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VOL. 85 • NO. 46

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8, 2023



LENA LIONS CLUB FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Happy times on Halloween

The Lena Lions Club had many adorable visitors for their recent Halloween party.

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Obituaries

HEINZ ALBERT ZUEGER

Heinz Albert Zueger, age 91, of Stockton, IL passed away Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023, at home. He was born in Haggenschwil, Switzerland on Oct. 18, 1932, to the late Anton and Paula Sager Zueger. He was the second eldest of ten children. Heinz came to the United States on Oct. 1, 1953, not knowing a word of English to see what America had to offer.

Heinz was a butcher by trade and soon went to work at a butcher shop in Juda, WI. It didn't take long for Heinz to find that America had much to offer when he met his one true love, Irma Anita Jenatsch, on Sept. 10, 1955, at Cheese Days in Monroe, WI. It was a quick love affair, and they were married on Jan. 12, 1956, in Haggenschwil, Switzerland.

After returning from their honeymoon, Heinz and Irma settled in Stockton, IL where they purchased the Stockton Processing Plant. Over the next several years, this business empire on the southside of Stockton grew to include a carwash, the "infamous" Zueger chicken house, and a family home on the hill that he and Irma lived in for over 50 years. Heinz purchased a farm south of Stockton; this farm over the years would have dairy cows, hogs and then finally beef cattle. At the same time, Heinz sold seed corn and fertilizer for Rath Feed in a small building on their property which was later expanded when Heinz went into the egg business and Apple Canyon Egg Farm was formed. In the early 90's, the egg plant was converted from a grading egg operation to breaking eggs which lasted for 20 years. Heinz had become quite the entrepreneur.

Heinz served a term on the Stockton Village Board; he had been a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church for over 60 years and was a member of Rath Feed Bowling Team for several years. Heinz found a passion with race



horses and purchased two, naming them Heinz's Baby and the second Zueger Zoo. In his retirement years he enjoyed following the stock market.

Together Heinz and Irma raised their five children. Once their children were grown, Irma and Heinz spent over 20 years wintering in Palm Springs, CA and traveling to Switzerland each year to visit family and friends. They loved to dance and belonged to Ballroom dance club in Rockford for many years. During their retirement, they enjoyed travels to Australia, St. Petersburg, Russia, Italy, Panama, Costa Rica, Mexico, Canada, as well as many destinations around the U.S.

He was preceded in death by the love of his life Irma, his parents and three brothers. He is survived by two daughters Susanne (Dennis) Young of Stockton, Cynthia Broshous of Waukee, IA, three sons William (Dixie) of Stockton, Daniel (Becky) Davis, IL, Timothy (Lori) of Stockton IL, nine grandchildren Erika, Andy, Emily, Myles, Melissa, Kenzie, Alex, Hilary, Krista, 18 great grandchildren with a 19th due to arrive in February 2024, very special cousin Erwin (Laurie) Zueger of Stockton, two brothers and four sisters all of Switzerland. The family would also like to express a special thank you to his caregivers, Diane, Alma, Dovia, and Jurgita.

The Christian burial service was held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton. A visitation was at the church on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023. Memorial funds have been established with FHN Hospice and Stockton Ambulance Service. A private family burial will take place at a later date. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

JANET STOCKER

Janet Lee (Collin) Stocker, 71, of Lena IL, passed away peacefully on Oct. 30, 2023, with her daughters by her side. Jan was born April 11, 1952, to Emmerson and Dorothy (Posey) Collin. She was the youngest in her family and lived in Dakota with her parents and three brothers until they moved to Stockton while Jan was in her sophomore year of high school. She loved caring for the family dachshunds, horses, and goat. She had fun telling the story of when her goat, Tammy, "accidentally" climbed on the school bus with her one day and they had to let her out the emergency exit! Jan also loved riding horses. When she was older, she would ride them in parades and trail rides with her mother.

Jan had two daughters, Michelle (aka Missy) and Valleri (aka Jo). She loved being a mother and grandmother more than anything. She adored her grandchildren and played right along with whatever game or themed birthday party they had. Jan could make a microphone out of any hairbrush and sing along with Elvis or Juice Newton while breaking out her impressive dance moves!

Jan had a soft heart; she was intuitive to how people were feeling and genuinely cared deeply for others, including animals. She loved having long conversations with friends and family on the phone. Jan was



a private person, so she didn't enjoy the large crowds found at a church, but she shared her Christian faith with those close to her.

Jan took pride in her home and landscaped yard and tended to both meticulously. She was inquisitive and independent. She creatively solved problems with her house before she called on a friendly neighbor or a professional for help. Jan lived in her home in Lena for almost 40 years.

Jan will be fondly remembered and greatly missed by her family, Michelle (Steve) Wegner of Greendale, WI and Val (John) Hanson of Dakota; grandchildren, Danielle and Nathaniel Wegner and Alli and Logan Hanson; her mother and step-father, Dorothy and Bill Holland of Stockton; and her siblings, Ken (Jill) Collin of Freeport, Gene (Anju) Collin of Sugar Grove and Vern Collin of Rock City, as well as many other extended family members. Jan was preceded in death by her father and sister-in-law, Sandy Schneider.

A celebration of Jan's life will be held at The Rafters in Lena with an Open House on Nov. 19, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



JOANNE STROBEHN

Joanne Strobehn, age 82 of Lena, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2023. Joanne was born on April 26, 1941, in Chicago, IL, to George and Grace (Werdell) Schreier. She married George Strobehn on Jan. 23, 1960, in Chicago, IL. George and Joanne moved to Simi Valley, CA where Joanne raised her family and was a carrier supervisor for the Enterprise newspaper for many years. After retirement they moved to Lena in 2006.

She had a love for both cats and dogs and rescued Golden Retrievers for many years. Her hobbies included both quilting and sewing and she was an avid Chicago Cubs Fan. Making Christmas cookies was always one of her favorite family traditions. Her great-grandchildren were the most special to her.

Joanne is survived by her

great-grandchildren; sister-Georgette Schreier of Winslow, IL; 3 sisters-in-law- Pat Polizzi, Diane (Bob) Schutz, and Janet (Dave) Balenski. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband George; son Timothy; sister Teresa Schreier; 2 brothers-in-law Tom and John Strobehn; 2 sisters-in-law - Joanne Beam and Carol Lara.

A Private Family Celebration of Life to be held. Interment will take place at the Lena Burial Park. A memorial has been established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

JASON SEVERSON

Jason Lee Severson age 45, of Warren, IL passed away peacefully with family by his side on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023, in Darlington, WI. He was born on June 5, 1978, in Freeport, IL and shortly after adopted by Edner and June (Vance) Severson. He attended Freeport School when he was younger but graduated Warren High School in 1997.

Jason was an avid sports fan. He would cheer on the Packers, Badgers, Brewers, Bulls and White Sox and loved watching wrestling matches. He enjoyed playing poker with friends and family and spending time outside. He attended Crossroads Community Church for many years and recently started watching services online. He had a deep love for his family.

He is survived by four siblings: Bonnie Wolff of Rochester, MN; Mark (Peggy) Severson of Apple River, IL; Anita Dauen of Warren, IL; Chris (Rick) Vick of Orangeville, IL; 14 nieces and nephews; 23



great nieces and nephews; numerous aunts and uncles as well as some special friends and caregivers- Stephanie

McKinstrey, Sandy Bemus, and Connie Maupin. Jason preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, and several aunts and uncles. Sports team apparel is welcome to wear per Jason's request.

A funeral was held on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2023, at the Bartell- Leamon Funeral Home in Warren IL, with a visitation until time of service. A luncheon was held after the service at the Warren Community building. Pastor Dennis Perger officiated the services. Cremation rites to be accorded. Burial will take place at a later date. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.



MERTON HOLLAND

Merton G. Holland age 82, of Lena passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023, at SSM Health Monroe Hospital. He was born on Oct. 7, 1941, in Jo Daviess County, the son of Paul and Lola (Bunker) Holland. Shortly after graduating High School, he got a job with Gantts where he met Sharon Koch. Sharon and Merton were married on Aug. 12, 1962, at Lena United Methodist Church. Merton was employed at Kelly Springfield for 37 years, where he held various positions throughout his time there.

In his younger years, Mert enjoyed bowling and going out dancing with his wife Sharon. He also enjoyed camping and traveling with his family and friends. Motorcycling was something him and Sharon did together and with friends. In retirement years they enjoyed summers at Apple Canyon Lake camping, boating, and fishing and winters in Florida with his brothers. Most of all Mert loved spending time with his grandchildren.



He is survived by his two children Robert Holland of Freeport, IL, and Barbara (Heath) Harbach of Warren, IL; seven grandchildren-

Kaylene (Zach) Borgmann, Chase (Johanna) Holland, Blake Holland, Shane (Sarah) Harbach, Cody (Danesa) Harbach, Chelsea (Melissa Goodwin) Harbach, Analiesa Harbach; ten great-grandchildren with two more on the way; two siblings- Haldean (Lyn) Holland and Malinda Bolen; numerous nieces and nephews. Merton was preceded in death by his parents; wife Sharon; three siblings- Roumaine Holland, Waynette (Jim) Costello, and Madalene in infancy.

A private family service will be held. Burial will take place at Lena Burial Park. A memorial has been established in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.Leamonfh.com.

Words cannot express how deeply we appreciate all the love, kindness and support shown to our family during this difficult time. Thank you for the flowers, food and memorial donations. Special thanks to Pastor Chrissy for her support and the moving service and the ladies who served the luncheon. A Special thanks to FHN Hospice- Nurse Mark & Social Worker, Kris.

*The family of Clyde Pohl
Janice, Penny & family, Judy & family,
Lynette & family*

446338

If you see Janice Broshous on November 16, wish her a Happy 80th Birthday or make her day by sending a card to 202 S. Stockton Rd., Stockton, IL 61085



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Obituaries

MIDGE ENGELKENS

Midge A. Engelkens, 83, of Orangeville, IL passed away on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, with her family by her side, at Pearl Pavilion in Freeport, IL. She was born on Jan. 25, 1940, in Freeport, IL to Lyle and Mary Evelyn (Klontz) Meyers. Midge attended a one room schoolhouse through 8th grade, she then attended and graduated from Freeport High School. She was also a graduate of Freeport Memorial School of Nursing. Midge married Donald Engelkens on July 2, 1961.

