

the Scoop Today

VOL. 83 • NO. 7

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, 2016

Stockton H&R Block office celebrates a national giveaway \$1000 winner

By Tony Carton
Editor

STOCKTON — There was a pretty nifty celebration in the H&R Block offices at 126 West Front Avenue in downtown Stockton Friday. Tax prep client Laverne Morhardt had won a thousand dollars!

"H&R Block is giving away thirty-two million dollars a day for 32 days," said Stockton H&R Block franchise holder Tom Knautz. "They are giving that away in one thousand dollar increments and Mr Morhardt and his family had their taxes done here, which automatically put them into the drawing for the giveaway."

The contest is still running, but just three days after filing, Laverne Morhardt was notified by H&R Block that he was a thousand dollar winner.

"Laverne and his wife have been coming here for a number of years and they are good clients," said Knautz. "Barb Belha is the tax pro that did their taxes for them. Barbs been doing taxes for many years, and Margaret Wurster runs our Stockton office and has been doing taxes for 40 years. They do a great job for us."

Knautz also holds the H&R Block franchises in Warren and Savanna and said he would like to see winners from both of those locations as well.

"We are praying for more winners," he said. "When you look at the numbers, we are small offices, so it's really a big deal for us to be able to do something like this for our clients."

Knautz said his H&R Block offices do all kinds of taxes including farm, business, home businesses and personal.

"We also do bookkeeping

and payroll and we have people that are trained especially for that in our three offices," he said. "We're working to expand our business beyond what we normally do because taxes are basically a limited season."

He said the tax preparation business is changing and his H&R Block franchises are staying abreast of those changes.

"We are doing taxes all year long now and H&R Block has the best guarantee in the business," said Knautz. "If we do your taxes and the IRS questions your filing, we will handle the IRS for you. There are no additional charges if we do that for you. You are our client and we do whatever we have to do to make sure you are satisfied and you are taken care of for the year."

Knautz started with H&R Block in Warren in 2002, then purchased the Stockton franchise in 2009 and took over the Savanna office on the first day of 2010.

"My staff is everything," he said. "I don't have to tell them what to do. All I have to do is give them the tools and get out of their way. These franchises are successful because the peo-



H&R Block Stockton franchise owner Tom Knautz, sweepstakes winner Laverne Morhardt and tax preparation specialist Barb Belha celebrate Laverne and wife Paula's big win.

Tracy Siegner photo

ple that do the taxes care about people. They put 16 to 30 hours of their own time into training every year to be up with the tax codes. They are very diligent and know how to find everything they need to do the best possible job for the folks that come to us asking for help with their taxes."

He said there are more promotions on the way.

"We are offering half off the tax prep fee for new clients

and we really want folks to take advantage of our "Second Look" program," Knautz said. "If you had your taxes done somewhere else you can bring them in to us and we will check your taxes to make sure they are done correctly. There is no charge to the client unless we find something done wrong and we have to amend the filing."

He said they are there to help folks.

"There were people there to

help me when I was down and out and I want to be here for the people of these communities too," Knautz said.

Learn more about the diverse bookkeeping and tax preparation services provided by Knautz' H&R Block offices. Contact them in Stockton at 126 W. Front Av or call (815) 947-2245, in Warren at 142 E Main St, or call (815) 745-2650 or in Savanna at 423 W Main St or call (815) 273-1040

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Upcoming Stockton grazing conference to provide timely topics

STOCKTON — "Jump Start to a Good Year" is the theme for the annual Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference providing timely topics to help you start the grazing year off right. Register today for this March 2, conference that will be held in Stockton from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"As we start this grazing season, livestock farmers need to factor livestock condition, pasture condition, weather, and long term goals into their management plan for the year," according University of Illinois Extension Educator Jay Solomon. "Decisions made in April and May can positively impact the amount of forage available for livestock in late summer and fall. Those

same decisions can result in additional pounds of meat sold from the farm and off-springs next year." We have an excellent group of presenters who will offer timely information livestock farmers will be able to apply immediately.

Who Manages Forage on Your Spread? will be a thought provoking discussion of grazing management systems by Denise Schwab, Iowa State University Extension Beef Field Specialist. A wide range of managed grazing systems available and how to choose what is best for your farm will be presented. Denise will also discuss Forage Options For Better Grazing. Selecting appropriate forages for the grazing system is critical for

success. We'll look at forage species to improve permanent pastures, provide high producing rotational pastures, and provide fall and winter grazing.

Travis Meter, U of I Extension Commercial Ag Educator will start the day off with Transitioning from Winter Feed to Summer Grazing. Economic Impact of Grazing Management Decisions will be the topic presented by Gene Schriefer, Agricultural Agent, University of Wisconsin Extension. Jay Solomon, U of I Extension Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator, will present Grazing and Water Quality: more compatible than portrayed? Beef producer Dan Dietrich, will round

out the day by sharing Lessons Learned in Contract Grazing and Niche Marketing. The day will conclude with a roundtable discussion including all the presenters.

The Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at Holy Cross Catholic Church, 223 E Front Ave, Stockton, beginning at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 3:30 p.m. To register for

the conference call the University of Illinois Extension at (815) 858-2273 or register online at web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw. Registration cost is \$20 before Feb. 24.

Sponsors of the 2016 Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference include Blackhawk Hills Regional Council, Northwest Illinois Forage and Grasslands Council and the University of Illinois Extension.

Former police chief sentenced for felony theft

By Tony Carton
Editor

GALENA — Jo Daviess County Circuit Court Judge William A. Kelly sentenced former Scales Mound police chief Brian P. Hartlep Tuesday, Feb. 9, to up to 180 days of periodic imprisonment and one year of probation on a felony theft count. In addition, Hartlep must pay a \$500 fine and \$1000 restitution to the Apple Canyon Lake Property Owners Association.

Hartlep was convicted by a jury of two felony theft charges in October, 2015. The two counts were combined for sentencing.

According to court documents, Hartlep was employed as maintenance manager for the ACL association and after being relieved of his duties it was dis-

covered that a furnace valued at \$1100 had been purchased by Hartlep and was missing. Further investigations revealed the furnace had been installed in an East Dubuque apartment owned by an attorney engaged by Hartlep in another matter. The apartment owner said he had purchased the furnace unit from Hartlep who was arrested September 13, 2015 while still acting as Scales Mound police chief.

The Illinois State Police handled the investigation of the cases.

Hartlep, who owned Custom Fabricators, a Jo Daviess County construction company is facing a similar charge of theft in Dubuque County, has a Feb. 19 status hearing on that separate case and has pleaded not guilty to those second-degree theft charges.

Court documents allege Hartlep purchased in excess of \$7,200 of roofing supplies in June of 2012, again under the auspices of his employment with Apple Canyon Lake and

installed a little over \$2000 of those supplies on the home of his brother Dean Hartlep in Epworth, Iowa. When Dean Hartlep and wife lost the home months later, Brian Hartlep, claiming his brother never paid for the roofing, placed a mechanic's lien on the property for the full amount of \$7,250 which he said was the agreed upon price for the roofing project between the brothers.

Dean E. Hartlep, 47 passed away on Dec. 29, 2015 at Mercy Medical Center.

Hartlep will begin his sentence April 13 and will appear in Jo Daviess County Court in July seeking a sentence reduction.

Brian Hartlep, fiancée Julie Klar and Hartlep's attorney Bruce Brandwein declined comment following the sentencing.

Quote of the day

"If pigs could vote they would always vote for the person that brings their food even though that is the same person who will slaughter and eat them later."

Northwest Illinois Grazing Conference

Wednesday, March 2nd
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Holy Cross Catholic Church
223 E. Front • Stockton, IL
Cost: \$20 before February 24

To register call University of Illinois Extension
at 815-858-2273
or register online at
web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw

Monroe Clinic offers additional cardiology services in Freeport

FREEPORT — In addition to seeing patients at Monroe Clinic's main campus, David Buchanan, MD, FACC, is now seeing patients every Wednesday at Monroe Clinic-Freeport. He joins cardiologist, Arif Ahmad, MD, who sees patients at the Freeport clinic every other Monday.

Dr. Buchanan provides interventional cardiology; bringing 30 years of experience in coronary and peripheral vascular intervention such as cardiac catheterization, peripheral angiography, angioplasty, stenting, atherectomy and pacemaker implantation to Monroe Clinic's Illinois patients. He joined the organization in 2012.

"Cardiovascular medicine has never been more relevant or effective," said Dr. Buchanan. "It's rewarding to work in a field that offers patients both immediate and long-term solutions."

About cardiovascular medicine

Cardiovascular medicine is a branch of medicine that cares for the health and function of the heart, arteries and veins.

Monroe Clinic's cardiovascular team, which includes cardiologists and advanced nurse practitioners, counsels patients about heart disease



DR. DAVID BUCHANAN

risk and prevention. They diagnose and treat patients using state-of-the-art medical and surgical approaches. They also help patients with heart disease return to an active life. The team emphasizes use of imaging diagnostics, working to avoid surgery whenever possible.

From the grandmother experiencing leg cramping and weakness to the middle-aged man coming into the emergency department with chest pains, our cardiovascular team takes world-class care to heart.

To make an appointment with Dr. Buchanan, please call Monroe Clinic-Freeport at 815-235-1406.

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University of Illinois Extension to host annual 4-H Super Saturday

FREEMONT — University of Illinois Extension is hosting its annual 4-H Super Saturday on Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to Noon in Bldg. R at Highland Community College. Super Saturday is a 3-hour event designed to give area youth a chance to explore the many project areas available through the 4-H program.

All youth (not just 4-H members) between the ages of 8-18

(as of Sept. 1, 2015) are invited to attend and experience three hands-on workshops exploring projects such as: public speaking, decorating cupcakes, building a wood bird house, participating in martial arts exercises, seeing the inside of an ambulance and what EMTs do, and more. The cost is \$7 per participant.

For those youth between the ages of five and seven, there is 4-H Cloverbud Super Saturday.

This workshop is also from 9 a.m. – Noon, but these youth will explore their own project areas such as: flower planting, seed identification, making Easter bunnies, snack-making, and more. The cost for these youth is \$5 per participant.

“It’s a great opportunity for youth in Stephenson County to see what 4-H is all about. Not only do they do hands-on activities that they get to take home,

but they get a chance to meet other youth in the community and share ideas,” said Lori Tessorf, Stephenson County 4-H Program Coordinator. “The workshop leaders, and older 4-H members who help with the sessions, are great at drawing kids out of their shells and getting them right in the action. It’s a wonderful experience for kids who would not normally get to participate in these types of activities.”

Registration deadline for Super Saturday 2016 is March 7. Pre-registration is required. To see a list of workshops available for each age group and to register, visit the University of Illinois Extension website at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw> and click on Super Saturday 2016 – Stephenson County under the “Register Online” heading. Some workshops have size limitations, so sign up now.

Warren Woman's Club minutes up-date and next meeting schedule

WARREN — We would like to say “Thank You” to Mayor Wayne Raisback on some updates, first: a Study of Genomic Diversity in Rural Communities, for more information please contact the Mayor’s office.

We would also like to say “Thank You” to Dr. Elizabeth Stocks (Val Stocks’ daughter in law) about keeping in health balance; here are the best ways:

1. Eat seven fruits and vegetables,

2. Drink one gallon of water,
3. Get eight hours of sleep,
4. Get 30 minutes of exercise,
5. Do 20 minutes of breathing exercise; this is all to be done daily.

The meeting was brought to order by President Ruth. She requested the committee’s to report to the club members. There was a discussion about the Public Improvement committee; a committee was formed to decide how to handle it. Com-

mittee members are Joan Holm, Judy Scott and Mary Determan.

