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VOL. 88 • NO. 11

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

Spring improvement approaching in Stockton

By Christopher Johnson
REPORTER

Late last Fiscal Year as members of the Stockton Village Board were gathering, discussion surfaced regarding the ongoing need for village improvement. Funds for projects such as water main repair and replacement, sidewalk maintenance and roadway resurfacing were a few of the talking top-

ics. Each of those mandatory issues requires a lot of money to be spent to get things done in a timely manner and with as limited influence on village residents and travelers as possible.

By design, a Fiscal Year Budget addresses those concerns and the dollars that are available through varied means, such as taxpayer contributions, are directed to their final nesting spot.

Managing the dollars that are available is the chief responsibility of elected officials and municipal leaders. Accountability exists.

With spring officially less than two weeks away, the amount of work that needs to be done to fix, "quick-fixes", will accelerate. After potholes are filled with cold mix, sand or gravel to help protect resident's

tires and vehicle frames, real work can begin courtesy of the warmer weather waiting. Projects that require major resource applications generally end up being more expensive than simpler modifications incorporated, based on the current environmental influences. That could mean portions of roads could be closed at times to allow workers and larger equipment the chance

to access the required areas.

Details on any traffic concerns or expected problems due to ongoing improvement projects will be released through the Stockton Village Clerk's Office and to the general public at regular monthly meetings.

On Tuesday, Mar. 8, members of the elected commission gathered with open discussion held on the current needs of the village. It was reported that funds collected through access to Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Loan 17-5555, in an amount just shy of \$50,000, would be distributed to two businesses operating within the Village's scope of operation.

Contractual agreements for financial accountability practices were also scheduled for approval at the Tuesday night meeting of the Village of Stockton. A measure was brought to the attention of Trustees to assure WIPFLI would be utilized for accounting oversight and reporting.

According to the village's audit and tax-advising specialist, the management company has been in successful operation since 1934.

During each meeting of the Stockton Village Board time is set aside, as needed, for the body of elected officials to retire from public review for discussion on personnel matters or pending litigation as examples.

When concerns regarding personnel are not deemed private, information is brought to public awareness as certain staff approvals are awarded. It was announced that intentions to hire local citizens Leslie Hawley, Jacob Perry and as police officer per terms employment requirements, Jeff Altfillisch. It was further announced that the resignation of Board of Trustees Member Matt Timpe was accepted. A replacement Board Member can be added to the table of leaders through previously established Municipal Ordinance.

See **IMPROVEMENT**, Page 6



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

"No More Worries" to perform

All are invited to come see the "No More Worries" band present a musical program on Sunday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at Calvary Church in Stockton. The band consists of Mary Berryhill, Terry O'Malley, and Mary Jane Hammer. This is the second in the Joint Lenten Series presented by Calvary, Wesley and Willow United Methodist Churches. Additional services will be hosted throughout the month.

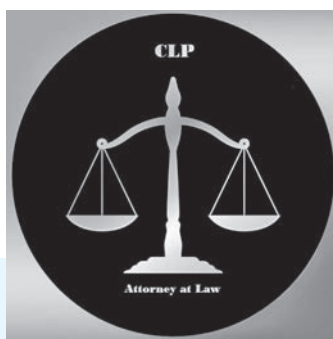
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Senior Outreach of Stockton news

The Senior Outreach of Stockton and Surrounding Areas (SOS+) will kick-off its 18th year of programs and fellowship beginning April 14, 2022. An array of programs is being planned, including area historical and educational programs, musical programs from local musicians, a day at the movies, and game dates.

The SOS+ is always looking for volunteers to help reach out to seniors. If interested in volunteering on the planning committee or are a senior in need of a ride, please call Mary Feltmeyer at 815-297-5425, Nancy Rice at 815-275-0303, Al and Carolyn Mysliwiec at 815-947-3761, or Shirley Toepfer at 815-947-3639.



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Obituaries

GRACE POTTER

Grace Miriam Shriver Potter, 95, of Richland Center formerly of Lena, Illinois died Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Our House. She was born on Sept. 12, 1926, at home in Fairhill, Pennsylvania. Grace attended a small one room schoolhouse with a Native American teacher until she was sophomore moving to a three-story high school in Maryland, near Washington D.C. It was quite a culture shock for her. Following graduation in 1944 during WWII, Grace was employed by the Navy Department at David Taylor Model Basin in the classified division where the military tested model planes and boats for function and design prior to building full scale units for the military service. She then transferred to the US Department of Agriculture Research Department in Maryland. She was later employed by the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company.

In 1951, Grace married Paul E. Potter while he was in the military prior to going overseas. Upon his discharge, they moved to Lake Villa, Illinois where Paul managed Susanna Farms, with a registered shorthorn cattle herd. Twenty-one years later, they moved to Melbourne Farms in Big Rock, Illinois. These cattle herds attracted many international visitors.

Grace finally settled in Lena, Illinois. She was active in the Methodist Church and served on numerous committees and a member of the Martha Missions. Grace was



also a member of the Stagecoach Quilters and was Queen of the Red Hat Society in Lena.

Grace was equally adept with knitting and sewing needles and a paint brush. Her artistic efforts produced many sweaters, quilts, clothing, and decorative crafts. Grace hand braided several large woolen rugs for the home. She was an amazing cook, making a 4-layer cake and pie each day for the family and up to five hired men each day.

Grace is survived by her children: Dianne Walters-Butler of Gotham, WI, Paul K. Potter of Lena, IL, Phillip Potter of Denver, CO; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. Grace was preceded in death by her parents, husband Paul, granddaughter Sara, grandson Paulie, daughter-in-law Regina, four sisters, and two brothers.

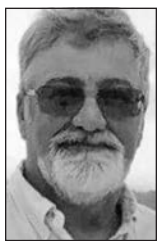
Funeral services were held on March 8, at 11 a.m. at the Pratt Memorial Chapel in Richland Center. Visitation was held March 8 at the Pratt Memorial Chapel from 10 a.m. until the time of the service at 11 a.m. Burial will be held in the Lena Cemetery in Lena, Illinois on Thursday, March 10 at 10 a.m. The Pratt Funeral and Cremation Service and the Leamon Funeral Home are assisting the family with their arrangements.

RANDALL C. "RANDY" BUISKER

Randall C. "Randy" Buisker, age 63 of rural South Wayne, WI passed away Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022 at his home in rural South Wayne. He was born Oct. 11, 1958 in Freeport, IL the son of Marvin and Joyce (Guentner) Buisker. Randy grew up in Lanark, IL where he graduated from Lanark High school and later from Highland Community College. Randy was united in marriage to the love of his life, Renee Fluegel on Sept. 6, 1980, at Shannon United Methodist Church in Shannon, IL. Randy has been dedicated to farming his entire life and started farming in northern Illinois with one cow and a dream. They moved to Wisconsin and bought their first farm, Flatlanders Dream Dairy, in South Wayne in 1994 where he and Renee raised their family and have resided since.

