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VOL. 84 • NO. 50

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 12, 2018

Stockton Park Board looks forward

By Steve Jordan
PARK BOARD TREASURER

November and December are typically quiet months for the Stockton Park District, with the pool empty, the football season coming to a close, and the water being turned off. But, if you have driven by the park or have attended a board meeting in the last few weeks, you can see that things are as busy as ever in the park.

Between increasing the Board from three members to five and selling bonds to finance several capital projects, the board meeting agendas have been full the last couple of months.

The results of the November election showed that the community was in favor of restructuring the Board, which allowed the number of board members to increase from three to five. Coupled with the fact that two of the

three current board members are seeing their terms expire in the next several months, the Board will be looking for four new members via the April 2019 election.

For citizens that are interested in serving and contributing to the continued evolution of the great community asset that is the Stockton Park, paperwork can be picked up from Secretary Sue Schamberger. All paperwork needs to be completed and filed with the County Clerk's office by Dec. 17.

Additionally, the Board approved the sale of bonds to finance various projects including: new playground equipment, permanent bleachers for the ball diamonds, security cameras, air condition unit replacement in the Parkhouse, various improvements at the pool, and new light poles throughout the park.

Board Treasurer Steve Jordan mentions, "We feel these various improvements will make the park safer and more enjoyable for everyone. Our Park Manager Dennis Young was able to obtain a \$50,000 grant towards the new playground equipment, which made the expenditure much more reasonable and helped replace some outdated equipment. Security cameras were installed with financial assistance from the Stockton Lions Club. The new bleachers should be installed and ready for the 2019 baseball season. And a local Boy Scout, Haylen Scott, has taken on the project of repairing and replacing all of the light poles as part of his Eagle Scout project."

The goal is to have the new board members elected and these other enhancements up and running by Memorial Day 2019, so stay tuned!

Massbach Ridge celebrates fifteen years

By John Day
REPORTER

This year the Christmas holiday season will be special at Massbach Ridge Winery. In addition to the holidays, the winery is celebrating its fifteenth anniversary. For these two reasons Massbach Ridge will be hosting a special holiday open house on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

During the open house, the public is invited to take part in wine tasting events and enjoy snacks such as cheese and chocolate. There will also be live entertainment and guests can appreciate the panoramic views that surround the winery. Wine and gifts will be for sale as well wine accessories. This is also an opportunity to learn about the wine making process and the different kinds of wine created by Massbach Ridge.

The winery rests on 18 acres of vineyard in the rolling hill country of Jo Daviess County on Massbach Road. Established in 2003, Massbach Ridge Winery has carved out a niche for itself in this region and has enjoyed considerable success statewide. In addition to numerous medals for individual wines, Massbach Ridge has twice been awarded the Governor's Cup and has been named Illinois Grape Grower of the Year.

Massbach Ridge owner and wine-maker Peggy Harmston they produce a wide variety of wines. There is something for everyone's taste," said Harmston. "Our winery bottles 20 different wines that are made with the grapes we grow right here. These wines are unique in the region because they're produced exclusively with grapes grown in Illinois."

She said the 2018 harvest is exceptional.

"The variety of grapes that we grow are St. Pepin, Marechal Foch, Frontenac and Vignola's," Harmston said. "Despite the wet weather and heat, the grapes were very healthy. We had no trouble with fungus, mold or any kind of blight."

This year Massbach Ridge will be turning out many of the standards that have made the winery a success.

"Some of the wines we are offering again, are the full bodied Wind-song White and Cool Breeze, a white Sangria style," said Harmston. "For those with a preference for red wines our Massbach Reserve is dry oak aged. Also available is Traumen, a smooth red wine named for the German word which means, to dream."

New this year from the winery is Sunrise Red, which is an Illinois bicentennial wine and Red Storm which is a spiced wine.

After fifteen years in the winery business Harmston hasn't lost any of her enthusiasm.

"This business has brought us many new friends, experiences and joy," she said. "We enjoy getting to know each person that comes through the door. So many of them become regulars. Our winery family and I enjoy spending time with these new friends as they are introduced to our wines while relishing in the incredible scenery here in Massbach."

Massbach Ridge also offers wagon tours of the vineyard and other events and in addition to the winery in Massbach, there is a tasting room in downtown Galena, Illinois.

Massbach Ridge Winery is located at 8837 S. Massbach Rd. in Elizabeth, Illinois. They can be reached at 815-291-6700. The Massbach Ridge Tasting Room in Galena is located at 117 N. Main St. They can be reached at 815-291-6411. The winery is on Facebook and has a web page, www.massbachridge.com



SONYA WILLIAMSON PHOTO The Scoop Today

Merry Christmas

Santa and Mrs. Claus congratulate the 2018 Miss Merry Christmas and Little Jack Frost, Piper Sandell and Brayden Downs.



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CTE Academy Vitality-a once-in-a-while newsletter

Chili and Chicken Noodle Cook-Off winners: The following entries were winners of the First Annual CTE Academy Chili and Chicken Noodle Cook-Off on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Chili: CTE Academy Criminal Justice (Nate Tyler)

Chicken Noodle Soup: River Ridge Foods Classes (Candace Stewart)

Congratulations to our winners and a special thank you to our Judge (Eval Talbert from Highland Community College), all of our entries (Instructors and students), and guests! The popular vote by our guests confirmed our Judge's decision on the Chicken Noodle Soup winner (River Ridge Foods Classes). However, the popular vote on Chili was Stockton (Trish Krug). Sorry, Mr. Tyler!

Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management Volunteers:

Cheyenne Anderson – West Carroll

Kayla Bronkema – West Carroll
Kameron Dick (Ambassador) – Stockton

Summer Rekenhaller – West Carroll

Derek Teske – West Carroll
Anna Walburg - Galena
National Art Honor Society (NAHS) Volunteers:

Maddi Anderson – Scales Mound
Bella Cole – Scales Mound

CJ Cowell – River Ridge
Jasmine Dewey – Stockton
Sami Digman – Galena

Echo Taylor (Ambassador) – Stockton

Lexi Weirup – Scales Mound

Casey Williams – Stockton

Auto Technology Volunteer: Nick Edge (Ambassador) – Stockton

Construction Trades Volunteer: Noah McGivney (Ambassador) – Warren

Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Volunteer: James Sullivan (Ambassador) – River Ridge

Health Occupations Volunteer: Kirsten Reifsteck (Ambassador) – West Carroll

Auto Body (Paul Wurster): The

following “metal items” were made by Auto Body students and are on display in the CTE Academy lobby
FOR SALE: Pumpkin \$10, Witch \$10, Breast Cancer Ribbon \$10, Small Pumpkin Stand \$25, Large Pumpkin Stand \$55, Chair \$35, Christmas Tree \$35, Man Cave \$10, Love \$10, Fire Ring \$55.

