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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017

New fitness club brings conditioning solutions to downtown Lena

By Tony Carton
EDITOR

Eric Korte has partnered with four extended family members to open and operate the new Lena Fitness Club, a clean and fun place to work out.

"We decided to bring our family into the business to make it more fun for ourselves and our clientele," said Korte. "We will be adding classes and other fitness related activities soon, so we can provide a nice service for those in our community that want a clean, fresh work-out facility without the pressure and exclusivity sometimes found in fitness spaces."

Among the classes the new club is considering is yoga, a 5,000+ year old body of knowledge. Yoga is all about harmonizing the body with the mind and breath through the means of various breathing exercises, yoga poses and even meditation. All too often, we see a person doing the headstand against some picturesque backdrop and say "Yoga is not for me," but by introducing ourselves to the practice with a qualified instructor and then finding a routine that builds our confidence we can gain the benefits offered by the science. Lena Fitness Club will soon be providing exactly those services.

Krote said the family opened their fitness facility in early January and are already seeing increased interest from the greater Lena community.

"We purchased the equipment from an earlier fitness facility here and rather than just continue their programs, we decided to start our own business and our own gym," Korte said. "We have our own ideas about what works with fitness and what doesn't, so we decided to go our own way."

Four of the five fitness club operating partners live in Lena and represent a long legacy of Lena business ownership.

"We owned and operated the ag construction company, Lena Sales for about 30 years," he said. "We are well versed with the community and the prospects of owning a business in a rural community."

The Korte family sees building those fitness programs that attract new membership and then providing motivation for participation as the challenges they are facing as they move to the future.

"We see this project as a fun and exciting undertaking," said Korte. "We are making changes here in the club in response to comments and suggestions we are receiving from our members. We have the facility staffed on a reliably regular basis, so when folks come in they always get a smiling face and a friendly hello as well as the fitness services and help they need to comfortably accomplish the goals they've set for themselves."

Hours at the Lena Fitness Club are comfortably set at Monday through Thursday 5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday hours are 7 a.m. to noon.

"We do offer extended hours to those folks that hold annual memberships," Korte said. "We know our clients have other activities underway during our regular hours and for one reason or another might not be able to get in on a day they've set into their routine, so we are able to offer 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week to help our clients achieve their goals. Sometimes an extra few hours on say, a Saturday afternoon or even on Sundays will make the difference for someone with scheduling conflicts."

The Korte family decided early on to not re-invent the wheel with their fitness club. They are just going forward, offering solid services and reliable, qualified help to all their clients.

"We've already begun some renovations," said Korte. "We've repainted and done extensive cleaning. We are installing new flat screens to pick things up a bit and make the time spent here more enjoyable. Our main priority is a happy gym member that sees positive results from their time at the club. We have extra equipment available, so folks won't be waiting in line for something and so their workouts will flow smoother. We want folks to come in, get their



TONY CARTON PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Five members of the extended Korte family have partnered to open the new Lena Fitness Club in downtown Lena.

workout completed and get back to their daily routine feeling good about reaching their fitness goals."

Learn more about the services available through Lena Fitness Club by stopping in the gym at 208 West

Main Street, Lena or call (815) 369-2587 or visit them on Facebook by searching Lena Fitness Club.

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Lena Library News

By Dixie Althoff
DIRECTOR

January has been quite warm and foggy! I am waiting for that big yellow circle in the sky to show up again. It has been a long time since we have seen it.

I guess these are the days when we all have to make our own sunshine!

Book discussion was held this morning. There were some good books discussed. Some of them were: Shakespeare's Restless World by Neal MacGregor,

No Place Like Home by Mary Higgins Clark, Amy Snow by Tracy Reese, and Love In Every Stitch by Lee Gant. One of our discussion regulars works at the Apple River Fort from May to October. She dresses in the clothing for that period when she works, and so she brought a dress that she had made to share with us. The dress was made entirely by hand and took her 100 hours to complete. She was very interesting and the dress was beautiful. The time period is 1832 and we thank Janice Myelle for giving us a look at the past!

The next book discussion will be held Feb. 22, at 9:30 a.m. Please plan to be with us. It is always an interesting and fun time.

Jan. 16, the after school group did not meet due to Martin Luther King Day.

This week they resumed and had a great day of indoor snow games. Before they began their games, they made a snack of marshmallows and pretzels for the arms and to hold the marshmallows together. Mini chocolate chips were used for the eyes, an orange slice cut for a nose, mini M&M's for the buttons, and a fruit rollup scarf. They were very cute and very tasty too! It was a very fun time.

The preschoolers have been having their share of fun too. On the 17, the theme was mittens and snowmen. For a craft each child made and decorated a snowman with his or her name on it. They glued them to blue paper and painted snowflakes on the paper with a Q-tip. Very cute. Books read were: Snowy Night, Red Sled, and Let it Snow.

Finger plays and songs were: Puttin' on mittens, We dress like that,

It is snowing, Snowman, and the Winter Pokey. The wall activity for the week was mittens on the tree. One of the favorites is always flannel board with mittens, snowmen, and snowflakes to match and hide.

The week the wall activity was snowflakes coming down. The book read was: Snowmen at night. For a craft they did scratch off mittens, snowflakes, and skates, and hats..

They also made the edible craft of snowmen, which was a big hit.

These children do many fun things in just an hour time slot. If your children are not involved, they are really missing some fun things to do. Remember, it is not late to get your children here. Ms. Kathy takes newcomers all year long!

New winter reads: Because You're Mine by Colleen Coble, Below the Belt by Stuart Woods, Guests on South Battery by Karen White, and Mistress by Danielle Steel. New JE: Pablo in the Snow by Teri Sloat. J fiction: Wardens Daughter by Jerry Spinelli.

New DVDs: Storks, Magnificent Seven, Sully, Suicide Squad, and Bad Moms.

Lots of new things, so come in and browse!

The library also has the book from One Book One Freeport here. The book chosen this year is: Gloryland by Shelton Johnson. There are several copies if you would like to pick one up. We ask that you read

it and then pass it on to someone else to read (keep it going). If you choose not to pass it on, just bring it back to the library for someone else to enjoy. Stop in and pick up one and a schedule of what is going on for programming at the Freeport Library for it. They have lots of good things planned. Watch the Shopper's Guide for future events and changes at the library.

Andrea Schultz

Winter joins Freeport

Community Foundation Board

The Freeport Community Foundation recently elected Andrea Schultz Winter to its Board of Directors.

"We are pleased to welcome Andrea to our board of directors," said Dan Schmitt, Executive Director of the Foundation. Andrea also serves on FCF's grant committee. "We believe that Andrea's extensive experience on our grants committee, as well as her community involvement, will be very valuable to our continued growth in helping to provide for the well-being of the citizens of northwest Illinois."

Schultz Winter is Associate of Planning & Design at Winter Design. Other community involvement includes: Steering Committee Member of the Collaborate Freeport Initiative, Board member of Freeport Community Public School

Fund, Secretary of Center School Parent-Teacher Organization, and a participant in the 2016-17 Highland Leadership Institute. She is a graduate of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she received a Masters of Architecture and Master of Urban & Regional Planning.

Other board members for 2017 are Kimberly Beggin, Patricia Burke, Craig Deininger, Richard J. Hauser, Kathryn J. Martinez, Kathy Moffatt, Craig Monks, Ann Reedy, Paulette Williams-Thomas and Larry Williams. The Freeport Community Foundation has a 42-year history as a community-based charitable organization guided by community leaders that are dedicated to providing financial solutions for current and future community needs.

Gordy Williams named Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce Board Chair

By Tony Carton
EDITOR

Gordy Williams is the newly elected Freeport Area Chamber of Commerce board chair. He is Marketing and Energy Department Manager with Stephenson Service Company since 1988 and lives in Freeport with his wife of almost 33 years and their son.

"The folks at the Chamber contacted me several years back expressing their interest in my joining the board," said Williams. "We met and I decided to join the board because I am very interested in the business future of Freeport."

He said his main focus as board chair is providing valuable service to the Chamber membership.

"We had a very busy and successful year last year not only in a supporting role as a board,

but also in a financial role while supporting the Small Business Collaborative and the A5 Initiative and growing them to become driving force behind the current 'All In Freeport' branding effort," he said. "This year we are looking at providing some customer service trainings and some sales support trainings for our members. We also want to make sure our members are fully aware of the marketing opportunities are out there for them through the Chamber. So, my main interest this year is making sure our members know



Gordy Williams

what we are doing and making sure our members know exactly what we can provide for them."

He identifies letting folks know that Freeport is a great place to live and raise a family among the challenges facing the area today.

"I think the branding initiatives that are already underway are addressing those challenges and we are moving in the right direction," said Williams.

He said keeping a primary focus on its membership and their needs is the key to the Chamber's continuing success.

"If we can provide those needs, the Chamber will continue to be successful," Williams said. "We are always looking at our surveys and putting more detailed questions in them to try and mine out that information so we can be better for our members."

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In remembrance of my father, Delbert William Bunker Sr. who passed away 50 years ago on February 3, 1967. I love you, miss you. I was sixteen when I lost you in the car accident. A day never goes by that I don't miss you or think about you.

Love, Your daughter,
Mary Lou
Bunker-Langy

270806

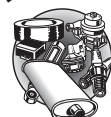
Go Panthers

Members of the Lena Winslow were kept on the edge of their seats during Friday's back and forth contest with the Stockton Blackhawks.

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TONY CARTON PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Good things come in small packages

Every year since 2004, the Le-Win Speech team has been attending a speech tournament that many small schools won't attend. It's a two-day tournament held the third weekend in January, and it's hosted by Downers Grove South High School, one of the biggest schools in the state that boasts a speech team with a membership that is one of the largest in the country. And every year, Lena-Winslow is one of the smallest, if not THE smallest, schools to attend.

One may ask, "Why would a small school from Lena even bother to attend such a large tournament with such stiff competition where no individual awards are almost a guarantee?"

Because the operative word is "almost".

"We learned a long time ago," said Head Coach Tom Fore, "That a school's and team's size has nothing to do with winning. It's all about preparation and confidence. We may not win some medal or trophy every year there,

but we're not afraid of anything because there's nothing to be afraid of. Kids are kids no matter where they're from, and a high school kid can only be so good at this stage in their lives. No one is a professionally-trained actor. They're just high school students in a speech contest, and we stand as good as chance as anyone."

So, did the Le-Win/Orangeville team win anything this year at Downers Grove? Nope. Not this time. The closest anyone on the team came was Orangeville sophomore Justin Malone, who finished tied for 21st out of 91 participants in his category of Radio Speaking.

"That 21st ranking is a little misleading," Fore said. "Unlike most tournaments where the top six or seven advance to a final round of competition, Downers Grove triples the number that advance to a semi-final round. The top six of these kids then advance to the final round. This is because of the enormity of the tournament. In most tournaments, there

are usually 20 to 30 participants per category. At Downers Grove, the average is 75. At 91, Justin's category was one of the largest where they took the top 16 to semi-finals. He missed the cut by just 5 kids. That's pretty good."

Lena's team has done very well over the years, though, placing a student in the final round in their first year of competition in 2004; that student, Kyle Rains, finished 5th in Humorous Interpretation.

Fore remarked that Le-Win/Orangeville has placed someone in at least the semi-final round in many of the 14 years they've attended the tournament.

"We made semi-finals in Dramatic Duet Acting last year and the year before that," Fore said. "We had two students advance to the final round in 2011 and 2012, and one of those two, Allie Long, who recently earned a graduate degree in communications from Arizona State, was tournament champion in Prose Reading in 2012. Every now and then, you hear things about how small schools can't compete against big schools in speech. That just isn't true."

