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VOL. 81 • NO. 8

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 2019

Lena-Winslow/Orangeville rhetoricians finish memorable season

All good things must come to an end. This proverb, dating back to 1374, means, of course, that everything concludes at some point. Unless that good thing keeps going. Make sense?

Here's what we mean. Justin Malone is a senior at Orangeville High School. That "good thing," living at home, seeing your life-long friends every day, will end upon graduation in a few months. His high school speech career, a very "good thing," will end when he doesn't advance to the next level of competition. But that hasn't happened yet. Justin just keeps on winning and advancing.

His latest accomplishment was a big one, and it happened at the IHSA Speech Sectional tournament, held at Rochelle Township High School on February 9. For the second straight year, Justin was the Sectional Champion in Radio Speaking, a feat no one on the Lena-Winslow/Orangeville Speech Team had ever accomplished. This also means that he was the program's first-ever State Tournament returnee. And, he is just the second student in program history to be a State Tournament finalist (5th in Radio Speaking in 2018), joining Allie Long from 2012. As long as we're discussing records, Justin captured 16 varsity 1st place medals over his four years, just one ahead of Allie, who eventually went on to earn her masters degree in a communications-related field from Arizona State University.

"It is very exciting to be the Sectional champion for the second time," Justin remarked. "Last year, it was a big surprise, and this year I didn't assume I would do it again just because I did it last year, but I'm proud of myself for it."

"Justin's a coach's dream," said retired Le-Win faculty member and former speech team head coach

Tom Fore. "For sixteen years I preached to the kids that the ones who do well are the ones that seek out extra practice time, work hard, and don't maintain an attitude that success will arrive if they just show up on tournament day. I've coached Justin since his freshman year, and he could be the poster boy for 'work ethic.' Being a two-time Regional and Sectional champ and two-time State qualifier has absolutely nothing to do with luck. It's about talent, drive, and attention to detail."

IHSA Regional, Sectional, and State tournament final standings are based upon how many and how high students place in the final rounds of competition. A student who comes in 6th earns one point for his/her team. Coming in 1st earns six points. Because Justin also was a finalist in his secondary category, Oratorical Declamation, he earned an extra point for his team besides the six he picked up as Radio Speaking champion. Those seven points allowed the Le-Win/Orangeville team to claim 15th place out of twenty-six teams.

The final standings of other local teams against which Le-Win/Orangeville regularly competes were:

DeKalb- 2nd, Rochelle- 3rd, Sterling- 5th (tie), Byron- 7th, Freeport- 10th, EPC- 11th, Auburn- 12th, Stockton/Warren- 19th (tie), Hononegah- 21st (tie)

Joining Justin at the Peoria Civic Center during the Feb. 15 & 16 State Tournament were Freeport's Esther Xiang and EPC's Makayla Milam.

Describing how the level of competition affected his performance, Justin said, "Facing off against the big competition of the season at tournaments all year made me more at peace during finals. I knew I could go toe to toe with the best in the section."



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Technowolves head to State

Pearl City Technowolves Jacob Lieb, Kayden Martin, Jackson Corbin, Xander Krolow, Natalie Green, Miranda Posey, Addy Bremmer, Jordan Johnson, Kendra Kuhlemeier

Orangeville Broncos collect pair of wins

By Trent Scheidegger
REPORTER

Last Wednesday the Orangeville boys traveled to Ashton-Franklin Center High School to face off with the Raiders in a Northwest Upstate Illini-East Conference matchup. The Raiders came in near the bottom with a 2-7 record in conference play, while the Broncos were just ahead at 4-7.

The Broncos got off to a hot start as they put up eighteen first quarter points

which helped them take a five-point lead into the second quarter.

The Broncos were dominant on both ends of the court in the second as they put up sixteen while holding the Raiders to just four points of their own. Orangeville quadrupled the Raiders score as they expanded their lead and went into halftime up 34-17.

Both teams had their offense working in the third quarter, but the Broncos would outscore the Raiders once again.

This time by a score of twenty to seventeen, as they went into halftime up 54-34.

Orangeville once again outscored the Raiders in the final quarter of Wednesday's game as they took home a 70-43 victory. Carter Kleckler led the team with fifteen points, nine rebounds, and seven assists. Garret Rodebaugh added fourteen points, and

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Pearl City Technowolves head back to State

The Pearl City Technowolves headed to the state-level Hopper Tournament on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019 held at Elgin Community College after advancing from a Rockford qualifier. The team, made-up of students from fifth-eighth grades, includes Addy Bremmer, Jordan Johnson, Jacob Lieb, Miranda Posey, Jackson Corbin, Natalie Greene, Kendra Kuhlemeier, Xander Krowlow, and Kayden Martin. Judged in four categories (Project, Core Values, Robot Game, and Robot Design), the team brought home a first-place award for Robot Design: Strategy and Innovation! Working with the theme "Into Orbit," students designed and programmed a small robot to complete missions on a large table and mat, adding attachments to that robot for moving, retrieving, and placing Lego-designed mission models.



COURTESY PHOTO Shopper's Guide
Pearl City Technowolves Kendra Kuhlemeier and Jordan Johnson wait to run robot missions on the table at the Hopper Tournament.

Monroe Clinic Volunteers Scholarships available

Giving back from fundraising efforts, the Monroe Clinic Volunteers are once again offering scholarships for students seeking a career in a health-related field. The volunteers award four \$500 high school senior scholarships and five \$1,500 collegiate scholarships to area students. The deadline for application submission is Feb. 28, 2019. Applications are available at monroeclinic.org/volunteers. For questions, contact Dawn Meier, Monroe Clinic Volunteer Coordinator, at 608-324-1569.

High School Senior Scholarships
 Two \$500 scholarships are available for Monroe Clinic service

area high school seniors. Residents from communities such as Albany, Blanchardville, Brodhead, and New Glarus in Wisconsin or Durand, Lena and Freeport in Illinois are eligible to apply. In addition, high school seniors who have a parent employed by Monroe Clinic can apply. Another two \$500 scholarships are available to Monroe High School seniors. All applicants must pursue a degree (or certificate) in the healthcare field, maintain a GPA of 3.25 or higher in studies emphasizing science and math. Typed applications only. Scholarships awarded on citizenship, need, and activity participation.

Advance Study Student Scholarships

Five \$1,500 scholarships are available for Monroe Clinic service area collegiate students. Residents from communities such as Monroe, Albany, Blanchardville, Brodhead, and New Glarus in Wisconsin or Durand, Lena and Freeport in Illinois are eligible to apply; or students who have a parent employed by Monroe Clinic can apply. Applicants must have completed at least one year of advanced study (beyond high school). Applicants must pursue a degree (or certificate) in the healthcare field, have a GPA of 3.25 or higher in studies emphasizing science and math; and enrolled as at least a collegiate sophomore. Typed applications only. Scholarships awarded on citizenship, need, and activity participation. Applicants are only awarded the Advance Study Scholarship once. Applicants who have received the \$500 High School Senior Scholarship are eligible.

Pearl City Boys get two wins

By Trent Scheidegger
 REPORTER

Last Monday the Pearl City Wolves hosted West Carroll for one of their last conference matchups. The Thunder came in at the bottom of the conference with an 0-10 record in league play while the Wolves came in at second place with an 8-2 record. The Wolves would look to prove they were as good as their record shows in this one.

Pearl City jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter as Brock Smargiassi hit a trio of three pointers in the opening quarter. Jayden Kempel added on six points of his own and the Wolves took a 21-8 lead into the second quarter.

Lucas Petersen and Jarod Kempel led the second quarter with four points apiece and the Wolves took a comfortable 33-19 lead into halftime.

Jayden led the scoring in the third with seven points while Brock hit yet another three pointer and Petersen dropped five points. The trio helped the Wolves extend their lead and put things out of reach as they went into the final quarter, up 55-24.

Pearl City would begin to move the ball around and run the clock out in the fourth as they captured a 63-30 victory over the West Carroll Thunder.

Jayden Kempel led the team with fifteen while Brock Smargiassi had twelve with all his points coming from behind the arc. Jarod Kempel and Lucas Petersen each had eleven points as they offense was firing on all levels last Monday.

On Wednesday the Wolves hosted the Scales Mound Hornets for their second conference matchup of the week. The Hornets came in second to last at just 2-8 in league play.

The Wolves nearly doubled up the Hornets in the first quarter as the team combined to outscore them 11-6.

The second quarter was big for the Wolves as Jarod Kempel went a perfect four for four from the line and had six points while Braden Smargiassi had four. The team put up eighteen all together in the quarter. The team effort gave them a ten-point lead heading into halftime up 29-19.

The Wolves would extend their lead in the second half as Jarod had another six-point quarter in the third. Both Jayden Kempel and Lucas Petersen had four and Pearl City took a 46-30 lead into the final quarter.

Jayden had his best quarter of the night in the fourth with seven points. Brock Smargiassi and Drake Musser each had four and the Wolves eventually took home a 63-40 victory over Scales Mound.

Braden Smargiassi led the team with fourteen and Jarod Kempel was right behind with twelve. Lucas Petersen was the third to reach double digits, with eleven.

The Wolves would fall to Stockton in their final game of the season, as they finished their year at 10-3 in conference play, which was good enough to earn second place. Pearl City finished their regular season with a 17-8 overall record and will look to get hot as they head into regional play.

Lena-Winslow Music Program hosts recital

Lena-Winslow Choir & Band students will perform a solo & ensemble recital on Monday, Feb. 25 at Lena-Winslow Elementary School.

The event begins at 6 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center, offering audiences the chance to experience big talent on smaller stages. All Le-Win band members and select choir members—both high school and junior high—will be performing.

