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VOL. 82 • NO. 47

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2015

Stockton galleries to participate in All River Road Talent Small Business Saturday art drive

By Tony Carton
Editor

STOCKTON — Among the thirteen artist studios, galleries, emporiums and shops opening their doors for a newly implemented monthly regional art drive are two Stockton facilities, Ink & Paper and NW Designs Glass Studio. Why not hit the road, visit the artists and have a behind the scenes view of this amazing and talented group of area artisans at work.

"We are going to be part of the All River Road Talent Art Drive on Small Business Saturday which is on Thanksgiving weekend," said Ink & Paper owner Amy Laskye. "And, then the following weekend is our regular monthly All River Road art drive which is also the weekend of the Stockton Christmas Walk."

She said All River Road Talent is a group of like minded individuals that get together to help cross-promote studios and art throughout our area, and in recognition of the staged art drives, Ink and Paper will be open 9-3 on Saturdays for the events.

"I have a couple other artists that are bringing things in, so not only will I have some of the things from earlier drives, but we are rotating some pieces in and out so when people come in they will see something a little different and not always the same art," she said.

Laskye is devoting more space in her shop to art and has long range plans for a gallery.

"I will still operate Ink & Paper and do my framing, but I'm changing directions just a little bit," she said, noting there are some very talented people in the area and a gallery would be an opportunity to show their



Ink & Paper owner Amy Laskye shows Charlie and Lily Siegner how dimensional eyeglasses can alter their perception of a piece of art created to change when viewed through specialized eye ware. The prints and the glasses are available at Laskye's downtown Stockton shop.

Tracy Siegner photo

work.

"A lot of people don't know about the talent we have in this area," Laskye said. "How can you appreciate something you don't know about? I hope the Stockton community comes out and supports art because creativity matters."

The Village of Stockton stands to gain from the project.

"My marketing plan includes bringing increased tourism traffic to the downtown," Laskye said. "I'm providing something

for our visitors to do and look at in addition to a bit of shopping. Also, it will be a place for visitors to experience the artistry of local craftsmen.

Her first art drive featured works by a local glassblower, several area painters and photog-

raphers, a stone engraver and a number of artists that participated in this summer's NW Illinois Art Fest in Stockton.

"In the future, I do hope to have Meet the Artists days and I am expanding my coffee line, so folks can come in Ink & Paper

and have a coffee while they look around and experience the work of our local artisans," said Laskye.

A number of the artists participating in the monthly art drives

See DRIVE, Page 4



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NUIC Basketball hits the courts in northern Illinois

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

WARREN — As the 2015-2016 winter sports season got underway across the State of Illinois, teams from East Dubuque to South Beloit saw their first action, some featured in northern Stephenson County as they participated in an annu-

al classic.

In Warren, conference opponents already received their first taste of NUIC play, as games were played in the Warren Girl's Turkey Tournament.

The Durand Lady Bulldogs topped Warren, 57-51, on Wednesday Nov. 18, as the annual Thanksgiving classic began, with the winter sports

season commencing.

Following the opening night loss, Warren faced Oak Park-River Forest in game two. Details on that contest are unavailable at this time.

The host Lady Warriors corralled the Orangeville Lady Broncos, 83-37 in their night three match, as Galena upset East Dubuque, 55-47 during

game play.

Early season rakings show the NUIC, once again, contains some of the more talented programs in the State's small-schools division.

According to information obtained through various web-based Illinois sports outlets, such as the IHSA and MaxPreps, Durand is expected to be one of the "teams to beat", from northern Illinois.

The Lady Bulldogs were positioned just outside the top ten, as the winter basketball season tipped off.

Many teams will be attempting to track down Durand, as well as other State-recognized programs, such as Stockton, Polo and East Dubuque, during this season. Upsets are expected to occur on a regular basis.

See NUIC, Page 3

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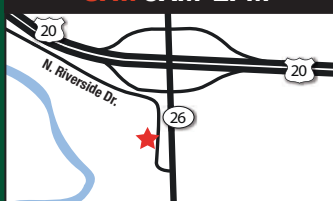
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Courtesy photo

Stockton FFA competes in Agronomy CDE

On November 4th four Stockton FFA members traveled to Eastland to compete in the Agronomy CDE. They had one team which consisted of Olivia Kepner, Hannah Brudi, Thomas Eden, and Drew Groezinger. The team placed second. Also Drew Groezinger placed second as an individual.

The Highland Choral Music Department presents Handel's 'Messiah'

FREEPORT — The Highland Choral Music Department's annual performance of George F. Handel's "Messiah" will take place Sunday, December 6, at United Presbyterian Church, 302 W. Stephenson Street in Freeport. Celebrating its 14th consecutive season, the performance will begin at 3 p.m.

The annual production is a compliment of chamber orchestra, guest soloists and choristers who will perform Part I of Handel's momentous work. The chorus will be made up of members of the Highland Chorale and the Highland Chamber Singers. Soloists will be Megan Besley, Katherine Calcamuggio, Scott Chachula and Todd von Felker.

"Written in 1742, no musical work in western civilization has thrived more than Handel's Messiah," Allen Redford, director of music at Highland Community College, said. "Each year we look forward to the performance of this most

joyous choral masterpiece."

Megan Besley is a native of Freeport and a highly lauded performer who has consistently delighted audiences across the country with her performances. She is delighted to join HCC for their annual Messiah performance, one of her favorite works to perform.

Katherine Calcamuggio is an award-winning mezzo-soprano who has been featured in important roles across the United States, eliciting kudos for her "soaring, rich voice" (The Miami Herald). This will be Katherine's second year as guest artist for the HCC Messiah concert.

Scott Chachula is a versatile performer whose repertoire ranges between opera, musical theatre and dramatic roles. Highland is thrilled to welcome Scott back as tenor soloist for his 5th Messiah performance.

Todd von Felker has been praised for his rich, vibrant voice. He has performed on the main stages of such noted opera

companies as Florentine Opera, New Orleans Opera, Pensacola Opera and Union Avenue Opera of St. Louis. This will be Todd's first performance with the Highland music department.

Tickets for the event are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for students. Tickets may be purchased online at www.highland.edu or by contacting the HCC Box Office from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 815.599.3718.

For more information about Highland's choral music performances, contact Director Allen Redford, at allen.redford@highland.edu or call 815.599.3568

• NIUC Continued from page 2

The Lady Pirates are expected to have a solid season, even though, at this point, the State Rankings don't reflect that.

Lena-Winslow is also one of those programs, along with the Dakota Lady Indians, who are expected to field very competitive programs in 2016.

Highland Community College Trustees approve 2015 tax levy

FREEPORT — The Highland Community College Board of Trustees approved the 2015 tax levy at its November 17 meeting. The annual levy is expected to provide \$6.3 million in operating funds to support the District's 2,400 full- and part-time students and related public services. The College's anticipated property tax rate of 52 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation is up from 49 cents from the previous year.

The levy was slightly increased from prior years, while taking into account any growth that may be seen in assessed valuation within the four-county District. This aims to ensure that the College meets the requirements needed to receive unrestricted state funding.

"This increase could translate to an additional \$5 in property tax to a homeowner with a property value of \$100,000," said Highland's vice president of administrative services, Jill Janssen.

Highland sets forth one levy for the tax year that is shared by the four counties served. The tax levy for 2015 includes things like the cost of the annual audit, liability insurance, worker's compensation insurance and social security. The levy also includes a Protection, Health, and Safety project that will provide for improved air quality and efficiency of building and environmental heating and air conditioning controls in campus buildings.

According to Janssen, the actual dollars received are based on the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of the District, which is determined in June following the tax levy. If the EAV generates more taxes than the District levies, those dollars cannot be collected. Conversely, if the EAV generates fewer taxes than the District levies, the total amount levied will not be collected. It is typical for the

District to receive less tax dollars than levied.

"One important source of unrestricted state funding (Equalization grant) is dependent on the District levying at 95 percent of the maximum rate in our Operating Funds," Janssen said. "The District's EAV decreased .001 percent from tax year 2013 to 2014, causing tax revenue to decrease."

"State funding has decreased annually in recent years. From 2012 to 2015, Highland's State funding has decreased by almost \$300,000. As a result, the State of Illinois provided only 13 percent of the funding needed to support the College," added Janssen. "The traditional model of the State providing one-third support of community colleges doesn't hold true any longer."

In addition to the tax levies, trustees approved the following at the November 17 meeting:

- The list of part-time instructors, overload, and other assignments;
- A first reading of new policy 4.40 – Student Worker Program;
- Revised job descriptions for Dean, Humanities, Social Sciences and Fine Arts; Cafeteria Manager; revised job title and description for Manager, Math Achievement Center; and, new job description for Testing Center/Disability Services Specialist;
- The Statement of Final Construction Compliance for the campus-wide internet protocol security camera system project;
- Two professional services agreements with Paragon Development Systems (PDS) for network and server/storage at a combined cost of \$52,000.

Jo Daviess County Democrats to host candidate meet and greet

STOCKTON — The Jo Daviess County Democrats will meet at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 1, in the back room at The Bottle Shed Bar and Liquor Store, 320 E North Ave, Stockton. After the business part of the meeting, there will be a meet-and-greet with Democratic candidates running for local

offices in the March 2016 primary election.

The group meets regularly at 6 p.m., on the first Tuesday of each month at different locations throughout the county. For more information, go to www.facebook.com/groups/JoDems/, or phone 815-777-0533.



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God Bless you all, Marilyn Schubert

VIEWPOINT

SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

Nov. 16-20,

SPRINGFIELD — Illinois' budget impasse is heading toward its sixth month, as a Nov. 18 meeting with the Governor and other legislative leaders was postponed to allow House Speaker Michael Madigan time to attend a family funeral out of state.

Gov. Bruce Rauner announced late last week that the budget meeting will be moved to early December.

Meanwhile, the Rauner Administration continued to work collaboratively with Illinois labor unions, with the administration announcing that another set of new collective bargaining agreements have been reached with several unions.

Budget meeting postponed to December

The previously announced budget meeting between the four legislative leaders and Gov. Rauner, set to take place on Nov. 18, has been postponed.

Speaker Madigan announced late last week he would be unable to attend the meeting because of a family funeral in another state.

To allow the Speaker time with his family and to ensure that all legislative leaders are represented during budget discussions, Gov. Rauner rescheduled the meeting for Dec. 1.

Budget blackout
The consequences of the ongoing budget impasse continued to spread during the week, with yet another vendor threatening to cut off services due to the state's inability to pay its bills on time.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative Inc. located in the southern part of the state has issued the state a final notice letter, saying disconnections will begin if the company does not see payment by Dec. 1. Southwestern notes they are a not-for-profit utility service and without payment from members, they cannot meet their bill demands.

Their pleas for payment echo those of City Water, Light, and Power (CWLP) of Springfield, which is reportedly owed almost \$3 million from the state. However, CWLP has not indicated they will act upon their disconnection notices as of yet.

As more and more vendors continue to cut ties with the state or threaten to cut off services to state due to lack of payment, Senate Republicans continue their call for passing a balanced budget tied with structural reforms needed to right the state's fiscal ship and move Illinois forward.

Rauner announces deals with several labor unions

The Rauner Administration announced this week that new

four-year collective bargaining agreements have been reached with a number of labor unions, including Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 1 Chicago, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters, and several others.

Emphasizing the Administration's willingness to work with labor, Gov. Rauner has now negotiated new collective bargaining contracts with 17 different bargaining units, representing more than 5,000 state

• DRIVE Continued from page 1

have galleries and the art drive network allows folks to visit any number of those spots.

"There will be a monthly map posted on the art drive web site that will let folks know which galleries are open on a specific weekend, so if you feel like a drive on a Saturday or a Sunday you'll have the opportunity to see a very diverse grouping of art right where it happens," said Laskye.

She said art and its apprecia-

tion are very important factors in the development of young minds.

Employees.

Terms of the most recent agreements include:
The state will expand the existing group health insurance program by offering employees a variety of new options.

A new performance incentive program to reward employees with bonuses for cost-saving measures and meeting or exceeding performance standards.

A new, collaborative managed competition program that allows management and the unions to work together to provide low-cost alternatives to outsourcing.

A reduction in the payout for accumulated unused vacation from 75 to 45 days for employees hired after Jan. 1, 2016.

Continuation of a 40-hour work week with overtime earned after 40 hours.

A program to enable the State of Illinois to address minority underutilization in state government.

Increased training and certification opportunities for employees.

Continuation of the prevailing rate system administered by the Illinois Department of Labor.

appreciate the efforts of student artists. You know, if you don't see art you cannot appreciate it."

For more information about the art drives and participants visit www.allriverroadtalent.wix.com Visit Ink & Paper at 113 South Main, Stockton or online at inkandpaperinvitations.com and visit NW Designs and Glass Studio at 13493 East Blair Hill Road, Stockton or online at www.nwdglassstudio.com.

