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VOL. 88 • NO. 20

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022



SONYA WILLAIMSON PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Stockton Warren Warhawks defeated Fulton 6-4 at LumberKings stadium Friday, May 6.

Warhawks capture conference championship

Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

After beating Galena on April 29, the Warren-Stockton baseball team had a few days off before they had to get back on the diamond for live action. On the morning of Thursday, May 5, the Warhawks held a record of 14-4 and an opportunity to capture the Northwest Upstate Illini-West Conference Championship. They had to win a pair of key games over the Fulton Steamers if they wanted to make that happen,

however.

Fulton came into the week with a perfect record of 7-0 in NUIC-West play. The Steamers were the only other West team with an opportunity to compete for the conference championship, leading to a tense pair of games with the Warhawks to end the week.

Thursday's game featured an intense pitcher's battle. The Warhawks had Caleb Mammoser on the mound, while Fulton threw Brayden Dykstra. Zero pitching changes were

made as both team's starting pitchers went the whole way, combining for 21 strikeouts and just four hits allowed.

The pitching display put on by Mammoser was exceptional as he pitched a complete game, going seven innings with seven strikeouts, three walks, and three hits allowed. Mammoser allowed just one run in the performance and retired the last 15 in a row as he captured his sixth victory of the season.

The Warhawks were held to just one hit in the game, but it

was a big one as Austin Chumbler crushed a two-run homerun in the bottom of the fourth. Despite the lack of offense, Mammoser's pitching performance was enough to get the win as the Steamers left four runners on base and scored just one run. The 2-1 victory was huge for the Warhawks, but the job was not finished as they sat just a half game ahead of the Steamers with another game against them in less than 24 hours.

Friday's game featured a lot more offense than their first meeting, however. The Warhawks were quick to get on the scoreboard with a run in the top of the first inning. Two more runs in the top of the second gave the Warhawks more runs

in just two innings than they had scored in the entire game a day before.

The Warhawks were buoyed by another strong pitching performance by their starter. This time it was Alex Marsden who took the mound as he pitched five and one third innings, allowing just three hits and one run while striking out five. Once Marsden came out, the Steamers began to rally as three hit batters allowed them to score some late runs and cut into the Warhawk lead. With the bases loaded, Brady Broshous scooped a low throw at first base to retire the side, putting an end to the Fulton rally.

Drew Mensendike came in for the save in a high-pressure

situation with the game on the line. The senior was cool and collected on the mound as he struck out the side, collecting the save and locking down the conference championship.

Cyler Cornelius was a perfect two for two at the plate in the win, while Blaze Janecke went two for three. Marsden and Austin Chumbler each batted a run in for the game.

The Warhawks would go on to close out their week with a 10-8 win over the Forreston Cardinals. The win improved Warren-Stockton's record to 17-4 overall and 9-1 in conference play. They will look to close out the regular season against Sterling Newman on Thursday, May 12.




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Obituaries

HELEN GENEVIEVE (MILLER) HICKS

Helen Genevieve (Miller) Hicks, 109 of Monroe, WI formerly of Winslow and Stockton, IL passed away on Monday, May 2, 2022. She was born to August and Ella Miller on June 19, 1912, in Waddams Township, IL. She was the second oldest of ten children. She graduated from Winslow High School in 1929. Helen married Elgin Eugene Hicks on April 12, 1933, at the U.B. Church in Orangeville, IL and they were married for 57 years until Elgin's passing in 1990.

Helen had a great love for music. She played in her high school orchestra, sang in a local quartet, and played piano for the Stockton Lions Club chorus.

She is survived by her 2 daughters: Salome J. Brown of Verona, WI and Judy



Hammer of Stockton, IL; 9 grandchildren: Pamela, Daniel, Veronica, Jean, Julie, Kim, Randy, Angie, and Dennis; many great and great grandchildren; sister-in-law: Pat Miller of Winslow.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Elgin, six brothers- Leon, Richard, Elston, Roger, Harold, and Frederick; three sisters Marguerite, Gladys and Evelyn.

A private family graveside service will be held at Rock Lily Cemetery. Officiating the service will be Rev. Robert Phelps. A memorial has been established in her name.

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

KATHLYN HOPE KRAMER

Kathlyn Hope Kramer, age 71 of Monroe, WI (formerly of Lena, IL) passed away on Sunday, May 1, 2022, at Meriter Hospital in Madison, WI. She was born on June 15, 1950, to Rev. Frederick Lloyd and Edith (Kleese) Bauer in Washington, Iowa. Kathy graduated from Iowa State University in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She married Gary Kramer on July 15, 1972, at the Methodist Church in West Chester, Iowa and together they raised 3 children.

Kathy was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena and was very active on various committees. She volunteered her time at My Friends Closet and was a member of Laureate Gamma Omicron Women's Sorority Club. Kathy had a love of dogs and was passionate about animal rescue. Most of all she loved spending time with her family and grandchildren- they were her everything.

Kathy is survived by her husband Gary of Monroe, WI; 3 sons- Kurt (Tabbitha) Kramer of Eldridge, IA, Matt (Robin) Kramer of Springfield, MO and Dan (Adrienne) Kramer of Mon-



roe, WI; 7 grandchildren- Libby, Chloe, Nate, Wesley, Alex, Dierks, and Lexi; sister- Esther Frohardt of Centennial, Co; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; 2 brothers- Harry Bauer and Keith Bauer; and sister- Faith Utesch.

Memorial services were held at 11 a.m. on Saturday May 7, 2022, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, IL. A luncheon to follow immediately after the service.

Visitation will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, May 6, 2022, at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, IL. A private burial will take place at Lena Burial Park.

Rev. Rick Bader will be officiating the service. Cremation rites to be accorded. Funeral service will be livestreamed and can be viewed at www.stjohnslena.org. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established for the Green County Humane Society and St. John's Lutheran Church.

Condolences may be sent to family at www.leadmonfh.com.

LOIS L. MOYER

Lois L. Moyer, 98 of Freeport, IL formerly of Orangeville, IL passed away on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. She was born on Feb. 11, 1924, to Russel and Mary (Walker) Reed in Buckeye Township, Stephenson County, IL. She attended Orangeville High School. On Nov. 29, 1942, she married Donald D. Moyer in Alfolkey, IL. During her working years she worked for Burgess Battery, was a Secretary at Orangeville School District and later she was a head cashier at the Orangeville Community Bank.

She is survived by her two sons- Michael (Diane) Moyer of Freeport, IL and Thomas (Shelly) Moyer of Davis, IL; 1 son-in-law Thomas Marcum of Orangeville, IL; 9 grandchildren- Tina (Gary) Michalski of Spooner, WI, Charles Rutter of Austin, TX, Jill (Jon) Spielman of Rock City, IL, Angie Marcum of Freeport, IL, Jodi Moyer of Roscoe, IL, Jim (Emily) Moyer of Davis, IL, John (Gio) Moyer of Phoenix, AZ, Laura (Derek) Erwin of Rockton, IL and Matt (Jessica) Moyer of Freeport, IL; 16 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great grandchildren, 2 brothers- Lyle (Cynthia) Reed of Dakota, IL and Keith (Darlene) Reed of Chubbuck, ID; 1 sister- Phyllis (Nathan) Frautschy of Free-



port, IL; 1 sister-in-law Iris (Wayne) Reed of Orangeville, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Donald, on April 23, 1994, 2 daughters- Janet Rutter and Joleen Marcum, 1 Sister Norma (Iver) Raab, 1 Brother Wayne Reed, 1 son-in-law John Rutter, 1 grandson Colin Rutter and a great grandson-in-law Ryan O'Malley.

