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VOL. 85 • NO. 15

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023

Panthers off to 2-1 start on the baseball diamond

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Everyone has had a tough time getting games in during the 2023 baseball season, but that is especially true for the Lena-Winslow Panthers. After opening their season on

Tuesday, March 21 the Panthers had to wait a full week before getting back on the field for live game action. Just two weeks into the season, Le-Win has already endured six different cancellations or postponements. Despite the

inconsistency, the Panthers have made the most of their opportunities when the weather has allowed them to.

Going back to March 21, the Panthers had a good test to start the season as they traveled to face off with the

East Dubuque Warriors. The Panthers hit the field running as they put up a pair of runs in their very first inning of the year. Following a lead-off error, Drew Streckwald and Rowen Schulz had back-to-back hits. Schulz struck

a double up the middle that drove both Jake Zeal and Streckwald in to score.

The Panthers watched their lead disappear in the bottom of the third, when East Dubuque tied the game at 2-2. Then, in the bottom of the fifth, the Warriors took their first lead with another two-run inning. With opportunities dwindling, the Panthers needed a comeback effort to come out on top of this one.

Those efforts came in the top of the sixth, when the Panthers went on a two-out rally. A walk to Wes Offerman, followed by an Ayden Packard hit by pitch, had Le-Win in business. Zeal then came through in the clutch with a triple into right field that drove in a pair.

Le-Win would tack on an insurance run in the top of the seventh when Luke Madigan singled up the middle. That was enough for the Panthers to hold on for a 6-4 comeback victory in their season opener. Le-Win combined for six hits in the win, led by Streckwald who went two for two with a pair of walks.

Exactly one week later, the Panthers got back on the diamond as they traveled to face off with the Galena Pirates. The Panthers once again got off to a hot start as they opened the game with another two-run first inning.

Their biggest inning came in the top of the fifth, when they combined for four runs. A leadoff walk by Zeal was followed by three consecutive singles by Streckwald, Schulz, and C Lynch. That gave the Panthers a 6-4 lead. Later in

the inning, L Fye tripled to left, driving in another pair of runs.

With 12 hits on the game, the Le-Win offense led the way to an 8-6 victory. Zeal was perfect on the day, going three for three with three runs scored and a walk. Schulz was three for four with one run scored and one run batted in. Fye finished the game two for three with two RBI, as well.

Two days later, the Panthers took their first loss of the season as they fell to Fulton 10-7. Once again, the Panthers combined for 12 hits as there was no shortage of offense. Zeal had another impressive day, going two for four with two runs scored and one RBI. Schulz was a perfect three for three with one run and one RBI. Madigan finished two for four with two RBI, and Koby Kearns was two for three with one run scored.

Through three games, the Panthers seem to have plenty of offense, but some inconsistent pitching. In the game against Galena, the Panthers allowed five walks. In the loss to Fulton, they surrendered another eight walks. The good news is the Panther pitchers aren't getting rocked by the bats. Fulton had just six hits, despite scoring ten runs. If Le-Win can lock in their control from the mound, their offense should be more than enough to keep them in the win column.

If the weather permits, the Panthers will be on their home field on Thursday, April 6, when they play host to the Dakota Indians.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Highland Community College students attend professional conference

Agriculture students and Highland Community College participated in the Illinois Professional Agricultural Student Organization Spring Conference, with many receiving recognitions for their efforts. "I am happy to see students wanting to put in the extra effort and compete in these competitions as well as seek officer positions at the state level," said HCC Agriculture Instructor Justin Ebert, who serves as a PAS advisor. "It is a testament to their commitment to becoming leaders in the agriculture industry for years to come." Pictured here are students (from left to right) Carissa Minx, Alyssa Miller, Magen Busker, Hannah Visel, Sara Johnson, Adriana Anderson, Brooke Ewald, Jase Sheffey, Anna Johnson, and Benjamin Bremmer (not pictured: Sophia Hughes).

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Obituaries

HELEN SCHAMBERGER

Helen Maxine Schamberger, age 88, of Stockton, IL passed away Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at Monroe Hospital. She was born June 7, 1934, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to Clifford and Mildred Stone. She grew up in Cedar Rapids and graduated from Wilson High School in 1952.

Her work ethic and determination started at her first job as a switchboard operator at a telephone company. She attended Coe College and this would be where she would meet her husband, Gene during biology class. They were married soon after on June 4, 1953. Gene enlisted in the Army and they were soon on their way out to Colorado Springs, Colorado where Helen worked as a receptionist at Colorado College. She had their first-born son, Mike, before moving back to Stockton in 1955.

Helen has always been a very strong, business minded woman. Most notably, she was a co-owner of Schamberger Truck Service for 40 years. During this time, she also owned a restaurant and ice cream shop in Mount Carroll called the Mr. Chipper



2017).

Helen loved to garden and always had a stash of chocolate chip cookies on her counter. She could make a meal for 25 or more people within just a couple hours and loved to collect and share recipes. She loved to be around family and rarely missed any of her grandkids' activities.

Helen was an active member of the community. She served on the village board for eight years, the county board for six years, and was a board member of the Blackhawk Hills RC&D.

She was preceded in death by her son, Michael Schamberger. She is survived by her husband, Gene; her brother, Jack (Shirley) Stone of Omaha, NE; her children, Bill (Susan) Schamberger of Stockton, Sharon Schamberger of Rockford, IL, Nancy (Dan) Gille of Madison, WI, Kay

for 10 years. (Dennis) Oppold of Stockton, and her daughter in law, Lynn McCourt, of Fort Morgan, CO. Her grandchildren: Darin Oppold, Stephanie (Justin) Polster, Evan Meyer, Kellie (Zach) Steffen, Lana Schamberger, Courtney Schamberger, Kalli (Eric) Offenheiser, Grady Schamberger, Wade Schamberger, Cole Schamberger, Colin Meyer, Derek Gille, and Olivia Clise.

She would agree that her most beloved hobby and most honorable role in this life was being a great-grandma to 12 great-grandchildren. No matter her health, her spirits were always lifted when she heard the little pitter patter of her great grandchildren's feet when they entered her home.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 10 a.m. at the Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton. There will be a celebration of life at the Woodbine Bend Golf Course from 1 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Interment will take place at a later date in Ladies Union Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

REVEREND CANON WILLIAM EBERT HOBBS

We are saddened by the passing into God's hands of the Reverend Canon William Ebert Hobbs on Monday, March 20, 2023, at Christie Gardens, Toronto, at the age of 98. Ebert was predeceased by his loving wife of 60 years, Audrey Spanswick, and his daughter, Roxanne Cooper. He will be dearly missed by his devoted wife of 10 years, Doreen Davies, his children, Debbie (John) in Illinois, Chris (Sue) in Guelph, ON, Canada, Kim (Ron) of Melbourne, Australia, son-in-law, Gary (Sandra) of Trenton, ON, Canada, his grandchildren, Bronwen, Jennifer (Dan), Erin (Dale), Theresa (Joey), Christopher (Kariisa), John (Carmen), Rachael, Gary (Nicole), Megan, Nathan, 15 great grandchildren, his step daughters, Sherrill and Kathy and their families, sister-in-law, Joyce, and many nieces and nephews.

Ebert (Bim) was born on

June 23, 1924, in Ashton, ON, Canada, son of Henry and Blanche Hobbs. He served in the Canadian Air Force during WW2 and as an Army Chaplain after the war. Ebert was awarded the Canadian Forces Decoration.

Ebert received his theological training at Bishop's University at Sherbrooke, QC and St. John's College at Winnipeg. He was ordained in the Anglican Church of Canada in Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa in 1951. Following ministry in Stafford parish and St. Richard's parish in Ottawa and in keeping with the changes in the church and society, Ebert was involved in a wide range of creative new ministries. He was internationally recognized for his work in Resource Development, Church Planning and Communications which included major national programs in Canada, the National Council of Churches in the United States as well as projects in other countries. These experiences

were always closely related to pastoral ministry, which included Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Ohio, several years as Honorary Assistant at St. Paul's Bloor St., Toronto, part-time Chaplain for the veterans at Sunnybrook Hospital and Chaplain for the Royal Canadian Legion-Fort York Branch. For his work, Ebert received many awards. Among them was the Arbor Award from the University of Toronto for voluntary service which included conducting the Remembrance Service for 15 years.

Ebert dearly loved his family and he and Audrey always provided an open door and a listening ear. A yearly cottage reunion, which they provided, renewed strong family relationships. His wife, Doreen was a cherished companion and caregiver in his later years along with his family.