Randy is survived by his wife at home; his children: Adam (Elizabeth) Buisker of Palisade, CO, Ashley (Jeremiah) Kleiber of rural Darlington, WI, and Brett (Mandy) Brooker of South Wayne; his grandchildren that he absolutely adored: Xavier and Lillith Buisker of Palisade, CO; his mother: Joyce Buisker of Lanark, IL; one sister: Shari Morgan of Thomson, IL; and his mother-in-law: Carol Fluegel of Lena, IL. He was preceded in death by his father: Marvin Buisker; and his father-in-law: Eugene Fluegel.

Randy was a member of Lena United Methodist Church in Lena, IL. He kept himself busy and involved serving on many different boards: the Freeport Area International Visitors, the Pecatonica Co-Op Board, was lifetime member of the NRA, and past member of the Stephenson County Young



he was the biggest history buff and knew just about everything about airplanes. He and Renee proudly hosted over 150 international guests throughout the years - enjoying the knowledge he obtained from them and the knowledge he was able to share in return. Randy had a sweet tooth and no matter how hard he tried to hide his candy stash the kids and grandkids always found it.

Randy was a family man through and through. The proudest title he wore was "Papa" to his two grandchildren. He made sure his children and grandchildren always knew how proud he was of them and supported them in any endeavor they set out to achieve. The memories he created with his family will be cherished by them forever.

A funeral service was held Saturday, March 5, at 11:00 a.m. at Lena United Methodist Church (118 W. Mason St., Lena, IL 61048) with Rev. Craig Conklin and Rev. Kari Rainsberger co-officiating. A visitation was held Friday, March 4, 2022, from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Lena United Methodist Church and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. at the church. The Erickson Funeral Home in Darlington is serving the family. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.ericksonfuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Randy's name. Donations may be sent to Erickson Funeral Home 508 Main St., Darlington WI 53530.

DONALD GENE SWANSON

Donald Gene "Swany" Swanson, age 84, of Shannon, Illinois passed away, Friday, Jan. 28, 2022, at home surrounded by his caring family and FHN Hospice. A Celebration of Life will be held 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 19, 2022 at Bethel United Methodist Church, Shannon. Masonic Rites will be held at 11:30 followed by a memorial service at 12 p.m.

RICHARD JOHNSON

Richard "Dick" Johnson, age 84 of Lena, IL formerly of Verona, WI, passed away on March 2, 2022, at Manor Court in Freeport, IL. He was born Dec. 22, 1937, in Dodgeville, WI, the son of Howard and Lenore (Syse) Johnson. Dick married Rene Guequierre on Sept. 21, 1968 in Rockford.

He served his country as a member of the United States Army. Dick worked for Wisconsin Telephone /Ameritech in Madison, Wisconsin for 33 years before retiring. He was a member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena. Dick enjoyed being an Amateur Radio Operator and metal detecting.

He is survived by his wife

Law Jones is in charge of arrangements and friends and family are encouraged to share in Don's life at lawjonesfuneralhome.com. You may also view these events on FB Live at Law Jones, or anytime thereafter at the following link <http://bit.ly/32JUYSF>.

Memorials may be made in Donald's memory to the Shannon Lions Club, the Shannon Fire Department & Ambulance, and the Shriner's Hospital.

Rene of Lena; three children- David Johnson of Phoenix, AZ, Jenny (Brenda Larson) Johnson of Baraboo, WI and Steve Johnson of Gilbert, AZ; three granddaughters- Dallas Johnson of Phoenix, AZ, Taylor (JT) Link of Gilbert, AZ and Haley Johnson of Phoenix, AZ; grandson Kade Richard Johnson of Gilbert, AZ; brother Bill Johnson of Argyle, WI; sister-in-law Carolyn Johnson of Belleville, WI and numerous nieces and nephews.

Dick was preceded in death by his parents and brother Phil. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established for the Lena Food Pantry and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena. Condolences may be sent to www.leamonfh.com.



News briefs

Arts and crafts with 4-H after school

The University of Illinois Extension / 4-H & the Children's Hands-On Museum (CHOM) have teamed up to bring Stephenson County youth, ages 4-12 a fun-filled after school hour of arts and crafts. On March 17, from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. CHOM will be learning paper quilling and mosaic art.

This event will be held at the Children's Hands-On Museum, 1233 W. Galena Ave. Freeport, IL. This is a free event for all youth, no 4-H membership necessary to attend. Pre-registration is required at go.illinois.edu/CHOM & either a membership or daily rate to enter the museum.

Believers Basic Bible study

Join the Believers Basic Bible study on March 13 at 5 p.m. The topic is part 2 of God's goodness, mercy, truth, but also his wrath and judgement. It will be held at the Lena Community Center. Please call Pastor Cliff at (716)-229-9281 for more information.

Christ Lutheran Church Chili Supper

The Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton will host the annual Chili Supper on March 22 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. They will serve chili, beef noodle soup, potato soup, ham sandwiches, relish cups, and dessert. Carry outs will be available. For more information call Jan Zarn 815-297-4331.

Concerned Women of America meeting

The Concerned Women of America (CWA) Stockton Group will meet on Wednesday, March 9 at 2 p.m. at Calvary Church in Stockton. The CWA is a group of concerned Christian women who meet to be informed, to pray and act. The CWA is a non-denominational group that is pro-family, pro-life, pro-religious freedom, pro-national sovereignty, and against sexual exploitation. Any interested woman is welcome to join us. If you have any questions or need a ride, please contact Carol Rowe at 815-947-2122 or Pam Hess at 815-947-9154.

CLIFFORD "TIP" F. REUBER

A Celebration of Life will be held from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, at the Winslow Community Center in Winslow, IL. A light lunch will be served.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Wishing you a special HAPPY 102nd BIRTHDAY Mom (Lois Paulsen) on March 11 Love, Larry & Trudi

Thank you so much for the flowers, cards, food and phone calls for my 99th birthday. It was all greatly appreciated.

Pauline Feltmeyer

Farm Bureau opposes nutrient loss bill as negotiations continue

Calls current language confusing and bureaucratic

By Beth Hundsdorfer
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bill meant to stem nutrient pollution resulting from farm runoff has met opposition from a formidable foe—the Illinois Farm Bureau—as negotiations on a final package continue.

Nutrient loss is one of the most serious pollution threats in the country, creating a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, poisoning local lakes and streams and causing serious health problems for people and domesticated animals.

