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Shopper's Guide

VOL. 77 • NO. 52

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 30, 2015

Le-Win/Orangeville Speech Team gains accolades at Byron tournament

By Tom Fore

Lena-Winslow/Orangeville Speech Coach

LENA/ORANGEVILLE — “See that girl up there?” asked the Crystal Lake Central speech coach, pointing to one of his students who just won an award at the Byron High School speech tournament. “Before she was on the team, she couldn’t even make eye contact with anyone.”

What is often lost in the excitement of competition of high school speech, also known as forensics, tournaments is the amount of personal and academic growth that the students undergo during the course of a season as well as during their high school careers. Awards are nice, but what is nicer is watching students improve their self confidence, enhance their writing skills, develop a deeper appreciation of literature, and a host of other academic pursuits.

And, when students work hard and dedicate themselves, the awards take care of themselves, as was once again evident for the Le-Win/Orangeville Speech Team at the Byron tournament, held December 19.

Talented Le-Win seniors Sophia Jurkovic and Rachael Wybourn were named the top Dramatic Duet Acting (DDA) pair of the tournament. Jurkovic continued her winning ways by also claiming a fifth place Dramatic Interpretation prize, her second such award in as many tournaments. Making the top six as Varsity is difficult enough, but accomplishing that feat as freshmen is very rare. Le-Win’s Ella Brunner and Lilly Rowley did just that, capturing 6th place with their DDA. Brunner and fellow freshman Iris Trimble did very well in the category of Novice Prose Reading, winning fourth and second place respectively, joining fellow winning Panthers Alec Aurand (sixth place Varsity Extemp), Asa Lake (fourth place Varsity Humorous Interpretation), and Hope Enck (sixth place Varsity Radio)

Orangeville freshman Noah Asche captured his first award of the season, winning third in Novice Oratorical Declamation. Justin Malone, another Bronco freshman, was awarded fourth place in Novice Radio.

In coming weeks, the Le-Win/Orangeville Speech Team



Courtesy photo

Congratulations to the Varsity and Novice award winners following the December 19, Byron High School Speech Tournament. Front row from left: Lilly Rowley, Rachael Wybourn, and Noah Asche. Back row from left: Ella Brunner, Hope Enck, Iris Trimble, Asa Lake, Justin Malone, Alec Aurand, and Sophia Jurkovic.

team travels to, River Ridge, Downers Grove, and Rockford Auburn this season and hosts

its own tournament January 9, at Le-Win High School. The IHSA State Series begins with

Regional competition Saturday, February 6, at Byron High School.

University of Illinois Master Gardener Program accepting applicants

STATELINE — The University of Illinois Extension is accepting applications to participate in the 2016 Master Gardener Training Program. Those interested need to complete an application form and return it to their local county extension office.

Master Gardeners are individuals with an interest in horticulture willing to participate in 60 hours of classes taught by University of Illinois Extension Educators. Then they agree to

volunteer 60 hours of time through their local office to teach others about gardening.

Each county has a variety of volunteer opportunities from answering horticulture telephone help lines to teaching young children how to garden.

Training classes will be held at the University of Illinois Extension office in Elizabeth (204 Vine St., Elizabeth, IL) beginning February 23, 2016. Classes will be 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. every Tuesday through

May 3.

Class topics include botany, soils & fertilizers, vegetables & organics, plant pathology, wildlife, insects, woody plants, ornamental grasses & landscape design, integrated pest management, turf grass management, annuals & perennials,

fruits & propagation. Class fee is \$150, and this includes class instructions and materials.

Those interested can call the University of Illinois Extension Office in Jo Daviess County at 815-858-2273 for more information or to receive an application form. Forms can also

be printed from the Extension website home page under “Jo Daviess County Master Gardeners”. Go to <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsweb/> and look for the link in the upper right corner of the main page. Applications are due by February 16.



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Illinois state officials remind motorists to obey the Move Over law

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Police (ISP) is urging motorists to respect the Move Over Law and to use caution when approaching stationary authorized emergency vehicles displaying flashing lights or any other emergency equipment on the interstates and roads.

The Move Over Law (Scott's Law) was enacted in 2002 in memory of Lieutenant Scott Gillen of the Chicago Fire Department who was struck and killed on December 23, 2000, by an intoxicated driver on the Dan Ryan Expressway

while assisting at a crash scene. The law requires motorists to yield to emergency vehicles, including highway maintenance vehicles displaying oscillating, rotating, or flashing lights.

Governor Rauner acknowledged the Move Over Law in a Proclamation signed on December 21, 2015. The Proclamation coupled with HB 246 initiated by State Representative Brian Stewart underscores the importance of the Mover Over Law. "Illinois emergency and highway workers are continuously exposed to the dan-

gers of being hit by motorists," said Governor Bruce Rauner. "The Move Over Law is critical to the preservation of the lives of our public servants and the safety of all motorists. It is my hope that through education and enforcement, motorists will use caution, slow down and move over when approaching stationary emergency vehicles."

Most recently, a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver failed to move over and caused a fiery crash on I-88 near Aurora killing 39-year-old Tollway worker Vincent Petrella and

severely injuring ISP District 15 Trooper Douglas Balder. This crash has become part of an alarming series of incidents involving CMVs striking ISP, Illinois Department of Transportation and other emergency vehicles. In recent years ISP Troopers James Sauter and Kyle Deatherage were also killed by CMV drivers violating the Move Over Law.

"Illinois State Police troopers will aggressively enforce the Move Over Law to protect first responders and highway workers on Illinois roadways," said ISP Director Leo Schmitz. "The

Move Over Law is designed to protect motorists and emergency workers by reducing the likelihood of a preventable tragedy from occurring."

The Move Over Law requires drivers to change lanes (if safe to do so) or reduce speed and proceed with caution when approaching a stationary emergency vehicle displaying flashing warning lights. Violators of Illinois' Move Over Law can be fined not less than \$100 or more than \$10,000 and have their driver's license suspended for up to two years if the violation involves injury to another.

Major Conservation Legislation Congress passed will have local benefits

STATELINE — The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF), a local non-profit land trust working in and around Jo Daviess County, IL, today praised a bipartisan congressional vote that makes permanent a federal tax incentive supporting land conservation.

Farmers, ranchers, and the public will directly benefit from the incentive that encourages landowners to place a conservation easement on their land to protect important natural, scenic, and historic resources. JDCF was among the 1,100 land trusts to support the incentive through a collaborative, multi-year campaign.

JDCF is a member of the Land Trust Alliance, the national land conservation organization that led the campaign to incentivize more land conservation through increased tax benefits to the land owner.

"The importance of this vote — and this incentive — cannot be overstated," said Rand

Wentworth, the Alliance's president. "This is the single greatest legislative action in decades to support land conservation. It states, unequivocally, that we as a nation treasure our lands and must conserve their many benefits for all future generations."

In a strong bipartisan action, the House voted 318-109 and the Senate voted 65-33 to pass the bills that included the tax incentive.

First enacted as a temporary provision in 2006, the incentive is directly responsible for conserving more than 2 million acres of America's natural outdoor heritage. The incentive grants certain tax benefits to landowners who sign a conservation easement. Conservation easements are voluntary agreements between land owners and local land trusts that permanently limit uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Lands placed into conservation easements can continue to be farmed, hunted or used for other specified purposes.

The lands also remain on county tax rolls, strengthening local economies.

Once signed into law, the incentive will be applied retroactively to Jan. 1, 2015. An earlier version of the incentive expired Dec. 31, 2014.

The incentive advanced through Congress as part of the America Gives More Act, a package of tax incentives to encourage charitable giving. The agreement announced last week additionally encourages donations to food banks and facilitates charitable deductions from IRAs. It was sup-

ported by all three legislators from Jo Daviess County; Senators Dick Durbin and Mark Kirk and Congresswoman Cheri Bustos.

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation is a local non-profit whose mission is to preserve land for the lasting well-being of people and wildlife. JDCF owns several beautiful and unique preserves that are open to the public for hiking, wildlife viewing, and picnicking, and holds conservation easements on over 3,400 acres in Jo Daviess County. For more information about

JDCF, visit www.jdcf.org.

Founded in 1982, the Land Trust Alliance is a national land conservation organization that works to save the places people love by strengthening land conservation across America. The Alliance represents more than 1,100 member land trusts supported by more than 100,000 volunteers and 5 million members nationwide. The Alliance is based in Washington, D.C. and operates several regional offices. More information about the Alliance is available at www.landtrustalliance.org.

Annie's Project offered in Rockford this February

STATELINE — Women involved in farming in today's world face a number of obstacles daily. Often, they are employed outside the home and have the responsibilities of caring for children and elderly parents. They are sometimes kept at a distance from the decision making process by complex family arrangements and many times have no idea how the finances and business end of the operation are structured. And, even if they would like to learn more about the business end of the operation, most have no idea where to turn for even the basic information.

At Annie's Project courses, farm women become empowered to be better business partners or sole operators through networks and by managing

and organizing critical information. Women are taught the basics of managing money, how property is titled, setting up farm leases, basic grain marketing, deciding on insurance products, and putting together a business plan which includes financial documents like balance sheets, income statements and cash flows.

University of Illinois Extension will offer the six-session Annie's Project farm management course for farm women every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. starting February 16 and ending March 3. Annie's Project will be held at the Winnebago-Boone County Farm Bureau, 1925 S. Meridian Road, Rockford, IL.

Annie's Project is discussion-based, bringing women

together to learn from experts in the field. Through the use of webinar technology, participants will learn about business plans, marketing, farm leases, insurances, estate planning, property titles and financial management from the nation's top agricultural professionals. The program will also introduce and connect the participants to local professionals who can assist them long after the program has ended.

Pre-registration is required to participate in Annie's Project, and the cost is \$50, with a deadline to register of February 10, 2016. To register call the University of Illinois Extension Winnebago County, at (815) 986-4357 or on-line at web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw.

