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VOL. 81 • NO. 7

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13, 2019

LeWin/Orangeville orators advance to Sectional competition

The first step in the three-part IHSA State Series in Competitive Speech, AKA Individual Events, AKA Forensics, happened Saturday, Feb. 2, at eighteen Regional Tournaments held all over Illinois, from Blue Island in the north to Harrisburg in the far southern reaches of the state. For the Lena-Winslow/Orangeville Speech Team, that event occurred at Freeport High School.

The second step in this three-part series is the Sectional Tournament, which for all local teams is at Rochelle Township High School one week later. In order to advance to Sectionals, a student must place in the top four in his or her speaking category at Regionals. And, as they have every year since 2006, students from Le-Win/Orangeville once again earned this advancement.

Orangeville's Justin Malone won a first place award in Oratorical Declamation and second in Radio Speaking. Fellow Orangeville Broncos Ronan O'Brien (fourth, Impromptu) and Emma Beightol (fourth, Original Oratory) joined Justin to Rochelle as did Lena-Winslow's Ashlyn Enck who came in fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking.

If Justin would have landed in first place in Radio, he would have been one of three students to win two first place awards, a pretty rare occurrence. Those who did double up on the top prize were Heidie Raine from Byron High School and Jake VenHuizen of Stockton/Warren.

There were nine teams in this year's Freeport Regional, down from twelve a year ago. Two circumstances caused this drop. First, Aquin High School did not field a team this year, and also two teams from 2018's Freeport Regional, Jefferson and Auburn, were moved to a different Regional by the IHSA. Regional tournaments are among the smallest competitions in which students compete. By comparison, a typical invitational tournament will have from fifteen to twenty teams. The number of teams other local Regional contests in years past have fielded were twelve (2017), nine (2016), twelve (2012-15), and thir-



Le-Win/Orangeville Regional Speech Team students who advanced to the Sectional Tournament are, from left, Emma Beightol, Justin Malone, Ashlyn Enck, and Ronan O'Brien.

teen (2011).

The five speaking categories in which Le-Win/Orangeville students advanced was also down somewhat from their usual seven or eight. As is typical with any speech season, the dynamics of several variables caused this to happen.

"Graduation always takes its toll on any team," said former head coach and now assistant Tom Fore. "We did lose some top talent from last year, but what really hurt us were students quitting the team. Last year's top Dramatic Duet Acting students quit, as did our Informative Speaker. Plus, for a host of reasons, at least four other categories just never got off the ground in time to be truly competitive. Meredith Schoonhoven (the current head coach) did an outstanding job shuffling kids around to fill holes on the team, and we did have a full team at

Regionals. I give her a lot of credit for this. But she faced, and dealt with, challenges I wasn't expecting her to have to deal with."

This isn't the first time the Le-Win/Orangeville team has faced adversity during the State Series and bounced back. In 2015, the last year when students from Lena, Orangeville, Stockton, and Warren were all on one team, the four-team coop had four first place winners and qualified ten categories out of fourteen to Sectionals.

"We were loaded that year," said Fore. "We gave (eventual Regional champion) Freeport a run for their money. But, we were top-heavy with

students from Stockton and Warren. They were some of the best, most talented kids we've ever had, but seven of the ten categories we sent to Sectionals that year were from those two schools. Under normal circumstances that would have been fine, but what I didn't see coming was the Stockton and Warren school boards electing to dissolve the coop later that spring. They wanted their own team, and it took us a couple of years to recover."

But, recover they did. The next year, 2016, was a downturn with only five categories qualifying for Sectionals (half of the previous year), but that number climbed to

seven the next year and reached eight in 2018, the third highest since 1999.

"We will recover. We always do," Fore said. "My first five years as head coach, from 2003 to 2007, we qualified ten categories to Sectionals. That's ten total over five years. But, things started taking off around 2009. A new coach will always face challenges, and all-in-all, this season was actually pretty good in a number of ways. Meredith came in with no previous knowledge, but she went through more in one year than I went through in my first five. After we get a little more of a head start on next year, we'll be fine."

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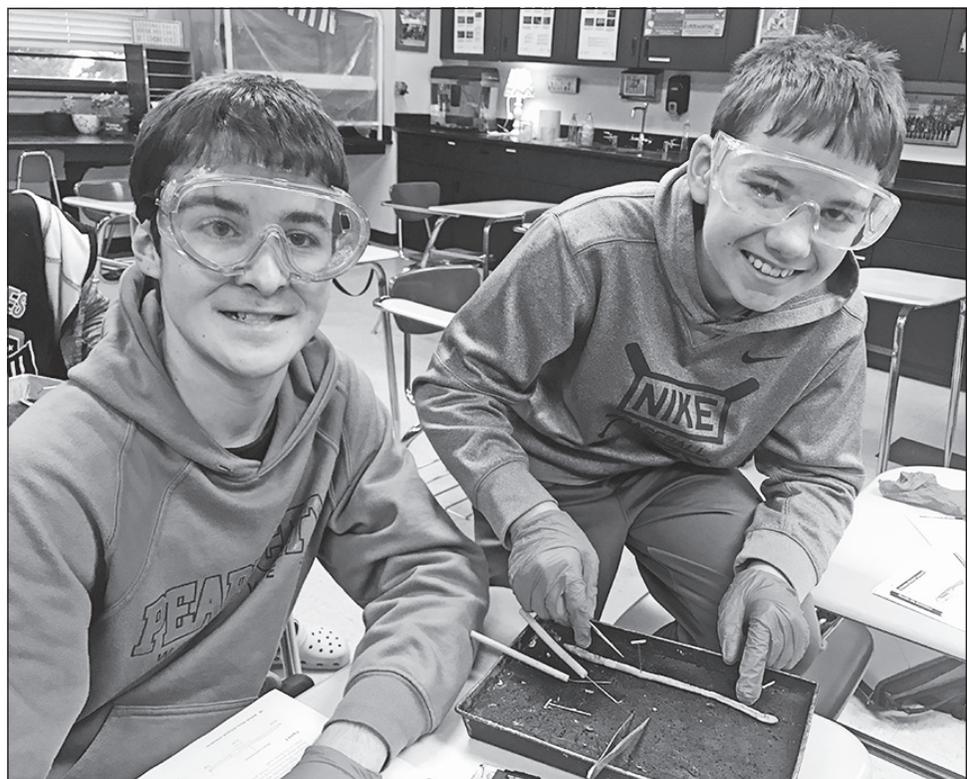
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Earthworm dissection

Pearl City seventh graders Margaret Smital, Katelyn Little and Ava Bremmer enjoyed participating in the earthworm dissection.



