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VOL. 85 • NO. 24

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

## Memorial Day in Lena

The Memorial Day parade was held at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 29 at Memorial Park. The parade followed breakfast at the Lena American Legion home, with proceeds from the event going to help fund a Cubs game outing for veterans. It was a beautiful day as the community remembered and honored those who have served.

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Members from SSM Health Monroe Hospital and Freeport Student Garden gathered to celebrate the expansion of the school's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

## SSM Health Monroe Hospital supports Freeport Student Garden

SSM Health Monroe Hospital has presented the Freeport Student Garden with a donation of \$3,300. The gift will cover the startup costs for Freeport Student Garden's expansion of their Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program with the goal to offer produce shares to 20 Freeport School District families who face food insecurity.

"We are excited to support the Freeport Student Garden as they expand their current programs to assist their class-

mates," expressed Rebecca Bordner, SSM Health Monroe Hospital Marketing & Communications Consultant. "This program not only will help address food insecurity for these families, but it will also teach the students growing the produce life skills that will benefit them for years to come."

As reported in the 2022-2024 Stephenson County Health Needs Assessment, 19% of the population received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) compared to

the national average of 12% and 52% of children in Stephenson County are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

Ben Skipor, agriculture science teacher at Freeport High School, also commented that "With this donation, we will be able to work toward providing families of need with fresh produce. I am excited that our students will be at the center of this project, helping their peers and seeing the direct impact of their work, knowing that it's making a difference."

The Freeport Student Garden is entering its tenth season and currently offers a CSA program and operates a booth at the Stephenson County Farmers Market in Freeport on Saturday mornings.

## Obituaries

### SHIRLEY ANN HELLER

Shirley Ann Heller, age 88 of Stockton, passed away on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, at her home. She was born to Lyle and Daisy (Hardacre) Rife on Nov. 13, 1934. She grew up with her four sisters in Stockton, IL. She graduated from Stockton High School in 1952. On Sept. 3, 1952, she married the love of her life, the late Dalvin Heller. Together they farmed and raised a beautiful family in rural Stockton, IL.

Shirley lived a quiet life doing the things she loved the most - raising her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids. When she had a moment to herself, she was an avid reader and enjoyed the simple things like puzzles, bird watching, and going to the casino and enjoying scenic rides on the motorcycle with her husband. The most important thing in



her life was taking care of her family. She always greeted everyone at the front door with a warm hello and was

quick to offer up some food. Shirley's legacy is her family. Shirley will be remembered as a loving, patient, and generous soul who always put the needs of her family first.

She is survived by her four children Mike (Dixie) Heller of Winslow, Steve (Sue) Heller, Susan (Bill) Schamberger, and Randy (Kelly) Heller all of Stockton; 11 grandchildren-Nathan Heller, Mark (Tonya) Heller, Joe (Sarah) Heller, Doug (Kira Jackson) Aurand, Amanda (Grant) Stocks, Brandon (Kaydra) Heller, David (Anna Gustafson) Heller,

Jason (Amber) Heller, Courtney (Kyle Englert) Schamberger, Kalli (Eric) Offeniser, Cole (Espana Mendoza) Schamberger; 22 great-grandkids- Allison, Blake, Nathaniel, Zaiden, Brandon (Taydra), Ryan (Maddie), Cody (Ravyn), Bailey, Emma, Logan, Erica, Mitchell (Stephanie), Riley, Jamie, Tyler, Jonathan, Paul, Ryker, Liam, Miles, Devan, and Mason; 6 great-great grandkids- Brior, Onyx, Brecken, Barrett, Hudson, Oaklynn, and one on the way; four sisters Phyllis Gothard of Freeport, Pat Phillips of Lena, Mary (Max) Pierce of Stockton, and Sharon (Stan) Cox of Apple River. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband of 65 years.

Cremation rites to be accorded. A Celebration of Life to be held at a later date. A memorial has been established in her name.

### MICHAEL J. THOREN

Michael J. Thoren, age 67, of Stockton, IL passed away May 26, 2023, in Surprise, Arizona. Michael was born Dec. 7, 1955, in Elizabeth, IL, the son of Donald and Luella (Randecker) Thoren. Mike was the older brother to Greg and Kelly Thoren. He graduated from Stockton High School in 1974. Michael married Brenda Behen in Arizona on Oct. 9, 1999. They met in Phoenix while in golf leagues in 1997 and enjoyed many happy years and adventures together.

He loved their dog Buddy, who went to doggie heaven last September. He rooted for the Cubs and Bears (not al-



ways happily), enjoyed playing golf, especially in the Bob Golf Tournament, N A S C A R and snowmobiling. He was proud of

helping to start the Massbach 4H Club, being a volunteer Stockton Firefighter, and delivering meals to needy local families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. He was very generous to his nieces and nephews and liked to cook and barbeque.

Michael spent many years working in the auto industry. He worked at Kappas Gas Station, McNett Automotive, was an independent auto buyer in Arizona, and more recently

until retirement, an auto buyer for Runde PreDriven in Hazel Green, WI.

Michael is survived by his wife, Brenda Thoren of Stockton, IL; his mother, Luella Thoren of Elizabeth, IL; brothers, Greg (Janis) Thoren of Stockton and Kelly (Michele) Thoren of Elizabeth; nephews, Neil Thoren and Chris (Mollie) Thoren; nieces, Julia (Ben) Blair and Jennifer Thoren; three wonderful great nieces, Camille, Madeline and Anna; and many loving cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his dearly beloved father, Donald Thoren.

A private celebration of life will take place in June. In lieu of flowers, Michael would be appreciative of donations made to Tunnels to Towers <https://www.t2t.org>.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The USDA projects this year's corn crop, which U.S. farmers are still planting, could produce a record 15.3 billion bushels (up 10 percent from last year).

# USDA: Large crop estimates projected to pressure prices

By Daniel Grant  
FARMWEEK

USDA projects some record-large crops in the U.S. and South America this year and into 2024.

If realized, ending stocks are expected to rise while crop prices could plummet in the coming year based on the Ag Department's May world ag supply and demand estimates.

USDA projects this year's corn crop could produce a record 15.3 billion bushels (up 10 percent from last year) with an average yield of 181.5 bushels per acre (up 8.2 bushels from last year).

Meanwhile, U.S. soybean production was pegged at 4.51 billion bushels this season, up 5 percent from last year.

The hefty crop production estimates pushed 2023-24 ending

stocks estimates to 2.2 billion bushels for corn (up 805 million bushels from 2022-23) and 335 million bushels of beans, up 120 million bushels from the revised 2022-23 forecast. Ending stocks of wheat, though, could slip 11 percent to the lowest level in 16 years.

"We got the first look at the 2023-24 balance sheets and they were bearish for corn and soybeans," Joe Camp, market analyst with CommStock Investments, told the RFD Radio Network. "Ending stocks were up a bit more than anticipated."

USDA's season-average price estimates reflected the bearishness of the big crops with 2023-24 projections at \$4.80 per bushel for corn (down \$1.80 from 2022/23), \$12.10 for beans (down \$2.10) and \$8 for wheat, down 85 cents from last year's

record.