The family would like to give a special thanks to the staff of Liberty Village in Freeport, IL and FHN Hospice for their care they gave to Lois.

Funeral Services was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 9, at the Orangeville Methodist Church in Orangeville, IL. A visitation took place from 10 a.m. until time of funeral service. Officiating the service was Pastor Siegfried Schwirtblat. Burial took place at Grandview Cemetery in Freeport, IL. A memorial has been established in her memory for Orangeville Methodist Church. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

Death notice

John Carey

John C. "Tripper" Carey left us way too soon, just three days after his 30th birthday on Thursday, April 28. Tripper will be dearly missed by his dad and mom, JC and Beth Carey of Savanna, his brother, Jacob and Kaylee (Plattenberger) Carey of Montana, his mother, Debra Mills of Potomac, Illinois. Law-Jones Funeral Home is serving the family.



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WESLEY JOEL CONFER

Wesley Joel Confer, 10, passed away unexpectedly with his family at his side at the UW Madison Hospital on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Wesley was born on April 25, 2012, to Matthew and Abbey (Baylor) Confer in Freeport, IL. He was currently in 4th grade at Le-Win Elementary School.

Wesley was a big brother with a big heart! He was always eager to help. He loved to play X-Box with his friends, watch You-Tube, drive his RZR, anything farming, running the skid loader, riding in the semi's and caring for his dog Emma and cat



Stuart. Wesley loved strawberries, tomatoes, and anything sour! He loved swimming, going to the Wisconsin Dells,

and was looking forward to traveling to Florida this summer.

Wesley is survived by his parents; Matt and Abbey of Winslow, sister Willow and brother Weldon, grandparents; Lynn (Dave) Zies of Oregon, IL Scott (Ruth) Confer of McConnell, great grand-

mothers; Kathleen Reed and Marilyn Confer. Aunts and uncle; Jen Confer, Kim Confer and Matt (Teresa) Baylor and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather; Joel Baylor, great grandparents; Jack Confer, Paul (Ruth) Schwartz, Nancy Meyers, and Clifford Reed, cousin; Harper Folgate.

Family would like to thank the individuals and first responders that assisted on scene, as well as all medical personnel who cared for Wesley at FHN and UW Madison Children's Hospital.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, May 7, at 11

a.m. at Martintown Community Church. The service was livestreamed on the Martintown Community Church's Facebook page. There was also a livestream option from the parking lot for overflow or those who prefer to join the services from their vehicle.

Visitation was held on Friday May 6, from 4:00pm to 8:00pm at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. Kevin Cernek will officiate the service. Burial will be at Lena Burial Park in Lena, IL. A memorial has been established in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

Ceremony honors officers killed in the line duty

Names to be added to memorial at Statehouse

By Grace Kinnicutt
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

As rain steadily fell in Springfield the morning of May 5, there was a somber feeling among the law enforcement officers and elected officials that gathered at the Illinois State Library to honor 11 fallen officers killed in the line

of duty in 2021.

"I have a heavy heart when I think about the loss of these 11 individuals, it's a sad day for all of us," Secretary of State Jesse White said.

The 11 officers honored were officer Joseph T. Cappello III of Melrose Park Police Department; officer Gary Steven Hibbs of Chicago Heights Police Department; trooper Todd A. Hanneken of Illinois State Police; Lt. James J. Kouski Jr. of Hometown Police Department; officer Allen Serta Giacchetti of Cook County Sheriff's Police De-

partment; officer Christopher Neil Oberheim of Champaign Police Department; officer Brian Russell Pierce Jr of Brooklyn Police Department; officer Ella Grace French of Chicago Police Department; officer Tyler Nathaniel Timmins of Pontoon Beach Police Department; Deputy Sean Ian Riley of Wayne County Sheriff's Office; and Sgt. Marlene R. Rittmanic of Bradley Police Department.

Family members of the fallen officers were presented with plaques from Gov. JB Pritzker and received a wreath to com-

memorate their loved one.

Amber Oberheim, widow of Officer Neil Oberheim, said in a follow-up interview that the event speaks volumes to lawmakers and elected leaders because when someone loses a loved one while on duty, they all feel it.

"I think the sheer magnitude of people who were here with an expectation for some change and support for law enforcement, I think will speak volumes, hopefully, to our leaders," she said.

Incidentally; Human Microbiome Project complements Human Genome Project

A few months ago, I wrote a column discussing how the information garnered from the Human Genome Project (HGP) can be likened to a blueprint of human biology or an owner's manual for a human that helps us to both understand how diseases develop and provide guidance to facilitate and improve diagnosis and treatment. Thanks to the HGP, if a researcher has narrowed the cause of a disease to a mutation in a certain gene, he can now go to the human genome database and find out what every scientist has discovered about that gene such as if the mutation matches a known abnormality, how it interacts with other genes, what treatments are currently being used, what other diseases are associated with it, what environmental factors impact it, etc. This allows the researcher to better predict and develop a more effective or targeted treatment at a greater speed than we have previously experienced.



By **DR. STEPHEN PETRAS**
Illinois Licensed General Dentist

factors overwhelm the microbiome's ability to maintain an equilibrium, pathogens or disease-causing microbiota take over and cause inflammation, and localized or systemic disease.

The HMP is a monumental task, as not only does each part of the body have its own unique group of microbiota that serve that particular environment, but the "normal" microbiota of each of these body sites can vary depending on a person's health and environmental factors. In addition, negative changes or imbalances in the microbiota which cause disease in one area of the body can spread those pathogens to other parts of the body. A clear example of this is the oral microbiome.

When the normal microorganisms in the oral cavity are overwhelmed by the bacteria from rampant tooth decay or periodontal disease, the highly vascular nature of the oral cavity means that these bacteria are easily spread throughout the body. The mouth is also directly connected to the lungs and digestive system, allowing another pathway for the spread of disease. Your oral cavity produces saliva to neutralize the acids in the foods and liquids we ingest, shield the esophagus from irritants, and prevent gastric reflux. The average adult swallows between .5 and 1.5 liters of saliva every day. Children produce and swallow even more. If your or your child's saliva is full of disease-causing pathogens this can

See **INCIDENTALLY**, Page 7



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Louie Bunker, Lena Lions Club member, Rhonda Coyier, daughter of the late Ben Mayer and Gail Mayer, Bill Engel, Lena Historical Society member, and Sherry Brinker, Lena State Bank, display the shadow box that was created to celebrate the life of Ryan Mayer.

Shadow box memorial for Ryan Mayer

The Lena Lions Club and Lena State Bank recently assembled a shadow box in remembrance and to celebrate the life of Ryan Mayer.

and Gail Mayer, was killed in an automobile accident in September of 1981.

Items displayed in the shadow box included Ryan's Cub Scout badges, baseball jersey, and his Le-Win Junior High

School gym t-shirt.

The shadow box was presented to Ryan's sister, Rhonda Coyier, who then presented it to Bill Engel of the Lena Historical Society.

• Ceremony (Continued from page 2)

Officer Oberheim was shot and killed on May 19, 2021, at 3:20 a.m. while responding to a domestic disturbance call at an apartment complex in Champaign. He served with the Champaign Police Department for 13 years.

In an emotional tribute to fallen officers, Comptroller Susana Mendoza said the job is too often thankless and the individuals "willingly choose to take an oath to protect and serve" people who they have never met and are willing to give their life to protect others.

"This is a horribly difficult and painful thing," Mendoza said. "There's nothing any of us, certainly not us poli-

ticians, can say to make you feel better."

Mendoza said she believes it's important that all officers take care of their mental and physical well-being due to the toll the job can take.

