan Wilson . 665
M. Wiseman
Mike Baines . 663
D. Knoedler
S. Marshall . 662
M. Burdick Q.Steiner .660 Ron Mahan .656 Rob Meyers Tom Roth .652 D. Ingram . . .650 .649 S. Krumweide .649 .648 Mike Guthrie .647 .647 James Box . .646 M. Williams James Box . . .646 Steve Granger .644 R. Molitoris . . .642 J. Koprowitz Bob Cole .643 R. Molitoris J. Brahler Women's 555

Milburn .703 Jones669 Ruddock .648 Tangman .626 Williams .614	T. Parnell
Burdick596	Jean Winn573 Jenny Smith564
EDIDAV ADDII Q	

Men's 640 Rick Lloyd

.718 Brian Floyd Drl. Downey .691 Jeff Rouse

Austin Bailey 684 Gary Stritzel
Jim Law 678 T.J. Crim . . . Paul Mauer .656 B. Rakowski John Ciccone 640 Women's 555

Women's 555 T. Micheletta 615 M. Ellington Jenny Smith .569 Annie Lewis

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Men's 640 G. Howell Sr. 711 Floyd Cruz S.Blakemn Sr.682 Don Oliver Gordon Fritz .645

MONDAY, APRIL 11 Men's 640

Paul Stagner 726 M. Graham J. Koprowitz .704 G. Stewart . Steve Stead .683 K. Schwab . Jeff Kufa659 Justin Clark . . .658 John Goode .653 Dean Holliday .652

TUESDAY, APRIL 12 Men's 640

Bob Cole . . . 768 M. Burdick . John Thomas 760 Tom Hale . . . C. Sorensen . 730 Randy Suite R. Tangman .723 Craig Rhodes Scott Strode .684 Troy Morton John Ciccone 674 Russ Suter Dale Diamond664 Jim Lenhart ...
Dan Wilson . .659 Ron Mahan ...
Jim Skufca . .649 R. Trowbridge
Tim Scott . . .640

Women's 555

Amee Lee . .690 N. Downey . . .664 D.Thompson 593 T. Micheletta . .569 M. Ellington .563

DAVE BARKER had games of 248, 300

and 238 for a 786 series April 7 in the Harper

Oil Individual Classic League at King Pin Lanes

He bowls for jeffcarterbowling.com and car

ries a 234 average, and it was his fourth 300 KENNY MICHELETTA had games of 279, 223 and 279 for a 781 series April 7 at King Pin Lanes in the Jack Dve League.

Micheletta bowls for Benanti Builders and averages 240 VERNIE BEORKREM had games of 233, 225 and 258 for a 716 series Thursday in the Ladies Trio Classic League at King Pin

Lanes. She bowls for Dick Taylor Automotive and averages 218. TIFFANY PARNELL had games of 222, 237 and 248 for a 707 series Thursday in the Ladies Trio Classic League at King Pin Lanes.

She averages 197.

DARRILYN MILBURN had games of 246, 192 and 265 for a 703 series Thursday in the Ladies Trio Classic League at King Pin Lanes. She bowls for Pennell Forklift and aver-AMEE LEE had games of 257, 185 and

248 Tuesday for a 690 series in the Trio Classic League at AMF Laketown Lanes. She bowls for BRIAN COLLINS bowled a 300 game April 7 at King Pin Lanes in the Harper Oil

Individual Classic League. He bowls for Pepsi Cola with a 217 average. **KEITH HILLEN** bowled a 300 game April 7 in the Harper Oil Individual Classic League at King Pin Lanes. He bowls for King Pin Lanes with a 232 average.

JON KOPROWITZ bowled a 300 game Monday. No more information was available. COREY SORENSEN bowled a 300 game Tuesday in the Trio Classic League at AMF Laketown Lanes. He bowls for Bowlers World with a 219 average

REC PAGE POLICY

Linda Carter .668

The State Journal-Register will publish top-10 finishers for non-high school sports with team competition and the winners in dual meets. Only the results of grade school-aged contestants (6

and over) will be published. All results must be turned in by midnight Tuesday to appear on that week's Recreation section, which will be

published every Friday. Information can be sent via fax to 788-1382 or by way of email to sports@sj-r.com. Please call 788-1550 to con-

firm your information has been received. Results also may be phoned in toll free at (800) 397-7678. Any results containing five or more games and/or

10 or more names must be submitted in writing. All standings must be submitted in writing. The State Journal-Register will publish sports-related public service announcements once a week, under the

'Calendar" section. All items must be submitted in writing by midnight Thursday to be considered for publication. Announcements for tryouts, tournaments, organizational meetings, clinics, etc., will be published only in

Friday's editions of The State Journal-Register. Public service announcements will be published only one time. Any subsequent publication must be done through a paid advertisement.

SEMPLE

Continued from P15

Christian faith.

the experience of being around the fire — that is what this program is He says those experiences are

very intimate. Kids and camp staff bond over stories of struggle and, ultimately,

'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

"It can be a very powerful mo-And the kids end up helping each

"They are always lifting the other kids up," he says.

The outdoors experience something many take for granted — can help kids find confidence. "By taking kids that are living

with a disability getting them outdoors, 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 Semple says he often hears from

many of the kids who have attended the camps, especially at important times in their lives.

"I get calls from different kids almost every week," he says. "We stay in touch."

One boy came into camp with low self-esteem, due to an automobile accident that put the brakes on his life's plans.

"He left camp and he ended up starting his own company that helps other individuals get back 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 awesome to see that."

Chris Young can be reached at 788-

■ The first event in the Lake Springfield Summer LITTLE Trail Bass Circuit will be

Continued from P15

the boat, but they weren't wearing them. routinely harvests a

victims had life jackets in

One of my friends who turkey with a bow is trydraw a bow.

should become an archery turkey hunter. As if I'm not turkey hunting-challenged enough. He has assured me that with quality practice, it's "not that hard to hit a turkey at 15 yards." Maybe it's not for him. He's never seen me

ing to convince me that I

I don't know what to put off first, target practice at that distance or brushing up on my calling so I might have even a snowball's chance of bringing Tom Turkey up that close. First, I should probably practice sitting still for longer than 15 minutes at a time. I've

been putting that off since the Reagan administra-Maybe I need a support

group. I'd join a procrastinator's club if anybody ever got around to organizing one. $Contact\ George\ Little\ at$

ccmglobal@aol.com.

Premium books available for Illinois State Fair competitions Print copies of the premium books Premium books for the 2011 Illinois fair. Livestock and horse show entries

State Fair are available online. The five books include rules, entry

forms and prize information for more than 8,700 competitive events at the

should be sent to fair officials by July 1. Other contests, such as the culinary, floriculture and textile contests, must be in by July 15.

are available upon request. To obtain one, call Durinda Kirby at 782-0786. The fair opens Aug. 12 and runs

through Aug. 21.

nal-Register, One Copley Plaza, Springfield, IL 62705.

nitro190@springnet1.com. Tuesday ■ Bass tournaments begin at Sangchris Lake, launch-

Dock at 5:15 p.m. Cost: \$25 per boat. Contact: Rod Cooke, 899-5556.

Thursday

ing from the East Boat

Parker, 741-4255 or

Send calendar items to chris.young@sj-r.com or Outdoors, The State Jour-

Ave. Proceeds fund the group's grant program.

■ Weekly Thursday night

from the Lindsay Bridge ■ Illinois Native Plant Boat Ramp. Contact: Steve Society annual plant sale, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Washington Park Botanical