Computer Networking and Security (Shane Grissinger):

The Computer Networking and Security Department has been working on 3D printing practical applications. Such as parts creation for rare components, design, and modeling. As well as join endeavors with other programs for custom part creation.

Early Childhood Education (Stacy Kloss) & Health Occupations (Karen Koester): Diaper Drive – Do you have extra diapers and/or ones your child(ren) already outgrew? The CTE Academy Early Childhood Education and Health Occupations classes are collecting diapers to assist families in need during. Please drop them off at the CTE Academy or contact us. We sincerely appreciate your help!

Graphic Communications (Irene Thraen-Borowski): Students are in the middle of their photography unit. They are also currently working with the Galena Downtown Business As-

Elizabeth 4-H member attends national 4-H Congress

Thirteen teens from Illinois attended a five-day national conference in Atlanta, Ga. Nov. 23 - 27. These honored 4-H members included Jo Daviess County 4-H member, Brady Haring of Elizabeth. “Illinois delegates to National 4-H Congress are selected on their outstanding 4-H accomplishments”, said Lisa Diaz, University of Illinois Extension assistant dean and director of Illinois 4-H.

If 4-H club meetings are the training grounds for leadership development, National 4-H Congress is the pep rally that inspires the members to excel. In addition to trainings

and nationally recognized speakers, members network with 4-H members across the United States.

“It is amazing what you can do when you say yes to a cause that is bigger than you,” said speaker Manny Ohonme, founder of Samaritan’s Feet, a worldwide organization which provides shoes for impoverished children.

Recent Georgia 4-H alum Sophia Rodriguez encouraged her peers to think of others. “You don’t lose any piece of yourself by loving someone else.”

John Beede, who has climbed some of the world’s tallest mountains, including Mount Everest, challenged the delegates. “The mountains will never lower themselves to your level; you must rise up to the demands presented to you by the climb.”

The Illinois 4-H Foundation and its donors provide support for the award-recognition trip. Donors include Illinois Farm Bureau, Jennifer Cowsert, Keith Engel, Carrie Francis, Paul and Kristen Hadden, Peter Johnson, Victoria Jozef, Janet Kolmer Grommet, Donna Mueller, Keith and Lissa Parr, Michael Razim, Ryan and Elaine Ruwe, Marvin and Elizabeth Schnitzler, James and Jean Shinn, Jason and Andrya Smith, Kenneth and Lorna Smith, Gerald and Linda Thiele, and John and Tania Wilken.

“Through gifts from our generous donors, we are grateful for the opportunity to recognize the hard work and commitment these young people have put forth,” said Angie Barnard, Illinois 4-H Foundation executive director.

Center) has been in existence since 1972 and has graduated approximately 15,000 students.

Giving Tree: Please donate hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, etc. to area families in need! Giving Tree is in our office. Thank you!

Calendar:

Dec. 24-Jan. 2, NO School, Winter Break

Forest and Grassland Edge Management Workshop

Managing forest understory and edges: Guide to meeting your goals workshop will be held Jan. 18, at the Elizabeth Community Building, HWY 20 W Elizabeth, IL. Please mark your calendar and plan attend one or both sessions of this exciting workshop. There will be a \$10 fee for a single session and a \$15 fee to attend both sessions. Lunch will be on your own from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information or to register for this program please visit us online at go.illinois.edu/jsw or call us at 815-858-2273.

Topics to be addressed will include invasive plant species identification and management, forest and grassland edges management, prescribed burn-

ing as a tool, and information about resources available to help decision makers.

Tuesday, Jan. 2, Professional Development Day
Tuesday, Jan. 2, 8:30-11:30 AM, Tri-State Area Employers Breakfast Discussion (by Invitation)

Wednesday, Jan. 16, Stockton and Scales Mound Sophomore Tours

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2:30-7 p.m., CTE Academy Open House

Safe Haven Humane Society receives 2018 Dubuque Racing Association grant

The Safe Haven Humane Society was the recipient of a 2018 Dubuque Racing Association (DRA) Grant in the amount of \$3,500. This money was used to replace the existing kennel dog doors. The old dog doors were in disrepair and were not originally designed for kennel use. Additionally, the old doors obscured the dogs’ views and limited interactions with other dogs and people. The new doors are specifically designed to allow dogs full view of other dogs, staff, and customers of Safe Haven.

In 2018, the DRA awarded over \$1.2 million in grants to 145 charitable organizations in the tri-state area. The DRA has been a vital part of the area since its inception in 1985 and is operated by a volunteer board that guides operation for the Q and The Diamond Jo Casino. Funds generated at both casinos made the grant possible.

“We are blessed to have received a \$3,500 grant from the DRA,” Safe Haven Board President Tricia Bianchetta said. “The money was used to remove damaged kennel doors and replace them with dog-friendly doors. This has created a healthier environment for our dogs, making them less isolated, less anxious, and, in the end, more adoptable. We are very fortunate to have a supportive business organization like the Dubuque Racing Association in the tri-state area and we are grateful for their generosity.”



COURTESY PHOTO The Scoop Today

Class of '58

The Stockton High School class of 1958 held its 60-year reunion on Sept. 29, 2018 at the Stockton Main Street Party & Events center.

Attending was: Front row: Linda (McKee) Imel, Judy (Kempel) Brudi, Bonnie (Beyer) Staas, Marilyn (Harnish) Schubert, Row 2: Sharon (Atz) Gothard, LaVerne Beyer, Joan (Heuerman) Johnson, Hugh Coffey, Lee Michael, Marilyn (Kappes) Borsdorf, Row 3: Hilton Ryder, Larry Breed, Paul Fox, George Miller, Ron Mapes, Jack Townsend, Dennis Kuhl.

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would like to express our sincere thank you for the cards, visits, flowers, memorials, support and kind expressions of sympathy during our recent loss.

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Warren vs. Juda

Noah Wulfekuhle gets inside for the jumper in the middle.

MANDY FIELDS PHOTOS
The Scoop Today

Shooting from the inside Ethan Williams adds to the Warriors lead.



Seth Slamp goes up above the defender from the side adding two for the Warriors.



Warriors Matthew Riedl battles under the nest adding two plus the foul.



Juda defense leaves Garrett Williams untouched allowing the layup with ease.



