

Video game fees skyrocket in Stockton

By Christopher Johnson
REPORTER

A report in last week's edition of the Scoop explained that a recent vote to increase licensing per video gaming

terminal passed by a majority vote. Though accurate, the vote count was not reported correctly. When the "okay" was given by the State of Illinois to modify rates for

functional operation of video machines, communities acted. In Stockton, the plan to increase licensing fees from \$15 to \$250 annually did pass by a majority vote. But not

by the 4-2 margin that was reported. Our apologies for the misinformation. Stockton Village Clerk Stefanie Hatley explained that the misinformation brought questions to

mind. "The approved Board Minutes from our January Board Meeting clearly states that all Trustees voted aye to the Video Gaming Terminal Fee Increase." The approval to increase revenue for the right to operate video game machines passed by a 6-0 vote, not 4-2 as previously explained. We regret this misinformation.

The impact on the decision by the Stockton Village Board will mean increased funding for the right to offer video gaming machines to residents and travelers. Businesses which were operating with six machines, as example, were paying \$15 per machine, netting the Village a little under a hundred dollars per location. Now, with the decision being made to change how much each machine will be worth to operate, the revenue per location could bring in the Village of Stockton close to \$1,500 per location.

Some business owners have expressed interest as to why the increase was necessary. Others say since it has occurred, what does that mean for the community.

A second error was also reported in last week's edition of the Scoop. The sub-section reporting the approval of IEPA Loan 17-555 WWTF Phase 1 Loan was not designated correctly.

Trustee Terry McGovern was not the elected official who reported to the Village Board that the funds had been received for the IEPA Loan,

for the accepted debt, Trustee Linda Gonnerman was. The end result is the dollars that have been received by the Village of Stockton can be put to use on infrastructure improvements. Loans, such as those offered through agencies such as the IEPA or USDA, often involve long term commitments, in exchange for much more relaxed interest charges correlating.

For the past year and more, finding the dollars that have been offered through the State of Illinois and the United States Federal Government has been a focused duty of Board Members and others reporting to municipal leaders. Because of the age of many of the roads and underlying water transfer systems in the Village of Stockton hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars will have to be spent over the next decade and beyond to improve things.

Citizen contributions such as tax-assessed support is just one stream of revenue for the Village of Stockton. With the amount of work that has to be done to stabilize the base of the community and in an effort to build up to the surface with new walkways and through ways, more money has to be found.

Filing for forgivable grants and low-interest loans are just a couple of the paths Village Officials have been following in order to better prepare the community for decades of needed and constant improvement.



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Students place in competition

Members of the River Ridge FFA recently competed in the Section One Vet Science CDE (Career Development Event) hosted by Stockton. The upperclassman team (from left to right) Ashley Carroll, Avery Engle, Kari Conklin and Heaven Brotherton, placed 3rd overall.

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Durbin: Lock and dam upgrades a 'game changer' for Illinois farmers

By Timothy Eggert
FARMWEEK

If farming is a school of patience, then securing federal funding for the agriculture industry is, too.

Just ask U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, who joined other Illinois legislators in finally harvesting their own 15-year infrastructure crop, yielding \$829 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to upgrade a pair of locks and dams on the upper Mississippi River.

"It's about time," Durbin said during a news conference from inside the lockhouse at the Peoria Lock and Dam on the Illinois River. "Today, it's the river. Tomorrow it's the highways. The day after, it's the bridges. You're going to hear a lot more about this."

In total, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will spend more than \$1.3 billion starting in fiscal year 2022 to upgrade inland waterway systems across Illinois.

A majority of those funds (\$732 million) will be used to build a new 1,200-foot lock chamber just north of the confluence of the Mississippi and Illinois rivers, while \$97.1 million will cover a new fish passage at Lock and Dam 22.

Another \$50 million in various repairs will be split by Locks and Dams 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 20 and 21, according to Corps plans.

Facilities along the Illinois River will also undergo \$83 million in improve-



U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, and U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-East Moline, detail \$829 million in funding to upgrade a pair of locks and dams on the Upper Mississippi River during a January news conference from inside the lockhouse at the Peoria Lock and Dam on the Illinois River.

ments, including repairs to the Dresden, LaGrange, Lockport, Marseilles, Peoria and Starved Rock locks and dams.

"The monumental infrastructure package that we passed on to the Biden administration is what is making this happen," U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos, D-East Moline, said during the Illinois news conference. "You have to go back to the Eisenhower administration to see this kind of investment."

The work to land the funding for upgrades to Illinois'

water infrastructure, however, started nearly two decades ago.

"We decided as a delegation to fight for, see if we could bring money in for locks and dams in the state of Illinois and in the Midwest," Durbin said. "And we frankly weren't getting anywhere."