This season's crop production estimates, of course, are based on weather-adjusted trends assuming normal planting progress and summer weather.

"We know we're going to go back to trading weather here pretty quickly," Camp said as most crop markets were in the red following the May 12 release of the latest estimates. "That will be the big determinant of what the next crop looks like."

Elsewhere, USDA pegged 2022-23 production in Brazil at a record 130 million metric tons (mmt) of corn, up 5 mmt from last month, and 155 mmt of beans, up 1 mmt.

Soy production in Brazil for 2023-24 could soar to a record 163 mmt, according to USDA. Planting for that crop will begin

in October.

"We didn't see any major changes on the global balance sheet," Camp said. "They're still sticking with big numbers in Brazil and a damaged crop out of Argentina."

As for demand, USDA projects total corn use could increase 5 percent in 2023-24, with food, seed and industrial use up 55 million bushels, exports projected to rise by 325 million bushels to 2.1 billion and corn used for ethanol to edge 1 percent higher.

Meanwhile, demand for soybean oil as a biofuel feedstock was projected to accelerate by 900 million pounds to 12.5 billion pounds in 2023/24. But, U.S. soy exports could slip by 40 million bushels to 1.98 billion in the next year due in large part to competition from South America.

## News briefs

### American Legion Auxiliary

The June meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, June 14, at the Lena American Legion Home at 6 p.m. The meeting includes discussion of the Fall Festival Parade and making tray favors for hospitalized veterans. Dues will be collected. New members are always welcome. Judy Shippee oversees the social hour.

### Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension

The June meeting of the Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension will be held June 15 at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. The roll call theme will be "an unusual food you have eaten". Anita Costello will

present "What to Eat When You Can't Eat That". Becky Thomas and Janet Ferguson will donate the raffle items. Meetings are open to anyone who desires to join.

### Jet memorial donations requested

The Northwest Illinois Aerial Combat Memorial committee is confident that the jet project will be painted and moved to its permanent location in Lena this year. Thank you to everyone who has donated to support the project. The committee has nearly reached their donation goal of \$30,000. Further donations are requested in order to bring this project to completion and can be sent to Jet Project PO Box 290, Lena, IL, 61048.

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## THE SCOOP TODAY SHOPPER'S GUIDE

"Committed to the communities we serve"

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# OPINION

## Slices of life

### Kayaking the river



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

My middle son flew in (on a plane) to visit his brothers and me in Florida. As it was just me and the three boys (#testosterone), it fell to reason we'd want to do something both athletic and outdoorsy. Kayaking on a river seemed like a good fit.

I've kayaked lots of times - during the summer, at the lake. We have a little trek we take whenever the whim hits us. We go up a narrow river - against current—until we hit a small rapid (turnaround time) and head back—with the current. It's a course encompasses about a mile and a half.

The Florida river website (I thought) offered two courses. One was 4.7 miles, the other 2.5. Gosh did the 2.5 sound doable. More than I was used to, but I'm tough, and I enjoy pushing myself from time to time. Besides, my boys would be watching.

We arrived at the kayak rental place and were offered just one route: the 4.7 mile one. Apparently the 2.5-mile rookie route was no longer available, or maybe I just imagined it.

I attempted the math inside my head. It goes without saying 4.7 is a lot more than 1.5. Practically three times as much - maybe even more. I gulped and didn't say a word as we paid our kayak rental fees. I was with my boys. And much like when they tricked me into the upside-down scary rollercoaster at Disney,

I wasn't going to back out. En route to the river, our van driver described the excursion, and let it slip that the trip was actually closer to 5 miles versus the advertised 4.7. We'd been awarded a bonus .3 miles! I cringed. We got to the river and set out on the 4.7 (or quite possibly 5) mile trek.

Five miles! And they hadn't even offered us a fail-safe option for bailout should that option be needed.

"Ladies and gentlemen, if you can't make the whole trip, and are in danger of kayak failure, pull over to the side of the river and call the number on your wristband. We will send an air-conditioned river van to pick your party up ASAP."

There was none of that. It was just me, my kayak, the paddle and the 4.7 (or let's just be honest and call it 5) miles of endless river.

The experts at the kayak shop told us the trip would take three or four hours. Half an hour in I was feeling the strain just a bit in my arms, and the kayak seat was, let's say, less than comfortable.

**See KAYAKING, Page 15**

### Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Senior Citizens Services Golden Meals Program

524 West Stephenson, Freeport, IL 61032  
815-232-8896

NICAA Golden Meals Program serves senior citizens in Stephenson, Jo-Daviess, Carroll and Whiteside Counties



NICAA Golden Meals delivers hot mid-day meals to persons 60 years of age and older who are homebound or are unable to make their own meals. Meals may be delivered during a short recuperation period after discharge from the hospital or on a permanent basis.



The Golden Meals menus provide one-third of the USDA recommended daily allowances for senior citizens and are approved by a registered dietitian. Each meal includes 3 ounces of protein, two 1/2 cup servings of fruits or vegetables, bread and milk.



Hot meals are delivered Monday through Thursday with a cold tray delivered on Thursday for Friday's meal and frozen meals for the weekend. Sack suppers are available. A suggested donation of \$3.00 per meal is requested. No one will be denied service due to their inability to donate.

To begin home-delivered meal service, call the NICAA Golden Meals office at 815-232-8896. You will be asked some questions to determine eligibility. Meals can usually be started the next day.

Golden Meals Menus are available at [nicaa.org](http://nicaa.org)

The Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Senior Citizens' Services Golden Meals program is funded in part with Title III-C Older Americans Act funds received through the Illinois Department on Aging and the Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging. NICAA Golden Meals does not discriminate in admission to programs or treatment of employment in programs in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the U.S. Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Age Discrimination Act and Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions.

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### Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency (NICAA) Notification of Interest to bid on work in the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program for labor and material in HVAC Mechanical and/or Architectural

The Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency (NICAA) is accepting names of contractors interested in participating in the 2023-24 Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program. All contractors interested in receiving a bid package must contact NICAA at 27 South State Avenue, Suite 102, Freeport, Illinois 61032

For more information or to receive a bid package, please call the Weatherization Department at 815-232-3141 ext. 115  
Or  
Visit the NICAA Office at 27 South State Avenue, Suite 102, Freeport, Illinois 61032

**Bid Packages are due by June 28, 2023**

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Small, minority and women owned businesses are encouraged to apply.

# Weekly connection

## The joy of an antique tractor



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

Sometime in the late 60's my grandpa bought a shiny red Super MTA Farmall tractor with a wide front end from an old farmer. I think he paid about fourteen hundred for it. It was a beauty for sure. It had an independent power take-off and this wonderful thing called power steering that made it a joy to use on the farm. We had been using a standard M, a Co-Op tractor, and a Ford Jubilee to farm about five hundred acres of row crops and another hundred or so of alfalfa. When that Super MTA arrived it really gave us a boost. It was so smooth and fun to drive that all of us boys couldn't wait to get our turn on it. We plowed with the Co-Op and then disced with the Super M. We also would mow hay with the Ford and then run the alfalfa through a crimper/conditioner pulled behind the Super M. It was great! Gramps kept it over at the beef farm most of the time, but one of us would drive it over to the home farm about twelve or thirteen miles away whenever we needed the extra help.