Illinois, a major contributor to nutrients in water, pledged to develop strategies to reduce the nutrient loads leaving the border.

The state aimed to reduce nitrates and nitrogen by 15 percent and phosphorus by 25 percent by 2025, but the latest Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Implementation Report showed that nutrient loss increased by 13 percent and phosphorus losses increased by 35 percent, compared with a baseline period from 1980 to 1996.

The bill, Senate Bill 3471, was introduced in January, but was amended in early February, changing substantively from its original form that funded a program incentivizing the planting of cover crops by offering discounts on crop insurance.

The amended bill creates

the Healthy Soils and Watershed Initiative that would be administered by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the state's soil and water conservation districts, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of Illinois Extension program.

The Department of Agriculture would create guidelines to help with soil and water conservation districts to create a plan and establish funding levels with "measurable, cost-effective and technically achievable goals" to reduce nutrient loss.

The Initiative would then produce a study every two years, beginning in 2023, outlining efforts to combat nutrient loss and their overall effectiveness. It would also measure the overall picture of nutrient loss and whether the state was moving towards goals set out in the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

Supporters say the bill creates a baseline to gauge the scope of the problem and identify appropriate spending limits and strategies that work, and it also provides accountability to taxpayers.

The information collected by the agencies would also make it easier to obtain federal monies set aside to combat nutrient loss, said Maxwell Webster, Midwest Policy Manager for America Farmland Trust, a proponent of the bill.

The Illinois Farm Bureau voiced opposition to the bill in committee hearing because they say it is duplicative, complicated and bureaucratic.

The Farm Bureau said the bill put various state and federal agencies, authorities, and programs under one umbrella, making it difficult to implement. Adding provisions to already existing laws, like the Soil and Water Conservation Act, would make the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategies less confusing and eliminate bureaucracy, said Lauren Lurkins, Director of Environmental Policy for the Illinois Farm Bureau.

"We believe that the current NLRs program is moving us in the direction of protecting the environment and helping farmers better manage their land and resources," Lurkins wrote in an email. "SB 3471 has some great ideas in the proposed language, but does it in a way that is awkward and duplicative. We feel that there are many laws in place that can be changed to include the goals that this bill lays out in a more efficient and workable format."

The Farm Bureau also voiced its opposition to mandates, stating that voluntary implementation will make the programs more palatable to farmers.

The bill is not designed to increase regulation and it does not create additional mandates. It is focused on making sure the state maximizes existing resources and successfully attracts additional investment from the federal government, Webster said.

"Mandates are not the an-

swer to this problem. Farmers are our greatest stewards of the land and the focus needs to be on getting more resources in their hands to implement conservation practices," Webster said. "That's why this bill seeks to update our existing voluntary conservation programs so that they are more responsive to the needs of farmers and the goals of the nutrient loss reduction strategy while also addressing emerging challenges like climate change."

The bill states "the initiative shall promote voluntary and incentive-based conservation efforts. No part of this act shall be used to impose mandates or require practice adoption."

The original bill proposed an increase in funding for nutrient loss reduction policies over the next 10 years from \$10 million to more than \$25 million in 2027, extending through 2032, but that language was removed in the latest Senate amendment.

The original bill would also have expanded the eligible uses for the Partners for Conservation Fund, including funding the Fall Covers for Spring Savings Program. But that language was also stripped from the bill in Senate Amendment 1.

The funding mechanism of that program will now

be spread out across IDOA, IDNR and IEPA in wider appropriation discussions, but the funding request for the cover crop program is the same as in the last bill.

"We look forward to working with Sen. Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago) and the other stakeholders of this legislation to work out all the technicalities of the legislation," Lurkins said.

Advocates for the bill said

they are hopeful it will be able to move when the Senate returns next week, as the deadline for its passage was extended to March 11.

It passed the Senate Agriculture Committee on an 8-6 vote last month, with only Democratic support. Committee chair Patrick Joyce, D-Essex, was the lone Democrat to oppose the bill in committee, joining Republicans in voting against it.

Highland holds two Agriculture Open Houses

Area high school students with an interest in animals, plants, technology, or mechanics are invited to experience Highland Agriculture by attending one of two open house events held on campus.

The open houses will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 11 and Friday, April 8, with workshops covering Agriculture Technology, Crop and Soil Science, Horticulture, Animal Science, and Agribusiness. In addition to the hands-on

workshops, students will take a campus tour, learn about registration and scholarships, and hear from agriculture instructors about degree programs, extracurricular activities, and other opportunities with Highland Agriculture. Lunch will be provided during the open house event.

Registration can be found at www.highland.edu or by contacting Agriculture Instructors Justin Ebert justin.ebert@highland.edu or Monica Pierce monica.pierce@highland.edu.

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Slices of life

Scraping the paint

I've taken up a new hobby: painting. I don't paint walls or houses. I keep it smaller—to canvases, coasters and such. It's not painting like you might think. My new leisure pursuit involves no brushes or rollers.



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

What it lacks in brushes, this technique makes up for in paint. I literally pour it onto the canvas and let it flow. I might spin it. I might blow on it with a blow dryer or a straw, but what it comes down to is paint consistency and letting it all just flow where it may.

It's called acrylic pour painting and it's rather addictive. It allows you to create art without the control that art typically encompasses

— although the more involved and knowledgeable I become in the process, the more I realize the lack of control is but an illusion. It is control without control, which is the epitome of art, not to mention cool.

It's been a real learning curve. Continues to be, for that matter.

One thing I've come to understand is that not every piece is a masterpiece. Welcome to the world of

Rembrandt and Da Vinci, not that I'd know for sure, but I suspect most artists—even the great ones—had their share of learning curves.

This happens a lot in acrylic pour painting — at least if you are me.

It was hard, at first to acknowledge that I'd painted a failure. None of us wants to create a failure. But, I could tell that I'd pushed the paint too far. Maybe the colors got muddy. Maybe they flowed where they weren't supposed to flow. Maybe they just looked plain old meh.

Whatever the outcome, many of mine didn't measure up to expectations.

At first, I left them to dry, hoping maybe they'd somehow improve themselves during the process. Naivety is often a gift. It keeps us going when others might look our way and roll their eyes.

After a few dried failures and my own eye rolls, I realized I was only wasting canvases and paint—and those things aren't free. My naivety flew out the window and was replaced by pragmatism. Creating beauty is one thing, wasting money is another.

It was then that I learned the art—and the practicality—of the scrape.

If I didn't want to waste a canvas, I realized had to kill my own darlings (to coin a phrase from Stephen King). As much as I wanted to love my canvas creations, I knew they weren't going to hang on anyone's wall—not even my own. So I had to scrape them. I had to pull the paint off and start anew.