The hang-up, Durbin said, was that cost-benefit ratio calculations to invest in locks and dams weren't appetizing enough — more tax dollars would be spent than economic advantages gained.

So, Durbin and Bustos tied infrastructure investments with ecosystem restorations through the Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program—and it worked.

"Spending less than a billion dollars on these locks and dams on the rivers, we're going to get a payback of \$72 billion," Durbin said. "How about that for cost benefit?"

Illinois farmers will especially experience those benefits, Durbin and Bustos said.

Larger locks mean barges carrying corn and soybeans can move up and down the river faster, getting products to market more quickly and reducing transportation costs, they said.

"We've had record yields in corn and soybeans, so we've got to make sure that we have efficient ways to get these to market," Bustos said, noting how a modern 15-barge tow transports the equivalent of 950 bushels of corn.

When a barge approaches the current 600-foot chamber at Lock and Dam 25, it must decouple, a process that takes two to three hours. With the 1,200-foot chamber, a barge can pass in 30 to 45 minutes.

"The economic impact is a game changer for our farmers, (who are) more competitive now in the world than they've ever had to be," Durbin said. "They're going to get a boost and an opportunity in that regard."

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Obituaries

KAREN R. WALL

Karen R. Wall of Freeport, IL passed away Feb. 12, 2022, at Highland Ridge of Williamsburg, Iowa. Born Oct. 17, 1941, in Dubuque, Iowa, she was the daughter of Duane and Rachael (Glanz) Jones.



She loved being with her daughters, sons, and their families as well as her sisters and parents.

Karen grew up in Lena, Illinois, and Freeport, graduating Freeport High School in 1959. She attended Sterling School of Beauty Culture after graduation. She was a beautician in Freeport and Watertown, New York. Later she was a legal secretary in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and retired from one of the law offices. She also worked at St. Luke's Hospital as the Lifeguard Air Emergency Secretary.

For her school years, Karen was an active member of Lena Methodist Church. She enjoyed watching the Iowa Hawkeyes, Chicago Bears and Chicago Cubs as well as other sports, reading and baking with her mother, as well as playing cards and games with her parents.

She spent every summer of her grade school years at her aunt and uncle's farm in Iowa helping with chores and enjoyed spending time with their animals. She went on several trips and loved traveling with her family however, spent her later years in a quieter environment.

Karen was the loving mother of Krista Daly, Papillion, NE (Scott), KOLEEN POLITO, Avon, OH (Tony), Michael Todd, Cedar Rapids, IA (Jeff) and Scott Gunder, Iowa City, IA (Jodi). She was the beloved grandmother of Ryan Daly, Omaha, NE, Rachael and Abbey Polito, Avon, OH, and Evan Gunder, Iowa City, IA. She is survived by two sisters Julie Wenzel (Alan) and Jan Uecker both of Illinois. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rachael and Marvin Uecker.

Funeral services were held Saturday Feb. 19, 2022, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, with visitation followed by a service officiated by Rev. Rick Bader. A private family graveside service and burial took place at Lena Burial Park.

The family requests that any memorial donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association and invites family and friends to extend condolences or share a memory of her at www.leamonfh.com.

TOM FRANKLIN FURRAY

Tom Franklin Furray age 80, of McConnell, Illinois passed away Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022. Tom was born Apr. 13, 1941, in McConnell to Franklin and Viola (Niesman) Furray. He married Sharon Schultz on Jul. 2, 1961, in McConnell.



Tom is survived by his wife Sharon Furray of McConnell; 3 nieces- Mary, Becky, Sheila Bawden;

He spent more than 40 years at Berner Food in Al-folkley, Illinois as a cheesemaker. He enjoyed everything outdoors- hunting, trapping, fishing, wood gathering and sports. He took motorcycle trips to Alaska and Canada. He loved his Irish Setter Lizzie, and his garage cat Floppsey Mopsey and his Willy's trucks. He was a member of the McConnell Area Historical Society, the South Wayne Trap Shooting Club and was a board member and the grounds keeper of the Silent Hill Cemetery in McConnell.

2 nephews- Chuck and Kim; beloved friends- Brad Allen and Casey Allen. He is preceded in death by his parents; 2 sisters- Donna Miller and Lela (Fieldstad) McQuarrie.

Memorial Services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, at Leamon Funeral Home in Lena. A visitation will be from 12 p.m. until time of service on Friday, Feb. 25, 2022.

Officiating will be Pastor Roger Bronkema. Cremation Rites have been accorded. A memorial has been established in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

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State qualifiers

Wrestlers Griffin Luke, Marey Roby and Garret Luke pose for a photo after qualifying to compete for individual state championships.

