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VOL. 88 • NO. 18

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022



SONYA WILLIAMSON Rock Valley Publishing

## Stockton Prom Court

Stockton students (from left to right) Alex Altfillisch, Morgan Blair, Parker Luke, Maddie Harbach, Emily Paul, Ryley Schultz, Whitney Sullivan, Garrett Luke, Day-ton Julius, Lauren Kehl, Ella Wackerlin and Jace Phillips have been nominated for this year's Prom Court.

# Warren-Stockton softball bounces back from losses

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Warren-Stockton softball squad has endured their fair share of streaks early in the 2022 softball season. The Warhawks have been on both ends of the streaks as they went through a three-game skid to start the season, and then responded by winning three consecutive games. Unfortunately for the Warhawks, they were met with another losing streak as they dropped back-to-back games to Durand and West Carroll in mid-April. A key part of their success will be limiting those losing streaks, however, and they managed to do that by bouncing back with a win over West Carroll.

On Monday, April 11, the Warhawks were riding their three-game winning streak

preparing to face off with a tough Durand Bulldogs squad. The Warhawks got off to a good start with a single run in the top of the first inning. They would extend their lead to 2-0 in the top of the third. The Bulldogs would respond, however. Durand scored three runs in the bottom of the third, and that was the last lead change of the day. The Bulldogs would tack on insurance runs in the bottom of the fifth when they added another three runs to their score. Down 6-1, the Warhawks had just two innings left if they wanted to get back in the game.

After a scoreless top of the sixth, the Warhawks hopes were running slim. They still had some fight in them, however, as they combined for two runs in the top of the

seventh. They were unable to continue the rally and complete the comeback, however, as they fell by a final score of 6-4.

Despite the loss, the Warhawks had plenty to be happy about. The offense managed to produce as Claire Riedl, Liv Thrumman and Cameron Kent each had multiple hits. Lauren Kehl pitched a complete game and gave the Warhawks an opportunity to win until the very end. Riedl led the team offensively, going two for four with a double. Thrumman was right behind her, going two for four with a pair of singles, and Kent was a perfect two for two with two singles. Kehl was one for four with a double and Elaina Martin finished the game one for four, as well.

After suffering the loss to

Durand, it was an entire week before Warren-Stockton was back on the diamond for a live game. On Tuesday, April 19, they finally got to play when they faced off with the West Carroll Thunder. It was one of the Warhawks worst games of the season as they dropped a 6-3 lead in the final inning of the game. It was especially disappointing as the Thunder were just 1-7 at that point in the season. Once again, the Warhawks refused to let a loss get them down, however.

Just two days later, the

Warhawks were back on the field and hungry to avenge their loss as they faced off with West Carroll for the second time that week. This time around, Warren-Stockton wasted no time jumping out to a lead as they went up 1-0 in the top of the first.

The Warhawks only added to their lead in the following innings as they tallied three runs in the second and another four runs in the third. With the big 8-0 lead, the Warhawks were able to play calm and collected as they refused

to let another lead dissolve. Kehl played a big part in that as she rebounded in the pitcher's circle with an excellent performance. Kehl pitched all six innings, while walking zero, striking out six, and allowing just seven hits.

Martin led the way at the plate going two for three with a double and a homerun as she sparked the offensive momentum all game long. Kehl was also impressive in the batter's box as she finished the game

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 7

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# Obituaries

## HAROLD F. ZARN, 90

Harold F. Zarn, 90, of Stockton, passed away on Monday, April 18.

Born on September 25, 1931 in Lemont, IL, Harold was the son of Arthur and Antoinette (Herbert) Zarn. After serving in the Army during the Korean War, Harold farmed in Westmont (Maple Park), IL, where he met and married Isabel in 1969.

Harold and Isabel moved to Stockton in 1970 to continue farming. Harold loved to farm, and after retiring, enjoyed discussing crops with his friend Bill. In his spare time, he could be found dancing (especially a pol-



ka!), playing cards, and taking care of his cats. He loved his family, and got a kick out of introducing his grandchildren and great-grandchildren to ice cream drumsticks, their first time "driving" a tractor, and the pride that comes from a hard day's work on the farm.

Survivors include his children, Fred (Rhoda) Zarn, Betty (Dave) Raymond, Sandi Moreland, and Wyn (Mary) Meurlott; one sis-

ter-in-law, Jan Zarn; twelve grandchildren, two nieces, and numerous great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Isabel; brothers, John and Bob Zarn; sister, Laverda Mammen; step-son, Teri Meurlott; and niece, Ardella Heinz.

A memorial service was held on Monday, April 25 at 1:00 p.m. at Ladies Union Cemetery in Stockton. Condolences may be sent in care of the Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton ([hermannfuneralhome.com](http://hermannfuneralhome.com)). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the FHN Foundation.

## VERLA J. SWIFT-FOLGATE

Verla J. Swift-Folgate, age 85, formerly of both Warren and Lena, passed away on April 16, 2022, at WinnPrairie Assisted Living and Memory Care in Freeport, Illinois. She was born on July 18, 1936, in Green County, Wisconsin, the daughter of George and Bessie (Sweeney) Broege. Verla was married to Bill Swift of Warren for 39 years until his passing and was then married to John Folgate of Lena for 15 years until his passing. She worked for the Warren Gamble Store, Warren Greenhouse, and Micro Switch for numerous years before retiring from there. Verla was a founding member and past president of the Warren Historical Society, past president



of the Warren Women's Club, and past member of the Lena Women's Auxiliary. She was also proud to be the first resident at WinnPrairie. She enjoyed crafts, was passionate about genealogy, and loved reading.

Verla is survived by her two sons- David (Jan) Swift of Freeport, IL and Jonathon (Kathi Husar) Swift of Warren, IL; grandchildren- Amy (Shane) Johnson of Lodi, WI, Brice (Danielle) Swift of Lena, IL, Wendy (Paul) Gray of Warren, IL, Jennifer (James) Williams of Colora-

do Springs, CO, Adam (Nicole) Swift of Benton, WI; 15 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great grandchildren; sister Janet (Albert) Mittelstead of Warren, IL; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands Bill Swift and John Folgate, brothers Elwyn Broege (whose remains have never been recovered from the Korean War) and Dwight Broege. The family would like to thank WinnPrairie and FHN Hospice for their exceptional care.

Private family service to be held. Interment will take place at Elmwood Cemetery. A memorial will be established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leadmonfh.com](http://www.leadmonfh.com).