"We'll have performances scheduled throughout the elementary school in the entry, cafeteria, gym and library," explained Renee Schultz, Le-Win Band Instructor. "Students are performing solo works and small chamber ensemble works. Percussion ensembles will be performed as well."

The event also provides an ideal opportunity for high school students as they prepare for the IHSA solo and ensemble contest in Stockton, IL, on Saturday, March 2.

Event details:
 "Le-Win Solo & Ensemble Recital"

Monday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. in the Lena-Winslow Elementary School
 No cost to attend.



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Monroe Clinic and MAC Art of Healing Reception

On Thursday, Feb. 21, Monroe Clinic is hosting an art reception featuring Monroe art students. The exhibit includes the progression of thought and skills from kindergarten through high school students. Each student's artistic ability was challenged by the task of incorporating a "brown paper bag" into their creations. A special pottery exhibit will be highlighted the night of the reception only. Refreshments will be served.

The Monroe School District strives to give students a strong foundation, and Monroe Clinic is proud to display the work of these young artists. The art will be on display until May 12.

Monroe Clinic and the Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation has partnered with the Monroe Art Center since 2013 to provide patients, visitors and staff with quarterly exhibitions in the Hospital building. "Art adds a positive tone and enhances the healing environment of our caregiving campus. This is something patients, visitors and staff can enjoy during their time here. The current exhibit of local student art has a nice connection to the community too," states Mike Sanders, President of Monroe Clinic.

The four gallery exhibits are located on each level of the hospital building.

The Art of Healing Exhibit
 Monroe Clinic Hospital Building
 515 22nd Ave Monroe
 4:30 - 6 p.m.
 Gallery Talk at 5:15 p.m.
 Refreshments will be served.

To attend this event, enter at the main Monroe Clinic hospital and clinic entrance on the south side of the Monroe Clinic campus.

Conference offers forage management topics

Producers wanting to make the most of their forage production and pastures will want to attend the combined 2019 Illinois Forage Institute and Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference on March 8, in Stockton, IL. Forage management techniques will be discussed throughout the day and include the following topics: Putting more Alfalfa into the Pasture Mix, Aggressive and Dangerous Weeds and Look-alikes, Drying and Harvesting High Quality Alfalfa Hay, Opportunities & Challenges of Making Baleage and Forage Quality: What does Livestock Really Need. Presenters will include Wisconsin Extension Agricultural Agent Gene Schriefer, Illinois Extension Commercial Ag Educator Philip Alberti,

Illinois Extension Educator Travis Meteer and Dr. Dan Undersander, Forage Professor Emeritus from University of Wisconsin.

"As pasture management techniques have improved, livestock managers have become more aware of the poisonous plants which can be harmful to their animals: poison hemlock, white snakeroot, and wild parsnip just to name a few. However, there are many harmless plant species which look awfully similar to their toxic counterpart. Misidentification of these harmless species can lead to unnecessary, and costly, remediation techniques," Commercial Agriculture Educator Phillip Alberti said. For this reason, Alberti will be presenting "Aggressive and Danger-

ous Weeds and Look-alikes" to help producers properly scout and distinguish these plant species to help ensure pasture and animal health.

The Illinois Forage and Grassland Council and University of Illinois Extension collaborated on the 2019 Illinois Forage Institute and Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference which will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 8, at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 223 E Front Ave, Stockton, IL. The registration fee is \$20 before Feb. 27, \$25 after this date, reduced registration rate is available for members of the IFGC and for students. To register, call the University of Illinois Extension at (815) 858-2273 or register online at go.illinois.edu/jsw.

Savanna VFW makes donation to Highland CNC Program

In exchange for support from Highland Community College, the VFW in Savanna gave a \$500 donation to the CNC Program at Highland as a thank you for Aaron Sargent's assistance with a project for the Veteran's Memorial in Savanna.

In the fall, Larry Melass of the Savanna VFW approached Aaron Sargent, Industrial Manufacturing instructor at Highland Community College, to help with fundraising efforts for a Veteran's Memorial near the Dale Gardner Veterans Memorial Bridge. Sargent generated a three-dimensional drawing of the proposed memorial site.

"In return for the drawing, the Savanna VFW made a generous donation to our CNC and CAD programs," said Sargent. "We saw the work as community outreach, never expecting payment. We were just happy to help in any way we could. The generous donation will go toward purchasing new inspection equipment in our CNC lab."

Monroe Clinic Hospice Support Group

Learn to cope with the loss of a loved one

The journey through grief is difficult. Many people find it comforting to face grief with others experiencing similar challenges. To help through the journey, Monroe Clinic Hospice is holding a Hope Eternal After Loss (HEAL) grief education and support group, which provides resources and encouragement for people grieving the death of a loved one. The six-week HEAL group meets Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Feb. 27 - April 3 at the St. Camillus Center, 2101 6th Street, Monroe, WI.

The HEAL support group is free and open to adults over 18 who have

experienced the death of someone special. In this sympathetic setting helpful discussion topics include:

- The importance of information and support as we grieve
- Understanding grief as a process
- Identifying and accepting normal feelings when grieving
- Past and present losses
- Factors which complicate grief
- Coping with the stress of grief
- Remembering: memorials and anniversaries

For more information, or to register, call Monroe Clinic Hospice at 608-324-1230 or 800-367-8406, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Beef Quality Assurance training offered

Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) is a national program that provides a continuing education opportunity for farmers and ranchers. BQA equips producers with production strategies and general skills to maintain and strengthen a quality, wholesome food supply.

Grassroots programs, like BQA training, are the foundation to reinforcing consumer confidence and securing a bright future for cattle farms. BQA training is hard evidence of the cattlemen's commitment to doing business the right way. By becoming BQA certified, a producer is not only helping secure a bright future for beef, but also providing tangible evidence that they are committed to animal health, animal care, and providing the consumer a safe and wholesome beef product.

Recently, packer requirements for BQA training have driven many cattle feeders to seek certification.

While many cattle feeders have already become certified, those that haven't will want to get certified so they do not miss out on bidders for their cattle.

A Beef Quality Assurance training has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, 210 W Spring Street, Freeport, IL. This additional training has been scheduled to meet the needs of the producers in our area seeking certification. Training will be led by Extension Educator Travis Meteer and Cary Schroeder, DVM, Lena Veterinary Clinic. Pre-registration is required by calling the University of Illinois Extension at 815-235-4125 or on-line at go.illinois.edu/jsw. Cost is \$20 per person. This local offering of BQA training is brought to you by the Illinois Beef Association, Lena Veterinary Clinic and the University of Illinois Extension.

College news

Area student named to Mount Mercy University Fall Dean's List

Noelle Reese, Accounting, of Elizabeth is named to Mount Mercy University's Fall 2018 Dean's List. Students with a semester grade point average of 3.60 or better and who are graded for six or more semester hours are eligible for inclusion on the Dean's List.

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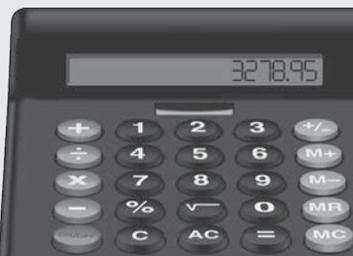
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Capitol Recap: A weekly roundup of coverage

By Capitol News Illinois staff

House passes minimum wage increase; Pritzker to sign bill 'in coming days'

A bill to raise Illinois' minimum wage to \$15 by 2025 needs only Gov. J.B. Pritzker's signature to become law, and his office said he stands ready to act in the coming days.

"Today is a resounding victory for the 1.4 million Illinoisans who will soon get a hard-earned and well-deserved raise," Pritzker said in a news release Thursday, Feb. 14. "After nearly a decade of delay, I applaud the House and Senate for passing a living wage with the fierce urgency this moment requires."

The House galleries were filled with cheers from advocates — many of them currently making the minimum wage — as the final 69-47-1 favorable vote became official.

Prior to the final vote, Pritzker was on the House floor smiling and shaking the hands of Democratic lawmakers — even as Republican Minority Leader Jim Durkin was lamenting the lack of bipartisanship behind the effort in his floor speech.

"This is not the way to start out the General Assembly," Durkin said, adding Republicans had "basically been told your interests and your thoughts are not valid and we don't care."

All in Durkin's Republican caucus were joined by four Democrats opposing the bill while one, Stephanie Kifowit of Aurora, voted present after two hours of debate.

In their final efforts to derail the fast-tracked bill, Republicans once again shared stories from business owners, universities, colleges and schools within their districts detailing layoffs, closures and increased property taxes.

Rep. Charlie Meier, an Okawville Republican, said the bill would hurt agriculture and small-town businesses such as groceries.

"The small family farms will suffer the worst with the organic farms, orchards, vineyards, wineries, and the livestock industry being hit the hardest of all," Meier said. "This is another Illinois law that will yet again put our region at a disadvantage."

Rep. Tom Bennett, a Gibson City Republican, cited a National Federation of Independent Businesses study

which said Illinois would see 93,000 jobs lost because of the increase. Rep. Terri Bryant, a Murphysboro Republican, said the bill would cost Illinois' public universities \$112 million by the time it is implemented.

Those minimum-wage workers will begin seeing their increases in January 2020, when the minimum rate goes from \$8.25 to \$9.25 before increasing to \$10 on July 1, 2020, and \$11 on Jan. 1 2021. After that, it would increase by \$1 every January until it hits \$15 in 2025.

ABORTION LAW: A bill overhauling Illinois' abortion law and replacing it with a more liberal version has wide Democratic support in the House.