Somewhere in the early 90's we threw a rod in it and then pushed it into the corner of the shed to overhaul at a later time. About twenty years later we finally decided to send it in to be overhauled. Instead of just an overhaul, we agreed to have it completely fixed

up with a new paint job and all. A few months later we got the call that it was ready to come home from the shop. We waited with bated breath to see our restored old friend. When that tractor pulled in the driveway, it was almost like the first day Gramps bought it. The joy we all felt to have that tractor home and in mint condition was incredible. Each one of us took turns driving it around the driveway and orchard

feeling the adrenaline of nostalgia and joy that we once had for that tractor. My dad even climbed up on the seat at 88 years old and drove it around a little.

A couple weeks ago I pulled it out of the shed and hooked it up to my nine-foot New Holland haybine and headed out to mow my ten-acre hay field. It surely didn't disappoint. Just hearing the familiar sound of that motor was exhilarating. In fact, as I was mowing it felt like grampa and dad were right there on that tractor with me. It was really a cool experience. A few years ago my dad bought several antique tractors, put up a small shed and filled that shed up with his toys. None

of the tractors he bought can hold a candle to that Super M.

A few years ago, my dad told me that what he would really like to do is have about fifty or sixty acres to farm with all the antique tractors he had bought. I guess I'm

getting to live out his dream in a small way on my little hobby farm.

Since Dad went home to be with the Lord just a few months ago, I feel that he is closer than ever. I sure miss talking with him and listening to him reminisce

about the early years of farming and raising a family. In Proverbs 10:7 we read; The memory of the righteous is a blessing. I think often of what the reunion will be like in heaven someday.

Until next week, God bless.

## A blueprint to better mental health care, access in Illinois

By Abdi Tinwalla, MD, and Andrew Lancia, MD

In all parts of Illinois, mental health awareness and treatment is a public issue like it has never been before. On behalf of frontline care providers, we welcome the attention and call for the support that must follow.

The Illinois Psychiatric Society represents psychiatrists and psychiatric practices across the state, where our

members work in private and public settings, see adult and child patients every day, and have the experience, training, and mindset to help people struggling with all forms of mental health challenges.

We are encouraged by the renewed focus at the State Capitol in Springfield and across the state to bring mental health care into the spotlight. Gov. JB Pritzker's ambitious plans to transform

behavioral health services for children, and to coordinate state agencies and higher education institutions behind the new Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center to improve recruitment of professionals are welcome steps forward.

Our mental health care system is in crisis, with access to equal, quality, affordable

See **BLUEPRINT**, Page 15

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

Rock Valley Publishing encourages readers to reach out to the community by writing a letter to the editor.

**Letters are limited to 500 words.** Authors must include their first and last name, the city or village in which they reside, and a phone number and email address where they can be reached in case of questions.

Send letters to: [scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com](mailto:scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com)  
**Letter-writers will be limited to one letter per month** except for locally elected officials, or individuals specifically associated with local village governments or entities such as school districts, park districts or library districts.

No letters directed to a third party will be accepted for publication.

**We reserve the right to edit a letter for reasons of clarity, space restrictions and libel.**

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**NOTE & DIRECTIONS:** Owners have sold their farmette and moving into town, several sheds full of items. Shed available in case of bad weather. Auction starting with household goods. Auction location: In Waddams Grove, turn S on Waddams Grove Rd. off Galena Rd (Stagecoach Trail) to Kerlin Rd, then W to first place on right.

**UTV, SKID LOADER & UTILITY TRAILER (to be sold approx. 1:00 pm):** 2019 Polaris Ranger Crew 900XP w/roof, canvas doors, windshield, wiper & heater and **ONLY 800 miles**; Gehl 3725 gas skid loader; H&H 12' single axle utility trailer w/3000lb winch; **FARM RELATED:** Ford Dearborn 2-bottom plow; steel barge wagon & flat racks; drag sections; IH narrow front & arms for fast hitch; lg galvanized round water tank; **TOOLS & SHOP ITEMS:** Van Mark Trim-A-Brake model 850 aluminum brake; Delta dust collector; Shop Smith unit; Shop Smith band saw; Performax structure planer; belt/disc sander; scroll saw/belt sander on table; bench drill presses; Norco 2T engine hoist; torch set; fiberglass, aluminum & wood extension & stepladders; aluminum painter's plank; steel job site tool cage; Craftsman rolling tool boxes; Machinist tool box; Craftsman 25-gallon upright air compressor; Craftsman shop vacs; lg bench vise; **LARGE** assortment of air, hand & power tools; Qual Craft scaffolding system; much assorted lumber; shelf units on wheels; quantity hardware & oils/sprays/paints; **LAWN/GARDEN & OUTDOOR ITEMS:** Earthquake rear fine rototiller; self-propelled push mowers; pull lawn sweep; trailer w/25-gallon boom sprayer; 45-gallon boom sprayer & lawn seeder for UTV; JD pull lawn aerator/fertilizer spreader; wheelbarrows; lawn/garden care items; **cider press w/grinder**; wrought iron patio tables/chairs; live traps; Yamaha battery operated 4-wheeler; **ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES:** Singer treadle sewing machine; trunk; Kellogg oak wall phone; steel & wood wheels; wood chicken crates; wood sled; metal feed carts; stainless milker buckets; farm primitives; galvanized wash tubs; **Seed Corn signs**; HO gauge train layouts; Lionel train set in box; train engines & cars; ship models & clock; **HOUSEHOLD:** black leather recliner; tan power recliner; modern oak narrow/tall curio cabinet; wood bookshelf/computer desk units; TV stand w/built-in fireplace heater; 4-drawer fire proof file cabinet; window AC unit. **TERMS:** CASH or GOOD CHECK

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# Shots fired

On May 30, 2023, at approximately 2:19 p.m., officers of the Freeport Police Department responded to the 1200 Block of S. High Ave in reference to shots fired. During the investigation, officers learned that shots were fired from a vehicle towards subjects standing near a residence. There are no reported injuries, and the shooting is considered gang related.

The Freeport Police department is investigating the incident and is asking for anyone who has any information to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235-8222, or Stateline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW or through texting at Tip411.

Tips to Stateline Area Crime Stoppers can also be submitted online at [www.statelineareacrimestoppers.com](http://www.statelineareacrimestoppers.com) or on the P-3 mobile app. Tipsters to Stateline Area Crime Stoppers always remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1000. Stateline Area Crime Stoppers is the official Crime Stoppers organization of Freeport and Stephenson County.

# Church news

## St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the second Sunday after Pentecost on June 11. A Worship Service with Holy Communion will begin at 9 a.m. with Pastor Michelle Knight presiding.

The June Grace Meal will be held on June 18 with curbside pickup only. The menu includes ham loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, and cake. All reservations are due by Thursday, June 16 at 5 p.m. by calling the church at 815-443-2215. Leave a message with your reservations.

Anyone who would like to help at the Pearl City Food Pantry on Saturday, June 17 to stock shelves should call the church and leave a message. Calls will be returned with more information regarding this valuable community outreach.