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EDITOR: Tony Carton

Advertising Sales:

Cyndee Stiefel: lenaads@rvpublishing.com

Office Manager: Laurie Tanley

To Contact The Shopper's Guide:

Telephone: 815-369-4112 • **Fax:** 815-369-9093

Email: News/Letters to the Editor: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com

Ads: ads@rvpublishing.com

Classifieds: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com

Billing Office: businessoffice@rvpublishing.com

Available online at: rvpnews.com

Mailing Address:

The Shopper's Guide

213 S. Center, Lena, IL 61048

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Thank you Lena Lions and area church co-operative for making my Christmas brighter. The fruit and cookies were greatly appreciated.

Darlene Aurand

230057

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Courtesy photo

Welcome to the club

New Lena Lions members Dan Packard, William Damier, Ryan Wybourn, Doug Wybourn, Lynn McCoy, Mike Graf, Mary Keith, Craig Brinkmier stand with District 1D Governor Gary Meyers following their induction at the club's annual Christmas dinner.



Courtesy photo

Kindergarten classes head up food drive

The 3 Lena Winslow kindergarten classes collected more than 200 canned food items that will be donated to the Lena Food Pantry.

Governor Rauner takes clemency action

SPRINGFIELD — Governor Bruce Rauner today granted seven and denied 247 clemency petitions. About 1,000 petitions remain from previous administrations.

The 254 clemency petitions Governor Rauner acted upon today are part of dockets dating back to October 2010. This

is the sixth set of petitions the governor has reviewed since taking office. Each person granted clemency has recently undergone a criminal background check through the Illinois State Police's Law Enforcement Agencies Data System.

A granted clemency request

for a pardon with expungement allows the petitioner to seek expungement of their conviction through the court system.

For additional information on the granted clemency cases, please contact Ken Tupy at the Prisoner Review Board at (217) 782-1610 or Ken.Tupy@illinois.gov.

Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) announces Regional Transportation Meeting notice date for 2016

FREEPORT — The Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) – Region 1 (Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties) – Transportation Committee Meetings for 2016 will be held on January 28 2016, March 24 2016, May 26 2016, July 28 2016, September 22 2016, and November 17 2016 at 10 a.m. at the Freeport Public Library located at 100 E. Douglas St. in Freeport. Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend as well as anyone that is interested in public transit.

The Regional Transportation Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of the Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP). HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans.

The Illinois Department of Transportation has formed an agreement with North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) for the purposes of preparing, imple-

menting, and updating the plan for Region 1 (Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties) and Region 3 (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee,

Highland announces dean's list for fall 2015 semester

FREEPORT — Highland Community College proudly announces the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester. Students who have completed 12 credit hours or more during the semester and have a minimum of a 3.25 grade point average (GPA), based on a 4.0 scale, are included on the dean's list. Highest Honors are awarded to students with a 3.50 GPA, and Honors students earn a GPA between 3.25 and 3.49.

Highest Honors

Apple River: Hiede M. Graves, Tamra L. Kurth

Dakota: Jessica A. Adkins, Shannon N. Fleming, Corrie L. Lipka, Eric J. Piper, Kelsey J. Zettler

Davis: Hannah R. Harshbarger, Alice L. Koester

Lena: Alexa G. Buss, Richard J. Corbett, Angela M. Edler, Kaylie L. Hammer, Kenzie L. Kaiser, Heather A. Schiess, Elizabeth M. Walker, Abigail A. Walters

McConnell: Amanda K. Mulhall

Orangeville: Joyce E. Lehman, Melissa S. Owen, Bethany A. Shuman

Pearl City: Staci E. Hammer, Samuel J. Kempel

Stockton: Josiah D. Caswell, Shawn D. Haas

Warren: Wesley J. Castle, Susanna E. Thompson, Gunner R. Wenger, Garrett J. Zeal

High Honors

Apple River: Caitlin M. Cleary, Brandi L. Ernst

Dakota: Rachel R. Clay, Anna M. Folgate, Adam J. Schubert

Davis: Christy M. Arroyo, Connor S. Rice, Andrew L. Sweet

Elizabeth: Sara A. Sleeman

Lena: Tamra L. Brown, Rachel L. Edler, Kayla L. Heun, Kori F. Kalkbrenner, Kaitlyn J. Litow, Peyton M. Magee, Amy E. May, Claire N. Tootelian

McConnell: Cortney S. Haight

Orangeville: Hannah L. Badgett, Hannah M. Bollon

Pearl City: Melinda E. Baker, Michelle I. Bronkema, Gertrude R. Heimerdinger, Hanjua N. Huenefeld, Laura Lochowitz, Allison M. Palmer, Anicka N. Stultz, John M. Werkheiser

Stockton: Aleah L. Bauer, Christina L. Gropp, Alexzandra S. Johnson, Kiley J. Schulz, Samuel R. VenHuizen

Warren: Kristen K. Rogers

Honors

Dakota: Jennifer M. Killeen, Jordan A. Vrazsity

Davis: Rylee R. Obert, Andrew D. Zellmer

Elizabeth: Abigail G. Mulholland

Lena: Whitney M. Becker, Alex J. Doolan, Kyleigh J. Kuckes, Lindsey A. Parkinson, Andrew T. Reid, Christopher M. Rothschild, Benjamin J. Schubert, Seth C. Standke, Donna M. Strohecker, KevynAnn C. Sutter

Pearl City: Amanda J. Erbsen, Elizabeth J. Reeser, Devin R. Schiess

Stockton: Anthony J. Baltierra, Jason R. Heller, Tyler E. Tucker, Reese S. Vanderheyden

Winslow: Kelly R. Davis

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VIEWPOINT

SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

New laws taking effect Jan. 1, 2016

SPRINGFIELD — On Jan. 1, 2016, 237 new laws go into effect in Illinois, including measures that impact fighting crime, government transparency, business, hunting, health, and family.

I am proud to have sponsored two of the new laws, which both affect our legal/court systems. Senate Bill (SB) 1938/Public Act (PA) 99-0140 relates to defendants found unfit to stand trial by making sure that the reports of forensic examiners working for circuit courts are also provided to the Department of Human Services (DHS) in conjunction with the judge's order remanding the unfit defendant to a DHS facility for treatment.

House Bill (HB) 233/PA 99-0354 requires the County Coroner to properly preserve evidence from a death investigation if appropriate equipment is available and release it to the investigating agency no later than 30 days after collection. Requires the police agency

receiving that evidence to submit the specimens to a National DNA Index System participating laboratory within the state.

When it comes to fighting crime, several news laws are making public safety a top priority. For example, individuals who continue to endanger citizens on Illinois roadways by repeatedly driving under the influence of alcohol, will have another barrier that can prevent them from getting back behind the wheel. Sen. Jason Barickman's SB 627/PA 99-0467 requires individuals convicted of two or more DUIs or reckless homicide convictions to install a Breath Alcohol Ignition Interlock Device as a condition of a Restricted Driving Permit.

Another new law taking effect Jan. 1, spearheaded by Sen. Kyle McCarter, goes after designer drug manufacturers. SB 1129/PA 99-0371 combats dangerous synthetic or designer street drugs by targeting how they are made and allowing prosecutors to not have to wait as long for lab tests to show if the synthetic drug involved was

illegal.

In addition, the sale of powdered caffeine to anyone younger than 18 and the sale of products consisting of or containing powdered alcohol will be prohibited under two new laws (SB 9/PA 99-0050 and SB 67/PA 99-0051).

Those who call 9-1-1 in 2016 better be sure it's a legitimate emergency. Individuals convicted of making false or prank calls to 9-1-1 call centers or making other false reports to emergency responders could be held responsible for reimbursing the costs incurred by the responding emergency agency under HB 3988/PA 99-0160.

As more police officers start to use body cameras, SB 1304/PA 99-0352 establishes new rules and regulations for officers who use the technology. The new law requires police officers who wear a body camera, to keep it on when conducting any law enforcement activities, among other rules.

Keeping people healthy and avoiding terrible diseases are the goals of a new law spon-

sored by Sen. Christine Radogno. Any child-care facility that takes care of children ages 6 and younger, must show proof their employees received the Tdap vaccine and have received two doses of the Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine or provide proof of immunity under a new law (SB 986/PA 99-0267) that goes into effect Jan. 1.

Major airports in Illinois will have one year to establish a private breast-feeding area set up behind the security screening process in 2016. SB 344/PA 99-0228 also requires this area to include a chair and an electrical outlet and be outside the confines of a public restroom.

Illinois joins several other states Jan. 1 with a new law that can help save or prolong people's lives. Terminally-ill patients in Illinois will have access to clinical-trial, experimental medical treatments and medications, thanks to the Right to Try law (HB 1335/PA 99-0270) sponsored by Sen. Michael Connelly.

In keeping with the late

Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka's tradition of government transparency, SB 903/PA 99-0393 ensures that the Online Ledger and The Warehouse will continue to provide state financial records, official reports, and local government finances to taxpayers. Sen. Karen McConaughay sponsored this legislation in honor of Judy Baar Topinka.

Illinois continues to rank near the bottom when it comes to being a business-friendly state. In 2015, however, Sen. Sue Rezin led the effort in one of the very few pro-growth, pro-jobs business reforms passed by the General Assembly during the spring session. SB 1672/PA 99-0463 will allow businesses to file and receive a permit directly from the state, instead of going through the federal government. That will speed up the application time and provide for more certainty for job creators.

Hunting is a very popular activity, especially in downstate Illinois. In 2016, under a new law spearheaded by Sen. Sam McCann, hunters will be able to hunt bobcats to control overpopulation and keep the animal at healthy numbers. HB 352/PA 99-0033 sets the dates for the bobcat hunting season from Nov. 1 through Feb. 15.

In an effort to boost tourism for downstate communities and to put a focus on the family, Sen. Chapin Rose sponsored HB 3234/PA 99-0307 to raise the age cap for youth hunting licenses from 16 to 18.