Ag and natural resources scholarships available

Individuals who are or will be studying agriculture, natural resources, or related programs with an emphasis in conservation are encouraged to apply for the R. C. Miller Scholarship. The Stephenson County 4-H and Extension Foundation is seeking individuals interested in applying for the scholarship for the 2022-2023 academic year. Chosen recipients will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

To be eligible to apply, individuals must be residents of

Stephenson County and enrolled in an agriculture, natural resources or related degree program. Applicants must be accepted at their chosen college or university and be a full-time student carrying a minimum of 12 hours per semester.

To receive an application, please call the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson County Office at 815-235-4125. Completed applications are due by June 1 to the U of I Extension, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd, Freeport.

City of Freeport responds to Furst-McNess relocation

After 114 years headquartered in Freeport, Furst-McNess Company has announced it will relocate its corporate headquarters to Rockford, Illinois by Sept. 1. This announcement comes after the formerly family-controlled company was sold in 2021 to a subsidiary of Easy Bio, an agriculturally based multi-national headquartered in Seoul, South Korea.

In McNess' announcement, the company cited "proximity to Chicago and air transportation, and advantages in recruiting talent in and near

larger metropolitan areas" as primary reasons for the move. Mark Poeschl, Furst-McNess President and CEO, indicated that all 35 Freeport-based employees are expected to remain with the company following the relocation, either by remote work or commuting to the Rockford location.

McNess' current Freeport office will be sold via a sealed bid auction process, expected to be completed by this summer.

Incidentally, the legend of the Tooth Fairy

When losing primary teeth is an experience that every child throughout the world has in common. Shedding those baby teeth is one of the first signs that a child is growing up. Most cultures have some form of celebration, ritual, or tradition to mark this rite of passage. While these traditions vary by culture, they share the common recognition and desire for strong permanent teeth for their child. They also help to quell any fears a child might have about losing their teeth. In America and a couple of dozen other countries, this involves a visit from the Tooth Fairy. In another dozen or so countries, the Tooth Fairy takes the form of a mouse. Several countries practice rituals such as throwing the teeth up to the sun, over or onto the roof, into a mouse hole, or out in a field so that their children's permanent teeth will be bright as the sun or as sharp and strong as those of a rodent, crow, or rabbit. Some countries have rituals unique to their culture. In Turkey, parents bury their child's baby teeth for a different reason. They believe that



By **DR. STEPHEN PETRAS**
Illinois Licensed
General Dentist

their child's lost tooth holds within it their future. If they want their child to become a professor, they will bury the teeth on university grounds. If they wanted their child to become a surgeon, then they would bury their child's teeth around a hospital. In Ireland, the Tooth Fairy is not a fairy, but a young leprechaun named Anna Bogle, who leaves a piece of gold behind for the child whose tooth she takes. In Finland, the Tooth Fairy, or the Tannfee, shares the spotlight with a tooth troll, the Hammaspeikko. The children are told that eating candy will attract tooth trolls, who drill holes into their teeth, but brushing their teeth will scare those trolls away. In some parts of Italy the Tooth Fairy, Fatina dei denti, has a helper in the form of a mouse called Topolino dei denti, who collects the teeth for her. In other parts of Italy

the patron saint of dentistry and tooth problems, St. Apollonia, plays the role of the Tooth Fairy.

The Tooth Fairy may have originated in Norway. In the Norwegian "Eddas," the oldest tenth century written records of Norse traditions, the concept Tannfé, or tooth fee, is first recorded. This was based on the Viking's superstition or belief that possessing a child's tooth gave them power or luck. To obtain this advantage in life and battles, they would pay a fee for baby teeth. It is not a coincidence that when the Norwegian Tooth Fairy legend began, she was named Tannfé.

The idea for the Tooth Fairy may have also evolved in part from an early European superstition that if a witch somehow came to be in the possession of a child's tooth, this would give them the power to place a curse and burying the tooth helped protect the child. When we consider how the tooth fairy legend developed throughout the world, we also have to take into consideration that the concept of humans and their relationships to fairies,

particularly in a monetary exchange, have long been part of European and British folklore. Over time and across cultures we wound up with the concept of burying the teeth under a pillow where a fairy could sneak in while the child was sleeping and pay a tooth fee for the treasure. The form she took, whether fairy, mouse, or rabbit, depended on the culture and who was telling the story.

In America, a visit from the Tooth Fairy is a highly anticipated event for millions of children. National Tooth Fairy Day is a holiday observed annually on both Feb. 28 and Aug. 22. It was created as a way to recognize this little legend which makes losing those first teeth something to celebrate rather than fear. The Tooth Fairy legend not only brings smiles to the faces of children throughout the world but offers an opportunity for parents to teach their children how to take care of their permanent teeth, which must last for the rest of their lives. It is celebrated twice a year to remind them that they need to get their teeth examined and cleaned every six months.