So, why don't more small schools attend this "grand daddy of 'em all" tournament? Fore went on to say there is a certain intimidation factor involved and some teams don't want to deal with all that it takes to participate, or they take a "we'll never win, so why bother?" attitude. "Logistically, this is not an easy tournament to attend. It's an overnight trip for us, so many arrange-



COURTESY PHOTO Shopper's Guide

The Lena-Winslow/Orangeville Speech Team outside Downers Grove South High School following the two-day competition held January 20 and 21.

ments must be made, including getting kids out of school, transportation, hotel accommodations, among others. The kids perform in a minimum of three preliminary rounds over two days, so there's a lot of traveling back and forth between one place and another," Fore said. "When we get back Saturday night, we're absolutely spent, but it's worth the effort."

"And as far as the 'impossibility' of the event is concerned, it's challenging but not impossible," Fore said. "The hardest part may

be getting an invitation. But, once that's secured and the proverbial foot is in the door, smaller teams will realize the effort will pay off."

And, teams will come to realize that bigger tournaments mean better competition, which translates into improved performances for participating teams later on.

As stated by Lena-Winslow junior Eiley MacDougall, "Coming here is good for us because the competition teaches us how to get better."

Clarke University releases fall 2016 semester Dean's List

Joshua Prindle of Lena is named to the Dean's List at Clarke University for the fall 2016 semester. The list recognizes full-time Clarke students who have earned a 3.65 grade-point average or above, on a 4.0 scale, with a minimum of 12 graded hours. Clarke University is a Catholic university dedicated to preparing students

for career and life. Known for superb teaching and academics, Clarke offers more than 40 undergraduate liberal arts and pre-professional programs and six graduate degree programs. Founded in 1843 by the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Clarke is located near the Mississippi River in Dubuque, Iowa.

Highland College Dairy Judging team finishes season with second place finish

Competing with 15 teams, comprised of two-year colleges and four-year universities, the Highland Community College Dairy Judging team finished their season with a second-place finish at the Southwestern Exposition & Livestock Show in Fort Worth, Texas.

Participating team members were Anna Folgate, Pearl City; Hannah Hunziker, Ridott; Ellie Lenkaitis, Winnebago; and Riley Zettle, Rock City. The team was coached by Kristi Dinderman, Orangeville.

Judging consisted of several classes, including Brown Swiss, Jersey, and Holstein breeds, followed by four sets of oral reasons in which judges provide an explanation for their placing in dairy cattle evaluations. In the Jersey Breed, Riley Zettle was the second-place individual, and the team finished third. The team also finished third in Brown Swiss. In Holsteins, the team had a second-place finish.

In overall competition, Hannah Hunziker finished sixth, and Anna Folgate finished ninth while the team finished in second place.

The team would like to thank the following companies that have supported the Highland Dairy Judging



COURTESY PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Highland College Dairy Judging team members Anna Folgate, Pearl City; Hannah Hunziker, Ridott; Ellie Lenkaitis, Winnebago; and Riley Zettle, Rock City finished their season with a second-place finish at the Southwestern Exposition & Livestock Show in Fort Worth, Texas.

team: 1st Farm Credit Services, Furst-McNess Company, Hunter Haven Farms, Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau, Midwest Community Bank, Scheidairy Farms, Stephenson County Farm Bureau, Stephen-

son County Service Co. and Vita Plus Corporation.

The team would also like to thank the local dairy farmers that have opened their barn doors for practice.



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VIEWPOINT

Around the Northern Hills with Jo Daviess County



Annette Eggers
Farm Bureau
Manager

Hey, hey baseball fans! The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau is sponsoring a bus trip to see the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Chicago Cubs on Sunday, April 9th at Miller Park in Milwaukee. Game time is 1:10 p.m. Tickets are \$80 for Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members and \$85 for non-members. Price includes ticket to game and round trip transportation. Participants will have the opportunity to board the bus in Galena, Elizabeth and Stockton. A limited number of tickets are available; so call the Farm Bureau office at 815-858-2235 today to reserve your tickets. Tickets always go fast!

Here's something you already know...every day, politicians and regulators make decisions that impact the way you farm. Here's something you may have overlooked though...politics have changed - a lot! Don't feel discouraged. You can take back your influence in Washington, Springfield, and even your own backyard with the Illinois Farm Bureau's FB ACT program. FB ACT (Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team) started as a group of men and women who had an interest in the legislative process. That used to work. Today, your voice can easily be drowned out by others speaking out against you. When you join FB ACT, you are expected to do two things: vote and respond to action requests by emailing or calling your elected officials on key agricultural issues. Your involvement in additional activities will help to build your relationship with your elected officials and make these tasks easier, but most find these two tasks pretty simple ways to protect their farms. The FB ACT program also helps you find a comfortable, effective way to become an advocate with POW! Maybe it's emailing your legislator after you've put the kids to bed or speaking about an agricultural issue to your church group. Whenever you are already an FB ACT member or just curious about the program, call our office and learn what new opportunities await for you. For more information go to www.ilfb.org and click on FB ACT.

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.jodaviesscfb.com/scholarships/ or call the office at 815-858-2235. The application deadline is March 1.

Farm Fun Fact: February is National Cherry Month.

From the offices of IL State Senator Tim Bivins Senate week in review: Jan. 9-13

A broad-ranging bipartisan package of reforms, spending and revenue unveiled in the Senate during the week is being hailed by legislators from both sides of the aisle as the first step toward ending the state's historic budget impasse.

Also during the week, the 99th General Assembly adjourned Jan. 10 and the 100th General Assembly convened Jan. 11, with several new members.

Budget compromise unveiled in Senate

After nearly 18 months without a full budget, a package of legislation was unveiled in the Senate on Jan. 9 that provides a full-year budget with matching revenue, and tackles a broad range of issues, including term limits for legislative leaders, a statewide two-year property tax freeze, workers' compensation reform, pension reform, and reforms to trim the cost of government.

The legislation was largely the result of meetings between Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno (R-Lemont) and Senate President John Cullerton (D-Chicago). The negotiations were based on the framework developed by bipartisan, bicameral working groups throughout the year.

The package of bills marks the first time any of the recent bipartisan agreements have linked reforms, a budget, and revenue together. The legislation also features language linking the entire package together, so that all of them must be passed into law for any of them to take effect.

Many lawmakers and good-government organizations had previ-

ously criticized the General Assembly for taking up controversial and major legislation during the lame-duck session. In light of that, plus time constraints with 99th General Assembly adjournment, the two legislative leaders agreed to wait until the 100th General Assembly was sworn in Jan. 11 to refile the legislation. The delay will allow lawmakers, reporters, and residents time to more carefully consider the bills before they are voted on.

Leader Radogno said that while there is no firm timeline to pass the full slate of bills, she hopes action would take place on or before Feb. 1.

Gov. Bruce Rauner has been briefed on the legislation, and he offered support for the efforts of the Senate leaders to continue negotiating to find common ground.

Madigan pushes stop-gap budget

Despite the show of bipartisan cooperation in the Senate, House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) used the lame-duck session to instead push through another stop-gap budget proposal. The House legislation would provide \$258 million to human service programs and another \$400 million to higher education. The package would not, however, provide any new revenue streams or offer a full balanced budget, nor any reforms to shore up Illinois' long-term fiscal instability.

The Senate did not take action on the House legislation.

EDGE program extended

Both chambers of the General Assembly voted to pass Senate Bill 513, legislation to reinstate

the EDGE (Economic Development for a Growing Economy) tax credit program, which offers tax incentives to businesses for adding jobs in Illinois. It has been hailed by supporters as the state's best tool in bringing businesses to the state and encouraging existing companies to expand. The action was necessary because the EDGE program had expired at the end of 2016.

Illinois has offered \$1.3 billion in tax credits to create 34,000 jobs and save another 46,000 since the launch of the program back in 1999. Gov. Rauner is expected to sign the legislation.

100th General Assembly inauguration

A new General Assembly was sworn in Jan. 11 with several new legislators, including three new members in the Senate Republican Caucus.

State Sen. Dale Fowler (R-Harrisburg) was elected to serve the 59th Senate District, which covers the Southern tip of Illinois. Fowler most recently served as the mayor of Harrisburg, but spent decades in public service with the Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Corrections, and the office of the Secretary of State.

State Sen. Paul Schimpf (R-Waterloo) was elected to fill the 58th Senate seat vacated by retiring State Sen. Dave Luechtefeld (R-Okawville). Schimpf, a lawyer, is a retired Marine who served as the United States lead prosecutor in the trial of Saddam Hussein.

State Sen. Jil Tracy (R-Quincy) was elected to represent the people of the 47th Senate District. Tracy served as a State Representative from 2006 to 2015. She also previously served as the Director of the Illinois Attorney General's West Central Regional Office under both Republican Jim Ryan and Democrat Lisa Madigan.

After the Senate was sworn in, Gov. Rauner presided over the chamber during the election of Senate President. Sen. Cullerton was reelected to that post, while Sen. Radogno was again elected to serve as minority leader.

Senate institutes term limits for leaders

After swearing in new members, the Senate adopted its new rules, including - for the first time - term limits for legislative leaders. The new rule limits both the Senate President and Minority Leader to a maximum of five terms.

Senate Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 2, which would permanently create leadership term limits via Constitutional Amendment, is part of the larger budget/reform package unveiled earlier in the week.

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ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

ANITA W. WELLS

Anita W. Wells, 68, of Lena, IL passed away at home on Monday, Jan. 23, 2017. She was born on Feb. 9, 1948 in Watseka, IL. Her parents were Grayson Vertis Blocher and Betty Arlene (Jones) Blocher of Lena. She was educated in Lena-Winslow Schools and graduated in 1966.



Anita worked for Leininger, Wilken and Awender as a dental assistant in the 60's, also employed at Leamon's Furniture in Lena-later as an optician at NorthWest EyeCare in Freeport and Iron T Junction in Freeport. In later years she worked as a Pharmacy Technician at the Lena Drug Store.

Anita married Robert Bing Wells on Dec. 16, 1967 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena. Anita and Bing lived for a short time (extended honeymoon) in San Diego, California as Bing finished up his service in the Navy in early 1968 prior to his joining the Illinois State Police.

She and Bing were members of Salem United Church of Christ in Eleroy, IL.

Anita was an artist who was very adept at gardening, china painting and decorating her and Bing's home as well as the window of the Lena Drug Store for various holidays.

In life she showered her love on her husband and their wonderful and devoted children and grandchildren and their dogs, Gracie, Chloe, and Petey.

She was predeceased by her parents and an infant brother, David.

Surviving are her husband of 49 years, Bing, brother-in-law Walter Scott (Ann) Wells and sister-in-law Penny Stalder of Seattle, WA, and brother-in-law Michael (Sue) Wells of Rockford, IL. Their children Brooke Ellen (Greg) Brakebill of Peoria, IL, and son Robert Brent (Kelly) Wells of Sun Prairie, WI, as well as grandchildren Kira and Jenna Thomas of Peoria and Caleb and Abby Wells of Sun Prairie.

The visitation and memorial service were held Jan. 27, at Salem United Church of Christ in Eleroy, IL.

Rev. Randy Nicholas performed the services.

Cremation rites accorded.

Inurnment will be at a later date.

Special thanks to Angel's Aides and Monroe Clinic Hospice for their exceptional caring for Anita in her final weeks and days.

May God rest Anita's gentle and immortal soul.

A memorial has been established in her name.