In the classroom in 2016, to help high school students better understand government and the democratic process; a civics course requirement has been added to high school curriculum through HB 4025/PA 99-0434.

With 90 percent of pumpkins grown in the nation produced in Illinois, HB 208/PA 99-0364 recognizes that fact by making pumpkin pie the official state pie.

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos votes for bipartisan bill to fund federal government and invest in Illinois

STATEWIDE — \$1.1 Trillion Omnibus bill includes funding for Thomson Correctional Facility, Rock Island Arsenal, Head Start and YouthBuild programs to help risk students in Rockford, Peoria and Quad-Cities.

Washington, D.C. - Today Congresswoman Cheri Bustos

joined a bipartisan majority in voting for the federal Omnibus funding bill. This legislation, which funds the Federal Government through September 2016, makes significant investments in workforce training, Head Start, community health centers, infrastructure, national secu-

rity, veterans and Justice Department programs to combat the scourge of heroin addiction. The bill also makes funding available for key Illinois priorities such as the Rock Island Arsenal, Thomson Correctional Facility, YouthBuild programs across the 17th Congressional District and record funding for grants provided by the office of Violence Against Women.

The Omnibus bill, which passed by a bipartisan vote of 316 to 113 has received the support of President Obama and is expected to be signed into law after a vote in the Senate.

"Whether it's the hardworking men and women at the Rock Island Arsenal, students

in Rockford's Head Start program or veterans seeking care at the VA in Peoria, I am proud to have helped pass a funding bill to grow Illinois' economy and prevent another government shutdown," said Congresswoman Cheri Bustos. "No major pieces of legislation are perfect but I'm very pleased to see record investments to reduce violence against women, additional support to combat the heroin epidemic that is gripping too many of our communities, and funding to strengthen our infrastructure. Today we took a major step forward and I am hopeful that we can continue on this path of bipartisan cooperation in 2016."

Durbin announces Illinois priorities included in Omnibus Appropriations Bill passed by congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, December 18, announced that the Consolidated and Further Appropriations Act of 2016 was passed by the Senate. The bill was passed by the House December 18 will need to be signed by the President to become law.

"Thanks to the Bipartisan Budget Act of

2015, critical investments in the middle-class, our veterans, and the nation's infrastructure and scientific research programs were part of today's Omnibus Appropriations bill," said Durbin. "From important research at our national laboratories to highway construction projects throughout our state, this bill will create Illinois jobs and keep America's economic growth on track



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ON THE RECORD

OBITUARIES

Donna J. French

LENA — Donna J. French, age 76 passed away on Tuesday December 22, 2015 at FHN Hospital in Freeport, IL. She was born on April 4, 1939 in Mt. Carroll, IL to Elmer and Doris (Bartch) Zink. She married James "Jim" French on April 4, 1957 in Mt. Carroll, IL. He preceded her death on December 1, 2013.

She is survived by three daughters; Julie French of Lena, Jeanie (Tim) Beed of Winnebago and Lisa (Dan Harnish) French of Lena. Five grandchildren; Brandon (Shea) Mills, Justin (Amy) Mills all of Lena, Shaun (Abby Jo Eslinger) Eilders of German Valley, Chad (Chelsea Karstedt) Eilders of Freeport and Lauren Beed of Winnebago. Four great grandchildren; Peyton, Rylee, and Corbin Eilders, Jordan, and February arrival Logan James Mills. One sister; Rose Morhardt of Elizabeth, IL; her special dog, Bella Jeanne; and special friend Jane Frazer who would call nightly to solve Wheel of Fortune puzzles with Donna.

Preceded in death by her par-

ents, husband and two sisters.

A memorial service and visitation were held on Monday December 28, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL.

Officiating was Randy Nicholas.

A memorial has been established in her name.

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

Florence E. Hawley

STOCKTON — Florence E. Hawley, 81, of Freeport, passed away in her home on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

Florence was born on March 16, 1934 in Elizabeth, IL, the youngest daughter of Roy and Rosie (Kuhse) Dittmar. She was a 1951 graduate of Stockton High School. After school she worked as a dental assistant for Dr. Alzeno for four years. She



then married the love of her life, Ed Hawley on August 18, 1957. They farmed the Stockton area at that time and had two sons, Andy and Mark. Florence worked side by side with her husband on the farm for 35 years. During that time, she was a member of the Jo Daviess Home Extension. In the early days of their marriage they employed a young man, Konrad Radke whom they appreciated very much and was like a son to Florence and Ed. After their eldest son Andy got married in 1983 they moved to Freeport where they still live. Florence also worked as a book keeper for Gran Prix Lube Center.

Surviving are husband, Ed Hawley of Freeport; sons, Andy (Leslie) Hawley and Mark (Terese) Hawley both of Stockton, IL; grandchildren, Bob (Amy) Hawley of Stockton, Bridget (Elliott) Peach of Madison, WI, Steve Hawley of Stockton, Brock Hawley of Carbondale, IL, and Sara Hawley of Normal IL.; great-grandchildren, Alayna Hawley; and many precious nieces and nephews.

Florence was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Rosie Dittmar; and four sisters, Helen (Bob) Flack, Lucille (Ted) Janton, Vera (Frank) Felicelli, and Irma Ames.

Memorial services and visitation were held Saturday, December 26, at Burke Tubbs Funeral Home in Freeport. In lieu of flowers a memorial has

Jo Daviess County Health Department schedules January meetings

GALENA — Jo Daviess County Health Department Board of Health Personnel Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. held in the Jo Daviess County Health Department Conference Room and Jo Daviess County Health Department

Special Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, January 6, 2016 at 7 p.m. held in the Jo Daviess County Health Department Conference Room

If further information needed, please call: Elizabeth Kane, MPA, Administrator at 815-777-0263

been established in her memory. Please sign Florence's guestbook and share a memory at www.burketubbs.com.

Merton Perry Loomis

SAVANNA — Merton Loomis age 90, passed away at Big Meadows Nursing Home on Wednesday, December 23, 2015. Mert recently moved into Big Meadows, after living with his wife Roberta, at their home on Wacker Road in Savanna for 63 years.

Visitation for Mert will be at Law Jones Funeral Home in Savanna on Wednesday, December 30, from 3 – 6 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the Savanna First United Methodist Church at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 31. Burial will follow at the Lower York Cemetery in Thomson, Illinois. A luncheon and time for fellowship will be held at the church following interment. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the VFW, First United Methodist Church, or Big Meadows Nursing Home, all of Savanna. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.lawjones-funeralhome.com.

The son of Perry and Alma (Schmidt) Loomis, Merton was born on November 17, 1925 in Baraboo, Wisconsin. He married Roberta Jean Hook on August 22, 1948, and celebrated 64 years of marriage before Roberta's passing on May 8, 2013. Merton attended schools in Baraboo. He joined the Navy at age 17 in December 1942, and served as gunner's mate aboard the USS Tisdale DE-33 during World War II in the South Pacific. He received

his honorable discharge papers in February 1946, coincidentally signed by Roberta Hook, Carroll County Clerk, who would later become his wife. Mert worked at Al Greison's Shoe Store in Savanna for 18 years. After leaving Greison's, Mert went to work for Republic Investors Life Insurance in the 1960's, a natural born salesman. He left Republic Investors and ended his career as a regional manager for Prudential, retiring in 1982. He joked that as he retired, his daughters moved to Colorado...coincidence? Mert loved to bowl, golf, and was very active with several service organizations in Savanna. Mert was Past Commander of the American Legion and a member of the VFW, the Loyal Order of Moose, and the Extra Milers club. Mert loved to joke and tell stories. He will forever be remembered for his humor and love of life.

Mert will be deeply missed by his three daughters, Karen (Dennis) Harvilla of Lafayette, CO, Jean (George) Sammeth of Arvada, CO, and Susan Loomis (Eugene Correa) of Thornton, CO; brother Walter "Tiny" (Donna) Loomis; granddaughters Stephanie (Kevin Marrant) Hensley, Heather Hensley; grandson Matthew Harvilla; step-grandson Andrew Sammeth (Cahen Taylor); great-grandson Nathaniel Hensley; step-grandchildren Havin, Clayton, and Camille Marrant, several nieces and nephews. Mert was preceded in death by his wife Roberta, his parents, infant daughter Tina Lee, brothers Rollin and Marvin, and a sister and brother in infancy.

BIRTHS

Brinley Cheeney

NORA — Jessica David and Jeff Cheeney of Nora, Ill. are the parents of a daughter Brinley Anne Cheeney born Friday December 11, 2015 at FHN Memorial Hospital, Freeport, Ill. Brinley has a sister Braelyn Cheeney, 2. Grandparents are John Dowd of Lena, Ill., Lisa and Troy Fryer of Dakota, Ill. and Tina Brinkmeier and Lonnie Cheeney both of Lena. Great grandparents are Linda Taber of Rockford, Ill., Loretta Cheeney of Warren, Ill. and Jack and Jeanie Reel of Lena.

Zaiden Schaefer

ORANGEVILLE — Leah Morhardt and Jeremy Schaefer of Orangeville, Ill. are the parents of a son Zaiden Gene Schaefer born Monday December 21, 2015 at FHN Memorial Hospital, Freeport, Ill. Zaiden has a sister Kalee, 14 and two brothers Austin, 13 and Mason, 9. Grandparents are Garland and Julie Morhardt of Freeport, Kristy Schaefer of Verona, Wis. and Robert and Lori Schaefer of Blanchardville, Wis. Great grandparents are Judy and Ray Hutmacher, Dave and Sandy Rohde and Darlene Morhardt all of Freeport, Gene and Jo Hanson of

Monroe, Wis. and Marjorie D'Amour of Madison, Wis.

Henry Suttman

FREEPORT — Curt and Sarah Suttman of Freeport, Ill. are the parents of a son Henry Curtis Suttman born Tuesday December 22, 2015 at FHN Memorial Hospital, Freeport. Henry joins a sister Josephine Suttman, 2. Grandparents are Doug and Linda Johnson of Lanark, Ill., Julie Suttman of Dakota, Ill. and Randy Suttman of Stockton, Ill. Great grandmother is Roberta Strattmann of Dakota.