Darlene Smith sent a sympathy card to the family of Cleo Granger’s on her passing. A get-well card was sent to Carla Bauer and on news of her passing, a sympathy card was sent to her family.

Marsha Hume who took care of the Community Building has moved on. But as it turns out we have a new custodian and her name is Megan Sailings, to contact her please call the Vil-

lage Hall.

For future reference about any correspondence please contact our current President Ruth Landfield at 815-745-2610.

There are some members who want to attend the meetings but need a ride please call Mary Determan at 815-745-2436 and/or Sandra Wolfram at 815-594-2200.

We would like to thank the

Social Committee: Mary Vincent (chr.), Mary Determan, and Sharon Cahill for a great lunch.

Our next meeting is Feb. 23, at 1:30 p.m. and our guests will be Cathy Burmeister of Dusty’s Closet and The Quinn brothers of The Pecatonica Tap House.

Hope everyone will attend it looks like an interesting afternoon. Don’t forget to call Mary or Sandra if you need a ride.

Lady Blackhawks taken down in regional final

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

STOCKTON — The Stockton Lady Blackhawks fell to top-seed Galena in the Stockton Regional Championship on Thursday, Feb. 11, 38-22.

Entering the post season, Stockton had an edge and what many may consider a major advantage. They started the 2016 post-season favored to compete for the Regional Crown, as they were issued the three-seed.

Generally, the top seeds get a bye into the second round. The Regional Semi-Final is when they will see their first action.

In Stockton’s case, they didn’t have to play on opening night, Monday, Feb. 8, in their own Regional.

It did mean they would get to face a team that they were “favored” to beat, based on the IHSA Selection Committee’s decision on Thursday, Jan. 29.

East Dubuque, the five-seed, was who the Lady Blackhawks drew.

The Lady Warriors have been a solid team this season, playing in the highly-competitive Northwest Upstate Illini Conference.

The Lady Blackhawks have been better throughout the winter sports season. They proved it in their opener.

Stockton took down East Dubuque and moved on to the Regional Title game against the highly-touted Galena Lady Pirates.

In the Stockton Championship game, Galena looked beatable early. Stockton was working the

ball up the court.

It collapsed late, though, for Stockton as they saw the Lady Pirates run away to the win.

Galena put almost 30 points on the board in the second half, that as they held Stockton to just four.

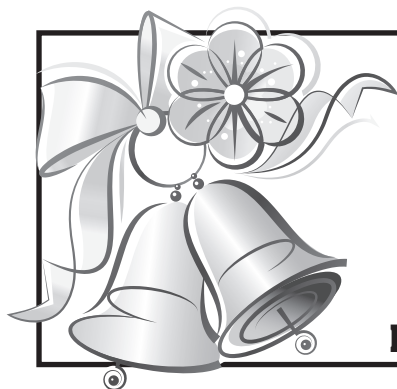
Galena moved on to Lanark, where they faced Lena-Winslow in the Monday night Eastland Sectional opener.

Details of that contest are

unavailable at this time.

For Stockton, a successful season has come to a close, even though it may not appear to be, with a Regional Championship loss looking at them.

However, with the schedule now leaning towards Spring, Stockton is expected to have plenty of senior leadership on the field, when softball and track-and-field season start in a little over a month.



**Thank you for
all the lovely
cards and warm
wishes on our
60th Wedding
Anniversary.**

Heinz & Irma Zueger

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The family of Tom Wild would like to thank everyone for the prayers, and all the love and support while Tom was on this journey of Alzheimer’s and since he passed away. Thank you so much to Holy Cross Parish, Law-Jones Funeral Home, Elizabeth Nursing Home, FHN Hospice, and Dr. McFadden. The memorial money will be split up between The Elizabeth Nursing Home, FHN Hospice, and Alzheimer’s research. The prayers, cards, stories, tears, laughter, food and memorial donations have been huge Blessings.

Thanks again - God Bless!

Lynne Wild, Elaine (Brian) Keeffer and Family,
Monica (Jim) McGivney and Family, Tommy Wild and Family,
Kelsey Wild (Jason Bennett) and Family

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VIEWPOINT

Bustos announces legislation to create regional manufacturing hubs, invest in manufacturing jobs

WASHINGTON — Today, Congresswoman Cheri Bustos is among a bipartisan group of lawmakers announcing legislation to boost Illinois manufacturing, along with Representatives David Cicilline (D-RI), Richard Hanna (R-NY), Tom Reed (R-NY), Tim Ryan (D-OH), John Katko (R-NY), and Lloyd Doggett (D-TX).

In Illinois' 17th Congressional District, Peoria is one of the 24 American cities designated as a 'Manufacturing Community' under the current program. The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership supports the

Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, which includes five Central Illinois counties, in efforts to strengthen the region's manufacturing industry and the earthmoving sector in particular. According to the EDA, 15 percent of workers in the Peoria region are employed in manufacturing, and 70 percent of the area's manufacturing jobs are in the earthmoving industry.

"My Congressional District is home to what I like to call a manufacturing triangle – with Peoria, Rockford, the Quad Cities, and the many communities in between, we have so much potential to grow the manufacturing industry in our

region," Congresswoman Bustos said. "This legislation will open new doors for other communities in our region to compete for the 'Manufacturing Community' designation, giving them the tools and resources they need to create jobs and grow their workforce."

To further grow the manufacturing industry, this bill would create a permanent program to competitively award regions with the 'Manufacturing Community' designation. It also gives selected communities preferred consideration when applying for up to \$1.3 billion in currently available federal economic development funding for

manufacturing. This legislation also encourages a collaborative, regionally-driven approach to strengthening the manufacturing industry.

In order to earn the 'Manufacturing Community' designation, communities must demonstrate the significance of manufacturing in their region, and develop strategies to utilize their designation in making investments in six areas:

- Workforce training and retraining;
- Advanced research;
- Infrastructure and site development;
- Supply chain support;
- Promotion of exports and

foreign direct investment; and

· Operational improvement and capital access for manufacturers that supports energy or process efficiency, equipment or facility upgrades, the development of business incubators, among other activities.

A current Administration program has launched 24 'Manufacturing Communities' around the country. This proposal will make this program permanent, allowing existing communities the opportunity to continue to implement their manufacturing strategies, and allowing new communities the opportunity to receive a designation.

SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

Feb. 8-12

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois General Assembly welcomed President Barack Obama to the Capitol Feb. 10—nine years to the day he announced his candidacy for President in downtown Springfield—to speak about the need for bipartisanship and reforms to the political process.

Obama is the just the fourth sitting president in Illinois history to speak to the General Assembly.

Occasionally joking about his time as a former State Senator, from 1997 to 2004, and reminiscing about memo-

rable moments with colleagues from both political parties, the President stressed the need for compromise and encouraged state leaders to set aside rancor and embrace bipartisanship to accomplish good things for the people of Illinois.

President Obama called Illinois the "microcosm of America, where Republicans, Democrats, Independents and good people of every faith and ethnicity share certain bedrock values." He called on the General Assembly to listen to all of these diverse voices to help "bridge differences" and find common ground on the state's most important issues.

Republican lawmakers and the Governor have consistently expressed their willingness to compromise on a budget and reforms in order to end the state's current budget impasse. To date, the state's legislative Democrat leaders have refused to come to the negotiating table on any reforms. It is my hope that the President's message of bipartisan cooperation and compromise will resonate so we can work together to address the significant challenges Illinois faces.

President emphasizes need for redistricting reform

In his speech, President Obama not only called for Republicans and Democrats to work together to solve our state's problems, but also stressed the need for redistricting reform.

Redistricting reform is an initiative proposed by Gov. Bruce Rauner and long supported by the Senate Republican Caucus, which has spent years introducing proposals to change Illinois' current process that allows elected officials to draw the state's legislative and congressional boundaries. We have long underscored a point the President made during his Wednesday address, when he declared that, "American politicians should not pick their voters, voters should pick their politicians."

School districts statewide waiting for Senate

President's next move

School districts across the state will be nervously watching Senate President John Cullerton's next move after he told WBEZ during the week, "I don't think any school should be funded until Chicago schools are funded fairly."

Such a statement makes some wonder if legislative Democrats plan to hold hostage funding for downstate and suburban schools in an attempt to bail-out Chicago Public Schools with nearly \$500 million in additional funding.

President Cullerton has proposed a state bailout of Chicago Public Schools (CPS), which are facing a \$480 million budget shortfall. Senate GOP lawmakers have stressed that they will not bridge the gap for the ailing school system at the expense of downstate and suburban communities.

Chicago schools already benefit from sweetheart deals that suburban and downstate schools don't receive. A recent report from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) confirmed serious inequities exist in the state's system of education funding, which Senate Republicans first highlighted in a 2013 report. According to ISBE, during the 2014-2015 school year, Chicago Public Schools received \$256 million more from a special block grant than they would have if they were treated like every other school district in the state.

According to the report,

"CPS received \$474,870,400 from FY 15 and FY 16 appropriations....CPS would have received \$219,301,959 had the district been reimbursed in the same manner as other districts."

When looking at Chicago Public Schools enrollment numbers, despite only serving about 19 percent of the state's student population, CPS receives approximately 36 percent of the combined statewide appropriations for special education; free lunch and breakfast programs; low-income students; early childhood education; and through a windfall from the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax and the PTELL adjustment.

In the 2015-2016 school year, Chicago Public Schools' overall funding for these six grant lines provides \$565 million more than CPS would receive if funding was consistent with student enrollment.

Illinois Senate Republicans Go Red in February

During the month of February, my colleagues and I are working to raise awareness about ways to prevent heart disease in recognition of National Heart Month.

While heart disease certainly affects both men and women, the risk factors are much higher in women between the ages of 18-55. Heart disease and stroke cause one in three

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Grilled Ribeye 12 oz. \$14.99

Includes our salad bar and a potato.

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ON THE RECORD

OBITUARIES

Isabelle (Prins) Graham

STOCKTON — Isabelle (Prins) Graham, age 92 of Stockton, formerly of Loves Park, IL, passed away Tuesday, Feb. 09, 2016 at Manor Court in Freeport, IL. She was born June 7, 1923 in Thomson, IL; the daughter of the late Justice and Anna (Hawk) Prins. She married Beuford Stadel on Oct. 7, 1944. She later married Elvin Graham in September, of 1972.

She is survived by her daughter, Dianne (Warren) Dixon of Stockton; grandson, Richard (Michelle) Stadel of Frisco, TX; two great granddaughters, Maggie & Gretchen Stadel of Frisco, TX; daughter-in-law, Maxine (Richard) Shelain of Rockford, IL; two step-grandchildren, Suzanne (Bill) Shelain Lewis and Gregory Shelain; four step-great grandchildren, Will & Evan Lewis and Adi & Lincoln Shelain; and sister JoAnn (Ralph) Buelow of Clinton, IA. She is preceded in death by her husband, Elvin; son, Richard Stadel; granddaughter, Christine M. Stadel; two sisters, Frances Stickell and Mary Margeret Eslinger; and brother, Andrew Prins.

A memorial Mass will be held at a later date at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton. Condolences may be shared with her family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

Dennis J. Sigafus

STOCKTON — Dennis J. Sigafus, age 64 of Stockton, IL, passed away at home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2016. He was born Sept. 14, 1951; the son of the late James and Darlene (Harwick) Sigafus. He married Bonnie Endress on Aug. 19, 1978 in Massbach, IL.