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AG Madigan warns residents to be on alert for storm-related repair scams

Following severe storms and tornadoes in central Illinois on Saturday, Attorney General Lisa Madigan today warned residents in impacted areas to be on alert for scammers looking to exploit homeowners and business owners who may be in need of repairs from storm-related damage.

Madigan cautioned Illinois residents that scammers often move quickly into communities to take advantage of people with damage to their homes or businesses. Madigan noted these “storm chasers” use the opportunity to pressure people into making quick and often expensive decisions about cleanup and construction work. Madigan also warned residents to the potential that scam artists may be operating as insurance adjusters or public adjusters.

“As people face the daunting task of assessing and cleaning up the devastation left by the weekend’s tornadoes, they must also be aware that scam artists may target residents and businesses with repair scams,” Madigan said. “I strongly recommend that residents and business owners exercise caution before hiring contractors they do not know – particularly people soliciting door to door.”

Madigan said general contractors are not required by state law to be licensed, but municipalities may re-

quire permits. Home and business owners should check with their local governments for more information about permits or other local requirements. Insurance adjusters must also be licensed by the Illinois Department of Insurance, and roofers must be licensed by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Madigan encouraged local residents and business owners to call local law enforcement agencies and her office’s Consumer Fraud Hotline in Springfield, 1-800-243-0618, to report any suspicious activity.

Madigan offered the following tips to help protect families and businesses from dishonest contractors:

- * Be wary of contractors who go door to door to offer repair services. Ask for recommendations from people you know and trust and, whenever possible, use established local contractors.

- * Call the Attorney General’s Consumer Fraud Hotline (1-800-243-0618 in Springfield) to check out a contractor and to learn if any complaints have been filed against a particular business.

- * Visit the Better Business Bureau’s central Illinois, St. Louis or Chicago websites to see if a business is a member and whether any com-

plaints have been lodged against it.

- * Even if there is a need to act quickly, shop around. Get written estimates from multiple contractors, and don’t be rushed into a deal.

- * Get all of the terms of a contract in writing, and obtain a copy of the signed contract.

- * Never make full payment until all the work has been completed to your satisfaction.

- * Never pay in cash.

Be aware that you have the right to cancel a contract within three business days if you signed it based on the contractor’s visit to your home.

In the case of disaster repair, you have an additional right to cancel. If

your insurance carrier denies coverage, you have the right to cancel the contract within five days of when your insurance carrier denies your coverage.

Ask to see required state and local permits and licenses. Insurance adjusters and roofers must be licensed by state agencies. If the contractor does not have a required license, or if the name on the license doesn’t match the name on the contractor’s business card or truck, that should raise a red flag. Please visit the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation’s website to search licenses. Contact the Department of Insurance at 866-445-5364

to verify that the public adjuster is licensed and in good standing.

Madigan also reminded consumers that the Illinois Home Repair and Remodeling Act requires contractors to provide customers with written contracts for any repair or remodeling work costing more than \$1,000. A contract must be signed by both the customer and the contractor. The law also requires contractors to carry at least the minimum amounts of insurance for property damage, bodily injury and improper home repair. Contractors also must provide consumers with an informational pamphlet entitled “Home Repair and Construction: Know Your Rights.”

Around the Northern Hills with Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Manager Annette Eggers

You don’t farm, so should agriculture and Farm Bureau matter to you?

According to the Census of Agriculture, roughly 108,000 Illinoisans farm, just a small portion of the population. What I’m about to say next about the value of agriculture and Farm Bureau doesn’t apply to you, right? Wrong. Yes, farming and an organization that supports farmers probably doesn’t matter to you in the way that they mattered to your great grandparents. But they do matter, differently. Farming may not be your job, but for many of us, it’s the economic foundation we’re standing on. With almost 1 million agriculture-related jobs in Illinois, that means more than 13% of Illinois jobs are supported by agriculture. It’s the source of your food (Jo Daviess County is #1 in the state for beef production and the total number of cattle, the #1 alfalfa producer, and the #3 dairy county), and it’s still one of the top economic drivers of your small town. Agriculture is not only dependent on those in production agriculture, it includes the driver that takes the products to market, the mechanic that keeps the machinery running, the factory worker that makes tires for the equipment, those that work

in processing that convert the farm commodities into foods that consumers enjoy, the chef that prepares the food at your favorite restaurant, and the mom who picks out the food to feed her family just to name a few. On a different note, Farm Bureau is continually investing in member programs, educational efforts (such as Ag in the Classroom activities) and investing in our future leaders (through scholarships and leadership programs). So, do farming and Farm Bureau matter to you, as much as they mattered to your ancestors? Maybe not. But if you take time to study your roots and look around at the people, industries, and institutions that are



Annette Eggers

helping enrich your community and everyday life, you might find out that they matter even more.

IAA Foundation Scholarships.

Do you know of a student that is majoring in an ag-related career? Children of Illinois Farm Bureau members are eligible to apply for scholarships through the IAA Foundation. This year, the IAA Foundation offers 72 awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$7,500. Applicants may apply for more than one, but can only receive one scholarship. For the full details, go to the IAA Foundation website. The application period runs from December 1, 2018 through February 1, 2019. The past two years Jo Daviess County has had a winner, so I encourage everyone to apply.

Ag Fun Fact:

Christmas trees have been sold commercially in the United States since 1851.

United Way of Northwest Illinois, Inc. receives child’s books grant

The United Way of Northwest Illinois, Inc. is proud to announce that it has received a \$20,000 grant for Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library in Stephenson County from the Community Grants Program of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois with support from the Eunice Wishop Stromberg Fund.

Project Details: Dolly Parton created the “Imagination Library” in 1996, for preschoolers in Sevier County, TN, to guarantee access to books and inspire parents to read to their children as much as possible. Since this time, Dolly’s concept has

grown to over 1600 communities worldwide and provides books for children from birth to five years old. This is a critical time for learning as nearly 85% of brain development happens before a child turns three.

Since the launch of the program in Stephenson County in 2016, over 27,000 books have been mailed. All children in Stephenson County between the ages of 0 and 5 are eligible for the program. The program is also available to children in Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties.

Parents can visit www.uwni.org/imaginationlibrary to sign up their child online.

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FHN offering One-Call Mammogram scheduling

FHN, the first healthcare organization in the area to offer no-appointment walk-in mammograms, is improving women’s ability to schedule a mammogram that fits their schedule.