USDA Rural Development Funding assists Illinois producers

CHAMPAIGN — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced that USDA is awarding loans and grants that will help more than 1,100 rural small businesses and agricultural producers reduce energy usage and costs in their operations. The funding is for energy efficiency improvements and/or renewable energy systems.

In Illinois, 42 producers and small businesses are recipients of this funding which totals \$1,566,148. The projects are being financed through USDA Rural Development's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP).

"Rural business owners, including agricultural producers, are blending these energy saving measures into their operations to help reduce their carbon footprint and cut operational costs," said Colleen Callahan, USDA Rural Development Director for Illinois. "The Rural Energy for America Program helps fund these projects that are mutually beneficial for the environment and the business's bottom line."

Among the Illinois projects funded:

Four County Renewable Energy, LLC in Elizabeth has been approved for an \$89,125 grant to install a 126.5kW solar photovoltaic system, which will result in the generation of 176,600 kWh. The proposed system is projected to generate enough energy to power 16 homes.

A Winnebago County producer has been approved for a \$33,511 grant to replace a diesel

irrigation system with an electric powered pump that is estimated to reduce energy by 76%.

A Coles County producer will use a \$40,413 grant to help finance the installation of a 51kW solar photovoltaic system, which will result in 100% energy replacement annually.

A Wabash County producer has been approved for a \$30,522 grant to upgrade an existing grain drying system that is estimated to reduce energy by 35%.

Funding of each award is contingent upon the recipient meeting the terms of the grant agreement.

Applications are currently being accepted for future REAP

funding. For application deadlines and details on how to apply, contact Mary Warren, Rural Energy Coordinator in Illinois, at 217-403-6218.

Congress created the Rural Energy for America Program in the 2002 Farm Bill. Because of the success of the program, Congress reauthorized REAP in the 2014 Farm Bill with guaranteed funding of at least \$50 million annually for the duration of the five-year bill. The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past seven years while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

The American Red Cross and Knights of Columbus to host Elizabeth blood drive

ELIZABETH —The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive in Elizabeth on Tuesday, December 8. The nurses and supporting medical personnel will be at the Elizabeth Community Building from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The local council of the Knights of Columbus

with members from Elizabeth, Hanover and Scales Mound will assist by supplying necessary non-medical services.

As always, there will be friends and neighbors in need of your donation. Please help the coming weeks to truly be a season of joy.

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ON THE RECORD

OBITUARIES



Channing Melvin Blair-Gille

PEARL CITY — Channing Melvin Blair-Gille, age 5 of Pearl City, IL, passed away Tuesday, November 17, 2015 at home with his family. He was born February 21, 2010 to Shawn Gille and Lindsey (Blair) Miller.

Channing had a great smile and laugh. He spoke with his eyes and a sparkling personality that could never be forgotten. He enjoyed school and watching cartoons. He loved family get-togethers and being around his family and friends. We may have only had him for a short time, but he was a blessing and an inspiration to each and every one of us. "yeah yeah yeah." "I love you."

Channing is survived by his parents, Shawn (Brianna Bresnahan) Gille of Stockton, IL and Lindsey (Zach) Miller of Pearl City; sisters, Kaydence (9), Mya (6), Raelyn (3), Kadence (4 months); brother, Oakley (7 weeks); his grandparents, Brett and Bonnie Jones of Stockton, Dan and Nancy Gille of Madison, WI, Marcia Blair of Stockton, John (Deb Jordan) Blair of Stockton, and Tom & Tam Miller of Lanark, IL; great grandparents, Bob & Bev Gille, Linda & Bob Dick, Teresa Jones, Helen & Gene Schamberger, Inez Pierce, Richard Fiene, and Russell Miller; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

There will be a private family gathering. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared with his family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

Irene Crandall

ELIZABETH — Irene Crandall, age 87, of Elizabeth, Illinois, passed away peacefully November 19, 2015, with her loving husband, John by her

side. She was born March 17, 1928. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, November 24, at the Zion Presbyterian Church in Schapville. Inurnment will take place in the Zion Presbyterian Cemetery, Schapville. Visitation will be held for one hour prior to the service at the church. Memorials may be given to the Zion Presbyterian Church in Schapville in Irene's memory. Friends and family are invited to share in Irene's life at www.lawjonesfuneralhome.com.

Ruby S. Smith

APPLE RIVER — Ruby S. Smith age 94, passed away on Saturday November 21, 2015 at Liberty Village Manor Court in Freeport, IL. She was born on October 20, 1921 to Paul and Louise (Mensimer) Smith. She married Anthony "Tony" Smith in May of 1940 at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, IA. She and her husband worked for Savanna Ordinance Depot during the Korean War. She worked at Micro Switch in Warren from 1954-1986 for 33 years and retired in 1986.

She is survived by her husband Anthony "Tony" Smith of Apple River, IL, sons; Jack

BIRTH

Hayes Jacobs

PEARL CITY — Jessie Jacobs and Danielle Rogers of Freeport, Ill. are the parents of a son Hayes Todd Jacobs born Saturday November 14, 2015 at FHN Memorial Hospital, Freeport. Hayes has a sister Gabriella, 11 and Drew, 14. Grandparents are Tracy Jacobs and Duane and Carol Price all of Freeport, Doug and Cheryl Rogers of Janesville, Wis. and Jeff and Dawn Brandt. Great grandparents are August and Rosie Jacobs of Pearl City, Ill.

Smith of Apple River, IL and David Smith of Stevens Point, WI, one sister Janetta (Virgil) Smith of Waupaca, Wi and one sister-in-law; Shirley Smith of Apple River, IL. and numerous cousins.

She enjoyed crossword puzzles, game shows on TV, cro-

cheting and quilting.

Ruby was preceded in death by her parents and brother Stanley Smith.

Funeral services were Tuesday November 24, at the Bartlett-Leamon Funeral Home.

Visitation preceded the services.

Burial will be in West Ella Cemetery in Apple River, IL.

Officiating will be Pastor Ryan Bare.

A memorial has been established in her name.

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

Pet Talk: Intervertebral Disc Disease in Dogs

STATELINE — Shock absorption between our bones is essential to perform normal physical activities. Just like humans, dogs can injure their bones and their joints, making every day mobility a challenge. In intervertebral disc disease (IVDD) the intervertebral discs, or cushions in between the bones of the spine, can degenerate from an injury or as dogs age.

Intervertebral discs are cartilage tissue between the spinal bones, or vertebrae, that act as shock absorbers during movement. Deterioration of the discs make them brittle and weak, so that the normal forces applied during movement cannot be effectively cushioned. This often leads to deformed or ruptured discs, which can press on the spinal cord above them, resulting in signs that range from neck or back pain to complete paralysis of the limbs.

Canine IVDD occurs in two main categories: Type I and Type II. In Type I of the disease, the inner portion of the disc is calcified, or hardened. This occurs quickly and leaves the disc brittle and more prone to rupture. Type II develops slowly, and the discs become hardened and more fibrous over time, eventually bulging out and applying pressure to the spinal cord.

Though both types of IVDD are caused by degeneration of discs, dogs may be more at risk for one type of IVDD than the other. Dr. Beth Boudreau, clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M Col-

lege of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, explained what breed of dogs are more at risk for the disease. "For Type I disc disease, breed plays a big role," she said. "Chondrodystrophic dogs, which are canines that have genetic differences that cause skeletal disorders, are more at risk for IVDD than other breeds because their discs may undergo very early degeneration. There are many chondrodystrophic breeds, including the Dachshund, the French Bulldog, Corgi, Beagle, Basset Hound and Miniature Poodle. For Type II disc disease, any breed of dog may be affected. Because of the slower nature of development for type of disc disease, dogs with this problem tend to be older than those with Type I disc disease."

If your dog shows an unwillingness to jump, has pain or weakness in the rear legs, cries out in pain, or displays a reduced appetite and activity level, you should consider taking them to the veterinarian for an examination. Diagnosis for IVDD starts with a complete neurologic exam by your veterinarian and possible X-rays, but is confirmed with an MRI or other advanced imaging.

If diagnosed with IVDD, your dog will not have to endure pain for the rest of its life. There are two main types of treatment available for IVDD: medical management and surgery.

"Medical management involves managing pain associated with disc disease in addition to a period of strict rest, to give the stretched or ruptured disc time to heal itself," Boudreau said. "This is most appropriate for less affected patients, especially those that are having signs for the first time. Alternatively, surgery can be performed to remove abnormal disc material that is encroaching on the spinal cord. This treatment option is recommended for patients who are more severely affected, or for dogs that do not improve with medical management."

Though IVDD is manageable in dogs, prevention is the best way to keep your pet pain-free even in breeds that are at a higher risk for disc degeneration. Feeding Fido a balanced diet and helping him maintain a healthy weight can reduce stress on the neck and backbone. If your dog tends to pull on the leash while on a walk, invest in a harness to ease even more stress off the neck. Keeping steps next to the bed or couch may also prevent your dog from jumping and developing an injury. These simple steps are a great way to keep you pet safe and healthy.

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University. Stories can be viewed on the Web at vetmed.tamu.edu/pet-talk.

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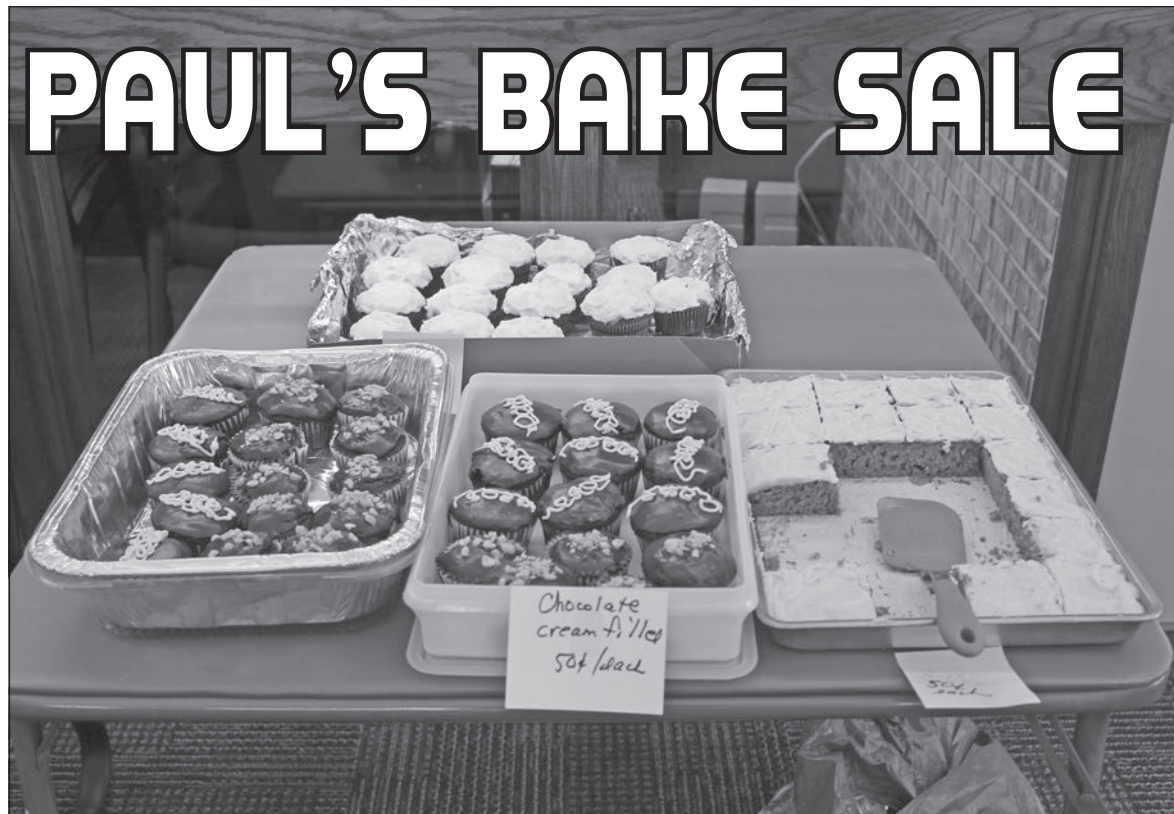
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The only things selling faster than the homemade donuts at the bake sale hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Kent at the State Bank in Pearl City were the chocolate mint brownies.

ST. PAUL'S BAKE SALE



Tracy Siegner photos

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Kent held a bake sale at the State Bank in Pearl City and this particular dessert table was one of the busier stations at the sale.

Join our "Community Enchanted Forest"

Individuals, organizations, churches, groups or businesses can decorate a tree that represents you! Bring your Enchanted Tree - any size or color, your decorations and lights - and help us create an Enchanted Forest in our front windows. Electricity will be available. All ages and groups are welcome! Decorating will begin the day after Thanksgiving and must be complete by Thursday, December 10th. Please call 815-369-4561 for details.