The Reproductive Health Act, proposed by Rep. Kelly Cassidy, repeals the current law dictating abortion policies in the prairie state and replaces it with policies to "protect individual decision-making."

Cassidy (D-Chicago) announced her intentions in filing this bill at a news event Tuesday in Chicago at the headquarters of the state's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"As a woman, a mother and someone who has been a longtime supporter of full access to reproductive care, from contraception, abortion, pregnancy and postpartum care, it is time to modernize and update these laws to reflect the equality of women in Illinois," she said.

Cassidy's proposal follows a pledge Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker made to "make Illinois the most progressive state in the nation for access to reproductive health care," his spokeswoman Jordan Abudayyeh said in an email.

Under the proposed legislation, private health insurance companies operating in Illinois would need to cover abortion procedures without implementing "any restrictions or delays on the coverage."

This would expand a law signed by former Gov. Bruce Rauner, which allowed tax dollars to be spent on abortion procedures through Illinois' Medicaid and state employee health insurance programs.

This initiative is one of two Democrats are pushing this legislative session to expand reproductive rights, they said at Tuesday's news event.

The other is Senate Bill 1594, a measure proposed by Sen. Elgie Sims, Jr. (D-Chicago), to repeal the Parental Notification of Abortion Act. It requires a minor to consult with her parent or guardian before terminating a pregnancy.

Cassidy's legislation is House Bill 2495. It is sponsored by about 40 other Democrats.

DIVORCED PARENTS: Fathers' rights advocates are making another attempt this year to push for a change in Illinois family law that sparked immense controversy in 2018, "equal parenting time" legislation.

Rep. La Shawn Ford (D-Chicago) is the lead sponsor of a bill that would create a "rebuttable presumption" in divorce cases that both parties should be given equal parenting time with any children of that marriage.

It would also require that when judges in divorce cases deviate from the standard, they explain in writing why they decided one parent should have more time with the children than the other.

That would be a sharp departure from the current legal standard in Illinois, which allows judges wide discretion to assign custody and parenting time in a way that reflects the "best interests of the child."

But James Bedell, a psychologist who practices in suburban Chicago and a proponent of the bill, said the "best interests of the child" standard is vague and flawed, and that equal parenting time actually is in the best interests of children.

"Children have a fundamental bonding attachment to each parent," he said. "They establish that in the course of the marriage. They establish that in the course of both parents (having) fundamental and equal involvement with the child. And when divorce occurs, there is no necessary reason why a child who has equal access to both parents should suddenly not have equal access to both parents."

A similar bill was introduced in the 2018 session but failed to make it through the House process. Rep. Ann Williams (D-Chicago), who chairs the subcommittee handling the bill, opened a hearing Thursday, Feb. 14, by recalling the intense debate last year when, she said, supporters of

the measure, "engaged in inappropriate and unprofessional behavior," including bullying, threats and harassment of those who opposed it.

IDENTITY THEFT: Thirty-one state attorneys general, including Illinois' Kwame Raoul, are advocating for tougher safeguards against identity theft in the Federal Trade Commission's rulebook.

"We must keep in place federal protections for consumers to guard against identity theft and protect their finances," Raoul said Thursday, Feb. 14.

In 2017, 16.7 million U.S. consumers were victims of identity fraud and theft totaling \$16.8 billion, according to a letter sent to the FTC by the attorneys general.

These numbers are so high, they write, because not only are consumers increasingly unaware of just where their information is, but because identity thieves can so easily collect consumer data from broad breaches.

In their letter, they write that one of the best indicators of identity fraud is when an email or cellphone number is changed at the same time as a physical address, or when a replacement credit card, for example, is requested as well. They argue that companies should be required to notify consumers when this happens at their old addresses and phone numbers.

The attorneys general also advocate for more multifactor identification rules, which require two or more pieces of evidence to work — a card number along with a fingerprint, for example, or a password along with a secret-token USB stick.

UNDERFUNDED PENSIONS: Gov. J.B. Pritzker's administration is putting together what it calls a comprehensive plan to restore the state's pension system to financial health that might include issuing up to \$2 billion in new debt and selling off state-owned real estate.

Deputy Gov. Dan Hynes discussed those ideas Thursday in a speech to the City Club of Chicago, an organization made up of prominent business, civic and government leaders in the Chicago area.

In addition to issuing bonds and selling assets, Hynes said the administration hopes to earmark a portion of the governor's proposed new graduated income tax to fund increased payments into the pension funds, extending an optional pension buyout program that lawmakers authorized last year, and extending the

period for paying down the state's unfunded pension liabilities by an additional seven years.

"Collectively, these five actions will expand our tax revenue base, invest in priorities that will grow our economy, and we'll be able to put our pensions on a sustainable path that keeps our promises to retirees," Hynes said.

The state's pension systems have a combined \$134 billion in unfunded liabilities. That's the difference between the value of all the pension obligations the state has incurred, and the current value of the pension funds plus the funds' expected earnings over the anticipated length of those obligations.

ABORTION RESTRICTIONS: A Republican state lawmaker has proposed legislation to impose new restrictions on access to late-term abortions.

Rep. Patrick Windhorst, a freshman from Metropolis and a former Massac County state's attorney, proposed to outlaw the procedure in Illinois once the fetus becomes viable, except when a woman's life or "major bodily function" is threatened.

"This bill is an effort to protect the life of an unborn child after the point when they can survive outside the womb, when basically you're just talking about an issue of location — when the child is deemed protected by the law or not," he said Wednesday, Feb. 13. "Now, obviously there's going to be times when there may be a serious physical health reason that would justify the procedure, and that's why that exception is included in the law."

According to his measure, a "medical emergency" and "major bodily function" includes normal function of the immune, digestive, neurological, respiratory and circulatory systems, among others.

His bill does not provide an exception for protecting the mental health of the mother.

GUN LAWS: A bill introduced in the Illinois House would add several layers of state regulation to the production and distribution of 3D-printed and home-assembled guns and parts.

Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Addison, filed House Bill 2253, which would penalize as a Class 2 felony: the possession of an un-serialized firearm that has been 3D-printed or self-assembled; distribution of downloadable firearm printing instructions

See RECAP, Page 10



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Stockton Youth Soccer Registration

Will be held at the Stockton Park House

Saturday, February 23

9:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Cost is \$30 per child (child must be 4 by April 1st)
\$10 Fee for late registration after the Feb. 23rd registration
No registrations after March 1.

Please call Jen Gile 815-541-6028 or Trent Gile 815-541-1859 with questions.
We need parents to volunteer for coaching to keep our program alive!

338787

ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

RONALD UECKER

Ron Uecker passed away on Jan. 31, 2019 at Symphony of Centerville, Ohio. Ron was born on Dec. 24, 1937 in Lena, Illinois, to Paul and Beulah (Stabenow) Uecker.

He lived in Lena, Illinois from birth through high school, graduating in 1955 from Le-Win High School where he played basketball, softball and baseball.

He enlisted in the Army, serving from 1955 to 1958 and graduating from the U.S. Army Signal Corps Photography School at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. One of his assignments was in the Arctic Circle for one year where he was stationed at Fort Churchill, Manitoba, Canada, with the photography team. He also played on the Army's golf team while serving in California. Due to illness, he missed the opportunity to accompany his team to serve in Germany.

Ron was an avid golfer, winning the Lena golf Club Adult Championship twice at ages 14 and 15. He and celebrity, Hop Along Cassidy, were on the winning team for the Woody Hayes fund raiser benefiting Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He shot his age seven times and made two holes-in-one.

Spending time fishing, boating, reading, antiques and camping in Wisconsin with his family and friends were among other enjoyable activities.

Ron was employed by Micro Switch in Freeport, IL. (editor of the factory newspaper), Bartelt Engineering in Rockford, IL (Advertising Manager), Central IL. Electric & Gas Company in Rockford, IL (sales promotion.) The remaining 30-plus years of his career were spent in the newspaper business at papers including Rockford Newspaper in Rockford, IL (sales, Retail Advertising Manager), Chillicothe Gazette in Chillicothe, Ohio (Advertising Director), Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal in Waterville and Augusta, Maine (Advertising Director), Cox Newspapers in Dayton, Ohio (managed 8 suburban newspapers.) He retired in Dec. 1999 and spent 16 years in retirement on Togus Pond, Maine, before moving to Centerville, Ohio.

He was a member of the Lions Club, Jaycees and Rotary Club.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years (Mary Jean "MJ" Rampenthal) of Centerville, Ohio; son, Craig (Deb)

Uecker of Freeport, Maine; daughter, Carla (Joel) Reed of Centerville, Ohio; grandchildren: Chris Reed (Kara) of Chicago, IL; Jeremy Reed of Centerville, Ohio; Molly Reed (Nick Peters) of Kettering, Ohio; step-children Nicole Crone of San Francisco, CA; Erik Crone of Freeport, Maine; great-grandchildren: Isabella Peters, Mila Peters of Kettering, Ohio; and Ashton Reed of Centerville, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother.

Donations may be made to the: Miami Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, 31 W. Whipp RD., Dayton, OH 45459

JAMES RAYMOND EVANS

James "Jim" Raymond Evans, 84, of Lena, passed away on Feb. 10, 2019, at home with his family by his side, after a valiant and graceful four-year skirmish with melanoma. He is now with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Jim was born Jan. 10, 1935, in Rochester, MN, the eldest son of Raymond and Hazel (Cooper) Evans. He graduated from the Naval Aviation Cadet (NAVCAD) program in Pensacola, FL, in 1955. After flight training, he was commissioned an ensign and designated a naval aviator, receiving his wings of gold. After 13 years of active duty, Jim joined the Naval Reserves and became a pilot for United Airlines. He retired from the Navy with the rank of captain (O-6) in 1975, and from United Airlines as a Boeing 727 captain in 1995. He flew a wide variety of aircraft including trainers, anti-submarine warfare Lockheed P-2V Neptunes and P-3A/BOrions, and Douglas DC-8s, accumulating over 30,000 flight hours before he stopped keeping track.