It's like everything in life. Some days it's all good and other days it's a scrape. But even on the most scariest of days, I've learned we shouldn't give up. Even a scrape teaches us something new.

It teaches us that even though we may need a do-

over, there is still something worth saving. We are still worthy of a second or third (or fourth) try. Scraping means salvaging what we can and moving forward with it. Pour your scraped paint into a cup and use it on another try on another day. Who knows, your next pour might be a keeper. It may ever be your most beautiful one yet.

Keep pouring.

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

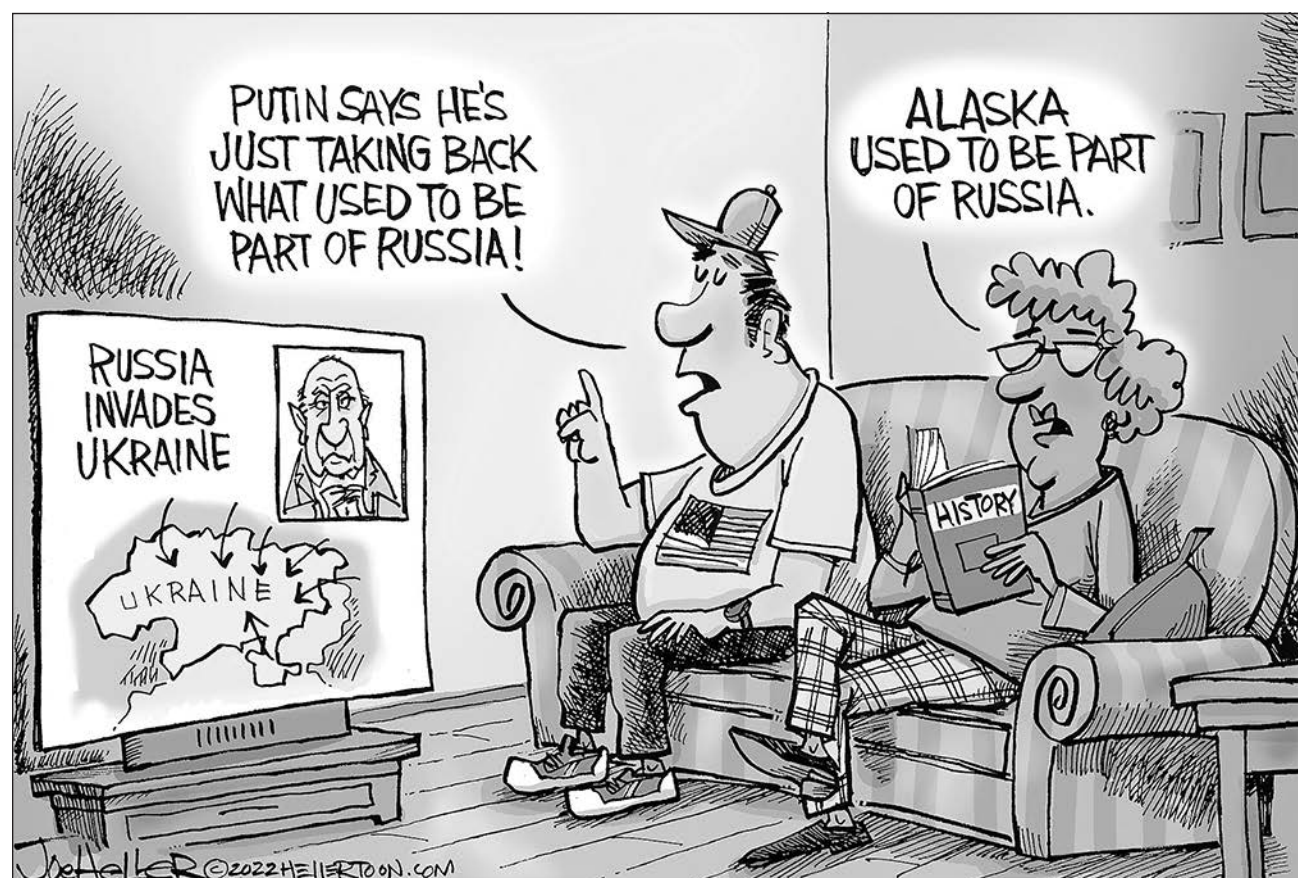
Freeport juvenile arrested for aggravated unlawful use of firearm

On Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at approximately 8:15 p.m., the Freeport Police Department attempted to stop a vehicle in the area of South Chicago Street and South Galena Avenue. The driver, a 14 year-old male juvenile of Freeport, fled officers on foot.

The juvenile was apprehended, and two firearms were located on his person. Once the individual was identified, he was also found to have an outstanding juvenile arrest warrant for reckless discharge of a firearm and possession of a firearm without a FOID.

The juvenile was charged with aggravated unlawful use of weapon, aggravated fleeing to elude a peace officer, as well as misdemeanor counts of resisting a peace officer, and no valid driver's license. He has been transported to the Kane county Juvenile Detention Center to await his detention hearing.

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.



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Incidentally, World Oral Health Day



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

on daily preventative oral care becomes one more way they can take ownership of their role in controlling their disease.

When you take into consideration that the Latin root of the word doctor is teacher, it should come as no surprise that dentists across the globe are working together to teach not only our patients but our communities about the importance of oral health. Everyone deserves to have the knowledge necessary to take care of both their oral and general health. Educating patients and parents about preventative home care is a critical part of comprehensive dental care. Dentists and members of the dental team also provide oral education in their community through school and library visits, dental clinics, and hosting field trips to the office.

WOHD also promotes dentistry's commitment to lifelong continuing education for both themselves and their entire dental team.

Oral diseases negatively impact the quality of life of millions of people throughout the world. Poor oral health leads to pain and suffering, infections, lost income, and loss of self-esteem. Oral diseases negatively impact general health and place a burden on health systems globally. The link between oral diseases and other health conditions has been the topic of research for many years. As discussed in my previous columns, research shows links between oral diseases, particularly periodontal disease, and health conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, complications during pregnancy, preterm delivery, and low birth weight.

Most oral diseases are preventable, yet hundreds of million people suffer from periodontal disease and rampant decay. For whatever reason, people tend to ignore or downplay oral disease. This may partially be due to some commonly held misbeliefs such as, "all people get cavities" or "bleeding gums are normal," "pregnant women should not go to the dentist" or "cavities in baby teeth don't matter, they're going to lose them anyway." To raise awareness of the importance of oral health, its impact on general health, and the global need for oral health education to prevent disease, World Oral Health Day (WOHD) was established in 2007. It is celebrated annually on Mar. 20.

