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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22, 2023

Lady Broncos capture first regional title in nearly three decades

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville varsity girls basketball squad had an exciting week when they captured the Pearl City Regional

Title last week. After ending the regular season on a three-game winning streak, the Broncos held a record of 25-4. That left the Broncos with a bye in the opening round

of regional play. Eventually, the Broncos began their post-season play with a matchup against the regional hosts, the Pearl City Wolves. Orangeville managed to pick up

a 52-20 victory, completing the three-game season sweep and propelling them into the regional championship.

Five days later, the Bron-

cos had a title on their mind as they knew who their opponent would be. The Morrison Mustangs finished their regular season with a record of 21-8. After earning impressive post-season victories over Milledgeville and Lena-Winslow, the Mustangs looked to be a tough opponent for the title game.

Although it was three months ago, these two teams had met prior in the season. Back on Nov. 14, 2022, the Broncos picked up a 49-26 victory over the Mustangs. While that game held little to no meaning at this point, it could have at the very least, given the Broncos a reason to feel confident. That confidence shined early in the title game. In the opening quarter, the Broncos managed to jump out to a ten-point lead. Leah Baker and Laney Cahoon put on a show as they combined for 15 first quarter points. Cahoon had the hot hand from deep, sinking a pair of three-pointers on her way to eight first quarter points. Baker sunk a three of her own as she put up seven in the quarter. Whitney Sullivan added a basket, as well, as the Broncos took a 17-7 lead into the second.

The Orangeville lead would only grow in the second quarter. Cahoon sunk another three-pointer and added a pair of free throws. Nadalee Doyle added a pair of free throws of her own, and Wheeler sunk

a basket. The Broncos combined for another 12 points as they took a 29-17 lead into halftime.

Following the break, Orangeville continued to pour it on. In fact, the Broncos' highest scoring quarter came in the third, when they put up 18 points. Doyle hit a trio of baskets, while Cahoon put up another seven points. Sullivan added five third quarter points of her own, as well.

While the offense was working, it was the Orangeville defense that stood out, as they had all season long. The Broncos held the Mustangs to just eight third quarter points, allowing their lead to expand to 22 points. Eventually, Orangeville went into the fourth and final quarter with a 47-25 lead.

With the regional title just minutes away, the Broncos couldn't wait to finish this one off. They did so by letting Sullivan go to work. After putting up nine points in the first three quarters combined, Sullivan put up nine in the fourth quarter alone.

Sullivan's big fourth quarter helped secure the first regional title for the Orangeville Lady Broncos in 26 years. Cahoon led the way with 22 points, while Sullivan finished with 18, and Doyle had 11. With three scorers in double figures, the Broncos picked up an impressive 64-36 victory over the Mustangs.



DAN PACKARD SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Le-Win boys basketball take round one of regional playoffs

The Lena Winslow boys basketball team won 55-43 in the first round of the regional playoffs on Saturday, Feb. 18. The Panthers had the lead the entire game, with scoring led by #23 Rowen Schultz with 20 individual points.

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Obituary

STEVEN HILDEBRAND

Steven Hildebrand, age 71 of Orangeville, IL passed away unexpectedly at his home on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, with his family by his side. He was born on Dec. 26, 1951, in Rockford, IL to Neal and Janet (Shelden) Hildebrand. Steven attended Orangeville High School. He married Marilyn Day on June 3, 1970, in Orangeville, IL.

Steven worked 38 years at Newell-Rubbermaid in Freeport in the building maintenance department. He retired from Monroe Truck Equipment in 2011. Steven enjoyed the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and trapping. He also enjoyed watching the birds and doing yardwork. Steven also loved his cats, spending time with his friends and family, and having a few cold ones were some of his favorite things.

Steven is survived by his wife Marilyn of Orangeville, two sons; Brian (Deanna) Hildebrand of Orangeville, and



Mark (Tiffany) Hildebrand of Verona, WI, his grandchildren Sierra and Madalyn Hildebrand, Lucas, Dylan, and

Colton Hildebrand, his sisters Susan (Jene) Eberly of Monroe, WI, Nancy (Steve) Rodebaugh of McConnell, and Bonnie (Jeff) Clark of Freeport, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sisters Sally (Dennis) Nolan.

A celebration of Steven's life will be held on Saturday, March 18, 2023, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Brush Creek Golf Course in Orangeville, IL. Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

On Wednesday, Feb. 22 Peace Corps Quilting Group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience necessary and all are welcome to attend. Also on Wednesday, Feb. 22, Good Shepherd will offer Ash Wednesday Services at 7 p.m. which will include prayer, scripture reading, time of lament, and imposition of ashes.

Please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions. The CDC

guidelines will be followed for gathering. For the safety for everyone, it is encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing inside the building.

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the First Sunday of Lent on Feb. 26. A Worship Service with Holy Communion will begin at 9 a.m. with Pastor Michelle Knight presiding. The service will be available on Livestream on the St. John's Pearl City Facebook Page.

Healthy Wolves Backpack has been a weekly ministry of St. John's since April

of last year. Backpacks are filled with food and taken to the Pearl City school every Friday. The backpacks are sent home with families for the weekend so that adequate nutrition can be provided for children over the weekend. The families then return the backpack, and they are refilled to be sent home for the next weekend. We currently are serving 41 children through this program. Backpacks are assembled Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. in the upstairs youth kitchen. Anyone in the community is invited to help. Visit the St. John's Lutheran Church website for more information on how to volunteer.

On March 1 the Men's Breakfast Group will meet at

Garden View Restaurant in Lena at 7:30 a.m. All Men of the Pearl City Community are welcome to attend.

March 1 will be the beginning of the Mid-Week Lenten Soup and Service. A soup supper will be served from 6 to 6:30 p.m. A short service will begin at 6:30 p.m. The weekly services will be held in Luther Hall. All community members are welcome.

Confirmation class will meet on March 5 at 5:30 p.m. for supper and lessons in the Youth and Family Room.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is located at 229 S. First St., in Pearl City. If you need to contact the pastor or church, you may call 815-443-2215 for information.

News briefs

McConnell American Legion Auxiliary

McConnell American Legion Auxiliary's February meeting will be held on Feb. 22, 2023, at 6 p.m. with social time beginning at 5:30 p.m. at Terri Thyberg's home. The Auxiliary welcomes new members to join. Please call Pat at 815-266-1165 with any questions.

Carroll County Help Center Thrift Shop

The Carroll County Help Center Thrift Shop will close out their 50th year of serving Carroll County with a "Get Bundled Up" sale Fridays and Saturdays in February. All coats will be 50% off and shoppers can fill a bag with sweatshirts and sweaters for only \$2.00. The Thrift Shop, located at 126 S. 4th Street in Savanna, is open Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Satur-

days from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Carroll County Help Center will offer three \$500 scholarships (one to each school district) to Carroll County graduating seniors interested in pursuing training at a community college or a vocational-technical school. Applications are available at the Thrift Shop and by contacting guidance counselors. The application deadline is March 20, 2023.

to make reservations or with any questions. Reservations are requested by Feb. 20.

Auditions for Mighty Richland Players Dessert Theater Orangeville

Auditions will be held for the upcoming play, Belles; A play in two acts and forty-five phone calls by Mark Dunn. Roles are needed for six female parts and one male part with auditions taking place on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Mighty Richland Players Dessert Theater at 203 W. High, Orangeville, IL. Call 815-819-1310 with any questions.

Female veterans' brunch

The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will honor female veterans with a brunch on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. This will be held at the Lena American Legion Home at 316 W. Main St., Lena. There will be no charge for this brunch. Please join for fellowship and entertainment. Call 815-369-4684 or email jamcps54@yahoo.com



