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Moving from Grumble Street to Grateful Road

By BERTHA PARSONS

.Here comes Spring, Easter, flowers, Mother's Day, smiles. Less grumbling, more joy to look forward to.

If you have listened to the news or been to a restaurant you've heard people complain about the weather, the city council, our President, their family and more. We all seem to enjoy grumbling about anything and everything. Why is that?

Maybe we like following the crowd or just want sympathy. I've never really understood why we humans, yes, you and me, do or say the things we do. There's really no good reason. We never feel better after we grumble. We don't accomplish anything worthwhile.

So let's make a major decision. Let's move from Grumble Street to Grateful Road. Pack up all the joy, laughter, happiness, apple pies, chocolate cake, flowers from our garden, or someone else's and move right onto Grateful Road.

Grateful is such a powerful word, it can put a smile on a lonely face, it can turn a hurt into joy, knowing someone is grateful for you. Gratitude can make ordinary days into a holiday, our everyday jobs into a special event. It can transform opportunities into real blessings. Imagine how many opportunities you and I miss by not being grateful!

Spring gives us enormous opportunities to show gratitude and to look for ways we can be a help to others. Spring and Easter is a renewal of life and awesome things to come. No snow. No cold. No excuses. Call a friend, say hello to a stranger, tell a youth how grateful you are to see them in church, write a note to a shut-in, tell your boss you are grateful for your job, find any reason possible to stay on Grateful Road.

Gratitude and spring is like opening a window out on a garden and the beauty of flowers give a lift to our life. Every time we are grateful our life is enriched triple-fold.

I am ever grateful for you, my friends and readers. You are really wonderful and a blessing to me. So let's stay together on Grateful Road. Thank you for being there.

POLSON

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Just the Facts[®]

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Louridine Florek, owner

www.justthefacts.net

IDOIA offers federal specialty crop grants to state producers

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOIA) is now accepting proposals for federal specialty crop grants. The agency has been notified Illinois will receive more than \$520,000 and instructed to begin the proposal selection process.

Funds will come from the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program in the Farm Bill. They are available for projects beginning in calendar year 2017, and are intended to expand the availability of fresh, locally-grown produce and strengthen the competitiveness of our specialty crop industry.

Projects that benefit a particular commercial product

or provide a profit to a single organization, institution or individual are ineligible. Farmers' markets, roadside stands and community-sponsored agriculture programs should consider submitting proposals to the USDA's Farmers' Market and Local Food Promotion Program.

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service defines specialty crops as "fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits and horticulture and nursery crops (including floriculture)."

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, more than 106,000 acres of Illinois farmland are devoted to growing

See GRANTS on other side



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Grants continued from other side

specialty crops on more than 3,200 farms. Illinois is the nation's leading producer of pumpkins and horseradish, and ranks in the top ten in acreage of cantaloupes, green peas, lima beans, and sweet corn. Illinois also is home to a flourishing grape and wine market, with 450 growers utilizing 1,197 acres of Illinois farmland to support the

over 100 wineries in the state. Sales of all specialty crops in Illinois totaled almost \$470 million in 2012.

IDOA will accept grant proposals until 4 p.m. May 13. Request for proposal packets and additional information about the program can be found online at the department's website at www.agr.state.il.us. For more information, call (217) 524-9129.

From the Blotter

A boot was found in the middle of the intersection of Sixth Ave. and Main at 8 a.m. Sunday. The mate may still be on the owner's truck. The boot may be identified and claimed at the police station.

A 57-year-old Hoopeston man reported at 12 p.m. Sunday that someone damaged his 1999 Chevrolet SUV. The incident occurred in the 700 block of East Honeywell.

Weather

Mostly sunny, breezy today. High 62. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Tomorrow, chance of storms. High 61, low 48.

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by Sylvia
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The City of Hoopeston is seeking an energetic, self-motivated individual who has the ability to analyze, implement and manage the day-to-day operations of the city's administrative office. The individual needs to be a capable leader and a skilled manager.

Primary duties include human resources, payroll, risk management, health insurance administration, financial accounts management and administrative assistant to the Mayor and City Council members.

Requirements: associate's degree in business administration with a minimum of three years' leadership experience or equivalent thereof.

Confidential replies, including resume, cover letter and salary expectations should be submitted to: hoopestoncityjobs@gmail.com.

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Part-time kitchen help needed. M-F only. Stop by The Pump to fill out an application. Approximately 25+ hrs possible weekly.

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