She shared the story of her brother, who worked at the Chicago Police Department for more than 20 years on third shift, didn't always make the healthiest lifestyle choices and was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

In November 2020, Mendoza said her brother was hospitalized for more than 17 days with COVID-19 and struggled with life-threatening conditions, such as a stroke and losing both kid-

neys. She said he survived and is slowly recovering but that his life will never be the same.

Mendoza said she wants every officer to understand that "you're human and it's okay" to ask for help when needed and to lean on others for support, and that mental and physical well-being should be the utmost priority.

Speakers went on to give thanks to officers for making immense, and even sometimes ultimate, sacrifice to protect those in and around their community.

Pritzker also recognized Knox County Deputy Nicholas Weist who was killed in the line of duty April 29,

2022. According to a news release from the Illinois State Police, Weist was responding to an emergency call about an individual with a gun at a Circle K Gas Station in Galesburg when he was hit and killed by the suspect vehicle as he was setting out spike strips.

"Each of these officers' communities has been forever altered, teams forever bereaved, families that will never be made whole again," Pritzker said.

The names of the fallen officers will be engraved on the memorial statue that sits on the west lawn of the State Capitol.

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OPINION

Slices of life

D-I-V-O-R-C-E

I don't know if this column will ever be published. Or better put, if I'll have the nerve to publish it.

It's about divorce and I have no experience in that arena. I never divorced. In fact, I had a beautiful and wonderful marriage. My parents never divorced. No one in my immediate family has (so far) divorced.

So basically, I have no experience speaking on this subject.

Still I had a bit of a eureka about it today. And when I have a eureka, I often feel compelled to share.

So share I will. I am a widow. Sometimes people I know have compared a divorce to being a widow and I've sort of taken offense to that.

Losing someone to death is nothing like losing someone to divorce. That is the truth.

But it's only part of the truth.

I was seeing this truth from my own perspective.

My truth was more horrible than a divorce truth because how could something be anywhere equal to the death of your number one person? Since my husband passed 17-plus months ago, I've often said that grief is not a contest. No one wants the grief trophy for having the biggest, hardest loss.

But I was only seeing loss as physical death. Divorce is also loss in the truest sense.



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

I came to this revelation this morning while making coffee. My husband always used to make the coffee and bring me a cup, so coffee holds a warm place in my heart. Making coffee made me think of him and fun memories came flooding back. I remembered funny things he used to do and say and I found myself being so grateful for those memories.

I often share such memories with friends and especially my kids. We exchange them like trading cards. We like remembering together. It is a gift we share through our grief.

And then it dawned on me: my husband died, but all the good memories we made and all the fun things we did are still there for us to review and revisit. That is a gift.

The people I know who experienced a divorce (for the most part) don't have that gift.

They don't reminisce about the good times. They don't giggle about the silly things or cry happy tears about the touching things.

Somehow in the process of a divorce, your favorite

See SLICES, Page 7



In my opinion

Ode to a 'line-o-type'

As a teen in the 1950s, I worked after school and weekends at my dad's small-town weekly newspaper.

I am reminded of those days of "hot metal type" in the back shop, as I observe the fast-fading institution of the community newspaper. There were 16,000 or so weeklies across our nation back then, in burrs tiny and larger; fewer than half remain.

In my lifetime, printing technology has moved, you might say, from the Industrial Revolution to the Space Age. On the community news side, we have morphed from the straightforward reportage of the city council meeting, and weddings of your neighbors' kids, to the oft-uncontrolled acidity of Facebook, which often "lights up" with uninformed, kneejerk commentary.

My job was to help put out the paper, not write it, so forgive me as I step through the door from the front



By **JIM NOWLAN**

office to the back shop. My nostrils fill with the pungent, metallic brew of printer's ink, gasoline (to clean ink off old forms), paper dust, acrid effusions from the Linotype machine, and tobacco smoke.

I gladly take another deep drought. After all, the intoxicating scent of the newspaper shop tells me important work is going on here: The town's weekly is produced here, with nearly every household a subscriber, even if a farm wife had to barter eggs with Dad.

I don my grey apron, slip a cupable, steel make-up rule in the front pocket (to scrape lead tailings off the galleys of fresh type), and put a foot-long, metal line gauge in my

back pocket (with its printer's measure of "ens" and "ems," six of the latter to an inch). I am ready for work, joining the other two high school "printer's devils."

The small back shop (maybe 20x60') is crammed with dangerous, pre-OSHA machinery—hand-fed "job" presses; saw and router for shaping ads from cast-lead "guts" for national advertisers like General Motors and Ford; California job cases that held the movable type (you've seen the case drawers in antique stores); stone-top tables for making up pages; belt-driven paper cutter, and more.

And, of course, the "big" newspaper press. Ours was a 19th Century flatbed, cylinder press. I stood on a three-step riser to feed sheets the size of four pages of this newspaper (on one side) onto a rotating cylinder, which would meet the moving flat bed of newspaper pages rumbling back and forth beneath me. I used a bit of glycerin to keep the third finger of my right hand sticky, so I could lift a corner of the big sheet, flick it, creating a small rush of air, just enough to loosen the sheet from the stack, which I then slid down to the guides to meet the cylinder.

The aristocrat of the machinery was the Linotype machine. Patented by Otto Mergenthaler in 1884, the roughly 6-foot x 6-foot iron-

and-steel behemoth may have been the greatest advance in printing technology since Gutenberg.

The machine replaced hand-setting of type via a spectacular orchestration of hundreds of moving parts. As a backup Linotype operator, I felt much like a church organist, the grand machine above and surrounding me.

The large keyboard was different from the typewriter, and efficient. Lower-case keys on the left, the vowels all close to the third and fourth fingers of the left hand; upper-case letters on the right. The operator lightly tapped a key, which released a vertical, slender piece of brass, called a matrice, or mat, with a letter indented into one side. The mats came tumbling down on a slender belt, from their temporary storage above, into an expandable metal box, where the mats formed a line of type.

This line of type was transported to a place in front of a pot of liquid lead, where type and pot came together briefly, lead injected into a bar, against the indented, now raised, letters, or type. The bars were ejected, still hot, onto a tray with other lines of type. Ingenious, until the 1960s, when even more efficient "cold type" and offset printing came along.

See ODE, Page 7

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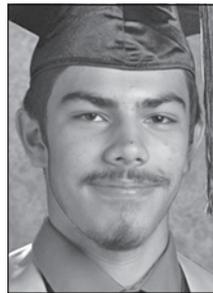
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• Ode (Continued from page 4)

Out in the front office, Dad and his one reporter would cover the school board and city council meetings. The news office was located on the town's main street and had big plate glass windows. So, whenever news broke, Dad would take a large sheet of newsprint (paper) and

use a grease pen to write out the news that "Harold Settles died this morning at 7 a.m." and of course the local election results, hot from the county clerk's office down the street. Cars drove by our office at a snail's pace, to read the latest from Dad's sheets, hung on a wire

with clothespins in the front window.

Each week, Eileen Benedict would make endless phone calls to a list of townspeople. "You have any news this week?" This became the page, or more, of "Personals," e.g.: "George and Effie Bort motored to

Peoria Sunday after church to enjoy chicken dinner with his brother, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bort. The Donald Borts reported their son Raymond had just completed basic training at Ft. Leonard Wood and was expecting orders to Korea." This was the Facebook of its day. Newsy,

civil.

Thanks for letting me reminisce. Dad's paper was important to our town, the glue that bound us. The paper wasn't perfect. Dad protected the main street businessmen and their peccadilloes from print—he couldn't afford to lose their advertising. But overall, the paper was invaluable.

