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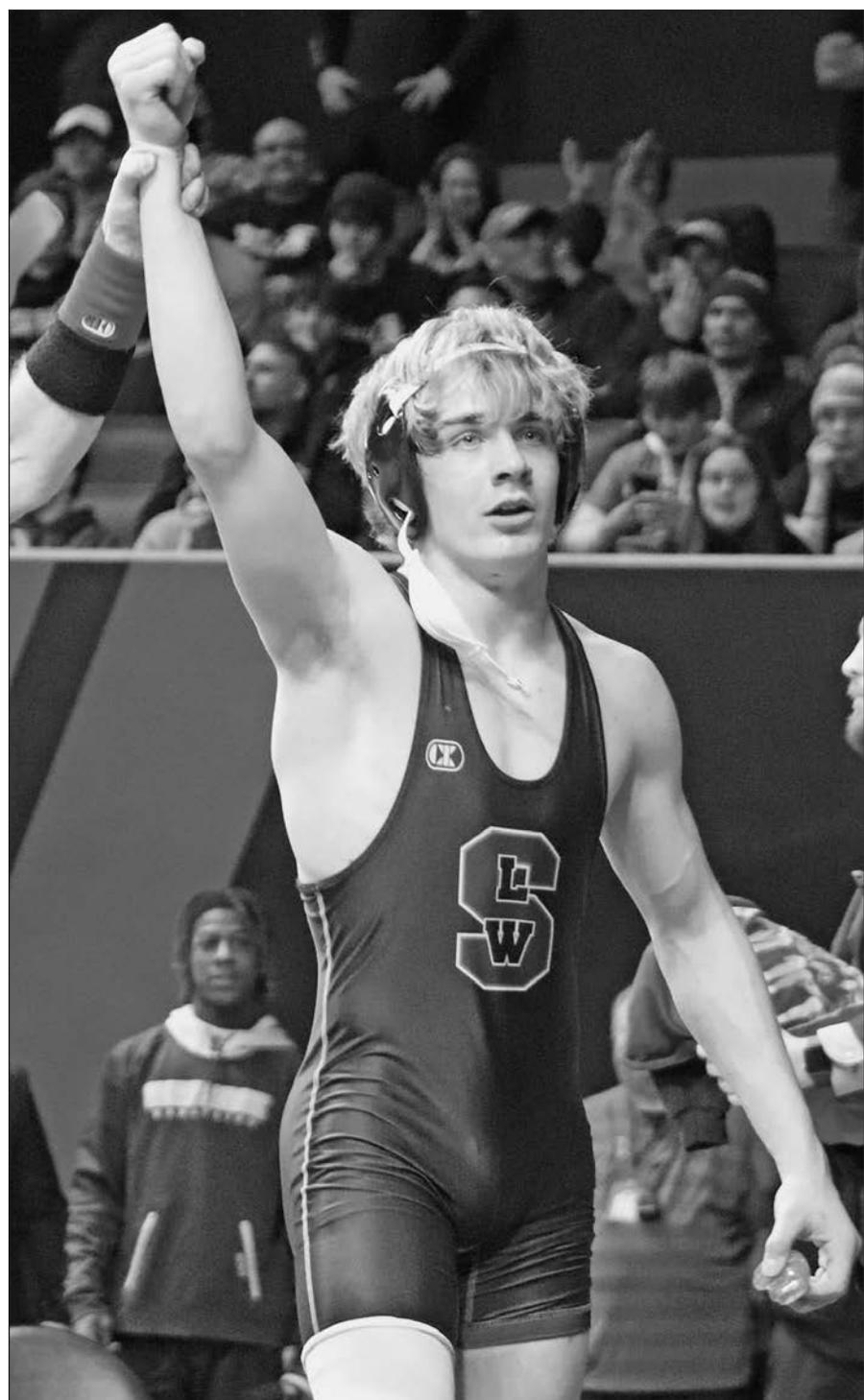
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VOL. 88 • NO. 10

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022



DEANA FAWORSKI PHOTO *Shopper's Guide*

Le-Win/Stockton wrestling action

Garrett Luke beats Tavius Hosley (Unity) in the state championship match. See more photos on page 5 inside.

Panthers fall to Scales Mound

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers saw their boys basketball season come to an end as they fell in the regional semifinals to the Scales Mound Hornets. Although it was not the ending the Panther faithful had hoped for, it was impressive to see how the team developed toward the end of the season. After starting the year 3-7, Le-Win managed to turn things around by going 15-7 in their final 22 games. That includes multiple overtime wins, including a triple overtime victory over the Orangeville Broncos in the opening round of regionals.

Lena-Winslow Head Coach, Kyle Benson, spoke about the ups and downs the team experienced throughout the season. "This team went through some peaks and valleys this year, and during all of that, we asked them to trust the process that was necessary for us to go through to become the best team we could be." Kyle said of the team's early season struggles. Le-Win saw the process payout toward the end of the season, as Kyle explained, "They did trust the process, and the reward was that we played our best basketball at the end of the season and had some

huge wins against some high-quality opponents."

Kyle and the Panthers were able to feel satisfaction with how they finished the season. "I think we were all able to look each other in the eye and acknowledge that we did everything we could to be successful. That is a very rewarding feeling," Kyle said, adding it was the seniors who helped them get to that point. "We relied on our seniors, Maddex Sargent, Kam Klever, Luke Benson, and Brody Mahon, to set the proper tone for how we wanted to play, and they did an outstanding job of that. Our underclassmen all contributed, as well. This group was a true team, which made them a fun team to coach. I am very proud of them." Kyle shared.

Luke Benson, the son of head coach, Kyle Benson, and younger brother of former Panther, Cade Benson, spoke about his time as a Panther and playing for his dad. "Being able to play for my dad and for him to be right there while I played my basketball career has been nothing short of amazing," Luke said. As a senior at Lena-Winslow, Luke will graduate as a two-time Illinois State football champion. While Kyle was on the sidelines for those champion-

ships as the football team's offensive coordinator, we got to see some special moments play out for Luke and Kyle, on and off the basketball court, as well.