Greyson Young

FREEPORT — Corey and Melissa Young of Freeport, Ill. are the parents of a son Greyson Daniel Young born Thursday December 17, 2015 at FHN Memorial Hospital, Freeport. Greyson has a brother Brayden Michael Young, 15 months. Grandparents are Daniel and Rebecca Zueger and Roger and Debra Davis all of Freeport and Timothy Young of Monroe, Wis. Great grandparents are Heinz and Irma Zueger of Stockton, Ill., Evelyn Green of Freeport and Richard Young of Lena, Ill.

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ANNIVERSARY



Heinz and Irma Zueger will observe their sixtieth wedding anniversary on January 12, 2016.

Heinz and Irma Zueger to observe sixtieth wedding anniversary

STOCKTON — Heinz and Irma Zueger will observe their sixtieth wedding anniversary on January 12, 2016. They met in Monroe, Wisconsin at

Cheese Days in September 1955. After a short courtship they returned to Haggenschwil, Switzerland and were married to be with family they had left when they immigrated to the USA.

They have five children,



Courtesy photos

Susanne (Dennis) Young, William (Dixie) Zueger, Timothy (Lori) Zueger, all of Stockton. Daniel (Becky) Zueger, Freeport, and Cindy (Michael) Broshous of Waukee, Iowa.

There are also have nine grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Heinz & Irma owned and operated Stockton Processing Plant and later Apple Canyon Egg Farm in Stockton. They are now retired and enjoy traveling and spending time with family and friends.

Please join with family and friends as we shower Heinz & Irma with cards to celebrate their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Cards may be sent to PO Box 166, Stockton, Illinois.

FROM THE OFFICES OF JEAN DIMKE JO DAVIESS COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER

JO DAVIESS COUNTY — Voting assistance and voting aids in marking the ballot will be available at all polling places in Jo Daviess County for voters who are either temporarily or permanently physically incapacitated or over the age of 65 at the March 15, 2016 General Primary Election, according to County Clerk Jean Dimke.

"If you wish to go to the polls but need assistance," Dimke noted, "arrangements can be made so you can vote from your car at the polls, if you call the County Clerk's Office (1-815-777-0161) no later than Monday, March 14, 2016."

Voting by mail is another alternative for all voters. Applications for voting by mail are now available from the County Clerk's Office. All applications for voting by mail must be filed in the Clerk's office by Thursday, March 10, 2016.

Voting assistance is also available inside the polling place from someone who accompanies the voter or from an election judge of each political party.

Early Voting by personal appearance in the County Clerk's Office is another option for all registered voters. Anyone may come to the Jo Daviess

County Clerk's Office, 330 N. Bench St., Galena, between Thursday February 4, through Monday, March 14, 2016 on weekdays from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and on Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. until noon and vote.

Tuesday, February 16, 2016 is the last day that new voter registrations, name or address changes can be taken and be allowed to vote at the polls. "Registrations can be taken at my office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday," Dimke added, "and deputy registrars are located throughout the county." Registrations or changes can be made at most libraries or several other business locations.

State law does allow grace period registration and transfer of registration from Wednesday, February 17 through Tuesday, March 15, 2016. Grace period registration is conducted only in the County Clerk's Office and requires the individual to vote at the time of registration.

For more information on registering to vote, handicapped accessibility or early voting call Dimke's office at 777-0161 or write the County Clerk's Office at 330 North Bench Street, Galena 61036.

Warren wins at Holiday Classic

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

FULTON — Warren kicked off the 2015 Fulton-West Carroll Holiday Classic as they played in game one at West Carroll Middle School in Mount Carroll.

West Carroll was their opening night opponent and the Thunder failed to produce a serious challenge, as they were beaten by Warren, 43-25.

The Warriors scored ten points in the opening period and allowed just three to West Carroll in the opener.

In the second quarter, Warren only scored three points, but it was still enough to take a two-point lead at the half 13-11.

In the third and fourth quarters combined, Warren outscored West Carroll 30-14 to win the game by 18 and improve to 1-0 in the tournament.

The Warriors dropped a one-point decision on night two, in the 2015 West Carroll Holiday Classic, 42-41, to slip to 1-1, but would win their final game of the tournament, to finish with their 2-1 mark.

With Warren carrying a small advantage into the second quarter in their night two game

against Erie, there was hope the squad would be able to finish exceptionally well in the Christmas Classic.

The ball was zipping across the floor, the passes were finding their marks and the shots were worked into the basket by Warren.

Erie, however, found a way to rebound and did so with emphasis in the second quarter as they pushed themselves into a six-point halftime lead, 25-19.

Warren came back in the third quarter, outscoring Erie 10-6, to see their deficit drop to two-points with the fourth quarter to go.

The Warriors outscored Erie again in the final period, but the one-point advantage wouldn't be enough, as they would fall to 0-1 in the tournament with the 42-41 loss.

On the final night, Warren found the going fairly easy as they took on Unity Christian and ran away with the 66-30 win.

Unity Christian ended the tournament with an 0-3 mark and struggled to find any offense against their field of play.

See CLASSIC, Page 9

Estate Planning Seminar
Thursday, January 14 ~ 2 p.m.
at the Lena Living Center
Estate Planning Seminar by Anthony Coon, Attorney

Afternoon Coffee Break
Wednesday, January 6 ~ 2 p.m.
at the Lena Mercantile - Sizzling Seniors
Complimentary pie or ice cream & beverage
RSVP 815-369-4561 (limited reservations accepted)

Community Supper
Wednesday, January 20 ~ 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
All ages welcome! No cost - no obligation.

Senior Bingo
Thursday, January 28th
Complimentary Lunch at 12:30 p.m.
Bingo at 1:00 p.m.
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The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, Highland Community College and Rockford University announce Rubin Education Challenge

ROCKFORD — In a major announcement, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois announced matching endowments to Highland Community College and Rockford University. The matching endowments will create \$1,000,000 in endowed funds for scholarships. The endowed scholarship funds will be awarded to students who attend HCC or RU, are from Northern Illinois, and can demonstrate financial need.

The matching endowments are named the Rubin Education Challenge, after Dr. Louis and Violet Rubin who left a bequest to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) of \$24.5 million in 2012. The Rubin's legacy lives on in name and spirit. CFNIL will match every dollar contributed by the HCC and

RU toward the creation of the endowed scholarship funds.

The Rubin Education Challenge is part of Education Works, a grant making strategy recently adopted by CFNIL's Board of Trustees to support the region's education-to-employment pipeline, by funding after-school programs, career awareness initiatives, and scholarship endowments for the region's post-secondary educational institutions.

According to CFNIL President Jon Bates, "The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is excited to find willing partners in Highland Community College and Rockford University to build permanent scholarship endowments. The scholarships will create more opportunities for students with financial need, produce

more college graduates, and strengthen the workforce in our region. The scholarships will also strengthen two of our great post-secondary institutions by providing them with a perpetual revenue stream."

The purpose of Highland Community College's participation in the Rubin Education Challenge will be to provide opportunities for students with some degree of need to enroll in and complete degree and certificate programs. Pathways, which would be available to scholarship recipients, include obtaining transfer degrees and opportunities for students to transfer seamlessly to four-year institutions; obtaining degrees and/or certificates which would allow them to upgrade their employment and earnings potential, and continuing education

opportunities for training and professional advancement for current professional through Highland's Business Institution and Lifelong Learning programs.

Speaking at an event announcing the creation of the Rubin Educational challenge, Highland Community College President Tim Hood said, "We are very encouraged by the new scholarship opportuni-

ties that will emerge through partnership with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. The Rubin Education Challenge will provide up to \$1 million in matching scholarship funds for Highland students. The challenge is to raise funding for the new scholarship throughout our district, and all that we raise, up to at least \$1 million, will be doubled by the match."

Lady Wolves beaten back by Shullsburg

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

PEARL CITY — On Monday, Dec. 14, Pearl City fell to Shullsburg, WI, 51-44, in non-conference action.

Shullsburg jumped ahead early as they put eleven points on the board, while holding Pearl City to just four points in the period.

Roll reversal occurred in the second quarter as the Lady Wolves put 21 points on the board to surge to within one point of Shullsburg at the half, 26-25.

The energy level struggled to maintain itself in the third quarter as Pearl City was outscored by six points in the frame, causing them to see their deficit grow to seven,

with only the final period to go.

The teams exchanged baskets in the final period, with each squad scoring eleven.

The early lead remained for Shullsburg as they came away with the seven-point win, 51-44.

Lady Wolves push back Indians and claim NUIC win

The Pearl City Lady Wolves, who recently saw their December win streak snapped in a cross-border clash with Shullsburg, WI, defeated the Dakota Lady Indians on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 62-43, to help them get back on track, as they pursue their shot at the NUIC crown.

The nearly 20-point win helped keep Pearl City on

track, in the conference race, as they prepared for a major conference battle with East Dubuque on Friday, Dec. 18.

The Warriors have been a team may have been keeping their eyes on, in the NUIC this season and they proved why as they toppled the Wolves 56-51, to claim the night and the head-to-head victory.

Following game play in Fulton on Monday, Dec. 21, the Lady Wolves will take the next two weeks off in anticipation of a Jan. 4, 2016 return to the court against the Freeport Aquin Bulldogs.

The following week, Dakota hosts Pearl City before the Lady Wolves head to Galena for a Saturday, Jan. 16, playoff warm-up.

Jo Daviess County Democrats to hold January meeting

SCALES MOUND — The Jo Daviess County Democrats will meet at 6 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, at the Southside Hornet Pub & Grille, 402 Franklin St., Scales Mound. After the business part of the meeting, guest speaker Joe Murphy from the Bernie Sanders for President Campaign will give an update.