Dennis graduated from Warren High School with the class of 1970. He worked at Dura Automotive for 34 years. He enjoyed woodworking, camping, and visiting. He also loved his motorcycle.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Sigafus of Stockton; daughters, Patricia Holloway

of Marshall, MO, Angela (Horace) Robinson of Marshall, MO, Michelle (Matt) Lee of Platteville, WI, and Roxanne Sigafus of Cuba City, WI; grandchildren, Dustin, Jozlan, Brice, Brianna, and Kristen; brother, David Sigafus of Warren, IL; and sisters Gail Heidenreich of Warren, Vickie Koehler of Belle Plaine, IA, Nancy Heller of Warren, and Sheila (Tim) Pickett of Orangeville, IL.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brother, Mike; father-in-law, Eugene Endress, and brother-in-law, Rod Heidenreich.

The funeral service and visitation were held Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton. Interment took place at Elmwood Cemetery in Warren. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared with his family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

Donna Jean Greene

STOCKTON — Donna Jean Greene, age 59 of Stockton, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2016 at Pearl Pavilion in Freeport, IL. She was born Oct. 30, 1956 in Freeport, IL; the daughter of Charles and Geraldine (Niemann) Posey. She graduated from Lena High School in 1974. She married Rusty Greene on Dec. 24, 2000; he died Oct. 14, 2011.

Donna Jean spent many years working on the dairy farm in Lena. She had also worked at Micro Switch, Swiss Colony, Atwood, and Dura Automotive. She was highly interested in the essential oils of the Bible.

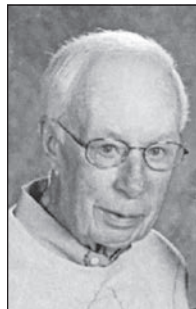
She is survived by her father, Charles G. Posey of Prairie Du Chien, WI; mother, Geraldine Witkovski of IL; sons, Jeremy (Alice) Wichman of Loves Park, Doug Wichman of Creswell, OR, and Adam (Ashley) Wichman of Ridott, IL; grandchildren, Nathan & Cierra Wichman, Tyler & Zach Wichman, and Tucker & Levi Wichman; sister, Brenda Harless of Freeport, IL; half-brother, Charles P. Posey of Port Angeles, WA; and many loved family members very dear to her. She is preceded in death by her husband, Rusty; step-father, Edward Witkovski, and other family members.

The funeral service and visitation were held Sunday, Feb. 7, at the Hermann Funeral Home

in Stockton, IL. Interment took place at the Savanna Cemetery in Savanna, IL on Monday, Feb. 8. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared with her family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

Jack Confer

LENA — Jack Confer, 80 of Lakeville, MN passed away at Methodist Hospital February 7, 2016. He is preceded in death by his parents Carlyle and Lois (Rahorn) Confer and two sisters Donna (Vernon) Lobdell and Janice Confer and great-granddaughter Harper Elizabeth Folgate.



Jack owned and operated Confer Chevrolet Sales in Lena, Illinois for 50 years retiring to Lakeville in 2007. Spending most of his life in Lena, he graduated from Lena High School, served two years with the US Army. M

He married the love of his life Marilyn Thomasson in 1957. During this time was a member of the Lena Lions Club and the Masonic Lodge and served on the Lena Park District Board, Lena State Bank Board and the board of Malcolm Eaton Enterprises. R

Jack retired to Lakeville, MN in 2007 and began a retirement job with P&L Auto Service, delivering vehicles in and around the Twin Cities. He knew all the good burger places and the dealerships that had fresh coffee and popcorn.

He enjoyed all the travels in his RV throughout the lower

48 states and outside destinations to Alaska, Hawaii and Canada and International countries. He was an avid Green Pack fan and enjoyed his years with the "Depot Gang" and his train collection. He spent his winter break in SW Florida on the Gulf. He was a Charter Member of Lena Evangelical Church, serving in many ways and always supported and encouraged his wife in all her ministry ventures.

He was a very caring and supportive husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Marilyn; daughter, Cara and her husband Jeff Auge and their children, Jonathan and special friend Erica, and Justin; sons, Scott and wife Ruth Confer and their children, Jennifer and her husband

See OBITS, Page 6

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The difference between success and failure is a great team

By Tom Fore

LENA — “When you’re part of a team, you stand up for your teammates. Your loyalty is to them. You protect them through good and bad, because they’d do the same for you.” These are the words of New York Yankees great Yogi Berra. These same words, along with a photo of Yogi in his prime, are on the Le-Win/Orangeville Speech Team Facebook page to remind the page’s visitors that the team is more important than any one individual, because without the energies and commitment of the individuals there would be no team. As much as Yogi’s New York Yankees, the Le-Win/Orangeville Speech Team is just that—a team made up of indi-

viduals that work and sacrifice to achieve success.

And success was achieved by students from both schools that make up the coop at the IHSA Regional Speech Tournament, held at Byron High School on Saturday, Feb. 6. Some were seasoned veterans and one was a rookie, but four students moved on to the proverbial “next level” by ranking high enough at the Regional competition to move on to the Freeport High School Sectional competition held Feb. 13. (Next week’s Shoppers Guide article will have results from that tournament.). As a team, Le-Win/Orangeville finished fifth, its seventh top-5 finish in the past 8 years.

Who is this aforementioned rookie, though? Who broke into the ranks of the more experienced speakers to achieve something that may take some students two or three years to achieve? He is Justin Malone, a freshman at Orangeville High School. To describe his career in competitive speech as “promising” would be a gross understatement.

“I had an initial meeting with the Orangeville kids last summer,” said team head coach Tom Fore. “When I heard him say about five words, his fate was sealed. ‘The kid’s doing Radio Speaking’ I thought. He didn’t disappoint. He’s mature beyond his years, takes direction well, and learns from his mistakes.”

Justin, along with teammates Alec Aurand, Hope Enck, Rachael Wybourn, and Sophia Jurkovic, advanced to the ESPN-esque “next level”. So what exactly is this next level? Here’s a rundown of the Byron tournament by the numbers:

Teams entered- 9; speaking categories- 14; students who



Courtesy photo

Lena-Winslow and Orangeville High School students who participated at the Byron Regional Speech Tournament, either as competitors or as timers/room chairmen: Sophie Jurkovic, Hope Enck, April Woolcock, Lucas Boomgarden, Mike Sutter, Eiley MacDougall, Alec Aurand, Rachael Wybourn, Justin Malone, Asa Lake, Lilly Rowley, Aiden Cruz, John Jurkovic, and Iris Trimble.

advance to Sectionals from each category- 4. So, Justin, Alec, Hope, Rachael, and Sophie performed well enough in the preliminary and final rounds of competition to rank in the top four in their respective categories and advance. Alec, a Le-Win junior, competed in Extemporaneous Speaking, arguably the most difficult category, requiring students to craft and practice within forty-five minutes a six-minute talk on a subject of current importance. Hope, also a Panther junior, advanced in the challenging

category of Impromptu, where students are given a mere two minutes to write a six-minute talk on a saying, proverb, or quotation. Sophie put her flair for drama to excellent use in two categories, Dramatic Duet Acting (with Rachael) and Dramatic Interpretation. The talented pair of Le-Win seniors consistently ranked among the best in their categories throughout the entire season.

But, what about those who didn’t advance to the next round of competition?

“There’s always one that hurts

a little bit,” Fore said. “Every year, there are always one or two kids that come within an inch of advancing, but for whatever reason, don’t. Asa Lake and Eiley MacDougall, a pair of supremely talented sophomores, missed advancing in the Humorous Duet Acting category by one point. But, their future is solid and both will make many contributions to our team in the next couple of years.”

Others competing at Regionals but not advancing were junior Mike Sutter who presented an excellent poetry program on the plight of Viet Nam war veterans. Sophomore John Jurkovic had the difficult task of competing in two categories, Original Comedy and Prose Reading, as did fellow sophomore April Woolcock (Informative Speaking and Original Oratory). Rounding out this year’s Regional team was Orangeville sophomore Lucas Boomgarden, who performed in the entertaining category of Special Occasion Speaking.

So, what’s next? By the time you read this article, those advancing to the State Tournament will have been selected through an even more rigorous round of competition at Freeport. “Going to State” is not unknown to the Le-Win/Orangeville team. Next week’s article will tell the tale of what happens next. We shall see.

• OBITS

Continued from page 5

Joel Folgate and their children Emmerson, Alton, Holden, and Kellan; Matthew and his wife Abbey Confer and their children Wesley and Willow; Kim Confer and her children Alaina and Vander Knoll; son Troy and his wife Karen and his children Leslie and her husband Clint Bertram and their children Nathan, Andrew, and Caleb; and Corrie Confer.

Funeral Service was Feb. 13 at the Lena United Methodist Church in Lena with interment in Lena Burial Park followed by lunch at the Lena Fire Department. Visitation for family and friends was Feb. 12, at the Leamon funeral home in Lena. Preferred memorials are Malcolm Eaton Enterprises and Adult and Teen Challenge or the charity of the donor’s choice.

Friends may send condolences to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

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Community Arts Access grants now available for artists and arts organizations

FREEPORT — The Freeport Art Museum is honored to have been awarded \$4365 through the Illinois Arts Council’s Community Arts Access regranting program. After the Museums adds a cash match to the award, the total amount available for grants will equal \$5085. These funds are designated to support artists and not-for-profit arts organizations in Stephenson, Jo Daviess, Carroll, Ogle and Lee counties. All eligible grant proposals are reviewed by a peer panel comprised of representatives from

each of the five counties.

Community Arts Access grants are available for visual, musical, performing, literary and inter-disciplinary arts projects that provide community-based programming. Projects that employ artists from the northwest Illinois area are given priority. Individuals and organizations can apply for up to \$1,500. Projects or programs must make an effort to serve diverse and underserved audiences. Applicants are encouraged to seek funding from a variety

of sources. Eligible projects are those taking place between February 1 and December 31, 2016.

For assistance with completing a grant application, please contact the Freeport Art Museum and ask for Director Jessica J. Modica. Assistance is available to all who need it. Grant applications and guidelines are available for download from the Freeport Art Museum website at www.freeportartmuseum.org or can be requested by calling the museum at 815-235-9755. Completed proposals are due no later than 5 p.m. on March 11.

Previous recipients include the Galena Arts Center for a Youth Arts Festival; Palisades Art League for their Art Show and Sale; Galena-Jo Daviess Historical Society for Artist Illustrations; Winnebago Players for their Children’s Summer Theater and Timberlake Playhouse for a Summer Apprentice program.




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Registration opens for Trivia Challenge in Elizabeth

ELIZABETH — The Elizabeth Historical Society will hold its fourteenth annual Trivia Challenge on Saturday, March 12, at the Elizabeth Community Building. Join us

before trivia for drinks and free snacks. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. with trivia to follow at 7 p.m.

Teams of four compete in nine rounds of trivia ques-

tions. Team members collectively respond during timed rounds with written answers to questions on nine different topics. Two (of the nine) topics pre-announced this year

are "Television" and "Which Came First?" Prizes will be awarded to the top seven teams correctly answering the most questions. Over \$700 in prizes will be awarded.

If you've never been a contestant, but think you could be a contender, here are sample questions asked in past Trivia Challenge's—The Number "10", Song Lyrics, Dogs, Month, Please?, Time, Kings, Who Said That? and Close To You:

Name the actress who portrayed the "10" in the movie 10.

Provide the name of the musician/musical group which recorded the following lyrics: It's a quarter after one, I'm all alone and I need you now....

Give the name of George Jetson's dog.

In which month does the Electoral College vote for U.S. President?

Which device is used to keep time in music?

Name the king associated

with This is It.

"I do wish we could chat longer, but I'm having an old friend for dinner. Bye."

As the crow flies, which is closer to Elizabeth, IL? A. Apple Canyon Lake

B. Lake Carroll C. Lake Galena

The answers to the sample questions are: Bo Derek, Lady Antebellum, Astro, December, metronome, Michael Jackson, Hannibal Lecter and A. Apple Canyon Lake.

