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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Greenhouse gratitude

The Stockton FFA Chapter would like to thank the Kupersmith family for their memorial donation in honor of Duane Kupersmith. Kupersmith was a great alumni member for the chapter and was a key player in bringing the agriculture program back to Stockton schools in 2008. The money will be put toward the new greenhouse to be used starting next year. Pictured are (back row left to right) Bob Kupersmith, Betty Lou Keuter, Bev Williams, Brenda Jakel, Barb Williams, (front row left to right) Masyn Cahill, Ava Hess, Donna Kupersmith, and Hannah Brudi. Not pictured is Bill Kupersmith.

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Illinois wheat tour scouts are bullish about yield potential

By Daniel Grant

FARMWEEK

It looks to be quite a year for wheat in Illinois based on findings of the Southern Illinois Wheat Tour and the latest USDA projections. The annual tour, hosted by the Illinois Wheat Association (IWA) May 23, projected an average yield of 97.1 bushels per acre, with a weighted average of 94.8 bushels, based on 57 samples from 20 counties mostly south of Interstate 70.

"One thing I noticed on the tour is everything is pretty steady," said Mark Krausz, IWA president and Clinton County farmer. "We didn't see that one bad patch." Joel Boesch, of Wehmer/AgriMAXX Seed in Mascoutah, reported similar findings. "Most of the area I cover looks pretty dang good," he told FarmWeek during a tour stop in Washington County, the state's largest wheat producer. "I bet there'll be some yields in the 120s and 130s coming in."

IWA worked with the University of Illinois to enhance the crop scouting methods on the tour this year with more focus put on spikelet measurements along with tiller counts to make yield projections.

Overall, USDA projects Illinois farmers will harvest the most acres (790,000) in a decade this season and produce the most bushels (61.6 million) statewide since 2008. "We did not have a hard time finding a field, so



METRO CREATIVE STOCK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Overall, USDA projects Illinois farmers will harvest the most wheat acres (790,000) in a decade this season and produce the most bushels (61.6 million) statewide since 2008.

that's an excellent sign," said Dave Devore, of Siemer Milling in Teutopolis, who scouted fields in Effingham, Jasper, Richland and Clay counties. "Some of the acreage increase is in some of those counties."

And what about yield potential in those southeast counties? "We didn't see a bad field," Devore said.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Illinois field office rated the condition of the crop at

67% good to excellent (up 5 points from the previous week), 24% fair and 9% poor to very poor as of May 22.

USDA pegged the statewide average yield at 78 bushels per acre as of May 12, just one bushel below

the record set the past two years. If the production estimates come to fruition, Illinois would rank as the No. 4 producer of wheat in the U.S. this year. "That's really unusual for Illinois because we devote so many acres to corn and soybeans," said Mark Schleusener, Illinois state statistician with NASS, who noted new wheat estimates will be released this month.

However, part of the reason Illinois could move up in wheat rankings is due to crop issues in drought-ravaged portions of the Plains. "I think the big story for wheat across the U.S. is actually in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. It's very, very dry there," Schleusener noted. "It's bad enough that some people are evaluating wheat fields and saying they look so bad they're going to kill them and plant corn or beans (which could alter the final acreage mix)."

Nationally, USDA estimates the winter wheat planted to harvested ratio could sink to just 67.4% this season, which would be the lowest since 1917. In Illinois, tour scouts did find a range of issues from freeze damage, nitrogen deficiency and barley yellow dwarf to some fusarium head blight in the crop. But none of the issues appeared to be widespread.

"There's not a lot of head scab," said Aaron Hunsinger, of Bosch BASF Smart Farming in Carmi, who led the tour through White, Hamilton, Gallatin and Wayne counties. "We saw a lot of good wheat fields, which is pretty amazing since we got a lot of rain. When people were getting 2-3 tenths, we were getting 2-3 inches at a time."

Tour participants predict harvest will begin in early to mid-June in southern Illinois and progressively later in the month moving north. "All in all, the fields look really good. There was no insect pressure or scab," said Mark Miller, of Mennel Milling in Mount Olive, who led the tour through Macoupin, Montgomery, Bond and Madison counties. "We'll see what it looks like in 2-3 weeks."

The recent warm up should be good for grain fill heading into harvest, according to Boesch. "We need one more good rain and I think Illinois will have another good wheat crop," Devore added.

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

Obituary

LARRY CROPPER

Larry B. Cropper, 72, of Warren, Illinois passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, June 4, 2023. Larry was born on Sept. 7, 1950, in Freeport, Illinois to Burdette and Arlene (Vinger) Cropper. He graduated from Warren High School in 1968. Larry married Mary K. Sargent on Oct. 30, 1971, at Grace Lutheran Church in Darlington, Wisconsin.

Larry worked for L&S Gas Company in Warren where he sprayed crops, delivered gas, and was their appliance technician. He retired after 47 years of dedicated service. Farming was one of Larry's passions. He was a lifelong farmer in the rural Warren area. He was a past president of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Warren where he was also an active member. Larry was an avid Chicago sports fan, especially for the Bulls, Cubs, and Bears. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Larry is survived by his wife Mary, of Warren, his children; Amanda (Darby) Bennett of New Diggings, WI, Melissa (Tony) Koberstein of Sun Prairie, WI, and



Tim (Carah) Cropper of Monroe, WI, grandchild; Christina, Elizabeth, and Jacob Bennett, Violet Koberstein,

Seth and Marynn Cropper, his brother; James (Maria) Cropper of North Carolina, his mother-in-law Kathleen Sargent-Teasdale, many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, his father-in-law Francis Sargent, and his step-father-in-law Bob Teasdale.

Funeral services were held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Warren, IL. A visitation was from 10 a.m. until time of services on Saturday, June 10, 2023, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Warren, IL. Burial took place at Elmwood Cemetery in Warren, IL. Rev. Janice Diefenthaler officiated the services. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

A big thank you to everyone for the kindness and sympathy expressed to our family at this difficult time. The cards, notes, memorials, flowers and prayers will always be remembered. We didn't want to say good-bye, but he is no longer suffering.

Family of Dennis Janicke

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Pritzker set to consider signing more than 500 bills in the next three months

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois lawmakers passed 566 bills through both chambers of the General Assembly in the recently concluded legislative session—all but one of them in May. It sets the table for an approximate three-month bill-signing season for Gov. JB Pritzker. That's because the state's constitution gives legislative leaders 30 days from a bill's passage to send it to the governor, who then has 60 days to sign or veto it.

If the governor takes no action in that time frame, the bill would become law automatically. Historically, the legislature has sent bills to the governor in batches, allowing his staff ample time to review the proposals.

The following are some of the bills that Pritzker will consider signing in the coming months.

Noncitizen licenses

A measure backed by Democratic Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias would allow residents of Illinois to obtain a standard driver's license, rather than the "temporary visitor driver's license" that is currently allowed under law. An applicant would be required to show their U.S. immigration documentation or, if they don't have that, a passport or consular card. They would also have to prove they have car insurance.

A standard license can be used as identification, whereas a TVDL cannot. Advocates said that has made tasks such as buying alcohol or picking up a prescription challenging for many TVDL holders. Under House Bill 3882, noncitizens would still be ineligible to receive a federal Real ID certified license.

According to the secretary of state's office, more than

300,000 people currently have a TVDL. Those would still be valid until their expiration date, but the state would not issue any new ones.

It passed the House 67-35 and the Senate 33-18.

Noncitizen law enforcement

House Bill 3751 provides that noncitizens can become law enforcement officers in Illinois if they're authorized by federal law to work in the country or if action on their immigration status has been deferred under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals process. Those individuals must meet all other state qualifications for being in law enforcement and must be authorized to possess a firearm under federal law. The measure passed 37-20 in the Senate and 100-7 in the House.

License plate readers

Another measure backed by Giannoulias would prohibit any "user" of an automated license plate reader from sharing data collected by the device with out-of-state law enforcement officers who are investigating activities related to abortion care or someone's immigration status.

Prior to sharing any data, an ALPR user—which includes law-enforcement agencies and other entities if they share the data with law enforcement—would first need a written declaration that the law enforcement agency would not use the data contrary to the bill's language. If no such declaration exists, the user would be prohibited from sharing the data. House Bill 3326 passed 39-15 in the Senate and 69-34 in the House.

Native American repatriation

House Bill 3413 would

streamline the process through which Illinois returns Native American remains and materials to their communities. In part, it would create a procedure in which the Illinois Department of Natural Resources would consult with affiliated tribal nations when returning remains. The measure was spurred by reporting from ProPublica which showed the Illinois State Museum has the second-largest collection of unrepatriated Native American remains in the U.S. As of 2022, the state museum had only returned 2 percent of the 7,700 remains it reported to the U.S. government.

HB 3413 allows IDNR to establish burial sites for Native American human remains and other artifacts that are closed to the public and protected by the state. Additionally, it creates a fund in the state treasury that would be paid into by violators of the act and subject to appropriation to cover costs including reinterment, repatriation, repair or restoration of human remains. It passed both houses unanimously. One lawmaker voted "present" in the House.

Probation drug testing

Senate Bill 1886 would limit the circumstances under which a judge could order a person to refrain from cannabis and alcohol use and submit to testing while on probation. A judge could still mandate testing if the person is under 21 or was sentenced for an offense that included use of an "intoxicating compound." Testing could also still be required if the person is in problem-solving court or if the person has undergone a clinical assessment that includes alcohol or cannabis testing. Courts could also still require a person to abstain from cannabis and alcohol for 30 days between sentencing and

the person's participation in a clinical assessment.