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

ANNALEAH MARIE WAMPFLER

Anna Leah Marie Wampfler, infant daughter of Michael and DeeDee Wampfler, went to be with our Lord



and Savior before her birth on Thursday, January 26, 2017 at the Monroe Hospital. She is safe in the loving arms of Jesus and will be dearly missed by her parents, Michael and DeeDee; five sisters, Samantha, Eva, Lydia, Maria, and Emma; two brothers, Augustin and Carson; grandparents Stephen and Teresa Wulff of Stockton and Kevin and Kathy Rogols of Michigan; great grandparents Robert and Linda Dick of Lena; and great grandmother Deloris Wampfler of Stockton.

Visitation and a funeral service were held Jan. 29, at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton. A private burial immediately followed the service.

ANTONIO "TONY" J. LEDESMA

Antonio "Tony" J. Ledesma, age 94, of Stockton, IL passed away at home on Jan. 21, 2017. He was born on May 3, 1922 in Kansas City, MO to the late Eustasio and Rosa (Bravo) Ledesma. Tony married Elizabeth Mroz in 1950, she passed away in 1994. He later married Sharon Knauer in 1995.

Tony served in the U.S. Army as a Gunnery Sgt. during WWII. He retired from the Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad and had also worked as a painter. Tony enjoyed gardening and

watching western movies.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Ledesma of Stockton; sons, Steve (Nancy) Ledesma of McGregor, IA and Frederick (Julie) Ledesma of Grant Park, IL; sister, Ruth Juarez of Midlothian, IL; seven grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Eustasio and Rosa Ledesma, first wife, Elizabeth Morz, and sister, Lupe.

Burial will take place at Ladies Union Cemetery at a later date. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences can be shared with Tony's family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com

CARL R. SMITH

Carl R. Smith, 87 formerly of Lena passed away on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017. Carl was born on March 7, 1929 in Darlington, WI. He was the son of Layton and Bernice (Clinger) Smith. Carl married Patricia A. Gassman on Nov. 28, 1953. Carl was a graduate of Lanark High School in Lanark, IL. He worked as a foreman and group leader for Micro Switch MFG. for 30 years. He served his country in the United States Army. Carl was a member of the Salem United Church of Christ. He was an avid golfer and fisherman; he enjoyed playing horseshoes, for 20 years he lived at Lake Carroll which was his dream home.



Surviving are his sons: Brian (Margie) Smith of Orangeville, and Brent (Jo Sherman) Smith of Freeport, IL grandchildren: Aaron Smith of Pearl City, Natalie Smith of Orangeville, Kevin (Ashley) Smith of Woodstock, IL. Racheal Smith of Madison, WI, Stephanie (Adam) Haupt of Sidney, NE, Brendyn Smith of Traverse City, MI, and Brock Smith Freeport; great

grandchildren: Dayton and Peyton; step-great grandson Kade Smith; two sisters-in-law Ardith Kitner and Paula (Joe) Gerke.

Carl was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Patricia on Oct. 3, 2014, one brother, Gerald Smith.

Visitation and memorial services were held Jan. 28, at Salem United Church of Christ, Lena, IL.

Rev. Randy Nicholas performed the services

Burial will be in Salem Church Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

FLOYD M. COAD

Floyd M. Coad, 86, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017. He was born on Oct. 17, 1930 to Stanley and Myrtle (Hess) Coad in Apple River, IL. He married his first great love, Evelyn J. Quittschreiber on Aug. 14, 1951 in Lena, IL and was her loving husband for 50 years, until she went to her heavenly home in 2001. He was blessed to find the second love of his life, marrying Donna King in 2003.



Floyd served our country in the United States Navy from 1951 till

1955. He then returned home to work with his father in the family business, owning/operating Coad Well and Pump Company which was started by his grandfather in 1886. He was very well respected in the community, being a hard working, loving, kind and generous man, who was always up for a good hand of poker or a trip to the casino. Floyd was a jack of all trades, and could fix anything. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Apple River, where he served as an elder for many years. He served on the school board of the Warren School District for many years, as well. He was a member of the American Legion and the Apple River Lions Club. To his beloved grandchildren he was Papa, and was treasured and loved by all of them.

He is survived by his loving wife Donna of Tulsa, Ok; three daughters - Shirley (Jeff) Thompson of Warren, IL, Susan (Jerome) Vondra of Apple River, IL and Cynthia (Jeff) Aurand of Freeport, IL; seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; four step-children - Sylvia (Don) Ellsworth of Katy, TX, Bill (Julie) King of Traverse City, MI, Jim (Teri) King of Tulsa, OK, Tom (Allison) King of St. Cloud, FL; 14 step-grandchildren; one sister-in-law; two brother's-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, first wife Evelyn, one brother, and two sisters.

See OBITUARIES, Page 5

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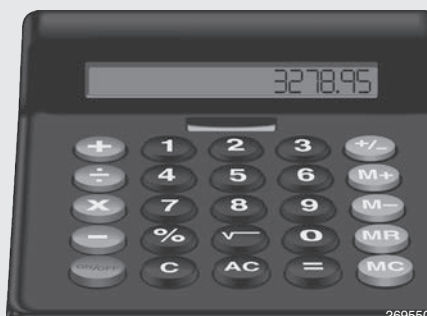
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• OBITUARIES (Continued from page 4)

Visitation was held Jan. 30, at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home.

Private family funeral services were held Jan. 31.

Officiating was Bill King.

Burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his name.

Condolences may be sent to the

family at www.leamonfh.com

JENEANE M. TREVETHAN

Jeneane M. Trevethan, 85, of Warren, IL passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017 at the Lena Living Center in Lena, IL, surrounded by her family. She was born on Aug. 27, 1931 to William and Rita (Jewell) Hamann

in Schapville, IL. She married John "Jack" G. Trevethan on Aug. 14, 1954 at the Scales Mound United Methodist Church. Jeneane



was a librarian for the CUSD #205. She was also a bookkeeper for the Jo Daviess County fair for many summers, she worked at the Savanna Ordinance Depot from 1941-1951 taking a part bombs from the Korean War, and she was a telephone operator. She was a member of the Warren United Methodist church where she was very active with the church activities. She enjoyed reading, listening to music, shopping "til she dropped," and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her children; Terry (Debbie) Trevethan, Jan (Mike) Barker, Sharon (Dave) Kaiser, all of Warren, grandchildren; Crystal (Alan) Austin, Curtis Trevethan, Luke (Crystal) Barker, Jase (Amanda) Barker, Jack (Makayla) Barker, Brad (Jinger) Kaiser, Lindsay (Tim) Campbell; 9 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Gladys Perkins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband John "Jack" in 1999 and her brother John.

Visitation and funeral services were held Jan. 29, at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren.

Pastor Roger Bronkema performed the services.

Interment will be at Elmwood Cemetery in Warren, IL.

A memorial has been established in her name.

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

LORRIE A. ANDERSEN

Lorrie A. Andersen age 53 passed away on Friday Jan. 20, 2017 at the Lena Living Center with her family



by her side. She was born on Dec. 18, 1963 in Georgia to Larry and Lorraine (Visger) Roach. She was employed at Snak-King in Freeport and also at Quebecor prior to their closing. She enjoyed music, dancing, collecting horses, tigers, and angels. She especially enjoyed being with her family and laughing.

She is survived by her children Jacob Long of Lanark, Jennifer Long of Pearl City and Jarrod Long of Pearl City. Granddaughters Ily Calhoun, Abigail Long, and Elizabeth Koppes. Siblings LeAnn (Duane) Bolland, Larry (Jane) Roach and LuAnn (Jeff) Klever, special family friend John Huber.

She was preceded in death by her parents and sister Lynette Roach.

A memorial service was held Jan. 28, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena.

A visitation was held Jan. 27, also at the Leamon Funeral Home.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

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

MARVIN G. ATZ

Marvin G. Atz, age 81 of Freeport, IL, passed away Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 at the Monroe Clinic Hospital in Monroe, WI. He was born at home on the farm in Massbach, IL on Feb. 10, 1935 to the late George and Martha (Endress) Atz. He attended Massbach Country School through the eighth grade. As a young adult, Marvin served in the United States Army from 1956 to 1958 and was stationed in South Korea. He also served in the United States Army Reserve from 1958 to 1962. Marvin married Marlene Groezinger on May 21, 1961 at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton, IL. He was a devoted husband for



more than 55 years. In Marvin's younger years he enjoyed roller-skating, which is how he met his wife, Marlene. He was a dedicated and respected worker for 41 years at the Freeport Vault Company (Tribute Precast). He was a former member of St. John Lutheran Church in Massbach and a current member of First Lutheran Church in Freeport. He was also a member of the Aladdin Knights (as he loved to collect antique Aladdin lamps). Marvin was an overall handyman - he could fix just about anything and was regularly asked for help by his children. He loved woodworking and making pieces of furniture for his family. He also enjoyed cooking, playing euchre, and especially going to auctions and flea markets. Marvin was an adamant believer in education and insisted upon his children going to college - he was extremely proud of their accomplishments. He was an avid Cubs, Bears and NASCAR fan. Marvin could not believe he was able to witness the Chicago Cubs win the 2016 World Series. Most of all he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Marvin is survived by his wife, Marlene Atz of Freeport; daughters, Cindy (Jeff) Cowman of Freeport and Lynda (Brian Dahlk) Atz of Madison, WI; son, Terry (Deleana) Atz of Freeport; grandchildren, Tyler Cowman, Emily Cowman, Kirsti DeHahn (fiancé Geoff Williams and daughter Hayleigh Williams), Heath Atz, Hallie Atz, Graham Atz, Paige Dahlk and Skylar Dahlk; great granddaughter, Adeline Miller; sisters, Loretta Hagen of Freeport and Virginia (Doug) Kubly of Forreston, IL; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and infant sister.

Visitation and funeral services were held Jan. 25, at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton Interment will take place at Ladies Union Cemetery in Stockton. A memorial fund has been established in his name. Condolences may be shared with his family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

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Marvin is survived by his wife, Marlene Atz of Freeport; daughters, Cindy (Jeff) Cowman of Freeport and Lynda (Brian Dahlk) Atz of Madison, WI; son, Terry (Deleana) Atz of Freeport; grandchildren, Tyler Cowman, Emily Cowman, Kirsti DeHahn (fiancé Geoff Williams and daughter Hayleigh Williams), Heath Atz, Hallie Atz, Graham Atz, Paige Dahlk and Skylar Dahlk; great granddaughter, Adeline Miller; sisters, Loretta Hagen of Freeport and Virginia (Doug) Kubly of Forreston, IL; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and infant sister.

Visitation and funeral services were held Jan. 25, at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton Interment will take place at Ladies Union Cemetery in Stockton. A memorial fund has been established in his name. Condolences may be shared with his family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

ROBERTA F. MEDEKE-THOMASSON

Roberta F. Medeke-Thomasson, 99, of Lena passed away on Monday January 23, 2017 at her home. She was born on Oct. 9, 1917 in Freeport, IL to Charles and Ethel (Roberts) Gitz. She married Tom Medeke on April 17, 1938 and he passed away on March 6, 1969. She married Burdette Thomasson on Aug. 22, 1977 and he passed away on Jan. 30, 2007. She was a lifelong farmer in the Lena area and she worked at Corns past-time and Lena golf course. Roberta enjoyed fishing, mowing her lawn, playing cards, being around people. She was an avid Chicago sports fan, NASCAR fan, especially Jeff Gordon.