A service of celebration and thanksgiving for Ebert's life was held on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Toronto.



JOSEPH R. SCHWOOB

Joseph R. Schwoob, age 76 of Warren IL, passed away peacefully at the Lena Living Center on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. He was born in Freeport, IL on Aug. 20, 1946, to John and Elizabeth "Bessie" (Wickler) Schwoob.

He loved playing cards, listening to music, singing karaoke, and camping at Lake Le-Aqua-Na and Apple Canyon. When he was younger, he would enjoy participating and going to the Demolition Derby's. He worked as a long-haul truck driver for Schneider, Mc-Mor-Han, and Deans for many years. In his retirement he hauled grain



for Harbach Farms in Warren, IL.

He is survived by his four children- Jeff (Sherry) Schwoob, Sheila (Brianna) Fargo, Joe (Vanessa) Schwoob, Lisa Kubly; three bonus children-Ronda Siebarth, Bob Siebarth, Robin (Dan) Evans; 21 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; one brother-Ed (Linda) Schwoob; many nieces and nephews; brother-in-law Roland Pax. Joe was preceded in death by his parents; wife

Sharon in 2017; stepchild Ron Siebarth Jr in 2004; two sisters- LaVonne (Lloyd) Wilson, Evelyn Pax.

A Visitation was held from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, April 3, 2023, at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren, IL. A Funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren, IL. Father Mike Morrissey will be officiating the service. Burial will take place at St. Anns Cemetery in Warren. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.learmonfh.com



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IFB President: Farmers invest in sustainable agriculture throughout the year

By Richard Guebert Jr.
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
PRESIDENT

Each spring, people around the world celebrate our planet, recognizing the need to find innovative solutions to protect our soil and water for generations to come.

Farmers, often called the "original conservationists," continue the fight for cleaner, more sustainable agricultural practices throughout the year. We care deeply for our land and collaborate with our agricultural research partners to implement the best solutions to preserve our natural resources.

We invest time, money, and energy in protecting our land. We are investing in our future.

Our farmers utilize a variety

of sustainable practices. One strategy that has gained momentum in recent years is the use of cover crops, or plants such as wheat, rye, and radishes which are planted after primary cash crops like corn and soybeans are harvested. These special crops work hard to enrich the soil, maintain moisture, and prevent erosion among other benefits.

In February, University of Illinois researchers released a new study showing that Midwestern farmers are seeding more cover crops than ever. The study showed that cover crop adoption reached 7.2 percent in 2021, up from 1.8 percent a decade earlier. Researchers stated that the rapid increase in cover crop adoption between 2017 and 2021

coincided with increased state and federal incentive programs.

The U of I study, "Recent rapid increase of cover crop adoption across the U.S. Midwest detected by fusing multi-source satellite data," was published in Geophysical Research Letters.

Farmers also work hard to voluntarily implement the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs) to reduce nutrient loss to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. Last year, Illinois Farm Bureau's (IFB) environmental team joined forces with farmers and agricultural researchers to film a new documentary highlighting sustainability efforts in Illinois.

The hour-long film "Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story," celebrates farmers' dedication to the environment while sharing with a broader consumer audience the trials, and in some cases, the financial risks farmers take to conserve our natural resources.

Viewers are invited to join the Ganschow family of Bureau County to learn how three generations of farmers have approached sustainability to create a brighter future for generations to come. People can now watch the documentary for free on IFB's YouTube channel.

This month, Illinois farmers and the agricultural research community are collaborating to showcase current and past conservation practices, including ongoing cover crop projects. These Spring Nutrient Stewardship Field days are an opportunity for those inside and outside of agriculture to learn more about farmers' role in protecting the environment.

Now in its eighth year, IFB's Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program supports research conservation projects across the state. Our organization has committed more than \$2.8 million to nutrient stewardship initiatives since 2015. For the fiscal year 2023, IFB distributed \$175,000 in grants for local projects, including \$25,000 to support pollinator conservation across the state.

It is fitting that this year Illinois farmers will host two field day opportunities ahead of Earth Day. In Washington County, farmers will evaluate nutrient loss reduction practices in addition to evaluating cover crop projects. Young farmers in Knox County will also invite researchers and farmers to learn more about their goal to implement one cover crop plot in each township within the county.

Farmers are at the forefront

of climate-smart farming, putting scientific solutions, technology, and innovation to work to protect our land, air, and water. Every year is a learning curve, however.

We are constantly building upon previous research to develop better, more sustainable practices and strategies to protect our land. It is important to also keep in mind this is a long-haul effort. Each year, our farmers find new ways to approach conservation and sustainability, moving the needle ever closer to a brighter, greener future.

I am proud of the work Illinois farmers are doing and will continue to do to preserve our natural resources. While the world celebrates our planet on April 22, I challenge everyone to learn more about how their local farmers are committing themselves to finding innovative solutions to protect our land.

This op-ed was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation news

JDCF annual meeting

The public is cordially invited to attend the JDCF Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 6 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at Woodbine Bend Golf Course and Restaurant. There will be a social hour with heavy appetizers before a short business meeting to elect new Board members and present the 2023 Nancy Hamill Winter Conservation Leadership Award to Chloris Lowe Jr. by Nancy Winter. There will also be speakers highlighting significant milestones in JDCF's history.

The cost is \$40/person. Woodbine Bend will be serving a limited menu for dinner immediately following the meeting. RSVPs can be made by contacting them directly. A PDF of the invitation can be found at www.jdcf.org/events. Payments can be made through the donate button on the website homepage or day-of at the event.

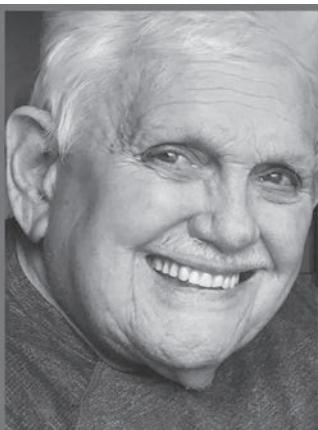
Bluebirds and You

Everyone is invited to enjoy a workshop on one of the most beautiful native birds, the bluebird. This free

program, presented by volunteers from the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation's (JDCF), Bluebird Recovery Program, will take place on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Elizabeth Community Building, 402 West Street, Elizabeth. No reservations are necessary, and admission is free.

Experts from JDCF's Bluebird Recovery Program will relate lessons learned

from their years of experience in setting up and monitoring bluebird nest boxes and share how the success of the bluebird trails in Jo Daviess County has brought bluebirds back from the brink of extinction. Discover the best ways to select the location for a nest box, the features of the nest box, and what to expect when you monitor the bluebirds who use it.



As Kupe would always say... "God Bless You, Bless You, Bless You!"

The Duane Kupersmith Family would like to thank Dr. Michael McFadden and Kara Hofmaster for all of Kupe's great care. Thanks to St. Joseph Nursing Home & FHN Hospice for his daily care. Thank you to pastors Doug Carroll & Jonathan Singleton for doing Kupe's service. Thank you to Stockton's EMS, Fire Department, and Police Department for being there for Kupe while he was still home. Thanks to Brad (a.k.a snow plow man) for always being there for Donna & Kupe. A very special thank you to the Calvary Church Family for all the prayers and help over the years. An extra special Thank You to all Military who participated in Kupe's service, for those who serve this country with integrity and to their families for their sacrifices. Thank you to so many others who have reached out or helped in so many ways, YOU ARE ALL GREATLY APPRECIATED! ❤️ Monetary donations will go to Stockton's FFA Chapter (which was very near and dear to Kupe's heart) towards their greenhouse for 'Future Growth'.

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Highland Agriculture competes at Illinois PAS Spring Conference

On Feb. 9, 11 Highland Community College Agriculture students traveled to Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield to participate in the 2023 Illinois Professional Agricultural Student (PAS) Organization Spring Conference. At the conference, students participated in team and individual competitions against peers from other community colleges and universities across Illinois.

Participating HCC students received the following recognitions:

- Third Place, Dairy Cattle Specialist Team — Magen Busker, Brooke Ewald, Adriana Anderson
- Second Place, Dairy Cattle Specialist Individual — Magen Busker
- Sixth Place, Beef Cattle Specialist Team — Sara Johnson, Anna Johnson, Alyssa Miller
- Fifth Place, Overall

Livestock Specialist Team — Hannah Visel, Carissa Minx, Brooke Ewald

- Sixth Place, Crops Specialist Team — Sophia Hughes, Jase Sheffey, Benjamin Bremmer
- Second Place, Impromptu

Speaking Contest — Benjamin Bremmer

- Eighth Place, Impromptu Speaking Contest — Jase Sheffey

The Spring Conference also serves as an opportunity for the Illinois PAS Orga-

nization to conduct official business and elect a new officer team. Over the past year, Anna Johnson, a sophomore at Highland Community College, has served the Illinois PAS as its second vice president. This commitment re-

quired attending board meetings and coordinating the fall and spring conferences. Congratulations also to Benjamin Bremmer, who was elected as the 2023-2024 Illinois PAS third vice president.

