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Shopper's Guide

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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 19, 2022

PantherHawks clinch NUIC Championship

Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

For the second year in a row, the Lena-Winslow-Stockton PantherHawk Wrestling team has clinched the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference championship. Their success from the end of 2021 has carried into the new year as the PantherHawks are yet to lose a meet in 2022. Le-Win-Stockton ended 2021 in high spirits as they brought home the Abe's Rumble trophy after going 8-0 in the two-day event in Springfield. Consisting of fifty-eight Illinois Class 1A squads, it was the third time in school history the PantherHawks have brought Abe home.

It was also a big weekend for PantherHawks Head Coach, Kevin Milder, who picked up career win number five hundred at the tournament. Milder gives all the credit to the kids, saying "The guys have really been thrown into the fire coming off football, right into wrestling, but I am proud of their effort." As the number two Class 1A wrestling team in Illinois, the football State championship might be the only reason this team is ranked second. Le-Win-Stockton opened their wrestling season against Dixon, the current number one squad. While the PantherHawks were without a number of wrestlers, they fell to



PantherHawks outscored their opponents by a total score of 162-32. Drew Mensendike, pictured here, has 26 victories this season.

Dixon by a score of 36-32.

Since then, multiple PantherHawk wrestlers have stepped up to climb the rank-

ings. On Jan. 6, Le-Win-Stockton participated in a round robin meet in Winnebago that saw the PantherHawks

bring home three more team wins. With a 49-16 win over Polo, a 59-9 win over Amboy, and a 54-7 victory over Winnebago, the PantherHawks outscored their opponents by a total score of 162-32.

It was a dominant meet that sent Le-Win-Stockton into their biggest meet of the season with their heads held high. On Thursday, Jan. 13, the PantherHawks traveled to Dakota with an NUIC Championship on the line. While they were set up to face off with both West Carroll and Dakota, it was the Dakota Indians who had the PantherHawks attention, for a win over them would give Le-Win-Stockton the championship.

They made quick work of West Carroll, shutting them

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out 71-0. With a number of forfeits, the PantherHawks were only forced to compete in four matches against West Carroll. Le-Win-Stockton went undefeated in those four matches as Garrett Luke, Drew Mensendike, Henry Engel, and Mike Haas each picked up victories.

The matches against Dakota featured a much different stat sheet, as the Indians match up well with the PantherHawks roster. Only three forfeits were needed between both teams, leading to an exciting night of wrestling.

In the 138 weight class, Garrett picked up a tough, 9-7 decision over Dakota's TJ Silva. Garrett, a junior, currently holds a record of 26-2 on the season. At 160, another exciting match took place as Jared

Dvorak picked up a 7-4 decision over Case Rockey for his twenty-fourth win of the season as a sophomore.

At 170, it was Griffin Luke, the PantherHawks leading wrestler this season, who picked up an important pinfall victory at the two minute, thirty-four second mark.

Griffin, also a junior, currently holds the best record on the PantherHawks at 27-1 on the season. His victory by pinfall played a key role in clinching the championship over Dakota.

At 285, it was the PantherHawks other top wrestler who clinched the championship. As a sophomore, Haas earned his twenty-seventh victory of the season with a pin of Avery

See NUIC, Page 9

Obituaries

JANICE RAE NIELSEN WAGNER REED

Janice Rae Nielsen Wagner Reed passed from this world on Dec. 31, 2021 in Dothan Alabama. She was born in Chicago Illinois on Jan. 23, 1926 and is preceded in death by her husband(s) Franklin Eugene Wagner, Babe Ruth Reed, parents Marvin and Maxine "Coleman" Nielsen, her daughter Cherryl Gay (Wagner) Reed and her sister Jackie Simmer.

Janice graduated from Von Steuben High School in 1942. After Janice's father Marvin died in 1945 Maxine moved her family to Lena Illinois. Janice worked at Lena's Ben Franklin 5 and 10 and Gant's Grocery Store. In 1945 Janice married Franklin Eugene Wagner and they had 5 children.

Janice and family initially farmed with horses on the NE corner of the 5 Corners west of Lena. Later Janice tried her hand as a restaurant owner at the Country Kitchen and other enterprises including a food truck (converted school bus) that she used at local area farm auctions, the Fuller Brush Company and the Furst McNess Company.

Janice relocated to Elgin for one year and then lived in the Central Illinois area for many years but eventually relocated to the Panama City Florida area in 1981.

Janice leaves behind a



brother Robert (Kay) Nielsen, sons Douglas (Beth) Wagner Dothan Alabama, Richard (Jolene Wingert)

Wagner Lena Illinois, Robert (Terri) Wagner Saint Augustine Florida and a daughter Lisa (David) Deaton Panama City Florida. Janice had 10 Grandchildren and 11 Great Grandchildren.

From Janice's Children

We celebrate the long life of our Mother. We remember her fondly in many wonderful ways. We thank her for the gift of life. Our Mother was independent and courageous. She loved antiques and incorporated them into our home and collected numerous pieces over the years. Our Mother was a good cook, and this was especially true regarding fruit pies.

Her restaurant, the Country Kitchen, was known for excellent pies. Guy Trotter (an original Lena Outdoorsman Legend) befriended her and taught her how to butcher a side of beef or pork in our restaurant basement. She was also a beekeeper. Our family garden always overproduced sweet corn and she took this bountiful excess to the Lena neighborhoods and sold it

from the trunk of her car door to door with her sons Richard and Robert. On the farm our Mother raised chickens and taught us how to butcher them at home. She would often stop the car on a country road and hand us a knife to go into the ditch to harvest wild rhubarb and asparagus.

We celebrate her eccentric spirit that was willing to try almost anything and we thank her for bestowing her work ethic unto us. There were many occasions in our Mother's life when she faced adversity and hardship. She always prevailed and ensured we were fed and kept warm during cold Illinois winters. We thank her for instilling in us good manners and a sense of determination and resilience. As a life-long waitress and kitchen staff she encouraged us to be good tippers. Our mother was especially proud of her Scandinavian (Danish) ancestry.

Our Mother ensured we got to school, church and even vacation Bible School. She leaves behind children who became artistic, excellent chefs, good parents, accomplished schoolteachers, thriving business owners, good citizens, and armed forces service members. We cherish and value the upbringing from both of our parents. Condolences may be sent to Robert Wagner at lastflightout@hotmail.com.

JOYCE MAE HUTTENLOCHER

Joyce Mae Huttenlocher, age 85, of Stockton, IL passed away Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022. She was born Nov. 21, 1936 in Baileyville, IL to the late Jesse and Katie (Funk) Miller. Joyce married Marion Huttenlocher on Oct. 20, 1957 in Cedarville, IL.

Joyce attended Orangerville Schools. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Derinda and served as WELCA President for over 20 years. Joyce was a trustee for Woodbine Cemetery and Welch Hollow Cemetery. She farmed her whole life. She enjoyed cooking and traveling, but most of all, she loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Marion Huttenlocher of Stockton; her sons, Craig Huttenlocher of Stockton, Kevin (Becky) Huttenlocher of Lena and Terry (Tamara) Huttenlocher of Warren; her daughter, Karen Huttenlocher of Lena; her grandchildren, Ryan (Kelsy

Ehr), Brooke (Jerry Walton), Tyler, Cody (Sierra), Chelsea, and Steven; her great grandchildren, Kryan, Autumn, and Annabelle; and her sister, Marian Carter of Lena. She was preceded in death by her parents; her son, Curtis Huttenlocher; her sister, Lucille Rackow; and her brother, Wilbur Miller.

A private family service will be held. Interment will take place at Woodbine Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

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RAYMOND MARTIN BERNARD KUMOR

Raymond Martin Bernard Kumor, age 74, of Elizabeth, Illinois passed into the care of God on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2022 at MercyOne Hospital in Dubuque. A Funeral Mass will be held 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 14, 2022 at St Mary Catholic Church in Elizabeth. Visitation will be held 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022 at Law Jones Funeral Home, Elizabeth, and one hour prior to the Mass at the Church. Masks recommended. A memorial has been established in his honor. Friends may leave a condolence at lawjonesfuneralhome.com.

Author Thomas Merton said, "If a man is to live, he must be alive, body, soul, mind, heart and spirit." – Ray Kumor certainly lived! He was generous with his time and attention with his family, community and friends. He shared his talents with his students and enriched many lives with his music. He helped make this world a better place.

Ray was born Jul. 28, 1947 on Chicago's south-side, the son of Martin Michael and Jean Theresa (Wisniewski) Kumor. His father worked in the steel mills and his grandparents lived upstairs in a two-flat. At the age of ten in 1957, Ray lost both parents, and was raised by his grandparents. He attended St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School, Chicago and then Sacred Heart Seminary in Donaldson, Indiana, where he graduated high school

in 1965. He then attended the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated in 1969. He then attended the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated in 1969.

He coached and refereed several sports. Ray was also trained and helped many people using his skills in hypnotherapy, to quit smoking or ease pain.

Ray and Jane raised two sons, Martin and Ryan and celebrated 45 years of marriage. Ray retired from River Ridge Schools in 2008.

Ray and Jane loved family life, always spending time together with their sons, camping and traveling during



priest. He made the decision to pursue music and attended CVS Jr. College, then received a BA Degree from Northern Illinois University in Music, and later a Masters in Guidance Counseling.