She is survived by three children;



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OTHER PROPERTIES

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OTHER PROPERTIES

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• OBITUARIES

Anniversaries

(Continued from page 6)

Gene (Terry Henry) Medeke of Platteville, WI, Sharon (Bob) Thomas of Freeport, IL and Barbara Coomber of Freeport, IL. Grandchildren; Chad (Jill) Thomas of Wanunkee, WI, Mike (Kayla) Thomas of Springfield, IL, Todd Thomas of Port Huron, MI, Tammy (Tim) Munson of Dayton OH, Tracy (Trey) Pundt of Antelope, CA, Bridget (Geo) Stray of Lake Wood, IL, Stacy (Brendan) Beggan of Crystal Lake, IL, Brett (Sue) Coomber of McFarland, WI, Renee Chenong of Lena, IL, Mathew Coomber of Freeport, IL, Jamie (Rob) Ott of Lodi, WI, Jody Medeke of Madison, WI and Jenny (Tony) of Allen, TX; great grandchildren Rhett, Alyssa, Addison, Alexis, Mason, Knox, Chase, Tico, Tyler, Nicole, Allison, Bryce, Alexis (Chris), Christian, Jeremy, Trey, Shay, Abby, Grace, Zane, Alex, Brandon; three great-great grandchildren; step-children Judy (Larry) Buchenau, Steve (Mary Ann) Thomasson, Dick (Kara) Thomasson, Mary (John) Steele; step grandchildren Amy Buchenau, Beth (Allen) Rich, Dan (Kelli) Buchenau, Jason Thomasson, Joel Thomasson, Shauna (Chris) Lewis, Eric Thomasson, Jeffrey Steele, Matthew Steele, Mollie Steele; six step great-grandchildren; sister Bernice Zipse; several nieces nephews and cousins.

Roberta was preceded in death by her parents, first husband Tom in 1969, second husband Burdette in 2007; siblings Cletus, Emerson, Bob, and Thelma.

Funeral services were held Jan. 27, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. Visitation was Jan. 26, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL.

Pastor Kenneth Arndt performed the services.

Burial will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport, IL.

A memorial has been established in her name.

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



Myra and Larry Pearce

Larry and Myra (Tipton) Pearce to celebrate golden anniversary

Larry and Myra (Tipton) Pearce were married February 5th, 1967 in Argo Fay. After their marriage, they moved to Yuma Arizona where Larry was stationed with the Marine Corps. After his discharge, the couple returned to the area and eventually settled in Stockton where they still reside today. The couple had 4 children: Debbie Pearce of Ballwin, MO, Kris Pearce of Stockton, Patti(Troy) Adleman of Stockton, and Andy(Amanda Thompson) Pearce of Stockton. They also have 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandsons. The couple will celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a family dinner.



Betty and Clifford Mackeben

Clifford and Betty Mackeben celebrate sixty-fifth wedding anniversary

Clifford and Betty Mackeben, Stockton, will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Feb. 10. The couple was married in 1952 at the Evangelical United Brethren Church. They have been active members of the Stockton Community, raised four children, Joan, David (Lorna), Dan (Karen) and Cathy (Richard "Butch") Magee, and have been blessed with five grandchildren. Anyone wishing to congratulate the couple with a card can do so by mailing to: PO Box 1360, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29598

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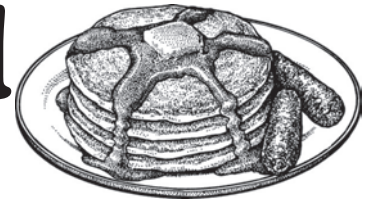
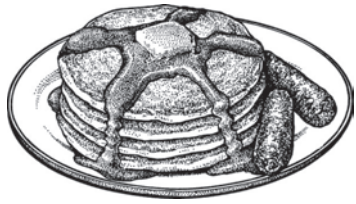
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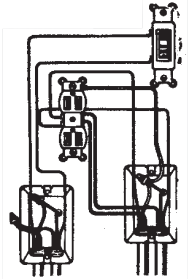
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 Rev. Susan Davenport (815) 947-2033
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 • *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*
 • *Sunday Afternoon Worship – 1:15 p.m.*
 • Wednesday Evening Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

411 S. Main Street, Pearl City, IL 61062
 email: pcumc@aeroinc.net
 Find us on facebook at
www.facebook.com/pcumcil
Pastor Matthew Smith (815) 443-2177
 • *Sunday Worship – 8:30 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – during worship after the children's message*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Tiffany Garcea
 Email: firstumceliz@yahoo.com
 • *Sunday Worship - 8:45 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School - 8:00 a.m.*
 • Women's Faith Group -
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Interim Pastor Miho Yasukawa
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 • *Sunday School – 10:45 a.m. (Sept. - May)*
 • Piece Corps Quilters –
 Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

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Pastor Michael Burdett (815) 858-3843
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 • *Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*
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 Sunday services broadcasted at 11:30 a.m. on
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151 S. Main, Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Bob Zdziarski - (815) 947-2986
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(Church luncheon following morning service)
 • *Sunday Afternoon Service - 12:30 p.m.*
 • Bible Study & Prayer - Wednesday Evening
 6:30 p.m.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

223 E. Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085
Father Mike Morrissey - (815) 947-2545
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 • *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.*
and 5:00 p.m.
 • Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.
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845 North Birch Drive, Lena, IL 61048
Pastor Randy Hockema (815) 369-4612
 • *Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 11:00 a.m.*
 • Wednesday Evening Adult Bible
 Study/Prayer, Kids 4 Truth for Children
 • Wednesday 7:00 p.m. - Junior and Senior
 High Teens

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

118 West Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048
Pastor Brian LeBaron (815) 369-5291
 • *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.*
 • *Daily Dial-A-Devotion 815-369-4411*

McCONNELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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<http://www.gbmg-umc.org/mcconnellumc>
mcconnellumc@yahoo.com
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 for dates and times
 • United Methodist Women – 1:30 p.m.
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 • *Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.*
 • *Bookworms Reading Group - 7:00 p.m.,*
2nd Monday of the month

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 (815) 845-2272
 Cell (815) 238-0670
www.schapvillezion.org
 • *Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*
 • Bible Study Classes Available

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Father Skrobutt (815) 745-2312
 • *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m.*
 • Reconciliation Sunday – 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
 625 Country Lane Drive, Lena, IL 61048
Rev. Rick Bader (815) 369-4035
 • *Sunday Evening Worship – 5:30 p.m.*
 • *Saturday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*
 • Blast Program at 9:00 a.m.
 • High School & Adult Sunday School at 9:15
 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
 229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062
www.stjohnspearlcity.org
Pastor Thomas Ekstrand (815) 443-2215
 • *Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
 • Christian Education for all Ages - 10:15 a.m.
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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Lisa Burbank
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105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001
Father Skrobutt (815) 745-2312
 • *Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.*
 • Reconciliation Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

410 West Lena Street, Lena, IL 61048
Father Skrobutt (815) 369-2810
 • *Saturday Mass – 4:00 p.m.*
 • *Sunday Mass – 10:00 a.m.*
 • Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 – 3:50 p.m.

ST. PAUL EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH - LCMS

411 West Catlin Street, Elizabeth IL, 61028
www.stpaulielizabeth.org
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 • *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
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Megan Preston Intern as Pastor
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 • *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*

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Pastor Roger Bronckema (815) 745-3647
 email: warrenumchurch@bhawk.net
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 • Adult Sunday School before Worship
 • Children Sunday School - During the service
 Communion Every First Sunday
 * *Handicapped Accessible*

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Hudson & Benton St.,
 Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Brenda Morris
 (815) 947-2541 or (815) 601-6742
 • *Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*
 • *Fellowship following service*
 • Adult Bible Studies Available
 • Communion Every 1st Sunday
 • Connections (meal and education for youth
 and adults) Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
 * *Handicapped Accessible*

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

197 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089
Pastor Robert Patin (815) 230-1862
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.*
 • *Sunday Evening Service – 7:00 p.m.*
 • Prayer and Bible Study – Wednesdays at
 7:00 p.m.

YELLOW CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

12602 W. Dublin Road, Pearl City, IL
Pastor Ellis Boughton • 815-864-2049
 Email: ellis.boughton@live.com
 • *Sunday Services – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.*
 (when available)

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

10100 W. Sabin Church Rd., Pearl City, IL
 61062
Worship Leader – Ed Curry (815) 541-3278
 • *Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School 10:15 a.m.*



CHURCH NEWS

St. John's to host Pancake Supper

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City will host their Annual Pancake and Sausage Supper on Wednesday, Feb. 1, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Luther Hall. The menu is Pancakes, Sausage, sausage gravy and biscuits, applesauce, cookies, cheese, milk and coffee. Tickets are sold at the door. Adults are \$7; three through ten years of age are \$3, five through two and under are free. Carry-outs will be available.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, Pastor Ekstrand will lead worship on the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. The worship service will begin at 9 a.m. After worship, the Prayer Shawl Ministry

will meet in Luther Hall. Whirl Sunday School will meet after worship on Feb. 5, and will focus on the lesson, "Worship and Justice." Confirmation class will also meet at 10:15 a.m.

Those in fourth grade and older who have not received their First Communion are encouraged to attend First Communion Classes on Feb. 5 and 19 at 11 a.m. They will then receive their First Communion on Sunday, Feb. 26.

The Fifth Quarter (seventh and eighth grades) will meet at 6 p.m. on Feb. 5, in the Youth and Family Center followed by Genesis (high

school) youth group at 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome to join in the fun and play Mexican Train Dominoes on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 9 a.m. in Luther Hall. Dominoes are played the first Tuesday of every month.

The Chancel Choir will rehearse at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 8, and the Joy Choir on Thursday, Feb. 9.

Bible Studies continue to be held at St. John's in the Conference Room on Mondays at 7 p.m. and on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. Members and non members alike are invited to join the Bible Study discussions. The East door to the Lower Level is open for your convenience.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church schedules Fifth Week of Epiphany events

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church will gather for worship Feb. 5, at 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, at 9:30 a.m. All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd on this Fifth Sunday of Epiphany with Holy Communion and the Installation of new Council Members. 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.

On Wednesday Feb. 8, 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!

On Thursday Feb. 9, The Friend-

ship Club will meet at 12 p.m. at Good Shepherd for Potluck and Bingo.

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.

Colton Brinker is going on a Mission Trip to Honduras He is asking for donations of hot wheels or match box cars and new girl hair pieces by Feb. 1.

Pearl City First UMC UMW to host soup and sandwich lunch

The Pearl City First UMC UMW will be hosting a soup & sandwich lunch on February 5th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The menu includes chili, bean and ham and chicken and rice soup and ham or egg salad sandwiches plus drink and dessert. Carry outs will be available. Adults-\$6, Children 5-12 \$3 and children under 5 are free.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Lena to host International Heritage Luncheon

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

Make plans to attend the International Heritage Luncheon on Feb. 12, at noon at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason Street, Lena.

For more information, please call (815) 369-5552.

A lap full of trouble



TONY CARTON *Shopper's Guide*

Cousins Audra, Brayden, Cameron and Addison all piled onto their Papa's lap under the watchful eye of their Great Grandfather to enjoy what had to be a pretty tall stack of cakes during Saturday's Lena United Methodist Church Pancake Breakfast.

Pslam

One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. *Psalm 27:4*

Salem United Church of Christ in Lena hosts 'Walk to the Cross with Christ' series

Please join us at Salem United Church of Christ in Lena. We continue our series called "Walk to the Cross with Christ." We bring the Bible to life by interactively reading the book of Matthew beginning at the start of Christ's ministry to his death on the cross. Our 10:30 a.m. worship

services will center on these Scriptures from chapters seven and eight and reinforce how "Christ walks alongside us." We anticipate the Holy Spirit working in our lives and communities as God speaks to us through His Word. For more information, please call (815) 369-4511 or visit us on Facebook. We are the "Old Stone Church with the Lighted Cross" located at 8491 W. Salem Rd, Lena.

Kent/Willow United Methodist Churches

Kent/Willow UMC will worship together Sunday Feb. 5, at 9 a.m. at Kent UMC. Pastor Brenda Morris will be giving the message and all are invited and welcome. Communion to all will be offered Tony Schubert; Pianist.

