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VOL. 82 • NO. 52

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23, 2020



COURTESY PHOTO *Shopper's Guide*

Merry Christmas!

We wish you happy and healthy holidays and hope you enjoy the Christmas musings from area students and season's greetings from your local businesses inside this week's paper. See writing by Le-Win Elementary School third-graders on page 10.

Illinois solicits device donations for Computer Equity Network

Statewide program seeks to shrink digital divide

By Raymon Troncoso
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state is soliciting computers and related equipment from individuals and companies as part of a new program announced last week that will distribute refurbished devices to low-income households.

The Computer Equity Network is a collaboration among the state, the non-profit PCs for People, municipal governments and private businesses. The program is tied to the ongoing Connect Illinois initiative based out of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that seeks to expand broadband access in the state.

Gov. JB Pritzker announced the program during a Dec. 16 COVID-19

briefing.

"One of the largest gaps made even more significant in this pandemic is the digital divide," Pritzker said.

"How can your child learn from home if you don't have internet access? How can you shop for groceries safely online if you don't have a computer? Accessing the digital world has become essential for students, for small business owners, for patient-doctor communications, for job applications. Really there's no realm in which connecting online hasn't become absolutely necessary in the modern era."

DCEO estimates that out of 4.9 million Illinois households, more than 1.1 million currently lack computer access in their home.

According to DCEO Director Erin Guthrie, the Equity Network will host community hand-off events in all 102

Illinois counties to give away the upgraded devices to eligible families. The events will also feature on-site support from DCEO to provide digital literacy courses and options for accessing low-cost internet services.

What's outside of the state's hands, however, are the actual computers.

"We know that sourcing hardware is a limiting factor in this work, we are here today to call on Illinois companies to help us meet this challenge," Guthrie said. "We are counting on you

See DONATIONS, Page 11

Schools, Lions win Festival of Trees honors

A tree from Jones Farrar IB World School, "It's Snowing a Blizzard of Kindness," took the judges' top prize in this year's FHN Community Festival of Trees. The tree also won third place in this year's People's Choice competition, netting the Freeport class a total of \$600 in prize money.

The FHN Community Festival of Trees brings organizations from across the area to decorate holiday trees, with cash prizes awarded by a panel of judges and the public. The trees are on display free of charge at the Freeport Public Library through Saturday, Dec. 26. The trees also may be viewed online on FHN's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/FHNhealth.

"A Snowball of Kindness" from the Open Bible Learning Center Elemen-

tary School in Freeport won first place in the People's Choice competition as well as second place from the judges to receive a total of \$800 in prize money.

"Kindness is Like Snow, It Beautifies Everything It Touches," the tree from Freeport's Lincoln-Douglas Elementary School fourth grade, earned second place in the People's Choice competition and tied for third place among the judges to win a total of \$350 in prize money. The other tree tied for third place, "We Serve to Spread Kindness Like a Gentle New Snow" by the Cedarville Lions Club - Lions International, will receive \$150 in prize money.

For more information, go online to www.fhn.org/festivaloftrees.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Shopper's Guide*

Open Bible Learning Center Elementary won first place in the People's Choice category and second place from the judges in the recent FHN Community Festival of Trees at Freeport Public Library. The school tree theme was "A Snowball of Kindness."

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ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

MARY L. MARTZ

Mary L. Martz, age 90, of Stockton, Illinois, passed away Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, at Waverly Place of Stockton. She was born July 29, 1930, to the late Paul and Mildred (Hines) Hubbard. Mary married Everette Martz on Aug. 3, 1948.

They started farming in rural Shannon, and then moved to the Brookville area until moving to the Loran area in 1972, where they farmed until retiring in 1990. There was nothing Mary loved more than spending time with her family. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were the light of her life. She also enjoyed spending time with her church family; they were very important and comforting to her. In her spare time, she enjoyed doing word search puzzles.

Mary is survived by her sons, Randy and Tim of Stockton; her daughter, Kathy (Mike) Davis of Keokuk, Iowa; her two grand-



daughters, Laura Haage of Keokuk and Katrina Martz of Elizabeth Town, Kentucky; her three great-grandchildren, Gage Stice, Cassidy Stice and Dorian Stice of Keokuk; her brother, Lawrence Hubbard of Lanark, Illinois; and her sisters-in-law, Alvera Smith of Lanark and Pat Diffenderfer of Lena. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband.

The funeral service was held Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020, at Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton with a visitation before the service. Interment will take place at Ladies Union Cemetery in Stockton.

A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

LOIS KATHRYN WIELE

Lois Kathryn (Keltner) Wiele passed away Dec. 12, 2020, at the Lena Living Center at the age of 94.

Lois was born Aug. 14, 1926, to Perry and Bessie (Wolfe) Keltner in rural Pearl City. She and Sherril "Whitey" Wiele were united in marriage on June 25, 1950, in Lena.

She was a 1943 graduate of Pearl City High School and a 1947 graduate of Manchester College with a Degree in Home Economics. After graduation, she taught at Durand High School and Lena High School.

She left teaching to raise her two children and began performing alterations for a clothing store in Lena. She continued her work as the town seamstress; making and altering anything you could imagine for over 60 years until she gave up the sewing machine three years ago. Also, her tradition of making and delivering cookies to her family every Saturday led to her being affectionately known as "Cookie Grandma" by her grandkids and great-grandkids.

In 1971 she and her husband de-



veloped the Lena KOA, which they ran until 1995.

She was a childhood member of the Lena Church of the Brethren until the late 1990's and then joined St.

John's Lutheran church in Lena. For years she was the church organist, sang in the choir, and played for residents at the Lena nursing home. She was also a member of the Lena Home Bureau group. For 20 years she and her daughter organized the costumes for the Lena-Winslow Musicals. In her later years she worked as a volunteer at My Friend's Closet in Lena.

She is survived by her two children, Susan Anderson of Orangeville and David (Sandi) Wiele of Grand Junction, Colorado; three grandchildren, Brett (Becky) Anderson of Lena, Dayne (Christina)

Anderson of Elmhurst and Randi (Carter) Napier of Casper, Wyoming; as well as eight great-grandchildren, Adelynn, Elsa, Brynna and Owen Anderson and Dallan, Hailee, Mason and Ainslee Napier. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Ruth Keltner of Lena; and brother-in-law, Dale Cocklin, of Soldotna, Alaska; as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sherril; her parents; Sherril's parents, Milo and Vivian Wiele; son-in-law, Elwyn Anderson; brother, Carl Keltner; and sisters-in-law, Barbara Cocklin and Marlys Sue Eggenburg.

A private family service will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena. The Rev. Rick Bader will officiate.

Interment will take place at Lena Burial Park.

The family would like to thank the Lena Living Center and FHN Hospice for the care they gave Lois.

A memorial has been established in her name.

Extension offers help with fruit tree pruning

Each winter, backyard and commercial fruit tree growers face the inevitable task of pruning their fruit trees.

"This pruning period of mid-December to March first is crucial for

the tree to produce great fruit next summer," said Grant McCarty, University of Illinois Extension local foods and small farms educator for Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago counties. "It's also a task that

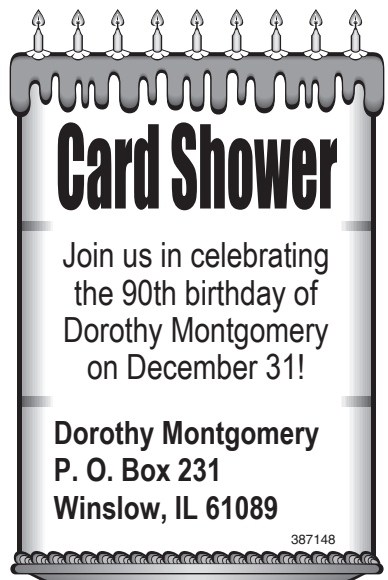
growers can be hesitant to do as they may fear they are making the wrong cut or possibly damaging the tree."

To help residents this winter, University of Illinois Extension will be offering its "Intro to Fruit Tree Pruning" class in a Zoom-webinar format from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 20, and again from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26.

In this online format, participants will learn the basics of pruning, tools to use and strategies to consider for their trees.

"The class is designed for those trees that have just been planted in 2020, never been pruned, or have not been pruned for a couple of years," McCarty said. "We also try to incorporate participants' photos of their trees in the presentation. So, they can visualize what cuts they need to make."

The cost for the class is \$5. For more information and to register, go online to go.illinois.edu/IntroFruitTreePruning or call 815-235-4125.

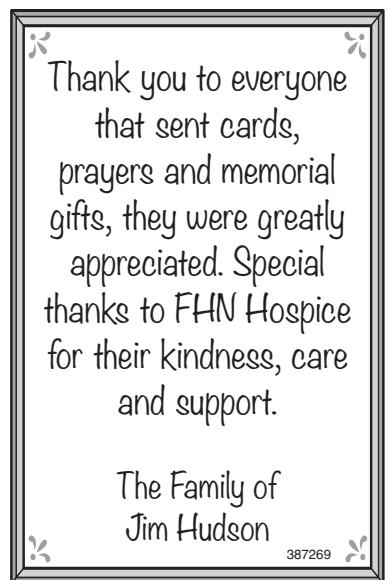


Card Shower

Join us in celebrating the 90th birthday of Dorothy Montgomery on December 31!

Dorothy Montgomery
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387148



Thank you to everyone that sent cards, prayers and memorial gifts, they were greatly appreciated. Special thanks to FHN Hospice for their kindness, care and support.

The Family of
Jim Hudson

387269

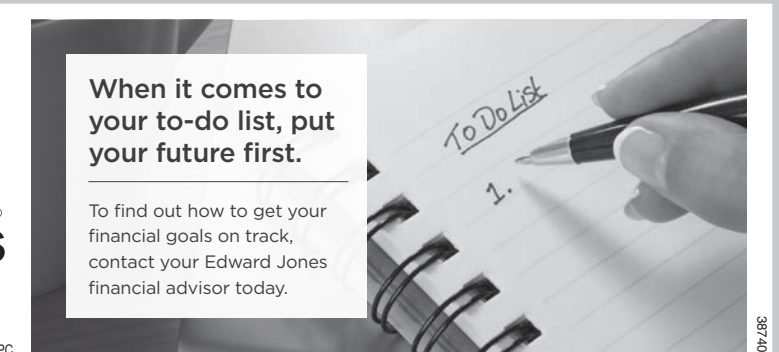


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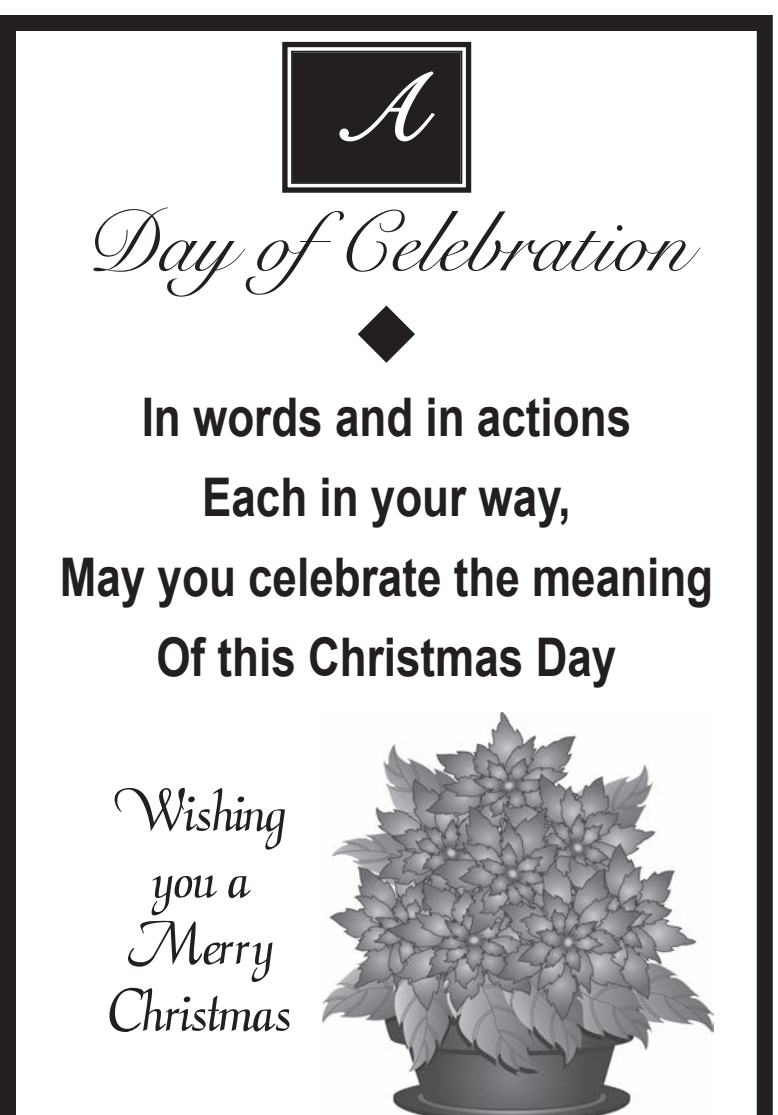
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VIEWPOINT

