

# District adherence brings playoffs to Stockton

By Christopher Johnson  
REPORTER

A lot of work has had to go into preparing for this weekend and next week's Illinois High School Association Girls Basketball Playoffs in Stockton. Because of strict adherence to rules put in place when the 2021-2022 school year began across northern Illinois, Blackhawks fans get the chance to cheer for their team one more time, before

everything turns to spring.

A ruling made by Governor JB Pritzker in early August 2021, set the tone for how schools would handle the battle against and protection from Covid19 and its spread. A message was shared from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Illinois Governor followed the call and issued a mandate stating masks must be worn in school. Those school districts

which chose not to comply with the ruling faced the risk of loss of funding, accreditation and the right to compete in Illinois High School or Illinois Elementary School State Playoffs.

Early in the process of season readiness, neighboring school districts such as Dakota and Durand voted against following the mandate. Dakota had initially said it would not abide by the State's ruling,

letting the mandate become optional. The district eventually changed course.

During District 206 Board of Education meetings following Pritzker's ruling, representatives started receiving input from community residents, administration, staff, and students about the mandate being enforced. The Board of Education continued, in majority fashion, to assure that every step required

would be followed, at times, regardless of inconvenience.

Since the August 2 announcement by the Illinois Governor, stands have been filled with fans who have selected the mask-up option. Within the confines of the halls of District 206, students and staff alike continually had proper behavior reinforced.

By the time the end of the football season had arrived and Thanksgiving Invitation-

als were beginning, a structure was in place with the rules being followed. Had the district officials chosen a different path, there would be no playoffs in Stockton, starting this Saturday with three games slated for completion. With the rules followed, funding was allocated at the start of the school season since it was already understood that Stockton would be a destination for the start of the 1A Tournament. Part of the funding required for this weekend's second season tip-offs has already been acquired and realized. Procuring officials, scorekeepers, maintenance staff, hospitality provisions and added security were all budgeted in ahead of the start of the winter session and well ahead of this weekend's Regional get together.

Communication with municipal leaders was also required by District 206 Superintendent James Bunting.

With an influx of travelers venturing to Jo Daviess County, additional services are often required, including enhanced village security and maintenance crew assistance. Weather readiness has also been an issue presented as part of the intergovernmental arrangements for the upcoming second season celebration.

This weekend's Class 1A Stockton Girls Basketball Regional features six neighboring schools and host Stockton. This Saturday will feature three scheduled matches with the Region's top seed Orangeville waiting in the second round.



SONYA WILLIAMSON PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Stockton students chosen to perform at state conference

The Illinois All State Music Conference was held in Peoria Jan. 29. Orchestra, Choir and Band students auditioned and the top 200 kids for each group were chosen to perform in this elite opportunity. Stockton school officials said they were lucky enough to have four talented kids chosen this year. "It was quite the honor for the school, choir director Mrs. Crandel, and band director Mr Wade to be recognized. Congratulations to Justin Eden, Karl Hubb, Trace Williamson and Abigail Wilkinson for this amazing accomplishment," they said.

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# Obituary

## VERA M. PETERSON

Vera Marie Peterson was welcomed into the arms of Jesus on Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022. She was born Aug. 23, 1916, to Carl and Marie (Hart) Toepfer at Massbach in JoDaviess, Co. She attended country school near Pleasant Valley. She worked as a caretaker for Johnnie's mother and later she worked for a family in Freeport at which time she and John started dating. Vera married John Peterson on Sept. 28, 1939 in Des Moines, IA. Vera was a farm wife and homemaker while raising her seven children.

She worked as an aide at Ortez Nursing Home in Lena and later worked at the Villas of Shannon Nursing Home for 22 years as a nurse's aide. After retiring, she volunteered at Villas of Shannon and helped care for people in their Shannon homes.

In 1986, Vera and John moved to Shannon, remaining there for almost 27 years. They then enjoyed independent living in Freeport Liberty Village before moving to Winn Prairie in 2017 where both Vera and John formed more friendships and received care from thoughtful staff. Vera's widely known hobby was quilting. She made quilts for all her family and for a host of people from the area.

Vera was active in the Shannon Woman's Club, served in various capacities at Ebenezer United Church of Christ, such as Ladies Guild, church board, and as a Sunday School teacher. She had been a member of that church since 1940. Vera and John enjoyed traveling with family and later going on bus tours with friends.

