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VOL. 89 • NO. 49 YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29, 2023



SYDNEY WALSH/AUDUBON SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Juliet Moderow receives the National Audubon Society William Dutcher Award

Marshall Johnson, Chief Conservation Officer from the National Audubon Society, presents Juliet Moderow with the William Dutcher Award. "I'm proud to represent the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society for the initiatives that I have led for our chapter related to diversity and inclusion in birding over the past few years," Moderow said. "I am humbled by the honor because the work I have done in the community is something that I truly enjoy -- teaching people of all ages, color, abilities, and identities about the beauty of birds. I am very appreciative of this recognition and hope it can inspire others to do similar work."

Postal Customer **ecrws

Annual Christmas Walk coming to Stockton

The Stockton Chamber of Commerce is excited to present the 35th Annual Christmas Walk that will take place in Downtown Stockton, and the surrounding businesses on Dec. 2.

During this holiday celebration Santa and Mrs. Claus will have story hour from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Stockton Public Library sponsored by the Stockton Public Library and Allure Stockton Health. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. guests can visit Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Stockton Public Library. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. participating businesses and vendors at Scouts Hall- 165 S. Main St, Stockton, will be open. Silkzug Stables will be at Harvest Baptist Church with Horse Drawn Wagon rides from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

When arriving down-

town or at any participating business, receive a stamp card. Fill out the stamp card throughout the day and return them to the decorated mailbox (location to be announced). All returned stamp cards will be entered in a drawing for prizes. The winner will be contacted by phone.

Please visit the Stockton Chamber of Commerce Facebook page to confirm schedules.

For more information about this and other Chamber events, contact the Stockton Chamber of Commerce at info@stocktonil.com.



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Obituaries

ALBERTA LEEHAN

Alberta "Bertie" E. Leehan 92 originally of Apple River, IL passed away on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, WI after a brief illness. Most recently Bertie was living at St. Clare Friedensheim Assisted Living in Monroe, WI. Alberta was born on July 14, 1931, to William and Mary "Nellie" (Bourquin) Gallagher. She was their youngest child and only daughter. After raising her eight children Alberta followed her dream of becoming a cosmetologist graduating with one of her daughters. She had salons in Madison, WI, as well as Warren and Apple River, IL. At 91 Alberta still maintained her Illinois state License.

She was a tiny woman with a big heart for anyone down on their luck. She was the kind of friend everyone would hope to have. In times of need she would always do her best to be there and take care of anyone that needed help. Bertie loved



classic country music and would start dancing before she would reach the dance floor. Later in life she developed a passion for gambling, especially the slots on Sunday nights. She loved talking gambling to anyone and sharing those pictures.

Alberta is survived by 7 children: Steven Kilian, Gerald (Sylvia) Kilian, Dr. Karla Kilian (Joe Noltner), Pamela (Jeff) Stadler, Sandra (Mark) Risser, Sharon deLaO (Brian Judd) Kevin (Veronica) Douglas; 30 grandchildren; 41 great grandchildren; and 13 great great grandchildren; her brother Harold Gallagher and her 4 cats she loved but never named.

She is preceded in death by; infant daughter Rhonda Kay Kilian, Husband Thomas Lee-

han, Bernard "Glen" Douglas, precious son Kelvin "Kirk" Douglas; brothers Francis, Leo, Orville and Laverne Gallagher. Daughter in law Sandra Kilian and also her beloved dog "Brucie".

The family would like to thank the kind, compassionate, loving staff of Friedensheim for the care they gave Bertie, in addition to Dr. Serene Bethune. Also, the staff at 3SW St. Mary's Hospital in Madison.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren, IL. A visitation was held on Friday Nov. 24, and on Saturday Nov. 25 at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren, IL. Burial took place at the Elmwood Cemetery in Warren, IL. Pastor Libby Rutherford will be officiated the services. A memorial has been established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.letonmfh.com.