Sunday School is at 10:30 a.m. studying from the Holy Bible, all are invited and welcome to this time too.

Kent UMC is located right in the town of Kent, IL. For more info; call 815-601-6742



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Stockton Youth Soccer Registration

Will be held at the Stockton Park House

Tuesday, February 7th • 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 18th • 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Cost is \$20 per child (child must be 4 by April 1st)

\$5 Fee for late registration after the Feb. 18th registration

No registrations after Feb. 28th

Questions call Patti Adleman at 815-541-8435 or Becky Cahill at 815-858-4008



270352



COURTESY PHOTO Shopper's Guide

First hundred days

Lena-Winslow Kindergartners celebrate the 100th day of school.

Cultivating Master Farmers seeks applicants for class of 2019

Sometimes the best learning method is a conversation with someone who's been there, done that. Now in its twelfth year, the Cultivating Master Farmer program has provided just that: expert farm and family mentorship from folks who have walked the walk. This unique mentoring program links young farmers with a wealth of information from Prairie Farmer's Master Farmers.

Classes of approximately ten young farmers (21 to 35 years old) and ten Master Farmers are selected for the two-year program, which features six ag-related events, including a summer tour. The Class of 2017, which graduates in July, toured the St. Louis Science Center, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, the Bussen Fertilizer Spur on the Mississippi River and met with agriculture professionals at The Maschhoffs. They also heard from acclaimed speakers on estate/

succession planning, diversification on the farm, marketing strategies, how to give back, and managing working relationships with family members.

Like previous classes, incoming CMF members will have plenty of opportunity to hear from a top-notch slate of speakers. However, the real backbone of the program is the round-table discussion and relationship building, where young farmers learn from Master Farmers and vice versa. Upon the completion of the two-year program, participants will have developed lasting relationships that continue to yield solid farm advice even after the program's conclusion.

Young farmers have until March 31, to apply for an opening in the Class of 2019. Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in Illinois.
- Between the ages of 21 to 35 as

of Dec. 31, 2016.

Actively engaged in production agriculture.

Commit to actively participate in the two-year program.

Couples are encouraged to apply.

The Class of 2019 will be selected in April. The inaugural meeting will be held July 18, 2017 at Farm Credit Illinois, Mahomet.

The CMF application is available on select sponsors' websites including www.ilfb.org, www.prairiefarmer.com, www.growmark.com, www.1stfarmcredit.com and www.farmcredtil.com. The CMF program is sponsored by 1st Farm Credit Services, Farm Credit Illinois, GROWMARK, Illinois Farm Bureau, Monsanto and Prairie Farmer.

Holly Thomas of Orangeville named to SUNY Oswego President's List

Holly J. Thomas of Orangeville, a senior majoring in global and international studies, has been named to the President's List for the fall 2016 semester at SUNY Oswego. She was among Oswego students who achieved a grade point average of 3.80 and above on the 4.00 scale. Those achieving a GPA of 3.30 to 3.79 earned Deans' List recognition.

A 156-year-old comprehensive college in the State University of New York system, Oswego enrolls about 8,000 students in its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; School of Business; School of Communication, Media and the Arts; and School of Education. Visit oswego.edu for more information.

Intro to apple tree pruning: The older and neglected

University of Illinois Extension Local Foods and Small Farms Educator Grant McCarty will teach Apple tree pruning on Tuesday, Feb. 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Jo Daviess County Extension Office, 204 Vine St., Elizabeth, IL 61028. Registration cost for this program is \$5 and pre-registration is required by Friday, Feb. 10. To register or for more information on this program visit us online at web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw or call us at 815-858-2273.

Have you recently purchased some property that has apple trees but unfortunately, they have been neglected in recent years and you don't know what to do with them? Alternatively, maybe you have owned the property for years and you want to get the trees in better shape and producing to their full potential, or, you may have inherited property that has a number of mature apple trees. Whichever category you fall into, it is not too late to get your trees on the path towards productive yields. If any of these sounds like you, then this class is for you!

This course will go into the decisions you need to make when it comes to getting mature apple trees back into shape over the next couple of years. Topics to be covered include but are not limited to when to let go of trees, basics of seasonal/older pruning, disease/insect management, choices of tools to use when pruning, making the first cuts of a multi-year process, apple tree grafting options, and working through visual examples of trees that have been neglected.

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268659



TONY CARTON *Shopper's Guide*



TONY CARTON *Shopper's Guide*

Their royal majesties

Lena Winterfest Princess Addison Potter and Prince Ben IIs prepare to give their royal blessing to the annual bed race competitors before the races began on Saturday afternoon.

Supporting FFA

The Dinderman and Pauley families turned out Friday night for the annual FFA Pork Chop Dinner in Pearl City.

MAMMO

Myth #22



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Lena-Winslow plays-in to Lady Giants

By Chris Johnson
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The set-up for the opening round match of the Dakota Class 1A Regional features the Lena-Winslow Lady Panthers and the Orangeville Lady Broncos. Neither team had enough this season to compete for the NUIC Title and now they will have to do battle to determine who moves on to the Regional Semi-Final and a showdown waiting with the Alden-Hebron Lady Giants.

As the IHSA Selection Committee met on Thursday, Jan. 26,

the determination was made that Lena-Winslow would have to play on opening night in the Class 1A State Tournament opener. They were given the five-seed. Had they picked up one win more or gotten a more favorable nod, they could have opened the State Playoffs in the Regional Semi-Final Round, rather than in the "play-in" position.

A win over Orangeville in the opening round however, could lead to a shot at an upset of the three-seeded Lady Giants and in turn a

trip into the Dakota Regional Final match and a possible meeting with the Aquin Lady Bulldogs, the two-seed.

With the bracket set up the way it is, there is a good chance the Lady Panthers can advance into the Regional Final. They will have to work at it and they will have to play a style of basketball that keeps the scoring on the low side.

Over the past five games of the regular season, the Lady Panthers averaged around 31 points a game. During that stretch of games they

are 1-4. The Lady Panthers scored 16 in a loss to Prophetstown and followed it up with 31 points against Pearl City and 34 points against Galena. All three of the Lena-Winslow losses came to squads playing their best ball right now.

A win over Durand on Jan. 23 was short-remembered as River Ridge/Scales Mound pushed the loss column one higher for Lena-Winslow with a 37-30 win.

In the win over Durand, Lena-Winslow struggled to find the right mode of operation early as

they were outscored by four points in the first frame, 12-8. Things changed in the second for the Lady Panthers however. The 15-8 scoring advantage gave Lena-Winslow the halftime lead of 23-20.

The Lady Panthers stretched the advantage through the third frame as they once again outscored the Lady Bulldogs by four points in the period. After three, Lena-Winslow was on its way to the win as they carried a 33-26 edge into the fourth.

Durand fought back in the fourth and had their second best scoring period of the night, but they couldn't keep the charity shots from falling and failed to keep the pressure off the Bulldog's defense. Lena-Winslow outpaced Durand 12-9 in the final frame and took the night 45-35.

The final week of the regular season tipped-off for Lena-Winslow on Saturday, Jan. 28 as they played host to the West Carroll Lady Thunder. On Tuesday, Jan. 31 Warren is in for a meeting.

The regular season closers take place this weekend all across the NUIC as the IHSA Class 1A and 2A Girls' Basketball Playoffs begin at Regional sites across the State.

Lena-Winslow has a long road ahead of it, if a Dakota Regional Title is in the plans. Playing out of the five-seed position means they will have to run three straight games into wins, beginning with nine-seed Orangeville on Monday, Feb. 6 and followed by a Tuesday, Feb. 7 upset of three-seed Alden-Hebron in the Regional Semi-Final.

Another upset of two-seed Freeport Aquin would be required, that is if the Lady Bulldogs win their own Regional Semi-Final over the survivor from the six-seed Dakota and seven-seed Warren play-in game, which takes place on Monday Feb. 6 as well.

Have a Happy Valentine's Day!



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Lena American Legion Auxiliary schedule February meeting

The February meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Feb. 8, at the Lena American Legion Home at 7 p.m. We will be voting on delegates to the American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State, making tray favors for the hospitalized veterans discussing the Pie Baking Contest, Soup Tasting luncheon and the Lady Veterans Brunch. We will also be collecting canned food for the Food Pantry. Dues will be collected. New members are always welcome. Rose Marie Bruegger is in charge of the social hour.

Lena hosts Winterfest Festival



TONY CARTON PHOTOS *Shopper's Guide*
 (Above, left) Graham and Jonah Schubert join their mom Stephanie in a hearty competition in the snowshoe section of the Winterfest kids games held Saturday in Lena's Lions Park.
 (Above) Steve Rothschadl, Bill Hooker, and Brad Moore manned the flippers and griddles during the annual Lena United Methodist Church Pancake Breakfast featuring AJ's Meats delicious sausage, staged Saturday morning in conjunction with Lena Winterfest.
 (At left) Members of the Highland Community College Servant Leadership Stockton Chapter served "tacos in a bag" during Friday night's Stockton v Lena Winslow basketball game to benefit the program's regional Hearts and Hands for Hunger Project.

Jeri Strohecker and DeVoe Floral and Flowers by Paris owner Paris Hughes lift a glass and toast Winterfest during the festival's Wine Walk held throughout downtown Lena.



Roger Schamberger finishes a bit of paperwork under the watchful eyes of this year's Lena Winterfest Scavenger Hunt competitors before the games began from the hunt's starting point in the Lena Brewing Company.

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WHAT WOMEN WANT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Visit Your Local Merchants for Great Gift Ideas for your Loved One



The Science of Chocolate

The U of I Extension will be offering the Science of Chocolate workshop, Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Jo Daviess County Extension Office, 204 Vine St, Elizabeth, IL 61028, from 1-2:30 p.m. To register, call the Extension office at (815) 858-2273 or

visit us online at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/jsw/>. There is a \$10 registration fee, which covers educational materials.

During this workshop, we will explore the history of chocolate, the various types of chocolate, how these

different types are often used, and the effects chocolate has on the body. We will also sample tasty treats and send you home with great recipes.

February is national Chocolate Month, and what better way to celebrate than to join University of Illinois Extension Educator, Diane Reinhold as we explore the Science of Chocolate.

In addition to February being National Chocolate Month, February is also American Heart Health Month. You may be wondering how such two different awareness campaigns happen to fall within in the same month. However, they may not be as different as you think.

American Heart Health Month brings awareness about the leading cause of death in the United State, heart disease. Cardiovascular disease

or heart disease generally takes decades to develop; therefore, it is commonly referred to as a silent killer.

"Prevention is key and needs to begin early on in one's life. Making small consistent changes in our lifestyles will have a significant impact on our long-term health outcomes. The small changes you make however must become a part of one's overall lifestyle and not simply a fad," states Reinhold. Choosing to limit the amount of processed foods in your diets, consuming the recommended amounts of fruits and vegetables, and making physical activity a priority are all part of a heart-healthy lifestyle.

At this point, you may be wondering, but how does National Chocolate Month complement American Heart Health Month? Well, research has shown us that there are some health

benefits to consuming chocolate.

Nutrients found in the cocoa bean, such as flavonoids help the body's cells reduce the amount of damage caused by normal bodily processes, such as breathing, moving and environmental contaminants. Flavonoids, which are a group of antioxidant compounds give plants their bright colors, and provide us with health benefits. Cocoa for instance, the main ingredient in dark chocolate contains high amounts of epicatechin, which may help lower blood pressure and improve vascular function. In other words, a small piece (1 ounce) of dark chocolate a few times a week may help in the prevention of heart disease. Of course, moderation is key and consuming other foods rich in flavonoids such as apples, blueberries, tomatoes, tea, onions and cranberries will be beneficial.

We hope to see you there!