Pearl City seventh graders Jacob Lieb and Kyle Niehaus located the brain, nerve cord, digestive system and the intestines during their earthworm dissection session.



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Our family would like to thank all the family and friends who sent cards, called or visited Mom after her fall in October. We would also like to thank the staff of The Monroe Clinic Hospital, The Monroe Clinic, the Palliative care workers who tended to Mom over the years and the staff at Pearl Pavilion for all their care and consideration while she was in their care. She lived a wonderful life, calling Lena her home for almost all of it. She always considered Lena to be one big family, always caring for one another. Thank you all for being a part of her life.

*Sincerely,
The Family of Lavonne Stauffer Jones*

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100 days

Le-Win Kindergarten and Jr. Kindergarten classes celebrated 100 Days of school on Monday, Feb. 4. They made hats and necklaces. They also had a parade in the school and then did 100 exercises together.



Tanner Hough created a one-hundredth day shirt using 100 buttons with his mom. Tanner is in Mrs. Bunker's Kindergarten class.

THE SHOPPER'S GUIDE

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SONYA WILLIAMSON PHOTOS The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Lady Blackhawks

These Stockton fans celebrate big time as their Lady Blackhawks reel in a big win.



The Stockton Lady Blackhawks, their fans, and parents celebrate being Number One!



Anyone can get a quidditch trophy, but the Lady Blackhawks and their fans choose to celebrate their regional trophy.

(Right) Stockton Lady Blackhawks celebrate the school's regional win.



Stockton becomes regional champs with a big win over Sterling Newman 60-32.



Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation schedule February meeting

The Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation will be meeting Thursday, Feb. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at The Rafter's Restaurant & Catering, 9426 W. Wagner Road, Lena, Illinois 61048. The meeting will be held in the Cafe' Dining Room with our President, Joe Ginger presiding. Great atmosphere, great food and POPCORN too! The Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation is a 501(c)3 Not-for-Profit organization that is dedicated to improving all 58 miles of your Pecatonica River experience. This includes access, education, wildlife habitat, log jam extrication and river clean-up for the human communities in Stephenson County. Would you like to learn more? The FPRF is available to attend your organizations meeting too!

Be sure to pick-up the all new Second Edition of the Pecatonica River post card book, which is available at our meeting for \$12. Another collector book created by Joe Ginger with autographs available at our meeting. We will be discussing our Log Jam Removal, the proposed Wes Block Landing, Atten's Landing development, seeding and more. Free Canoe & kayak trips. Come check us out.

The fun & fishing are great on your 10,000 year old river and the Wildlife viewing is even better. Our organization is a fun "hands on" group that is making great things happen. We encourage you to attend our meeting and consider becoming a member. Everyone is welcome.

Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation to host pancake breakfast

The Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation are having a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's in Freeport. The date is Saturday Feb. 23, from 8 to 10 a.m. This is a fund raiser to support our efforts to build and maintain our 58 mile Pecatonica River Water Trail.

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Impact of \$15 minimum wage on small businesses

By Mark Grant
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

The big push early in the 101st General assembly is to nearly double Illinois's minimum wage from \$8.25 to \$15 per hour by 2025. Raising it 80 percent over six years will have serious negative consequences for small businesses and their workers.

Supporters of the hike say we need to raise the minimum wage because you can't raise a family on \$8.25 per hour, but we think that premise is a red herring. The minimum wage is actually a starting wage. It is not and never was meant for experienced hourly workers. It's what an employer pays new inexpe-

rienced workers who are learning job skills.

When the Illinois Legislature took up a similar bill in 2017, the NFIB Research Center crunched the numbers and concluded that raising the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour would result in the loss of over 93,000 jobs over the first ten years it goes into effect. Here are some reasons why.

One, obviously, is the impact of the government dictating that employers give workers who currently earn the state minimum wage an 80 percent pay raise. According to the latest figures from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 18,000 people earn the state minimum wage.

Secondly, and this is very significant, employers would have little choice but to give a raise to hourly workers who earn a more than minimum wage. Starting pay here is \$8.25 an hour. Suppose you have an employee who's been on the job a few months and does a great job. Their hourly wage is, say, \$12 an hour. If the state tells you that someone with no experience must start at \$15 per hour, you'll need to pay the experienced employees a few dollars on top of that. It's government mandated inflation.

Think about the thousands of Illinois small businesses along the borders of our neighboring states that have lower minimum wages. These businesses will be forced to

raise prices and/or reduce employee hours. They will eventually lose business to their competitors just across state lines. Price is king for consumers, they'll shop next door.

Supporters also want the \$15 minimum wage to apply statewide. They are ignoring the cost of living difference between Chicago and the rest of Illinois. Our small businesses across our state, in our communities who are our neighbors, will get hit the hardest.

What's especially frustrating about all this is that economists say raising the minimum wage would have a negligible impact on working families. Supporters also claim it will help the working poor. Again University of Washington research-

ers who have studied the effects of the \$15 minimum wage in Seattle found that while low wage workers got raises, they lost hours. The study said for an average low-wage worker in Seattle, that would translate into a loss of about \$125 per month.

Illinois has seen a steady stream of taxpayers and businesses leaving over the last several years. This will undoubtedly worsen the trend. Can we afford this? Small businesses say absolutely not. If the General Assembly is serious about helping working families, it will focus less on forcing wage hikes and more on solving Illinois' debt and pension crises and creating an environment where small businesses can grow and create good paying jobs.

Senate Democrats send minimum wage bill to House

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bill to raise Illinois' minimum wage passed the state Senate on partisan lines Thursday after Gov. J.B. Pritzker made a personal appeal to Democratic lawmakers at a private caucus prior to the vote.

Senate Bill 1 received only Democratic votes as it passed by a 39-18 margin, putting the onus on the Illinois House to get the bill to Pritzker's desk by his requested deadline of Feb. 20, when he is scheduled to give his budget address.

While no Republicans voted for the bill – and several spoke against it on the floor citing concerns about businesses leaving the state, unforeseen costs on schools and universities, and the potential for job loss for low-wage employees – Pritzker said conservative voices helped shape the legislation.

"I talked personally with several senators to make sure their ideas were incorporated. I talked with many of the interest groups that represent businesses, and Republican interests, to incorporate those into the bill," Pritzker said during a news conference in his office at which no

elected Republicans were present.