Profits raised help fund the operation of the Chicago Great Western Depot Museum and the Elizabeth History Museum in downtown Elizabeth. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the depot is being restored by the Elizabeth Historical Society to its original appearance.

Persons wishing to participate in the Trivia Challenge should call 563-590-5165 to pre-register their team of four. Registration is limited to the first fifty teams and includes appetizers and desserts.

Road ends for Orangeville Lady Broncos

By Chris Johnson
Reporter

LENA — The Orangeville Lady Broncos battled through a difficult regular season, with a focus on improving and readiness for the post-season.

The problem was, Warren had also prepared and in the end, came away with a 50-42 first-round win.

It was a strong open by Orangeville, as they took the first quarter advantage 14-13, with a barrage of successful shots falling early.

Things, however, changed in the second period as Warren, tournament tested, pulled away and took control of the game, scoring 27 points and taking the 40-22 halftime advantage.

There would be no comeback for Orangeville, as Warren claimed the third quarter advantage as well, outpacing the Lady Broncos, 13-10, in the frame.

After three, Warren held a 53-32 lead.

Orangeville outscored Warren in the fourth quarter, 10-7, but fell on the night, 60-42.

Mackenzie Riemer led her Lady Broncos with twelve points. Baker scored ten, with Kelsey Bollon adding eight of her own.

Jamie Watson and Brianna Schofield scored three points each with Jessica Velcich, Mackenzie Robieson and Megan Davis adding two points apiece.

The playoffs continued for Warren into the Lena-Winslow Regional Semi-Final, where they faced number-three seed Freeport Aquin in the Wednesday, Feb. 10 contest.

Aquin was too much for Warren to handle as the Lady Warriors fell to the Regional Championship Representative, 45-42.

The Lady Warriors could not survive the opening minutes, as Aquin jumped out to a 17-3 first quarter advantage.

Warren would not hit a field goal in the opening period, with all three points courtesy of free throw attempts.

Even though they would fall in the end, Warren began their comeback as they outscored the Lady Bulldogs 16-12 in the second quarter, cutting into the apparent insurmountable deficit.

At the half, Freeport Aquin maintained their edge, 29-19/

Solid play continued for Warren into the third as they again outpaced their opponents, 14-5, bringing the Lady Bulldogs within reach.

After three, Warren had pulled to within a single point, 34-33.

Cassidy Arndt secured the

win for Aquin as she scored seven points in the final period. Georgia James added four additional points, while Warren, as a team, was held to nine points in the fourth.

Warren tried to make their comeback in the final period, but the shots wouldn't fall in the end, as the Lady Bulldogs moved on to the Lena-Winslow Regional Championship Game with the 45-42 win.

Kubat led the Lady Warriors with 16-points. Stiefel scored eleven.

Bohnsack ended the night with nine points as Tesner and Stuckey also contributed.

Aquin moved on to the Regional Championship game on Thursday, Feb. 11, where they faced the Lena-Winslow Lady Panthers for the right to move on to Lanark for the second round, the Sectional.

HCC Foundation announces April 1 scholarship deadline

FREEPORT — April 1 is the deadline for submitting Highland Community College Foundation scholarship applications, according to Pat Dunn, Highland Foundation director of operations and member of the HCC Scholarship Committee.

A searchable database of more than 100 scholarships is available at highland.edu. This online tool allows Highland students to review scholarships based on eligibility criteria. Students seeking additional information on the application process should call the Foundation office at 815.599.3413 or the Financial Aid Office at 815.599.3519.

In previous years, the Foundation has annually awarded more than \$350,000 in scholar-

ships to HCC students. Scholarships vary in amounts and are available for high school graduates, returning students, non-traditional students, part-time students, and adults seeking to re-enter or attend college for the first time.

The Foundation has awarded more than \$6.8 million in scholarships through annually-funded, endowed, and memorial scholarships. Since 1962, these scholarships have been established and sustained by generous donations from individuals and businesses in north-west Illinois.

Individuals or community partners interested in supporting students by establishing a scholarship should contact Dunn at 815.599.3408 or foundation@highland.edu.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

LENA — Hope everyone had a great heart day! Doesn't seem possible that Lent has started, and we are about six weeks until Easter and Spring! After this frigid weekend, it is nice to think that winter won't last long. This week we have some good recipes for meatless meals. (There is a meat recipe for those who need one!) Because we know winter isn't over, there are two entirely different soup recipes. The column will finish with two desserts.

The first recipe is for a nice tuna and lettuce salad. The dressing is light and clings to the beans and lettuce. If you wanted to use just regular leaf lettuce instead of the spring mix, the recipe will be just

as good. I don't think that it will taste as good to use iceberg lettuce because the leaves are stiff, but if iceberg is your favorite go for it. Nutritionists would say this is a good and healthy way to have a satisfying lunch.

Tuna and White Bean Salad

½ red onion, thinly sliced
2 T. red wine vinegar
6 T. extra-virgin olive oil
¼ t. salt
1/8 t. black pepper
2 C. spring lettuce mix
1 can (15 oz.) cannelloni beans
2 cans (5 oz. each) solid albacore tuna in water, drained
½ C. cherry tomatoes, halved and seeds removed.

Place red onion in a bowl of ice water. In a lidded jar, combine the red wine vinegar, olive oil, salt, pepper. Shake. In a large serving bowl place the lettuce and sprinkle the beans over the lettuce. Add the tuna and gently toss. Remove the onions from water and pat dry; add the onions and cherry tomatoes. Drizzle the dressing over the top and toss.

If you are a vegetarian or

need a good soup for Fridays, this next soup is a tasty way to fill up. If you aren't observing meatless Fridays, you can substitute chicken broth for the vegetable broth. I have a friend who loves black beans (they are not my favorite), but she keeps telling me how healthy they are for you. This recipe jazzes them up a little. I think some shredded cheese would be great on this soup also.

Black Bean and Salsa Soup

2 cans (15 oz.) low sodium black beans, drained and rinsed
2 C. vegetable broth
1 C. chunky salsa
1 t. ground cumin
4 T. sour cream
2 T. thinly sliced green onions

Blend together the beans, broth, salsa, and cumin in a blender or food processor until almost smooth. Cook the bean mixture in a saucepan over medium heat until heated through, about 10 minutes. Top each serving bowl with sour cream and green onions.

Need an easy recipe for a really cold day? This next chicken noodle soup is a quick way to make a great meal. The

most time is spent in chopping the celery, carrots, and onions. By using the rotisserie chicken, prep time is cut down to a minimum. Enjoy this warm up meal for a cold day.

Cold Day Chicken Noodle Soup

1 T. canola oil
2 celery ribs, chopped
2 medium carrots, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
8 C. chicken broth
½ t. dried basil
¼ t. pepper
3 C. uncooked egg noodles
3 C. coarsely chopped rotisserie chicken

1 T. minced fresh parsley
In a large Dutch oven, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add celery, carrots, and onions; cook and stir 5-7 minutes until tender. Add the broth, basil, and pepper. Bring to a boil and stir in noodles; cook 12-14 minutes or until al dente. Stir in chicken and parsley; heat through.

Recently I made my family ham balls. I mentioned it at a wine tasting party, and several people asked to have this recipe repeated in my column—I think I had it in about ten years ago. It is hard to believe I have been writing this column since 2004. This recipe is one I got from Sandy Shultz. Sandy and her husband, Bob, are the owners of The Hideaway, a restaurant in southern Wisconsin. If you have ever been there to eat, Sandy has a fabulous salad bar with all kinds of homemade salads. I guess what I am trying to say is that she is a really good cook. This recipe makes about 3 dozen ham balls. I sometimes make the whole recipe and then freeze half of them in a large baking dish for another meal. I do not put the sauce on until I am ready to bake them. I think it tastes better. Enjoy this great recipe now or save it for Easter. A.J.'s Lena Maid Meats will grind the ham for you and vacuum seal it. Sometimes I just keep some ground ham in the freezer for

this recipe and for homemade ham salad.

Sandy's Ham Balls

1½ lbs. ground ham
1 lb. ground beef
½ lb. ground pork
1½ C. cracker crumbs
1 C. milk
2 beaten eggs
Sauce:
2 cans tomato soup
1½ C. packed brown sugar
¾ C. cider vinegar
2 t. dry mustard

In a large bowl, combine the meat, crumbs, milk, and eggs. Mix lightly but well. Shape into 80 balls. Place in a single layer in a large 9 x 13 pans. In a bowl mix together the sauce ingredients and pour over meatballs. Bake in a 350 oven for an hour. Spoon into serving dish and pour sauce over meatballs. (You may double the recipe to feed 30 people.) You may also make this into a ham loaf instead of meatballs. These freeze well; don't put the sauce on them until you are ready to bake.

One of my favorite desserts is the strawberry pretzel dessert. This recipe is a take-off of that famous recipe. It is easy because you use pie filling and the fruit is cherry. Try this new take on an old recipe.

Pretzel Dessert

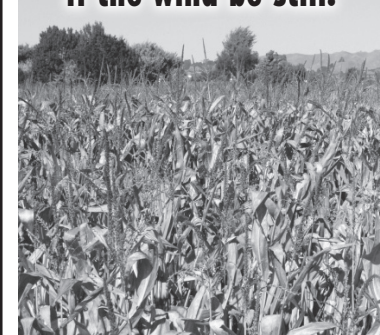
2 C. crushed pretzels, divided
¾ C. sugar
¾ C. butter, melted
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 C. powdered sugar
1 carton (8 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed
1 can (21 oz.) cherry pie filling

In a large bowl, toss 1½ cups of pretzels with sugar and melted butter. Press into an ungreased 9 x 13 baking dish. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Fold in the whipped topping.

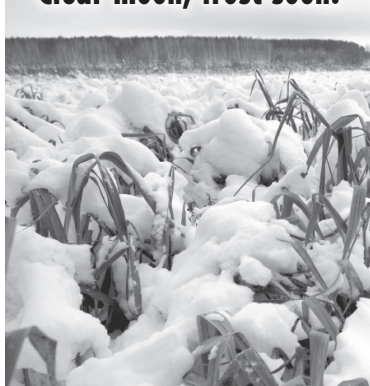
Spread half the mixture on pretzels and top with cherry pie

See RECIPES, Page 18

"No weather is ill,
if the wind be still."



"Clear moon, frost soon."



"The higher the clouds,
the better the weather."



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CHURCH NOTES

PASTOR'S CORNER

Can You Give Up?

By Dave Offermann

St. John's Lutheran Church, Lena

So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them. (Jonah 3:5)

LENA — As kids, there were lots of boys in my family and in our neighborhood. It was typical, after mealtime, for us to head out the door, round up the neighbor kids and play games until the light faded or our mothers called us in. We played army, cops and robbers, dodge ball, gangsters and other games whose main focus was to hunt down the bad guys and capture them or make them give up. As growing boys, that was the main thing. There had to be a winner. Somebody had to capitulate. Someone had to call 'uncle' and turn themselves in or, in other words, give up.

That idea of 'give up' fits very nicely with the people of Nineveh and with the beginning of our Lenten journey. When we have purple in church for Lent and sing lots of hymns that seem to focus on Christ's suffering and death, when we fast or give something up, it's easy for us to mentally fall into the spiritual trap of trying to influence God.

Look at me God. I'm extra good. I'm worthy. I'm serious. Pay attention to me. Instead, we aren't trying to manipulate God. Rather, we're confessing that by God's grace, He has turned us away from our sins to faith and trust in Him.

What is it that turns the Ninevites away from their sin? It's the promise of the Lord's forgiveness. It's the Word of that promise that Jonah preaches. It is the Spirit working through that Word that turns their hearts. What does the first part of verse five say? They believed. Their belief lead them to a time of giving up as a sign of repentance and preparation.