Christmas Open House

Friday, December 11 ~ 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Food ~ Refreshments ~ Door prizes



Community Supper

Wednesday, December 16 ~ 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
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226624



The pre-packaged caramel corn sold quickly at the bake sale hosted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Kent at the State Bank in Pearl City.

Lena United Methodist Church to host Holiday Cookie Walk and Chili

LENA — Lena United Methodist Church will be having a Holiday Cookie Walk and Chili Supper as part of Lena Business & Professional Association Night. We will be serving chili, pumpkin bars or

Texas sheet cake, ham salad or egg salad sandwiches and beverage. Carry outs will be available. Mark your calendars for December 4 to join us and the Lena businesses for a family night out.

Santa and Mrs. Claus are coming to Lena for breakfast

LENA — Children bring mom and dad to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus on one of their last stops before they head back to the North Pole. "Breakfast with Santa" will be held at the Lena Fire Station on Saturday December 12, 2015 from 8a.m.-10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 for ages 8 to

adult, \$2.50 for ages 4-7 and children under 3 are free. Enjoy a delicious all you can eat breakfast, games and pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. For further information call 815-369-5351. This event is sponsored by the Lena Community Park District.

Associate Circuit Judge Hauser to seek office

STATELINE — Associate Circuit Judge James Hauser announced Saturday that he will seek the office of Resident Circuit Court Judge in the upcoming election.

"Judge Hauser has been an excellent judge for the last nine years and is one of the most qualified candidates," said State Representative Brian Stewart. "He deserves your consideration for Circuit Judge."

Retired Presiding Circuit Judge Theresa L. Ursin reacted to the announcement, "Judge Hauser is experienced, efficient and knowledgeable," said Judge Ursin. "He has been an excellent Associate Judge and is unquestionably the best choice for Circuit Judge." Hauser cur-

rently serves as an Associate Circuit Court Judge, a position appointed by the elected Circuit Court Judges throughout the 15th Judicial Circuit.

Judge Hauser was born and raised in Freeport where he attended Aquin High School. He obtained his Associates degree from Highland College in 1983. Judge Hauser then earned his Bachelor degree from the University of Iowa before going to law school at Marquette University and began his legal career shortly after graduation in 1988.

During law school, Hauser was a Federal Law Clerk for United States Magistrate Judge P. Michael Mahoney. "I have known Jim Hauser all of his

life," said Judge Mahoney. "Jim Hauser is an outstanding person. In addition, he has been an outstanding judge for Stephenson County. The people of Stephenson County will be well-served by electing Jim Circuit Judge. No finer candidate could be found. I wholeheartedly recommend The Honorable Jim Hauser as the person who will do the best job for Stephenson County as Circuit Judge".

After graduating from law school, he was a Federal Law Clerk in Denver, Colorado and then went to practice with a trial firm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Judge Hauser and his family were anxious to return to Freeport and 18 years ago did

just that. He practiced law at Mahoney and Hauser where he was a partner with his brother, Rick Hauser, and Tim Mahoney. Judge Hauser has been on the bench since December of 2006.

"I have been honored to serve my community as Associate Circuit Court Judge and look forward to continuing to serve as Resident Circuit Court Judge and meeting the additional challenges the position will bring," Hauser said. "There's more that I can do for the people of Northwest Illinois, and I hope they give me the opportunity."

Hauser has a lengthy list of service to the region beyond his years on — and before — the bench. He has been an Aquin Booster and helped chair the Aquin Open since he moved back home. In addition, he has been involved with several fund raising programs including the funds to build the disc golf course at Krape Park. He was also one of the initial Board of Directors of the committee to build Little Cubs Field and has served as a Board member for

See OFFICE, Page 9

Winter weather forces delay in Forreston Thanksgiving Tournament

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

FORRESTON — With winter weather, reportedly assailing the area, with between six and 16 inches of snow falling on Friday night, Nov. 20 into Saturday, Nov. 21, the annual Forreston Girls' Thanksgiving Tournament Classic, scheduled to hit the floor on Friday night, saw game play delayed, until conditions were deemed much safer for travel.

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In the 4 p.m. game, Winnebago and Eastland, both within 30 minutes of the Ogle County location battled to make their way to the tournament and onto the floor.

Stockton stuck around for the 5:30 p.m. game on Saturday, as they faced the Rochelle Hubs.

Rockford Christian Life played Winnebago in the 7 p.m. game, with Eastland and host Forreston closing night one, in the main gym, in the 8:30 p.m. game.

Game play continued on Monday, Nov. 23, with Eastland and Christian Life facing off in the 5 p.m. game, followed by a 6:30 battle between one of the tournament favorites, Winnebago and Rochelle.

Forreston played Stockton in the 8 p.m. game on Monday.

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, Stockton faced Winnebago in the 5

p.m. game with Rochelle and Eastland taking to the court at 6:30 p.m.

Christian Life and Forreston closed night three, as they were featured in the 8 p.m. game.

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Rochelle and Christian Life

follow with Stockton and Eastland playing their game prior to the tournament closer between the Hubs and the Cardinals, scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

The 2015-2016 winter sports season for the area boys' basketball teams began this week, with many squads from the NUIC playing at conference host locations, across northern Illinois, in their own Holiday Tip-off Classics.

Girl Scouts seek award nominations for local volunteers

STATELINE — Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) is deeply thankful for its nearly 2,500 volunteers who act as troop leaders, Girl Scout Cookie Chairs, and in a variety of other time-consuming and effort-demanding positions that enable local girls to fully participate in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. These exceptional people generously donate their time and talent free of charge to prepare the country's next generation of female leaders.

GSNI is currently seeking award nominations for worthy Girl Scout volunteers from the community. If you've had a positive experience with a Girl Scout troop leader or any Girl Scout volunteer, visit <http://www.girlscoutsnri.org/volunteer-resources> to nominate them for an award. Awards include Volunteer of Excellence, Appreciation Pin, Honor Pin, Thanks Badge, Thanks Badge II, President's Award, and Hall of Fame Award. New this year, all nominations—with the exception of Hall of

Fame—can be submitted via an easy, online form.

Please join GSNI in recognizing these women and men who are inspiring the young girls of today to become the strong foundation of tomorrow!

We're Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois

We believe every girl can change the world. Our girls develop leadership skills in 16 counties including parts or all of Boone, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago. We help girls build courage, confidence, and character, so they can make the world a better place by inspiring them to discover their inner strength, talents, and passions. And with programs from Stomp Rockets to Camp Explorers, there's a chance for every girl to do something amazing! We're Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, visit www.girlscoutsnri.org or call 1-800-242-5591.

Galena Rotary offers 'Cyber Security....Who's In Your Computer' roundtable discussion

GALENA — The 28th annual Community Roundtable sponsored by the Galena Rotary Club, in cooperation with Galena Gazette Publications and Eagle Resort & Spa, will be held Wednesday, January 13, at Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa.

Anyone who owns a computer and/or other digital devices (i.e., tablet, smart phone) will want to attend this Roundtable. Three professionals in the field of cyber security will present important information you need to know. Three presentations pin-pointing specific users are to be made:

The Big Picture...cyber security on a global and national basis. What's happening today, what's being done now and in the future?

Large & Small Businesses....What's at risk and what

possible actions can be taken to protect your business and customers/clients

The Individual User..... Identifying the risks and what can you do to protect yourself and your information from computer fraud and identity theft

After each presentation, questions from the floor will be entertained.

Doors open 12:30p.m. with the event beginning at 1p.m. and ending at 5p.m. Cost for the event is \$25 if you pre-register or \$30 at the door. Pre-registration forms will be available at most Jo Daviess county banks and the Galena Gazette in early December. Pre-registration forms will also be available on the Galena Rotary website: www.galenarotary.org Sign up now as pre-registration ends January 6.

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4-H Camp – change your child's life with a fun and educational experience

STATELINE — Registration for 4-H Camp '16 is open. 4-H Camp '16 is set for June 13-17, 2016 at Camp Benson in Mount Carroll. Sign up today to get your child in on all of the amazing fun!

4-H Camp is a five-day, four-night residential camping experience that is conducted cooperatively by University of Illinois Extension staff in DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties and the professional staff at Camp Benson.

Historically, parents have sent their children to 4-H Camp for a variety of reasons: to have fun, to make new friends, to develop new skills, to be physically active, and to appreciate nature. 4-H Camp is about way more than one week of fun. Sending your child to 4-H Camp will allow them to create memories they will carry with them through adulthood. 4-H camp teaches youth to make good decisions, build their self-confidence, become independent, and gain the ability to work well with others. These are skills that will help youth develop into strong adult leaders. In addition, 4-H camp counselors devote much of their personal time to ensure today's camp-

ers have the same great experience they did as children.

Campers at 4-H Camp will check-in from 6:00-6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 13, 2016 and check-out from 6:00-6:30 p.m. on Friday, June 17, 2016. During camp week, youth will engage in a variety of activities designed to challenge, educate and entertain. Two or three free-choice periods will be offered daily and will include options such as: hiking, riflery, nature study, rock climbing, arts and crafts, archery, kayaking, crate stacking, team building challenges, survival skills, scrapbooking, zip-lining, swimming, dance/cheerleading, and GPS scavenger hunts. Evening activities will be provided by the 4-H camp counselors from the co-sponsoring counties and include campfires, a games night, and a talent show. It's guaranteed to be a blast.

4-H Camp is open to all boys and girls, ages 8-14 by June 13, 2016. 4-H membership is not required; however all participants will be expected to comply with the same high behavior standards expected of 4-H'ers.

Cost is \$245 until March 1. After that date, the price goes up to \$260. All camp fees

must be paid in full by June 1, 2016. Download a camper application on-line at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw/stephenson4h/2293.html> or you can register online at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo/> and click on the 2016 4-H Camp link. You may also call the Jo Daviess County Extension at 815-858-2273, Ogle County Extension at 815-732-2191, Stephenson County Extension at 815-235-4125, or Winnebago County Extension at 815-986-4357. Slots for boys and girls cabins will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

About 4-H: Illinois 4-H strives to help youth learn skills for living. 4-H programs are offered in every Illinois county by University of Illinois Extension. Illinois 4-H aims to impact the lives of 250,000 youth each year through sustained learning clubs and groups and short-term programming. 4-H is a community of seven million young people around the world learning leadership, citizenship, & life skills. For more information on any of these events, contact University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County at 815-235-4125.



Courtesy photo

Kindergartener pays it forward

Pearl City Kindergartner Krista Woodley donates a basket of assorted cereals to the school's food drive.

Highland Gallery hosts Visual Art Faculty Exhibit

FREEPORT — The Highland Gallery features work by current HCC Visual Arts faculty members through Tuesday, December 8 at the Ferguson Fine Arts Center. This annual event shows recent works by faculty that are on display and available for contemplation, stimulation, and discussion as a featured exhibit for the Fall 2015 semester.

"Faculty members of the HCC Visual Arts program are professional artists, as well as instructors, working within a diverse range of media, content, and image concerns," explains Highland Gallery Director Robert Apolloni. "Their individualized style and approach creates an exhibit showcasing traditional as well as contemporary concerns. A faculty art exhibition, comprised solely of works created by faculty members, is scholarly – and this exhibit illustrates the com-

mitment of HCC Visual Arts faculty to pursue continued research and artistry outside of the class room setting." This exhibit will feature the works of the following artists:

- Bob Apolloni: Drawing, Design, and Intro to Art Instructor
- Reed Bakken, Pottery Instructor
- Jim Planting, Drawing, Design, and Painting Instructor
- Sam Tucibat, Graphic Design and Photography Instructor

This exhibit is partially sponsored by SOVA and HCC Activities.

Highland Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information about the gallery or Highland's Visual Arts program, contact Robert Apolloni at 815.599.3479 or bob.apolloni@highland.edu.



Courtesy photo

Food Drive a Success

A food drive for the Golden Meals/Meals On Wheels program was a huge success. Lisa Lobdell, Lena Living Center, Bryan Badger, Presence St Joseph, Diane Randecker, Golden Meals, Cheryl Johnson, Oakley Courts Assisted Living and Savanna Reed, Presence St. Joseph spearheaded the effort and collected specific canned foods that the agency could use. Due to the lack of a State budget, the Golden Meals/Meals on Wheels program have been short on food supplies.

The Golden Meals agency supplies on site meals and meals for seniors in Stephenson or Jo Daviess Counties. Thanks to all who donated to make this food drive successful.

Stephenson County 4-H hosts award and volunteer recognition event

FREEPORT — November 15 set the stage for the annual Stephenson County 4-H Award & Volunteer Recognition event held at the Eagles Club in Freeport. This annual event is held to award 4-H members for their outstanding accomplishments throughout the year and recognize 4-H volunteers for all the time and energy they give to make Stephenson County 4-H the best it can be. Emcees for the event were Kyla Glendenning, a six-year member of Florence Crickets 4-H Club, and Asa Lake, an eight-year member of Lena Live Wires 4-H Club.

