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VOL. 88 • NO. 13

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Master of the Lodge

Lena Masonic Lodge #174 held their Past Masters Night on Wednesday, March 16. This event included a meal of oyster stew, chili and sandwiches before the meeting that honored Masons that have served as Master of the Lodge. Dwayne

Robieson, with 64 years, was the longest active Mason and Jacob Snook was the youngest active Mason with 2 months. It was an excellent evening of fun fellowship and memories.

Lena-Winslow baseball preview

By Trenten Scheidegger
REPORTER

The Lena-Winslow Panthers and Head Coach, Nick Werhane, had their 2022 baseball season opener on Tuesday, March 15. Although

the opening day did not go their way, it was exciting for the Panthers to get back on the diamond.

Coming off an 8-10 season in 2021, Le-Win returns an experienced team with sev-

en letter winners returning from last year's roster. Four of those returning players are seniors as Ethan Fye, Luke Benson, Brody Mahon, and Maddex Sargent look to close out their Le-Win High School

sports careers. Three juniors are back in Drew Streckwald, Jake Zeal, and Ayden Packard.

Ahead of the season opener Werhane shared his thoughts on the current state of the team. Werhane explained the team's returning experience is one of their strong suits, saying "We have a lot of players returning with varsity experience from last year. We also have solid pitching depth, and four returning players with All-Conference Honors from last year."

With such an experienced roster Werhane is able to focus on the little things to fine tune their game. Werhane wants the team to get back to the basics as he said, "Fielding needs to be better, and we need to strikeout less!" Easier said than done, but Werhane explained the importance of the fundamentals, saying "If we want to compete, we have

to make better contact and put more pressure on the defense."

The Panthers are expected to be one of the top teams in the Northwest Upstate Illini East Conference, and the Panthers are hoping to live up to the hype. Werhane emphasized that saying, "Our goal as a team is to win the conference. If we can do that, we can put ourselves in a good position for the postseason." In order to do that, the Panthers will have to find a way to come out on top against tougher teams. Last season, Le-Win was just 1-9 against teams with a winning record, yet they were 7-1 against teams with a losing record. Werhane will have to find a way to improve the Panthers' record against losing teams if they want to win the conference.

Winning the NUIC-East is no easy task. Werhane knows

that, as he shared his thoughts on some of the tough competition the conference has to offer. "You have to figure that Dakota and Aquin will be at the top of the standings of our conference as they are always right there. We are going to have to beat them to have a chance at a conference championship. Pearl City, probably, has the best pitcher in the conference in Nathan Brinkmeier. If he's pitching, they can beat anybody. As for the other divisions of the conference, Warren-Stockton looks tough again this year. Also, East Dubuque and Forreston will be tough to handle." The Panthers dropped their season opener 6-1 to Forreston, proving Werhane's thoughts to be true.

On Thursday, March 17, the Panthers dropped another tough game to the Stillman

See **BASEBALL**, Page 8

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Obituaries

MARK L. FREY

Mark L. Frey, 63, of Pearl City, IL passed away at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford, IL on Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, with his family by his side. Mark was born on March 23, 1958, to Warren and Marlene (Busker) Frey in Freeport, IL. He graduated from Pearl City High School in 1976. Mark married Ann Tillis in Freeport, IL on Jun. 14, 1980.

He worked most of his life in construction and worked in Chicago for five years before coming back to the Pearl City area where he worked alongside his father for Frey Construction. Prior to retirement he worked for Quinn Construction.

Mark was an outdoorsman. He loved going to Northern Wisconsin to fish, he was an avid hunter and spent weeks preparing for deer hunting season. He loved doing

home projects for his friends and family.

Mark is survived by his wife of 41 years, Ann, his daughter Daphne (Bob Sorgi) Frey, sister Micki (Bill) Becker, his mother-in-law LaVonne Tillis, his stepmother Lee Frey, Aunt Debi Kempe, many brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins. He is preceded in death by his parents, father-in-law, John Tillis, his grandparents John and Francis Frey and Claus and Margaret Busker, and his Aunt Janet Saladino.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 26, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL at 1 p.m. With a visitation from 10 a.m. until time of service. Pastor Michelle Knight will be officiating. Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial has been established in his memory.



VERLIN D. RICHTEMYER

Verlin D. Richtemyer, 93, of Lena, IL, passed away Mar. 13, 2022, at home. He was born Jan. 11, 1929, in Pearl City, IL, to Emmert and Ethel (Brady) Richtemyer. He was a graduate of Pearl City High School. Verlin farmed and was a rural mail carrier for more than 20 years. He was also a US Army Veteran and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City.

He is survived by numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Bernice, and special friend,

G l a d y s Price.

A funeral service was held on Monday, March 21, at 11 a.m. with visitation from 9 a.m. until time of service at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City, IL. Pastor Shellie Knight will officiate. Interment at Lena Burial Park. A memorial has been established for St. John's Lutheran Church. Online condolences may be shared at www.schwarzfh.com.

NANCY L. CREGER

Nancy L. Creger, 88, of Lena, Illinois went to be with Jesus, her Lord and Savior on Thursday, March 10, surrounded by the love of her family. Nancy was born Mar. 2, 1934, to Harry and Lillian (Yarnell) Staller in Pottsville, PA where she was named after the nurse who helped deliver her at the hospital. She married Garnett "Gary" Creger on Oct. 13, 1954 when she left home for the first time to live in Baltimore, MD.

Nancy loved being a Navy wife, and together they raised six children. Nancy stayed home with their children because she believed it was the most important job in the world. They moved to Chicago, IL and then McHenry, IL because of her husband's career in the city. One of her favorite jobs was working at Riverside Chocolate Factory. In 1991 they moved to Lena, Illinois where they owned and operated the local Malt Shoppe which she felt at heart was also her ministry.