Small town folks today are wrestling with how to replace community newspapers. Paper will likely be gone,

as Facebook and digital platforms spew endless "information." But who will cover the city council? Who will opine with some authority about the best candidates for the school board? Who will provide the glue, and not the acid?

Jim Nowlan grew up in the Stark County News, Toulon, Ill. He is a former small-town newspaper publisher, professor, and politician.

• Slices (Continued from page 4)

person segues into one of your least favorite persons. I'm sure it's a gradual process.

Still, every divorced couple (or nearly so) started out hopeful. They made memories. They laughed together. They were intimate. They had hopes and plans for the future. They were in love.

And then, I'm guessing, gradually things change. Paths for the future no longer advance in the same direction. Tempers may

flare. The love dwindles. And somehow the person in the center of your life is no longer in your life at all—or at least as little as you can make them be.

And you both decide the "D" word is the way to go.

And in your life, the "D" doesn't pertain to death, but the end of a marriage, and that might very well feel like failure. The memories you spent years making are still there, but they aren't the same. The photos you took of happy family

moments now have the "other" person in them and that is no longer you.

It must be hard.

I'm not sure why these thoughts came to me this morning, but they seemed profound. We all deal with loss and grief. I truly thought the loss of my husband was worse than any divorce could ever be.

I'm sorry for that. I can't judge your loss, just like you can't fathom mine. Loss is loss. Devastation is just that.

We are all struggling, yet we are all succeeding, hopefully more of the latter.

And we do best when we build each other up through whatever we are going through. I'm going to try to do more of that in the future.

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

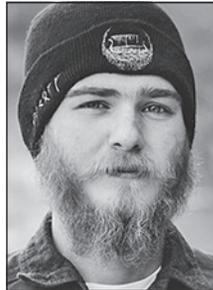
• Incidentally (Continued from page 3)

overwhelm the microbiome of the gastrointestinal system.

While we already know that the bacteria that cause oral disease play a role in heart and lung disease, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, premature birth, low birth weight, and certain cancers, we do

not fully understand the exact mechanisms of the microbiome's role in these processes. Researchers look to information from the HMP to complement and add to what the HGP has taught us, with the ultimate goal of providing optimal prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of both oral and systemic disease.

SCALES MOUND CLASS OF 2022



Maddison Anderson

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Samuel Cocagne

Anna Cogan

Hunter Curtiss

Zayden Ellsworth

Daniel Escudero

Collin Fosler



Evan Graves

Josie Korte

Kennedy Kudronowicz

Patrick Schuster

Jaidyn Strang

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Warhawks big win

After being escorted back into town by the Stockton Fire Department, a few of the Warhawks gather in the school parking lot to celebrate the win.

SONYA WILLAIMSON PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing

Around the Northern Hills with Annette Eggers



Annette Eggers

Have you voted for your favorite burger yet? May 11 is the last day to place your vote. The top three nominees include Nora Bar, Small

Town Saloon and Thumser's 19th Hole.

The winning restaurant will be announced on May 12 on the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Facebook page as well as other media sources and will win a plaque and a one-year Farm Bureau membership. All participants who nominated or voted for a top restaurant will automatically be entered for a random drawing for a \$50 Lena Maid Meats gift card.

People may go to www.jodaviesscfb.com or the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Facebook page to enter or receive more information about the contest. Place your vote by going to our website for a direct link at www.jodaviesscfb.com.

The Illinois Farm Bureau grassroots policy

The Illinois Farm Bureau grassroots policy development process provides every voting member the opportunity to make known their concerns about issues important

to them. When properly supported through the grassroots policy development process, these concerns are considered and may be adopted by the voting delegates at the organization's annual meeting each December.

That delegate action dictates the direction the organization follows in carrying out its programs each year. It is from this grassroots input and direction that Farm Bureau realizes its strength as an organization serving the needs of our members. These policies become the position for the organization the following year.

If you have any issues or concerns that you think need to be addressed in Illinois Farm Bureau's policy, you are always welcome to speak to any of our board members or myself. We are always interested in what our members' concerns are.

Illinois Farm Bureau Managers Conference

I spent the past few days in Bloomington at the Illinois Farm Bureau Managers Conference. It was great to connect with my fellow managers and have the opportunity to get updates, learn about new programs and listen to the speakers.

See EGGERS, Page 9

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SONYA WILLAIMSON PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Outstanding students

Stockton seniors Maria Bender and Justin Eden were chosen by Stockton school administrators to attend the 2022 Student Leadership Branch hosted annually by the Illinois Principals Association in Dixon, IL. More than 35 school districts nominated 2 students to represent their school in this honors event. Candidates were chosen on based on leadership, character, and achievement. Representing Stockton at the Student Leadership Branch were Maria Bender, Assistant Principal Jason Volk, and Justin Eden.

Hornets sweep Pirates in double header

Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Scales Mound-River Ridge Hornets picked up a pair of wins over the Galena Pirates when they faced off in a double header on Wednesday, May 4. It was a celebratory for the Hornets. "It was a great night of softball against Galena." Scales Mound-River Ridge Head Coach Kate Bingham said following the game. "It was a solid team effort all-around and a great feeling after being seeded last in our sub sectional, behind both Galena and Milledgeville", Bingham added.

For Bingham and the Hornets, it was nice to play a complete game of softball. As a team that has struggled through much of the 2022 season, whether it be offensively or defensively, they managed to bring it all together against Galena.

They wasted no time cracking the scoreboard as Galena's pitcher had location problems in the bottom of the first inning. Following a lead-off single by Emily Wurster, a walk and a pair of batters hit by pitches allowed the Hornets to score the game's first run.

Their 1-0 lead would hold until the bottom of the third, when the SM-RR offense broke out for five runs. A leadoff double by Millie Boden got the party started as Mickayla Bass and Amie Richmond followed up with back-to-back singles. Later

in the inning with two outs, Laiken Haas singled to center field, allowing another run to score and putting the Hornets up 5-0. Haas would, eventually, steal home to give the Hornets a six-run lead.

Galena would inch back with a run in the top of the fourth and a pair of runs in the top of the sixth. After cutting the SM-RR lead to just three runs, Galena managed to make it a game again by putting some late pressure on the Hornets. It was a pleasant surprise to see the Hornets tack on some insurance runs in the bottom of the sixth, giving their defense some breathing room. By putting the ball in play, the Hornets forced several errors by the Galena defense, allowing them to go up 9-3 with just one inning left to play. Although the Pirates would score a pair of runs in the top of the seventh, it would not be enough to comeback, as the Hornets captured their third win of the season.

Sophie Buck was solid offensively, going one for two with a pair of runs batted in and a run scored. Wurster was two for four with a run scored, and Boden was one for three with two runs scored. Bass had an exceptional game as she got it done in the pitcher's circle and in the batter's box. Bass pitched a complete game, allowing just five hits and three earned runs, while striking out four. Bass was also two for three at the plate

with a pair of runs scored and an RBI.

Following the 9-5 victory in game one, the Hornets were fired up for their second game. "Game two we came out ready to put them away", Bingham shared. That was evident in the way the Hornets combined for nine runs in just the top of the second inning.

The scoring spree was started by a leadoff single from Richmond. Later in the inning Haas tripled to right field, allowing a pair of runs to score. Back-to-back singles by Wurster and Evelyn Walters would produce another pair of runs. Eventually a trio of consecutive singles by Bass, Richmond, and Buck would put the Hornets up 9-0.

In the bottom of the third the Hornets picked up right where they left off. A single to center by Boden allowed two runs to score and go up 11-0. With two outs, Bass would reach home on a passed ball for the Hornets' twelfth run of the game.