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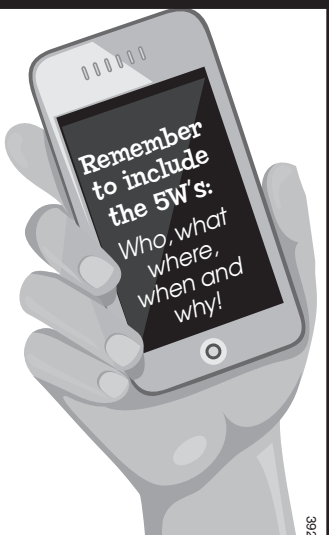
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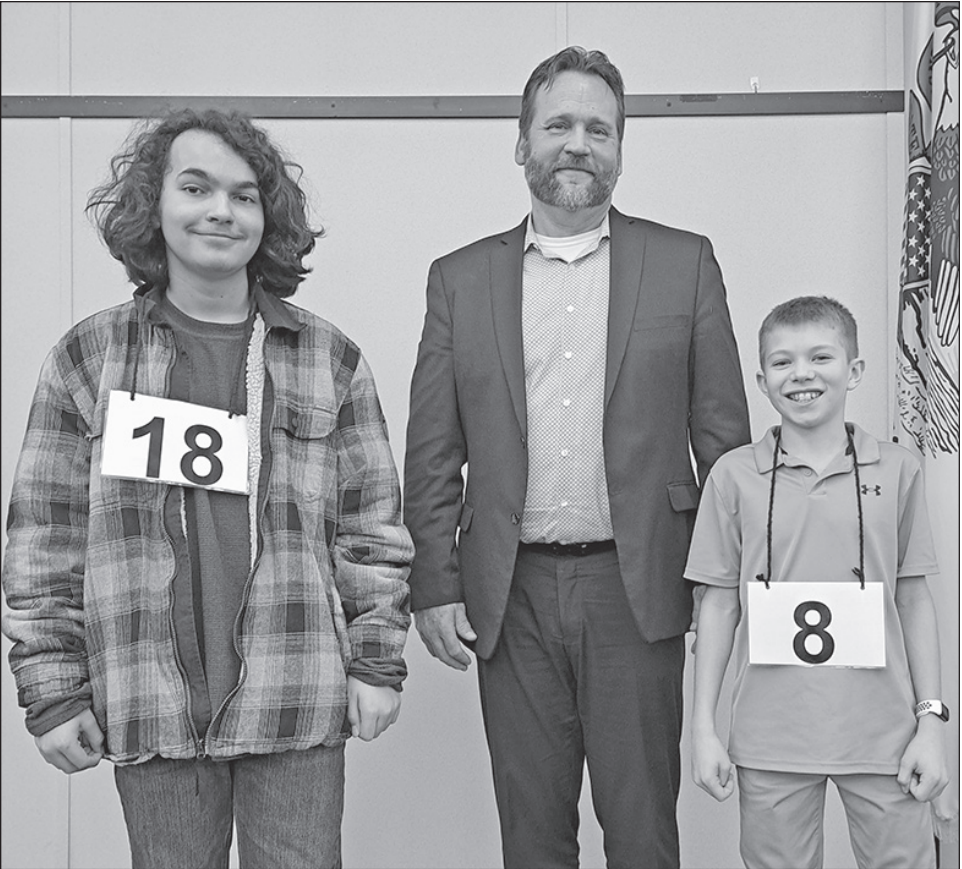
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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Spelling Bee contestants and Lena-Winslow students Mason Coulthard and Zaydan Schoonhoven-Hussain competed in the Regional Spelling Bee on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Coulthard (right) earned first place and Schoonhoven-Hussain (left) earned second. Aaron Mercier, Regional Superintendent of schools, stands with each student as they celebrate their wins.

Lena-Winslow student wins Regional Spelling Bee

The 41st Annual Carroll, Jo Daviess and Stephenson County Regional Spelling Bee, was held Tuesday, Feb. 14 at Highland Community College. Twenty-six students in grades four through eight competed in the Spelling Bee that is coordinated by the Regional Office of Education #8. The contestants were the first and second place winners from their local school district spelling bee contests.

The 2023 Regional Spelling Bee Champion was Mason Coulthard, a 6th grade student from Lena-Winslow School District. Zaydan Schoonhoven-Hussain, a 7th grade student, also from Lena-Winslow School District, earned 2nd place. The two finalists competed for several rounds before Mason spelled "partridge" correctly at the beginning of round 5. Zaydan misspelled "kodak" and then Mason spelled "versatile" correctly to win the next round and win the Regional Spelling Bee.

As the first-place winner, Coulthard won an all-expense

paid trip to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. for the winner and one parent/guardian, \$75 Visa gift card, Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online free one-year subscription donated by Merriam-Webster, the Samuel Louis Sugarman Award donated by Jay Sugarman, Chairman and CEO of iStar Financial, a United States Mint Proof Set, one-year free subscription to Britannica Online Premium donated by Encyclopedia Britannica, and Nautical Words Topical List by Hexco Academic.

home a \$50 Visa gift card, Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, donated by Merriam-Webster, and Nautical Words Topical List by Hexco Academic.

The Scripps National Spelling Bee will take place May 28 through June 3 in Washington, D.C. The all-expense paid trip for Regional Office of Education #8 Regional Spelling Bee Champion and one parent/guardian is made possible by the generous donations of many individuals and businesses throughout the region.

FHN celebrates Heart Month with special price on cardiac tests

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for both men and women in the United States. FHN is celebrating American Heart Month in February with special pricing on two heart health tests.

Call 815-599-6860 by

Tuesday, Feb. 28 to schedule a Standard Walking Treadmill Stress Test or Calcium Scoring CT Heart Scan and pay just \$124 for the test. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 815-599-6860. Tests must be scheduled by Tues-

day, Feb. 28 and performed by Friday, May 26, 2023, to qualify for the special rate.

These tests do not replace consultations with health-care providers. Payment for the tests is due (cash, checks and credit cards accepted) at the time of service.

Livestock grazing webinar offered by University of Illinois Extension this February

University of Illinois Extension is proud to hold the next webinar in our Livestock Production and Principles Series, "Getting Started with Grazing", on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. CST via webinar. To register, please visit go.illinois.edu/grazingwebinar or call U of I Extension at 815-235-4125.

This free webinar will pro-

vide attendees with information on fencing, pasture species, grazing management systems, and additional topics. "We know how important this management practice is for those that are raising livestock in our area," states Grant McCarty, Local Foods and Small Farms Educator. "While we have offered in-person programming

to address grazing, we know that there are still producers and others who are looking to get started in implementing grazing on their operation. We hope that this introductory webinar can provide attendees with valuable and relevant information to assist them in making informed decisions this upcoming season."

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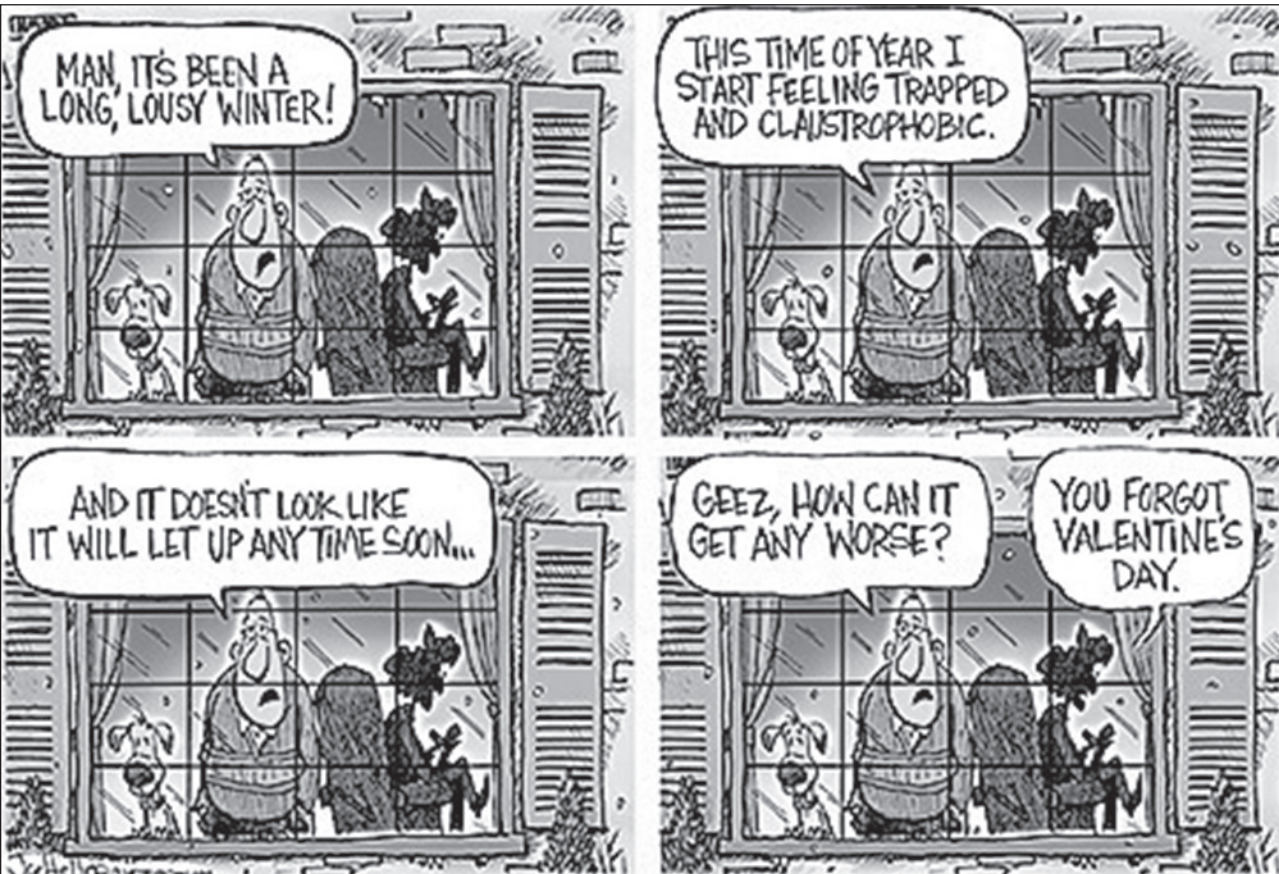
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OPINION



Slices of life

Exploring love

"We've been infected with this idea that love is an emotion only felt between two people. But love is a universal energy."—A.R. Lucas

Today, let's explore the topic of love.