She was always eager to play card games or scrabble, even if it meant playing scrabble by herself. She also enjoyed reading and doing crossword puzzles and rarely missed an episode of



Jeopardy or Wheel of Fortune.

Vera's wit and humor was evident until the very end of her 105 years in this ever-changing world. She continued to challenge her mind in many ways and kept connected with her family even when a pandemic kept visits to virtual chats on the Facebook Portal.

Next to family, Vera's church was the most important thing to her. Her main focus that she voiced recently was that she hoped that all generations of her family would know Christ as their Savior. She always had her morning devotions, attended Bible Study, and attended services as long as she was able. Later, she listened to TV ministries and attended virtual church serves. Mom was a Christian example for family and friends.

Vera is survived by her children, Randall (Joyce), Richard (Janet), Ryan (Debbie), Reggie (Linda), Rodney (Nancy), Rita (Randy) Brinkmeier, and Ramona Cruse. Also surviving are 18 grandchildren, 36 great grandchildren, and 7 great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband John of 76 years who died in 2018; a brother Virgil Toepfer; sisters Rosella Quillen, and Marie Brenner; and son-in-law Jerry Cruse.

Funeral service was at Ebenezer United Church of Christ on Monday, Feb. 7, 2022, at 10 a.m. by Pastor Jim Brown. Visitation for family and friends was at Hermann Funeral Home in Pearl City on Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Memorials in Vera's name can be made to FHN Hospice. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Spelling bee champions

Congratulations to the 2022 spelling Bee Champions who will be competing in this year's regional Spelling Bee. Mayci Mullen took first place, Lizzy Hartzell, second and Kinley Jones, third.

## Pretzel City Area Transit awarded Illinois Department of Transportation funding

Pretzel City Area Transit has been awarded \$65,000 in grant funds for security video camera upgrades through the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Rebuild Illinois capital program. The IDOT Rebuild Illinois capital program is dispersing a total of \$111.4 million to 37 Illinois transit systems and over 50 projects, including Pretzel City Area Transit.

The Rebuild Illinois Transit grant will allow Pretzel City Area Transit to purchase

and install 17 video cameras fitted with SIM cards, data plans, live tracking and streaming, and data storage in its transportation fleet. Pretzel City Transit riders and drivers will benefit from improved surveillance, as it improves transit safety and liability.

Pretzel City Area Transit is a demand response public transportation system, which serves a population of over 30,000 throughout Freeport and Stephenson County.

## College news

**Local students make fall 2021 dean's list; awarded degrees**

**Augustana University (dean's list)**  
Madalyn Reifsteck

**Aurora University (dean's list)**  
Devyn Bilich

Lazime Limani

**Edgewood College (honors)**

Austin Carlson  
Zoe Penwell  
Georgia Vandigo

**The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (graduation)**

Greta Shimon

## Slices of life

# Life without wheels

There are two types of people in this country: those who have a car and those who don't.

There are good reasons for living on each side of the roadway. People without a vehicle often live in areas where public transportation is the norm and street-space is not. If you don't have a garage or a driveway, you might have to pay for parking on a daily basis. That adds to the cost of car ownership, which is no fun. Multiply that if you have to drive around the block multiple times in search of an open space.

Parking aside, the act of driving on populated roadways requires a special skillset.

I traveled to New York City a few years back and saw this firsthand. The space between cars on all sides of the vehicle while traveling at 30-plus miles per hour is mere inches, and that is no exaggeration. It takes an especially talented, level-headed and barbaric person to dare to navigate such treacherous conditions. I may be barbaric, but not that talented or level-headed.

Give me black ice and the most white-out snowstorm in memory. I'll drive through it with a confidence instilled by 4-wheel drive, a good set of snow tires and decades of experience navigating blizzard conditions.

But bumper to bumper traffic with the possibility of road rage in the mix? I'm opting out, thank you very much.

Still, I've lived all my adult life with a vehicle to call my own. I didn't live in New York, or any other highly populated area where taxis trump personal transportation. I was rural, and rural demands a car of your own.

I always had one. At least one.

Until recently, when I found myself 1,500 miles from home, in a new home. My son and I moved across country with his

car. Thankfully it got us here in one piece.

Then the problems started.

The car wiggled when accelerating. It coughed up disturbing noises when making a sharp turn. One tire habitually went flat. The vehicle got us from point A to point B, but it didn't feel right. It felt very, very left. We brought it in for diagnostics and, while opinions differed between mechanics, one thought rang consistent: It was time to get rid of the car.

In a word: Ugh.