Interest groups are expected to continue to lobby for changes when the bill is heard in the House – particularly for an amendment to include a regional rollout of the minimum wage for lower rates downstate. But Rep. Will Guzzardi, a Chicago Democrat and SBI's House sponsor, said as far as he's concerned, his chamber should approve the current Senate version.

"I feel very confident that we will pass Senate Bill 1 as the Senate passed it," Guzzardi said. "I don't see the need for us to make any further changes to the legislation right here before us."

Current Details

If approved as is, the minimum wage will be phased in over six years, starting with an increase from \$8.25 to \$9.25 on Jan. 1, 2020, before increasing to \$10 on July 1, 2020, and \$11 on Jan. 1, 2021. After that, it would increase by \$1 every year until it hits \$15 in 2025.

Kimberly Lightford, a Maywood Democrat and the bill's Senate sponsor, said compromise is reflected in the six-year rollout and in a small business tax credit which won't af-

fect Chicago businesses until the wage exceeds Chicago's minimum, which is currently \$12.

The tax credit is available to businesses with fewer than 50 "full-time equivalent" employees, which means businesses that pay less than 2,000 employee hours in a one-week period.

The credit would start at 25 percent of the difference between the current minimum wage and an employee's wage in the final quarter of the previous calendar year. It would decrease by 4 percent each year until it hits 5 percent in the final two years.

Employers with 2,000 or fewer employee hours will be able to take advantage of the credit for 7 years, while employees with 200 or fewer employee hours will be able to take advantage of the credit for 8 years.

A 'Moral Issue'

Democratic senators, including Toi Hutchinson of Olympia Fields, said the vote was a moral one and \$8.25 is a poverty wage.

"In 2019, if you have ever said nobody that works full time should ever live in poverty, today is your day to do something about it.

Don't tell me what you believe in. Show me," she said.

Lightford, who has sponsored four minimum wage bills since 2010, painted the vote as a moral one too, while emphasizing that business interests were part of conversations throughout.

"The business credit is important because Democrats care about business too," she said. "A \$15 minimum wage increase actually creates economic activity. It decreases the reliance on government."

As an olive branch to the Illinois Restaurant Association, which became a proponent of the bill, a tip-credit will remain in the law. It allows employers to pay 60 percent of the minimum wage to tipped employees.

It will be accompanied by provisions to guard against wage theft, including increasing the amount that can be recovered when wages are underpaid.

A Balanced Budget?

Pritzker's office anticipated yearly increases to the state budget from \$82 million to \$270 million until the cost is about \$1.1 billion each year by the time the wage hits \$15 in 2025. This is because the bill accounts for increased appropriations by 3 to 5 percent to some human service programs and direct service providers as well as costs for state employee raises.

This increase does not account for increased demands for extra funding for nursing homes, hospitals, colleges, universities and some other state agencies and human services providers.

There is also more anticipated revenue from income taxes to help offset those costs.

Between 2020 and 2026, income tax revenues are expected to increase by varying amounts between \$20 million and \$96 million each year, even when accounting for increased income tax credits the bill would make available to businesses. By 2026, income taxes revenue will have increased by nearly \$400 million from 2019.

Despite added revenues being less than the costs, Pritzker said he will present a balanced budget on Feb. 20.

"We are going to be presenting a balanced budget that includes the cost of the minimum wage," he said, offering no further details as to how that would be accomplished.

College news

Illinois State University announces 2018 Fall Dean's List

Illinois State University proudly announces the Dean's list for the Fall 2018 Semester. Students who have completed 12 credit hours or more during the semester and have a minimum of 3.25 grade point average (GPA), based on a 4.0 scale, are included on the dean's list. Highest Honors are awarded to students with a perfect 4.0 GPA. High Honors distinction is given to students with a 5.50 to 3.99 GPA, and Honors students have earned a GPA between 3.25 and 3.49.

Highest Honors awarded to Hannah McGivney, Apple River for her perfect 4.0 GPA for Fall 2018. Hannah is the daughter of Jim and Monica McGivney.

University of Minnesota Duluth announces Fall Semester Dean's List

The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Fall Semester 2018. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.

Included is Colton C Brinker of Lena, SO, College of Liberal Arts, Sociology BA.

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ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

DONALD "DUCK" RAHORN

Donald "Duck" Rahorn 64, of McConnell passed away at his home on Saturday Feb. 9, 2019 with his family by his side. He was born on March 21, 1954 to Lester and Mary (Jackson) Rahorn in Freeport, IL. He married Sandra Reusch on Dec. 18, 1982 in Orangeville, IL.



He was a member of the Orangeville Fire Department. He worked at the Old Mill feed mill in Orangeville, Barr Livestock Trucking, helped his father Lester move buildings, and at Eiserman Sawmill in Dakota until 1984. Donald was a jack of all trades, could fix anything and would do anything for anyone. He enjoyed camping, boating, and having campfires down by the river. Sandra and Donald enjoyed traveling to Hawaii and Mexico. He was

a family man, and a loving grandpa.

He is survived by his wife Sandra of McConnell, children; Craig (Jolene) Croffoot, Tony (Tasha) Croffoot, Derek (Jennifer) Croffoot and Tamera Ellis. Grandchildren; Steven (Kelsee Taylor), Katelin, Erin, Michael, Maya, Connor, Eliza, Lillian, and Silas Croffoot, Michael, Austin, and Haley Ellis, and Destiny Lewis. Great Granddaughter; MaKenna and brother David Rahorn and special friends Pat and Roger Thruman.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

A Memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday Feb. 16, at the McConnell United Methodist Church in McConnell, on Hulbert Street.

A visitation will be from 10 a.m. until time of services at the church.

Ernest Stabenow and John Ricketts will officiate the services.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his name.

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

KYLE A. TUCKER

Kyle A. Tucker, 35, of Freeport, Illinois, died Sunday February 3, 2019. He was born August 17, 1983 in Freeport, the son of Hal and Cindy (Tucker), and Sharie and Tommy Hoster. He is loved by his wife, Jennifer Tucker; and two girls, Saige and Maleia Tucker.



Kyle graduated from Freeport High School and was an accomplished football, baseball and track and field athlete who won a ton of medals and awards. Kyle had many passions, none greater than his wife, kids, family and friends. Kyle also loved his work; Kyle owned and operated K&J Electric in Freeport Illinois. He also loved playing darts on Thursday nights in his dart league. Kyle was a member of the Eagles Club in Freeport.