I think when we look back at life—at the end of it all—what we'll remember most is love. And, as was referenced above, not just the romantic love we've experienced, but all of it, every bit of it.

Love is all around us every second of every day, if we are open and aware. Receiving as well as giving. I know that may sound corny, but it's truth (with a capital T).

Love fuels the soul. It makes the heart beat a little faster. It makes us catch our breath and causes our lips to curl upward. It improves our mood and makes life worth living. Love comes in many forms. It can be spectacular, and it can be everyday—and everything in-between.

Noticing the beauty of dewy water droplets on blades of grass in the morning is love.

A mama duck leading a trail of her ducklings across the path is love.

Feeling the positive energy in a smile from a stranger is love. A sunrise. A sunset. A full moon. A starry night. All love when seen and felt from the heart.

The same can be said for helping a turtle cross the road. Feeding birds in the winter. Rescuing a spider from your kitchen and bringing it outside.

Love isn't complicated. It's superbly simple when pure and done right. When done from within—from the heart.

Many of us live under the misconception that love comes from without—from other people, from the world at large. I don't believe this to be true. Real love comes from within. It starts there, grows there, and blooms there.

Once you embrace the love from within—truly embrace and accept it. Once you open yourself fully to it and understand its importance to your well-being and joy, then you can appreciate and enjoy the love all around you. You will be more open to accepting love because you are fully encompassed on spreading your own.

As you sow your seeds and spread and grow this love outward, it returns to you exponentially, because you can't give love without receiving it in return. That's just how the universe operates. You benefit just as much from



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

the love you give as from the love you receive—maybe even more so.

That's the magic in it. I think of the concept of love like an ice cream sundae. It starts with a scoop of ice cream at its core. It wouldn't be a sundae without the ice cream. This is the love that comes from within.

Love from the world at large—people, animals, hobbies, passions, nature—is the whipped cream, hot fudge, sprinkles, and other toppings. They enhance the sundae, but without the ice cream, you are left with a bowl of condiments. They can't stand alone. Without the base of ice cream, they fall flat.

The same goes for your ability to love others if you don't first love yourself.

We talk of unconditional love. When my husband first left this earth, I reflected on our great love story and made it my goal to love even better and more fully in the future. I wanted to love other people unconditionally.

But I've changed my mind—or, at least, my choice of words. I've come to the conclusion that the term unconditional love is sort of an unnecessary phrase and perhaps even repetitive.

All love should be unconditional. Putting conditions on love negates it. It makes it less than love. Love, felt truly, madly, deeply from the heart is infinite and without conditions. It is love—plain and simple. Miraculous.

Wonder-filled and wonderful. Infinite, expanding, without beginning or end. Love traverses time and thought. It is bigger than any of us as individuals, yet it lives individually within each of us. It encompasses us all.

It is both within and without. It just is. Now and forever. Beyond the end of "time" as we perceive it.

And that thought, I think, is unconditionally beautiful and even (if you'll forgive me) lovely.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

After Pritzker's budget address, lawmakers jockey for their own spending priorities

Budget season opens with revenue estimates remaining near record high

By Hannah Meisel and Nika Schoonover

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Even factoring in the possibility of a "mild recession" this year, the proposed budget Gov. JB Pritzker laid out last week includes nearly \$50 billion in state spending, bolstered by projections of continued near record-high tax revenues.

Without invoking partisan labels, the governor painted Democrats as the party of fis-

cal responsibility, contrasting the dysfunction of a two-year budget impasse under his predecessor, Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, with the rosy budget outlook predicted for the coming year.

"You, the majority of the General Assembly, are succeeding," Pritzker said, speaking to the Democratic lawmakers who comprise super-majorities in both the Illinois House and Senate. "You, the majority of the people of Illinois who elected the General Assembly, the constitutional officers, and me, are succeeding. Together, we've slogged through the tough times and are making the responsible decisions for our future."

But as Illinois' recent history indicates, state government controlled by one party doesn't mean negotiations

are easy. And with an expanded Democratic majority in the House—78 members, up from 73 after November's election—intra-party disagreements on state budget priorities could be a test of Democratic unity this spring.

New spending

Pritzker's \$49.6 billion budget proposal includes a host of new programs in addition to expanding existing spending, especially in the areas of education and human services.

The governor's early childhood education plan, dubbed Smart Start Illinois, would funnel \$250 million annually toward expanding both preschool and child care programs statewide. During the pandemic, child care programs suffered while many

mothers left the workforce in the face of limited access to child care.

Pritzker also proposed spending nearly \$250 million more in higher education and job training programs, including a \$100 million boost to the state's Monetary Award Program, known as MAP grants, which sends low-income students to state schools. Another \$100 million of that chunk would be spent on increasing funds for community colleges and public universities' operating budgets—the largest cash infusion for higher education in two decades.

While Democrats applauded Pritzker's vision, some also noted the governor's proposal would only spend the minimum dollar amount—\$350

See **PRIORITIES**, Page 5

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•Priorities (Continued from page 4)

million—required by state law to increase Illinois' funding for K-12 education, as outlined in a landmark 2018 law overhauling school funding.

While he celebrated his efforts, Rep. Will Davis, D-Homewood, said the state needs to invest \$200 million more in the funding formula to address the Black community's lack of resources and disproportionate impact, particularly in education.

"Part of our desire is to make sure that (Pritzker) acknowledges that Black communities are the ones that have been left behind more so than any other community," Davis said. "We need to put those resources or make sure those resources touch Black communities in a greater way than they have in the past."

State Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, D-Chicago, agreed.

"We are fully aware that if we only do a \$350 million increase annually, we're not going to reach adequacy by 2027," she said. "I think that's very well-established. So we will definitely be deep in those negotiations to see how much more we can add on top of that."

Members of the General Assembly's powerful Black Caucus, as well as its growing Latino Caucus, have demands of their own.

The Latino Caucus, for example, will be seeking a major expansion of Medicaid coverage to undocumented immigrant adults—those not currently covered by laws passed in the last few years aimed at coverage of undocumented youth and seniors. Details on that plan—including cost—will be introduced at a later date, caucus members said.

Rep. Fred Crespo, D-Hoffman Estates, the chair of the House's General Services Ap-

ropriations Committee, said with so many new members of his party comes increased demands on resources. And Crespo warned that Democrats should not be blind to the source of the state's recent surpluses.

"Consumer spending is driven by the pandemic, so that's not going to last," he said. "(Pritzker) had a lot of positive things to say today but he added a lot of new spending ... two years of surpluses does not make a pattern. That's not a trend and we should not look at it that way."

Crespo ticked off a list of coming budgetary pressures, including a drop-off in the COVID-era extra federal Medicaid dollars coming later this spring, money needed to fund pretrial services under the state's law eliminating cash bail if the Illinois Supreme Court upholds it this spring, and contract negotiations with the state's largest public employee union, AFSCME.

Comptroller Susana Mendoza, who in recent days had warned members of her own party that creating new spending programs wasn't the fiscally prudent thing to do, changed her tune after Pritzker's speech.

"My concern has always been to make sure that we're not frivolously spending money, that we have to hold the line on making sure that we don't overextend ourselves financially," Mendoza said. "Funding those specific programs strategically means there are other dollars that are freed up to do things like increase payments for our developmentally disabled providers, teacher shortage areas...being able to invest some dollars in economic growth with business grants and things like that."

After his graduated income tax plan failed at the ballot

box in 2020, Pritzker warned "there will be cuts, and they will be painful." But so far, better-than-expected revenues have meant that warning has not borne out, and the governor has mostly stayed away from talking about revisiting the issue in the last two years.

But Sen. Rob Martwick, D-Chicago, recently floated the idea again, and he maintains Illinois will eventually reach a fiscal cliff without it — especially if the state doesn't start paying more toward its unfunded pension liability year over year.

"All this progress we've made, a graduated income tax structure could put us on the path to better revenue growth, but it's in a position to solve our problems and give the middle class what it needs: serious tax relief," Martwick said.

GOP response

Republicans, who have been in the superminority for much of the last 15 years in the Senate and most of the past decade in the House, were silent for the majority of Pritzker's speech, contrasting Democrats' frequent cheering for the governor's proposal.

After the speech, some praised the governor's focus on early childhood education and initiatives to lower the costs of higher education. But many more were skeptical of the state's ability to fund those plans.

"How we're going to pay for it is where we fall short," House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said after the budget address. "There's absolutely no structural reforms in this budget proposal."