Then life happened. I won't bore you with the details, but in amidst of life happening, I went about six weeks without a car. Luckily I had a bike and a backpack. It's amazing how many groceries you can fit into a small space when you are hungry.

I also blessed the gods for delivery of bulky items like toilet paper and cat litter.

So, as dire as I make it seem, it wasn't. It was only irritating. But irritating gets old quickly. Especially when irritating denies you access to the super store, or, worse yet, the dollar-point-two-five store, which it now is, if you've done your research.

Never mind eating, it felt as though my crafting days were over.

But back to the bike. The bike saved me. It got me from here to there, and I even figured out how to fit a frozen pizza into a backpack. That is no small effort.

I decided to embrace the adventure. I was able to bike to the grocery store in the middle of a January winter. I haven't been able to make that claim to fame for most of my life, so why not look on the bright side. Yes, leaking chicken juice into the back pack was not a desired outcome so rotisserie chicken was probably out of the question.

But I had other options. I figured out the frozen pizza backpack challenge. I also figured out how to find a new (used) car.

It was another adventure, which I conquered—successfully.

I now have reliable wheels—two on a bike and four on a little SUV. I can head to the superstore and fill my cart with a mega pack of toilet paper, a couple of rotisserie chickens and as many frozen pizzas as my heart desires.

Life is good.

*Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. She invites readers to follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.*

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# Incidentally; International Toothache Day

# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN

Although largely preventable, dental caries or tooth decay remains the most prevalent chronic disease throughout the world. The personal and economic costs of untreated oral disease include mild to unbearable pain, disruption of eating, drinking, sleeping, and talking, infection, lost days of school, work and income. Untreated dental disease not only impacts your oral tissues but can initiate or exacerbate other health conditions that negatively impact your overall health and well-being. Oral disease is a global health issue that creates economic burdens for families and healthcare systems. International health organizations are working together to address the challenge of reducing oral disease through prevention. International toothache day, which is held annually on Feb. 9, was established to get the word out about what causes a toothache and the proactive steps that you can take to prevent dental disease.

During the initial months of the pandemic, when dental offices were closed, the importance of preventative care was not only highlighted but



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

brought attention to the billions of people throughout the world who do not have access to routine or even emergency dental care, community fluoridated water and healthy food. It also brought focus to the critical lack of preventative oral care coverage in global primary health care.

Focusing on prevention remains critical as the pandemic continues to take a serious toll on global oral health. Dentists throughout the world have reported an increase in cavities and gum disease. This is believed to be a result of negative changes in diets and a decrease in daily oral hygiene. They also note an increase in stress-related conditions such as teeth grinding and jaw clenching. These activities have increased the incidence of cracked and chipped teeth, as well as jaw pain.

Dental caries (dental de-

cay) and periodontal disease are bacterial infections. They can be prevented by reducing or eliminating the pathogens (microorganisms that cause disease) through effective oral hygiene, and increasing your resistance to disease through good nutrition, drinking fluoridated water and tobacco cessation. Maintaining oral health is essential to your well-being. Skipping or ineffective brushing and flossing allows the growth of pathogens that lead to tooth decay and periodontal disease. Routine dental visits and cleanings are important tools in your arsenal to prevent, detect and treat oral disease in its earliest stages. They also provide the opportunity for you or your children to learn how to effectively brush and floss.

International Toothache Day reminds us to take advantage of our access to community fluoridated water and its enamel strengthening properties. We can also prevent toothaches by decreasing our consumption of sugary and acidic beverages and food. It also serves as a reminder to replace a worn and frayed toothbrush before it harms our oral tissues.



The not so skinny cook

We dodged the big snow-storm that went south of us. I am always grateful that the snow and ice stay away. I suppose the people who love snow sports as well as the snowplow people are not happy about the lack of snow. I am sure we will still get some. Valentine's Day is fast approaching, and we have some Valentine recipes for the week. Enjoy these special recipes for our "red" day.

## Cranberry and Bacon Swiss Cheese Dip

If you are looking for an unusual appetizer, this cheese dip has some great ingredients. You can get the spreadable chive and onion cream cheese in most grocery stores. I think the Philadelphia Cream cheese brand makes several flavored cream cheeses. Use this for a special Valentine's supper or for a Super Bowl party.