## JUNE B. LANG

June B. Lang, 93, of Winslow, IL passed away on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at Collinwood Memory Care in Brodhead, WI. June was born on Nov. 17, 1928, in Brodhead, WI to Helmer and Agnes (Foss) Knudson. She married Leland Lang on Dec. 28, 1949, at the Orfordville Lutheran Church. Teaching was June's passion, retiring after 38 years. She started her career in a one room schoolhouse west of Winslow, and then taught in Lena and Winslow. June attended

St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, IL, and was also a member of the ladies' auxiliary of the Winslow American Legion. She enjoyed traveling, cake decorating, and she loved her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

June is survived by her husband Leland of Winslow; son Greg (Connie) of Waverly, OH; three grandchildren Brian (Molly) Lang of McConnell, IL, Adam Lang of Winslow, IL, and Kristen (Azzie) Osborne of Waverly, OH; two great-grandchildren Karsten and Xavier. She was

preceded in death by her parents, and her son Doug Lang.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2022, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. The visitation was from 1 p.m. until time of services April 23, at the funeral home. Rev. Rick Bader officiated the services.

Burial was at Rock Lily Cemetery in Winslow, IL. A memorial has been established in her memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leadmonfh.com](http://www.leadmonfh.com).

## RITA ANN MAGEE

Rita Ann Magee, age 75 of Stockton, IL, passed away on Monday, April 18, 2022, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, IL. She was a 1964 graduate of Stockton High School. She was born May 2, 1946; the daughter of the late Harry and Helen (Stanley) Evans. Rita married Ronald Magee on August 28, 1965 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton; he died on February 6, 2020.

She was a homemaker, lovingly raising her family. She also was a daycare provider and aide for the Stockton School District. She was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church of Stockton. Rita enjoyed crafts, reading, and watching Hallmark movies.



She was an avid gardener, growing flowers and veggies which resulted in several hours of canning.

Most of all, she loved her family. She was the sweetest person and will be remembered for giving the best hugs.

Rita is survived by her daughters, Amy (Richard) Kennedy of Machesney Park, IL, Jodi (Scott) Townsend of Montana and Jill Magee of Virginia; grandkids: Alivia, Peyton, and Christian Kennedy; Ascher, Taylor (Kennith), and Kirsten (Gus) Townsend; and Faith & Cyrus Schrad-

er; great grandkids, Moxyn and Ensley Werhane, as well as one on the way; brothers, Keith (Alice) Evans and Stan Evans; and sister, Donna (Duane) Kupersmith. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ronald; and sisters, Shirley and Jean.

A visitation was held on Sunday, April 24 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Holy Cross Catholic Church Parish Hall in Stockton. The funeral service was on Monday, April 25 at 11 a.m. with a visitation before the service beginning at 10 a.m. Interment took place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Stockton. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).

# News briefs

## Historical Society news

The Lena Historical Society will be open to the public on Sunday, May 1. A program will be presented at 2 p.m. on their exhibit "Impacting History: Lena women who made their marks". This exhibit explores the lives of some early Lena women who made a difference with their strength and tenacity. Even though they may have not achieved national fame, they made an impact on the lives of others and paved the way for the next generation of women to follow their dreams. Admission is free, donations appreciated.

For more information contact Sharon Welton at 815-291-7944.

## Bridge closure in Jo Daviess County begins April 25

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced that weather permitting, the bridge carrying East Canyon Road over Clear Creek in Apple River Canyon State Park in Jo Daviess County will be closed for bridge joint repairs beginning Monday, April 25. The bridge is expected to reopen on Thursday, April 28, pending the completion of the project.

## Highland Royal Scots to present spring show

Enjoy a vocal night of tight musical harmonies, as well as solos by the Royal Scots Friday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre at the Ferguson Fine Arts Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, Ill.

Tickets are \$12 for adults; \$10 for seniors, and \$5 for students. The box office will not be open for ticket sales on the evening of performances. Purchase tickets online at [highland.edu/boxoffice](http://highland.edu/boxoffice) or call 815-599-3718 for phone orders.

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# What's in Illinois' \$46 billion budget package?

## Increased education spending coupled with tax relief for workers, homeowners

By Peter Hancock  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker signed a package of bills last week that make up a roughly \$46 billion Fiscal Year 2023 state general revenue funds budget that includes increased funding for education and human services and \$1.8 billion in mostly-temporary tax relief.

Pritzker signed the bill during a ceremony at Chicago State University where he was joined by students who stand to benefit from increased funding for higher education, including more money for student financial aid through the state's Monetary Award Program.

"The budget increases investment in MAP and provide increased opportunity for our students to access complete a college education right here in our great state of Illinois," said CSU president Zalduwaynaka "Z" Scott. "The dividends of this investment will not only yield our state immediate benefits but will impact families for generations to come."

All told, the spending plan appropriates \$115 billion for all funds, with the \$46 billion accounting for the state's main discretionary general revenue funds.

The budget is based on estimated GRF revenue of about \$46.5 billion, which would leave the state with a budget surplus of \$444 million at the end of the year, the second consecutive budget surplus under the Pritzker administration.

The budget signed directed \$720 million into the state's Budget Stabilization Fund from the current fiscal year and \$280 million out of next year's revenues—the first such deposits made into that fund in 18 years.

"We're putting a billion dollars into the state's rainy-day fund so that we won't have so many troubles the next time hard times hit our state," Pritzker said. "And we put an extra \$500 million into our pensions, saving taxpayers nearly \$2 billion in future interest payments,

and to make sure retirees get what they are owed. Balancing the budget allows us to save for the future and live up to our financial obligations."

### Tax relief

The tax relief package was one of the most hotly debated elements of the budget, both between Democrats and Republicans and within the Democratic caucus itself.

The final agreement includes \$520 million for a one-time property tax rebate for qualifying homeowners. The rebate would be equal to 5 percent of the homeowner's tax bill, up to a maximum of \$300.

It also provides for a one-time income tax rebate of \$50 per individual and \$100 per dependent, up to a limit of three children per family, for individuals with incomes up to \$200,000 and joint filers with incomes up to \$400,000.

The package also calls for a one-year suspension of the state's 1 percent tax on groceries. That's about \$400 million in revenue that would normally go to local units of government but which the state will pay out of its own general revenue funds for one year.

It also puts a six-month pause on the automatic inflationary increase in the state's motor fuel tax, which was estimated to be 2.2 cents per gallon, or about \$70 million over that period. That money would normally go into a fund for road and bridge projects but the state will make up for that loss by transferring money from its Leaking Underground Storage Tank Fund.

Another \$50 million in tax relief will come in the form of a back-to-school sales tax holiday on clothing and school supplies for 10 days in August and a doubling of the tax credit that teachers can claim for buying school supplies for their students.