Kyle is survived by his wife, Jennifer

Tucker; daughters, Saige and Maleia Tucker; parents, Hal and Cindy Tucker, Sharie and Tommy Hoster of Freeport; his brother, Kory; sister, Krista; and Brittany, step-sisters, Amber and Loran; grandparents Roger and Eileen Arand; father and mother-in law, John and Sheila Carr; step-grandmother, Shirley Hintz; nieces, Adalynn Meyer, Vada Huett and Mia Anderson; nephews, Trae Pendelton, Wyatt Anderson, Jaeden Gomez and Elijah Meyer. Also surviving are many other friends and family that he held close to his heart. Funeral services were Thursday Feb. 7, at Embury United Methodist Church. Family member, Rev. Adam Meyer officiated. Visitation was Feb. 6, at Burke Tubbs Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in Kyle's memory. Please sign his guest book and share a memory at www.burketubbs.com

LINDA RANKIN

Linda Rankin 68, of Warren passed away on Wednesday Feb. 6, 2019 at Pearl Pavilion with her family by her side. She was born on May 2, 1950 to Lane and Geneveive (Baldwin) Peterson in Rockford, IL. She married Rich Rankin on Aug. 3, 1973. She received her Bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University and taught second grade at Stockton Elementary School for 27 years. She was a member of the Warren United Methodist Church. She enjoyed her family and spending time with all of them.



She is survived by her husband Rich of 45 years from Warren, children; Jake (Rachel) Rankin of Winnebago and Kim (John) Curry of LuVerne, IA. Grandchildren; Brock, Blake, Vivian, Melissa, McKayla and Madalyn, father; Tony Jenulevich, siblings; Sherri (Jeff) Moburg, Pam (Mark) Rhodes, Mary (Stu) Trask, brother-in-law; Greg Sitnek, Albert Patsche. Many nieces, nephews, cousins aunts and

uncles.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents, step-mother Beverly Peterson, sisters; Lana Sitnek and Linda Patsche, brothers; Lane Peterson Jr and Brian Peterson.

Visitation will be at Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren on Wednesday Feb. 13, 2019 from 4 till 7 p.m. with a prayer service to follow.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial has been established in her name.

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

WERNER P. FRIEDRICH

Werner P. Friedrich formerly of Winslow passed away on Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019 at Glen Brook Hospital in Glenview IL. He was born on Aug. 10, 1949 to Werner and Rosie (Leibfried) Friedrich.

He is survived by many cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Feb. 16, at 1 p.m. at Leamon Funeral Home in Lena.

Officiating will be Pastor Rick Badger

Burial will be at Lena Burial Park. A memorial has been established in his name.

Condolences may be sent to www.leamonfh.com.

Birth

Owen Andrew Martin

Andrew and Carly Martin are proud to announce the birth of their son Owen Andrew Martin born January 17th, 2019 weighing 6 lbs 15 oz. and measuring 19 1/2 inches.



Grandparents are Jerald & Elizabeth Martin of Lena, IL and Kevin & Cathy Kunz of Winslow, IL. Great Grandparents are Norman Kunz of Stockton, IL Charlane Kunz of Freeport, IL, the late Oscar & Joyce Tessendorf, and the late Samuel & Berniece Frey.

Don't let scammers steal your winter getaway

Given last week's record-breaking low temperatures, it is natural to let your mind wander to warmer places. If you are planning a winter or spring break getaway, keep an eye out for too-good-to-be-true deals and double-check your reservations by confirming your booking with the hotels, airlines and other travel service providers.

"It takes a lot of planning and preparation to book the perfect vacation, and a couple of simple safety steps can help ensure that you get what you pay for," said Lara Sutherland, Administrator for the Division of Trade and Consumer Protection. "Research travel packages that you find online by contacting the businesses represented in the deal and verifying that they are participating in the offer."

One common travel scam involves fraudsters posting too-good-to-be-true offers for vacation rentals in on-

line classified ads using pictures and text stolen from real estate listings. The phony owner will ask that you wire money or make a payment using a prepaid debit card in order to hold the rental. Before you make any agreements or payments on a rental through an online ad, search for information about the address of the property. If the property is supposedly located in a resort, contact the front desk of the resort to confirm details about the location.

Watch for scams:

Watch for phony travel websites offering unrealistic deals. The site operators may be looking to steal users' payments and links on these pages could cause you to download malicious software. Do some research before you visit unknown travel sites and be skeptical of sites and deals with glowing positive reviews and few negative ratings.

Pay for reservations by credit card

in order to have some protections in place for your purchase.

If you book travel plans with a third-party company, call the airline, hotel or other service providers to ensure that the request was sent and you have an actual reservation – not just a confirmation. If you prepaid but the service provider cannot confirm your booking, report the situation to your credit card company immediately.

Mailings, telephone calls, websites, emails or faxes may offer exotic cruises or trips to tropical paradises, but they are often pitches for worthless "vacation certificates" or vouchers. These "prizes" are typically sales gimmicks to get you to make a purchase, attend a sales presentation or commit to a membership contract.

A "free" vacation offer may come with a request for payment for fees or taxes. Do not pay it. Remember that a legitimate company will not ask you to pay for a prize.

Key reasons to get a flu vaccine

- Flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu illnesses, hospitalization, and even death in children.

- During the 2016–2017 season, vaccination prevented an estimated 5.3 million illnesses, 2.6 million medical visits, and 85,000 influenza-associated hospitalizations.

- Flu vaccination also is an important preventive tool for people with chronic health conditions.

- Vaccinating pregnant women helps protect them from flu illness and hospitalization, and also has been shown to help protect the baby from flu infection for several months after birth, before the baby can be vaccinated.



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What is the story behind Valentines' Day?

On Feb. 14, around the year 278 A.D., Valentine, a holy priest in Rome in the days of Emperor Claudius II, was executed.

Under the rule of Claudius the Cruel, Rome was involved in many unpopular and bloody campaigns. The emperor had to maintain a strong

army, but was having a difficult time getting soldiers to join his military leagues. Claudius believed that Roman men were unwilling to join the army because of their strong attachment to their wives and families.

To get rid of the problem, Claudius banned all marriages and engage-

ments in Rome. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret.

When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Valentine was arrested and dragged before the Prefect of Rome, who condemned him to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off. The sentence was carried out on Feb. 14, on or about the year 270.

Legend also has it that while in jail, St. Valentine left a farewell note for the jailer's daughter, who had become his friend, and signed it "From Your Valentine."

For his great service, Valentine was named a saint after his death.

In truth, the exact origins and identity of St. Valentine are unclear. According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, "At least three different Saint Valentines, all of them martyrs, are mentioned in the early martyrologies under the date of 14 February." One was a priest in Rome, the second one was a bishop of Interamna (now Terni, Italy) and the third St. Valentine was a martyr in the Roman province of Africa.