- 2/3 C. mayonnaise
- 1 T. ground mustard
- 1/3 C. spreadable chive and onion cream cheese
- 1 T. garlic pepper
- 3 C. shredded Swiss cheese
- 1/4 C. chopped onions
- 8 pieces of bacon, cooked, drained and chopped
- 1/2 C. sliced almonds, divided
- 1/3 C. dried cranberries, chopped

Preheat the oven to 325. In a large bowl, combine mayo, cream cheese, mustard, and garlic pepper. Add Swiss

cheese; mix well. Stir in onions, bacon, 1/4 C. almonds and cranberries. Spread into a greased 1 to 2 qt baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 C. almonds. Place on baking sheet. Bake, uncovered, until bubbly, 25 to 30 minutes. Serve with pita chips or thinly sliced baguette slices.

- 1/4 t. pepper
- 1 pkg. (16 oz.) potato gnocchi

In a Dutch oven, brown chicken in 2 T. butter. Remove and keep warm. In the same pan, sauté the onion, carrot, celery, and garlic in remaining butter until tender. Whisk in flour until blended; gradually stir in the milk, cream, bouillon granules and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes. Add the gnocchi and spinach; cook until spinach is wilted, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the chicken. Cover and simmer until heated through (do not boil), about 10 minutes.

## Creamy Chicken Gnocchi Soup

I love the Gnocchi Soup they serve at Olive Garden. A friend sent me this "knock off" recipe that is almost as good. You can buy gnocchi in most grocery stores. It is a pasta that is usually potato based. Make this soup on a cold night and serve it with salad and a breadstick; you can close your eyes and imagine you are at the Olive Garden restaurant.

- 1 lb. boneless chicken breasts, cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 1/3 C. butter, divided
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/3 C. flour
- 3 1/2 C. 2 % milk
- 1/2 C. heavy whipping cream
- 1 T. chicken bouillon granules

## Layered Jell-O Squares

I got this recipe several years ago, and when I was cleaning up some of my recipes, I came across it. It is a perfect salad for "red" day. It does take time because you have to set the layers before moving on to the next one. It is a beautiful salad without many ingredients, so it is very economical.

- 1.6 oz. pkg. raspberry Jell-O

See KITCHEN, Page 7

## February Lifelong Learning schedule includes in-person and online classes

Highland Community College Lifelong Learning February courses include Beginning Jewelry Making, Computers and Mobile Devices, Spring Bulb Gardens A and B, The Bio-Energetics of Thriving, and Cahokia and the Mississippian Culture, held in-person and online. Courses being held in person will be

practicing social distancing and masks will be required. Others have the option to attend through Zoom™. To register online and view the complete Lifelong Learning schedule, visit [highland.edu/lifelong](http://highland.edu/lifelong). For more information about Lifelong Learning and to find out the latest in new course offerings, call 815-599-3403.

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# Stockton basketball wrap

By Trenten Scheidegger  
SPORTS WRITER

The Stockton girls basketball squad had a busy week last week with four games in as many days. Their week began with a Feb. 2 matchup against the West Carroll Lady Thunder. West Carroll came into the meeting with a record of 14-11, while the Stockton Lady Blackhawks held a record of 12-6. The game did not lack any excitement, as it came down to the final possession. The Lady Blackhawks managed to come out on top, however, by a score of 49-47.

The next day, the Lady Blackhawks were in a conference matchup against the Warren Warriors. Stockton was the clear favorite in this one as the Lady Warriors held a record of just 3-21. The Lady Blackhawks had little trouble handling the Warriors with a final score of 47-24.

One day later, Stockton was set up for another conference matchup with a 5-18 East Dubuque Warriors squad. Stockton jumped out to an early lead as they doubled up East Dubuque in the first quarter. With a 16-8 lead, the Lady Blackhawks would stumble in the second quarter. They managed just four points on offense as Stockton struggled to find production outside their top three performers. Brynn Haas, Kenze Haas, and Whitney Sullivan were the only three Lady Blackhawks to tally a score that night. The slow second quarter saw Stockton take a 20-17 lead into the halftime break.

Stockton managed to flip the scores from the second quarter in the third, as they outscored the Warriors 9-4. The solid quarter coming out of the break gave the Lady Blackhawks 29-21 advantage with one quarter remaining.

Kenze took over the game for the Lady Blackhawks as she kept the pressure on East Dubuque all game long. With 23 points, Kenze led the team in scoring while shooting five of eight from the free throw line. Brynn was next up in scoring for the Lady Blackhawks as she finished the game with 12 points. Sullivan was the only other Lady Blackhawk to score as she finished the game with five points. Stockton combined for just two three pointers on the evening as Sullivan and Brynn each had one. Despite the

offensive struggles, Stockton managed to hold on for a 40-32 win for their third straight victory.