Kyle spoke about those memories and what he will remember most, saying, "In terms of what I will remember most, that's a tough question. I will remember some of those "Luke moments", like hitting a half-court shot at the United Center his freshman year or hitting the game-winning three pointer in triple overtime against Orangeville this past season. Being with him on the sidelines for two state championships in football ranks up there too." After acknowledging the memories on the court and field, Kyle reminisced on the special moments he and Luke will always share. "Honestly, what I will probably remember the most are the conversations, bus rides, laughs, and post-game McDonalds runs we had over the years." Kyle added.

"I feel very lucky and grateful for having [Kyle] as my dad, as well as my coach." Luke said, explaining, "Every special night or moment while playing basketball in high school, he

See FALL, Page 6



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Obituaries

MARY MONICA RIZZO

Mary Monica Rizzo, known by most as "Mona", of Lena passed away on Feb. 21, 2022, in Freeport. She was born Feb. 3, 1930, to Leo and Julia (Novak) Dwyer in Hinsdale and was a life-long Illinois resident. She attended high school at Nazareth Academy in La Grange Park. In order to attend, she worked various part-time jobs to raise the funds for her tuition. Mona was an aspiring commercial artist and studied at the American Academy of Art in Chicago. She had excellent secretarial skills and worked at an insurance agency and other firms in downtown Chicago. She met the love of her life, Salvatore J. Rizzo, while skating at a roller rink. They married on Oct. 8, 1955, at St. Frances Xavier Catholic Church in La Grange, and started their family in the Village



of Downers Grove.

Mona enjoyed camping with Sal and the family which led them to eventually discover Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park, prompting the couple to relocate to Lena after Sal's retirement. She liked travel and visited Arizona, California, Washington State, and other locations in the US, and Italy. She was enthused about greeting cards, birds, following her favorite pro sports teams, sharing recipes, collecting cookbooks, and celebrating the holidays, especially Christmas. Other interests included sewing, ceramics, and attending local high school plays with her girlfriends. Mona regularly participated in a Lena Tues-

day night art class where she socialized while expressing her artistic talents. She loved being in touch with good friends and relatives.

Mona practiced her unshakeable Christian faith, recited a daily rosary, and was an active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church. As a dedicated wife and mother, she made a comfortable, nurturing home, and encouraged her family to work hard and pursue their dreams.

Mona is survived by 4 children: Tracy Rizzo of Chicago, IL; Sandra (John Diamond) Rizzo of Mesa, AZ; Mary (Mauro Rutili) Rizzo of San Benedetto Del Tronto, Italy; and Gregory (Andrea) Rizzo of Evergreen Park, IL, and 6 grandchildren: Paul Diamond; Monica Rizzo; Philip Rizzo; Christopher Rizzo; Anna Rizzo; and Miriam Rutili. She has one surviving sister, Rog-

ene Rosinski. She is also survived by many beloved nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Mona is preceded in death by: her parents; husband Salvatore (2003); brother Lloyd Brian Dwyer; sister Marguerite Westendorf; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Visitation was held at Leamon Funeral Home, Lena IL, on Monday, Feb. 28, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by a Catholic funeral Mass, 10 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lena, IL. Officiating was by Father Michael Morrisey. Mona also was celebrated later that day at a chapel service at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL, where she is to be interred near her husband and parents. A memorial has been established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

LAUREN ASHLEY GIBSON SCHINDLER

Lauren Ashley Gibson Schindler was born May 5, 1987 at Freeport Memorial Hospital. She passed away at her home in Colorado Springs on Feb. 6, 2022.

Lauren was a cheerful and content little girl who loved the outdoors and her farm animals, especially her dog Apollo, her chickens, and her pet calf. Lauren had to be bribed with a McDonald's happy meal to hold her sister Joy when she was born. From that inauspicious start, Lauren would one day become a loving and devoted mother to two beautiful boys, Lukas (7) and Odin (4).

Most especially, Lauren loved horses. She wore out the knees of her jeans playing horses with her best friend Julie Kunde when they were in kindergarten. On their last day of high school, Lauren and Julie rode their horses to Hempstead High School and created quite a scene. Lauren was instrumental in bringing high school rodeo to Dubuque County, and she earned a 4th place finish in the state of Wisconsin's Barrel Racing Championship in her senior year of high school. Lauren took her horse Ditto to the University of Northern Iowa with her because "Ditto was her best friend." She worked at the boarding stable morning and night to pay for Ditto's boarding costs.

While in college, Lauren discovered a passion for history and travel. She became a counselor with Camp Adventure, which took her to Germany. She met many interesting people in her travels, including her future husband Nathan (Nate) Schindler, a member of the United States Army. They were married in Lake Tahoe, CA on Sep. 15, 2011. Soon thereafter, they were stationed in Stuttgart, Germany. They traveled extensively throughout Europe and even purchased authentic lederhosen to celebrate Oktoberfest in nearby villages.

Slinky, a pure-bred standard dachshund, was the first addition to their family. Lauren fell in love with Germany and considered it her spiritual home and the place she most loved.

While in Germany, Lauren earned a master's degree in International Relations from the University of Oklahoma. She created a position for herself on the base in Stuttgart and implemented an internship program for students studying cybersecurity. Lauren and Nate returned to Colorado Springs, and Lauren created a new position for herself with the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) at Cheyenne Mountain. Her efforts were recognized, and she was asked to join the consulting firm of Booz Allen Hamilton.

It was here that Lauren led a team in an effort to revolutionize and modernize classified data collection and mobile access to classified military systems. Lauren was also part of a larger team effort tasked with bringing innovative changes to the way the military provides network connectivity across the globe in a combat environment.

Lauren is survived by her husband Nate and her boys Lukas and Odin, her father Kenneth (Yvonne) Gibson, her mother Jodi (Catherine Peterson) Gibson, her sister Joy, and many beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents Kenneth H. Gibson and Carolyn Manges, maternal grandparents Lorraine and Orin Brinkmeier, and her Aunt Terri Mitro.