SHARON LEE EDEN

Sharon Lee Eden, age 82, of Stockton, IL passed away Friday, Nov. 24, 2023, at Lena Living Center. She was born in Sioux City, IA on Jan. 28, 1941, to the late Clarence and Mildred (Sherwood) Stilwell. Sharon married Marlin Eden on Oct. 17, 1964. They recently celebrated their 59th anniversary.

She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church of Massbach. She graduated from Clinton High School in 1959 and went on to Nurses Training and graduated in 1962. After graduation, she traveled with her nurse friends across the U.S. Sharon worked as a nurse for the Denver Hospital, Clinton Hospital, Elizabeth Nursing Home, and Stockton Nursing Home before retiring as a Surgical Nurse from Freeport Memorial Hospital. She also helped



her husband farm while raising their two children. Sharon enjoyed cooking, gardening, sewing, playing the piano, sing-

ing, quilting, fishing, dancing, playing cards, bowling, and watching football on Sundays. Most of all, she loved spending time with her family and friends, especially watching the grandkids sporting events.

Sharon is survived by her husband, Marlin Eden; her daughter, Tammy Cahill; her son, Tim (Rena) Eden; her grandchildren, Chris Cahill, Jackie (Kyle) Dick, Brittni (Jake) Hawkins, Kati Eden (Jake Homan) and Brodi Eden (Maryssa Neels); her great

grandchildren, Abraham Dick, Holly Dick and Sabrina Dick; her sister, Linda Kaup; her sister-in-law, June Eden; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and her two brothers-in-law, Carl Kaup and Kenneth Eden.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Sharon's caretaker, Karen (David) Sloan, Freeport Hospital, Dr. McFadden and staff, and the very caring staff at Lena Living Center.

A private family service will be held with a Celebration of Life at a later date. Interment will take place at St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Massbach. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

GARY AMENDT

Gary Reuben Amendt, 78, of Eleroy IL, passed away peacefully on Nov. 18, 2023, in Freeport, IL. He was born on Jan. 10, 1945, in Freeport, IL, to Reuben and Ruby (Stumbaugh) Amendt. He was a graduate of Lena-Winslow High School in 1963. After high school, Gary proudly served in the United States Navy on the James C. Owens DD776. After his military service, he dedicated himself to a successful career at the Journal Standard and Microswitch in Freeport, IL, where he retired after 30 years.

Gary was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, in Lena. In his free time, Gary had a wide variety of hobbies that brought him joy and fulfillment. He had a green thumb and loved spending time in his garden, mowing the lawn, plowing the snow, and feeding the birds. Crocheting and ge-



nealogy were also passions of his, and he enjoyed the creative process and the connections he made with his family history. Gary

also found great pleasure in fishing, mushroom hunting, and attending his grandchildren's activities. He was a devoted fan of the Lena-Winslow Stockton PantherHawks wrestling program and loved cheering on many wrestlers over the years! He had a deep appreciation for John Deere and snow. His love for the Chicago Cubs, iced tea, and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups was unmatched. Gary could often be found sitting on his front porch, enjoying the simple pleasures of life.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, Jean Amendt, and their children: Derek (Julie

Skaggs) Amendt of Union, IL, Ryan (Susan) Amendt of Eleroy, IL, and Timothy Amendt of Eleroy, IL. He was a proud grandfather to Christopher (Annie) Amendt, Erin Amendt, Max Amendt, Molly Amendt, and Brody Amendt. Gary also leaves behind his sister, Cheryl (Mike) Thyberg. He was preceded in death by his parents, Reuben and Ruby Amendt, his infant brother, Terry, and his father and mother-in-law, Victor and Charlene Wells.

Gary's dedication to his country and his family will always be remembered. He will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

A visitation was held on Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, at Burke-Tubbs Funeral Home in Freeport, IL. A memorial service followed the visitation. A memorial has been established in Gary's memory.

ROGER ARAND

Roger Ernest Arand, age 82, of Stockton, IL passed away Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023. He was born in Freeport, IL on Oct. 24, 1941, to the late George and Louise (Olivotti) Arand.