A fair and so much more

Fairgrounds hosts events year-round

By Lori Tessendorf
CONTRIBUTOR

For over 150 years, the Stephenson County Fair has been a major summertime event featuring agriculture, exhibits, competitions, entertainment and an educational



Lori Tessendorf

awareness and experience for young and old alike. Just planning the fair is a year-long event by the time a carnival is contracted, sponsors are secured, entertainment is booked, commercial and food vendors are contacted, volunteers and gate workers are lined up, the fair book is typed and printed, ribbons and trophies are ordered, exhibitor entry forms are entered and all the other details (too many to mention) that go into making it all happen.

Thousands and thousands of people from northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin have been enjoying this event for a long time. But what else, you may ask, happens at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds outside of the five days of the fair? Too many people in the community think of the Stephenson County Fair Association as just a fair; however, it is so much more than that!

The fairgrounds is alive with activities starting in early April, when Winter Storage removal happens and people come to get their boats, cars, campers, golf carts, jet skis, motorcycles, etc. that have been stored on the grounds since the previous October. During that same time, the Soil & Water Conservation District holds its annual tree sale event in the Rabbit & Poultry barn. A little later in the month, the Illinois Pet & Game Breeders Swap Meet is held, along with the Stephenson County 4-H animal clinics. The end of April brings Ag Adventure Day to the fairgrounds,

where local grade school kids come out to learn all about agriculture.

May is just as busy with various cattle shows and 4-H weekly dog classes starting.

And who can forget June and the annual Stephenson County Ag Breakfast? People come from miles around to enjoy a hearty breakfast supported by many volunteers and local foods suppliers. More cattle shows and the continuation of 4-H dog classes fill out the month.

Of course July is when the fair happens, but there are plenty of activities filling up the rest of the month, such as 4-H shows (i.e. General Projects Day; dog, cat and horse shows; and the Foods, Crops & Cloverbud Show), not to mention the annual Independence Day fireworks celebration.

August brings us an annual car show, which will also be adding a new Leader Dog Rally event next year.

September highlights another Illinois Pet & Game Breeders Swap Meet as well as the Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club Dog Show and Relay for Life event.

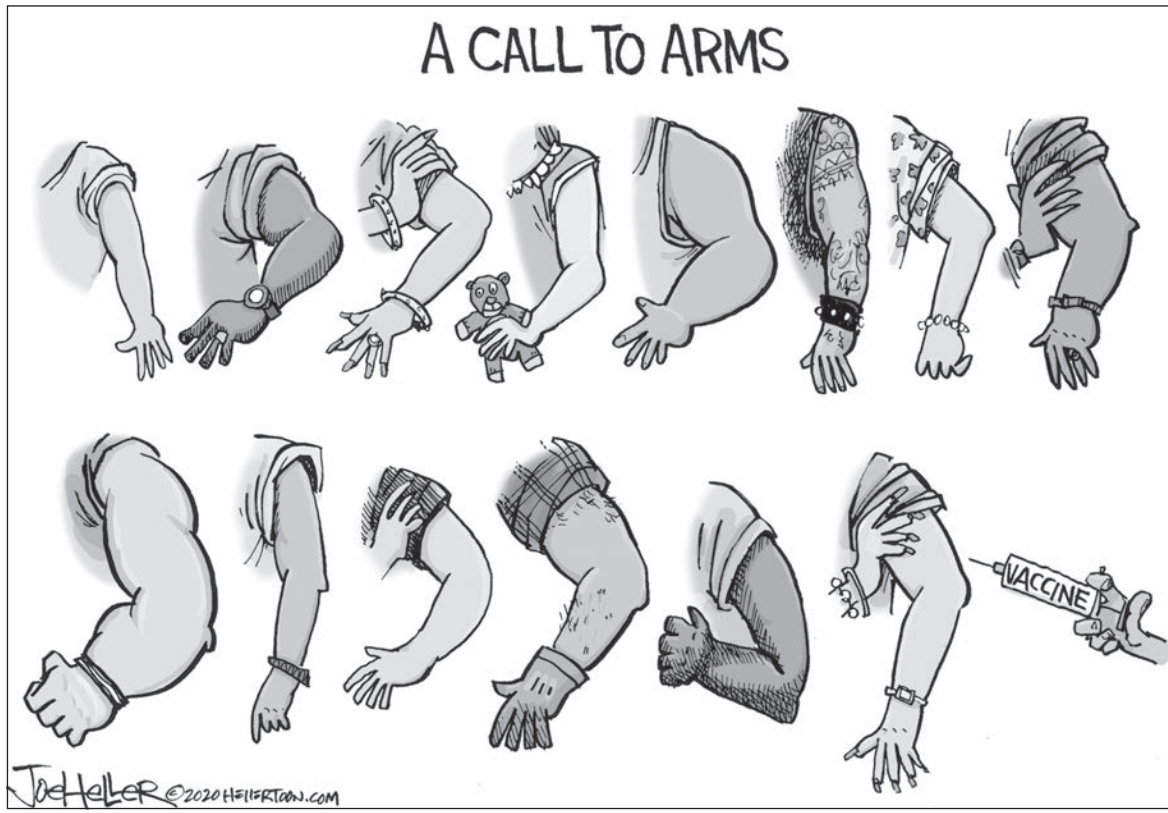
October features the FFA Club calf sale and Winter Storage take-in for all the boats, cars, campers, golf carts, jet skis, motorcycles, etc. that will be stored till the following April.

And November and December are reserved specially for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and their annual deer check station.

The list of events would not be complete without also mentioning the circuses, monster truck rallies, tractor pulls, demo derbies, weddings, receptions, birthday parties, funerals and other events (private and public) also held on the grounds from April through October.

As you can see, the Stephenson County Fairgrounds is not just for hosting the fair, but so many other events as well. The next time you drive past the Stephenson County Fairgrounds and don't see much

See FAIR, Page 5



Slices of life

Taking life one breath at a time

Lately people have been telling me I'm strong. They admire my strength. They don't know how they'd do it if they were in my shoes. "You're so strong," they say, often with admiration.

Except I'm not.

I'm not strong. And although I appreciate the sentiment and the compassion behind it, I sort of wish people would stop proclaiming my strength, because quite honestly, my actions don't constitute strength.



By JILL PERTLER

Contributor

My actions right now are simply putting one foot in front of the other. They are breathing in and then out and then repeating because that is

what you do in life. You breathe in and out, whether you are cognizant of it or not.

Sometimes, often in the toughest of times, you are cognizant of the need and the effort required to simply breathe.

But breathing doesn't make you strong. It makes you human. It makes you alive. It separates you from the person you lost. Sometimes

See LIFE, Page 5

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We had our first snowfall, and everything looked pretty. It sounds as if that is all the snow for this year. We might have a little rain, but they are projecting a cold Christmas and no precipitation. If we could travel that would mean good news for anybody on the road. It will be a quiet Christmas for a lot of us. This week's recipes are good for the holidays and other times too.

Artichoke Stuffed Mushrooms

If you like artichoke cheese dip, you will like these mushroom appetizers. You can make them ahead of time, and warm them up before serving. I must like stuffed mushrooms a lot because this is the second recipe I have had for the holiday season. I hope you enjoy both mushroom recipes.

- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 C. chopped onion
- 32 large button mushrooms, stems removed and chopped
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 jar (12 oz.) marinated artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 C. shredded Italian cheese blend
- 2 T. sour cream
- 2 T. grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ t. garlic powder
- Fresh parsley chopped for garnish

Preheat oven to 425. Line a jelly roll baking pan with foil and coat it with cooking spray. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onion and mushroom stems; cook until onion is translucent, about five minutes. Stir in salt and pepper. Transfer mixture to a large bowl. Stir in artichoke hearts, cream cheese, Italian cheese blend, sour cream, Parmesan cheese and garlic powder.

Stuff mushroom caps with artichoke mixture; arrange on prepared baking pan (Caps can be stuffed and chilled, covered up to one day ahead) Bake until mushrooms are tender and filling is hot and bubbly, 17 to 20 minutes. Before serving, sprinkle with parsley.

Broccoli Salad with Bacon

This salad is easy and delicious. On one of the Food Network shows, the chef said that unlike salad greens which you dress right before serving, broccoli is tough, so it needs dressing on the salad for a longer time before serving.

- 5 C. broccoli florets
- 1 T. water
- ¼ C. cider vinegar
- ½ thinly sliced shallot
- 1 t. sugar
- 3 bacon slices
- 3 T. sour cream
- 1/3 C. dried cranberries
- Salt and pepper to taste

In a microwave safe bowl, microwave the florets and water, covered, for two minutes. Drain off excess water and set aside. In a small bowl, combine vinegar, sliced shallot and sugar. Set aside. Cook bacon in a skillet until crisp, six to eight minutes; drain, then crumble. Stir 1 T. bacon drippings (be sure the bacon drippings are warm and not hot) and sour cream into the vinegar mixture. Toss with the broccoli, cranberries and bacon. Season with salt and pepper

Spiral Ham with Cranberry Glaze

Baked ham with this cranberry glaze could become a new family favorite. Hams have had orange glazes and pineapple glazes, but cranberry seems to go with the season. If you have never made a spiral ham before, read the directions carefully; if you use a meat thermometer, you will have good luck. Spiral hams tend to dry out rather quickly. (This piece of information comes from experience!)

1 bone-in fully cooked spiral sliced ham (about 8 lbs.)

- 1 can (14 oz.) whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1 pkg. (12 oz.) fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1 jar (12 oz.) red currant jelly
- 1 C. light corn syrup
- ½ t. ground ginger

Place ham on rack in a shallow roasting pan. Cover and bake at 325 for 2½ hours. Meanwhile, for the glaze, combine the remaining ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and set aside. Uncover the ham; bake until a meat thermometer reads 140, about 30 minutes longer, basting twice with 1½ C. glaze. Serve remaining glaze with ham.

Creamy Chicken Noodle Soup

Since we are to have really cold weather, it seems that soup would be a good dish to serve. There is a wonderful warm feeling when you walk into the house where know hot soup is waiting.

- 2 T. salted butter
- 1½ C. frozen onions
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 C. sliced mushrooms
- 1 C. sliced carrots
- 2 medium stalks of celery, chopped
- 1 t. salt
- ½ t. black pepper
- 10 C. chicken broth
- 1 pkg. frozen egg noodles (24 oz. pkg.)
- 3 C. cooked and diced chicken breast
- ¼ C. heavy cream

Heat a pot over high and add butter, onions, garlic, mushrooms, carrots, celery, salt and pepper; sauté for two minutes. Add broth and cover;

bring to a boil. Cook until vegetables are soft. Add noodles and boil until al dente, stirring a few times to keep noodles from sticking to the bottom of the pot, about 18 minutes. Take the pot off heat and add chicken and cream; let rest until chicken has heated through, around three to four minutes. Serve immediately.