News briefs

Carroll County Help Center scholarships

The Carroll County Help Center is offering three scholarships to graduating high school seniors, one for each Carroll County School District. Graduating seniors in Carroll County interested in pursuing training at a community college or a vocational, technical, or trade school, should contact their High School Guidance Counselor for details and an application. The application for the Carroll County Help Center Lois Frank Memorial Scholarship with essay and recommendations are due by March 18. Funding for this scholarship is derived from the sale of used items through the Carroll County Thrift

Shop in Savanna and other personal or memorial monetary donations to the Carroll County Help Center.

Highland Gallery announces call for entries at the 50th District High School Juried Art Exhibit

Highland Community College announces a call for entries for the 50th Annual District High School Juried Art Exhibit. Works are due online by March 17. Submission directions can be found at highland.edu/gallery.

The juried art exhibit is designed to recognize high school artists in northwest Illinois and celebrate their visual contributions to the community. Artwork will be on

display virtually with winning selections also on display at the Highland Gallery on campus.

Meat Raffle

The Corner Tap and Stockton FFA Chapter will be hosting a meat raffle on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. and ending around 5 p.m. The event will be held at the Corner Tap in Stockton. All proceeds will go toward the new greenhouse that the Stockton FFA Chapter is building. This greenhouse will provide Stockton students with more hands-on learning opportunities in agriculture for many years to come. If you have any questions about the event, please contact the Corner Tap 815-947-2067 or Stockton FFA Advisor Han-

nah Brudi hannah.brudi@stocktonschools.com.

"Believers Basic" Bible Study

This week's study will take place on Feb. 27 with a focus on an introduction to God's will. The meeting will be held at the Lena Community Center. Please call Pastor Cliff at 716-229-9281 for more information.

Backyard Birds of Illinois

The Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education will be sponsoring the program, Backyard Birds of Illinois, on Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. at the Stephenson County

See BRIEFS, Page 10

Rhonda McPeck

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

and parsley; toss with your hands until well coated. Using your hands, lift salad from bowl and transfer to a platter, leaving excess dressing behind. Top with cheese and sprinkle with remaining pepper.

Sausage and Kale Lentil Stew

This hearty soup is a great winter favorite. I like lentils in soups, so this recipe is delicious to me. If you want to substitute spinach for kale, the soup will be tasty too.

- 1 lb. bulk pork sausage
- ¾ C. baby carrots, chopped
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 plum tomatoes, halved
- ¾ C. roasted sweet red peppers
- 1 C. dried lentils, rinsed
- 2 cans (14 ½ oz. each) vegetable broth
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ t. ground cumin
- ¼ t. pepper
- 2 C. coarsely chopped fresh kale

In a Dutch oven, cook the sausage, carrots, and onion over medium-high heat 8-10 minutes or until sausage is no longer pink, breaking up sausage into crumbles. Stir in the garlic; cook two minutes longer. Drain.

Place the tomatoes and red peppers in a food processor; process until finely chopped. Add to sausage mixture; stir in lentils, broth, and seasonings. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat and simmer, covered, 20 minutes stirring occasionally. Stir in kale; cook 10 to 15 minutes longer or until lentils and kale are tender. Remove the bay leaf before serving.

Chicken Divan

Chicken Divan is one of those retro recipes I mentioned a couple of weeks ago. It started as a chicken breast recipe with broccoli and a sauce; today it is usually a casserole made with soups, cooked chicken, rice, and broccoli.

- ¼ C. plus 1 T. butter, divided
- ¼ C. flour
- 1½ C. half-and-half cream
- ½ C. water
- 2 cans condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 2 pkgs. (10 oz. each) frozen cut or chopped broccoli, thawed
- 1 C. cooked rice
- 3 to 4 C. cooked chicken
- 2 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 C. soft breadcrumbs
- Parsley for garnish

In a small saucepan, melt ¼ C. butter. Add flour, stirring until blended. Stir in the cream and water; cook and stir until thickened and bubbly. Cook and stir 2 more minutes. Blend in soup until smooth; remove from the heat and set aside.

Place broccoli in an ungreased 9 x 13 baking dish. Cover with rice and then half of the sauce. Top with chicken. Stir shredded cheese into remaining sauce; pour over the chicken. Melt remaining butter and toss with breadcrumbs. Sprinkle over the casserole. Bake, uncovered at 350 for 35 to 45 minutes or until heated through. Garnish with parsley.

Baked Spaghetti

Baked spaghetti is a popular food recipe this year. This is a casserole that puts all the good things about spaghetti and meat into a 9 x 13 baking pan.

- 1 pkg. (16 oz.) spaghetti

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 jar (24 oz.) pasta sauce
- ½ t. salt
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 C. Parmesan cheese
- 5 T. butter, melted
- 2 C. 4 % cottage cheese
- 4 C. shredded mozzarella cheese

Chopped basil for garnish
Preheat oven to 350. Cook spaghetti according to package directions for al dente. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until beef is no longer pink, and onion is tender, 6 to 8 minutes, breaking beef into crumbles; drain. Stir in pasta sauce and salt; set aside.