Nancy was active and enjoyed a wide range of hobbies. She was a collector of antique dolls and spent time making her own porcelain dolls. Nancy would enjoy



her cross words, board games, Yahtzee, dice games, bingo, bowling, mini golf, skee-ball, painting, and gardening. Every spring, she planted marigold and striped petunia flowers in memory of her mother. Nancy loved cooking for her family and was best known for her homemade mashed potatoes. Nancy always loved animals, claiming this trait came from her grandmother. They rescued stray cats, taking many in as pets, and caring for outside strays as well. Christmas was her and her father's favorite holiday and he gave her wonderful gifts, often early. However, her husband joked that her favorite day was always payday.

While dealing with some health issues she found her talent for writing poetry and she expressed, "I love to write poetry about Jesus." Nancy was an award-winning poet, and she was published by Highland Community College, National Library of Poetry, Shoppers Guide,

and Alliance Bible Church. Birth Right published a poem of hers that was distributed around the world. She was a passionate volunteer for Birthright/1st Way Life Center.

As a youth she became active in the Salvation Army where her love for the Lord grew, and she was proud of being asked to preach a sermon. Nancy was a longtime member of the Alliance Bible Church where she would spread the word of the Lord through her poetry. She taught Sunday school and loved helping with VBS where she was "Everyone's Grandma." In her bible studies with her children, she wrote the song "The Garment" and her family performed it in church. Then she wrote the song "Radiant Children" for a youth group ministry. She was a member of the Evangelical Free Church in Lena, Illinois.

Nancy is survived by her husband Garnett "Gary" of Lena, IL; six children- Bonnie Schipp, Douglas (Mary) Creger, Donna Mrowka, Rhonda (John) Evans, Karen Franklin, Christine (Kevin) MacDougall; grandchildren- Shawn (Lisa) Schipp, Rachel (Nate) Rusticus, Joshua (Meghan)

Schipp, Sarah Schipp, Katie Creger, Renee (Rick) Strauss, Wesley (Teagan) Mrowka, Chantelle Mrowka, Charissa Mrowka, Jeremy Evans, Kenneth Franklin, Amber Franklin, Elijah (Olivia) MacDougall, Eiley MacDougall; great-grandchildren- Julia, Ella-Grace, Harper, Emma, Makennah, Cheyanne, Emmett, Owen, Khyden, Teyal, Tyntsee, Kamron, Karina, Gavin, Juliette; sister- Judy (Jack) Lusk; sister-in-law- Shirley Knutson; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; son-in-law- Paul Schipp, Frank Mrowka, Kenneth Franklin; grandchildren- Miranda and Lillian who died at birth, Justin Franklin; 1 sister- Joan Carl; three brothers- Kenneth, Harry "Red", Charles Staller.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. A visitation was from 11 a.m. until time of service. Officiating was Rev. Rick Bader

Cremation rites to be accorded. In lieu of flowers a fund to help Garnett has been set up. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

Ukraine farmer shows great resolve amid Russian invasion

By Daniel Grant
FARMWEEK

Ukrainian farmer Kohchtahtuh Xomehko showed the kind of determination and fortitude currently on display by his fellow countrymen and women during an

online meeting with farmers in the Midwest.

Kohchtahtuh (pronounced Konstantine) said his "heart is in great pain" but he's extremely confident the Ukrainian army can defeat the invading Russians. He also showed the same resolve when asked if farmers in Ukraine will still be able to plant this year's crops amid the war.

"I'm 100 percent sure we can win because it's about people, not just weapons," Xomehko said from his farm during a Zoom call hosted at the Macon County Farm Bureau in Decatur attended by several board members and media.

"We're together working— all the people in Ukraine," he said. "I understand our army is not that big, but we're very motivated. There are people you know who are dying. We'll never forgive the Russians."

Ukraine farmers are helping their army by providing and transporting diesel fuel and fabricating metal objects for the army to flatten tires on Russian vehicles.

Ukrainian farmers also plow a majority of their fields, which has made it difficult for some Russian tanks to cross without getting stuck.

When asked how other nations, including the U.S., can help resolve the conflict,

Xomehko called for air support.

"We need support to close the air. We don't need soldiers," he said.

But thus far the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has rejected Ukraine's demand to implement no-fly zones.

Meanwhile, reports suggest roughly 3 million Ukrainian refugees had fled the country in recent weeks. But Ukrainian farmers remain determined to produce their crops this year.

"Yes. 100 percent we'll be planting, spraying and fertilizing," Xomehko said when asked about his spring plans

See FARMER, Page 12



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50 We would like to Thank everyone for all the cards and congratulations for our 50th wedding anniversary. We truly enjoyed all the kind notes written including those from Facebook. Thank you for the gift cards, money and keepsakes we received. We were so surprised to receive a beautiful anniversary cake and card from Oliver Hager who made our wedding cake for our reception. Thank you so much to our children and grands in planning the card shower, a delicious dinner and dessert and the keepsakes.
Yogi & Irene Logemann
414719

We wish to thank everyone for their cards, flowers and money for Tom's memorial. We especially wish to thank Leamon's Ambulance and all first responders for all their help when Tom was ill and taking him to the hospital.
God bless you all!
The family of Tom Furray

Augie Jacobs is celebrating his 90th birthday on March 27. Send a card to celebrate with him!
11399 W. Goldmine Rd. Pearl City, IL 61062

A special "Thank You" to Sheila Bawden and Tom Schick for the lovely plaques in memory of Tom Furray and for all your help.
Love ya!
Aunt Sharon

Analysis: What to expect in the Madigan trial – whenever it begins

Former prosecutor shares thoughts on what's ahead for former speaker

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

It's been two weeks since prosecutors indicted former Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan and a little over one week since he and alleged co-conspirator Michael McClain each entered not guilty pleas on charges including racketeering and bribery.

While the 106-page, 22-count indictment was the culmination of years of investigation into what prosecutors allege to be a near-decade-long "criminal enterprise" overseen by the former speaker, it could be a while before we find out whether the charges stick.

"I cannot imagine seeing a plea deal in this case," said Nancy DePodesta, a former federal prosecutor and current white-collar criminal defense lawyer at Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr. "I also think that you're going to see a significant delay before this case goes to trial."

DePodesta's point of view

is an interesting one. From 2003 to 2015 she was a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office of the Northern District of Illinois – the same office that indicted Madigan and McClain.