Midge started her nursing career at Freeport Memorial Hospital. She took a break from nursing to farm alongside her husband Don and raise their four children. Midge then went to work for the Visiting Nurses Association. From there, she worked at St. Clare in Monroe, where she ended her hospital career in the OB and Women's Health departments, retiring in 2005. Nursing was Midge's passion.

She was an excellent seamstress. Midge made wedding gowns and prom dresses, mended anything and everything, and sewed for Barbara



Buck. Her faith was very important to Midge. She was very active in her church community, serving as a member of

the Cedarville and Orangeville United Methodist congregations.

Family was everything to Midge. She loved her friends and her family. Her humor was the best. She was the happiest whenever her family was with her, often telling family members, "That was a great day" after the last family member would leave. Don and Midge also enjoyed camping.

Midge is survived by her husband Don of Orangeville, children; Theresa Shuman of Orangeville, Matthew (Kara Christensen) Engelkens of Orangeville, and Mary (Arun) Bhardwaj of Algonquin, son-in-law Dave Sweet of South Beloit, IL, grandchildren; Shelby Shuman, Bethany (William) Murphy, Justin (Sammie Powers) Engelkens, Courtney Fiene, Caitlin (Matt Sanders)

Fiene, Brogan Engelkens, Cole Bhardwaj, Camden Bhardwaj, great-grandchildren; Emma Dionne, and Briggs Engelkens, Harlow Sanders, Kailey Sanders, Kaleb Sanders, Isaiah Stansberry, step-sister Sherrill Schramm, step-brothers Mark (Pat) Rodebaugh and Steve (Nancy) Rodebaugh, and her "Sciota Sisters". She was preceded in death by her parents, stepmother Elizabeth Meyers, son Todd Engelkens, sisters; Pat Meyers and Linda Christenson, stepsister Sandy Messinger, and her step-brother Jim Rodebaugh.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, at the Orangeville United Methodist Church in Orangeville, IL. A visitation will be from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, at the Orangeville United Methodist Church in Orangeville, IL. Burial will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport, IL. Pastor Roger Bronkema will officiate the services. A Memorial has been established in her memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

WENDY BROGE

Wendy Lee Broge, age 61, of Orangeville, IL passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, at SSM St. Mary's in Madison, WI. She was born on Aug. 19, 1962, in Freeport, IL to Paul and Bonnie (Smythe) Viel. She was a 1980 graduate of Lena-Winslow High School where she participated in various activities and had numerous awards such as French Club, Art, Math Contests, Prom Committee, SAE, SACC, Health Occupations Student Organization President and Outstanding student for Health Care, and Panthera Staff.

Wendy met the love of her life, Dale Broge, her senior year, and much to the dismay of her mother and teachers they dated. They went on to get married Aug. 14, 1982, at St. Ann's in Warren, IL. After they got married, they spent the next few years traveling and living life together. In 1987 they had started their own little family with the birth of their first son Kyle Matthew in Monroe, WI. They completed their family with son Jacob Cole in November 1990.

Wendy loved cooking and trying new recipes for friends and family to taste test. If you knew her, you know Wendy would never deviate from the recipe. She would often come home from work with new recipes to try. On Sundays she would bake goodies for her family and Pomp's family to enjoy for the following week.



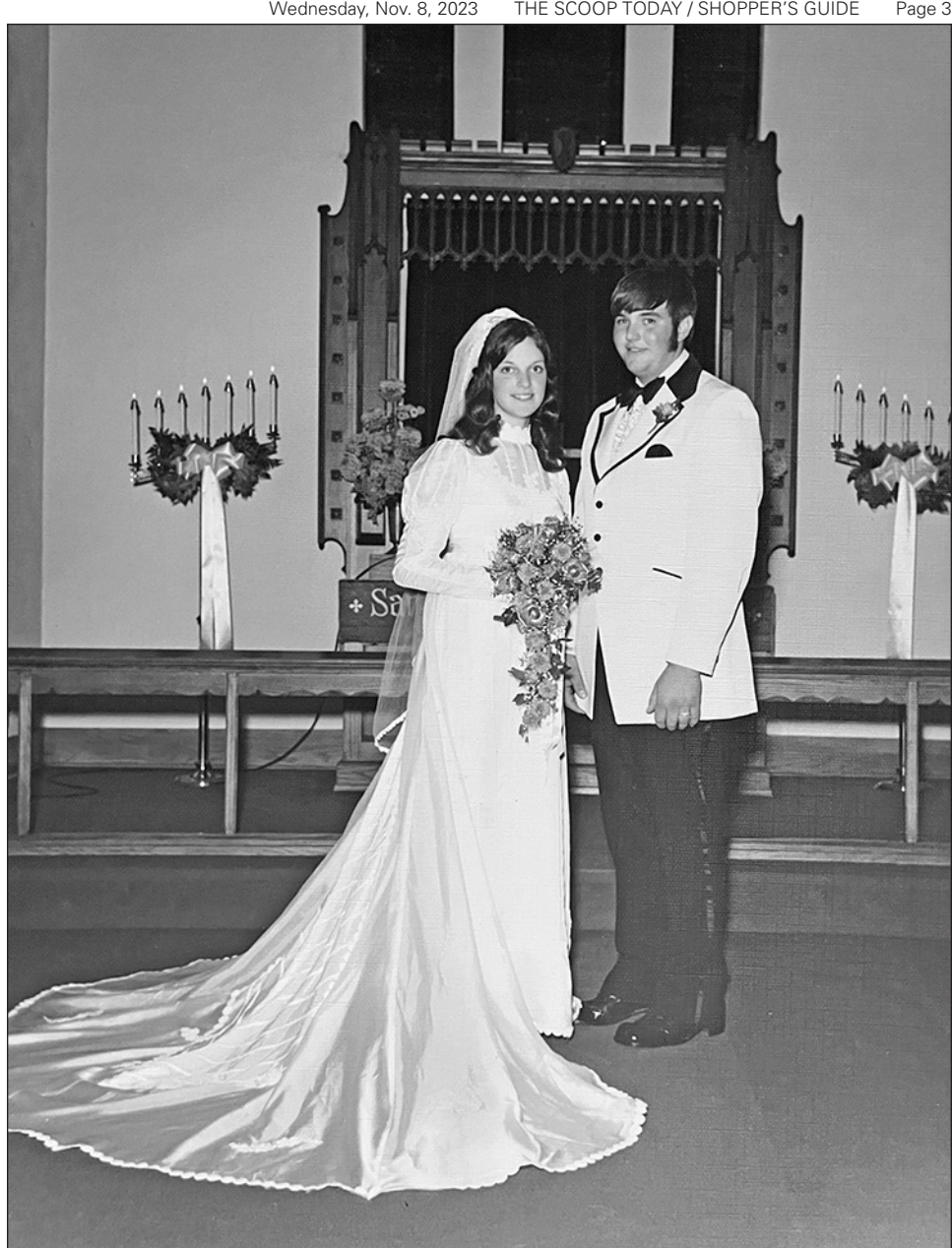
Everyone would look forward to the delicious goodies. When she wasn't cooking or baking you would find her in front of the TV either watching her beloved Denver Broncos, crime dramas, Judge Judy, and health care dramas or taking care of, cuddling with, walking, and spoiling their little face-licker, Muffy.

She is survived by her husband Dale Broge; two children- Kyle (Shrea Saha) Broge of Denver, Jacob (Nicole) Broge of Oakland, FL; 4 grandchildren- Elyas and Nathan, Cecilia, and Ava; mother- Bonnie Smythe; Aunt- Gloria (Kevin) Harms; Uncle- Roger (Barb) Viel; numerous cousins, in-laws, extended family, and friends. Wendy is preceded in death by her father-Paul Viel; brother-Scott Viel; stepmother-Judy Viel and stepfather- David Smythe.

A visitation will take place

on Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023, from from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Leamons Funeral Home in Lena, IL. A funeral mass will be held on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquanis Church in Freeport, IL. Father Peter Snieg will be officiating the services. Burial will take place at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport, IL.

In lieu of flowers, the family would ask for donations to be made to the food pantry that Wendy loved giving to, Freeport Area Church Cooperative at facc-freeport.org. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Celebrating 50 years

Ron and Karen (Eden) Bremmer were married on Nov. 17, 1973, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City. In celebration of their 50th anniversary, they took their three children, two daughters-in-laws and seven grandchildren on a memorable Alaskan Cruise this past summer. Congratulations Ron and Karen!

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Slices of life

If trees could talk: Part 1



By JILL PERTLER Columnist

This is the first of a two-part column. Because trees not only require but deserve two parts of our attention.

Magestic. Beautiful. Larger than life. Strong. All-knowing. All-seeing. Reaching skyward. Extending downward. Life-providing. Life sustaining. Simple. Complex. Miraculous. Useful. Worthy. Alive.

Silent. Trees. Trees don't fight traffic or scramble in the morning hoping not to be late to work. They don't ever cross the street or engage in friendly gossip. They don't cross the street because they don't move (at least not on their own). They don't gossip because they don't talk.

If only trees could talk. Think of the stories they could tell.

I lived in a small town for 20-plus years. My husband and I raised our children there. Our house was built in 1920—as were many of the houses—because the entire town, or nearly so, was destroyed by the great fire of 1918.

It was a series of unfortunate events that started with a spark from a train that landed on grass and foliage near the tracks. It had been an extremely dry summer, making the land ripe for ignition. High winds and low humidity contributed to the perfect storm.

People fled. Many lost their lives. Even more lost their homes.

But not every home was lost. For decades I thought the entire town burned down in 1918, but I recently

learned a small few survived. Homeowners sprayed water on roofs in hopes of avoiding personal catastrophe.

And sometimes it worked—as it did in the case of 758 Lilac Street (not the real address.) Recently, someone posted on social media that they used to live at this address and it was one of a handful of homes that survived the Big Fire.

Imagine my surprise. This is my daughter's current address.

She confirmed the information. Her house was built in 1910—pre-fire.

That got me to thinking. If walls could talk. If trees could talk. Think of the plethora of information they could pass on. What would they say?

The trees that built my daughter's house - that continue to support it even 100 years after the great fire, started their lifetimes long, long before 1918. They started as seedlings likely in the the mid-1800s, if not before.

In human terms they've witnessed roughly seven generations (give or take) of our own (so very) important lives. That means my daughter's great, great, great, great grandparents could have planted the trees that serve as the backbone of her house.