FHN’s walk-in mammograms had gained so much popularity that patients sometimes encountered wait times, which defeated the idea of getting in and out quickly. Women can now schedule a mammogram at their preferred time with one call to 815-599-6860 – even if they need to come in within the next day or two. No-appointment walk-in mammograms still will be available from 1 – 4 p.m. Wednesdays.

For more information on mammograms and other women’s health services available at FHN, visit www.fhn.org.



COURTESY PHOTO The Scoop Today

Blackhawks of the month

The district recognizes Stockton Middle School students each month that are going above and beyond to display the Blackhawk Way expectations. They have been nominated for special acts of being respectful, responsible, and safe.

Blackhawks of the Month are: Fifth Grade-Reece Demeter, Sixth Grade-Ethan Steien, Seventh Grade-Bennett Graves, Eighth Grade-Olivia Keefer.

ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

DONALD R. KRAFT

Donald R. Kraft, age 88, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018 at Liberty Village in Freeport. He was born on July 13, 1930 at St. Francis Hospital in Freeport, IL to Jacob and Olive (Kleckler) Kraft. He was in the US Navy Air Corps from 1948-1950. Don married Anna Schultz on April 26, 1956 and she preceded him in death on June 1, 2012. He owned and operated his own gasoline business from 1950-1986. From 1986 to 1995, he worked at the Freeport Water Treatment Plant, after that he sold long distance phone service for 16 years.

Don is survived by his two daughters; Dixie Bottoms and Jody Ann (Brad) Nieman, one step-daughter; Kay Simmons, all of Freeport, three grandchildren; Jacob (Shelby) Holbert, Miranda (Brian) Book, and Nathan Nieman, two step-grandchildren; John and Troy Simmons, two great-grandchildren; Harper and Owen Book, one sister; Rozella Arthur.

He was preceded by his wife, parents, two brothers; Robert and Walter, sister Ruth Hoge.

Funeral services were held Saturday Dec. 8, at the Leamon Funeral Home.

Officiating the services will be Wayne Fischer and Fred Woodruff.

A private family burial will take place at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport, IL.

A memorial has been established in his name.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

ELDEN ASA WILCOX

Elden Asa Wilcox 84, of Freeport passed away unexpectedly on Monday Dec. 3, 2018 at the Monroe Hospital. He was born on Nov. 23, 1934 to Asa and Corine (Sandlin) Wilcox. He married Au-



drey Brinker-Shaw on June 12, 1971 in Warren, IL. Elden served his country in the U.S. Army. He owned and operated Asa's in Orangeville for 25 years. He worked for Garmin & Winter Construction doing various carpentry projects. Elden enjoyed being on his boat on the Pecatonica River, tinkering in the garage and remodeling their home, playing scratch off's and spending time with his family especially his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife Audrey, children; Julie (Bill) Lambert, James (Eilene) Shaw, John (Glenda) Shaw, Joyce Lehman, Jay (Lisa) Shaw, Jean (Jenaro Ramos) Lutz, Jack (Lynn) Wilcox, Mike (Connie) Redd, Nan (Mike) Determan, Amy Johnson and Penny Coussens; 36 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister.

Funeral services were Saturday Dec. 8, at the Cramer-Leamon Funeral Home in Orangeville.

Burial will be at Sunset Acres.

A memorial has been established in his name.

Condolences may be shared with the family at www.leamonfh.com.

JEANETTE "NETTIE" CONKEY

Jeanette "Nettie" Conkey 66, passed away on Wednesday Nov. 28, 2018 at the University of Madison Hospital. She was born on Jan. 21, 1952 in Illinois to James and Irene (Meier) Patterson.



Nettie was a free spirit, who loved nature and the outdoors. You could always find her with her feet in the water on a hot, sunny summer day, enjoying the scenery that surrounded her. She also had a huge heart for animals, as she'd rescued many through the years. Her children were always her number one priority and would do anything she could for them.

She is survived by two children; Jon Travis Conkey and Emily Conkey. 2 sisters; Joan Bennett, Jean (John) Mrowiec, along with many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and her special dog Diesel.

She was preceded in death by her parents, beloved partner Albert Korn, brother, James "Bert" Patterson, brother-in-law, Dennis Bennett and nephew, James "Jamie" Bennett.

Please come as you are and join us in a celebratory luncheon held at the Lena Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 11 till 3. Afterwards, we will head to Jr's Bar and Grill, in McConnell, IL for a toast in Nettie's honor.

In lieu of flowers, we have decided to plant a tree in her honor.

Condolences may be shared with the family at www.leamonfh.com.

JOSEPH "JOE" J. MCCOLLEY

Joseph "Joe" J. McColley age 63, of Savanna, Illinois, passed away Friday, Nov. 30, 2018 at the University of Iowa Hospital, with his loving family by his side. A visitation and funeral services were held Dec. 8, at Law-Jones Funeral Home in Savanna. Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral service. A memorial fund has been established in Joe's memory. Friends and family are invited to share in Joe's life at www.lawjonesfuneralhome.com.

Joe was born June 6, 1955 in Savanna, the son of James R. and Beverly (Leshelle) McColley. He attended Thomson High School and graduated with the Class of 1973. Joe honorably served his country in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War. Joe worked for Metform in Savanna. Joe married the love of his life Mildred Hartley on Nov. 9, 1990 in Mt. Carroll, Illinois. They celebrated 28 years of marriage.

Joe was a member of the Savanna VFW Post #2223. He enjoyed horse shoes, throwing darts, playing cards while listening to music and having a beer while hanging out in the garage. Family meant the most

Birth

JONAH SCOTT DEMETER

Kyle and Brittney Demeter of Stockton, IL are pleased to announce the birth of their son Jonah Scott Demeter, born on Nov. 12, 2018 at Monroe Clinic, Monroe WI. Jonah joins siblings Emma, Luke, and Audrey at home. Grandparents are Randy and Julie Baysinger, and Fred and Dawn Demeter, all of Stockton, IL.

to Joe, and he treasured the time he spent with them. He enjoyed having cook-outs and going camping with family and friends.

Joe will be dearly missed by his wife, Mildred; three children, Michelle (Matthew) McColley of Galena, Illinois, Craig (Andrea) True of Fulton, Illinois, Renee (Nick) Greene of Hanover, Illinois; 10 grandchildren, Josh, Kearston, Kiley, Noah, Brian, Kaley, Ethan, Remington, Mia, Charlie; 9 brothers and sisters, Rhonda, Mike, Todd, Dawn, Ronnie, Gale, Jennifer, Terry Lee and Robbie; and many nieces and nephews. Joe was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Jimmy.