WOHD was established by the FDI World Dental Federation, a group of dentists from 136 countries who are dedicated to "improved prevention and control of oral diseases throughout the world." WOHD not only stresses the global need for expansion of oral education and the need for people to take ownership of their oral

health, but to also make them aware of the profound consequences oral disease can have on their general health and quality of life. Many people are not aware that oral health has anything to do with their health. It's hard to make an informed health decision if you have not been given the necessary information to base that decision on. For instance, as I discussed in my column on oral health and diabetes, periodontal disease makes it decidedly harder to keep diabetes under control and uncontrolled diabetes can lead to and/or exacerbate periodontal disease. Once someone has knowledge about this connection and its importance in controlling their disease, the decision to focus



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

John Kreeger celebrates 25 years of coaching

On Thursday, March 3, a celebration was held to recognize John Kreeger's 25th year of coaching Freeport High School bowling. Several former bowlers and coaches showed up to congratulate him on this great accomplishment. Coach Kreeger has helped win many matches and tournaments and his biggest accomplishments are his one state championship (2008), two state runner-up finishes (2018 and 2003), and his third-place state finish (2004). Pictured here are (left to right) Kreeger and three members of the 2008 state championship team, Sidney Devries, Coach John Kreeger, Jesse Castle, and Kurtis Gosewisch.

Results of ENF's 2022 Midwinter Bald Eagle count released

Terrence Ingram, President of the Eagle Nature Foundation and compiler for its Annual Midwinter Bald Eagle Count, has just released the results of this year's count which was conducted on Jan. 29 and 30, with a great majority of the birds counted before 11 a.m. on Jan. 29 to reduce any duplication of numbers. This count is conducted by hundreds of volunteers from Northern Minnesota to Tennessee and from Indiana to Nebraska. The volunteers are members of the Fish and Wildlife Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, conservation organizations and private individuals, throughout this area.

A total of 2,170 bald eagles were counted this year. Of these birds, 1,594 were adults, 98 were sub-adults, 421 were immatures and 57 birds with age undetermined. This is in comparison to the 2021 count which had a total of 1,850 birds, where 1,431 were adults, 65 were sub-adults 301 were immatures and 53 with age undetermined. The overall percentage of immatures to adults in 2021 was 20.4%, while it was 24.6% in 2022, an increase of 4%. For a healthy bald eagle population this percentage should be above 30%.

It is quite interesting to note that the number of adult bald eagles on the Mississippi

River was 1,024 in 2021 and 1,049 in 2022. These numbers are close to being the same with an increase of only 15 birds. The number of sub-adults in 2021 was 33, while it was 63 in 2022, almost twice the number. The number of immatures was 183 in 2021 and 246 in 2022 an increase of 63 birds. The percentage of immatures to adults was 17.4 % in 2021 and 22.8 % in 2022, a 5.4 % increase.

A full copy of the results of the 2022 Annual Midwinter Count may be obtained by writing to Eagle Nature Foundation, 300 East Hickory Street, Apple River, IL 61001, or calling 815-594-2306.



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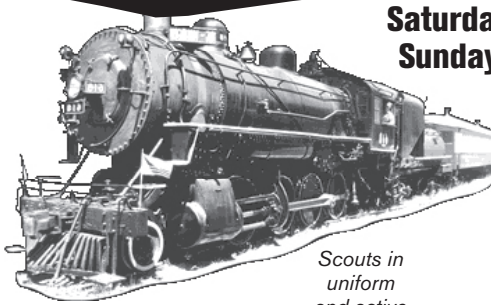
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Cornerstone Credit Union announces 2022 Founders' Scholarship Program

Cornerstone Credit Union is now accepting applications for their 2022 Founders' Scholarship Program. Cornerstone will be awarding four \$1,250 one-time scholarships, for a total of \$5,000, to deserving high school seniors. The deadline for submission is March 28, 2022.

Since the program's inception in 1998, Cornerstone has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to youth in the areas they serve. The Founders' Scholarship Program awards students who have exemplified leadership and

dedication throughout their high school scholastic career and who plan to attend an accredited college, university, community college, or technical/trade school.

Visit cornerstonecu.org for an application and full details. Applicants must be a current Cornerstone Credit Union member as of Feb. 28, 2022. Membership is open to people who live or work in Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside or Winnebago Counties in Illinois, or Green and Rock Counties in Wisconsin.

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College news Around the Northern Hills

By Annette Eggers

Want home cooked meals, but short on time? I've got the perfect solution for you! Take part in the Ag in the Classroom Freezer meal fundraiser. You will get 10 meals frozen for you and ready to re-heat. Each meal feeds three to five people. The cost is \$175 for the set.



Annette Eggers

The 10 meals include:
Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork
BBQ Pulled Chicken
Country Fried Steak with Gravy
Smoked Pork Loin
Sweet Chili Meatballs
Shaved BBQ Beef
Broccoli Cheese Soup
Baked Mostaccioli
Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta
Pulled Pork Mac & Cheese

Orders are due to our office March 15. Pick-up is set for April 6 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. To place your order, stop in our office or go to our website www.jodaviess-cfb.com and click on the order form on the home page.

Trinity for a four-game set.

Hayden Fox, a native of Stockton, IL, and graduate of Stockton High School, will compete for the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater baseball team during the 2022 season, which begins this week. Fox, a senior at UW-Whitewater, is majoring in general business and marketing.

Truck driving scholarships available

The IAA Foundation is pleased to offer the Driving Agriculture Forward Scholarships totaling \$20,000 in support for applicants pursuing commercial truck driver training. Application link and eligibility guidelines can be found at www.iaafoundation.org. Awards will be made based on the Illinois Farm Bureau region in which the applicant resides, with an additional at-large award each cycle.

The first application window will be open March 1 to 31 for applicants enrolling in driver training at an Illinois Community College April 1 through June 30, 2022. Proof of enrollment is required, and payments are made directly to the Community College where the applicant is enrolled.

These scholarships are intended to offset the cost of commercial truck driver training to ensure more well-trained, safe drivers are available to drive agriculture forward.

The JDC Farm Bureau and JDC Beef Association meeting

An informational meeting to discuss livestock processing in the county will be held March 16 at 7 p.m. in the Farm Bureau basement. Topics being discussed include grants, state/federal regulations, marketing and input from locker owners. If this topic is of interest to you, please attend and share your thoughts.

Farm Bureau memberships

Did you know that you don't need to be a farmer to be a farm bureau member? Give me a call at the office and I can tell you how you can become a member. You will be able to take advantage of the many membership benefits that Illinois Farm Bureau and Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau have to offer.

Farm Fun Fact

March is National Frozen Food Month. It's the perfect time to order a set of freezer meals that helps Ag in the Classroom!