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A little levity to lighten your day

The husband had just finished reading a book entitled "You Can Be The Man of Your House." He stormed up to his wife in the kitchen and announced, "From now on, you need to know that I am the man of this house and my word is Law. You will prepare me a gourmet meal and when I'm finished eating my meal, you will serve me a sumptuous dessert. Afterwards, you are going to draw me a bath so I can relax. You will wash my back and towel me dry and bring me my robe. Then, you will massage my feet and hands and fluff my pillows and make me comfortable for a good night's sleep. Then tomorrow, guess who's going to dress me and comb my hair?" The wife replied, "The funeral director would be my first guess!"

Valentine Give-Away

Each participating Lena business is giving away a Valentine Teddy bear and a box of chocolates. Sign up to win and you will also be entered to win the Grand Prize of a dinner for two at a Lena restaurant.

Names drawn on
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2017 State of the State Address

By Bruce Rauner
ILLINOIS GOVERNOR

Ladies and Gentlemen: It is an honor to stand with you today to discuss the State of our State. Despite the problems and uncertainties we face, I am deeply optimistic about the future of our beloved Illinois. We have big challenges and like many of you, I'm frustrated by the slow pace of change in Springfield. But with great challenge comes great opportunity. By working together, we can overcome any obstacle. We have the best people and best location of any state in America. Through bipartisan cooperation, Illinois can once again be the economic engine of the Midwest and the home of innovation and prosperity for everyone.

Two years ago, when our Administration came into office, we set about to return Illinois to a state of growth and opportunity. We knew that we could not simply tax our way out of our fiscal problems; we needed to grow; we needed to fix a broken system. We needed to make Illinois more welcoming to job creators; to restore confidence in government; and to ensure that all of our children could receive a high quality education and job training so they could obtain high-paying careers here, at home.

Given those realities, we set key goals for our Administration:

- Make Illinois the most ethical and efficient state in the nation
- Invest in education so that Illinois has the best schools and vocational training in every neighborhood and in every community
- And most importantly, make our state more competitive, more attractive to job creators, to grow our economy and bring more good-paying jobs to our state

Working together, we've begun to accomplish these goals, but much remains to be done.

Inside government over the past two years, we've made great strides in ethics reform. We closed the revolving door on Executive Branch employees leaving government to become administration lobbyists. We tightened the gift ban loopholes that lobbyists and contractors used to influence regulators and win favor with decision makers. We increased transparency, so that any resident of the state can now go online and review state spending on contracts and at-will hires. We required more comprehensive economic interest statements so we all could see who was being paid, and by whom. We cleaned up the hiring mess we inherited at IDOT – and we're working cooperatively with Michael Shakman to strengthen state hiring rules even more.

We are modernizing and streamlining state government, and building toward a higher level of transparency through our new Department of Innovation and Technology. In the last year, the Department has protected more than 5 billion records of Illinois residents that were previously left unsecured and unencrypted... and we're moving millions of pieces of paper out of file cabinets and into the digital age.

Kirk Lonbom leads our cybersecurity efforts at DoIT. He is working around the clock to ensure that our efforts are successful and state records are secure. He is here today, let's give him a hand.

We've cut red tape and made it easier for constituents to interact with state government. We are moving to a digital application process for professional licenses and reducing processing times by 70 percent. We are cutting paper and postage costs through online license renewal notifications, saving money and 16,500 hours of work every year.

Richard Morris works for the Department of Financial & Professional Regulation and has been a leader in our transformation to online licensing. Working across agency lines and with professional associations outside of government, he has put the time and effort in with the right people, at the right level, and at the right time to make this initiative a success. He is here with us today – let's all give him a hand for his service to our state.

We are using technology and innovation to stop fraud and abuse, and we're already saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars inside Medicaid alone. And working together, we enacted historic reforms to crack down on unemployment insurance fraud as well.

We signed innovative new contracts with 20 of our state government unions to drive more value for taxpayers, by paying more for productivity and high performance rather than just seniority; by starting overtime pay after 40 hours rather than just 37.5; by adding greater flexibility in the workplace; and, we have laid the groundwork for allowing volunteers to work at our state parks and health facilities. These are all common sense changes that are good for employees and taxpayers alike.

We formed a bipartisan task force led by Lt. Gov. Sanguinetti to recommend ways we can reduce the cost of our bloated bureaucracy and worst-in-the-nation 7,000 units of local government. Every dollar we save in reducing bureaucracy is a dollar we can invest in education and human services, along with reducing our highest-in-the-nation property taxes. The task force made 27 recommendations that we can implement together through legislation to save hundreds of millions of dollars. The communities of Grayslake and Hainesville are leading by example, saving \$500,000 per year through sharing services while providing more support to their local police.

Grayslake Mayor Rhett Taylor is with us today. Let's give him a round of applause for his service – and for setting an example for all of us to follow.

We worked hard to change our broken political system and restore competitive general elections in our state. We encouraged the people of Illinois to put more than one million signatures on petitions to get term limits and fair maps on the ballot. Unfortunately, our judges, who

themselves are elected through our state political process, decided that a million signatures weren't enough. They decided that only you, the members of the General Assembly, could pass the necessary legislation to enable the voters to have their say.

I ask you today, on behalf of all the people of Illinois – Democrats and Republicans – please do the right thing and pass the bills to put term limits and fair maps on the ballot. Let the people decide these issues for themselves. End the power of incumbency and special interest groups, and give power back to the people of our state. Illinois turns 200 in 2018. What better time to give us a brighter next 200 years than by bringing greater integrity to our political system?

When it comes to providing a better future for the people of Illinois, nothing we do together is more important than educating our young people. We all want our children to be able to stay here in Illinois with good-paying jobs. And we want employers to come to Illinois because we have the best people. So our administration has made education from cradle to career a top priority.

Two years ago we delivered unprecedented funding for our K-12 schools, and the next year we came back and did it again. In all, our kids are receiving \$700 million more per year from the state than two years ago, including an extra \$100 million for early childhood education. The practice of proration has come to an end.

We formed a bipartisan task force to recommend changes to the unbalanced way our K-12 public schools are funded. For years Illinois has provided the lowest percentage of education financial support from any state in the country. And we have the largest gap between funding for high income schools and low income schools in the country, both across the state and within the city of Chicago. The task force expects to finish their work in the coming weeks, and we look forward to working on a bipartisan basis to implement their recommendations.

We created the Governor's Cabinet on Children and Youth, bringing together all state agencies that serve our children to ensure that Illinois' young people are healthy, safe, well-educated and on the road to becoming self-sufficient. The commitment, cooperation and effective problem solving among the agencies involved is extraordinary; in partnership with external partners in the private sector, they will make Illinois a better place for all children.

Working with the Illinois State Board of Education, local high schools, community colleges and local employers, our youth Cabinet is striving to expand vocational training and apprenticeship programs for all our high school students so each of them has a clear path to an attractive career.

Another critical initiative of the Children's Cabinet is reducing young children's exposure to lead. We're proud to recognize Jen Walling from the Illinois Environmental

Council, who is working with us on this effort, and she's here today. On Martin Luther King Day, all of us, Democrats and Republicans, stood together in signing a bill that requires all schools and day care centers to test their drinking water regularly, and inform parents of the results. Dr. King spoke about the threat of lead in 1966, so it was particularly appropriate that we were able to sign that important piece of legislation on his birthday.

Reducing lead exposure—which disproportionately affects low-income children and children of color—is a social justice issue. So too is ensuring that we provide a means for those in our criminal justice system to rehabilitate and return to productive lives. Over the past two years our Administration has worked to reform our criminal justice system, reduce recidivism and address underlying behavioral and mental health issues for those in our systems of care, in order to keep our communities safer.

We're making great strides in implementing initial recommendations from our Commission on Criminal Justice Reform – helping non-violent ex-offenders get back on their feet and giving them meaningful skills to find employment. We're turning around the Department of Children and Family Services, and we've safely reduced the juvenile justice population by 49%. We've shuttered the outdated Roundhouse at Stateville Prison while repurposing two other facilities in Murphysboro and Kewanee as life skill centers to help non-violent offenders return to the work force more effectively.

Sadly, our progress in reducing non-violent crime is overshadowed by the skyrocketing rate of violent crime in Chicago.

The violence occurring in Chicago every night is intolerable; we've got to bring it to an end.

Violence experts say there's no single cause and no single solution. But with the right mix of policies – with a joint commitment between the city, the county, the state and the federal government – we can and must find solutions to curb the violence.

At the Illinois State Police, we're providing the Chicago Police Department with a wide range of resources – and we stand ready to do more wherever and whenever called upon. Our troopers have already surged to counter the violence that's spilled over to our expressways – and we're committed to hiring more State Police officers to help patrol Chicago expressways, and other high violence areas.

Law enforcement plays a critical role in violence reduction – but in the end, it's a treatment, not a cure. Addressing the roots of this plague will take much more: to restore hope where hope has been lost, to build a long-term future of quality education and good jobs for communities that need it most. Tearing down the barriers to good jobs and economic opportunity. Getting rid of blight and incentivizing redevelopment. Mak-

ing sure both the state and Chicago Public Schools treat low-income kids the same as high-income kids. Giving parents more choices and support to give their kids a world class education. Putting vocational training back into our high schools so young people can see a clear path to a career rather than falling victim to the gang recruiters.

As my good friend Reverend Marshall Hatch has said, nothing stops a bullet like a job. And so we are focused on building opportunity in every community in our state so that EVERY resident of Illinois can share in the American dream. That's our single greatest priority: growing more good paying jobs everywhere in Illinois.

Improving transportation is critical to our goal of growing more jobs across the state.

We've advanced critical transportation projects to improve the quality of life for residents, and attract new families and businesses. We rebuilt 62 miles of Interstate 90 between Rockford and Chicago and replaced or rehabilitated 100 bridges along the way. We expanded the I-57/70 corridor in Effingham and completed a new flyover ramp connecting the Dan Ryan and Eisenhower Expressways in Chicago.

With your approval in the General Assembly, we are hoping to create a public-private partnership to create a new managed lane on I-55 paid for by private investors – not taxpayers. The project will create thousands of construction jobs, expand the quality of life for commuters, and support faster economic growth throughout the region.

We created a partnership that draws upon the wisdom and experience of our state's top business executives to recruit employers. We call it Intersect Illinois, and it includes people like Sheila Morgan of the Minority Supplier Development Council; Inga Carus, a 30 year environmental business leader and Chairman of the Peru, Illinois-based Carus Group; Jim Wong a CEO and business entrepreneur with more than 20 years experience; and Chairman Jim Schultz – a fifth generation Illinoisan and agribusiness entrepreneur – working together to bring hope and opportunity to our state.

Sheila, Inga and Jim Wong are here today, let's thank them for their service to our state.

They've already been successful in recruiting employers like Amazon to expand here in Illinois – creating thousands of new jobs across our state.

Working with the General Assembly, we were also able to save jobs in the Quad Cities and in Clinton by passing legislation that ensured energy plants there stayed open. We protected families and job creators by putting caps on business and residential energy rates. And at the same time, we were able to advance green energy by improving our Renewable Portfolio Standard that will lead to billions of dollars in private investment in wind and solar energy.

Pearl City prepares for Stockton's rebound-attempt

By Chris Johnson
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Lady Wolves are in an optimistically-strong position as they get set to tip-off the Class 1A State Tournament at River Ridge High School. They also know who they will be facing in the first round in the Class 1A Girls' Basketball Playoffs. It is a very familiar opponent and one which may be looking for payback.