See TREES, Page 23

In my opinion

Transforming pretrial justice for people, systems and communities

Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this op-ed are that of the author's.

By Alison Shames During the week of Oct. 22-Oct. 28, we marked the first 30 days of the Pretrial Fairness Act, which is transforming pretrial justice in Illinois.

When the law was enacted one month ago, it made history by eliminating money bonds. Instead of the arbitrary

practice of wealth-based detention, Illinois put in place sensible legal standards for intentional pretrial release and detention decisions based on the law and evidence.

Plenty of work still lies ahead, but we should acknowledge those whose efforts during the past two years helped ensure that the implementation of the law would positively impact people, systems, and

communities. More than 100 people throughout the state participated in the Pretrial Implementation Task Force. They represented law enforcement, courts, state's attorneys, public defenders, pretrial services, victims'/ survivors' rights advocates, and other community and justice system stakeholder groups—and dedicated countless hours to lay the groundwork for the law's success.

While the state's elimination of financial release conditions has generated the most attention, the Pretrial Fairness Act upended decades of questionable practices and operations. But what is

remarkable about the law—especially regarding its potential impact nationwide—is that it reconnected pretrial practices with foundational American legal principles. More than 30 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court was unequivocal in declaring that “In our society, liberty is the norm, and detention prior to trial or without trial is the carefully limited exception.”

But this explicit statement was overlooked during decades of outdated practices, including the default setting of financial conditions of release (commonly referred to as “money bond”), which led to pretrial decisions that were neither careful nor limited.

See JUSTICE, Page 23

Letter to the editor

The McConnell American Legion Auxiliary would like to give a huge thank you for the overwhelming generosity of so many wonderful people living in our northwestern corridor. Because of the generous giving, we packed 74 boxes for our troops. This fourth annual care package drive was very successful.

The bake sale and cash donations were a huge success with the troop packages. The

success of this is due to everyone's generosity in donations. Volunteers are unpaid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless. Our local community thanks and has sincere gratitude for those defending our freedom nationally and internationally. Anyone interested in joining, please contact The McConnell American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1225 at mcconnellauxiliary@gmail.com.

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Mid-season turnaround boosts pumpkin production

By Daniel Grant
FARMWEEK

Results of pumpkin harvest so far in Illinois, the nation's leading producer of canned pumpkins, point to an ample supply of the fall and holiday favorite. This, despite drought conditions in May and June that returned to many areas in August and threatened both the commercial and ornamental pumpkin crops in many areas of the state.

"With the drought we were in, we were a week or two from losing a lot (of the pumpkin crop)," John Ackerman, owner/operator of Ackerman Family Farms in Morton, told FarmWeek. "But we got rain in late June, and it made all the difference. We feel very blessed."

Ackerman grew about 160 varieties of ornamental pumpkins this year. He also previously raised canning pumpkins.

"We are having a good harvest," he said. "A few varieties didn't handle the drought well, but the vast majority came in above expectations."

David Uhlman, a farmer from Tremont, grew food-grade pumpkins this season under contract for Nestle Libby's in Morton. The company's plant in Morton, the "pumpkin capital of the world," produces about

85 percent of canned pumpkins nationwide each year.

"Overall, for the hot weather and lack of rain, we've got a lot to be thankful for. There are many blessings out here," Uhlman told FarmWeek. "We had a couple fields (of commercial pumpkins). The rain made a difference this year in the tonnage of pumpkins harvested."

One of Uhlman's pumpkin fields averaged about 21.5 tons per acre while another that received more timely showers made about 32 tons per acre.

"I'm pretty pleased. Good weather continues for harvest, so a lot (of the pumpkin crop) is harvested already," he said.

All pumpkins produced by Nestle Libby's, including the Dickinson pumpkin variety Libby's special seed were bred from, are a variety of squash belonging to the Cucurbitaceae family or gourd family (which also includes melons and cucumbers), according to the company's website.

Libby's famously uses nothing but 100 percent pumpkin in its canned products that appear on grocery shelves across the nation.

"I've heard the yields are average to slightly above average (for the lighter-colored, food-grade pumpkins, not to

be confused with ornamental varieties or Jack-o-lanterns)," Ackerman said.

"Pumpkins like it dry and, even though it was exceptionally dry, some spots caught very timely rains," he continued. "I've heard of no processing pumpkin fields that are a disaster."

Elsewhere, Steve Buxton, who runs Buxton's Garden Farm & Flower Shop near Sullivan with his wife, Paula, also reported quality crops of both ornamental and processing pumpkins in his area.

"Commercial and ornamental pumpkins look excellent," Buxton said. "I know there are some areas that didn't have good luck with pumpkins. But we got rain late and sometimes pumpkins respond to that."

The market helps distribute ornamental pumpkins around the state as farmers who have a bountiful crop often sell a portion of it to farmers and markets in areas that experienced a short crop. Most pumpkin farms and local markets, therefore, should have an ample supply this season.

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.

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL for Sunday worship on Nov. 12 at 9:30 a.m. This will be the 24th Sunday after Pentecost. The reading will be from Matthew 25:1-13.

On Wednesday, Nov. 15 Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience is necessary.

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate the twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost on Sunday, Nov. 12 at 9 a.m.

The November Grace Meal is Nov. 19 and will include turkey, dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, cranberry, and dessert. Reservations are due to the church office by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 16. A major source of funds for the meal comes from a generous grant from the Foundation of Northwest Illinois.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

The Social Ministry Committee has started the Harvest Home Collection. This is a collection of food items for the Pearl City Food Pantry. This collection will continue through Nov. 12. Monetary donations are accepted as well.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is an ELCA parish and is located at 229 First St. in Pearl City. We are handicapped accessible. To contact the pastor or church please call 815-443-2215.

News briefs

Harvest Happenings Craft Show

Harvest Happenings Craft Show at Dakota UMC, 120 S. Church St., Dakota will be held Friday, Nov. 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A lunch stand will be offered on both days.

Veterans' Pantry in need of items

Items listed below are needed for the Veterans' Pantry in Freeport. The support of the community has been tremendous, and we are grateful for the support.

Shaving Cream, Mouth Wash, Wash cloths, Hand towels, Bath towels, Laundry soap, Dish soap, Paper towels, Toilet tissue, Hand can openers, After shave, Crest toothpaste, Men's deodorant, Women's deodorant, Socks, Body wash, Body Lotion, Warm gloves, hats, and coats for the winter

SSM Health Monroe Eye Care hosting Eyeglass Collection Drive

Donate your used eyeglasses to SSM Health Monroe Eye Care's Eyeglass Collection Drive happening through Nov. 13. Eyeglasses can be dropped off at SSM Health Monroe Eye Care in Monroe and Freeport or at any SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group location. Donations go to the Lion's Cub to help offer the gift of sight to those in need.

Stockton American Legion Cheese Sale

Stockton American Legion Post 449 will be taking orders for one-pound Torkelson Cheese bricks during November. This fund raiser will have the following cheeses for sale: Brick, Munster, Mild Cheddar, Sharp Cheddar, Baby Swiss, Swiss, Apple Jack and Pepper Jack. Legion members will take orders on the at the Post home on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Payment is required when the order is placed. The order pick up is Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Post home on Front Street across from the fire station from 12p.m. to 3 p.m.

Highland Community College Global Task Force presents 'Humanities and Cultural Panel'

The Highland Global Task Force hosts the program "Humanities and Cultural Panel" at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16 via Zoom™. Join the Highland Global Taskforce Committee for a panel discussion on humanities, social justice, human rights and culture through the lens of history, business, languages, social sciences, pedagogy, theatre and literature. The program is free. For the Zoom link visit highland.edu/events.

Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension meeting

The November meeting of Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension will be held on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. Roll call will be, "What is your

favorite soup?". The major lesson, Bone Broth-Best Ever Broth, will be given by Colleen Brown. Final plans will be made for the Christmas meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend.




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Little Blackhawks

Pictured are this week's Little Blackhawks. These students have been recognized by their teachers for their great behavior and excellent work. Congratula-

tions for continuing to do great things at school!

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Stockton Heritage Museum to host 'Stockton Highway 20 – Our Second Main Street' presentation

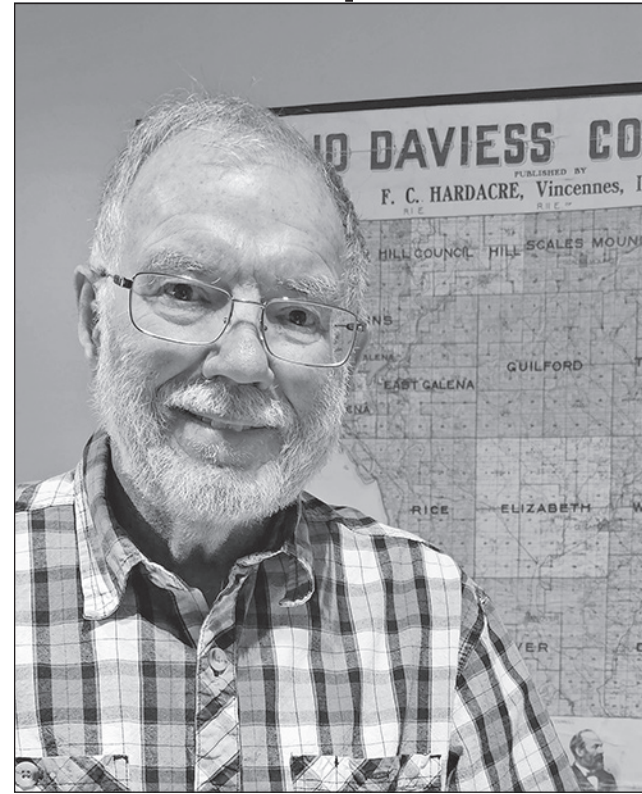
Stockton Heritage Museum will host a talk by Warren Dixon detailing the businesses along Highway 20 through the northern edge of Stockton from 1891 to 2023. The presentation, "Stockton Highway 20 – Our Second Main Street," will take place on Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023, at the Stockton Heritage Museum, 107 West Front Street, Stockton, IL. The Stockton Heritage Museum's Annual Meeting will take place the same day, beginning at

2 p.m., and the presentation will follow immediately after.

In 1891 Ladies Union Cemetery was organized and located along the south side of Highway 20, and the eastern edge of Stockton. As the Village grew and prospered, many businesses established roots along both sides of Highway 20 through town. Ladies Union Cemetery has been the one constant throughout the 132-year time period. Warren will take the audience through the timeline of which businesses were located where and for how long.