Weekend incidents of gun violence

On Saturday, March 25, 2023, at approximately 1:20 a.m., Freeport Police officers responded to the area of Van Buren Avenue and Main Street for a shots fired call. When officers arrived, they discovered 16-year-old male in the area of Spring Street and Galena Avenue who sustained multiple life-threatening gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to FHN Hospital where he was initially treated and then transferred to different hospital for additional treatment. It is believed the victim was targeted in this incident and this was not a random act of violence.

On Sunday, March 26, 2023, at approximately 3:18 a.m., Freeport Police officers responded a residence on Stephenson Circle for a shots fired call. When officers arrived, they discovered 19-year-old male who sustained multiple life-threatening gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to FHN Hospital where he was initially treated and later transferred to a different hospital for additional treatment. It is also believed the victim in the Sunday incident was targeted and this was not a random act of violence.

It is unknown at this time if these two incidents are relat-

ed. Freeport Police Department detectives and officers are conducting an investigation into both incidents.

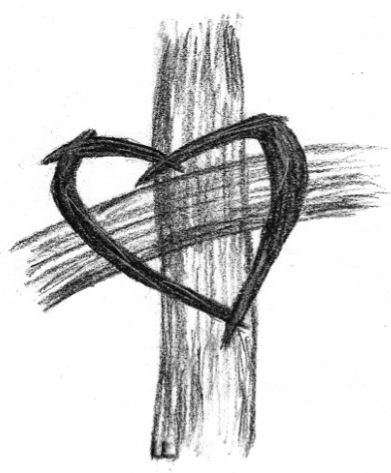
If anyone has information about these crimes, they should contact the Freeport Police Department. A 100% anonymous tips can be submitted via the Freeport PD app, available on Android and iOS. The new Freeport PD app enables the public to share an anonymous tip with police and lets officers respond back to create an anonymous two-way conversation.

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anonymous text tip via their cell phone to police by texting keyword FREEPORT-PD and their message/tip to 847411 (tip411). Anonymous web tips can also be submitted via the department's website at <https://cityoffreeport.org/freeport-pd-tip411/>

Additionally, tips can be submitted to Stateline Area Crime Stoppers by phone to: 1-866-TIPS NOW, through the Stateline Area Crime Stoppers "P3 Tips" mobile phone app, or online at: www.statelineareacrimestoppers.com. Tipsters to Stateline Area Crime Stoppers always remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward up to \$1000.

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OPINION



Weekly connection

Early spring weather and Palm Sunday

Last week the calendar said that spring has arrived. Indeed, the calendar on the wall and the weather outside do not seem to be in sync as of yet. Just about the time spring supposedly got here we were blessed with nearly a foot of fresh snow. I even had to climb up on my roof and scrape the four foot drifts off so my roof wouldn't collapse. Then suddenly yesterday our high was 67 degrees and there were reports of tornados touching down in the area. Now today as I am typing this, the snow is falling quite steadily once again. I haven't seen any robins yet but I'm quite sure they are just as confused as I am about this weather.

Speaking of birds, I've noticed over the last few days that whenever the wicked north wind dies down and the snow flurries let up, I hear all



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

kinds of birds chirping in the trees. It's funny in such cold to hear the birds chirping and singing like if it is warm springtime. About a month ago I saw a flock of geese flying north and I got excited that warm weather was soon behind. Yesterday, I saw a flock of geese heading back south. There seems to be a lot of confusion out there. A few years ago, we had a bird clock on the wall that chirped every hour, and sometimes it would chirp very slowly. It did this whenever the battery

See **SPRING**, Page 9

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Chicago's mayoral election is important for all of Illinois

Editor's note: This op-ed was distributed by Capitol News Illinois on behalf of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute last week—a few days before Tuesday's elections. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own.

By John T. Shaw
It's campaign season in Illinois. Billboards and yard signs are sprinkled across the Prairie State promoting candidates running for mayor, city council, county boards, park district boards, and other positions that are often unglamorous but essential to the functioning of our democracy.

I hope all voters in Illinois were paying attention



John T. Shaw

to their local campaigns and voted on Tuesday.

I also hope everyone in Illinois has been paying attention to the riveting and consequential campaign for mayor of Chicago. This race attracted considerable attention across the United States and even internationally.

I believe the mayoral election in Chicago is important to everyone in Illinois for four reasons.

First, Chicago, the largest city in Illinois, is undeniably

our state's center of commerce, culture, philanthropy, sports, and innovation. Chicago itself has a population of about 2.7 million and Chicagoland is home to almost 8.5 million. The population of Illinois is just under 13 million.

While some downstate politicians grab headlines by denouncing Chicago and even suggesting that it should be expelled from the state, most Illinoisans instinctively realize the remarkable asset that Chicago is. Other states can only dream of having such a vibrant, interesting, and beautiful city within their borders.

See **ELECTION**, Page 9

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Freeport Police Chief Matt Summers to retire after 28 years of service

After 28 years of serving the Freeport Police Department, Chief Matthew Summers has announced his retirement, effective April 21, 2023. Summers has served as the department's Chief of Police since 2019.

Chief Summers began his employment with the Freeport Police Department in 1995 and served in a variety of teams and units including the Detective Bureau, Community Policing, and Emergency Response Team. His roles have included Shift Sergeant, Administrative Lieutenant, Operations Lieutenant, and Deputy Chief of Police.

Summers is a graduate of Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command and the FBI National Academy.

"It has truly been an honor to work with both past and present officers of the Freeport Police Department," says Chief Matt Summers. "It has equally been an honor to work for and be supported by

the citizens of Freeport."

"It has been a pleasure working with the Chief these past five and a half years," adds Freeport City Manager, Randy Bukas. "He's been a team leader, not only in the police department but within the city staff. His innovations brought us License Plate Readers, ShotSpotter, and Tip411. He will be missed, but we wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

Chief Summers has been instrumental in implementing crime-fighting technology throughout the City, such as ShotSpotter's gunfire location technology, License Plate Readers, and the Freeport's pilot residential doorbell program. Among other accomplishments, Chief Summers maintained a good relationship with the community he served and earned City of Freeport's Department Head of the Year in 2021.

On April 9, 2023, Lt. Chris Shenberger will be appointed as the department's Interim Chief of Police.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Freeport Police Chief Matt Summers announces his retirement effective April 21, 2023.

• Election (Continued from page 8)

In his memoir about his tenure as mayor of Chicago, Rahm Emanuel cites a remarkable fact. Each June, about 140,000 college graduates come to Chicago to begin their professional careers. This is a striking illustration of the energy and allure of Chicago. It's as if Chicago absorbs the population of an entire mid-size city each and every year. For context, the population of Naperville, the fourth largest city in Illinois, is 149,000.

Second, Chicago mayors wield authority and are significant players in Illinois politics. The mayor of Chicago has far more power than counterparts in New York, Los Angeles, and other large cities. Unlike in many major American cities, Chicago's mayor oversees the city's schools, parks, public transit system, police and fire departments and other agencies. Chicago's mayor is a key voice in public policy debates in Springfield. On many significant issues, the governor, the legislative leaders, and the mayor of Chicago make the critical decisions.

Third, the issues that have been driving the Chicago race in 2023 are the fundamental challenges of our time: education, public safety, crime, justice, policing, government spending and taxes, immigration, and race. These issues are, or will likely soon be, relevant in smaller communities in Illinois.

Finally, the campaign is just plain interesting. The incumbent mayor, Lori Lightfoot was soundly defeated in the Feb. 28 primary, winning only 17 percent of the vote. Four years earlier, she won all 50 of the city's wards and captured nearly 75 percent of the vote. This reversal of political fortune is breathtaking.

The original field of nine mayoral candidates was winnowed to two men who have starkly different backgrounds and agendas.

Brandon Johnson, 46, is a county commissioner, teacher and union organizer. An unabashed progressive, he is backed by the Chicago Teachers Union and holds left-of-center positions on most public policy matters. Paul Vallas, 69, ran Chi-

cago's public school system from 1995 to 2001. Vallas lost several political races in Illinois in the past two decades but has gained traction this year by running a stern law and order campaign. He holds centrist and sometimes conservative positions on policy issues.