## Stockton boys basketball

The Stockton boys basketball squad picked up their eleventh win of the season in a Jan. 28 matchup with the Galena Pirates. The Pirates came into the game with a record of 17-7, making them the favorites over the 10-8 Blackhawks.

Stockton knew it would take an all-around team effort to pull off the upset over the Pirates, and they got just that. Four Stockton athletes surpassed eight total points in the game as they found production from all over the place. It took a while to find their rhythm, however.

The Blackhawks managed just six points in the first quarter, as they went into the second trailing 7-6. That was when both offenses came to life as the Pirates and Blackhawks combined for 27 points in the second, after scoring only 13 in the first. Stockton outscored Galena 14-13, however, as they went into the halftime break tied 20-20.

Galena managed to tip the momentum back in their favor in the third quarter. After getting outscored 10-8, the Blackhawks went into the final quarter trailing by two points.

Stockton Head Coach, John Hamman, saw his offense catch fire in the fourth quarter, however. The Blackhawks combined for 19 points, including some solid free throw shooting, as they looked to pull off the upset. While the Blackhawks took advantage of the free opportunities by sinking 13 free throws, the Pirates were just four of ten from the line as a team. That is where Hamman's squad was able to make a difference, as they outscored the Pirates 19-11 in the fourth.

Three Blackhawks combined to lead the team in scoring as Caleb Mammoser, Alex Altfillisch, and Ian Broshous each had 10 points. Dustin Oppold was next up with eight points, while Ryley Schultz had five and Parker Luke had four.

The Lady Blackhawks will play host to the Galena Pirates Wednesday night, Feb. 9. The Stockton boys will play host to the Scales Mound Hornets this Friday, Feb. 11.

# Warriors bounce back from recent rout by Scales Mound

By Trenten Scheidegger  
SPORTS WRITER

The Warren Warriors boys basketball team has struggled through most of their 2021-22 season. On Jan. 28, the Warriors came into their matchup against the Scales Mound Hornets with a record of just 6-11. With Scales Mound coming in with a record of 21-1, the Hornets were the clear favorites over the Warriors. When these teams met up earlier this season, the Hornets walked away with a 65-32 victory over Warren. While the Warriors were hoping for better results this time around, that would be a tall task to ask of the underdogs.

The Warriors did their best to keep up with the high scoring Hornet offense in the first quarter. Warren Senior, Brayden Bohnsack, had seven points in the opening quarter. Junior guard, Reed McNutt, had five as the Warriors combined for 16 first quarter points.

Scales Mound hit the ground running, however. The Hornets combined for five three pointers in the first quarter alone, two of which came off the hands of junior guard, Jacob Deurr. Collin Fosler, Benjamin Vandigo, and Sam Cocagne each added threes of their own as the Hornets combined for 26 points in the first. Cocagne provided the majority of their opening offense with nine first quarter points.

The Warriors posted another eight points in the second quarter, but it would not be enough to keep up with the efficient Hornets. While McNutt and Bohnsack each added baskets to their shot chart, the Hornets went off for another thirty-one points

in the second quarter. Cocagne caught fire from deep, hitting a trio of three pointers in the second quarter alone. Charlie Wiegel added a three pointer of his own as the Hornets combined for nine three pointers in the first half alone. Thanks to the explosive first half, Scales Mound managed to hold a 57-24 lead at the break.

The Hornets kept it rolling in the third quarter when they combined for another 22 points. Vandigo posted six points in the third quarter as he led the way for the Hornets. The Warriors tallied nine third quarter points, all of which came from McNutt and junior forward, Landon Mahoney. They only saw their deficit increase, however, as Scales Mound took a 79-33 lead into the final quarter.

Thanks to the cushion, the Hornets were able to coast toward an easy 91-38 victory over Warren. Scales Mound had three athletes over 15 points as Cocagne led the team with 22, Vandigo had 17, and Deurr had 15. McNutt led the Warriors with 16. Bohnsack was the next leading scorer with nine.

Three days later, the Warriors had an opportunity to bounce back when they played host to the West Carroll Thunder. It was an opportunity the Warriors had to jump on as the Thunder came into the game with a zero in their win column at 0-17. In what could possibly be considered a "trap game", the Warriors did everything they could to make sure they came away with the victory in this one.