Jim married Deyonne Marlene Biorn on March 16, 1957, in Zumbrota, MN, and they had four children. He loved to be with his family, teaching his children and grandchildren practical knowledge and helping them with everything from hauling their belongings wherever they moved, remodeling houses and landscaping yards wherever they lived, and providing moral and physical

support during difficult times. He also mentored young men and women in the local community, several of whom later chose to serve their country in the Navy and Marines.

Jim was extremely talented and was always learning something new. Thinking ahead to the next project, he would tap his head and say, "It's already done, up here." If it was made from wood, he built it. He installed plumbing and electrical wiring, trained horses, fixed small engines, poured cement, did needlework, made gardens and orchards and preserved the produce. He had a fine tenor voice and sang in choirs and ensembles. He also played the cornet. In his youth, Jim played semi-professional hockey for the Rochester Mustangs. He had a special love for horses and anything to do with the circus, American, European, and Biblical history, and following current events. He effortlessly and eagerly used computers and other electronic devices, but always did prefer a good set of analog gauges to a digital readout. He was game to jump in the car and drive anywhere for any length of time, the nastier the weather, the better. Possessed of a rare sense of navigation, Jim never wanted to take the same road twice.

He is survived by his wife, Deyonne Evans; daughter Kathryn Evans of Lena; son Douglas and wife Carol Evans of Prescott, AZ, and their children Andrew, Kate and her fiancé Coy McNew; son David and wife Anita Evans of Lena and their children Benjamin and wife Rose (their children Summer and Violet), Lucas and Sarah; daughter Anna and husband Dean Van Brunt of Kenosha, WI, their children Michael and Nathan; sister Judith Singfiel of Raleigh, NC, sister-in-law, Barbara Evans of Pittsburg PA, and nephews and nieces. Jim is predeceased by his father, mother, brother Stephen Evans and brother-in-law Arlin Singfiel. The family would like to thank Monroe Clinic Hospice and Angels Aide Homecare for their wonderful help and support during this difficult time.

A visitation was held at the Leamon Funeral Home on Friday, Feb. 15. Funeral services were held at Salem United Church of Christ, where Jim was a member, on Saturday, Feb. 16. A luncheon followed at the Salem United Church of Christ. Burial will

be at Lena Burial Park.

A memorial fund will be established in Jim's memory to help bring home the F-4E Phantom aircraft to the Northwest Illinois Aerial Combat Memorial in Lena, IL.

LUCILLE L. DIDDENS

Lucille L. Diddens 90, was reunited with her husband Virgil on Valentine's Day. She passed away on Thursday Feb. 14, 2019 at the Lena Living Center surrounded by her family. She was born on March 31, 1928 in Ridott, IL to William and Grace (Weiman) Leerhoff. She married G. Virgil Diddens on June 11, 1948. She worked on the family farm along side of her husband and raised their seven children. She was a member of the Freeport Community Reform Church. Lucille enjoyed sewing, gardening, puzzles, crocheting and especially spending time with her family and grandchildren.

She is survived her children; Randy (Marilyn) Diddens of Winslow, Mark (Sandi) Diddens of Lena, Curt



(Sue) Diddens of McConnell, Neil (Tina) Diddens of McConnell, Brian Diddens of Lena, Sharelon (Dave) Smith of Lena. 16 grandchildren and 32 great grandchildren plus one on the way. Sister, Lavon Wilhelms.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Virgil in 2000, daughter Laura in 1988 and two brothers.

Funeral services and a visitation were held Tuesday Feb. 19, at the Freeport Community Reform Church.

Burial will be in Silver Creek Reformed Church Cemetery in German Valley.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the Freeport Community Reform Church.

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



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Basic Needs Bags for area homeless

In 2016, 291 people were counted homeless in the city of Rockford. However, it is challenging to get an accurate count because the homeless population is difficult to count because many don't want to be found. Area churches will work together to provide basic care for God's people while they in crisis. This care will help them as they transition into a long term solution. "Thank you to your members who are donating the items and their time for making/delivering the gift bags. The gift bags give the people experiencing homelessness something to look forward to and it helps make everyday living a little easier." said Angie Walker Housing Advocate City of Rockford Human

Services Department. On Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019 a group of compassionate people gathered at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4700 Augustana Drive at 10AM to learn more about the homeless population and assemble over 100 bags. Each bag will contain a \$5 McDonalds Card, scarf/hat, chewing gum, crackers with meat or cheese, beef jerky, a granola bar, a juice drink, wipes, warm

socks, hand warmers, and lip balm. Once the bags are complete, bags will be distributed throughout the community. Keeping a bag in your car is being ready to help a human living on the street who is affected by hunger and cold.

For more information about the basic needs bags or other ministries, visit www.RockTheGood.com, contact the office at 815.962.4279 or RALMmail@aol.com

McConnell United Methodist Church to host Annual Soup and Sandwich Lunch

McConnell United Methodist Church will be hosting their Annual Soup and Sandwich Lunch on Sunday, March 3rd from Noon to 1:30 p.m. at the church located at 211 N. Hulbert Rd. in McConnell. The menu will include all-you-can-eat

chili, vegetable beef soup, cheese sandwiches, celery/carrot sticks, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children (5-12 yrs old). Funds made at this event are used for our new youth ministry and mission projects.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will gather for worship on Feb. 24, at 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, at 9:30 a.m. We will read the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers. All are invited to worship on this Seventh Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion. Good Shepherd choir will sing in the service. After worship there will be a time for coffee, juice, treats, and fellowship. All children will gather for Sunday School opening at 10:45 a.m. followed by learning scripture, crafts, prayer, and fun.

On Wednesday Feb. 27, 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.

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

Salem United Church of Christ

On Sunday, Feb. 24, at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 W. Salem Road, Lena, Rev. Randal Nicholas will present the sermon, "Visiting the Death Cafe," preaching from 1 Corinthians 15:35-50. Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults and children is at 9:30 a.m. Following worship, a light lunch will be served by the Music and Worship Committee, and the congregation will hold its annual "White Elephant Auction." Items donated for the sale will be things which are looking for a new home where they will be used and enjoyed.

The Wednesday Morning Breakfast Group will meet at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, at the Spring Grove Restaurant, 1521 S. West Ave., in Freeport.

St. John's Lutheran Church (Pearl City)

You're invited to join us at St. John's for worship on Sunday, Feb. 24. The Joy Choir will sing during the worship service. Sunday School and Confirmation classes will also meet after worship.

Congratulations to Cherrie Blessing, Freeport, IL, for winning the the \$200 Calendar Raffle drawing on Feb. 10.

St. John's will host a Community Euchre and Dominoes party on Sunday, March 10 at 1:30 p.m. Save the date and make plans to attend!

The Women's Gathering Board will meet at 9 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 25. 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.

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Sr. High - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

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McConnell United Methodist Church hosts
Annual Soup & Sandwich Lunch
Sunday, March 3, 2019
Noon - 1:30 p.m.

<p>MENU All-you-can-eat chili, vegetable beef soup, cheese sandwiches, celery/carrot sticks, dessert and beverage.</p>	<p>Tickets Adults \$5.00 Kids (5-12 yrs) \$2.00 Under 5 FREE</p>
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Funds made at this event are used for our new youth ministry and mission projects.

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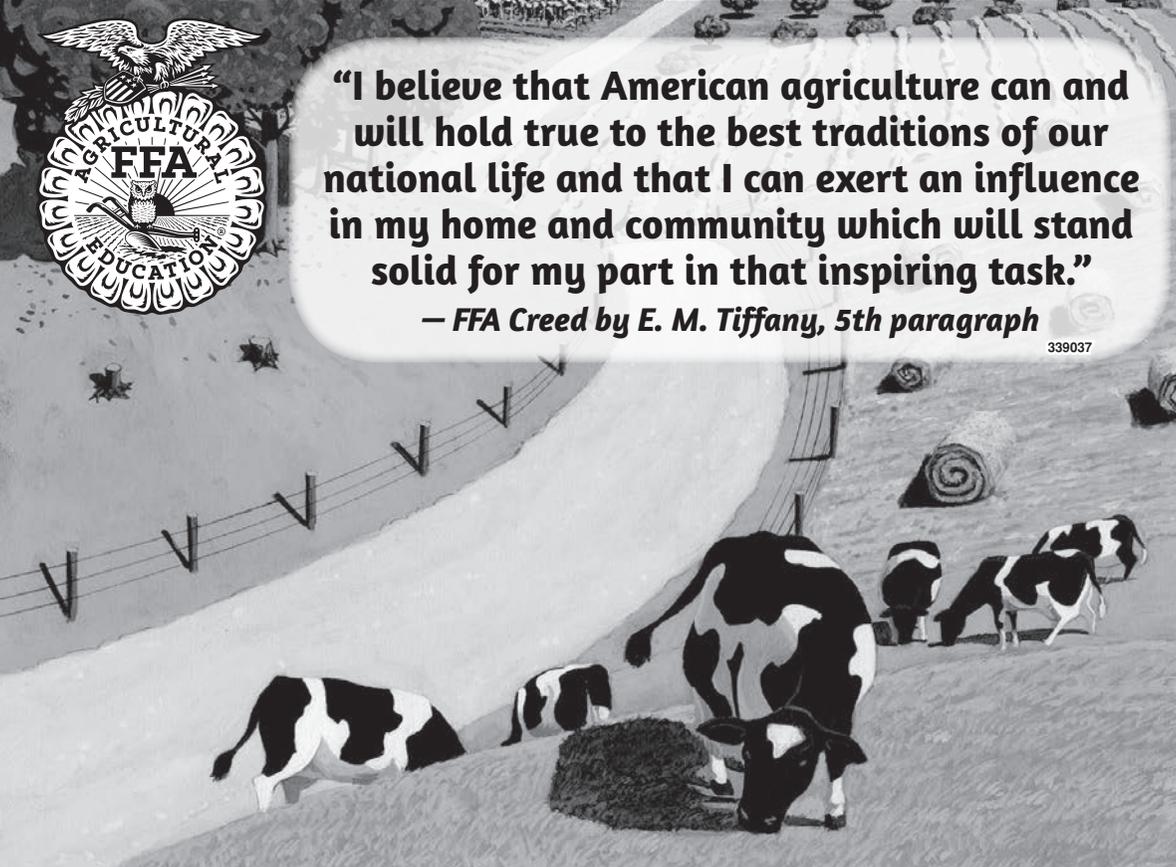
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— FFA Creed by E. M. Tiffany, 5th paragraph