The IHSA Selection Committee met on Thursday, Jan. 26 and made the decisions as to which teams will play where and against whom when the post-season begins. Pearl City was issued the four-seed. Their first round opponent, Stockton, was given the eight. On Thursday, Jan. 26 as seeds were being calculated, Pearl City and Stockton played. The Lady Wolves won but had to go to overtime to do it, 52-50. Following the match, both teams became aware of where they would start the post-

season. They are in Hanover and will be joined by Forreston, Galena and the co-op of River Ridge and Scales Mound.

River Ridge and Dakota High Schools will host the first-round games beginning Monday, Feb. 6 in one half of the Sectional play-in bracket. The other two Regional Host sites will be in Pecatonica and Erie.

The four Regional Champions will head to Pearl City the week of Feb. 13 to compete for the Sectional Title and the right to move on to Oglesby for the State's Elite Eight and the Class 1A Super-Sectional Crown at Illinois Valley Community College. All Class 1A and 2A Girls' Basketball Regionals across the State of Illinois begin on Monday, Feb. 6.

For Pearl City and Stockton however, they won't have to lace them up until Wednesday, Feb. 8. The match featuring the two NUIC-familiars will start around 7:30 p.m. and follows completion of the first Regional Semi-Final Game, which involves the top-seed Galena Lady Pirates.

Forreston the nine-seed and River Ridge the ten-seed will have to survive Monday night, in a "play-in capacity." Their reward will be a Regional Semi-Final showdown with the NUIC-leading and number-one seed Galena Lady Pirates.

Pearl City's recent conference win over Stockton, 52-50 on Jan. 26, gives them a slight edge heading into next week's "win-or-go-home" showdown. They got the four-seed, but that doesn't assure it is going to be easy to get by eight-seed Stockton a second-time in less than two weeks. In the loss to Pearl City, Stockton found a way to shut down Tyra Clark, Kayla Runkle and Tia Clark long enough to get a shot at overtime. That's hard to do on a consistent basis.

Pearl City played slightly ahead into the first period. The effort helped nurse a three-point lead into place. Entering round two, the Lady Wolves were in front 13-10. They

got stronger in the second and tacked on a nearly double-digit cushion. At the half, Pearl City was up 29-17.

Efforts and fortune shifted in the third as Stockton's inside game started getting more looks and they counted more often. After winning the third period by a 16-12 margin, Stockton found itself back within eight points, 41-33.

The defensive pressure did not let up in the final period. Stockton forced Pearl City away from the rim and controlled the scoreboard with eleven points added to the pre-overtime total. Pearl City scored three points in the fourth and saw the

eight-point lead dissolve at the final buzzer. With the match tied at 44-all, overtime began.

Pearl City had that one extra look and made it work during the bonus play-period. They took the lead and held on through the final, final-buzzer. The 52-50 win helped close the regular season series with the Lady Blackhaws.

Now Pearl City can look forward to seeing Stockton all over again and in less than one week, when the IHSA Class 1A Girls' Basketball State Playoffs tip-off in Hanover. The winner will move on to get their chance at the Regional Title.



Specials Good

Thursday, February 2nd - Tuesday, February 7th

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- ~ USDA Choice Black Angus Boneless Beef Sirloin Tip Steak • **\$3.49/lb.**
- ~ USDA Choice Black Angus Boneless Beef Sirloin Tip Roast • **\$2.99/lb.**
- ~ Family Pack Boneless Pork Loin Butterfly or Thick Cut Chops • **\$2.89/lb.**
- ~ Boneless Center Cut Pork Loin Roast • **\$2.69/lb.**

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- Nabisco Assorted Snack Crackers • **7.5-9 oz. • \$2.79**
- Nabisco Ritz Crackers • **13.7 oz. • \$2.79**
- Nabisco Easy Cheese • **8 oz • \$4.49**

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TONY CARTON PHOTO Shopper's Guide

A royal celebration

Aaron and April Potter joined with their daughters Allyse and Addison to celebrate Addison's coronation as Lena Winterfest Princess at Coach's on Thursday evening.

Mighty Richland

Players to stage

Trivia Night fundraiser

The Mighty Richland Players Desert Theater will be hosting their annual trivia night. It will be held at Route 20 Bar and Grill, 2051 N. AYP Rd, Freeport, IL, on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. with trivia beginning at 6:30 p.m. Food and beverages are available for purchase.

The game is played in teams. Teams can range from four to six people, and it is \$10/person to participate. Wonderful prizes have been donated, and this event is a fundraiser for the Mighty Richland Players in Orangeville, IL. There are cash prizes for the winning teams, and a raffle that will be held throughout the evening. Register early and earn free answers. Call (815) 819-1310 or email mightyrichlandplayers@gmail.com.



TONY CARTON PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Twisted Metal food drive

Tiara Winters and Twisted Metal owner Tim Thyberg were kept busy packing the food donations that came in during their week long food drive benefiting area food pantries.

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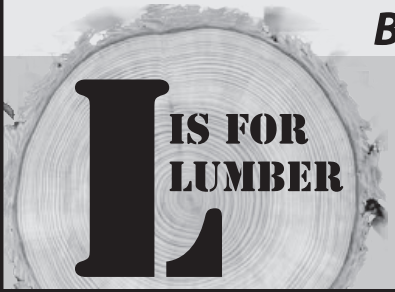
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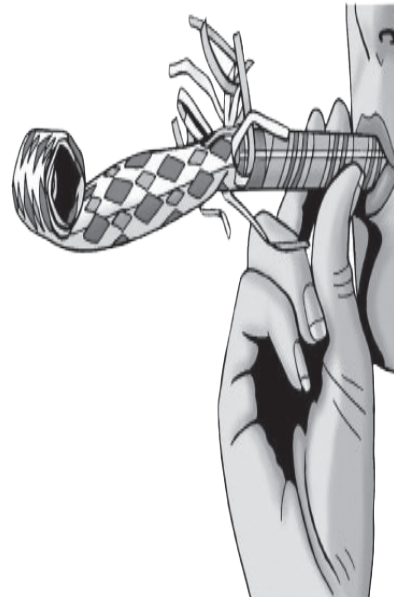
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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN

I think everyone is still looking for the sun! It will be our luck that it will shine on Groundhog Day when it hasn't been out for more than a week. I think that means lots more winter. The rain and fog has left us, and now the colder weather has returned. We certainly had a January of contrasts. It will end this coming week and so will football. The Super Bowl will be on Sunday. My usual Super Bowl column always includes some great party appetizers. This year is no exception.

The first recipe is for an easy cheese dip. It is great on bagel pieces or crackers. The use of ranch dressing gives it a little zip. You can roll it in a ball in wax paper or Saran wrap or put it in a dish. Use your favorite beer as the flavor of the day.

Beer Cheese

1 C. cream cheese
 ½ C. shredded cheddar cheese
 3 T. beer
 1 envelop ranch dressing

Combine the cream cheese, cheddar cheese, beer, and ranch dressing mixing well. Serve on crackers or bagels.

This next recipe is an easy way to serve meatballs. I like it because it is a little different than the traditional red sauce that meatballs usually come in. The meatballs take a little preparation. If you bake them first, there is no grease. I suppose

you could use prepared frozen meatballs, but this recipe has the addition of soy sauce instead of the usual Worcestershire sauce. The flavor goes well with the cranberries. Put the mixture in the crock-pot, and you are ready for an afternoon football party.

Cranberry Appetizer Meatballs

2 large eggs, lightly beaten
 1 C. bread crumbs
 ¼ C. parsley
 1/3 C. ketchup
 2 T. finely chopped onion
 2 T. soy sauce
 2 garlic cloves, minced
 ½ t. salt
 ¼ t. pepper
 2 lbs. ground beef
 Cranberry Sauce
 1 can (14 oz.) whole-berry cranberry sauce
 1 bottle (12 oz.) chili sauce
 1 T. brown sugar
 1 T. yellow mustard
 1 T. lemon juice
 2 garlic cloves, minced

Preheat the oven to 400. Combine all the ingredients for the meatballs except the ground beef in a large bowl. Crumble the beef over the mixture and mix well. Shape into 1-inch balls.

Place the meatballs on a rack in a shallow baking pan. Bake until no longer pink, about 15 minutes. Transfer to a 3-qt. slow cooker.

In a large saucepan, combine all sauce ingredients; simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour over meatballs. Serve warm.

If you would rather have a warm cheesy beer dip. This next recipe is for you. Again it is in the slow cooker, so after the initial preparation, there is nothing for you to do but enjoy! What is better than cheese and bacon on almost anything? I love the use of pretzel rolls instead of bagels or crackers.

Slow Cooker Cheddar Bacon and Beer Dip

2½ pkgs. cream cheese (8 oz. each), softened
 ¼ C. sour cream
 1½ T. Dijon mustard
 1 t. garlic powder
 1 C. beer
 2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
 1 lb. cooked and crumbled bacon strips, divided
 ¼ C. heavy whipping cream
 1 green onion thinly sliced
 Pretzel buns, cut into bite-sized pieces

In a greased 3-quart slow cooker, combine the cream cheese, sour cream, mustard, and garlic powder. Stir in the beer, cheese and all but 2 tablespoons of bacon. Cook, covered, on low, stirring occasionally for 3-4 hours.

In the last 30 minutes, stir in the heavy cream. Top with onion and

remaining bacon. Serve with pretzel bun pieces.

I have had a lot of stuffed mushroom recipes. Some are made rather simply, and others are more time consuming in the preparation. I like this one because it uses different cheeses and also combines spinach and artichokes. I think this is a really nice looking appetizer. Enjoy these different tasting little treats.

Spinach Artichoke-Stuffed Mushrooms

3 oz. cream cheese, softened
 ½ C. mayonnaise
 ½ C. sour cream
 1 can (14 oz.) water-packed artichoke hearts, rinsed, drained and chopped
 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
 1/3 C. shredded mozzarella cheese
 4 T. shredded Parmesan cheese, divided
 ¾ t. garlic powder
 30 to 35 large fresh mushrooms

Preheat the oven to 400. In a small mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese, mayo, and sour cream. Stir in artichokes, spinach, mozzarella cheese, 3 tablespoons Parmesan cheese and garlic powder.

Remove stems from mushrooms (discard stems or save for use in soup). Fill each mushroom cap with about 1 tablespoon of filling. Sprinkle with remaining Parmesan

cheese.

Place on a foil-lined baking sheet. Bake at 400 for 16-20 minutes or until mushrooms are tender.

Man or woman cannot live on appetizers alone, so I have included a great Mexican casserole recipe. It is pretty easy to make. You can buy the enchilada sauce in most grocery stores and specialty food stores. If you can't find the 4-cheese blend, use whatever Mexican combo they have in the store.

Layered Tex-Mex Casserole

2 lbs. ground beef
 1 onion, chopped
 1 can (15.25 oz.) can black beans, drained and rinsed
 2 (10 oz. each) cans enchilada sauce
 1 (8 oz.) can tomato sauce
 14 (5 inch) tortillas
 1 pkgs. (8 oz. each) shredded Mexican 4-cheese blend

Preheat the oven to 350. Spray a 9 x 13 baking dish with cooking spray.

In a large skillet, cook ground beef and onion over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until beef is browned and crumbly; drain. Return the beef mixture to the skillet. Stir in beans, enchilada sauce, and tomato sauce. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat and

See LENA'S KITCHEN, Page 27

ABC's of the New Year

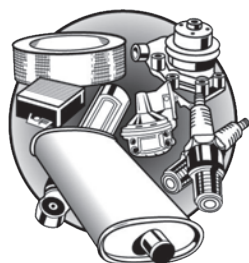
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STATE (Continued from page 17)

Jeff Wrage and his wife Stephanie live in Clinton with their two daughters, eight-year-old Halle and six-year-old Maesie. Jeff works as a Chemistry technician at the plant, Stephanie is an IT analyst for State Farm and their daughters attend Clinton Public Schools. They were understandably nervous about the potential plant closing and elated when we successfully passed the Future Energy Jobs Bill. The Wrage family is here today – and we can all be thankful that they'll be Illinois residents for years to come.