Improvement (Continued from front page)

In many communities across northern Illinois, a village or city's chief executive officer can recommend a replacement for the position of Board Member. The discussion held will be followed by either approval of the selected candidate by a majority of the remaining elected officials, or a mandate requiring an alternate option be selected.

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River Ridge celebrates National FFA Week

The River Ridge FFA Chapter recently celebrated National FFA Week. The FFA Organization was established in 1928. The first National FFA week didn't begin until 20 years later, but it has been a tradition ever since.

This year the FFA Week Committee, chaired by Ty Spahn, created a host of events for both FFA members and the school to become involved in. Highlights of the week included a "duck hunt," an elementary school coloring contest, musical buckets, tug-o-war, making dirt dessert and daily themes for dress up. This was a great opportunity for FFA members to get together for a little social fun and show students the lighter side of the organization.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing

George Winter, Isaac Rife, Avery Engle, Cora Ritchie, Heaven Brotherton, Cora Boop, Ty Spahn, Arthur Horn and Lucas Holland test their strength during tug-o-war.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Ty Spahn participates in the National FFA week celebrating during the hay bale toss.

USDA announces Conservation Reserve program signups for 2022

Agricultural producers and landowners can sign up soon for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), a cornerstone conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris Administration effort to address climate change and achieve other natural resource benefits. The General CRP signup will run from Jan. 31 to March 11 and the Grassland CRP signup will run from April 4 to May 13.

Producers and landowners enrolled 4.6 million acres into CRP signups in 2021, including 2.5 million acres in the largest Grassland CRP signup in history. There are currently 22.1 million acres enrolled, and FSA is aiming to reach the 25.5-million-acre cap statutorily set for fiscal year 2022.

General CRP helps producers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland.

Alongside these programs, producers and landowners can enroll acres in Continuous CRP under the ongoing sign up,

which includes projects available through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE).

Last year, FSA enacted a Climate-Smart Practice Incentive for CRP General and Continuous signups, to better target CRP on addressing climate change. This incentive aims to increase carbon sequestration and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. CRP's climate-smart practices include establishment of trees and permanent grasses, development of wildlife habitat and wetland restoration. The Climate-Smart Practice Incentive is annual, and the amount is based on the benefits of each practice type.

Additionally, in order to better target the program toward climate outcomes, USDA invested \$10 million last year in the CRP Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation (MAE) program to measure and monitor the soil carbon and climate resilience impacts of conservation practices over the life of new CRP contracts. This will enable the agency to further refine the program and practices to provide producers tools for increased climate resilience.



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Sophomores George Winter and Lucas Holland cook for the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We have had some beautiful weather this last week, and then a plunge in temperature just so we don't think too much about Spring. This week's recipes are centered around St. Patrick's Day. I am giving you the recipes a week early so you can have some time to prepare them. Enjoy these old favorites and some really different ways to join the Irish celebration.

Rueben Dip

What is better than a corned beef dip for St. Pat-

rick's Day? My cousin makes this wonderful dip that is a hit at many of our family gatherings. Serve it at your St. Pat's party.

- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
- ½ C. mayonnaise
- 2 T. ketchup
- 1 T. horseradish drained
- 1 T. relish
- 2 C. grated Swiss Cheese
- 2 oz. deli-corned beef, chopped
- ½ C. sauerkraut, drained, patted dry and chopped
- ¼ C. chopped onion

Preheat the oven to 375. Combine the cream cheese, mayo, ketchup, horseradish, and relish in a food processor and puree until smooth. Transfer to a large bowl and stir in the Swiss cheese, corned beef, sauerkraut and onion. Spread dip in a 1-quart baking dish and bake until browned and bubbling, about

15 minutes. Serve with pumpernickel bread or dark Jewish rye.

Green Salad with Cottage Cheese

There are several green Jell-O salads that I love to eat and I only make them for special occasions. I love cottage cheese, so this salad is one of my favorites. You can mold it, place it in a square baking dish, or put it in a pretty glass bowl.

- 1 C. crushed pineapple, drained with juice reserved
 - 1 C. water
 - 2 pkgs. Lime Jell-O (3 oz.) each
 - 1 C. mayo
 - 1 C. canned evaporated milk
 - 1 C. small curd cottage cheese
 - ½ C. chopped pecans
- In a large measuring cup

(at least 4 cup) add all of the reserved pineapple juice and enough water to the juice to make a total of 2 cups. Pour into pot and bring just to a boil. Add the lime Jell-O mixes to the boiling pineapple juice/water and stir until dissolved. Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly. In a mixing bowl, stir together the mayo and milk until smooth. Slowly incorporate the warm Jell-O mixture to the mayo/milk mixture until combined. Stir in crushed pineapple, cottage cheese, and nuts.

Pour mixture into an 8 x 8 glass casserole dish. Cover with saran wrap and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight; it also looks great in a glass dish. Cut the glass casserole into squares or scoop it out; either way it is good.

Garlic Dill Soda Bread

Most St. Patrick day celebrations serve some kind of Irish Soda Bread. This recipe has some dill in it to give it a little zip. It also has buttermilk to keep it moist.

- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 5 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 C. whole wheat flour
- 2 T. dried dill
- 1 t. coarse salt
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1/3 C. cold unsalted butter, cubed

1 egg, room temperature
1½ C. buttermilk

Preheat oven to 425. In a medium skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat until sizzling. Add the onion and cook, stirring until slightly browned, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook about 30 seconds more, stirring constantly. Turn off heat and let the onions and

garlic cool until ready to use.

In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, dill, salt, and baking soda. Add the butter and use a pastry brush or fork to cut the butter into the flour mixture until it resembles pea-size crumbs. Add the onions and garlic and stir until well combined. Make a well in the center of the dough.

In a small bowl, whisk the egg and buttermilk together. Pour into the dough well and use a wooden spoon to mix the dough until stiff. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Knead dough gently about 10 times, then shape into a round loaf. Transfer the loaf to a large baking sheet. Using a sharp knife, cut a shallow X shape on top of loaf. Bake until golden brown, about 30 minutes. Remove from oven and place bread on a wire rack. Cut into wedges or slices and serve warm.

See KITCHEN, Page 11

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Highland students host Death Café to discuss societal topic

Students in the sociology class Death and Dying will host a Death Café at 10 a.m. March 9 via Zoom.