The measure would also prohibit a court from banning cannabis use if it is prescribed by a medical professional and from assessing fees for mandatory drug or alcohol testing if the person is indigent as defined in state law. It passed 75-40 in the House and 31-18 in the Senate.

Child influencers

Senate Bill 1782 aims to protect "child influencers" who are under the age of 16 and featured in at least 30 percent of money-making internet videos, or vlogs, published by a family member in a 30-day period. Vloggers who feature children under the age of 16 would be required to keep records of the children's inclusion in vlogs, proof of age and other documents. If they don't, the child would have a right to sue in civil court.

If the vlog reaches a platform's money-making threshold or generates at least 10 cents per view, the vlogger would be required to put a percentage of earnings into a trust fund for the child that is equal to half of the percentage of content that features the child. Percentages differ if multiple children are featured.

It passed the House 98-17 and the Senate 57-0.

Hotel worker protections

House Bill 2220 would give hotel managers greater authority to remove disruptive visitors from their premises. That includes individuals who refuse to pay, threaten employees, violate laws or posted hotel rules, or use

Highland brings 'Matilda the Musical' for Summerset 48 to the stage

Highland Community College is excited to bring to the stage the Tony Award-winning Roald Dahl's "Matilda The Musical" for Summerset 48. Production dates for "Matilda the Musical" are June 22, 23, 24, 29, and 30, and July 1 at 7:30 p.m. There is a matinee at 3 p.m. on July 2 in the Fine Arts Theatre in the Ferguson Fine Arts Center located at 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, Ill.

"Matilda the Musical" is a captivating and inspiring story of a little girl with big dreams of a better life. With the book by Dennis Kelly and original songs by Tim Minchin, the production has won 47 international awards and continues to excite audiences of all ages around the world.

The cast list includes Matilda Wormwood played by Gemma Musser, Miss Agatha Trunchbull played by Joy Hotchkiss, Miss Honey played by Davida Sanders,

Mr. Wormwood played by Jeff DeLay, Mrs. Wormwood played by Joy DeLay,

Michael Wormwood played by Luke Wilson, Bruce played by James Wilson.

Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors (60 and older), and \$10 for students and children. Purchase tickets at the box office in the Ferguson Fine Arts Center on Highland's campus, highland.edu/boxoffice or by calling 815-599-3718. Tickets will also be available for a half-hour before each performance in the lobby.

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In brief

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.

Wood Powered Pizza Ovens community event

Wood Powered Pizza Ovens (WPPO) invite the community to an Open House event on August 5 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the main warehouse in Warren. This will be an all-day event that will accommodate kids, teens, and adults. Come join WPPO as they showcase their latest innovations, jaw-dropping demonstrations, and interactive experiences.

See **BILLS**, Page 8

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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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Program**

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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

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.

424026

OPINION



Slices of life

Perspective

When confronting a problem. I've always been told to gain perspective by thinking about how important this issue will be in five years. It's a useful exercise.

But going into the future is mere speculation. You don't/can't know where you will be in five years. Maybe your troubles will be small; maybe they will be great.

So, while the approach of looking ahead has worked for me thus far, I'm proposing something completely different. What if we take this idea and turn it on its head?

Instead of looking to the future, how about we go back - to the past?

Put yourself in your own shoes five years ago. Here, there is no guessing. You know exactly where you were five or even 10 years



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

ago. You know far too well the obstacles you've encountered - and overcome - since then.

And these obstacles, I think, can perhaps better help us put our present angst into perspective.

Today I struggle with the need to purchase a car. Or maybe a washing machine that needs repair. Or perhaps one of my kids needs a job.

All angst-worthy situations.

But. How do they compare to other angst-worthy situations

I've encountered in the past?

I advised going back five years, but I don't have to go that far. For me, the key year is (and probably always will be) 2020. In 2020, COVID hit, the world shut down, my dad died and then my husband died. All in those 12 precious months. Worst year of my life - so far and I hope ever.

My present angst doesn't come close to that of 2020. It isn't even a sliver.

Still, it threatens to overpower my day - with worry, consternation, with what-ifs and worst-case-scenarios. All a waste of my good time. I read somewhere once that it isn't negative events that cause anxiety, it's the way we think about those events - or how much we allow ourselves to think about those events.

We think we can control the negative events in our lives but that is most often impossible. We can't control negative events any more than we can control lightning or the tide or the path of a tornado. We aren't in control of the bad things that happen in our lives. We are in control of how we respond to them.

It's tempting to get caught up in the maze of turbulence that is life. And sometimes I do, but not for long - at least not often. Much, much less than in the past - prior to 2020. That's for sure.

I only need to think of 2020 and suddenly perspective becomes crystal clear. I survived 2020. Certainly I can survive an appliance repair.

It's a no-brainer. Maybe that's the hidden gift of hard times. They create perspective. They give a backdrop onto reality. They make everyday problems seem doable because they are.

Life provides hills and hurdles. It isn't a clear path because it wasn't designed to be. We wouldn't learn needed lessons if all we experienced was easy street.

Life is meant to be hard. Gulp.

Because hard pushes us. Hard makes us grow. Hard helps us to rise above the problems of today and realize we can tackle tomorrow. Hard - when conquered - makes us the opposite of hard.

It opens us to the beauty in every moment. Hard, when tackled correctly, softens us. It allows us to be more loving and kind. And in doing so, it make the world a kinder place.

And, really, truly, that's what this is all about, isn't it?

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.



Family Fun Day at Discovery Center Museum

Discovery Center Museum will host 9 Family Fun Day events between June 16 and August 4 of 2023. Designed as educational and entertaining programs for families, Family Fridays focus on a specific subject matter and then explore that subject through various means, including activities, demonstrations, make-and-take projects, and performances. All event activities included with admission: \$10/Adult; \$10/Child; Free to Members and all children ages one and younger. Family Fridays are sponsored by Constellation Energy and a grant from the Illinois Arts

Council Agency.

Friday, June 16 – EIEIO 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Celebrate summer on the farm during this barnyard bonanza! Meet some live animal friends as you explore the sights, sounds, and feel of barnyard life. Take the duck boat challenge, build a barn, play chicken plinko, create animal puppets, and use eggs to explore the density of water. Live animals here from 10:00 to 2:00 pm.

Friday, June 23 - Under the Sea 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Dive right in as we explore

the deep blue sea! Visit a mermaid's grotto, make scuba goggles, create art with sea shells, play with a cartesian diver and more. Wear your swimsuit or dress to get wet at our first-ever foam party in the outdoor park (bring a towel and a change of clothes and shoes).

Friday, June 30 – Kaboom 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Science and art are the stars in this red, white and blue day of family fun. Witness explosions, send straw rockets soaring, construct light and sound creations, and create colorful masterpieces. Enjoy live sci-

ence demonstrations about the science of fireworks.

Friday, July 7 - Wild Rumpus Circus Shows at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
Circus Activities: 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
The circus is coming to town! Enjoy a day full of surprises and silliness as we welcome the Wild Rumpus Circus for two engaging performances. Enjoy the combination of hilarious clowning with aerial artistry, rapid fire juggling, and fantastic stilt walkers!
Between shows, children can experience being a circus

performer as they balance on a tightwire, take a swing on a low-flying trapeze and go for a spin on a kid-size German Wheel! Tickets for shows available at the door on a first-come, first-serve basis, with one show per family, please.

Friday, July 14 - Magic & Fairy Tales 10:00 am to 2:30 pm Shows at 10:30 am, 11:30 am and 1:30 pm
Magic and fairy tales come to life at Discovery Center! Come dressed in costume and enjoy an enchanting day of magic shows courtesy of TNZ Magic, as well as activities related to beloved fairy tales. Tickets for shows available at the door on a first-come, first-serve basis, with one show per family, please.

use microscopes like a forensic scientist and explore fire science in our live demonstrations. If it doesn't get called for an emergency, you can even get up close to the Mercyhealth REACT helicopter in our parking lot! ages one and younger.

Friday, July 28 - Jim Gill Concert Concerts at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Get ready to sing, clap, dance and spin along during this visit by award-winning musician and author Jim Gill. Jim Gill's distinctive music play is an invitation to children, parents and grandparents to sing and play together. Tickets for shows available at the door on a first-come, first-serve basis, with one show per family, please.

Church news

Lena UMC
On Sunday, July 2 Lena UMC will welcome a new pastor, Melwyn Alagodi. A service of worship of God who unites us in one Spirit will be held at 9 a.m. at 118 W Mason St to celebrate this new partnership in God's ministry.
Pastor Mel brings with him wisdom gained while serving alongside congregations in Manhattan, Tinley Park, and Chadwick here in Illinois and also in the Church of South India. He and his family love rural areas and are excited to be moving to Lena. Pastor Mel will be joined in Lena by his wife, Sabina, and by his sons Jason, who will be in seventh grade in Le-Win, and Justin who will be attending college in Michigan.

815-443-2215. Leave a message with your reservations.
On Thursday, June 22 cards and dominoes will be played in Luther Hall at 1 p.m. All are invited for a fun afternoon of games.
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.