During this forty day period, let your belief lead you to a time of repentance and preparation too. Let your 'giving up' be about your journey closer to God and not about self. As kids, we had to be the victor, the winner, and force the other side to capitulate. As Christ followers, we have one who was victorious on our behalf. If there's anyone we can give up to, it's him.

It is the Lord who turned the Ninevites and you from sin to

salvation, from death to life, from iniquity to forgiveness. In this season of Lent, give thanks to the Lord for such a GIFT of repentance in and through Jesus Christ our Savior.

The miraculous signs of Jesus

By Gary Rich — Lay Servant
Lena United Methodist Church

LENA — Our adult Sunday school class is studying the book John — the Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton. This week we discussed two of the miraculous signs of Jesus presented in the Gospel of John. The Gospel of John differs from the other Gospels because it is more about the meaning of Jesus's life rather than what Jesus did and said. John reveals how Jesus is the light and our world comes into being through the light. Today we are going to talk about two of the seven miraculous signs from the Gospel of John. First we need to realize that the signs have more than one meaning. One meaning is obvious and one much deeper. Let's first look at the miracle of changing the water into wine. Jesus and the disciples were invited to a Jewish wedding banquet. A wedding banquet was a special occasion and lasted for many days. Wedding banquets were a great moment in the life of a family and a most joyful time. Most of us know the story of how Jesus's Mom came to Jesus when the wine had run out. Jesus's Mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." So, Jesus told them to fill the jars to the brim with water and then draw some off and take it to the servers. Everyone served thought it was the best wine of the day.

The second miraculous sign of Jesus was healing a blind man. As the disciples and Jesus walked in Jerusalem they came to a blind beggar of the street. After seeing the blind man, they

asked Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned so that he was blind, this man of his parents?" Many thought that if something bad happened to you, it was punishment for what you had done wrong. However, Jesus replied to his disciples, "Neither he nor his parents. This happened so that God's mighty works might be displayed in him." Jesus made it clear that the man's blindness was not God's punishment, but instead an opportunity for God's work to be revealed. The Gospel teaches that Jesus is "the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." Jesus added water to some dirt and made a paste of mud and placed it over the blind man's eyes. Jesus told him "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." So the man washed the mud from his eyes and he could then see.

Both signs — changing water into wine and healing a blind beggar have obvious meanings: Showing the power of our Lord. However, John wants us to see more meaning in these events. The blind man was healed because he trusted and believed in the power of Jesus. The man would not have been healed without his commitment to Jesus. The water would not have changed to wine if not for the faith of the servants. When the servants did as Jesus told them, the ordinary was changed to extraordinary. The same can happen in our lives if you have faith and believe in Jesus and commit our lives to him.

As we continue to study Adam Hamilton's book —John the Gospel of Light and Life, we will see Jesus as the source of life. Jesus wants us to not only follow him but to believe in him and to abide in him. We will be doing this study on Thursday evenings at 6:30 and Sundays at 10:30.

Join us at Lena United Methodist Church on Sunday morning @ 9 a.m. for the service and fellowship time after. Sunday school is at 10:30.

Kent/Willow United Methodist Churches

KENT/WILLOW —Willow/Kent UMC will worship together Sunday Feb. 21 at Willow UMC at 9 a.m. Pastor Brenda Morris will be giving the message "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" with "Reach out like Jesus". All are invited and welcome also to stay for the fellowship following.

Sunday School is at 10:30 a.m. studying the lessons from the devotional "The Upper Room" using the Holy Bible for all references. All are invited and welcome.

Willow UMC is located about 7 miles SE of Stockton on Willow Rd. For more info, call 815-601-6742. NOTE: Lenten Service will be at Willow UMC at 7 p.m. Sunday Eve; Feb. 21; featuring "Christ's County Choir". All are invited and welcome.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Lena announces second week of Lent schedule

By Reverend Arthur Stees
Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lena

LENA — Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will gather for worship on Feb. 21, at 118 E. Mason St. Lena, at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to worship on this Second Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion. Pastor Arthur Stees will share the children's message and sermon and lead worship along with Karen Niemeier who will lead on the Organ. 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. At 2 p.m. Good Shepherd will lead the service at Lena Living Center.

On Wednesday Feb. 24 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! At 12 p.m. Good Shepherd will gather at Lena Methodist church with churches throughout the Lena, Winslow, and McConnell area for an Ecumenical Soup Lunch and Lenten Message.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church invites the community of all ages to join them for a Lenten Supper on February 24, at 5:30 p.m. and to Lenten Worship Service at 6:30 p.m. for a Lenten devotion series of God's Love Breaks Through with worship leaders Pastor Stees and Denny Luke and members of the confirmation class.

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.

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Sunday School/ABF 8:45 a.m.
AWANA-Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.
Junior and Senior High
Youth Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

McConnell United Methodist Church hosts
Annual Soup & Sandwich Lunch
Sunday, February 28, 2016
Noon - 1:30 p.m.

MENU	Tickets
All-you-can-eat chili, vegetable beef soup, vegetarian veggie soup, cheese sandwiches, celery/carrot sticks, dessert and beverage.	Adults \$5.00 Kids (5-12 yrs) \$2.00 Under 5 FREE

Funds made at this event are used for the ministries and programs of the church youth as well as mission projects.

McConnell UMC • 211 N. Hulbert Road



Tony Carton photo

Flippin' for life

Conroe's Crew, a Relay for Life team with connections to St Mary Church in Elizabeth hosted a pancake breakfast Sunday. The crew will host its Soup and Bread project Feb. 19 through Good Friday.

Lenten lunches to be served at Pearl City First United Methodist Church

PEARL CITY — Lenten Lunches will be served at Pearl City First United Methodist Church on Wednesdays at noon starting Feb. 24. There will be a brief message, music and a free will offering taken. On Feb. 24 the lunch will be served by Zion. Then on March 2, St. John's Lutheran Church will serve the meal. On March 9, Pearl City UMC will be serving the meal, and followed by Yellow Creek Brethren on March 16. The last lunch will be served by Ebenezer Church on March 23. Everyone is invited to join us in celebrating this Lenten season.

Also during our Lenten season, Pastor DooSoo Lee will be doing a sermon series

titled "When Trouble Finds You." Please join us for an inspiring message at the Pearl City First United Methodist Church at 8:30 a.m. Immediately following the service, there will be Sunday School held in our lower level. We are located at 411 S. Main Street in Pearl City.

A little levity to lighten your day

Have you ever seen geese flying south in the fall and noticed that they almost always fly in a V pattern. Have you also noticed that one side of the V is usually longer than the other and wondered why? The scientific explanation is that there are more geese on that longer side.

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• Salmon





Tony Carton photo

Boosting the athletic program

Members of the Stockton Blackhawk Boosters presented the organizers of the Joe Finn Memorial Tournament with a check for more than \$1100 to further the program.



Tony Carton photo

Make some noise

Thirty-nine elementary school ladies participated in the Stockton Mini Cheer camp and entertained at Friday night's home game.



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Tracy Siegner photo

Tax professionals

Stockton's H&R Block tax professionals Barb Belha, Holly Sauder, Tom Knautz, Tasha Meier and Margaret Wurster meet in conference to discuss new twists in the tax codes.

• SENATE

Continued from page 4

deaths among women each year – more than all cancers combined. The good news is that 80 percent of cardiac and stroke events may be prevented with education and action.

Senate Republicans will be joining members of the Conference of Women Legislators

and health officials in wearing red for the annual Go Red Day at the Capitol on Feb. 17. The goal of the event is to spread awareness of heart disease in women, and to encourage them to schedule a Well-Woman Visit with their doctor to get a full overview of their heart health.

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Food Pantry Sunday at Saint Paul's in Kent

KENT — Sunday, Feb. 21, will be Food Pantry Sunday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1334 N. Sunnyside Road, in Kent. Each member is encouraged to bring at least one item for the Pearl City Area Food Pantry. Sherri Brown is our representative and is responsible for making sure the food pantry items are delivered to the Pearl City Methodist Church, where the food pantry is located.

The congregation will observe the Second Sunday of Lent at their 10 a.m. family worship. The sermon will be based upon Luke 13: 31 – 35. Gary Groezinger will be the liturgist, and Deb Winning will be the organist. We sing the golden oldies! St. Paul's welcome all to worship with us at the little church with the big heart. We are located in the suburbs of Kent. For more information, call 232-4010.

Tyler's Justice Center for Children's announces second annual Men Who Cook

STOCKTON — Tyler's Justice Center for Children is holding our second annual Men Who Cook fundraiser on Saturday, March 5, at the Masonic Temple from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 individual or \$35 for a couple, available at the door. The event will include live entertainment by Carl and Dianna Cole, cash bar and silent auction.

Men Who Cook is a casual event featuring local men preparing bite-sized samples of their favorite dishes to benefit Tyler's Justice Center for Children.

Tyler's Justice Center for Children is a 501 (c) 3, non-profit Child Advocacy Center, which provides services to child victims of sexual and serious physical abuse. The Center also provides crisis counseling, intervention and education, follow-up advocacy services, referrals for specialized sexual exams and licensed therapy. All services provided at no cost. The Center serves Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Stephenson Counties and is a recipient of the Northwest Illinois Chapter of United Way.

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McConnell UMC to host annual lunch

McCONNELL — McConnell United Methodist Church will be hosting their Annual Soup and Sandwich Lunch on Sunday, Feb. 28 from Noon to 1:30 p.m. at the church located at 211 N. Hulbert Rd. in McConnell. The menu will include all-you-can-eat chili, vegetable beef soup, vegetarian veggie soup, cheese sandwiches, celery/carrot sticks, dessert and beverage. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children (5-12 yrs old). Funds made at this event are used for the ministries and programs of the church youth as well as mission projects.

Senior Resource Center to host research seminar

FREEPORT — Attend an informational seminar Monday, March 28 at 11 a.m. at the Senior Resource Center, 206 E. Stephenson St., Freeport, IL

BIRTH

Rayla Addison Herring

PEARL CITY — Calen and Amber Herring of Branson, Missouri are proud to announce the birth of their newest daughter, Rayla Addison Herring. She was born Dec. 21, 2015 at Cox Hospital in Branson weighing seven pounds, four ounces. Her two siblings are Reece (8 sister) and Rivers (5 brother). Local grandparents include Tom and Donna Herring of Pearl City and great grandmother Lillian Stees-Ditzler of Freeport. Rayla's grandparents of Missouri include Melba Plyler and Jim/Glenda Plyler.



River Ridge Cats for Character Club create child rights mural

By Lydia Groezinger, Brianna Boop, Peyton Bastian and Kathryn Lincicum
 HANOVER — "Do your best to let everyone know that, whoever we are, wherever we live, these are the rights of every child." Right No. 42 from the book For Every Child. That quote is the moral of the text and the inspiration for the mural created by members of the River Ridge Middle School Cats for Character Club which is making the rights of children

known to all who visit RRMS. Thirteen students took the moral of the text to heart and volunteered to create their own interpretation of those rights. In addition, the club has sponsored a variety of activities throughout the year such as, lunch time get to know you activities, birthday locker decorations, Christmas caroling, and door decorations. The goal of all activities is to help continue and foster a spirit of unity and camaraderie amongst students.

Courtesy photo

(Right) Eighth grade River Ridge Middle School students Kathryn Lincicum, Lydia Groezinger, Brianna Boop, and Peyton Bastian pose below the mural they recently displayed.



Jo Daviess County Soil & Water Conservation District 2016 Election of Directors results

ELIZABETH — The Jo Daviess County Soil & Water Conservation District held their annual election of Directors on Feb. 9, at the U.S.D.A. Service Center in Elizabeth. Three directors' terms were available for the 2016 elec-

tions. Re-elected to a two year term was Stanley Cox, Nicole Haas, and Andy Hawley. Stanley, Nicole, and Andy will join the District Board members Paul Brashaw and Steve Eden for the upcoming year beginning in March.