Czechoslovakian Cookies

Many years ago I found this recipe in one of the first magazines I subscribed to. I haven't made them in a long time when one of my friends asked if I still had the recipe. I found it and made it this year. You can substitute the raspberry preserves if you don't have them. This year I used Mary Lobdell's Triple Berry Jelly, and they were great. Do not be frightened when it tells you to bake them for 60 minutes. I also used parchment paper; I sprayed a little cooking spray in the bottom. Place the parchment on top of the pan and then spray the parchment paper. I lifted them out after they had been out of the oven for about 10 minutes. They were easy to cut and no clean up.

- 1 C. unsalted butter
- 1 C. sugar
- 2 egg yolks
- 2 C. flour
- 1 C. chopped pecans
- ½ to 1 C. raspberry preserves or jam

Cream butter until soft; add sugar, creaming until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks and blend. Add flour slowly and mix thoroughly. Fold in the nuts. Spoon one-half the batter into a buttered 8-inch square pan (See note about parchment paper.) Top with jam; keep jam away from sides. Cover with remaining dough. Bake in a 325 oven for one hour or until lightly browned. Cool and dust with powdered sugar. Cut into 1-by-2-inch bars.

Thelma Maaske's Sugar Cookies

Almost every year someone asks for Mrs. Maaske's sugar cookie recipe. She was the mother of one of my teaching colleagues and later my principal, Larry Maaske. Each year Larry's wife, Dorothy, would send a beautiful plate of cookies for the teachers. Of course, the cutouts were the first ones gone from the plate. I

asked for the recipe, and they have been favorites ever since. I do sometimes drop them instead of cutting them out, and they are just as good.

- 2 C. sugar
- 1 C. unsalted butter
- 1 t. salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 C. sour milk (sour cream)
- 1 T. baking soda
- 1 T. cream of tartar
- 1¼ t. vanilla
- ¾ to 4 C. flour

Mix the butter and sugar together. Add the eggs and beat. In a small bowl, combine the salt, soda, cream of tartar and ¾ C. of flour. Alternate the sour milk (sour cream) and the flour mixture. Add the vanilla. Mix well and refrigerate for at least two hours. Add more flour if necessary if you are rolling them into cut-out cookies. Use less flour if you are dropping them. Bake on parchment-lined cookie sheets.

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

Frosting

- 1 stick of unsalted butter, softened
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ¾ C. powdered sugar
- 1 t. vanilla
- A few drops of food coloring

Cream the butter and cream cheese together; carefully add the powdered sugar and mix together. Add the vanilla and food coloring. Frost cooled cookies. Store cookies in a cool or cold place in tightly covered plastic containers.

Final thoughts

I have most of my Christmas cards mailed, and my packages of cheese and sausage are on their way. I have a little organizing for presents, and I should be good to go. Don't forget to finish your Christmas shopping in our local shops. They have many things to offer. I am giving lots of food cards this year because about the only thing we can do is cook. I am a sharer. If I cook, I generally share with my friends who don't cook for one or who work. I don't have to eat whatever I cook for days on end, and they seem happy to get something homemade. I made four batches of cookies this week. I plan on making a few more if the spirit can move me.

See KITCHEN, Page 5

THE SCOOP TODAY SHOPPER'S GUIDE

"Committed to the communities we serve"

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Life (Continued from page 3)

the very act of simply breathing hurts because it is a reminder of this separation.

I am hurting.
My heart is broken.
So I do what I can do. All that I can do, some moments. I breathe in, and then I breathe out. And I repeat. I remind myself: I am alive; someone I loved is also alive, but not here on earth, so our lives are no longer intertwined like they were for so many years. At least not now. I believe they will be someday. We will be reunited and it will be glorious. I hold onto that. If anything, that is my stronghold, but it doesn't make me strong.

For now, breathing is all I can do to ward off the pain and the deep, deep sorrow. Breathing is all I can do to continue living. And the others around me, those who love me, need me to continue living.

But hear this, and please know: Sadness does not make me strong, or brave or better at this role that's been thrust upon me.

I'm just doing what I need to do. It's the only thing I can do, except give up and I'm not ready to do that yet.

So I breathe.
And, although I appreciate you trying to build me up, please don't tell me I'm strong.

Because I don't feel strong. I feel weak and vulnerable and broken. Heartbroken and lost.

Tell me it's OK to feel this way. For now. Tell me it's OK to just breathe. And cry. And be afraid because I don't know what tomorrow will bring.

Tell me you don't know what to say or what to do, but you will be here. Tell me it's OK that none of us has the answers because there are none. Tell me that this sucks, because it does.

Tell me you can't possibly imagine how I feel because no one can compare their own grief to that of another. It isn't a grief competition. Hurt and pain are hurt and pain.

I understand you want to help. I understand you want to make things better and because you can't, not really, you feel powerless and that is beyond difficult. It's terrible to have to watch someone hurting; I understand that. I truly do. And I thank you for stepping into that uncomfortable role in order to support me.

If you truly believe it, you can think I'm strong. But please don't say it out loud. I'm not ready to hear it because right now it isn't true.

Right now I'm not strong. Not really. Not really at all. And that's OK. Because love and having loved — truly, madly, deeply — beats strength any day.

I truly, madly, deeply loved. I sure did. And I wouldn't trade that for anything. Not Popeye's muscles or Superman's cape. Not ever.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.



SUBMITTED PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Gaining career skills through FFA

Students in the River Ridge FFA Chapter recently had a chance to experience a job interview through a FFA career development event. Senior Mary Scott, above, is a four-year River Ridge FFA member who recently competed in her third year of the interview competition. She made it to the state level last year. This year, she placed in the top two in the section and will move on to the next level, districts, in April. Kylie Hiher also competed at the section level for the River Ridge chapter this year. In the CDE, FFA members are judged on their ability to create a resume, cover letter, follow-up letter, job application and a personal interview (done via Zoom). They are scored on their grammar, formatting, accuracy and ability to communicate in a professional manner in both a written and oral format.

Kitchen (Continued from page 4)

The vaccine is in, and the people who have been on the front lines have started getting the shots. I hope that this will be the beginning of improvement for all of us. I know that Christmas will be different this year for many reasons: the COVID virus, the losses in our lives of people who are dear to us and our community, and a feeling that things will never be back to normal. We have to stick together and have faith. Please stay safe and healthy.

In leaving our time together today,

I would share with you my traditional Christmas message that I received many years ago from a dear friend. It has certainly been true this year for most of my friends and my family.

Remember that: "Every time a hand reaches out to help another... that is Christmas. Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding... that is Christmas. Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other... that is Christmas. May this Christmas bring us closer to the spir-

it of human understanding, closer to the blessing of peace."

May the blessings of Christmas be on all of you as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and the promise of eternal life.

Merry Christmas from Lena's Kitchen and the not-so-skinny cook.

If you have found any holiday recipes you think we would like, contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide, 240 W. Main St., Lena, IL 61048 or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

Fair

(Continued from page 3)

happening, keep in mind another event is in the planning stage or just around the corner.

To find out more about SCFA, or becoming a sponsor, advertising on our digital sign, renting the grounds for an event, or checking the calendar of events, please visit our website at www.stephensoncountyfair.org or follow us on Facebook. If you have any questions, please call the fair office at 815-235-2918 or email info@

stephensoncountyfair.org.

On behalf of the SCFA Board of Directors, we hope you and your families are safe and healthy and look forward to seeing everyone at

the 2021 Stephenson County Fair, July 27 through July 31.

Lori Tessendorf is the executive manager of the Stephenson County Fair Association in Freeport.

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Letters To Santa

Gena Leverton's first grade, Stockton Elementary School

Dear Santa, I help dad clean the shop. I decorated the windows. I like going in the semi with dad. How old are you? Why don't you wear a green suit? For Christmas, I want a slime set, an LOL doll and a Playdoh set. Please bring Landon a toy semi.

Merry Christmas,
Maggie Portner

Dear Santa, I got a new game. I got some new toys. I like the Lions. How many elves do you have? How old are you? For Christmas, I want some WW2 army men, a skateboard and war toys. Please bring Zach an Xbox gift card.

Merry Christmas,
Mason Larson

Dear Santa, I have a puppy named Journey. I lost my first tooth. I have a bunch of animals on the farm. How old are you? How many reindeer do you have? For Christmas, I want a Polly Pocket, a color changing Barbie and a drum set. Please bring Audrey dolls.

Love,
Marlee Krippendorf

Dear Santa, I love my mom and sports. I love my dad. I want to go hunting with my dad. How long is your beard? How old are you? For Christmas, I want a gas dirt bike, a

football and a snowmobile. Please bring my sister a toy Barbie.

Love,
Gannon Kriebs-Harris

Dear Santa, I really like Thanksgiving. I love mom a lot. I really like dresses. How do you get into the hotel? How do your reindeer fly? For Christmas, I want LED lights, a Trinity and Madison heart and a Trinity and Madison blind bag. Please bring Emma LED lights.

Merry Christmas,
Payton Haas

Dear Santa, I love soccer. I like chocolate a lot. I love Barbie. Do you like frosting? Is Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer real? For Christmas, I want a pink Barbie camper, a lot of American Girl Doll stuff and Baby Alive stuff, too. Please bring my mommy an ornament that says Collins.

Love,
Collins Coffey

Dear Santa, I have blue eyes. I love Scooby-do. I really love TV. How old is Dasher? What do elves look like? For Christmas, I want a monster jam, roller blades and a toy robot. Please bring Alannah a toy horse.

Love,
Clay Headlee

Dear Santa, I have an Xbox. And I have a dirt bike. And I have a basketball hoop. How do your reindeer fly? How old are you? For Christmas, I

want some Legos, a skateboard and a whole bunch of Nerf gun stuff. Please bring Mom and Dad some shirts.

Love,
Nick Perry

Dear Santa, I like dinosaurs. I love my mom and dad. I love my sisters and brothers. How do you fit in the chimney? How many elves do you have? For Christmas, I want a toy indoraptor, a toy montessaurus and a Godzilla toy. Please bring Macy and Miley a Ryan toy.

Merry Christmas,
Maya Arnold

Dear Santa, I love my cats. I love watermelon. I love my mom and dad. Do you have magic powers? Do you celebrate other holidays? For Christmas, I want a lot of five mini surprises, a goldfish and a phone. Please bring Marlee a phone, too.

Love,
Kierstyn Hinrichs

Dear Santa, I sing well. I do tumbling at Freeport. I really love dogs and puppies. Are you Saint Nicholas? What is your favorite color? For Christmas, I want a 3-in-1 camper, and a new box of markers and paper. Please bring mom a yellow rose.

Love,
Alivia McFadden

Dear Santa, I have a 4-wheeler. I

have chickens. I have an iPad. Can you get me a hover board? How do you get down the chimney? For Christmas, I want a hover board, a lot of army men and a pretend crossbow. Please bring Hunter a hand warmer.

Merry Christmas,
Henry Hartman

Dear Santa,
I went hunting and got a deer. I hung Christmas lights and put up my tree. Where do you live? Can you drive there? For Christmas, I want

a tractor, Legos and snow for Christmas day. Please bring Cam a toy pan-cake to play with.

Merry Christmas,
Cody Steffes

Dear Santa,
I love my mom. I love dad. I like my home. What kind of cookies do you like? For Christmas, I want a Robo-Alive, a pet snake and a backpack. Please bring my dog a treat.

Love,
Oliver Avecedo

What Christmas Means To Me

Donna Offenheiser's fourth grade, Stockton Elementary School

To me, Christmas means to get together with family, to show respect to family and friends with gifts. Most importantly, it means to celebrate Christ's birth. Some fun things I like at Christmas is eating pie, (at my grandma's) oh, cherry pie. Also, my family will be gathering at my grandma's with some family living farther away coming there too. Lastly, my favorite par is decorating while Christmas songs are playing! Now you may be thinking: bor-ing ... but, no, it's the funnest thing ever!