She doesn't have any insider details, and she's not involved in the trial. But she did share her thoughts with me on what comes next, in a general sense, as someone whose been on both sides of similar legal fights.

For starters, she said, we can expect to see pretrial motions aiming to suppress evidence. Madigan's team could try to toss recordings of McClain's phone calls with other individuals, she said.

McClain, a long-time Madigan confidante, was initially indicted in November 2020 in connection with a years-long bribery scheme involving utility giant Commonwealth Edison, in which the company admitted to bribing Madigan and others with no-work jobs in exchange for favorable legislation.

DePodesta said it appears the feds had a wiretap on McClain's calls, and his role in the case is an important one. If the jury believes he acted on behalf of the speaker, it will help the prosecution. But if they believe McClain was a rogue actor, they may be likelier to acquit the former speaker.

"The challenge for the government is really to tie former Speaker Madigan to what was occurring here," DePodesta said.

The government is seeking to prove several charges under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, a 1970 law originally written to go after mafia types.

It's the statute that DePodesta said was used when she was working on an investigation and prosecution of the Latin Kings street gang in her time with the prosecutor's office.

"After a seven-year investigation and multiple indictments along the way, and wiretaps and, you know, cooperating witnesses and sources, we brought RICO charges against the leadership of the Latin Kings street gang," she said.

"It's obviously very different substantively in terms of the acts that were committed and programs of the conspiracy. But there's a lot of parallels with the RICO," DePodesta added.

For the racketeering charges against Madigan to stick, she said, the prosecution will have to prove that the parties engaged in an agreement – formal or informal – for an unlawful purpose.

"And then they have to establish that there were acts

done in furtherance of that conspiracy. And here those acts would be the attempts to solicit bribes, perhaps the killing of legislation or passing legislation in exchange for jobs given to political allies," she said.

The indictment alleges that Madigan used his political offices as speaker and committeeman for Chicago's 13th Ward, as well as his control over the Illinois Democratic Party and the 13th Ward Democratic Organization, and his position at the Chicago law firm of Madigan & Getzendanner, to further the goals of what the feds have dubbed "The Madigan Enterprise."

In defending himself, Madigan could argue, DePodesta said, that much of what the government describes as racketeering isn't that far beyond the parameters of what would be expected from anyone in a powerful office such as speaker of the House.

"So I think that if I'm the defense, I certainly want to try to minimize some of the statements, point to some of the things that perhaps the speaker did not say," she said. "Certainly, explain what it means to be the speaker of the House, and what are some of the functions that are expected in in that capacity."

It appears that Madigan's lawyers, Sheldon Zenner and Gil Soffer, viewed that as a

strong angle as well when they sent out a media statement on the same day of the indictment.

"I was never involved in any criminal activity," Madigan said in a statement. "The government is attempting to criminalize a routine constituent service: job recommendations. That is not illegal, and these other charges are equally unfounded."

As it stands, the 106-page indictment provides a roadmap for how the government will try the case, DePodesta said. But prosecutors may be wishing they had another source, such as a cooperating witness or other informant.

"The government's case is made up of a lot of different pieces that they will ultimately tie together. It seems, however, that they don't necessarily have somebody to provide context for some of the recordings to really tell a story," she said.

While the prosecution may have been hoping McClain's inclusion in the indictment would lead him to "flip" on the speaker, his public statements so far don't indicate that such a scenario is likely, DePodesta said.

But that doesn't mean there won't be other witnesses testifying against the former speaker that haven't been named in media reports or court documents thus far.

"The government is not limited to the evidence that it has on the date of indictment," she said. "In fact, it is very common for the government's case to improve and become an even stronger case, as they continue to investigate and prepare for trial."

John Lausch Jr., the lead prosecutor in the case, made clear the investigation was ongoing in a news conference announcing the indictment, and he even called for others to come forward with more information.

The next status hearing in the case is scheduled for April 1.

Jerry Nowicki is the bureau Chief of Capitol News Illinois, a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government that is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.



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News briefs

The Stockton High School Musical presents Footloose

Footloose will be performed on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 at 7 p.m. each night. The Musical Footloose is about a town that does not allow dancing and the new kid in town, Ren McCormack wants to change that law. Fourteen seniors will be making their appearance in this performance, with leads Justin Eden, Maria Bender, Trace Williamson, and Mor-

gan McPeek at the head of the cast. Tickets are available at the door. Adult tickets are \$7 and tickets for students (9 and younger) are \$3.

Believers Basics Bible study

The Believers Basics Bible study will meet March 20 at 5 p.m. to discuss the responsibility to defend the "hope that is in them" from 1 Pete 3:15. Please call Pastor Cliff at 718-229-9281 for more information.

Highland agriculture students compete at Illinois PAS Conference

Highland agriculture students came away with numerous awards at the Illinois Professional Agriculture Students (PAS) Conference at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. The Highland students are part of a national student organization that provides opportunities for college agriculture students to experience individual growth, leadership, and career preparation through competition and cooperative activities.

During the conferences, students competed in individual and team contests highlighting a variety of agriculture career opportunities. The students also networked with industry professionals and other Illinois college students.

Below are the results from this year's Illinois PAS Conference for Fall and Spring Semesters.

Fall Virtual Illinois PAS Conference results

Jase Sheffey (Pearl City) - Participated in the Crop Production Employment Interview.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Several students from surrounding area schools attended and competed in the Illinois Professional Agriculture Students Conference. Many were awarded for their excellent performances. Justin Ebert, a Highland agriculture instructor, recognized their effort as he said, "I congratulate all the students that participated in the PAS activities throughout the year. The students have had to deal with several challenges over the past few semesters and I admire their persistence and willingness to participate in this year's conference."

Spring Illinois PAS Conference Results

Lila Sloan (Davis) - First Place in Prepared Public Speaking with a speech about stress and mental health awareness among agriculture producers. Anna Johnson was elected as 2nd Vice President for Il-

linois PAS to serve the 2022-2023 school year.

The following members also participated in the conference

Agriculture Quiz Bowl Team included Kayla Blum, Sarah Fitzgerald, Alex Leamon (Lena), Jase Sheffey, and Caleb Visel (Lena).