OPEN HOUSE - Celebrating Opening of New Rehabilitation Wing!



Wednesday, February 24th
3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Ribbon Cutting - 3:00 p.m.

- ♥ Beverages
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- ♥ Tours
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This new rehabilitation wing is for the In-Patient or Out-Patient Therapy Short Term Care. We have both private and semi-private rooms available with self-controlled heating and new flat screen TVs. Brand new state of the art therapy equipment and a huge dining room. The new wing has a separate entrance from the nursing center that you can use if you choose. Again, we hope to see you there! You will love it and our staff is excited to meet you!

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Pearl City Hornets 4-H February news

By: **Matthew Bronkema**
Club Reporter

PEARL CITY — Our February meeting was Monday the first at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City at 7 p.m. After the pledges were recited the Cloverbuds went downstairs and made ground-hogs on a stick. We talked about our bake sale to benefit the Pearl City Food Pantry. It will be held on March 25, at the Pearl City Bank from 9 to noon. The items will not be priced, we will be asking for donations. The award certificates were passed out, and then we went into our small groups. Thank you to the Endress, Fischer and Huneke families for bringing the refreshments. Our next meeting will be March 7, at St. John's Church at 7 p.m.

Around the Northern Hills

STATELINE — Each year, the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors sets action priorities for the year. The priorities serve as a guide for the organization and our members, and help us as leaders to effectively represent our members as we develop policy and advocate for agriculture.

This year's priorities are:
Promote implementation of environmental stewardship practices;

Influence efforts to improve state and national fiscal and business climates;

Lead efforts to build trust in Illinois farmers; and

Champion the economic well-being of Illinois farmers.

With today's commodity prices and farm economy, championing the economic well-being of Illinois farmers is even more important than before.

It is of utmost importance that the demand for agricultural commodities be expanded. As an organization, we'll work hard this year to promote trade. We'll fight for enactment of the Trans Pacific Partnership to boost Illinois agricultural exports.

And we'll continue to support renewable fuel policy. That includes support for corn-based ethanol, for biodiesel levels in the Renewable Fuel Standard and support for infrastructure to expand ethanol for E-15 and higher blends.

See **HILLS**, Page 23

LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 15TH
JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY -
GALENA, ILLINOIS
CIT BANK, N.A.

Plaintiff,

-v.-

SHARON K. ORTH, et al
Defendant

15 CH 00043

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 10, 2015, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on March 28, 2016, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 122 1/2 N Main St, Galena, IL 61036, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE, TO-WIT: A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION NUMBER NINE (9) IN TOWNSHIP NUMBER 26, NORTH RANGE NUMBER 2 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SECTION LINE 30.51 CHAINS EAST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE NORTH 43 DEGREES AND 30 MINUTES EAST 5.69 CHAINS, THENCE SOUTH 58 1/3 DEGREES EAST 3.63 CHAINS, THENCE SOUTH 12 DEGREES AND 25 MINUTES WEST 2.30 CHAINS TO SECTION LINE, THENCE WEST ON SECTION LINE, 6.49 CHAINS TO PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALSO A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION NUMBER 9 IN TOWNSHIP NUMBER 26 NORTH OF RANGE 2 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION, 37.00 CHAINS EAST OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER, THENCE NORTH 12 DEGREES AND 25 MINUTES EAST 2.30 CHAINS, THENCE NORTH 58 1/2 DEGREES WEST 3.63 CHAINS TO CENTER ROAD; THENCE NORTH 43 1/2 DEGREES EAST ALONG CENTER OF ROAD 2.00 CHAINS; THENCE NORTH 22 DEGREES AND 16 MINUTES EAST ALONG CENTER OF ROAD 2.87

CHAINS, THENCE NORTH 48 3/4 DEGREES WEST ALONG CENTER OF ROAD 3.24 CHAINS, THENCE NORTH 51 DEGREES WEST ALONG THE CENTER OF ROAD 62/100 CHAINS TO SOUTH LINE OF HANOVER WOOLEN MANUFACTURING COMPANY'S LAND, THENCE EAST ALONG SAID LINE 6.50 CHAINS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH ONE QUARTER SECTION LINE, THENCE SOUTH 10.71 CHAINS TO THE ONE-QUARTER SECTION CORNER, THENCE WEST 3.08 CHAINS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. ALL IN JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 503 FULTON ROAD, HANOVER, IL 61041 Property Index No. 09-001-318-00. The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/ or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a

lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the provisions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g) (1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLO-

SURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876 Please refer to file number 14-15-13058. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-15-13058 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 15 CH 00043 TJSC#: 35-18377 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

I684194

(Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 17, 24 & March 2, 2016)

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NEW LISTINGS



LENA - MAIN FLOOR LIVING IN THIS CONDO on Lions Drive in Engels Subdivision. This condo unit features 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room with Velux skylight and plant shelf, kitchen with dining area, main floor laundry and 4 seasons room with door to the 10 x 10 deck. The master bedroom has double closets with one being a large walk in. The master bath has a shower. The lower level square footage is approximately 562 sq. ft. which features a family room, another full bath and a room that could be an office, toy room or home gym. There are two storage areas in the lower level besides the mechanical room. The garage has side service door, 2 floor drains, a heater and cupboards. Priced at \$174,500



FREEPORT - USE AS SINGLE FAMILY OR DUPLEX. Home does need work in the interior and exterior. Large home 2,086 sq. ft. of living area. Large wrap around porch, one stall detached garage. Investors welcome to preview and present offer. Priced at \$14,900



FREEPORT - NICE BI-LEVEL HOME WITH 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, formal living room with 2 skylights, fireplace, built-in bookcases, dining area off nice sized kitchen with a workable island and 2 skylights. Doors off dining room to 4 seasons room which is bright and cheery and also has 2 skylights and patio door to back deck (11'5" x 13'). Master bedroom with full bath. 2 other bedrooms and one has a door to the front deck. Backyard is fenced in and has a storage shed or a children's playhouse. Has a concrete patio in the back of home off the deck (17'7" x 14'3"). Has a nice family room at the front door entrance area (has a fireplace that has never been used and is not hooked up). Family room and some other rooms have new carpet and just recently the home has had new paint on the ceilings and walls. Must see to appreciate. Priced at \$114,900



LENA - CHARMING HOME ON A CORNER LOT close to downtown has a wrap around porch, wood floors and trim, columns and french doors. Home features 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, living room, family room, dining room, eat in kitchen, built in desk area and walk in pantry. The spacious master bedroom has 3 sets of closets, a full bath and laundry hook up. Newers include shingled portion of roof, wood floors, garage door and more. Call the office today to schedule your private showing of this home. Priced at \$145,000



MILEDGEVILLE - LARGE OLDER VICTORIAN STYLE HOME. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, oak eat-in kitchen with large walk-in pantry, formal dining room, very spacious living room with part of ceiling as cathedral style. Family room and a new back room with doors to deck. New back room has a main floor laundry area, full bath and remainder could be used as a mud room, office or playroom. 2 stall detached garage with nice size heated workshop. PRICE JUST REDUCED \$8,600. Now only \$64,900. Call today for an appointment. Priced at \$64,900



APPLE RIVER - NICE OLDER 2 STORY home with lots of that older home charm. 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, main floor laundry. Large formal living room plus large family room. Eat in kitchen plus formal dining room. 1 stall detached garage and shed attached. Covered front porch. Located on approximately 1 acre lot. Most of the rooms have newly painted walls and ceiling and new dishwasher. Priced to sell at only \$39,900



CHADWICK - LOCATED IN WHITESIDE COUNTY. Log home located on 6.21 acres M/L. 2 bedrooms, 3 baths,, large living room/dining room combo with fireplace and a patio door to 20 x 15'8" concrete patio. Nice kitchen with breakfast bar. Newer range. Also has a sump pump and ejector pump for septic system. Large master bedroom with bath, walk-in closet and small deck off bedroom. Covered front porch. 2 stall detached garage and an extra shed. Previously had a pond site. Chadwick/Milledgeville school system. Priced at \$129,900



LENA - COUNTRY VIEWS from your back deck! Three bedrooms, 1 bath, living room, dining room, kitchen with snack bar and pantry closet on the main floor. The master bedroom has a huge walk in closet. In the lower level you will find a spacious family room, game room with wet bar, laundry room, bath and another room with closet would make a great office, craft room, home gym, toy room or whatever you may need. Square footage per the assessor's office, lower level square footage not figured in. Newers since 2010 include furnace (2012), walk in jacuzzi tub in main floor bath, exterior doors, patio door with built in blinds, insulation added, storage room with shelving added in oversized garage. Priced at \$149,900

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SCHOOL NEWS

Area student named to Dean's List at Drake University

DES MOINES, IA — McKenzie Magee of Lena is named to the Dean's List at Drake University. This academic honor is achieved by earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher for the fall 2015 semester. Drake University is a mid-size, private university in Des Moines, IA, enrolling more than 3,300 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students from 40 states and approximately 40 countries.

'Prairie Wind' magazine now accepting submission for 2016 edition

FREEPORT — Submissions are now being accepted for the twenty-fourth annual "Prairie Wind" art and literary magazine. The "Prairie Wind" is a collection of original poetry, prose, visual art, and recorded music contributed by students, staff, alumni, and other members of the Highland Community College District. All writers and artists residing in the Highland district (Stephenson, Ogle, Carroll and Jo-Daviess counties) may submit work to be considered for publication. The magazine is published in May of each year. Submission guidelines are available at www.highland.edu/community/prairiewind.asp. The deadline for the 2016 issue is Feb. 26, by 5 p.m. More information is available

from the magazine's faculty advisors:

Bob Apolloni
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 (815) 599-3479

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 815.599.3533

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sam.tucibat@highland.edu
 (815) 599-3614

The magazine has been published annually since 1992 under the auspices of Highland Community College, 2998 West Pearl City Road, Freeport, Illinois, 61032. It is a cooperative project of the Humanities, Graphic Design, Art, and Music departments in the Division of Humanities, Social Sciences and Fine Arts. Each issue is created by an editorial board composed of students and volunteer community members who are guided by a team of faculty advisors.

UW-La Crosse announces December 2015 graduate

LA CROSSE, WI — The following students completed degree requirements at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse in December. The fifty-first annual Midyear Commencement was held at the La Crosse Center Sunday, Dec. 20.

Collin Talbert of Kent, IL, Bachelor of Science, Communication Studies Major: Broadcast and Digital Media Emphasis.

University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces Fall 2015 dean's list

PLATTEVILLE, WI — The University of Wisconsin-Platteville announces its dean's list for the Fall 2015 semester. To earn academic honors, full-time students must obtain at least a 3.75 grade point average in the College of Liberal Arts and Education and the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture and at least a 3.5 GPA in the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science. Brett Brown, Criminal Justice, Hannah Davidson, Biology and Broad Field Science, River Ridge, Hanover, IL. Kortnie Christen, and Haley Holmes, Elementary Education, Lena-Winslow, Lena, IL. Lindsey Robieson, Elementary Education, Orangeville. Greta Heimerdinger, Agricultural Business, and Jacquelyn Purple, Elementary Education, Pearl City. Keeley Schulz, Physical Education, Stockton. With 8,900 undergraduate and graduate students, UW-Platteville is the fastest-growing comprehensive institution in the UW System.



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Spelling their way to the top

Pearl City School Spelling Bee Winners Fenixx Menefee-Champion, Miranda Mellintine-Runner Up, and Oliver Petta-Alternate

Governor, legislators roll out downsizing bills

By Mark Fitton
Illinois News Network

SPRINGFIELD — The governor, lieutenant governor and a handful of legislators on Friday rolled out the first bills derived from a year-long effort focused on how to downsize Illinois' plethora of governments.