He graduated from Stockton High School in 1959 where he excelled in many sports, earning four letters in football, two in basketball and one in baseball. He also was very active in the plays and music department. Following graduation, he was employed at Microswitch in the lab at Freeport for several years.

He married Eileen Richards on Aug. 4, 1963, and together they had two daughters, Sharie and Cindy. They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Most of those years were spent traveling the States and making memories as a family.



He had worked as a self-employed contractor. He was also employed by Spahn and Rose, Heart-built Homes

and the Galena Territories. Roger served on the Stockton Village Board and was a member of the Stockton Atwoods Community Golf Course. In his younger years, he enjoyed bowling. Roger loved animals and would never let a stray cat go hungry. Most of all, he loved spending time with his family and friends. He lived a very full life and touched the lives of many people, teaching them the value of loving your family, hard work, and humor. We appreciate everyone's thoughts and prayers during this time.

He is survived by his wife,

Eileen Arand of Stockton; his daughters, Sharie (Thomas) Hoster of Freeport and Cindy (Patrick) Smith of Stockton; his grandchildren, Kory, Krista and Brittany; his 8 step grandchildren; his several great grandchildren with one on the way; his brother, Leonard (Sharon) Arand of Stockton; his half brother, George (Mary) Arand; and his half sister, Debbie (Jerry) Eberle. He was preceded in death by his parents; his grandson, Kyle Tucker; his great grandson Kash Tucker; his brother, Bob; and his sister, Rita.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023, at Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton. A private family burial took place on Monday at Ladies Union Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

CAROL ZIER

Carol J. (Newton) Zier, 90, of Pearl City, IL, passed away on Nov. 20, 2023, at Lena Living Center. She was born on March 29, 1933, at home in Pearl City to Jesse Newton

and Myrtle (Strohecker) Newton. She was a 1951 graduate of Pearl City High School. She married Harold Zier on Feb. 5, 1956, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City. She drove a bus for Pearl City Schools for many years and was a member of the Ladies Aid and 4H Leader of Pearl Valley Rangers.

Survivors include her sons: Timothy G. Zier of Pearl City, David (Judy) Zier of Lena, and Andrew (Marie) Zier of

Peachtree, GA; grandchildren: Collin and Evan Zier, Krystle Zier, Jessica Holloway; and great-grandchildren: Maverick Zier, and Cartwright & Rozalynda Holloway. She was preceded in death by her spouse Harold, brother Lewis (Phyllis), and sister Delores (Jim) Strong.

A memorial service was held on Monday Nov. 27, 2023, at 11 a.m., with visitation at 10 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 229 S. First St in Pearl City, IL.

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Lena celebrates Hometown Christmas Dec. 2

The Lena Business Professionals Association (LBPA) announces details of activities to celebrate the Hometown Christmas Event on Saturday, December 2.

Hometown Christmas is a Lena community tradition offering opportunities to shop, eat, enjoy games and, of course, see Santa Claus to ring in the holiday season. Stores downtown will be open for your holiday shopping pleasure throughout the day with free family activities beginning at 4 p.m. Several inflatables for the kids, and a picture booth will be available along Main Street. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be available for pictures in the pavilion.

The events will culminate with the lighted parade at 6 p.m. The parade, themed Candy Cane Christmas, features dozens of floats adorned in lights from local businesses

and organizations. As the parade rolls down Main Street, Santa will descend from his sleigh to light the tree at the new pavilion.

“Our annual holiday events are a highlight for many as they shop and plan for a day of fun with family. We are excited to have a number of great activities for kids, and the support we receive to help create an outstanding parade is truly remarkable,” said LBPA member Ryan Buss.

If you would like to participate in the Candy Cane Christmas parade with a float entry, please contact LBPA at 815-246-2560 or lenabpa.org@gmail.com.

For those who can't attend in person, the parade and lighting of the Community Tree will be broadcast live on the Lena Business Professional Association Facebook page.