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Soil Health Seminar: soil compaction and nitrogen status

The 2018 harvest season was an unusually wet one for producers in the Midwest, with extensive late-season rainfall causing many issues for producers. Late season rains coupled with cooler temperatures not only slowed down harvest operations but also provided an opportunity for soil compaction to take place. In addition to having lasting impacts on crop

productivity, soil compaction causes significant damage to existing soil structure by breaking down soil aggregates leading to rutting and deep subsoil compaction. Soil compaction can also be extremely costly to remediate and has been shown to cause yield reductions up to 20% the following growing season.

To help assess soil compaction

levels and potential remediation techniques, farmers and landowners are invited to join us for a soil health seminar focusing soil compaction after a wet growing season. The seminar will take place on Feb. 26, at Durand State Bank in Durand, IL from 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon. The keynote speaker for this event will be Dr. Mehari Tekeste, Assistant Profes-

or of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering from Iowa State University. Topics Dr. Tekeste will be discussing include: predicting extent of soil compaction from vehicle load and tire inflation, updates on impacts of soil compaction on crop yield, and recommendations to avoid and manage soil compaction. Additional topics of discussion will include the

use of cover crops as a tool to reduce compaction, soil nitrogen status, and nitrogen application decision making for 2019. USDA-NRCS, USDA-FSA, and IDOA-SWCD cost-share and incentive programs will also be discussed

Registration is \$15 per person, with a discount price of \$10 for those who register before Feb. 15. Registration costs include lunch. Registration can be made online at go.illinois.edu/jsw or by calling the U of I Extension office 815-235-4125. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Extension Office. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs. This program is sponsored by: Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau, Illinois Farm Bureau, Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District, and University of Illinois Extension.

Farm Analysis Solution Tools training workshop

Join the University of Illinois Extension for FAST Training 2019. This is a workshop focused on making informed decisions using your computer and spreadsheet tools developed by members of the University of Illinois' farmdoc team. This one-day hands-on workshop will further participants' understandings of Microsoft Excel applications and introduce FAST spreadsheets developed by agricultural economists at the University of Illinois.

Farm Analysis Solution Tools (FAST) are a series of Microsoft Excel spreadsheets that assist users to make various farm business decisions. These tools offer guidance in

the following areas: livestock management, financial analysis, investment analysis, loan analysis, farm management, grain marketing and management, and risk management.

The morning session focuses on tools for assembling cash flow statements as well as crop insurance and risk management options. The afternoon session will demonstrate the features in our Balance Sheet Tool. This tool allows the user to assemble and database balance sheet information and perform ratio analysis over multiple years.

The 2019 crop year is setting up to be another year of tight margins. The last few years of tight margins have

caused some deterioration of the financial position of many producers. This has led to stricter standards by lenders. Our training session is designed to get users to take a look at potential return scenarios for 2019, perform financial analysis and assemble cash flow statements using FAST Tools.

As part of the "hands-on" training, each participant will have access to a laptop computer that is provided in the registration cost. SAVE \$30 by bringing your own laptop equipped with a DVD-ROM drive (or USB drive) and Microsoft Excel, version 2007 or higher. All participants will receive a copy of the FAST soft-

ware, workshop notes, a one-year subscription to FAST updates, and a complementary lunch.

FAST Training 2019 will be held on Tuesday, March 5, hosted by the University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County at the Highland Community College Student Conference Center, 2998 W Pearl City Road, Freeport in room 210 (use parking lot A). The training will start at 9:30 a.m. and concluding at 3 p.m. Registration is \$100 (\$70 if you bring your own laptop). Registration is required by Feb. 26. Register by calling the University of Illinois Extension at (815) 235-4125 or on-line at go.illinois.edu/jsw.

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Data Intensive Farm Management- Research on your farm for your farm

Crop scientists have run small-plot trials for more than a century but implementation is extremely labor-intensive without the benefit of large-scale farm machinery. Larger-scale "strip trials," in which researchers apply different rates to field-length strips, are a more recent development. Despite providing information about larger areas of land, strip trial analysis assumes that field characteristics are uniform throughout the field. This is an assumption which is often incorrect.

This is where Data Intensive Farm Management (DIFM), a new proto-

col from the University of Illinois designed to help producers run sophisticated trials on their own farms assessing fertilizer and seeding rates in corn and soybean production systems. Using GPS-guided precision agriculture technology, researchers and farmers are collaborating and conducting large-scale, on-farm "checkerboard" field trials. DIFM's checkerboard trials provide more specific, higher quality data than can be attained through either of the more traditional field trial methods. The goal of DIFM is to revolutionize farm management by working with

farmers to implement scientific experiments on their own farms. This will enable farmers to increase their profits by making data-driven management decisions.

Researchers use DIFM specialized software to program "instructions" to a variable rate planter and fertilizer applicator. The farmer simply drives through the field as the seeds and fertilizer are applied. At harvest, the DIFM software works with a GPS-linked yield monitor to record the results of each plot.

Because DIFM trials are conducted on commercial farm fields, they generate specific information from those fields about those fields. This data is immediately pertinent to decisions about future management, for the producers who are involved. In addition to measuring field characteristics, DIFM will measure weather on each experimental field by installing equipment that measures and records precipitation and temperature many times per day.

The beauty of the DIFM method is that it can generate huge amounts of pertinent field trial data on a farmer's actual fields, but with minimal nuisance to the farmer. Still, participating farmers play an active role in research, and of course take on certain responsibilities while participating. DIFM researchers ask that farmers attend an organizational meeting in February

during their first year of participation in order to discuss their roles in the project.

- Prior to planting, the farmer
- dedicates a field of at least 80 acres to the project;
 - provides a shape file showing the field's boundary;
 - provides the latest soil fertility information available for the field
 - provides an A-B line for planting, fertilization, and harvest;
 - provides a yield map from at least one year of the crop species to be planted.
 - provides the width and number of rows, where applicable, of all equipment; and
 - provides information about the fertilization and seeding rates that would be used on that field if the farmer were not participating in the experiments.

After planting, the farmer provides an as-applied map (as a shape file) for both seeding and fertilization. This tells us what was actually applied to the field. This confirms that the experiment was correctly implemented. After harvest, the farmer provides a yield map as a shape file on a one-second interval for the entire field.

Importantly, farmers who participate in the DIFM project will own the data generated by the field trials run on their farms and compensation to farmers will be given for any losses due to participation. DIFM compensates farmers to ensure that they experience no income loss from participating in the project by estimating what farm income on the field would have been without DIFM. By comparing that income to the actual income generated in the field trials, we can calculate an accurate compensation estimate. In addition, DIFM provides each participating farmer with an annual \$500 "thank you" payment to defray the cost of your time.

Farmers familiar with using their variable rate equipment will only need to upload the field design shapefile, drive their variable rate applicators and yield-monitored harvesters, and supply to you and DIFM the resultant as-applied and yield shapefiles. DIFM has the statistical and economic exper-

tise to analyze the data provided from your client's, and begin to develop data-driven input management recommendations from the trial data. DIFM will provide you with a written explanation of the management implications of field trial results, and will be happy to discuss the practical implications of the results with you and your client, in person or via video conference.

For questions regarding the DIFM project or interest in becoming a co-operator, contact Phillip Alberti, Crop Science Educator with University of Illinois Extension in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences at palberti@illinois.edu, 815-235-4125 or on Twitter (@NorthernILCrops).

College news

Area student graduates from University of Wisconsin-Stout

Meredith Schoonhoven of Lena graduated in December 2018 from University of Wisconsin-Stout in Menomonie, Wis.

UW-Stout, Wisconsin's Polytechnic University has 50 undergraduate majors and 21 graduate programs, including one doctoral degree. UW-Stout, established in 1891, prides itself on the success of its students in the workplace, with an employment rate at or above 98 percent for recent graduates.

Lieb named to Upper Iowa University 2018 Fall Dean's List

Upper Iowa University has announced the Dean's List for the 2018 fall semester. To be honored, a student must have earned a minimum 3.50 grade point average for the semester and be enrolled as a full-time student. The honored students include Clayton Lieb, a Business Admin major from Pearl City, IL.



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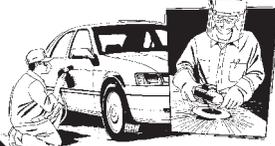
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Highland's Hospitality Program continues to grow with addition of certificates

Students are now able to earn stackable certificates in the Hospitality program at Highland Community College.

