

# the Scoop Today

## Young Wildcats squad makes a solid turnaround

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge Scales Mound Wildcats varsity baseball squad had a roller-coaster season in 2021. In the first half, they were one of the worst teams in their conference, starting out 0-9 and being outscored by their opponents 92-17. They managed to turn things around, however, going 7-6-1 in their final 14 games, while outscoring their opponents 85-75. The Wildcats who finished out the season appeared to be a very different team than the ones that started it.

People took notice of their turnaround, and the Wildcats were rewarded for their efforts. Maddox Knauer capped off an impressive sophomore campaign and was a unanimous vote First Team All-Conference player in the NUIC. Knauer was one of many young players on the Wildcats' roster. His breakout sophomore season has RR-SM head coach Jeremy Knauer excited about what the future holds.

Offensively, Maddox Knauer had an impact early and often, finishing the season with a .373 batting average, which

puts him in the top eight all time in RRSB baseball history. Jeremy Knauer explained how Maddox Knauer, like the rest of the young Wildcat roster, had to develop quickly and learn on the go. The sophomore's pitching was a product of that ongoing development.

"Offensively he was pretty consistent all year. Pitching did not come around until the second half of the season," the coach said. "We are a young group and, defensively, we just made a lot of mistakes, and he was trying to strike everyone out, which resulted in walks."

Maddox Knauer was able to develop his game on the mound, however, becoming the Wildcats' best pitcher by the end of the season.

"Second half of the season, he just focused on strikes and controlling the things he can control," Jeremy Knauer said.

In Maddox Knauer's last 16 innings pitched, he struck out 35 batters, while allowing just one walk. His pitching played a huge role in the Wildcats' turnaround in 2021. He finished the season with a WHIP of -.303, which is fourth all-time in RRSB history.

See **WILDCATS**, Page 6

## Panther Hawks well-represented at state



PHOTO SUBMITTED *The Scoop Today*

The Le-Win Stockton Panther Hawks wrestlers claimed regional and sectional victories on their way to state competition last week. Coach Kevin Milder is at far left with Jason Hermann (160 pounds), Andrew Haas (196 pounds), Case Harmston (170 pounds), Jayden Rice (182 pounds), Henry Engel and Simon Rillie (145 pounds). Rillie, Hermann, Harmston, Rice and Haas, along with Garrett Luke (120 pounds) and Griffin Luke (152 pounds), who are not pictured, qualified for the state meet. At state, the boys took first as a team and all seven made it to the semis.

## Bolster your patriotic spirit with picnic at historic site

The Apple River Fort state historic site in Elizabeth will host a patriotic picnic from noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 4.

Visitors are encouraged to bring a lunch or grab takeout from their favorite restaurant and have a picnic on the lawn near the fort, 311 E. Myrtle St.

Fort living history volunteers will present a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence, toasts and

other speeches. Visitors may muster into Captain Stone's militia, with one winner receiving a signing bonus, according to a news release.

There will also be a variety of games and activities, including:

- Town ball, a precursor to America's pastime

- Captain Says, a fun challenge for all ages

- Graces, a popular 19th century game that tests your agility and dexterity

- Water races

"The Apple River Fort was the site of a battle during the 1832 Black Hawk War. About 45 men, women

and children defended the fort from Black Hawk and 200 of his warriors," the release said. "Today, the fort tells the history of both the settlers and the Sauk and Fox tribes through exhibits, a dramatic interpretive film and living history special events."



PHOTO SUBMITTED *The Scoop Today*

Bring a picnic and enjoy some old-fashioned games during 4<sup>th</sup> at the Fort, set for Sunday, July 4, at the Apple River Fort state historic site in Elizabeth. For more information, go online to [applesriverfort.org](http://applesriverfort.org).

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# Daily Drawing names June winners

Organizers of the Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing have announced the June winners.

The Daily Drawing is a drawing for 365 daily cash prizes from Oct. 1, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021, to those donating for a ticket. More than \$21,000 is paid out to ticket-holders during the year, with cash prizes varying between \$50 and \$250.

A ticket may win multiple times as each ticket remains in the drawing each day for the entire year, no matter how often it is drawn.

Sixteen organizations from Jo Daviess, Carroll and Stephenson counties work together on the Daily Drawing: Caring Community of Elizabeth, Dakota Athletic Boosters, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music Boosters, Elizabeth Historical Society, Galena Elks Scholarship, Galena Key Club, Galena Travelers, Hanover Alumni Association, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, Scales Mound Trav-

elers, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

The June winners are: Mike Zettle of Rock City, Christie Parker of Stockton, Shawn Valter of Quincy, Kim Haverland of Lanark, Johnny Eversoll of Elizabeth, Al Cinto of Winlow, Phylly Blair of Winlow, Andy Wurster of Elizabeth, Tillie Filipiak of New Hampshire, Carrie Wiegman of Hazel Green, Wisconsin, Joan Beyer of Elizabeth, Jan Pascoe of Elizabeth, Bethany Haughan of Tempe, Arizona, Maddy Chiles of Lena, Nick Hyde of Galena, Norma McLane of Elizabeth, Erin Murphy of Hanover, Meghan Luke of Grand Forks, North Dakota, Kari Redfearn of Scales Mound, Tresa Wandrey of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Amy Boettner of Madison, Wisconsin, Joel Wild of Warren, Dan Rury of Galena, Terra Stoeffler of East Dubuque, Becki Will of Warren, Cathy Henrichs of Galena, Candace Hopkins of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, Shirley Hulscher of Galena and Mary Wienen of Galena.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide*

## Celebrating scholarship winners

Citizens State Bank recently held a luncheon for its 2021 scholarship recipients. Pictured in the back row from left are Hayley Johnson of Stockton High School, Marianna Brenner of Pearl City High School, CSB lender Sam VenHuizen, Carter Burke of Lena-Winslow High School and Ella Wolfrom of Lena-Winslow High School. In the front row from left are Andrew Wenzel of Dakota High School, CSB President Amy Baker, McKayla Riemer of Orangeville High School, Caroline Helms of Freeport High School, Sidney Weegens of Lena-Winslow High School, Allyson Milder of Lena-Winslow High School, CSB Trust Officer Amy Powers and CSB marketing specialist Allison Palmer. Several scholarship winners are not pictured: Patrick Mensendike of Stockton High School, Caden Geiser of Freeport High School and Alyssa London and Gwendolyn Stovall of Aquin High School. The \$500 scholarships are awarded to seniors who display excellent academic achievement, community service and extracurricular activities.

## In-person appointments resume at senior center

In-person appointments have resumed at Senior Resource Center locations as of this week.

The center offers programs, education and activities for older individuals, their families and caregivers in Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties.