Legends vary on how the martyr's name became connected with romance. The date of his death may have become mingled with the Feast of Lupercalia, a pagan festival of love. On these occasions, the names of young women were placed in a box, from which they were drawn by the men as chance directed. In 496 AD, Pope Gelasius decided to put an end to the Feast of Lupercalia, and he declared that Feb. 14 be celebrated as St Valentine's Day.

Gradually, Feb. 14 became a date for exchanging love messages, poems and simple gifts such as flowers.

JDSWCD offers Lester A. Johnson Memorial Scholarship

The Jo Daviess County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is taking applications for a \$1,000 Scholarship in the memory of Lester A. Johnson. This will be awarded to a Jo Daviess County youth who is or has graduated from a Jo Daviess County school to further his or her education beyond high school in agriculture, soil, fisheries, or a wildlife field. All completed forms must be received by March 29, 2019 to the SWCD office at 227 North Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028. Applications may be obtained from any of the high school guidance counselors, by calling the SWCD office at 815-858-3418, extension 3, or emailing mindy.pratt@il.nacdn.net.

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Family YMCA of Northwest Illinois Annual Campaign

The YMCA is globally recognized as a non-profit organization that collectively promotes youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The YMCA's mission is, "To put Christian principles into practice in all we do building healthy spirit, mind, and body for all."

Traditionally, the Annual Campaign is an opportunity for local businesses, YMCA staff, members, and residents of the region to assist families and individuals in their community to pursue life-enriching programs through subsidized costs.

In 2018, the YMCA of Northwest Illinois was fortunate to grant an ap-

proximate of \$60,000 back into the community. One hundred percent of the proceeds are utilized to enhance lives and distribute resources including: feeding children in the before and after-school care program, summer camp scholarships, and subsidized memberships and programs for low-income households.

"I have high expectations for this year's annual campaign as the community has continued to resonate

with the mission and values of the YMCA and the need for the Y continues to grow in our community. For us, it's never been about what the Y can accomplish on it's own, but what we as a community can do to make sure the needs of our neighbors are being met," said Marketing Director Moriah Schau.

The Annual Campaign is founded on values that ensure relationships in the region are flourishing with

core qualities of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Donations from the campaign serve districts including: Freeport, Cedarville, Lena, Dakota, Orangeville, Pearl City, Lanark, Shannon, Durand, Pecatonica, Stockton, Warren, Forreston, Rock City, and Davis.

For more information or to make a contribution, call your local YMCA at 815-235-9622 or visit <https://www.freeportymca.org/donate-0>.

It's Family YMCA Mardi Gras time

The Family YMCA of Northwest Illinois is not shy to celebrating with events making a difference in the community. The annual occurrence of Mardi Gras is an occasion for staff, donors, and members to unite in remembrance of influencing families and individuals through financial contributions and tangible resources.

The marketing department strategically organizes Mardi Gras in alignment with the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. Guests of this event have interacted with the "Y" as a personal investment to give back into the community. The YMCA was established to equip people to pursue a healthy lifestyle in spirit, mind, and body. Throughout the development of the "Y" and numerous community partnerships, this non-profit organization is practically and relationally transforming the region.

"The Mardi Gras is a unique event

because not only does it provide opportunity for community members to give back, but it also creates an opportunity to celebrate what we have already accomplished as a community. The YMCA will always represent the 'Us' that works so hard to strengthen our society."

Mardi Gras is the time where Community Partners are honored for their investment and thanked for their contributions. On Feb. 23, at the Grand River Hall, 101 S Liberty Ave, Freeport, guests will come together to celebrate this occasion. Tickets are now on sale for \$38/person, \$65/couple, or \$270/table of eight. Purchases can be made at the front desk in the YMCA or online at <https://www.freeportymca.org/program-registration>. The event will feature the following: silent auction, 50/50 raffle, Mr. Ed live band, Twisted by Time escape room, dessert auction, a photo booth, and more!

2019 Stephenson County Home Show

Limited exhibition space remains for the 2019 Stephenson County Home Show to be held March 16 and 17 at the Highland Community College / YMCA Sports Complex in Freeport. Show hours are Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 11-4. Admission is free and there will be concessions available.

The show annually features area businesses including investment companies, contractors, communications experts, healthcare providers, insurance agents, landscaping contractors, heating and air conditioning contractors, furniture and appliance dealers and many more.

Businesses interested in having a booth should contact the Home Show Coordinator immediately as the exhibit hall is well over half sold out. The starting price for a 6' x 8' booth is \$235 and larger booths are available while they last.

Last year's show featured over 80 businesses and attracted more than 3500 area residents. A map of the show along with packets to sign up can be found at abcdsonline.com on the Home Show tab, or are available by mail or email upon request.

For more information on reserving a booth space, contact Show Coordinator, Jen Sheppard at ABC Advertising Specialists, Inc. at 815-232-4616 or 630-643-7438 or by email at jen@abcdsonline.com.

In-Person Girl Scout Cookie Season kicks off

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois have launched the in-person start of the 2019 Girl Scout Cookie season, celebrating the largest financial investment in girls annually in the United States and a powerful entrepreneurship incubator for the next generation of leaders.

This year, Toffee-tastics, our delicious gluten-free cookie, turns 5 years old. Each cookie boasts sweet, crunchy toffee bits in every bit and Yes. - it's all gluten-free. Be sure to celebrate this fantastic flavor with us by purchasing this tasty treat from you local Girl Scout starting today. Don't worry...all the favorites are back too.

We are proud to welcome

Dr. Caitlin Pullara (Finnane) to our community to join Dr. Petras at Stockton Dental Center. Dr. Caitlin grew up in Janesville, Wisconsin. She completed her undergraduate studies at University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wisconsin Lutheran College before attending dental school at Midwestern University in Downers Grove, Illinois. Prior to moving to the Stockton area, she served the area of Shorewood, Illinois as a general dentist.

Dr. Caitlin has established herself as a skillful and compassionate clinician early in her career. Her dedication to giving back to her community has been evident from an early age, and combining that drive with her commitment to providing quality dentistry is something that is very important to her. She is devoted to building trust with patients and remains active in post-graduate learning. Dr. Caitlin is looking forward to the opportunity to establish herself as a healthcare professional and community leader in northwest Illinois.

Dr. Caitlin and her husband are excited to relocate to the Stockton area. Outside of the office, Dr. Caitlin enjoys watching her Wisconsin sports teams, being outdoors, and spending time with friends and family.