A native of northwest Illinois and a graduate of Stockton high school Class of 1964, Warren graduated from Northern Illinois University and obtained a CPA certificate in 1970. He retired after working as an accountant in the agriculture field. Warren and his wife Dianne, also a Stockton native, are now living in Stockton after residing in various Midwest locations for 30 years.

The event is free and open to all audiences. For more information, please visit www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org, Facebook: Stockton-Heritage-Museum-309324911534, email info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org, or leave a message at 815-947-2220.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

On Sunday, Nov. 12 Warren Dixon will host the presentation "Stockton Highway 20 – Our Second Main Street" at the Stockton Heritage Museum. Warren is a veteran having served in the US Army stationed in Germany from 1970 to 1972. Warren was assigned to the accounting headquarters of MATCOM (Material Command-Europe) where he utilized his accounting and computer background. Warren is the Secretary and Historian for the Stockton Veterans Memorial committee. He was instrumental in coordinating the collection, organization and ongoing maintenance of database information recorded for over 1,700 Veterans from the Greater Stockton Area. All of these names appear on the Stockton Veterans Memorial located along Highway 20 in Stockton.

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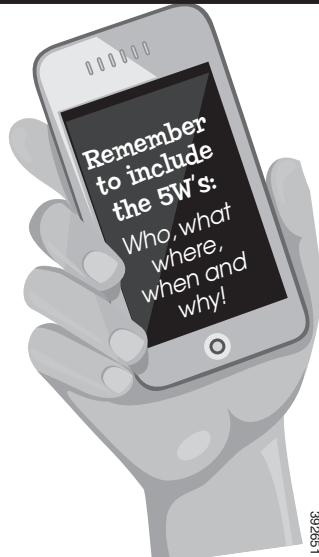
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382651

NUIC West announces All-Conference volleyball team

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The NUIC-West featured some excellent volleyball in 2023. Galena went perfect in conference play with a 12-0 record, capturing the conference championship. Scales Mound wasn't far off with a conference record of 9-3, and River Ridge sat just one game behind at 8-4. Stockton finished the year 6-6 in conference play, while Warren went 2-10.

The Scales Mound Hornets had one of their best seasons in years, finishing with an overall record of 20-13-1. The Hornets were led by Anniston Werner and Brooklynn McCartney, a pair of seniors who both landed on the First Team All-Conference list. Werner was a unanimous selection after leading the Hornets in kills with 263. Werner also led the team with 34 aces and tacked on 45 total blocks. McCartney led the team in digs with 480, while also putting up 23 aces and 39 assists.

Scales Mound also had Anna Wentz on the Second Team All-Conference list. Wentz racked up 118 kills, 19 total blocks, and 307 digs as a senior. Rylee McCartney was an Honorable Mention for Scales Mound as well.

The River Ridge Wildcats also had an excellent 2023 season. For the third consecutive year, the Wildcats increased their win total. After going just 0-10 in the 2020 Covid year, the Wildcats went 9-19-2 in 2021. In 2022, they turned the page with a 20-15-3 season. In 2023 they made winning the norm with a 24-10-3 finish.

A pair of seniors in Addison Albrecht and Gwen Miller played a major role in the River Ridge revival. Both Albrecht and Miller were unanimous First Team All-Conference selections for their play in 2023. Albrecht led the team in kills with 324, while Miller was next up with 202. Miller also led the team in aces with 52, and blocks with 59. Miller also finished second on the team in assists with 300. Albrecht was second on the team in digs with 110.

Laiken Haas was an Honorable Mention for All-Conference in 2023. Haas, a junior at River Ridge, finished the year with 121 kills, 38 aces, 43 blocks, and a team-leading 334 assists. Haas will surely be expected to return as one of the team's leaders in 2024. The Wildcats' trio helped lead the team on and off the court, and it showed with River Ridge winning the 2023 Sportsmanship Award for the conference.

The Stockton Blackhawks also showed improvement in 2023. After a down year in 2022, the Blackhawks returned with a new coach in 2023. This year, the Blackhawks managed to finish with an 18-14-2 overall record and a postseason victory over Scales Mound.

This year's Blackhawks featured a well-rounded team. Madalyn Mammoser, a Stockton junior, led the team with 152 kills and 136 digs. Kacy Wright, a fellow junior, led the team in assists with 274. Wright also had 82 kills, 27 aces, 31 total blocks, and 191 digs. Both Wright and Mammoser were named to the Second Team All-Conference squad. Stockton had a pair of players earn an Honorable Mention in Katelyn Winters and Emily Broshous. All four of Stockton's award winners will return for 2024 as Stockton looks like an exciting squad for the future.

On paper, it's easy to say the Warren Warriors struggled through 2023. The squad finished with a 5-27-2 overall record. 2023 was a step in the right direction for Warren, however. Their five wins this year are the most wins the program has gotten since the 6-8 Covid year. Since 2018, Warren volleyball has just 13 wins on its record. Excluding 2020, their 5-27-2 finish is their best season since 2017.

Adalynn Bohnsack and Katie Schneider, a pair of Warren seniors, helped the program take that step. Bohnsack and Schneider were both recognized for their efforts with Second Team All-Conference selections. Lauren Williams earned an Honorable Mention as well.

Around the Northern Hills

Did you know that you don't need to be a farmer to be a farm bureau member? Give me a call at the office and I can tell you how you can become a member. You will be able to take advantage of the many membership benefits that Illinois Farm Bureau and Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau has to offer.

Would you like to keep up to date on the happenings at the JDCFB? Sign up for our newsletter. I promise we won't fill up your email inbox with too many emails - only a few a year with information about upcoming programs, member benefits and such. If you would like to sign up, just email me your email address so we have it in our system.

Freezer meals are back!

Holiday Home and Shed Show

Joanne Gallagher's and Judy Hodgins' Holiday Home and Shed Show is making some major changes. They are moving from the Hodgins farm to the Apple River Stagecoach Event Center. This established event has been 25+ years in the making. It always has been held on the weekend before Thanksgiving. This year it will be held on Friday, Nov. 17 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Joanne, Judy and friends will be hosting this event the same as on the farm.

The event will feature hand-woven baskets, home décor, Christmas décor, 1902 crocheting and knitting, Liz's clothing boutique, local honey, a Hot Chocolate bar and much more for your shopping pleasure. Cookies and door prizes will continue. Soup and sandwiches, prepared by The Thriving Thistle Bistro, will be available on Friday and Saturday with the proceeds going to the Apple River Methodist church roof fundraiser. A church bake sale is also planned. Joanne and Judy are hoping this transition from the farm to the event center will help create an annual event for the Apple River Community. Come see what Apple River community has to offer.



By ANNETTE EGGERS
Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

If you would like to order, visit our website at www.jodaviesscfb.com. You can print an order form and send us a check or pay online using your PayPal account. Orders are due to our office Thursday, Nov 30. These are single serving sizes so it would make

a great gift for grandparents, college students, and more. This a fundraiser for Ag-In-the-Classroom! The cost is \$90 for 10 single-serve meals that include two of each of the following:

- Chicken and Biscuits
- Lasagna
- Pulled Pork Loaded Potato
- Pork Loin with Potato and Veggie
- Bacon Ranch Pasta

Pick up for the meals is set for Dec. 19 from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the main level of the farm bureau building in

Elizabeth.

Family Farm signs

As we are headed into winter weather (I know, I'm not ready either), we all start thinking about gift giving. A "This is a Family Farm" sign is the perfect gift for that hard to buy for farmer. The signs are 17.5" X 23" and cost \$30. Stop by our office and pick one up.

Farm fun fact:

44% of grain produced in Illinois is exported out of the state or country.



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Level: Intermediate

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5				8		7		9

Level: Advanced

SUDOKU

Fun by the Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test! **Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

CAREGIVING WORD SEARCH

E D E C I P S O H V L K K T K A K M O A
M V N O I S S A P M O C T H P T E I X R
V A G E I N P L A C E G N G Q K A L I Y
R Q E P T A N X A E P M E N R A F L P L
H L S D Y G H C C D G D M I Q G O N H I
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U F U O R A U R O A P M I A V L M S V A
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D L R D K N L E C X T N S Y R H E O Q E
U Y G K G N I U N I T N O C A U T R L D
D C I R T A I R E G E T I P S E R O R E

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- CUTE
- AGE IN PLACE
- AGING
- CAREGIVER
- COMPASSION
- CONTINUING
- COORDINATOR
- DAYCARE
- EQUIPMENT
- FAMILY
- GERIATRIC
- HOME HEALTH AIDE
- HOSPICE
- ILLNESS
- MEMORY
- NURSE
- NURSING HOME
- PALLIATIVE
- PROXY
- RESPIRE
- SKILLED
- THERAPY
- VOLUNTEER

CLUES ACROSS

1. Happen again
8. Large flightless birds
13. A type of account
14. Beyond what is natural
15. Beloved comfort food
19. Rural delivery
20. Belonging to us
21. Typical
22. Pie ___ mode
23. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
24. Not us
25. Discharge
26. Made empty
30. Fishing net
31. Fast-moving, harmless snake
32. Analyzed into its parts
33. In a way, chilled
34. Hindu queen
35. Circles around the sun
38. Used for emphasis
39. Reactive structures
40. Recommendations
44. Feel intense anger
45. Puke
46. Rural Northern Ireland community
47. Naturally occurring solid material
48. British watch brand
49. Toddler
50. Integrated circuit
51. Being revered
55. "Pets" you can grow
57. Continual
58. Puts together in time
59. Houses temporarily

CLUES DOWN

1. Vital public document
2. Disinter
3. Musical performances
4. After B
5. Every body has one (abbr.)
6. Utilize
7. In a way, disproved

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
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58								59				

8. Fisherman's tool
9. Of she
10. Trauma center
11. Commercial flyer
12. Administered medicine to calm
16. Popular R&B performer
17. Regretted
18. Leg (slang)
22. "Night Train" author
25. More supernatural
27. Baltimore ballplayer
28. Shoe parts
29. Scores perfectly
30. More lucid
32. Trim by cutting
34. Disreputable people
35. Dramatic behaviors
36. Disorder
37. Private box in a theater
38. More dried-up
40. Raw
41. In operation
42. Pillager
43. Butterflies with brown wings
45. Disallow
48. Own up
51. Hungarian city
52. A way to condemn
53. Tax collector
54. Lease
56. Not out

Panthers advance to round three with victory over Forreston

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers put another tally on their side of the win column in the Forreston vs. Lena-Winslow rivalry. After beating the Forreston Cardinals late in the regular season, Le-Win met up with them again, just two weeks later. This time around, the season was on the line as the Panthers and Cardinals met up in round two of the Illinois 1A football playoffs on Saturday, Nov. 4.