The center had been closed to foot traffic for 15 months because of the pandemic.

As of June 21, all appointments for service must be scheduled; no walk-in appointments or services will be offered, a news release said. A limited number of in-person appointments will be offered each day.

To make an appointment, call the center at 815-235-9777.

"Although our staff have been working and serving our participants remotely throughout the pandemic, we are so excited to be welcoming clients back into our building again," Sonja Shoemaker, Senior Resource Center executive director, said in the release. "All of us have missed the face-to-face interaction and look forward to safely serving you in our office again."

The Senior Resource Center has locations at 500 Fillmore St. in Hanover and at 206 E. Stephenson St. in Freeport.

Senior center programs include adult preventive services, information and assistance, money management, case management, transit, education and activities.

## Specialty farm produces honey, helps pollinate crops around the country

By Kay Shipman  
FARMWEEK

Customers value honey and beeswax products from Raines Honey Farm's bees, but those pollinators are also essential for several fruit, vegetable and nut crops.

On their family farm near Davis, Phil and Sharon Raines use animal husbandry practices with their winged livestock. The Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau director has worked with bees for 25 years, the last 14 as a full-time beekeeper.

This year, they are caring for 350 to 400 hives. Those expected to produce a honey crop are located on farms in northwest Illinois and southwest Wisconsin. Meanwhile, other pollinating dynamos temporarily locate on specialty farms that grow pumpkins, watermelons, apples, cranberries and cherries.

"Without those bees, there is no crop," Phil Raines said.

See HONEY, Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHIL RAINES *The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide*

Sharon and Phil Raines prepare for new customers to pick up their bees. The Raines sell 100 to 150 nucs, or nucleus hives, to help new beekeepers get started.

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# Woman freed on plea deal after serving 19 years for McHenry murder

By Sarah Mansur  
CAPITOL NEWS SERVICE

A woman found guilty of a McHenry County murder had her conviction vacated recently after serving 19 years of her 27-year sentence and maintaining her innocence throughout her imprisonment.

With the help of the lawyers from the Illinois Innocence Project, Jennifer McMullan was released from prison June 16 as a result of a plea agreement entered in McHenry County court.

McHenry County State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally's plea deal to grant McMullan's release and vacate her murder conviction depended on if she agreed to plead guilty to an armed robbery charge in the case.

Stephanie Kamel, one of McMullan's attorneys at IIP, said her client faced an extremely difficult decision of whether to accept a plea to a lesser charge or remain wrongfully imprisoned for years to come.

"Driving her decision was her father, whose health is deteriorating rapidly due to Alzheimer's disease," Kamel said in a news release. "While we would like to have seen Jennifer's conviction vacated with no plea agreement required, we are glad she is finally free and reunited with her family after an almost 20-year absence."

McMullan was one of four people — along with Kenneth Smith, David Collett and Justin Houghtaling — who were arrested for carrying out the attempted robbery and fatal shooting of Raul Briseno at a McHenry restaurant in March 2001.

McMullan's release comes less than two months after a federal appeals court released Smith from prison and vacated his murder conviction, overruling prior Illinois state courts' decisions in his case.

The convictions of McMullan and Smith were based on Houghtaling's confession to police days after the murder. Houghtaling, who confessed in exchange for a lesser sentence, later recanted his confession.

He initially claimed that he and Smith robbed the restaurant while McMullan and Collett waited in the getaway car.

Houghtaling pleaded guilty to murder and was sentenced to 20 years in exchange for testifying against the others. Collett also pleaded guilty and was sentenced to five years.

**See PLEA DEAL, Page 8**

# Summertheater features comedy

The Timber Lake Playhouse summer theater continues its 60th anniversary season with "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" from July 1 through July 11.

"A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, 'Spelling Bee' is a delightful den of comedic genius," according to a news release from the theater.

"I personally think this is one of the funniest shows in our Mainstage season," Paul Stancato, TLP artistic director, said in the release. "It has heart,

infectious songs and audience participation that will leave you laughing in the aisles."

Natalie Novacek, a freelance director based in Minneapolis, is directing "Spelling Bee." Novacek received a master of fine arts degree in directing from the University of Texas at Austin and a bachelor of arts degree in theater arts from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

The cast includes resident company members Margot Frank, Darren Mangler, Eli Nash, Jenessa Altwater, Roy Brown, Megan Graal, Katelyn

Baughman, Joey LaPlant, Caleb Mathura, Quinn Martin and Jack Hale.

"We are all very excited to be reopening after over a year of closure," TLP Executive Director, Dan Danielowski said in the release. "We will, however, have to continue with some of COVID mitigations for a while longer." According to Danielowski, the Actor's Equity Association requires masks and distancing by all patrons.

"We will have a special 'vaccinated only' performance that will be 'masks optional,'"

Danielowski said of the performance at 7:30 p.m. July 4. "At that performance, we've been given permission from the actor's union to reduce the COVID mitigations that we'll have to follow at other performances."

Patrons attending the vaccinated-only production will need to show their tickets for that performance and their vaccination card before entering the theater.

For more information, go online to timberlakeplayhouse.org or call the box office at 815-244-2035.

## • Honey (Continued from page 2)

From his honey producers, Raines harvests 350 to 400 gallons of the natural sweetener annually. The couple also makes and sells beeswax products, including candles, soap, lotion and lip balm.

For honey production, Raines works with farmers with pasture and hayfields, especially those grown for beef cattle. Those hives remain in place for the season. The bees will forage within a 2-mile radius of their hive, he said.

The hives of working pollinators rotate among specialty farms around the state. Raines explained the hives are placed in orchards at night and removed after 10 to 15 days.

Illinois, the nation's No. 1 pumpkin state, also produces many specialty crops and needs a pollinator army. Two hives are needed to pollinate each acre of pumpkins, while an acre of apple trees needs one hive, according to Raines.

The beekeeper pays partic-

ular attention to growers' care for his working pollinators and deals with those who agree not to apply fungicides and insecticides that harm bees while his hives are there.

Typically, the traveling bees don't produce a honey crop due to their pollination of a monoculture, where only one type of crop is grown at a time, and relocation stress.

In August, the Raineses harvest the honey before the queen bees lay eggs, known as a winter cluster, in September. In late October and early November, Raines' bees head west on semis to overwinter in massive potato cellars in Idaho. The bees go dormant in the totally black conditions where carbon dioxide is removed and temperatures range between 38 and 42 degrees.

"Animal husbandry (with bees) is critical; you've got to be forward thinking," Raines said. "Next month, I'm planning how to pull off the honey

crop and prepare for winter."

In late January, Raines' bees go back to work after they're shipped to Fresno, California, to orchards that grow almonds, peaches, plums and nectarines.

"We go to California three times to check and make sure they're healthy and well fed," Raines said.