Crop Specialist Team consisted of Caleb Visel, Michelle Simler (Freeport), and Alex Leamon.

Dairy Specialist Team 2

included Alex Leamon, Sarah Fitzgerald, and Michelle Simler.

Beef Specialist Team included Megan Hagemann, Anna Johnson, and Alyssa Miller.

Swine Specialist Team members were Lila Sloan, Aleta Broge, and Jase Sheffey.

Sheep Specialist Team participants were Caleb Visel, Brooke Ewald, and Kayla Blum.

Overall Livestock Specialist Team included Sarah Fitzgerald, Regan Scidmore, and Callie Yerk.

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PRESCHOOL SCREENING FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR
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- All children **MUST** be screened through Stockton School District to enroll in Stockton Preschool.
- Screening is required for all children turning **3 on or before 9/1/22**. The screening takes approximately **60 minutes** and includes checks/discussion of progress in the areas of language, motor skills and general development.
- Please provide your child's **certified birth certificate from the courthouse, physical, and a copy of your child's immunizations record.**
- All preschool age children residing in the Stockton School District are eligible.

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New Native American cultural center to open in Freeport

Many moons ago, the Illiniwek, the Fox, Sauk, and many other tribes called Illinois home. Now with no federally recognized tribes in the state, hanging onto Illinois Native culture is important.

Freeport will be joining other Native centers and museums in their quest to share the culture for all those interested. *Quiet Souls*, a Native American-inspired gift store, classroom, and presentation center, will be opening at the F.A. Read Center on March 31. They will be offering monthly Native craft classes on such things as dream catchers and talking feathers, and presentations on history, culture, music, food, and much more.

The owner, Kim Sigafus (McIver), has been a Native presenter for the Illinois Humanities Road Scholar Speaker Bureau for five years, and has been presenting since 2001. An Ojibwa woman whose family is from White Earth Reservation, Kim has nationally presented programs

in her Native regalia, and is an award-winning published author and speaker.

"I love sharing my culture with people," she says. "It's so important with everything going on in the world, that the Native culture doesn't get forgotten. It is my hope that the store can help struggling Native artists get some recognition for their work, and that I can bring the Native culture to others through presentations."

The store is honored to have White Earth Reservation Ojibwa elder, Pat McClellan in attendance at the ribbon cutting on March 31 at 1 p.m.

Quiet Souls is located at 18 West Stephenson Street, Suite 202 in Freeport. It will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Their Facebook page will be updated regularly with classes and presentations. For more information, please call the store at (815) 616-8934, or check out the Facebook page at Facebook.com/freeportquietsouls.

• Wordle (Continued from page 5)

it's a different word, because playing any other way would be boring.

Then there is the other group, to which I belong. I call us the rigid Wordlers because we have standard words to start our journey each day. Within my first two words, the goal is to use all five vowels along with a handful of the most popular consonants. Lately, my first word is "autos." For the longest time, my second word was "brine," but a couple of weeks ago I changed that to "diner" because I thought having the "er" at the end might be advantageous.

Within a week of that change, the Wordle for the day was (wait for it...) brine. Exclamation point. So much for the "er" on the end being advantageous. Suffice to say I didn't do any bragging on social media that day.

Once I start a game, I finish it within minutes. One of my sons will take a guess or two and then ponder it for an hour or more while he goes about the rest of his day. There are as many techniques to Wordle as there are five-letter words in the English language – and that's a lot.

Some days, the word is tougher than others. This happens (in my opinion) when one letter is used twice in the same word. For instance you know there is an S or a V or an I in your word, but you might not consider two of each of those letters. Consider "vivid," "eases" and "shush."

A year ago, Wordle wasn't in my vocabulary, because it hadn't been invented yet. Now, according to the New York Times, more than 300,000 people play it

daily. I'm one of them. And other countries are jumping on the bandwagon. Canada has its own version called Canuckle.

In times that can seem scary and bleak, Wordle is a vivid bright light. It eases us toward peace, and when we solve, we shush so we don't spoil the quest for others. It can bring about a sense of pride and unity with other Wordlers. From my perspective, there's only one thing that could make it more perfect: If Wordle itself was a five-letter word. But that would be asking a lot – or better put in Wordle terms – heaps, loads and scads.

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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Pearl City's Cheyenne Handsaker heads to Butler

Cheyenne Handsaker, a student in Pearl City, signs her letter of intent. She plans on playing softball for Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kansas next year.

Pearl City boys drop season opener to Warren Stockton

By Trenten Scheidegger
REPORTER

The Pearl City Wolves' baseball squad had a tough ask in their season opener as they were scheduled to face off with the Warren-Stockton Warhawks. The Warhawks return off a 19-1 season so the Wolves, who went 8-8 last season, found themselves facing some of the best competition from day one.

The Warhawks had everything working from the start as they scored runs in every single inning of the game. Their high-powered offense allowed the game to end after just five innings as the Warhawks held a ten-run lead. The Wolves did their best to avoid the ten-run rule as they tallied their first three runs in the top of the fifth. Miles Freedlund drove in their first run with a swinging bunt that drove in Nathan Brinkmeier to score. The ensuing throw went astray, allowing Freedlund to reach second base. The next at bat, James Freitag tripled to drive in Riley Schauer and Freedlund. The three-run inning allowed the Wolves to come within nine, but one run in the bottom half allowed the Warhawks to end the game by way of

the ten-run rule. Freitag was a perfect three for three on the game with two RBI. Unfortunately, that was most of their offense as Freedlund and Brinkmeier were the only other Wolves to tally hits.

Pearl City Head Coach, Ryne Plager, is excited for what the Wolves have to offer this season. "Coming off a five hundred season last year in which we were picked to finish last, I have pretty high expectations for these guys." Plager said ahead of the season opener. Entering his third season as head coach, Plager hopes to see his team accomplish big things for the Pearl City program. "These guys have got the taste of winning and I think they are eager to pick up where we left off. We have a team goal of competing for a conference title and winning a Regional, which hasn't happened at Pearl City in over 20 years." Plager explained.