On Saturday, June 24 Good Shepherd will be at the Le-Win Food Pantry from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
All services will be recorded and available on the church's Facebook page and website. Please visit [good-shepherdlena.org](https://www.facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL) or [Facebook https://www.facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL](https://www.facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL) for more information. Please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

Bible Study is offered at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Crafternoon is held from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. During this time there are snacks, a brief devotional thought, and plenty of time to work on crafts individually or together. All of the events are hosted on the lower level of Salem United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join. For more information on any of these gatherings, please contact salemwing-sofjoy@yahoo.com.

Friday, July 21 - Community Superheroes to the Rescue 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Wear your favorite superhero costume and join our gathering of community superheroes. Meet REAL emergency first responders and explore the science our community heroes use every day. Learn about fingerprinting,

Friday, August 4 - Construct and Create 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
We've got the materials... you bring the imagination. Choose from cardboard, recycled materials, Lego blocks, Imagination Playground blocks, Thinker Linkers, K'Nex, and more to create and construct.

St. John's Lutheran Church
St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the third Sunday after Pentecost on June 18. A Worship Service with Holy Communion will begin at 9 a.m. with Vicar Steven KinCannon, candidate for Ordination in the Episcopal Church 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

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, June 18 for Third Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service. Holy Communion will be celebrated. The reading will be from Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23].
On Wednesday, June 21 Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience necessary.

Salem United Church of Christ
All are welcome to join for service led by Pastor Christopher Ham at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, Illinois, on Sunday, June 1, 2023, at 10 a.m. The Adult Sunday School will be held prior to service starting at 9 a.m. on the lower level of the church. Children's Sunday School is held during church service at 10 a.m.
The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet Wednesday, June 21 at 8 a.m. at the Beltline Café, 325 West South Street, Freeport, Illinois. Everyone is welcome to join!
If interested in getting more involved in the church community, check out the monthly gatherings. Men's Night is at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. During this time the men playing games and get to know each other better.

Wesley United Methodist Church
Wesley United Methodist Church of Stockton will host a luncheon on Sunday, June 11 at 12 p.m. after the church service for Pastor Doug Carroll who is leaving. Please bring a dish to pass.
Retirement celebration for Pastor Rick Bader
All are invited to an open house to celebrate Pastor Rick Bader in honor of 43 years of dedicated service to St. John's Lutheran Church and the surrounding community. The event will be held on Saturday, June 24 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall, located at 625 Country Lane Drive, Lena, Illinois. Please feel free to bring a card or note with a memory or well wishes for Pastor and Alice.

The 39 Steps' at Timberlake Playhouse

Timber Lake Playhouse (TLP), the premier professional summer theatre of northwest Illinois, brings Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps* to its Summer Mainstage Season June 15 through June 25. This two-time Tony and Drama Desk Award-winning treat is packed with nonstop laughs, over 150 zany characters (played by a ridiculously talented cast of four), an onstage plane crash, handcuffs, missing fingers, and some good old-fashioned romance!
Mix a Hitchcock masterpiece with a juicy spy novel,

add a dash of Monty Python and you have *The 39 Steps*, a fast-paced whodunit for anyone who loves the magic of theatre. It's a great time to come back to Timber Lake Playhouse and make lasting memories with friends and family.
Information and tickets for all Timber Lake Playhouse events are available online at www.timberlakeplayhouse.org or by calling the box office at 815-244-2035. The Box Office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and show days until intermission.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
and the surrounding community on
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625 Country Lane Drive, Lena, Illinois

Please feel free to bring a card or note with a memory or well wishes for Pastor and Alice.

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Back home

Memories of maple trees



For as long as I can remember, the sprawling silver maple trees have stood on the lawn area of our farm.

It's possible they were planted by my great grandparents when they moved to the farm in 1923, but they may even predate that time. One of my earliest memories on the farm was of a little hut underneath one of the trees. It was called the soap shack, where my great grandmother Hilda made her homemade soaps.

The shack was torn down when my parents built their house in 1971, nestled between the maples and just a few feet north of where the original farmhouse stood before it was destroyed in a fire in 1925.

The lifespan of silver maples in the country is about 100 years or so. Although they are quick growing, they can be fragile and susceptible to disease. They also sprout from the base and can form multiple stemmed trees.

The maples took a hit on June 27, 1998 when a line of intense thunderstorms swept in from Minnesota and caused widespread straight-line wind damage to many areas of central and western Wisconsin. The National Weather Service called it one of the worst storms to hit the region in more than



By **CHRIS HARDIE**
Contributor

25 years.

The storm took down at least two big maple trees in my parent's yard, but they miraculously missed the house. One of them came straight down on their wellhead, knocking out their water. The power was out for several days. The milking equipment was powered by a generator, which my Dad hooked up to a tractor.

The tree that fell on the wellhead was one of the two hammock trees, named for the iron chains that had been screwed into the trunks. The chains held a hammock that was a perfect place to

catch a few winks on a hot summer day.

The other hammock tree still stands, but it's not in good shape. My late father was no arborist and he didn't do the tree any favors when he poured some cement into one of the holes on an upper trunk.

This past winter heavy snows knocked down branches and trunks from some of the trees. They are weak and they need to go. But the memories will remain.

One Father's Day a long time ago I was lying in the hammock looking up at the trees. Some pesky starlings had made a nest in one of the hollow tree cavities. These bothersome birds chase out songbirds, create messes and are a general scourge.

I was armed with a pellet gun and a couple of beers. I was waiting for one of

the squawking birds to emerge from the hole. A slight breeze rocked the hammock slightly, upping the challenge of shooting straight, as did every sip of beer.

Finally a bird emerged. I took a bead and squeezed off a shot. Pffftttt..... down the bird went.

It was certainly one of my finest red necked moments.

I put the air rifle down, finished off my beer and thought "It don't get no better than this," before I drifted off for a well-earned nap.

Chris Hardie spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and publisher. He was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won dozens of state and national journalism awards. He is a former president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. Contact him at chardie1963@gmail.com.

Top left: This maple once had a twin and a hammock that was suspended between the two. The other tree was destroyed in a 1998 wind storm. Left: This multi-limbed maple tree is in need of removal.

CHRIS HARDIE PHOTOS
Rock Valley Publishing

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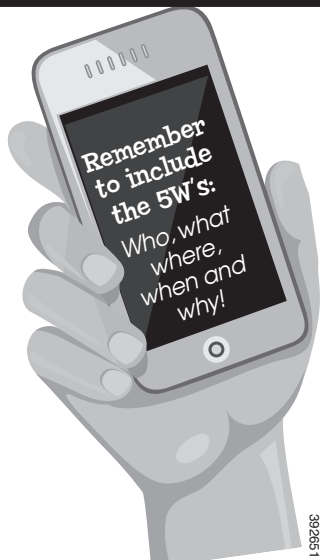
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Bills (Continued from page 3)

“verbally abusive language.”
The hotel industry pushed for the changes, which also state the removed guest must be refunded for unused portions of their stay. It also states the language can't be used to evict long-term residents or if the area is under a severe weather warning. It also may not be used to discriminate against a guest based on characteristics protected under federal, state or local law.

Hotel managers would be allowed to refuse accommodation to anyone who destroys or threatens to destroy hotel property or who is on the premises for the purpose of providing alcohol to an underage person or possess-

ing a controlled substance. It passed 108-3 in the House and 51-2 in the Senate.

Full-day kindergarten
House Bill 2396 would require Illinois elementary and unit public school districts to offer full-day kindergarten by the 2027-2028 school year. After that time, offering half-day kindergarten would be optional. Some districts would be able to apply for a two-year waiver based on their level of state funding.

The measure would also create a task force to study the number of districts offering kindergarten, the number of students enrolled and several other factors. The task force is to be named by October, with

an interim report due to lawmakers by June 30, 2024, and a final report by Jan. 31, 2025.

It passed 52-1 in the Senate and 85-24 in the House.

New state flag commission
Senate Bill 1818—numbered for the year Illinois entered the union—would create a commission to consider new state flag designs and make recommendations to the General Assembly as to whether the current flag should be replaced. Members would be appointed by the governor and legislative leaders of both parties, as well as the secretary of state, the state board of education and the state museum. They would be unpaid other than a per diem reimbursement.

The commission would set “guiding principles” for a new flag, raise awareness for the effort and create a submission process for new designs. By Sept. 1, 2024, they would select 10 of those designs, and by Dec. 3, 2024, they would report to lawmakers with their recommendations. It passed 39-16 in the Senate and 72-40 in the House.

Teacher licensure
Senate Bill 1488 will temporarily suspend and create a task force to review one of the tests prospective teachers must pass to be licensed in Illinois. The test is known as the Teacher Performance Assessment, or “edTPA,” which would be suspended through Aug. 31, 2025, under the measure.

The edTPA is a performance-based assessment that requires applicants to submit a portfolio including lesson plans and tests they've administered while student teaching, along with examples of student work and other material. The portfolios are scored by outside teachers and teacher educators. It has been a requirement in Illinois since 2015 but was temporarily stalled by Pritzker's executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic, which expired May 11.

SB 1488 would also establish a task force to evaluate teacher performance assessment systems and make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly by Aug. 1, 2024. It passed the House 84-19 and the Senate 55-2.

School district cash reserves
Senate Bill 1994, which passed both chambers unanimously, would require school districts to report their annual cash reserves and average three-year operating expenditures to the state. When reserves exceed 2.5 times the average three-year expenditures, the school district would be required to file a plan to the state board detailing how they plan to spend reserves down to 2.5 times their average expenditures or less.
Districts would not be required to spend reserves, but only to submit the plan detailing how they intend to do so over three years.
Editor's note: Capitol News Illinois reporters Peter Hancock and Nika Schoonover contributed to this report.