McCombie emphasized House Republicans also want to invest in the state's vulnerable populations, but her party needs to be invited to budget

negotiations to do so.

"We have a lot of resources within the Republican Caucus," McCombie said. "Take our ideas and let us help you."

Republicans warned that implementing new programs could inevitably lead to a fiscal cliff if the economy turns or Illinois' finances deteriorate, leaving the state with two options: cut off that spending or raise taxes to support it.

"This is the governor's wishlist and I am concerned that there are some things in there that we would be committing long-term spending to that we may not have rev-

enue in the future to fund," said Rep. Norine Hammond, R-Macomb.

While Hammond commended the governor's proposed investments in higher education and K-12 education funding, she said she'd like to see more focus on programs serving disabled individuals and long-term care programs.

The governor's proposal does, however, include \$450 million that would be allocated over several years toward preserving and growing the health care workforce, focusing particularly on Medicaid providers and providers in rural and

other underserved areas across the state.

Other Republicans balked at Pritzker's repeated emphasis on social issues throughout his speech, including the continued expansion of reproductive health care in Illinois as other Midwestern states restrict abortion access.

"I'm a pro-life guy, have been all my life," said Rep. Dave Severin, R-Benton. "Those agendas that the governor has...are disappointing to me that we're drawing people from all over the Midwest to come to the state for (access to abortions)."

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Survey pushes for greater focus on teacher recruitment and retention amid shortages

State board data shows unfilled classroom positions reached a five-year high in 2022

By Nika Schoonover
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois schools are still grappling with a teacher shortage that seems to only be getting worse, a recent survey by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools shows.

This mirrors the state's

own data, which shows Illinois' teacher shortage is at the highest level in the last five years. More than 5,300 classroom positions, including administrative and support personnel, went unfilled in 2022, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

As a result, teachers often

have to absorb unsupervised students into their existing classes or fill in for subject areas in which they have no background. "No matter how much we're trying, we're not filling all the positions and the ones we are filling are people who aren't necessarily qualified to teach what their

assignment is," IARSS President Mark Klaisner said in a recent interview.

The IARSS, a trade group for the public officials who serve as an intermediary between local school districts and the Illinois State Board of Education, has surveyed nearly 700 school districts

on the state of the teacher shortage crisis for the past six years. But this year's survey focused more intently on short- and long-term solutions proposed by school districts statewide.

According to their 2022 survey, 68 percent of districts reported fewer teacher appli-

cants than the year before. And 45 percent of districts reported the shortage in their school had worsened from the year prior.

Klaisner said everyone involved in education needs to be heard when considering

See SURVEY, Page 7

Pritzker lays out \$49.6 billion spending plan

Calls for new investments in education, efforts to combat poverty

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker last week laid out a \$49.6 billion spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year that calls for significant new spending for early childhood education and efforts to combat homelessness among other areas.

He also claimed credit for putting the state back on a more secure financial footing. Speaking to a joint session of the General Assembly, Pritzker delivered a combined State of the State speech and budget address in the House chamber since his pre-pandemic address in February 2020.

Pritzker's proposed budget appeared to signal a transition to a post-COVID kind of normalcy, with a focus on typical state issues like education, health care and social services as opposed to grappling with a public health disaster and the economic calamity that came with it. "The last time I stood here seems like a lifetime ago," Pritzker said. "So many fiscal challenges laid ahead. And so much progress has been made."

Pritzker came into office in 2019, succeeding Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, whose single term was marked by a two-year budget impasse that resulted in a nearly \$17 billion backlog of past-due bills and multiple credit downgrades. But with those old bills paid and credit rating agencies now giving the state upgrades, Pritzker appeared to revel in pointing out the contrast.

"In the age-old fight between happy warriors and misery's carnival barkers, we've shown that if we resolve to do it, happy warriors win every time. And we are winning," he said. "Which is why, here in Illinois in 2023, I'm confident in saying the state of our state is stronger

than it has been in decades, and we're getting stronger every day."

Early childhood 'Smart Start'

The signature new program in Pritzker's proposed budget is a multi-year plan called "Smart Start" that aims to expand child care services and make preschool available to every 3- and 4-year-old in Illinois whose parents or guardians seek it over the next four years.

Beginning with a \$250 million appropriation in the upcoming fiscal year, Pritzker said his proposal would add 5,000 preschool spots in the upcoming year—the first in a four-year plan to increase those seats by 20,000. That quarter-million-dollar proposal would also stabilize funding for childcare services to enable providers to boost workers' salaries, and increase funding for early intervention services and home visits to reach families in need.

"Thanks to our stronger fiscal standing, we can afford to do this," Pritzker said. "And as every provider, teacher, and parent in this state knows, we can't afford to wait." The plan also calls for spending \$100 million from the Rebuild Illinois capital improvements program to build and upgrade childcare buildings and facilities, including in areas he called "early childhood deserts," essentially doubling the amount of money originally allocated for that purpose.

"Smart Start Illinois will save taxpayers \$7 for every one dollar invested and will vault Illinois to national leadership in early childhood development," he said. "Enhancing quality early care and education is a win-win solution for re-mobilizing parents in the workforce, enhancing brain development and kindergarten readiness, saving taxpayers money, and increasing economic activity now and in the decades ahead."

K-12 education

Pritzker is also propos-

ing a \$350 million increase in Evidence Based Funding for K-12 education, which is the minimum year-over-year increase required under the 2017 law that overhauled school finance in Illinois. Of that money, the first \$50 million is used to fund property tax relief grants to districts that apply for them. The other \$300 million is distributed primarily to school districts that are furthest away from their funding adequacy target.

That amount is consistent with what the Illinois State Board of Education had requested, but other school advocates, including Advance Illinois and the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, have urged the state to put in even more money.

During a House committee hearing Tuesday, Advance Illinois president Robin Steans said that if the state only adds \$350 million a year to the EBF formula, it would take until the year 2038 to reach the law's goal of bringing all districts up to 90 percent of their adequacy target.

"And that is another 15 years, and that is a generation of students who will be in schools who will be in schools that are underfunded, in some cases by significant amounts," she said. "So from our point of view, and we hope and trust from yours, that's too long."

Steans urged lawmakers to raise the minimum annual increase to \$550 million—including the \$50 million in property tax relief grants—which she said would put the state on track to reach the 90-percent adequacy goal within eight years.

Rep. Will Davis, D-Home-wood, who chairs the budget committee that deals with K-12 education, said in an interview after a Feb. 14 hearing that the final amount that goes into EBF funding will be a subject of negotiation.

"I personally would like to see it more than \$550 (million)," he said. "I mean I'd rather us get to full funding quicker rather than later. But

it's not a decision that I make in a vacuum by myself. It requires others participating and communicating. So we'll see where we land."

The added spending brings ISBE's total budget to \$10.3 billion, or roughly 20.5 percent of all General Revenue Fund spending.

Higher education

While campaigning for reelection last year, Pritzker talked about wanting to make college education free for people who met certain income guidelines, and last week he claimed the budget he is proposing would go a long way toward accomplishing that.

Pritzker called for a \$100 million increase in funding for Illinois' Monetary Award Program, or MAP grants, the state's needs-based scholarship program. That would bring the total amount of MAP funding to \$701 million, a 75 percent increase compared to the year Pritzker came into office.

According to the governor's budget office, when combined with the federally-funded Pell Grant program, the increase in MAP funding would allow nearly every community college student and 40 percent of public university students whose household incomes are at or below median income levels to attend college free of tuition and fees.

The plan also calls for a 7 percent increase, or \$100 million, in basic operating funds for community colleges and public universities, which he said would be the largest increase in more than two decades. "This is yet another way for us to make college more affordable," Pritzker said. "After years of decline, we're seeing growth across higher education in Illinois that's well above the national average. This is our moment to take it all to the next level."

The governor's proposed higher education budget also calls for a number of invest-

ments geared toward workforce development: \$8.3 million for dual credit and noncredit workforce grant programs; \$11 million to develop advanced manufacturing, EV technology and data center workforce training programs; \$25 million for the Pipeline for the Advancement of Healthcare, or PATH Workforce Program; an additional \$2.8 million for the Minority Teacher Scholarship program; and \$750,000 to expand English language services.

Pritzker also proposed a \$50 million increase in services for people experiencing homelessness, bringing total funding in that area to \$350 million, through a program he called "Home Illinois."

Pritzker said it's estimated that over 120,000 people in Illinois experience homelessness annually, including 76,000 children, and that Black people are eight times more likely to experience homelessness than white people.

"But the faces of Illinoisians with no home to go to are not homogenous," he said. "They include single parents with infants and toddlers. Sixth graders trying to complete their homework using toilets as a desk in temporary shared housing and LGBTQ-plus high schoolers who were kicked out of their homes by their parents. Homelessness is not an identity. It's a set of circumstances."

That money would go toward a variety of programs, including prevention services, emergency shelter, short-term rental assistance, development of new permanent supportive housing units, street outreach and employment assistance.