A visitation was held for Lauren on Feb. 10 at the Return to Nature Funeral Home and a funeral service was held at Ascension Lutheran Church on Feb. 11, both in Colorado Springs. A memorial service will be held on Mar. 5 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City, IL starting at 11 a.m.

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Loss of rural health services creating care deserts

By Tammie Sloup
FARMWEEK
A rural health care advisory and analytics provider has found nearly half of rural hospitals have refrained from admissions because of nursing shortages this past year. Additionally, more than a quarter of rural hospitals have ceased offering some services due to staffing challenges.

"Alarm bells should be ringing on this topic. This is a very big deal," said Michael Topchik, the national leader of The Chartis Center for Rural Health, during the National Rural Health Association's Policy Institute on Feb. 8. Utilizing analytics and data to understand and address issues challenging the rural health safety net including

health disparities and inequity, provider vulnerability and sustainable performance improvement, Topchik said that while pandemic funding has provided temporary stabilization to rural hospitals, the emerging nursing shortage continues to worsen.

"This is the No. 1 need in our surveys and across a variety of ways we've looked at this, this is the biggest challenge rural hospitals tell us they have is staffing, staffing, staffing," Topchik said.

The majority of nurses who have left rural hospitals exited for more lucrative positions, while others report being burned out from the pandemic and having to cover as a result of shortages.

Staffing shortages have also impacted services. While some services were suspended by law during the pandemic, Chartis data highlighted trends with obstetric and chemotherapy services, which did not fall under that umbrella.

Between 2011 and 2021, 198 rural hospitals ceased to provide obstetrics, while 311 rural hospitals ceased to provide chemotherapy between 2014 and 2017.

"I'm afraid to say that it's really the story behind the story of the hospital closure crisis. It's the story behind the story of the pandemic, which is that we're seeing the loss of these services in rural areas, creating virtual deserts of care for very important services," Topchik said.

Nearly half of rural hospitals are operating with a negative margin (excluding relief funds), with two rural hospitals closing in 2021, he said. The \$12.6 billion in pandemic relief payments has helped, but only temporarily. And Topchik anticipates relative stability through 2022.

"There's been some bright news, which is last year we didn't see that many closures and we are predicting this year we won't see that many ei-

ther," he said. Attendees of the policy institute also met with members of Congress—including a handful from Illinois—to discuss emerging issues facing rural communities. Following his meeting with Illinois rural health representatives, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, issued a news release about the discussion in which he highlighted the \$1 billion secured in the American Rescue Plan for the National Health Service Corps and Nurse Corps to build a more diverse pipeline of clinicians and recruit more health providers to serve in shortage areas.

To address other rural health care workforce issues, Durbin has introduced the bipartisan Rural America Health Corps Act, which would create a National Health Service Corps pilot program to test whether an expanded loan repayment award and service commitment—\$200,000 over five years—would improve

retention in rural communities, according to the news release. The Chartis Group also announced the 2022 Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals and the 2022 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals. Based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX, this annual recognition program honors outstanding performance among the nation's rural hospitals.

A handful of Illinois hospitals made the lists, including Wabash General Hospital in Mount Carmel (critical access hospital); and HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, Jersey Community Hospital in Jerseyville and OSF Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in Ottawa (rural and community hospitals).

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.

Obituaries

CHRISTOPHER MOORE
Christopher Nelson Moore, age 73, passed away at home Feb. 2, 2022. He was born March 18, 1948 in Newton, MA to George N Moore and Jeanne Laurent. Christopher was married to Joanna M. Hartung on Mar. 29, 2012 in Freeport, IL.



his listeners laugh as loud as he did. Although he was raised in the city and loved its energy, he lived his last decades in the country and grew to love rural peace and quiet. In his late years he doted on his fine cat, Misha, and mourned deeply that animal's demise.

Christopher was preceded in death by his parents and step-father, Charles Ellis. In addition to his wife, Joanna, he is survived by his stepsons Graham (Heather) in Crete, Illinois and Garth (Mary) of Chicago, three step-grandchildren, his brother Nicholas, Patrick (in California) and sister Shannon, nieces and extended family (in France), sisters Amanda and Victoria (in Australia), as well as a great circle of friends.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and a family memorial gathering will be held in the summer. Walker Mortuary is assisting the family and condolences can be shared for Christopher at www.walker-mortuary.com.

DENNIS EUGENE NOLAN
Dennis Eugene Nolan, age 70 of Lena, IL, went to be with the Lord on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022. He was born on Jul. 4, 1951 in Freeport, IL, to Orville and Lucille (Wales) Nolan. Dennis married Sally Hildebrand on Oct. 25, 1972 in Orangeville, IL.



er, Natalie and Hayden M c N u t t , K a y l e i g h P l a y c h a k ; brother David (Fawn) Nolan of Lena; and several nieces and nephews.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents; wife Sally; son-in-law Jeremy McNutt; mother and father-in-law Janet and Neal Hildebrand; sister Mary Brown and brother-in-law Dennis Brown.

Visitation will take place from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 5, 2022 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena. Funeral services to follow beginning at 11:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena. Officiating will be Rev. Rick Bader. Interment will take place at Lena Burial Park. A memorial has been established in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

Dennis is survived by his two daughters Stacey (Mike) Playchak of Lakeland, FL, and Mindy McNutt of Lena, IL; 4 grandchildren- Gabi Brinkmei-

FHN eases visitor restrictions at hospital, clinics

As the recent surge of COVID-19 patients slows down, FHN is revising visitor restrictions for FHN Memorial Hospital and all other FHN locations. The new guidelines will begin at 7 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22.

All visitors must wear a mask while in the facility and

in the patient room. All visitors must be age 18 or older and check in each day at the Admitting desk, where they will receive a screening including temperature check, and a dated visitor's badge.

Adult inpatients at FHN Memorial Hospital will be allowed 1 visitor per day during

visiting hours, 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Visitors may not stay in the waiting room.