MICHELLE BUCKLEY

Michelle Buckley, age 44, of Apple River, Illinois, passed away Thursday, Nov. 29, 2018 at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport with her family by her side. A Memorial Gathering to honor her life and visit with the family will be held 5 - 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20, at Law-Jones Funeral Home, Elizabeth, Illinois. Pastor Gary Kirst of

the Galena Bible Church will lead a prayer service at 7 p.m. Family and friends are invited to share in Michelle's life at www.lawjonesfuneralhome.com.

Michelle was born June 17, 1974 in Elmhurst, Illinois, the daughter of John and Jackie Buckley. She is a 1992 graduate of Lake Park High School, Medinah, Illinois. Michelle worked for twenty-five years as a loan processor, spending 10 years with Chase Bank. Michelle loved to cook, dance, dress-up when going out, and spend time with friends.

Michelle will be dearly missed by her parents, John and Jackie Buckley of Apple River, Illinois; and her brother, Michael Buckley, his wife Jennifer, nieces Daniela and Jesalynn and nephew Michael II of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. She is preceded in death by her grandparents.



Google Classroom tip: Gamify your classroom

By Matthew Lynch
THE TECH ADVOCATE

Are you looking for a way to engage your students more fully in the curriculum? If so, have you considered gamifying your classroom? It's not hard to do, and if you use a free service like Google Classroom, you can do so at little or no cost to you or your school district. In today's tip, I will discuss how you can use Google to gamify your classroom.

* Game Show Style Reviews - Create game show style reviews (Jeopardy, Family Feud, Who Wants to be a Millionaire) for students and share through Classroom.

* Gamification - There are tons of apps that allow you to gamify Google Classroom. Some apps allow stu-

dents to play basic quiz games and more advanced ones allow students to play role-playing games. The best part is that all the performance data can be sent back to the Classroom.

* Battleship - Design a game of Battleship in Google Sheets.

* Human Bingo - Create social bingo games or any other type of bingo game in Google Docs or Sheets as part of a lesson. The first person to click the turn in button who has the correct answers wins the game.

* Interactive Games - Upload or create interactive games in Google Docs, Slides, Sheets, or Forms to share with students.

* SnapChat Games - Use Google Slides templates to play SnapChat games in Classroom.



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**Standard
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SUPPLEMENTS

Portrait of
the Month

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Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency 2019 LIHEAP, PIPP and Weatherization Assistance Programs

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to assist residents of Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties with home heating utility costs through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) and Weatherization Programs.

LIHEAP clients with ComEd and/or Nicor Gas as utility providers may have the option of choosing between the traditional Direct Vendor (DVP) one-time payment or the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP). The choices will be explained to clients during their application visit. PIPP applications will be taken until December 31, 2018 or until funding is exhausted. LIHEAP applications will be taken until May 31, 2019 or until funding is exhausted.

Beginning Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, income eligible seniors (age 60 and older) and people receiving disability benefits may call to schedule an appointment to apply for assistance.

Starting November 1, 2018, income eligible households without home energy service **(are disconnected or have a disconnect notice from their primary and/or secondary heating utility)** and families with children age 5 and under may also call to schedule an appointment to apply.

Starting December 3, 2018 all other low income eligible households may apply.

Eligible households may call 800-883-1111 or 815-232-3141 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment to apply for assistance at one of the following locations.

- NICAA Main Office- Freeport • Stockton Banking Center
- Warren Township Library • Hanover Village Hall
- Citizens State Bank of Lena • East Dubuque Library
- Illinois Bank & Trust - Galena Downtown
- German-American State Bank - German Valley

Income Guidelines: To qualify, a household must have a 30 day gross income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level shown below for 30 days prior to and including the application date.

- 1 person household - \$1,518
 - 2 person household - \$2,058
 - 3 person household - \$2,598
 - 4 person household - \$3,138
- Add \$540.00 for each additional person in the household

**** The following documents will be required to apply for assistance ****

- Social Security Cards for all members of the household.
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days including the application date including pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD current benefit letters, pension/retirement statements, child support, unemployment reports, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance notices, self employment reports, and proof of zero income.
- Current complete heat and electric bills and disconnect notices you have received.
- Medical Card from Illinois Department of Human Services.
- Copy of current lease or rent receipt.
- Proof of homeownership, tax bill or title (for mobile home), is required for weatherization assistance.

PY 19 LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program

An Emergency Furnace Assistance Program is available for LIHEAP households of Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties who are **homeowners** and whose **existing** heating systems are not functioning or have been red-tagged by their utility.

The purpose of the LIHEAP Furnace program is to restore heat to the household and is available from October 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019 or until funds have been exhausted.

Priority periods for the LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program are the following:

Beginning Monday, Oct. 1, 2018, income eligible seniors (age 60 and older) and people receiving disability benefits may call to schedule an appointment to apply for assistance.

Starting November 1, 2018, families with children age 5 and under and households with an imminent disconnect notice may also call to schedule an appointment to apply.

Starting December 1, 2018 all other low-income eligible households may apply.

To qualify for the LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program, the household must first apply for and be approved for LIHEAP assistance.

The household must have active service with both primary and secondary heating utilities. Households and disconnected utilities are not eligible for this assistance.

In addition to LIHEAP documents, the following homeownership documentation must be provided:

1. Copy of real estate tax bill
AND
2. One or more of the following:
 - Copy of warranty deed, contract for deed, or quit claim deed (all of these must be stamped and registered with the county clerk)
 - Copy of current mortgage statement
 - Copy of the original Mobile Home title

Please call 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 to make an appointment for assistance.

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency
27 S. State Ave Suite 102, Freeport, IL 61032
Phone: 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 • Website: www.nicaa.org



COURTESY PHOTO The Scoop Today

Operation Christmas Child

Shoe box collection for the year 2018 was held the week of Nov. 12 – 19. This area collected 1,100 boxes. Towns included in this project are Elizabeth, Stockton, Galena, Mt. Carroll, Lena, Larnark, Apple River, Browntown, Gratiot and Argyle, WI.

The workers are Hannah Smith, Abby Weber, Nancy Rice Janice Kehl, Judy Schubert Karl Hubb, Keri, Cullen, Kaelan Schubert, Darcie Raab and Steve Rice, who loaded 68 cartons on a trailer donated by Bryan Broshous and drove to Rockford where the boxes were then shipped across the world, each with a child's gift and a book telling about the birth of Jesus.

God bless each one of you who helped in any way.