In 1973, Ray was giving music lessons to kids in Big Rock, Illinois where he participated in the Church choir, when he met the love of his life, Jane Ravnsborg. Ray had been playing in bands named the Top Hats and Omega, and by this time had formed a new band named Opus 5. He asked Jane to join the band and immediately they knew they had something special. On Apr. 10, 1976, Ray and Jane were married in Big Rock. Opus 5 continued to perform until 1982 when Ray and Jane moved to the Hanover area near Chestnut Mtn., as they both began to teach at the Hanover schools. They later moved to Elizabeth when the schools consolidated. He coached and refereed several sports. Ray was also trained and helped many people using his skills in hypnotherapy, to quit smoking or ease pain.

Ray and Jane raised two sons, Martin and Ryan and celebrated 45 years of marriage. Ray retired from River Ridge Schools in 2008.

Ray and Jane loved family life, always spending time together with their sons, camping and traveling during

the summers. Being together was the most important. After retirement, they spent time near Alamo, Texas where they enjoyed the community and friends. Ray has appreciated all the close friends he has had in this life, especially those from his childhood and growing-up years, several were in his bands and remain close today.

They never stopped making music. Ray and Jane played in a well-known band named Delta until 2001, then they became Legends of Old-Time Rock & Roll, until 2012. They performed at the Trolley Theatre in Galena and it was during this time that Ray particularly enjoyed impersonating Elvis. While performing there, they were recognized and asked to perform on the Celebration Belle Riverboat. It is on the boat that Ray's creativity took flight as he impersonated Mark Twain, Willie Nelson, Julio Iglesias, and even Cher or Dolly Parton, always with Jane by his side as the counterparts of Sonny or Kenny. They played 40s, 50s, 60 and 70s music along with many other themed cruises. It was a roar, and many people will remember their best times, dancing and enjoying Ray and Jane's entertainment.

Ray will be dearly missed by his wife, Jane of Elizabeth, Illinois; two sons, Martin "Marty" Kumor of Hanover and Ryan (Jennifer) Kumor of Hollandale, Wisconsin; and a granddaughter, Rylinn. He is preceded in death by his parents and a sister at a young age.

College news

Local students make 2021 Fall Dean's List

Bob Jones University

Denver Baughman (Stockton)

Sophia Bayer (Lena)
Daniel Lehman (Shannon)

Bradley University

Miah Stiefel (Warren)
Ella Williams (Pearl City)

Clarke University

Noelle Reese (Elizabeth)

Sydney Thorsen (Elizabeth)

Burgundy Barklow (Pearl City)

Mitchel Coffey (Stockton)
Gavin Krahmer (Stockton)

Grove City College

Lauren Williams (Scales Mound)

Kirkwood Community College

Emma Kloss (Elizabeth)

Southern New Hampshire University

Andrew Ford (Apple River)

Angela Rowe (Stockton)

Upper Iowa University

Adrienne Cannella (Warren)

UW-Whitewater

Olivia Matz (Mc Connell) is also among the scholarship recipients for the 2021-22 academic year.

Simon Rillie (Stockton)
Nevaeh Roberts (Lena)

Wartburg College

Case Harmston (Elizabeth)

Western Illinois University

Gabriel J Ertmer (Jo Daviess)

Warren Pearson (Freeport)
Jenna Skarupka (Freeport)
Rachel Pappas (Lena)
Rachael Wybourn (Lena)

Wheaton College

Nancy Taylor (Elizabeth)

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Red Cross: National blood crisis may put patients at risk

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis and is experiencing its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. Dangerous low blood supply levels are posing a concerning risk to patient care and forcing doctors to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available.

Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments, and donors of all blood types – especially type O – are urged to make an appointment now to give in the weeks ahead.

In recent weeks, the Red Cross had less than a one-day supply of critical blood types and has had to limit blood product distributions to hospitals. At times, as much as one-quarter of hospital blood needs are not being met.

The Red Cross continues to confront relentless challenges due to COVID-19, including about a 10% overall decline in the number of

people donating blood as well as ongoing blood drive cancellations and staffing limitations. Additionally, the pandemic has contributed to a 62% drop in blood drives at schools and colleges.

Make an appointment to give blood or platelets as soon as possible by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Donation to a chance to win prizes

The Red Cross and the NFL are partnering this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals to give blood or platelets and help tackle the national blood shortage.

Those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma in January will automatically be entered for a chance to win a getaway to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles. As an extra thank-you from the Red Cross, those who come to donate will also be automatically entered to win a home

theater package and a \$500 e-gift card. Terms apply; visit RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl for more information.

Who donations help

Kala Breder knows all too well how dire not blood having available can be. In July 2020, hours after the birth of her son by emergency Cesarean section, Breder developed a complication and began bleeding uncontrollably. As doctors fought to save her life, they exhausted the entire blood supply at the hospital as well as all available blood within a 45-mile radius. Ultimately, she was flown to another hospital because there wasn't enough blood locally.

Breder credits the 58 different blood products she received with helping save her life. "Without one of those, I probably wouldn't be here," she said. "I needed every last unit."

Volunteers needed

In addition to blood donors, the Red Cross also needs the help of volunteers

to support critical blood collections across the country. Blood drive volunteers play an important role by greeting, registering, answering questions, and providing information to blood donors throughout the donation process. Blood transportation specialists provide a critical link between blood donors and blood recipients by delivering blood to hospitals in communities across the country. To volunteer to support Red Cross blood collections, visit redcross.org/volunteer today.

Blood drive safety

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including face masks for donors and staff, regardless of vaccination status – have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive.



City of Freeport mourns loss of Fire Chief Brad Liggett

Freeport Fire Department Chief Brad Liggett, aged 55, passed away suddenly on Jan. 8, 2022. Chief Liggett served the Freeport Fire Department since July of 2019 after serving the City of Beloit's Fire Department for 30 years and as the department's Fire Chief for 16 years. In Dec. 2021, Chief Liggett was elected to be

the 1st Vice President of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association.

Funeral arrangements will be made available through Daley Murphy Wisch and Associates Funeral Home in Beloit. The City sends its sincere condolences to Chief Liggett's wife, family and friends, and the City of Beloit Fire Department.

FHN Get Fit 2022 begins Feb. 6

FHN's popular wellness program is back and pandemic-safe for the new year. Get Fit 2022 is heavy on tips, videos, and recipes to help participants build a healthy lifestyle for years to come.

Get Fit 2022 is a free 12-week, all-online program again this year. It's not yet

safe to gather people together for pre-event screenings as has been done in past years, so the team competition has been put aside for this year and the focus is on helping participants work toward their personal best. GetFit 2022 runs from Feb. 6 through Apr. 30, and people can join at

any time during the program. Registration opens Monday, Jan. 17.

Participants will still be able to earn and keep track of exercising, eating fruits and veggies, and getting enough water via recommended online wellness trackers, and FHN's special Get Fit 2022

site will include videos with exercise and healthy diet tips, healthy cooking and shopping tips, recipes and more.

Participants can take advantage of special offers from local Fitness Partners, and we'll have fun contests, and of course, great prizes. Signup for FHN's Get Fit 2022 opens Monday, Jan. 17 at www.fhn.org/getfit.



News briefs

Believers Basics Bible study

This Bible study offering covers the basic truths of Biblical Christianity. It will be held at Community Center, LL at 497 Lions Dr. on Sunday, Jan. 23 at 5 p.m. Call Pastor Cliff for additional information at 716-229-9281.

Northwest Eyecare locations collecting winter gear

Please consider donating new or gently used winter gear for adults and kids at any one of the Northwest Eyecare locations now through Feb. 25. Gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, and coats will be accepted. Donate a winter coat and be eligible to win a \$300 NWEC voucher. Five winners total will be chosen, one

from NWEC each location, and winners will be announced at the end of February. (NWEC locations are in Freeport, Lanark, Rock Falls, Oregon and Stockton). For more information, please call 815.235.6177.

Meat raffle slated for Jan. 23 at Iron Horse

Calling all area carnivores to the Iron Horse in Lena on Sunday, Jan. 23. Beginning at 2 p.m., hundreds of mouth-watering meat prizes—beef, pork, chicken and more—will be raffled off to benefit the Lena-Winslow Post Prom. "This is a great opportunity to fill your freezer while supporting a great cause," said J.R. Jacobs, event organizer.



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Welch reflects on first year as House speaker

Cites energy bill, redistricting as major accomplishments

By Peter Hancock
CAPITAL NEWS ILLINOIS

One year after being named speaker of the Illinois House, Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch says he is proud of the accomplishments he and his colleagues achieved and he looks forward to building on that record.

"I actually thought 2021 was one heck of a year," the Hillside Democrat said during a recent interview. "You know, we passed the historic, nation-leading Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, the CEJA bill. We protected and expanded voting rights. We made Illinois the beacon of hope for protecting reproductive rights and a refuge for women all around the country. The work that we did on the budget and restoring fiscal stability and credit upgrades, paying off a \$2 billion loan and saving \$82 million. Where do I end? We had a really great year, and certainly looking forward to building on that."

On Jan. 13, 2021, Welch was elected speaker of the House, succeeding the long-serving but embattled Michael Madigan and becoming the first Black person to lead the House.

"It's a very time intensive job," he said when asked what he'd learned in his first year. "And literally, you're working seven days a week no-stop. ... A lot of work involved. It takes cooperation from your friends from your family, from your employers."

During his first year, Welch worked to put his own imprint on the speaker's office, setting a much different tone than Madigan, who seldom gave media interviews and shunned the use of email or social media.

"I certainly think that it's a new day in Springfield," he said. "I think Democrats up and down our ranks would agree with that. I think if you get past Republican leadership, the rank-and-file Republicans would agree that it's a new day."