With the big lead, SM-RR was able to play calm and relaxed, something Bingham's team has not had many opportunities to do this season. They would go on to score five more runs and eventually win by a score of 17-6, matching their biggest win of the season.

Haas led the way offensively in game two, going two for five with a pair of runs scored and two RBI. Boden was also impressive, going

one for three with a pair of runs scored, two walks, and two RBI. Buck was one for four with a pair of RBI and Wurster was one for five with two runs scored, one walk and one RBI.

Bass was in the pitcher's circle again, where she pitched another complete game, allowing just four hits and zero earned runs while striking out six. Bingham spoke about Bass' performance in the circle saying, "Bass did her job on the mound minimizing free bases. She rose to the challenge of throwing both games. I called time late in the fifth inning of the second game after Galena had scored a couple and simply asked if she wanted to finish or if she wanted to pass it off to our sophomore pitcher who was warm and ready to enter if needed. She told me she wanted to close it out, and Galena did not score again af-

ter that timeout."

Following the wins, Bingham shared her thoughts on the team's progress and how they have managed to look much improved in the latter parts of the season. "We have struggled this year with playing defense every single inning of each game. We have had several games in which we have lost in a single inning because we could not make the routine outs. The last few games we have won, we haven't had 'that one inning.'" Adding, "The talent has been there all season, we just struggled to show it all at once in a single game, for the entire game."

After splitting a pair of games with Milledgeville, the Hornets will look to wrap up the regular season with a pair of games against Warren-Stockton, including an away game against the Warhawks on Thursday, May 12.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured here are FFA members Katie Cobine, who competed in the Public Speaking FFA Creed at Districts, and Ashley Carroll, who recently qualified to compete at State.

River Ridge FFA member qualifies for State

Senior FFA member Ashley Carroll recently qualified for State in the Job Interview LDE. In this LDE (Leadership Development Event) students use real-life skills in preparing documents needed in a professional job interview. Students are tasked with creating a cover letter, completing a job application, crafting a resume and a thank you follow-up letter. In addition to getting the format, grammar and terminology correct on these documents, students must then complete a phone interview and an in-person interview.

FFA members must place first or second in the section contest before moving on to districts which were held at Geneseo High School. The top three scores from the district qualify for the State contest. The State LDE is held in conjunction with the State FFA Convention in Springfield in June. Ashley Carroll served as an officer in the River Ridge Chapter, she just completed a year of service as the President and plans on studying pre-vet at the Iowa State this spring.

•Eggers

(Continued from page 8)

Facebook updates

Thank you to all of our current fans who "like" us on facebook. We appreciate all of your support! We currently have more than 1,959 likes on Facebook, but we'd like your help to get to 2,000 or more. Please encourage your friends to like us so they can stay up to date on all of our events, activities, and member benefits. You will find information about our upcoming events as well be able to check out our recent posts. You can also follow us on Instagram. Search jdcfarmbureau to get connected with us.

Farm Fun Fact

May is National Hamburg-

er Month. Make sure to vote for Jo Daviess County's favorite burger.

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Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency PY22 LIHEAP/PIPP/LIHWAP/ WEATHERIZATION

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency is administrator of the Home Energy Assistance Program in Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties. Funds are available to assist income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane, and electric heating bills, and emergency water bill assistance.

The LIHEAP program began Sept. 1, 2021 for all income-eligible households with heating utilities.
* Applications for LIHEAP assistance will be taken until May 31, 2022
• After May 31, 2022, no new applications for LIHEAP can be accepted.

Applicants may apply for a DVP payment. The Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) provides a one-time benefit payment for income eligible households to gas or propane and electric utilities and for reconnection assistance until May 31, 2022.

New enrollments for the PIPP program ended March 31 for the PY22 Program. The Emergency Furnace Program Assistance ended March 31 for the PY22 Program.

LIHWAP assistance with a one-time payment on their water/sewer bills is available for approved LIHEAP/PIPP applicants with one of the following conditions: water service disconnected or imminent disconnection, or past due water/sewer bills of \$250 or more.

Please call the office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to receive an application packet. Completed application packets and documents must be submitted by mail, email, drop box, or fax. Limited appointments for special needs may be made.

Income Guidelines:			
Family Size	30 Day Income	Family Size	30 Day Income
1	\$2,147	6	\$5,930
2	\$2,903	7	\$6,590
3	\$3,660	8	\$6,737
4	\$4,417	9	\$6,883
5	\$5,173	10	\$7,029
		11	\$7,285

For more than 11 household members, add \$568 for each additional person.

**** To submit an application, you MUST submit ALL of the required documents. ****

- Proof of Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. Individuals without an SSN or ITIN can still apply and NICAA will advise
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days prior and including the application date such as pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD income, pension/retirement statements, unemployment reports, child support, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance, self-employment reports and proof of zero income.
- Complete current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days.
- Complete current water/sewer bill for emergency water bill assistance.
- Copy of current lease if any utilities are included in the rent payment

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency
27 S. State Ave., Suite 102, Freeport, IL 61032
815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 • www.nicaa.org

417709

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LENA-WINSLOW CLASS OF 2022



Devon Bania



Zoe Bardell



Paige Bennett



Luke Benson



Ellie Bower



Kamryn Cain



Jacob Cheatham



Jocelyn Comito



Tyler Croatt



Tess Dameier



Michael Decker



Gina DeVoe



Conor DeZell



Taylor Ditzler-Amill



Austin Dorsey



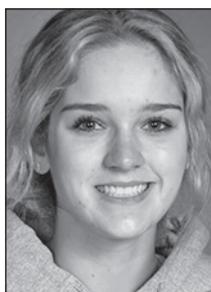
Naomi Draeger



Sarah Edler



Brady Elders



Isabella Flaminio



Sarah Foley



Grace Fox



Ethan Fye



Benjamin Gardner



Emma Gobeli



Leah Goebel



Kalli Humphrey



Belle Jordan



Danica Kaiser



Kamron Klever



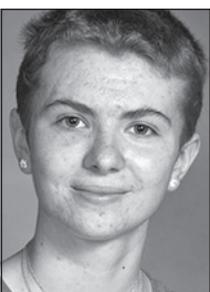
Zakary Krahrmer



Jacob Kubly



Bella Lawson



Laughlynn Leamon



Brody Mahon



Cierra Mapes



Nate Noller



Emily Parez-Sorcía



Brooklyn Quinn



Ava Randecker



Conner Reynolds



Rahmareon Roby



Tabitha Roeneburg



Lila Rudisill



Juan Sanchez



Maddex Sargent



Owen Saxby



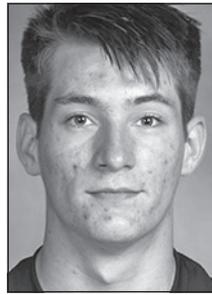
Payton Scace



Mikhail Schoonhoven-Hussain



LENA-WINSLOW CLASS OF 2022



Jackson Spinhirne

John Spinhirne

Ross Stabenow

Jaydon Stouffer

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Marissa Strominger

Nicholas Swedlund

Kaitlyn Sweeney



Tristen Tessendorf

Kylie Wagner

Zachary White

Saige Yount

Jack Zellweger



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Good luck, graduates!



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News briefs

Letter Carriers' food drive

On Saturday, May 14 the United States Post Office will be collecting non-perishable items for local food banks. Place a bag of donations in

your mailbox and it will be picked up by your mail carrier.

Babysitting Clinic

University of Illinois Extension will be offering a

babysitting clinic this summer. Interested youth may choose to attend the clinic on June 6 at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Building between 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Participants will learn

about choking prevention and receive First Aid training.