Coming into the game, the Panthers had won four consecutive matchups over the Cardinals. With frustrations growing on Forreston's side, anticipation grew for their most recent postseason meeting.

The Le-Win offense is a well-oiled machine, and you don't fix what isn't broken. In round two, the Panthers stuck with what works best for them, and that means running the ball. More specifically, it means letting Gage Dunker run the ball. Over his career, Dunker is one of the best ball carriers in NUIC history and he continued to add to his legacy against Forreston.

It wasn't Dunker who got the offense going, however. Early in the game, it was Cobryn Lynch who broke free for the first score of the day. Lynch took the ball 43 yards to the house midway through the first. Dunker capped the drive off with a two-point conversion as the Panthers went up 8-0.

Forreston would quickly respond, however. The Cardi-

nals had a big run of their own as a 33-yard score cut into the Panthers' lead. A missed extra-point attempt left Le-Win with a two-point lead that would hold through the end of the first quarter.

Early in the second quarter, it was Lucas Fye who put the Panthers on the board. This time, Fye busted a 37-yard run for a score. Lynch tallied the two-point conversion, and the Panthers went up by multiple scores with a 16-6 advantage.

Following a quick defensive stop, the Panther offense went back to work. With just over seven minutes left in the first half, Lynch scored his second touchdown of the day. Lynch trucked into the endzone from 12 yards out, and the Panthers took a 22-6 lead that would last until halftime.

In the second half, it was Dunker's time. After Le-Win got the ball to start the third quarter, Dunker wasted little time in putting his team on the board. Just 17 seconds into the half, Dunker busted a 68-yard touchdown run. Dunker also tallied the two-point conversion, putting Le-Win up 30-6.

After going scoreless in the first half, Dunker managed to get the hat trick in the third quarter alone. After touchdown runs of 40 yards and five yards, Dunker helped the Panthers take a 46-6 lead. One of those scores made NUIC history as Dunker rushed for his 68th career touchdown. Before the end of the game, Dunker tallied touchdown number 69.

On the day, Dunker rushed for 216 yards and three scores on 21 carries. He also sits near the top of the NUIC in career rushing yards. Lynch had a big day on the ground as well, rushing for 92 yards and a pair of scores on seven carries. Fye added 51 yards and a score on just three touches. Altogether, the Panthers rushed for 361 yards and six touchdowns in their round two game.

Defensively, Dunker also led the way, with six total tackles, including a sack. The Le-Win defense held Forreston to just 222 total yards, with a pair of fumble recoveries.

After beating Forreston 46-14, the Panthers punched their ticket for the third round. On Saturday, Nov. 11 Le-Win will host Annawan-Wethersfield at 2 p.m.

Lady Broncos hopeful to continue building

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

With fall sports coming to an end, winter sports are right around the corner. For the Orangeville Broncos, they are hoping their girls basketball team can continue the success the program has found in recent years.

Ever since the 2021 season, the Orangeville Broncos have dominated the court. In 2021, the team finished with an overall record of 27-5. In 2022, they increased their win number by one as they finished the year 28-5. The Broncos also took their game to the next level by capturing a NUIC Conference Championship and a Regional Championship in the postseason.

After a disappointing ending with a 48-17 loss to Galena, the Broncos and their head coach, Jay Doyle, couldn't wait to be back. The 2022 team lost just one senior in Leah Baker. Although Baker leaves big shoes to fill, the Broncos are up for the task.

A pair of First Team All-Conference players return to lead the way in Whitney Sullivan and Laney Cahoon. Joining them is Second Team All-Conference selection, Nadalee Doyle. On top of that, the Broncos also return Kaylynn O'Haver and Addie Wheeler, who split starts last year. Both O'Haver and Wheeler are expected to step into the starting lineup full time in 2023. Makayla Mock and Bailey Jordan were first off the bench last year, and that should continue this season.

It is clear that returning experience will be Orangeville's strength in 2023. The Broncos return the most experienced team in the conference, and they bring a winning reputation with

them. Sixth year head coach Jay Doyle recognized that stating, "The team will bring back a lot of experience that has been in big games and a long season."

Jay is hoping to see the 2023 team show a continued desire of success. The opportunity is right there in front of them. According to the Jay, the team just needs to "continue to improve and play [their] best basketball at the end of February."

As the head coach, it's Jay's job to make sure the team is prepared for those opportunities. This year, Jay is hoping a tougher regular season schedule can help the team be better prepared for the postseason. "I have front loaded our schedule early with a lot of tough games," Jay said, adding that the team will also be playing in the Boylan Shootout this Christmas.

The Broncos open the 2023 season in the Forreston tournament. They are set to face off with Forreston on Nov. 16, then Stillman Valley and Eastland on Nov. 18. They will take on Stockton on Nov. 20, and Winnebago on Nov. 21. Excluding Stockton, who had a 5-24 season in 2022, the other four teams the Broncos will face finished with a combined record of 88-35.

If a tough Forreston tournament doesn't get the Broncos going, their regular season schedule will. On Dec. 1, the Broncos travel to face off with the River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats. Last season, RR-SM racked up 26 victories. On Dec. 5, the Broncos travel to face off with an Aquin squad that returns off an 18-win season. The Broncos don't host their first home game until Dec. 7, when they play host to the Lena-Winslow Panthers. Last year, the Panthers went 22-9 and one of those victories just happens to be one of the Broncos' five losses. A slew of other challenges lie throughout the 2023 season for Orangeville.

Jay recognizes the obstacles he's laid in front of his team, and he hopes to see it benefit them in the long run. "Our record may suffer, but we need to continue to push our kids to get better to prepare us to play and compete for a conference title and a regional title again," Jay shared.

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One step closer

The Northwest Illinois F-4 Jet Memorial has achieved another milestone. The jet has been lettered. The next step will be moving the jet to its permanent location on

Main Street in Lena.



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Veteran's Day display

Stop by Kleins Automotive on W. Main Street to see the display of area veterans and active military. Andrea Karnatz of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary created and put up this display. Thank you to everyone who supplied photos.

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Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

VICTORIA HANSEN

The year was 2012 and to be more specific, it was Saturday, Oct. 27, 2012. It was a blustery day in downtown Indianapolis. The day started with a very early morning. This morning was in many ways very typical and wasn't too much out of the ordinary, except for one key point. This was the day I would receive my American FFA Degree, one of the highest honors the National FFA Association awards.

Less than one percent of members receive this honor. Requirements to receive one's American FFA Degree are set forth in the National FFA Constitution. To be eligible, members must meet qualifications, such as receiving a State FFA Degree, holding active membership for the past three years, completing secondary education in an agricultural program and operating an outstanding supervised agricultural experience program. Community service, leadership abilities and outstanding scholastic achievement are also required.

Not only did this day mark an accomplishment I had been working toward since I was a freshman in high school, it marked the end of my journey as an FFA member. While in FFA I participated in several different Career Development Events, my favorite being the

Job Interview Contest. I also kept a record for my Outdoor Recreation Supervised Agriculture Experience FFA and my involvement in it shaped the person I am today, and I couldn't be more grateful for the many opportunities I had through FFA.

On Nov. 2, 2023, members from Section 1 of the Illinois FFA received their American Degrees. Those students included Benjamin Bremmer, Alyssa Anderson, Tyler Crott, Conor DeZell, Cheyenne Handsaker, Ashley Carroll, Jose Korte, Joseph Brudi and Jenna Haas. Congratulations on your accomplishment.

Elf on the Shelf with Illinois Ag in The Classroom

Illinois Ag In the Classroom is excited to introduce our brand-new Elf on the Shelf resource booklet! This booklet contains 20 agriculture-themed Elf on the Shelf ideas, complete with example photos, materials needed, set-up information, book recommendations, ag facts to share, and activities to pair. Visit iaitc.co/elf to learn more, view and download the booklet, or plan ahead by downloading our full IAITC Elf Materials List. Be sure to follow along on our social media during the holiday season to meet our IAITC Elf, Sprout, and see his shenanigans in action.

Cultivating Master Farmers Seeks Applicants for Class of 2025

Sometimes the best learning method is a conversation with someone who's been there, done that. The Cultivating Master Farmer program provides just that; expert farm and family advice from people who have experienced the challenges and successes of life. This unique mentoring program connects young and beginning farmers with a wealth of information from Prairie Farmer's Master Farmers. Classes of approximately 12 young farmers (or farming couples) aged 21 to 35 years old, and 12 Master Farmers are selected for the 18-month program, which features four ag-related events, including a summer tour. The Class of 2023, which graduated in July, toured the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Research Park and Morrow Plots. They also heard from acclaimed speakers on practical sustainability efforts, agronomics, politics and how they affect agriculture, CO2 pipeline updates and impacts, and received media training.

Like previous classes, incoming CMF members will have plenty of opportunities to hear from a top-notch slate of speakers. However, the real value of the program comes from round-table discussion

and relationship building, where young farmers learn from Master Farmers and vice versa. Upon the completion of the 18-month program, participants will have developed lasting relationships that continue to yield solid farm advice even after the program's conclusion. Young farmers have until Dec. 1, 2023, to apply for an opening in the Class of 2025. Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Reside in Illinois.
- Between the ages of 21 to 35 as of January 1, 2024.
- Actively engaged in production agriculture.
- Commit to actively partic-

ipate in the two-year program. • Couples are encouraged to apply.

The Class of 2025 will be selected in December of 2023, and those accepted will be notified by Jan. 1, 2024. The inaugural meeting will be held Feb. 21-22, 2024 in Bloomington. The CMF program is sponsored by Farm Credit Illinois, Compeer Financial, GROWMARK, Illinois Farm Bureau, Bayer and Prairie Farmer.