By late March, the bees that have grown big on almond pollen return to Illinois and repeat the pollination cycle.

Raines Honey Farm products may be ordered online at raineshoneyfarm.com or Facebook @raineshoneyfarm.4. Honey also is available at the on-farm, self-serve honey stand from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Honey and products may also be purchased at three weekly markets:

- 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays through the end of July at the Rockford City Market in Rockford
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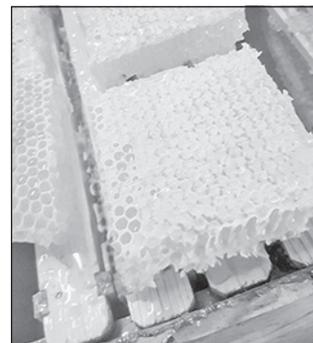


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This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.



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# Slices of life

## Words to live by, part one: kindness

Seven months ago I started a journey I never thought I'd experience. My husband left this world after a brief and unexpected illness and I found myself drowning in grief. I'm still surrounded by water, but I've gradually pulled myself to the surface; most days I can keep my head above it all.



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

In enduring this struggle that has been greater than anything I've ever lived through, I've come upon some universal truths. The complexities of grief have brought life into focus. And the truth, believe it not, is as simple as seven basic words.

You may want to add a couple more to your list. But if you begin with these seven, you've got a great start.

Get these seven words and you get life. If that isn't profound, I'm not sure what is.

These words to live by are beyond important. So much so that each deserves its own column. They aren't presented in order of importance, because they all are not only significant, but necessary – although perhaps some more than others. At this point don't concern yourself with rank or order. Concern yourself with kindness.

What are we put on this earth to do if not to be kind to one another? And kindness doesn't only pertain to fellow humans. Every living thing deserves our kindness. Pets, plants and people — all are

equally worthy, now possibly more than ever before.

We are living in historic times. In a world of COVID, especially in a world of COVID, we desperately need kindness. The last year has caused isolation and fear and uncertainty about the future. Kindness plants us in the here and now. In the moment. The future still exists, but kindness softens it.

Kindness is warm. It reaches beyond the me to include the we. Kindness can't happen in a vacuum. It requires another. Kindness is a bridge, a human bridge. In a world sometimes overflowing with chaos and separation, we need to build bridges.

Kindness touches the heart of the recipient, but it does much more. Exuding kindness fills the heart of the giver, quite literally. Whether on the giving or receiving end, kindness raises your mood and your outlook. Kindness promotes good will from you to me and vice versa.

Kindness is often quick and easy. It need not be a life-altering gesture. It doesn't require commitment or even

**See SLICES, Page 8**



## In my opinion

# Much more said than done by Illinois lawmakers

By Roger Eddy

The spring session of the Illinois General Assembly is now history. At the beginning of the session, there was renewed hope that critical aspects of Illinois government might change. After all, for the first time in decades, the House had a new speaker. After nearly 40 years as House speaker, interrupted by a short two-year stint by Lee Daniels, Michael Madigan resigned as speaker and soon thereafter as a House member. Madigan is at the center of a highly publicized scandal involving Commonwealth Edison, as were several of Madigan's lobbying cronies. Recently, Madigan's former chief of staff, Tim Mapes, was indicted by a federal grand



**Roger Eddy**

jury. Mapes has pleaded innocent to charges of perjury and obstruction of justice. The news of Madigan's departure as speaker was barely believable at first. Mike Madigan stepping aside? When the reality of his departure became real, there was optimism and anticipation that substantive change might take place to the House rules that had basically created a legislative process allowing for one-person control. Newly elected House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch made statements hinting at

the possibility of changes to the House rules that would allow for a more bipartisan, democratic approach.

Also facing the General Assembly this spring was the issue of redistricting. Maybe this once-every-decade practice of drawing legislative and judicial maps would change? Perhaps some type of fair, independent process could be established free of political pressures by either party? There was widespread support for creating an Independent Map Commission that would be responsible for drawing fair legislative boundaries free from political gerrymandering. As a candidate for governor in 2018, JB Pritzker was quoted as saying, "We should amend

the constitution to create an independent commission to draw legislative maps, and I have supported this effort for years." Back in 2014, Pritzker even donated \$50,000 to a fair maps initiative. New House Speaker Welch publicly stated support for fair maps, although he did mention that his interpretation of fair might be different than someone else's.

Another topic of interest this spring was ethics reform. After the past year and a half, during which a couple of former House members were indicted on various charges related to payments received from lobbyists, there was renewed optimism that

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# Acid reflux presents problems for your oral health

By Dr. Stephen Petras  
CONTRIBUTOR

Reflux is defined as the flow of a fluid through a vessel or valve in the body in a direction opposite to normal. Normally when swallowing, a band of muscles around the bottom of the esophagus (the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach) relaxes to open and allow food and fluids to enter your stomach, then closes to protect the esophagus from the strong acids in the stomach. When this band of muscles (the lower esophageal sphincter/LES) doesn't function properly or stays relaxed, the acids from your stomach can flow back upwards (reflux) into the esophagus. When this reflux becomes frequent it can progress to gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD).

Current data shows that approximately 20% of the U.S. population suffers with GERD. Laryngopharyngeal reflux (LPR) is another form of GERD. LPR occurs in people with GERD, when the upper sphincter of the esophagus also does not function properly, and the stomach acids enter the oral cavity.

While the most common symptoms of GERD are heartburn, esophageal inflammation and tooth erosion, some people may develop a chronic cough, non-cardiac chest pain and asthma. These symptoms worsen at night or while lying supine. People with LPR tend to not have heartburn, but often experience hoarseness,

excess throat mucus, difficulty swallowing, sensations of a lump or something stuck in their throat, choking and a frequent need to clear their throat. In contrast to GERD, their symptoms tend to worsen during the day, while standing or sitting upright.

While their symptoms vary, both GERD and LPR are chronic conditions that can cause serious harm to your oral and esophageal tissues. People who suffer from heartburn generally turn to their physicians for help, but in the absence of heartburn, or "silent GERD," the first indications of acid reflux may be detected during a dental exam. Oral symptoms from acid reflux include tooth erosion not related to bulimia, dry mouth not related to medications or other medical conditions and bad breath not related to periodontal disease. Other oral conditions that may accompany these include decay, chipped and stained teeth and tooth sensitivity.

If your dental exam reveals signs of damage from GERD, the first step will be a referral to a physician or gastroenterologist.

The most effective way to prevent further damage is to control or eliminate the incidence of acid reflux. This is accomplished with nutritional guidance to avoid the foods that aggravate GERD (caffeine, spicy, acidic and fatty foods, carbonated beverages and alcohol) eating smaller, more frequent meals, abstain-

ing from food for three hours before bedtime, elevating the head of the bed and consistently taking your physician-prescribed medications as directed. Nicotine must be avoided, as it interferes with the sphincter's function.