Michael Neff had a solid return alongside McNutt. The Duo combined for 18 points

in the opening quarter as McNutt led the way with ten. With Neff having eight first quarter points and Bohnsack adding four points of his own, the Warriors jumped out to an early advantage. The Thunder managed just four points in the first quarter as Warren jumped out to a 27-4 lead.

The Warriors continued to pile it on in the second quarter. Bohnsack caught fire with a ten-point quarter of his own. McNutt added another seven points as Warren combined for 25 second quarter points. After a big first half, the Warriors held a 52-8 lead at the halftime break.

With the game secure, the Warriors were able to coast to an easy victory in the second half. That did not mean that Warren would take their foot off the pedal, however. McNutt had another big quarter in the third when he dropped another 12 points. Neff added another eight points of his own as the Warriors posted 24 points in the third. Warren held a massive 76-18 lead after three quarters.

The fourth quarter was mostly a formality as Warren held an insurmountable lead. They posted another ten points in the final quarter, but they did not matter much as Warren went on to win by a score of 86-20.

McNutt led the Warriors in scoring with a season high 34 points. Neff was the next leading scorer with 20 points. Bohnsack was the third leading scorer with 18 points as the trio combined for 72 points.

The 7-14 Warriors will play host to the Galena Pirates Wednesday night, Feb. 9.

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# River Ridge FFA wins Section Poultry CDE

Thirteen members of the River Ridge FFA Chapter competed in the Section One Poultry CDE held at River Ridge High School on January 31st. Students at this CDE studied a wide range of information about the Poultry industry. Although machines do most of the egg grading today in large facilities, students learned how to look for defects and problems for both the interior and exterior egg quality. In addition, they had to identify twenty different cuts of poultry, which included variety meats such as the heart and gizzard as well as judge classes of live birds to determine which hen was the best and worst egg producer. Not only did they learn about egg quality, but they also prepared by learning how to grade a carcass and place a class of carcasses and

look for defects in breaded products. Finally, the competitors took a written test to check their knowledge on the industry in general. This Career Development Event covers a lot of areas and students must be able to do well in all of the areas in order to place well.

The River Ridge FFA team took home top honors out of nine teams, with Stockton getting up for second over Forreston. The River Ridge Chapter was proud to have four individuals place in the top ten, including the overall contest winner Avery Engle who is also currently serving as the Chapter Secretary. Greenhand Izzy Haring was second overall, Senior (and Chapter President) Ashley Carrol was sixth and Sophomore George Winter was eighth.



(Above) Greenhand Katie Cobine judges live hens. SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

(Below) Pictured here are members of the winning team (from left to right) Avery Engle, Izzy Haring, George Winter, Lucas Holland and Heaven Brotherton.

(Left) Heaven Brotherton judges the exterior shell quality of the eggs.



## River Ridge boys top Stockton in overtime

By Trenten Scheidegger  
SPORTS WRITER

On Tuesday, Feb. 1, the River Ridge Wildcats boys basketball team played host to the Stockton Blackhawks in a conference matchup. The Wildcats came into the game as underdogs as they carried a record of just 5-11. At the time, the Blackhawks held a record of 10-8. The Wildcats put their record aside, however, as they hoped to pull off the upset on their homecourt.

The Blackhawks held the early advantage when they jumped out to a 12-4 lead over the Wildcats. River Ridge would respond with a strong second quarter, however. The Wildcats outscored the Blackhawks 14-9 to cut into the Stockton lead. Still, Stockton held a 21-18 lead at the half-time break.

Coming out of the break, things were pretty even. The third quarter featured a back-and-forth matchup that saw the Blackhawks extend their lead by one point after outscoring River Ridge 11-10. With a four-point deficit going into the final quarter, the Wildcats began to sense the possibility of an upset.

The Wildcats were led by a strong performance by a pair of seniors in Caden Albrecht and Breyton Fry. They were supported by a solid outing from sophomore George Winter. It was this trio's performance that helped the Wildcats pull off the comeback in the fourth. River Ridge managed to outscore the Blackhawks 11-7, tying the game and forcing an overtime period to decide the winner of this one.

With the momentum in their control, the Cats ran with it in the extra period. After outscoring the Blackhawks 7-6 in overtime, the Cats did just enough to pull off the upset as underdogs. Albrecht and Fry each led the team in scoring as they both finished with 12 points. Winter finished the game with eight points, and Dylan Diehl was right behind him with seven points. The win helped the Cats improve to 6-12 on the year. They will be back on the floor on the night of Wednesday, Feb. 9, to face off with the Scales Mound Hornets.