By all accounts, the race has been very close. A political consultant recently told the New York Times that the Chicago mayoral election is a "microcosm of a larger

battle for the soul of the nation."

This is a battle that all of Illinois should be paying attention to.

John T. Shaw is the director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Shaw's monthly column explores how Illinois can work toward better politics and smarter government.

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
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.

• Spring (Continued from page 8)

ran low. It was funny how the cat used to go walking by the clock and just stop and stare when it started to chirp. Old Fluffers couldn't understand what was going on with the slow southern drawl of the bird. It was pretty funny.

One amazing thing about early spring each year is the fact that we get to celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. In the most humble way, Jesus, the Son of God, stepped out of the glory of heaven and came to earth to be born as an infant, not in a king's castle like He deserved, but in a manger in a stable. That happened of course, at Christmas. Jesus never owned anything on this earth, and he never even traveled more than fifty miles from his home town. He should have been treated better than all the Presidents, Kings, Popes, Prime Ministers, rock stars or even the greatest athletes that ever

walked this earth. Yet the only parade He ever received was riding into Jerusalem on a donkey the very week He was to die as the sacrifice for our sins. As He rode into the city, the religious leaders told Jesus to tell the people to stop shouting praises to Him. Jesus said, if I tell them to be quiet then the rocks and stones will cry out praises. Jesus knew He was the Messiah of God who was about to die for the sins of all who believe. He knew He was God, yet He was treated like a criminal, disrespected, crucified, and murdered. Praise God that wasn't the end of the story. He died, but He rose from the dead on Easter morning, and He lives today seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven. By gaining victory over sin and death, He has provided salvation for all who believe. What a Savior! Until next week, God bless.

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Senate votes to lift nuclear construction ban

Environmental, anti-nuclear groups oppose the legislation

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois Senate approved a measure last week that would lift a 1980s-era moratorium on nuclear power plant construction.

Senate Bill 76, sponsored by Sen. Sue Rezin, R-Morris, was approved on a 39-13 vote. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

"The bill is going to come to the House with a lot of momentum," Rezin said in an interview after the bill passed. "The unions are out and working their members to explain the importance of the bill and to just explain the technology."

Rezin said on the Senate floor that the bill would specifically allow for the construc-

tion of small modular nuclear reactors, or SMRs. These reactors operate at a much smaller scale than traditional nuclear reactors and are built in factories and assembled on site. SMR proponents say they can be deployed in places like fac-

ilities, replacing the need for things like coal-fired cogeneration plants.

"This is a large change in energy policy for the state of Illinois," Rezin said. "It's important to have a robust discussion and make sure the bill's

been vetted."

Senate proponents of the bill, including Sens. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, and Patrick Joyce, D-Essex, said that lifting the ban would help the state attract investment in new technology.

Cunningham said the moratorium is preventing the state from "sending signals out to the market" for investment in new energy technology, including SMRs and using nuclear power for hydrogen generation.

"I'm here to make Illinois stay relevant, to make Illinois stay at the table," Joyce said. "With the moratorium in place, we're not even part of the conversation."

See BAN, Page 15



Have a Happy Easter!

435429

Holy Week and Easter



He is RISEN

Palm Sunday - April 2
Worship at 9:30 am McConnell United Methodist Church
Maundy Thursday - April 6
No Service
Good Friday - April 7
Service at 7:30 pm Pearl City United Methodist Church
Easter Sunday - April 9
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U of I Extension upcoming program

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Join University of Illinois Extension Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy Educator Jay Solomon for the final program in the Getting Started with Livestock Webinar Series, "Understanding Farm Scale Manure Management". This webinar will take place on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 6 p.m. via the Zoom platform. There is no cost to attend, but pre-register is required by April 12 to receive the Zoom link. To register or for more information call 815-235-4125 or visit go.illinois.edu/jsw.

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McConnell Easter Egg Hunt

The McConnell Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 8 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the McConnell Methodist Community Hall at 211 N. Hulbert Rd. in McConnell. All local children up to age 10 are invited to come hunt for eggs, play games, and get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. Please bring cameras to get photos and an easter basket to gather eggs. Prizes will be awarded at approximately 1 p.m.

This event is sponsored by Over the Moon Lawn and Property Maintenance and McConnell Area Historical Society.

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<h3>Breakfast</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EGGS BENEDICT DENVER OMELET BISCUITS AND GRAVY MIXED BERRY FRENCH TOAST 	<h3>Dessert</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CARROT CAKE BREAD PUDDING CHOCOLATE LAVA CAKE LEMON MERINGUE PIE
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Wolves at .500 through first six games

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

While a majority of area teams have had a hard time getting games in, the Pearl City Wolves have been one of the more fortunate teams around. Thanks to some hard work, the Wolves have managed to get six early season games in with minimal cancellations.

It has been an up and down start for the Wolves in terms

of results, however. After losing their season opener 3-4 to the Fulton Steamers, the Wolves picked up back-to-back victories over Ashton-Franklin Center and Polo.

The game against Polo was an 8-0 victory over the Marcos on Wednesday, March 22. The Wolves were propelled by a complete game shutout by senior pitcher, Nathan Brinkmeier. With

just two hits allowed and 17 strikeouts on the day, Brinkmeier put on an impressive display from the mound.

He also impressed at the plate, going two for three with one run scored. Lexton Endress was the only other Pearl City player with multiple hits as he went two for five with one run batted in. The Wolves took advantage of some free bases as they took six walks as a team, led by Jayden Downs who had a pair of walks.

The next day, the Wolves were back in the loss column as they fell to the Forreton Cardinals 1-5. Pearl City found themselves trailing early in the game as Forreton jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Forreton doubled their lead with another pair of runs in the bottom of the second.

The Wolves managed to

slow the Forreton offense but were unable to produce the offense to complete the comeback. Pearl City's lone run in the game came after Brinkmeier stole third base and eventually reached home on a passed ball.

On Tuesday, March 28 Pearl City bounced back with an impressive victory over the Millederville Missiles. This time around, it was the Wolves who jumped out to the early lead as they tallied a pair of runs in the top of the third. The first run of the game came after Myles Freedlund singled to right, driving Brinkmeier in to score. The very next at bat, Brandon Hille singled up the middle, driving Freedlund in and putting the Wolves up 2-0.

Pearl City added another pair of runs in the top of the fifth. Once again, it was Freedlund and Hille that provided the offensive production. Jayce Reed scored as Freedlund hit into a fielder's choice, and Hille drove Tanner Perdue in on the next at bat. The Wolves held a 4-0 lead going into the bottom of the fifth.

A big reason the Wolves were able to expand their lead was because of an exceptional pitching performance by K Niehaus on the other end. Niehaus tossed five and two third innings, allowing just four hits while striking out seven. Perdue came in to close the game, going just over one inning with three quick strikeouts. The duo combined to hold

the Missiles to just one unearned run in the game.

Perdue was excellent at the plate as well, going three for four with two runs scored and two RBI. Freedlund finished the game two for three with one run scored and two RBI. Brinkmeier was right up there as well, going two for three with one run scored and one RBI. Hille finished the game two for four with a pair of RBI as the Wolves picked up the 8-1 victory.

Following the win, Pearl City suffered a 4-8 loss to the River Ridge Scales Mound Wildcats. The loss dropped the Wolves' record down to 3-3 on the season.

The Wolves are set to play host to the Orangeville Broncos on Thursday, April 6 in Pearl City.



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Lena American Legion Auxiliary news

The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will hold their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 12, at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Home. Dues can be paid at this meeting. Community service hours should be turned in. Marsha Tessendorf is in charge of the social hour. Female veterans or relatives of veterans who may be eligible to join are always welcome. Dues will be waived for the first year for all female veterans who join this year. Members are needed to help serve the veterans, the community, and the children. Juniors will be meeting on April 8 at 10 a.m. at the Lena Legion Home. Attendees will be working on badges and have an Easter egg hunt.

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Southwest and Southland Dairy Farmers and Stephenson County Fair are pleased to announce that the Mobile Dairy Classroom will be in residence at the Stephenson County Fair in Freeport, IL this July 25 through 29,

thanks to a generous sponsorship from Kolb-Lena Inc. subsidiary of Savencia Cheese USA LLC.

Fair-goers will be entertained and educated with a unique dairy experience facilitated by a trained instructor

who will guide them through the milking of a cow and a presentation on how nutritious milk gets from farm to consumer.