HUGE FARM TOY AUCTION

600+ PIECES COLLECTION • Dan Nelson – Polo, IL
SATURDAY, JUNE 24 • 9:30 A.M.
Jane Addams Community Center
430 W. Washington St., Cedarville, IL

75% NIB FARM TOYS: Precision JD: 9750 ST Combine, 3010 Tractor, 70 Tractor; Prestige JD 45 Combine; JD: 4520 200th Birthday, 4010 HiCrop, 70 HiCrop, 40-70 Set, 4040, 6600 Combine, metal Reel, 520/620 Set, MI, 40, 9420T, 60 with Picker Sheller, 8300, 9600 Combine; IH: 656 Gold Demo, Precision 400, 600, 460 Restoration Set, Hydro 100, S-AV, 2-2+2 7488, 1456, 5088, 7250, Cub with blade, 350 High Crop, 6388 2+2, 2-1486; CIH: S-AV, 7250 MFD, 5488 AWD, 706 with plow, 2-2+2 7488, STX 450; Case 2595, 2390, 2596730 with wagon; MF 878 Combine; Belt Buckle Collection; Watch Fob Collection; 6 Remington Game Bird Trucks Sets; 25+ 1/64 Semi-Truck Trailers; Assort. JD & Case Truck Banks; 30+ Pcs. Tru-Scale Implements; Tonka; Farm Related Memorabilia; 20+ Numerous flats 1/64, 1/32 Tractors & Implements. **NOTE:** Large selection of IHC & JD Toys. This is the 3rd auction for this collection. 200+ not listed! Farm toys still to be unpacked. **TERMS:** Cash or check with picture ID. Seating, lunch stand & restrooms available.

Check website for many pictures: proauctionsllc.com
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*** AUCTION ***

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 • 10 A.M.
RON & SANDY WISHARD ESTATE

LOCATION: 304 North Lee Street, Davis, IL. Watch for Filer Auction arrows.
CAR, GOLF CART & MOWERS: Honda Accord LX with 153,000 miles, clean car; Rolling “R” 36 volt golf cart, street legal; John Deere X300 lawn mower /38” deck; John Deere 245 lawn mower with 38” deck; John Deere lawn cart; 38” lawn sweeper; 3 sets NEW GM Camaro wheels; 1-set Mustang wheels & tires; 1-set aluminum Toyota wheels; Hood for ‘73-’87 Chevrolet pickup; left fender for ‘78-’81 Malibu.
TOOLS: Hobart Beta-mig 200 wire welder; rustproofing system; Buske frame support system; Buske collision post with chains; paint guns; grinders; sanders; bolt cabinet; wheel barrow; bench grinder; circular saw; Dorman parts cabinet; Delta floor drill press; Worx leaf blower; B&D trimmer; tomato cages; canning jars; Weber gas grill; shelving units; work benches; go-kart tires; battery charger; hand tools; air tanks; welding supplies; steel bench; Lincoln Deluxe workbench; NEW gas fireplace insert.
ANTIQUES & PRIMITIVES: Speed Queen wringer washer; rocker; china hutch; 2-wooden trunks; rug beater; steel wagon wheels; Bulls jacket; 4-wash tubs; 5 gallon crock; wicker loveseat set.
HOUSEHOLD: Gun cabinet; Kenmore washer; Whirlpool dryer; dressers; king size adjustable bed; double bed; couch; chairs; outdoor swing; Sony 46” flat screen TV; wheelchair; outdoor decorations; Christmas decorations; oak table & 6 chairs; crock pots; set 4 blue containers; dishes; George Foreman grill; kitchen appliances; silverware; luggage; 4-window A/C units; Pella casement window-new.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Ron & Sandy have lived in Davis for 49 years and for many of those years ran a body shop. Many nice items. Plan to attend this auction! Check www.filerauction.com for photos and full listing.
TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK.
PARTIAL LIST, MANY BOXES TO BE UNPACKED!
AUCTIONEERS: Randy Filer (815-871-7936) or Mike Zettle (815-238-4955).

Filer Auction
Helenville, Wisconsin 53137 • Davis, Illinois 61019
IL # 444000429 • WI # 1040-52

PUBLIC AUCTION

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 • 11 A.M.
20846 PIGEON ROAD, MORRISON, IL 61270

Directions: Rt. 30 east of Morrison to Veterinary Clinic, go north on Lyndon Road for 7 miles, then 1 mile east on Spring Valley Road, then ½ mile south on Pigeon Road – watch for signs.
HORSE DRAWN WAGONS: High wooden wheel double box with spring seat bought new used twice (pine), pony hitch wagon or light team wagon hydraulic brakes (oak), triple box wagon with wooden 3 in. wheels believed to be a Sears, reliable double box wagon with 3 in. wooden wheels, double box wagon on 1 ½ wide wooden wheels, steel wheel running gear with loose hay wagon box, high wheel wooden running gear, 2 seat carriage with fringe top on rubber tires, Amish top buggy single seat with lights and on wood gear, steel running gear with wood platform.
HORSE DRAWN IMPLEMENTS: John Deer Model M series 51 horse drawn manure spreader on rubber (sharp), breaking cart, John Deer number 1 horse drawn sickle mower, John Deer horse drawn 2-way plow, 24 in. John Deer plow horse drawn, Sulky plow 18 in. horse drawn made by Chattanooga plow company, 2 horse drawn subsoiler, 2 one row horse drawn cultivators, 8 ft. horse drawn disc, Champion horse drawn potato planter, Horse drawn potato digger, misc. steel running gears.
BLACKSMITH ITEMS: Champion Blower & Forge CO. Lancaster PA number 81 forge on steel wheels very unique good shape, approx. 100 lb. forged anvil, approx. 125 lb. fisher anvil with eagle stamp.
GENERAL FARM & HORSE ITEMS: New Holland 355 grinder mixer, 150-bushel gravity wagon, 2-cylinder truck hoist in frame, 48 in. roll of woven wire, 40 in. roll of woven wire both new, 4 wagon spring seats, pair of coach lights, implement metal seats, neck yokes, double trees, wagon tongues, buggy shaves, steel wheels, and one hayrack loaded with horse misc. items.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Gail and Ruth have been collecting and using horse drawn equipment for many years. They have decided to put their collection up for auction. Please visit our AuctionZip page to view photos of these beautiful pieces.
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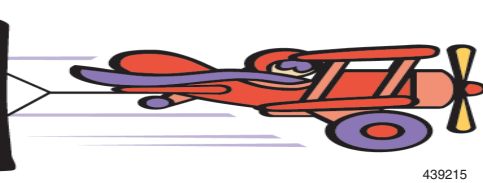
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Wildcats and Warhawks compete in All-Star baseball game

Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT
Some members of the River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats and the Warren-Stockton Warhawks competed in the NUIC All-Star Baseball game on Wednesday, June 7.

For Warren-Stockton, the Warhawks had a pair of players representing the team in Brady Broshous and Cyler Cornelius. Broshous was electric on the mound, where he started for the West team. Broshous tossed two innings of work, allowing just one hit and striking out three. Broshous got the win on the mound, and helped himself out at the plate where he went one for two with one run scored and one run batted in. Cornelius lined out and hit into a ground out in his two at bats in the game.

The Wildcats had three participants on the West team. Maddox Knauer was a perfect two for two with two runs scored at the plate. On the mound, Knauer also tossed a clean inning with one strikeout. Dylan Diehl also had a productive day, going one for one with one RBI and one run scored. Diehl also pitched one inning with two strikeouts and no hits allowed. Finally, Charlie Wiegel did what he does best with a couple flashy plays in the outfield.

Both teams came together to help the NUIC-West team pick up an impressive 9-0 win over the North-South team.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Daughters of the American Revolution installs new officers

On May 6, 2023, the Carroll Jo Davie's Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution installed new officers for the year. The Chapter met at the Owen P. Miles Museum, on East Broadway in Mt. Carroll. After the program and the meeting and installation of officers, members had a tour of the Carroll County Genealogical Center, located on the lower level of the Museum. Congratulations to the new officers. Pictured are (front row left to right) June Slick (Historian), Linda Mencin (Regent), Hillary Blevins (Registrar), Gwen Smith (Recording Secretary), Ann Coppernoll (Chaplain), (back row) Cindy Dyson (Treasurer), Connie Foster (1st Vice Regent), Barb Burger (Corresponding Secretary), Doris Kruse (Librarian).

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Around the Northern Hills

Are you looking for something fun to do with the kids? Our Farm Fun Day at the Apple Canyon Lake property owners club is Saturday, June 24. The event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and has a lot of activities for everyone. Of course, there are plenty of opportunities to interact with the animals. Start out



By **ANNETTE EGGERS**
Jo Davie's County Farm Bureau

with taking a walk through our mobile petting zoo and then try your hand at milking a real cow! You can also make ice cream and butter, circle of earth bracelets, make feed sack snack mix and much more. Keep in mind that this event is dependent on the weather. If there is rain, the event may be cancelled. Watch our Facebook page for updates if there is any doubt. Can't make this event? You're in luck, we have another event scheduled at Shenandoah

Riding Center on July 8.

Free recycling

IDOA is offering free recycling for agricultural containers. The Illinois Department of Agriculture encourages farmers to participate in a free agricultural container recycling program. The program closest to our area will be held Aug. 7 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Carroll Service Company in Milledgeville.