To protect your oral tissues after reflux episodes, rinse with water and baking soda (if possible) or just water. If you are not near water, allow a sugar-free antacid to slowly dissolve in your mouth.

Do not brush after a reflux incidence because the acid will soften the enamel and brushing will cause damage to the weakened enamel. Wait 30 minutes so your saliva can neutralize the acids, then use a soft-bristled brush and a low abrasive/tooth sensitivity fluoridated toothpaste that is not mint flavored. Avoid all mint-flavored products (antacids, gum etc.) and food and drinks, as mint can cause the esophageal sphincters to relax and increase acid reflux.

Once the initial damage is diagnosed and treated, your dentist will continue to monitor for further enamel erosion and may prescribe custom fluoride treatments, saliva stimulating products or a custom mouthguard to prevent additional damage. As always, daily oral hygiene, regular check-ups and professional cleanings are critical to maintaining your oral health.

*Dr. Stephan Petras is an Illinois-licensed general dentist at the Stockton Dental Center.*

# Obituary

## ARDITH I. KITNER

Ardith I. Kitner, 96, of Morrison, Colorado, formerly of Pearl City, Illinois, passed away at her home on Sunday, June 20, 2021. She was born on Jan. 17, 1925, in Stockton, Illinois, to Paul and Ella (Lobdell) Gassman.

Ardith married Dale Kitner and they were happily married for 61 years. She was a secretary/bookkeeper as well as checking students through the lunch line at Pearl City schools in Pearl City. Ardith, alongside her husband, sold insurance with KIS, Kitner Insurance Service, and also sold real estate with Pearland Reality.

The two most important things in Ardith's life were family and church. Although she was a woman before her time in the working world, she always put her family first. She actively participated in her church, teaching Sunday school, serving as an officer of the Women's Fellowship, singing in the choir and planning events.

Ardith's past five years were spent in Colorado. She passed away at her daughter



Debra's home, where she had lived for the past 14 months due to COVID.

She is survived by her daughter,

Debra (Brad) Mitchell, of Morrison, Colorado; daughter-in-law, Charlotte Kitner, of Minnesota; grandchildren, Lisa (Tom) Crosby, Bret (Carrrie) Kitner, Amy Mitchell, Becky (Erik) Olsen and Stacy (Matt) Mueller; great-grandchildren, Blake (Amy), Payten (Paige) and Tyson Crosby, Dan, Joe and Linnea Fitterer, Lauren Kitner, Ian Mitchell, Erika and Becca Olsen and Lilia and Reid Mueller; great-grandchildren, Watson and Crue; sister, Paula (Joe) Gerke, of Kent, Illinois; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Dale; son, Douglas; brothers and sisters, Elaine (Omer) Neebel, James (Ruth) Gassman, Paul August Gassman Jr. at birth and Patricia (Carl) Smith.

Visitation will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, July 1, 2021, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, Illinois.

The funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, July 2, 2021, at the Salem United Church of Christ in Lena.

Burial will be held at the Salem United Church of Christ Cemetery in Lena.

The Rev. Bob Saunders will be officiating the service.

A memorial has been established in her memory for the Salem United Church of Christ (8491 W. Salem Road, Lena, IL 61048) and the Family Worship Center (6395 S. Clarkson St., Littleton, CO 80121).

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leamonfh.com](http://www.leamonfh.com).

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# Listings



## Lena • \$155,900

Great location in Parkside Subdivision. Ranch home with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious living room, kitchen has pantry w/rollouts, 2 lazy susans, snack bar and wine rack, main floor laundry, lower level family room and lots of storage space. Deep 2 stall garage with side and back service doors. Sit outside on your covered front porch or out back in your 3 seasons room.



## Winslow \$80,000

Two for one residential home and prior church on one tax id for one purchase price.



## Freeport • \$150,000

2.2 +/- commercial building lot off of Rosenstiel Drive. Build to suit your needs.



## Freeport \$84,900

Welcome to this bi-level home. Up the stairs to the main level you will find living room, dining room with patio door to deck, and kitchen. Down the hall there is the full bath, Master bedroom with additional door to bathroom, and the other 2 bedrooms. The lower level you will find a family room, laundry area with door to the backyard, and door to garage. Enjoy the outdoors in the fully fenced in backyard.



## Lena • \$300,000

5.22 acre Farmette with wonderful potential with a little updating to be a great equestrian property. The large barn feature 2 boarding areas with 12 stalls, attached 60' x 120" indoor riding arena, storage in attached additional barn, Bar area for entertainment, and open loft area. Several additional outbuildings in need of work. The house features main floor bedroom, open kitchen dining room with double sided fireplace to the living room with large main floor bathroom with shower and jacuzzi tub. Upstairs you will find the master bedroom with large on suite and another bedroom with large hall closet.



## Freeport \$79,900

Enter into the living room with view into the kitchen. Off the living room you will find a small hallway with hall closet with two bedrooms off that feature hardwood floors. Through the back bedroom you will find a second door to the back hallway with access to the full bath, kitchen and lower level steps. In the lower level you will find a half bath and a step down into a finished area currently used for office and more. Back upstairs you will find the kitchen with back door to the screened in porch with access to the backyard with alley access and 1 stall garage.



## Winslow \$95,000

This home features main floor living room, eat in kitchen, and full bath. Upstairs you will find a full bath with 3 bedrooms. Lower level features walk out family room, laundry, and plenty of storage. 2 Stall attached garage.



## Winslow \$85,900

This property features main floor restaurant / bar area with 2 additional seating areas, kitchen, storage area, dishwasher room, and walk in cooler. Upstairs is 2 separate apartments. The first unit is a 2 bedroom with large living area, kitchen with access to back deck, full bath with stackable washer and dryer. The second apartment is a 3 bedroom, 2 bath, and includes 2 separate living spaces



## Pearl City • \$639,000

Unlimited Possibilities! Own your own business or wanting to start one? This private country property on 10.74 +/- acres provides you with that opportunity. Live in the 2 story home, run your business out of the ranch style office or the 40 x 80 shed. The 2 story home features 3 generous sized bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, living room with gas fireplace and built-ins, family room with wood fireplace and wet bar, kitchen with granite countertops, island with snack bar, dining room, office, main floor laundry, craft/hobby/home gym. Master bedroom has walk in closet, bath with whirlpool tub, shower w/seat and skylights. Outdoors offer you multi level & covered deck, outdoor kitchen area, pergola, stocked pond, mature trees, fruit trees, room for parking a camper w/electric hookup.