When the Hospitality program began in 2015, with an Associate of Applied Science Degree (AAS), it was decided to add certificates to provide specialized pathways. Now students are able to earn certificates in Hospitality Start-Up, Restaurant Management, and Hotel Management. "The certificates will allow those

students who are looking to focus on a particular area to provide them with the corresponding skills and knowledge needed in a shorter time frame (and less time commitment) than the 2-year degree," said Evan Talbert, Hospitality instructor. "This is ideal for students with a strong interest in a specific field already, especially those already working in the industry and looking to strengthen skills to allow them to move up the ladder." The Highland Community College

Hospitality Management degree creates a pathway for those pursuing a career within the hotel and hospitality industry. Students gain the core skills necessary to work in a group or independently. Participants learn entry-level hospitality field skills in the traditional classroom, alternative delivery methods, and workplace experiences.

The Hospitality Start-up Certif-

icate is geared toward those interested in starting/owning their own business in the hospitality industry. The certificate is a specialized plan within the AAS degree that provides the knowledge and training students need to enter the hospitality field.

The Restaurant Management Certificate and the Hotel Management Certificate are additional specialized plans within the AAS degree. These

certificates focus on the specific needs of those entering restaurant and hotel management.

Students completing one or more of these certificates are well on their way to earning the Hospitality Management AAS and may wish to consider pursuing further coursework to complete the degree.

For more information visit highland.edu.

HCC Clarence Mitchell Library hosts NEA Big Read Writing Program

Highland Community College's Clarence Mitchell Library offers a creative writing program on Feb. 28 at 1 p.m. as part of the 2019 NEA Big Read: One Freeport. Playwright, performance artist and spoken word artist, Saymoukda Vongsay, will present a 90-minute writing workshop in the Highland Community College Clarence Mitchell Library in the Marvin-Burt Liberal Arts Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, Ill.

"Write it Out," a 90-minute guided creative writing salon is designed for writers of all levels to have uninterrupted time to write out their frustrations, stresses, vulnerabilities, imaginings, and amusements. The workshop will include playing with erasure poetry, free verse, and flash memoir. Participants can enjoy hot tea while writing.

"Write it Out" is free and open to registered participants. Registration is limited to 30 participants. Sign up for the workshop online at highland.edu/library/programs or by calling 815-599-3456. The program is offered as part of the 2019 NEA Big Read: One Freeport and is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.

For more information, contact Laura Watson at 815-599-3456 or laura.watson@highland.edu.

Highland holds Big Band Concert and District Art Exhibit opening

The Highland Big Band will hold a concert on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre in the Ferguson Fine Arts Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, Ill.

Tony Scodwell an alumnus of the bands of Stan Kenton and the Tonight Show Band will perform on trumpet. Scodwell is a resident of Las Vegas and a native of Beloit, WI. He has also performed with the Tommy Dorsey Band, Buddy Rich Big Band, Frank Sinatra, Jr. Band and still plays as a freelance musical artist in Las Vegas.

Then on Thursday, Feb. 21, the 50th annual District Juried Art Exhibit opens in the Highland Gallery, also in the Ferguson Fine Arts Center. The exhibit features work from community artists and Highland students. The opening reception is from 4:30 to 6 p.m., with an awards presentation at 5:30 p.m. The exhibit will remain open through March 6.

"Highland Gallery has been hosting this student and community-based juried art exhibit for 50

years, and this exhibit serves as a strong example of a highly successful collaboration between the college and our district residents," states Robert Apolloni, Gallery director. "I always look forward to this exhibit each spring semester, and to the many talented community members and students that choose to celebrate and share their visual art

accomplishments with our community."

This exhibition truly reflects the spirit and ideas of a diverse community that supports and encourages the growth of the visual arts.

Both events are free and open to the public. For more information visit highland.edu/event-calendar or call 815-599-3718.



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• Recap (Continued from page 4)

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.

Effective January 1, 2019, LIHEAP clients may only apply for the traditional Direct Vendor (DVP) one-time payment assistance. **No new PIPP applications may be taken after December 31, 2018.**

Starting December 3, 2018 all low-income eligible households may call to schedule an appointment to apply for assistance with their heating utility bills. LIHEAP applications will be taken until May 31, 2019 or until funding is exhausted.

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.

- NCAA 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 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.

Effective December 1, 2018 all 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 with 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
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unless the distributor performs background checks and procedures consistent with a legal gun transaction; and unlawful manufacture of an un-serialized firearm.

Class 2 felonies are punishable by three to seven years in prison and up to \$25,000 in fines.

"I'm not calling for a ban on them, I'm just saying that you need to have the same background checks as you would if you were going to purchase a regular gun at a gun dealer or a gun shop, and that means you have to have a valid FOID card," Willis said Tuesday, Feb. 12.

The bill also requires a FOID card for anyone possessing "unfinished frames or receivers" defined in the bill as "a frame or lower receiver blank, casting, or machined body that requires further machining or molding to be used as part of a functional firearm."

Todd Vandermyde of the Federal Firearms Licensees of Illinois, a lobbyist on behalf of gun sellers, called the bill an attempt to criminalize the distribution of information, which goes against not only the Second Amendment, but also the First.

"It makes it illegal to digitally share files and blueprints, so if you're trying to get a custom part made and you need to have a blueprint of a part made and you try to transmit that via a PDF or a drawing or with the actual code, this criminalizes the sharing of that information," he said.

LINCOLN HERITAGE AREA: On Abraham Lincoln's 210th birthday, his home state's two U.S. senators advanced a bill to expand the Lincoln National Heritage Area in Illinois.

Sens. Tammy Duckworth (D-III.) and Dick Durbin (D-III.) said in a news release The Abraham Lincoln

National Heritage Area Amendment Act, which passed the Senate as part of the Natural Resources Management Act, will add Livingston County, the city of Jonesboro in Union County and the city of Freeport in Stephenson County to the heritage area.

According to the release, this will increase economic opportunities for Illinoisans working to preserve the historic site and create new recreation, tourism and educational projects.

U.S. Congressman Adam Kinzinger, a Republican from Illinois' 16th District, has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House.

"I am grateful to Senators Duckworth and Durbin for their efforts to pass this legislation, and look forward to working with them and the entire Illinois Congressional delegation to get this bill through the House of Representatives and signed into law," said Looking for Lincoln Executive Director Sarah Watson.

The existing Lincoln National Heritage Area was established in 2008 and consists of 42 central Illinois counties stretching from the Indiana border to the Mississippi River. This bill would expand it to 43 counties and the communities of Freeport and Jonesboro.

Lincoln developed his legal career and participated in the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates in the areas added under this legislation.

The site generates approximately \$260 million in economic impact, supports more than 3,000 jobs and generates \$25.5 million in tax revenue. The release said the legislation would not add money to the deficit, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

HOMELESS PROGRAM

GRANTS: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded more than \$100 million in grants to support more than 400 community-based homeless assistance programs across Illinois.

The grants are funded through HUD's Continuum of Care Program. The money is distributed to community-based organizations that provide a broad array of services for homeless individuals and families, particularly those who are living in places not meant for habitation, people living in homeless shelters, and those at immediate risk of becoming homeless.

U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, both Illinois Democrats, announced the grants Wednesday.

"The recent record-breaking cold temperatures felt across Illinois serve as a potent reminder of the importance of ensuring that all people have access to safe and reliable housing," Durbin said in a joint news release announcing the funding. "This critical federal funding will help thousands of individuals and families across Illinois get back on their feet."

"Individuals across Illinois rely on investments like these to gain access to affordable and reliable housing," Duckworth said. "Having a safe place to stay is an important first step for families to move forward with their lives."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS: Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Monday, Feb. 11, named Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton to lead a new office that will coordinate the administration's criminal justice reform initiatives, especially prison reform.

In an executive order, Pritzker established what he's calling the "Justice, Equity and Opportunity Initiative," or JEO, which will centralize and coordinate criminal justice reforms across a number of different state agencies, with particular emphasis on the state's prison system and sentencing guidelines.

"This is needed because our justice system is not working," Stratton said in a statement released by the governor's office. "The JEO Initiative will move us from a strictly punitive system to one that examines the root causes of the issues we face while creating solutions that put community at the center."

Pritzker noted the state spends roughly \$1.3 billion a year for the Illinois Department of Corrections, which houses about 43,000 inmates in a prison system designed to hold only about 32,000.

The order spells out a number of general initiatives the administration wants to pursue to reduce the prison population such as developing "bias-free assessment tools" for judges to use to determine sentences.

It also suggests the need for improved training within the Department of Corrections, which has faced numerous lawsuits over alleged discrimination and lack of access to health care.

The order calls on the new JEO office to report to the governor with-

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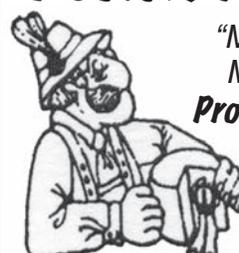
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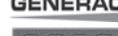
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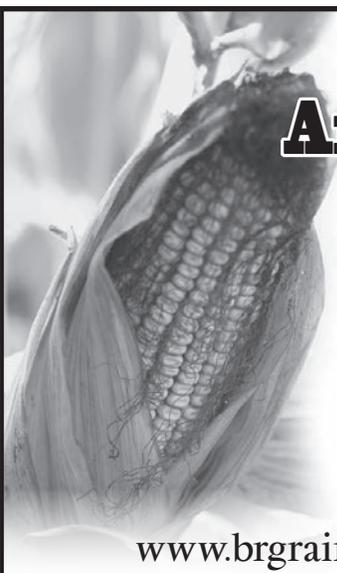
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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Another week of wild weather and a beautiful heart day. I was so happy we had a beautiful day for Valentine's Day. Restaurants, florists, and gift shops all had a great day for guys to find something for the special people in their lives. Of course Friday had to send us back to our frigid reality, and the forecast is for some more snow. We all will be grateful to get out of February and into March. This week's column has a little of everything again. Hopefully you will enjoy reading the recipes, and then you will find some you want to try.