This program is a cooperative venture between, IDOA, Illinois Farm Bureau, Agriculture Container Recycling Council, GROWMARK, Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, G. Phillips and Sons and U of I Extension. For full details about this program, visit

the Illinois Department of Agriculture website at agr.illinois.gov/environment/agrichemicals.html.

Coloring contest winner

The Young Leaders are pleased to announce the winners of the "June is Dairy Month" coloring contest. The contest was open to all children Pre-K through second grade. The 61 entries were judged by the Young Leaders committee.

Winners in each category are:

- Pre-K:**
Xander Reittinger (Warren); Wade Feltmeyer (Stockton); Alexander Blasco (East Dubuque)
- Kindergarten:**
Christian Gunkel

See HILLS, Page 11

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419276

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438262

'Braiding Sweetgrass'

A conversation with Robin Wall Kimmerer

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and the Galena Public Library invite the public to a special watch party with Robin Wall Kimmerer, the award-winning author of "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants." The program will take place on Wednesday, June 21 at the Galena Center for the Arts located at 971 Gear Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. for BYOB, popcorn compliments Great American Popcorn Company of Galena, and opening remarks by JDCF executive director Steve Barg and Galena Public Library adult services librarian Larissa Distler. The program begins at 7 p.m. While free to attend, RSVPs are requested through the Eventbrite link at www.jdcf.org/events. There is also a Zoom option available for those not able to attend in person.

This is a rare opportunity to hear from one of the most important voices in the conservation movement toward a more sustainable and equitable future. In conversation with naturalist Cindy Crosby, Robin will share her own experiences as a botanist, indigenous science professor, and environmental advocate, and offer insights into her journey of learning to listen to the voice of the natural world.

This event is made possible by Illinois Libraries Present, a statewide collaboration among public libraries offering premier events. ILP is funded in part by a grant awarded by the Illinois State Library, a department of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). ILP is committed to inclusion and accessibility.

• Hills (Continued from page 10)

(Hanover); Bexley Ambrosia (Elizabeth); Rose Buisker (Galena)

First-grade:
Miles Miller (Warren); Romy Wall (East Dubuque); Skyler Ogunmola (Hanover)

Second-grade:
Brecklyn Ambrosia (Elizabeth); Ezra Stadel (Scales Mound); Elsie Coppes Stockton)

Local member benefits

Don't forget to take advantage of member-only benefits for Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members. We have businesses around the County who have partnered with us to offer these discounts. Make sure to have your farm bureau membership card handy when asking for those discounts. For a full listing of the local benefits, go to our website www.jodaviessefb.com and click on membership, then local discounts.

Farm Bureau members can access additional member benefits and discounts when they're on the go with the new membership benefit web platform and iPhone App.

To access the new web platform at <https://ilfb.abenity.com>, members must create an account and provide their Illinois Farm Bureau membership ID number. Members can also go to the iPhone App Store, search IL Farm Bureau

Membership Benefits and download the app on their iPhone or iPad. Once downloaded, members may customize the app to include frequently used offers; search offers by business name, location, and category; and provide instant in-store discounts at nearby restaurants and retailers.

Members who have questions about the app or additional Illinois Farm Bureau member benefits may contact our office or the Illinois Farm Bureau Membership call center at 309-557-2689. Personally, I have downloaded the app on my phone, and it alerts me when there are discounts in the area that I'm in. It's super easy!

Connect on social media

Thank you to everyone who currently follows us on Facebook and Instagram! We have a pretty good following, but always want to reach more people. If you don't follow our pages and are on social media, follow us. You will find information about upcoming events as well as be able to check out our recent posts.

Farm fun fact

Cows tend to produce more milk while listening to classical music. Who knew? Some dairy farmers may have to change their taste in music.

Battle of the Apple River Fort celebrates the 191st anniversary of Black Hawk's attack

This year marks the 191st anniversary of the Battle of the Apple River Fort. In the spring of 1832, Black Hawk led over a thousand of Sauk and Fox warriors and civilians back into Illinois to try and reclaim their lands. His return caused a panic, and settlers across northwestern Illinois and southern Wisconsin began to build small forts to defend themselves—one such fort was built at the Apple River Settlement, now Elizabeth, IL.

On June 24, 1832, the Apple River Fort was attacked by two

hundred Sauk and Fox braves, led by Black Hawk himself. The Fort was defended by 45 men, women, and children for almost an hour. In the end, the settlers lost only one man and Black Hawk, who had been raiding nearby settlers' cabins for much needed supplies, moved on.

To commemorate this anniversary, the Fort will come alive on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25. Costumed interpreters will demonstrate hearth cooking, molding lead musket balls, musket firing demos, militia

drills, and more. Mrs. Elizabeth Armstrong, who courageously rallied the women and children into action during the battle, will also make an appearance.

This event will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. Attendance is free, but donations are appreciated and help to support the Fort's living history program and future special events. For more information visit our website www.appleriverfort.org or contact the site at info@appleriverfort.org or 815-858-2028.

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LEGAL NOTICES

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT

LENA
IL1770300

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

The source of drinking water used by LENA is Ground Water.

For more information regarding this report contact:

Name: Kory Polhill

Phone: 815-369-4016

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

The Village of Lena meets on the second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

Source of Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which

may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.

- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the

same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Source Water Information:

Source Water Name

WELL 2 (11872)

WELL 3 (11873)

WELL 4 (01904)

Type of Water

GW

GW

GW

Report Status

ACTIVE

ACTIVE

ACTIVE

Location

201 VERNON ST

122 E. MAIN ST

401 E. MAIN ST

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at (815) 369-4016. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.pl>.

Source of Water: LENA To determine Lena's susceptibility to groundwater contamination, the following documents were reviewed: a Well Site Survey, published in 1989 by the Illinois EPA, and a report entitled "Phase 2 and Phase 5 Waiver Application/Vulnerability Assessment" prepared for the Village of Lena by Fehr- Graham & Associates Engineering and Science Consultants in 1994. During the survey of Lena's source water protection area, Illinois EPA staff recorded two potential secondary sources within the minimum setback zone of well #2 and two possible problem sites within the minimum setback zone of well #3. Several other possible problem sites are located outside the minimum setback zone, but within the survey area of both wells. Based on information provided by Lena's water supply officials, the following facilities has changed their status: Lana Farmers' Exchange has been razed and the tanks removed, Stamm Farm Systems Inc. has had the tanks removed, Lena Winslow School District 312 has been changed to Dietz Apartment Building, Stewarts Motor Service has been removed, and Green Country Express is now Werhane Enterprise. The Illinois EPA does not consider the source water susceptible to contamination. This determination is based on a number of criteria including: monitoring conducted at the wells, monitoring conducted at the entry point to the distribution system, and the available hydrogeologic data on the wells. In anticipation of the U.S. EPA's proposed Ground Water Rule, the Illinois EPA has determined that this water supply is not vulnerable to viral contamination. This determination is based upon the completed evaluation of the following criteria during the Vulnerability Waiver Process: the wells are properly constructed with sound integrity and proper site conditions; a hydrogeologic barrier exists that should prevent pathogen movement; all potential routes and sanitary defects have been mitigated such that the source water is adequately protected; monitoring data did not indicate a history of disease outbreak; and a sanitary survey of the water supply did not indicate a viral contamination threat. Because the wells are constructed in a confined aquifer, that could minimize the movement of pathogens into the wells, well hydraulics were not considered to be a significant factor in the vulnerability determination. Hence, well hydraulics were not evaluated for this groundwater supply.

2022 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper

Definitions:

Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	07/29/2020	1.3	1.3	0.81	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine	12/31/2022	0.9	0.8 - 1.07	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2022	6	5.79 - 5.79	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Arsenic	07/15/2020	1.5	0 - 1.5	0	10	ppb	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

LEGAL NOTICES

ANNUAL DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT - Continued from previous page

Barium	07/15/2020	0.39	0.35 - 0.39	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	07/15/2020	0.586	0.569 - 0.586	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	07/15/2020	0.78	0.47 - 0.78		1.0	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Manganese	07/15/2020	8	4.8 - 8	150	150	ppb	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits.
Selenium	07/15/2020	1.1	0 - 1.1	50	50	ppb	N	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines.
Sodium	07/15/2020	10	4.8 - 10			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.
Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	04/20/2021	2.43	1.27 - 2.43	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.
Gross alpha excluding radon and uranium	04/20/2021	3.52	0 - 3.52	0	15	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.

Due to favorable monitoring history, aquifer characteristics, and inventory of potential sources of contamination, our water supply was issued a vulnerability waiver renewal. VOCs are monitored once every 6 years and SOCs once every 9 years. We monitored in 2020 and had no detections.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide June 14, 2023)

439332

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 PRIN-

CIPAL MERIDIAN, HARLEM 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

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 qual-

ity 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)

438910

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
Illinois Housing Development Authority
PLAINTIFF
Vs.

Christopher A. Page; Sara S. Page; Unknown Owners

and Nonrecord Claimants
DEFENDANTS

No. 2023FC27

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Christopher A. Page
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:

525 South Stewart Avenue
Freeport, IL 61032
and which said Mortgage was made by:

Christopher A. Page
Sara S. Page

the Mortgagor(s), to Union Savings Bank, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 200700088065; 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,

Continued on next page

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page
 Shanelle Bardell
 Clerk of the Circuit Court
 15 North Galena
 Freeport, IL 61032
 on or before July 14, 2023,
 A DEFAULT MAY BE
 ENTERED AGAINST
 YOU AT ANY TIME AF-
 TER THAT DAY AND
 A JUDGMENT MAY
 BE ENTERED IN AC-
 CORDANCE WITH THE
 PRAYER OF SAID COM-
 PLAINT.