## Dixon \$30,000

One lot not enough for your dream home? Then take a look at these 3 lots being sold together. In total this is 3.55 acres in the Wolverine Estates Subdivision.



## Rockford \$269,900

Through the covered front porch is a 2 story entry. Off of the entry is the formal living room and dining room. Behind that is the open floor plan in kitchen with granite countertops, tile backsplash, pantry closet and SS appliances and family room with fireplace and newer doors out the concrete patio, fire pit and basketball court. Upstairs are the spacious master bedroom suite which has double bowl vanity, whirlpool tub and shower, 3 additional bedrooms and a full bath. The lower level has a second family room with fireplace, kitchenette, bonus room (office, home gym, etc), full bath with another whirlpool tub and second laundry hookup. An oversized 3 car garage rounds out this spectacular home with 3 floors of living space!



## Winslow \$80,000

Walk through the front enclosed porch into the living room or go through the family room. The main floor also consists of the spacious kitchen with snack bar and small dining area, dining room, half bath, laundry and an enclosed back porch. Upstairs are the 3 bedrooms and full bath. The closets for two of the bedrooms are at each end of hallway. The large deck and back yard are perfect for outdoor activities. There is a one stall garage and a storage shed.



## Winslow \$80,000

Walk up onto the front covered porch where you can sit out an enjoy your favorite beverage. Once inside you will find the main floor features a living room, office area -currently used as bedroom, family room, dining room, kitchen, half bath with laundry. Full bath can be found at the top of the steps. Then take your pick from one of the 3 bedrooms. Out the back door you will find a large back yard with country views and a 1 stall detached garage.



PHOTO SUBMITTED *The Scoop Today*

## DAR group notes officers

The 2021-'23 officers of the Carroll-Jo Daviess Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution gather for a photo. Pictured from left are Ann Coppernoll, historian; Luanne Bruckner, registrar; Cindy Dyson, treasurer; Barb Berger, corresponding secretary; Gwen Smith, recording secretary; Sondra Strohecker, chaplain; Linda Thayer, first vice regent; and Connie Foster, regent. Kay Russell, second vice regent, and Laura Youngblut, librarian, are not pictured.

## Wildcats (Continued from front page)

Knauer was not the only sophomore to have a major impact, however. Dylan Diehl came on strong as a utility player/pitcher, giving the team an impressive young duo of pitchers.

"He played all over the field for us and was our No. 2 pitcher," Jeremy Knauer said.

"What set Dylan apart this year was his ability to get ahead of hitters and throw strikes. He was second all-time for us in strike percentage."

Diehl was productive on offense, as well, hitting .290 on the season. Diehl was named Second Team All-Conference.

2021 was a learning year for the entire team, as they returned no starters from the 2019 Elite 8 squad. It was an even bigger learning curve for players like junior Caden Albrecht, who had to learn a new position.

"We had a huge opening at first base, and we thought Caden had some of the qualities that we looked for in that position. It helps that he is almost 6 foot 6," the coach said. "So, he moved from outfield, this year, to first. It was a rough start on defense, but by the end of the year, he was a very solid defender." Albrecht also made an impact on offense, tying for the team lead in RBIs. His play was good enough to earn Second Team All-Conference honors at first base.

The Wildcats relied on another junior in their second half turnaround, in Zayden Ellsworth. Although he got off to a slow start in 2021, he was able to make his own personal turnaround.

"His strikeout percentage was pushing 70 percent the first half of the season. He lost some

playing time but continued to put the time in and work," Jeremy Knauer said. "His (Ellsworth's) second half was great. He cut down on his strikeouts, which made a huge impact for him. Zayden finished the second half of the season as our second-best offensive player." "Not playing last season because of COVID set many of our kids back. Zayden was one of those kids," the coach said. "He has talent, but is very raw and does not have a lot of game reps."

Ellsworth fought through the drought, however, and came out as one of the most productive guys on the squad as the season ended. Ellsworth's efforts earned him an Honorable Mention for All-Conference.

"I have high hopes for the next few years," the coach said. "Nothing about this year surprised me. We graduated every single player that played on our Elite 8 team. We were completely starting over with a young group." The turnaround to end the season and the amount of talent returning has the program trending in the right direction for next season. "We are returning almost all of our starters next season. We also have some talent coming up at the younger levels," Jeremy Knauer said. "There will be some really good teams in the area next year and our conference is loaded, but we feel like we can start competing on a more consistent basis."

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PHOTO SUBMITTED *The Scoop Today*

# Briefs

## Seniors group hosts guitarist/singer

SOS+ (Senior Outreach of Stockton plus our Surrounding Areas) is sponsoring a musical program at 2 p.m. Thursday, July 8, in the fellowship hall at Calvary United Methodist Church in Stockton. The event will feature guitarist Les Wilson of Prophetstown playing 1950s and '60s music and telling stories.

Wilson has been performing for about 60 years and now plays and sings at more than 50 nursing homes in northern Illinois. Refreshments and fellowship time will follow his performance.

SOS+ meets the second Thursday of the month at 2 p.m. from March through December. The next event is a concert by No Worries on Aug. 12.

## Stockton hosts Fourth of July festival

A full day and evening of holiday fun are planned in Stockton on Saturday, July 3. The fun will take place at Stockton Memorial Township Park.

The day will begin with the annual 10K/5K race, followed by a car show from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., craft and food vendors beginning at 9 a.m., the Stockton Lions chicken barbecue beginning at 11 a.m., a kiddie tractor pull at 11 a.m., live music by The Resistors from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., the Ameri-

can Legion presentation of the colors at 8 p.m. and fireworks at dusk. The Pearl City Lions also will offer bingo games.

Go online to facebook.com/stockton4th for more information.

## Women's group invites all to prayer meeting

The local Concerned Women for America group is issuing a call for prayer at 6 p.m. on the first Monday of the month at Calvary United Methodist Church, 315 W. Maple Ave., Stockton. The first prayer meeting will be Monday, July 5.

"We will pray for our country to return to its foundational roots, for our state, our town and for the necessary rains for our crops," according to a CWA news release. "We will also pray for our schools and for specific needs as requested."

All interested individuals

are invited to attend. For more information, call Carol Rowe at 815-947-2122 or Pam Hess at 815-947-9154.

## Schubert family sets annual reunion

The annual Schubert family gathering will be held at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, July 10, at the Stockton Park House. All descendants of Frederick/Carolyn Schubert are encouraged to attend.

Attendees should bring family updates, a dish to pass, your own table service and beverages.

## Tree farm offers free educational tour

The Northwest Illinois Forestry Association is hosting a free tour at the John Lundquist farm near Mount Carroll at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 3.