In a large bowl, whisk the eggs, Parmesan cheese and butter. Drain spaghetti; add to egg mixture and toss to coat. Place half the spaghetti mixture in a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Top with half the cottage cheese, meat sauce and mozzarella cheese. Repeat layers. Place baking dish on a rimmed baking sheet.

Cover and bake for 40 minutes. Uncover and bake until heated through, 20 to 25 minutes longer. Let stand for 15 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with basil to garnish

Layered Brownie Dessert

Are you tired of plain brownies? This recipe has lots of wonderful flavors with lots of chocolate as its base. It is easy and great for the sweet tooth.

- 1 C. butter, softened
- 2 C. sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1½ C. flour
- ½ C. baking cocoa
- ½ t. salt
- ½ t. baking powder
- 1 C. chopped nuts

Filling:

- 11 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 C. powdered sugar
- 2 C. whipped topping

Topping:

- 2 C. cold whole milk
- 1 pkg. (3.9 oz.) instant chocolate pudding mix
- Whipped topping and chopped nuts

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, 5 to 7 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. In another bowl, whisk flour, cocoa, salt, and baking powder; add to creamed mixture just until moistened. Fold in nuts.

Transfer to a greased 9 x 13 baking pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out with moist crumbs, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack.

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Fold in whipped topping; spread over brownies. In a large bowl, whisk milk and pudding mix 2 minutes. Spread over filling. Refrigerate for 1 hour or until serving. Cut into squares, garnish with whipped topping and nuts.

White Chocolate Cranberry Brownies

If you want a brownie that has a different taste, this white chocolate and cranberry bar is a good one. Did you know that white chocolate is not really chocolate? It sure is good though! Enjoy eating these bars with the flavor of chocolate and cranberries.

- ¾ C. butter, cubed
- 1½ C. brown sugar, packed
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- ¾ t. vanilla

- ¼ flour
- 1½ t. baking powder
- ¼ t. salt
- 1/8 t. cinnamon
- ½ C. dried cranberries
- 6 oz. white baking chocolate, coarsely chopped

Frosting:

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 C. powdered sugar
- 6 oz. white baking chocolate, melted
- ½ C. dried cranberries, chopped

Preheat oven to 350. In a large microwave safe bowl, melt the butter; stir in the brown sugar. Cool slightly. Add eggs, one egg at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt, and cinnamon; stir into butter mixture. Stir in cranberries and chopped chocolate (batter will be thick). Spread into a greased 9 x 13 pan sprayed with cooking spray.

Bake until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean (do not over bake) 18 to 21 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack.

For the frosting, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Gradually beat in half of the melted white chocolate; spread over blondies. Sprinkle with cranberries; drizzle with remaining melted chocolate. Cut into triangles. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Final Thoughts

I hope everyone had a great Valentine's Day. I had some beautiful cards, and I thank anyone who sends cards these days. It is a lost art. I guess I am old-fashioned because I love to send them and get them. I wonder how much longer we will even have them. I hope that you will have fun this week cooking and maybe getting out without a wind chill. We are getting close to Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. That means we need to dust off the meatless meals. If you have any good vegetarian or fish recipes, send them our way. We also need some great St. Patrick's Day recipes. You can contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide at 240 W. Main St. or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

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This week's little Blackhawks

Great job to these Little Blackhawks. They have been recognized for following the Blackhawk Way!

Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges becomes JDCF's first nature preserve

The title of "Nature Preserve" carries a very special meaning within the State of Illinois, and it's not a title that is easily attained. A Nature Preserve dedication is the highest form of legal protection that a natural area can achieve in the State of Illinois without an act of Congress.

"Nature Preserve" is also an official status that is reserved for only the rarest and highest-quality natural areas in Illinois. The Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges is one such natural area. It contains the "best of kind" wet-mesic prairie and sedge meadow habitats located within Illi-

nois's portion of Driftless Area. The refuge also contains dry-mesic prairie, oak barrens, oak savanna, upland forest, and cool water stream habitats that paint a unique mosaic of habitat types on the landscape, which are home to several rare plant and insect species.

Acquired by Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) in December 2020, the Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges was founded with generous financial support from the Rutherford Family and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. It's named in memory of

John and Barbara Rutherford who owned and stewarded the property from 1988 to 2018.

"Our mom had a vision," said Bryn Davis, one of John and Barbara Rutherford's four children that helped create the refuge. "I know she and dad would be thrilled beyond words at the fact that Twin Bridges has been dedicated as a Nature Preserve! They knew that it was a special place and they wanted it to be protected and available for others to enjoy. This dedication just reinforces what our parents and JDCF saw in this little gem of a place."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

John and Barbara Rutherford's four children pose for a photo at the grand opening of the Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges nature preserve. From left are Jay Rutherford, Darcy Renkens, Bryn Davis, Brad Rutherford.