Prior to the event, 4-H members are judged on award applications they fill out and turn in at the county level. "The award applications are a way for 4-H'ers to explain progress and challenges they faced while completing their projects," states Lori Tessendorf, Program Coordinator. "It also gives them a chance to highlight other activities they've participated in at the club, county, and state levels both within and outside of 4-H."

Awards were given in the following project areas: Matthew Bronkema of Pearl City Hornets for Achievement, Animal Science, and Personal Development; Magen Busker of Country Cuzins for Achievement, Animal Science, Food, Nutrition & Health, and Home & Family; Mary Engelkens of Rainbow Rangers for Achievement and Food, Nutrition & Health; Megan Hayunga of Freeport Fantastics for Achievement and Food, Nutrition & Health; Sydney Hayunga of Freeport Fantastics for Animal Science and Personal Development; Bria

Koester of Country Cuzins for Animal Science and Personal Development; Zakary Krahmer of Lena Lucky Clovers for Animal Science; Anna Kuper of Florence Crickets for Animal Science and Home & Family; Leah Kuper of Florence Crickets for Animal Science and Personal Development; Michelle Marck of Freeport Fantastics for Food, Nutrition & Health and Personal Development; Kaylen Miller of Snappy Snazzers for Animal Science; Hayden Roth of Snappy Snazzers for Animal Science; Ross Stabenow of Lena Lucky Clovers for Animal Science; and Jennifer Wuebbels of Freeport Fantastics for Food, Nutrition & Health

This year's Top First-Year 4-H members included: Jasmine Brinkmeier (Country Cuzins), Hannah Pecoraro (Lena Live Wires), Gavin Roth (Snappy Snazzers), Cole Weber (Country Cuzins), Lauren Witte (Freeport Fantastics) and Elizabeth Wuebbels (Freeport Fantastics). Top First Year Clothing winner Elizabeth Wuebbels (Freeport Fantastics); Top First-Year Beef winner Ross Stabenow (Lena Lucky Clovers); Top First-Year Dairy winner Jasmine Brinkmeier (Country Cuzins); National Dairy Conference nominees Megan Hayunga (Freeport Fantastics) and Bria Koester (Country Cuzins); and Holstein-Friesian Association nominees Magen Busker (Country Cuzins), Bria Koester (Country Cuzins) and Kaylen Miller (Snappy Snazzers).

Caroline Otto (Florence Crickets) was the 4-H Program Book Cover winner. The following Club Officers were also recognized: Gavin and Hayden

Roth (Snappy Snazzers) for Scrapbook; Davis Rockets 4-H Club for Recreation; Alanna Pals (Freeport Fantastics) for Club Reporter; Kenda Snyder (Lena Live Wires) and TJ Wingert (Pearl City Hornets) for Treasurers; Zakary Krahmer (Lena Lucky Clovers) for Secretary; Kevyn-Ann Sutter and Joe Werkheiser (both Lena Live Wires) for Co-Presidents; and Zack Brinkmeier, Grant Curry, Cody Kluck, Meg Tessendorf, and TJ Winger (all from Pearl City Hornets) for Officer Team of the Year.

Sixteen adult volunteers who reached a milestone year of 1, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years for being leaders in a 4-H club were given special recognition. The one-year leaders were: Ann DeZell (Pearl Valley Rangers), Amy Hesselbacher (Freeport Fantastics), Carrie Julius (Whiz Kids), Stephanie Mitchell (Country Cuzins) and Troy Pettis (Davis Rockets); Five-year leaders were: Josh Bolen (German Valley Golden Eagles), Debbie Crain (Lena Live Wires), Gail Engelkens (Rainbow Rangers), Marsha Lott (Florence Crickets) and Darci Wierema-Sutter (Lena Live Wires). Ten-year leaders were: Marie Bronkema (Pearl City Hornets), Marlyse Johnson (Pearl Valley Rangers) and Trent Wingert (Pearl City Hornets). The fifteen-year leader was Rita Koch (Country Cuzins), and the twenty-year leader was Julie Miller (Davis Rockets). Pat Yeagle (Snappy Snazzers), who has served many, many years and given so much to the 4-H program, was recognized for reaching her 36-year anniversary.

Barb Marck of Freeport Fan-

tastics was also chosen as the 2015 Adult Volunteer of the Year and the Club Leader Team of the Year award was given to Bonnie Campbell, Larry Campbell, Julie Miller, and Troy Pettis from the Davis Rockets 4-H Club.

Club of the Year is awarded to a large club with 20 members or more and a small club with 19 members or less. Selection is made from applications submitted by the club, detailing yearly activities and volunteer and youth involvement. This year's Large Club of the Year is Snappy Snazzers. This year's Small Club of the Year is Davis Rockets.

The I Dare You award was given to Magen Hayunga of Freeport Fantastics for her excellence in character, balanced personal development, and for demonstrating qualities of constructive leadership. She is encouraged to develop herself personally and to improve her leadership skills by reading William Danforth's I Dare You book and then passing on the information to others to help them develop their leadership abilities.

The Engelkens Family (Brian, Carol, Mark, Katie, Brandon and Adam) were recognized as the Family of the Year. This family started its 4-H career more than 15 years ago and has participated as a family at the Ag Breakfast, the Pork Chop Dinner, and the 4-H recruitment booth at the fair. They are county and state 4-H show champions, are always actively promoting 4-H through local events, and very involved with their church and teaching.

The Top 4-H'er award is the

most prestigious award a member can receive at the county level. The Top 4-H'er award was given to Mary Engelkens of the Rainbow Rangers 4-H Club. When reading Mary's award application, she stated, "I really love 4-H and enjoy doing things in my club and at the county and state levels. I have learned to make the best better through my 4-H experience and projects."

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• OFFICE

Continued from page 7

the Freeport Area Church Cooperative.

The race now consists of Judge Hauser and Rockford attorney Andrew T. Smith, who announced his candidacy several months ago. Judge Hauser's campaign committee consists of former Stephenson County Treasurer Andrew M. Smith, retired Resident Circuit Judge Theresa L. Ursin, and Attorneys Rick Hauser and Tim Mahoney.

Winter weather forces delay in Forreston Thanksgiving Tournament

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN

LENA — This week we will celebrate family and food—can't think of a better combination. After the celebration and the turkey has been carved, leftovers are stashed in the refrigerator. This week's column will give you some ideas of what to do with the leftover turkey. It will also give you a start on our next holiday.

The first recipe is for a turkey soup. You can use the leftover turkey, cube it, and put it in a soup that is hearty with barley and spinach. Remember that the spinach will wilt and be just a little taste and not the main ingredient. This soup can be made and frozen—leave the spinach out until you are ready to cook and serve it. This dish

is a great way to use some of that turkey.

Turkey & Vegetable Barley Soup

1 T. oil
5 medium carrots, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
2/3 C. quick-cooking barley
6 C. chicken broth
2 C. cubed cooked turkey breast
2 C. fresh baby spinach
1/2 t. pepper

In a large saucepan, heat oil over medium high heat. Add carrots and onion; cook and stir 4-5 minutes or until carrots are crisp-tender.

Stir in barley and broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 10-15 minutes or until carrots and barley are tender. Stir in turkey, spinach and pepper; heat through.

This next recipe has main meal written all over it. You have a vegetable in the peppers, some stuffing, and turkey. It is also very colorful. Kraft makes a great sun dried tomato vinaigrette dressing. If you have leftover stuffing, you can use it in the peppers. The cheese makes the whole meal taste great.

Turkey & Stuffing Stuffed Peppers

1 green pepper, cut lengthwise in half and seeded
1 red pepper, cut lengthwise in half and seeded
1 yellow pepper, cut lengthwise in half and seeded
1 onion chopped
1/2 C. Sun Dried Tomato Vinaigrette Dressing
1 1/2 C. stuffing
2 oz. cream cheese, softened and cubed
1 1/2 C. shredded three cheese

Preheat the oven to 400. Place the pepper halves, cut sides up in a 9 x 13 baking dish which has been sprayed with cooking spray. Bake 10 minutes.

In a large nonstick skillet, cook onions in salad dressing on medium heat 5 minutes or until crisp tender, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Stir in turkey, stuffing, cream cheese, and half of the cheese; spoon into pepper halves. Cover and bake for 15 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining cheese; bake, uncovered for 5 minutes or until cheese is melted and filling is heated through.

Are you looking for a great way to use up those acorn squash? This is a whole meal in a half of an acorn squash. I use Uncle Ben's Long Grain Wild Rice—not the quick cooking kind. You can use the



The not so skinny cook

leftover bread cubes from the bag you used at Thanksgiving. To make it vegetarian, you can use vegetable broth rather than chicken broth. This squash is a main meal with a salad and bread. It combines all the great flavors of fall. You could start the acorn squash in the microwave so that it doesn't take so long. Enjoy the great tastes of fall!

Wild Rice Stuffed Acorn Squash

4 acorn squash, halved lengthwise and seeded
5 T. butter
1 1/2 C. diced onion
1 clove garlic, minced
1 C. chopped fresh mushrooms
1 pkg. (6 oz.) long grain and wild rice mix, including the flavor packet
2/4 C. chicken or vegetable broth
1/2 C. dried cranberries
3/4 C. diced celery
1/2 of a 12 oz. bag of seasoned stuffing
1/2 C. chopped pecans
5 T. chopped fresh parsley or 5 t. of dried parsley
1/4 t. salt

Bake the squash:
Preheat the oven to 350. Lightly grease 2 large rimmed baking sheets. Put the squash, cut sides down, on the baking sheets. Bake squash, switching position of sheets halfway through, until just tender when pierced with a knife, about 50-60 minutes. Remove from oven and keep the oven on.

Stuffing:
Melt 1 tablespoon butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Cook 1 cup onion and garlic, stirring, until the onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Reduce the heat to medium-low and then add mushrooms and cook, stirring until they give off their juices, about 5 minutes. Add the rice mix (not the flavor packet) and cook stirring until the vegetables begin to brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in 1 1/2 cups of broth, flavor packet and cranberries, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer the rice, covered, or until tender

and liquid is absorbed, about 20 minutes. Remove pan from heat and fluff the mixture with a fork, and let stand, covered, 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork once again

Stuff the squash:

Gently toss cooked rice mixture with stuffing, pecans, parsley and salt in a large bowl. Spoon the filling into the squash cavities, patting it down gently to level, then mound as much of remaining filling as possible on top of each squash. Return stuffed squash to oven and bake until stuffing is hot, 15-20 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley

This main meal casserole is a great way to use up with any of that turkey you still have left. If you put three cups of the cubed turkey in the freezer, you can pull it out to make this recipe in two weeks when turkey will taste good again. The noodles are blanched—cooked for only one minute, so they won't get gummy. If you don't have panko bread crumbs, you can use just plain ones. The panko bread crumbs make the topping a little more crunchy.

Turkey Noodle Casserole

12 oz. wide egg noodles
4 T. unsalted butter
1 C. diced onions
1 C. small baby carrots
1 C. sliced celery
2 t. dried thyme
1/3 C. flour
4 1/2 C. chicken broth
1 C. heavy cream
3 C. chopped, cooked turkey
2 C. shredded Cheddar
1 C. frozen peas
2 T. chopped fresh parsley or 2 t. dried parsley
3 T. lemon juice
Salt and pepper to taste
Topping:
1 1/2 C. shredded Parmesan
1 1/2 C. panko bread crumbs
3 T. unsalted butter melted
2 T. minced fresh parsley or 2 t. dried parsley

Zest of 1 lemon (optional)
Preheat the oven to 350. Coat a 3-qt. baking dish with nonstick spray. Blanch the noodles in a large pot of boiling salted water for 1 minute. Drain noodles in a colander and rinse with cold water to stop the cooking; drain.

Heat 4 tablespoons of butter in same pot over medium. Add onions, carrots, celery, and thyme; sweat the vegetables, covered until vegetables soften, about 5 minutes. Stir in flour and cook for 2 minutes.

So

Much to be
Thankful For



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For freedom to believe
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vs.
CHARLES R. FARREY AKA
CHARLES FARREY AKA
CHUCK FARREY, STACY L.
FARREY AKA STACY FAR-
REY AKA STACY WEIS AKA
STACY L. WEIS, TENNY-
SON/POTOSI COMMUNITY
BANK and BENTON STATE
BANK,
Defendants.