The third night of Vacation Bible School (VBS) will take place on July 2. A meal will be served from 5 to 5:20 p.m. for families to enjoy. The children will rotate through stations of Bible study, crafts, and music. Confirmation students will be helping. VBS will continue this summer on

August 6. There is no charge to participate.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is an ELCA parish and is located at 229 S. First St., in Pearl City. The church is handicapped accessible. Please call 815-443-2215 for information or with any questions.

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, June 11 for Barnabas the Apostle Sunday Worship Service Sunday Worship Service. The reading will be from Matthew 10:7-16.

On Wednesday, June 14 Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience necessary. Come and tie the quilts and make difference in the world.

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

# Highland adds new programs in Agriculture, Business, and Education

Students will have new options among the 70-plus programs offered at Highland Community College this year.

Whether students follow a transfer pathway or prepare for a trade to get them directly into the workforce, they will find possibilities with certificates, degrees, and emphasis areas. Programs coming this year include a Cannabis Studies certificate, Marketing and Small Business Management/Entrepreneurship certificates, associate's degrees, and emphasis areas to major in Mathematics Education or Science Education.

The certificate program in Cannabis Studies precedes a more comprehensive enhancement of the academic lineup offered by the Agriculture Department at Highland. Faculty believe this timely

addition will help meet the demand for skilled labor in the burgeoning legal cannabis industry. "With the relatively recent legalization of hemp production and use in the United States and the state-level legalization of marijuana production and use in Illinois, the cannabis plant has certainly become a study of interest to many people," said Agriculture Instructor Monica Pierce. "By offering a certificate program in Cannabis Studies, we hope to bridge educational gaps that exist. Students enrolled in the program will get experience growing cannabis in a greenhouse setting while also learning about legal policies, cannabis processing, and career opportunities."

New programs from the Business department are

similarly structured for recent high school graduates or those with some work experience to get an edge in a variety of jobs. The certificates and associate of applied science degree programs are designed as standalone options for students who do not intend to transfer, as an alternative to the department's existing four-year pathways.

"The marketing certificate and degree will be valuable for those looking to work in marketing-specific positions, but also for those with a marketing overlap. No matter the field, understanding and applying marketing principles are essential," said Business instructor Evan Talbert. "Whether you are wanting to start a new business or thrive in an existing one, the entrepreneurship/small business

management certificate and degree will focus on legal requirements, personnel management and leadership, cost controls, and other integral concepts for the small business owner."

For students seeking to transfer for a four-year teaching degree or master's, the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics is premiering new majors to meet a need for educators. "There are national and regional teacher shortages in high schools and middle schools, particularly in math and science areas," said Dean of Natural Science and Mathematics Brendan Dutmer, Ph.D. "Our new programs in Mathematics Education and Science Education are structured to guide

See PROGRAMS, Page 13

## Rite-Way 51st Anniversary Sale

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# "Farewell" Open House

**Sunday, June 11 from 2-4 p.m.**  
Fellowship Hall at Lena UMC • 118 W. Mason St.

We are honoring Pastor Keri Rainsberger as she leaves Lena United Methodist Church after being with us for the past 6 years.

She has been appointed to Davenport, WA, to serve as the pastor of Davenport-Edwall UMC beginning July 1.

438965

# Lena-Winslow second semester honor roll awards

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.

Rachael Setterstrom  
Ava Vlasin

**Juniors**

Molly Amendt  
Sarah Geiseman  
Grace Groezinger  
Quinn Rodebaugh

**Seniors**

Henry Engel  
Owen Gilbertson  
Camdyn Huttenlocher  
Emma Kempel  
Kieran Madigan  
Wesley Offermann  
Drew Streckwald  
Madison Young  
Jacob Zeal

Madeline Chiles  
Paige Hancock  
Ella Kerr  
Mika Schoger  
Raymond-John Schulz

**Juniors**

Blayr Davis  
Gage Dunker  
Janessa Esser  
Kaidynce Lynch  
Isabelle Paulsen  
Jacob Schumacher

**Seniors**

Nyiona Davis  
Jace Flynn  
Levi Gable  
Braden Jacobs  
Ayden Packard  
Olivia Parker  
Rowen Schulz

Elaina Diestelmeier  
Rogan Dykstra  
Sophia Ellberg  
Cooper Gilbertson  
Kaiya Hill  
Koby Kearns  
Mackenzie Kepner  
Kasch Lessman  
Luke Madigan  
Sally Monigold  
David Prater  
Alec Schlichting  
Jaden Schubert  
Kamden Sellers  
Landrie Spidahl

**Sophomores**

Jackson Barrett  
Alexis Brookman  
Kale Buss  
Maverick Cass  
Benjamin Elbert  
Jillian Goebel  
Landon Grindey  
Cheyanna Kerr  
Alaina Knoll  
Layla Mattson  
Allie Oxley  
Mahi Patel  
Reyana Pettinger

Cohen Weegens  
Chloe Wild  
Paige Williams

**Juniors**

Avery Baldauf  
Maia Benson  
Kali Brinkmeier  
Abbie Cameron  
Eva DeVoe  
Wade Dorsey  
Ava Fiedler  
Lucas Fye  
Morgan Gerber  
Cierra Hatelak  
Faith Jordan  
Casey Klever  
Daely Kluck  
Weston Lartz  
Chloe Mader  
Natalie McNutt  
Mikaela Nieman  
Faith Offermann  
Alex Packard  
Arrian Pasley  
Deaken Randecker  
Aspen Roberts  
Mason Spidahl  
Luke Stabenow  
Odin Stabenow

Trenton Swedlund  
Brianna Taylor  
Nick Tippett  
Kelsey Wagner  
Kyah White  
Hailey Whitmer  
Cadie Yount  
Jordan Yount

**Seniors**

Shayna Boeck  
Livia Esser  
Tianna Esser  
Isabella Forbes  
Nicholas Inden  
Andrew Kempel  
Gunar Lobdell  
Hudson Nevel  
Samuel Pecoraro  
Jenna Ransom  
Chloe Renter  
Hailee Schiess  
Zavier Sheppard  
Hailey Smith  
Curtis Story  
Bo Tessoroff  
Jacob Tippett  
Elizabeth Westergaard  
Kanzas White

**Principal's Honor Roll (Second Semester)**

**Freshman**

Mia Diffenderfer  
Aiden Foley  
Evelyn Karnatz  
Aubrey Rodebaugh  
Mallory Sheppard

**Sophomores**

Alyssa Daughenbaugh  
Eden Dietz  
Cienna Kerr  
Michael Kowalke  
Hannah Pecoraro  
Ryan Pieper

**High Honors Honor Roll**

**Freshman**

Khayne Albright  
Toriana Davis  
Miles Mahon  
Hayden McNut  
Mila Sheppard

**Sophomores**

Shayleigh Albright

**Honors Honor Roll Freshman**

Addison Ackerman  
Ellie Bardell  
Chloe Bicker  
Ayla Brinkmeier  
Nakoah Cornwell



## Citizens State Bank awards 13 college scholarships to area high school graduates

Citizens State Bank, with locations in Lena, Stockton, and Freeport, awards \$500 college scholarships to local graduating high school seniors who have displayed excellence in academic achievement, community service, and extracurricular activities.