Dr. Caitlin Pullara
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Dr. Stephen Petras
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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will gather for worship on Feb. 17, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, at 9:30 a.m. Our reading is from Jeremiah that those who trust the Lord are like trees. All are invited to worship on this Sixth Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion. There will be a time for coffee, juice, treats, and fellowship after the service. Following worship, all Sunday School children will gather for Sunday School Opening at 10:45 a.m. followed by learning, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

On Wednesday Feb. 20, at 8 a.m. the Piece Corps Quilters will work together to craft quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They are always looking for more people to help tie quilts and sew. No previous quilting experience is necessary. Come join the fun and make a difference in the world.

On Thursday Feb. 21, Good Shepherd will be at the Friendship Center for Devotions and Dessert at 1 p.m.

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

Salem United Church of Christ

You are invited to Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 W. Salem Road, Lena, on Sunday, Feb. 17. Sunday School for children and adults is at 9:30 a.m. and worship follows at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Randal Nicholas will present the sermon titled "Flash Nonfiction," based on 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. The Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group meets

on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Country Junction in Freeport at 1669 S. Willard Dr.

St. John's Lutheran Church (Pearl City)

You're invited to join us at St. John's for worship on Sunday, Feb. 17, for the Sixth Sunday of Epiphany. The Memorial and Finance Committee will meet after worship. Sunday School and Confirmation classes will also meet after worship. Fifth Quarter Youth Group (6 p.m.) and Genesis Youth (7:30 p.m.) groups will gather in the evening.

The February Grace Meal will be served in Luther Hall on Feb. 17, at 11:30 a.m. The menu is chili, cornbread muffins, cole slaw, valentine cake and beverages.

Congratulations to Janette Scott, Pearl City, for winning the \$200 Calendar Raffle drawing on Jan. 17, and to Claire Brinkmeier for winning the \$200 drawing on Feb. 3.

The Women's Gathering will meet on Feb. 19, at 9:45 for fellowship, bible study and meeting. A Sit 'n' Sew and lunch will be held following the meeting.

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.

Illinois' Catholic bishops urge rejecting marijuana legalization

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Supporters of legalizing recreational marijuana in Illinois will face stiff opposition this year from leaders of the state's largest religious denomination.

The six Catholic bishops in Illinois issued a joint statement Monday urging lawmakers to reject any attempt to legalize marijuana.

"As lawmakers consider this issue, it is important to remember they are not only debating legalization of marijuana, but also commercialization of a drug into an industry the state will profit from," the bishops said in the statement. "In seeking the common good, the state should protect its citizens."

The six bishops are leaders of the six Catholic dioceses in Illinois, which compose the Catholic Conference of Illinois. CCI is made up of the Archdiocese of Chicago and other dioceses in Belleville, Joliet, Peoria, Rockford and Springfield.

CCI Executive Director Bob Gilligan said in an interview that there are roughly 3.5 million Catholics in the state. That's about 28 percent of the state's population, making Catholicism the single largest denomination in Illinois, according to the Pew Research Center.

Illinois legalized marijuana for certain medical uses in 2013, and state lawmakers are expected to consider proposals this year to expand the list of conditions for which people can obtain prescriptions for the drug. CCI did not take an official position on that issue, Gilligan said.

But legalizing it for recreational use was also a major issue for Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker's successful campaign in 2018, and a number of supporters have already begun trying to draft legislation.

In addition, voters in Cook County in March 2018 overwhelmingly approved a nonbinding ballot referendum calling for statewide legalization of recreational pot for people over age 21, subject to state regulation and taxation.

As of 2018, according to "Governing" magazine, 10 states and the District of Columbia had legalized recreational marijuana. But as Illinois ponders whether to become the 11th state to do so, Gilligan said he believes the momentum for it is waning.

"I think there was a lot of energy, and there's still a lot of energy behind the efforts to legalize it, but that was in a campaign mode prior to November," he said. "This was on some ballots where you saw a fairly large number of people supporting it. But now that it's time for those people to figure out how to implement this in such a way that it does not harm the public, the momentum that you're seeing is slowing down considerably."

The statement from the bishops did not reference any specific theological objection to marijuana use. Rather, it suggested there would be a danger of widespread public health and safety consequences.

"Data collected by government agencies and public-interest groups document that drug use is rampant in modern society," the bishops said. "Just a few years ago, we heard too many stories of children turned into orphans after their parents overdosed on heroin. Today, we hear of the opioid crisis and the lives it claims. If marijuana is legalized, it will only add to the problem."

Pritzker's press secretary, Jordan Abudayyeh, said in an email statement that the governor remains committed to legalization.

"Governor Pritzker supports legalizing and taxing the recreational use of marijuana and is confident we are ready to do this in a safe and economically beneficial way in Illinois," Abudayyeh said. "He is committed to working with leaders in the General Assembly, listening to experts and community leaders, and drawing lessons and best practices from other states to move this forward."

LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Bank of America, N.A. PLAINTIFF

Vs. Kathy Neuschwander; Janice McAuliffe; Conley Ditsworth Jr.; Christopher Ditsworth;

Chad Ditsworth; Melissa Ditsworth; Casey Ditsworth;

Doug Ditsworth; Troy Weaver; Kevin Weaver; Nicole

Leistiko a/k/a Nicole Weaver; United States of America -

Department of Housing and Urban Development; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Doris R.

Ditsworth; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; Kipp Meyers, as Special Representative for Doris R. Ditsworth (Deceased)

DEFENDANTS

2018 CH 77

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Doris R. Ditsworth

Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows,

to-wit: COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 440 North Lemon Avenue Freeport, IL 61032 and which said Mortgage was made by: Doris R. Ditsworth

the Mortgagor(s), to Urban Financial Group, Inc., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 200700083272; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Nathan A. Luy Clerk of the Circuit Court 15 North Galena Freeport, IL 61032

on or before March 15, 2019, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Attorneys for Plaintiff

15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100

Burr Ridge, IL 60527

(630) 794-5300

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(Published in The Shopper's Guide Feb. 13, 20 & 27, 2019)

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We were frigid last week, then we went up in temperature 70 degrees, and then we had an ice storm. I am writing this column during the ice storm. I needed a break from my painting and carpet cleaning, so I decided to get my writing done early. This week there are many things to serve for Valentine's Day. If you don't go out for heart day, you can have several choices to make for the special people in your life.