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. 14-23-02655
 NOTE: This law firm is a
 debt collector.
 I3222442

(Published in
 The Shopper's Guide
 June 14, 21 & 28, 2023)
 439419

IN THE CIRCUIT
 COURT OF THE
 FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
 CIRCUIT
 COUNTY OF
 JO DAVIESS,
 STATE OF ILLINOIS
 NATIONSTAR
 MORTGAGE LLC,
 Plaintiff(s),

vs.
 UNKNOWN HEIRS OF
 IDA MAE NORTON,
 CFNA RECEIVABLES
 (TX), LLC SUCCESSOR
 IN INTEREST TO
 THE ASSOCIATED
 FINANCIAL SERVICES
 OF IOWA, SHERI
 HORNUNG, KELLY
 ASHFORD, ROBERT
 NORTON, TIM
 MILLER AS SPECIAL
 REPRESENTATIVE,
 UNKNOWN OWNERS,
 AND NON-RECORD
 CLAIMANTS,
 Defendant(s).

RCASE No. 22 FC 78
 PUBLICATION NOTICE
 The requisite Affidavit
 for Publication hav-
 ing been filed, notice is
 hereby given to you: UN-
 KNOWN HEIRS OF IDA
 MAE NORTON, SHERI
 HORNUNG, NONRE-

CORD CLAIMANTS and
 UNKNOWN OWNERS,
 Defendants in the above
 entitled suit, that said suit
 has been commenced in the
 Circuit Court of Jo Daviess
 County, Chancery Divi-
 sion, by the said Plaintiff,
 against you and other De-
 fendants, praying for fore-
 closure of a certain Real
 Estate Mortgage convey-
 ing the premises described
 as follows, to wit:

COMMENCING AT
 THE NORTHWEST COR-
 NER OF THE SOUTH-
 WEST QUARTER (SW
 1/4) OF SAID SECTION
 9; THENCE EAST ON
 THE NORTH LINE OF
 THE SOUTHWEST
 QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF
 SAID SECTION 9, A
 DISTANCE OF 2088.31
 FEET; THENCE SOUTH-
 EASTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF
 85 DEGREES - 25 MIN-
 UTES - 28 SECONDS AS
 MEASURED COUNTER-
 CLOCKWISE FROM
 THE LAST DESCRIBED
 COURSE, A DISTANCE
 OF 348.66 FEET TO A
 POINT IN A TOWN-
 SHIP ROAD; THENCE
 SOUTHWESTERLY
 ON SAID TOWNSHIP
 ROAD, AT AN ANGLE
 OF 187 DEGREES - 52
 MINUTES - 10 SEC-
 ONDS AS MEASURED
 CLOCKWISE FROM
 THE LAST DESCRIBED
 COURSE, A DISTANCE
 OF 756.94 FEET;
 THENCE CONTINU-
 ING SOUTHWESTERLY
 ON SAID TOWNSHIP
 ROAD, AT AN ANGLE
 OF 203 DEGREES - 48
 MINUTES - 35 SEC-
 ONDS AS MEASURED
 CLOCKWISE FROM
 THE LAST DESCRIBED
 COURSE, A DISTANCE
 OF 715.90 FEET TO A
 POINT IN THE CENTER-
 LINE OF SAID TOWN-
 SHIP ROAD; THENCE
 SOUTHWESTERLY
 ON THE CENTERLINE
 OF SAID TOWNSHIP
 ROAD, AT AN ANGLE
 OF 174 DEGREES - 41
 MINUTES - 10 SEC-
 ONDS AS MEASURED
 CLOCKWISE FROM
 THE LAST DESCRIBED

COURSE, A DISTANCE
 OF 399.05 FEET TO
 THE POINT OF BEGIN-
 NING OF THE HERE-
 INAFTER DESCRIBED
 TRACT OF LAND;
 THENCE NORTHEAST-
 ERLY ON THE LAST
 DESCRIBED COURSE,
 A DISTANCE OF 221.11
 FEET; THENCE WEST-
 ERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF
 64 DEGREES - 41 MIN-
 UTES - 44 SECONDS AS
 MEASURED CLOCK-
 WISE FROM THE LAST
 DESCRIBED COURSE,
 A DISTANCE OF 217.92
 FEET; THENCE SOUTH-
 EASTERLY, AT AN AN-
 GLE OF 58 DEGREES
 - 18 MINUTES - 31 SEC-
 ONDS AS MEASURED
 CLOCKWISE FROM
 THE LAST DESCRIBED
 COURSE, A DISTANCE
 OF 234.92 FEET TO THE
 POINT OF BEGINNING,
 JO DAVIESS COUNTY,
 ILLINOIS. THE ABOVE
 DESCRIBED PROPER-
 TY LOCATED IN A PART
 OF THE SOUTHEAST
 QUARTER (SE 1/4)
 OF THE SOUTHWEST
 QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF
 SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP
 28 NORTH, RANGE 1
 EAST OF THE FOURTH
 PRINCIPAL MERIDI-
 AN, CONSISTING OF
 THREE TRACTS OF
 LAND, BOUNDED AND
 DESCRIBED ABOVE.
 AND BEING THE SAME
 PROPERTY CONVEYED
 FROM ELMER HAR-
 WICK, A MARRIED
 PERSON, THE GRANT-
 OR(S), TO ROBERT
 WILLIAM NORTON,
 SR. AND IDA MAE
 NORTON, HIS WIFE,
 AS JOINT TENANTS
 WITH RIGHT OF SUR-
 VIVORSHIP AND NOT
 AS TENANTS IN COM-
 MON, THE GRANTEE(S)
 BY VIRTUE OF DEED
 DATED 08/14/1973, AND
 RECORDED 08/14/1973,
 IN BOOK 193 AT PAGE
 792; RE-RECORDED
 10/09/1973, IN BOOK 194
 AT PAGE 152 AMONG
 THE AFORESAID LAND
 RECORDS.

Tax Number: 13-000-
 038-33

commonly known as
 9798 WEST BUCKH-
 ILL ROAD GALENA IL
 61036; and which said
 Real Estate Mortgage was
 made by IDA MAE NOR-
 TON, and recorded in the
 Office of the Jo Daviess
 County Recorder as Doc-
 ument Number 389668;
 that Summons was duly
 issued out of the said Court
 against you as provided by
 law, and that the said suit is
 now pending.

Now, therefore, unless
 you, the said named De-
 fendant, file your answer
 to the Complaint in the
 said suit or otherwise make
 your appearance therein,
 in the office of the Circuit
 Court of Jo Daviess Coun-
 ty, located at 330 NORTH
 BENCH STREET, ROOM
 204, GALENA, IL 61036,
 on or before July 14, 2023,
 default may be entered
 against you at any time af-
 ter that day and a judgment
 entered in accordance with
 the prayer of said Com-
 plaint.

LAW OFFICES OF
 IRA T. NEVEL, LLC
 Attorney for Plaintiff
 Ira T. Nevel -
 ARDC #6185808
 Timothy R. Yueill -
 ARDC #6192172
 Greg Elsnic -
 ARDC #6242847
 Aaron Nevel -
 ARDC #6322724
 175 North Franklin St.
 Suite 201
 Chicago, Illinois 60606
 (312) 357-1125
 Pleadings@nevellaw.com
 # 22-03577
 I3222031

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 June 14, 21 & 28, 2023)
 439349

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 above named decedent.
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 istrator, whose attorney
 of record is SJ Chapman,
 Bielski Chapman, Ltd, 123
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 60606.

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 ministered without court
 supervision, unless under
 section 5/28-4 of the Pro-
 bate Act Ill. Compiled Stat.
 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-
 4) any interested person
 terminates independent
 administration at any time
 by mailing or delivering a
 petition to terminate to the
 clerk.

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 may be filed with the clerk
 or with the representa-
 tive, or both, on or before
 December 14, 2023, or, if
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 tice from the representative
 is required by section 5/18-
 3 of the Probate Act, the
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(Published in
 The Scoop Today
 June 14, 21 & 28, 2023)
 439422

Local students named to Dean's List

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 Sophia Bayer

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 Lauren Williams

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 Ashley V. Carroll
 Colin J. Greiner
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 Ella Elizabeth Wolfrom
 Isabella A. Kostallari
 Oliver Phenie Petta
 Kendra Leanne Scace

Mount Mercy University
 Andrew Lorig, Summa
 Cum Laude

Northern Illinois University
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 Casper Sciaraffa
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University of Dubuque
 Cameron Kent
 Caden Albrecht
 Tayden Patterson
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 Bryton Engle
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 Katie Wright
 Jenna Bidlingmaier

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 Benjamin Werner

University of Wisconsin-Madison
 Claire Riedl
 Andrew Merkle

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University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
 Gabi Brinkmeier
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 Simon Rillie
 Nevaeh Roberts

Western Illinois University
 Eve Nottrott, Summa Cum
 Laude
 Leahnashia Campbell, Cum
 Laude



Pritzker puts final stamp on \$50.4 billion state spending plan

By Andrew Adams and Jerry Nowicki

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker signed the state's operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year last week, marking the first spending plan of his second term as governor.