"CSB is honored to award scholarships to local high school seniors, in recognition of their academic work, and time spent giving back to their local communities and

organizations, which is something we are passionate about ourselves," said Citizens State Bank President and CEO, Amy Baker. "As we support our students in this next chapter, we look forward to being a part of their future success."

Citizens State Bank is proud of these recipients for going after their passions, and we're excited to see what their future holds.

Included in 2023's 13 scholarship winners are the

following recipients:

- Andrew Kempel, Lena-Winslow
- Madison Young, Lena-Winslow
- Wes Offerman, Lena-Winslow
- Madeline Harbach, Stockton
- Dustin Oppold, Stockton
- Olivia Wenzel, Aquin
- Addison Gill, Freeport
- Alexa Tran, Freeport
- Nicolas Schnitzler, River Ridge
- Jamie Schnitzler, River Ridge
- Lacey Eissens, West Carroll
- Addison Bremmer, Pearl City
- Jordan Johnson, Pearl City

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Taste of Lena



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing



The Quinn Construction Inc, Taste of Lena was held on June 3 under sunny skies on Main Street in downtown Lena. The streets were filled with an amazing car show, great food and spirits and fun vendors.

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# Cannabis regulatory reform bill fails to advance in spring legislative session

By Nika Schoonover  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A proposed cannabis reform bill won't get further consideration until at least the General Assembly's fall veto session after stakeholders failed to come to an agreement during the spring session's final stretch. Rep. La Shawn Ford, a Chicago Democrat and the bill's sponsor, told Capitol News Illinois that Senate Bill 1559 didn't pass in part due to disagreements around delta-8 THC, a synthetic psychoactive substance typically manufactured from hemp-derived CBD.

"We need to regulate it, make it safe, make sure that it's taxed and treat it just like cannabis," Ford said in an interview.

But advocates for the cannabis industry are pushing for a full ban. Ford said he refused to rewrite the bill to include a ban "without any se-

rious dialogue from the public and from the state regulators."

Delta-8, found in small traces of hemp and cannabis plants, is an easily accessible substance that can be purchased in licensed dispensaries but also in convenience stores that otherwise are prohibited from selling cannabis.

Unlike the more well-known form of THC, delta-8 is often derived from CBD and causes a much milder high. But concerns over the substance's safety have arisen across the country because it remains unregulated, and consumers of delta-8 have gotten sick after consumption.

On the federal level, the substance's legal standing is murky. In response to a cannabis industry attorney's inquiry about the substance's legal status, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration issued a letter in February saying delta-8 should be con-

sidered an illegal controlled substance because it can only be obtained synthetically.

But last year, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that delta-8 is generally legal because it is derived from the cannabis plant, classifying it as hemp. While the substance's legal status remains uncertain, several states have moved to regulate or ban the drug because of safety concerns. The FDA received 104 reports of adverse events in patients who consumed delta-8 THC products between Dec. 1, 2020, and Feb. 28, 2022. In 55 percent of those reports, the individual needed some type of medical intervention.

Pamela Althoff, executive director of the Cannabis Business Association of Illinois, said she supports a ban because, in addition to its synthetic nature, it could be detrimental to the industry. "To

allow those types of products to proliferate undermines the cannabis industry," Althoff said in an interview. "It will have a devastating effect on any new license holder who was trying to establish themselves, either from a cultivation craft grow side or from opening up a dispensary." Althoff added that her association will support regulating the substance eventually but wants to ban the drug immediately while regulation measures are finalized.

Peter Contos, deputy director of the Cannabis Equity Illinois Coalition, said they've been pushing for lawmakers to regulate delta-8 for over two years but they're opposed to banning the substance. "This needs to be regulated," Contos said. "A ban is not going to get us any closer to the solution and it's really key that we regulate this with intention and care so that we

can ultimately expand this industry...but also ensure that products are safe and tested."

Ford argued that banning it while trying to decriminalize cannabis and reform the industry would be hypocritical.

"If we ban it the way cannabis has been banned, then we're going to have a new crop of people that's going to be entered into our criminal justice system," Ford said.

Ford said negotiations would continue on the wide-ranging bill that was only introduced on what was scheduled to be the final day of the spring legislative session.

The measure as drafted would address multiple areas of the state's burgeoning cannabis industry, including reforms for craft growers, dispensary operations and licensing procedures. The stalled bill did not include any language on delta-8.

Among other things, the bill would have increased canopy space for craft growers from 5,000 square feet to 14,000 square feet. That measure, Ford said, could help those businesses grow to be more competitive in the industry.

Ron Holmes, a lobbyist for CBAI, said in a committee hearing that they're concerned about expanding the allowed amount of space for craft growers. "What we're going to have is scenario where we let 14,000-square-foot out the door for every license holder that exists in the state and that we're going to have no room for new licensees," Holmes said.

The measure also would have allowed dispensaries to operate drive-thru windows and offer curbside pick-up services, making sure they

See BILL, Page 13

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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We got a big taste of summer weather this past week. Maybe we will be done with the ninety-degree weather for a few weeks. The heat should make our gardens grow, so that fresh produce will begin popping up. This week's recipes include a good dip, two entrées, and two seasonal desserts.

## Cheeseburger Dip

This appetizer is almost a meal. It has all the good things that you put on a cheeseburger without a bun. You serve it with potato or pita chips. If you don't have smoked paprika, you can use regular paprika. Enjoy this hearty dip all summer long.

- 1 T. oil
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. pepper
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 12 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 bag (8 oz.) shredded cheddar jack cheese
- 1 C. thinly sliced romaine lettuce
- ½ C. diced tomatoes
- ¼ C. red onions, diced
- ¼ C. chopped dill pickles

## Sauce

- 1/3 C. mayonnaise
- 1 T. yellow mustard
- 1½ T. ketchup
- ¼ t. garlic powder
- ¼ t. smoked paprika
- 1 T. pickle juice from the jar

Preheat the oven to 375. Heat oil in a medium skillet over medium-high heat. Add the ground beef, salt, pepper, and Worcestershire sauce. Cook, breaking apart beef into small pieces with a wooden spoon until no longer pink, about 6 minutes. Remove from the heat. Spread the cream cheese on the bottom of a 10-inch cast-iron skillet. Top with ½ of the shredded cheese, the cooked ground beef, and then the remaining shredded cheese on top. Bake

for 18 to 20 minutes until the edges are bubbly. Let cool slightly, about 10 minutes. In a small bowl, mix the sauce ingredients: the mayo, mustard, ketchup, garlic and onion powder, paprika and pickle brine. Top the dip with lettuce, tomato, onion, and pickle slices. Drizzle with sauce. Serve with rippled potato chips or pita chips.

## Chicken and Spring Veggies

If you want to beat the heat, this stir fry recipe is a great main dish. I always use the low-sodium soy sauce as well as the less salt chicken broth. I think you can always add salt, but it is hard to take it away once it is there! This stir fry is also very colorful because of all the colors of the sweet peppers.