Pritzker's budget proposal also calls for additional spending to combat poverty, including a \$50 million increase in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, and \$20 million for a new Illinois Grocery initiative to eliminate food deserts by opening and expanding

grocery stores in underserved areas.

State of the State

In addition to laying out a budget plan, Pritzker spoke about social and political issues facing the state and nation, including the overturning of Roe v. Wade and the enactment of anti-abortion legislation in other states, including those that border Illinois.

Restrictions on abortion access in other states have resulted in a sharp increase in demand for abortion services in Illinois, where the procedure remains legal. That prompted Democratic lawmakers to take action during last month's lame duck session, passing an omnibus reproductive health care law aimed at increasing the number of abortion providers in Illinois. But Pritzker said he intends to continue speaking out for abortion rights.

"There are women in this country right now who are facing untold mental and physical anguish because of the fall of Roe v. Wade," he said. "Here in Illinois women know their rights are protected. But that doesn't take away our obligation as Americans to speak up for the rest of the nation and we will keep doing it."

He also commented on other social and political trends in the United States, including a rise in antisemitism, censorship and discrimination against the LGBTQ community. "There is a virulent strain of nationalism plaguing our nation, led by demagogues who are pushing censorship, with a particular attack right now on school board members and library trustees," he said. "It's an ideological battle by the right wing hiding behind a claim that they would protect our children, but whose real intention is to marginalize people and ideas they don't like." He said addressing such matters "doesn't stop with just snuffing out ideas."

Survey (Continued from page 6)

policy changes, as problems with teacher recruitment and retention have different causal mixes in different parts of the state.

"There are lots of people working on how to come to solutions," he said. "Some of it is related to money but a lot is related to reestablishing the teaching profession and, whatever that takes, we need to work with higher ed, we need to work with early childhood and everywhere in between."

One area of focus, Klaisner said, is improving the pipeline between education institutions and Illinois' K-12 schools by starting educator recruitment earlier. That could include programs that allow middle schoolers to shadow teachers.

Other policy recommendations in the IARSS report include making college more affordable for prospective educators and increasing the pool of substitute teachers.

Improving the pipeline

The report emphasized the importance of making the teaching profession more desirable for prospective educators, outlining policy recommendations that would lessen financial burdens and encourage greater diversity.

Along with job shadowing programs, he advocated for dual credit programs that allow students to earn some college credit while in high school. "We need to look for expedited routes that are going to be less expensive," Klaisner said.

The report also calls for direct state funding to key areas to encourage more diversity within the profession. This includes increasing funding from \$4.2 million to \$7 million annually for the Minority Teachers of Illinois scholarship; investing more money into the Illinois Teachers Loan Repayment Program which helps pay down student loan debt for Illinois college students that qualify to teach in low-income areas; and further increasing the state's Monetary Award Program by \$50 million.

Those MAP grants go to eligible college students and do not need to be repaid. While the program's funding has grown to \$601 million from about \$400 million in the past four years, the report suggested increasing it by \$50 million will ensure more teachers from minority communities will receive the grants.

To better fill gaps in the short term, Klaisner pointed to incentivizing teachers to complete additional subject endorsements, which can be done through the ISBE website. "If you've got a good teacher who's willing to try

something new, give them the appropriate endorsement, but then give them three years to be able to complete the coursework to be fully certified in that area," Klaisner said.

By giving teachers the time and space to complete supplemental endorsements, Klaisner said it will better equip them to fill in potential staffing gaps. Other recommendations include observing how districts have used federal pandemic-era Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, or ESSER, funds to help teachers get provisional licenses in shortage subject areas. Additionally, the survey recommends strengthening the state's educator prep programs by showing which paths have stronger results in teacher placement and success.

Several survey respondents also noted that a 2010 state law creating a lower tier of pension benefits for new employees has made the teaching profession less desirable from a compensation standpoint.

Increasing substitute teacher accessibility

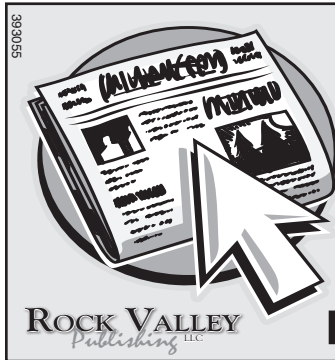
When it comes to filling short-term gaps, the report focused on increasing the pool of substitute teachers. "When you don't have enough classroom teachers, and then you don't have enough subs, then you've got classrooms that are literally empty. I mean, the children are in the room but there's no teacher," said Rep. Sue Scherer, D-Decatur, who was also a teacher for 34 years in Decatur and Maroa-Forsyth.

Last April, Gov. JB Pritzker signed a package of four bills to address the shortage, including House Bill 4798, which allows currently enrolled teaching students with at least 90 credit hours to be licensed as substitute teachers.

According to the survey, 60 percent of respondents said HB 4798 has helped recruit and retain teachers. In addition, 80 percent of districts support a plan which would increase the number of days retired teachers can substitute from 120 days to 140 days without impacting their retirement benefits.

The number was increased to 120 from 90 in a bill signed in April, Senate Bill 3893, but it was scheduled to expire in 2023. The idea was supported by 79 percent of IARSS survey respondents, and the report advocated for making the extension permanent.

The laws allowing college students to serve as substitute teachers is also scheduled to expire, and the report suggested making it permanent as well.



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Panthers keep finding a way to come out on top

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers are simply a team that finds a way to win. Recently, the Panthers picked up a pair of close wins over the River Ridge Wildcats and the Stockton Blackhawks.

On Saturday, Feb. 4 the Panthers were on a two-game winning streak and held a record of 17-7. They prepared to face off with the Wildcats at River Ridge High School. The Wildcats came into the matchup riding a four-game losing streak and held a record of 12-12.

The Panthers would double up the wildcats in the opening quarter. Rowen Schulz got the show started with a pair of big three-pointers that helped Le-Win get out to a lead. Drew Streckwald hit a pair of free throws as well, as the Panthers gained a 10-5 lead at the end of one.

The Le-Win offense came to a halt in the second quarter. The Panthers put up just five points, three of which came from Schulz. On the other end, River Ridge broke out for 16 points. The momentum swing left the Panthers trailing 21-15 at the break.

The Panthers would use the three-point ball to claw their way back in the third quarter. Le-Win hit a trio of three-pointers in the quarter as Owen Gilbertson, Gunar Lobdell, and Schulz each hit one. Gilbertson and Lobdell were both scoreless in the first half, so the second half baskets were satisfying for the Panthers. Ayden Packard, who also went scoreless in the first half, hit a third quarter basket of his own as Le-Win put up 14 points in the quarter.

Unfortunately for the Panthers, the Wildcats hit four third quarter three-pointers of their own as they expanded their lead. Going into the fourth, the Panthers faced an eight-point deficit down 37-29.

Le-Win needed a lot to go their way in the fourth quarter. They got to the line multiple times, hitting six of their nine free throws in the



DAN PACKARD SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Rowen Schulz helps tally the Panther's win against Pearl City on Saturday, Feb. 18.

fourth. Lobdell tallied another three-pointer on his way to five fourth quarter points. The Panther defense needed a big turnaround as well. After allowing 16 points in both the second and third quarters, they couldn't do that again if they wanted to pull off the comeback. Le-Win locked the Wildcats down for just seven points in the fourth, which was just enough to leave the game tied 44-44 at the end of regulation.

The overtime period featured a physical battle. Only

two points would be scored in the extra period and, fortunately for the Panthers, they came from the hands of Lobdell. A pair of free throws decided a winner in this one as Le-Win picked up the 46-44 victory. Schulz led the team with 14 points, while Lobdell had eight and Gage Dunker had seven.

A few days later, the Panthers were back on the floor for what would be another grueling matchup. On Wednesday, Feb. 8 the Panthers played host to the Stockton Blackhawks.

It was a defensive battle from the start. Just 10 points were scored in the first quarter, but it was the Panthers who found themselves on top 6-4. By halftime, that lead shrunk to just one point as they went into the break up 14-13.

A majority of the Panthers' offense came at the free throw line in the second half. In the fourth quarter alone, Le-Win went 11 for 13 at the stripe. The clutch free throw shooting was enough to get the Panthers the 35-28 victory. Dunker and Schulz led the way in the victory with 10 points each.

It was the Panthers' tenth win decided by 10 points or less. Time and time again, Le-Win has found a way to come out on top. Le-Win Head Coach, Kyle Benson, spoke about what makes this team special in those big games. "We have been fortunate to win so many close games this season. I don't think our



DAN PACKARD SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Jake Zeal does his part to contribute to the Lena-Winslow boys basketball win in round one of regionals.

kids are phased by big moments. They have been in big moments in multiple sports over the years, so they have learned how to handle those high-stress situations. That doesn't mean we will always succeed in those situations, but it certainly doesn't hurt either. Being multi-sport athletes is a big reason why we

seem to handle pressure situations fairly well." The Panthers are hopeful their regular season success in close games can carry into the postseason. "Being comfortable in tight games could benefit us in those situations in the postseason, but there are many good teams in our area that possess the same ability

to handle pressure situations. It just comes down to who makes one more winning play than the other team" Benson shared. The regular season is dwindling down quickly. On Thursday, Feb. 16 the Panthers will play host to Aquin Catholic for their final game of the regular season.