For example, one time me and Kasyn (my brother) were dancing along with Christmas songs, and

singing too. When it comes to the Christmas tree, our dad comes up. Oh, and how I love decorating the tree!!

Now those times are the times you don't want to waste. Without those times, there would be nothing to look forward to on Christmas, except presents. Well that wouldn't be so fun, either, because, as an animal lover, the only thing I truly want is an animal — the fur or scales or manes or whatever else would be on an animal — all animals are just too cute!

— Adaleigh Jo Pierce

The first thing I think of when I hear what Christmas means to me is family. Why, because my family comes together every year, people like dads, moms, uncles, grandparents, cousins, brothers, sisters and more come to celebrate Christmas. Another thing I think of when I hear what Christmas means to me, is the birth of Christ. I think about that a lot on that day. Another thing I think of is the feast. I would say almost everybody has a feast where they have stuff like meats, potatoes, beans, vegetables, buns and drinks and stuff like that. Those are the things that I think of when I hear what Christmas means to me.

— Peyton Lee Weipert

See CHRISTMAS, Page 7

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• Christmas (Continued from page 6)

1. What Christmas means to me is meeting with my family. What we do when we meet with family is playing fun games like playing cards and opening presents.

2. Making Grinch cookies. What we do is we make sugar cookies and dye them with green food coloring and after that we put it in the oven. When the cookies come out of the oven we put the chocolate chips on the Grinch cookies and then we are done. I really like to make Grinch cookies with my sister, dad and my mom.

3. The third thing that Christmas means to me is to put the ornaments on the Christmas tree. The reason why I like to put ornaments on the Christmas tree is because we have a pickle ornament that we like to hide and see who can find it first. These are some reasons why I like Christmas.

— Emma Groezinger

What Christmas means to me is eating chocolate pie because pie is my favorite dessert that grandma makes. One year I did not like pie at all but just a year ago I tried the pie that she made for Thanksgiving and I loved it! I keep coming back for more. What else Christmas means to me is opening presents with my mom, dad and sister. At nighttime we open gifts with my brother. I like to see what I get for gifts so I can see if I already received it because one year I got a present that I already had from a previous Christmas.

— Miranda Volling

To me Christmas means to celebrate Jesus or God's birthday because Christmas was the day he was born and that's how it was made!

To me Christmas also means that it's a day where I can get together with my family that I haven't seen in a long time.

Christmas also means to me that we can have a huge feast, just like Thanksgiving. There is usually a lot of food at people's houses on Christmas because it's kind of a tradition to have a lot of food on Christmas!

Also, to me, Christmas means that you can just have fun such as playing out in the snow, doing a secret Santa and just playing games like that.

Lastly I like singing Christmas songs with my family. I like doing that because we have a karaoke machine and two microphones but we also use Legos and the TV remote as microphones. We love singing Christmas songs in our pajamas. It's so fun!

— Karah Arnold

Here are three things I like about Christmas.

1. Opening presents. I like to open presents. My favorite one was probably the PS4 we got last year.

2. Meeting family. I like to meet up with family because you get to see all your cousins and aunts and uncles and grandmas and grandpas.

3. The elf. I like to see the elf because he moves almost every night and takes candy canes that we give him and he gives us video games on Christmas.

— Brycen Drane

What it means to me is seeing people that I don't get to see a lot like my aunts, uncles, cousins and my grandparents. What it also means to me is decorating the Christmas tree and the house with stuff like tinsel, lights and Santa statues. In my family it also means playing fun games with your family like Candy Land and Twister. Lastly, it means just spending time with my family.

— Jaycie Ernst

What Christmas means to me is celebrating Christ's birthday by going to church. We sing and say prayers. My favorite part is singing "Silent Night" with the lights off. We each get a candle and we hold them

up as high as we can. I also like it when we go to the house of my grandma's friend, Marry Lynn. We eat spaghetti and meatballs. The spaghetti is always really good! That is what Christmas means to me.

— Alex Jordan

I love seeing family that I don't see a lot and we like playing in the snow. I also love the feeling when you put up your Christmas tree and the ornaments. We all love playing secret Santa, dancing to Christmas songs and having fun in the snow because you can fall face flat in the snow. We all love when we split up into teams and have a family snowball fight. It is so much fun we do it every year. I also love opening presents and playing with them right after I open the gift.

— Cadence Krueger

A holiday, yeah! I love Christmas because I get to open presents, eat Christmas dinner and play in the snow. Also, I get to have fun with my friends. We can build snowmen and make snow angels. I also get to spend more time with my family.

— Christopher Deng

I love Christmas because you get to see your family. You get to open presents and be surprised by what you get. You get to have a Christmas dinner as well instead of a regular dinner. You get to wake up and have a magical morning, drink hot chocolate, watch a movie and play with the new stuff you got in your presents.

— Jordan Lopez

On Christmas I like to play in the snow because that's the best thing to do on Christmas break. I also like to make cookies because cookies are good. We make them on Christmas

Day. I like to play Christmas music at night because it is the last day of Christmas break. This is what Christmas means to me

— Dominick Laino

Christmas is a very important holiday and here is why. First of all, I get to see my aunt and uncle who live in Florida. I'm no genius here but that is far away. Also I like seeing snow. I know we already see a lot of snow here in Illinois, but it is still fun to me. Last of all is opening presents and going sledding. You probably think seeing your family and friends is very important to Christmas but so is opening presents.

— Brier McPeck

What Christmas means to me is meeting with my grandma and grandpa and my brother. My grandma and grandpa live in Florida and Austin lives in England. What Christmas means to me is getting to bake cookies. We make Santa and Grinch and Elf cookies. What Christmas means to me is seeing my Elf because sometimes he doesn't come to my house.

— Alayna Haas

To me Christmas means opening presents because you might get something you have always wanted or something you have wanted since last Christmas. It also means getting to see my elf. I like seeing my elf because I don't know about you but I get to touch my elf. One year, when I was 4 years old, I didn't know that you weren't supposed to touch your

elf and I touched her/Rose. She even stayed until after Christmas and when she left, I cried. But, she came back the next year with a note that said you can touch us from Santa because Santa wrote it for them. Lastly, it means convincing my mom to buy the Santa pajamas that I wanted and my brother Brody. (BTW it worked.) They are so cute!

— Zoey Gardner

What I like about Christmas is I get a lot of presents under my Christmas tree. I get a lot of games and toys. Some presents I like are train games. I also like that I have a break from school with no homework. This is what Christmas means to me.

— Erick Shreiner

To me it means playing games like Throw the Snowball in the Bucket. One time I didn't make any in the beginning of the game but when it was my turn again I made 1 in the bucket. The next game is Find the 20 Candy Canes. That game is kind of easy. Here are some people I get to see that I don't see all the time: Butch, Cathy, Aunt Ashley, Mikala, Grandma Phyllis, Diane and Steve. I like seeing them. That's what Christmas means to me.

— Eli Henderson

I like being with my friends and family. On Christmas I like getting toys from Santa Claus because Santa comes and visits my grandmother's

See CHRISTMAS, Page 8

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• Christmas (Continued from page 7)

house and one time gave me a scooter. I love getting presents from Olivia and Joshua. My mom and dad give me gifts on Christmas. This is what Christmas means to me. — Ember Detwiler

I like Christmas because you get to see your family and friends. Ivan and I played rocket league on the Xbox until 4 a.m. I like waking up in the morning and not going to school and then in the morning you open presents! I have seven places to open presents: my two grandparents, Paula and Terry's house, my dad's, my mom's, Lucas and Leo's house and from Santa. Mom, my brothers and I bake cookies and then I go to my dad's house for Christmas. That is what Christmas means to me.

— River Brenner

First, what Christmas means to me is when a few of my family members come to my house and we open presents. The people that come to my house are my grandma, grandpa

and my aunt. Second, my grandma gets my family Christmas pajamas and on Christmas we all wear them. This year we got our dog little shirts. Lastly we play in the snow. One time my brother Clayton and I wanted to lick ice but it was too high so we got up on the log tower. It was covered in snow and I got stuck in the snow. Clayton ran into the house while I was trying to get my boot out. When I got the boot out my sock came off, and my foot got wet and cold. I hope Levi, my brother, dad, Clayton and Emily all get to play in the snow.

— Andria Lancaster

Christmas means spending time with my family and telling jokes, having a family dinner together and watching family movies with my mom, dad and two brothers, Gage and Corey Jr. I especially like it when we all sit by the Christmas tree and open up presents together and that's what Christmas means to me.

— Aaron Pieper

Amanda Thompson's fourth grade, Stockton Elementary School

What Christmas means to me is spending time with family and friends. Also, Christmas reminds me of Jesus' birthday! I also love watching Christmas movies. My favorite Christmas movie is "Home Alone," and I have watched all of them because they are amazing and my favorite. It also means hot chocolate with marshmallows and whipped cream and chocolate syrup because that makes it delicious.

— Vanessa Drane

To me Christmas means everything because it's Jesus' birthday. You get to spend a lot of time with family on Christmas. With your family you can watch a lot of Christmas movies. I love opening presents with family on Christmas. I love Christmas the best because you spend time with your family.

— Jameson Brown

What Christmas means to me is celebrating Jesus' birthday. It is part of what I think Christmas is, and also I think being thankful and giving is another part. Christmas also means gathering family and being happy in all. That is what I think Christmas is all about

— Ryker Kurek

What Christmas means to me is having family and friends, praying for God, thanking everyone for the

food you have and the roof that is over you, and thanking God for all the things you have. Christmas is for giving and not for stealing and not being selfish. Christmas is a holiday that is for spending time with your family and celebrating Jesus' birthday. Christmas is about family and food; not toys. Family is better than toys, but be thankful for your family and friends and food and what you have. That is what Christmas is all about. Merry Christmas!

— Gracie Kruse

What Christmas means to me is spending time with my family, and I bet you do too. My second thing is that we get to see our friends and give them gifts. A third reason is that you get to open your gifts, and that is fun to do. Christmas means you get to have supper with your family. It also means that you get to play in the snow with your friends. Last, you can do anything you want on Christmas.

— Brooklynn Perry

What Christmas means to me is presents and family. Opening presents with family is fun. It is nice to see family. You can have a family dinner with friends and family. It always makes my day to wake up and see presents under the tree. I am always excited to go have fun with uncles, grandparents and lots more people. I love spending time with family on Christmas. We can jump on the trampoline, play in the snow and eat together.

— Elijah Amborn

Christmas means spending time with family and friends. Christmas also means to decorate a Christmas tree with your family. I think Christmas means to give and not receive. To me, Christmas means celebrating Jesus' birthday. I also think Christmas means to go out and spend time with family.

— Zach Larson

To me Christmas means spending time with family and friends, having dinner together, opening presents together, and seeing what I might get. It's fun doing family stuff. We make stuff together, play games, listen to songs, play in the snow and then our aunt flies three hours to see us. My sister and I have sooooo much fun with her.

— Izaak Kurth

I think Christmas means to get with family and have a great feast! When it's Christmas, it's fun to decorate the tree and get presents. If I had to choose I would rather have family and friends than presents. It's like that saying, "When given a choice between being right and being kind, choose kind! Christmas is also about God's birthday; it happens every year on Christmas morning. On Christmas Day or any day, you should be thankful for the life God has given you. You should always be thankful for all the presents you get! Always remember that there are children and adults that don't have anything in the world.

— Delilah Hess

I think Christmas means family, joy and the birth of Jesus. We get together with family and friends. I know you get gifts from Santa, but you should be lucky that you have a home. The birth of Jesus is very important to me. If Jesus did not die for us, we would not be in this awesome earth. Christmas also means giving presents to others. I know you might enjoy getting gifts yourself, but you are probably happier when you give gifts. You should always be thankful for everything you get, because in

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See CHRISTMAS, Page 9



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• Christmas (Continued from page 8)

the world there are people that are homeless and starving. On Christmas, I always think about all the people that don't have as nice of stuff as me. We should be lucky we have the things we get. That is what Christmas means to me, and I hope it does to you too.