- 1 C. chicken broth
- 1 T. white balsamic vinegar
- 2 t. flour
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 lb. asparagus, trimmed
- 1/8 t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- ½ C. cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breast halves, cut into ¼ inch strips

In a bowl, mix broth, vinegar, and flour. In a nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium high heat; add asparagus, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring until tender, 5 to 6 minutes adding tomatoes the last 2 minutes of cooking time. Remove into a bowl.

Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper and add to skillet. Over medium high, cook, stirring, until no longer pink, 4 to 5 minutes. Remove chicken into bowl. Add broth mixture to skillet; bring to a boil. Cook until thickened, about 2 minutes. Stir in veggies and chicken; cook until heated through about 1 minute. Garnish with thyme and serve with rice.

## Pepper Steak

The pepper steak is also a heat friendly recipe because it is made on the stove. If you wanted to serve it on noodles, you could.

- 1 lb. flank steak, sliced ¼ inch thick against the grain
- 4 T. low sodium soy sauce

- 2 T. rice wine vinegar
- 2 T. sesame oil
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 2 C. beef broth
- 2 C. beef broth
- 2 T. sugar
- 2 t. black pepper
- ½ t. salt
- 1/8 t. crushed red pepper
- 2 T. canola oil, divided
- 2 green peppers, cut into strips
- 2 red peppers, cut into strips
- 2 orange peppers, cut into strips
- 1 red pepper, cut into strips
- 1 medium onion, cut into strips

- ½ C. pieces of green onion, chopped to 1-inch pieces
  - 2 t. minced garlic
  - 2 t. minced ginger
  - Cooked rice
- In a large bowl, stir together steak, 1 T. soy sauce, vinegar, and sesame oil. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour. In a small bowl, whisk together cornstarch and remaining 3 T. of soy sauce until smooth; whisk in broth, sugar, pepper, salt and red pepper until combined. Remove steak from marinade and place on a plate; add broth mixture to

marinade.

In a large skillet, heat 1 T. canola oil over medium-high heat. Add steak in a single layer; cook until browned, 5 to 6 minutes. Remove steak from pan. In same skillet heat remaining 1 T. oil over medium heat. Add peppers, onion and green onion pieces; cook, stirring occasionally, until lightly browned, 5 to 6 minutes. Stir in garlic and ginger; cook until softened and fragrant, about 3 minutes. Stir in steak and marinade; cook, stirring constantly, until thick-

ened, 3 to 5 minutes. Serve with rice. Garnish with sliced green onions.

## Strawberry Pretzel Pie

Most of us have had the strawberry pretzel salad or dessert (remember there is a debate on which one it is!). This recipe takes a lot of the same ingredients and puts them into a pie. It is not a traditional pie because you make it in a springform pan. You

See KITCHEN, Page 13

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# LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,

VS. MICAH WILSON; COURTNEY WILSON; MICAH WILSON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; COURTNEY WILSON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 22 FC 18 1264 WEST STAVER STREET FREEPORT, IL 61032

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on March 9, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 6/20/2023, in Stephenson County Courthouse

15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

CITY OF FREEPORT LOT 51 OF CRESTWOOD ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FREEPORT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN BOOK "F" OF PLATS, AT PAGE 29, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

TAX NO. 18-13-36-128-008

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1264 West Staver Street Freeport, IL 61032

Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property has a one car garage. The garage is attached. The exterior is vinyl siding. The color is white. The property does not have a fence. The property is occupied.

The Judgment amount was \$92,918.41. Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the bid amount, 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 property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises. 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 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: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-08936IL PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED

TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale. I3215826

(Published in The Shopper's Guide May 24, 31 & June 7, 2023) 438173

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS U.S. Bank National Association PLAINTIFF

Vs. Melissa S. Turner; Joseph S. Turner; State of Illinois - Department of Revenue; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants DEFENDANTS

No. 2023FC2 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Joseph S. Turner Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 604 Delores St East Dubuque, IL 61025 and which said Mortgage was made by: Melissa S. Turner Joseph S. Turner the Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for U.S. Bank N.A., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, as Document No. 312526; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Kathy Phillips Clerk of the Circuit Court

Jo Daviess County Courthouse 330 N. Bench Street Galena, IL 61036 on or before June 23, 2023, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 DuPage # 15170 Winnebago # 531 Our File No. 14-22-09717

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. I3220843 (Published in The Scoop Today May 24, 31 & June 7, 2023) 438203

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust PLAINTIFF

Vs. Peter J. Marren; et. al. DEFENDANTS No. 2018CH60 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 03/21/2023, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on July 20, 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:

A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN A PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, HAR-

LEM TOWNSHIP, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THE BOUNDARY OF SAID TRACT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; THENCE SOUTH 88 DEGREES 57 MINUTES 04 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 7, A DISTANCE OF 330.46 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES, 25 MINUTES 34 SECONDS WEST 831.36 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 34 MINUTES 57 SECONDS WEST, 296.13 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 7; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 610.11 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 1, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 13 MINUTES 58 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 7, A DISTANCE OF 224.40 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL RECORDED EASEMENTS AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS; ALL BEING SITUATED IN HARLEM TOWNSHIP, STEPHENSON COUNTY IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS. PIN 89-08-13-07-100-002 (89-08-13-07-100-001 U/P) Improved with Residential COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 3897 N Rink Road Lena, IL 61048

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.

Continued on next page

# • Programs

(Continued from page 7)

students toward completing a degree that qualifies them for these specialized fields. In science, teachers typically tend to pursue an area of specialization — for example, Biology Education, Chemistry Education, Earth Science Education, or Physics Education.”

On top of certificates, degrees, and emphasis areas, Highland has unveiled a new option for more flexibility in earning general education requirements. Students can choose to take all gen eds fully online as a complete transferable package toward four-year colleges and universities. “Today’s graduates need interdisciplinary skills to thrive in an increasingly nuanced job market, which means Highland must continually evaluate how to meet the needs of learners,” said HCC Vice President of Academic Services Sam Agdasi. “We strive to provide the best educational opportunities for students, and offering these new programs is in alignment with that goal.”

Registration is open, with summer classes starting June 12 and the fall semester coming up on Aug. 21. Contact Advising to register at 815-599-3573.

# • Bill

(Continued from page 10)

prioritize medical patients. It also would have amended licensing procedures by allowing conditional adult-use dispensary license holders an extra year to find a physical address.

Two smaller cannabis-related measures were able to pass this session, including a measure in the budget implementation bill that allows the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to extend the deadline for conditional adult-use dispensary license holders to secure a physical location and become operational. The current deadline is July 1, but once Gov. JB Pritzker signs the budget package, the new deadline will be July 2024.

Additionally, beginning Jan. 1, 2024, calendar year, cannabis businesses will be allowed to deduct ordinary and necessary business expenses from their income for state tax purposes.

# • Kitchen

(Continued from page 11)

could make it in a large pie plate, but the springform pan lets you place all the ingredients one on top of the other. Enjoy this summer treat more than once.