DAN PACKARD SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Gunner Lobdell (#20) was the second highest scorer for the Panthers during round one of the regional match-ups with 19 individual points.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Musser's softball career continues

Brea Musser, from Pearl City, signs her letter of intent to continue her softball career at UW-Platteville. Congratulations, Brea!

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Wolves beat Sterling Newman, fall to Orangeville in postseason play

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

On Saturday, Feb. 11 the Pearl City Lady Wolves began 2023 postseason play. The Wolves finished the regular season with an overall record of 10-20, which set them up to face off with the 7-22 Sterling Newman Comets in the Regional Qualifier.

The Wolves got out to an early lead in the opening quarter. Fallyn Endress hit a trio of baskets to help get Pearl City going. Emma Boyer and Brea Musser each added baskets of their own as the Wolves took a 10-4 lead into the second.

Things were more even in the second quarter. Tana Gravert and Kenzee Evans each hit baskets, while Endress, Musser, and Bremmer each hit single free throws. Both the Wolves and Comets put up seven points in the quarter as Pearl City's six-point lead held through the break.

Pearl City's offense came out slow in the second half. The Wolves put up just four points in the third quarter as they watched their lead diminish. If it weren't for baskets from Endress and Evans, the Wolves would have lost their lead entirely. Despite the lack of offense, Pearl City took a 21-20 lead into the final quarter.

Sterling Newman continued to ride the wave of momentum in the fourth. The game came down to the wire as the Comets managed to tie the score at 30-30. With the season on the line, Evans hit the shot of the year as she put the Wolves up with five seconds left. That was enough to secure the win as the Wolves held on for the 32-30 victory.

Endress led the way for the Wolves with 14 points in the win. Evans was next up with six points and four rebounds. Musser finished the game with five points and a team-leading six rebounds as well.

While it was a celebratory moment for the Wolves, they didn't have long to enjoy the moment. The Wolves were setup to face off with the Orangeville Broncos in the Regional Semi-Final. The Broncos came into the postseason matchup with a record of 25-4. These two teams were more than familiar with each other as this was their third meeting of the season. Orangeville took the first two matchups by scores of 50-12

and 51-23. While the Wolves hoped for different results, it would be no easy task against an impressive Orangeville squad.

In the opening quarter, Orangeville jumped out to a 14-8 lead. Leah Baker went off with nine points in the first quarter. Laney Cahoon added five points of her own as the duo provided all the offense early on.

Pearl City tried to keep pace by getting to the foul line. Musser went a perfect three for three at the stripe in the first, while Boyer hit a free throw of her own. Still, the Wolves found themselves trailing by six at the end of the first.

Pearl City's offense was even less effective in the second quarter as they put up just six points. A pair of baskets from Endress were the only field goals the Wolves would score in the quarter. Meanwhile, Cahoon put up another six points for Orangeville as the Broncos took a 22-14 lead into the halftime break.

Orangeville came out strong in the second half. The Broncos outscored Pearl City 14-4 in the third quarter alone. A pair of baskets from Whitney Sullivan and a three-pointer by Kaylynn O'Haver had the Broncos sitting in a good spot.

Kendra Kuhlemeier hit the only field goal of the third quarter for the Wolves as Pearl City went into the fourth trailing 36-18.

With the season dwindling down, the Wolves couldn't seem to produce any momentum against Orangeville's lock-tight defense. Pearl City put up just two points in the fourth with another Kuhle-

meier basket. Eventually, Pearl City's season came to an end as they fell 52-20.

Cahoon led the way for the Broncos with 19 points, while Baker was next up with 13. The duo helped propel the Broncos into the Regional

Championship with their performance.

Musser led the Wolves with six points, while Endress and Kuhlemeier each finished with four. Pearl City finished the year with a record of 11-21.



SUBMITTED PHOTO LE-WIN/STOCKTON PANTHERHAWK WRESTLING FACEBOOK

PAGE Rock Valley Publishing

High school senior Henry Engel has officially signed to the University of Illinois to play football. After a very successful four-year run at Lena Winslow high school, Engel will continue his football career at the collegiate level. Pictured here are Engel and his mother Tabitha Engel, sister Emily Engel, and father Ryan Engel as they celebrate his accomplishment.

Engel signs with University of Illinois

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Not many student-athletes have had a better 2022-2023 campaign than Lena-Winslow's own Henry Engel. After kicking off his senior year with a Class 1A Illinois State Football Championship, Engel moved to the wrestling mat. He then captured his win number 100 on the mat and shortly after, punched his ticket to the state tournament.

Most recently, Engel made his decision for the next chapter of his life which is to play football at the University of Illinois. "Choosing Illinois was easy because of the mentality their program possesses," Engel shared. "It's super similar to the one here at Lena-Winslow." Engel added, "They have an amazing weight room program like Lena, and the team dynamic is based around the idea of family, also like Lena."

Engel's visit to Illinois only solidified his choice. "I was aware of these similarities before my visit, but when I got there, it just proved them more. The coaching staff and some players did an excellent job of showcasing how the program operates, and it felt like home already," Engel shared.

The Lena-Winslow senior has had his eyes on Illinois as a fan for quite some time. "My favorite NFL legend growing up was Dick Butkus, and he played linebacker at Illinois. So, I've been a fan for a while now," Engel ex-

plained.

Engel plans to work on his defensive line play while at Illinois. "After talking with Coach Jamison [Illinois Defensive Line Coach] the current plan is that I will be playing defensive line with the intent to develop into a nose tackle," Engel said on his future position with the Illini.

Lena-Winslow Head Coach, Ric Arand, thinks Illinois will benefit greatly from the likes of Engel. "Henry is a very intelligent kid. Number one in his graduating class," Arand shared. When it comes to being a student-athlete, Engel has it all. Arand explained, "His strong work ethic has enabled him to really dedicate himself to the weight room and track during the summers and offseason, in which time he really transformed his body and mind into that of a top-level student-athlete. He works as hard as anyone that we have ever had walk through Lena-Winslow High School." When it comes to what Illinois is getting out of Engel, Arand added, "I think Illinois is going to be really happy in a couple years that they took a chance on a small-town kid from Northern Illinois."

It's coaches like Arand who Engel thanks for part of his development. "My coaches definitely deserve a huge thanks," Engel said, adding, "From the second I walked in the door as a 170-pound freshman, they have believed

See ENGEL, Page 16



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lena American Legion Auxiliary members of all ages support community

Liesl Jones a junior member of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary makes detergent bags for homeless veterans. The bags include a Tide pod and a fabric sheet.



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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Last week I wrote that ugly winter popped up again, and as I write this column, the snow is coming down all day

long. Maybe it will warm after a frigid Friday, but it will have to get a whole lot warmer to get rid of all the snow we have on the ground now. I know it is just February and spring will come soon, but those of us who have challenges walking would like it to quit! Enough about the weather and on to what you want to read about—cooking. We move into the Lenten season, so we will be featuring some fish, seafood, and no

meat recipes. This week we also have a couple more cherry delights. Happy cooking!

Spicy Cranberry Salsa

This appetizer is a really pretty one to have on your table. It gives just the right amount of kick to the taste of cranberries. If you don't have the ground chipotle pepper, you can substitute paprika or cayenne pepper. Enjoy this

different take on cranberries.

- 1 pkg. (12 oz.) fresh or frozen cranberries
- ¼ C. chopped green onions
- ¼ C. fresh cilantro leaves
- ¼ C. chopped green pepper
- 1 T. minced fresh gingerroot
- 2 t. ground chipotle pepper
- 1 lime
- 1 can (10 oz.) tomatoes and green chiles, drained
- ¾ C. sugar
- ½ t. salt
- 1/8 t. cayenne pepper
- 3 pkg. (8 oz. each) cream

cheese, softened

Place the cranberries, green onions, cilantro leaves, green pepper, gingerroot, and chipotle pepper in a food processor. Finely grate enough lime zest to measure 2 t. Cut lime in half, squeeze juice from lime. Add zest and juice to food processor. Process until coarsely chopped. Transfer to a bowl. Stir in diced tomatoes and green chilies, sugar, salt, and cayenne. Refrigerate, covered at least 4 hours. Ar-

range cream cheese on a serving platter, top with cranberry salsa. Serve with crackers or melba toast.

Old Bay Cauliflower

This side has only three ingredients and will make a great addition to any supper. You don't even have to clean the cauliflower because you use frozen cauliflower.