The first salad recipe is for a fruit salad and greens. I like the taste of orange with a lettuce salad. This one has regular oranges rather than the mandarin oranges. I think you can substitute white wine vinegar for the sherry vinegar. You could also use red leaf lettuce and romaine instead of the spring mix; I have mentioned

before that I like the spring mix because it has just a little arugula.

- Citrus Almond Salad
- 3 T. extra virgin olive oil
- 2 T. fresh orange juice
- 2 T. sherry vinegar
- 1 T. finely chopped green onions
- 1 t. Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 6 C. spring mix
- ½ C. chopped fresh parsley
- ½ C. sliced almonds

Whisk together oil, orange juice, vinegar, onions and Dijon. Season with salt and pepper. Toss salad greens, parsley and almonds with dressing.

This potato recipe uses the Yukon gold potatoes. I have grown to like these potatoes. I especially like the smaller ones. This potato dish will go well with the main entrées below.

Potatoes Anna

- 3 T. unsalted butter
- 4 lbs. Yukon potatoes, peeled and very thinly sliced
- 2 T. chopped fresh rosemary
- 2 t. kosher salt
- 1 t. pepper
- 5 T. unsalted butter, melted

Preheat the oven to 425. In a 10-inch cast-iron skillet, melt 3 tablespoons butter over medium-high heat until hot. Remove from heat. Arrange potato slices in an overlapping pattern in concentric circles in a single layer in the bottom of a

skillet. Season with rosemary, salt, and pepper; drizzle with melted butter. Repeat with remaining potatoes, rosemary, salt, and pepper, seasoning every layer and drizzling with melted butter as you go. Pour any remaining melted butter on top of potatoes. Bake until potatoes are very tender in the middle and browned and crisp on top around the edges, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool in pan 10 minutes before serving. (Makes 6 to 8 servings)

One of my main comfort foods is meatloaf. I like meatloaf that I make at home. I have not been very successful in liking meatloaf from a restaurant. This meatloaf recipe is a little different because it has bacon in it, and it is served with gravy. These make a nice dinner entrée for company because of the individual patties.

Bacon Meat Loaf Patties and Gravy

- ¼ C. panko bread crumbs
- ¾ C. plus 3 T. whole milk, divided
- 1 lb. ground beef
- ½ lb. bacon, finely chopped
- ¼ C. green onions, plus more for garnish
- 4 t. finely chopped yellow onion, divided
- 1 T. Montreal steak seasoning
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1 t. vegetable oil
- 2 T. flour
- ½ C. chicken broth
- ¼ t. kosher salt

In a large bowl, stir together the bread crumbs and 2 tablespoons of milk; let stand for 5 minutes. Stir in beef, bacon, green onion, 2 tablespoons yellow onion, steak seasoning and egg until combined. Divide mixture into 6 portions and shape each portion into a patty.

In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-low heat. Add patties; cook until browned on both sides and a meat thermometer inserted registers 150, about 8 minutes per side. Remove patties, and let drain on paper towels, reserving drippings in skillet; keep patties warm. Whisk flour and remaining 2 tablespoons of onion into skillet; cook for 1 minute. Whisk in broth, salt, and remaining ¾ cup milk until smooth; cook until slightly thickened, about 3 minutes. Serve with patties. Garnish with green onion, if desired.

When I first saw this recipe, I thought it was Italian, but later I discovered that pastitsio was another word for Greek Lasagna. I should have been quicker to know that it was Greek because of the feta cheese and the kalamata olives. You can buy the olives at most grocery stores. If you are lucky, they might have an olive bar and you can get fresh ones. You can substitute broth for the dry sherry if you don't have it.

Penne Pastitsio

- 8 oz. penne pasta, cooked and

- drained
- 2 T. olive oil
- 1½ C. minced onions
- 1 lb. ground chuck
- ½ C. chopped kalamata olives
- ¼ c. chopped pepperoncini
- 2 t. minced garlic
- 1 T. tomato paste
- 2 t. dried oregano
- 1 t. dried thyme
- ½ t. cinnamon
- ½ t. red pepper flakes
- ½ C. dry red wine
- 1 can (28 oz.) Crushed tomatoes
- Salt and pepper to taste

Sauce

- 2 T. unsalted butter
 - 2 T. flour
 - 1 t. minced fresh garlic
 - 2 C. whole milk
 - Pinch of ground cloves
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 C. crumbled feta cheese
 - ½ C. chopped parsley
- Preheat the oven to 400. Coat a 9 x 13 baking dish with cooking spray. Heat a skillet over medium high; add the onions and cook until softened, 3 minutes. Add chuck, olives, pepperoncini, garlic, tomato paste, oregano, thyme, cinnamon and pepper flakes. Cook breaking up the ground beef until cooked through and no pink is showing. Deglaze the skillet with wine; cook until evaporated, about

See KITCHEN, Page 16

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Southern Lakes Newspapers and Rock Valley Publishing are seeking a community editor for the weekly newspaper The Independent-Register in Brodhead, Wis. This is a hands-on editing position that requires an organized and highly motivated individual who will have a role in all editorial functions, including reporting, writing, photography and website. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work independently and be an effective manager who is able to recruit and direct freelance writers and photographers.

An experienced journalist is preferred, but we'll consider recent grads with extensive college newspaper experience. If you're ready to make your mark on a community and its newspapers, email your resume and work samples to Ed Nadolski, Editor in Chief, at enadolski@standardpress.com.

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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.

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SWAP MEET 54th Annual Greater Milwaukee Area indoor winter automotive & vintage bicycle swap meet. Sunday February 24th 2019 held 8am-2pm at Washington County Fair Grounds. 3000 Cty Hwy PV West Bend, WI 53095. Admission \$7.00 under 12 free. This is Wisconsin's oldest and largest indoor swap meet. Questions call Vicki at 262-337-0426. www.wichaptermasca.com Hosts WI Chapter Model A Ford Club of America.

Trucks & Trailers

1500 DODGE RAM 1996 half ton pick up. 318 magnum. Engine and transmission good. New water and fuel pump. Drivable but anti-sway bar rusted off. \$500. White-water 920-650-4885.

1992 CHEVY PICKUP 2 WD, V6 automatic, power steering/brakes, tilt wheel, Arizona truck, 143,000 orig. mi., asking \$3,000 OBO. 262-210-1766.

FORD 2011 F-150 FX4 5.0L V8 "Coyote" engine with 80,150 miles. Newer all terrain tires, 20" aluminum wheels, 36-gallon fuel tank, Sony navigation radio w/ Sync, FX Luxury Package. Excellent Condition. \$19,500 OBO (312) 720-3759.

FORD 2017 SUPER DUTY 6.7L, power stroke turbo diesel, 14,000 m, too much to list. 224-518-6491.

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• Broncos

Continued from front page)

Zach Baker scored thirteen. The following day the Broncos made a trip over to Durand High School to face off with the Bulldogs for another conference matchup. Durand, who has struggled this season, came in at the bottom of the conference with an 0-8 record in league play. The Bulldogs were 4-13 overall.

It was a defensive first half as both teams struggled to get their offense going early on.

Things were even in the first quarter as the teams went into the second tied at 8-8. The Broncos were able to take a slim lead in the second quarter by outscoring the Bulldogs 7-6. Orangeville took a 15-14 lead into halftime.

Durand was able to tie things up in the third quarter as they managed to put up sixteen points in the quarter. The teams went into the fourth tied at 30-30, as the Bulldogs had their eyes set on pulling off an upset over the Broncos.

The Broncos were finally able to get things going in the final quarter. They saved their best for last, as their highest scoring quarter came in the fourth as they put up sixteen points. The Orangeville defense managed to hold Durand to just ten as they gave their team a 46-40 victory.

The game ended up a lot closer than the Broncos would have liked, but they came through in the face of adversity and got it done when it mattered.

Garret Rodebaugh led the Broncos with thirteen points, Carter Kleckler had eleven, and Zach Baker had nine of his own.

The Broncos finished their regular season with a 6-8 conference record while going 7-17 overall.

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 EN-

TERED 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 DuPage # 15170 Winnebago # 531 Our File No. 14-18-13231

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. I3111617

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

338160

LORAN TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Notice is given that March 1, 2019, is the last day for any 15 or more registered voters in Loran Township to request an agenda item for consideration by the electors at the annual meeting.