The one permanent element of the tax relief plan expands the state earned income tax credit from 18 to 20 percent of

the federal credit while also expanding the number of households that can claim the credit.

### Education

Overall, the budget calls for spending \$12 billion on education next year, or 26 percent of the total operating budget. That includes just under \$9.8 billion for PreK-12 education and \$2.2 billion for higher education.

The PreK-12 budget includes the statutory \$350.2 million increase called for in the Evidence Based Funding formula that lawmakers approved in 2017.

In addition, the budget pro-

vides a \$96 million increase for transportation and special education reimbursements to school districts, a \$54.4 million increase for early childhood education and \$300 million in grants to child care providers.

The higher education budget includes supplemental appropriations in the current fiscal year of 5 percent over what lawmakers approved last spring and a continuation of that increase into the next fiscal year.

It provides an additional \$122 million in funding for MAP grants, the state's need-based financial aid program,

bringing the total available next year to \$601.5 million. It also provides an expansion of the maximum award to 50 percent of tuition at public universities and coverage for an additional 24,000 students.

"With funding from the MAP grant, students will not only earn a degree without accumulating debt, but (will have) access to better opportunities and greater social capital," said Nekoiya Washington, a CSU senior and MAP grant recipient.

### Public safety

The Illinois State Police

will be able to recruit as many as 300 new officers in the upcoming year with funding for an additional class of cadets, the largest dollar investment in state history to expand cadet classes

The budget package also includes more than \$1.4 billion from a variety of different funds for other projects aimed at reducing crime and violence in the state. Those include:

- Approximately \$1 billion for violence prevention, youth employment, and diversion programs.

See PACKAGE, Page 11

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# OPINION



## Slices of life

# A taxing time was had by all



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

It was time to do taxes. What a great day it was! Everyone loves taxes, especially when they have to pay in which I did, this year. (Did I mention it was a great day?)

I'd let them sit for weeks, well, because I had to pay in and who wants to pay before they have to pay?

But it was time. Almost mid-April and I had to get the job done. I hunkered down on a Saturday and vowed to crunch numbers and embrace the inevitable.

(Many hours later) I was finished—all i's dotted and t's crossed—and was ready to e-file. In the words of Disney's Elsa, "Let it go, let it go!"

And let it go I did. I pressed send. Off went the 1040. Off went the state forms. I breathed a sigh of relief and thought about pouring a glass of wine.

Before I got the chance, the bing bing of an incoming email stopped my pursuit of fermented grapes. It was from the tax-processing site.

My income tax return had been rejected.

Ho hum.

It seems the number I'd input as my adjusted gross income from 2020 was incorrect. I wasn't surprised. 2020 was a bit of a poop storm for me. When I filed taxes, I was in a deep fog of grief over the loss of my husband. I'm surprised I got them filed at all.

Last year, I failed to save a digital copy of my return. I have a hard copy, but it's about 1,700 miles from my current location. Such is the state of affairs when one spends nearly a year living a fog.

But 2020 is old news. It's now 2022 and we're filing for 2021.

And in 2022, for 2021, if you don't have your AGI for the past year, you can't file online. It must be done the old

fashioned way—with stamps and an envelope. My tax software kindly instructed me to print out (hard copy) my return and mail it via the good and reliable United States Postal Service.

I headed toward my closet, because where do you keep your printer if not in the bedroom closet? Silly question, I know.

While hanging out with my clothes and hangers, I got set to print the first pages of my tax returns. It was then that the printer spoke up, briefly, albeit loudly. We were out of ink.

And that is how I found myself, at 6:30 on a Saturday night, headed to the superstore for printer ink. I don't have to tell anyone that the superstore is exactly the place I longed to be at 6:30 p.m. on a Saturday. That place was hopping! I was on fire.

Well, not on fire, per se, but I felt the hopping spirit—especially with Easter and all.

Ink in hand, I checked out and headed to the car. I could nearly taste the finality of taxes 2021, and it was sweet.

Back in my bedroom closet, I loaded the ink and began printing the 2,000 or so pages needed for my federal and state income tax forms. OK, maybe not 2,000—let's leave it at a rounded 1,837—or so.

The pages spewed to the floor at my feet in no random order and I bent to pick them up. As I was doing so,

**See SLICES, Page 5**

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# The Deal – I can't prove it, but everyone knows it's true

Here's The Deal: Lawyers and judges elevated to the Illinois Supreme Court by the Judicial Nominating Committee of the Cook County Democratic Party are allowed to be the best jurists they can be on 90-95 percent of the cases before them. But, on any cases affecting the Party, such as redistricting reform, they must commit themselves to protect the Party.



By **JIM NOWLAN**

That's The Deal: A good, prestigious job, with a great pension, all in return for turning a blind eye to Lady Justice on those infrequent political cases that affect the Party and its interests, such as pensions, term limits and gerrymandering. Most wannabe jurists consider it worth the trade. They wouldn't be offered the judgeship if they didn't. The Deal is never spoken, of course, in the best tradition of indicted ex-House Speaker Mike Madigan, a state lawmaker for more than half a century, and chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois for years. Winks and nods speak volumes. And for three decades,

indicted Chicago alderman Ed Burke chaired the Party judicial nominating committee. Ed was to the political manner born, you might say. His father was a powerful alderman of long standing. Ed himself has been on the Chicago City Council for more than half a century and, like Madigan, also a Democratic ward committeeman in Chicago, for seemingly forever. Along the granite corridors of Chicago's City Hall, everyone still doffs his cap to Ed, with a "Good morning, Mr. Chairman" (a reference to Burke's longtime, now ex-chairmanship of the Council's powerful Finance Committee, which has wide-ranging powers, far beyond finance). The Deal was in obvious play in 2016, when the four Democrats on the seven-

member Illinois Supreme Court blocked a constitutional amendment petition drive signed by 600,000 Illinois voters. Petitioners sought to put on the ballot a proposal that legislative redistricting be conducted by an independent commission. Surveys showed that 80 percent of voters supported independent mapping. But no. In a blatantly partisan opinion, Justice Tom Kilbride wrote that the amendment was unconstitutional, preventing voters from having their say.