The \$50.4 billion spending plan anticipates about \$50.6 billion in revenues for the fiscal year that begins July 1, making for a projected surplus of roughly \$183 million, according to the governor's office. That revenue estimate would be slightly below or roughly equal to what's collected in tax revenues for the current year, depending on June's final revenue collections.

The bill signing's venue, typically chosen to highlight an important aspect of the budget, was the Belmont-Cragin campus of Christopher

House in Chicago, a charter school that mostly serves low-income Hispanic families.

The signing was attended by a who's who of state Democrats, with the governor, House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, and various members of the legislature's Democratic leadership and budget negotiation teams.

Several of them highlighted the budget's investments in education.

"Birth-to-five services and kindergarten readiness are the foundation for the rest of our children's educational experiences," Pritzker said.

'Smart Start Illinois'

The budget includes funding to launch Pritzker's "Smart Start Illinois" early childhood education program.

Earlier this year, he toured the state to promote the increased spending on pre-K and kindergarten, which includes \$130 million to fund a new system of contracts for early childhood workers and upping state funding for early childhood block grants by \$75 million. "Smart Start" also includes added funding for early intervention and home visiting programming.

The budget also increases state dollars going to the K-12 funding formula by \$350 million—the amount called for annually in state law—and puts \$45 million toward a three-year pilot program to fill teacher vacancies and provide scholarships to future teachers. It's less than the \$70 million for that program that Pritzker included in his February budget proposal.

Higher education, a long-time budget priority of Pritz-

ker's, will also see increased funding. These include a \$100 million funding increase to the state's Monetary Award Program, which provides need-based scholarships. It marks a 75 percent increase in funding for MAP grants since 2019. The budget also includes a \$15 million increase to the AIM HIGH merit-based scholarship program and a \$3.8 million increase to the Minority Teacher Scholarship program.

Despite praising Republican involvement in budget negotiations throughout the legislative session, Senate Minority Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, criticized the overall budget in a statement while noting it included some common ground between the two parties.

"We negotiated in good faith, and as a result, there are some joint priorities in this

budget, specifically to support the developmentally disabled and invest in education," Curran said.

No Republican support

No Republicans in either chamber voted for the plan.

In the House, debate was more tense. Republican budget negotiator Norine Hammond, of Macomb, said the GOP was essentially cut out from the budget process by House Democrats. She had previously noted Republicans participated in more frequent budget talks with the governor's staff.

"Another budget filled with broken promises, accounting gimmicks, and a lack of structural reforms to address the systemic outmigration of Illinois families," House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said in a statement.

McCombie also contradicted Curran's read of the budget and said that it "shortchanges" the direct service professionals, or DSPs, that serve disabled people in community settings.

A state-commissioned 2020 study of the industry recommended increasing DSP wages to 150 percent of the state's minimum wage, which is currently \$13 per hour and is set to increase to \$14 in January.

The budget includes provisions increasing DSP wage base rates by \$2.50 per hour, to \$19.50, beginning in January. That would still fall short of the \$4 per hour needed to meet the study's recommendation as of next year. Still, it marks a \$1 increase beyond what Pritzker had proposed in February.

The budget also includes

See PLAN, Page 19

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We have had some nice June weather this past week. It is so nice to see the sun, even though I know we do need some rain. June is marching on. It is hard to believe we are half way through the first month of summer. This week's recipes continue the summer theme with some appetizers and condiments, a salad for a picnic, a salad for a lunch, a main dish and a dessert. Have a good week cooking!

- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. ground turmeric
- 1/2 t. ground mustard
- 1/2 t. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 t. black pepper

In a saucepan, cook Vidalia onions in canola oil over medium heat 40 to 45 minutes or until onions are golden brown, stirring occasionally. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute longer. Remove from heat. Add bourbon, stirring to loosen browned bits from the pan. Stir in tomatoes, raisins, both sugars, vinegar, mustard seed, salt, turmeric, ground mustard, red pepper flakes, and black pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered for 15 to 20 minutes or until thickened. Store in an airtight container in refrigerator up to one week.

Blue Cheese Dip

If you love blue cheese, this refreshing dip is an easy summer appetizer. Make it ahead and store it in the refrigerator for a week. Enjoy this easy appetizer that you can add buttermilk to for a salad dressing.

- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 1/2 C. salad dressing
- 1/2 lb. crumbled blue cheese
- 1 T. chopped fresh chives
- 1 t. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. celery seed
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. pepper

In a bowl mix the sour cream and salad dressing. Gently fold in blue cheese. Add the chives, Worcestershire, celery seed, salt, and pepper. Combine ingredients. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour before serving. Serve with pita chips and/or vegetables. It tastes great on whole crackers too.

Vidalia Onion Relish

Vidalia onions come from a specific place in Georgia that has a patent on its name. They are basically a sweet onion. If you want to use any sweet onion for this recipe, it will work. Vidalia onions are plentiful in stores now. This relish is good tossed in salads, served with pork chops, or piled on a burger.

- 4 chopped large Vidalia onions
- 1 T. canola oil
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 1/3 C. bourbon
- 4 chopped peeled seeded plum tomatoes
- 1/2 C. golden raisins
- 1/4 C. brown sugar
- 1/4 C. sugar
- 1/4 C. cider vinegar
- 1 t. mustard seed

Preheat oven to 425. Place a baking sheet on a wire rack and set aside. In a frying pan, melt butter over medium heat. Add the panko and stir fry for 5 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove breadcrumbs from heat to cool. Place the flour in a shallow dish. In a second shallow dish, beat together the eggs and the buttermilk. In a third shallow dish, combine the cooled breadcrumbs with the parmesan, onion powder, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Dip each chicken tender into the flour; then

into the egg mixture and then into the breadcrumb mixture. Place the chicken tenders on the elevated baking sheet, spacing them out to prevent from getting mushy while cooking. Coat tenders with cooking spray.

Bake 25 minutes or until chicken is golden brown and crisp. Remove from oven and place on a cooling rack for a few minutes to allow the steam to escape and chicken to crisp up. Cut tenders into bite size pieces.

Prepare the salad. In a large bowl, combine the coleslaw mix, green and red peppers, and onions. Add dressing and toss salad until well combined. Add the fried chicken pieces to the salad and gently toss to combine. Chill until ready to serve.

Deviled Egg Macaroni Salad

Sullivan's Grocery has deviled egg potato salad which is a popular seller. This salad uses macaroni instead of potatoes. Add red peppers or carrots to the salad for more color and crunch.

- 2 C. uncooked elbow macaroni
- 6 hard-boiled eggs
- 1 C. mayonnaise
- 1/4 C. sweet pickle relish
- 2 T. sugar
- 3 t. white vinegar
- 3 t. yellow mustard
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 1 celery rib, chopped
- 1/4 C. chopped red onion
- Paprika

Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain and rinse with cold water. Cool completely. Separate yolks from whites of hard-cooked eggs. Chop egg whites and set aside. Mash egg yolks in a small bowl. Stir in mayo, relish, sugar, vinegar, mustard, salt, and pepper until blended. In a large bowl, combine maca-

roni, egg whites, celery, and onion. Add dressing and toss gently to coat. Refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving. Sprinkle with paprika.

Slow Cooker Chicken Pasta

This recipe is great for a hot summer day because the slow cooker does all the work in an efficient way. Serve a salad and some bread and you have an easy dinner.

- 1 1/2 lbs boneless skinless chicken breast
- 16 oz. Italian dressing
- 1/4 C. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 8 oz. softened cream cheese
- 16 oz. penne pasta cooked according to package directions
- 1/4 C. parmesan cheese

Add the chicken breasts to the slow cooker; pour the dressing over the chicken. Cube the cream cheese and drop it on top of the chicken and dressing. Sprinkle the parmesan and pepper over the mixture. Place the lid on the slow cooker. Cook on HIGH for 4 hours or LOW for 5 to 6 hours. When the cooking time is almost done, start cooking the pasta on the stove top according to package directions. Shred the chicken with 2 forks and place in a large bowl. Add the dressing mixture to the chicken. Drain the pasta and add to the chicken and sauce. Stir. Place mixture

on a serving plate; sprinkle remaining Parmesan cheese over pasta.

Rhubarb Strawberry Crunch

There is still one more rhubarb recipe for the season! The rhubarb crunch recipe has been in before, but this one adds strawberries. Strawberries are now in season, and there are some You Pick places in our area. Enjoy this easy dessert.

- 1 C. flour
- 1 C. packed brown sugar
- 3/4 C. quick-cooking oats
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 1/2 C. butter
- 4 C. sliced fresh or frozen rhubarb
- 1-pint fresh strawberries, halved
- 1 C. sugar
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1 C. water
- 1 t. vanilla
- Ice Cream

Preheat oven to 350. In a bowl, combine the flour, brown sugar, oats, and cinnamon. Cut in butter until crumbly. Press half into an ungreased 9-inch square baking dish. Combine rhubarb and strawberries and spoon over crust. In a saucepan, combine the sugar and cornstarch. Stir in the water and vanilla. Bring the mixture to a boil over medium heat. Cook and stir for 2 minutes. Pour over fruit. Sprinkle with remaining crumb mixture. Bake for 1 hour. Serve with ice cream.