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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WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.**

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

LENA — I certainly hope your Christmas was as blessed as mine was this year. I had some great gatherings with friends and family. Maybe the warmer weather made everything easier to get done. The food was delicious, and the candlelight service was inspirational. The only downside with our celebration was missing my nephew who moved to Colorado earlier this year, and he started a new job. We talked to him several times on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and that made him not being here less painful. I know that there were some of you who were separated from your loved ones; we just know we have to make the best of the situation and wait until we get time with them. Christmas is over, and New Year's Eve is just around the corner. This week we have some great recipes for the New Year's weekend.

Appetizers are very popular for New Year's celebrations. The first appetizer is one of several stuffed mushroom recipes this week. This one is a combo of sausage and cornbread stuffing for large fresh mushrooms. They will make a great appetizer plate and are easy to serve—no silverware!

The second stuffed mushroom recipe is also very easy. If you like artichokes, you will like this tasty treat. The third stuffed mushroom recipe is a restaurant style stuffed mushroom that takes less than an hour to prepare and serve. Enjoy these mushroom recipes for your appetizer table.

Sausage and Cornbread Stuffed Mushrooms

20 large fresh mushrooms
¼ lb. breakfast pork sausage
1 C. Cornbread Stuffing Mix
1 C. water
2 T. chopped fresh parsley

Preheat the oven to 450. On a foil covered rimmed baking sheet, place a wire rack. Remove the stems from the mushrooms and place cap sides up on the rack. Bake 15 minutes. In a skillet, brown the sausage and then add the stuffing mix and water. Mix well. Drain the mushrooms on a paper towel covered plate. Remove the wire rack and discard the foil with the mushroom liquid. Spoon the sausage mixture into the mushrooms. Return to the baking sheet and bake 10 minutes or until they are heated through. Sprinkle with fresh parsley.

Artichoke Dip-stuffed mushrooms

20 large fresh mushrooms
1 can (14 oz.) artichoke hearts, drained and finely chopped
¾ C. grated Parmesan Cheese
½ C. mayonnaise

Preheat the oven to 450. Place a wire rack on a foil covered rimmed baking sheet. Remove the stems from the

mushrooms. Place the cap sides up on the rack. Bake 15 minutes. Drain the mushrooms on a paper towel-covered plate. Remove wire rack and discard foil with the liquid from the baking sheet. In a bowl, mix the artichoke hearts, cheese and mayo. Spoon the mixture into the mushroom caps and return to the baking sheet. Bake 10 minutes or until heated through.

Easy Stuffed Restaurant Style Mushrooms

24 whole fresh mushrooms
1 T. oil
1 T. minced garlic
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese
¼ C. grated parmesan cheese
¼ t. pepper
¼ t. onion powder
¼ t. garlic powder
2 T. chopped fresh parsley

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a 9 x 13 rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray. Clean mushrooms with a damp paper towel. Carefully remove the stems, cut off and discard the tough ends, and then finely chop the stems. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Cook garlic and chopped stems, stirring occasionally, 5 minutes.

Transfer to a bowl and let cook for 10 minutes. Add the cream cheese, parmesan, pepper, onion and garlic powder to the bowl and stir until blended—mixture will be very thick.

Fill each mushroom cap with 1 tablespoon of the cheese mixture and arrange close together on the prepared baking sheet. Bake until mushrooms are hot and liquid starts to form under the caps, about 20 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley before

serving

Every New Year's celebration has to have some sort of seafood. This appetizer has crab in it. You can use the store bought phyllo Cups, and the recipe is easy to make. Just stuff and serve!

Crabbie Phyllo Cups

½ C. spreadable garden vegetable cream cheese
½ t. Old Bay seasoning
¾ C. imitation crab meat, finely chopped

2 pkg. (1.9) frozen miniature phyllo tart shells
5 T. seafood sauce

In a small bowl, mix cream cheese and Old Bay; gently stir in the crab. Spoon 2 teaspoons of the crab mixture into each tart shell; top with sauce and serve!

Another favorite appetizer is chicken wings. This seasonal chicken wing recipe is easy to make in the slow cooker. It would be great for a Super Bowl party next month too.

Slow Cooker Cranberry Hot Wings

1 can (14 oz.) jellied cranberry sauce

½ C. orange juice
¼ C. hot pepper sauce
2 T. soy sauce
2 T. honey

1 T. packed brown sugar
1 T. Dijon mustard
2 t. garlic powder
1 t. dried minced onion
1 garlic clove, minced
24 chicken wings

1 t. salt
4 t. cornstarch
2 T. cold water

In a bowl, whisk the cranberry sauce, orange juice, hot pepper sauce, soy sauce, honey, brown sugar, Dijon mustard,

garlic powder, minced onion, and garlic clove. For the chicken, use a sharp knife to cut through two wing joints; discard wing tips. Place the wings in a large slow cooker and top with salt. Pour the cranberry mixture over the top. Cook, covered, on low for 3-4 hours or until tender.

Remove the wings to a jelly roll pan sprayed with cooking spray and arrange in one layer. Preheat the broiler. Transfer the cooking juices to a skillet; skim off the fat. Bring juices to a boil and cook 15-20 minutes or until mixture is reduced by half, stirring occasionally. In a bowl, mix the cornstarch and water until smooth; stir into juices. Return to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened. Broil the wings for 2-3 minutes or until golden. Brush with berry glaze and serve the remaining glaze on the side.

Need some snacks that are just a little bit different. The next two snack recipes run the gambit from savory to sweet. The second snack recipe was served at a Christmas party earlier this week. My friend, Cindy, brought it and shared the recipe. Enjoy both of these as a great snack for watching football or just sitting around.

Cheesy Snack Mix

3 C. Corn Chex
2 C. Rice Chex
3 C. cheddar miniature pretzels
¼ C. butter, melted
1 envelope cheesy taco seasoning
2 C. white cheddar popcorn

See RECIPES, Page 15



229/646

Feeling stuffed?

After indulgent holiday feasts, it's time to Get Fit.

With each new year we have a new chance to live a little healthier and feel a little better. To start you in the right direction for 2016, FHN and area sponsors are proud to bring you the Get FiTeam Challenge. Join us as we help you to eat better and exercise over a course of 12 weeks, all while you track your progress online and provide support for your team members.

The challenge kicks off on January 10, with baseline screens beginning on January 6. Cost is \$25 per person, and teams must include four people. So gear up for plenty of fruits and veggies in 2016 – get your team together and register online at getfit.fhn.org. For more information call us at 1-877-6000-FHN ext. 901, and ring in the new with a commitment to renewed health!



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CHURCH NOTES

PASTOR'S CORNER

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

By Reverend Arthur Stees

LENA — Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will gather for worship on January 3, at 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to worship on this Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday with Holy Communion. Pastor Arthur Stees, newly appointed Interim Pastor, will share the children's message and sermon and lead worship. Following worship there will be a time of fellowship. All Sunday School children will gather for Sunday School Opening at 10:45 a.m. followed by learning, Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. In addition, the Good Shepherd Choir will practice at 11 a.m., and the Good Shepherd Chime Choir will rehearse at 5 p.m.

On Tuesday January 5 at 1 p.m. Faith Circle will meet at Lena Living Center for Bible Study.

On Wednesday January 6, at 8 a.m. the Piece Corps Quilters will work together to craft quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They are always looking for more people to help tie quilts and sew. No previous quilting experience is necessary. Come join the fun and make a difference in the world!

The After School Program for fourth through eighth graders will meet at the Hangout downtown on Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. Each day there is worship with music and a Christian message; pizza; homework help; and lots of time for all sorts of games, challenges and play. At 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday Confirmation students in seventh-eighth grade will meet for learning, fun, prayer, and fellowship.

On Thursday January 7 at 9 a.m. the Hannah Circle will meet in the Fellowship Hall for a potluck meal. Rene' Johnson will lead Bible Study with a new 4-part Bible study "Christian Citizenship 101 - Paul's letter to the Philippians"

Mary's Christmas

By Gary Rich

Lena United Methodist Church Lay Servant

LENA — The presents have all been opened and we are back to our normal routine. We kind of like that. We are comfortable with our normal stuff that we

do. But, we don't have to stop thinking about that night years ago when our Savior was born. Have you ever wondered what Christmas would have been like for Mary? Giving birth was very dangerous and difficult in the time period in which Mary lived. Mothers counted on family to help them when it came time to deliver. For Mary, there was no one to help. She was not in the comfort of her home. Mary had traveled a very difficult journey and was exhausted. She must have wondered why God would have allowed his son to be born into this situation. Most songs we associate with Christmas talk of a calm night, with cattle lowing and angels on high. I doubt that is what Mary was thinking when it was time for Jesus to be born. Mary had been chosen by God to bring our Savior into the world and God did not promise it would be easy. Christmas is necessary because the world is not always calm and easy. However, as Mary held her son for the first time near to her chest and looked into his eyes, she knew a peace and love she had never known before. All was calm; all was bright. Christmas can bring this same feeling into your life. This new year, take time to ponder the birth of Jesus and what it means in your life. Take time to attend a Bible study, help with a mission, help a neighbor, or attend a church service. Take time to remember the small child who eventually died for our sins.

Lena UMC had an enjoyable night of caroling last Saturday. Fifteen of us ventured out to sing some Christmas carols to unsuspecting members. If you have never had the opportunity to do any caroling at Christmas time, put it on your calendar for next year. It is wonderful to feel the appreciation that

people have when you have taken time from your schedule to think of them.