His ludicrous reasoning: The proposal gave some responsibilities to the Illinois Auditor General, a constitutional officer of the Legislature, and that the auditor lacked the staff to carry out such responsibilities! This, as if modest staffing issues supersede the state Constitution, rather than the other way around. Insiders tell me that one of the two female justices on the court, Chief Justice Anne Burke (wife of guess who; see above) or Mary Jane Theis,

had doubts about the opinion, but ultimately caved to The Deal. Both came up through the system of The Deal. Nor did opinion author Kilbride recuse himself from hearing the case, even though it was argued before him by Mike Kasper, treasurer of the Democratic Party of Illinois, and Madigan's elections lawyer. And even though the DPI had just a few years earlier contributed more than \$1.5 million to his successful retention bid. Only in Illinois. So now, Illinois has among

the most preposterously contorted legislative districts in the nation, a disservice to democracy, and to all 8 million Illinois registered voters. This November we can expunge The Deal, by electing justices who have no ties to the Burke-Madigan Axis of the Democratic Party of Illinois. *Jim Nowlan is a former Illinois legislator, state agency director, an aide to three governors, chair of the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission, a professor and a community newspaper publisher.*

## • Slices (Continued from page 4)

I noticed two shoes sitting in front of me. They sat as a pair, but it was clear they were not a pair, which was weird because my shoes normally sit as pairs. I wondered where the other two mismatched shoes might be. Then my eyes glanced down at my feet and I got my answer. I was wearing the other two shoes from that mismatched pair. They were what I was wearing while at the store buying printer ink just 30 minutes prior.

It was now 8 p.m. on a Saturday evening. I finally let the printing commence. When it was done, I bundled everything up and packed the pages neatly into addressed envelopes—ready to send. I'd bring them to the post office in the morning, but for now

the job was done. It was time for a glass of wine. *Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. She invites readers follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.*

## Guidelines for writing, submitting a letter to the editor

Rock Valley Publishing encourages readers to reach out to the community by writing a letter to the editor. Letters are limited to 500 words. Authors must include their first and last name, the city or village in which they reside, and a phone number and email address where they can be reached in case of questions. Send letters to: [scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com](mailto:scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com). Letter-writers will be limited to one letter per month except for locally elected officials, or individuals specifically associated with local village governments or entities such as school districts, park districts or library districts. No letters directed to a third party will be accepted for publication. We reserve the right to edit a letter for reasons of clarity, space restrictions and libel.

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**Deadline to sign up is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27**  
**Please Sign Up EARLY. Early Registration is Appreciated!!**



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## This week's Little Blackhawks

Congratulations to these students who were awarded for doing a great job this week and for following the Blackhawk Way!

# JDCF movie event will feature '2040'

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) is hosting a screening of the film "2040" on Friday, May 13, at 7 p.m., at the Galena Territory Owners' Club, 2000 Territory Drive, Galena. The event is open to the public, and the movie is suitable for adults and children 10 and older. Doors open for complimentary popcorn and Potosi root beer at 6 pm.

The film "2040" is a special climate change film because it portrays a hopeful future in which humans have reversed the impacts of climate change. Award-winning Australian actor and director Damon Gameau wanted to show what the world could be like for his 4-year-old-daughter in the year 2040 if we actually fix the climate crisis using cre-

ative means already available in some form, somewhere, today. And he's made a magical, inspiring, and kid-friendly movie to do it.

The science of the now and possible is infused into "2040" with clever special effects which illustrate Gameau's points and make the movie lots of fun. Gameau travels around the world to illustrate solutions he thinks could make a big difference in his daughter's future. As well, he sprinkles the film with charmingly wise and wonderful children telling us their positive dreams, and schemes for the future.

Prior to and after the movie, you can browse displays and talk to folks about their experiences adopting some of the movie's solutions. These

include homeowners with rooftop solar, owners of electric vehicles, as well as information about community solar projects. Also on hand will be a representative from Jo Daviess Local Foods, a display on regenerative agriculture, and a display of books on climate change for adults and kids.

Complimentary popcorn and Potosi root beer will be served as long as supplies last. JDCF wishes to thank the Galena Territory Association for the use of the social hall, The Potosi Brewing Company and The Potosi Foundation for donating the Potosi root beer, and Apple River State Bank/First Community Bank of Galena for sponsoring JDCF's education and outreach programs.

## Warren CUSD 205 attacks the teacher shortage

Like many employers struggling to find workers, our schools throughout the state and nation are facing a shortage of educators. In response to this shortage, the Warren CUSD 205 Board of Education decided to take action by doubling the raises for all returning teachers for the 2022-2023 school year. This follows an amendment to the teachers' contract this past fall that increased the district's contributions toward health insurance

and stipends for teachers with overloaded schedules. Additionally, the District substantially increased the daily rate for substitute teachers.

Warren CUSD 205 is dedicated in recruiting and retaining high-quality educators who provide their students with the best possible education. Warren has a talented and dedicated team of educators, who deserve these incentives. These educators seamlessly navigated and led the edu-

cational process of the Warren CUSD 205 community through the challenging times presented throughout the pandemic.

There are thousands of educational vacancies throughout the state. Warren CUSD 205 is determined to fill their vacancies and retain their high-quality educators. Please support educators and reach out to your local school districts if you are interested in making a difference.

## Stockton Heritage Museum to host presentation

Stockton Heritage Museum will host a presentation by Katherine Hamilton-Smith on the history and importance of postcards. The presentation, "The History and Significance of Picture Postcards," will take place on Sunday April 1 at the

Stockton Heritage Museum, 107 West Front Street, Stockton, IL, at 2 p.m.

In 2016, the world's largest public collection of postcards and related materials, the Curt Teich Postcard Archives, was given to the Newberry Library

by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. Katherine Hamilton-Smith, the founding curator of the Teich Archives, presents a look at the documentary power and significance of picture postcards. She touches on the Curt Teich Company of Chicago, the role Illinois played in the history and development of postcards, and on the picture postcard as a cultural icon.

This lavishly illustrated program will run for 50 minutes and allows time for questions and answers. The event is free and open to all audiences. For more information, please visit our website at [www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org](http://www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org), visit on Facebook: Stockton-Heritage-Museum-309324911534, email us at [info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org](mailto:info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org), or leave a message at 815-947-2220.



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## Mother's Day Menu 2022

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**Appetizers**  
SHRIMP COCKTAIL.....\$11.95  
6 jumbo shrimp with cocktail sauce.

BRUSCHETTA FLATBREAD.....\$10.95  
Fresh tomato, basil, red onion, and garlic on toasted naan bread. Topped with mozzarella and balsamic.

STUFFED PORTOBELLOS.....\$10.95  
2 large Portobellos stuffed with sausage and mozzarella. Served with marinara.

**Breakfast**  
EGGS BENEDICT.....\$15.95  
Poached egg and Black Forest ham on an English muffin topped with hollandaise sauce.

MIXED BERRY FRENCH TOAST.....\$14.95  
Three thick-cut pieces of toast topped with strawberry, blueberry, and raspberry.