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Lady Blackhawks capture regional championship

Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton Blackhawks girls basketball squad has captured another regional championship after beating Lena-Winslow last week. The Blackhawks finished their regular season with an overall record of 16-8, Stockton turned their focus to regional postseason play, where they would have the fortune of playing on their home court.

The Blackhawks opened up regional play with a familiar opponent in the Pearl City Wolves. The last time these teams faced off was a regular season matchup on Dec. 4. It was a matchup that saw the Wolves walk away with a 35-28 victory as the Blackhawks were without a key player, Kenze Haas. Over two months later, the Blackhawks were hopeful for a different result, with their season on the line.

This time around, Kenze Haas was available, and she made all the difference. Ken-

ze led the Blackhawks in scoring with 19 points, including a pair of three pointers while shooting three of five from the free throw line. Kenze also led the team in rebounds with 12 as she posted a double-double in the opening round.

Stockton dominated the first half, taking a 28-15 lead into the halftime break. It was the third quarter when the Blackhawks made their statement, however. While posting 19 points on offense, Stockton held Pearl City to just one point in the third quarter. It was a major turning point in the game as it gave Stockton a 47-16 lead with just one quarter left to play. Stockton was able to take their foot off the gas as they went on to win by a score of 52-21.

While Kenze led the team in most major categories, Brynn Haas was not far behind. Brynn finished the game second in scoring with 18 points, including going four for six at the free throw line. Together, the duo com-

bined for 37 of Stockton's 52 points.

Three days later, the Blackhawks were back in more postseason action as they faced off with the Orangeville Broncos, on Tuesday, Feb. 15. Unlike the opening round, the Broncos were a knew opponent as this was the first time they faced off with the Blackhawks this season. With a record of 27-4, the Broncos came into the game as early favorites.

Orangeville came out of the first quarter looking like the favorites as well. The Broncos outscored Stockton 14-10 as it appeared to be an offensive showdown in the making. The Stockton defense had other plans in mind, however.

After allowing 14 in the first, Stockton allowed just four points in the second. While their defense figured things out, the offense was truly consistent. Stockton scored exactly 10 points in each of the first three quarters. They broke the streak by

performing even better in the fourth and final quarter when they posted 13 points.

While Stockton's offense was the definition of "consistent", the Orangeville offense was consistently struggling. Orangeville posted just seven points in the third and five points in the fourth as the Blackhawks pulled away. Kenze led the team in scoring with 17 points, while Brynn posted 14 points and 10 rebounds for a double-double. Alexi Haas was the next leading scorer with seven as the Haas family put on a show in the regional semifinals. Stockton went on to win by a final score of 43-30, sending them into the regional championship.

On Friday, Feb. 18, it was another familiar opponent for the Blackhawks as they faced off with the 21-11 Lena-Winslow Panthers. These teams faced off earlier in the season in a matchup that saw the Panthers win 58-45. This time around, the Blackhawks

were hopeful for more revenge as they continue to win when it matters most.

The first quarter had the looks of a defensive battle. Both teams combined for just 12 points as the Panthers held a 7-5 advantage going into the second quarter.

Stockton began to cut into the slim Lena-Winslow lead in the second quarter. Both offenses found comfort as they combined for 25 points in the quarter. The Blackhawks outscored the Panthers 13-12, however, trimming one point off the Panther lead. Still, Stockton found themselves trailing 19-18 at the break.

The Blackhawks continued to chip away in the second half. The third quarter was much like the second as Stockton outscored the Panthers by one point again. This time it allowed them to tie the game at 29-29 with just one quarter left to play. This was key for the Blackhawks as they quickly realized the momentum was slightly in their

favor with just one quarter left to play on their home court.

The Blackhawks were the more comfortable team in the fourth quarter. They had their best offensive performance of the night as the Blackhawk offense combined for 16 points. They outscored the Panthers 16-11, giving Stockton the 45-40 victory to capture the regional championship.

Brynn and Kenze Haas led the team in scoring as they each finished the game with 15 points. Kenze led the team in rebounds with 15 as she finished with another spectacular double-double. Kassadie Sullivan was the next leading scorer as she had the hot hand from deep. Kassadie scored all 12 of her points from behind the arc as she drained four threes in the victory.

Despite being the underdogs and facing multiple teams they had lost to in the regular season, the Blackhawks found themselves walking out of regionals as the champions once again.

Forestry Program on Woodland Birds

The Northwest Illinois Forestry Association is pleased to host Richard Benning of Northwest Illinois Audubon on Monday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. at the Stockton Public Library. Mr. Benning will discuss eight birds that rely on woodland ecosys-

tems and explain how they utilize the woodlands in various ways.