— Danika Bergman

To me Christmas means celebrating Jesus' birthday and celebrating everybody who passed away a long time ago. I also think what it means is presents and loads of food for a great feast. It also means celebrating a night with eggnog, snowball fights and more. The last thing it means is celebrating by putting cookies on a plate and milk for Santa Claus so he can put presents for girls and boys under the tree by morning.

— Hunter Snyder

This is what Christmas means to me and me and my family. We celebrate God's birthday. Another way you can look at Christmas is that it's the time of the year when you can have a big Christmas dinner. We have a lot of clothes and toys so I will donate my clothes and toys and go around and look for needy children and I will give it to them. I would also give them money and lots of food if I could. This is another thing Christmas means is going outside and playing in the snow. We throw snowballs, and when my dad makes a snow pile (when he snow plows the road) it looks like a snow bed.

— Emma Grace Emanuelson

What Christmas means to me is spending time with family and friends and just having a fun time with family and friends. Then we sometimes celebrate Jesus' birthday. It also means that we can all sometimes have a Christmas feast, just watch movies all the time, play Christmas themed games, and just have fun. Then also it means having to be able to just be thankful for what Jesus has done for us, and that he sacrificed his life for us to live and we are just happy that we have

this freedom. Then if I was able to just pick from presents and family, I would pick family because they mean so much to me. They have fed me every single night, and I am so happy that I'm not homeless. Then they also care about me, and I care about them too.

— Justin Vazquez

To me Christmas means to get together with your friends and family. It is also about Christmas cheer and Santa bringing all of the little kids presents and seeing smiles on their facial expressions in the morning when they wake up early. It is really about Jesus' birthday since that was when he was born. It's about sitting down with your family and reading some Christmas books with them, getting to go and pick out your Christmas tree, then taking it home and getting to decorate it, putting the lights on it, and making it so pretty. My favorite thing of all is to go to my grandma's house with my huge family and bake a lot of kinds of cookies and getting to eat them before you frost them. Then you get to give them to Santa when he comes to your house when you're sleeping in your bed. Merry Christmas!

— Mayci Humphrey

What Christmas means to me is that I can have snowball fights with my cousins and build a big snowman. I can watch Christmas movies with my family. We can eat some good food and stay in the warm house. You can open up some very, very cool gifts and play with them in the house, but if someone asked if I loved family or gifts more, I would choose family. I would choose family because they would do anything for me and my brother.

— Keller Otto

Christmas means family and friends and we have fun and play games. We make cookies and we give things to the others. We make a snowman. We spend time with each other and get to know how each other is doing. We snowball fight with each other, and when others sleep, I get the presents to the tree and go to sleep. When it is morning we go outside and play and have another snowball fight. When Santa comes I dream of my family smiling and having fun. Then we open our presents, have fun, laugh, and make snowmen.

— Lily Ryan

Christmas means sadness and the day Jesus was born, so a birthday. It means sadness to me because my

cat Zeus died on Christmas Eve last year. It was especially sad. It means a birthday to me because it is, so I take something every year and bury it, and pray over where I put it as a birthday present for Jesus. So Christmas to me is a happy and sad holiday.

— Whytnei Paxson

To me Christmas means spending time with family and friends. Christmas is not about getting; it is about giving to someone. On Christmas you celebrate Jesus' birthday. Christmas is a good time to be in your PJs. That is what Christmas means to me.

— Lauren Johnson

What does Christmas mean to me? Well Christmas means happiness, joy and meeting up with my family, but I also love the Christmas spirit. That's what I think about Christmas.

— Elizabeth Vanderheyden

I like Christmas and I hope I get a lot of toys, a lot of tools, and a lot of love on Christmas.

I like to go sledding on Christmas. I like to go snowmobiling and I love to open presents. I love to spend time with my dad on Christmas and my family. I love my dad and my family, but I like my dad the most. I love to go to parties. We will not have a party this year, but we will still do Christmas and I am happy to do Christmas. I like to make snowmen for Christmas. Merry Christmas!

— Landon John Portner

Christmas means spending time with family. My favorite thing on Christmas is opening presents with my family in the morning. We spend the day together. Sometimes I go sledding in the snow on Aunt Jenna's hill. Christmas means having fun with my whole family.

— Quintus Simpson



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SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS

It's been a pleasure serving you this past year.

SULLIVAN'S FOODS & STAFF

Wishing you a very happy holiday season and the very best for the new year! Thank you for your business!

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 Todd, Chad, Ben, Nate, Mitchell, Braden, Braeden & Jamie
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SANTA'S Workshop

Christmas Greetings from The Village of Lena

Thanks to the Lena Business & Professional Association, Lena Lions Club and Lena Thrift Store for their contributions used to purchase new garland for our Downtown decorations.

Thank you to the following who helped put up the Christmas decorations in downtown.

Rick Dikkers	Guy Hedding	Jim Cox
Andrew Martin	Jeff Rakowska	Jerry Fox
Jim Blair	Brandt Esling	Gary Meyers
Bill Engel	Vince Decker	Don Strohecker

Thanks to the Lena Beautification Committee for decorating the downtown planters

We remember the late Ben E. Mayer who for many years dedicated himself to the Lena Community and who was in charge of our Christmas decorations

387271

386691

387410

Real vs. Artificial Christmas Trees

Emily White's third grade, Le-Win Elementary School

In my opinion, artificial trees are better. First, artificial trees can be found in almost every size or shape. Second, most people simply take them out and easily put them up each year. Last, some come with pre-lit lights already on them. I like Christmas trees that are fake.

Gracin Bicker

In my opinion, artificial trees are better. First, artificial trees may be a good choice if you are on a budget. Second artificial trees can be found in almost every size and shape. Last, some come pre-lit with lights already on them. This is my opinion on artificial trees.

Jackson Bland

In my opinion artificial trees are better. First, instead of buying a tree each year it's a one-time purchase. Next, most people simply take them out of storage each year and easily put them in. Last, they don't require watering and hardly drop any needles. That's why I think artificial trees are better.

Hayden Fryer

In my opinion, real trees are better. First, you can visit a tree lot. Next, live trees have a wonderful pine scent. Last, they are placed in ponds to give homes to fish. In my opinion, real trees are better.

Zion Harrison

In my opinion, artificial trees are better. First, instead of buying one each year, it is a one-time purchase. Next, people easily take them out each year and it is really easy to put them up. Last, artificial trees can be found in any shape and size. That is why I picked artificial trees for Christmas.

Payton Lawrence

In my opinion, real trees are better. First, some families have a fun tradition of visiting a tree farm. Next, live trees have a pine scent that can add to the enjoyment to the holiday season. Last, if you provide enough water, they can last for a month or more.

That was my opinion on real trees.

Carissa Lingle

In my opinion, artificial trees are better. First, instead of buying a tree each year, it is a one-time purchase. Next, most people simply take them out of storage each year and easily put them up. Last, artificial trees can be found in almost every size and shape.

Jaxyn Mau

In my opinion, artificial trees are better. First, they do not hardly drop any needles. Next, instead of buying a tree each year, it is a one-time purchase. Third, artificial trees can be found in almost every size and shape. Those are the reasons I

like artificial trees better.

Gracelyn Miller

In my opinion real trees are better. First, real trees provide oxygen. Next, live trees have a wonderful pine smell. Last, when real trees get thrown out, they can give a fish a home. That is why I choose real trees.

Lukas Price

In my opinion artificial trees are better. First, artificial trees do not require watering and hardly drop any needles. Next, once you find the perfect place for your tree, you can be sure it fits each year. Last, some trees come pre-lit with lights already on them. That is my opinion that artificial trees are better.

Ainsley Raab

In my opinion artificial trees are better. First, instead of buying a tree each year, it is a one-time purchase. Next, they do not hardly

drop any needles. Last, most people simply take them out of storage each year. This is why I like artificial trees better.

Connor Stadermann

In my opinion, real trees are better. First, you can go to a tree lot and choose from many different sizes. Next, live trees may be used as homes for animals. Last, live trees have a wonderful pine scent that can add to the enjoyment of the holiday season. In my opinion real trees are better.

Abby Tasej-Sorcja

In my opinion real trees are the best. First, real trees have a wonderful scent that can add enjoyment to the holiday season. Next, you go to a tree farm and cut down your tree. Last, real trees can be recycled into mulch. These are the reasons real trees are the best.

Ellaina Werhane

In my opinion, real trees are better. First, live trees have a wonderful pine scent that can add to the enjoyment of the holiday season. Next, if you provide enough water, live trees can last for a month or more. Last, some families have a fun tradition of visiting a tree farm or cutting down their own tree. In my opinion real trees are better.

Sophie Wirtz



Clinic volunteers offer health care scholarships

Monroe Clinic Volunteers in Partnership is again offering two types of scholarships for students seeking a career in the health care field. The application deadline is Feb. 28.

One scholarship is for high school seniors. Monroe Clinic Volunteers in Partnership awards four \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors each year. Two scholarships will be awarded to Monroe High School seniors and two scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors from communities with Monroe Clinic branch sites — Albany, Blanchardville, Brodhead,

New Glarus, Durand, Freeport and Lena — or who live within an area serviced by a branch site or who have a parent who is employed by Monroe Clinic.

The other scholarship is for continued education. College students in the Monroe Clinic service area may apply for one of five \$1,500 scholarships.

Applicants must have completed at least one year of advanced study (beyond high school) in a health-related field and be a resident of a community with a Monroe Clinic location or a resident within Mon-

roe Clinic's service area or an employee or child of a Monroe Clinic employee.

For either scholarship, applicants must be pursuing a degree or certificate in a health care-related field and have a GPA of 3.25 or higher with an emphasis on science and math. All applications must be typed.

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on citizenship, need and school and outside activities.

Students who have received a Monroe Clinic Volunteers in Partnership \$500 scholarship in the past are eligible to apply for the advance study scholarship. However, an individual may only receive each scholarship once.

Applications are available at www.monroeclinik.org/volunteers. For more information, call Dawn Meier, volunteer coordinator, at 608-324-1569.

Best Wishes for the Season

Merry Christmas and a Special Thank You to our dedicated employees, our patron dairy farmers, contract milk haulers and all the other businesses that have helped make 2020 a successful year for Brewster Cheese Company.



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Wishing our past, present and future clients
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A Happy, Healthy, Prosperous New Year!

Welcome Home
NW Illinois
Faye & Ashley Heilman



303601



You're Always Welcome!

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Merry Christmas

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Apple River, IL

98842

Briefs

Good Shepherd notes

Christmas services

A slate of special virtual services is coming up at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena:

- 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24: family Christmas Eve candlelight service via Facebook Live.

- Midnight Friday, Dec. 25: a quiet and reflective service via Facebook Live.

- Friday, Dec. 25: Christmas Program available on the church's YouTube Channel.

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27: "Blue Christmas worship" service via Facebook Live, including stories from a first responder and a blessing for first responders in the community.

All of the services will be recorded and be available on church's Facebook page and website. Go online to goodshepherdlena.org or facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL.

For more information, contact the church office at 815-369-5552.

Registration open for mental health training

Monroe Clinic in partnership with CONTACT of Northern Illinois is hosting a virtual youth mental health first aid training next month.

The training will teach participants

an action plan to help youth in the event of a mental health crisis. Training consists of 2.5 hours of pre-work and a 5.5-hour Zoom class that will be from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 15.

Monroe Clinic is covering the cost for the training. To register, contact Tammi Jamiska at 608-324-2639 or tammie.jamiska@ssmhealth.com or call CONTACT at 815-233-4357. The registration deadline is Dec. 27.

College notes holiday closing dates

The Highland Community College campus will be closed for the holidays from Wednesday, Dec. 23, through Friday, Jan. 1. The campus reopens Monday, Jan. 4.

In addition to closing the administrative offices for the holiday, the conference center and Clarence Mitchell Library also will be closed.

New students may register for spring classes during the break online at highland.edu/admissions/new-students. Current students may register through ROAR.