"The office of the speaker has been open more than it ever has, I believe in the last 36 to 40 years," he continued. "Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle came into the office of speaker and said they had never been in there before. They came in to meet with me about ideas they were proposing last year in the Legislature, ideas that got out of Rules (Committee), got out of the House, got out of the Senate, and hit the governor's desk and became law. Many of those rank-and-file Republicans were able to go home and talk about victories that we actually had in the General Assembly. I think they'll tell you that that's a new thing for them."

Welch's relationship with the GOP caucus, however, has not always been friendly. That was particularly true during redistricting, the once-in-a-decade process of redrawing state legislative and congressional district lines in accordance with the most recent U.S. Census.

With Democrats firmly in control of both chambers as well as the governor's office,

they drew maps that were intended to ensure they would maintain their majorities for the next 10 years. But Republicans called it blatant partisan gerrymandering, while voting rights advocacy groups complained of a process conducted behind closed doors that actually resulted in the dilution of minority voting power in some parts of the state.

They all sued in federal court but were unsuccessful. Welch cited the federal court's decision as a vindication of the Democrats' efforts.

"I think, because of COVID, we were actually more open, more accessible, more transparent because we had over 50 or 60 hearings, because we were able to do in-person hearings and virtual hearings," he said. "If we were not in COVID, we might not have had the opportunity to do virtual hearing. So I think we were more open and more accessible. And the proof that we got it right is the opinion written by the three-judge federal panel that totally rejected the advocacy groups' claims. Totally rejected."

Welch was first elected to the House in 2012 from a district in the western suburbs of Chicago. Prior to becoming speaker, one of his major focuses was addressing issues about racial equity. In 2019, he sponsored a bill requiring corporations domiciled in Illinois to report on the diversity of their governing boards. He has also pushed for more diversity in state hiring and contracting.

He has continued those efforts as speaker. On Jan. 10 and Jan. 11, Welch said, he met with the presidents of state universities and the CEOs of the private insurance companies that administer the state's Medicaid program, known as "managed care organizations," or MCOs, to push them further toward meeting diversity goals.

"Before I ever became speaker, diversity, equity and

inclusion was really important to me. And in fact, I don't think I would be here without that push over the last few years for diversity, equity inclusion," Welch said.

"When I started this job in 2013, that diversity was not there. And it was quite impressive to see," he said of his meeting with university presidents. "And to see it showing up in their hiring practices at the universities is quite impressive as well. And there's certainly more work that can be done. And so we're working very closely with Chairman (LaShawn K.) Ford, who chairs (Senate) Higher Ed, and Chairman (Katie) Stuart who chairs (House) Higher Ed, to continue those efforts forward. And we really plan to make this year the year where we truly plant that diversity flag in Illinois."

Welch said his main priority for the 2022 session will be passing a budget, a task made easier this year by the state's improving revenue picture.

At the end of December, the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported that base revenues through the first half of the fiscal year were up \$918 million from the previous year.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be a lot of competition for those new dollars, but Welch said he's hopeful of reaching a bipartisan consensus.

"We're going to convene Democrats and Republicans and we're going to see what the rank-and-file members believe are the priorities," he said. "We're going to ask them what the priorities are. But we certainly know that with COVID still being here, and the fact that we're in the midst of a surge, that we're going to still have to continue to address many of the things that we're dealing with, or have dealt with in the past.

"We know that we still have (American Rescue Plan Act) dollars that can be allocated. We did receive ARPA dol-

lars, and we have four years to spend them. We've only spent \$2 billion out of \$8 billion. So we have some room that will allow us to continue to help people to deal with this pandemic. I think that's really a top priority." Lawmakers had scheduled a shortened session this year so

they can return to their districts in April to campaign for the June 28 primary. But the recent surge of COVID-19 cases brought on by the omicron variant have cut the number of scheduled session days even further. Both chambers are currently recessed until further notice.

Incidentally; Crossbites



By
DR. STEPHEN PETRAS
Illinois Licensed General Dentist

child more vulnerable to tooth erosion, tooth decay, tooth chipping, repeated grinding or clenching of teeth and gum disease.

Crossbites can be caused by genetics, external factors, or a combination of both. Crossbites can be inherited or may develop as a result of a narrow palate, cleft lip or cleft palate, tumors, delayed loss of baby teeth, the abnormal eruption of permanent teeth or congenitally missing permanent teeth. They can follow accidents involving the oral cavity and jawbone. Prolonged thumb sucking, pacifier and bottle use can cause or exacerbate the development of a crossbite.

Treatment depends on the type and severity of the crossbite, underlying medical, dental and developmental issues, and your age. While it is ideal to treat crossbites in childhood, they can be treated in adults. Treatment may include addressing dysfunctional habits such as tongue-thrusting or thumb-sucking, palate expanders, or a fixed or removable orthodontic device to widen the upper jaw, braces, headgear, clear tooth aligners, replacing missing teeth and jaw surgery.

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Bill would require new residential buildings to be ready to accommodate electric vehicle charging

Advocates say the bill is necessary for EV access in multifamily homes

By Grace Kinnicutt
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A measure before the General Assembly would require new and renovated residential or commercial buildings to set aside parking spaces that could easily be converted into electric vehicle charging stations.

Rep. Robyn Gabel, D-Evanston, advanced House Bill 3125 through the House Energy and Environment Committee on Jan. 11, noting she would work on an amendment to remove extra language that does not pertain to the parking provision.

Under the bill, newly built or extensively renovated residential buildings would have to make all spaces "electric vehicle capable," meaning they meet certain wiring requirements. Depending on the size of the parking lot, a certain number of spaces would have to be "electric vehicle ready," meaning they contain receptacles with the necessary voltage to install an EV charging station.

Residential buildings would be required to have at least six parking spaces ready for installation of charging stations. If there are one to six parking spaces, all spaces would be required to be EV ready.

Buildings with 24 parking spaces or more would have to have at least one fully equipped charging station.

Commercial buildings would need to set aside 20 percent of parking for EV ready spaces.

Neda Deylami, an EV advocate for the Sierra Club, said the passage of the bill is "more urgent" than ever to fight climate change and make personal transportation more affordable and convenient.\

One of the best conveniences of an EV is that you can wake up to a fully charged vehicle in your own home. A privilege that is less certain for renters or those in multifamily homes who tend to have lower incomes overall as well," Deylami said.

Gabel said the cost of adding charging stations should not exceed \$1,000, but Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana, said she is concerned that extra costs could be created with the construction and installation of EV charging stations.

"I'm concerned that people will start doing significant markups on the installation part of this that we probably won't foresee, and so some kind of control in

that would be something I'm interested in as you work on this," Ammons said.

Deylami said that the bill would help establish guidelines that protect owners and renters from "unreasonable restrictions."

Building owners would be responsible for obtaining approval from associations in order to install a charging station which must comply with the association's architectural standards and be installed by a licensed contractor.

Within 14 days of ap-

proval, owners would need to provide a certificate that names the association as an additional insured party. Owners would be responsible for paying for the installation, energy usage, and any damage.

But Kristofer Kasten, who represents the Community Associations Institute of Illinois, said his group doesn't oppose electric vehicles but that they have "some very practical concerns" about financial burdens and how the bill, as drafted, applies to associations.

owners and renters.

HB 3125 is the latest proposal to support the EV industry. The Clean Energy Jobs Act, signed last year, sets a goal of putting 1 million EVs on Illinois roads by 2030, while the Reimagining Electric Vehicle Act creates incentives for EV manufacturers to expand or relocate to Illinois.

The bill passed committee on a partisan roll call, although Gabel said she would continue to work on it before bringing it for a full House vote.