Richard Benning, Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, leads bird walks and compiles the Freeport Circle of the Christmas Bird Count. He retired ten years

ago from being the youth education coordinator at the Dells Nature Center near Rockford. He finds all areas of natural history interesting and realizes more and more how everything is connect-

This meeting is free and

open to the public. You may also join the meeting via Zoom using this link [## Jo Daviess County Beef Association scholarship](https://illinois.zoom.us/j/86353475455?pwd=WVNWZGtMZUR1cDZOdVhFb0hoSnIVUT09if needed, the meeting ID is 863 5347 5455 and the password is 107460.</p>
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The Jo Daviess County Beef Association Scholarship Fund has been established to provide financial assistance to Jo Daviess County residents studying agricultural related fields. The Beef Association Scholarship committee is responsible for the selection of the scholarship recipients. Scholarships will be awarded as funds permit.

To be eligible applicants must be a Jo Daviess County Beef Association Member, enrolled in agriculture, or agricultural related field, enrolled in a two- or four-year program, accepted at chosen school, college, or university a full-time student (12 hours minimum per semester and auditing of classes cannot be included in mini-

mum), and willing to assist the association at one of the community events.

Applicants must return the completed application to Jo Daviess County Beef Association, Beef Association Scholarship, 2913 Elizabeth Scales Mound Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028. The

application Deadline is Apr. 1, 2022.

Please contact a High School counselor, a beef board member or Karen Koester, Scholarship Committee Chairperson, at 815-858-2318 for questions or an application.

College news

Local students make fall 2021 dean's list and honored as distinguished scholars

Rockford University (distinguished scholars)

- Megan Davis
- Sydni Aebly
- Leah Schmid
- Brianna Meyer
- Mitchell Clark

University of Dubuque (dean's list)

- Karlie Marcum
- Rebecca Diffenderfer
- Hannah Smith
- Benjamin Blocker

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Residents living in and around Stockton, Illinois can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Calvary United Methodist Church will host this community event on Apr. 6, 2022. The site is located at 315 W. Maple Avenue in Stockton.

Screenings can check for plaque buildup in your arteries, HDL and LDL cholesterol levels, diabetes risk, bone density as a risk for possible osteoporosis, kidney, and thyroid function, and more. Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$159. Call 1-877-237-1354 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Village of Lena Notice of Public Hearing Definition of Downtown District

A Public Hearing will be held by the Village Board of Trustees of Lena, IL on Monday, February 28, 2022, at 5:45 p.m. at the Village Hall, 122 E. Main St., Lena, IL.

The Public Hearing shall be for the purpose of defining the Downtown District within the Village of Lena. Anyone wishing to appear and be heard on the issue should appear at that time. You are also invited to send letters on this issue to the Village Hall, 122 E. Main St., P.O. Box 607, Lena, IL 61048.

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Feb. 9, 16 & 23, 2022
411192

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

In Re the Matter
of the Estate of:
Thomas M. Andrews,
Deceased.

No. 22-PR-18 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Thomas M. Andrews, of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 15, 2022, to:

Roger G. Lundholm
4939 Great Day Ln.
Rockford, IL 61109
as independent Administrator of the Estate of Thomas M. Andrews, whose attorney is
Anthony V. Coon
Attorney At Law
10 N. Galena Ave.,
Ste. 210
Freeport, Illinois 61032

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 repre-

sentative, or both, on or before September 2, 2022, 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.
Date: February 15, 2022.
Roger G. Lundholm,
Administrator
By: Anthony V. Coon
Anthony V. Coon,
Attorney at Law
10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212
Fax 815-232-5500
tonycoonlaw@aol.com
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Feb. 23, March 2
& 9, 2022) 413175

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE 15TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY -
GALENA, ILLINOIS
QUICKEN LOANS, LLC,
PLAINTIFF
vs.
UNKNOWN HEIRS AT
LAW AND LEGATEES
OF CAROL MAY
SEFFROOD; DEAN
PAULSON; DONNA
RUTSCH; DAVID
PAULSON; CRAIG A.
BROWN, AS SPECIAL
REPRESENTATIVE
OF CAROL MAY
SEFFROOD,
DECEASED;
UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANT
2021CH29
PUBLICATION NOTICE
The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF CAROL MAY SEFFROOD; and UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant in the above entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the 15th Judicial Circuit, Jo Daviess County, Illinois by the plaintiff against you and other defendant, praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows to wit:

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and which said mortgage was signed by CAROL MAY SEFFROOD, DECEASED Mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Jo Daviess County as Document No. 388610; and for such other relief prayed; that summons was duly issued out of the Circuit Court of Jo Daviess County against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.
NOW THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU, the said above defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of this Court in Jo Daviess County at 330 North Bench Street, Galena, IL 61036 on or before March 25, 2022, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint.
E-Filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinois-courts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
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(Published in
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413176

sentative, or both, on or before September 2, 2022, 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.
Date: February 15, 2022.
Roger G. Lundholm,
Administrator
By: Anthony V. Coon
Anthony V. Coon,
Attorney at Law
10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212
Fax 815-232-5500
tonycoonlaw@aol.com
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Feb. 23, March 2
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•Durbin (Continued from page 2)

Investments in the Upper Mississippi River locks and dams are also expected to generate thousands of new jobs and spread other economic benefits across the region.