DENVER OMELETTE QUICHE.....\$14.95  
Black Forest ham, bell peppers, onion, cheddar cheese, and egg in a pie crust.

BISCUITS and GRAVY.....\$14.95  
Flaky buttermilk biscuits smothered in peppered sausage gravy.  
Breakfast served with cheesy hash brown casserole and fruit salad

**Lunch**  
Served with garlic mashed potatoes and honey glazed carrots

PRIME RIB.....\$32.95/\$36.95  
Slow-cooked Angus prime rib. Available in 12 oz. or 16 oz.

SEARED SALMON.....\$26.95  
Crisp seared salmon on a bed of spinach and topped with creamy lemon caper sauce.

TERYAKI and PINEAPPLE GRILLED AHI TUNA.....\$29.95  
Marinated Ahi Tuna grilled medium rare with pineapple relish.

CHICKEN CAPRESE PASTA.....\$21.95  
Grilled chicken, cherry tomato, and fresh mozzarella in garlic oil with bowtie pasta. Topped with basil and balsamic, served with garlic bread.

HERB CRUSTED RACK OF LAMB.....\$35.95  
16 oz. French cut rack of lamb rubbed with a savory herb breading.

SPINACH and ARTICHOKE CHICKEN.....\$21.95  
8 oz. grilled chicken breast topped with creamy spinach and artichoke dip on a bed of spinach.

**Soup ~ Salad**  
Soup  
Lobster Bisque: succulent lobster blended with sweet cream

Salad  
Spinach and Berries: mixed berries, red onion, pecans, and feta cheese on a bed of spinach served with poppy seed dressing

**Kids' Menu**  
Breakfast served with cheesy hashbrowns and fruit

Mixed Berry French Toast:  
2 pieces.....\$9.95

Chicken Strips and Fries:  
2 pieces served with French fries.....\$9.95

1/2 Order of Biscuits and Gravy.....\$9.95

Mac and Cheese:  
served with French fries.....\$9.95

**Desserts**  
Chocolate Lava Cake.....\$6.95  
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# Wildcats bounce back from loss to East Dubuque

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats have had their ups and downs in the 2022 baseball season. Prior to their April 21 game against the East Dubuque Warriors, the Wildcats had lost six consecutive games, dropping their overall record to just 4-10 on the season. Their sixth straight loss came on a Tuesday, April 19 matchup against East Dubuque earlier in the week.

East Dubuque came into the week with a record of 6-4, leaving them just ahead of the Wildcats. RR-SM jumped out to the first lead, however. After Dylan Diehl took a walk with one out, Maddux Knauer roped a double into left field, allowing Diehl to score the first run of the game. That was where the early run would end, however, as the Cats took

a 1-0 lead out of the top of the first.

East Dubuque would respond quickly, however. With two runs in the bottom half, the Warriors wiped away the RR-SM lead as they went up 2-1. That was the last time the Wildcats would hold a lead on that day as East Dubuque dominated the remainder of the game. With eight runs in the bottom of the third and four more in the fourth, the Warriors held a massive 14-2 lead.

In the top of the fifth, the Cats knew they would have to score at least three runs if they wanted to remain in the game. After a strikeout to start the inning, Charlie Wiegel singled to left field, giving the Cats hope. With two outs, Knauer singled to left field, driving the Cats' second run. RR-SM was not able to keep the late run going, however, as they fell

by a score of 14-2 in just five innings.

Knauer led the way in the loss, going two for three with a pair of runs batted in. Wiegel was the only other Wildcat to record a hit on the day.

Two days later the Cats were hungry to get back into the win column. This time the Wildcats had the pleasure of being the home team, as well as a bit more familiarity with their opponent. Despite getting routed by the Warriors earlier in the week, RR-SM came into Thursday's game looking like a new, confident squad.

The Cats wasted little time getting down to business as the offense combined for four runs in the bottom of the first inning. Wiegel got the run started with a leadoff single. Diehl followed him up by taking a walk, putting two runners on with no outs. The ear-

ly opportunity looked to be diminishing quickly as a pair of fly outs had the Cats in a two-out situation. It looked like a wasted opportunity when George Winter hit a groundball to the shortstop. The ball was mishandled, however, and Wiegel reached home safely for the game's first run. Any time you give an offense extra outs it can be dangerous, and the Cats were sure to take advantage of the generosity. Zayden Ellsworth would reach base on a dropped third strike wild pitch, allowing another run to score. In the next at-bat, Caden Albrecht hit a double to left field allowing Winter and Ellsworth to score and putting RR-SM up 4-0 in the first.

While the Cats got the offense going, they were boosted by an incredible pitching performance by Diehl. The junior was electric on the mound, pitching a complete

game, while allowing just one earned run. Diehl was especially impressive in the early innings, where he allowed the Cats to work up a lead while he kept the Warriors off base. Diehl did not allow a hit through the first three innings.

In the bottom of the third the Cats would tack on another run when Ellsworth scored on a wild pitch, putting RR-SM up 5-0. In the bottom half Diehl would allow his first hits with a leadoff double, followed by a single. Eventually the Warriors would crack the scoreboard on a fielder's choice. Diehl did a tremendous job pitching out of the jam, however, as the Warriors were held to that one lone run.

The Warriors would score lone runs in both the sixth and seventh innings, as well. Both late runs were unearned, however, as a number of RR-SM defensive errors allowed the

Warriors some late base runners. Diehl was able to limit the damage, however, as the Cats would hold on to win by a score of 6-3.

Albrecht led the way offensively, going one for one with two RBI and a pair of walks. Wiegel was one for four with a run scored and Diehl was one for two with one run scored and a pair of walks.

Diehl stood out on the mound, where he pitched seven innings while striking out seven and allowing just four hits. Nearly seventy percent of Diehl's pitches were strikes as his command proved to be the difference in this one.

Although the Cats improved to just 5-10 on the season, it was refreshing for them to get back in the win column. They will look to keep improving on Thursday, April 28, when they play host to Fulton.

## Stockton Library receives new children's books

Lu Douglas (pictured on the left) of Stockton donated two new children's books to the Stockton Township Library. The author of these books is Linda B. Schmitz Spangrud (pictured on the right) who is originally from Rockford, IL. When Linda Spangrud moved to Gulf Shores, AL, she began volunteering as a "Turtle Lady". Some of Linda's duties include finding and marking turtle nests, moving nests in times of high water, and guiding the hatchlings to the Gulf of Mexico. Linda has such a passion as a "Turtle Lady" that she wrote these books to help children understand her journey. She explains the importance of keeping all beaches clean for land and sea creatures alike. Please visit the Stockton Township Library to enjoy some family reading time with these two fun books.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## • Softball (Continued from front page)

going two for four with a single and a double. Addy Bohnsack was two for four with a single and a double, while Marley Morgan was two for

three with a pair of singles. The Warhawks will be back on the diamond on Thursday, April 28, when they travel to face off with East Dubuque.