Columbia College, located on the HCC campus, will also be closed Dec. 24, Dec. 25, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. The staff will work remotely Dec. 28 through Dec. 30 and the office will reopen Jan. 4.

• Donations

(Continued from front page)

to maximize the impact of this initiative; your donation is essential as we work to close the gap."

Pritzker suggested that "in the spirit of this holiday season," Illinois companies, when upgrading equipment, can donate their old technology to the Equity Network, where PCs For People will upgrade it and give it to a family in need.

"It's all hands on deck. Employers large and small, and likewise governments large and small," Matt Schmit, the state's Office of Broadband director, said in an interview.

Colleges and other institutions of higher education that are upgrading equipment and can donate their older computers will be likely donors. Counties, cities or even small towns are also encouraged to partner with local businesses to recycle equipment during an update cycle.

"It can be computers by the hundreds or just a couple here and there. It all makes a difference," he said.

Companies and individuals who give computers to the program are eligible for tax reductions under applicable regulations for property donations to charitable organizations.

Philanthropic entities are also encouraged to contribute. Current partners of the Equity Network include the Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund, the Jewish United Fund, the Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois and the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis.

PCs for People CEO Casey Sorensen said the network has currently committed to providing 20,000 computers to low-income families during the non-profit's first year operating in Illinois. Given the state's number of households lacking computers is more than one million, significant investment in the program from public, private and philanthropic entities

will be necessary to source enough computers to meet the demand.

"It's easy for many to take for granted access to a computer and internet, but the pandemic has shown us millions of kids cannot access education," Sorensen said. "We have received the warm welcome from local corporations, and now with the governor's call to action, we're optimistic about announcing many new partnerships in the near future, that help us sustain supply to reach Illinois families."

Illinois residents who are eligible for free computers must be below 200 percent of the federal poverty line or enrolled in income-based government assistance programs such as free or reduced school lunch, Medicaid or SNAP.

Alongside the distribution events scheduled in every Illinois county, two statewide distribution centers, one in the Metro East area and one in Chicago, will be open for donations.

Households looking to receive computers, or companies looking to donate their older equipment, can visit Illinois.gov/ComputerEquityNetwork for more information.

Capitol News Illinois is a non-profit, nonpartisan news service covering state government.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Pictured from left to right at the recent donation presentation are Julie Hilliger, Amy Krowlow and Julie Wenzel (100 Women Who Care Steering Committee members), Danielle Jackson (New Jerusalem Soup Kitchen and food pantry secretary), Jessica Stanley-Asselmeier (Northern Illinois Food Bank development officer, corporate and foundation giving) and Lucy Bush (New Jerusalem Soup Kitchen and food pantry director).

Women's group helps feeding efforts

The Northern Illinois Food Bank recently was named this quarter's 100 Women Who Care recipient. The food bank received \$11,900 that will be used to assist its partners within Stephenson County.

Established in 1983, Northern Illinois Food Bank has a network of 35 member food pantries and feeding program sites in Stephenson County. The food bank distributed 1.1 million meals this past year. "Over 5,000 of our neighbors in Stephenson County faced hunger last year, including 1,600

children," Jessica Stanley-Asselmeier, development officer for corporate and foundation giving, said in a news release.

The gift from 100 Women Who Care of Stephenson County will help food bank officials to increase access to nutritious groceries for people around the county by supporting the "Take 50" food program, which will help to subsidize the costs for healthier food for the member agencies in Stephenson County.

"NIFB is grateful for all of the com-

munity partners, like 100 Women Who Care of Stephenson County, for their commitment in their vision for no one to be hungry," the news release said.

100 Women Who Care member Linda Alberts nominated the food bank for the program and gave a presentation about it at the November meeting.

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and Happy New Year!

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Letters To Santa

Sara Janecke's second grade, Warren Elementary School

Dear Santa, My name is Gabriel. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren and Apple Canyon Lake. I have been OK this year. I want a PS5 for Christmas this year. I want a snowmobile if your elves are not too busy. I will leave cookies, milk and reindeer food for you and your reindeer.

Love, Gabe

Dear Santa, My name is Brooklyn. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an OMG doll because I think it would go good with my other dolls. If your elves are not too busy, I would like a Fail Fix doll. I will leave some cookies and carrots for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Brooklyn

Dear Santa, My name is Owen. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an electric scooter because I like to ride scooters around my sidewalk. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a Fly Guy book. I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Owen

Dear Santa, My name is Tanner. I am 7 years old. I live in the country. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a cow because I would like to ride the cow. I live cows because they are my favorite animal. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a Nintendo Switch or an X-box because I have only played one video game. I will leave some cookies and Coca-Cola for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Tanner

Dear Santa, My name is Leyla. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a bunny and a puppy because they are soft. I could take them outside and play with them. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a giant fluffy unicorn. I will leave some cookies, milk and carrots for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Leyla

Dear Santa, My name is Blaine. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a wooden shed because I could put my tractors in it. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like Legos because they are fun to build. I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Blaine

Dear Santa, My name is Braylyn. I am 7 years old. I live in Nora. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a skateboard because they are cool. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like slime, squishies,

a doll, a puppy and jewelry. I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Braylyn

Dear Santa, My name is Jazmyn. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is an LOL doll because they are so fun to play with. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like to touch the elves because I want to see Santa to tell him I want to touch the elves. I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Jazmyn

Dear Santa, My name is Max. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a remote-control Jeep because it's fun to play with in the snow. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like tractor and a hat with a Case IH logo on them. I will leave some cookies and milk and some reindeer food too. I will leave them out on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Max

Dear Santa, My name is Alyssa. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would like MOST for Christmas this year is a Ryan Vending Machine because I like it a lot and I saw it at Walmart. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like 1,000 surprise egg toys. I will leave some Christmas cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Alyssa

Dear Santa, My name is Chyanne. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a toy house because I got a lot of other things. If your elves are not too busy, I would like toy cases and toy candles. I will leave some cookies, milk and carrots for you and your reindeer on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

Love, Chyanne

Stephanie Wolff's second grade, Warren Elementary School

Dear Santa, My name is Daymion. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a red tablet because tablets can have a lot of stuff on it. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a Wall-E toy because Wall-E can do a lot of fun things. I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

— Daymion

Dear Santa, My name is Piper. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a Barbie Dream House because it has a cool pool and slide. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a puppy, but I can't get one because Frank says no. I will leave some cookies, milk and carrots for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!

— Piper

See LETTERS, Page 13

97898

SEASON'S GREETINGS & MANY THANKS

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SULLIVAN'S FOODS & STAFF



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SANTA'S SHOPPING WISH LIST

Freedom, joy, a jar of harmony.
Would you believe
Santa found them all in aisle three?
Eggnog, Yule logs,
There are plenty in store,
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Good thing we ordered more!

Best wishes to you, our friends,
May your good times never end!

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Welcome To The Season

May the Holidays bring much joy to your home and family.
We look forward to seeing you again in the coming year.

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Merry Christmas

from
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Lena
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Darin, Tammy, Nick,
Dee, Collyns, Bowman,
Cass and Zach

387270

• Letters (Continued from page 12)

Dear Santa,
My name is Genevieve. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River. I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a camera because I can take pictures. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a Barbie camping set for my Barbies to go camping in. I will leave some cookies and carrots for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Genevieve

Dear Santa, My name is Augie. I am 7.5 years old. I live in Stockton. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a tractor because I am a farm kid. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like Farming Simulator 2020 because I have Farming Simulator 2019. I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Augie

Dear Santa, My name is Journee. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a horse because I am learning how to ride a pony. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a kitty because they are cute. I would name it Tinker Bell. I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve. I will also leave some sugar cubes for the reindeer. Merry Christmas!
— Journee

Dear Santa, My name is Braelyn. I am 8 years old. I live in Rockford and Nora. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is an iPod with a PopSocket because I can watch YouTube on it. I can also call my cousin, Carter. I will leave some milk, chocolate and some carrots for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Braelyn

Dear Santa, My name is Madison. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a

Reborn Baby Doll because they look real. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like 20 LOL dolls that are any kind. I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Madison

Dear Santa, My name is Easton. I am 7 years old. I live in Nora. I have been good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a laptop that can fold into a tablet because they look very cool. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like cordless headphones. I will leave some milk and peanut butter cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Easton

Dear Santa, My name is Arianna. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a big cat plushy because they are probably cute and because I like cats a lot. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a small cat plushy. I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Arianna

Dear Santa, My name is Randey. I am 7 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been very good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a WWE wrestler. Its name is Brock Lesnar. I want it because I like to play with them. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like tractors. I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Randey

Dear Santa, My name is Gavin. I am 8 years old. I live in Warren. This year I have been a good boy. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a gift card for my XBOX One. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a chessboard game. I will leave some milk and cookies for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Gavin

Dear Santa, My name is Lakota. I am 7 years old. I live in Apple River and Nora. This year I have been good. What I would MOST like for Christmas this year is a pig because it is my dream pet. I even have a pig backpack and a pig stuffed animal. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like a pink holder for my tablet. I will leave some milk and cookies

for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Lakota

Dear Santa, My name is Asher. I am 7 years old. I live in Nora and Benton. This year I have been good. What I would most like for Christmas this year is a Wally and Eva toy because I like the movie and there is

a lot of detail and the toys are like in the movie. If your elves are not too busy, I would also like some Transformers toys because they are really cool toys and they are in a movie. I will leave some cookies and milk for you on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas!
— Asher

What Christmas Means To Me

Heidi Sigafus' third grade, Warren Elementary School

Christmas means decorating the tree, making cookies with my mom and spending time with my family. My brother and I like to help mom and dad put decorations on the tree. Making cookies for Santa is fun! It is always nice to see my family at Christmas.
Hannah

Christmas means to me spending time with my family and friends. We like to listen to Christmas music while we decorate the tree. Watching Christmas movies is very fun. I like having Christmas parties at school. Having Christmas sleepovers and celebrating Christmas with mom and dad are my favorite things.
Sidra

Christmas means baking cookies and giving and getting presents. My

favorite part of Christmas is seeing my family. I hope Santa comes this year. I also hope he doesn't have a sick reindeer.
Hayden

Christmas means to give, help, pray and be good. Christmas is not about presents, cookies, feasts or singing. It is about Jesus, Mary, Joseph and the three Wise Men and God. God is the most important thing on Earth and he created grass, trees, water, and food.
Liam

Christmas means family to me. One thing to do with my family is watching Christmas movies on Freeform. We like Home Alone 1-2, The Grinch, The Nightmare before Christmas and the Christmas Chronicles 1-2.
Sage

Christmas means to me getting together on Christmas and having fun at Mema's and Papa's and seeing

all my cousins and playing. Christmas means sitting on the couch and watching the Grinch. I think Christmas means eating all the food and gingerbreadman cookies.
Maisey



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Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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With Warm Wishes

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Merry Christmas
from Dennis, James, Logan, Jake, Logan and Randy

NAPA

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May the joy of Christmas remain with you throughout the New Year!

Merry, Merry Christmas!
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What Christmas Means To Me

Karissa Spiller's third grade, Warren Elementary School

Christmas means opening presents and playing before breakfast. Then, after that we go outside and play in the snow! Then, we come in for some hot cocoa. So then we watch a Christmas movie. Afterwards, we go and play with the toys some more!

Thatcher

Christmas means hanging out with family and playing in the snow, even building snowmen! Also, we open presents and even give presents. You can also build forts in the snow. The most fun is snuggling with my parents!

Kayden

Christmas means to me wrapping gifts for my family members and having my mom make homemade stew for breakfast. After that we go make a snowman outside. Then, we take the dogs for a walk and meet up

with family members. I can't wait until Christmas.

Abby

Christmas means to me giving and getting presents, sitting and watching TV with family and playing with my siblings, my dogs and cats. I also like visiting my family, seeing Santa, seeing the reindeer and giving Santa cookies and milk. I also like playing in the snow with my dad. My brother and I play in the snow, too.