Southwest and Southland Dairy Farmers is a USDA-qualified program that

supports local dairy farmer members across the southeast and southwest through initiatives that educate consumers about dairy products, nutrition, and the dairy process. Dairy farmers support the program through the USDA's mandatory check-off assessment.

"Our Mobile Dairy Classroom is one of the most popular and successful exhibits at community events across the country. We are thrilled to be able to participate at this year's Stephenson County Fair," said Amanda Phelps, Chief Operating Officer for Southwest Dairy Farmers. "The information we share on agriculture, nutrition, math, and science is packaged into a fun format the entire family will enjoy."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Fair goers enjoy the Mobile Dairy Classroom presentation at the Stephenson County Fair in Freeport, IL. The fair will be held this year on July 25 through 29.



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Northwestern Illinois YWCA names Liz Gerber for Mentorship Award

Liz Gerber, Highland Community College's Vice President of Student Development and Support Services and Chief Student Services Officer, has been awarded the 2023 Women of Achievement Award for Mentorship by the YWCA of Northwestern Illinois in Rockford.

Gerber was one of two individuals nominated for the award and received the recognition on March 6 at the YWCA's yearly ceremony. The award is given to an individual whose mentoring relationships impact women's personal and professional development and fosters excellence. The recognition honors an individual for teaching, guiding, and inspiring women in a way that has changed their lives.

Gerber has headed the Division of Student Development and Support Services

since 2014 but has been a fixture at HCC for more than 25 years, starting her career at Highland as Director of Marketing and Community Relations.

She is a leader at every level of the institution, from directing stakeholders across campus and the community in strategic planning and enrollment management to guiding the Behavioral Intervention Team and acting as Title IX Coordinator. Gerber is instrumental in shaping future changemakers as an advisor to the Student Senate and has championed an annual leadership conference for students. Over the years, thousands of Cougars have benefitted from her guidance in leading a student government body and learning leadership principles.

"Liz serves her peers with poise, pointing us toward a shared vision of Cougar en-

agement and growth," said HCC President Chris Kuberski. "She is always 'all-in' and fully present in her work — whether shepherding institutional planning or providing individualized assistance to students."

Connections comprise the core of Gerber's efforts, with well-being her universally targeted outcome. An advocate for students as their personal contact and role model to her staff as a professional constant, she also has been entrusted to mentor her colleagues. Beyond rallying the community around those most in need of support, she facilitates the same qualities of compassionate leadership in others.

"I have worked under several individuals in leadership roles, and Liz has, by far, been the best," comments Executive Assistant Stacey Moore.

"She truly is the definition of a mentor because she leads by example and takes every step with compassion. She listens with empathy and goes above and beyond to help her team find solutions to problems and succeed."

Gerber's leadership through rapport-building has become an enduring legacy, touching multiple generations on campus. She earned her bachelor of arts degree in psychology and English from North Central College and has a master's degree in education and leadership in higher education from Capella University.

Gerber is the second individual to be honored in the recent Women of Achievement Awards. President Chris Kuberski received the YWCA of Northwestern Illinois' Business category recognition in 2021.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Liz Gerbert was recognized by the YWCA of Northwestern Illinois in Rockford as she was awarded the 2023 Women of Achievement Award for Mentorship.

• Ban (Continued from page 11)

Rezin noted during floor debate that the federal government has signaled support for nuclear reactors and made funding available for small modular projects. The Department of Energy has several grant programs for the development and demonstration of SMRs.

"By lifting this ban, it allows Illinois, should they choose, to go after federal dollars that are provided by this administration, the Biden administration, who is embracing, supporting and investing in advanced nuclear reactors," Rezin said.

Sen. Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago, said the bill was "still not fully baked," adding that the question of what is done with nuclear waste still doesn't have a solution.

"Whether it's one pound or a thousand pounds, it's still nuclear waste," he said. "We can't wait for a national strat-

egy, in my opinion."

The state's ban went into effect in 1987 and was intended to remain in effect until the federal government identifies a national nuclear waste disposal strategy. In 1987, Congress identified a site in Nevada as the nation's repository for nuclear waste, although later opposition from the state and the White House quashed that plan. No national disposal site has been designated.

Some of the state's largest environmental groups, including the Illinois Environmental Council, oppose the measure. Jack Darin, the head of the Illinois chapter of the Sierra Club, told Capitol News Illinois earlier this month that his organization doesn't believe nuclear energy is "clean energy," citing concerns over the environmental impact of nuclear waste.

David Kraft, the head of the Nuclear Energy Information

Service, an anti-nuclear advocacy group based in Chicago, has said the bill will weaken the state's landmark energy policy, the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

"Small modulars are not climate solutions, they're not job generators until the 2030s and they'll generate more nuclear waste," Kraft said in an interview.

Kraft added he's worried that lawmakers are not fully considering the safety implications of SMR technology.

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission has ap-

proved one SMR design, although no power plants using an SMR design are online in the United States. China and Russia both have SMRs of other designs online.

A similar bill was introduced in the House by Rep. Mark Walker, D-Arlington Heights. That measure, House Bill 1079, was approved in committee with a bipartisan majority, 18-3, although it hasn't been heard by the full House.



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Advocates call on regulators to reject natural gas rate increases

Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas are all seeking rate increases

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Consumer advocates, environmentalists and Chicago residents gathered in front of the Chicago offices of Peoples Gas last week to call on the Illinois Commerce Commission to reject a proposed rate increase from the gas utility.

Several advocacy groups, including the Citizens Utility Board, Blacks in Green and Illinois PIRG participated in the protest.

The event drew around 100 people, including Valerie Carroll, a resident of West Englewood. In February, 37 percent of residential gas customers of the majority black neighborhood were more than 30 days late on their bill, according to the company's filings with the ICC.

"I need the ICC to say no. Don't raise these prices. Our paychecks are not going up, but our bills are," Carroll said. "We can't afford it. The reality of it is we can't afford it. I have my granddaughters at home and when they go to bed, they have to put on their onesies with socks just so I can manage. Is that fair to them? No. But I can't do anything about it. I can't afford it."

Peoples Gas petitioned the ICC to raise gas rates in January. This began a regulatory process in which representatives of the company will make their case to the ICC as to why the rate in-

crease is necessary. Several interest groups have already filed petitions in the case, which is expected to last until late this year.

The proposed increase is the largest in state history and would raise the cost of gas for Chicago customers by \$11.83 per month, on average, according to an analysis from the Citizens Utility Board. CUB is an independent nonprofit organization created by the Illinois General Assembly which intervenes in ICC cases on behalf of utility consumers.

This would be the first traditional rate increase for Peoples Gas in nine years, although during that time, other factors have resulted in increases to consumer bills. One of those factors is the "qualified infrastructure plant" charge, an automatic increase to bills that the state approved in 2013. The law allowing Ameren Illinois, Nicor Gas and Peoples Gas to levy QIP charges is scheduled to expire at the end of the year.

Peoples Gas said in a January news release that the increase would not affect a typical customer's bill due to falling natural gas prices. The release also noted that the increase will help pay for infrastructure improvements, particularly upgrades to the pipes that carry natural gas around the city.

"Many of the pipes are from the 1800s," Peoples Gas spokesperson David

Schwartz said in an email. "Modernization is crucial for safety, for the reliable delivery of energy to keep Chicagoans warm, and to stop leaks that harm the environment."

The company's ongoing pipe replacement program, which originated with a federal push for infrastructure upgrades more than a decade ago, is the subject of sharp criticism from watchdog groups. Illinois PIRG Director Abe Scarr said the program has been mismanaged and that it hasn't reduced risk in proportion to its cost.

"Year after year, Peoples Gas busts its budget and falls woefully short of its pipe replacement goals," Scarr told the crowd on March 27.

Illinois PIRG and CUB, which oppose the rate increase, have both filed motions to intervene in the ongoing ICC case, meaning they will offer their perspective to regulators and offer testimony supporting their positions.

Downstate rate increases

The request for gas rate increases in Chicago comes alongside similar requests from the state's largest utilities. Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, Nicor Gas and Ameren Illinois, which together serve more than 4.2 million gas customers around the state, are all currently seeking rate increases.

These cases were all filed

in January and come with similar estimated increases in gas costs. Nicor customers could see a \$9.28 monthly increase, North Shore customers could see a \$6 monthly increase and Ameren gas customers could see a \$6.68 monthly increase, according to CUB.

CUB director David Kolata called this "an unprecedented rate-hike barrage" in early February. He also noted that CUB will fight each of these increases.