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416746

# LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., PLAINTIFF

vs. CYNTHIA J. SITZMANN-PETITGOUT; MIDLAND FUNDING LLC; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANT

2021CH59 PUBLICATION NOTICE The requisite affidavit for publication has been filed, notice is hereby given to you, CYNTHIA J. SITZMANN-PETITGOUT; and UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD 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:

LOT NUMBER ELEVEN (11) IN BLOCK NUMBER ONE HUNDRED ELEVEN (111) IN THE CITY OF EAST DUBUQUE (FORMERLY DUNLEITH) AND AS ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF EAST DUBUQUE IN THE COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

COMMON ADDRESS: 223 Wisconsin Ave., East Dubuque, IL 61025 P.I.N.: 05-503-530-00

and which said mortgage was signed by CYNTHIA J. SITZMANN-PETITGOUT, Mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Quicken Loans Inc., as Mortgagor, and recorded in the Office

of the Recorder of Deeds of Jo Daviess County as Document No. 396864; and for such other relief prayed; that summons was duly issued out of the Circuit Court of Jo Daviess County against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU, the said above defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of this Court in Jo Daviess County at 330 North Bench Street, Galena, IL 61036 on or before May 13, 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.

Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC 230 W. Monroe Street, Suite 1125 Chicago, Illinois 60606 Email: [ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com](mailto:ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com) Ph. 312-541-9710 Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 21 9084 I3191881

(Published in The Scoop Today April 13, 20 & 27, 2022) 415558

### NOTICE

Village of Pearl City will be accepting sealed bids for the sale of a parcel of land located within the Village, in the Business district. Property Index # 89-02-17-08-284-016 (formerly known as 126 S Main St) Lot size is 30ft x 60ft. All bids must be received by June 4, 2022 with bid

opening June 6, 2022 at 6:30pm at the Village Hall. Bids may be sent to Village Hall, 302 Station St, Pearl City, IL 61062 The Village retains the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 13, 20 & 27, 2022) 415669

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

In Re the Matter of the Estate of: HARRY G. PERA, JR. Deceased.

No. 22-PR-32 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Harry G. Pera, Jr. of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 4, 2022, to:

Amber L. Goebel 1256 W. Empire St. Freeport, IL 61032 as independent Executor of the Estate of Harry G. Pera, Jr., 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 October 14, 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: 4/5/22

Amber L. Goebel Executor 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 [tonycoonlaw@aol.com](mailto:tonycoonlaw@aol.com)

(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 13, 20 & 27, 2022) 415964

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, ND, PLAINTIFF,

VS. BERNARD TOMAN A/K/A BERNARD W TOMAN; KIPPE MEYERS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF DOLORES TOMAN, DECEASED; DISCOVER BANK; ABSOLUTE RESOLUTIONS CORPORATION; DWIGHT HENSON; DENEA TAYLOR; DULARI TOMAN; DELEANA ATZ; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF DAVON TRIMBLE; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF DWAYN TRIMBLE; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF DOLORES A TOMAN, DEFENDANTS.

19 CH 56 2182 NORTH FLANSBURG ROAD FREEPORT, IL 61032 JUDGE

PRESIDING JUDGE NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Davon Trimble Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Dwayn Trimble Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Dolores A Toman 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:

A part of the South Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section Eighteen (18), in Township 27 North, Range 7, East of the 4th Principal Meridian described as follows: beginning at a point 224 feet south of the northeast corner of said half quarter section, and running west parallel with north line of half quarter section, 818.5 feet; thence north 224 feet to quarter quarter line, thence north 117 feet; thence east parallel with quarter quarter line 256 feet; thence south 117 feet to quarter quarter line; thence east 150 feet to a point 412.5 feet west of northeast corner of said half quarter section; thence south parallel, with east section line, 189.75 feet; thence east parallel with north line of said half quarter section, 412.5 feet to section line; thence south 34.25 feet to place of beginning. Situated in the County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Commonly known as: 2182 North Flansburg Road Freeport, IL 61032 and which said Mortgage was made by, Bernard Toman a/k/a Bernard W Toman and Dolores Toman a/k/a Dolores A Trimble

Mortgagor(s), to U.S. Bank, National Association N.D.

Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 200400059906; and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before May 20, 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](http://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](http://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. 20-04727IL-613960 I3192525

(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 20, 27 & May 4, 2022) 416242

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The regular scheduled meeting for May 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM for Rush Township has been changed to **May 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM** at the Rush Town Hall, 2999 North Canyon Park Rd., Stockton IL.

Ben Wooden, Rush Township Clerk (Published in The Scoop Today April 27, 2022) 416788

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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

As I am writing this column, the sun is shining, and the rain is gone. It also is a decent temperature. It may not last, but it is great to start this week's column on a positive note. Food shows and magazines have begun to feature "retro" recipes. This column has featured these kind of recipes since it started in 2004. What are "retro" recipes? They are blasts from the past. Recipes that were developed fifty to one hundred years ago, and they are now popular today are considered "retro". A lot of them are what have been referred to as "old standbys." There are two in the column today. Have a great week cooking!

used in the 1950's as an appetizer. It was stuffed in celery or spread on butter crackers. It was also used as a sandwich spread. We have all kinds of different crackers these days; back in the middle of the twentieth century it was Ritz or Waverly crackers. Look at our great choices!

12 oz. sharp white cheddar cheese

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

2 t. Worcestershire sauce

2 t. white vinegar

1/4 t. white pepper

1/4 t. garlic powder

1/4 t. cayenne pepper

1 jar (4 oz.) diced pimientos, undrained

Crackers and vegetables

Shred the cheddar cheese; transfer to a large bowl. Add cream cheese, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar, pepper, garlic powder and cayenne; beat on low speed until blended. Drain pimientos, reserving 2 T. juice. Stir in pimientos and reserved juice. Serve with crackers and vegetables.

## Spring Greens and Berry Salad Dressing:

1 T. extra-virgin olive oil

2 T. white wine vinegar

4 cloves garlic, minced

1 t. Dijon mustard

1/4 t. salt

1/2 t. pepper

## Salad

6 C. mixed spring greens

1 C. fresh strawberries, sliced

2 C. fresh blackberries

1 C. fresh blueberries

6 T. slivered almonds

In a small bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, garlic, mustard, salt and pepper; set aside. Place all spring greens into a large bowl. Add the vinaigrette and toss to coat. Place on 6 salad plates and top each with an equal number of strawberries, blackberries, and blueberries. Sprinkle 1 T. of almonds over each salad before serving.