Stockton to host Annual Community Christmas Dinner

The Annual Stockton Community Christmas Dinner will be held Tuesday, Dec. 25, at noon at Calvary United Methodist Church in Stockton. We believe this is the 33rd year the churches and businesses have worked together to provide this dinner. All persons are invited, especially those who will not be with family on Christmas. Reservations can be made at each church until Dec. 23, or by phone to Elaine Schlichting at 815-947-3795, but are not needed. Deliveries will also be made to shut-

ins in the immediate Stockton area, just remember to give your address and a phone number. Please call Calvary Church at 815-947-2414 on Christmas Day.

The menu will consist of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy,

green beans, raspberry salad, rolls, pies and angel food cake. Volunteers will be doing set-up starting at 1 p.m. on Dec. 24. Those bringing donated food may bring food at that time to Calvary Church or Tuesday morning preferably before 10 a.m.

Stockton Wesley youth to stage Christmas program

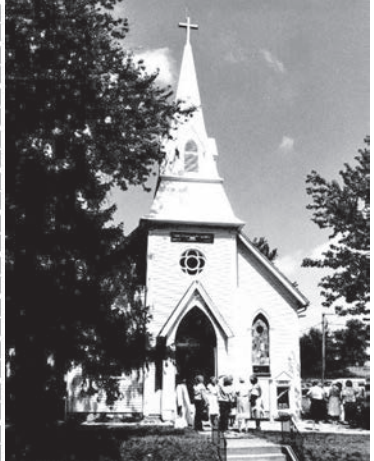
As Max Lucado said in his book "Because of Bethlehem:"Rekindle your connection to the Christ of Christmas and find hope for a lifetime; lay down your endless Christ-

mas to-do list and receive what Christ has already done; heal your heartache by embracing the God who is always near you, always for you and always in you!"

The youth of Wesley church (127 E. Benton, Stockton) would like to invite you to do just that by attending their Christmas program at the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 16. It is called "The Way in a Manger" and will feature the Christmas story told in Scripture and poetry, dance and music. Refreshments will follow to help celebrate the heart-shaping promises of Christmas.

Joy to the World!

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AWANA-Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.
Junior and Senior High
Youth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Listen to pastor's weekly sermon
at www.lenafreechurch.org

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Can you believe we are getting so close to Christmas? I need to get somewhere to do a little Christmas shopping. I also need to get some cookies baked. Since we are talking about Christmas, this week's recipes are more than cookies. (If you read last week, you know I over-loaded on cookies!) So this week there are some recipes for a salad, vegetable, main dish, dessert and candy.

The first recipe is for a delicious dressing. If you want to go the "lite" route, you can use light mayo. It is a great recipe for baby spinach greens. It is also good on the spring lettuce mix.

Orange Yogurt Dressing

¼ C. mayonnaise
¼ C. plain yogurt
2 T. orange juice
2 t. hone
1 t. grated orange zest
¼ t. salt
Dash of pepper
Bag of baby spinach greens
In a small bowl whisk together all

ingredients, and cover and refrigerate for at least an hour. Drizzle over baby spinach.

This next vegetable recipe is a really good one for baked green beans. This side dish would be a great one for Christmas.

Green Beans with Roasted Garlic and Mushrooms

1 lb. fresh green beans, trimmed
2 C. sliced fresh mushrooms
1 clove garlic, minced
¼ C. olive oil
1 t. salt
1 t. pepper

Preheat oven to 350. On a large rimmed baking sheet, toss together all ingredients until well combined. Spread in a single layer. Bake until tender, about 25 minutes.

There are many recipes for chicken breasts, but lately the Food Network shows are talking about the delicious taste of chicken thighs. Molasses sweetens this bacon wrapped entrée.

Bacon Wrapped Chicken Thighs

6 boneless skinless chicken thighs
1 t. kosher salt
½ t. pepper
6 slices thick-cut bacon
1 t. oil
1 small red onion, cut into ½ inch thick wedges
3 cloves garlic, crushed
1 T. molasses
1 t. Dijon mustard
2 T. flour
1 C. heavy whipping cream

Preheat the oven to 350. Sprinkle chicken all over with salt and pepper. Wrap 1 slice bacon around each thigh, securing with a wooden pick. In a large ovenproof skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken thighs, onions, and garlic, and cook, turning once until bacon begins to crisp and vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes per side.

In a small bowl, whisk together the molasses and mustard. Brush onto chicken. Bake until meat thermometer inserted in the center registers 165, about 20 minutes. Remove chicken, onion and garlic with a slotted spoon, reserving ¼ cup of the drippings in the skillet. Heat skillet over medium heat. Whisk in flour to drippings, and cook until bubbly,

See KITCHEN, Page 12

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE AUCTION

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Wednesday, December 19th • 11:30 am

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HAY: 1200-3x3x8 ft. Large Dry Square Bales. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Crop, stored inside; 900-4x5 ft. Net Wrapped Round Bales, wet, line wrapped; 300-1st, 300-2nd 300-3rd; 500 Rd. Bales of dry corn fodder, 4x5ft. Bales, net wrapped.

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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will gather for the Third Sunday of Advent worship service with Holy Communion on Dec. 16, at Good Shepherd, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to come and join with Good Shepherd family as the Sunday School Children present their Christmas program, "Ornaments of Christmas".

Following worship, there will be a time for fellowship with coffee and sweets.

On Wednesday Dec. 19, at 8 a.m. the Piece Corps Quilters will work together to craft quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Our quilts provide warmth and love to people in our community and in the world. Materials and helping hands to tie and sew quilts are always appreciated. No previous quilting experience is necessary. Come join the fun and make a difference in the world!

On Thursday Dec. 20, Good Shepherd will be at the Friendship Center at 1 p.m. for Devotions and Dessert.

On Friday, Dec. 21, Hannah Circle will be at the Lena Living Center for December birthday party from 2-3 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 22, Good Shepherd will be at the Lena Food Pantry.

We are having a SOCK DRIVE for the Le-Win Elementary school. Bring new and comfortable socks to the church during the Christmas season.

If you have any questions, please call the church at 815-369-5552.

St. John's Lutheran Church

The birth of a baby is accompanied by a lot of different emotions. It is normal for new moms to experience "baby blues" after childbirth. This can last for up to two weeks. Symptoms include mood swings, crying spells, anxiety, and difficulty sleeping. For some new mothers, however, the experience is far more intense and persistent. This is known as postpartum depression.

According to Sage Therapeutics, postpartum depression is the most common medical complication of childbirth. Sage says, "Having a baby changes your body and your life in ways that are hard to predict. Feeling sad, moody, or tired is normal in the first few weeks after childbirth. PPD is different."