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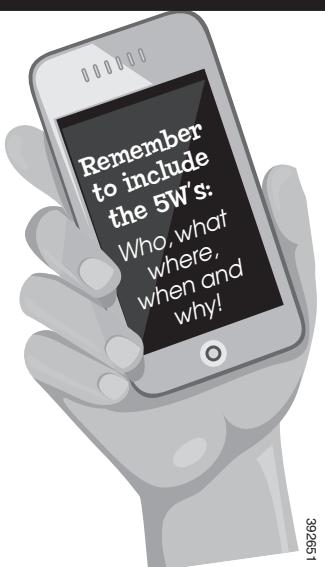
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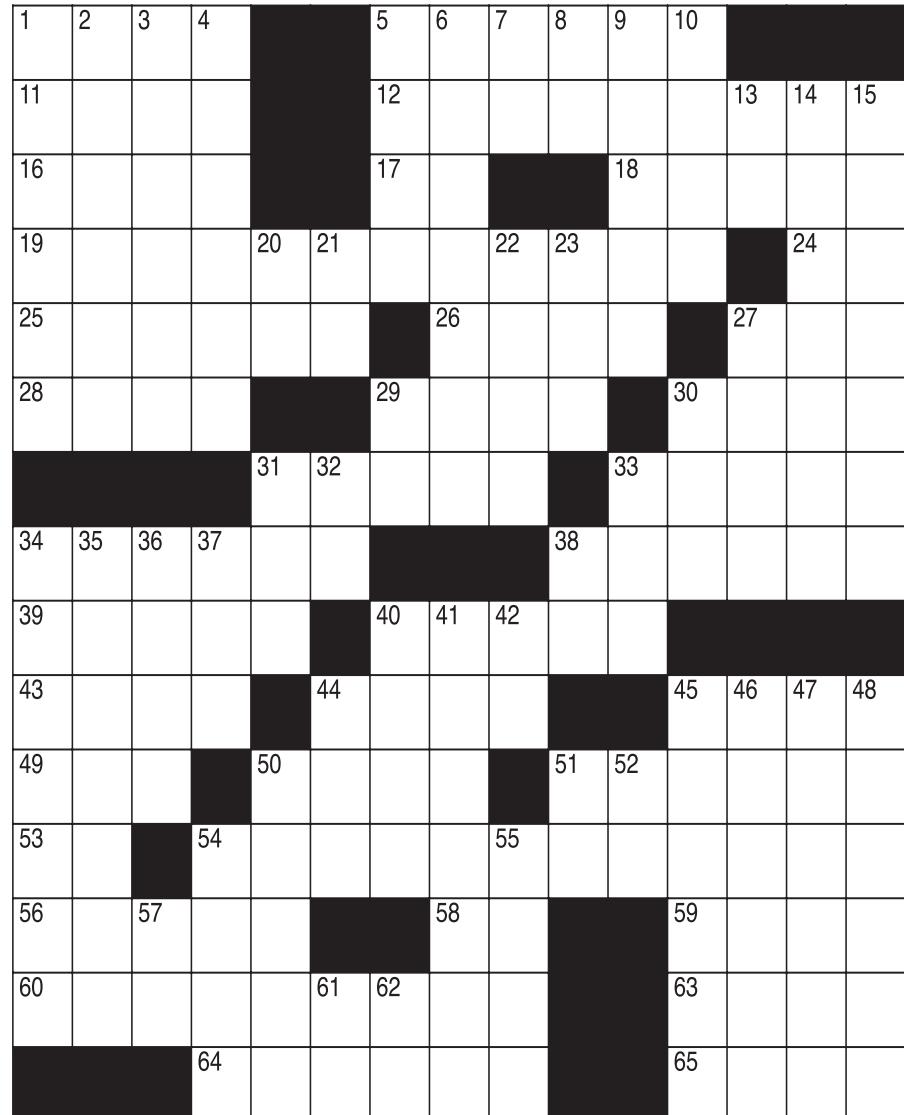
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19. Forms of matter
24. Home of the Dodgers
25. Bordering
26. Part of the eye
27. It might be nervous
28. Visualizes
29. Crest of a hill
30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)
31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)
33. Not easily explained
34. Song in short stanzas
38. Detonations
39. Intestinal
40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri __
43. Balmy
44. New Mexico mountain town
45. Gobblers
49. Insecticide
50. Golf scores
51. Has its own altar
53. "Pollock" actor Harris
54. Being livable
56. NHL play-by-play man
58. "The Great Lakes State" (abbr.)
59. Unpainted
60. Swam underwater
63. Native American people
64. Containing salt
65. Exam

CLUES DOWN

1. Small bone in middle ear
2. Long, angry speech
3. Move out of
4. Male organ
5. Two-toed sloth
6. Making dirty
7. Article
8. Oil company
9. Emits coherent radiation
10. Amounts of time
13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)
14. Forbidden by law
15. Drains away
20. Not out
21. Sea patrol (abbr.)
22. Bird genus
23. Gratuity
27. __ and feathers
29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)
30. Hot beverage
31. Pouch
32. It followed the cassette
33. Large northern deer
34. Ones who offer formally
35. Famed genie
36. Bequeathed
37. Skeletal muscle
38. Atomic #56
40. Silk garment
41. They deliver the mail
42. Equally
44. Check
45. Light-colored breed of hound
46. Drug that soothes
47. Railroads
48. Most slick
50. Jacket
51. A radio band
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College news

Lena-Winslow first semester honor roll

A student who receives a 4.0 and above, with no actual grade below an A, will be listed on the Principal's List. A student who has a grade point of 3.99 to 3.67 and no actual grade below an A- will be listed on the "High Honors" list. A student who has a grade point of 3.67 to 2.67 and no actual grade below a B- will be listed on the "Honors" list.

Principal Honor Roll Freshman

Shayleigh Albright
Madeline Chiles
Alyssa Daughenbaugh
Eden Dietz
Cienna Kerr
Ella Kerr
Michael Kowalke
Brice Miller
Mya Ortiz
Hannah Pecoraro
Ryan Pieper
Rachael Setterstrom

Paige Williams Sophomores

Molly Amendt
Maia Benson
Ava Fiedler
Sarah Geiseman
Quinn Rodebaugh
Jacob Schumacher

Juniors

Henry Engel
Owen Gilbertson
Andrew Kempel
Emma Kempel
Wesley Offermann
Ayden Packard
Jenna Ransom
Chloe Renter
Drew Streckwald
Madison Young
Jacob Zeal

Seniors

Zoe Bardell
Paige Bennett
Luke Benson
Kamryn Cain
Tyler Croatt
Tess Dameier
Conor DeZell
Taylor Ditzler Amill

Sarah Edler

Ethan Fye
Leah Goebel
Kalli Humphrey
Kamron Klever
Zakary Krahmer
Brody Mahon
Nate Noller
Payton Scace
Mikhail Schoonhoven-Hus-
sain
Ross Stabenow
Marissa Strominger
Kaitlyn Sweeney

High Honors Honor Roll

Freshman

Alexis Brookman
Paige Hancock
Cheyanna Kerr
Allie Oxley
Mahi Patel

Sophomores

Abbie Cameron
Janessa Esser
Grace Groezinger
Casey Klever
Daely Kluck
Chloe Mader

Natalie McNutt

Juniors

Tianna Esser
Kieran Madigan
Emma Marvin
Samuel Pecoraro

Seniors

Michael Decker
Sarah Edler
Maddex Sargent
Jaydon Stouffer
Jack Zellweger

Honors Honor Roll

Freshman

Kale Buss
Maverick Cass
Kegan DeZell
Rhianna England
Jillian Goebel
Landon Grindey
Cobryn Lynch
Madalyn Schierloh
Mika Schoger
Chloe Wild
Jordan Yount

Sophomores

Avery Baldauf
Blayr Davis

Eva DeVoe

Gage Dunker
Lucas Fye
Cierra Hatelak
Faith Jordan
Tanner Kempel
Eli Kleckler
Brett Lane
Weston Lartz
Kaidynce Lynch
Mikaela Nieman
Faith Offermann
Alex Packard
Isabelle Paulsen
Deaken Randecker

Seniors

Aspen Roberts
Mason Spidahl
Odin Stabenow
Trenton Swedlund
Brianna Taylor
Nick Tippett
Kyah White
Hailey Whitmer
Cadic Wolfrom

Juniors

Livia Esser
Jace Flynn
Levi Gable
Nicholas Inden

Braden Jacobs
Samantha Johnson
Olivia Parker
Hailee Schiess
Rowen Schulz
Zavier Sheppard
Kanzas White

Seniors

Devon Bania
Ellie Bower
Jacob Cheatham
Gina DeVoe
Naomi Draeger
Brady Eilders
Emma Gobeli
Belle Jordan
Bella Lawson
Laughlynn Leamon
Ava Randecker
Conner Reynolds
Rahmareaon Roby
Lila Rudisill
John Spinhirne
Nicholas Swedlund
Kylie Wagner
Zachary White
Saige Yount

LASER Passes the Torch; Organization gifts remaining funds to area non-profits

Lena Area Special Events Runners (LASER) has announced the organization is disbanding. "As we close this chapter, we reflect on what LASER has accomplished over the years. We've facilitated beloved events, such as Taste of Lena and Winterfest, and numerous fundraising efforts and community outreach throughout the Lena area. In that same spirit, we have applied funding to propel community initiatives forward with the same enthusiasm that LASER has championed since its inception," said Rob Lyvers LASER member.

LASER will distribute the remaining funds of \$10,000 to the Community Center/Lena Lions Club, \$1,000 to the F-4 Jet Project, and \$1,000 to the Friends of the Pec Foundation. While LASER has run its course, Lyvers stated its members will always be thankful to the community for its support and volunteerism.

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Hall of Fame

At the Fall Inner Circle Club Meeting of Pekin Life Insurance Company, in Maui, Hawaii, Dan Harnish of the Marvin Uecker Agency was inducted into the Pekin Life Insurance Hall of Fame.

Presentation of the award was made by Brian Lee (right), President of Pekin Life. Dan (left) became only the 7th member inducted into the Hall of Fame in the 56-year history of Pekin Life Insurance Company.

*Congratulations
Dan!!*



411043

Basketball wrap-up

Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangerville Broncos girls basketball squad is riding a nine-game winning streak after beating Durand 49-17 on Thursday, Jan. 13. The winning streak has bumped Orangerville's record up to 17-3 on the season, while being 5-0 in conference play.

The Lady Broncos' success in the 2021-2022 season is largely due to the play of Whitney Sullivan. In the win over Durand, Sullivan posted an incredible stat line of twelve points, ten rebounds, and ten blocks. With ten blocks, Sullivan earned one of the most unique triple doubles in school history. Ella Doyle was a key contributor as well, posting seven points and five rebounds. Leah Baker was busy on the board as she posted ten rebounds of her own, to go along with six points. Kylie Wirth had four points and six steals as the Broncos went on to beat Durand by thirty-two points.

Just two days prior, the Broncos played host to the Lena-Winslow Panthers for another conference matchup. The game featured a low-scoring, defensive battle as the 10-8 Panthers looked to upset Orangerville.

Although, the Panthers held the early advantage by

outsoring the Broncos 8-4 in the first quarter, Orangerville would fight back. They turned the tables in the second quarter by outsoring Le-Win 10-2 to take a 14-10 lead into the halftime break.

The Broncos would extend that lead in the third quarter as they went into the fourth holding a 23-17 lead. With the lack of offense all night, the Panthers were not able to play catchup as the Broncos went on to win 29-22. It was another impressive game from Sullivan, who led the team with fifteen points, and nearly reached a double double with nine rebounds. Laney Cahoone was next up with eight points and six steals, while Baker finished with five points and four rebounds.