This winter salad has some maple syrup, lime, and ginger to help enhance the taste of winter fruits we are lucky enough to get from Florida and California. The salad calls for the oranges to be supremed (there is an accent there some where, but I have forgotten how to do it on my computer!). This means you cut both ends off the orange so that you can place it flat on the surface. You cut down the sides all the way around removing the peel and pith (white part) and then have just the segments left. It also calls for pomegranate arils—the seeds in the pomegranate. Try this tasty winter salad; it is refreshing and makes you think of warmer weather.

Winter Fruit Salad

Dressing

- 1 t. minced lime zest
- 2 T. lime juice
- 2 T. pure maple syrup
- ½ t. grated fresh ginger
- Salt to taste

Salad

- 4 kiwis, peeled, halved lengthwise and sliced
 - 4 Clementine's, peeled and segmented
 - 2 oranges, supremed
 - 1 pear, cored and diced
 - ¼ C. pomegranate arils
- Whisk together the zest, lime juice, maple syrup, and ginger in a bowl for the syrup; season with salt. Gently toss kiwis, clementines, oranges, and pear with syrup. Top with servings of arils.

I like butter lettuce or as some people call it, Boston lettuce. I buy it

frequently because it comes in small heads. It holds up well and if you are one person as I am, you don't have any waste. I like butter lettuce with just about anything, but it is really good with pasta dishes.

Butter Lettuce Salad

Dressing:

- 3 T. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 T. fresh lemon juice
- 2 T. finely chopped onions
- 1 T. white wine vinegar
- 2 t. honey
- 1 t. Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

Salad

- 8 C. butter/ Boston lettuce (about 1 large head)
 - 2 C. Mandarin oranges
 - 3 T. Dill weed
 - ¼ C. sliced almonds, toasted
- Whisk the ingredients for the dressing together. Toss the salad ingredients together with the dressing. Top with almonds.

These spaghetti cups are a unique way to serve something that is sort of a standard fare spaghetti. These would make a really great dinner entrée for Valentine's Day.

Loaded Chicken

Carbonara Cups

- 4 oz. uncooked spaghetti
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 5 oz. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry (about ½ cup)
- ½ C. cottage cheese
- ½ C. shredded Parmesan cheese, divided
- ¼ t. lemon pepper
- 6 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled, divided
- ½ C. cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- ¼ C. cream cheese, cubed
- ½ t. onion powder
- 1 C. chopped cooked chicken breast
- 1/3 C. shredded mozzarella cheese
- ¼ C. finely chopped oil packed sun dried tomatoes

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large saucepan, cook spaghetti according to direction; drain, reserving 1/3 cup pasta water. In a large bowl, mix egg, spinach, cottage cheese, ¼ cup Parmesan cheese, lemon pepper, and half of the bacon. Add cooked spaghetti; toss to combine. Divide among 12 greased muffin cups. Using a greased spoon, make an indentation in the center of each.

In a large bowl, whisk together the soup, cream cheese and reserved pasta water. Stir in chicken, mozza-

rella, and sun dried tomatoes; spoon into indentation in cups. Sprinkle with remaining bacon and Parmesan cheese. Bake cups until set, about 15 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pan.

If you want something really special for "heart day," this shrimp scampi dish is great. It has a pasta dish that can be used as a bed for the scampi or you can just use your own fettuccini tossed with Parmesan cheese if you want. I think you have to use the raw shrimp because of putting it in the oven. I think the cooked shrimp would get tough. Aldi's have the best shrimp in the area, and it is reasonably priced. Enjoy this entrée with a salad and some crusty bread. You can even make it more like a Red Lobster event if you make the Red Lobster biscuits. The mix is available in many grocery stores.

Crispy Baked Shrimp Scampi with Lemony Spinach Pasta

- 1½ lb. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 4 T. unsalted butter
- 3 green onions, minced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 large lemon, zested and juiced
- ¾ t. kosher salt
- ½ t. pepper
- 1/3 C. panko
- 2 T. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 T. chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ t. crushed red pepper flakes
- Lemony Spinach Pasta
- ¼ C. unsalted butter
- 2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
- 1 large lemon, zested and juiced
- 1 bag (5 oz.) fresh baby spinach
- ¼ C. chopped fresh parsley
- ½ t. kosher salt
- ¼ t. black pepper
- ½ (1 lb.) pkg. fettuccine, cooked according to package directions
- ½ C. shredded Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 425. In a large bowl, stir together shrimp, 2 tablespoons melted butter, onions, garlic, lemon zest and juice, salt and pepper. Place shrimp and butter mixture in a 2-quart greased baking dish. In a small bowl, stir together bread crumbs, cheese, parsley, red pepper flakes, and remaining 2 tablespoons melted butter; sprinkle over

the shrimp. Bake for 15 minutes. Increase oven temperature to broil. Broil until golden brown, 4 to 5 minutes. Serve over Lemony Spinach Pasta.

Pasta: in a large saucepan, melt butter over medium high heat. Add garlic and zest; cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in lemon juice, spinach, parsley, salt and pepper; cook until spinach and parsley are wilted, about 2 minutes. Stir in cooked pasta and cheese; cook until heated through, about 2 minutes.

You have to have a red dessert for Valentine's Day. This poke cake is interesting in that you use pudding instead of Jell-O. The pudding is put on top of the cake which has been poked with large holes. You have to let it set before moving on to the next step. If you want to make it for St. Patrick's Day, you could use spearmint extract instead of peppermint.

White Chocolate

Peppermint Poke Cake

- 1½ C. butter, softened
- 1¾ C. sugar
- 4 egg whites
- 2 eggs
- 3 t. peppermint extract, divided
- 3½ C. flour
- 1 T. baking powder
- ½ t. baking soda
- ½ t. salt
- 5 C. milk, divided
- 1 bar (4 oz.) white chocolate, melted
- 2 boxes (3.4 oz.) cheesecake instant pudding
- 1 (16 oz.) container whipped topping, thawed
- Garnish: crushed peppermint candies

Preheat the oven to 350. Spray a 9 x 13 baking dish with baking spray with flour. In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar with mixer at medium speed until fluffy, 3-4 minutes, stopping to scrape the sides of the bowl. Add egg whites and eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in 2 teaspoons of extract. In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with 1½ cups of milk, beginning and ending with the flour mixture, beating just until combined after each addition.

Stir in melted chocolate. Spoon batter into prepared pan. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, 45 to 50 minutes, covering with foil halfway through baking to prevent excess browning. Let cool in pan for 39 minutes. Using the handle of a wooden spoon, poke 1-inch holes into the warm cake at ½-inch intervals.