Ogle Carroll Ag in The Classroom Fundraiser

Support the Ag in The Classroom program for Ogle and Carroll counties by pur-

chasing freezer meals. These meals are great gifts for those on your list who are hard to shop for. Get two sets of five meals, each individual serving. Meal sets are \$90. The menu includes chicken and biscuits, lasagna, pulled pork loaded baked potato, smoked pork loin with roasted potatoes, and chicken bacon ranch pasta. The order deadline is Nov. 30, with order pickup being Dec. 18. Carroll County pickup is 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Ogle County pickup is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meals can be ordered on line at <https://checkout.square.site/buy/YB65ZZ-KU2FTCZ6REBFTPQS7R>.

Highland Gallery hosts Visual Art Faculty Exhibit

The Highland Gallery will feature work by current Highland Visual Arts faculty members from Nov. 1 through Dec. 4 at the Ferguson Fine Arts Center. This annual Visual Art Faculty Exhibit shows recent work by faculty that is on display and available for contemplation, stimulation, and discussion as a featured exhibit for the Fall 2023 semester.

This exhibit showcases recent work by some of the current HCC Visual

Arts Faculty; Robert Apolloni, (drawing, design, art appreciation) Alex Jansen (Graphic Design) and Dana Russell-Brown (Ceramics). The collection interweaves experience and methods across various mediums and approaches, catalyzing the visual arts to promote communication, education, and inspiration.

The opportunity for instructors to exhibit on campus illuminates their additional role as working artists

who actively create and show their work in other galleries and venues. This exhibition offers a peek into the studio art and design practices of HCC's art faculty, acknowledging and celebrating a vibrant visual art community.

Highland Gallery hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information about the gallery or Highland's Visual Arts program, contact Robert Apolloni at 815-599-3479 or bob.apolloni@highland.edu.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

The vegetation is now in its winter zone; it is sad to see all the flowers gone and deep-freezing temps during most of our nights. Of course, it wouldn't be the change of the seasons without our time change. Darkness has set in. It is time for us to hunker down and eat some good warm foods. Have a great week cooking.

Cranberry Brie Bites

These tasty appetizers are easy to make as well as being good. Once again, the crescent roll makes for a great appetizer.

8 oz. crescent roll sheet (or you can take crescent rolls and seal the perforations so that you make a sheet)

8 oz. wheel of brie cheese
1 C. whole berry cranberry sauce, not jellied

Fresh rosemary sprigs

Preheat the oven to 375.

Spray a mini muffin tin with cooking spray. Spread a little flour onto a cutting board or counter. Roll out crescent dough sheet or pinch the crescent rolls into a sheet. Cut crescent dough into 24 equal sized squares. Place squares into muffin tin slots. Cut brie into small pieces and place inside the crescent dough squares. Top with a generous spoonful of cranberry sauce and a little sprig of rosemary. Bake until the crescent dough is a light golden brown, about 15 minutes. Serve warm.

Harvest Salad

If you have never tried couscous, you should. It is a tasty Mediterranean starch—somewhere between a rice and a pasta. If you just can't make yourself be adventurous, you could substitute it with tiny pasta. This is a combination of greens, vegetables, fruits, nuts, and pasta.

3 C. uncooked pearl couscous (Israeli)

2 cans (14 oz. each) garbanzo beans of chickpeas, rinsed and drained

2 large navel oranges, peeled and chopped

2 C. fresh baby spinach

1 C. crumbled Gouda

1 small red onion, chopped

¾ C. dried cranberries

½ C. celery, tops reserved for garnish

½ C. chopped pecans, toasted

8 fresh basil leaves, chopped

Dressing:

½ C. olive oil

¼ C. orange juice

¼ C. balsamic vinegar

1 T. grated orange zest

2 t. honey

1 t. salt

½ t. pepper

Prepare couscous according to package directions. Fluff with a fork; cool. In a bowl, combine couscous and the rest of the ingredients. In a small bowl, whisk together the dressing ingredients until blended. Pour over salad and toss to coat. Garnish with celery tops and additional basil leaves.

Chicken Kiev Crescent Bake

This easy chicken dish doesn't have many ingredients and comes together very quickly. For a nice and easy supper, try this casserole.

8 uncooked chicken tenderloins, about 1¼ lbs

¼ t. garlic powder

¼ t. pepper

1/8 t. salt

3 T. butter

1 can (8 oz.) Pillsbury Original Crescent rolls

3 T. Panko breadcrumbs

1 container (7.5 oz.) chives and onion cream cheese

1/3 C. milk

Preheat oven to 375. Season chicken with garlic powder, pepper, and salt. In 10-inch nonstick skillet, melt 2 T. butter over medium-high heat. Cook chicken in butter

for 8 to 10 minutes or until chicken is well-browned on all sides. Remove from skillet and cool slightly.

Unroll dough and separate into 8 triangles. Place piece of chicken on wide end of triangle and roll up dough around chicken; place in an ungreased 9 x 13 baking dish. Repeat to use all of chicken and dough. In a small microwaveable bowl, heat remaining tablespoon of butter in microwave uncovered on High for 15 to 30 seconds until melted. Brush crescents with melted butter; top with breadcrumbs. Bake for 15 minutes.

A few minutes before removing the dish from oven, using the same skillet, heat cream cheese and milk over medium heat, stirring constantly, until smooth and bubbling. Pour sauce into baking dish around crescent wrapped chicken. Bake 6 minutes or until crescents are golden brown and sauce is bubbling.

Bacon Cheeseburger Potato Casserole

If you want to try a cheeseburger in a casserole dish, this tasty potato dish will fill the bill. It reminds me of the cheeseburger pizza that is popular. You substitute the tater tots for the pizza dough.

1 lb. ground beef

1 small onion, chopped, ¼ C.

¾ C. ketchup

4 slices American cheese

1 bag of tater tot potatoes
4 slices of cooked bacon, coarsely chopped
¼ C. dill pickle slices, halved if slices are large

Preheat oven to 400. Spray an 8-inch square glass baking dish with cooking spray. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until brown; drain and then stir in ketchup. Spoon beef mixture into baking dish. Top with cheese slices in single layer. Place frozen tater tots on an ungreased cookie sheet; bake for 10 minutes. Top casserole evenly with potatoes. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until heated through and potatoes are golden brown. Sprinkle with bacon during the last 5 minutes of bake time. Top with pickle slices.

Frosted Harvest Cake

This recipe says it is a cake; I say it is a bar. It is really a pumpkin bar with a lot more spice. If you like the taste of pumpkin pie, you will love these.

1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin

4 eggs, room temperature

¾ C. canola oil

2 t. vanilla

2 C. flour

2 C. sugar

1 T. pumpkin pie spice

2 t. cinnamon

2 t. baking powder

1 t. baking soda

½ t. salt

Frosting:

6 T. butter, softened

3 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 t. vanilla
1 t. 2% milk
1/8 t. salt
1½ to 2 C. powdered sugar

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large bowl, beat the pumpkin, eggs, oil, and vanilla until blended. Combine dry ingredients in a separate bowl. Gradually stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture. Pour into a greased jelly roll baking pan. Bake at 350 until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack.

Frosting: In a small bowl, beat the butter, cream cheese, vanilla, milk, and salt until smooth. Gradually add powdered sugar until smooth. Frost cake; cut into bars. Store in refrigerator.

Pumpkin Bundt Cake

This recipe is for a cake that is perfect for fall. You will love to smell it baking because it has all the great aromas of the season.

2½ C. sugar

1 C. canola oil

3 eggs, room temperature

3 C. flour

2 t. baking soda

1 t. cinnamon

1 t. nutmeg

½ t. salt

¼ t. ground cloves

1 can (15 oz.) pumpkin

Powdered sugar for garnish

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large bowl, combine the sugar and oil until blended. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, and cloves. Add to egg mixture alternately with pumpkin, beating well after each addition. Transfer to a greased 10-inch fluted tube pan. Bake 60 to 65 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes before transferring onto a wire rack. Remove pan and cool completely. Place on a cake stand. Dust with powdered sugar.

See KITCHEN, Page 23

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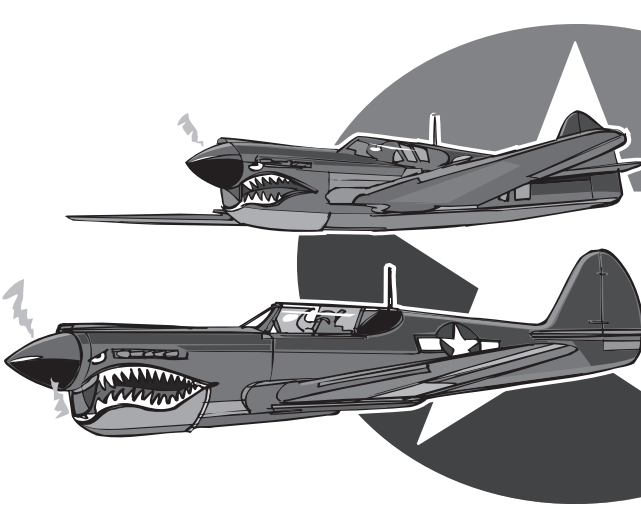
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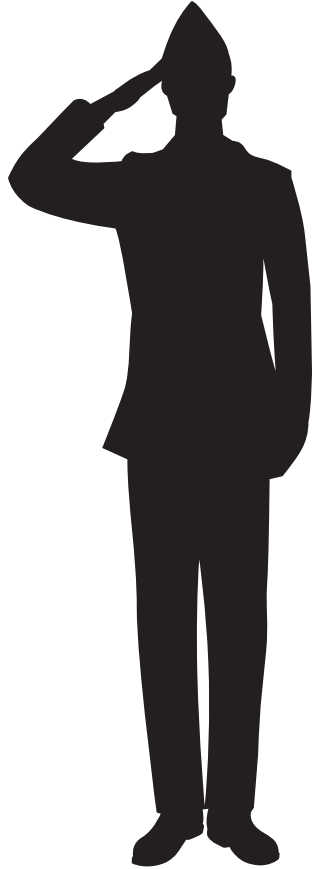


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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other good will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street Freeport, IL 61032 to satisfy a lien on November 16, 2023 at 1:00 pm. Cube 1042 Krista Tucker; Cube 1142 Erving Makini; Cube 1318 Adryanna Pempilton
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 1 & 8, 2023) 445598

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

In Re the Matter of the Estate of: Elaine K. Paske Deceased.
No. 23-PR-62

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Elaine K. Paske, of Davis, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 12, 2023, to: Cheryl L. Paske 1623 20th Ave. Monroe, WI 53566 as independent Executor of the Estate of Elaine K. Paske, whose attorney is Anthony V. Coon Attorney At Law 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210 Freeport, IL 61032