A big reason for Plager's high expectations is the teams' returning talent. Nathan Brinkmeier, a junior pitcher and shortstop, returns as a First Team All-Conference pitcher. Riley Schauer, a center fielder, is back for his senior campaign after earning

Second Team All-Conference Outfielder as a junior. "We return the core of our team from last year, losing only two starters. The majority of our guys have varsity experience which should help as the season gets started," Plager said. The Wolves' head coach says their success will come down to the hurlers this season. "Our bats and defense should keep us in ballgames, but it will come down to our pitching on how successful we will be this season." Plager shared.

Plager understands the competition in the NUIC-East, and expects plenty of tough opponents, this season. "I think Le-Win will be the favorite in the conference. They return their entire team and have always been a team that can swing the bat. Aquino will also be tough, returning a bunch of guys that played in the Sectional, last year. With Brinkmeier on the mound, we can play with anyone and it will come down to how well our other pitchers can throw and give us a chance to win.

Pearl City will face off with another tough opponent in the Forreston Cardinals at home, Thursday, March 24.

• Baseball (Continued from front page)

Valley Cardinals. The Panthers fell behind quickly as the Cards took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Brody Mahon was on the mound for the Panthers, but he struggled to find the strike zone as he walked four in just two innings. Despite allowing just a pair of hits and getting two strikeouts, the walks got the best of Mahon as those hits allowed four runs to come in.

Having to play catch up for most of the game, Le-Win didn't cut into the lead until the fifth inning when a two out single by Brady Eilders sparked some momentum.

Shortly after, Eilders stole second base to get into scoring position. Packard then singled on a ground ball to the left side allowing Eilders to reach third base on the play. It was Eilder's baserunning that scored the first run of the game for Le-Win as he reached home safe on a wild pitch. On a 3-1 count, Streckwald hit another single to the left side to drive in Packard, bringing the Panthers within two, down 4-2.

Unfortunately for the Panthers, Stillman Valley added an insurance run in the bottom halves of the fifth and sixth

innings. Thanks to those late runs, the Cards held a 6-2 lead with just one inning left to play.

Once again, the Panthers managed to spark some momentum, but it was too little, too late. Zeal would pick up an RBI when he singled to right field to drive in Eilders. After a pitching change, Streckwald would score on a wild pitch to bring the Panthers within two, down 6-4. That was where their luck ran out, however, as with two outs, a ground ball to shortstop would end the game.

Streckwald finished the game going two for three with an RBI and a walk. Eilders was two for three with two runs scored, and Mahon was two for four. The Panthers left seven runners on base in the game.

Despite beginning the year 0-2, there is still plenty of hope and excitement for this year's Panthers squad. They will be back on the diamond on Thursday, March 24, as they travel to face off with East Dubuque.

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Pearl City Elementary student engineers

Mrs. Brouhard's fourth grade class has been working on S.T.E.M projects where they explore concepts of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. After studying the engineering design process, students put their knowledge to the test to construct a model survival hut for a man stranded on a deserted island. Pictured here are Jax Howe, Carter McColley, and Deisy Silva in the design phase.

Dr. Gordon Dammann to present 'Civil War Medicine' lecture at St. John's Lutheran Church

The Pearl City Historical Organization will be hosting Dr. Gordon Dammann with his presentation on "Civil War Medicine" on Tuesday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall located at 229 S. First St, Pearl City, Illinois. Dr. Dammann's presentation will cover the medical practices of the 1860's and innovations brought about because of the Civil War. The program will be approximately 45 minutes with time for questions and answers.

Dr. Gordon Dammann is a retired dentist from Lena, Illinois, founder of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland, and a licensed guide at Antietam National Battlefield. He has presented programs for Civil War Round

Tables across the country, West Point Military Academy, Smithsonian Institution, and has authored five books on Civil War medicine.

This program is free with no pre-registration and open to all the public. Join us for an informative presentation

on Civil War medicine by one of Northwestern Illinois own residents, Dr. Gordon Dammann. For additional information and questions, please contact the Pearl City Public Library by email, pearlcity-publiclibrary@yahoo.com or phone, 815-443-2832.

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Jesse Marsh and Jared Dinderman display the model they designed and constructed in class. Their hut had to be at least five inches tall, be attached to a base no more than 36 square inches, have a working door, and survive a windstorm without falling apart. The constraints were that they could only use the materials provided and they only had 45 minutes. Their hut survived the windstorm and passed the test!



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Incidentally; Oral health care before, during, and after pregnancy

Oral health care is a major component of overall health. Women who are pregnant or planning to be pregnant should be aware that pregnancy presents a unique set of challenges to maintaining oral health and that their oral health has a direct impact on their developing fetus.

Rising hormone levels and physiological changes that occur during pregnancy can lead to dental problems such as gingivitis (swollen, red gums), tooth decay and periodontal disease (which is a proven link between premature birth and low birth weight).

Pregnant women may also develop oral lesions, known as pregnancy tumors (these are not cancerous, may bleed, and are the result of increased hormone levels and inflammation) and loose teeth in the absence of oral disease (response to increased hormone levels that generally resolves after



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

pregnancy).

Approximately two-thirds of pregnant women experience morning sickness and/or acid reflux, which can lead to elevated levels of acid in the mouth. Pregnant women often develop food cravings, especially for foods with a high sugar content, which further increases acidity in the mouth. These acids can erode the protective enamel layer of the teeth and lead to cavities. Therefore, it is best for both you and your unborn child that you schedule a dental appointment before you become pregnant so that any oral problems can be diagnosed and treated, your teeth can be professionally

cleaned, and your oral health routine can be evaluated and adjusted as needed.

Maintaining oral health throughout your pregnancy is necessary and dental checkups are safe. However, it is important to let your obstetrician know when you are scheduling a dental appointment.

Each pregnancy is unique, and you may have additional medical conditions or past pregnancy complications that your obstetrician will want to communicate to your dentist. Make sure that your dentist knows that you are pregnant, provide a complete health history and a complete list of all over-the-counter medications, vitamins, supplements, and prescription medications that you are currently taking.