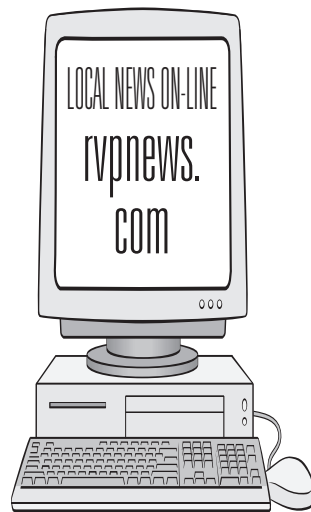
"This is such a great opportunity for our students and our community to come together and discuss these topics in a Death Café and be part of this international movement," said Julie Hartman-Linck, Sociology instructor. "Life and death are interdependent, we don't have one without the other, and the goal of a Death Café, much like the goals of our Death & Dying class, is to better understand death as one more part of life, and use that knowledge to (hopefully) make more out of the finite time we're alive."

This event aims to increase awareness of death to help people make the most of their lives. This is part of an international movement that includes more than 6,000 events in 56 countries. This year's café is Highland's third.

Highland student, Makenzie Fiene, said, "At first I was hesitant to take a class that had death and dying in the name, but it has become one of my favorite classes I've taken at Highland. Even if I'm 19 and don't plan on passing soon it teaches you what goes on

when a person is near death, and what steps need to be taken in the dying, and grieving process. This class even gave me a little closure on helping myself express my grief from losing grandparents."

The Death Cafe model was developed by Jon Underwood and Sue Barsky Reid, based on the ideas of Swiss sociologist Bernard Crettaz, who organized "café mortals" Inspired by Crettaz's work, Underwood decided to use a similar model for his project, and Death Café was born. For more information visit death-cafe.com.



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS QUICKEN LOANS, LLC, PLAINTIFF

vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF CAROL MAY SEFFROOD; DEAN PAULSON; DONNA RUTSCH; DAVID PAULSON; CRAIG A. PAULSON, AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF CAROL MAY SEFFROOD, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANT

2021CH29 PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, UNKNOWN HEIRS AT LAW AND LEGATEES OF CAROL MAY SEFFROOD; and UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant in the above entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the 15th Judicial Circuit, Jo Daviess County, Illinois by the plaintiff against you and other defendant, praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows to wit:

LOTS FOUR (4) AND FIVE (5) IN BLOCK NINE (9) IN JOHNSON'S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF WARREN, IN THE COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

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P.I.N.: 21-001-681-00

and which said mortgage was signed by CAROL MAY SEFFROOD, DECEASED Mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Jo Daviess County as Document No. 388610; and for such other relief prayed; that summons was duly issued out of the Circuit Court of Jo Daviess County against you as pro-

vided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU, the said above defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of this Court in Jo Daviess County at 330 North Bench Street, Galena, IL 61036 on or before March 25, 2022, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint.

E-Filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinois-courts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

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(Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 23, March 2 & 9, 2022) 413176

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

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

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

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

Roger G. Lundholm
4939 Great Day Ln.
Rockford, IL 61109
as independent Administrator of the Estate of Thomas

M. Andrews, whose attorney is

Anthony V. Coon
Attorney At Law
10 N. Galena Ave.,
Ste. 210

Freeport, Illinois 61032

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before September 2, 2022, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Date: February 15, 2022.
Roger G. Lundholm,
Administrator
By: Anthony V. Coon
Anthony V. Coon,
Attorney at Law

Anthony V. Coon,
#6269568
Attorney at Law
10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212
Fax 815-232-5500
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(Published in The Shopper's Guide Feb. 23, March 2 & 9, 2022) 413175

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

Finance of America Reverse LLC PLAINTIFF

Vs. Jill C. Cummins as Independent Executor; United States of America - Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jean C. VanHorn; Jill C. Cummins; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

DEFENDANTS 2022FC8

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jean C. VanHorn

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:

1323 S Chicago Ave
Freeport, IL 61032
and which said Mortgage was made by:

Jean C. VanHorn the Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Finance of America Reverse LLC, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 202100182839; 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,

Nathan A. Luy
Clerk of the Circuit Court
15 North Galena
Freeport, IL 61032

on or before April 1, 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 DuPage # 15170 Winnebago # 531 Our File No. 14-22-00359

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. I3188513

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 2, 9 & 16, 2022) 413332

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411044

— PUBLIC NOTICE —

NOTICE - ACCEPTING MOWING BIDS

We are now accepting bids for mowing the Elizabeth Cemetery & Old Log Church.

Bids should be per mowing.

Deadline to submit bids is April 1, 2022.

Any questions call Jeff Spoerl - (815) 858-4045.

Submit bids to: Candis Albrecht,
313 Orange St., Elizabeth, IL 61028
(Liability Insurance is required)

413916

Call
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Classifieds

AD DEADLINE:
Friday
at 4 pm

SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN



help wanted

Part-time Newspaper Editor

Rock Valley Publishing and Southern Lakes Newspapers are seeking a community editor for the weekly newspaper The Independent-Register in Brodhead, WI. This is a hands-on editing position that requires an organized and highly motivated individual who will have a role in all editorial functions. The ideal candidate will have the ability to work independently and be an effective manager who is able to recruit and direct freelance writers and photographers. If you're ready to make your mark on a community and its newspapers, email a cover letter, resume and work samples to Ed Nadolski, Editor in Chief, at enadolski@standardpress.com.



413457

Pearl City Park District Maintenance/Program Director

The ideal candidate should possess a variety of skills related to but not limited to: mechanical aptitude involving lawn mowers, trimmers, motor vehicles, and other equipment; be an all-around handyman with experience in carpentry, electrical, and plumbing skills; have an interest or experience in landscaping, turf management, and grounds keeping. It would be necessary to obtain an herbicide/pesticide application license.

This position also includes overseeing and running current Park District Programs, such as summer baseball/softball, winter basketball, annual 5K, Easter egg hunt, etc. As well as supporting the summer camp/rec program. This would also include working to create new programs for the community.

Basic computer skills and organizational skills are necessary. We are looking for a highly motivated individual with organizational skills, reliability, and the ability to work independently as well as overseeing a small staff.

Please send your resume/references to: Pearl City Park District, PO Box 244, Pearl City, IL 61062

Application deadline is Friday, April 1.


413925

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Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

413919

Extension Educator, Horticulture

U of I Extension has an opening for a Horticulture Educator in northwestern Illinois. Extension Educators deliver research-based educational programs and provide resources to community members, partnering organizations and other educational institutions. This position will network with local communities on projects such as public, school or community gardens, as well as provide opportunities for other organizations to partner and contribute on local horticulture projects.

The Educator will join five other Educators in the unit, providing opportunities for interdisciplinary programming and collaboration on projects. On a state level, there is collaboration with other Horticulture Educators and campus-based faculty on programming and related projects. The position serves Jo Daviess, Stephenson and Winnebago Counties. Master's degree and experience in a related field is required.