The Panthers were led by Kalli Humphrey, who recently accepted a scholarship to play basketball at Highland Community College. Humphrey became the first official signing of 2022 for the Highland Lady Cougars.

Over in Pearl City territory, the Lady Wolves have struggled to find rhythm this season. The same night of the Orangerville and Le-Win matchup, the Wolves were set up to face off with a tough, 12-6 Pecatonica Indians squad. At just 5-11 on the season, the Wolves came in as

clear underdogs.

The Indians jumped out to the early lead as the Wolves tallied just four points in the first quarter. Pecatonica would only extend their lead in the second quarter as they posted thirteen points in the quarter. The Wolves struggled to keep up, despite getting their opportunities. At the free throw line, Pearl City made just five of twelve attempts on the night. Although Pecatonica was missing several players, the Wolves were not able to take advantage of their early foul trouble.

Their lead continued to grow in the third quarter as the Indians took a 36-19 lead into the final quarter. With the game nearly out of reach, Pearl City was unable to come back. The Wolves were led by Brea Musser, who finished the game with eight points. Kendall Dixon and Cheyenne Handsaker were next up with seven points each, and Audra Lartz finished with six. Despite a quality showing from the Wolves starters, they fell to Pecatonica 45-32.

The Pearl City and Lena-Winslow girls will be back in action on Jan. 24, when the Panthers host the Wolves. The Orangerville girls will play again on Saturday, Jan. 22, when they travel to face off with Pecatonica.

NWILED announces the John D. Cooke, III Memorial Entrepreneurial Scholarship

Since 2018 Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) has offered an entrepreneurial scholarship. On Dec. 8, 2021, the NWILED Board of Directors unanimously voted to rename the annual scholarship in honor and remembrance of the late John D. Cooke III who was a founding member of the organization. We are pleased to announce that the application window for the NWILED John D. Cooke, III Memorial Entrepreneurial Scholarship is now open. All high school seniors in Carroll and Jo Daviess Counties are eligible to apply.

This year NWILED will offer a total of three scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are entrepreneurial and want to start a business or pursue a career in business. There is one (1) \$2,000 first place award and two (2) \$1,500 runners up awards. Awardees will also be invited to NWILED's annual banquet in the fall. Recipients shall be full-time students in good academic standing in the qualifying school year (2021 - 2022). This is not a need-based



John D. Cooke, III

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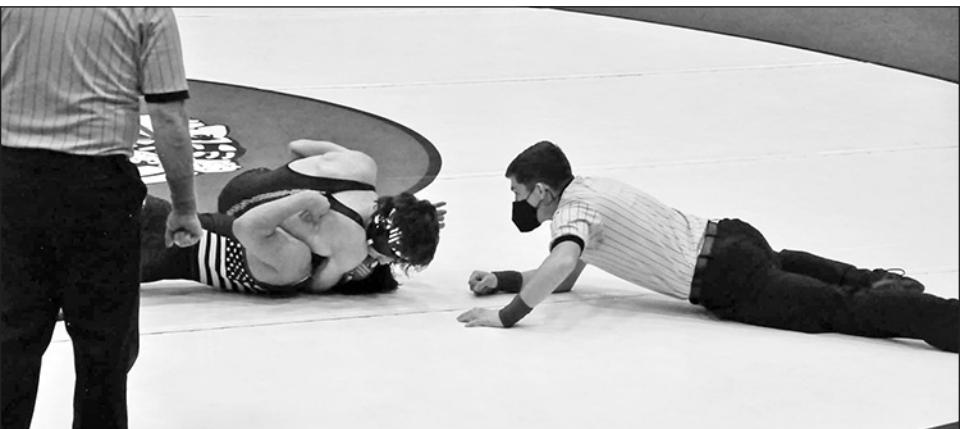
CHRISTAL KLEVER Rock Valley Publishing

For the second year in a row, the Lena-Winslow-Stockton PantherHawk Wrestling team has clinched the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference championship. Mike Haas, above, has 27 victories this season.



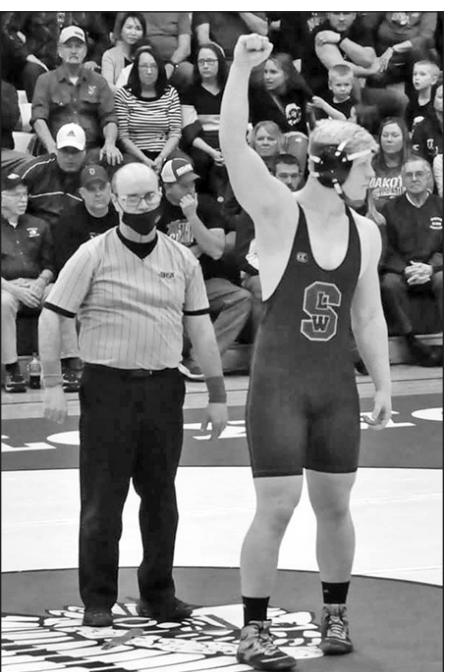
CHRISTAL KLEVER Rock Valley Publishing

Luke Griffin has earned 27 wins this season.



CHRISTAL KLEVER Rock Valley Publishing

Luke Garrett has 26 victories this wrestling season.



CHRISTAL KLEVER Rock Valley Publishing

PantherHawk Henry Engel has 25 seasonal wins in wrestling.

•NUIC (Continued from front page)

Browers at the five minute, forty-seven second mark. It brought Haas' record to 27-3 on the season. The two pins by Griffin and Haas helped Le-Win-Stockton defeat Dakota 33-28.

The PantherHawks have several wrestlers to thank for this achievement, as seven athletes have earned twenty or more victories this season. Griffin and Haas lead the way with twenty-seven wins, Garrett and Mensendike are right behind them with twenty-six victories, while Engel rounds out the top five with twenty-five wins. Dvorak currently sits at twenty-four wins on the season, and senior, Connor Vincent, holds twenty-one victories.

It is truly remarkable to have that many wrestlers over twenty-victories on a class 1A squad. There are several other PantherHawk wrestlers who have had incredible seasons, who have not quite reached twenty victories, either. Senior Marey Roby sits at 17-4, while fellow senior, Nate Noller, sits at 16-5. Zach White holds a record of 16-8, while sophomore, Carson McPeek, sits at 17-6.

The PantherHawks are putting their best out on the mat at the right time as the regular season ramps up to the postseason.

See SCHOLARSHIP, Page 16

**Lena • \$244,900**

Condo - Main floor living, no steps into unit, 6 panel oak doors and 9 ft ceilings. Eat in kitchen has custom cabinets, solid surface counter tops and snack bar. Formal dining room, living room, 2 bedrooms, 3+ seasons room and laundry room. The master bedroom has a large walk in closet, full bathroom with barrier free shower and riser stool. Hall bath has a whirlpool tub with tile surround. The lower level has the third bedroom with another walk in closet, full bathroom and family room with built in shelves. The family room has a patio door to the back yard overlooking Wolf Hollow golf course, concrete and paver patios.

**Lena • \$275,000**

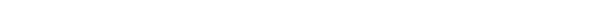
5.22 acre farmette with wonderful potential with a little updating to be a great equestrian property. The large barn features 2 boarding areas with 12 stalls, attached 60' x 120" indoor riding arena, storage in attached additional barn, bar area for entertainment, and open loft area. Several additional 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.

**Lena • \$325,000**

Raised ranch home with attached in-law suite located on 5 acres just inside the city limits with country views. Main Living area features open kitchen dining area with island. Living room has patio door to outside back deck and fenced in yard. Down the hall you will find an updated bathroom, 2 bedrooms, and master with updated on suite. Down the stairs you will find large family room with wood burning fireplace and walk out patio door to the front of the home. Off the family room you have access to the 2 stall garage and mechanical room. You can access the in-law suite from the exterior door or door in the mechanical room. The in-law suite features its own mechanicals and utilities. The main floor in law suite has door to deck, kitchen, living room, full bath and 2 bedrooms. One bedroom has a door to access the back deck and yard. Down the stairs you will find a family room with door to the front patio, mechanical room and attached 1 stall garage. On these 5 acres you will find a pond, creek, old barn, and plenty of room to play.

**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.

**Freeport • 45,900**

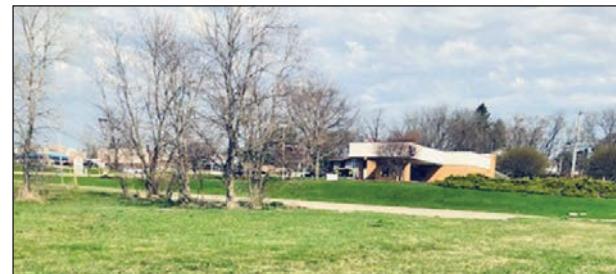
2-3 bedroom home with the main floor featuring an eat in kitchen with washer and dryer hookup with a back porch off to the back yard. Off the kitchen you will find a full bath which has access to the basement. The dining room has double doors into living room which previously had been used as a bedroom and dining room as the living room. Upstairs you will find 2 bedrooms and a storage area.

**Freeport • \$115,000**

Freshly painted exterior on this 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath tri-level home. Entry has built in bookcases, coat and storage closet. There is a half bath and door to back yard. Spacious living room, dining room with door to large deck, kitchen has a gas stove and a wall oven. Upper level has the three bedrooms and full bath, master has double closets. Lower level family room with gas/wood fireplace and laundry room with mechanicals and storage. Backyard perfect for entertaining with the large deck, new fire pit with paver surround, there's also a storage shed. Updates - house exterior and deck painted, landscaping redone, interior upper hall and master bedroom painted, where carpet removed those hardwood floors refinished, laminate flooring added 2021.