See KITCHEN, Page 15

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LEGAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Stockton CUSD #206 will be accepting bids for Interior renovations at the existing Stockton Middle School. Plans and Specifications are available on or after February 17, 2023, thru by contacting James Bunting at james.bunting@stocktonschools.com. Sealed Bids, conspicuously marked, shall be received until 10:00 a.m. local time, March 9, 2023, at the District Office, 540 North Rush Street, Stockton, IL 61085 ATTN: James Bunting, Superintendent of schools, at which time they shall be opened and read aloud. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on February 27, 2023. Prevailing wage rates shall apply to this Project. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent bidding and contract documents including Contractor qualifications as specified in said documents.

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Feb. 22, 2023)

433167

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON
COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FREEDOM MORTGAGE
CORPORATION
Plaintiff,
-v.-
TERRY DIANE
FEINBERG,
UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS
Defendant

2022 FC 23

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN that
pursuant to a Judgment of
Foreclosure and Sale entered
in the above cause on
December 9, 2022, an agent
for The Judicial Sales
Corporation, will at 1:00 PM
on March 14, 2023, at the
Stephenson County Courthouse,
15 N. Galena Ave. (West Door),
FREEPORT, IL, 61032, sell at
a public sale to the highest
bidder, as set forth below,
the following described real
estate:

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED
REAL ESTATE IN THE COUNTY
OF STEPHENSON AND STATE
OF ILLINOIS, TO-WIT:

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STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 16 E
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Property Index No. 18-19-06-278-012

The real estate is improved
with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was
\$77,320.10.

Sale terms: 25% down of the
highest bid by certified funds
at the close of the sale payable
to The Judicial Sales Corporation.
No third party checks will be
accepted. The balance, including
the Judicial Sale fee for the
Abandoned Residential Property
Municipality Relief Fund, which
is calculated on residential real
estate at the rate of \$1 for each
\$1,000 or fraction thereof of the
amount paid by the purchaser not
to exceed \$300, in certified funds/
or wire transfer, is due within
twenty-four (24) hours. No fee
shall be paid by the mortgagee
acquiring the residential real
estate pursuant to its credit bid
at the sale or by any mortgagee,
judgment creditor, or other lienor
acquiring the residential real
estate whose rights in and to the
residential real estate arose prior
to the sale. The subject property
is subject to general real estate
taxes, special assessments, or
special taxes levied against said
real estate and is offered for sale
without any representation as to
quality or quantity of title and
without recourse to Plaintiff and
in "AS IS" condition. The sale is
further subject to confirmation by
the court.

Upon payment in full of the
amount bid, the purchaser will
receive a Certificate of Sale that
will entitle the purchaser to a
deed to the real estate after
confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open
for inspection and plaintiff makes
no representation as to the
condition of the property. Prospective
bidders are

admonished to check the court
file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium
unit, the purchaser of the unit at
the foreclosure sale, other than a
mortgagee, shall pay the
assessments and the legal fees
required by The Condominium
Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1)
and (g)(4). If this property is a
condominium unit which is part
of a common interest community,
the purchaser of the unit at the
foreclosure sale other than a
mortgagee shall pay the
assessments required by The
Condominium Property Act, 765
ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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(HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE
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FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN
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ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C)
OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo
identification issued by a government
agency (driver's license, passport,
etc.) in order to gain entry into
our building and the foreclosure
sale room in Cook County and the
same identification for sales held
at other county venues where
The Judicial Sales Corporation
conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact
CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON
ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE &
PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's
Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN
SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601
(561) 241-6901. Please refer to
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You can also visit The Judicial
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Attorney File No. 22-020057
Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
Case Number: 2022 FC 23
TJSC#: 43-61

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair
Debt Collection Practices Act,
you are advised that Plaintiff's
attorney is deemed to be a debt
collector attempting to collect a
debt and any information
obtained will be used for that
purpose.

Case # 2022 FC 23
I3212957

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Feb. 8, 15 & 22, 2023)
432518

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON
COUNTY, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff,

-v.-
CORNERSTONE CREDIT UNION,
LAURA RABEY, MIDLAND
FUNDING LLC AS SUCCESSOR
IN INTEREST TO CAPITAL ONE,
N.A., KEENA BOOLMAN,
CHRISTOPHER BOOLMAN
Defendant

2022 FC 9

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS
HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant
to a Judgment of Foreclosure
and Sale entered in the above
cause on December 14, 2022,
an agent for The Judicial
Sales Corporation, will at 1:00
PM on March 14, 2023, at the
Stephenson County Courthouse,
15 N. Galena Ave. (West Door),
FREEPORT, IL, 61032, sell at
a public sale to the highest
bidder, as set forth below,
the following described real
estate:

THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 1
AND THE NORTH QUARTER OF
LOT 4 IN BLOCK 31 IN
KNOWLTON'S SECOND
ADDITION TO THE TOWN
(NOW CITY) OF FREEPORT.

Commonly known as 1020 S
OAK AVENUE, FREEPORT, IL
61032

Property Index No. 18-14-31-451-026

The real estate is improved
with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was
\$51,246.87.

Sale terms: 25% down of the
highest bid by certified funds
at the close of the sale payable
to The Judicial Sales Corporation.
No third party checks will be
accepted. The balance, including
the Judicial Sale fee for the
Abandoned Residential Property
Municipality Relief Fund, which
is calculated on residential real
estate at the rate of \$1 for each
\$1,000 or fraction thereof of the
amount paid by the purchaser not
to exceed \$300, in certified
funds/or wire transfer, is due
within twenty-four (24) hours.
No fee shall be paid by the
mortgagee acquiring the
residential real estate pursuant
to its credit bid at the sale or by
any mortgagee, judgment
creditor, or other lienor
acquiring the residential real
estate whose rights in and to the
residential real estate arose
prior to the sale. The subject
property is subject to general
real estate taxes, special
assessments, or special taxes
levied against said real estate
and is offered for sale without
any representation as to quality
or quantity of title and without
recourse to Plaintiff and in
"AS IS" condition. The sale is
further subject to confirmation
by the court.

Upon payment in full of the
amount bid, the purchaser will
receive a Certificate of Sale that
will entitle the purchaser to a
deed to the real estate after
confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open
for inspection and plaintiff makes
no representation as to the
condition of the property. Prospective
bidders are admonished to
check the court file to verify
all information.

If this property is a
condominium unit, the purchaser
of the unit at the foreclosure
sale, other than a mortgagee,
shall pay the assessments and
the legal fees required by The
Condominium Property Act,
765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
If this property is a
condominium unit which is part
of a common interest community,
the purchaser of the unit at the
foreclosure sale other than a
mortgagee shall pay the
assessments required by The
Condominium Property Act, 765

ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR
(HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION
FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN
ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C)
OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo
identification issued by a
government agency (driver's
license, passport, etc.) in order
to gain entry into our building
and the foreclosure sale room in
Cook County and the same
identification for sales held at
other county venues where
The Judicial Sales Corporation
conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact
CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON
ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE &
PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's
Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN
SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601
(561) 241-6901. Please refer to
file number 21-121354.

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You can also visit The
Judicial Sales Corporation at
www.tjsc.com for a 7 day
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E-Mail:
ILMAIL@RASLG.COM
Attorney File No. 21-121354

Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
Case Number: 2022 FC 9
TJSC#: 43-24

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair
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you are advised that Plaintiff's
attorney is deemed to be a debt
collector attempting to collect a
debt and any information
obtained will be used for that
purpose.

Case # 2022 FC 9
I3212939

(Published in
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real estate

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real estate

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



Kitchen (Continued from page 11)

1 pkg. (16 oz.) frozen cauliflower
 2 T. butter, melted
 2 t. Old Bay seafood seasoning
 Prepare cauliflower according to package directions; drain. Place in a serving bowl. Drizzle with butter; sprinkle with Old Bay. Serve warm.

Bombay Rice with Shrimp

If you are looking for a good Lenten Friday dinner, this unique shrimp bowl will fill everyone up. It uses curry powder. If you aren't a curry fan, you can substitute dried ginger.
 1½ C. uncooked instant rice
 1 can cream of celery soup
 ½ C. water
 2 t. curry powder
 1 t. salt
 1 lb. peeled and deveined cooked shrimp (31 to 40 per pound)
 1 medium onion, chopped finely
 ½ C. chopped nuts
 ½ C. sweetened shredded coconut
 ½ C. golden raisins
 1 small Granny Smith apple
 Lime wedges for garnish
 Preheat the oven to 350.
 Cook rice according to package directions. In a large bowl, combine the soup, water, curry, and salt. Stir in shrimp, onion, nuts, coconut, raisins, apple, and rice. Transfer to a greased 11 x 7 casserole dish. Bake, uncovered, until heated through, 20 to 25 minutes. Serve with lime wedges for garnish.