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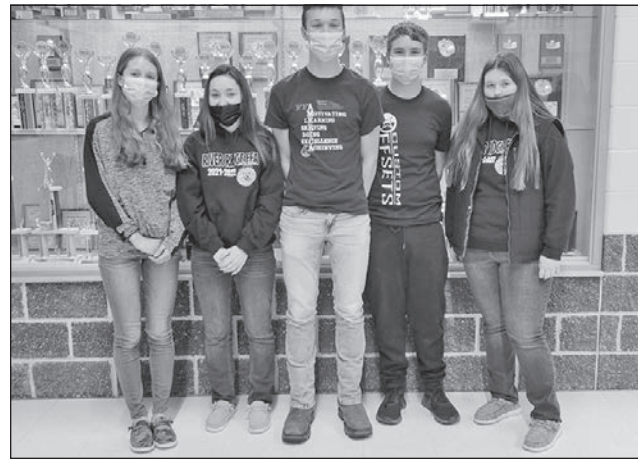
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## Farm Machinery

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# Kitchen (Continued from page 3)

1.6 oz. pkg. strawberry  
Jell-O  
1½ C. plain yogurt, room  
temperature  
4 C. boiling water  
Fresh strawberries, cut into  
slices

Combine the raspberry  
Jell-O with 2 C. boiling water  
in a large bowl and stir until  
dissolved. Remove 1 C. of the  
mixture and set aside in a sep-  
arate bowl. Combine remain-  
ing mixture with 2/3 C. room  
temperature yogurt and whisk  
until smooth. Pour into a 9 x  
13 pan and place in fridge to  
chill until set, about 30 min-  
utes. Take reserved raspberry  
gelatin and warm slightly if it  
has become thick. Stir in 2/3  
C. water and pour over first  
layer. Place in fridge to chill  
until set, about 30 minutes

Repeat the process in a  
clean bowl for the remain-  
ing box of Jell-O: Combine  
the strawberry Jell-O with  
2 C. boiling water in a large  
bowl and stir until dissolved.  
Remove 1 C. of mixture and  
set aside in a separate bowl.  
Combine remaining mixture  
with 2/3 C. room tempera-  
ture yogurt and whisk until  
smooth. Pour over raspber-  
ry layer. Brush strawberries

with set aside gelatin and  
place slices on the 3<sup>rd</sup> layer.  
Stir in 2/3 C. water and pour  
final layer of gelatin and place  
in fridge to chill a final time, a  
least 3 hours.

## Make Ahead Cabbage Rolls

If you are looking for  
something different for a  
special dinner, and you don't  
want the usual pasta, steak, or  
seafood, this is an economical  
and a rather elegant meal for  
that special dinner. Even peo-  
ple who don't like cabbage  
like this dish because of all  
the great flavors. It is also a  
great dish to make ahead; just  
pop it into the oven when you  
need it.

12 cabbage leaves  
2 lbs. ground beef  
¾ t. salt  
¼ t. pepper  
2 C. cooked long grain rice  
2 eggs, lightly beaten  
**Sauce:**  
¼ C. butter, cubed  
1 large onion, halved and  
thinly sliced  
2 celery ribs, chopped  
2½ C. water  
1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce  
1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce

2 T. lemon juice  
2 t. sugar  
2 t. dried parsley flakes  
1 t. salt  
¼ t. pepper  
In batches, cook cabbage  
leaves in boiling water un-  
til crisp-tender, 3-5 minutes.  
Drain; cool slightly. Trim the  
thick vein from the bottom of  
each cabbage leaf, making a  
V-shaped cut.

In a large skillet, cook beef,  
salt and pepper over medium  
heat until no longer pink,  
breaking into crumbles, 8 to  
10 minutes; drain. Stir in rice  
and eggs. In another skillet,  
over medium-high heat, add  
onion and celery; cook and stir  
until tender, 6 to 8 minutes.  
Stir in water, tomato sauce,  
lemon juice, sugar, parsley,  
salt, and pepper. Bring to a  
boil. Reduce heat; simmer,  
uncovered until thickened, 15  
to 20 minutes. Spoon about ½  
meat mixture onto each cab-  
bage leaf. Pull together cut  
edges of leaf to overlap, fold  
over filling. Fold in sides and  
roll up. Transfer to a greased  
9 x 13 baking dish. Pour  
sauce over rolls. Refrigerate,  
covered, overnight. Remove  
from refrigerator 30 minutes  
before baking. Preheat oven  
to 350. Bake, covered until  
heated through, 50 to 60 min-

utes.  
**Almond Cherry  
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Maid Meats in the frozen fruit  
and vegetable section. I of-  
ten add a handful of these to  
my regular cherry pie. I have  
an apple cobbler recipe that  
pours the hot water over the  
fruit, and it is delicious.