In a large bowl, whisk together pudding mixes, remaining 3½ cups of milk, and remaining teaspoon of extract until thick and smooth. Slowly pour onto cake, smoothing top with a spatula. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours before serving or up to 3 days. Spread with whipped topping just before serving and garnish with crushed peppermint candies.

This decadent chocolate cherry cake is divine. Most black forest cakes use cherry pie filling. This one uses frozen dark sweet cherries. You can get them at A. J.'s Lena Maid Meats. It doesn't take much time because you use a cake mix. Enjoy this beautiful chocolate cake which is perfect for a Valentine's supper.

Black Forest Cake

- 1 box devil's food cake mix
- 1¼ C. water, divided
- 1/3 C. oil
- 3 eggs
- ¼ C. sugar
- ¾ t. cherry extract, divided
- 2 C. heavy whipping cream
- ¾ C. powdered sugar
- 1 C. frozen dark sweet cherries, thawed, halved, patted dry and divided

Garnish: grated chocolate and chocolate curls

Preheat the oven to 350. Spray 2 (8 inch) cake pans with cooking spray. Line the bottom of the pans with parchment paper. In a large bowl, beat cake mix, 1 cup water, oil, and eggs with a mixer on low speed just until combined. Beat at medium speed for 2 minutes. Divide the batter between the two pans. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 26 minutes. Remove from pans, and let cool completely on a wire rack.

In a small saucepan, bring sugar and remaining ¼ cup water to a boil

See KITCHEN, Page 10

Rhonda McPeck

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Heart Healthy Living workshop

Almost half of all Americans (47%) have at least one major risk factor for developing heart disease. Risk factors for heart disease are behaviors or conditions that increase your chance of developing heart disease, such as having high blood pressure, high LDL cholesterol and smoking.

Although some risk factors cannot be controlled, many can. In fact, each choice we make will have some degree of impact on our risk factor for developing any variety of health conditions. Those daily choices, otherwise known as our lifestyle can help to decrease our risk of developing a health condition such as heart

disease.

Join us and learn how you can make changes to your current lifestyle, and decrease your risk of developing heart disease. Planning, shopping and cooking for someone with heart disease can be a challenge. To help meet this challenge, University of Illinois Extension will offer a two-part workshop designed for anyone interested in preventing or managing heart disease. During each session, participants will receive recipes, watch cooking demonstrations, as well as learn about proper diet and exercise to better care for their health.

Meals for a Healthy Heart aims to improve your overall wellbeing. This program will complement the recommendations from your healthcare provider and help you and/or your loved one manage or prevent heart disease.

Meals for a Healthy Heart will be held on Thursday, Feb. 14 and 21, from 1 - 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Activity Center, 216 E. Stephenson St., Freeport. To register, call the U of I Extension at 815-235-4125 or visit us online at go.illinois.edu/jsw. There is a \$20 registration fee, which covers participation in both sessions.

•Kitchen (Continued from page 9)

over medium-high heat; cook for 3 minutes. Remove from heat; let cool to lukewarm. Add ½ teaspoon of cherry extract and stir well. Using a fork, poke holes in the top of the cake layers. Slowly spoon sugar mixture over the layers until absorbed. Let stand for 10 minutes.

In a large chilled bowl, beat cream with a mixer at medium-high speed until slightly thickened. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating until stiff peaks form. Add remaining ¼ teaspoon of cherry extract, beating until combined. Place one cake layer on a cake plate. Spread with one-third of whipped cream and top with ¾ cup of cherries. Top with remaining cake layer. Spread remaining whipped cream on top and sides of cake, and top with remaining ¼ cup cherries. Garnish with grated chocolate and chocolate curls. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight before serving.

I have been having my living, dining, and family room painted. It is really a great color, and they did a good job. Then the next step was to get the carpeting cleaned, so my house has been topsy turvy since the Christmas decorations were put away. I think everything should be put back together by the weekend. Is it too early to put my bunnies out yet? I missed Easter last year, so I am excited to put my Easter decorations out. We will see if I can hold myself back. We are still looking

for some red recipes and some green ones too. I know the groundhog didn't see his shadow, but I wouldn't put money on the fact we will have a short winter. That means we will still want some warm recipes for the cold weather. We continue to look for winter recipes—some appetizers, soups, and sandwiches. 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.](mailto:FromLena'sKitchens@Shopper'sGuide.com) or email scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com

Family Ties offers free developmental checkups

Family Ties is offering free screenings for children age's birth to three.

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- Lena-Winslow March 6
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Culver-Stockton College is proud to announce its President's List, Dean's List and Honor Roll for the fall 2018 semester. To be named to an honors List, students must meet high academic standards established by Culver-Stockton. Elise Packer a Physical Education major from Davis, IL was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2018 semester. Culver-Stockton College, located in Canton, Mo., is a four-year residential institution in affiliation with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



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Lady Panther's season comes to an end

By Trent Scheidegger
REPORTER

The play of the Lena-Winslow Lady Panthers throughout this season landed them the seven seed in the Lanark (Eastland) Sectional, where they would be given an opportunity to fight for a regional win. The regional games would take place at Stockton, a neutral court.

Last Monday the Panthers would face off with the 11 seed in Milledgeville. The Milledgeville Missiles had a rough go at it this season, as

they finished with an 0-24 overall record. The LeWin Panthers came in with a 13-14 record, as they looked to prove their abilities in Round One.

The Panthers jumped out to an early lead, holding the Missiles to just four first quarter points, while putting up 14 of their own. The second quarter was much of the same as LeWin found themselves with a 29-12 lead heading into halftime.

In the third quarter they would expand on their lead once again, this time outscoring the Missiles 15-9, as they went into the fourth quarter up 44-21. They would eventually work their way towards a dominant 54-27 victory and into the Regional Semifinals where they would face Sterling Newman Central Catholic School.

The Newman Central Catholic Comets would prove to be a much tougher opponent for the Panthers. The Comets finished their season with an 18-10 overall record and had earned themselves the number four seed heading into regionals.

The Panthers found themselves trailing by five, as they went into the second quarter down 8-3. LeWin managed to get their offense going in the second as they would tie the score at 15 heading into halftime.

The Comets really opened things up in the third quarter when they outscored the Panthers 15-6 and took a nine point lead into the fourth quarter. The Panthers fought hard to force a comeback; however, they were unable to do so as they fell by a score of 39-29.

Sadie Mowery led the way offensively with 11 while Megan Packard dropped 10 in what would be her final game for the Lady Panthers basketball squad.

The Panthers lose six seniors, however, they carried a number of juniors, sophomores, and even a freshman in Kalli Humphrey, and will look to build off of this season when they return next year.

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