On Sunday January 3, 2016, we will start a new study on the book Sent, written by Jorge Acevedo. This study will continue to look at the arrival of our Savior and what he can mean for lives. It will try to answer the question, "Where am I being sent?" Join us on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Hearing Impaired

By Fawn Nolan, Parish Assistant

St. John's Lutheran Church, Lena

LENA — As we sat around my sister's dining room table that was filled with candle lights and decorations for Christmas, there was plenty of engaging conversation, while we feasted on the delicious meal she had prepared for us in celebration of Christmas. But there was a common problem that could not be ignored. It kept arising throughout the entire evening, several of us had a hard time hearing. It wasn't just because there would be two or three conversations going on at the same time (though that didn't help); it was obvious that several of my family members had become hearing impaired over the last few years. We would shout a little louder and repeat things more times that we should have until everyone finally got the message. The most frequent word used was "what?" and the most common look on one another's face was that slight tilt of the head with one raised eyebrow that just said it all--"huh?" It became quite evident that some of us definitely need to get our hearing checked. Still I'm pretty sure that next year at this time, no one will have followed through and done that, and the conversation will be even louder. I'm looking for-

ward to another lively evening in December of 2016.

I sometimes wonder if I'm not spiritually hearing impaired as well. It seems as though God has to shout to get my attention or repeat things more times than He should have to until I finally get the message. How many times have blessings been bestowed on me and I fail to recognize the Giver. So often I realize that somebody must be looking out for me. I pray and God helps. He knows exactly what I need and He provides. How much more quiet and peaceful our lives would be if we learned to lean into the relationship we have with God as He watches over us. Trusting that no matter what happens whether it is a hard day or an easy day, He hears our prayers. No matter what the volume would be, He hears and watches over us. Psalm 121:8 "The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever." God's protection always covers a person.

I've always said that I don't know how people can get through life without faith in Jesus. What happens when you lose your keys, or get stuck in a traffic jam? That doesn't even compare to the times when a huge challenge comes along. The times when you lose a job, or your marriage is in trouble, or your loved one is going through a life-threatening situation. It is hard for me to comprehend making it through those difficult times without God. We can make it through all things

with Jesus. We can rely solely on Him with all our problems. Oh, most of us will not be able to stop worrying, or will not always sleep soundly every night, but that is because we are spiritually hearing impaired. If you listen a little more closely, you will know for certain and for eternity that your security in your future lies with Him. We are made whole. Jesus has already fought the good fight for us. Psalm 30:6 "When I felt secure I said, 'I will never be shaken.'" Our security lies in the One who provides, not in our wealth or possessions, not even in our health and job title. God repeats this to us over and over again. Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."

As we usher in a new year, may each day become brighter and clearer as you hear God's messages and claim them for yourself.

• CLASSIC

Continued from page 6

Stockton's 36-point win was one of the largest of the tournament.

East Dubuque and Galena finished with 3-0 tournament marks with Erie following with a 3-1 mark.

Warren and AFC finished with 2-1 marks and Stockton was 2-2.

The host Fulton Steamers were 1-2, finishing in seventh place above West Carroll, Scales Mound and Unity Christian, who were all 0-3.



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St. John's Lutheran Church to celebrate the Christmas Season and Epiphany

Dianne Handsaker
Parish Administrator

PEARL CITY — Please join us at St. John's Lutheran Church on Sunday, January 3,

for the Second Day of Christmas worship. Pastor Ekstrand will lead the worship service starting at 9 a.m. The worship service will include the Chan-

cel Choir. Following worship, the Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet.

The SPOTS and Fifth Quarter youth groups will have their

Christmas parties and a movie day on Wednesday, December 30, upstairs in the Youth and Family Center.

Anyone interested in playing Mexican Train Dominoes? You're welcome to join in on the fun on Tuesday, January 5 at 9 a.m. in Luther Hall. Members and non-members alike are welcome.

The Epiphany season begins on January 6. Pastor Ekstrand will lead an Epiphany of Our Lord worship service on Wednesday, January 6 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Pastor Ekstrand will host the monthly Men's Breakfast at Little John's (Pearl City) on Wednesday, January 6 at 7:30 a.m. Take a few moments from your busy schedules and have breakfast together.

All reports for the Annual Book are due on January 5. The Annual meeting of the St. John's Congregation will be on January 31. The Strategic Planning Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 6. The Worship & Music Committee will meet at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 7.

Junior High and High School youth are invited to the LYO Ski Trip on January 18 at Chestnut Mountain. Please let Beth Schneider know by January 10 if you are able to go. See the January newsletter for costs and times.

Bible studies will resume on Monday, January 4. Members and non-members alike are welcome to participate in 2 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.



Courtesy photo

Stockton eighth grade boys take shootout fourth place

Stockton eighth grade boys' eighth graders defeated Forreston and Scales Mound to advance to the eighth grade playoff where they were beaten by Freeport.

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CHURCH NOTES

Kent/Willow United Methodist Churches

KENT/WILLOW — Kent/Willow UMC will worship together Sunday Jan. 4, 2016 at Kent UMC at 9 a.m. with Brenda Morris bringing the message and offering Communion to all who wish to participate; no one is turned away. Also to stay for the fellowship following. Sunday School is at 10:30 a.m. using the lessons from the devotional "The Upper Room" All are invited and welcome to this time; we are using the Holy Bible as references.

Kent UMC is located right in the town of Kent, IL for anymore info=call 815-601-6742.

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Warren walks into second half mix

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

WARREN — With the first half of the 2015-2016 winter sports season already behind the athletes at Warren High School, a two-week break gives them a chance to re-find focus, heading into the heart of the schedule and the second half of the season.

With Tournament play taking place in Polo this past week, the Lady Warriors saw plenty of action, with competition each night through completion of the holiday invitational. What they didn't see, however, was consistency.

sistency.

Warren opened the 2015 invitational, with a contest against the Milledgeville Lady Missiles and struggled, offensively, averaging just over eight points a period, en route to a 42-34 loss.

It would be close, throughout the first half of the game, with neither team getting the chance to jump ahead to any lead, which one might consider, comfortable. After the first quarter of play, Milledgeville trailed 10-9.

The Lady Missiles could only score eight additionally, in the second quarter, matching the Lady Warriors output.

At the half, Warren led 18-17, but would not be able to find the shots down the stretch as Milledgeville got stronger.

In the third quarter, the Lady Missiles took the lead, courtesy of a ten-point period.

They scored 15 in the final quarter to claim the game 42-34.

Bohnsack scored 14 points for Warren, with Stiefel adding eight and Stuckey chipping in six.

On night two, the Warren Lady Warriors seemed to carry a little "edge" with them, as they took to the floor against West Carroll.

Warren pounded out 17 points in the first quarter and held the Thunder to just six points in the period.

The power play continued in the second quarter as the Lady Warriors were able to push their tally to 30 at the half.

With a handful plus one of points scored in the opening period, West Carroll answered in the second by putting seven on the board.

Into the third quarter, the rout continued with West Carroll held to just eight points in the period as Warren put up 17.

In the fourth quarter, the ten points planted by the Lady Warriors rounded out the scoring for the evening, with the 74-24 win.

McGivney scored 15 points for Warren with Bohnsack adding 14. Reidl scored eleven points and Kubat and Stuckey ended the night with ten points each.

On night three, the Warriors ran into trouble...and the Byron Lady Tigers.

Byron ran, pounded and drove the Warriors back to a 79-43 loss.

The Lady Warriors played hard in the opening period as

they scored 17 points.

At the half, they had pushed their total to 29.

Byron, however, didn't wait, as they opened the gates in tune to a 20-point first quarter and followed that up with 29 points in the second.

The game was over in the third period as Warren could muster just nine points, seeing their deficit grow to 74-38.

With replacement players getting quality minutes late, the Lady Warriors scored five points and held Byron to the same, leading to the 79-43 loss, with the tournament mark dropping to 1-2.

Stiefel scored nine points in the opening quarter and added another ten in the second, totaling 22 for the night.

Kubat scored eleven with Bohnsack adding four.

Thursday, Dec. 17, games wrapped up in Polo as the Lady Warriors ran into more trouble, this time it was the Prophetstown Lady Prophets.

In the end, Warren fell 69-52.

Prophetstown walked out to

an 11-7 lead over the first period of play and survived after Warren came back in the second quarter, doubling up their first quarter output and putting 14 points on the board.

At the half, Prophetstown led Warren 26-21 and seemed to be able to continue running their offense, as they had hoped.

In the third quarter, the Lady Prophets lead was threatened, as the Lady Warriors found a way to take the quarter, winning it by a single point and finding themselves down 40-36 heading into the final period.

Things didn't work out well for Warren in the final period as they sat back and watched Prophetstown score 29 points in the quarter, including nine-of-14 from the line.

After scoring 16 points in the period, the most in any quarter in the game, Warren fell by the final of 69-52 and dropped to 1-3 in the Polo Invitational.

In the final game, Kubat scored 18 points for Warren with Stiefel adding ten and McGivney with seven.



Courtesy photo

Stockton seventh grade capture shootout second place

Seventh graders defeated Sterling Newman and Scales Mound to advance to the championship game where they lost to Freeport Aquin.



Courtesy photo

River Ridge Middle School carolers sing to staff at the Illinois Bank and Trust

River Ridge Middle School students share the holiday spirit when the Cats for Character club hosted an afternoon of caroling in both Hanover and Elizabeth. Students stopped at several businesses in both communities to spread the holiday cheer.

Testimonial



Pictured are Julie, Asst Physical Therapist, Arlene Raisbeck, Ashley, Occupational Therapist.

"The Nursing Staff are just great. When I came to Lena Living Center I could not walk and I was very sick and weak. Now I am going home to my new apartment. The Therapy came to my apartment to see what I needed before going home and they have taken excellent care of me. I really like all the staff, they are sweet and caring."