## Kentucky Brown Sliders

Since we are getting ready for the Kentucky Derby, we are looking for "Derby" recipes. This is either an appetizer or a main dish; it uses deli turkey. This recipe will make for an easy make-ahead sandwich. You can make them ahead, cover them, and they are ready to be popped in the oven.

1 pkg. (12 count) Hawaiian sweet rolls

3 T. mayonnaise

12 slices of thin cut turkey, folded into quarters

12 slices cooked bacon, halved widthwise

1 jar (4 oz.) diced pimientos, drained or 2 plum tomatoes cut into 12 slices each

6 slices Gruyere cheese, halved

1/4 C. grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 C. butter, cubed

2 T. finely chopped onions

2 T. brown sugar

1 1/2 t. Worcestershire sauce

1/8 t. garlic powder

Preheat oven to 350. Without separating the rolls, cut the package of rolls in half horizontally; arrange bottom halves in a greased 11 x 7 baking pan. Spread mayo evenly across the bottom halves. Top each roll with turkey, bacon, pimientos, and cheeses. Replace tops of rolls on bottoms. In a small skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and cook and stir until tender, 1 to 2 minutes. Whisk in the brown sugar, Worcestershire sauce and garlic powder. Cook and stir until sugar is dissolved; drizzle over the sandwiches. Cover and bake for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake until golden brown, 5 to 10 minutes longer. Cut sandwiches apart and serve right

from the pan.

## Porcupine Meatballs

This recipe is what is referred to as a "retro" recipe. It became popular during the Great Depression because it stretched meat further. It became popular again in the 1950's when supper parties became the rage. It is making its comeback (I will confess that we had to make these in my home economics class over 55 years ago!)

Enjoy these tasty meat treats.

1/2 C. uncooked long grain rice

1/2 C. water

1/3 C. chopped onion

1 t. salt

1/2 t. celery salt

1/8 t. pepper

1/8 t. garlic powder

1 lb. ground beef

2 T. canola oil

1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce

1 C. water

2 T. brown sugar

2 t. Worcestershire sauce

In a bowl, combine the rice, 1/2 C. water, onion, salt, celery salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Add the beef and mix well. Shape into 1 1/2 inch balls. In a large skillet, brown meatballs in canola oil; drain. In a small bowl, combine the

sauce, water, brown sugar, and Worcestershire sauce until sugar is absorbed. Pour over meatballs. Reduce heat and simmer for 1 hour.

## Parmesan Potatoes Au Gratin

If you are looking for a side for the porcupine meatballs, this potato dish will fit in nicely. It does require a lengthy baking time, so prepare for the extended baking time. I use a mandolin to slice my potatoes thinly. It is a great kitchen "gadget," but you do have to be careful and use the guard because it is very sharp. If you get the hang of it, you will use it wisely every time you need something thinly sliced.

2 C. grated Parmesan cheese

1 T. minced fresh thyme or 1 t. dried thyme

1 T. grated lemon zest

1/2 t. salt

1/2 t. pepper

2 lbs. red potatoes, very thinly sliced

2 1/2 C. heavy whipping cream

Preheat the oven to 325. Combine the cheese, thyme, lemon zest, salt, and pepper in

See KITCHEN, Page 11

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# • Package (Continued from page 3)

- A \$50 million increase directly from marijuana revenues to support communities harmed by violence, excessive incarceration and economic disinvestment.
- \$240 million for the Reimagine Public Safety Act aimed at early violence intervention, including \$235 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding.
- \$30 million to support the Violent Crime Witness Protection Program.
- \$20 million for grants to non-profits for security investments to prepare for hate crimes.
- \$30 million for Local Law Enforcement Body Camera grants.
- \$20 million for less lethal

- device grants and associated training expenses.
- \$10 million for a mental health co-responder pilot program.
- \$10 million for a local law enforcement retention grant program.
- \$8 million for a multi-year equipment replacement program at the Illinois State Police that includes radios, body and car cameras, and cloud storage.
- \$5.4 million for increased staffing and equipment at a new ISP forensic lab in Decatur.
- And \$20 million for cameras and automatic license plate readers on state highways.

## Health and social services

Health care services, most of

which are provided through the state's Medicaid program, typically make up about 17 percent of state spending while other human services such as foster care and care for people with disabilities make up about 18 percent.

One of the biggest new health care programs provided in the budget is a \$700 million increase in reimbursements for Medicaid-funded Nursing homes through a new payment model lawmakers approved in March that is aimed at increasing staffing levels at those facilities.

Other highlights of the health care budget include a \$230 million increase in funding for mental health care and community-based substance abuse treatment providers; \$150 million to

fully implement the Pathways to Success Program for children with serious mental illnesses; and \$70 million to implement the 9-8-8 call center and crisis response for people experiencing mental health crises.

The budget also establishes a framework for distributing the first year of funding from Illinois' share of a \$26 billion national opioid settlement agreement.

The human services budget includes a \$250 million increase for the Department of Children and Family Services to hire additional staff and increase reimbursement rates to outside child welfare agencies that contract with the department.

### Economic development

Among the new economic initiatives in the budget is a one-year waiver of retail liquor license fees, a move intended to aid restaurants, bars and other liquor license holders that were hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### ARPA funds

The budget package also appropriates the remaining \$4 billion in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding. That includes the \$2.7 billion that was used in March to pay down part of the deficit in the state's Unemploy-

ment Insurance Trust Fund.

The remaining \$1.37 billion includes:

- \$320 million for Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services and Department of Public Health.
- \$380 million in pandemic support for health care provider payments.
- \$150 million for affordable housing programs through the Illinois Housing Development Authority.
- \$83.4 million for violence prevention and interruption grants at Criminal Justice Information Authority.
- And \$190 million in other support through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, including \$75 million for the hotel industry, \$50 million for restaurants and bars, \$50 million for arts-related grants, and \$15 million for tourism attraction development grants.

# • Kitchen (Continued from page 9)

a small bowl. Layer a third of the potatoes and 2/3 C. of the cheese mixture in a greased 8 x 8 baking dish; repeat layers. Top with remaining potatoes; pour cream over the top. Sprinkle with remaining cheese mixture. Bake covered for 65 minutes. Increase oven temperature to 375. Uncover; bake until potatoes are tender, and top is golden brown 25 to 30 minutes longer. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving (you must let the potatoes stand so they can thicken; do not skip this step.)