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 28.4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days

after it has been filed. Date: 10/17/23.
Cheryl L. Paske, Executor
By: Anthony V. Coon
Anthony V. Coon, Attorney At Law
Anthony V. Coon, #6269568
Attorney at Law
10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212
Fax 815-232-5500
tonycoonlaw@aol.com
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Oct. 25, Nov. 1 & 8, 2023) 445686

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

In Re the Matter of the Estate of: JAMES H. EVERS, Deceased.
No. 2023PR66

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of James H. Evers, of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 19, 2023, to: Joel T. Evers c/o Anthony V. Coon Attorney At law 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste.210 Freeport, Illinois 61032

as independent Administrator of the Estate of James H. Evers, whose attorney is Anthony V. Coon Attorney At law 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210 Freeport, Illinois 61032

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 28.4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to the Clerk.
Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois

61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 3, 2024, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Date: October 20, 2023.
Joel T. Evers, Administrator
By: Anthony V. Coon
Anthony V. Coon, Attorney At Law
Anthony V. Coon, #6269568
Attorney at Law
10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212
Fax 815-232-5500
tonycoonlaw@aol.com
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 1, 8 & 15, 2023) 445911

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

In Re the Matter of the Estate of: CHARLES M. LUECKE, Deceased.
No. 23-PR-67

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Charles M. Luecke, of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 24, 2023, to: Alicia M. DeMichele 2209 Oriole Dr. Freeport, IL 61032

as independent Executor of the Estate of Charles M. Luecke, whose attorney is Anthony V. Coon Attorney At law 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210 Freeport, Illinois 61032

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Charles M. Luecke, of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on October 24, 2023, to: Alicia M. DeMichele 2209 Oriole Dr. Freeport, IL 61032

as independent Executor of the Estate of Charles M. Luecke, whose attorney is Anthony V. Coon Attorney At law 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210 Freeport, Illinois 61032

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 28.4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), any interested person terminates independent adminis-

tration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 10, 2024, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.
Date: October 24, 2023.
Alicia M. DeMichele, Executor
By: Anthony V. Coon
Anthony V. Coon, Attorney At Law
Anthony V. Coon, #6269568
Attorney at Law
10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212
Fax 815-232-5500
tonycoonlaw@aol.com
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 1, 8 & 15, 2023) 446078

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, VS. UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA L. RATKOVICH; TRICIA A HALTER; ROBERT J RATKOVICH; BRIAN R RATKOVICH; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2023FC53
145 NORTH WHISTLER AVENUE
FREEPORT, IL 61032
JUDGE
PRESIDING JUDGE

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Patricia L.

Ratkovich Robert J Ratkovich Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:
THE NORTH SIXTY (60) FEET OF LOT TWENTY-EIGHT (28) IN POWELL AND WADDELL'S SUBDIVISION OF THE EAST HALF (1/2) OF THE NORTH-EAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED IN BOOK 26 OF DEEDS ON PAGE 267 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
Commonly known as: 145 North Whistler Avenue Freeport, IL 61032 and which said Mortgage was made by, Patricia L Ratkovich Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Academy Mortgage Corporation Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 202000178076; and for other relief.
UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before December 1, 2023, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.
You have been sued. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Notice called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case

without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to ilcourthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalaid.org. All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website. ¿Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411- 1121, o visite ilcourthelp.gov para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios.
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
1 N. Dearborn St.
Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph. (312) 346-9088
File No. 23-16149IL-968558
I3231843
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 1, 8 & 15, 2023) 446109

without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to ilcourthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalaid.org. All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website. ¿Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411- 1121, o visite ilcourthelp.gov para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios.
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Attorney for Plaintiff
1 N. Dearborn St.
Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602
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Attorney for Plaintiff
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Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph. (312) 346-9088
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(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 1, 8 & 15, 2023) 446109

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McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
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Suite 1200
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(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 1, 8 & 15, 2023) 446109

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McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
1 N. Dearborn St.
Suite 1200
Chicago, IL 60602
Ph. (312) 346-9088
File No. 23-16149IL-968558
I3231843
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 1, 8 & 15, 2023) 446109

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for owner #4409, 555 W. South Street Freeport, IL 61032 to satisfy a lien on November 16, 2023 at 1:15 pm. Cube 1297 Sherman Dean

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 1 & 8, 2023) 445599

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC. Plaintiff, -v.- VALERIE VEGA A/K/A VALERIE N. VEGA et al Defendant

2023 FC 6

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 12, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on November 17, 2023, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THAT CERTAIN LOT OF GROUND IN BLOCK NUMBER SIXTY-ONE (61) IN THE CITY OF GALENA, ON THE WEST SIDE OF GALENA RIVER, KNOWN AND DESIGNATED ON SAID C.S. HEMPSTEAD'S SUBDIVISION OF LOTS NUMBER ONE (1), TWO (2) AND FOUR (4) IN SAID BLOCK NO. SIXTY-ONE (61) AS SURVEYED AND PLATTED BY MILTON WADLEIGH, CITY SURVEYOR, DECEMBER 10, 1855, AS LOT NUMBER EIGHT (8) IN SAID ORIGINAL LOT NUMBER TWO (2) AND BEING ON CORNER OF WASHINGTON AND LIBERTY STREETS AS MAY APPEAR BY REFERENCE TO THE SAID PLAT OF SUBDIVISION

OF LOTS 1, 2 AND 4 CONTAINING 60 FEET ON LIBERTY STREET BY 135 FEET DEEP. SITUATED IN THE CITY OF GALENA, COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

TOGETHER WITH THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PORTION OF VACATED LIBERTY STREET, BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE EAST-ERLY LINE OF LIBERTY STREET WHICH POINT IS 15.0 FEET SOUTHERLY FROM THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF WASHINGTON STREET IN SAID CITY OF GALENA; THENCE SOUTHERLY 29.0 FEET ALONG SAID EASTERLY LINE OF LIBERTY STREET; THENCE WESTERLY 12.5 FEET AT AN ANGLE OF 90°36' AS MEASURED COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM THE PRECEDING LINE; THENCE NORTHERLY 29.0 FEET TO A POINT 12.8 FEET FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID PORTION OF LIBERTY STREET SITUATED IN JO DAVIESS COUNTY, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 612 WASHINGTON ST, GALENA, IL 61036

Property Index No. 22-101-027-00

The real estate is improved with a residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, 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.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com

Attorney File No. 14-23-02167 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2023 FC 6 TJSC#: 43-2443

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

Case # 2023 FC 6 I3231248

(Published in The Scoop Today Oct. 25, Nov. 1 & 8, 2023) 445642

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff,

-v.- MELISSA S. TURNER et al Defendant

2023 FC 2

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 10, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on November 28, 2023, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT TEN (10) IN BLOCK ONE (1) IN BASTEN SUBDIVISION IN THE CITY OF EAST DUBUQUE, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.

Commonly known as 604 DELORES ST, EAST DUBUQUE, IL 61025

Property Index No. 05-506-620-00

The real estate is improved with a residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, 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.

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

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

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

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY

OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

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

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

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

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

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

pleadings@il.cslegal.com Attorney File No. 14-22-09717


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Case # 2023 FC 2 I3231812

(Published in The Scoop Today Nov. 1, 8 & 15, 2023)

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State pauses enrollment in health care program for immigrant seniors as spending again outpaces estimates

By Jerry Nowicki
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
 Gov. JB Pritzker's administration is pausing enrollment in a state-funded health care program for certain immigrants aged 65 and older—the fulfillment of a previously announced plan to cap spending on the program.

It's an expected move that the administration announced in June to control the rising costs of a program that has proven more expensive than its initial estimates since it became law in 2020. While no new enrollees will be accepted for the time being, those already in the program will not see any changes to their current benefits.

The Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program provides state-funded Medicaid-like benefits to individ-

uals who would qualify for the federal program based on their income levels if not for their immigration status. That includes individuals in the U.S. without legal permission and those who have obtained a green card but not yet completed a five-year waiting period making them eligible for federal benefits. An associated state program, Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults, provides similar benefits to noncitizens aged 42-64.

But unlike traditional Medicaid, which is jointly funded with state and federal money, the immigrant health care programs are funded almost entirely with state dollars due to federal reimbursement limitations for noncitizens.

Together, lawmakers allocated \$550 million to fund those programs in fiscal year

2024, which began July 1. Lawmakers also gave the Pritzker administration authority to take action through the state's administrative rulemaking process to keep spending at those levels.

Wielding that authority shortly after signing the bill, Pritzker capped HBIA enrollees as of July 1 and announced a 16,500 cap on HBIS enrollees—a threshold the Department of Healthcare and Family Services expects to hit early this month.

But the latest cost estimates from HFS show that those caps—combined with administrative delays in launching copay and co-insurance requirements for enrollees—have failed to control program spending.

An analysis dated September 2023 from the HFS

website shows the program is expected to cost \$831 million in FY 2024, more than \$280 million beyond the allocated amount. That estimate was based on total program enrollment of nearly 69,000 individuals with a per-patient-per-month cost estimate provided by the actuarial firm Milliman, which contracts with the department.

While the latest estimate exceeds the budgeted amount, it's nearly \$300 million below a May estimate from the Pritzker administration that projected program cost could grow to \$1.1 billion without cost-saving measures.

The advocates behind the push for the noncitizen health care programs—most notably the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus—have long argued that providing health care, es-

pecially preventative care, to immigrant populations would be cheaper than making them dependent on emergency room visits.

The Healthy Illinois Campaign, an advocacy coalition that's another main backer of the programs, has also long referred to health care as a human right. They took to social media to encourage eligible enrollees to apply for the program prior to the cap taking effect.

"While expected, the announcement is still a disappointing step backwards from the collective progress our state has made around health care access," Healthy Illinois Campaign Director Tovia Siegel said in a statement. "The HBIS program provides vital, lifesaving health care services to thousands of vulnerable older adults across Illinois."

She said the move will "significantly diminish the state's ability to care for its elderly residents" and urged the administration to "continue to work with advocates and community organizations to find fiscally responsible solutions" while protecting health care access for those enrolled in the program.

But the administration has noted that the costs are greater for new enrollees in the programs because they have often gone long periods without preventative care. While it is expected that individual patients' costs will level out as they receive routine care, growing enrollment means the expensive first-time costs continue to grow as well.