For labor and delivery C care, two support individuals per day will be allowed. Patient siblings or anyone under 18 will not be allowed. If father of the newborn is aged less than 18, he is permitted as

a visitor. The mother may also have one other visitor present during her stay.

For pediatric two visitors per patient will be allowed, with no hour restrictions. One should be a parent or guardian. Anyone under 18 (including siblings) will not be allowed.

For clinic appointments at FHN Family Healthcare Centers or Specialty Care Centers

In brief

Believers Basic Bible study

This week's Bible study will take place on Sunday, March 6. It will introduce Part 1 of God's goodness, mercy and truth, as well as his wrath and judgment. It will be held at the Lena Community Center. Please call Pastor Cliff for more information at 716-229-9281.

The Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet will be open the first Saturday of every month starting March 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for free shopping. The store is located at Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren 12602 W. Dublin Rd in Pearl City. Call Pastor

Boughton for more information at 815-238-1137.

Highland to bring Chamber Music Recital to stage

With collaboration between the Highland Concert Band and the Highland Orchestra, the Chamber Music Recital will be held on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre in the Ferguson Fine Arts Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, Ill.

The concert will feature chamber music in the form of percussion ensembles, string quartets, with the flute, clarinet, woodwind, and brass choirs. The repertoire will include music of the masters.

The concert is free and open to the public. Social distancing and masks are required. For more information on Fine Arts, visit highland.edu.

Lena American Legion news

The March meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, March 9, at the Lena American Legion Home at 6:30 p.m. Members will be making tray favors for the hospitalized veterans. New members are always welcome. Judy Oelrich will oversee the social hour. Junior members will meet on March 12 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion Home to work on a service project.



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See EASES, Page 8

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- *Sunday School: Sunday, 9 a.m.*

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• *and 5:00 p.m.*

- Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.
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• *Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.*





Le-Win/ Stockton wrestling action



DEANA FAWORSKI PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

From top left, clockwise: Drew Mesendike takes 5th place in state at 195#; Marey Roby wins against Joe Lashuay (Oakwood) in the state championship match; Griffin Luke vs Jackson Gillen (Yorkville Christian). Griffin takes 2nd place at 170#.

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The Lenten Season begins at St. John's Lutheran Church

Join St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City on Wednesday, Mar. 2 for an Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30 p.m. and again on Sunday, Mar. 6 at 9 a.m. for worship beginning the first Sunday of Lent. The Chancel Choir will sing at that worship service led by Pastor Shellie Knight.

After worship, Sunday School and Confirmation will meet along with the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Grace Meal Committee, the Helping Hands Committee and the Christian Education Committee.

St. John's will host mid-week Lenten services on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. beginning on Mar. 9. All are welcome to join in person or

online.

The community is welcome to join the fun and play Dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, Mar. 1. The Men's breakfast will be held on Mar. 2 at 7:30 a.m. at Brothers, Lark.

The March Grace Meal will be held on Sunday, Mar. 20 at 11 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. with all meals at curbside pick-up. The menu will be chili, ham, salad, applesauce, crackers, fruit, and a cookie. All reservations must be made to the church office by 5 pm on Friday, Mar. 18 by phone at 815-443-2215 or by email at prshadmin@gmail.com. The meal is supported by a grant from the Freeport Community Foundation.

• Fall (Continued from front page)

was right there to be a part of it. I would do it all over again in a second. My dad and I will always be able to look back and talk about our time together involving basketball and smile."

Kyle spoke about what made Luke and his fellow seniors such a special group of Le-Win Panthers. "The biggest compliment I can give to Luke is that even if he was not my son, I would have loved coaching him. He led by example and played hard. He made good choices, even if it wasn't the popular thing to do." Kyle

said, stating, "Representing Lena-Winslow the right way was important to him. Any parent would be proud of that, and I certainly am."

Although we see Kyle and Luke's time together on the court come to an end, they have set a high standard for future Panthers on both the court and the gridiron. The same can be said for the rest of the Lena-Winslow seniors, including the Panther-Hawk wrestlers and the Lady Panthers basketball squad. It will be a challenge for any senior class to accomplish what the 2022 class has.

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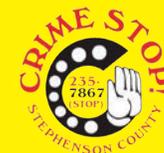
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Midwest Food Bank's new CEO taps farm roots, pandemic lessons

By Kay Shipman
FARMWEEK

Eric Hodel grew up growing food on his family's diversified, central Illinois farm. Today, as the new CEO of Midwest Food Bank, Hodel is making sure hungry people can access it. "We've seen an increase of people going to food pantries and soup kitchens, ... a 10 to 20% increase in demand," Hodel told FarmWeek. "We have an opportunity and privilege to feed the world with an abundance and excess of food."

Hodel started 2022 with new duties after serving the private, nonprofit charity as chief operating officer and chief financial officer since 2017. Co-founder and immediate past CEO, David Kieser, remains as president of the board.

Midwest Food Bank started on Kieser's family farm in 2003. That farm heritage continued to serve Midwest Food Bank as it grew to 10 U.S. locations, including three in Illinois, and a location in Haiti and another in East Africa. The charity maintains its basic model of providing food to now more than 2,000 nonprofit agencies, which distribute to those in need.

Hodel reflected on the benefits of hands-on learning on a corn-soybean-hay farm with an egg-laying business and sheep flock. The family farm near Metamora continues with corn, soybeans, hay, purebred sheep and a seed business.

"I'm extremely thankful I had that (farm background) as an opportunity. What I learned on the farm benefited me," he said. "It's a great opportunity to have my kids involved and to teach and train the next generation."

Hands-on learning had applications to hunger needs during the pandemic. Midwest Food Bank "learned with the pandemic that food distribution and disaster relief combined into one," Hodel said. The charity changed everything from how food was packaged and distributed to organizing and working with volunteers.

One adaptation: A packaged family food box to sustain families and ease distribution. Hodel gave an example of an elderly New York woman who couldn't leave her high-rise apartment, so a family food box left at her door filled an im-

portant need. In 2020, Midwest Food Bank distributed food worth more than \$380 million.