In an email to Capitol News Illinois, Ameren Illinois echoed Peoples Gas'

claim that falling gas prices will result in most consumers' bills not increasing. The company also echoed Peoples Gas' reasoning for the rate increase, saying that the money will go to infrastructure improvements.

"With global energy challenges and increasingly volatile weather patterns, investments in natural gas infrastructure are needed to maintain a resilient and reliable energy delivery system, meet federal pipeline safety regulations, and prepare for the transition to cleaner, renewable energy technolo-

gies," Ameren spokesperson Tucker Kennedy said in an email.

The legislature's role

Some advocates and lawmakers think that more consumer protections are needed.

"Now is the time to take action with legislative and regulatory changes," Blacks in Green founder Naomi Davis told the crowd on Monday.

Davis and other members of her organization were in

See REGULATORS, Page 18

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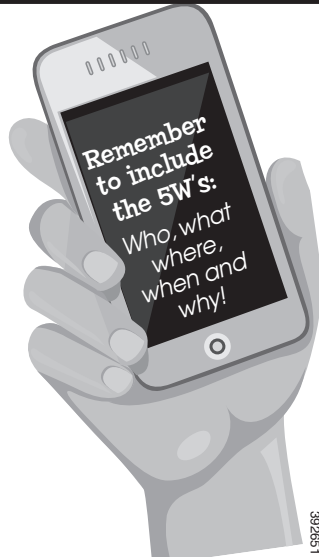
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SSM Health Monroe Hospital launches inpatient dialysis service

SSM Health Monroe Hospital is excited to announce the launch of their Inpatient Dialysis service. This new service allows for patients admitted in the hospital to receive dialysis as part of their care in Monroe and not have to be transferred to a larger hospital.

The portable unit brings dialysis treatment directly to the patient's hospital room and is performed one-on-one by SSM Health

Monroe Hospital's trained dialysis nurse, Emily Hughes. This individualized care adds a level of comfort as dialysis patients receive treatment on average three times per week and each treatment session averages four hours.

SSM Health Monroe Hospital is the pilot facility as SSM Health begins to bring this technology to all its hospitals.

•Regulators

(Continued from page 17)

Springfield last week to advocate for House Bill 2172, which advocates call People's Utility Rate Relief Act. The bill would "make energy rates more affordable, create stronger protections and improve oversight," in the words of the bill's sponsor, Rep. Will Davis, D-Homewood.

Sen. Cristina Pacione-Zayas, D-Chicago, was alongside other Democratic Chicago lawmakers including Reps. Will Guzzardi and Kam Buckner.

"This is not just about blocking these rate hikes,"

said Pacione-Zayas. "It's about how we live up to the intent of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and move away from fossil fuels into decarbonization."

When asked if she expected to see any legislative action taken on utilities and affordability, Pacione-Zayas said that heating affordability intersects with, among other things, affordable housing and post-pandemic changes to welfare programs.

"All of this is on the table, and I think a lot of it will come up with budget discus-

sions," she said.

Although Guzzardi said that he is working with other lawmakers to introduce legislative reforms, he noted that ultimately, utility rates are up to the ICC.

"We created a body to govern these rate hikes and that's the Illinois Commerce Commission," he said. "We've got some great new appointees in the Commerce Commission so I'm really hoping those folks step up, take their jobs seriously and take a closer look at this rate hike."

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407366

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST I Plaintiff, -v.- LORI A. UPMANN et al Defendant

2022 FC 16
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 10, 2022, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on April 25, 2023, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOTS TEN (10) AND ELEVEN (11) IN BLOCK B IN A. L. BRINK'S ADDITION TO WARREN, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS. ALSO, BLOCK THREE (3) IN A. M. JONES THIRD ADDITION TO WARREN, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THE SAME BEING A STRIP OF LAND 150 FEET LONG AND ABOUT THIRTY (30) FEET WIDE LYING AND BEING ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF LOT NO. 11 IN BLOCK B OF A. L. BRINK'S THIRD ADDITION TO WARREN, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 313 COURTLAND STREET, WARREN, IL 61087

Property Index No. 43-21-002-125-00

The real estate is improved with a residence.

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 (driv-

er'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, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-3466

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

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300

E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com

Attorney File No. 14-22-06150

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2022 FC 16 TJSC#: 42-4239

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 16 I3216271

(Published in The Scoop Today March 29, April 5 & 12, 2023)

434840

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS PHH Mortgage Corporation PLAINTIFF

Vs. Nichole L. Falconer; et. al. DEFENDANTS

No. 2022FC39 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause

on 09/27/2022, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on May 18, 2023 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse

15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THE WEST ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-THREE (173) FEET OF LOT SEVEN (7) IN BLOCK TWO (2) IN COATES ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FREEPORT. SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

PIN 89-18-19-06-202-008

Improved with Single Family Home

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1415 Walnut Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated 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, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assess-

ment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

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 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.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-22-03292. I3217094

(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 5, 12 & 19, 2023)

435392

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that the Lena-Winslow School District #202 will receive sealed bids at the Office of the Superintendent, 401 Fremont St., Lena, IL 61048 up to the hour of 1:00 p.m., Friday, April 21, 2023. Bids will be for the following:

1. Resurfacing of parking lot around bus garage.

Specifications will be

available from the Lena-Winslow School District Office located at 401 Fremont St., Lena, Illinois 61048 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You may also call 815-668-0800 to request a copy of the specifications.

The bids will be publicly opened at 1:00 p.m. on April 21, 2023 in the District Office at 401 Fremont St., Lena, IL. The Lena-Winslow School District reserves the right to defer acceptance of any proposal for a period not to exceed thirty (30) calendar days after the due date of the bids. The Lena-Winslow School District reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 5, 2023)

435377

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Brent and Colleen Myers are bringing forth our Land Patent for the following parcel located at 4606 Lily Creek Road Freeport, Illinois [61032]. Any party interested in viewing or challenging this claim can view the associated documents here <https://www.statena-tionalhelp.com/brent-colleen-myers>

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023)

434572

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on **February 23rd, A.D. 2023**, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Stephenson, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as **Oak Leaf Trading Company** located at **10902 N. Wachlin Rd., McConnell, Illinois 61050**. Dated this 6th day of March A.D. 2023

JAZMIN WINGERT County Clerk and Recorder

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 22, 29 & April 5, 2023)

434424

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

My Spring decorations survived the blowing and heavy snowing. I thought I lost my metal Easter sign, but some kind soul found it and put it up high. It should weather the storms expected in the upcoming days. This week's recipes are getting you ready for Easter. Have a great week cooking!

Baby Swiss Appetizer Cheesecake

You can make this appetizer a day ahead, and it will be just as tasty as making it right before serving. It has good cheeses and tomatoes to give it some different appetizer tastes.

LEGAL NOTICES NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart to satisfy a lien on April 20, 2023 at www.storage-treasures.com. Online Bids START 14 days prior to the final sale date listed above at the stores and approximate times listed below:

Online Bids END
Approx: 1:00PM at
CubeSmart #4409, 555
W. South St. Freeport,
IL 61032 (779) 677-2500:

Cube 1265 Anthony Evans
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
April 5 & 12, 2023)

435257

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, Brian and Carla Myers are bringing forth our Land Patent for the following parcel located at 4480 Illinois Route 26 North, Freeport, IL [61032]. Any party interested in viewing or challenging this claim can view the associated documents here <https://www.statenationalhelp.com/brian-carla-myers>

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
March 22, 29,
April 5, 12, 19, 26,
May 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023)

435765

1½ C. crushed Ritz crackers (about 36 crackers)
3 T. melted butter
3 pkg. (8 oz. each) cream cheese, softened
¼ C. heavy whipping cream
1 T. oil from sun-dried tomatoes
3 eggs, room temperature, lightly beaten
8 oz. baby Swiss cheese, shredded

½ C. oil packed sun-dried tomatoes, patted dry and thinly sliced

4 green onions, chopped
Preheat the oven to 375. In a small bowl, mix cracker crumbs and butter. Press onto the bottom of a greased 9-inch springform pan. Place pan on a baking sheet. Bake until golden brown, about 10 minutes. Cool on a wire rack. Reduce oven to 325.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Beat in cream and oil. Add eggs; beat on low speed just until blended. Fold in cheese, tomatoes, and green onions. Pour over crust. Return pan to baking sheet. Bake until center is almost set, 35 to 40 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 10 minutes. Loosen sides from pan with a knife. Cool 1 hour longer. Refrigerate overnight, covering when completely cooled.