During the 1 1/2-hour tour, participants will see Lundquist shear, prune and train

conifers into Christmas trees. He also will discuss control of pests such as weeds, insects and animals.

The tour is open to the public. The farm is located six miles northwest of Mount Carroll at 12306 West Point Road.

NIFA is a nonprofit woodland owner organization that aims to educate its members and the public about the environmental and economic benefits of sustainable forest management.

## Elizabeth student earns degrees

Rachel Ellinor of Elizabeth recently graduated with a bachelor of science degree and a bachelor of arts degree from Trinity Christian College.

Commencement was held last month at the college, located in Palos Heights, Illinois.

# Happy to help

Members of the Highland Community College Servant Leadership group worked with Elizabeth village officials to help move them into their new office building during the June 24 Day of Action. The United Way of Northwest Illinois, in partnership with the leadership group, hosted the effort, which included volunteers working at several sites in the United Way's three-county region. The region includes Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Carroll counties.

# College news

Several area college students received academic honors in the spring semester:

## Apple River

- Lauren Sigafus, dean's list, University of Northern Iowa

## Elizabeth

- Noelle Reese and Sydney Thorsen, dean's list, Clarke University
- Thomas Gorgosz and Tabria Thomas, dean's list, University of Dubuque

## Hanover

- Daniel Bellich, a senior, high honors, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- Abby Richmond and Riley Wolter, dean's list, Uni-

versity of Dubuque

## Warren

- Emily Raab, dean's list, Wartburg College
- Miah Stiefel, dean's list, Bradley University. Stiefel is majoring in psychology.

## Stockton

- Ellen Fox, dean's list, University of Iowa. Fox is a third-year student majoring in English.
- Madeline Klippert, dean's list, University of Iowa. Klippert is a first-year student majoring in nursing.
- Megan Gille, Caeden Upmann and Katie Wright, dean's list, University of Dubuque
- Cecelia Zink, Carthage

College

- Raeann Bergman, dean's list, Bradley University. Bergman is majoring in advertising and public relations.

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# Opinion (Continued from page 4)

a strong ethics bill might pass. The concern over legislators retiring from the General Assembly and then becoming lobbyists the next day was possibly going to be addressed with a strong revolving door law.

While a minor ethics bill passed this spring, the governor described the legislation this way: "It isn't perfect, and more work definitely remains. ..." The changes have been described as baby steps. Most babies have longer strides. Let's see if the governor uses his amendatory veto power to make it tougher. It did pass 113-5, which means it has some improvements included,

but it is a far cry from the type of reforms that were discussed and are needed to renew some trust in state government.

What about budget transparency? With a new speaker and relatively new Senate president, hopes were high that a more transparent budget process would take place. Unfortunately, we got more of the same sneaky process. The practice of adding budget language consisting of thousands of pages to an empty shell bill just hours before a vote on the budget is not transparency. Neither lawmakers nor the public had an opportunity to review,

discuss and question the way our tax dollars were being spent. In the future, how about at least a 72-hour sunshine period prior to any final version being voted on? Regretfully, the reality is that after all was said and done this legislative session, much more was said than done.

*Roger Eddy is a retired member of the Illinois House, serving the 109th Legislative District from 2003 to 2012. While currently a member of the Illinois State Board of Education, all comments are as an individual and not as a member of the State Board of Education.*

# Slices (Continued from page 4)

a whole lot of time. It can be as simple as a smile or a hello. It can be holding the door for someone or letting them take the parking space or allowing them to change lanes during busy traffic. It can be as small as a kind word or a compliment. A moment of kindness can alter days, or weeks or even lives. That is nothing short of miraculous.

Not convinced? Kindness begets kindness. It grows exponentially. A recipient of

a kind gesture is more likely to repeat something similar and pay it forward. How awesome is that? You plant a seed of kindness and a forest ensues.

And like any habit, kindness gets easier with practice. Smile at others at the grocery store. Offer to fill a co-worker's coffee cup while you are filling your own. Let someone cut ahead of you in line. Call an old friend who you know might be lonely. Wave at a neighbor

from across the street. Tell a young mother (or father) how cute their baby is. Reach out on a human level. Pay it forward. Plant the seed. And watch the forest grow.

*Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright, author and member of the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.*

# Plea deal (Continued from page 3)

After McMullan and Smith were found guilty at trial, their appeals focused on an alternate group of suspects — known as the DeCicco group — who confessed to the murder on multiple occasions but also later recanted.

Smith's first conviction was overturned on appeal, resulting in a second trial in 2008 where he was found guilty but his conviction at the second trial was also overturned.

He was convicted again at his third trial in 2012 and sentenced to 67 years in prison, but the conviction was yet again tossed out on appeal. The federal appeals court's decision in April was a result of Smith's appeal of his third conviction.

Attorneys for Smith and McMullan argued that the police overlooked credible confessions from members of the DeCicco group that contained details about the crime that police withheld from the public.

Specifically, the police withheld the fact that Briseno suffered a head wound consistent with being hit with a gun, and that Briseno had

yelled to a passing car to call the police after he chased the two masked robbers from the restaurant.

The federal appeals court's opinion admonished the Illinois court for being "not just wrong, but unreasonable," in upholding Smith's conviction, despite Houghtaling's recanted confession that was "riddled with holes" and evidence corroborating the DeCicco group's confessions.

Based on the totality of the evidence presented at Smith's trial — the DeCicco group's confessions along with weakness of the other evidence — no rational jury could have found Smith guilty, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit found in its 33-page opinion.

"Houghtaling's inconsistencies take on a special significance in light of the DeCicco evidence — evidence that builds a narrative largely free from the holes that fill Houghtaling's confession. With such a serious possibility of a third party's guilt...we are convinced as an objective matter that no rational trier of

fact could have found Smith guilty beyond a reasonable doubt," according to the opinion issued April 29.

Kenneally said in a statement that he disagrees with the opinion that overrules the decisions of three separate McHenry County juries.

"We are increasingly distressed at the recent trend of remote judges, years and decades later, elevating their own judgments of selectively considered evidence and witness credibility over those of ordinary citizens to reach preferred case outcomes," Kenneally said in the statement.

The 7th Circuit Court of Appeals' decision that no rational jury could convict Smith forecloses the immediate possibility for Kenneally to put Smith on trial for a fourth time.

Kenneally said his office is reviewing its legal options and determining whether to appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government.*

## LEGAL NOTICES

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A Public hearing will be held for the Village of Lena 2021-2022 Appropriation Ordinance on July 12 @ 5:45pm. A copy of the proposed Appropriation Ordinance is available to view at Village Hall during normal business hours prior to the public hearing. The board will act on the Appropriation Ordinance at the July 12 2021 Board meeting to be held at 6:00pm.