All youth ages 11 and up, who have completed 5th grade are welcome to attend for only \$5. Pre-registration is required. Register by visiting

our website at go.illinois.edu/BabysittingClinic. The deadline to register is May 31 and space is limited.

81st year American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State

ALA IGS provides girls who have just finished their Junior year of High School (rising Seniors) with an opportunity to experience citizenship. They will participate in campaigns and elections and learn about Americanism. Each delegate will have the opportunity to raise or lower the flag during the week. There will also be a variety of speakers throughout the week on many topics, including women in politics.

Please contact Julia Moore at 815-369-4684 with any

questions. Transportation is provided.

Highland Nursing and Allied Health to hold open house

Highland Community College Nursing and Allied Health programs will host a spring open house on Tuesday, May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Natural Science Building, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, Ill.

This is a great opportunity to see what Highland has to offer those interested in the healthcare field. Prospective students will get to know Highland Community College's Accredited Nursing and Allied Health Programs and tour the new Mildred Ferguson Simulation Hospital.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD & BRIDGE BUDGET AND TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Town of West Point and Ordinance for Road Purposes of the West Point Township, in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2022, and ending March 31, 2023, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the home of the Town Clerk, Bill Staton, from and after 8 o'clock a.m., on May 4, 2022.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinances will be held at 7 o'clock p.m., on June 7, 2022, in the West Point Township Garage in this township and that final hearing and action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the West Point Township Garage on June 7, 2022.

Karen Peight, Supervisor
Bill Staton, Clerk
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 11, 2022) 417564

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Lena-Winslow School District #202 will receive sealed bids at the Office of the Superintendent, 401 Fremont St., Lena, IL 61048 up to the hour of 1:00 p.m., Friday, May 20, 2022. Bids will be for the following:

1. Resurfacing of high school parking lot including driveway by ag room with 3" asphalt mat with striping.

Specifications will be available from the Lena-Winslow School District Office located at 401 Fremont St., Lena, Illinois 61048 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You may also call 815-668-0800 to request a copy of the specifications.

The bids will be publicly opened at 1:00 p.m. on May 20, 2022 in the District Office at 401 Fremont St., Lena, IL. The Lena-Winslow School District reserves the right to defer acceptance of any proposal for a period not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days after the due date of the bids. The Lena-Winslow School District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 11, 2022) 417611

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KENT/ERIN MULTI TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Town of Kent/Erin in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning 1 April, 2022, and ending 31 March, 2023, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 8100 W. Dublin Rd., Pearl City from and after 9 o'clock A.M., 6th day, May, 2022.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:30 o'clock P.M., 6th day, June, 2022, at 2699 N. Unity Rd., Lena in this Town and that final action on this ordinance will be taken by the Board of Town Trustees at the meeting to be held at 6:30 o'clock P.M., on the 6th day of June, 2022.

Dated this 3rd day of May, 2022.

Marcia Hammer, Supervisor
Ryan Pickard, Clerk
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 11, 2022) 417519

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and

appropriation ordinance for the Town of Erin in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning 1 April, 2022, and ending 31 March, 2023, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 8100 W. Dublin Rd., Pearl City from the after 9 o'clock A.M., 6th day, May, 2022.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 7 o'clock P.M., on the 6th day of June, 2022.

Dated this 3rd day of May, 2022.

Andy Lobdell, Supervisor
Ryan Pickard, Clerk
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 11, 2022) 417513

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for road purposes of the Erin Township in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning 1 April, 2022, and ending 31 March, 2023, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 8100 W. Dublin Rd., Pearl City, please call 815-275-2320 before coming, from and after 9 o'clock A.M., 6 day, May, 2022.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 7 o'clock P.M., 6 day, June, 2022, at 2699 N. Unity Rd., Lena in this Township and that final hearing and action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting to be held at 2699 N. Unity Rd., Lena

at 7 o'clock P.M., 6th day, June, 2022.

Ryan A. Pickard, Clerk
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 11, 2022) 417515

VILLAGE OF LENA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 101 N. Lincoln St. VARIANCE FOR BUILDING SETBACK REQUIREMENTS

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 6th, 2022, at 6:00pm at the Village Hall, 122 E. Main St., Lena, IL 61048.

The public hearing shall be for the purpose to consider granting a variance to Tracy Staton to construct a garage addition without having the 5' setback from the side lot line.

Interested persons may appear and be heard regarding the proposed building setback variance. The Village Board may subsequently consider the merits of granting the building setback variance at its Monday, June 13th, 2022, Village Board Meeting.

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 11, 2022) 417667

CORRECTED NOTICE

Village of Pearl City will be accepting sealed bids for the sale of a parcel of land located within the Village, in the Business district. Property Index # 89-02-17-08-284-016 (formerly known as 126 S Main St) Lot size is 24 ft x 120 ft. All bids must be received by June 4, 2022 with bid opening June 6, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Village Hall. Bids may be sent to Village Hall, 302 Station St, Pearl City, IL 61062 The Village retains the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 4 & 11, 2022) 416822

Spring invasive and problematic plants in the landscape

With the warmer weather, things are starting to green up. Our landscapes are coming back to life with the showy displays of new plant growth and flowers. But are all those the plants you expected and want? Are there plants taking over your landscape, timber, or open areas? Some of these are best managed during the spring and early summer.

Join Illinois Extension Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy Educator Jay Solomon for a spring discussion on problematic and invasive plants on May 24 at the Jo Daviess County Extension Office. The workshop will be offered as an after-

noon session starting at 1:30 p.m. and an evening session starting at 7 p.m. There is a \$5 fee to attend the program and pre-registration is requested. To register or for more information please visit us online at go.illinois.edu/jsw or call us at 815-858-2273.

The primary focus of this spring workshop will be on vegetative plants easily identified and controlled prior to developing seeds. During the workshop, we will delve into identification, management strategies, and safety precautions. Cow parsnip, wild parsnip, and hemlock can be harmful or even deadly if handled improperly.

Multiple subjects arrested on weapons charges

On April 29, the Freeport Police Department investigated two separate incidents involving armed suspects. During the investigations, the three individuals were arrested and charged.

Marsean Baker, aged 19 of Freeport, is being held at \$30,000 bond and charged with aggravated unlawful use of weapon without a FOID, aggravated unlawful use of weapon under 21 years of age, and resisting arrest. Jaedyn Baker, aged 20 of Freeport, is being held at \$25,000 bond and charged with aggravated unlawful use of weapon without a FOID, aggra-

vated unlawful use of weapon under 21 years of age, and resisting arrest. Jonah Durns, aged 22 of Freeport, is being held at \$50,000 bond and charged with unlawful possession of weapons by a felon, possession of firearm without requisite FOID.

All subjects were transported to the Stephenson County Jail, where they are being held on bond. The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.



FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

I think we went from the last vestige of winter to summer early this week. Many people predicted that this warm weather would happen. Spring has sprung, and May is almost half over. Enjoy this week's recipes that are a little of all kinds of things.

Rhubarb Bruschetta

I told you last week that we had a group of rhubarb recipes that I have been saving. This week there are two in the column. The first is for an appetizer that is an adventure in rhubarb and cheese.

5 T. olive oil, divided
1 1/2 C. chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb

1/2 C. chopped red onion
1/2 C. sugar
3 T. lemon juice
1 t. grated lemon zest
1/2 t. dried rosemary
18 slices French baguette
1/2 C. crumbled Gouda or Brie goat cheese

1/4 C. chopped pistachios

In a large skillet, heat 1 t. oil over medium-high heat. Add rhubarb, onion, sugar, and lemon juice; cook and stir until tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir the zest and rosemary into the rhubarb. Remove from the heat. Mash mixture to a chunky consistency and set aside.