¾ C. boiling water  
1 t. almond extract  
Preheat oven to 350. Place  
cherries in an 8-inch square  
baking dish coated with cook-  
ing spray. In a small bowl,  
mix flour, ¼ C. sugar, bak-  
ing powder and salt. Add  
milk and melted butter; stir  
in butter just until moistened.  
Spread over cherries.  
In another bowl, mix corn-  
starch, cinnamon and remain-  
ing sugar; sprinkle over batter.  
Mix boiling water and almond  
extract; pour slowly over top.  
Bake, uncovered, 45-50 min-  
utes or until top is golden  
brown and filling is bubbly.  
Serve warm with vanilla ice  
cream.

Final Thoughts  
I can't believe that January  
is behind us and we are coming  
up on the middle of February.  
We are supposed to be in for  
some decent weather this next

week. Many people are look-  
ing forward to the Olympics  
starting. There will be plenty  
of coverage and excitement, I  
am sure. I have two closets left  
to clean, and then it is time to  
tackle the kitchen cupboards.  
Sometimes I have found some  
interesting things that I haven't  
seen for a lot of years. When  
you have been in your home  
for twenty years, there is a lot  
to go through and get rid of.  
During these cold days it is  
easy to go through boxes and  
remember things. I hope that  
you all have a great heart day  
and make something special.  
Stay safe and healthy. We con-  
tinue to look for some heartier  
cooking recipes, so if you have  
a good soup, bread, or pie re-  
cipe, send it our way. Contact  
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## News briefs

### "Believers Basic" Bible Study

This Bible study offering will be held on Feb. 13 at 5 p.m. at the Lena Community Center, LL at 497 Lions Dr. The study will include looking at scripture, verses from Isaiah 48, Exodus 3, and John 4. Call Pastor Cliff 716-229-9281 for information.

### Carroll County Thrift Shop

The Carroll County Thrift Shop is offering a Valentine's Sale on Feb. 11 and 12. Anything marked in red will be half price. Regular Friday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shop is located at 126 South 4<sup>th</sup> St. Savanna.

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### VILLAGE OF LENA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 214 S. Schuyler St. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on Monday, February 28th at 5:30pm at the Village Hall, 122 E. Main St., Lena, IL 61048.

The public hearing shall be for the purpose to consider granting a conditional use permit to Shayne and Melissa Campbell. This permit will be used to sell crafts and gifts at the property located at 214 S. Schuyler Street in Lena, IL.

Interested persons may appear and be heard regarding the proposed permit at this meeting. The Village Board may subsequently consider the merits granting the permit at its March 14, 2022 Village Board Meeting.

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
Feb. 9, 2022)

412080

## Stockton FFA knows their poultry

On Jan. 31, the Stockton FFA chapter had 28 members participate in the Section One FFA Poultry CDE. The high school team placed 2nd overall. Individually, Joseph Brudi placed 3rd and Emma Demeter placed 4th. Pictured here are high school team members (left to right; standing) Ethan Steien, David Lancaster, Kyle Haas, Emma Demeter, Kendra Robledo, Joseph Brudi, and Logan Breed; (kneeling) Masyn Cahill, Marley Morgan, and Amber Haas.

## Stockton FFA attends Ground Zero Conference

Six of the freshman members had the opportunity to attend the Ground Zero Conference hosted by Illinois FFA at Western Illinois University. This was a two-day conference where members learned about leadership, setting goals, and teamwork.

Pictured are attendees (left to right) Ava Hess, Amber Haas, Marley Morgan, Anastyn Larson, Kendra Robledo, and Masyn Cahill.

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## Poultry Judging

Pictured are Stockton FFA Junior High members who placed in the top five (left to right) Emma Haas, Lexi Gaylord, Alice McGovern, and Deryn Broshous.

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## 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

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## Go Blackhawks

Pictured are the Stockton Elementary and Middle School Little Blackhawks for the week. They have demonstrated the Blackhawk way by being responsible, respectful, and safe. Way to go.