Obituary

RICHARD DIFFENDERFER

Richard Diffenderfer, 87, of Winslow, IL passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023. He was born on Jan. 21, 1936, to Charles and Edna Diffenderfer. He married Mary Garnhart on June 31, 1955. Together they raised five children.

Richard farmed most of his life. After retiring from farming, Richard could still be seen at the sale barns, checking the price of cattle.

Richard is survived by his children- Rhonda (Jim) Wesels, Tammy (Steve) Webster, Mark (Kathy) Diffenderfer, and Todd (Jodi) Diffenderfer. He was preceded in death by his wife Mary and his son Scott. Richard will be deeply missed by his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.



A close family funeral service will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at the Grace Free Methodist

Church in McConnell, IL. Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10 a.m. until time of service at the Grace Free Methodist Church. Officiating the service will be Pastor Ryan Klein. Interment will take place at Silent Hill Cemetery. Luncheon to follow at the Grace Free Methodist Church.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.letonfh.com.



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OPINION

Slices of life

Learning with the littles



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

I just finished a visit with my littles, aka grands. They are five dollars, nearly three dollars and 25 cents, if we are counting in years.

It was a giggly, playful, cuddly, I'm not hungry, I'm so hungry, I'm not tired, I just fell asleep sitting up, I don't have to go, I have to go real bad, colorful, craft-filled, hug-filled, love-filled, sand-filled, sticky, spillful, wonderful set of days.

We swam in the lake and rode in the boat. We splashed our toes at the beach. We visited the candy store and paid all by ourselves (with Grammy's dollars). We made muffins stuffed with peanut butter cups - not necessarily recommended. We coated grapes with sugar and Kool-Aid. We topped everything we could with frosting and sprinkles (because why not?). We made bouncy balls (fail).

We hunted frogs. We looked for fish in the water. We fished with magnets on the living room floor. We painted rocks and sprinkled them with glitter. We picked flowers. We tended my garden and discovered that we didn't like eating pea pods. (So much for that theory.)

We found apples on the ground and made fritters the next morning. Did I mention sprinkles?

We pulled the wagon because it made us feel strong, and strong is a good thing to be. We drank lots

of water to stay hydrated. We took walks after dinner while dancing, singing and hunting for hidden treasures in the sand by the swing set. Sometimes we walked down to the lake and before you knew it, we were all in—the water, that is—because we couldn't stop ourselves.

At night we played games. One involved jelly beans and tasting them. If you were five or younger, you could spit the yucky ones into a bowl. But if you were an uncle you had to eat them. This fact was hilarious, especially if you were less than six.

We asked questions. So many, many questions.

When you are five and nearly three, the world

hosts many questions. It is a privilege for me to answer them.

Why is the water wet? Do the fish feel wet in the water? When the eagles catch a mama fish, what happens to her babies? Where do the turtles go in the winter? Can I help stir? Can my new frog live in your cabin? Can we do a puzzle? When is it my turn to pull the wagon? I want to pull the wagon! Is it my turn? When will it be my turn?

But sometimes, my littles had answers of their own, and profound answers at that.

When we were making muffins, someone was overenthusiastic when stirring and some of the

batter spilled onto the countertop and floor.

No big deal, but I must have sighed when wiping up the mess because little miss five dollar said:

"We are little. It was only a mistake, Grammy. We all make mistakes."

I'm so glad her parents have taught her this. That is it OK to make mistakes and to know this is normal and OK and a part of learning and growing. That without mistakes we'd be boring, stagnant beings. That it is okay to own your mistakes because that is an everyday part of life. That mistakes are inevitable, but not terrible. Never terrible. Spilling things is a normal part of life.

The sooner we understand this, the better, because life is most certainly filled with spills of all kinds.

My littles were here for a brief visit. I wish it could have been longer because in our short times together, we share love and hugs and cuddles.

But we also share knowledge.

I only hope I am able and blessed to teach them as much as they teach me.

Spills and all.

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.