15CH 15
PROPERTY ADDRESS:9572
COUNCIL RIDGE RD
GALENA, IL 61036

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby
given that pursuant to a Judg-
ment of the above Court en-
tered in the above entitled cause
on July 16, 2015, the following
described real estate, to-wit:

ALL THAT PARCEL OF
LAND IN CITY OF GALE-
NA, JO DAVIESS COUNTY,
STATE OF ILLINOIS, BE-
ING KNOWN AND DESIG-
NATED AS LOT 6, FIRST
ADDITION TO COUNCIL
RIDGE COUNTRY ESTATES,
FILED IN PLAN HOLD C OF
PLATS AT NUMBER 385, AD
DOC# 235115, RECORDED
11/29/1994. BY FEE SIM-
PLE DEED FROM JAMES
W. TOPOLSKI AND LINDA
L. TOPOLSKI, HUSBAND
AND WIFE AS SET FORTH
IN DOC # 343609 DATED
07/31/2008 AND RECORD-
ED 08/01/2008, JO DAVIESS
COUNTY RECORDS, STATE
OF ILLINOIS.

Permanent Index Number:
19-000-061-76

Commonly known as: 9572
Council Ridge Rd, Galena, IL
61036

will be offered for sale and
sold at public vendue on De-
cember 2, 2015 at 10:00 AM, at
the Jo Daviess County Court-
house, Galena, Illinois.

The Judgment amount is
\$213,289.49.

The real estate is improved
with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the
highest bid by certified funds
at the close of the sale payable
to The Sheriff of Jo Daviess
County. No third party checks
will be accepted. The balance,
including the Judicial sale fee
for Abandoned Residential
Property Municipality Relief
Fund, which is calculated on
residential real estate at the
rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or

fraction thereof of the amount
paid by the purchaser not to ex-
ceed \$300, in certified funds/
or wire transfer, is due within
twenty-four (24) hours. No fee
shall be paid by the mortgagee
acquiring the residential real
estate pursuant to its credit bid
at the sale or by any mortgag-
ee, judgment creditor, or other
lienor acquiring the residential
real estate whose rights in and
to the mortgaged real estate
arose prior to the sale. The sub-
ject property is subject to gen-
eral real estate taxes, special
assessments or special taxes
levied against said real estate,
and is offered for sale without
any representation as to quality
or quantity of title and without
recourse to the Plaintiff and in
"AS IS" condition. The Sale is
further subject to confirmation
by the Court.

Upon payment in full of the
amount bid, the purchaser shall
receive a Certificate of Sale,
which will entitle the purchaser
to a Deed to the real estate after
confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be
open for inspection. Prospec-
tive bidders are admonished to
check the Court file to verify all
information.

For information, contact the
Plaintiff's Attorney: Heavner,
Beyers & Mihlar, LLC, 111
East Main Street, Decatur, IL
62523, (217) 422-1719.

The purchaser of a condo-
minium unit at a judicial fore-
closure sale, other than a mort-
gagee, who takes possession of
a condominium unit pursuant
to a court order or a purchaser
who acquires title from a mort-
gagee shall have the duty to
pay the proportionate share, if
any, of the common expenses
for the unit which would have
become due in the absence of
any assessment acceleration
during the 6 months immedi-
ately preceding institution of
an action to enforce the col-
lection of assessments, and
which remain unpaid by the
owner during whose posses-
sion the assessments accrued.
If the outstanding assessments
are paid at any time during any
action to enforce the collection
of assessments, the purchas-
er shall have no obligation to
pay any assessments which ac-
crued before he or she acquired
title. If this property is a con-
dominium unit which is part of
a common interest communi-
ty, the purchaser of the unit at
the foreclosure sale other than
a mortgagee shall pay the as-
sessments required by the Con-
dominium Property Act, 765
ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).

If the sale is not confirmed
for any reason, the Purchaser
at the sale shall be entitled only
to a return of the purchase price
paid. The Purchaser shall have
no further recourse against the
Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or
the Mortgagee's attorney.

IF YOU ARE THE MORT-
GAGOR (HOMEOWNER),
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
TO REMAIN IN POSSES-
SION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER
ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF
POSSESSION, IN ACCOR-
DANCE WITH SECTION 15-
1701 (c) OF THE ILLINOIS
MORTGAGE FORECLO-
SURE LAW.

Note: Pursuant to the Fair
Debt Collection Practices Act
you are advised that the Law
Firm of Heavner, Beyers &
Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be
a debt collector attempting to
collect a debt, and any informa-
tion obtained will be used for
that purpose.

I674916
(Published in The Scoop Today
Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2015)

224835

"THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO
COLLECT A DEBT AND
ANY INFORMATION OB-
TAINED WILL BE USED
FOR THAT PURPOSE"

W15-0613

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 15TH
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT,
CHANCERY DIVISION
The Bank of New York Mellon
FKA The Bank of New York, as
Trustee (CWALT 2004-30CB);
Plaintiff,
VS.

Unknown Heirs and Legatees
of Jimmie M. Hartney, II; The
Bank of New York Mellon
FKA The Bank of New York, as
successor Trustee to JPMorgan
Chase Bank, N.A., as Trustee
for the Certificateholders of
CWABS Master Trust, Revolv-
ing Home Equity Loan Asset
Backed Notes, Series 2004-R;
Bryanna Lorenzen; William P.
Butcher, as Special Represen-
tative; Unknown Owners and
Non Record Claimants;
Defendants.

15 CH 12
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for
publication having been filed,
notice is hereby given to you:

-Unknown Heirs and Lega-
tees of Jimmie M. Hartney, II
-Unknown Owners and Non
Record Claimants

that Plaintiff has commenced
this case in the Circuit Court of

Jo Daviess County against you
and other defendants, for fore-
closure of a certain Mortgage
lien recorded against the prem-
ises described as follows:

LOTS NUMBER FOUR (4)
AND FIVE (5) IN BLOCK
TWO OF SYLVESTER BUR-
NETTS THIRD ADDITION
TO THE TOWN OF WAR-
REN, IN THE COUNTY OF
JO DAVIESS AND STATE OF
ILLINOIS.

C/K/A: 408 South Water
Street, Warren, IL 61087

PIN: 21-001-436-00

said Mortgage was given by
Jimmie M. Hartney, II, Mort-
gagor(s), to Mortgage Elec-
tronic Registration Systems,
Inc., acting solely as a nominee
for Countrywide Home Loans,
Inc., Mortgagee, and recorded
in the Office of the Recorder
of Deeds of Jo Daviess Coun-
ty, Illinois, as Document No.
316418.

UNLESS YOU file your ap-
pearance or otherwise file
your answer in this case in
the Office of the Circuit Clerk
of Jo Daviess County, Jo Da-
viess County Courthouse, 330
North Bench Street, Galena IL
61036 on or before December
18, 2015, A JUDGMENT OF
FORECLOSURE OR DE-
CREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE
ENTERED AGAINST YOU
FOR THE RELIEF ASKED
FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S
COMPLAINT.

Russell C. Wirbicki (6186310)
The Wirbicki Law Group
LLC

Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1140
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-360-9455
Fax: 312-572-7823
W15-0613

pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.
com
I675411

(Published in The Scoop Today
Nov. 18, 25 & Dec. 2, 2015)

225503

NOTICE TO PETROLEUM DEALERS

Sealed proposals for the pur-
chase of premium diesel fuel
and unleaded gasoline will be
received by the Apple River
Township Board at the Apple
River Township office, un-
til 10:00 A.M. December 8th,
2015.

Proposed materials purchas-
es are diesel fuel and unleaded
gasoline.

Specifications and proposals
may be obtained by contacting
the Apple River Township Su-
pervisor or writing to the fol-
lowing address:

Apple River Township

James C. Goken / Supervisor
2704 E. Stagecoach Trail
Apple River, IL. 61001-9714
The Apple River Township
Board reserves the right to re-
ject any or all bids and to waive
technicalities.

By order of the Apple River
Township Board and James C.
Goken, Township Supervisor.

(Published in The Scoop Today
Nov. 25, 2015)

226828

LEGAL NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS/PLANNING COMMISSION JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Public notice is hereby given
pursuant to a petition on file in
the Zoning Administrator's of-
fice of Jo Daviess County, that
a public hearing will be held
on Wednesday, December 16,
2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the court-
house at 330 N. Bench Street,
Galena, Illinois, to hear the
petition of Michael Deneen,
owner, (address: 3250 N. Paris,
Chicago IL 60634) of the fol-
lowing real estate:

The North 25.625 Acres of the
Southeast Quarter of the South-
west Quarter of Section 33,
Township 28 North, Range 4
East of the 4th P.M., Jo Daviess
County, Illinois, Rush Town-
ship, containing 25.625 Acres
More or Less.

The common Location: 174
North Canyon Park Road,
Stockton

The applicant/petitioner is re-
questing the following: A Vari-
ance from the allowed acces-
sory structure square footage
Chapter 3, Article A-4, B, 2 of
the County Zoning Ordinance.
Property is located in the AG
Agricultural District.

The petition, plan and com-
plete legal description are
available for examination at the
Building and Zoning Depart-
ment at 1 Commercial Drive,
Suite 1, Hanover Illinois, (815)
591-3810.

All interested persons are in-
vited to attend said hearing and
be heard.

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Gratton, Chairman
Jo Daviess County Zoning
Board/Planning Commission
(Published in The Scoop Today
Nov. 25, 2015)

226867

LEGAL NOTICE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS/PLANNING COMMISSION JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Continued on next page

LEGALS

Continued from previous page

Public notice is hereby given pursuant to a petition on file in the Zoning Administrator's office of Jo Daviess County, that a public hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the courthouse at 330 N. Bench Street, Galena, Illinois, to hear the petition of John & Linda Adams, (address: 13912 Kickapoo Tr., Homer Glen, IL 60491) of the following real estate:

Lot 19 in Apache Unit of Branigar's Apple Canyon Lake Subdivision, situated in Thompson Twp., Jo Daviess County.

The common address: 7A19 Broken Lance Lane, Apple River

The applicant/petitioner is requesting the following: A Variance from the required platted front lot line setback of twenty seven (27) feet from the front property line to seventeen (17) feet from the front property line. Requesting a ten (10) foot variation.

The petition, plan and complete legal description are available for examination at the Building and Zoning Department at 1 Commercial Drive, Suite 1, Hanover Illinois, (815) 591-3810.

All interested persons are invited to attend said hearing and be heard.

Respectfully submitted,
Mel Gratton, Chairman
Jo Daviess County Zoning Board/Planning Commission
(Published in The Scoop Today Nov. 25, 2015)

226868

Public Notice

The Chief County Assessment Officer for Jo Daviess County will be holding the Annual Township Assessor's meeting on Monday, December 7, 2015 in the County Board Room on the 3rd floor of the Jo Daviess County Courthouse at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to hand out guidelines, workbooks and exemption forms for the 2016 assessment year.

Donna M. Berlage
Chief County Assessment Officer
(Published in The Scoop Today Nov. 25, 2015)

226910

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226570

• RECIPES

Continued from page 10

Stir broth and cream and bring to a boil; reduce the heat and simmer until mixture thickens, about 2-3 minutes.

Stir in the noodles, turkey, cheddar, peas, parsley, and lemon juice until combined; season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle topping over the casserole, top with lemon zest and bake until bubbly and brown, 25-30 minutes. Transfer casserole to a rack and let rest 5-10 minutes.

I have had a call for apple sheet cake. This cake uses both fresh and dried apples. Part of the flavor comes from apple butter (they have great apple butter at the Red Barn). The maple frosting makes this a delicious dessert.

Apple Sheet Cake

2 medium baking apples
1/3 C. butter, melted
1 2/3 C. packed dark brown sugar
1 C. apple butter
2 eggs
2 t. vanilla
1 2/3 C. flour
1 t. baking powder
1 t. baking soda
1/4 t. salt
1 C. finely chopped dried apples

Frosting:

1/2 C. powdered sugar
1 T. melted butter

1 T. maple syrup
1 T. milk
1/4 t. vanilla

Frosting: In a small bowl, stir together powdered sugar, melted butter, maple syrup, milk, and vanilla until smooth.

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9 x 13 baking pan; set aside. Peel, core, and coarsely shred one apple using a box grater; thinly slice remaining apple. Cover and set aside.

In a large bowl whisk together butter, brown sugar, apple butter, eggs, and vanilla until smooth. Add the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; whisk to combine. Fold in the dried and fresh shredded apple. Spread batter into the prepared pan. Arrange apple slices over batter.

Bake 40 minutes or until golden and a toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Remove to a wire rack.

Pour Maple Icing over hot cake; spread evenly. Cool completely. Dust with cinnamon.

The first of our tour of bars/cookies for Christmas begins this week. This bar is a moist and yummy treat that uses orange as its main flavoring. You can substitute Clementines for the oranges if you want a more tart taste to the cookie.

Enjoy this neat way to have fruit and sweet in a cookie.