Final Thoughts

The weather has turned cooler, and that makes it easier on the air conditioner. I mentioned earlier that we do need rain, and I hope that the rain they predicted for the weekend does come (I write this column the weekend before publication). The flowers and gardens as well as the fields are still looking good, however, they need a good soak from the heavens.

There were many successful events the past few weekends. The fireman had a great golf outing, and people enjoyed the Taste of Lena. Music in the park entertained us on both Saturday and Sunday evening. The pool has been beautiful, and the baseball and softball fields are humming. I saw my first production at Timberlake. *Grease* was great. I hadn't seen it in a very long time. The next production is a play based on Alfred Hitchcock's film. We are lucky to have such reasonable and good entertainment in our area.

Since the weather has been cooler, it has been more enjoyable to cook. I am still enjoying asparagus and strawberries. 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.

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When it comes to tooth pain, it is important to remember that a toothache



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

is a symptom, not a diagnosis. Pain in your teeth, especially your upper teeth, can also be a symptom of a sinus infection. It is easy to understand why you might confuse a toothache with a sinus infection. Sinuses are cavities in your skull that are located behind the cheekbones, in the middle of the forehead, between the ears, and behind your nose. These four paired

cavities are interconnected by channels that lead to your nasal passages. Mucus and tiny hairs in your sinuses warm and humidify the air you breathe. They also help to keep disease-causing microbes away from your body. A sinus infection, or sinusitis, occurs when your sinus drainage channels become blocked. This leads to a buildup of fluids, swelling and inflammation, which is the perfect environment for bacteria to grow. The roots of the upper back teeth are located near, or may even extend into the sinus cavity, so swelling and pressure in your blocked sinuses make your teeth hurt. The pressure

may also be felt as referred pain in the bottom teeth. Conversely, with this close anatomical relationship, bacterial infections in your upper teeth may cause a sinus infection. That is why it is important to make an appointment with your dentist to find out what is the actual cause of your toothache. If your dentist does not find a dental issue that is causing your toothache, he/she will refer you to your physician to ascertain if your pain is being caused by a sinus infection or some other medical condition. While many sinus infections are caused by a virus, a bacterial sinus infection may require antibiotics.

Plan (Continued from page 16)

\$75 million for the Department of Children and Family Services. Pritzker's office said this is expected to pay for 192 staff positions, expanded training, facility improvements and scholarships to children in DCFS care.

Services aimed at preventing homelessness are set to receive an increase of \$85 million through the Home Illinois program, a multi-agency initiative that will provide housing and services to homeless people.

The more than \$350 million in funding includes \$118 million for shelter and transitional housing services, \$50 million for rapid rehousing services, \$40 million in capital funds for permanent supportive housing units and \$37 million in funds to build new shelter units.

While Republicans have been critical of the budget, the House's lead budget negotiator, Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, said compromise was an essential part of the process.

"The budget is a reflection of our priorities," she said. "It's a reflection of everybody getting wins, but nobody got everything."

Earlier last week, Pritzker noted the budget would exempt businesses from the first \$5,000 in liability under the corporate franchise tax, up from \$1,000. He called it a \$50 million tax cut that addressed at least one Republican budget priority.

Pritzker and leaders in the General Assembly negotiated a phaseout of that tax in his only bipartisan budget passed in 2019, but Democrats ultimately reversed

that action in a future budget year.

Invest in Kids scholarship program allowed to expire

During debate last month, Republicans in both chambers were also sharply critical of the budget because it allowed for the expiration of the \$75 million Invest in Kids scholarship program for private school students. The program initially passed as part of a bipartisan agreement in 2017 with support from the school-choice movement and Republican lawmakers.

When asked, Pritzker said the conversation around funding that program is "ongoing," and "there's time still for that program to be considered," potentially in the fall veto session, before its Jan. 1, 2024, expiration.

Democrats on Wednesday also alluded on several occasions to a two-year budget stalemate between Republican then-Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the legislature that lasted from July 2015 into August 2017. During that time, the state did not approve a full budget, causing havoc in education and the social services industry, both of which rely heavily on state funding.

"It's no longer about how to keep the doors open and scrape by," Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said of the budget process.

At the bill signing, Pritzker also addressed a state-funded health care program for noncitizens, which his administration at one time projected would cost

over \$1 billion in the upcoming fiscal year.

The program offers Medicaid-style benefits to noncitizens age 42 and older who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid if not for their legal residency status. It was launched in 2021 and expanded twice to its current size. Because the individuals enrolled in the program are not eligible for standard Medicaid, which is jointly funded by the state and federal governments, Illinois covers its entire cost.

A separate Medicaid-related bill, which Pritzker has not yet signed, will give him authority to rein in costs through the creation of administrative rules. His office has said options include limiting future enrollment, requiring copays from program participants, maximizing federal reimbursement and possibly moving participants to the Medicaid managed care system.

Pritzker noted that the program does not apply to asylum seekers, who are eligible for other federally funded benefits. He also said it is ultimately cheaper to provide preventative care to noncitizens rather than making them rely on emergency room visits to treat conditions that have gone undiagnosed and untreated due to a lack of health care benefits.

Pritzker's February budget proposal accounted for about \$220 million in costs for the program, and the final budget did not include a measure sought by the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus that would have expanded it to noncitizens aged 19

and over. Those 18 years and younger are already covered under the Illinois AllKids program.

"We realized that if we could manage it properly, we could manage the program with the number of people that are in it now to about \$550 million," Pritzker said. "That's more than we expected, but not nearly as much as it might have cost if we didn't have the tools necessary."

The governor's office did not clarify whether that meant the program would be capped at current levels or if more people would be allowed to enroll in the upcoming fiscal year.

"We'll have more on what steps we'll need to take as we enter the new fiscal year and review costs," a spokesperson said in a statement.

Pritzker's signing included one change to the budget as it was approved by lawmakers last month. Lawmakers, agency directors and others in state government who would have received raises of 5.5 percent under an automatic pay formula will be capped at 5 percent to comply with state law.

"It is evident that the errors in the amounts to compensate all of these officers were inadvertent and that the General Assembly intended for the amounts set forth in Senate Bill 250 simply to implement the salaries provided by law," Pritzker said in his "reduction veto" message.

Under law, lawmakers do not need to accept the reduction, so the budget can take effect without issue.

FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

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

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REAL ESTATE NOTICES

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:
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)

Preserve the beauty, fragrance, and flavor of your garden

Enjoy your garden throughout the growing season and beyond. Preserve its beauty, fragrance, and flavor in artwork, crafts, and food.

Cell phones with cameras make it easy to capture the seasonal changes in our gardens and environment. Use a favorite photo as the wallpaper on your computer or phone. Turn them into greeting cards to send or pictures to hang on walls, lifting your spirits on gray winter or rainy days.

Break out the colored pencils, markers, or paints and capture the beauty of individual flowers or gardens. Creating art, like gardening, can help elevate your mood, reduce stress, and improve self-esteem.

Start a garden journal, if you haven't done so already. It's a great way to capture successes and even failures to help plan next year's garden or changes to the landscape. Create your own journal on the computer or in a spiral notebook. A waterproof and smudge-proof option like the Rite in the Rain Waterproof Garden Journal can go with you into the garden.

Preserve some of your favorite flowers and memories



By **MELINDA MYERS**
Columnist

with a flower press you make or buy, like an heirloom flower press (gardeners.com).

Just place freshly picked leaves and flowers between pieces of paper in the flower press. Use flowers at their peak of beauty for the best results. Arrange the leaves and petals as desired before pressing, since they dry the way you place them. Once your flowers are placed in between the paper, close the press and secure the layers. Your dried flowers will be ready in a few weeks.

Speed up the process with the help of your microwave. The Terra Cotta Microwave Flower Press allows you to harvest, press, dry and create all in the same day. Place the flowers and leaves between the wool felt dividers and secure them inside the terra cotta top and bottom. The wool pads and terra cotta absorb the moisture

as the microwave heats for quick drying.

Capture the color, fragrance, and relaxing benefits of lavender by filling small sachet bags with flower buds to place in a desk, nightstand, or drawer. Take this one step further and create lavender wands from 10 to 30 flowering stems and a bit of ribbon. These attractive wands capture the lavender fragrance and make great gifts.

Pickle cucumbers or other vegetables to enjoy throughout the garden season and beyond. You'll find an assortment of pickling crocks on the market but consider elevating your pickles to gourmet status by fermenting them in The Amazing Pickle Barrel made of lightly toasted white oak. You and your guests will enjoy the subtle and unique flavor the oak barrel adds.

Keep the flavor of your garden alive all year long. Pick and dry herbs for winter meals and holiday gifts. Gather the herbs into small bundles and secure them with a rubber band. As the stems shrink so does the rubber band. Use a spring-type clothespin to hang the bundles from a clothesline in a dry, airy place that is out of direct

sunlight for drying. Save space and dress up the display with an herb drying rack that holds six bunches of flowers, hot peppers, or garlic.

Keep carrots, beets, and turnips fresh and crisp for months after harvest with proper storage. Most gardeners don't have a root cellar or sufficient room in the refrigerator. Consider packing them in layers of damp sand or sawdust placed in a root storage bin. Set the bin in a cool dark place and retrieve the vegetables as needed.

Try these and other creative ways to extend your garden enjoyment beyond the end of the growing season.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released "Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition" and Small Space Gardening."

She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video and DVD series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV and radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



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GARDENERS.COM Rock Valley Publishing

Terra cotta microwave flower presses provide the opportunity to harvest, press, dry and create in the same day.



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