Thanks  
Helene/Village Treasurer  
(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
June 30, 2021)  
398953

### NOTICE

Bids are being accepted for providing bread and dairy products for the Lena-Winslow School District for the 2021-2022 school year. Bid specifications may be picked up at the Superintendent's Office at 401 Fremont St., Lena, IL. from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or you may call 815-668-0802 to request the forms. Bids are due at the Superintendent's Office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, 2021. Lena-Winslow School District reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
June 30 & July 7, 2021)  
398963

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE STOCKTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2020 AND ENDING MARCH 31, 2021

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS:</b>                                 |                   |
| Real Estate Taxes                                | \$73,901.09       |
| Interest Income                                  | 481.23            |
| Desk Income                                      | 1,085.26          |
| Misc. (donations, grants, etc.)                  | <u>3,611.25</u>   |
| Total Receipts                                   | \$79,078.83       |
| <b>EXPENDITURES:</b>                             |                   |
| Payroll Expense                                  | \$37,236.21       |
| Utilities  | 4,758.02          |
| Materials  | 6,933.14          |
| Supplies   | 1,658.67          |
| Technology                                       | 710.00            |
| Repairs and maintenance                          | 3,815.82          |
| Interest Expense                                 | 24.10             |
| Ads/Pub.   | 242.93            |
| Professional                                     | 2,284.55          |
| Office   | 1,325.60          |
| Insurance  | 3,773.00          |
| Dues, subs.                                      | 6,930.38          |
| Internet & phone                                 | <u>2,570.84</u>   |
| Total Expenditures                               | \$72,263.26       |
| Excess (Deficit) of Receipts Versus Expenditures | 6,815.57          |
| Fund Balance                                     |                   |
| Beginning of fiscal year (04/01/20)              | <u>110,572.73</u> |
| Fund Balance                                     |                   |
| End of Fiscal Year (03/31/21)                    | \$117,388.30      |

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I, PATRICIA MOLITOR, Treasurer of the Stockton Township Public Library, being duly sworn on oath, state that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of public funds received and disbursed by the Board of Trustees of the Stockton Township Public Library during the fiscal year of the Stockton Township Library beginning April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2021, including a statement of funds on hand at the beginning and end of such fiscal year.

DATED: June 7, 2021.

*Patricia Molitor*  
PATRICIA MOLITOR, Treasurer  
Stockton Township Public Library

Signed and sworn to before me  
on June 7, 2021.

Ronald Paja  
Notary Public  
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(Published in The Scoop Today June 30, 2021)

399057

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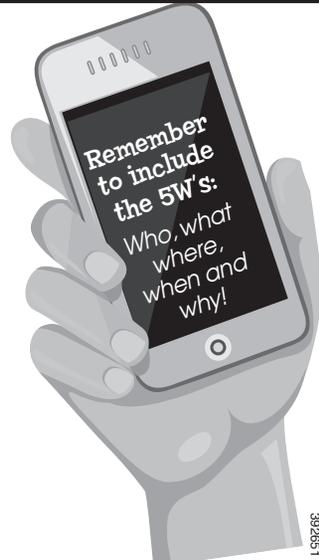
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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

June is racing to a close, and Fourth of July will be the next big holiday. Last year things crawled by because we couldn't do anything. This year time flies because we want to do all those things we couldn't do last year. This week features several recipes for those share-a-dish get-togethers. Enjoy cooking when it is so hot out.

## Broccoli-Ranch Slaw

If you are tired of regular coleslaw, this slaw is a tasty way to change up your side repertoire. You can buy the broccoli slaw in most large grocery stores, and this time of the year most stores have fresh herbs.

- 1/2 C. buttermilk
- 1/4 C. mayonnaise
- 1/4 C. sour cream
- 3 T. cider vinegar
- 1 T. sugar
- 1 t. salt
- 2 bags (12 oz. each) of broccoli slaw
- 1/4 C. chopped parsley
- 1/4 C. chopped fresh dill

2 green onions finely chopped  
Whisk the buttermilk, mayo, sour cream, vinegar, sugar and salt together in a small bowl. In a large bowl, mix the dressing until mixture is coated. Toss the parsley and dill into the salad. Refrigerate one hour. Garnish with onions before serving.

## Cheesy Broccoli Stuffed Shells

If you want a tasty meatless meal, these shells will be a hit for any dinner. They look great and taste better. You can make them ahead and put them in the slow cooker. I have said before my choice of red sauce is Prego. If you didn't want to grate the mozzarella, you could use the shredded. Enjoy this great meatless meal for any season.

- 1 C. small curd cottage cheese
- 1/4 C. grated Parmesan
- 2 t. finely grated lemon zest
- 4 oz. mozzarella coarsely grated (about 1 1/4 C)
- 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen broccoli, thawed, squeezed of excess moisture, and chopped
- 1 C. baby spinach, roughly chopped
- 1/4 C. flat leaf parsley, chopped
- 2 C. marinara sauce, (divided)

16 large shells, uncooked  
In a large bowl, combine the cottage cheese, parmesan, mozzarella and lemon zest. Fold in broccoli, spinach and parsley. In a 5- or 6-quart slow cooker, combine 2 C. marinara and 1/2 C. water. Fill shells with cheese mixture (about 3 T. per shell), using side of spoon to slide and pack in filling. Place filled shells in slow cooker, then spoon remaining cup of sauce on top. Sprinkle with remaining mozzarella and cook, covered, until shells are tender, two to 2.5 hours on low. Spoon onto plates and serve with green salad and crusty bread.

## Blue Ribbon Beef Nachos

Tuesday is Taco Night in many places. These tasty nachos are heartier than plain tacos. Try serving these and your whole family will be filled up. I love to use the multigrain Tostitos for this dish. The blue tortilla chips are good also.

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 can (16 oz.) refried beans
- 1 jar (16 oz.) salsa
- 1 can (6 oz.) ripe olives, chopped
- 1/2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 T. chili powder
- 1 t. salt

Tortilla chips, sliced ripe olives, chopped green onions, diced tomatoes and sour cream

In a large skillet, cook the beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Stir in the rest of the ingredients; heat through. Serve over tortilla chips; top with olives, onions, tomatoes, extra cheese and sour cream.

## Chicken with Spring Green Salad

This chicken dish is one for a quick weeknight supper that is for those people on the go. The small pieces of chicken will fry up really fast, and you

can have a good meal on the table in no time at all.