Cranberry Citrus Bars

1 1/2 C. flour
1/2 C. dried cranberries
1/4 C. powdered sugar
1/2 t. salt
1 C. cold butter, cubed

Filling:

5 large eggs
1 3/4 C. sugar
3 T. cornstarch
2 T. butter, melted
1-2 T. grated orange peel
1/3 C. orange juice
1 t. vanilla
1/2 t. salt
Powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Line a 9 13 baking pan with foil, letting ends extend up and over sides, grease foil.

Place flour, cranberries, powdered sugar and salt in a food processor; pulse until blended. Add butter; pulse until butter is the size of peas. Press onto the bottom of prepared pan. Bake 14-18 minutes or until edges are golden brown.

In a large bowl, whisk eggs, sugar, cornstarch, melted butter, orange peel, juice, vanilla and salt until blended. Pour over the warm crust. Bake 18-22 minutes longer or until the filling is set. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack. Dust with confectioner's sugar. Lifting with foil, remove from pan and cut into bars. Refrigerate leftovers.

This coming weekend on November 28, we celebrate Small Business Saturday. It is a great way to support your hometown or the hometowns in your area. Black Friday was for the big guys; this shopping day is for the little guys. Remember in Lena that the little guys provide a service for all of us—we are lucky to have a grocery store, a hardware store, a floral and gift shop, a meat market, a cheese store, a drug store with beautiful cards, an antiques and collectible store, a great shop to buy hand-made kitchen utensils, and a clothing store. We are lucky to have a place to take our pictures to be

framed and a health food store. We can also go and exercise all those Thanksgiving pounds off. After shopping we can go visit any number of our wonderful eating places. If you are from the area towns, be sure to stop and see those merchants who are your neighbors and friends. We need each other, and we need to support each other. This was not a paid political announcement; it is just a reminder to support those around us.

If you are looking for a great gift idea, the Lena Historical Society is once again selling cheese and sausage Christmas gift boxes. The cheese (Muenster, Marble and Cheddar) is from our local cheese factory—Torkelson Cheese, and the sausage is from Lena Maid Meats. The packaging is all ready for you to give as a gift. You can order your boxes by calling Cindy Drye at Cindy's Beauty Shop, 815-369-4030 or Eleanor Holmes at 815-369-4304 or by mail to: Lena Area Historical Society, Box 620, Lena, IL 61048. The boxes are \$25.00 each. All orders must be made by November 30. Payment is not required until the boxes are picked up on December 12, 2015, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the museum. Did I mention that these boxes are easily mailed? This box is a great idea for a Christmas gift that shows off our local products.

I am hoping that you all have a great and blessed Thanksgiving. Enjoy a good meal, a good visit, and a good nap! Don't wear yourself out after the big day shopping and save some money to buy some things in your town. As we put Thanksgiving to bed, we are getting ready for Christmas. We are looking for some Christmas cookie recipes. If you have some recipes to share, you can contact us in person, by mail, or email us at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide at 213 S. Center St. or email scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.



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60403

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to Petroleum Dealers

Sealed proposals for the purchase of liquid fuels will be received by the Jo Daviess County Board at the office of the County Engineer, Hanover, Illinois until 10:00 A.M. on December 8, 2015 and at that time publicly opened and read.

Proposed materials purchases include the following:

1. Unleaded Gasoline or 10% Ethanol
2. 2% Premium Biodiesel
3. Diesel Fuel #1 Clear

Specifications and proposals may be obtained at the office of the County Engineer, 1 Commercial Drive, Suite 3, Hanover, Illinois 61041.

The Jo Daviess County Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive technicalities.

226953

PUBLIC NOTICE

Thompson Township Road District is seeking sealed bids for a new 2016 Dump Truck single axle with 10 ft. snow plow and 9 inch spinner sander. Bids will be accepted at the township maintenance garage until December 14, 2015 and opened at 7:00 p.m. on December 14, 2015 and read at Township Road District Office.

Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids. For information, contact Dean Williams, highway commissioner or send bid to 1998 N. Brandt Rd., Elizabeth, IL 61028, or call 815-845-2391 or cell 815-291-8394

225818

From the offices of John D. Hay, Jo Daviess County State's Attorney

GALENA — Jo Daviess County State's Attorney, John D. Hay would like to inform the public of the following information. On November 20, 2015, Jeffrey J. Siergiej of Stockton, Illinois was sentenced on a probation violation.

As a result of this violation, Mr. Siergiej was sentenced by Judge Kevin Ward to 2 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by one (1) year of Mandatory Supervised Release which will require the defendant to report to a parole officer and comply with all terms and conditions of his supervised release. The Stockton Police Department handled the original investigation of this case.

Say You Saw It In
The Scoop Today

Airgonna Willson says:

Freeport (Cedarville) - nearly 3,000 sq ft home, master bedroom, family room (with balcony) overlooking living area below, with fireplace. 3 season room. Wooded 1.85 acres. Bank owned. Now \$169,000!

Pearl City - 4 acre farmette, Great Room addition with fireplace, many outbuildings, great for horses! \$189,900

Winslow - Two (one as upper loft) bedroom home with new plumbing, wiring, flooring, roof, siding, front porch, rear deck with pergola & western country views. Now \$67,900!

Pearl City - 2-3 (one non-conforming) bedroom ranch home with gorgeous kitchen cabinetry, 2 family room areas! Quiet location. Close to school, park district. Just \$99,900!

Kent - 4 bedroom ranch home with brand new Lower Level Family/Workout/Media Room! Open floor plan - kitchen/dining/living areas, main floor laundry. Country views! NOW \$89,900!

Lena - Cute 3 bedroom ranch with hardwood & Laminate flooring, new steel roof, 2 stall garage. Dodds Park next to back yard! Only \$79,000

Pearl City - 2-3 bedroom ranch home on Main St. Gas fireplace, Sun porch & 1 stall garage. Just \$94,900

Lena - .93 Commercial lot, on Evergreen Drive. Excellent location. Just \$45,000

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Dec 3rd
2/\$2.50
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BUY 1 GET 1
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Dec 5th
\$1.49
GLACIER CLEAR
WATER (Limit 2)



Dec 6th
**WE'RE
CLOSED**
Today's
special is
available
tomorrow.

Dec 7th
2/\$3 & BUY 1 GET 1
SHAGGIES
DURACELL BATTERY
4 PACKS



Dec 8th
\$1
STRETCH GLOVES
Assorted Colors



Dec 9th
\$5.99
RUSSELL STOVER
12 oz.



Dec 10th
5/\$5
SIMPLE PLEASURES
HAND SOAP



Dec 11th
BUY 1 GET 1
CROSSROADS
CANDLES



Dec 12th
\$2
1 ROLL OF CHRISTMAS WRAP
& 1 ROLL OF TAPE



12
**Days of
Christmas**
HARTIG

101 SOUTH MAIN • STOCKTON
(815) 947-3411
hartigdrug.com

Lena Hometown Christmas "Winter Wonderland"

Friday, December 4

Brandon's Hardware Rental & Lumber
Stop in during Lena Hometown Christmas!

145 W. Railroad St. • Lena
 815-369-5542

226907

Holiday Magic

This holiday season visit a unique destination created for those with an insatiable appetite for something different. A joy filled experience that will spark memories of snow dusted evenings, sweet mulled cider and joy filled gatherings with friends.

- Fine Furniture • Flooring
- Window Treatments
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 **Holiday Warnings with "Cool Yule"**
 Steaming Coffees - Many Flavors
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 Gift Cards and More
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187141



Lena Library
 815-369-3180

We will be open during the Christmas Walk
Friday, December 4th
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

- Serving Refreshments
- Children's Activity

226864

Shop Local for the Holidays
 The Lena Historical Society is offering two great ideas for your Christmas gifts this year.

Cheese & Sausage Gift Box - \$25.00 3 Cheeses (Muenster, Marble & Cheddar) from Torkelson Cheese 1 Sausage log from A.J.'s Lena Maid Meats	2016 Calendar \$6.00 This year's theme is "Transportation Through the Years" featuring local pictures of all forms of transportation
---	--

Cheese boxes and calendars may be ordered by calling Cindy at 815-369-4030. Deadline for cheese boxes is Nov. 30. They must be picked up on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the museum from 8:30 - 10:30 a.m. The calendars will be available for purchase at the following businesses: Cindy's Beauty Salon, Lena Mercantile and Engel's Jewelry (Mondays only)

All purchases are fundraisers for the Lena Historical Society and will help support their endeavors to preserve the history of Lena.

226903

2015 Parade Entry Form
HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS
Theme: "Winter Wonderland"

Business or Activity Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Plan on Entering: _____ Float _____ Walking in Group _____ Other (please describe) _____

This year, we hope that we will help us grow and make this part of the village's annual events. We would like the parade to be a "Lighted parade", this means that the more lights the better on your float or your person. Give it lots of thought, but have fun. This year there are few rules and regulations, just keep it appropriate for all ages and make great use of our theme, "Winter Wonderland." Open to all Business, youth groups, etc.

Please return form to by December 1st to:
 DeVoe Floral, 216 Main Street, Lena, IL
 Questions?? Call Lisa Lobdell 815-369-4561 or Paris Hughes 815-369-5549
 Lena Business and Professional Association

LBPA HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS
2015 Theme: "Winter Wonderland"

WINDOW DECORATING CONTEST
LBPA Members

Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Windows will be judged based on four categories:

1. Use of Theme
2. Originality (Unique design and creative use of lights & decorations)
3. Arrangement (Display and placement of decorations)
4. Overall Presentation

This form must be returned by November 30 to DeVoe Floral

Judging will be done between noon on December 3 and noon on December 4.

Questions?? Please call Lisa Lobdell 815-369-4561 or Paris Hughes 815-369-5549

LBPA HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS
2015 Theme: "Winter Wonderland"

Home & Yard Decorating Contest
 To be judged by the Beautification Committee of the LBPA

Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Homes & Yards will be judged based on four categories:

1. Use of Theme
2. Originality (Unique design and creative use of lights & decorations)
3. Arrangement (Display and placement of decorations)
4. Overall Presentation

This form must be returned by November 30 to DeVoe Floral

Judging will be done between noon on December 3 and noon on December 4.

Questions?? Please call Lisa Lobdell 815-369-4561 or Paris Hughes 815-369-5549



Christmas Wishes do Come True

Join DeVoe Floral in bringing in the Holidays for Lena's Hometown Christmas "Winter Wonderland."

Open Friday, December 4 until 8:30 p.m.

Refreshments and Treats
 In-Store Specials, Door Prizes and "surprise" specials.

Saturday, Open 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.



216 W. Main St. • Lena, IL
 815-369-5549
 HOURS: Mon - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Sat 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 DeVoeFloral@yahoo.com

Shop Café 217 *This Holiday Season!*
 Espresso & Bakery Shoppe
 815-291-7829

• Gourmet Cupcake Gift Boxes • Gift Certificates

Warm up with a latte or hot chocolate before the parade!
 Friday, Dec. 4 evening hours: 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Thursday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 405 S. Schuyler St. • Lena

Lena's Hometown Christmas "Winter Wonderland"
Friday, December 4
5 - 8:30 p.m.

- Meet & Greet Santa & Mrs. Claus at Engel's Jewelry following the parade
- Deposit Letters to Santa in his mail box (they will be personally answered by Santa)
- Tree Lighting & lighted parade 6 p.m.
- Horse drawn carriage rides depart from parking lot next to Pat Brown Realtors - Free to public
- Community Giving Tree - DeVoe Floral
 - Refreshments & Treats
 - Merchant Christmas Walk
- Family Fun, Reading & Treats - Lena Library
- Cookie Walk and Chili Supper - Lena United Methodist
- Check out my Friend's Closet - Christmas Store after the parade for Christmas Items. Open until 8 p.m.
- Local Home & Yard Decorating contest
- Business Window Decorating contest

226999

The folks at the new Dollar General Store in Elizabeth have been busy little elves stocking the store's shelves with everything holiday for the coming gift shopping season.



Dollar General ready for the holidays



Tracy Siegner photos

It appears Charlie Siegner found several add-ons for his Christmas list when he came to Elizabeth to shop at the new Dollar Store.