Brush bread slices on both sides with remaining oil. Place bread on ungreased baking sheets. Broil 3 to 4 inches from heat for 1 to 2 minutes until browned on each side. Spread with goat cheese and top with rhubarb mixture. Sprinkle the pistachios on the top.

Sesame and Soy String Beans

These green beans will be a welcome side dish for any dinner. The unique flavors with the sesame oil and soy sauce makes a light dressing on a staple vegetable. I usually use reduced sodium soy sauce.

2 T. canola oil
1 lb. fresh green beans, trimmed
3 T. soy sauce
1 T. sesame oil
1/4 C. water
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 t. minced fresh gingerroot
or 1/4 t. dried ginger

In a large skillet or wok, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add beans and cook 2

minutes. Gradually add the soy sauce and sesame oil, stirring constantly. Add water, cook, covered, for 5 minutes. Stir in garlic and ginger; cook, uncovered until beans are crisp tender and water has cooked off, 3 to 5 minutes.

Creamy Chicken and Mushroom Rice Casserole

This casserole has a lot of great prepared short cuts. You can buy the gravy in a can, make it from a mix, or make it from chicken stock. It has an interesting addition of olives.

3 C. shredded cooked chicken
2 2/3 C. chicken gravy
2 C. uncooked instant rice
1 can cream of chicken soup, undiluted
1 C. sour cream
1 can (8 oz.) mushroom stems and pieces, drained
1 medium onion, chopped
2/3 C. chopped celery
2/3 C. water
1/4 C. chopped pitted green olives
1/4 C. chopped ripe olives
2 t. dried parsley
1/8 t. pepper
Green onions, chopped for garnish

Preheat oven to 375. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. Transfer to a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Cover and bake for 30 minutes. Uncover and stir; bake until bubbly and rice and vegetables are tender, 20-25 minutes more. Garnish with chopped green onions if desired.

Pork and Wild rice Casserole

Several of my friends have husbands who want pork recipes. I found this interesting one that uses ground pork and wild rice. You can use pork sausage if you want to take it out of the casing. A.J.'s Lena Maid Meats have ground pork that is really good. If you can't find traditional wild rice (be prepared to pay a lot), you can use Uncle Ben's Long Grain Rice that is a combo of white and wild rice.

2 C. uncooked wild rice
3 1/2 C. half-and-half
1/2 C. flour
2 lb. ground pork
4 slices bacon, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
1 C. chopped onions
1/2 C. chopped celery
1 can (4 oz.) sliced mushrooms, drained and liquid reserved
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 C. sliced almonds
1/4 C. chopped fresh parsley
3/4 t. salt
3/4 t. pepper

Cook wild rice according to package directions in a

Dutch oven. Drain any excess liquid. Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease a 3-quart baking dish. Whisk together 1 C. half-and-half with flour in a small bowl until smooth. Cook sausage in a large skillet over medium-high heat until evenly browned about 5 minutes. Drain and then transfer to pot with rice. Return skillet to medium heat and add bacon; cook until crisp. Reserving drippings in skillet, transfer bacon to paper towels to drain. Stir onion and celery into skillet; cook over medium heat until tender, about 4 minutes. Stir in flour mixture, remaining 2 1/2 C. half-and-half, and the mushroom liquid. Cook, stirring, over medium heat until thickened, about 5 minutes. Stir onion mixture, soup, bacon, mushrooms, almonds, salt, and pepper into pot with pork and rice mixture. Transfer prepared baking dish. Bake, covered, until hot and bubbly, about 40 minutes. Garnish with chopped parsley.

Pineapple Pudding Cake

There are many pudding cakes out there for spring and summer. Many of them use cake mixes and instant

pudding. This one is no exception. Enjoy this refreshing cake that makes enough cake to feed a small crowd. If you use the sugar free and fat free ingredients, it is low in calories and sugar.

1 pkg. (9 oz.) yellow cake mix (Jiffy size)

1 1/2 C. cold fat-free milk
1 pkg. (1 oz.) sugar-free instant vanilla pudding

1 pkg. (8 oz.) reduced fat cream cheese

1 can (20 oz.) unsweetened crushed pineapple, well drained

1 carton (8 oz.) frozen reduced-fat whipped topping, thawed

1/4 C. chopped pecans or walnuts, toasted
20 maraschino cherries, well drained

Preheat oven to 350. Prepare cake mix according to package direction; pour into a 9 x 13 pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Bake until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean, 15 to 20 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack.

In a large bowl, whisk milk and pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let stand 2 minutes. In a small bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Beat in pudding mixture until well blended. Spread evenly over

cake. Sprinkle with pineapple; spread with whipped topping. Sprinkle with nuts and garnish with cherries. Refrigerate after serving.

Strawberry-Rhubarb Upside-Down Cake

This is the second of our rhubarb recipes. It is an easy one again because of the cake mix. This cake is a crowd pleaser also. I would cover a jelly roll pan with aluminum foil to invert or use a platter.

5 C. fresh or frozen rhubarb, thawed and drained

1 pkg. (6 oz.) strawberry gelatin

1/2 C. sugar
2 C. miniature marshmallows

1 pkg white or yellow cake mix (regular size)

Whipped topping

Preheat the oven to 350. Place rhubarb in a greased 9 x 13 baking pan. Sprinkle with the gelatin, sugar, and marshmallows. Prepare cake mix according to package directions; pour batter over marshmallows. Bake at 350 until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 40 to 45 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes; invert cake onto a serving plate. Serve with whipped topping if desired.

Final Thoughts

Perhaps it will be time to think about some spring flowers. I am crossing my fingers that we are done with the unseasonably cool weather. My farmer friends are chomping at the bit to get the crops in. My garden friends are ready to plant veggies and flowers. Hopefully we can get and keep lawn furniture out. Proms are winding down and it is time for graduations to begin. School is also getting ready to be wrapped up. We survived the winter and hopefully summer will be kinder. My tulips are ready to bloom, and the asparagus is coming up. Rhubarb is ready to be cooked, baked, and a dozen other things. Remember we are looking for those rhubarb and asparagus recipes. You can contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide at 240 W. Main St. or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.



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Legislature eases liability insurance cost for agritourism

By Kay Shipman
FARMWEEK

The General Assembly gave Illinois agritourism businesses some relief on liability insurance costs. Lawmakers passed legislation providing agribusinesses a \$1,000 state income tax credit for liability insurance premiums and forwarded the provisions along with other tax measures to Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

For years, Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Specialty Growers Association have worked to address agritourism liability issues against stiff opposition from the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association (ITLA). After years of inaction due to ITLA opposition, Sen. Rachel Aud Crowe, D-Glen Carbon, and Senate President Don Harmon's office, with help from Rep. Katie Stuart in the House, actively partnered with IFB and lobbied each chamber to deliver aid for agritourism.