- 2 T. olive oil, divided, plus more if needed
- 8 small chicken cutlets or 4 chicken breasts cut in two
- 1 T. white wine vinegar
- 2 bunches of Arugula or spring mix lettuce
- 6 radishes, thinly sliced
- 1 C. sugar snap peas
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- Heat 1 T. oil in a large skillet on medium-high heat. Place chicken between plastic wrap and pound into thin pieces; season chicken with salt and pepper. Working in

See KITCHEN, Page 11

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

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Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding through DCEO CSBG Program and DHS Homeless Prevention Program to assist families in Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties who are past due on their rent, mortgage, and/or water payments and are in danger of becoming homeless or are homeless due to a recent financial crisis affecting their ability to pay housing costs including COVID-19 related conditions.

Have you experienced one of the following crisis conditions:

- COVID-19 related loss of employment or reduction in work hours
- Loss of Employment or substantial reduction in work hours
- Current Medical Disability or Emergency
- Loss or Delay of some form of Public Benefit
- Natural Disaster
- Substantial Change in Household Composition
- Illegal Action by a Landlord
- Displacement by a Government or Private Action
- Some other condition beyond your control which constitutes a financial hardship

You may be eligible for assistance if you:

- Can provide documentation of your financial crisis condition

Documents that are required to apply:

- Proof of Social Security numbers for all members of the household
- Proof of all income for all members of the household for the 30 days prior to the application date
- 2020 income tax return
- Current Benefit letter for household members receiving SSA, SSI or SSD income
- Copies of your current utility bills
- Medical Card
- Current Lease or Mortgage with contact information
- Eviction Notice or Past Due Letter from landlord, mortgage, and/or water company
- Third Party Documentation of Crisis

Please call our office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for information on how to apply.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Main Office is closed to the public and appointments at outreach locations have been suspended until further notice. We are in the office and taking applications for NICAA programs by phone, mail, email, and fax.

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency  
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# Eagle foundation seeks essay contest entries

The deadline is approaching for the Bald Eagle Essay Contest sponsored by the Eagle Nature Foundation as part of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Essays must be postmarked by Friday, Aug. 20, to be eligible for prizes.

Students from public, private and religious schools are

eligible to enter the contest, as well as those who are home schooled. The top four essays in the junior high school and senior high school divisions will be honored at the foundation's Sept. 11 celebration in Galena.

The top four essays will receive cash prizes and each school that has an essay win-

ner will receive \$50 and a trophy.

Essays must be 500 words or less with the theme of "what the bald eagle means to me" and have a contest entry form attached.

For more information, contact Eagle Nature Foundation Executive Director Terrence Ingram at 815-594-2306.

## •Kitchen (Continued from page 9)

two batches, cook chicken until browned and cooked through; be sure to turn chicken and brown both sides. Drain chicken on a paper towel and cover with aluminum foil to keep warm. In a large bowl, whisk together vinegar and 2 T. oil. Season dressing with salt and pepper. Add the lettuce, radishes, sugar snap peas and onion and toss to combine. Place chicken on serving plate and surround it with the green salad to serve.

### Key Lime Icebox Cake

If you follow any cooking shows, icebox cake and frozen pies are what is trending now. A lot of people like them because they don't involve any oven time. If you can't find key lime juice, you can use regular lime juice. The key lime juice is a sharper lime taste. This cake is easy to make ahead of time, and makes a cool and refreshing dessert.

- 2 cans (14 oz. each) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 T. Key Lime zest
- 1/2 C. Key Lime juice (from bottle)
- 4 t. finely chopped fresh mint
- 1/2 t. salt
- 3 1/2 C. cold heavy whipping cream, divided
- 1 1/2 t. vanilla, divided
- 27 sheets of graham crackers (about 14 oz.)
- 1/4 C. honey

In a large bowl, whisk together condensed milk, zest and juice, mint and salt until well combined. In another large bowl, beat 2 C. cold cream and 1/2 t. vanilla with a mixer at medium-high speed until stiff peaks form. Fold cream mixture into condensed milk mixture in three additions until well combined.

In a 9-by-13 baking dish, place about one-third of the graham crackers in an even layer. Spread half of the cream mixture (about 3 1/2 C.) over graham crackers; cover with another one-third of the graham crackers and the remaining cream mixture. Top with remaining graham crackers.

In another large bowl, beat honey, remaining 1 1/2 C. cold whipping cream, and remaining teaspoon of vanilla with a mixer at medium-high speed until stiff peaks form. Spread whipped cream onto graham crackers. Loosely cover and refrigerate for at least three hours or up to overnight. Garnish with lime zest.

### Red White and Blue Poke Cake

If you like poke cakes, this Fourth of July dessert will make any get-together a great gathering. It is super easy and really pretty. Wave the flag for this recipe.

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1 C. water
- 1/2 C. vegetable oil
- 1 pkg. (3 oz.) strawberry Jell-O
- 1 C. boiling water
- 1/2 C. cold water
- 1 tub (8 oz.) Cool Whip topping, unthawed
- Fresh strawberries, rinsed, drained and sliced in two
- Fresh blueberries, rinsed and drained

Prepare the cake according to package directions on box; bake in a 9-by-13 baking dish sprayed with baking spray. Cool completely. Using the end of a wooden spoon handle, poke holes all over the cake.

In a mixing bowl, mix the strawberry Jell-O with the hot water until the Jell-O is dis-

solved. Stir in the cold water and mix well. Pour the Jell-O mixture all over the cake and into the holes. Place the cake in the refrigerator for one hour. Spread whipped topping evenly over the cake. Top with rows of strawberries and blueberries. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

### Final thoughts

I know that Stockton is excited about having their Fourth of July celebration. It is great to have traditional things making a comeback.

On the Fourth of July, the Freeport Concert Band is playing its Sunday evening concert. If you are into beautiful patriotic music, it will be a free evening of beautiful music. Scott Stich, retired Le-Win band director who presently teaches at Highland Community College, is conducting. I understand there are plenty of fireworks planned for the concert.

Hats off to the Lena Business and Professional Association. They are responsible for the beautiful flowers around town. There is a crew who waters and takes care of the visitors booth. If you see them watering and dead-heading, tell them how much we appreciate the flower planters in downtown and around the main streets.

Have a great holiday where we can actually interact with people.

We continue to look for some good summer fruit and vegetable recipes. If you have any early summer recipes, contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide, 240 W. Main St., Lena, IL 61048 or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.



PHOTO SUBMITTED The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

## Auxiliary girls craft homemade gifts

Lena Junior Auxiliary members made Father's Day gifts at their last meeting. Pictured from the left in the back row are Keighlyn Schulz, Evie Karnatz and Riley Durling. In the front row from the left are Janessa Avila, Kairi Schulz, Kimber Rackowska, Kinzley Schulz, Leisl Jones, Joselyn Youtzy and Morgan Youtzy.

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to those readers who have sent a donation to help underwrite The Scoop Today and Shopper's Guide. For those of you who haven't done so in the past year, but enjoy this newspaper and would like to help us pay for its operation, please send a donation in any amount to:

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