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Stockton Chamber of Commerce Presents:

Friday, December 4

- Free Hot Chocolate and Cookies. Coupon for sandwich discounts.
- 5:30pm - Crowning of Miss Merry Christmas & Little Jack Frost at the Christmas "Tree" lighting & caroling
- 11am-2pm - Boy Scout Soup/Chili Luncheon, Scout Hall
- Stockton Bowling Lanes, open bowling 6pm-close
- Savvy Scavengers - In store specials and drawings
- Stockton Hardware - Stockton Cheese Samples

Saturday, December 5

- 9am-3pm - Holy Cross Christmas Bazaar
- 10am - Story Hour with Santa, Stockton Township Library
- 11am - Santa Arrives by Fire Truck to Stella's Café
- 11am-2pm - Horse Drawn Carriage Rides, weather dependent. Across from Casey's
- 11:30-1:30pm - Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus, Stella's Café & Catering

Saturday Specials & Sales

- Creativations - stop in for photo ops with Mickey & Minnie at 1pm
- Glad Rags Resale Boutique - All Red & Green tag are 50% off. Jewelry 30% off. Bring in your Stockton Strong shopping bag and receive more discounts. Refreshments and door prizes too.
- Stockton Floral & Gifts - In store specials and drawings.
- Hartig Drug - In store promotions and drawings.
- Ink & Paper - All River Road Talent Art Drive. Free coffee and Mimosas

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CHURCH NEWS

PASTOR'S CORNER

"God's purpose for your life"

By Pastor Rick Bader

St. John's Lutheran Church, Lena

LENA — There are hundreds of books out there on finding God's purpose for your life. But more often than not, we make it a lot more complicated than it needs to be. Our work, our use of spiritual gifts, our creative outlets, and our day to day choices are all ultimately acts of worship to our God.

Yes, even our day-to-day monotony equals worship to our God! We need those words to soak deep into our soul and breathe life into this very moment. I've had to block out a lot of excess noise coming my way lately and I've had lots of discussions with myself. So, if you walk by my office and hear me jabbering away with no one else present—that's what I'm doing. But I also hear voices—voices that say, "You could have done so much more with what you were given. Wasted potential."

I know my calling and worth aren't defined by how large a church I serve, how much my salary is, the leadership positions I hold; yet at varying times of my life, when things seem to be the same old thing over and over again, it's hard not to wonder what I've missed.

And then I hear Mordecai reminding Esther in the Bible, "For such a time as this," and it fires me up. The Lord has called, equipped, and appointed us to do amazing things right where we are, wherever we work, and wherever we serve. It's nothing earth shattering, but it sure whips up my passion and purpose for making the ordinary, extraordinary.

I've been convicted over and over again that I need to stop guessing and waiting and wondering what the next big thing is because often the elusive "thing" that matters most is for us to dive in right where we are planted. God shows up repeatedly when I decide to "be all in" regardless of how I feel about my circumstances at the moment.

If you are called to paint a masterpiece, by all means paint and use your gift to reflect the glory of God. If you are called to make cookies for your family, it's not just another chore; you are feeding the next generation of world changers. If you are called to file papers,

do correspondence, or answer the phone for your boss, you are fulfilling a sacred calling to serve and lift up those around you.

We are in God's will when we are doing what He called us to do at this very moment. It looks different for me than it does for you. It may be in a classroom, at home, in an office, or in ministry. No job or gifting or calling is greater than another when we are in His will.

The nameless Samaritan woman who repented at the well was just as much in God's will as Queen Esther when she saved the Jewish people and ultimately an entire nation. The young boy who shared his five loaves and two fish was just as much in God's will as a rich man who would give everything he had to the Lord. Jesus was just as much in God's will when He was a carpenter as He was dying on a cross! Never doubt your incredible value in God's eyes. You are worthy! You are needed! You are amazing! Be all in right where you are!

Martin Luther King Jr. said it well: "If it falls to your lot to be a street sweeper, sweep streets like Michelangelo painted pictures, sweep streets like Beethoven composed music... Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the host of heaven and earth will have to pause and say: Here lived a great street sweeper who swept his/her job well."

We are in God's will when we are doing what He called us to do at this very moment! Give thanks with a grateful heart that God opened His heart toward us and gave us His Son to rescue us from sin, death, and Satan. Give thanks with all your heart as you take the good news of Jesus with you wherever you serve.

Thanksgiving Eve service at Calvary

STOCKTON — Calvary United Methodist will be holding a Christ-centered Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 25 at 7 p.m. Pastor Jonathan Singleton will bring the message, and the Choir will sing special music.

The community is welcome to attend.

St. John's Lutheran Church

PEARL CITY — You're invited to join us at St. John's to celebrate the season of Advent starting on November 29. The worship service will be led by Pastor Ekstrand and the 1st candle of Advent will be lit. Whirl Sunday School and Confirmation will meet at 10:15 a.m. after worship. All Sunday School youth are encouraged to stay after Sunday School for the Christmas Pageant practice at 11 a.m. You're encouraged to help decorate the church after worship followed by a Chili and Oyster lunch.

Members and non-members alike are welcome to participate in two different Bible Studies at St. John's. The Monday evening bible study is at 7 p.m. and features a discussion titled "The Psalms". Join us on Monday evenings as we come to understand more vividly the cries and celebrations expressed through the Psalms, and how they intimately relate to our lives even today. The Thursday morning bible study is held at 9:30. The discussion continues to focus on "Genesis:" A Narrative from the Mouths of the Hebrew People of God. You are welcome to join in on any or all of the bible studies! Both bible studies are held in the Conference Room of the Lower Level. The door on the east side of the building will be open for the bible studies.

St. John's will host a Family Christmas Program on Sunday, December 13 immediately following worship. The Chancel Choir will sing and the Sunday School youth will perform in "The Mouses' Tale," a Christmas pageant. You're welcome to join St. John's celebrate the Christmas season with Christmas Eve services at 5 and 9 p.m. and on Christmas Day at 9 a.m.

Willow/Kent United Methodist Churches

WILLOW/KENT — Willow/Kent UMC will worship together Sunday Nov 29 at Willow UMC at 9 a.m. with Pastor Brenda Morris giving the message. All are invited and welcome; this is the beginning of the Advent season. Also welcome to stay for the fellowship following.

Sunday School is at 10:30 a.m. using the lessons in the devotional "Upper Room"; using the Holy Bible for references; making for interesting studies. All are invited and welcome. Willow UMC is located about 7 miles SE of Stockton, IL on Willow Rd. For more info call 815-601-6742.

Lena United Methodist Church schedules Angel Tree and Cookie Walk

LENA — As we start the season of Advent and remember the birth of our Savior we have many opportunities to continue the mission of Jesus; helping those in need any way we can. We remember his birth because of the hope that he brought for us all. On November 29 names of children will be on our Angel Tree waiting for someone to select their name to help that child add some happiness and hope to their Christmas. Information about the child will help you in providing a gift for them. Gifts should be returned to the church by December 13. On Saturday December 4 there will be a chili supper and cookie walk at the Lena United Methodist Church from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. This is part of the Lena Christmas Walk sponsored by the Lena Business and Professional Association. Come, enjoy a bowl of Chili and help us celebrate Christmas.

Our bible study Not a Silent Night continues on Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and also on Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. as we look at the coming birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary.

We catch up with Paul on his second missionary trip as he enters Thessalonica after being beaten and thrown in prison in Philippi. Paul would arrive in Thessalonica with his wounds

still healing. Paul would have continued to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. Proclaiming those believing in Christ would be forgiven for their sins. Some of the Jewish synagogue leaders would become jealous and would oppose Paul, Silas

and Timothy. The new believers in Thessalonica helped Paul, Silas and Timothy escape from the crowd and continue on to Beroea where they were welcomed. Paul, Silas and

See LUMC, Page 18

St. Paul's celebrates Advent

KENT — November 29 marks the first Sunday in Advent, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Sunnyside Road in Kent will light the first Advent candle during their 10 a.m. family worship. Pastor will be Jeanne Hill, and Organist will be Deb Winning. Pastor Carole Andres will deliver the sermon entitled "What Are We Waiting For."

This also begins a new church year with a wake-up call that Christ is coming soon. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ! Who comes among us this day as the Word and Meal that strengthen our faith in the promises of God.

Join us for worship during this Advent Season and prepare to meet the Lord! We are located in the suburbs of Kent. For more information, call 232-4010.

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Junior and Senior High
Youth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

220097

REAL ESTATE

NOTICE OF SALE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS-
GALENA, ILLINOIS
BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSO-
CIATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
CHARLES R. FARREY AKA CHARLES
FARREY AKA CHUCK FARREY, STA-
CY L. FARREY AKA STACY FARREY
AKA STACY WEIS AKA STACY L.
WEIS, TENNYSON/POTOSI COM-
MUNITY BANK and BENTON STATE
BANK,
Defendants.

15CH 15
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 9572 COUNCIL
RIDGE RD
GALENA, IL 61036

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that
pursuant to a Judgment of the above
Court entered in the above entitled cause
on July 16, 2015, the following described
real estate, to-wit:

Permanent Index Number: 19-000-
061-76

Commonly known as: 9572 Council
Ridge Rd, Galena, IL 61036

will be offered for sale and sold at pub-
lic vendue on December 2, 2015 at 10:00
AM, at the Jo Daviess County Court-
house, Galena, Illinois.

The Judgment amount is \$213,289.49.
The real estate is improved with a single
family residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest
bid by certified funds at the close of the
sale payable to The Sheriff of Jo Daviess
County. No third party checks will be ac-
cepted. The balance, including the Judi-
cial sale fee for Abandoned Residential
Property Municipality Relief Fund, which
is calculated on residential real estate at
the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction
thereof of the amount paid by the pur-
chaser not to exceed \$300, in certified
funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-
four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid
by the mortgagee acquiring the residen-
tial real estate pursuant to its credit bid at
the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment
creditor, or other lienor acquiring the
residential real estate whose rights in
and to the mortgaged real estate arose
prior to the sale. The subject property is
subject to general real estate taxes, spe-
cial assessments or special taxes levied
against said real estate, and is offered
for sale without any representation as
to quality or quantity of title and without
recourse to the Plaintiff and in "AS IS"
condition. The Sale is further subject to
confirmation by the Court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid,

the purchaser shall receive a Certificate
of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser
to a Deed to the real estate after confir-
mation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for in-
spection. Prospective bidders are ad-
monished to check the Court file to verify
all information.

For information, contact the Plaintiff's
Attorney: Heavner, Beyers & Mihlar,
LLC, 111 East Main Street, Decatur, IL
62523, (217) 422-1719.

The purchaser of a condominium unit
at a judicial foreclosure sale, other than
a mortgagee, who takes possession of a
condominium unit pursuant to a court
order or a purchaser who acquires title
from a mortgagee shall have the duty to
pay the proportionate share, if any, of
the common expenses for the unit which
would have become due in the absence
of any assessment acceleration during
the 6 months immediately preceding
institution of an action to enforce the
collection of assessments, and which re-
main unpaid by the owner during whose
possession the assessments accrued. If
the outstanding assessments are paid
at any time during any action to enforce
the collection of assessments, the pur-
chaser shall have no obligation to pay
any assessments which accrued before
he or she acquired title. If this property
is a condominium unit which is part of
a common interest community, the pur-
chaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale
other than a mortgagee shall pay the as-
sessments required by the Condominium
Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5 (g-1).

If the sale is not confirmed for any rea-
son, the Purchaser at the sale shall be
entitled only to a return of the purchase
price paid. The Purchaser shall have no
further recourse against the Mortgagor,
the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attor-
ney.

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FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN
ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCOR-
DANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701 (c) OF
THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLO-
SURE LAW.

Note: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Col-
lection Practices Act you are advised
that the Law Firm of Heavner, Beyers
& Mihlar, LLC, is deemed to be a debt
collector attempting to collect a debt, and
any information obtained will be used for
that purpose.

1674916

(Published in The Scoop Today
Nov. 11, 18 & 25, 2015)

224837

Lena-Winslow FFA places second in Dairy Products contest

LENA — Can you tell the difference between sharp and mild Cheddar? Havarti and Provolone? What color is Gouda cheese? On November 18, nine schools from section one competed in the dairy products career development. At this event students judged a variety of items related to the dairy industry. The contest is broken up into seven categories: ten cheese identifications, reading a California Mastitis test, differentiating between real and artificial dairy products, identifying defects in milk samples, a written test on their dairy knowledge, critiquing milker head units and a team test on herd profitability. Students competed in each of these areas and then had their total scores calculated. Lena-Winslow placed second overall at the contest and also had two individuals place in the top ten. Lena chapter member Jordon Oellerich, currently



Photo provided

Lena-Winslow FFA chapter members Brock Gobeli, Nicole Moest, Kendra Snyder, Jordon Oellerich, and Laurel Flynn comprised the team that placed second at the recent dairy products CDE.

serving as the section one president did a wonderful job and placed second overall and Kendra Snyder, Lena-Win-

slow Chapter President placed eighth overall. Congratulations to all of the individuals and schools that competed.

LUMC

Continued from page 1

Timothy continued to preach in Berea and many accepted the good news of Christ. With the help of new Christians in Berea Paul was escorted to Athens (a symbol of Greek

culture and philosophy). Silas and Timothy stayed in Berea to continue their teaching. Join us next time as Paul sees Athens for the first time.