For complete job description and application instructions, visit go.illinois.edu/jswhorteducator or call 815-235-4125. Closing date is March 18. The U of I is an EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled - <http://go.illinois.edu/EEO>

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392953

real estate

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DEADLINE IS
4PM ON FRIDAY



Serving the communities in Jo Daviess County



Serving the communities in Stephenson County

Shopper's Guide

411136

•Kitchen (Continued from page 8)

Creamed Cabbage

When the Irish immigrated to America, they brought some of their standard recipes that were part of their cooking heritage. Most were poor in Ireland, and they grew the cabbage in their gardens. The creaminess of the cabbage made it go even further; the bacon was something they used in a lot of cooking

- 4 slices bacon
- ¼ C. butter
- 1 T. flour
- 1 t. salt
- 1 large head cabbage, cored and shredded
- ½ C. sour cream

Place the bacon in a large deep skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Remove the bacon slices to a paper towel to cool.

Whisk the butter, flour, and salt into the drippings in the same pan. Stir in the cabbage and cook, stirring occasionally, over medium heat until cabbage is tender, about 15 minutes. Crumble the bacon; stir the bacon pieces and sour cream into the cabbage mixture.

Irish Stew

Every Irish family had their own version of Irish Stew. It was a staple in Ireland because it used some very basic ingredients. In America the beef stew meat was substituted for lamb or mutton. There were also plenty of root vegetables. If you have never tried turnips or parsnips, this is a good way to try them. The colored peppers make for a beautiful stew. Try this version of Irish stew.

- 2 T. olive oil
- 1 small sweet onion, diced
- ¼ t. salt
- ½ t. ground black pepper
- 1 T. dried Italian seasoning
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 lb. beef stew meat cut into cubes

- 1 lb. pork roast cut into cubes
- 1 can (14.5 oz.) beef broth
- 3 carrots, cut into ½ inch pieces
- 1 medium turnip, peeled and cut into ½ inch pieces
- 2 parsnips, peeled and cut into ½ inch pieces
- 1 red pepper, seeded and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 yellow pepper, seeded and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 green pepper, seeded and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 medium onion, cut into large chunks
- 2 stalks celery, cut into ½ inch pieces
- 1 can (12 oz.) beer
- 8 small red potatoes, quartered
- 2 T. cornstarch

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Place 1 onion in skillet and season with salt, pepper, and Italian seasoning. Mix in garlic. Cook and stir until tender. Mix the beef and pork and cook until evenly browned. Reduce heat to low and pour in beef broth. Simmer for 30 minutes.

Transfer the skillet mixture to a large pot. Mix in the carrots, turnip, parsnips, red, yellow, and green pepper, onion, and celery. Pour in beef. Cover and cook 2 hours over low heat. Remove ½ C. stew liquid and set aside. Stir in potatoes and continue cooking 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender. About 15 minutes before serving, mix cornstarch into the reserved liquid. Stir into the stew to thicken.

Seafood Casserole

Lenten season has begun, and I promised I would include a meatless entrée every week. This rice casserole is filled with a lot of seafood and vegetables. Enjoy your meatless Fridays with this warm casserole

- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) long grain wild rice
- 1 lb. frozen crabmeat, thawed or 2½ C. canned crab

- meat, drained
- 1 lb. cooked shrimp, peeled, deveined and cut into ½-inch pieces
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- ½ C. finely chopped green pepper
- 1 can (4 oz.) mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- 1 jar (2 oz.) diced pimientos, drained
- 1 C. mayonnaise
- 1 C. 2% milk
- ½ t. pepper
- Dash Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ C. dry breadcrumbs

Cook rice according to package direction. Preheat oven to 375. In a large bowl, combine the crab, shrimp, celery, onion, pepper, mushrooms and pimientos. In a small bowl, whisk mayo, milk, pepper, and Worcestershire sauce; stir into seafood mixture. Stir in rice.

Transfer to a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Sprinkle with dry breadcrumbs. Bake uncovered until bubbly, about 40 to 50 minutes, until casserole is set.

Lucky Green Mint Oreos

If you are looking for an easy no-bake cookie that most people will really love, these cookies are for you. You can use melting candy wafers or almond bark for the chips. Be sure not to get any water in the chocolate. You can add a couple of drops of vegetable oil to add some gloss and shine to your chocolate. I think you could also add mint extract to chocolate if you want a mint taste.

- 24 oz. White Chocolate Chips
 - Green food color drops
 - 1 pkg. Oreo Cookies, Mint Oreos or Thins
 - Green sugar
- In a small bowl, melt white chocolate chips over simmer-

ing water in a pan. Take melted chips off heat; reserve some white chocolate in a small Ziploc bag or a piping bag. Add green food coloring drops to chocolate and stir until mixed. Dip Oreos in chocolate and lay on a piece of parchment paper. Decorate with green sugar. Snip the corner of the Ziploc bag with white chocolate, and drizzle white chocolate over cookies

Easy St. Patrick's Day Cookies

These cookies are "crinkle" cookies. They will look great on a platter with the Lucky Oreo cookies. They are easy because they use a boxed cake mix. What a fun way to get kids involved in baking. Be sure you chill the dough before rolling in sugar.

- 1 box of white cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 C. vegetable oil
- Green food color drops or

gel

- 1 C. powdered sugar

Preheat the oven to 375. Mix cookie ingredients together. Cool dough for 20 minutes. Use a 2 T. cookie scoop; drop the cookie dough into the powdered sugar and roll into balls, coating the cookie balls completely with powdered sugar. Place cookies onto a cookie sheet and slightly flatten with a glass bottom. Bake for 7 to 9 minutes or until the edges start to slightly brown. Cool on a wire rack before serving. Hint, you can keep the powdered sugar on the cookie balls if you roll them first in granulated sugar.

Final Thoughts

The next "holiday" comes next week. The corned beef is in the grocer's case ready to be bought. Hopefully there will be some specials because this meat is feeling the price increase also. I have noticed an increase in birds as I watch out of my

windows during breakfast. I hope they are prepared for our up and down temperatures. Spring sports are beginning, and I am beginning to wonder if we will have a baseball season (or if anyone will be able to afford to go to games!) Barb Wire sent me a message that the Evangelical Free Church is having a series of musical Lenten services. They are Wednesdays at 1 p.m.. Each week features a different musician from guitars, one-man bands, piano, flute, and a band with different instruments. The schedule can be found on the church's website. Thanks, Barb, for letting us know about this Lenten observance. Remember, 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.

A BIG "THANK YOU"

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

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This week's little Blackhawks

Another wonderful group of Little Blackhawks are celebrated this week at both the Elementary and Middle school. Congratulations to you all and great job following the Blackhawk way!

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