The goal, according to those officials: Whittle down Illinois' nearly 7,000 units of government to get the taxpayers more for their money.

"Our present system of 7,000 governments is simply unsustainable, (and) it's also a big reason we have the second-highest property taxes in the nation" said Rep. Jack Franks of Woodstock, the lone Democratic lawmaker to speak at a Naperville news conference headlined by Gov. Bruce Rauner, R-Winnetka, and Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti, R-Wheaton.

"Our system is bloated, it's inefficient, it's opaque, and it's unaccountable," Franks said. "And our system, as a result, is open to corruption and abuse."

"We need to stop digging a

deeper hole," he said. "It's time for government to get out of the shadows. By implementing these ideas, I believe we can begin to restore balance, eliminate redundant governments and, most importantly, we can save taxpayers money."

Gov. Rauner said the four bills rolled out Friday encompass eight of the 27 recommendations made by Sanguinetti's bipartisan task force.

And, to a degree, the governor acknowledged, they represent some low-hanging fruit, or ideas perhaps the easiest upon which to find agreement.

"What we'd like to do is get some successes and walk before we run," Rauner said.

The legislation includes efforts to:

Let citizens and local governments consolidate duplicative, excessive or unnecessary units of government via referendum.

Provide consolidation powers to all counties that now only apply to DuPage County.

Extend to all townships and municipalities having the same boundaries the same authority to

consolidate that is now provided only to Evanston.

Remove arbitrary barriers to township consolidation so local residents or units of government can consolidate if they choose.

Regarding other recommendations of the task force, including some which Democrats see as hostile to collective bargaining and prevailing wage, Rauner said, "We're not giving up."

Rauner went further, saying the right-sizing of government is one of the keys to establishing financial stability for the state.

"In Springfield, the debate is raging: 'Do we cut services or raise taxes?' That really shouldn't be the conversation," the governor said.

"It should be, 'How do we shrink the bureaucracy (and) shrink the cost of government so we can put more money into our human services, into our school system — which for me is the No. 1 priority — and how do we grow our tax revenue not through tax increases, but through a more growing economy?' That's got to be the conversation," Rauner said.

And the governor says that's very much a legitimate part of the budget debate.

"Let's be clear: This is directly about the state budget," he said. "If we can relieve taxpayer burden at the local level on property taxes for our working families and for our small-business owners, (then) our small-business owners can find it easier to grow and invest. And when they invest and grow, that's more tax revenue for the state without raising rates. It comes through growth."

State Rep. Mark Batinick, R-Plainfield, struck a similar chord.

"You hear a lot of talk about do we cut services or do we raise taxes. We don't have to do either," Batinick said.

"Just spending one year in Springfield, what I realize is that there's a lot of inefficiencies in the way we do things, and that's what this task force is about. We do have the opportunity to provide the necessary services that we need to to the citizens without having to raise taxes in order to do it," he said.

The idea that Illinois can right its financial ship solely by finding efficiencies and promoting business growth, especially in the short term, isn't universally accepted.

"Offhand, I can't know for certain, but I'm compelled to say that for the state to cover the \$4 billion or \$6 billion or \$9 billion it needs just on improved efficiencies? That's sort of huge," said Carol Portman, president of the Illinois Federation of Taxpayers.

"That's not to say it (increasing efficiency) isn't worth try and an incredibly important part of what we should be doing, but a solution is probably going to require addressing both the spending and revenue sides of the equation and not just improving efficiencies."

Kent Redfield, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Illinois Springfield, concurred.

"Can we make government cuts and make government do what it is supposed to be doing more effectively? Absolutely," said Redfield.

"And we're going to have to do some things to improve the state's business environment — there's no doubt about it," Redfield said.

But, he added, firing every state worker tomorrow wouldn't balance Illinois budget and solve its debt problems, he said.

With Illinois in its eighth month of fiscal year 2016 with no budget, neither Democrats nor Republicans have shown themselves willing to address their own bitter-pill issues, Redfield said, and those are likely reduced spending on social services for Democrats and some form of revenue (tax) increase for Republicans.

"They are not making the hard decisions," Redfield said. "We need a serious conversation about what government can do and how we're going to pay for it, and, as I near as I can tell, we're not having that conversation yet."

Without an overall budget for fiscal 2016, the state is still making payments on roughly 90 percent of the bills it covered in the previous year by paying for costs mandated in continuing appropriations, by court decrees, in the primary education budget that did pass and in debt service.

Earlier this week, Illinois also was sitting on about \$7 billion in unpaid bills, Comptroller Leslie Munger, R-Lincolnshire, said in a news conference.

Without action by the Legislature and governor, the unpaid bills likely will grow to \$10 billion to \$12 billion by June 30, the end of fiscal year 2016, Munger predicted.

RAMP's eleventh annual Bad Prom theme Boone County Wheel-A-Thon, 5K Run and Kids Fun Run has a new date and location

STATELINE — RAMP's eleventh annual Boone County Wheel-A-Thon will be on Saturday, May 14, at the Doty Park Pavilion along the Kishwaukee Riverfront Path, 365 W Locust Street in Belvidere, Illinois. This is a fun family-friendly event that now boasts a bad prom theme! We encourage everyone to have fun with this theme so now is the time to make use of old bridesmaid dresses, scan vintage stores for a bad suits or wear a tux t-shirt! In addition to our traditional wheel-a-thon we have added a 5K and a Kids Fun Run to the event! The wheel-a-thon takes an ordinary event (like a walk) and introduces a disability awareness aspect by focusing on the abilities of individuals using a wheelchair — the wheelchair can be shared by a

team and decorated before the two mile route begins. Participants pay a fee (the Kids Fun Run is free) and can collect donations to receive structured incentives from local community partners such as McDonald's and Magic Waters. You must register by April 18, to receive a t-shirt the day of the event.

All proceeds from the event helps support the efforts of RAMP's Boone County office and RAMP's mission to promote an accessible society that allows and expects full participation by individuals with disabilities.

RAMP empowers individuals with disabilities through services and advocacy to live an independent life. This is accomplished by partnering with individuals to make changes in their

own lives, seek peer support and remove barriers. RAMP advocates for the implementation of current laws, promotion of needed legislation and improvement of existing systems for individuals with disabilities while working to diminish negative attitudes that threaten to impede equal access. To learn more about RAMP, visit our website: <http://www.ramp-cil.org> or contact your local RAMP office located in Boone, DeKalb, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties. RAMP is a United Way member agency.

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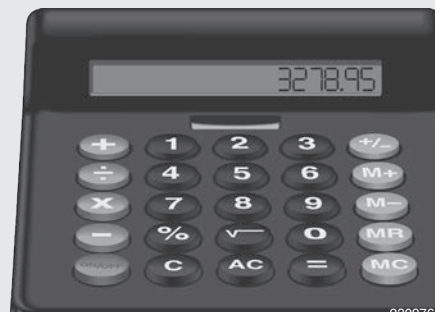
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Jodi Diffenderfer

Owner

jdacctandtax@gmail.com



230976

• RECIPES

Continued from page 8

filling; spread on remaining cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle with remaining pretzels. Refrigerate, covered, overnight before serving.

At the same wine tasting party, I had taken the sugar cookies from the recipe below. I don't know if I have every put it in the column, but there were numerous requests for this recipe also. (I have had a flurry of cooking and baking during the last two weeks. It is time for me to take a break!) This recipe was given to me by my principal, Larry Maaske, many years ago. His wife had made Larry's mother's sugar cookies for Christmas. Dort's cut outs were always the best! I asked

if I could have the recipe. His mother was happy to share it with me. Mrs. Maaske is no longer with us, but her legacy of recipes and cooking lives on. I don't make cut outs, although this recipe is great for doing so. I drop mine on a parchment lined cookie sheet, flatten with a glass that has been sugared and then I bake the cookies. (I tell my family and friends they will have to visualize whatever holiday I make them for—this time they had to visualize hearts.) Be sure to flour your spoon or your hands as you are dropping the cookies if you don't roll them out. You will love these big soft fluffy cookies—don't be alarmed at the amount of cream

of tarter (I think that is what makes them so soft) or the soda. You did read the recipe correctly. I put the cream cheese frosting on them. You need to keep them in the refrigerator or in my case at this time of the year the garage.

Thelma Maaske's Sugar Cookies

2 C. sugar
1 C. unsalted butter
1 t. salt
4 eggs
1 C. sour milk (sour cream)
1 T. soda
1 T. cream of tartar
1¼ t. vanilla
3½ to 4 C. flour
Mix the butter and sugar

together. Add the eggs and beat. In a small bowl, combine the salt, soda, cream of tartar and 3½ C. of flour. Alternate the sour milk (sour cream) and the flour mixture. Add the vanilla. Mix well and refrigerate for at least two hours. Add more flour if necessary if you are rolling them into cut out cookies. Use flour if you are dropping them. Bake on parchment lined cookie sheets.

Bake at 375 until brown—8-10 minutes. Remove to cooling racks or waxed paper. Frost with the frosting recipe featured below. Hint—use clean parchment for every batch you make.

Frosting

1 stick of unsalted butter, soft-

ened

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
3½ C. powdered sugar
1 t. vanilla

A few drops of food coloring
Cream the butter and cream cheese together; carefully add the powdered sugar and mix together. Add the vanilla and food coloring. Frost cooled cookies.

We are racing towards the end of February. Time sure does fly. Congratulations to the Le-Win girls' basketball team for winning their first regional in eleven years. I am submitting my column before the results are in for the wrestling team, but I am hoping we have some state qualifiers. Just a shout out to the benefit for Kelli Huneke this coming weekend. There will be a supper and silent auction on Saturday evening at the Lena Winslow Elementary School cafeteria. Kelli, a fifth grade teacher at Le-Win, is taking some experimental treatments as she is battling cancer for the third time. If you can't make the benefit, you can make a donation that evening or any time. There are cans around town, and you can contact the elementary school, and they will direct your donations. The benefit is for a great lady and a wonderful teacher who has touched the lives of so many people.

We will continue to look for recipes for Lent and for St. Patrick's Day, which is about a month away. If you have any green recipes, let us know. If you have some good recipes, you can contact us in person, by mail, or email us at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide at 213 S. Center St. or email scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

HCC holds a script writing contest to produce a movie

FREEPORT — Highland Community College has added a Motion Picture Production class for the Summer 2016 Semester, and is holding a script writing contest to be able to say, "Let us make your movie." During the eight-week class, students will tell the story from the chosen script to produce the 45-minute movie.

Mass Communication instructor Jim Yeager said, "We are excited to bring this class to our students, who have already taken production courses through our Mass Communication program. We know we have some talented writers in our area. The eight-week course is enough time for us to make a movie, but not write a script.

This is a great way for a creative writer from the Highland district to assist in our storytelling."

Submitted scripts can be of any genre, with the only requirement that it fits into a 45-minute film. It should be a compelling story, capable of being produced locally. Once the script has been chosen, there will be

auditions for actors. Students in the Motion Picture Production class will then work behind the scenes to produce the movie.

Yeager and Mass Communication students will evaluate each script to determine which script will be produced. Eligibility requirements are:

writer must be at least 18 years of age or be a Highland Community College student live in the Highland district the work must be original (no adaptations)

the script should be roughly 45 minutes in length (45 pages)

All scripts should be e-mailed to Jim Yeager at jim.yeager@highland.edu by April 15. Please include a name as it is to appear on the credits, and include contact information for the submission. For more information contact Jim Yeager at 815.599.3432 or e-mail him at the above address.