But this is just a start. Illinois is home to some of the greatest research universities in the world. Working in partnership, we can create a technology and innovation center here in the Midwest that can rival Silicon Valley or North Carolina's Research Triangle, creating tens of thousands of high-paying jobs. We can recruit companies who are drawn to our great transportation system, our natural resources and our Midwestern work ethic and quality of life.

Working together, we can accomplish this kind of growth and opportunity.

Critical to our success is helping our world-class research universities like the U of I and SIU to extend their footprint in the state, form alliances with other great research institutions like the University of Chicago and Northwestern, and significantly expand their efforts in research and innovation. Our goal must be for our great research universities to drive the same stunning level of company

formation, entrepreneurship, innovation and wealth creation as Harvard and MIT have done for New England and Stanford and Berkley have done for California.

A few months ago I met a native son of Illinois, Sam Yagan, who has moved his family back to Illinois after many years of success in Silicon Valley. He came back because Illinois is his home. He loves the people, the values, and the quality of life here in our great state. And he's working to make the next great tech success story right here in Illinois.

I know how he feels. I bet you do too. We love this state, the people here, and our way of life. This is our home, and we'll never give up trying to make it better.

Clearly we're excited about the achievements we've made, and the unlimited opportunities open to us. But we still face significant challenges.

We haven't had a full year budget of some kind in a year-and-a-half – and we haven't had a state budget that is truly balanced in decades. We have more than \$11 billion in unpaid bills, a \$130 billion unfunded pension liability, and the worst credit rating in the nation. We have the 5th highest overall tax burden and one of the lowest rates of job creation of any state.

These problems aren't new. They've been building up for many years as past governors and General Assemblies – from both political parties – kicked the can down the road to avoid making tough decisions.

Years of irresponsible borrowing and deficit spending have been devastating to human service organizations that assist children, senior citizens, people with behavioral health issues and disabilities, and our other most vulnerable residents. It has caused student and faculty departures at our colleges and universities. Decades of undisciplined spending and uncompetitive regulations and taxes have made employers hesitant about coming or staying in Illinois, limiting job opportunities across the state.

We are seeing the collective impact of those realities from Carbondale to Chicago, from East St. Louis to Danville. Families and employers are leaving. Nonprofits and small businesses are cutting staff and services. We are failing to be compassionate because we are failing to be competitive.

These problems aren't new, but these problems are now ours to solve.

We can, and we must, do better. We know that much in our state has been broken for many, many years; but we know that there is a way forward – there is a path to a better future for ALL Illinois families.

All of us, on both sides of the aisle – President Cullerton, Leader Radogno, Speaker Madigan and Leader Durkin, we all agree that we must have a truly balanced budget and we must make changes to our broken system to return our state to a path of prosperity.

Listen to these comments from re-

cent news reports:

"What is going on is not good for the state."

"The only way we can solve our problems is in a bipartisan fashion."

"To break the impasse, both sides must respect each other's priorities. That means negotiate, compromise."

"We should focus on working together and finding common ground to address the issues facing our state."

Those statements were made by Leader Radogno, President Cullerton, Leader Durkin and Speaker Madigan.

I agree with every single one of them.

Now, let's get it done!

Our state's economy could take off like a rocket ship if we could just come together on major pro-jobs changes that need legislation to take effect. Lawmakers from both parties deserve credit for working for many months to find ways to reduce regulatory costs and property tax burdens that make businesses in Illinois less competitive than our neighbors. Hopefully we can build upon these initial proposals to ensure they drive big results on job creation. And hopefully we can work together to cut the red tape even more – reducing filing fees and costly licensing barriers that prevent hard-working Illinoisans from qualifying for good, high-paying jobs.

When it comes to the budget, we all can agree Illinois HAS to do something different. Our Administration has offered many proposals to achieve a truly balanced budget with changes that fundamentally fix our broken system. We must remember that to keep budgets balanced in the future, our rate of economic growth must be higher than our rate of government spending growth. It's just simple math.

Changes to the worker's compensation system to prevent misuse and abuse, and attract employers and good jobs. Property tax relief to reduce the immense burden felt by our families and businesses – and to give them reason to stay here. Term limits and redistricting, where voters pick their representatives and not the other way around, in order to restore the confidence of job creators and working families in our state.

We have offered these proposals to drive the change that we ALL KNOW is necessary.

It's heartening to see the Senate coming together on a bipartisan basis to acknowledge these changes are needed. Let's build on that cooperation to achieve a truly balanced budget and changes that really move the

needle on job creation and property tax relief.

Our aim to have the most ethical and efficient government in the nation, the best schools in every community of our state, and good jobs for all of our residents – these goals are all within our reach...

All of us are here to build a better future for families across this state.

To build a future where our economy booms and job creation soars. Where states around America watch with amazement as Illinois takes the lead in innovation, job growth and economic opportunity. Where people around the country say to themselves, you know what – we want to live in Illinois – that's where we want to build a business, that's where we want to start a family, that's where we can achieve the American dream.

It's a future where our schools are the envy of the world. Where every child from every background gets the same, high-quality education – from cradle-to-career – to get on the path to wealth, prosperity and a high-quality of life.

It's a future where our budgets are balanced for decades to come – where our credit ratings rise as our pension liabilities drop – where our economy grows faster than government spending – where taxpayers are treated with respect and their government squeezes every penny to go the extra mile.

We've been at the bottom for far, far too long. It's time we race to the top. To lead the nation in job creation. To lead the nation in education funding and outcomes. To lead the nation in ethics and accountability. To lead the nation in poverty alleviation and violence reduction.

Yes, we've made important gains in government efficiency and economic development these last two years. Now let's work together to make Illinois more competitive – so we can realize a better future of jobs and opportunity for all.

Yes, we've made important gains in education these last two years. Now let's work together to ensure that every child, in every neighborhood, and in every community, has the opportunity to succeed. To ensure the violence that plagues Chicago and other communities comes to an end. To give people hope that tomorrow will be better than today.

All of us – Republicans, Democrats, and everyone in between – have a moral obligation to work together to bring change. We...together...can return Illinois to a place of hope, opportunity, and prosperity.

Illinois is home. All of us love it here. Ultimately, we all want the same things for our home – good jobs, strong schools and safe communities – it's just a question of respecting each other's views on how we get there. If we negotiate in good faith, we can move Illinois forward as a state which is both competitive and compassionate.

Now, let's work together to get the job done.

Thank you. God bless you, God bless our beloved State of Illinois, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

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Orangeville looks to move past winter sports

By Chris Johnson
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

There was no easy way to wrap up the regular season for the Orangeville Lady Broncos. With a record of 3-16 and 2-7 in NUIC play, the schedule was just too tough into the last week of play. Now the post-season waits, just a few days from today.

With matches against East Dubuque on the road, Durand on the road and home games against the NUIC-North's two top programs, Pecatonica and Ashton-Franklin Center, success wasn't in the metaphoric cards for Orangeville as regular game play ceased for the season.

East Dubuque took control early in its Monday, Jan. 23 meeting, as they ran away to a 25-point win, 55-30. Orangeville couldn't keep pace with the Lady Warriors speed. Stopping the jump shot also proved to be difficult. After the first eight minutes of play, East Dubuque had built a 14-5 lead.

In the second period it got worse for Orangeville. They scored a point more, but watched as East Dubuque tacked on 21 additionally and walked into the halftime break with a 35-11 lead. The third quarter was almost as unfortunate for Orangeville as they once again

put six on the board, but allowed 19 from their hosts. Entering the fourth quarter East Dubuque was in control 54-17 and reserves began to fill the floor.

Orangeville dominated the final frame winning the period 13-1. However they couldn't keep pace with East Dubuque's early push and dropped the evening's decision 55-30. It wasn't a good game for Orangeville, but it is one that can be set aside as focus can shift back to the playoffs waiting. An opportunity to recall moments when everything worked out still exists. Things can go right and they have this year.

There were moments of success for the Lady Broncos on the 2016-2017 winter sports schedule. This season they have knocked off two of the top, historically-capable programs in the NUIC, Dakota and Durand. On a consistent basis however, the Lady Broncos haven't been able to find the consistency they needed. The wins just wouldn't add up this year. Some may say they could be "due" though. The post-season provides an opportunity to get hot at the right time and find a streak that could carry you to a Sectional.

The IHSA Class 1A State Tournament tips-off for nine-seed

Orangeville on Monday, Feb. 6. They will face the five-seed Lena-Winslow Lady Panthers when they open play at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 6 in Dakota.

As the IHSA Selection Committee met on Thursday, Jan. 26, discussion surfaced on which teams would receive the highest seeds when the State Tournament began and Regional action tipped-off across the State of Illinois.

In the Dakota Regional, Freeport Aquin was issued the highest seed available, the two-seed. They will open play on Tuesday, Feb. 7 against the winner from the play-in game on Monday between the six-seed Dakota Lady Indians and the seven-seed Warren Lady Warriors.

Pecatonica was issued the one-seed and will play in its own Regional Complex with the hope of moving on to Pearl City for the

Sectional the week of Feb. 13. Allden-Hebron was issued the three seed and waits for the Monday survivor in the Dakota Regional Semi-Final Round.

For Orangeville, they just wait for their next chance and it could appear as early as this Monday when they face the Lena-Winslow Lady Panthers in the opening round of the "winner-take-all" Dakota Regional.

• LENA'S KITCHEN (Continued from page 22)

simmer for 10 minutes.

Tear tortillas into bite-sized pieces. Layer half of the pieces in the bottom of a prepared baking dish. Top with half of the beef mixture. Sprinkle 1 package of cheese over the beef mixture. Repeat layers, ending with cheese.

Bake for 25-35 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Garnish with sour cream, chopped tomatoes, and cilantro if desired.

When I first was introduced to these bars, they were labeled tailgate toffee bars. I guess it is fitting that they become Super Bowl Toffee Bars. They will make an easy and great addition to your Super Bowl Sunday. It always helps to have just a little sweet at the end!

Toffee Bars

- 2 C. flour
- 2 C. packed brown sugar
- ½ C. cold butter, cut into ¼-inch cubes
- 1 C. milk
- 1 large egg
- 1 t. baking soda
- ¼ t. vanilla
- 3 Heath candy bars (1.4 oz. each), chopped
- 1 C. sliced almonds

Preheat the oven to 350. Using a pastry blender, combine flour, brown sugar, and butter until crumbly. Remove 1 cup of the mixture and set aside.

In a separate bowl, whisk the milk, egg, baking soda and vanilla. Stir into flour mixture until combined. Pour into a greased and floured 9 x 13 pan.

Top with chopped Heath bars, almonds and reserved flour mixture. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, about 30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. Cut into bars.

It is hard to believe January is over. One twelfth of 2017 is finished—where did the month go? I know I lost a few days when there was ice, and I stayed in my house. I did accomplish some cleaning, but there is plenty more to go. Girls' basketball is winding down, and regional play will begin. Valentine's Day will be here before we know it. I need to buy some Valentines and get a package sent out sometime in the next ten days. Hopefully I will not procrastinate and be left with a not great selection of cards. I know some people don't send cards anymore, but I am still a loyal sender of greetings. If I get some, I love to put them up and look at them for a while. Call me a tenderhearted fool, but I will still be a sender of cards. The post office loves me, and they are now getting two cents more of my money. We are looking for some Valentine recipes or some red recipes for February because it is known as the "red" month. We will also be featuring winter soups. If you have some new or favorite 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. Have a great New Year's celebration

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