**Freeport • \$74,900**

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 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.

**Freeport • \$150,000**

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**Dixon • \$29,500**

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Slices of life

The ABCs of making '22 your best '22



By
JILL PERTLER
Columnist

Turning the calendar over to a new year is often a time of reflection, not only to look backward but also to look ahead. What can happen to make the future bigger and brighter?

The past year has been overflowing with lessons for my life. It's been a year of change and challenges, struggles and success. Simply put, I've learned a lot—about myself and the world.

I like to play with words and decided it might be fun to put together an ABC guide encompassing some of the eurekas I've experienced that might help create a bigger and better 2022 for us all.

Some of the things 2021 taught me:

Allow yourself grace when you make a mistake. Allow others the same grace when they mess up. Appreciate everything else.

Breathe. When the day is long and the road seems steep, take a break and just breathe—in and then out. If you have to take it one breath at a time, you are still breathing, and that's something.

Compassion builds bridges while indifference tears them down. Build bridges.

Don't take things for granted. It puts you on autopilot. Do pay attention. It puts you in line to see the beauty that surrounds and encompasses you. Don't compare yourself to anyone else. Comparisons minimize your uniqueness. Do be authentically and unapologetically you.

Endings often have to happen for beginnings to occur.

Fulfillment comes from within. The world we live in is a beautiful and abundant place. We may be fortunate enough to have loving friends and family in abundance, but we can't be truly fulfilled by the things around us, not even people. That particular abundance must come from a

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See SLICES, Page 15

place deep inside.

Gratitude can serve as the instigator to a joyful outlook. Growth can germinate from the most dire of circumstances. Give more than you receive.

Hit it out of the park. If you're satisfied with a base hit, you'll never achieve a home run.

If a door closes, a window may not open. A whole world might open. Don't limit your possibilities.

Joy is one of the best three letter words ever invented. Practice joy. Allow joy, even if you can only fathom it in the smallest of increments.

Kindness can change the world. We need more kindness because we need to change the world.

Life can be hard, but it can also be joyous. It's also meant to be fun. Sometimes it's all three.

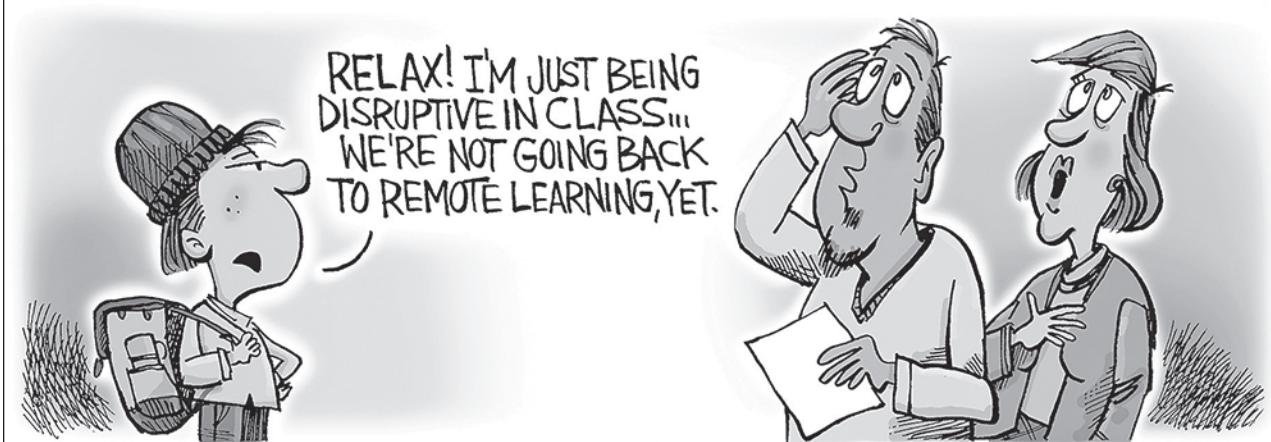
Miracles are often in the eye of the beholder. Be a beholder.

Now is the most important time ever. Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow is not yet here. Be present in the moment; pay attention to the now.

Open your heart and open your mind. None of us knows the answers to all the questions. Live life with an open outlook, especially and most importantly toward those whose outlook differs from yours.

Perspective can literally change your world. You (and only you) get to choose your perspective.

Quit taking life so seriously. This is supposed to be fun. Practice fun.



Gerrymanderers invade your local courthouse



By
JIM NOWLAN

When the political party in power draws new district lines to increase its share of seats and squeeze the other party into irrelevancy, it is called gerrymandering. That is what Illinois Democrats did this past year with congressional and state legislative districts.

To celebrate the new year, Democrats went further, taking a step way too far, across the line. They invaded your local courthouse to gerrymander the way judges are elected, by creating new subdistricts that will elect more judges from their party and fewer from the Republican side.

Lady Justice, the maiden from ancient Greece who holds the scales of justice in her hand, where the evidence can be weighed fairly and honestly for all to see, would not be happy. You see, the Greeks, the Romans, indeed our nation's founders held the judiciary to be, at least ideally, apart from and independent of the rough and tumble of partisan politics.

Not in Illinois, where Democratic partisanship has dominated the courts for

decades, from the Illinois Supreme Court, now all the way down to your local judge.

Indeed, 17 of the present 21 circuit and associate judges in the county are Democrats. But the county has been trending Republican in the past decade. Democrats are worried they may soon lose their slim 5-4 majority of circuit judges, who appoint the associates.

See GERRYMANDERERS, Page 15

STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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PROPERTY FACTS: HOUSE: All brick (1900's), 5 Bedroom, 2 staircases, modern Kitchen cupboards, All major appliances stay, Living & Dining Rms, Main floor Bath w/ tub, New LP Furnace, New metal Roof, Hardwood floors, Oak trim, Enclosed & open Porch. Large home. **OUT BUILDINGS:** 2 story older Barn, 3 stall Pole Shed, 2-1 stall Garages, Grainary, Several Chicken Houses, 1,000 gal. Tank. 71.5 base Aces HEL. Tax Code: 08-13-31-100-009 and 08-13-30-300-003. Highly productive Soils: Greenbush, Fayette, Atterberry, Rozetta. Crop Productivity Index 124.2. Open Possession 2022. **NOTE:** High quality farm ground w/ hard road frontage. Very nice Farmette! Usual Real Estate Auction Terms. Sold subject to Trust confirmation! Union Savings Bank Trust Dept., Freeport, IL • Cheryl Lessman. Heather McPherson, Attorney 815-235-4411. Contact Auctioneer 815-238-3044 with questions.

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Family and tradition top reasons to stay in Illinois, while opportunity and high taxes top reasons to leave

By Rep. Andrew Chesney

The Wall Street Journal Editorial Board published an editorial about a month ago titled, "The Fleeing Young of Illinois". It's worth a read and a hard look in the mirror for all Illinoisans, but especially for our progressive democrat friends. The editorial discusses the reasons people, particularly young people, flee Illinois at such an incredible rate.

Illinois is one of only three states, including West Vir-

ginia and Mississippi to have lost population since 2010. I do not think the editorial will come as a surprise to those of us who live in areas along our state's borders. Those who choose to live in Northwest Illinois know that we have a longer commute to get to many of Illinois' assets, particularly those that come with big city living.

We are certainly willing to compromise some conveniences because of the sheer

beauty and slower pace of rural living. Most of us stay here because of family and tradition. Our region may seem imperfect to outsiders, but there is something to be said for driving by the church each day where your grandparents got married or playing on the same ball diamond that your father played on as a child. These powerful memories and traditions tug at our heartstrings in all the best ways. Those who leave for greener

pastures, still harken back to these traditions and memories in repose and long for home.

However, the editorial rightly points out that many of our kids and grandkids are not willing to compromise in the ways the state of Illinois has driven them to have to compromise to make the too-often illogical decision to stay in Illinois. According to the WSJ, Illinois' median age has increased from 36.6 to 38.8, making it one of the fastest

aging states. Even states with a higher median age, like Florida, gained young people, while Illinois saw a decline in those aged 25-39.

Some go to college and don't come back - we call this the "brain drain". Others left because of high taxes. According to Wirepoints, each Illinois household is on the hook for \$110,000 in public employee retirement debt, up from \$90,000 in 2019. Those states in similar positions, even in the Midwest, are still gaining young, working-aged people to help eventually pay for their debts. That's not the case in Illinois, though.

A shrinking population of prime age working people along with attractive reasons for seniors to stay (like Illinois' only competitive advantage no tax on retirement income), has set into motion a fiscal time bomb that will loom over our tax base for many years to come.

In a time where families are having to keep tight household budgets due to inflation fueled by our failed federal

government policies, state government should tighten its belt. Progressive politicians must stop spending your money irresponsibly and we certainly should not be creating new programs that are unsustainable when COVID dollars run out. It is just not sustainable.

The fact that Illinois loses one seat in our federal representation in the redistricting battle, now settled, is only a symptom of the greater problem. The State of Illinois has a gaping wound created by fiscal mismanagement. Neither band-aids nor happy talk will make the bleeding stop. Our fiscal priorities should reflect an honest notion to address cost-drivers (like taxpayer funded healthcare costs and exploding pensions) while working our way out of the debt-hole of which we have found ourselves at the bottom. If we don't fix this problem in this generation then these local landmarks and traditions so meaningful to us all will only be cast as permanent in our memories alone.