If you are mother to a newborn child and are experiencing symptoms such as: brain fog, anxiety, sleeplessness, crying, feeling like life is weighing you down, avoiding friends or family, or just don't feel yourself, we are here to help you. You are not alone, and you WILL be OK.

St. John's will host, and Monroe Clinic personnel will conduct, a Postpartum Depression Support Group the third Thursday of each month beginning Dec. 17th. Each session will begin at 5:30 p.m. and finish at 7. This support group is open to the public, and everyone who needs this help is invited to attend.

Also, everyone in the community is invited to join us for worship Saturday, 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School

and Bible Classes are 9:15-10:15. Check our unique Sunday School--Bible Learning Activity Stations (BLAST).

St. John's (Pearl City)

You're invited to join us at St. John's for worship on Sunday, Dec. 16, for the Third Sunday of Advent. Enjoy the Christmas program, "The Wonder" during worship on Dec. 16. This Christmas program includes the Sunday School kids and adults. The Sunday School continue their "Dig In-Discipleship" study beginning at 10:15 a.m. The Confirmation Class will meet at 10:15 a.m. The Memorial & Finance and the Stewardship & Outreach Committee will also meet after worship.

The December Grace Meal will be served in Luther Hall on Dec. 16. The meal will be a Christmas Ham dinner.

The Advent Book Study is focusing on the book, "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado and is meeting after worship on Sundays. Come study the season of Advent as we move from Hope, Peace, and Joy to love that has to offer, as we explore the child in the cradle.

The Youth Groups continue to meet at St. John's. The Fifth Quarter (seventh and eighth grades) meet at 6 p.m. on Sundays followed by the Genesis (high school) meet at 7:30 p.m.

Congratulations to Dan Koch, Argyle, WI for winning the \$200 Calendar Raffle drawing on Dec. 5.

Plan on celebrating the Christmas Season at St. John's. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be held at 5 and 9 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The Christmas Day worship will be at 9 a.m. The service of Carols and Readings will be at 9 a.m. on Dec. 30.

Need a place to hold an event in Pearl City? The main hall at St. John's is available for rent. Call the church for more information and availability.

St. John's Lutheran Church is at 229 S. First Street, Pearl City, Illinois. The office phone number is 815-443-2215 (mornings). All are invited to our weekly worship services and youth to our Sunday School and youth ministries. You may also email at prshadmin@gmail.com.

Willow/Kent United Methodist Churches

The Willow/Kent United Methodist Churches will worship together Sunday, Dec. 17, at Willow UMC at 9 a.m. Pastor Chuck Wolbers will be bringing the message celebrating the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Our choir will be performing their unique versions of Christmas songs.

All are invited and welcome to stay for fellowship. Sunday School is at 10:30 a.m., also studying from the Upper Room. All are invited and welcome to this time too.

Willow UMC is located seven miles SE of Stockton, IL on Willow RD. For more information, please call Pastor Chuck at 815-947-2541.

*The Scoop Today
& The Shopper's Guide*

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Classifieds

Business Hours:

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For your convenience
Visa & Mastercard
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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

Star Manufacturing Immediate Opening

Customer Service Coordinator – We are looking for a skilled problem solver to join our team. We need an enthusiastic individual who can listen to customer service issues and offer solutions to external and internal customer problems. The successful candidate will offer timely follow through, attention to detail, and demonstrate professional behavior.

Job requires excellent verbal and written communication skills. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office. Related experience and/or training will be considered.

Star offers a competitive salary and benefit package.

Please submit resume or apply in person to:

Star Manufacturing
1801 S Ihm Blvd
Freeport, IL 61032
hr@starmfg.com
www.starmfg.com

334266

Illinois Extension/4-H has an opening in the Freeport office for an Extension Program Coordinator to work with Youth programming in Stephenson County and NW Illinois. For more information, including a job description and information on Extension, go to go.illinois.edu/jsw. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Jackie DeBatista, Youth Development Educator at 815-235-4125 or jbatista@illinois.edu. Deadline to apply is 1/2/19. The U of I is an EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled - <http://www.inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu/>

334048

To place an ad in our Help Wanted Section Call Laurie at (815) 369-4112

FOR SALE

Announcements

DISCLAIMER NOTICE This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS fleece tied blankets (twin size), baby blankets, dog pillows. Hickory nut \$6/pint & Walnut meats \$10/quart. 815-947-2167

Notice

CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.

Misc. For Sale

15 CU-FT CHEST FREEZER Works great. \$95 OBO. Call 815-947-3196 after 12:00 noon.

FOR RENT

Apartments

Garage For Rent: Dietz's Old School Apt. \$55.00 per month. 815-369-4334

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Other for Rent

Land For Rent 94 Acres of good productive land for 2019 season in Davis IL Rock City IL area. 815-291-2382



Rural & Farm Properties

- Small & Large Acre Farms
- Prime Hunting Land
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- Lake & Vacation Properties

Call Laurie
815-369-4112
for more details on placing an ad in our **REAL ESTATE SECTION**

65534

Automobiles

Automobiles

1997 Ford F150 Four wheel drive, 157k, manual transmission, 4.6L V8. Runs great. \$3,400 608-931-7032

1998 BUICK LESABRE CUSTOM 78,100 orig. mi., car fax, V6/3.8 liter, automatic, 4 door, power windows/brakes/seats, very good condition, excellent runner. \$3,800. 262-895-3404.

2000 TOYOTA CAMRY 6 cyl., one owner, 74,000 mi., \$4,600 630-363-0600

2013 FORD EDGE Clear title, black on black, loaded, remote start, towing pkg., 65,213 mi. \$36,000 new, asking \$15,900 815-623-8419

CADILLAC STS 2003 Low mileage, 66,000 mi, like brand new, only one other owner, beige leather interior, clean car fax. \$4,500 262-895-9535

Automobiles Wanted

GET UP TO \$500 for your unwanted junk truck, running or not, will haul away 7 days a week. 262-758-1807.

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Automotive

Boats

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2005 BENTLEY 240 CRUISE 60 HP, Bigfoot Mercury Outboard, with 2006 Trailmaster tandem axle trailer. \$11,000 OBO. 4500 lbs. shore station lift with canopy and electric motor. New in 2015. \$7,500 OBO. 630-209-9415.