"Compared with the traditional Medicaid population, month-over-month enrollment has grown at a higher rate, and per-enrollee costs have tracked higher among the HBIA and HBIS-enrolled populations due to more prevalent, untreated chronic conditions and higher hospital costs, pushing the limit of

the funds made available for these programs for the current fiscal year," HFS said in a statement.

Before a recent legislative rulemaking oversight committee, HFS attorney Omar Shaker said the department remains in discussions with the federal government to implement copay and cost-sharing measures.

Initially scheduled to go live on July 1, the copays would have cost \$250 for inpatient hospitalizations and \$100 for an emergency room visit. Enrollees receiving certain outpatient services at hospitals or surgical centers would be subject to 10 percent coinsurance, which the department said at the time "could range from \$3.70 to \$202.95, depending on the service received."

But early in September, the administration paused those requirements to ensure they don't jeopardize federal matching dollars for services that are subject to reimbursement, such as emergency room care. Providers who had collected copays were instructed to return them.

Shaker told the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules this week that the department would like to reinstate the copay and co-insurance measures, possibly as early as Jan. 1. But he acknowledged that the new rules authorizing them might not be ready by that date.

As of Jan. 1, however, he said he did expect the department to begin a "coordinated effort" to involve managed care organizations in the provision of the health care program. That's a state system that involves private insurers in the Medicaid program, ensuring patients receive regular checkups and follow-up care.

Shaker said the department expects that move to further lower program costs.

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• Trees (Continued from page 4)

If only they could talk. The tales they might tell. During the first part of their life, they sat around in the forest - observing bunnies and serving as refuge for squirrels. They saw owls pursue prey and sighed in reverence when a white-tailed deer nested and nestled under the cover of their branches. They looked upward, pursuing the sun, priding themselves on being at the top of the sun-chain: and the last to see the sunrise and the last to view the sunset.

And then, one fateful day, a human came with the axe and the peaceful existence they'd known forever was

no more. They may have thought life was over. Because it was over, at least as they knew it at the time. But the universe had other plans for these trees. They had a life yet to live, a purpose yet to fulfill. The human with the axe cut the strong, healthy trunks into boards, cut the boards to size and fashioned them into the frame of a house. When realizing this, the tree understood that life wasn't over. It was just beginning. It was a new start with a new perspective, providing opportunities to see the world in ways the tree never had imagined—before.

And in that, before became but a memory and the tree (now wooden boards) immersed itself in its new existence. A brand new life. But what would that life be? What would it mean? What would it lead to? Tree was about to find out. As can we—all of us—if we are open to new and unknown things. An event that appears to be life-ending could be a beginning, if we are only able to see it as such. *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.*

• Justice (Continued from page 4)

These practices undermined the presumption of innocence. Instead, financial conditions resulted in the detention of people without access to money—and the release of others, even if they posed a danger to community safety or of willful flight from prosecution.

By abandoning the arbitrary use of financial conditions, Illinois has adopted a commonsense legal framework that honors and operates consistently with the presumption of innocence and liberty.

its circumstances properly. Where these reforms have been implemented, data and research show that they are working: The majority of people attend their court hearings and remain arrest-free. The Pretrial Fairness Act's accomplishments go beyond its alignment with foundational pretrial legal principles. The new law requires a comprehensive collection of relevant data to be analyzed and shared with justice system professionals and the public. Reliable data is essential for reviewing pretrial outcomes and measuring how a system performs as a whole; it will also contribute to more constructive and evidence-based discussions about the impacts the new law has on people, communities, and the court system.

their pretrial practices. This requires removing the traditional barriers in the criminal legal system that can divide system stakeholders from the community members they serve. These collaborations should continue and include representatives from all agencies with pretrial responsibilities and directly impacted people, victims and survivors, and their families. The people working in the state's criminal legal systems—judges, state's attorneys, defense counsel, law enforcement, court clerks, pretrial services officers, and many others—deserve recognition for their extraordinary efforts to uphold the letter as well as the spirit of the new law.

In this respect, while remarkable, the Pretrial Fairness Act isn't groundbreaking. It follows other states and jurisdictions that have moved away from financial conditions of release and toward reasoned, evidence-based, and legally justified decisions about who should be detained, who should be released, and under what conditions. With the new law, Illinois joins New Jersey, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia in requiring substantive hearings to determine who should be detained and ensures that courts are taking the time necessary for decision makers to review each case and

Because the new law is complex and comprehensive, it required counties to do something that many justice systems don't naturally do: work together across disciplines and functions. System stakeholders and community members collaborated in a well-structured process that helped them identify and better understand the changes they needed to make to

Change is never easy. But the Pretrial Fairness Act puts Illinois on the path to upholding foundational legal principles and the integrity of its system of justice. This important undertaking is off to a positive start. *Alison Shames is a director at the Center for Effective Public Policy, where she co-directs the national initiative Advancing Pretrial Policy and Research and served as a technical assistance advisor to the Illinois Pretrial Implementation Task Force.*

• Kitchen (Continued from page 13)

Final Thoughts
We had a great time on Mason and Oak Street for Halloween. There were a few less trick or treaters because of the cold, but they were all bundled up and having a great time. Thanks again to the village for providing a safe place for the children to roam on this fun night. The volleyball team lost in their sectional bid, so the season has come to an end.

They provided a lot of good matches for us to watch. Congratulations on a fine season. The junior high boys are playing fast and furious basketball games. Hopefully our football team will still be playing when you read this paper. There is always something going on. I have packed up the Halloween and gotten out the Thanksgiving. I like to make sure that we celebrate

that because it if a really important time to be thankful for what we have. We are looking for some Thanksgiving favorites. This week I continue with pumpkin recipes. If you have some fall recipes you would like to share, 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.

REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC. Plaintiff, -v.- VALERIE VEGA A/K/A VALERIE N. VEGA et al Defendant

agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

resentation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

2023 FC 6
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PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on June 12, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on November 17, 2023, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v.- MELISSA S. TURNER et al Defendant

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Nurses unions push for mandatory staff-to-patient ratios

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Unions representing nurses in Illinois are pushing for legislation that would impose mandatory staff-to-patient ratios in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. But lobby groups representing hospitals and nursing homes say they are steadfastly opposed to the legislation, arguing that a nationwide nursing shortage makes it impossible to comply with such a mandate.

The proposed Safe Patient Limits Act, by Sen. Celina Villanueva and Rep. Theresa Mah, both Chicago Democrats, was introduced in February and was the subject of a joint hearing last week in Chicago by two House committees. It's an issue that has been discussed in the General Assembly since 2019 but has thus far failed to gain the necessary traction for passage. The latest hearing came just three weeks before lawmakers returned to the Capitol for their fall veto session, which began Oct. 24.

"Short staffing isn't a mere inconvenience. It's

a dire issue," said Shaba Andrich, vice president of nursing homes for the SEIU Healthcare employee union. "It's predominantly a Black and brown issue. In historically marginalized communities of Chicago, these issues are magnified. These communities that already face systemic underinvestment are further deprived of adequate nursing care due to chronic short staffing."

The bill calls for setting a maximum number of patients that could be assigned to a registered nurse in specified situations. For example, in units with critical care or intensive care patients, the maximum number of patients per nurse would be just one. In units with pediatric patients, the bill would allow three patients per nurse, and in units with psychiatric patients, the bill would allow four patients per nurse.

It also provides some legal protection for nurses, stating that they are to provide their services exclusively in the interest of patients, "unencumbered by the commercial or revenue-generating priorities" of a facility that em-

ploys registered professional nurses.

Andrich, testifying before the committee last week, disputed the notion that there is a nursing shortage in Illinois. He said there is only "a shortage of caregivers who are refusing to be overworked and undervalued and underpaid," and that the result of understaffing has direct consequences for patients.

"Such understaffing isn't merely an operational concern. It translates into real world consequences," he said. "Seniors enduring falls, malnutrition, missed medication, avoidable hospitalization, and, tragically, avoidable deaths."

Some of those who testified in favor of the bill accused hospitals and nursing homes of being more concerned about labor costs and profit margins than the best interests of patients. "We need this legislation because hospitals are incentivized to reduce labor costs. This means less staff," said Jeanine Johnson, a critical care nurse at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet. "Hospital executives

see budgets and labor costs. Nurses see patients and their lives."

A.J. Wilhelmi, president & CEO of the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, a hospital trade group, said it's true that health care providers face significant financial pressures, largely because Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement rates have not kept pace with the rising cost of health care. But he said contrary to what the unions claimed, there is a significant and growing nursing shortage in Illinois, and the proposed Safe Patient Limits Act would put even more of a financial burden on providers.

During his testimony, Wilhelmi cited a state survey into the registered nurse workforce that was conducted by the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center — which is a state agency that works to promote the nursing profession. Of the respondents to that survey, 27 percent indicated an intent to retire within the next five years. The IHA interpreted that and other data in the survey to suggest the state could see a

shortage of 14,400 registered nurses by 2025.

"I'm deeply concerned that many hospitals in the state, particularly safety net hospitals, critical access hospitals, will be unable to absorb the huge cost that ratios would impose," he said. "And given the enormous financial pressures that Illinois hospitals already face, if this bill becomes law, they're going to have to make some tough decisions like cutting back services, closing hundreds of beds, and eliminating jobs. And frankly, some of our hospitals might be forced to close."

Andy Allison, deputy director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, the agency that administers the state's Medicaid program, suggested that the key to solving the staffing issues in hospitals and nursing homes is to raise wages to make the jobs more attractive.

He noted that last year, lawmakers passed a significant overhaul of the way the state reimburses nursing homes through Medicaid, adding roughly \$700 mil-

lion in the form of incentives to increase wages and hire more staff.

Before those reforms were adopted, he said, Illinois was home to 46 of the 100 worst-staffed nursing homes in the country. As of March 31, he said, that number had dropped to 14. "We hope that it becomes zero. We have a ways to go," he said. "But in the last five quarters—that is, through March 31 of this year—in that five-quarter period, total nurse staffing hours statewide are up 15 percent."

Denise Stiger, an organizer for Teamsters Local 743, which represents health care workers in many Chicago-area facilities, said that money has not solved the problem, and that in some nursing homes, one CNA still could have as many as 20 patients to tend to during their shift. "We have to deal with the owners because they're slumlords. That's what they are," she said. "And I understand that they get cited, and it's public. But these owners are not looking at that. These owners are looking at these patients as money."

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