In addition, Midwest Food Bank partnered with USDA on its Farmers to Families Food Box program and added meat, milk and fresh ingredients to boxes of shelf-stable foods.

Through that pandemic partnership, the charity learned more about available USDA programs, Hodel said.

The CEO anticipates future family food boxes would be available, depending on the situation.

Meanwhile, Midwest Food Bank's disaster relief has grown geographically through its state locations and with multiple partners.

"As we grow through the U.S., we grow in ability," Hodel said.

Pandemic health and safety protocols also changed how Midwest Food Bank worked with its nearly 18,000 volunteers in 2020. Efforts evolved from "mega groups" to smaller, more frequent openings that "give more opportunities to volunteers," Hodel said.

"There definitely was a need," he said.

The charity remained open as an essential business, offering people a safe place to go when schools and other institutions closed.

Hodel expects the charity will continue offering multiple opportunities for smaller volunteer groups and will continue using an electronic volunteer sign-up system adopted during the pandemic.

The charity "welcomes calls for new service projects" from Farm Bureau Young Leaders, 4-H clubs, FFA chapters and other groups. For large gatherings, like an annual convention, Midwest Food Bank can offer an on-site service project. Rice, beans and other ingredients for "tender mercy" meals can be



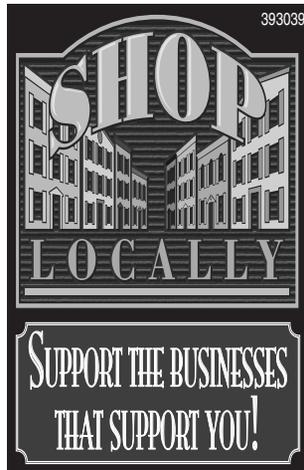
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Above: Eric Hodel (right), then Midwest Food Bank's chief operating officer and chief financial officer, explains the charity's food distribution process to Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton (center). On Jan. 1, Hodel became CEO of Midwest Food Bank. Jada Hoerr, Midwest Food Bank chief resource officer, looks on.

brought to a group's location for an on-site project, according to Hodel.

Midwest Food Bank will continue to alleviate hunger and provide disaster relief with a "terrific team, staff and leaders" at each of its 12 locations and volunteers who "are a tremendous blessing to the organization," sharing talents with dedication and a willingness to serve, Hodel said.

For more information about Midwest Food Bank, visit midwestfoodbank.org.



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In my opinion

Draining Lake Michigan with a spoon



By **JIM NOWLAN**
Contributor

Illinois is known across the land for political corruption. I always get a hearty, knowing chuckle when I tell Rotary Club luncheons that I have worked for three unindicted Illinois governors. (True: Ogilvie, Thompson, Edgar. The other four across that era were all measured for striped suits: Kerner, Walker, Ryan, Blagojevich.)

Recently, the attorney for a Chicago alderman found guilty of political corruption (one of 37 since 1972, and counting) cynically argued against jail time for his client. He scoffed that any possible deterrent effect would be “no more effective than draining Lake Michigan with a spoon.” Ouch. This unfortunate—for Illinois—phrase will enter the lexicon of Illinois politics alongside the famous harrumph by a Chicago ward boss to a young innocent jobseeker, who came into his office alone and unsponsored: “We don’t want nobody nobody sent.”

Political corruption in Illinois has a hallowed

tradition, you might say, and it is bipartisan. In 1913, after a long trial in the United States Senate, the solons expelled their Illinois Republican colleague William Lorimer. The Blonde Boss of Chicago and his co-conspirators had bribed 40 Democratic state legislators with \$2,500 each (when the new Model T cost \$750) to join with Republicans to elect him to the Senate in 1909. The scandal spurred the direct election of senators.

In the 1920s, GOP Gov. Len Small of Kankakee was tried twice for embezzling millions from the state. He was acquitted at his first, criminal trial; two months later, eight of the jurors had received really good state jobs! In a later civil trial, Small was forced to pay

the state \$650,000 to repay funds embezzled when he was state treasurer. Small leaned on state patronage workers to cover the payment.

But since then, most of the corruption has emanated from Cook County and Chicago, dominated by the Democratic Party.

Four confidants of defrocked Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan (D-Chicago) are set to go on trial in Chicago in September, which will tee up corruption as a major issue in the November election.

One of the candidates for governor has already declared that if elected he would eliminate corruption in our state. Fat chance. Corruption is baked into our culture.

That doesn’t mean we are all corrupt, but that too many of us would indeed take advantage of government if presented with the opportunity.

For example, when I was teaching American politics at the University of Illinois in Urbana in the early 2000s, I asked each class of juniors and

seniors, many headed for law school, about the following: Your brother has been charged with a serious DUI, but your brother’s lawyer said he could get him off—if brother slipped the attorney \$1,000 in cash, beyond his fee. Would you recommend to your brother that he “go for it,” or reject the idea?

In every one of five or six different courses, two-thirds of all the students, in their anonymous responses, said: “Go for it.” In one class I was astounded that 14 of the 17 students agreed. When I asked why they would recommend going for it, one student offered a typical response, with others nodding: Brother is in a tough spot—and that’s the way it’s done in Illinois. My brother would be the fool for not taking advantage of the offer.

After a while, I gave up looking for an honest class.

It’s a slippery slope, as they say, from a DUI to successfully

bribing a judge to set free a mob assassin so he could kill again, and again. This actually happened in the 1970s, when much of the Cook County Court system was controlled, or at least heavily influenced, by The Outfit.

Corruption hurts Illinois. In 2011, I surveyed local economic development officials across Illinois. One of my questions was about ethics. Does the state’s reputation for corruption have any impact on your recruiting of business from outside the state? Three quarters of the 70 respondents said perceptions of Illinois as corrupt had either a negative or a highly negative impact on their efforts to recruit business to come to Illinois. One said: Illinois is known for “pay to play.” Another observed: In Illinois, political clout is believed to help.