Sea Foam Salad

My mother used to make this salad every Easter. It is one of my favorites, and one of my friends recently asked if I still had the recipe. I decided to run it again because it is a great Easter salad. Put it in a pretty glass bowl, and you have a great side in just a little time. You do have to make it the day before.

1 large can pears (1 lb., 13 oz.)
1 large pkg. lime gelatin
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese

2 T. cream
1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
Drain juice from pears. Heat 1 cup of the pear juice to boiling; pour over gelatin and stir until dissolved. Cool. Beat cream cheese and 2 T. cream until smooth. Add gelatin mixture and beat until blended. Chill mixture until partially thickened. Fold in well drained, mashed pears, and whipped cream. Pour into a mold or a bowl. Chill until firm.

Tuna Filled Shells

We have less than a week left in Lent. This recipe is a great Good Friday one. I had the traditional tuna and noodles, but this one is a little more glamorous. Enjoy tuna casserole a brand-new way.

12 jumbo pasta shells
5 t. flour
2 C. 2% milk
1 t. dill weed
½ t. salt
1 celery rib, diced
1 small onion, diced
1 T. oil
2 slices white bread crumbs
1 can (12 oz.) water packed tuna, drained and flaked
½ C. ranch salad dressing
½ C. shredded mozzarella cheese

Cook pasta shells according to package directions. In a saucepan, combine flour, milk, dill, and salt until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes. Pour ¼ cups of sauce into a 2 qt baking dish that has been sprayed with baking spray; set aside.

In a nonstick skillet, sauté, celery, and onion in oil until tender. Add bread. Stir in the tuna, salad dressing and cheese; mix well. Drain shells, stuff with tuna mixture. Place over sauce. Driz-

zle with remaining sauce. Cover and bake at 350 until bubbly and heated through.

Shrimp Alfredo

You can make Alfredo sauce easily, and then putting this dish together is a snap. It would be a great meal for the weekend if you have people to feed in a hurry.

8 oz. uncooked fettuccini
¼ C. butter, cubed
1½ C. heavy whipping cream
1 lb. uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
¾ C. grated Parmesan cheese

1 garlic clove, minced
¼ t. pepper
1 t. minced parsley

Cook fettuccine according to package directions. In a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in cream. Bring to a gentle boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Add the shrimp, cheese, garlic and pepper; cook and stir until heated through. Drain fettuccine; toss with shrimp mixture. Sprinkle with parsley.

Ham Casserole

Chances are you will be having ham for Easter. There is usually some leftover ham, and this casserole is a great way to use it up next week.

2 C. cubed peeled potatoes
1 large carrot, sliced
2 celery ribs, chopped
3 C. water
2 C. cubed fully cooked ham
2 T. chopped green pepper
2 t. finely chopped onion
7 T. butter, divided
3 T. flour
1½ C. 2 % milk
¾ t. salt
1/8 t. pepper
1 C. shredded cheddar cheese
½ C. soft breadcrumbs.

Preheat the oven to 375. In a saucepan, bring the potatoes, carrots, celery, and water to a boil. Reduce heat and cover and cook until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain. In a skillet, sauté ham, green pepper, and onion in 3 T. butter until tender. Add to the potato mixture. Transfer to a greased 1½ qt. baking dish.

In a saucepan, melt the remaining 4 T. of butter; stir in flour until smooth and thickened. Reduce heat; add cheese and stir until melted. Pour over ham mixture. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs.

Bake until heated through, 25 to 30 minutes.

Ham and Swiss Baked Penne

This ham casserole uses pasta instead of potatoes. I think you will like it because it tastes a lot like ham and cheese sandwiches.

2 1/3 C. uncooked penne pasta
3 T. butter
3 T. flour
2 C. 2% milk
1 C. half and half cream
1½ C. shredded Swiss cheese
½ C. shredded Colby cheese

2 C. cubed fully cooked ham

Topping:

¼ C. seasoned breadcrumbs
¼ C. grated Parmesan cheese

2 T. melted butter
Preheat oven to 375. Cook pasta according to package directions for al dente; drain. In a large saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in flour until smooth, gradually whisking in the milk and cream until blended. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened, 1 to 2 minutes. Gradually stir in Swiss and Colby cheeses until melted. Add ham and pasta; toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 11 x 7 inch baking dish. In a small bowl, mix topping ingredients and sprinkle over pasta. Bake uncovered, until bubbly, 15 to 20 minutes.

Easter Strawberry Cake

This Easter cake is beautiful on a cake stand. It uses chopped strawberries in addition to the strawberry Jell-O. It is a perfect way to end an Easter dinner.

1 pkg. white cake mix
1 pkg. (3 oz.) strawberry Jell-O
3 T. sugar
3 T. flour
1 C. water
½ C. canola oil
2 eggs, room temperature
1 C. finely chopped strawberries

Frosting:

½ C. butter, softened
½ C. crushed strawberries
4½ to 5 C. powdered sugar
Whole or halved strawberries for garnish

Preheat oven to 350. Line the bottom of 2 greased, 8-inch round baking pans

with parchment; grease parchment. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, Jell-O, sugar, and flour. Add water, oil, and eggs. Beat on low speed for 30 seconds; beat on medium 2 minutes. Fold in chopped strawberries; transfer to baking pans.

Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 23 to 30 minutes. Cool in pans 10 minutes before removing to a wire baking rack; remove paper. Cool completely.

Frosting: In a small bowl, beat butter until creamy. Beat in crushed strawberries. Gradually beat in enough powdered sugar to reach desired consistency. Spread frosting between layers and over top and sides of cake. Decorate the top with sliced strawberries.

Final Thoughts

As I sit and write this column, there is another threat of bad weather. I am keeping my cell phone always charged and hoping that the winds will not take down any electrical lines. I also thought I had better get this column sent before anything happened.

Easter is coming, and I know we are all hoping for no rain. I know those that oversee spring sporting events are hoping for dry and sunny weather. Major League Baseball has begun, and I will probably never understand all the new rules that are to make the game go faster. I have decided I probably don't really need to understand them to watch the game.

Last week I mentioned that I had my first fresh asparagus because the price had gone down. It went down another \$1 this past weekend, and I got to have some more. It is one of my favorite vegetables; now if only I could acquire a better attitude towards Brussels sprouts, I could eat another healthy vegetable. I am a work in progress.

Wishing all of you a Happy Easter and good eating. We will continue to look for spring recipes. If you have any favorites or some new Easter recipes, we would like to see them. 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, *The Shopper's Guide* at 240 W. Main St. or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

Notice

The Lena Community District Library Board of Trustees is actively seeking new members. We have TWO, 6-year term Trustee positions available.

Please call Brittany at 815-369-3180 or stop in at the front desk for more information.

434722

Village of Stockton Spring 2023 Open Burn Dates

The Spring burn dates for landscape waste will run from April 14 through April 23, from dawn to dusk.

All burning of landscape waste shall be carried out in compliance with Ordinance No. 674 which is posted on the Village's website at www.villageofstockton.com

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Announcements

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REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS TRUSTEE OF STANWICH MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST I Plaintiff, -v.- LORI A. UPMANN et al Defendant

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, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 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.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-06150 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2022 FC 16 TJSC#: 42-4239

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 16 I3216271 (Published in The Scoop Today March 29, April 5 & 12, 2023) 434841

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS PPH Mortgage Corporation PLAINTIFF Vs.

Nichole L. Falconer, et al. DEFENDANTS

No. 2022FC39 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 09/27/2022, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on May 18, 2023 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse

15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

PIN 89-18-19-06-202-008 Improved with Single Family Home COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1415 Walnut Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated 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, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. 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.

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

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 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.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-22-03292. I3217094

(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 5, 12 & 19, 2023) 435393

Around the Northern Hills

Are you between the ages of 18 and 35 and have an interest in agriculture? Then the Young Leaders Committee is just the group for you. We have a great group of individuals that enjoy promoting agriculture and I would love to see more people join in. The next meeting is Sunday, April 16 at 6 p.m. at the farm bureau office in Elizabeth. If you have any questions, call our office at 815.858.2235 or email jdcfbmgr@gmail.com.



By **ANNETTE EGGERS**
Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

on a major action request, it signals your voice is needed on a major legislative or regulatory issue facing Illinois farmers.

By signing up for FB ACT text messages, you will be notified the instant your voice is needed in Washington D.C., or Springfield. To sign up or renew your FB ACT text message subscription, please text the keyword "FARM" to 52886, and you will be ready to act for ag!