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State Representative Andrew Chesney announces candidacy for 45th state senate seat

State Representative Andrew Chesney launched his candidacy for the Illinois State Senate District 45 today after current Senator Brian Stewart announced he will not seek re-election. Chesney is a third term Republican State Representative who was sworn into office on Dec. 5, 2018, following his election as State Representative of the 89th district in Nov. 2018.

"Brian Stewart is my mentor and friend, a principled conservative and job creator. Instead of trying to be a career politician, he was a long-time public servant who focused on doing what was right for his constituents. Though we served in different chambers, our values were always aligned. I am proud to have his full support and endorsement of my candidacy in the 45th Senate District," said Chesney.

"My run for the 45th District is a step towards more opportunity for Illinois families who have seen their personal freedoms, businesses, and security dry up under the detrimental one-party rule of this state government. Someone needs to remind the Springfield elite

that the decisions they make on budgets, on restrictions, on mandates, and on raising taxes all impact the cost of living and doing business in Illinois. Without hard-working conservatives on the front lines, it will eventually be cheaper to leave than live in our state. The work I've done in the State House, and will continue to do in the Senate, shines a light on unethical legislative behaviors and holds politicians accountable to the people they represent," said Chesney.

"We cannot continue operating with a backwards ideology where politics comes before families, criminals come before victims, benefits for illegal immigrants come before funding law enforcement, and mandates come before our constitutional rights," said Chesney. "I am running for State Senate to bring logic and people-first values back to Illinois."

Andrew Chesney and his wife Kelly reside in Freeport. He is an honors graduate of Arizona State University. He has built a career in real estate and for over a decade played a primary role in his family-owned manufacturing business.

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

January hit us with a vengeance last week with below zero temperatures. I don't know about you readers, but I was lucky enough not to have to go to work. So, I became a house bound person. I was grateful we didn't lose electricity because I didn't want to lose heat. It is the little things in life that keep us going. This week's recipes are featuring some appetizers to get ready for Super Bowl, a unique and easy veggie, and a yummy warming soup. There are a couple of desserts thrown in because we all need some sweets when it is cold.

Maple Honey Cranberry Sauce

This cranberry sauce is an all-around good sauce. Serve it as a side to ham or turkey, pour it over ice cream, or serve it with pound cake. It is great any time.

2 C. fresh or frozen whole cranberries

½ C. maple syrup

½ C. honey

1 T. grated orange zest

In a large saucepan, combine the cranberries, syrup, honey, and zest. Cook over medium heat until berries pop, about 15 minutes. Refrigerate in a covered bowl until ready to use. Top with extra orange zest.

Simple Roast Brussels Sprouts

I have said before that Brussels sprouts have replaced cauliflower as the new "in" vegetable. This one is a quick prep and a quick bake. Try the flavors in this recipe if you are new to the taste of Brussels sprouts.

2 lbs. Brussels sprouts, halved

6 bacon strips, chopped

2 T. olive oil

½ t. salt

½ t. pepper

2 T. balsamic vinegar

Preheat the oven to 450. Spray a jelly roll pan with cooking spray. In a bowl, combine the Brussels sprouts, bacon, olive oil, salt, and pepper. Spread on baking sheet. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, stirring halfway through until the vegetables are tender and browned. Place in serving bowl and drizzle with balsamic vinegar.

Crab au Gratin

This delicious appetizer can be served at your Super

Bowl party. I would eat it as a main entry because it is so good.

2 T. plus 1 t. butter, divided

3 T. flour

½ t. salt

1/8 t. paprika

½ C. half-and-half

½ C. milk

¼ C. chicken broth

1 can (6 oz.) crabmeat, drained, flaked and cartilage removed or ½ C. chopped imitation crabmeat chopped

1 can (4 oz.) mushroom with stems and pieces, drained and chopped

½ t. minced chives

½ shredded cheddar cheese

1 T. dry bread crumb

Assorted crackers and vegetables

In a saucepan, melt 2 T. butter. Stir in the flour, salt and paprika until smooth. Add half-and-half cream, milk, and stock. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 1 to 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir in crab, mushrooms and chives; heat through. Stir in cheese just until melted.

Transfer to a greased shallow 1-qt baking dish. Melt remaining butter; toss with breadcrumbs. Sprinkle over the crab mixture. Bake, uncovered at 400 for 10 to 15 minutes or until bubbly. Let stand for 5 minutes. Serve with crackers and vegetables.

Turkey Pot Pie

If you have some turkey in the freezer left over from Christmas, this pot pie would be a great warm supper treat. If you don't want to decorate with the pie crust leaves, use whatever cutters you have. You can also omit this step. If you don't have white wine, use more chicken stock instead.

1 pkg refrigerated piecrust dough

¼ C. butter, melted

2 ribs celery, chopped (1 C.)

1 small onion, chopped (3/4 C.)

½ C. flour

1 can (14.5 oz.) chicken broth

½ C. white wine

2 C. cooked turkey cut into ¾ inch pieces

1 can (14.5 oz.) diced new potatoes, rinsed, drained

1 egg, beaten

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. On lightly floured surface, roll out half of dough to 11-inch round. Transfer to baking sheet; cover. Roll out remaining dough to 1/8-inch thickness. Using leaf cutters, cut out shapes. Transfer to baking sheet; cover. Place rimmed baking sheet on center rack in oven; heat to 400. In pot, mix butter, celery and onion; over medium heat, cook until tender, about 8 minutes. Sprinkle in flour; cook, stirring until golden, 2

minutes. Add broth and wine; cook, stirring, until thick, 5 minutes. Stir in turkey and potatoes.

Transfer to a 9-inch-deep pie pan. Top with dough and leaves; crimp edge. Cut slits in top of dough. Brush with egg. Transfer to baking sheet; bake until golden and bubbly, about 30 minutes.

Grasshopper Cheesecake

I had a request for a reprint of this grasshopper cheesecake. It would be a great dessert for Valentine's Day or just as a special treat during the dark days of winter.

35 chocolate wafers, finely crushed (about 1 2/3 cups)

¼ C. butter, melted

1 T. plus ¾ C. sugar divided
1 envelope unflavored gelatin

½ C. cold water

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

1/3 C. green crème de menthe liqueur

2 C. heavy whipping cream, whipped

In a small bowl, combine the cookie crumbs, butter and 1 tablespoon of sugar. Press half of the mixture onto the bottom of a greased 9-inch spring form pan. Refrigerate until chilled. In a small saucepan, sprinkle gelatin over cold water; let stand for 1 minute. Heat over low heat, stirring until gelatin is completely dissolved. Cool. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese and remaining sugar until fluffy. Gradually beat in gelatin mixture. Stir in crème de menthe. Set aside ½ cup whipped cream for garnish. Fold remaining whipped cream into cream cheese mixture.

Pour half of the filling over the crust. Top with remaining crumb mixture, reserving 2 tablespoons for garnish. Pour remaining filling into pan; garnish with reserved whipped cream. Sprinkle with reserved crumbs. Chill until set. Remove the sides of the pan before slicing.

Dark Chocolate Cream Pie

If you have never had homemade chocolate pudding pie, you are in for a real treat. My mother used to make this pie; it was my father's favorite. You can use a prepared pie crust or make your own. I suggest you try this unique and delicious pie.

Single crust pie dough

1 ¼ C. sugar

¼ C. cornstarch

½ t. salt

3 C. 2 % milk

3 oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped

4 egg yolks, lightly beaten

3 T. butter

½ t. vanilla

Whipped cream and grated

chocolate for garnish

Use prepared pie dough or make your own. Line a 9-inch pie pan with dough and trim and flute the edges. Line the crust with a double thickness of foil. Fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake on a lower oven rack until the edge is golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. Remove foil and weights; bake until the bottom is golden brown, 3 to 6 minutes longer. Cool crust on a wire rack.

In a saucepan, combine the sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Stir in milk and chocolate. Cook and stir mixture over medium-high until thickened and bubbly. Reduce heat; cook and stir for another 2

minutes. Remove from the heat. Stir a small amount of hot filling into egg yolks; return all to the pan, stirring constantly. Bring to a gentle boil; cook and stir 2 minutes. Remove from heat. Gently stir in butter and vanilla until butter is fully melted. Spoon filling into crust. Cool on a wire rack. Cover by pressing Saran Wrap onto surface of chocolate so a skin does not form. Chill for at least 3 hours. Serve with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Final Thoughts

It sounds as if the colder weather is going to set in again. I know it is January!

If you are a football fan, you will be watching the playoffs. I graduated from the University of Illinois, so I watch Illini basketball on a regular basis. After my Christmas bout of ill health, I finally feel like cooking again. Most of my appetite is back, and maybe that is not a good thing. Please stay safe and healthy. Remember that we will be looking for some heartier cooking recipes, so if you have a good soup, bread, or pie recipe, send it our way. Contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide at 240 W. Main St. or email us at scoopshopper@rvpub.com.

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JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY
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Nationstar Mortgage LLC
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Richard Berger; et. al.
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Renewable diesel poised to power growth in soybean demand

By Daniel Grant
FARMWEEK

Soybean growers could see demand growth from the biofuels sector in the next decade, reminiscent of the ethanol boom that shifted into high gear in the early 2000s and pushed corn use to new heights.

The key product set to take off is renewable diesel, not to be confused with biodiesel.

Both fuels use any oil or fat, mostly soybean oil, as feedstock. But the processing for each product differs, with renewable diesel generated from more high free fatty acid feedstocks, which produce better carbon intensity scores.

"Renewable diesel has emerged. It's all about reducing the carbon intensity of fuel blends," James Fry, founder and chairman of LMC International, said during a webinar hosted by the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC).