Kynlee

Christmas means to me spending time and opening presents with family. I like to eat delicious meals with my family. We make a fire and cuddle up to the fireplace, but we don't get too close! My brother and I try to build a snowman but my dog takes the carrot nose! At last, we play with the toys we get from Christmas.

Kelsey

Christmas means to me family, friends and dogs. I like to play

with my toys that I get on Christmas morning. It is fun to play with my dogs before opening presents. Christmas also means to me playing with my cousins. I can't wait for this year's Christmas.

Aiden

Christmas means family, presents, Santa, dogs and cats. My family makes me stuff, especially my favorite food, pizza. My siblings and I like to spend most of my time playing games together. During Christmas I get a lot of presents from Santa. My favorite presents I got from Santa were a Ben10 and Paw Patrol toy when I was in kindergarten. I can't wait for Christmas to come so I can spend time with family and get lots of presents from Santa.

Tyler

Christmas means to me making snowmen with my family. We also open presents together. We eat doughnuts on Christmas morning. I can't wait to see what Santa brings.

Bella

Letters To Santa

Natalie Byrne's first grade River Ridge Elementary

Dear Santa, My name is Diora and I would love JoJo Silva dolls and JoJo Silva set. I would also like a PS5 for my brother. I will feel so happy if I get that stuff.

Thank you, Santa!

Love, Diora

Dear Santa,

How are your elves? I would like gymnastic stuff, a fake mermaid tail and makeup. I love you, Santa! That's all. Merry Christmas!

Love, Amia

Hi Santa,

How are you doing at the North Pole? Can you take corona away? Can I have a PS5 and that's it? Bye!

Love, Danny

Hello Santa,

How are you doing? I would like LOL dolls and colored pencils. I would also like a sketchbook because I am really good at drawing. I think that's enough for me.

Love, Elizabeth

Hi Santa, I would like a Barbie house with a slide coming down from Barbie's bedroom. I would also like one of those rock LOL dolls. Are you doing good? How is Mrs. Claus doing?

Love, Kollins

Dear Santa,

How old are you? I would like a garbage can lid to pretend it is a shield. I would also like a remote control Batman car.

From, Eli

Hi,

I want the coronavirus gone! May I have a phone for Christmas? Can I have a teddy bear and Sharpie markers? I would also like books!

How old are my elves at home? Will the baby elves grow up?

Love, Jayden

Dear Santa,

I would like a PS5, Nerf guns and Call of Duty Cold War. I also would like Pokemon cards and any Mario toys. I would like to know why my elf goes in such weird spots every day?

Love, Mason

Dear Santa,

How are you doing? I want to know about my elf. How old is Chip-py the Elf? Can I have tons of LOL dolls for Christmas? I would also like a Tiffany and Chucky doll!

Stay safe when you're flying past houses!

Love, Jaymie

Hi Santa,

I want a new bike and I want a drone. That's all I really want. I love you!

Love, Brantley

Dear Santa,

I want a slime kit, please.

Love, Beverly

Dear Santa,

I would like a big, big, stuffed animal llama. I want some sweets! I love you!

Love, Alivia



Merry Christmas from All of Us At Stephenson Service Company 815-235-7400



MERRY CHRISTMAS from RICK'S SALES & SERVICE 815-492-2102



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I would like to join my entire staff in wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday season.



Steve Rothschadl, LUTCF, RICP Financial Representative 202 S Schuyler, Po Box 669 Lena, IL 61048-0669 www.countryfinancial.com/steven.rothschadl steven.rothschadl@countryfinancial.com (815)369-4581



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Stateline Insurance Services Inc. Locations Orangeville • Warren

What Christmas Means To Me

Krista Fry's fourth grade, River Ridge

What Christmas means to me is spending time with family. To me it also means that Santa Claus comes to everyone's houses. It also means to me that you have fun. Also it means to me that everyone is happy. To me it also means to me also that you can go sledding and skiing and have snowball fights.

Christian Morhardt

What Christmas means to me is when Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Christmas means this to me because Jesus is the one who died on the cross for all of our sins and he is coming again soon. Jesus loves all of us so much even if we do horrible things. He is always by our sides helping you and me through life. He loves you very much and that is one thing that you should never forget.

Samuel Cobine

Christmas means that I can see my family. I do not get to see my family much but at Christmas I get to spend a lot of time with them. I love that we have to put on a Christmas play. My great uncle makes homemade Christmas presents. Christmas is the day Jesus was born.

Natalie Haas

Christmas means to me going to church. My family celebrates Jesus' birth. On Christmas Eve we go to my grandma's house. We watch Christmas movies together. Me, my dad, Douglas, Bev, and Russell go to go get my Christmas tree. When we set up the Christmas tree and the decorations, we listen to Christmas music.

Frances Howard

To me Christmas means being with family and friends and having a lot of fun and joy. But for some kids it is just presents to them because they just want things to use. I like Christmas because I get to see fam-

ily I don't usually get to see. I think Christmas is the best holiday because it usually brings family together. Being with my family on Christmas is my favorite thing to do.

Ben Schoenfeld

Christmas is a very jolly day. I love snow. I like wearing PJs in the morning and my favorite robe. I wish I had slippers but maybe for Christmas — my favorite holiday. On Christmas I love giving presents to my mom. In the morning I am very excited for Christmas. It is fun to spend time with my family. I like seeing other family members on that day.

My favorite thing about Christmas is spending time with my family and giving presents. If I had school on Christmas I would be very happy. I would get my teacher a present. On Christmas I wish you could invite my friends, but because of COVID, I can't. I can send letters, though. I also like giving letters.

Melissa Bonifay

Christmas means celebrating the birth of Jesus. Also it means to me to be nice to everyone — friends and family. It also means to me to sing hymns in church. It also means to get presents and Secret Santa people, too. It also means you can celebrate with your family and aunts and uncles and papa and grandma too. It also means that you place Christmas decorations on a Christmas tree, too.

Brock Turner

Christmas is my favorite holiday. I like Christmas because you get presents. You get to be with your family too. It is a great day to be with your family. To me it is the best day. I will be happy if it snows on Christmas

Day. Christmas is my favorite holiday.

Damian Ware

This time of year is about family for all the gatherings. Dec 25th is about friends for all the gift exchanges. I love when we play Christmas charades. Christmas is about believing. Christmas means love from everyone around the world.

Violet Golden

Christmas means to me love and friends and family. I love it so much because it is Jesus' birthday. We can play games and open presents. It is a

See CHRISTMAS, Page 19

Letters To Santa

Mary Steele's first grade, River Ridge Elementary School

Dear Santa Claus,
Thank you for Sophia.
Love, Payton

Dear Santa Claus,
Hi Santa Claus, Please can I have a Nerf gun for my Nerf gun collection?
Love, Trevoe

Dear Santa Claus,
I want a Nerf gun. I am so happy for Christmas.
Love, Mick

Dear Santa Claus,
How is Mrs. Claus? Please can I have a gymnastic bar and a gymnastic mat? Are the elves working hard? I hope your reindeer are doing well

too.
Love, Elliana

Dear Santa Claus,
Please can I have an Elf on the Shelf? How is Mrs. Claus?
Love, Ruby

Dear Santa Claus,
I want to have a robot butler and a Nerf gun. I hope you get visitors. Santa please and thank you.
Love, Keegan

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you today? I am excited for Christmas. I'm getting a new bed this year from my mom. Can I please have a LOL OMG doll and stuff I like and please give my family what they want. I will give you cookies and carrots.
Love, Evelyn

Dear Santa Claus,
How are you doing? How do you fly your sleigh? Please bring me a red marker. I hope the elves are working hard.
Love, Matthew

Dear Santa Claus,
May I please have something nice for Christmas? Maybe a Minecraft Lego set. Merry Christmas.
Love, Brodi

Dear Santa Claus,
I would like a train track and a machine that will turn my toys into real things. I hope the reindeer are good today.
Love, Jered


WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Dan, Jan and Cindy

334816

Season's Greetings



from
Stockton Auto Body
Rich. Penny,
Lindsay & Andy

96107

Season's Greetings To All

As we enjoy the symbols of the season, the tree, the decorations, the music and more, we would like to add our best wishes for a joyous holiday.

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96307

Let There Be Light This Christmas



May this holy time shine with peace, and bring forth happiness to you and your family.

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Wishing You Every Happiness At Christmas

May peace, love, joy and good fortune, visit your home this holiday season. We really appreciate your visiting us this past year.

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Nick, Kris and Annie

303649

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS
 Illinois Bank and Trust
 PLAINTIFF
 Vs.

Rebecca Reitz; Penny Bailey; Jami Lopp; Steven Stadel, as Independent Executor of the Estate of Bonnie K. Lopp; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Bonnie K. Lopp; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants
 DEFENDANTS

2020CH68

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
 NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:
 Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Bonnie K. Lopp
 Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
 418 Provost Ave Scales Mound, IL 61075

and which said Mortgage was made by:

Jerry R. Lopp
 Bonnie K. Lopp
 the Mortgagor(s), to Galeana State Bank & Trust Co., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, as Document No. 375885; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court,

Kathy Phillips
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 Jo Daviess County Courthouse
 330 N. Bench Street
 Galena, IL 61036

on or before January 8, 2021, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100
 Burr Ridge, IL 60527
 (630) 794-5300

DuPage # 15170
 Winnebago # 531
 Our File No. 14-20-05373
 NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.
 I3160741
 (Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2020)

386389

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for REO Trust 2017-RPL1
 PLAINTIFF
 Vs.
 Patti L. Pflaume; et. al.
 DEFENDANTS

2020CH21

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 11/24/2020, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on January 21, 2021 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT IN THE COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, AND STATE OF ILLINOIS AND BEING DESCRIBED IN A DEED DATED 07/26/79 AND RECORDED 08/02/79, AMONG THE LAND RECORDS OF THE COUNTY AND STATE SET FORTH ABOVE, AND REFERENCED AS FOLLOWS:

BOOK 247 PAGE 1449.
 THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE, TO-WIT:

PART OF LOT 7 OF A SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTH-EAST FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF FRACTIONAL SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE 4TH P.M. DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING 101.08 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT 7, WHICH CORNER IS 572.22 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST COR-

NER OF THE SOUTH EAST, FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF SAID SECTION, AND RUNNING THENCE NORTH 138 FEET, THENCE WEST 63.22 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 138 FEET TO A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT 7, THENCE EAST 63.22 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

EXCEPT FOR THAT PORTION CONVEYED TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS SET FORTH IN THE WARRANTY DEED RECORDED 08/23/1999 AS DOCUMENT 9903182 AND THE QUIT CLAIM DEED RECORDED 08/23/1999 AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 9903183 IN THE OFFICE OF THE STEPHENSON COUNTY RECORDER OF DEEDS.

PIN 18-13-25-478-013
 Improved with Single Family Home
 COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
 880 W Galena Ave Freeport, IL 61032

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The

Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-20-02173.