Routine and emergency dental care can be done at any point in your pregnancy, but no elective

dental procedures should be scheduled until after your child is born. If you experience a dental emergency, a diagnostic x-ray will not harm your fetus and your dentist will utilize a protective apron and thyroid collar as well. Treatment for a dental infection must not be delayed. There are some antibiotics that are deemed safe for use during pregnancy and effective pain management will decrease stress for both mom and baby. Non-emergency dental work is ideally performed during the second semester and should not be scheduled during the last six weeks of pregnancy.

Pregnancy can add a whole new meaning to the word exhaustion. Do not allow this to interfere with your oral care routine. When you care for yourself, you are also caring for your unborn child. When you do not remove the

bacteria in your mouth, it can enter the bloodstream and travel to the uterus. It is imperative that you floss and brush your teeth twice a day. If you have morning sickness, do not brush your teeth immediately after you vomit. Instead, rinse with fluoridated tap water. Using a small, soft toothbrush and brushing later in the morning, after the worse of the nausea has passed, often helps. Drink plenty of tap water, as its fluoride strengthens your teeth and provides defense against tooth decay. Rinse with tap water between meals, as frequent snacking also leads to the increased production of the bacteria, *Streptococcus mutans*, which produces more acid to weaken enamel. Your dentist may also prescribe a fluoride rinse.

Your babies' teeth are forming by the end of your first trimester, so make sure to eat a nutritious diet high in calcium, protein,

and vitamins A, C, D & B12, and low in sugar, throughout your entire pregnancy. When taking vitamin supplements, such as folic acid, do not choose the chewy or gummy types that stick on your teeth.

After delivery, if you have not experienced any dental complications, you can return to your regularly scheduled dental visits. However, if you have experienced dental complications, try to schedule an appointment a few weeks following delivery to resolve these. Maintaining optimal oral health throughout your lifetime is critical to both you and your child's overall health. Moms with poor oral health can also pass damaging bacteria to their children through kissing, sharing eating utensils (such as testing the food to see if it is too warm) and (never do this) putting a pacifier in your mouth to "clean" it.

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LEGAL NOTICES

•Farmer

(Continued from page 2)

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

Federal National Mortgage Association PLAINTIFF

Vs.

Scott M. Perry a/k/a Scott Perry; Dupaco Community Credit Union; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

DEFENDANTS

2022FC1

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Scott M. Perry a/k/a Scott Perry 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:

190 Beecher Street East Dubuque, IL 61025 and which said Mortgage was made by:

Scott M. Perry a/k/a Scott Perry

the Mortgagor(s), to Dupaco Community Credit Union, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, as Document No. 372556; 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 April 15, 2022, 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

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Winnebago # 531

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NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector.

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(Published in The Scoop Today March 16, 23 & 30, 2022) 414276

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RUSH TOWNSHIP, JODAVIESS COUNTY

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters and residents of the Township of Rush in the County of Jo Daviess and the State of Illinois that the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING of said Township will take place on Tuesday, April 12th, 2022, being the second Tuesday of the month, at the hour of 7:30 pm., at the Rush Town Hall, 2999 North Canyon Park Rd., Stockton IL., for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of said Township. After a moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in the pursuance of the law, come before the meeting, and especially to consider and decide the following:

Agenda

1. Elect a moderator
2. Set the moderator's salary
3. Approve the minutes from the 2021 Annual Town Meeting

4. Report of Officers- Financial reports & statements

5. Authorize transfer of funds

6. Set time for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting

7. Open forum

8. Adjournment

Ben Wooden, Rush Township Clerk (Published in The Scoop Today March 23, 2022) 414377

PUBLIC NOTICE

The regular monthly business meetings for the Township of Rush for the fiscal year 2022 - 2023 will be held at 7:00pm at the Rush Town Hall, 2999 North Canyon Park Rd., Stockton IL, on the following dates:

- April 12, 2022
- May 10, 2022
- June 14, 2022
- July 12, 2022
- August 9, 2022
- September 13, 2022
- October 11, 2022
- November 8, 2022
- December 13, 2022
- January 10, 2023
- February 14, 2023
- March 14, 2023

Ben Wooden, Rush Township Clerk (Published in The Scoop Today March 23, 2022) 414375

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, VS.

JOHN LYDON, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF WILLIAM G SLIGAR, DECEASED; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; RONALD SLIGAR; JOSHUA SLIGAR; MARGARET KMETZ; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF WILLIAM SLIGAR, DEFENDANTS.

21 CH 10 37 NORTH BAILEY AVENUE FREEPORT, IL 61032 JUDGE PRESIDING JUDGE

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN TO YOU, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Joshua Sligar Unknown Heirs and Legatees of William Sligar defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

Lot 5 in Block 1 in Hea's Subdivision of West Freeport (now City) of Freeport; situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Commonly known as: 37 North Bailey Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

and which said Mortgage was made by,

William G Sligar Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Platinum Home Mortgage Corporation

Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 201900167974; and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before April 22, 2022, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory 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. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org. If you are unable to pay your court fees, you can apply for a fee waiver. For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help,

go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC

Attorney for Plaintiff 1 N. Dearborn St. Suite 1200

Chicago, IL 60602

Ph. (312) 346-9088

File No.

21-07267IL-675233

I3190420

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 23, 30 & April 6, 2022) 414663

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal residents of the Town of West Point in the County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, that the ANNUAL MEETING of said Town will take place on TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022 being the second Tuesday of said month. The Town Meeting for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town will be held at the hour of 6 o'clock P.M. on said day at West Point Township Building, 6890 N. Five Corners Rd., Lena, and a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.

AGENDA:

1. Call to order
2. Election of Moderator
3. Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting
4. Annual Financial Reports
5. Authorize Transfer of Funds
6. Donations
7. Open Forum
8. Adjournment

Dated at Lena, this 16th day of March, 2022.

BILL STATON CLERK

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 23, 2022) 414585

to grow crops including corn, soybeans and wheat. "But, there is no area in Ukraine that is 100 percent safe. We have areas with more bombs, and areas with less bombs."