-Arlene Raisbeck

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Megan Packard

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Amber Madigan
Noah Milder
Madison Scace

Juniors

Bailey Baldauf
Nathanael Bayer
Marissa Buss
Hope Enck
Lucas Lawson
Lillian Schierloh

Seniors

Madelyne Arand
Ariel Daws
Dorthea Fiedler

Taylor Haas
Ellie Kent
Jordon Oellerich
Michael Packard
Lana Parkinson
Marissa Runkle
Morghan Scace
Alexandra Seiple
Kendra Snyder
Aslan Stouffer
McKenzie Temperly

High Honors Honor Roll

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Adriana Curran
Boone Durham
Kelly Geyer
Maleah Linden
Iris Trimble
Cole Zimmerman

Sophomores

Grace Bidlingmaier
Kenneth Broge
Tom Forntheil

Samantha Gobeli
Noah Trumpy

Juniors

Elijah Sandy
Meghan Scace
Elainna Simpson

Seniors

McKenzie Chapman
Nicole Moest
Noah Peight
Michaela Stich
Evan Voreis

Honors Honor Roll

Freshman

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Aidan Cruz
Darren Dameier
Carson Diddens
Rebecca Edler
Hunter Greene
Jessica Kaiser
Ethan Kleckler
Brooke Knoup
Ian Kuehl
Sydney Lindquist
Parker Magee
Lillian Rowley
Isabel Schoaf
Christina Schubert
Kendra Setterstrom
Matthew Stampfli
Sean Tootelian
Sophie Tootelian
Rachel Young
Ian Zellweger

Ana Zinke

Sophomores

Trevor Aurand
Jared Barthel
Emma Bower
Ty Chrisman
Della Crain
Alexondria Edler
Laurel Flynn
Lauren Guy
Reid Huneke
Viola Kluck
Taylor Koppien
Shanna Lartz
Eli Lingle
Amber Marinkovich
Madilyn McMahan
Hannah Obert
Owen Peight
Isaac Shelly
Rahveon Valentine
April Woolcock

Juniors

Alec Aurand
Shawn Bonebright
Colton Brinker
Joshua Brunner
Trey Chenong
Jacob Diddens
Arianna Erving
Victoria Gahm
Kayleigh Gerber
Brianna Haight
Leigh Hille
Kyle Kalkbrenner
Tanner Lawfer
Payden Lingle

Bailey Litow
Mitchell Mikesell
Cole Oberle
Shianne Stietz
Allison Weegens
Sondra Winters

Seniors

Brenton Chumbler
Hailey Curtis
Brendan Eilders
Sophia Jurkovic
Elizabeth Kaiser
Ryan Lorig
Joseph Milliken
Justin Pennington
Joseph Robinson
Benjamin Simpson
Allison Stockton
Christopher Stockton
Cassidi Tippet
Rahkeen Valentine
Eric Voreis
Kylea Wallace
Rachael Wybourn

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

Lena Winslow/Stockton pin wins in wrestling

Wrestling results 12/05/15

LWS 41-28 Mercer County
LWS 69-12 Riverdale
LWS 48-22 Sherrard
Varsity Team Record 4-0

Wrestling results 12/08/15

Lena-Winslow/Stockton vs. Erie/Prophetstown
138 C Dvorak LWS md 12-5 C Naftzger EPT
145 G Todd EPT md 4-1 R Valentine LWS
152 J Wheeler EPT inj def

K Kalkbrenner LWS
160 G Passmore EPT md 14-13 E Rowe LWS
170 M Garrison EPT f :40
B Gobeli LWS
182 C Davis LWS f 2:44 N Pierceson EPT
195 D Binion EPT ff
220 I Kuehl LWS md 10-5
J Biba EPT
285 I Lawson LWS md 3-0
T Shoup EPT
106 dbl ff
113 Bonnell EPT ff
120 M Stampfli LWS ff

126 A Vincent LWS fall 3:04 A Hora EPT
132 H Luke LWS md 5-0 K Cameron EPT
31 Lena-Winslow/Stockton - Erie/Prophetstown 30
Lena-Winslow/Stockton won by tie breaker criteria
Varsity Team Record 5-0

Wrestling results 12/08/15

Lena-Winslow/Stockton vs. Oregon
145 R Valentine LWS f :50
K Wilson O
152 K Memmen O ff
160 E Rowe LWS f 2:53 N Clarke O
170 T Page f 2:56 B Gobeli LWS
182 J Ghibellini O ff
195 M Stevens f 4:35 C Davis LWS
220 I Kuehl LWS f 4:36 A Marchetti O
285 M Crandall O f 4:48 I Lawson LWS
106 dbl ff
113 S Nicholas LWS ff
120 A Vincent LWS ff
126 H Luke LWS md 5-1 C Clark O
132 J Hermann LWS ff
138 C Dvorak LWS md 8-2
S Carlson O
42 Lena-Winslow/Stockton - Oregon 30
Varsity Team Record 6-0

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The Shopper's Guide & Scoop Today will publish for FREE your engagement, wedding or anniversary picture and information. Please call Laurie at 815-369-4112 or 815-947-3353 or stop by the Lena office.

As the old year ends and the New Year begins, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. We thank you for your business and are sincerely wishing for you and your family a healthy and peaceful New Year.

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• RECIPES

Continued from page 8

In a microwave safe bowl, combine the cereal and pretzels. In a small bowl, mix the melted butter and seasoning; drizzle over the cereal mixture and toss to coat.

Microwave, uncovered, on high for 3-3 1/2 minutes or until heated through, stirring once every minute. Stir in the popcorn. Transfer to a baking sheet to cool. Store in an airtight container.

Caramel Crispix

1 C. brown sugar
1/4 C. white Karo syrup
1/4 t. salt
1 stick unsalted butter
8 C. Crispix
1 1/4 C. nuts
1/4 t. soda
1/4 t. vanilla

Microwave in a large glass bowl, the brown sugar, syrup, salt and butter on High for 2 1/2 minutes. Stir and cook for 2 1/2 minutes more. Add 1/4 t. soda and 1/4 t. vanilla. Stir well. In a double paper bag, mix the cereal and the nuts. Pour caramel mixture in. Shake and microwave on High for 1 1/2 minutes. Shake again. Microwave for 1 1/2 minutes and pour and press onto waxed paper lined jelly roll pan; cool and break up.

We have to have just one more "sweet" recipes for this season. This is an easy way to make white chocolate fudge. It is a great deal like the chocolate fudge recipe that uses sweetened condensed milk. A word

of caution—the kind of chocolate you buy for either white chocolate fudge or chocolate fudge is very important. Do not buy cheap chocolate—milk, semi sweet, dark, or white—chips because they have a lot of wax and water in them. If you are going to the expense of making candy or cookies, use good quality ingredients. I once had a reader call me and chide me for putting in a recipe that didn't work. She had made fudge that didn't set up, and she was upset because of the time and money she put into her fudge. I finally asked her what kind of chocolate chips she used, and she told me the cheapest ones she could find. I suggested that perhaps that was her problem. She did have the decency to contact me, and she told me when she used good chips, her fudge was perfect. I always try to remind people that sometimes the most economical isn't always the best. Enjoy this great white chocolate fudge.

White Chocolate Christmas Fudge

3 C. good-quality white baking pieces or chopped white chocolate

1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk

3/4 C. chopped nuts

1/2 C. chopped dried cranberries

2 t. orange zest

Line an 8x8 or 9x9 bak-

ing pan with foil, extending foil over the edges of the pan. Lightly coat with cooking spray and set aside.

In a 2-quart heavy saucepan, heat baking pieces and condensed milk over low heat just until smooth. Remove from the heat. Stir in nuts, cranberries and zest.

Spread evenly in a prepared pan. Cover and chill 1-2 hours or until firm. To cut, use foil to lift fudge from pan. Cut into small squares. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 1 week or in the freezer for up to 2 months.

Last week the end of my column was cut out by Santa

letters—if you have to be replaced, I think cute Santa letters would be great to inch you out. The fudge recipe is a repeat. Hopefully the paper will be lighter this week, and my column will be able to be published in its entirety.

I kept the scorebook for two basketball games this morning, and I am to do it again on Monday. They are calling for ice on Monday—perhaps it will by pass us. This week will end the year 2015. I am already bored with political rhetoric for 2016—it has started way too early. It will be a leap year, so one of my friends will be able to celebrate his

birthday on the correct day! Because we have had such a warm November and December, I am hoping the winter will not be so long. We move in January to the end of football season and Super Bowl parties, and then it will be Valentine's Day. If you have some recipes to share for either of those occasions, you can contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide at 213 S. Center St. or email scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com. May you have a great send off for 2015 and a blessed New Year from Lena's Kitchen and the not so skinny cook.

River Ridge High School announces Illinois State Scholars

HANOVER — River Ridge High School -Principal Mike Foltz is pleased to announce that five River Ridge students have been recognized as 2016-2017 Illinois State Scholars.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state agency committed to helping to make college accessible and affordable for Illinois families, bestows this prestigious recognition to top Illinois high school students annually. This year, nearly 19,000 elite honorees join the other top state students honored for their academic achievements since the designation was first introduced in 1958.

Illinois State Scholars possess strong academic potential and are chosen based on a combination of exemplary ACT or SAT test scores and sixth semester class rank. State Scholars rank in approximately the top ten percent of high school seniors, representing 652 high schools across the state.

River Ridge 2016-17 Illinois State Scholars: Noah Haskin, Allison Klecan, Jamie Nobis, Cassidy Potter, Noelle Reese

"It is always an honor to announce another extraordinary group of State Scholars," said Eric Zarnikow, ISAC executive director. "At a time when postsecondary education could not be more important to future job and career success, these students have demonstrated the kind of effort and dedication that will help them advance not only their futures, but the future of the state as well. We wish each of them the best as they pursue their chosen educational path."

While this distinguished recognition does not include a monetary prize, recipients are encouraged to cite the honor on applications for college admission and scholarships. In addition, students are urged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1, 2016.



