

The quiet work that shapes our communities

They show steady commitment to care. They show up, day after day, doing the work that needs to be done, often without fanfare. We hope the stories in this special edition serve as a reminder that heroism doesn't have to be extraordinary to matter. Sometimes, it's found in the simplest acts - a kind word, a helping hand, a willingness to give. And, more often than not, those acts are happening all around us every single day.

M. Eileen Brown is the executive editor of Shaw Media.

FROM THE EDITOR
M. Eileen Brown



quietly make someone's day a little easier - and today we pay tribute to the difference they make. Their impact isn't measured in headlines or accolades, but in the ripple effects of their actions. What sets them apart is not a single grand gesture, but a

They don't wear capes, and most day after day, in ways both big and small, they make our communities stronger, kinder and more connected. We're talking about the everyday heroes among us. The woman who makes seniors feel like superstars. A truancy officer who brings food to families in need. A librarian who sends books to inmates. A 9-year-old boy who collects blankets for the homeless. They are everyday heroes who lend a hand, lift a spirit, solve a problem, or

Construction nearing completion on park shelter project

By **BILL FRESKOS**
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Construction on the City County Park shelter project in Princeton is entering its final stages, with concrete work expected to wrap up soon. Despite recent delays caused by the weather, crews have continued to make steady progress and now have the finish line in sight, according to officials with

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Children's Business Fair set for July 1 in Walnut

The Walnut Public Library District will hold a Children's Business Fair from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, at Liberty Square, 115 S. Main St., Walnut. Participants will be able to create and a business. The businesses can be operated by groups. The business fair will coincide with a live band, food truck and Farmer's Market.

Attendees are required to create a Canva promotional flyer. Library staff will be available for flyer assistance. The fair setup is set from 4:15 to 4:30 p.m. Registration is required.

Walnut library to offer home safety program June 3

The Walnut Public Library District will offer "Safe At Home Class" program from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 3.

Putnam County High School student receives art show award

Putnam County High School sophomore Lydia Schaper was recently awarded "3-D Art Best of Show" at the annual IVCC Student Art Show held from Monday, April 13, through Friday, April 24. The art show featured artwork created by Illinois Valley area high school students and Illinois Valley Community College art class students. The art pieces included drawings,

pottery, paintings, sculptures and photographs. Attendees will be able to tour the mansion, Reddick Mansion was built in 1858. The mansion served as a family home, was the site of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate, and was Ottawa's library. The tour costs \$15 for adults, \$10 for students in grades 1 through 12, and is free for children ages 5 and under. Registration is required. To register, call 815-339-2038, ext. 1. The Reddick Mansion is located at 100 W. Lafayette St. in Ottawa.

Hennepin library to offer Reddick Mansion tour May 16

The Putnam County Public Library District's Hennepin branch will offer a tour of the Reddick Mansion at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 16. Attendees will be able to tour the mansion, Reddick Mansion was built in 1858. The mansion served as a family home, was the site of the first Lincoln-Douglas debate, and was Ottawa's library. The tour costs \$15 for adults, \$10 for students in grades 1 through 12, and is free for children ages 5 and under. Registration is required. To register, call 815-339-2038, ext. 1. The Reddick Mansion is located at 100 W. Lafayette St. in Ottawa.