**Frosting:** In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, butter and vanilla until smooth. Gradually add powdered sugar. Spread over cooled bars. Sprinkle with lemon zest. Refrigerate at least 4 hours. Cut into bars or triangles.

### Raspberry Cake

Spring brings new cake ideas. This refreshing raspberry cake is easy to make and delicious too. It starts with a white cake mix and adds gelatin and fruit.

1 pkg. white cake mix  
1 pkg. (3 oz.) raspberry gelatin  
4 eggs  
1/2 C. canola oil  
1/4 C. hot water  
1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen sweetened raspberries

**Topping:**  
1 carton (12 oz.) Cool Whip, thawed  
1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen sweetened raspberries, thawed, undrained  
Fresh raspberries for garnish

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, gelatin, eggs, oil and water; beat on low speed for 30 seconds and then beat on medium for 2 minutes. Stir in raspberries. Pour into a 9 x 13 cooking pan which has been sprayed with cooking spray. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes. Cool completely.

**Frosting:** In a large bowl, fold whipped topping into raspberries. Spread over cake.

Refrigerate for 2 hours before serving. Garnish with raspberries. Refrigerate any leftover cake.

### Final Thoughts

I have started watching baseball because there isn't a lot of other things on the television. Other people are enthralled in golf, so we really are moving into the spring and summer (although hockey and basketball still are in the playoff mode). Word of warning, don't get too excited about outdoor planting. It still is cold more than warm. Mother's Day is early this year, so it makes everyone want to get those flowers out. Farmers have been itching to do planting; however, the weather is not being cooperative. Patience is a virtue. May is racing toward us, and all the proms and graduations are starting to be more than a dream for those who have been waiting for what seems like forever. Anyone who wants a job can get one (remember those days when we worked so hard to get a summer job—these kids have so many to choose from. They don't know how lucky they are!) Here is hoping we get some warmer weather. We continue to look for some spring recipes that feature some spring vegetables and fruits. The rhubarb is coming, so remember to dust off those recipes for you to share. 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.

### Lemon Angel Cake Bars

This is another easy recipe because it starts with an angel food cake mix. You can make this ahead, and it feeds a ton of people.

1 pkg. (16 oz.) angel food cake mix  
1 can (15 3/4 oz.) lemon pie filling  
1 C. unsweetened finely shredded coconut

**Frosting:**  
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened  
1/2 C. butter, softened  
1 t. vanilla  
2 1/2 C. powdered sugar  
3 t. grated lemon zest

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, mix cake mix, pie filling, and coconut until blended. Spread into a greased 15 x 10 x 1 inch baking pan. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack.

# News briefs

### Highland Chorale and Youth Choir showcase musical talent

Enjoy the musical sounds of the Highland Chorale and Highland Youth Choir for the spring concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 1 at The Father's House Church, 302 W. Stephenson Street in Freeport, IL.

The Highland Youth Choir is directed by Dagny Brandt and accompanied by Heidi Spotts-Manthey. The Highland Youth Choir will sing selections in Japanese and English, including French, with musical selections "Music Changes the World" by Jim Papoulis, "I Love Rock 'n' Roll Medley," and "Just Believe" by Pinkzebra. Also featured are Highland Alums Krista Keene as a vocal soloist and Brooke Parkinson on flute.

### Evangelist to be at Calvary Church

Evangelist Ric Wright will be at Calvary Church May 7 and 8. On Saturday night there will be a service at 6 p.m., and on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. All are invited to attend.

Wright is an Evangelist in the United Methodist Church from

Kentucky. More information about his ministry can be found at resurrectionlifestyle.org.

Calvary Church is at 315 W. Maple in Stockton, just south of the Middle School.

For more information, call the church at 815-947-2414 or Sandy Kampmeier at 815-947-3845.

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# River Ridge FFA Chapter to hold annual plant sale

The River Ridge FFA Chapter will be holding its annual plant sale on May 7 and 14 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the high school greenhouse. The horticulture class has been working hard all semester to produce a large variety of bedding plants and vegetables. Things started up in the greenhouse in the cold dark days of February when the students planted several hundred plugs in their pots and started the vegetables from seed. The horticulture class spent many class peri-

ods transplanting the peppers, tomatoes, carrots, eggplants, broccoli, basil, and other plants into their 6-packs. There are 15 different varieties of tomatoes this year.

The plant sale serves as a fundraiser for the River Ridge FFA Chapter. Profits from the sale go toward offsetting the cost of events such as State Convention, National Convention, Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Conference, FFA Leadership Camp and National FFA Week activities.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

If you are ready to start your garden, brighten up your landscaping, or treat Mom on Mother's Day weekend, consider supporting the FFA Chapter at their plant sale fundraiser. Pictured here is Cora Dittmar, Chapter President and one of the many FFA students who have been working hard in the school greenhouse.

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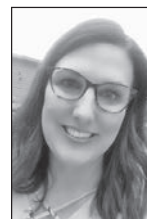
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## Around the Northern Hills with Annette Eggers

Did you know that if you are a Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau member and a customer of Stephenson Service Company that you may be eligible for FS patronage benefits? Qualified purchases you make from FS give you the potential to become an owner of the company, thereby giving you a voice in its governance. Each year, the FS Board of Directors considers the payment of patronage refunds based on each division's sales and profitability and only pays patronage refunds to Farm Bureau members. If you're not already a member, please contact our office at 815.858.2235 or sign up at [www.myifb.org](http://www.myifb.org).



Annette Eggers

have questions or need assistance, please call 309-557-2689 or visit your local Farm Bureau office.

### Pop tabs collection

As more and more people are becoming greener, the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau is asking families, school groups, churches, and other organizations to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House of Iowa City through April 30. In turn the farm bureau will deliver the collected tabs to the Iowa City facility for its fundraising campaign.

Please drop off collected tabs in any kind of container to the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau office Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. 4:30 p.m.

This recycling program is beneficial for everyone involved. It does not interfere with other recycling programs and recycles a resource that might otherwise go to waste. More importantly, children and their families are being helped during their time of need.

### Farm Fun Fact

April is National Volunteer Month. Would you like to help promote agriculture? I've got some great opportunities for you.

### Discounts for members

Illinois Farm Bureau members get deep discounts on equipment and supplies from Grainger, plus free standard ground shipping on standard Grainger products. Get started with your price savings using by either presenting the Illinois Farm Bureau organization account number at time of purchase, or by going to <https://www.grainger.com/content/farmbureau> to establish a new Grainger.com® account using that account number.

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