I3160998
 (Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 16, 23 & 30, 2020)

386746

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
 OF THE FIFTEENTH
 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 STEPHENSON COUNTY -
 IN PROBATE**

In Re the Matter of the Estate of:
 Marjorie A. Heilman
 No. 2020 P 114

**NOTICE FOR
 PUBLICATION - CLAIMS**

Notice is given of the death of Marjorie A. Heilman, of Freeport, Illinois. An Order was entered 12-8-2020, admitting the Will of the decedent and dated 10/27/2017, issuing Letters of Office as described herein and requiring the representative to file an inventory within 60 days. Letters of Office were issued on 12-8-2020, to: Amber Nicole Bell, as independent Executor of the Estate of Marjorie A. Heilman, whose attorney is

Darin R. Doak, Esq.,
 Attorney for Estate of
 Marjorie A. Heilman

1203 Navaho Drive
 Brentwood, TN 37027
 615-540-1950 (evenings)
 815-235-9678
 (office, cell, text mssg)
 darin@darindoaklaw.com

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 28.4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before 05/08/2021, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Darin R. Doak, Esq.,
 Attorney for Estate of
 Marjorie A. Heilman
 1203 Navaho Drive
 Brentwood, TN. 37027
 615-540-1950 (evenings)
 815-235-9678 (office, cell,
 text mssg)
 darin@darindoaklaw.com
 (Published in The Shopper's
 Guide Dec. 23, 30, 2020
 & Jan. 6, 2021)

387492

**PLEASANT VALLEY
 TOWNSHIP**

2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Thursday, January 28 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday, February 25 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday, March 25 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Tuesday, April 13 @ 7 pm
 Annual Town Meeting*
- Tuesday, April 13 @ 7:30 pm
 Monthly Meeting*
- Thursday, May 27 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday, June 24 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday, July 29 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday, August 26 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday, September 30 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday, October 28 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday, November 18 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting#
- Thursday, December 30 @ 7 pm
 Monthly Meeting

All meetings held at the Pleasant Valley Township Office



your source for on-line news: **RVPNEWS.COM**

*It's Christmas Time
in the City!*

*We hope everyone enjoys
the Holiday Season!*



Kempel Urish Construction, Inc.

386693



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year!*

from

Leverton Sales

100 East North Street
McConnell, IL

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LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page

ant Valley Township Hall.

All meetings will be held on the last Thursday of the month with the following exceptions:

*The Annual Town Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, April 13th in combination with the monthly meeting.

The November Monthly Meeting moved to the 18th due to conflict with Thanksgiving.

(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 23, 2020)

387298

The Scoop Today
& Shopper's
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Office/Clerical

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Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising
Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
Fax: (262) 725-6844

316524

To place an ad in our Help Wanted Section... Call (815) 369-4112

real estate

Other Real Estate

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familiar/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Help Wanted

ST. JOHN'S UNITED Church of Christ is an active multi-generational community engaged in Christian ministry. We are seeking a collaborative individual to join our team as an Office Administrator/Media Coordinator. The ideal candidate has experience in all aspects of office administration and creative use of digital platforms. Expected hours range from 24-28 hours per week. For a full job description, contact stjohnsuccmonroe@gmail.com. Application deadline: 12/30/20

Automobiles

1990 CHRYSLER IMPERIAL V6, 4 dr., very clean & new battery. \$2,000. 262-325-3541.

1995 CABRIO: Convertible/NEW battery/break lines/brain box 110 mlg. 847-477-6384 OR 696-3289

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2012 CHEVY TRAVERSE nice condition, 142k Hwy miles, 2 new tires, \$6500. 815-947-2972

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1998 FORD RANGER, 4X4, with cap, automatic, power, transmission fluid leak, \$795. 262-949-6997 text preferred.

for sale

Announcements

CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.

DISCLAIMER NOTICE This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

Automobiles Wanted

PLEASE DONATE YOUR VEHICLE To disabled brothers in there 70's for Dr's appointments, etc. 262-895-1050

TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR FULL SIZE JUNK TRUCKS & SUV's. Haul away 7 days a week. 262-758-1807

Farm Machinery

WHITE 580-5 BOTTOM PLOW 18-20 wide cut. \$3,900. J D 4 row corn planter \$699. 262-994-2099.

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Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price

Table with 5 columns and 5 rows for writing an ad.

Ads will not be accepted without the following information. Only one free ad per month.

YOUR NAME PHONE

ADDRESS

Restaurant/bar shutdown defies common sense

By Jim Sacia
GUEST OPINION

I've searched every available outlet. I am without success anywhere to find a sensible reason to close our restaurants and bars. They have a ridiculously low infection rate for COVID. It's 1.4 percent. For home gatherings it's over 70 percent.

Gov. JB Pritzker assures us the science is being followed. Governor Cuomo of New York just ordered all New York dining facilities closed

to indoor dining. They are facing a huge snowstorm, forcing them to remove all of their outdoor canopies.

As a small business owner that is essential, we have been able to "weather the storm." A mandatory shutdown would have destroyed us, as it is to many restaurants and bars. The restaurant and bar industries have suffered the wrath of COVID-19.

I recognize that it is serious. I understand that many die from it. For six days in late September, I

could hardly get out of bed. Yes, I had COVID-19. At age 76, they assured me that I was lucky I had no comorbidities. The blood bank can't get enough of me. They need my antibodies.

My frustration is multifold. I'm allowed to go to Walmart, Farm and Fleet and all the big box stores — with my mask on, of course. As my glasses fog up, I must sneak my nose over the top, totally removing the benefit of the mask. Looking around, I realize I'm not alone.

I'm allowed to attend Mass if there is space available — to ... 10 percent of the church capacity.

Since early March, the word hypocrisy is used more and more. The stories are rampant and of course true as politicians order us to comply with the regulations, then totally ignore that very regulation for themselves.

Yes, thousands are dying from this evil pandemic. Thousands are dying from heart disease, but they are still selling double cheeseburgers — at the drive thru window. My point is simple. America is supposed to be a free country.

If you fear going to restaurant or bar, stay home. Allow those of us who choose socialization and

supporting struggling businesses to have a place to go.

Yes, now we've been relegated to large tents, erected at great expense to the business owner in their parking lots, the LP gas heaters attempting to keep you reasonably comfortable. This is more sensible than enjoying inside dining? There is no science at all that blames indoor dining to the COVID spread. Ah for the days of common sense.

I hope you will all have a blessed holiday season.

Jim Sacia formerly served as the Illinois state representative for the 89th District, which includes all of northwest Illinois. He is a retired FBI agent and the owner of Nite equipment in Pecatonica.

• Christmas (Continued from page 15)

fun holiday. It is my favorite holiday. I wish I could stay up and wait till Santa comes. Merry Christmas.

Daly Niccum

Christmas means love and family and hope in the air. Also that love is in me and you. Music in my heart. This is why I love Christmas.

Zoey Herrick

What Christmas means to me is giving my cousins Christmas presents. It also means setting up stockings. I like the feeling of giving my cousins Christmas presents. Christmas also means to me wrapping presents. Last but not least, seeing and being with my family.

Hayden Bradbury

Christmas is a very holy and jolly time for me and my family loves it like I do! If I was Santa I would be a great deliveryman even if it was just watching the kids be bad or good! I hope one day I can be Santa just for my children that I have when I grow up but I will just adopt them.

And then I can FINALLY spend money! I think Christmas is all about family and presents but this year we aren't having presents.

Meagan Greenwald

Over my Christmas last year I was really surprised that I did not get coal! I love all the presents I got. Overall my Christmas was good and this one will be good too.

Leo Pratt

Lara Walters' fourth grade, River Ridge

What Christmas means to me is all the music. I love walking downtown Galena at Christmastime and hearing Christmas music. Another thing I love during Christmas is all the lights. Christmas is about joy and happiness.

Luke Holcomb

Christmas means to me that you can spend time with your parents and grandparents. Also it is a great opportunity to be thankful for everything people have done for you. It means to me also that it is a very nice annual celebration to be with the people you love and care about. People can have fun and make memories to remember your childhood. Also you can be with your family and have a nice holiday with them.

Madylynn Folks

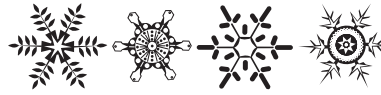
I enjoy Christmas because of the snow. I have snowball fights with my sisters. We also built snowmen and snow forts to play capture the flag. After that we go to our light switch that has words of blessings and we pray. Then we open presents then we all go in our rooms and play with them so it isn't too loud in the front room. Then we go back outside and play snow house; it is very fun. We go snuggle with our cats when we are done. Then we have a family night and go bed when we are done.

Justice Easter

What Christmas means to me is to be with my family and friends and to have fun. My Christmas tree gets put up and I will eat a lot of candy. We go Christmas shopping.

We put lights outside of the house. We watch The Grinch. We get presents and eat cinnamon rolls. We will eat food and play games. We go to meet family and we party and have fun.

Sophia Martinez



Spread the News
It's
Christmas!

It's Christmas in the city, and in the country too. As the spirit of the season lights up the world and wraps us in it's glow, we want to express our appreciation to you, loyal friends and neighbors.
We wish you the brightest holiday season ever and thanks for making our year extra special.

Shopper's Guide
The Scoop Today

Jenny, Cyndee,
Laurie and Jessica

386688

Letter to the editor

Students benefit from community generosity

Stockton Schools would like to thank the many Stockton community members, our churches and several local service organizations for their generosity in helping provide added joy to many of our students during this holiday season.

*Cory Walters, social worker
Stockton School District*

REAL ESTATE LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE
15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT,
ILLINOIS

U.S. Bank Trust National Association,
not in its individual capacity but solely as
owner trustee for REO Trust 2017-RPL1
PLAINTIFF

Vs.
Patti L. Pflaume; et. al.
DEFENDANTS

2020CH21

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE
OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure
and Sale entered in the above cause
on 11/24/2020, the Sheriff of Stephenson
County, Illinois will on January 21, 2021 at
the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County
Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue
1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport,
IL 61032, or in a place otherwise
designated at the time of sale, County
of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell
at public auction to the highest bidder for
cash, as set forth below, the following described
real estate:

PIN 18-13-25-478-013
Improved with Single Family Home
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 880 W Galena
Ave Freeport, IL 61032

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest
bid by certified funds at the close of the
auction; The balance, including the Judicial
sale fee for Abandoned Residential
Property Municipality Relief Fund, which
is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each
\$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount
paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300,
in certified funds, is due within twenty-four
(24) hours. The subject property is subject
to general real estate taxes, special
assessments, or special taxes levied
against said real estate and is offered
for sale without any representation as to
quality or quantity of title and without
recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.
The sale is further subject to confirmation
by the court.

If the property is a condominium and the

foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007,
purchasers other than the mortgagees will
be required to pay any assessment and
legal fees due under The Condominium
Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and
(g)(4).

If the property is located in a common
interest community, purchasers other
than mortgagees will be required to pay
any assessment and legal fees due under
the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS
605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason,
the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled
only to a return of the deposit paid. The
Purchaser shall have no further recourse
against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or
the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid,
the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of
Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a
Deed to the real estate after Confirmation
of the sale. The successful purchaser has
the sole responsibility/expense of evicting
any tenants or other individuals presently
in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection
and Plaintiff makes no representation
as to the condition of the property.
Prospective bidders are admonished to
check the Court file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER),
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION
FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF
POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file
or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis &
Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage
Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527,
(630) 794-9876. Please refer to file
number 14-20-02173.
13160998

(Published in The Shopper's Guide
Dec. 16, 23 & 30, 2020)

your source for on-line news: **RVPNEWS.COM**

College looks to help students earn early childhood education degrees

In a joint effort to curb a shortage of early childhood educators in Illinois, Highland Community College and National Louis University in Chicago have finalized an agreement to connect their early childhood education programs.

"Through the articulation agreement, students completing their associate's degree in early childhood at HCC will have the opportunity able to seamlessly transition to the early childhood bachelor of arts programs of their choice at NLU," according to a news release.

NLU offers a variety of courses, including 100 percent online classes.

"I am delighted with this opportunity for our Highland district and community," said Melissa Johnson, coordinator for early childhood education. "It offers opportunities for our

students that are working in the field to continue their education toward a bachelor's degree."

"Students will benefit from student-teacher field experiences, a core part of the National College of Education curriculum that will prepare them to positively impact their community upon graduation," the release states.

"We have also developed a 'growth-your-own' pathway for students beginning as juniors and seniors in high school," Johnson said. "Through the CareerTEC program, we have an early childhood program held at Highland for juniors and seniors."

For more information about early childhood education courses at Highland Community College, email Johnson at melissa.johnson@highland.edu.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

May your Christmas be filled with everything and everyone you love.

*Dr. Stephen & Jamie Petras
Dr. Caitlin Pullara
& Staff*

363929

Stockton Schools would like to thank the many Stockton community members, our churches, and several local service organizations for their generosity in helping provide added joy to many of our students during this holiday season.

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THE GIFT THAT**
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