The online meeting with Xomehko was made possible in part by Loran Steinlage, an Iowa farmer and field engineer for DAWN Equipment and Macon County Farm Bureau Board member Paul Butler, who is in an international grain marketing group.

DAWN provides ag equipment parts to farmers in Ukraine but pulled its employees out of the country just weeks before the war broke out.

"I'm worried about \$5 diesel and how high our fertilizer prices will go," Butler said. "But our problems are pretty small in comparison."

Scott Irwin, University of Illinois ag economics professor, said war in Ukraine will also continue to have a widespread effect on world markets for some time.

"There are really two issues," Irwin said in a recent U of I farmdoc video. "One is with old crop. Trade estimates suggest there's 600 million bushels of corn already contracted (from Ukraine). It's trapped and I don't see any way that will get out of there very easily for weeks and maybe months."

"There's even bigger problems with what will end up getting planted (in the Black Sea region) this spring," he noted. "It could potentially put a huge hole in global grain balance sheets."

Irwin suggested the U.S. needs to think "outside the box" in these extraordinary times and consider measures such as possibly opening up acres in the Conservation Reserve Program for a year to increase domestic crop output.

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.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

What is there not to like in this simple appetizer?

3 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 T. finely chopped onion
1 t. milk

1 tube (8 oz.) refrigerated crescent rolls (unperforated if you can find them)

5 bacon strips, cooked and finely chopped

Preheat oven to 375. In a small bowl mix cream cheese, onion and milk until blended. On a lightly floured surface, unroll crescent dough into one long rectangle and press perforations to seal.

Spread cream cheese mixture over the dough, sprinkle with bacon. Roll up jelly-roll style starting with a long side; pinch seam to seal. Using a serrated knife, cut roll crosswise into 24 1/2 inch slices. Place on ungreased baking sheets, cut side own. Bake 12 to 14 minutes until golden brown.

Bacon Pinwheels

These appetizers use crescent rolls for an easy base and add cream cheese and bacon.

Broccoli Salad Supreme

This salad melds the flavors of broccoli and grapes. If you add a few almonds for crunch you will have a great and refreshing salad. It is a salad that you can use for a crowd. If you want to make it for a smaller group, cut the ingredients in half.

10 C. broccoli florets
6 C. seedless red grapes
1 C. sliced celery
6 green onions, sliced
2 C. mayonnaise
2/3 C. sugar
2 T. cider vinegar
1 lb. sliced bacon, cooked and crumbled

1 1/3 C. slivered almonds, toasted

In a large salad bowl combine the broccoli, grapes, celery and onions. In a small bowl combine the mayo, sugar and vinegar. Pour over the broccoli mixture and toss to

coat. Cover and refrigerate at least four hours or overnight. Just before serving, gently stir in bacon and almonds.

Tarragon Tuna Salad

There are many ways to make tuna salad. This recipe adds an herb to change the flavor, and it also uses Dijon mustard to give it a little zip. If you use Bibb (or Boston or Butter) lettuce, the leaves form perfect cups for the salad. If you are tired of the usual tuna salad, try this one for a meatless Friday.

2 cans (6 oz. each) light water packed tuna, drained and flaked

1 C. chopped celery
1/4 C. chopped sweet onion
1/3 C. mayonnaise
2 T. minced fresh parsley
1 T. lemon juice
1 t. fresh tarragon or 1/4 t. dried
1/2 t. Dijon mustard

1/4 t. pepper

Lettuce leaves

In a bowl combine tuna, celery, and onion. In another bowl combine the mayo, parsley, lemon juice, tarragon, mustard and pepper. Stir mayo mixture into tuna mixture. Serve on lettuce leaves or small rye cocktail rye bread.

Crab Stuffed Flounder

If you are in the market for a really good different fish dish, this recipe will help with a meatless Friday. You can use tilapia, sole, Pollock or halibut fillets. I also think you can use the imitation crab if you don't have the canned crab.

1 1/2 lb. flounder fillets
1 C. crabmeat, drained, flaked, and cartilage removed
1 T. finely chopped green

pepper

1/4 t. ground dry mustard

1/4 t. Worcestershire sauce

1/4 t. salt

1/4 pepper

3 crushed saltine crackers

1 egg white

1 T. mayonnaise

1/4 C. melted butter

1 egg yolk

5 T. mayonnaise

1/2 t. paprika

1 T. dried parsley

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Rinse the fillets and pat dry with paper towels. Combine crab meat, green pepper, mustard powder, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper and crushed saltines in a bowl. In a separate bowl combine the egg white and 1 T. mayo. Stir this into the crab meat mixture. Brush the fish fillets with melted butter. Place in a lightly greased shallow baking dish.

See KITCHEN, Page 15

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The Pearl City Daycare has an opening for a full time lead teacher. If interested, please contact Lindsay Stephan at 815-443-2038 or lstephan@pcwolves.net by March 28.

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Kitchen (Continued from page 13)

Spoon the crab mixture over the fillets and drizzle with any remaining butter. Bake the fillets at 400 for 15 minutes.

While the fish is baking, lightly beat the egg yolk in a small bowl. Stir in 5 T. of mayo. Remove fish from oven and spread this mixture over the stuffing; sprinkle with paprika and parsley. Increase oven temperature to 450 and bake until golden and bubbly, about 6 minutes.

Ham Casserole

There will be many hams prepared for Easter and we will be looking for ways to use it up. I usually cut it up and place 2 or 4 cups in a bag ready for a casserole. This dish has a lot of good things in it that will serve as a whole meal.

- 2 C. cubed peeled potatoes
- 1 large carrot, sliced
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 3 C. water
- 2 C. cubed fully cooked ham
- 2 T. chopped green pepper
- 2 t. finely chopped onion
- 7 T. butter, divided
- 3 T. flour
- 1½ C. 2% milk
- ¾ t. salt
- 1/8 t. pepper

1 C. shredded cheddar cheese
 ½ C. soft breadcrumbs
 Preheat the oven to 375. In a saucepan bring potatoes, carrot, celery, and water to a boil. Reduce heat and cover; cook until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain.