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

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

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The Scoop and Shopper's Guide



By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville Lady Broncos have had an electric start to their new basketball season. After opening the year with a dominant 49-10 victory over Forreston, the Broncos proved themselves with a 37-36 victory over an impressive Stillman Valley team. Through Stillman's first six games, their only loss came that night against Orangeville. Since then, the Broncos have been on a tear, picking up wins over Eastland, Stockton, and Winnebago.

On November 18, the Broncos faced off with the Eastland Cougars. Eastland got off to a 3-3 start this year, with one of those losses coming against the Broncos. Orangeville got off to a quick start with eighteen first quarter points against the Cougars. It was Nadalee Doyle who got the team going with six points in the opening quarter. Whitney Sullivan also had six first quarter points, while Laney Cahoon added four. The Broncos big

trio led the way early on and they never looked back. In the end, the Broncos walked away with a 39-30 victory over Eastland. Doyle led the way with fifteen points, while Sullivan added eleven. Cahoon and Kaylynn O'Haver each finished with six.

Then, on November 20, the Broncos continued their tournament play with a game against the Stockton Blackhawks. Orangeville got off to another hot start as they jumped out to a 23-4 lead in the first quarter. Early on, it was the duo of Cahoon and Doyle that had things going. Cahoon put up eight points in the quarter, while Doyle added seven. They each hit a three-pointer in the first.

As time went on, it was Sullivan who took over. In the second quarter, Sullivan sunk a pair of threes and a couple other baskets as she put up eleven points in the quarter. Cahoon and Doyle each went two for two at the free throw line in the second, as well. By halftime, the Broncos held a 38-7 lead.

With a nearly insurmountable lead, the Broncos held on for a 51-13 victory over Stockton. Sullivan led the way with twenty-two points, while Cahoon added fourteen and Doyle had eleven. The Broncos were excellent from the charity stripe, hitting nine of their thirteen free throws. The Broncos sunk six threes in the victory.

On November 21, the Broncos won their fifth consecutive game when they faced off with the Winnebago Indians. It was much of the same for the Broncos, who jumped out to another early lead. By the end of the first, Orangeville was up 10-5. At halftime, the Broncos had an 18-7 advantage.

Despite the lead, it still wasn't quite up to Orangeville's recent standards. However, the Broncos came out strong in the second half.

In the third quarter, Cahoon began to find her momentum. After just two points in the entire first half, Cahoon exploded for eight in the third. Sullivan added

five third quarter points, including a big three-pointer. Doyle also added four points in the quarter, as the Broncos extended their lead. After a nineteen-point third quarter, the Broncos improved their lead to 37-9.

In the fourth, the Broncos let the clock run out on what would become a 45-14 victory. With that, Orangeville took home first-place in this year's Forreston Tournament. Sullivan led the way with sixteen, while Cahoon had fourteen, and Doyle had ten. It was already the third time this year that the Broncos had three players in double digits for scoring.

After getting off to a 5-0 start and winning the Forreston Tournament, things couldn't have gone better for the Broncos. They will look to keep it rolling on December 1, when they travel to face off with River Ridge-Scales Mound in what is probably the toughest test of their young season. On December 5, they travel to face off with Aquin Catholic.

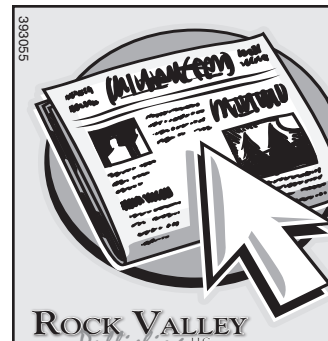
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Jo Daviess County 4-H holds recognition event

On Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, over 100 volunteers, members, and families gathered at the Elizabeth Community Building for the annual Jo Daviess County 4-H Award and Volunteer Recognition Event. Together, they enjoyed an awards ceremony, program updates, and a variety of desserts and appetizers from E-Town Coffee Co. and Megan Marie's Bakery. The 4-H Awards event is an annual occasion where 4-H members are awarded for their outstanding accomplishments from the previous year, while 4-H volunteers are recognized for their valuable contributions to the Jo Daviess County 4-H Program.