Million Dollar Chicken Casserole

I have no idea why this casserole is named million-dollar chicken. It has standard ingredients but is creamy. Serve it with a salad, vegetable, and crusty bread. It certainly is cost efficient, so maybe you'll feel as if you're eating something that tastes like a million bucks!
 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
 ½ C. sour cream
 1 can cream of chicken soup
 ½ t. onion powder
 ½ t. garlic powder
 4 C. shredded cooked chicken
 1 C. cottage cheese
 25 Ritz crackers, crushed
 3 T. butter, melted
 2 green onions, chopped
 1 C. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
 Preheat the oven to 350. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sour cream until smooth. Beat in soup, onion, and garlic powder. Stir in chicken and cottage cheese. Transfer to a greased 9-inch square baking dish. Stir in cheese. In a separate bowl, combine the Ritz crackers and melted but-

ter. Sprinkle with crackers. Bake, uncovered, until heated through, 25-30 min. Sprinkle with green onions.

Cherry Pudding Cake

This recipe is a cross between a cake and a cobbler. It is easy to make and continues our quest for red desserts.

2 C. flour
 2½ C. sugar, divided
 4 t. baking powder
 1 C. 2% milk
 2 T. canola oil
 2 bags frozen cherries, thawed and drained
 1/8 t. almond extract
 Ice cream

In a bowl, combine flour, 1 C. sugar, baking powder, milk, and oil; pour into a greased shallow 3 qt. baking dish that has been sprayed with cooking spray. In a separate bowl, combine cherries, almond extract and remaining sugar; spoon over batter. Bake at 375 for 40 to 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the cake portion comes out clean. Serve warm, with ice cream

Cherry Kiss Cookies

These cherry flavored cookies are topped with chocolate kisses. They make a great treat with ice cream or with a glass of milk. My tea drinking friends would like them with tea too.

1 C. butter, softened
 1 C. powdered sugar
 ½ t. salt
 2 t. maraschino cherry juice
 ½ t. almond extract
 6 drops red food coloring
 2¼ C. flour
 ½ C. chopped maraschino cherries

54 milk chocolate kisses, unwrapped
 Preheat the oven to 350. In a large bowl, beat butter, powdered sugar, and salt until blended. Beat in cherry juice, extract, and food coloring. Gradually beat in flour. Carefully stir in cherries. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Place 1 inch apart on greased baking sheets. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until bottoms are light brown. Immediately press a chocolate kiss into the center of the cookie (cookie will crack around the edges). Cool on pans for 2 minutes. Remove to a wire rack to cool.

Final Thoughts

We now have celebrated President's Day and are gearing up for things beginning to change. The Evangelical Free Church will be offering Lenten musical services starting Feb. 22. They will be offered every Wednesday during Lent. The popular No Worries Band will be the first group to perform. Gordon Dammann is offering a Civil War course at our Historical Society starting on Wednesdays in March

also. It is offered through the Highland Community College Continuing Education program. There are lots of activities going on in March. It will help us get through the

last of the winter.

We are also looking at some March recipes. The Irish and the Green are on our radar. If you have any recipes for meatless Fridays or

some good "green recipes", send them our way. We also will be looking at some winter recipes like soups and casseroles too. If you have any recipes that you would like to

share with us, 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.

REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION
 Plaintiff,
 -v.-
 TERRY DIANE FEINBERG, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
 Defendant

2022 FC 23

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 9, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 14, 2023, at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Ave. (West Door), FREEPORT, IL, 61032, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 16 E WAYNE ST, FREEPORT, IL 61032
 Property Index No. 18-19-06-278-012

The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$77,320.10.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
 The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective

bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 22-020057. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CHAD LEWIS
 ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810 CHICAGO IL, 60601
 561-241-6901
 E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM
 Attorney File No. 22-020057
 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
 Case Number: 2022 FC 23
 TJSC#: 43-61

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
 Case # 2022 FC 23
 I3212957

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
 Plaintiff,

-v.-
 CORNERSTONE CREDIT UNION, LAURA RABEY, MIDLAND FUNDING LLC AS SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO CAPITAL ONE, N.A., KEENA BOOLMAN, CHRISTOPHER BOOLMAN
 Defendant

2022 FC 9

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 14, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on March 14, 2023, at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Ave. (West Door), FREEPORT, IL, 61032, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 1020 S OAK AVENUE, FREEPORT, IL 61032
 Property Index No. 18-14-31-451-026

The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$51,246.87.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes

no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 21-121354. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

CHAD LEWIS
 ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810 CHICAGO IL, 60601
 561-241-6901
 E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM
 Attorney File No. 21-121354
 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
 Case Number: 2022 FC 9
 TJSC#: 43-24

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
 Case # 2022 FC 9
 I3212939

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Feb 8, 15 & 22, 2023)
 432521



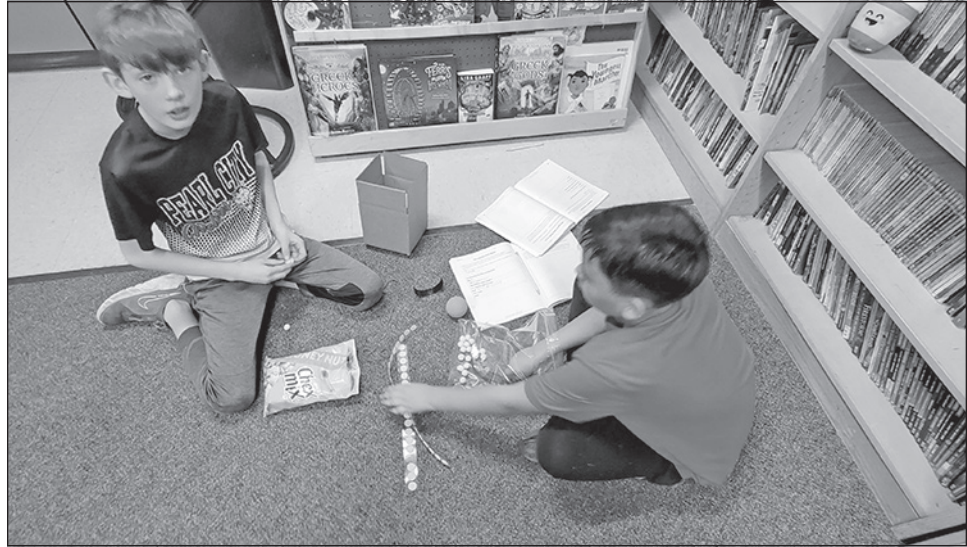
SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Radio-A-Thon successfully raises funds for Jet Memorial

A Radio-A-Thon was held on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Lena-Winslow High School by WCCI Radio out of Savanna. This Radio-A-Thon was held to raise funds for the Northwest Illinois F-4 Jet Memorial being placed in Lena. The goal was at least \$10,000 and thanks to the generosity of the Northwest Illinois, a total was raised of \$12,000. The jet was brought from Arizona to Lena in January of 2019, and fundraising has been ongoing ever since the project was initiated in 2018. The members of the committee are hoping if everything goes well, the jet will be painted and brought into Lena from its current location at Rafter. The location of the memorial will be across from the American Legion Home.



(Left) Dennis Luke of Lena helped spearhead Radio-A-Thon event and is shown here interviewing Alec Schlichting of Lena. Schlichting, a student at Lena-Winslow, raised over \$1,000 for the memorial by selling candy bars and holding lemonade stands.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

PC science students hard at work

The Pearl City fourth graders have been studying vision and light in science class and have been investigating what structures in the eye allow some animals to see their prey better during the day or at night. Partners worked together to create a model of the eye, including structures like the pupil and the light receptors, to show how information is sent through the optic nerve to the brain. They also created a light source and select an object to represent the prey. They had to demonstrate what their eye would see in the daytime and the nighttime based on the sensitivity of their light receptors. Pictured here are Jaxsyn Hayes and Alex Hernandez working on their science model.



(Right) Madi Manthei and Nataliee Kloepping work on creating a model of the eye in science class.

•Engel (Continued from page 9)

in me and pushed me to improve myself. Everything I've worked for has been a result of them pushing me to be the best version of myself. I'd also like to thank my parents, as they have not just pushed me football-wise, but inspired me to chase anything I want, whether that be an engineering career or a spot on the football team. If not for

them, I would not be where I am today. Also, I'd like to thank all my teammates for being a pretty darn good football team, and of course the Lena-Winslow fans for supporting us all the way, whether its sunny, raining, or even snowing." Things have been trending upwards for the Illinois' football team in recent years.

The Illini placed second in the Big Ten-West last season. Bret Bielema is the current Head Coach of the Illini. After going 5-7 in his first year at the helm, the Illini turned things around with an 8-5 season, last year. They'll hope to continue their improvement and bringing in young men like Engel is a good way to start.

FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

Rock Valley Publishing is seeking freelance reporters and photographers to produce local news and photos for your hometown newspaper. Weekly stories and photos needed for Jo Daviees and Stephenson Counties. Writing and reporting experience a plus. Work from home as an independent contractor with no in-office requirement.

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