4 C. miniature pretzels  
6 T. melted butter  
¼ C. sugar  
¾ C. boiling water  
1 pkg. (6 oz.) strawberry Jell-O  
¼ C. lemon juice  
1 lb. fresh strawberries, hulled, divided  
2 C. heavy whipping cream, divided  
1 jar (7 oz.) marshmallow crème  
2/3 C. whipped cream cheese  
2/3 C. sweetened condensed milk

Place pretzels in a food processor; pulse until chopped. Add butter and sugar, pulse until combined. Reserve 1/3 C. pretzel mixture for topping. Press remaining mixture onto the bottom of a greased 9-inch springform pan. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. Meanwhile in a bowl, add boiling water to Jell-O; stir for 2 minutes until completely dissolved. Stir in

lemon juice. Refrigerate 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Chop half the strawberries; slice remaining berries and reserve for topping. In a large bowl, beat 1 C. heavy cream until stiff peaks form. Place in refrigerator. In a bowl, beat marshmallow crème, cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk into cooled Jell-O mixture until blended. Gently fold in chopped strawberries and whipped cream. Pour on crust. Refrigerate, covered until firm, 4 to 6 hours. Beat remaining cup of heavy cream until stiff peaks form; spread over pie. Top with reserved strawberries and pretzel mixture. Remove from pan to serve.

## Rhubarb Cheesecake Squares

Many people are still getting rhubarb from their gardens. It is a good fruit to put in the freezer for later, but if you have

fresh rhubarb, these squares are great to make and eat

1¼ C. flour  
½ C. old-fashioned oats  
½ C. packed brown sugar  
½ C. cold butter, cubed  
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened  
¾ C. sugar  
½ t. salt  
¼ t. cinnamon  
1/8 t. nutmeg  
1 egg, room temperature, lightly beaten  
½ t. vanilla  
1½ C. diced fresh or frozen rhubarb, thawed

Preheat the oven to 350. In a small bowl, mix flour, oats and brown sugar; cut in butter until crumbly. Reserve 1 C. of the mixture for topping. Press remaining mixture into bottom of a greased 9-inch square baking pan.

Filling: beat cream cheese, sugar, salt, and spices until smooth. Add egg and vanilla; beat on low speed just until combined. Fold in rhubarb.

Spread over crust. Sprinkle with remaining topping. Bake until golden brown and filling is set, about 40 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 1 hour. Refrigerate, covered, until cold, about 2 hours; cut into squares and serve.

## Final Thoughts

I hope you all had a great Memorial Day weekend. There were lots of parades and programs to honor our fallen heroes. There were cookouts and lots of socializing. I made my first Root Beer Float. Boy was it good.

Congratulations to the Boys Track Team on their first ever Sectional win and their good showing at the State Tournament. That tournament for Le-Win was the last school event. Summer baseball and softball have started full speed ahead. The pool has opened also. My swim exercise class has started, and the pool was beautiful. They had some problems early

on, so I hope that everything is squared away for the rest of the summer.

Music in the Park continues on Saturday evenings at the lake. Soon we will have the Music in the Park on Sunday evenings. My friend rescued my planters from the cemetery, and they have bounced back from wind and scorching sun. Now I just have to keep them going each week. I love how pretty things look in my neighborhood. I am sure they will begin to recognize the yards of the month. I always am in awe of how many people have the beautiful lawns and gardens around our town.

If you have any summer vegetable or fruit 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.

## LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page 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 14-18-10658. I3221712

(Published in The Shopper’s Guide June 7, 14 & 21, 2023) 438910

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Lena Community Park Board will hold a Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, June 22, 2023 at 6 p.m. at the Park Office, 609 N. Schuyler St., Lena IL 61048. The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the Proposed Budget for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. The Proposed Budget is available for public inspection at the Park Office during regular office hours (Monday & Wednesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and Thursday, 4-6 p.m.).

(Published in The Shopper’s Guide June 7, 2023)

438959

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RARE 1956 PLYMOUTH FURY Show car. Asking \$29,000. Lena, IL. Call 815-369-4334.

## real estate

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

## for sale

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**CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.**

**DISCLAIMER NOTICE** This publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

### Burial Needs

**7 CEMETERY PLOTS** Willing to sell as a group or individually. Located at Roselawn Memory Gardens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. This is a private sale. Contact Randy, the seller at randy@slpublishers.com.

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398158

# •Kayaking (Continued from page 4)

I wasn't tired—yet, but I wondered just when that would happen. And then I saw a diving bird. It disappeared under the crystal-clear water and swam underneath the boat. Pretty cool. A bit further downstream, turtles sunned themselves on a river rock. All along the route, trees grew from within the river itself. Their bark looked like driftwood and their leaves hung heavy with gray moss. But the highlight came about three-quarters in when we saw critters we weren't expecting (hoping, but not

expecting.) And it wasn't alligators. It was a family of otters. They were swimming and playing like only a family of otters can. They popped their heads up from the water and stared. We watched them and they watched us. My son described them best when he said they looked like a batch of river puppies. It was, in a word, very, very cool. Worth the trip, actually. We could have watched the otters all day, but there was the rest of the river to conquer. So we paddled on and (I'm proud to say)

finished the 4.7 (probably 5) mile route without calling it quits. We didn't even think of calling it quits. The tour guides said we'd do the trip in three or four hours. It took us less than two. Along the way we saw otters (exclamation point.) And my boys saw me (effortlessly) pull off the 4.75 miles. It was a good day. *Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.*

# •Blueprint (Continued from page 5)

care a challenge nearly everywhere. We propose a true team approach to the problem. We offer here a blueprint of policy ideas we believe will help address the challenge comprehensively and effectively. **Our first pillar** calls for increasing equitable access. Many people in rural, minority, and low-income communities have some of the greatest needs, yet they have the greatest challenges to see those needs met. Illinois policymakers should promote more collaborative care programs, where mental health professionals consult directly with primary care physicians to address patients' physical and mental needs. We should increase and improve laws promoting telehealth which, since the COVID-19 pandemic, has become an increasingly popular option for patients who live many miles from the nearest provider. We can also add more psychiatrists through funding of more residency training slots right here in Illinois, rather than watching promising students go elsewhere to practice. Incentives will encourage more providers to work in underserved areas. Smart changes to the administrative side of our practices—full parity for psychiatric treatment, streamlined medication prior authorizations, and improved mental health court equity and access—will provide the support psychiatrists and other mental health professionals

need to succeed. **Our second pillar** focuses on systems of care, where all mental health providers work together to meet patients' varied needs. When one piece of the system is weak, or when providers work outside their area of expertise, the entire system struggles – and ultimately patient care suffers. Here, we believe stronger communication and coordination is key. Patients often see different providers along their mental health journey. Those providers—state agencies, public entities, private providers—should work better together to share medical records and insight into patient analysis and recognize the strengths each bring to helping meet patients' needs. We need to ensure all levels of care are properly staffed to handle all issues ranging from one-on-one counseling to preventing acts of violence. **Our third pillar** might be the most consequential to address our crisis: prevention. We go to the dentist and the doctor regularly for check-ups and screenings, or if something just doesn't quite feel right. Yet too often in our mental health, we wait too long to seek professional help. The problems get worse as we put off the visit—out of fear, embarrassment, or deni-

al. We believe helping youth understand the importance of mental health care early in life is critical for widespread adoption of prevention. Increased public education programs on mental health, increased and regular screenings in pediatric and school settings, stronger parent and family engagement in preventative care—all these steps will help students see their mental health as they do their physical health, and develop the good habits that will undoubtedly spare pain and struggle later. We need to recognize the need to promote caring for one's complete health, as nutrition and physical illness highly affect one's mental health. We thank Gov. Pritzker's team and state legislators for recognizing mental and behavioral health as critical needs that must be addressed now. Together, we will work to establish the progress we need to help all Illinoisans live healthier lives and move past the stigmas and fear that drive people from the care they need to get better. *Abdi Tinwalla, MD, is immediate past president and Andrew Lancia, MD, is the president of the Illinois Psychiatric Society.*

# REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, VS. MICAH WILSON; COURTNEY WILSON; MICAH WILSON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; COURTNEY WILSON; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 22 FC 18  
1264 WEST STAVER STREET FREEPORT, IL 61032  
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on March 9, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 6/20/2023, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galeana Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:  
TAX NO. 18-13-36-128-008  
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1264 West Staver Street Freeport, IL 61032  
Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property has a one car garage. The garage is attached. The exterior is vinyl siding. The color is white. The property does not have a fence. The property is occupied.  
The Judgment amount was \$92,918.41.  
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.  
The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.  
Upon payment in full of the bid amount, 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 property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.  
The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.  
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assess-

ments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).  
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: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.  
Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-089361L  
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.  
I3215826  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide May 24, 31 & June 7, 2023) 438174

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS  
U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as Owner Trustee for VRMTG Asset Trust PLAINTIFF Vs. Peter J. Marren; et. al. DEFENDANTS  
No. 2018CH60  
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 03/21/2023, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on July 20, 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 89-08-13-07-100-002 (89-08-13-07-100-001 U/P) Improved with Residential COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 3897 N Rink Road Lena, IL 61048  
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 14-18-10658. I3221712  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide June 7, 14 & 21, 2023) 438911

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# Brinkmeier headlines NUIC-North Team

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The NUIC-North released their 2023 baseball All-Conference team, and it was no surprise to see Pearl City's Nathan Brinkmeier at the top of the list. Brinkmeier helped lead the Wolves to an NUIC-North Conference championship, and into Sectionals, where they eventually fell to Sterling Newman.

The Pearl City senior was widely regarded as one of the best pitchers in all of Illinois class 1A. In 2023, Brinkmeier finished with a 7-2 record on the mound with a 1.65 earned run average. Over the course of fifty-nine innings pitched, Brinkmeier allowed just thirty-three hits, while racking up

one hundred and twenty-four strikeouts.

Brinkmeier also dominated at the plate, hitting .536 with twenty-six runs batted in, four homeruns, and twelve doubles. Brinkmeier was rewarded for his play as he was named the NUIC-North's Most Valuable Player. The Pearl City senior was a First Team All-Conference selection as a pitcher-infielder, as well.

Joining Brinkmeier on the First Team was Tanner Perdue, a fellow Pearl City senior. Perdue hit .315 at the plate with twelve RBI and twenty-four runs scored. Where Perdue really shined was on the mound, however, where he provided a great counterpart for Brink-

meier. Perdue finished the year going 4-2 as a pitcher with a 2.42 ERA. Perdue struck out fifty-four batters in forty-five and one third innings pitched.

The Wolves also had a trio of Second Team All-Conference selections in juniors, Lexington Endress and Jayden Downs, and freshman, Kip Martens. The trio will look to step up their leadership roles as they each return for next season.

A number of Lena-Winslow Panthers found themselves on the All-Conference teams. A trio of seniors earned First Team selections in Jake Zeal, Rowen Schulz, and Drew Streckwald.

Schulz was the team's leading hitter with a batting average of .492. With twenty-five RBI

and eight doubles, Schulz was a tough out in his senior campaign.

Zeal was right behind Schulz in batting. With a .491 batting average, Zeal couldn't have been any closer to Schulz at the top of the stat sheet. Zeal led the team with four homeruns and three triples. Zeal also led the team in stolen bases with twenty.

Streckwald was another one of the team's top hitters with a .380 batting average and a pair of homeruns. Streckwald was also the team's leading pitcher. In just over thirty-five innings pitched, Streckwald had an ERA of 3.53 and a record of 5-2. The senior also led the team in strikeouts with fif-

ty-one.

Joining the Le-Win seniors was a Panther freshman, Luke Madigan, who broke onto the scene in 2023. Madigan not only stepped in as one of the team's better hitters, but also became one of their top pitchers by the end of the year. After hitting .351 and striking out forty-nine as a freshman, Madigan looks like an exciting player to return for next season.

The Panthers also had a pair

of Second Team All-Conference selections in senior, Wes Offerman, and sophomore, Cobryn Lynch.

Mitch Soddy was the lone Orangeville Bronco to earn an All-Conference selection. The senior led the Broncos with a .302 batting average and eight runs batted in. Soddy also led the team with ten stolen bases in 2023. The Broncos earned the NUIC-North sportsmanship award, as well.

## Volunteer opportunities at the Stephenson County Fair

Stephenson County Fair is thrilled to announce a unique volunteer opportunity for dedicated individuals who are passionate about giving back to their community. Ticket Takers and Cashiers are needed during the upcoming fair. This incredible opportunity allows volunteers to contribute to the community while experiencing all the excitement and fun the fair has to offer!

What sets this volunteer opportunity apart is the commitment to supporting charitable organizations. For every hour dedicated to volunteering, a \$10 donation will be made to FACC (or the non-profit organization of your choice). The goal is to contribute over \$7,500 to deserving organizations through the volunteers at the Gates initiative.

To participate, simply review the available slots listed on our website, [www.stephensoncountyfair.org](http://www.stephensoncountyfair.org) For more information and inquiries, please contact the office at 217-369-8436. Any questions may be directed to Kate Boyer, Executive Manager, at the Stephenson County Fair Office.

## City of Freeport receives \$1.7 million in Brownfields Grant

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has announced that the City of Freeport is a recipient of significant grant funds to aid in the demolition and remediation contaminated properties. The grant will provide \$1.7 million to the city to remediate the building and contaminated soil at 17-19 W. Main Street. Freeport received the largest amount of 2023 Brownfield

Grant funding in the state of Illinois.

The City of Freeport applied for the 2023 Brownfields Grant funds with the assistance of Freeport-based engineering and environmental firm, Fehr Graham. "Freeport City officials requested our firm's assistance in remediating a long-term Sanitary Cleaner facility issue in downtown Freeport. With unprecedented funding in the

2023 Brownfield Clean Up Grant cycle, our team of project and environmental experts felt this program was well suited for cleanup and resolution of the unfunded contamination issue that has been identified for many years," says Darin Stykel, Client Operations Manager of Fehr Graham. "Fehr Graham is extremely thankful and pleased to be a partner with the City of Freeport on improving the qual-

ity of life in the communities where we live, work, and play."

Upon receiving news of the grant award, the City was sent a letter from the United States Environmental Protection Agency stating, "The City of Freeport submitted an outstanding application, and we deeply appreciate the tremendous commitment of time and energy that went into its preparation."

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