No governor can transform a political culture of corruption

in his or her term. But the chief executive can use his bully pulpit to declare a very public war on corruption; set a high bar for conduct by his administration. The governor can also seek elimination of ludicrous, self-serving statutes such as the one that requires the “independent” legislative inspector general to first get approval of lawmakers before he can investigate a complaint against one of their fellow legislators.

Finally, we can all stop taking advantage of government, simply because “that’s the way it’s done in Illinois,” and exhort our children to follow our lead. That’s how cultures change.

Jim Nowlan is the lead author of *Illinois Politics* (University of Illinois Press, 2010) and *Fixing Illinois* (U. of I. Press, 2014). He is a former chair of the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission.

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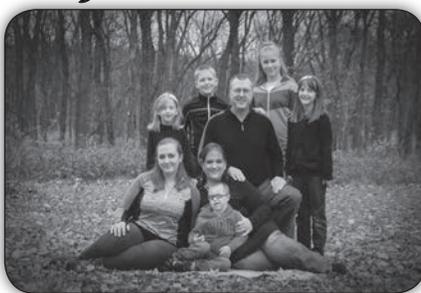
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•Eases (Continued from page 3)

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Red Beans and Rice

I have a friend who loves red beans and rice. This recipe is a favorite at a lot of New Orleans eating places as a side. The kielbasa gives it a lot of flavor.

- 2 C. water
- 1 C. uncooked rice
- 1 lb. kielbasa, cut diagonally into ¼ inch slices
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 2 cans (15 oz. each) red beans or kidney beans, drained (you can mix them)
- 1 can (16 oz.) whole peeled tomatoes, chopped
- ½ t. dried oregano
- ½ t. pepper
- Salt to taste
- Hot sauce to taste

In a saucepan, bring water to a boil. Add rice and stir. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer for 20 minutes. In a large skillet over low heat, cook sausage for 5 minutes. Stir in onion, green pepper and garlic; sauté until tender. Pour in beans and tomatoes with juice. Season with oregano, salt, and pepper. Simmer, uncovered, for 20 minutes. Add hot sauce if desired. Serve over rice.

New Orleans Scalloped Corn

Take plain corn and jazz it up, New Orleans style. It goes great for a Mardi Gras dinner or as a side for a holiday if you want a little kick to your vegetable.

- 4 t. butter
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 large red pepper, finely chopped
- 4 C. frozen corn
- 2 large eggs
- 1 C. milk
- 1 T. sugar
- 1 to 2 t. hot pepper sauce
- ½ t. dried thyme
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- ¼ C. crushed butter crackers (like Ritz or Club)
- 5 green onions, sliced

Preheat oven to 350. In a

large skillet, heat butter over medium-high heat. Add onion and pepper and cook stirring until tender. Add corn; heat through, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat.

In a small bowl, whisk eggs, milk, sugar, hot sauce, thyme, salt and pepper; add to corn mixture. Stir in crushed crackers and onions. Transfer to a 2-qt baking dish coated with cooking spray. Bake, uncovered for 35 to 40 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean

Crab Stuffed Flounder

Since Lent has started, a seafood dish is on the ticket. The recipe calls for flounder, but you can substitute tilapia, sole, pollock or cod for the flounder. You can use imitation crab for the canned crab.

- 1½ lbs. flounder fillets
- 1 C. crabmeat, drained, flaked and cartilage removed
- 1 T. finely chopped green pepper
- ¼ t. ground dry mustard
- ¼ t. Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ t. salt
- Pepper to taste
- 3 crushed saltine crackers
- 1 egg white
- 6 T. mayonnaise, divided
- ¼ C. butter, melted
- 1 egg yolk
- ½ t. paprika
- 1 T. dried parsley

Preheat the oven to 400. Rinse the fillets and pat dry with paper towels. Combine crab meat, green pepper, mustard powder, Worcestershire sauce, salt, white pepper, and crushed saltines. Combine egg white and 1 T. mayonnaise. Stir this into the crab meat mixture.

Brush the flounder fillets with melted butter. Place in a lightly greased, shallow baking dish. Spoon the crab mixture over the fillets and drizzle with remaining butter. Bake fillets at 400 for 15 minutes. While the fish is baking, lightly beat the egg yolk in a small bowl. Stir in 5 T. mayo. Remove fish from oven and spread egg and mayo mixture over the stuffing; sprinkle with paprika and parsley. Increase oven temperature to 450 and bake until golden and bubbly, about 6 minutes. Remove from oven and place on platter.

Chicken and Wild Rice Bake

Chicken and wild rice are a great combination. After all the Mardi Gras recipes, I thought I would include a good old Midwest casserole. An easy way to make the chicken is to buy a rotisserie chicken.

- 3 C. water
- 1 C. uncooked wild rice
- 2½ t. salt, divided
- ¼ C. butter, cubed

- 1 lb. sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 C. diced cooked chicken
- 1 jar (2 oz.) chopped pimiento, drained
- ¼ C. minced fresh parsley
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 C. chicken broth
- 1 C. heavy whipping cream
- ¼ C. grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ C. slivered almonds

In a large saucepan, bring water to a boil; stir in rice and 1 t. salt. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until kernels have puffed open, 45 to 50 minutes. Drain any excess water.

Preheat oven to 350. In a 6 qt. stockpot, heat butter over medium high heat; sauté mushrooms and onion for 5 minutes. Stir in rice, chicken, pimiento, parsley, pepper, broth, cream, and remaining salt. Transfer to a 3-qt or a 9 x 13 baking dish sprayed with cooking spray. Sprinkle with cheese and almonds. Bake, uncovered, until heated through, 50 to 60 minutes.

Mardi Gras King Cake

The King Cake is a New Orleans tradition. A small plastic baby is placed inside the cake, and the tradition is that whoever gets the slice with the baby has to host next year's Mardi Gras party. Some people don't use the plastic baby, but use a whole almond instead. This is not really a cake but a pastry. This recipe makes 2 cakes which is enough for a large crowd. You can find the decorating sugars in most large grocery stores where they have cake decorating supplies. I have had King Cake recipes before and decided that I needed to include it again this year. As they say in New Orleans, "Laissez les bons temps rouler!" Let the good times roll!