In a large skillet sauté ham, green pepper and onion in 3 T. butter until tender. Add to the potato mixture. Transfer to a greased 1½ qt. baking dish.

In a large saucepan melt the remaining butter, stir in the flour until smooth. Gradually whisk in the milk, salt, and pepper. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Reduce heat; add cheese and stir until melted. Pour over ham mixture. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs. Bake until heated through, 25 to 30 minutes.

Minty Fudge Brownie Minis

If you are looking for an easy spring treat, these cute mini cupcakes will fill the bill. The addition of the Andes Mint cookies makes these pretty, too!

- 1 pkg. (18.3 oz.) fudge brownie mix
- ½ C. oil
- 2 eggs

½ C. semisweet chocolate chips
 ½ C. butter, softened
 1½ C. powdered sugar
 1 to 2 T. milk
 ¼ t. peppermint extract
 Green food coloring
 12 Andes Mints, halved

Preheat oven to 350. Coat 24 mini muffin cups with cooking spray. Prepare the brownie mix according to package directions with oil, eggs, and 3 T. water. Stir in chocolate chips. Divide the batter evenly among the muffin cups. Bake until a toothpick inserted in centers comes out with moist crumbs clinging, 15 to 18 minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes. Transfer from muffin cups to rack and let cool completely.

On medium high speed, beat butter until smooth, 2 minutes. On low beat in powdered sugar and 1 T. milk until well blended and frosting is fluffy; add additional milk if frosting is too thick. Add in peppermint extract and green food coloring. Use a pastry bag with a star tip to drop frosting on muffins. If you don't have a pastry bag, use a small plastic bag with small slit on one side and place frosting in bag. Squeeze out frosting on muffins (You can just

frost them if you want). Insert candies diagonally into frosting. Place muffins on a plate or cake stand.

Soft Peanut Butter Cookies

A good, soft, and chewy peanut butter cookie is a great snack. Pair it with a glass of ice-cold milk or a cup of coffee, and everything is right with the world.

- 1 C. butter flavored shortening (like Crisco butter flavored)
- 1 C. creamy peanut butter
- ¾ C. sugar
- ¾ C. packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs room temperature
- 1 t. vanilla
- ½ t. water
- 2¼ C. flour
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 t. salt

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl cream the shortening, peanut butter and sugars until light and fluffy, about 4

minutes. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla and water. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt in a separate bowl; gradually add to the creamed mixture and mix well.

Using a tablespoon scoop, drop 2 inches apart onto an ungreased baking sheet. Flatten with a fork dipped in sugar using a grid pattern. Bake at 350 until golden brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Remove to a wire rack to cool.

Final Thoughts

We got the clocks changed and are trying to get our bodies adjusted to the time change. It is nice to have light longer in the evening. Our warm days have been great to get out and do things without coats, gloves, and scarves. I don't know if I have jinxed us, but I put my winter coat in the closet (I won't clean it until May) and washed my scarf and gloves. I got out a lighter coat and even used

my raincoat once (but it didn't rain).

St. Patrick's Day has come and gone, and all the corned beef lovers are full. I even smelled someone grilling in the neighborhood. I know we will still be having cold weather, but we are enjoying every day while we can. I got a call from a reader about how much she loved the Snickerdoodle bars; another reader says their favorite new bread is Barb's Hawaiian Bread. I like getting feedback about the recipes because I know someone reads my column! Thanks for your comments because it helps me to keep writing. Remember that we continue to look for recipes for Lent. If you have any good vegetarian or fish recipes, send them our way. We also need some spring and Easter 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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American Legion Poster contest

Bev Randecker, Judy Oellerich and Marsha Tessendorf of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary look over the poppy posters made by the Lena-Winslow students. The American Legion Auxiliary has a poster contest each year for the youth. Winners at the first level are sent to Department (state), and winners at that level are then forwarded to National for judging. Posters will be on display in windows around town in May.

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. on Sunday, March 27 at 9:30 a.m. This will be the fourth Sunday in Lent and the reading will be from Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32. Rene Johnson will share the message.

On Tuesday, March 29, Bible Study group will meet at 10 a.m. Anyone who enjoys learning are welcome to join for conversation about scripture and time of prayer. On Wednesday, March 30, Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. New members are welcome and no quilting experience necessary. During Lent Lena UMC and Good Shepherd are offering weekly Lenten devotion via social media. This year's theme is Dwelling on the Lenten Hymns. This week's devotion video will dwell on "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded". The videos will be released every Wednesday.

All services will be recorded and be available on the church's Facebook page and website. Please visit <http://good-shepherdlena.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL> for more information. Please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

Lent at St. John's Lutheran Church

Join St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City on Wednesday, March 23 for a midweek Lenten service at 6:30 p.m. A Simple Soup Supper will be served preceding the service from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

The worship service for the Fourth Sunday of Lent will be held at 9 a.m. on March 27 for the Lent series, Shepherd Me Oh God. Intro to Embodiment Yoga continues to be held on Thursday at 6 p.m. through March 31.

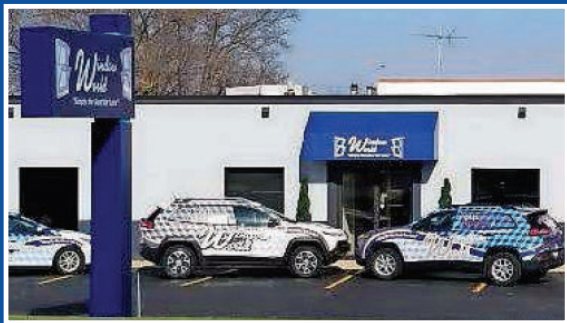
For Holy Week, St. John's will offer a Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:30 p.m. on April 14 and a Community Good Friday worship service at 6:30 p.m. on Apr. 15.

The April Grace Meal will be held on fourth Sunday of the month on April 24 due to Easter being on the Third Sunday.

St. John's Lutheran Church is located at 229 S First St., Pearl City, IL. Worship Services are currently in-person and live-streamed on Facebook Live by visiting our website at www.StJohnsPearlCity.org.

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