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It's a Wonderful Life- 1946 Frank Capra

By Angela McAtee

Scoop Today/ Shopper's Guide
Editor Tony Carton assisted with
this project

STOCKTON — "No man is a failure who has friends" It's A Wonderful Life opens with an overview of George Bailey's (James Stewart) hometown, Bedford Falls decorated for the Christmas holiday. We hear the townspeople praying for George. It seems he has become desperate during what should be a joyous season. The prayers we hear come from his own mother, his friends, his wife, his children, all pleading to the heavens for George, who never thinks about himself, but only for others, to find his way. The following scene shows us the stars, voiced by celestial beings all watching over George on this, his "crucial night". We learn that one of these beings is to be sent down to guide George out of his desperation. First, his "guardian angel" Clarence, must learn about George and his life, starting when George was a boy of just 12 in 1919 and saved his little brother, Harry from drowning. The movie is off and running, showing all of us, and Clarence, George navigating through life in his small town. We see George save a sick child from a poisonous prescription, put together by the grief-stricken pharmacist, Mr. Gower. George stays home long after graduating high school instead of heading off to college and helps his father with the family business, the Bailey Building & Loan. We see him after his father's death giving his own hard-earned college tuition to his brother, Harry and staying home to run the Building & Loan, rather than letting it fall into the hands of the cantankerous, avaricious Mr. Potter (Lionel Barrymore, in a performance that made me hate the sight of him in every movie he was in thereafter). George's frustration at being stuck in Bedford Falls is obvious, but at every turn, we see him do the right thing by helping others. He's creating a life for himself with his wife, Mary (Donna Reed) and their 4 children. He's building houses for the people in the town to have a way to own their own homes, rather than renting from Mr. Potter, much to the frustration of Potter, who sees that George is a smart business adversary. As a way of trying to control George, Potter offers George a job, which George, of course,

refuses, knowing that the only way to continue to help his fellow man is to defy Potter.

On the crucial night of Christmas Eve, however, George's uncle Billy (Thomas Mitchell), his partner at the Building & Loan loses the deposit he was meant to make at the bank. A whopping \$8,000 that could mean life or death for their humble institution. George's despair is palpable as we watch him lose his temper with Uncle Billy, who is known for his forgetfulness. However, George takes full responsibility for the missing funds when he begs Potter for a loan. Potter lets George crawl, all the while Potter has the deposit of \$8,000 that Uncle Billy lost. When Billy lost the money at the bank, it was Potter who found it. Potter knows it wasn't George who lost the money and, in a despicable move, needles him about what a worthless business man George is and swears out a warrant for George's arrest for misappropriation of funds. George flees Potter in a panic and winds up on the town bridge, sweating and frantic, praying to God to show him a way out of the mess he's in. He rashly attempts suicide, going so far as to climb the railing of the bridge in order to jump into the freezing, roiling waters of the river. Instead, we see a smiling, grandfatherly man leap into the river ahead of George. This is Clarence, George's guardian angel, who has been sent to help George and, hopefully, earn his wings. George dives in to save Clarence and they are both pulled from the river by the bridge guard and brought in to the guardhouse to dry off and warm themselves. Clarence questions George as to why he would think suicide is an answer and George tersely tells Clarence that it may have just been better for everyone if he had never been born. Clarence tells George his wish has been granted, he's never been born. The next 30 minutes of the movie follow George and Clarence as George discovers that he really has had a wonderful life. That the people he has helped his whole life were enriched by his generosity and selflessness. In George's absence, the town has been taken over by Potter and turned into something unrec-



ANGELA MCATEE

ognizable. The younger brother that he remembers saving from drowning 25 years previous died in the lake because George wasn't there to save him. His devoted wife, Mary, has become an old maid. His children do not exist. Even his own mother doesn't know him. George's horror is clear as he begs Clarence to get him back to his life, that nothing that he could face in it would be as terrible as having never existed at all. Clarence restores George's life to what it was earlier that Christmas Eve. Elated at having a second chance, George races home to Mary and his children, only to find that Mary has rallied the town around George. She opens their house to the townspeople and they pour in to donate money out of their own pockets to help George. The devotion they show to this man, who thought he hadn't amounted to much in the sleepy little burg of Bedford Falls, demonstrates that he is the most beloved, successful man in town. And when George's little brother Harry appears and raises his glass to his big brother, George "The richest man in town." we know that George is a success because "No man is a failure who has friends."

This is my favorite movie of all time. There's an old movie house here that shows it every Christmas season and I go every year to view it as if it's the first time I've ever seen it. And when Harry toasts George as "The richest man in town" I weep every single time, because it's clear that George really does have everything he needs and is rich in the gifts of friendship. It has comedy, drama, romance, horror, suspense and, at it's core, a rock-solid moral message to live the best life you can, be grateful for your blessings, and always help those who are more in need than yourself, that even if you think you don't have an impact on the people around you, your life touches so many others.

Merry Christmas to you all! And remember; "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his/her wings!"

Copies of this and thousands of other great movie titles are available at Coxy's Liquor/ Movietown at 208 East North Av, Stockton. Open daily 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE 15TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY -
FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
CITIMORTGAGE, INC.
PLAINTIFF
VS

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTHCARE AND
FAMILY SERVICES; LAW
OFFICES OF DARIN R.
DOAK; UNKNOWN HEIRS
AND LEGATEES OF ANNA
PENNISTON A/K/A ANNA
M. PENNISTON, IF ANY;
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND
NON RECORD CLAIM-
ANTS; KEITH PENNISTON
A/K/A KEITH D. PENNIS-
TON; TODD PENNISTON
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TON; LAURIE MUELLER
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IF ANY; UNKNOWN HEIRS
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A. JORDAN A/K/A GENE
ALAN JORDAN, IF ANY;

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against you and other defend-
ants, asking for the foreclo-
sure of a certain Mortgage con-
veying the premises described
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SUBDIVISION PLAT 1 AC-
CORDING TO THE PLAT
THEREOF RECORDED AU-
GUST 13, 1976 IN BOOK
H OF PLATS, AT PAGE 69
SITUATED IN THE CITY OF
FREEPORT, STEPHENSON
COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 669
NORTH GREENFIELD
DRIVE

FREEPORT, IL 61032

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ANNA PENNISTON A/K/A
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CEASED);

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NEE FOR PRINCIPAL RESI-
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in the Office of the Recorder
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No. 0200032486; and for other
relief.

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swer or otherwise file your ap-
pearance in this case in the Of-
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on or before January 15, 2016,
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EN AGAINST YOU FOR
THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE
COMPLAINT.

PIERCE & ASSOCIATES

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Thirteenth Floor
1 North Dearborn
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Tel. (312) 346-9088
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(Published in
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The mission of Resources

Unite is to strengthen our community by connecting individuals and businesses to volunteer opportunities and resources that lead to a happier more engaged way of life. People want to

get involved and make a difference, but sometimes are unsure of where to start. RU is that starting point for the community.

In the past year, Resources Unite has connected 4,500

individuals throughout the tri-states to volunteer opportunities and has worked with more than 300 local nonprofit organizations to help ensure their volunteer needs were being met.

The RU Volunteer Center is located at 1900 JFK Road, Dubuque, IA, 52002. Community members are encouraged to stop into the center to learn about volunteer opportunities that include, but are

not limited to, short and long term volunteerism, skill based opportunities, workplace volunteerism, volunteering throughout the United States and abroad, and scheduled opportunities that take place in the volunteer center.

To learn more about how you can get involved and make a difference, please contact Josh Jasper at josh@resourcesunite.com or visit www.resourcesunite.com.

2016 invasive pest awareness workshop will focus on early detection and response

STATELINE — University of Illinois Extension is offering a 2016 Illinois First Detector Invasive Pest Workshop locally in Freeport on February 18. This workshop will be covering important landscape and nursery pests, diseases, and invasive plants.

Early detection and response is key in managing invasive pests. The Illinois First Detector Workshops, now in their fourth year, are aimed at improving first detector training and invasive species awareness. The workshops will cover new topics on current and emerging invasive plants, pathogens, and insects, along with updates on previous workshop topics.

"We are looking forward to another year of First Detector Workshops and are excited about sharing these new topics with participants," said Kelly Estes, state survey coordinator. "Each year the popularity

of these trainings continues to grow, but more importantly, the enthusiasm of the participants grows each year. It's wonderful to see so many people taking an active interest in learning more about invasive species and how plant pests can affect their communities."

As in previous years, these in-depth training sessions will cover material that includes: identification/detection; cycle/biology; hosts; sampling; management; commonly confused lookalikes; and regulation.

Specific course topics will include:

Your role as a first detector

Illinois Exotic Weed Act

Jumping worms

Boxwood blight/Thousand

Cankers Disease update

Insect forest invaders

Those attending will take part in hands-on activities, which will allow attendees to examine these pests and diseases in more detail.

The target audience includes certified arborists, tree care professionals, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, forestry and natural resource professionals, conservationists, and others with an interest in invasive species.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be available for IAA Certified Arborists, Continuing Forestry Education Credits, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists.

2016 Illinois First Detector Invasive Pest Workshop will be held on Thursday, February 18, in room 201 of the Highland Community College Student Conference Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport. Pre-registration is required and can be completed at web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw or by calling the U of I Extension at (815) 235-4125. A \$40 non-refundable registration fee covers instruction, on-site lunch, and training materials.

River Ridge collects hats for newborns

ELIZABETH — River Ridge challenged people to join the American Heart Association and crochet or knit red hats for newborn babies. The challenge was called: Little Hats; Big Hearts and challenged people to crochet or knit red hats to

be donated to hospital nurseries around the country.

Over 3 dozen hats were sent to the American Heart Association. Thank you to everyone who heeded the call to help those who are the most vulnerable.



Courtesy photos

MaKenzie Post counts the many hats that she and others crocheted for the American Heart Association



Catherine Carroll and great grandson, Bradly Diehl pose with hats crocheted and knitted for newborns. Bradly heard about the Little Hats Big Hearts challenge sponsored by the American Heart Association and knew his great grandmother would want to help. So he took home some patterns and Great Grandma went to work.



Make a Fresh Start in the New Year!

The New Year is all about new beginnings. Make a fresh start in 2016. This is the year to accomplish that goal you've been thinking about. We wish you a safe, productive, and happy 2016!

Marvin Uecker Agency

Dan Harnish
308 East Lena St.
Lena, IL 61048
815-369-4569

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