- Pastry
- 1 C. milk
- ¼ C. butter
- 2 pkgs. (.25 oz.) active dry yeast
- 2/3 C. warm water

See KITCHEN, Page 10

I am writing this column as the snow is falling. People say we will have nicer weather to usher in March. We also begin Lent, and our recipes will reflect the season. Mardi Gras and Fat Tuesday will be celebrated this year, and there are some traditional New Orleans's recipes for you to try.

New Orleans's Style Deviled Eggs

Since we are celebrating Mardi Gras, these eggs are inspired by their creamy texture. The eggs are sprinkled with Cajun seasoning (paprika, garlic powder, cayenne, and dried oregano). If you are like me, you would just use the paprika. For those who like heat, the Cajun is for you.

- 8 large eggs
- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 T. Miracle Whip
- 1 T. sweet pickle relish
- ¼ t. hot sauce
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ¼ t. Cajun seasoning or to taste

Place eggs into a saucepan, cover with cold water, and place over high heat. Bring to boil and cover with a lid; reduce heat to low and simmer for 18 minutes. Remove from heat and cool eggs under cold running water until eggs can be handled. Peel eggs.

Cut eggs in half lengthwise and scoop out the yolks into a mixing bowl. Beat yolks, cream cheese, and creamy salad dressing, pickle relish, hot sauce, salt and pepper until mixture is creamy and smooth. Spoon yolk mixture into egg white halves. Sprinkle each egg half with Cajun seasoning. Chill before serving.

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Michael (Yogi) Logemann and Irene (Thuemling) Logemann

Were married on March 11, 1972, at the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton, IL. Father Clarence Thennes officiated the ceremony.

Have 2 daughters: Stephanie (Jason) Hintz of Lena, IL and Michele of Stockton, IL.

Have 3 granddaughters: Jessica and Ashley Hintz and Hasia Logemann.

Cards of congratulations can be sent to:

Michael & Irene Logemann
 P.O. Box 172
 Stockton, IL 61085



412833

LEGAL NOTICES

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

In Re the Matter
of the Estate of:
Thomas M. Andrews,
Deceased.

No. 22-PR-18
**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION -
CLAIMS**

Notice is given of the
death of Thomas M. An-
drews, of Freeport, Illinois.
Letters of Office were is-
sued on February 15, 2022,
to:

Roger G. Lundholm
4939 Great Day Ln.
Rockford, IL 61109
as independent Administrator
of the Estate of Thomas
M. Andrews, whose attor-
ney is

Anthony V. Coon
Attorney At Law
10 N. Galena Ave.,
Ste. 210

Freeport, Illinois 61032
The estate will be ad-
ministered without Court
supervision unless, under
Section 28.4 of the Pro-
bate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-
4), any interested person
terminates independent
administration at any time
by mailing or delivering a
Petition To Terminate to
the Clerk.

Claims against the estate
may be filed in the office
of the Clerk of the Court
at the Stephenson County
Courthouse, 15 N. Galena
Avenue, Freeport, Illinois
61032, or with the repre-
sentative, or both, on or
before September 2, 2022,
and any claim not file
don or before said date is
barred. Copies of a claim
filed with the Clerk must
be mailed or delivered to
the representative and to
the attorney within ten (10)
days after it has been filed.
Date: February 15, 2022.

Roger G. Lundholm,
Administrator
By: *Anthony V. Coon*
Anthony V. Coon,
Attorney at Law
Anthony V. Coon,
#6269568

Attorney at Law
10 N. Galena Ave., Ste.
210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212

Fax 815-232-5500
tonycoonlaw@aol.com
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Feb. 23, March 2
& 9, 2022) 413175

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT FOR THE 15TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY
- FREEPORT, ILLINOIS**
Finance of America
Reverse LLC
PLAINTIFF
Vs.
Jill C. Cummins as
Independent Executor;
United States of
America - Secretary
of Housing and Urban
Development; Unknown
Heirs and Legatees of
Jean C. VanHorn; Jill
C. Cummins; Unknown
Owners and Nonrecord
Claimants
DEFENDANTS

2022FC8
**NOTICE BY
PUBLICATION**
**NOTICE IS GIVEN TO
YOU:**
Unknown Heirs and
Legatees of Jean C.
VanHorn
Unknown Owners and
Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been
commenced in this Court
against you and other de-
fendants, praying for the
foreclosure of a certain
Mortgage conveying the
premises described as fol-
lows, to-wit:

**COMMONLY KNOWN
AS:**
1323 S Chicago Ave
Freeport, IL 61032
and which said Mortgage
was made by:

Jean C. VanHorn
the Mortgagor(s), to Mort-
gage Electronic Regis-
tration Systems, Inc., as
mortgagee, as nominee for
Finance of America Re-
verse LLC, as Mortgagee,
and recorded in the Office
of the Recorder of Deeds
of Stephenson County, Il-
linois, as Document No.
202100182839; and for
other relief; that summons
was duly issued out of said
Court against you as pro-
vided by law and that the
said suit is now pending.

**NOW, THEREFORE,
UNLESS YOU** file your
answer or otherwise file
your appearance in this
case in the Office of the
Clerk of this Court,
Nathan A. Luy
Clerk of the Circuit
Court

15 North Galena
Freeport, IL 61032
on or before April 1, 2022,
A DEFAULT MAY BE
ENTERED AGAINST
YOU AT ANY TIME AF-
TER THAT DAY AND
A JUDGMENT MAY
BE ENTERED IN AC-
CORDANCE WITH THE
PRAYER OF SAID COM-
PLAINT.
CODILIS &
ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
15W030 North Frontage
Road, Suite 100
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 794-5300
DuPage # 15170
Winnebago # 531
Our File No. 14-22-00359
NOTE: This law firm is a
debt collector.
I3188513

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
March 2, 9 & 16, 2022)
413332

**IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE 15TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY -
GALENA, ILLINOIS**
**QUICKEN LOANS, LLC,
PLAINTIFF**
vs.
**UNKNOWN HEIRS AT
LAW AND LEGATEES
OF CAROL MAY
SEFFROOD; DEAN
PAULSON; DONNA
RUTSCH; DONNA
PAULSON; CRAIG A.
BROWN, AS SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE
OF CAROL MAY
SEFFROOD,
DECEASED;
UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANT**

2021CH29
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite affidavit for
publication having been
filed, notice is hereby giv-
en to you, UNKNOWN
HEIRS AT LAW AND
LEGATEES OF CAROL
MAY SEFFROOD; and
UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NONRECORD
CLAIMANTS, Defendant
in the above entitled suit,
that the said suit has been
commenced in the Circuit
Court of the 15th Judicial
Circuit, Jo Daviess Coun-
ty, Illinois by the plaintiff
against you and other de-
fendant, praying for the
foreclosure of a certain
mortgage conveying the
premises described as fol-
lows to wit:
LOTS FOUR (4) AND

**FIVE (5) IN BLOCK
NINE (9) IN JOHNSON'S
ADDITION TO THE VIL-
LAGE OF WARREN, IN
THE COUNTY OF JO
DAVIESS AND STATE
OF ILLINOIS.**
COMMON ADDRESS:
609 E. Railroad Street,
Warren, IL 61087
P.I.N.: 21-001-681-00
and which said mortgage
was signed by CAROL
MAY SEFFROOD, DE-
CEASED Mortgagor, to
Mortgage Electronic Reg-
istration Systems, Inc.,
as nominee for Quicken
Loans Inc., as Mortgagee,
and recorded in the Office
of the Recorder of Deeds
of Jo Daviess County as
Document No. 388610;
and for such other relief
prayed; that summons was
duly issued out of the Cir-
cuit Court of Jo Daviess
County against you as pro-
vided by law, and that the
said suit is now pending.

**NOW THEREFORE,
UNLESS YOU,** the said
above defendant, file your
answer to the Complaint in
said suit or otherwise make
your appearance therein,
in the Office of the Clerk
of this Court in Jo Dav-
iess County at 330 North
Bench Street, Galena, IL
61036 on or before March
25, 2022, default may be
entered against you at any
time after that day and a
judgment entered in accor-
dance with the prayer of
said complaint.

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I3188169

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Feb. 23, March 2
& 9, 2022)

•Kitchen (Continued from page 9)

½ C. white sugar
2 eggs
1½ t. salt
½ t. **grated nutmeg**
5½ C. flour
Filling
1 C. packed brown sugar
1 T. cinnamon
2/3 C. chopped pecans
½ C. **flour**
½ C. **raisins**
½ C. **melted butter**
Frosting
1 C. powdered sugar
1 T. milk
1 t. vanilla
Colored sugars (green, pur-
ple, yellow), whole pecans
and candied cherries

Scald milk (heat milk to just
before it comes to a boil); re-
move from heat and stir in; re-
move from heat and stir in the
½ C. butter. Allow mixture to
cool to room temperature. In
a large bowl, dissolve yeast
in the warm water with 1 T.
white sugar. Let stand until
creamy, about 10 minutes.

When yeast mixture is bub-
bling, add the cooled milk
mixture. Whisk in the eggs.
Stir in the remaining white
sugar, salt, and nutmeg. Beat
the flour into the milk/egg
mixture 1 C. at a time. When
the dough has pulled togeth-
er, turn it out onto a lightly
floured surface and knead un-
til smooth and elastic, about 8
to 10 minutes.

Lightly oil a large bowl;
place the dough in the bowl
and turn to coat with oil.
Cover with plastic wrap and
let rise in a warm place un-
til doubled in size, about 2
hours. When dough has risen,
punch down and divide dough
in half. Preheat the oven to
375. Grease 2 cookie sheets
or line with parchment paper.

Filling: Combine brown
sugar, ground cinnamon,
chopped pecans, ½ C. flour,
and ½ C. raisins. Pour ½ C.
melted butter over the mixture
and mix until crumbly.

Pastry: Roll dough halves
out into large rectangles (10 x
16 inches or so). Sprinkle the
filling evenly over the dough
and roll up each half tightly
like a jelly roll, beginning at
the wide side. Bring the ends
of each roll together to form
2 oval shaped rings. Place
each ring on a prepared cook-
ie sheet. With scissors, make
cuts 1/3 of the way through the
rings at 1-inch intervals. Let
rise in a warm spot until dou-
bled in size, about 45 minutes.
Bake in preheated oven for 30
minutes. Push the doll into
the bottom of the cake. Frost
while warm with the pow-
dered sugar which had been
blended with 1 to 2 t. milk and
vanilla. Frosting should be a
runny consistency. Decorate
icing with the three sugars in-
dividually placed on cake.

Final Thoughts

We finally got a little snow
last week. It seems as if Feb-
ruary really wanted us to not
think about getting ready for
winter to leave. Winter sports
are winding down in schools,
and soon there will be only a
quarter of this year's school
year left. Time has raced on
since New Year's Day. I will
need to get out my St. Pat-
rick's Day decorations and
put Valentine's Day away. I
thought I had finished with
the snowmen, but just like our
weather, I found two more!
We begin our recipes which
will feature less meat, more
fish, and some great vegeta-
bles. If you have any good
vegetarian or fish recipes,
send them our way.

I think it is time for Sham-
rock Shakes! We also need
some great St. Patrick's Day
recipes. You can contact us
in person, by mail at From
Lena's Kitchens, *Shopper's
Guide* at 240 W. Main St. or
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SUBMITTED PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Cozy for a cause

Pearl City eighth graders enjoyed a pajama day fundraiser on Feb. 18. Pictured are Kayden Martin, Kenzie Ihus, Kam Downs, Tana Gravert, Gracie Ditsworth and Maya Boyer.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Science class fun!

Pearl City fourth grade students have been busy studying plant and animal cells in Mrs. Brouhard's class. Here they are showing off their cell projects that they completed to finish up the unit.

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