Tracy Siegner photo

Robyn Schulz Construction

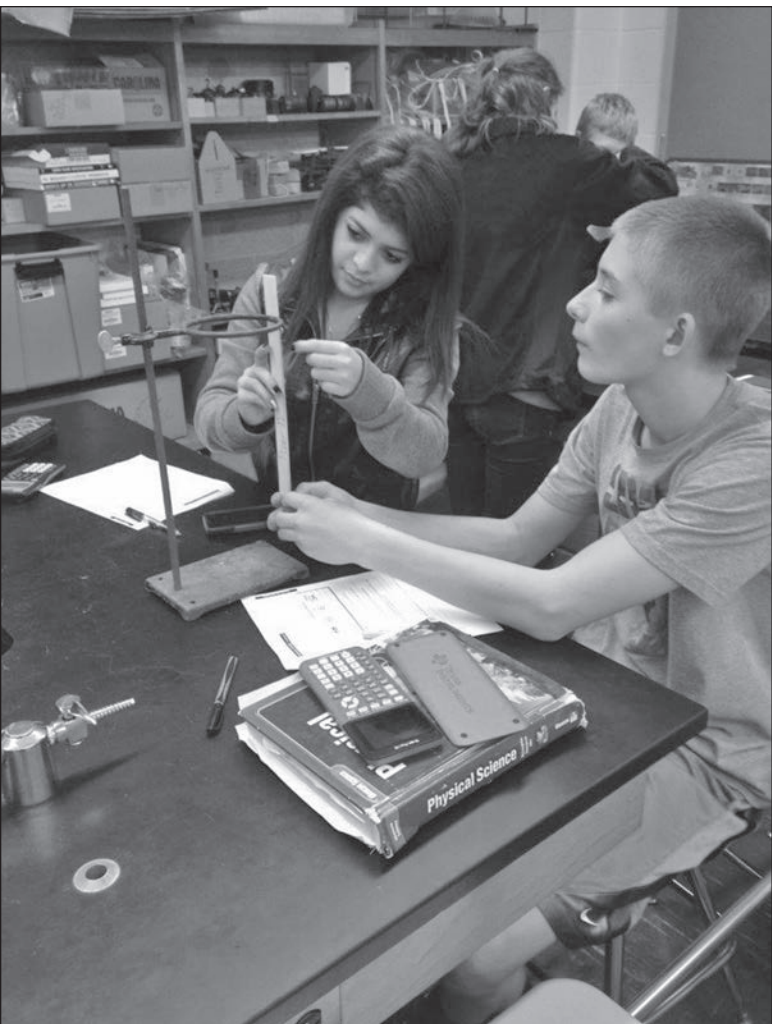
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Courtesy photo

Transferring energy

Pearl City High School Students Brisa Hinojosa and Dylan Ditsworth observe the transfer of potential to kinetic energy while completing a lab using a pendulum during Physical Science class

Lena KOA earns prestigious 2016 KOA President's and Founder's Award

LENA — The Lena KOA has earned the prestigious 2016 KOA President's and Founder's Awards from Campgrounds of America Inc., the world's largest system of family-friendly, open-to-the-public campgrounds.

The awards were presented Wednesday, November 18 at KOA's Annual International Convention in Daytona Beach, Florida. KOA is celebrating its 53rd Anniversary in 2015. The KOA President's Awards are presented annually to campgrounds that receive high scores in customer service from their campers, and also receive high scores in KOA's annual

Campground Quality Review. The KOA Founder's Award is named in honor of Dave Drum, who founded KOA on the banks of the Yellowstone River in Billings, Montana in 1962. It is given to those KOA campgrounds that attained the very top scores in both customer service and the KOA Quality Review.

KOA surveys hundreds of thousands of campers each year regarding their KOA camping experience, and those surveys are used as a basis for the awards.

"We know that our overall success at KOA hinges on the experience our campground

owners provide to our guests," said KOA President Pat Hittmeier. "Our owners just keep getting better and better at providing great camping for our guests. At the same time, they continue to invest in their KOA properties to add activities and amenities that ensure our success in the future." "It's an honor to recognize these great KOA owners for their efforts," Hittmeier said. "The KOA President's Award and KOA Founder's Award are well deserved"

To find out more about this KOA any of the other 490 KOAs in the U.S. or Canada, go to www.KOA.com.

Lady Panthers win at Morrison Classic

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

LENA — With a favorable tournament mark, in game play at Morrison High School, the Lena-Winslow Lady Panthers took down one of the programs many across the NUIC are keeping their eyes on, the West Carroll Lady Thunder, 39-31.

Following the eight-point win, the Lady Panthers moved

into the position of claiming the Morrison Tournament title.

The tournament wins also sent a message across the NUIC that the Lena-Winslow Lady Panthers are going to be a handful in 2016.

Bri Haight took the lead for Lena-Winslow as she scored 13 points in the decision over West Carroll. Kenzie Temperly added 12 and Nicole Moest tallied 11.

It was a comeback win for Lena-Winslow in the game, as they trailed by a basket at the end of the first period of play.

However, fortunes switched at the half, as Temperly, Moest and Haight enhanced their barrage, helping Lena-Winslow outscore West Carroll by 13 points in the period, to jump out to a 28-17 lead, at the halftime break.

West Carroll was led by Hayley Guilinger and Josi

Anderson, who scored ten points each.

It was the second comeback win for the Lady Panthers, in the season opening tournament.

Those types of victories will occur for Lena-Winslow this year.

In the NUIC, the multiple player attack the Lady Panthers have shown will be difficult to defend.

If the trend continues, success will continue.

The conference has seen its share of All-State athletes, who had the capacity to change the flow of a game, but a multi-headed attack will win-out, in the long run.

A balanced attack is what the Lady Panthers have found success with so far, in early season action. To succeed in the NUIC, they may have to continue with that strategy.



Courtesy photo

Stockton FFA team competes in the annual Meats Career Development Event

On Saturday November 14, four members of the Stockton FFA headed to Eickman's Processing Co. in Seward, IL to compete in the Meats CDE. While there the students had to identify 33 retail cuts of meat, quality and yield grade carcasses, judge hams, ribs, and pork carcasses. Olivia Kepner, Alissa Dehn, Hannah Brudi, and Heather Musser placed first. All of the team members placed in the top 10 individuals with Hanna Brudi placing 1st, Heather Musser placing 5th, Olivia Kepner placing 7th, and Alissa Dehn placing 8th.

At this time of Thanksgiving Celebration our thoughts turn gratefully to you with warm appreciation. We extend to you our Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy Thanksgiving Day.



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Celebrating Families In Business

Support Your Local Businesses

91146

Small business tips for a challenging economy

As the world's economy becomes more and more challenging, small business owners need to find ways to keep their business afloat. Here are some tips to maintaining good customer relations while managing the bottom line:

Invest in technology

Maintaining your computer systems is vital to keeping your business running smoothly. If you're not a technical whiz and you don't want to pay for ongoing information technology support, consider Macintosh computers for your business. Although they cost a little more initially, many people find the investment pays back in ease of use and longer life. More companies are releasing business software that runs on the Mac and you can also use a program such as Parallels to run any needed Windows-only software on the Mac. Investing in technology will allow you to implement other cost-saving processes and programs.

Share files and data

When you share a centralized database and critical files between computers, it can increase productivity. For example, if a customer gets a

new phone number or moves, updating it in the central database that everyone uses will keep you connected to customers. "Synchronization and file sharing are easy and intuitive on the Mac and these were key reasons driving the move to Mac," says John Ives, who runs a defense-industry consulting firm and recently made the switch to Mac.

Communicate with your customers and prospects efficiently

In a tougher economy, don't stop marketing, just do it more efficiently. Rather than sending out direct mail, consider e-mail marketing as a way to reach out to customers and prospects alike. Using a tool such as a CardScan contact management system, you can capture all your contact information electronically. Scan and read all your business cards with the card reader and use "drag-and-drop" to capture e-mail signatures or prospect contact information from Web sites. Using CardScan software, you can create and assign categories for your contacts. If you meet a group of prospects at a meeting, scan in the cards, assign the category with the meeting



name and then you can send targeted follow-up e-mails to these prospects in just a few steps.

CardScan for Mac also keeps a photo of each business card, so you can flip through the various images of them on your computer, rather than losing them in a folder or a pocket. For business-owners on the go, the scanner plugs directly

into your laptop's USB power source, allowing you to scan your cards on a bus, in the hotel or on an airplane – before you return to the home office.

With over 7200 contacts, Ives, needs to be organized. Using a CardScan system, he quickly enters notes for contacts such as special interests or where he met the person. "I can type in a few letters or words

and instantly find the one person I need with the CardScan system," he says. "It's very easy to use and synchronizing to Address Book ensures we are using accurate and up-to-date information."

Get your business online

Many small businesses put off building a Web site, or they let it get out of date because it costs money to maintain. But there are now many non-technical and free tools to build and maintain a Web presence. For example, using WordPress, an open-source blogging tool, you can build a blog that looks professional and is very easy to maintain. It's also a more modern approach to communicate with customers and prospects.

Use inexpensive creative resources

If you need photos, illustrations or graphics for your marketing materials or blog, resist the urge to use the amateur-looking clip art packaged with your software programs. Instead try inexpensive online sources such as iStockphoto.com for low-cost photos and graphics, or tempatemonster.com for Web templates and blog themes.



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Owner

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After successfully operating an auto body repair shop (Checked Flag Auto Body) in Lena for 14 ½ years, Troy and Rhonda Pokoj recently made the decision to relocate both their home and business to rural Apple River. Checked Flag Collisions & Customs, which opened in October 2015, is located at 4933 N. Scout Camp Road, just outside of Apple Canyon Lake. "When we heard the body shop in Scales Mound was closing due to Bob Wachter's retirement, we felt this was a perfect opportunity for me to downsize from the large business I had established in Lena and to serve an area that was losing one of their well-established shops." As property owners of Apple Canyon Lake, it has been our dream to relocate to this provide all of the same quality Auto Body services that he provided in Lena. Rhonda is transitioning most of her office duties back to Troy as he returns to his "roots" of a smaller one man shop. Smaller does not mean lesser

quality repairs! The shop is fully licensed and bonded, works with all insurance carriers and on all makes and models. Troy has over 35 years of experience and his new shop is equipped with a full frame machine, computerized paint mixing, and offers free estimates and courtesy cars while

your vehicle is in for repairs. "We have had amazing support from the surrounding communities in just the short time we have been open," says Troy. We are excited to see how this business grows in the years to come!" "Stop in and CHECK us out!"



226811

Checo's Family Restaurant & Pizzeria

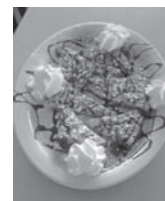
New at Checo's

Chili Cheese Pizza

Large Pizza . . . \$12.00 • Pan Pizza . . . \$10.00

Chili Cheese Omlete

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Saturday - Martini's & Manhattans (any bar rails) . . . \$3.00
Sunday - Bloody Mary's (rail vodka only) . . . \$3.75

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226901

Celebrating Families In Business

Support Your Local Businesses

Reducing costs, increasing profitability

Given the intense focus on fiscal discipline today, it's only natural that businesses of all sizes are looking for opportunities to reduce costs and increase profitability.

One of the first steps a company takes to save money is to figure out how it spends money, with whom, for what and the number of suppliers with whom it conducts business. A recent survey reveals some interesting insights as to how this process works for supply management executives nationwide.

The survey, conducted by the largest supply management association in the world, the Institute for Supply Management (ISM), and Staples Contract Division indicates that 90 percent of supply management executives are involved in some sort of formal analysis to identify areas in which they can save and consolidate vendors.

Of those surveyed, 86 percent are currently looking for ways to consolidate vendors, with 70 percent reducing the number of their suppliers and 76 percent expecting to further reduce the number of suppliers over the next two years.

For many of these companies, office supplies are the first product to consolidate on. Office supplies are commonly a "proving ground" category for what eventually become broader changes in the way an organization purchases

products and services.

While price is very important, many other factors should be considered when choosing suppliers, such as the quality of the goods or services to be purchased.

"Businesses should look for suppliers that not only set themselves apart by offering goods and services of superior quality for the right price, but also act as strategic consultants that help set and achieve annual savings goals and provide ongoing recommendations for refining purchases over time," says Tom Heisroth, President, Staples National Advantage, Staples Contract Division.

As a buyer, a company should look for the lowest total delivered cost that includes other components such as the costs of ordering, transportation, handling, inventory, credit and accounts payable.

In the end, businesses can set themselves apart by taking steps that minimize the costs of doing business. Such steps include working with suppliers that provide e-commerce capabilities that reduce ordering and payment costs, as well as work proactively with their customers to reduce costs.

To learn more about how to effectively analyze costs and select the right suppliers, visit www.StaplesContract.com or call (877) 520-5465.

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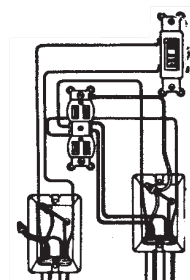
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