Estate Planning ~ 2016

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- Thursday, February 25, 6:00 pm** Co-sponsor: Citizens State Bank, 102 W. Main St., Lena
- Wednesday, March 9, 10:00 am** Co-sponsor: Community Bank, 401 S. Church St., Orangeville
- Wednesday, March 9, 6:00 pm** Co-sponsor: Citizens State Bank at Country Inn & Suites, 200 Dillon Ave., Stockton
- Tuesday, March 15, 6:30 pm** Co-sponsor: Citizens State Bank, 1525 S. Forest Rd., Freeport
- Wednesday, March 16, 1:00 pm** Co-sponsor: Forrester State Bank, at Forrester Public Library, 204 S. 1st Ave., Forrester
- Tuesday, March 29, 6:30 pm** Co-sponsor: Forrester State Bank, Freeport, 996 W. Fairview Rd., Freeport
- Tuesday, April 12 at 2:00 pm** Freeport Public Library, 100 E. Douglas St., Freeport
- Monday, April 18 at 6:00 pm** Co-sponsor: Billy Goeke, Country Financial, at Rock City Fire Dept., 7600 N. Rock City Rd., Rock City

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234484

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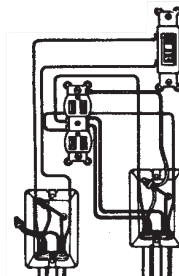
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• HILLS

Continued from page 15

On the legislative front, we'll continue to oppose excessive regulation and to seek common-sense regulations. Specifically, we'll work to prevent the implementation of WOTUS. On the state level, we will encourage and communicate farmers' voluntary efforts to reduce nutrient losses so that costly new state regulations can be avoided. We will work to protect the availability of biotech traits and to protect the integrity of the Farm Bill and crop insurance.

Most importantly, we'll help our members find ways to manage their farm costs and profits. Illinois Farm Bureau is planning meetings with agriculture input suppliers so we can express our concerns regarding the continued high input costs.

Additionally, we're working to identify additional opportunities for profit. Through Farm-Week, FarmweekNow.com, the RFD Radio Network and social media, we will continue to inform and assist Illinois Farm Bureau members in these efforts.

Despite the current downturn, agriculture plays an extremely important economic role in Illinois, helping to bolster the economy, growing income and jobs. Through planning, and attention to detail, it will continue to do so.

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation has our scholarship applications available. We will again be awarding a two scholarships to post-secondary students who are majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, vocational or an ag-related course of study. This year we have added an additional scholarship to a student planning to attend (or already attending) Highland Community College and majoring in an agriculture related field. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of exceptional scholastic ability. To be eligible you must be a Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau member, spouse of a member or a member's child. You must be accepted for enrollment or be enrolled at an accredited college, university, community college, university, community college or vocational/technical school. For more information you can visit our website at www.jodaviessecfb.com/scholarships/ or call the office at 815-858-2235. The application deadline is March 1st.

10% off Grainger Catalog Prices. Whether you're a farmer, business owner, or just someone who loves power tools and great savings, as an Illinois

Farm Bureau member, you'll receive 10% off Grainger Industrial Supplies:

10% on catalog prices

55% on all Proto tools (off list price)

50% on Stanley tools (off list price)

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FREE SHIPPING with online purchases

Ordering is easy. Call toll free 1-866-217-3435 or order online

at www.grainger.com. For a catalog or the IFB discount number call our office at 815-858-2235. This is another benefit of being a farm bureau member!!

Farm Fun Fact: Consumers spend \$547 billion on food originating on US. farms and ranches. Of each dollar spent on food, the farmer's share is approximately 23 cents. The rest are for costs beyond the farm gate: processing, marketing, transportation, and distribution.

COLLECTIBLES, SPORTS RELATED AND MISC. ITEMS AUCTION

507 E. MAIN ST. • LENA, IL

WEDNESDAY Evening, February 24, 2016 - 4:30 P.M.

(SEVERE WEATHER DATE:

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 25)

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES & MISC. ITEMS: Army duffle bag; wood crate; barn lantern; sm crocks; cookbooks; books incl. WWII, Time Life Vietnam Experience, Hitler, coffee table, vintage & others; RR book of WI; RR time tables; road maps; gun/ammo literature; vintage photos; sheet music; paper literature; calendars incl. local & Harley Davidson; turn tables; speakers; many records incl. 45 rpm; 8-track tapes; WWII VCR tapes; local adv incl. Monroe & Argyle; Monroe & other cheese boxes; Snap-On wood clock plaque; Coca-Cola lamp; adv tins; mini license plates; belt buckles; lighters; cast fry pan ash tray; patches & pin backs; pens/pencils; slide rule; clock keys; costume jewelry; sm antiques & collectibles; comic books; nic-nacs; figurines; vintage greeting cards; cake decorating items; x-mas items; car taillights, radios & parts; storage tubs; Sports Related & Toys: large quantity of sports cards; Starting Line-Up figures (NIP); Cub's bobble heads; Brett Favre book; die-cast cars; wood train; plastic soldiers, people & animals; airplane models; kid's books; frame puzzles; misc. toys & board games; playing cards; assorted sports related items. **TERMS: CASH or GOOD CHECK**

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234493

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES AUCTION

507 E. MAIN ST. • LENA, IL

SATURDAY, February 20, 2016 - 10:00 A.M.

(SEVERE WEATHER DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21)

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: wringer washer; cider press; (3) walnut dressers w/acorn pulls; (3) secretaries; Sellers cupboard; treadle sewing machine; wicker loveseat & chairs; 3-pc settee; rd oak table w/4 chairs; good twig/oak slat rocker; oak pressed back chairs; old rocker; china hutch & buffet; bookcase; 1966 Flexsteel sofa & chair; cedar chests; radio cabinet cupboard; new oak curio; wood trunk; wash tubs; cast/onyx floor lamps; (2) stained glass windows; spool corner shelf; wood shipping boxes; lg work table; horse tack; metal chicken feeder; mortise drilling machine; Torpedo heater; Pepsi sign; WI Agriculturist/Prairie Farmer 'No Trespassing' sign (mint & old); framed duck & other prints; deer pictures; red hanging light; hurricane & other lamps; shelf & mantle clocks; cream separator; 5 & 6-gal Redwing crocks; 3 & 20-gal Western crocks; copper rooster weather vane; #2 bell; cast fry pans; sprinkling can; vintage tools; feed scoops; farm primitives; (2) transits; pharmacist scale; coffee grinder; butter churns; adv tins; kt primitives; lunch boxes; vintage baskets; 12-pc silver plate flatware set; (3) 1oz silver coins; \$1 silver certificates; 1981 & 2003 proof sets; (20) sterling rings; costume jewelry; '50s & '60s deer hunting tags; Zippo lighters; pocket knives; fishing reels; postcards; vintage photos; hand sewed quilts; train engine & cars; (10) very early Potosi beer glasses; beer steins & glasses; Jagermeister shot glasses w/stems; milk bottles; carnival, amber & milk glass; early serving dishes. **TERMS: CASH or GOOD CHECK**

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY -
GALENA, ILLINOIS

CIT BANK, N.A.

Plaintiff,

-v.-

SHARON K. ORTH, et al

Defendant

15 CH 00043

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 10, 2015, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on March 28, 2016, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 122 1/2 N Main St, Galena, IL 61036, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 503 FULTON ROAD, HANOVER, IL 61041 Property Index No. 09-001-318-00. The real estate is improved with a residence. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. Where a sale of real estate is made to satisfy a lien prior to that of the United States, the United States shall have one year from the date of sale within which to redeem, except that with respect to a lien arising under the internal revenue laws the period shall be 120 days or the period allowable for redemption under State law, whichever is longer, and in any case in which, under the pro-

visions of section 505 of the Housing Act of 1950, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701k), and subsection (d) of section 3720 of title 38 of the United States Code, the right to redeem does not arise, there shall be no right of redemption. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876 Please refer to file number 14-15-13058. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-15-13058 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 15 CH 00043 TJSC#: 35-18377 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. 1684194

(Published in The Scoop Today
Feb. 17, 24 & March 2, 2016)

233908

**Simple
Safer
Secured**

**First Position
Commercial
Mortgage Notes**

**Are you earning a
5% yield for 1 year?**

A New Solution For Your Money

**Why Partner
with Woodbridge?**

To date, Woodbridge has never defaulted! With over 35 years of experience in offering financial opportunities, their hard-earned reputation for reliability and service is second to none. They provide valued clients with a steady stream of superior financial products. Woodbridge, its predecessor and affiliate entities, and principals have **completed more than \$1.5 billion in financial transactions.**

Woodbridge realizes the higher yield potential of First Position Commercial Mortgage Notes because of their extensive experience with commercial loans, first mortgages, and real estate acquisitions. They maintain a highly successful lending model built on years of handling large-scale commercial mortgages.

Woodbridge's clients understand that in today's uncertain environment, they offer safer alternatives to help them reach their financial goals. For private lenders seeking to earn higher fixed annual yields with the assurance that their **funds are secured by commercial real estate**, Woodbridge has the solution.

**Associated
INSURANCE GROUP**

Serving the Illinois and Wisconsin Stateline Area

First Position Commercial Mortgage Note Opportunity

Picture a unique lending opportunity with higher yields that is Simpler, Safer, and more Secured. That is exactly what First Position Commercial Mortgage Notes (FPCM) can achieve.

Woodbridge funds 1-year bridge loans to commercial property owners. Each bridge loan is secured by a valuable hard asset – the subject property itself. Each property holds a low loan-to-value (LTV) ratio. That means the property that secures these First Position Commercial Mortgage Notes are worth more than the loans themselves at closing.

The Advantages of FPCMs

As a private lender, you are recorded on title and acquire a first lien position on these notes. **Lenders are paid immediate monthly interest payments at a fixed annual yield of five percent (5%) for 1 year.**

Woodbridge is so confident in these notes that Woodbridge partners with you by lending their own funds and holding a second lien position behind your first lien position. Woodbridge contractually obligates itself by Promissory Notes and Loan Agreements to pay the monthly interest payments and return the principal at the end of the term.

Short Term, Dynamic Growth in a Secured Product

- Short Term of 1 Year.
- Fixed Annual Yields of 5%.
- Immediate Monthly Payments.
- Secured by Commercial Real Estate.
- Recorded First Lien Position.
- Woodbridge is Your Partner.

How does Woodbridge protect private lenders?

Assessment: Woodbridge thoroughly evaluates each property by conducting a comprehensive appraisal to confirm market value, and a title search is performed to make sure that lenders receive a first lien position.

Backing: As your partner and the second position lien holder, Woodbridge is obligated to make interest payments to lenders, regardless of the status of the underlying loan.

Collateral: With loan-to-value ratios of 60% or less, the property's equity is your collateral.

Woodbridge* Offers Lenders Peace of Mind

- 35 Years of Unsurpassed Experience & Reliability.
- Over \$1.5 Billion in Financial Transactions Completed.
- **Woodbridge Has Never Defaulted!**
- Proven Ability to Find Attractive Financial Opportunities.
- Performance and Stability.

FPCM Property Example

Northborough Drive - Houston, Texas



Appraised Value:	\$4,000,000
First Lien Position:	\$1,350,000
Second Lien*:	\$150,000
Loan-to-Value:	34%
Term:	12 months
Lender Price:	\$50,000
Interest Rate:	5%
Monthly Interest:	\$208.33

***Woodbridge holds the second lien position on all properties.**

Choose the opportunity that's right for you.

As a private lender, Woodbridge will provide you with available lending opportunities on a daily basis. These feature an array of properties nationwide that may range from \$50,000 to \$5,000,000. Select the one that works best for you and helps you achieve your financial goals.

**Call Jerry Schwartz
815-233-0547**

<http://www.freeportilinsurance.com/>

*Including its predecessor and affiliate entities, and principals.