The project, which is funded to completion, is expected to take five to six years.

Asked by *FarmWeek* if it will take another 15 years to receive funding for other lock and dam improvements along the Mississippi and Illinois rivers,

Durbin said it's both a matter of "matching up the need, which is obvious, with the resources" and marrying economic and environmental goals.

"These barges and what they move, the alternative is a lot of trucks burning a lot of diesel fuel," Durbin said. "And we have a much more efficient way to do it from an environmental viewpoint. When we put that combination together and sold the (Corps) on the project ...

we started a long process. So, as fast as we can appropriate the money and they can get the work done, we're going to be moving forward with many more projects in the future."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.

For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

•Briefs (Continued from page 3)

Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring Street, Freeport. Bird enthusiast, Rich Hofmaster, will give information and show pictures of the many species of birds you might see in your own backyard.

is a free event and open to the public. No reservations required. The current COVID-19 guidelines will be followed the day of the meeting.

Lena United Methodist Church news

Lena United Methodist Church is offering two "Kid's Night Out" events in the upcoming months. These will be held on March 3 with the theme *All Things Green* and Apr. 7 with the theme *Easter Party*. Both events will be on Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Lena United Methodist Church. Kids 5 to 10

years old can join for crafts, games, food, friends, and fun! Everyone is welcome. Kids will be supervised at all times by adults and older church youth. Masks must be worn by all. Dinner will be provided. Please advise of any food allergies. This event is free with a required RSVP by email umclena@gmail.com or phone at 815-369-5291.

A BIG "THANK YOU"

to those readers who have sent a donation to help underwrite The Scoop Today and Shopper's Guide. For those of you who haven't done so in the past year, but enjoy this newspaper and would like to help us pay for its operation, please send a donation in any amount to:

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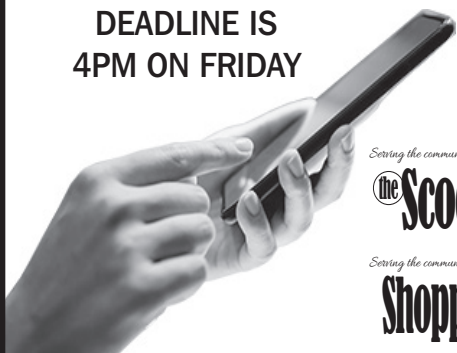
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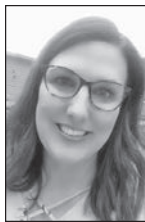
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Around the Northern Hills

By Annette Eggers
Scholarship deadline approaching

Time is running out for college students to apply for the JDCFB Foundation scholarships. We again have two different scholarships for students majoring in an agricultural related field. The first scholarship is geared specifically to Highland Community College Ag students. High School Seniors or those already enrolled at HCC can apply. The second scholarship is a general scholarship for any post-secondary school. For this scholarship, the student must be currently in their first year of college. This scholarship is only available to Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members and their children. You can find the application on our website at <https://jodaviesscfb.com/scholarships/>. Applications are due March 1.



Annette Eggers

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Family farm signs

As it starts inching closer to Spring, we are all thinking of planting and sprucing things up around the farm. Why not add a "This is a Family Farm"



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

At the Section One Vet Science Career Development event, Freshman Gracie Vanderheyden applies a gauze muzzle restraint in competition.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Senior Kari Conklin places a gauze muzzle restraint during the vet science event. She placed fifth overall in the section.

River Ridge FFA prepares students for veterinary medicine careers

Nine members of the River Ridge FFA recently competed in the Section One Vet Science CDE (Career Development Event) hosted by Stockton. Students in this competition studied to be tested in four different areas that someone in the field of

veterinary medicine would be expected to be competent in. Students were assessed with a math test which included figuring out dosage amount for different animals, a knowledge section assessment based on a written assessment, equipment

identification and hands-on practicums. The hands-on practicums included restraining a dog with a gauze muzzle and correctly filling a syringe in preparation for injection.

River Ridge students placed third at this CDE and

had three members score high enough to be in the top ten. Senior and Chapter Vice President Kari Conklin was fifth overall, Senior and Chapter President Ashley Carroll was ninth and Greenhand Katie Cobine was tenth overall in the section.

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