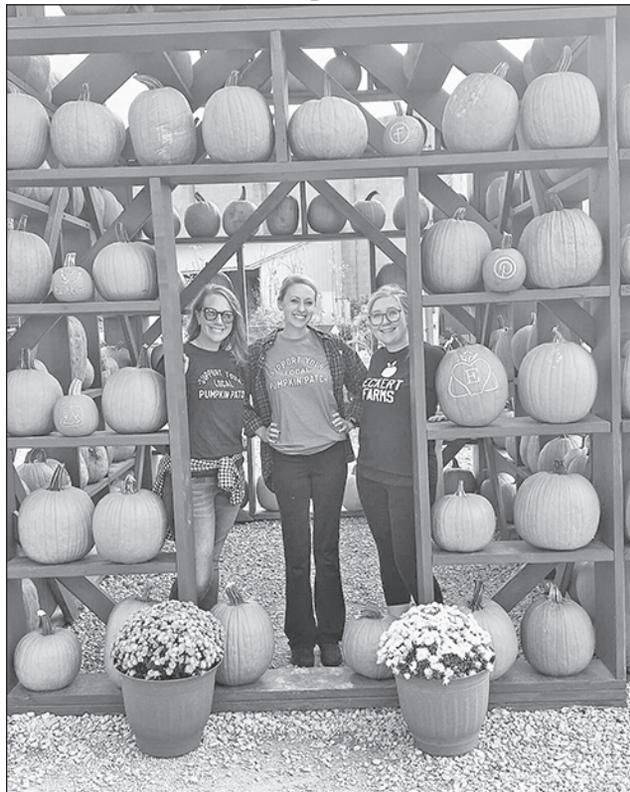
Stuart, D-Edwardsville, worked to pass relief for Liberty Apple Orchard and other agritourism businesses. "It's really important to support these small businesses," Stuart told FarmWeek. "The owners (of Liberty Orchard) and I have had numerous conversations. I understand their point of view about being outdoors (at the orchard) is the same risk as you being outdoors in your yard."

Farmers in Illinois lead the nation in soybean, corn and swine production, but some also contribute to the state's economy by offering immersive, recreational experiences to visitors through pumpkin patches, hayrides, tree farms, petting zoos and more, Crowe said.

"As small business owners, agritourism operators truly make our state unique by attracting visitors to our communities to participate in authentic farm experiences," Crowe said. "By offering state relief to agritourism operators for liability insurance premiums, Illinois is supporting the local businesses who promote economic growth statewide and play an important role in teaching our children and families the significance of agriculture in our daily lives."

"This is huge for agritourism and local food," said Mark Raney, IFB associate director of state legislation. "A lot of people want to enjoy these activities, but liability insurance is a huge barrier into this niche market given how expensive it is."

Raney noted a recent USDA report showed 85 percent of agritourism businesses earn less than \$25,000. "These are



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pumpkin patches and other eligible agritourism businesses would qualify for a state income tax credit for liability insurance premiums in legislation passed by the General Assembly. Agritourism liability issues have long been priorities for Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Specialty Growers Association.

small businesses," he added. However, the state Trial Lawyers Association long fought efforts to provide agritourism businesses limited liability protection rather than go to court, Raney explained.

"Specialty growers are unique in that we grow fruits, vegetables and herbs for direct use by Illinois families, while also inviting our guests to enjoy a fun, educational experience on our farms," said Randy Graham, president of the Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA). Because specialty growers work in agriculture and tourism, they "incur a higher liability risk than most," he noted.

Graham thanked Crowe and Stuart for understanding specialty growers' needs and their work to ensure passage of the liability insurance tax credit. He also pointed to the partnership success of IFB and ISGA.

The legislation defines agritourism businesses that would be eligible for the liability insurance tax credit and specifies services that would not meet the law's criteria. Raney explained qualified agritourism businesses would need certification from the Illinois Department of Agriculture after it adopts new rules.

Eligible agritourism businesses include those providing historic, cultural and on-site educational programs, tours, animal exhibitions and petting zoos, crop

mazes, U-pick harvesting, horse rides, hayrides and sleighrides.

Under the law, ineligible businesses solely offer hunting, fishing, rodeos, amusement rides, off-road biking or motorized activities, outdoor recreation and serve as wedding and concert venues.

For agritourism businesses, the liability insurance is very expensive. "We hope the income tax credit will alleviate that burden," said Raghela Scavuzzo, IFB associate director of food systems development and ISGA executive director. "We hope this credit will incentivize them to continue doing business and will stimulate new agribusinesses."

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.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Kelsie Kluck, JorjAnn Fink, and Ashley Almquist are the newest members of the Illinois Pi Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society. These three hard-working and well-deserving teachers were initiated to the chapter on March 24.

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International news

Pi chapter is very excited to announce that three new members were initiated to the chapter on March 24. The latest members are Ashley Almquist, Kelsie Kluck, and JorjAnn Fink.

Kluck is originally from Pearl City, IL. She went to Kishwaukee College on a basketball scholarship and then went to Ashford University in Clinton Iowa for her bachelor's degree in secondary education with endorsements in coaching and science. She is about to finish her sixth year of teaching at Warren High School. She

has taught all high school science classes, has been a varsity girls basketball coach, a class advisor, a National Honor Society advisor, and is currently serving as co-athletic director of the school. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in educational leadership at Western Illinois in hopes of being a principal or athletic director.

JorjAnn Fink is originally from Stockton, IL and is honored to join the Illinois Pi Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society in which her mom, Mary

Stayner, has enjoyed being a member and leader for years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois in 2002 and her Master of Arts degree in English with distinction from Northern Illinois University in 2019. She is currently teaching sixth through eighth grade English Literature and Language Arts at Warren Jr./Sr. High. She began her teaching career in 2005 as a computers/business teacher and excitedly transitioned to ELA where she shares her love of journalism and literature with students daily.

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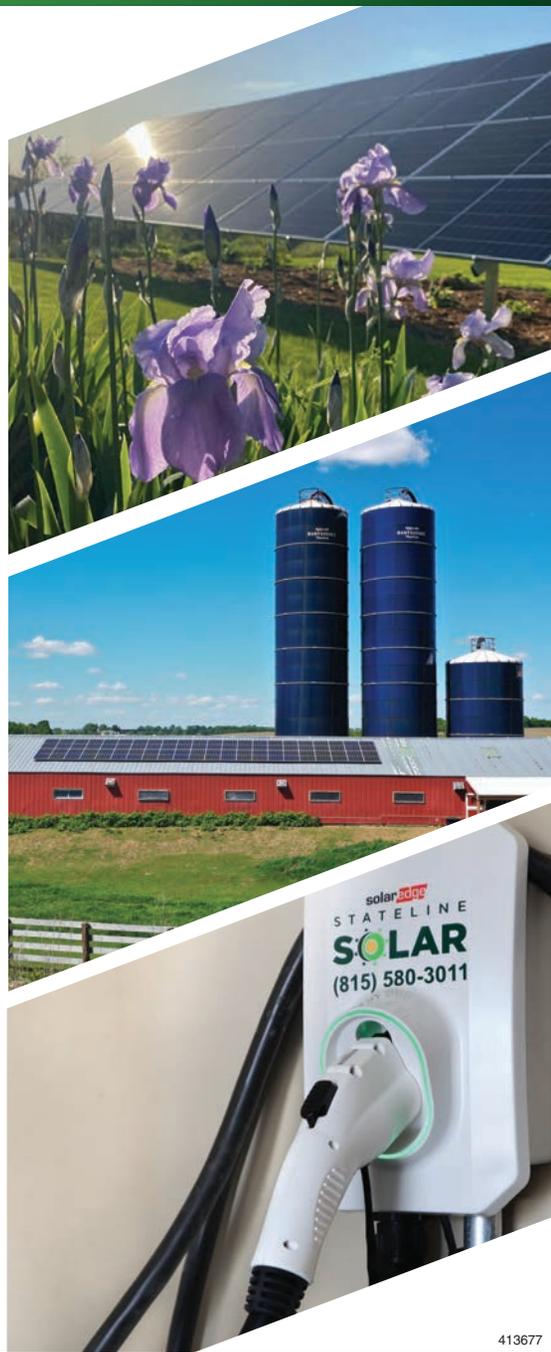


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