Sports/Classic Cars

1978 CHEVY ELCAMINO 305 CU, auto. Firm \$3,500. 262-719-2168.

1987 CAMARO IROC-Z 5 sp, FI, black, excel . cond. \$7,500. 815-980-3365

Trucks & Trailers

1990 CHEVY SCOTSDALE 1/2 TON 4.3 L, V-6, decent tires, excellent body except one fender. 99,000 m, \$3,000. 262-642-2188.

1992 Ford F150 5.0 L, V8, 5 speed manual, regular cab long box, 4X4, newer tires. Runs good \$1,200 608-897-5775

WELLSARGO 22' AUTOWAGON Trailer. \$6,000 OBO. 224-518-6491.

Vans, Mini Vans

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about 1 minute. Remove from heat, and gradually whisk in cream until smooth. Return chicken, onion, and garlic to skillet, and cook until heated through. Remove wooden picks before serving.

This recipe is for a delicious dessert dip. The hardest part of the recipe is unwrapping caramels. Enjoy this great dessert.

Turtle Cheesecake Dip

30 Kraft Caramels
 2¼ C. thawed Cool Whip, divided
 2 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped
 2 pkg. (8 oz.) each cream cheese softened

1½ C. chopped pecans, toasted
 Microwave caramels and ½ cup Cool Whip in medium bowl on HIGH for 1 minute and 40 seconds, stirring after 1 minute. Stir until caramels are completely melted and sauce is well blended. Cool for 10 minutes. Microwave chocolate and ¾ cup of the remaining Cool Whip (remember it was divided) in small

bowl for 1 minute, stirring after 20 seconds. Stir until chocolate is completely melted and sauce is well blended.

Beat cream cheese in a separate medium bowl with mixer until creamy. Add 2/3 cup caramel sauce; beat until blended. Gently stir in remaining 1 cup Cool Whip.

Spread cream cheese mixture onto a serving plate; drizzle with chocolate sauce and remaining caramel sauce; sprinkle with nuts. Refrigerate for 1 hour.

This dessert is easy to make and tastes great. It also looks pretty on a plate. You will love the chocolate and raspberry combination.

Mini White Chocolate-Raspberry Cheesecakes

14 Oreo cookies, finely crushed
 3 T. butter, melted
 2 pkg. (8 oz. each) softened
 1 t. vanilla
 ½ C. plus 2 T. sugar, divided
 2 oz. white chocolate melted

2 eggs
 1 C. fresh raspberries, divided
 Preheat the oven to 325. Combine cookie crumbs and butter; press onto bottoms of 12 paper-lined muffin cups, adding about 1 T. crumb mixture to each cup.

Beat the cream cheese, vanilla and ½ cup sugar in large bowl with mixer until blended. Add melted chocolate; mix well. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing on low speed after each just until blended. Spoon over crusts.

Reserve 12 raspberries for garnish. Process remaining raspberries with remaining sugar in food processor blender until smooth. Pour through a fine-mesh strainer into bowl. Discard strained solids.

Pour strained raspberry sauce into resalable plastic bag. Cut small piece off one bottom corner of bag; use to pipe 2 small dots of raspberry sauce onto batter in each muffin cup. Swirl into hearts. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until centers of cheesecakes

are almost set. Cool cheesecakes completely. Refrigerate for 2 hours. Garnish with the reserved whole raspberries.

Last week the column featured cookies, and one of my friends asked why I left out candy. This recipe is for her. It is a pretty candy that has the taste of peppermint. I think it is as good as the peppermint fudge that is featured and only available during the Christmas season.

Layered Peppermint Fudge

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
 5 C. powdered sugar
 1 pkg. (4 oz.) unsweetened chocolate m. melted
 1 pkg. (4 oz.) white chocolate, melted
 ½ t. peppermint extract
 ¼ C. chopped hard peppermint candies

Spray and 8-inch square pan with

cooking spray. Line with parchment, extending the ends of parchment over sides. Spray with additional cooking spray.

Beat cream cheese in large bowl with mixer until creamy. Gradually add sugar; mixing well after each addition. Spoon half the cream cheese mixture into separate bowl. Add unsweetened chocolate and mix well. Press onto bottom of prepared pan, using moistened fingers.

Add white chocolate and peppermint extract to remaining cream cheese mixture; mix well. Press into even layer over chocolate layer in pan. Smooth top with spatula. Sprinkle with candies. Refrigerate 2 hours or until firm. Use parchment handles to remove fudge form pan before cutting to serve.

This candy recipe uses melting wafers. Ghirardelli makes both the white chocolate and milk chocolate wafers. If you wanted to substitute a different nut, you could. The pistachio and the cherries and cranberries make for a red and green theme.

Sweet and Salty Chocolate Bark

2 pkg. (10 oz.) each white chocolate melting wafers (Ghirardelli)
 1 C. crushed pretzels, divided
 ¼ C. dried cherries
 ¼ C. chopped dried cranberries
 ¼ C. chopped salted pistachios
 1/3 C. dark chocolate melting wafers

Line a rimmed 12 x 9 baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large microwave safe bowl, melt white chocolate melting wafers according to package directions. Stir in ¾ C. pretzels. Spread onto prepared pan. Sprinkle with cherries, cranberries, pistachios, and remaining ¼ cup pretzels, gently pressing into white chocolate.

In a small microwave safe bowl, melt dark chocolate melting wafers according to package direction. Place melted dark chocolate in a piping bag and drizzle over dark. Let cool until set, about 2 hours. Break into pieces. Store in an airtight container for up to 1 week.

I finally got most of the decorations up; I am hoping for a giant baking marathon next week. We will see how well that works out. I went to a Christmas program in Monroe last weekend, and it definitely put me in the Christmas spirit. Just a reminder that we have lots of good things to shop for in our little towns in the Shoppers Guide/Scoop Today circulation area. We continue to look for Christmas recipes—cookies, main dishes, and appetizers.

If you would like to share, please send them in. You can contact us in person, by mail, or email us at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide at 213 S. Center St. or email scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

Medicare basics class scheduled

If you need to know anything about Medicare, a Medicare Basics class may be the most informative 1 ½ hours that you can spend ... and it's free.

Held in both Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties, Medicare Basics is ideal for those who are within three years of going on Medicare, who are already on Medicare and need a refresher or for children or caregivers of people who are planning to go on Medicare or are already on Medicare.

The Freeport class is held monthly at the Senior Activity Center, 216 E. Stephenson St. Upcoming Freeport classes are on Tuesday, Dec. 18, at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. and on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. Call 815-235-9777, ext. 221, to make a reservation. In Galena, the class is held bi-monthly at the West Galena Township Office. The next Galena class is delayed because of winter weather concerns; a date will be announced soon.

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