Nurse practitioner scholarships available

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship program. There will be 15

scholarships worth \$4,000 each. The scholarship program helps encourage and develop a pool of rural health practitioners to help meet the health care needs in rural Illinois. Students who receive the scholarship agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois. To be eligible, students must be Illinois residents and be a registered nurse accepted in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Applications are available at www.rimsap.com and are due May 1.

Family farm signs

It's that time of year that we are all thinking (okay, maybe wishing) of planting and sprucing things up around the farm. Why not add a "This is a Family Farm" sign to your landscape? The signs are 17.5" X 23" and cost \$30.

Farm Fun Fact

The average American eats 126 pounds of potatoes a year.

Cover Crop Field Day

Come out to our cover crop field day Friday, April 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. It is located at the first driveway South of 4629 IL 78 South, Stockton

Join FB ACT text messaging.

The Illinois Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team (FB ACT) is comprised of Farm Bureau members who are ready to respond to IFB action requests. When IFB issues an action request, it signals your voice is needed

• Reform (Continued from page 5)

Deborah MacPhee, a researcher and professor at Illinois State University, said early literacy education has become politicized with debates between competing systems of reading instruction.

MacPhee said she liked that the bill requires the plan to involve "education stakeholders." She said this will contribute to the ongoing conversation around what sorts of educational programs

teachers should use.

In a 2022 study published in the journal Reading Horizons, MacPhee and her team found that 97 percent of Illinois teachers use phonics in their classrooms to teach reading. Despite the near universal adoption of this method, there is diversity across the state as to what programs are being used. Of the 80 percent of teachers using published curriculum for their phonics instruction, at

least 41 different programs are used.

"We have to be educating teachers to be using programs effectively," she said.

Lightford's plan is not the only bill at the Statehouse in recent weeks aimed at improving childhood literacy. Rep. Mary Flowers, D-Chicago, introduced a bill that would require schools to use phonics to teach reading, though it was met with pushback from teachers' unions.



IN*CI*DENTAL*LY

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month

The incidence of head and neck cancer is rising, largely due to increased rates of oropharyngeal cancer. Despite advances in medical research and treatment, the five-year survival rate for oral and oropharyngeal cancers still hovers around 60%. The death rate remains high because these cancers routinely are discovered late in their development. To call attention to the fact that early detection can both increase survival rates and improve the quality of life of oral cancer survivors, April is designated as Oral Cancer Awareness Month.



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

a mouth ulcer or sore that does not heal, patches of red or white irregular spots, persistent pain or numbness in the mouth or lips, difficulty chewing, swallowing or moving the tongue or jaw, a lesion on the tonsil and/or one tonsil significantly larger than the other and enlarged lymph nodes. If oral cancer has spread to nearby tissues, you may also experience a persistent sore throat, the sensation that you have a constant lump in your throat, persistent hoarseness, difficult and/or painful swallowing, swollen lymph nodes in your neck, ear pain, and unexplained weight loss.

It is important for the public to know that in their initial stages, oral cancers rarely cause any pain. If you have any of these warning signs, do not assume that a lack of accompanying pain means you should not report these to your dentist. Oral cancers are aggressive, so it is imperative that no time is wasted when seeking a definitive diagnosis. Never put off an exam, consult, or any recommended biopsy and diagnostic tests. A biopsy and diagnostic tests will provide a definitive diagnosis and guide

treatment going forward.

In addition to regular dental exams, it is important for you to become familiar with the normal color, texture, and appearance of your mouth, cheeks, gums, and tongue, so that you will more readily notice if something has changed. A dedicated website, www.checkyourmouth.org has been established to show you how to perform an oral self-exam. Their simple how-to video is user-friendly and extremely easy to follow. The idea of self-exams is not new and has already proven to

be quite effective in helping to detect breast and skin cancers.

Anything that increases your chance of getting a disease is called a risk factor. UV light exposure, such as from excess sunlight or from tanning beds, can boost the risk of cancer developing in the lips. Tobacco use is the strongest risk factor for developing oral cancer. Alcohol abuse follows closely behind and combining the two multiplies their risk. While the chance of developing a second primary (new) oral cancer

varies depending on the site of the original cancer, the rate is higher for people who use tobacco and drink alcohol.

While smoking and tobacco use are still major risk factors for oral cancer, the fastest-growing segment of oral cancer patients are young, healthy, nonsmoking individuals who have contracted the HPV virus. Data from recent research shows that about 70 percent of oropharyngeal cancers are linked to human papillomavirus (HPV) infections. We cannot stop this virus from spreading;

our only hope to save lives is with professional involvement and increasing public awareness. Numerous studies show that the earlier a child receives the HPV vaccine, the greater potential it has for preventing HPV-related cancers, which include oropharyngeal cancer. The HPV vaccine can be given to children as young as nine years. The American Dental Association continues its mission to protect the public's health by encouraging both HPV vaccination and head and neck cancer screening.

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Even if you've excavated an area previously, erosion, settling ground and other factors can change the depth and location of utilities over time. ALWAYS contact 811 before putting your shovel to the ground!

Simply go online 24/7 to illinois1call.com or call 811 or 800-892-0123 at least two business days in advance.



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Rockford, IL



Lena-Winslow third term honor roll

A student who receives a 4.0 and above, with no actual grade below an A, will be listed on the "Principal's" List. A student who has a grade point of 3.99 to 3.67 and no actual grade below an A- will be listed on the "High Honors" list. A student who has a grade point of 3.67 to 2.67 and no actual grade below a B- will be listed on the "Honors" list.

Hannah Pecoraro
Ryan Pieper
Mika Schoger
Rachael Setterstrom
Ava Vlasin

Juniors
Molly Amendt
Blayr Davis
Sarah Geiseman
Grace Groezinger
Quinn Rodebaugh
Jacob Schumacher

Seniors
Henry Engel
Owen Gilbertson
Braden Jacobs
Emma Kempel
Kieran Madigan
Olivia Parker
Rowen Schulz
Drew Streckwald
Jacob Zeal

High Honors Honor Roll
Freshman
Alysa Brinkmeier

Toriana Davis
Mila Sheppard
Sophomores
Shayleigh Albright
Alexis Brookman
Madeline Chiles
Paige Hancock
Ella Kerr

Juniors
Gage Dunker
Janessa Esser
Kaidynce Lynch
Natalie McNutt
Alex Packard
Isabelle Paulsen

Seniors
Nyiona Davis
Jace Flynn
Nicholas Inden
Andrew Kempel
Samuel Pecoraro
Jenna Ransom
Hailee Schiess
Alizabeth Westergaard
Kanzas White
Madison Young

Honors Honor Roll
Freshman
Addison Ackerman
Ellie Bardell
Chloe Bicker
Nakoah Cornwell
Elaina Diestelmeier
Rogan Dykstra
Sophia Ellberg
Cooper Gilbertson
Koby Kearns
Mackenzie Kepner
Kasch Lessman
Luke Madigan
Miles Mahon
Sally Monigold
David Prater
Alec Schlichting
Jaden Schubert
Landrie Spidahl

Sophomores
Jackson Barrett
Kale Buss
Maverick Cass
James Goebel
Jillian Goebel
Landon Grindey

Cheyanna Kerr
Allie Oxley
Mahi Patel
Reyana Pettinger
Raymond-John Schulz
Chloe Wild
Paige Williams

Juniors
Avery Baldauf
Maia Benson
Abbie Cameron
Eva DeVoe
Ava Fiedler
Lucas Fye
Morgan Gerber
Faith Jordan
Tanner Kempel
Casey Klever
Daely Kluck
Weston Lartz
Chloe Mader
Mikaela Nieman
Faith Offermann
Deaken Randecker
Aspen Roberts
Mason Spidahl
Odin Stabenow

Trenton Swedlund
Nick Tippett
Kyah White
Cadie Wolfrom
Jordan Yount

Seniors
Shayna Boeck
Livia Esser
Tianna Esser
Isabella Forbes
Levi Gable
Camdyn Huttenlocher
Kai Knapp
Gunar Lobdell
Jada Loomis
Michael Moscato
Hudson Neff
Wesley Offermann
Ayden Packard
Chloe Renter
Taylor Robinson
Zavier Sheppard
Hailey Smith
Maisen Smith
Curtis Story
Jacob Tippett

HAPPY EASTER

Apple River State Bank and First Community Bank of Galena have a long-standing tradition of closing our offices at 12 noon on Good Friday. Again this year we will observe this tradition out of consideration for the special meaning this day has for many people.

We appreciate your understanding and we will resume our normal banking hours on Saturday.



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