Mac Marshall, vice president of market intelligence for USSEC and the United Soybean Board, reported current production totals about 2.4 billion gallons of biodiesel and nearly 1 billion

gallons of renewable diesel nationwide each year.

But, with proposed plants all over the U.S., particularly along the Southern coast and Pacific Northwest, potential new capacity for renewable diesel production could skyrocket to 5.97 billion gallons by 2024.

"What makes it exciting is the partnerships forming between soy crushers and the petroleum industry," Marshall said. "When you see the private sector investments coming in, it makes this seem more tangible."

One partnership to accelerate renewable diesel production announced in the fall involves a 50/50 joint venture between Chevron U.S.A. and Bunge North America.

The venture aims to establish a reliable supply chain from farmer to fueling station for both companies. Bunge is expected to contribute its soybean-processing facilities in Cairo on the southern tip of Illinois and in Destrehan, Louisiana, while Chevron contributes \$600 million. The two companies anticipate doubling the combined capacity at the two facilities by 2024.

"As the world's largest oilseed processor, we are pleased to expand our partnership with an energy leader to increase our participation in the development of next generation, renewable fuels," said Greg Heckman, Bunge CEO. "We share a commitment to sustainability and reducing carbon in the energy value chain."

Demand for vegetable oil is expected to grow worldwide, but production of Indonesian and Malaysian palm oil could fall due in part to declining production area and environmental constraints, Fry noted. That puts soybean oil in the driver's seat as the key feedstock to fuel renewable diesel.

LMC projects global vegetable oil production could increase 2% annually, but growth of soy output could reach 3.5% a year while sunflower and canola oil production increase just 1.5% and palm oil production possibly stagnates.

"The one oil that's going to meet this demand growth is soybean oil," Fry said. "By 2030, soy oil will be significantly ahead of palm as the leading oil (worldwide)."

With soybean production

on the rise in South America and the U.S., Scott Gerlt, economist with the American Soybean Association, believes there will be plenty of supply to meet expanding soybean demand for renewable diesel production. He does not expect the new market to resurrect the food-versus-fuel debate sparked by the introduction of the Renewable Fuels Standard in 2005.

"There's plenty of supply. We're seeing increased crush capacity," Gerlt said. "And, we have to remember that for every pound of soy oil, we get 4 pounds of meal."

As for the near future, Gerlt doesn't anticipate a large increase in U.S. soybean plantings in 2022.

"In the U.S., a lot of planting decisions are driven by rotation, so we don't usually see wholesale changes in acreage," he added. "I'm not expecting a wide swing on acres at this point."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Answers

S	T	E	T		U	S	A	B	L	E
T	I	M	E		N	O	N	P	A	R
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REAL ESTATE NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR
THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY -
FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

Nationstar Mortgage LLC d/b/a
Champion Mortgage Company

PLAINTIFF

Vs.
Richard Berger; et. al.
DEFENDANTS

2021CH14

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 12/14/2021, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on February 17, 2022 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

PIN 18-18-01-104-030

Improved with Single Family Home

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
1453 Bolkinwood Dr
Freeport, IL 61032

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser

not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place

after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-21-01350. I3184513

(Published in The Shopper's Guide
Jan. 5, 12 & 19, 2022)

410617

Gerrymanderers

(Continued from page 11)

So, in this new year, without any public hearings or significant discussion in legislative committee, Democrats imposed on Madison and other mid-size counties across Illinois new subcircuits for judges, which will protect and enhance Democrat judgeships.

For Madison County, the Democrats in Springfield (from Chicago and Cook County, actually) added a unique wrinkle, which almost guarantees the first three new judges to be elected to fill retirements will be Democrats. This would guarantee their party's dominance long into what otherwise may well be a Republican future.

Playing politics with the courts is not healthy for democracy. In fact, the chief administrative officer of the

Illinois Supreme Court sent a memo to her justices that called the new local court redistricting "an unmitigated disaster."

First, the Democrats reached into the judiciary to play partisan games simply because, giddy with power, they could! Dems holds more than two-thirds of the state senate seats and almost as big a fraction in the House. Indeed, this dominance results largely from gerrymandering a decade ago, which exaggerates statewide political party divisions.

Second, the Illinois Supreme Court itself was gerrymandered in 1962 to all but guarantee a Democratic majority on that court, which has been the case unbroken until 2020. In that year, however, the Democrats lost

their elected majority on the state high court. So, what did the legislature do? You're right; they gerrymandered the state high court districts last year, in hopes of regaining their majority.

With shameless duplicity, Democratic leaders say they have created new subcircuits so that judges will represent communities of interest. This flies in the face, of course, of the new gerrymandered congressional and state legislative districts, which are often shaped like slithering snakes, communities be damned.

One small Illinois city is shattered into four different state senate districts! Communities of interest—balderdash!

I appreciate that to the average voter, busy with trying to make a buck and

rear a family during the disrupting pandemic, this matter is political inside baseball of the highest order, and almost impossible to follow. Yet those of us who know about this travesty must protest. Our courts are too important.

Lady Justice would not be smiling.

Jim Nowlan is a former state legislator, senior aide to three Illinois governors, newspaper publisher, and professor of American politics. He is a volunteer senior adviser to the Judicial Fairness Project, a group created after the 2016 decision by the Illinois Supreme Court, which knocked off the ballot a citizens' initiative to create an independent redistricting commission.

Slices

(Continued from page 11)

Rest when you need to. Radiate joy and love outward whenever you can.

See things as they really are and trust in your gut. The sun shines brightly every day, even when clouds attempt to block our view.

Trust is incompatible with worry and fear. Trust in yourself. Trust in the universe. Trust in life.

Unconditional love is one of the greatest gifts

we can give one another and ourselves. Try to love unconditionally, without outcomes.

Value what you have over what you want. Value the relationships that ring true in your life, whether they have withstood the test of time or whether they are in their infancy.

Worry less. What's the worst thing that could happen? When I ask myself

this question, I realize things probably aren't so bad.

We is always more important than me.

You are important. You are worthwhile. You matter.

Because X and Z are challenging letters, I followed my advice under "A" and gave myself grace to skip over them. I also couldn't whittle "W" down to just one, so included two, which seems appropriate since it

is a double-U. I hope you find this list useful. If one of my observations meets your needs, I've met my goal.

All the best in 2022. Let's make it the best year ever.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. She invites readers to follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

Pearl City Public Library hosts best-selling author Silvia Moreno-Garcia

Pearl City Public Library District is joining 200 libraries across the state of Illinois in a new collaborative effort, Illinois Libraries Present, to bring virtual events with bestselling and esteemed authors to their communities. The collaborative effort kicks off in January with an event featuring author Silvia Moreno-Garcia. Moreno-Garcia, the bestselling and award-winning author of *Mexican Gothic*, will discuss her new book, *Velvet Was the*

Night, and her genre-defying mashups of cultural noir and Lovecraftian horror. The event will be held virtually on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

Silvia Moreno-Garcia is the author of the critically acclaimed novels *Certain Dark Things*, *Gods of Jade and Shadow*, and *Mexican Gothic*. Her newest book, *Velvet Was the Night*, was included on *The New York Times*' list of 100 notable books of 2021. Taking place in 1970s Mexico City, the book revolves

around a daydreaming secretary, a lonesome enforcer, and the mystery of a missing woman they're both desperate to find.

Author events are often a cornerstone of library programming. Throughout the pandemic such events have continued, but in a virtual format. As these events have flourished, libraries have joined together to host a variety of bestselling and award-winning authors and thought leaders. Joining forc-

es for such events allow libraries to bring speakers to their communities that might not be possible due to budget constraints or production capabilities. And that's just the point of Illinois Libraries Present. By working together, libraries are able to bring an event to multiple and diverse communities, providing access for many library patrons to attend, while at the same time, expanding the platform for the author.

"We're thrilled to welcome

Silvia Moreno-Garcia as the first featured speaker. We saw Mexican Gothic become a huge hit with readers and wanted to showcase the talent behind it and her body of work," notes Kate Cundiff of Algonquin Area Public Library District.

Mexican by birth, Canadian by inclination, Moreno-Garcia has also edited several anthologies and is a columnist for *The Washington Post*. Silvia Moreno-Garcia will be joined in conversation for the

event with author Gus Moreno. Moreno recently published his debut novel *This Thing Between Us*.

An Evening with Silvia Moreno-Garcia will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26. The event is free and open to the public, but registration is required. To register, visit <https://www.facebook.com/Pearl-City-Public-Library-District-143506389015415/>. For more information call 815-443-2832.

• Scholarship

(Continued from page 9)

scholarship. Scholarships can be used for start-up costs related to launching a business and/or advancing a career in business through education and training.

Completed applications and/or questions should be sent to David Schmit, Program Coordinator DSchmit@nwiled.org or 1 Commercial Drive, Ste. 2, Hanover, IL 61041 by Friday, Mar. 18, 2022. Scholarship information will be posted on the NWILED website under the Resources tab. Winners will be announced in May.

Past winners have included students connected to Three Sisters Sweet Shoppe in Elizabeth, and Davis Lumber Company in Scales Mound, in addition to a student from Savanna that proposed a sign language business, and a student from the Galena Territory who is developing a hand-crafted artisan doll line.

For more information about NWILED visit nwiled.org.

Church

news —

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena. The third Sunday after Epiphany worship service will be held on Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. Join service in-person or via Facebook Live. The reading will be from Luke 4:14-21.

On Tuesday, Jan. 25, Bible Study group will meet at 10 a.m. The reading is the Joseph story from Genesis. Peace Corps Quilting group will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 26, from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

All the services will be recorded and be available on church's Facebook page and website at <http://goodshepherdlena.org/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL>. Please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

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