This is done by giving written notice to:

Deb Foust - Township Clerk 215 E. South Street Pearl City, IL 61062

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

338815

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON

TOTAL PLUMBING & HEATING, LTD., an Illinois corporation, Plaintiff,

VS

CORTNEY J. CHADWICK, BARCLAY CONSTRUCTION, INC. an Illinois corporation, FIFTH THIRD MORTGAGE COMPANY, ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, JESSIE M. CHADWICK, CORNERSTONE CREDIT UNION, RANDY KETCHUM d/b/a METRO INSULATION, and UNKNOWN OWNERS,

and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

Defendants,

CASE No. 2019CH12

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, STATE OF ILLINOIS, a Complaint seeking Foreclosure of a Mechanics Lien as a captioned above has been filed concerning the Subject Property commonly known as 3840 Winneshiek, Freeport, Illinois. FORECLOSURE PUBLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mechanics Lien Recorded with the Stephenson County Recorders Office by Total Plumbing and Heating, Ltd on October 13, 2017, as Document Number: 201700160221 in the amount of \$14,651, plus interest, costs and attorneys fees has been filed concerning the Subject Property legally described as Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter (1/4) of said Section 11, Township and Range aforesaid; thence West along the South line of said Southeast Quarter (1/4) 150 feet to a point; thence North 183 feet to a point; thence East 150 feet to the East line of said Southeast Quarter (1/4); thence South on the East line of said Southeast Quarter (1/4) 183 feet to the place of beginning, EXCEPTING that part thereof dedicated for highway purposes; situated in the Town of Lancaster, County of Stephenson and the State of Illinois and bearing Permanent Tax Identification Number: 07-14-11-400-002. UNLESS YOU, Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants, file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before March 25, 2019, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT. YOU ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE TIME IN WHICH THE SUBJECT REAL ESTATE

MAY BE REDEEMED FROM FORECLOSURE, PURSUANT TO LAW, COMMENCES TO RUN WITH THE FIRST DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp, or talk to your local circuit clerk's office. This notice is prepared by Attorney Thomas G. Ruud, Thomas G. Ruud & Associates, P.C., 318 N. 1st St., Rockford, IL 61107; tel (815) 961-9100 fax (815) 961-9118; Tgrlaw@aol.com.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Feb. 20, 27 & March 6, 2019)

339038

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Board of appeals of Lena, IL on Monday, March 4th, 2019 at 7:00pm at the Village Hall, 122 E. Main St., Lena, IL 61048 for the purpose of hearing evidence regarding the request to rezone the following property.

The property is located on the east corner of N. Shippee Rd. and N. Schuyler St. running North parallel to Shippee Rd. The legal description of the property is PT NW NE SEC 33-28-6. The property is located in Lena, IL, West Point Township and Stephenson County, Illinois.

Pin (11-074-28-400-005) from the purpose of granting a variance. The variance is requested by Harold & Nicole Rood of Lena, IL to build a garage/shed structure.

All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard at the public hearing. Interested persons may be present either written or verbal comment at the public hearing.

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

338835



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•Recap (Continued from page 10)

in 90 days with details about what it plans to accomplish in its first year, and then to file annual reports each Jan. 1 detailing what reform efforts have been put in place as well as the group's plans for the upcoming year.

TAXING RETIREMENT INCOME?: Rep. David McSweeney wants the state to keep its hands off retirement income.

The Barrington Hills Republican on Monday, Feb. 11, announced a House opposing any moves to put a state tax on retirement income.

McSweeney's resolution is a response to the economic plan recently laid out by the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago, one of the state's leading business groups.

The Commercial Club's plan calls for increasing the state income and corporate tax rate by one percentage point, as well as beginning to tax retirement income and putting sales taxes on more consumer services.

"One of the few tax benefits we have in Illinois is protection for retirement income," McSweeney said in a news release. "We do not need to hold retirees accountable for the [state's] out-of-control spending."

But with massive pension debt and a backlog of unpaid bills nearing \$7.8 billion, the state might be able to use an extra \$6 billion in new revenue per year, which is how much the Commercial Club claims its plan could bring in.

Non-binding House Resolution 32 has not yet been assigned to a committee.

OFFICER SENTENCE: At a morning news conference Monday, Feb. 11, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced plans to challenge the sentencing of former Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke.

"Cases don't necessarily come to an end at the end of the trial," Raoul said. "[There's a] question of whether the law was followed and whether the sentence was rendered

on appropriate charges."

Raoul and special prosecutor Joseph McMahon filed a petition to the Illinois Supreme Court, arguing that Van Dyke should have been sentenced for his aggravated battery convictions as well as his murder conviction.

Van Dyke was convicted of second-degree murder and 16 counts of aggravated battery with a firearm after the on-duty shooting of Chicago teen Laquan McDonald four years ago.

Sentenced to 6 years and 9 months in prison for the murder, Van Dyke was not sentenced for the counts of battery. Judge Vincent Gaughan argued the sentences for the battery counts were "merged" into the murder sentence.

But Raoul and McMahon called the sentencing "improper" and "statutorily unauthorized," and are now asking the Supreme Court to order that Judge Gaughan re-sentence Van Dyke on the counts of battery.

"This step is our effort to make sure that ... the laws apply to this defendant as they do to all defendants," McMahon said.

Under state law, aggravated battery carries a heavier sentencing requirement than second-degree murder. Van Dyke could face a mandatory minimum sentence of as many as 96 years, according to Cook County Assistant Public Defender David Holland in a column written for the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.

Van Dyke and his lawyers have seven days to file an objection to the petition. There is no timeline for the Supreme Court's response.

Capitol News Illinois is a non-profit news service operated by the Illinois Press Foundation that provides coverage of state government to newspapers throughout Illinois. The mission of Capitol News Illinois is to provide credible and unbiased coverage of state government to the more than 400 daily and weekly newspapers that are members of the Illinois Press Association.

•Kitchen (Continued from page 13)

2 minutes. Stir in crushed tomatoes, and bring sauce to a boil; reduce the heat to medium-low and simmer for 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper; stir in penne, and then transfer to the prepared dish.

Sauce: melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in flour and garlic; cook for 2 minutes. Gradually whisk in milk, then add cloves and simmer until thickened, 5 minutes. Whisk eggs in a bowl and add ½ cup of sauce mixture to eggs, then whisk back into the milk mixture. Stir in feta and parsley; season the sauce with salt and pepper. Pour the sauce over the penne mixture. Bake pastitsio until bubbly and top is golden, 35 to 40 minutes; let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Since the salad at the beginning was orange themed, I decided that I should include these orange cream bars. They are easy to make and are sweet and tart at the same time.

Orange Cream Bars

- 1 C. plus 2 T. graham cracker crumbs
- 5 T. unsalted butter, melted
- ¼ C. sugar
- 1/8 t. salt
- 3 pkg. (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
- 1 1/6 C. powdered sugar
- ¾ C. orange crème yogurt
- 3 eggs
- 1 T. orange zest
- 5 T. fresh orange juice
- 3 T. flour

Preheat the oven to 350. Spray an 8-inch square baking pan with baking spray with flour. Line pan with parchment paper, letting excess extend over the sides of the pan. In a medium bowl, whisk together cracker crumbs, melted butter, sugar and salt until moistened. Press mixture into the bottom of the prepared pan. Bake for 10 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with a mixer at medium speed until creamy. With mixer on low speed, add powdered sugar and yogurt, beating until smooth, stopping to scrape sides of bowl. Add

eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scrape sides of bowl. Add orange zest and juice and flour, beating until smooth. Pour filling into prepared crust. Bake until edges are set and center is slightly jiggly, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack. Refrigerate overnight. Using excess parchment as handles, remove from pan, and cut into bars. Garnish with segments of mandarin oranges if desired.

Apple dumplings are another comfort food for me. I love the smell of them baking; I love the smell and taste of them when I am eating. These dumplings are really easy to make because you use crescent roll mix. The sauce is magically made with Mountain Dew soda pop. Enjoy another one of my comfort foods.

Apple Dumpling Bake

- 2 medium Granny Smith apples
 - 2 tubes (8 oz.) each crescent rolls
 - 1 C. sugar
 - 1/3 C. butter, softened
 - ½ t. cinnamon
 - ¾ C. Mountain Dew soda
 - Vanilla ice cream
- Preheat the oven to 350. Peel,

core, and cut each apple into eight wedges. Unroll both tubes of crescent dough and separate each into eight triangles. Wrap a triangle around each apple wedge. Place in a greased 9 x 13 baking dish.

In a bowl, mix sugar, butter, and cinnamon until blended; sprinkle over dumplings. Slowly pour soda around the rolls (do not stir). Bake uncovered, until golden brown and apples are tender, 35 to 40 minutes. Serve warm with ice cream.

We are now half way through February; when the sun is out I think that time goes fast. On the crappy days (and we have had a few), I think that time goes at a snail's pace. Hopefully everyone enjoyed their Valentine's Day, and is looking forward to St. Patrick's Day. We are still looking for some red recipes and some green ones too. 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. or email scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

College News

Clarke announces Fall 2018 Dean's List

The following area students were named to the Dean's List at Clarke University for the Fall 2018 semester. The list recognizes full-time Clarke students who have earned a 3.65 grade-point average or above, on a 4.0 scale, with a minimum of 12 graded hours.

- * Brenden J. Dauphin and Sydney J. Thorsen of Elizabeth, IL
- * Burgundy J. Barklow of Pearl City, IL

Clarke University offers more than 37 undergraduate liberal arts and sciences and pre-professional programs and six graduate degree programs.

Area student named to Drake

University Dean's List

McKenzie Temperly of Winslow is named to the Dean's List at Drake University. This academic honor is achieved by earning a GPA of 3.5 or

higher during the Fall 2018 semester at Drake.

Drake University is a midsize, private university in Des Moines, Iowa, enrolling more than 3,200 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students from approximately 45 states and 42 countries.

Sixth Annual Vintage Shop Hop

Cuba City's five "Antique Avenue" shops, led by Junque Stops Here & Sky Parlor Primitives will participate in the upcoming Vintage Shop Hop on March 1 and 2. The self-guided vintage road trip has over 400 shops, boutiques and home décor stores participating across northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Each year the shop owners roll out the red carpet and host their own individual promotions and activities.

Additional information is available online at: <https://vintageshop-hop.blogspot.com/>

We are proud to welcome



Dr. Caitlin Pullara

Stockton Dental Center
 Dr. Stephen Petras
 120 West Front Avenue
 Stockton, IL 61085
www.stocktondental.com
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A licensed Illinois General Dentist

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.

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