Jo Daviess County 4-H Federation members Gracie Allen, Denali Fenn, Kyle Haas, Isabella Haring, Daphne Havens, Carissa Hinderman, Allauna Karberg, Gabrielle Kelly, Madalyn Koester, Rylan Miller, Faith and Chris-

tian Morhardt, Evelyn and Cody Noller, and Merrick and Grace Trone led this event and was emceed by 10-year 4-H members Karl Hubb, Stockton and Owen Trone, Warren. Highlighted award winners include:

Record Book and Experience Award Applications: Karl Hubb, Gabrielle Kelly, Faith Morhardt, Madelynn Redfearn, Raelynn Redfearn, Karragan Vondran, Lane Vondran, and Cloverbud members: Maci Burbach, Elsie Coppes, and Josie Coppes.

Achievement Level 1 Award Winners: Aloysius Berning, Anna Belken, Celia Berning, Louis Berning, Ryan Heiar, Truman Oberfoell, Ethan Anderson, Madelynn Redfearn, Raelynn Redfearn, Weston Stoewer, Karragan Vondran, Lane Vondran, Christian Morhardt, Calvin Bourquin, Hayden Bourquin,

See EVENT, Page 7



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

4-H Federation members decorated, set up, and led the event. Pictured are members (left to right – back row) Karl Hubb, Owen Trone, Kyle Haas, Rylan Miller, Cody Noller, Gracie Allen, (middle row) Daphne Havens, Denali Fenn, Merrick Trone, Carissa Hinderman, Isabella Haring, Evelyn Noller, Madelyn Koester, (front row) Faith Morhardt, Christian Morhardt, Allauna Karberg, and Gabrielle Kelly.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Cloverbuds (left to right) Josie Coppes, Elsie Coppes, and Maci Burbach each receive an award for their record-keeping bingos.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Jo Daviess County 4-H Leaders are recognized for their years of service, which ranged from one to 48 years. Pictured are (left to right – back row) Peter Morhardt, Carlene Haring, Janet Swift, Audrey Geisz, Terry Haas, (middle row) Brittny Redfearn, Amanda Vondran, Becky Morhardt, Leisa Hubb, Betty Messmer, (front row) Alex Burbach, holding her son Cade and Codie Koester with her daughter Kate, who are both future 4-H members.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Karl Hubb, Gabrielle Kelly, Faith Morhardt, Madelynn Redfearn, Karragan Vondran, Raelynn Redfearn, and Lane Vondran each submitted a County Record Book and Experience Award Application.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

4-H members, (left to right) Madelyn Marcure, Karl Hubb, Owen Trone, and Kaylee Molitor, are given 4-H stoles to recognize their graduation in 2024.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Rylan Miller and Kyle Haas receive the 4-H "I Dare You" Award, which is given to members who are 15-18 years of age and exhibit personal integrity, balanced living, a proven willingness to learn, and a motivation for leadership.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Annette Eggers (left), JDC Farm Bureau, awarded Carissa Hinderman (right) this year's Top 4-Her Award. Farm Bureau sponsors this award, which recognizes a Jo Daviess County 4-H member for their outstanding achievement in 4-H projects, activities, community service, and 4-H involvement throughout their 4-H career.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Illinois 4-H Young Alumni Award was given to Codie Koester.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Betsy Muehleip was inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame.

Presentation on NRCS programs

The Elizabeth office of the NRCS will be providing a presentation on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. at the Stockton Public Library for the Northwest Illinois Forestry Association (NIFA). Beth Points, Soil Conservationist, will be discussing the new conservation easement program, as well as updates on EQIP and CSP, programs for property owners to get assistance in maintaining their land. The NIFA business meeting, including election of officers and directors, will follow the presentation.

The Stockton Public Library is located at 140 Benton St., Stockton. This meeting is free and open to the public. NIFA is a 501(c)(4) non-profit dedicated to educating woodland owners and the public as to the benefits of sustainable forestry.

Anyone can join using ZOOM as well, for the Zoom meeting ID and password, please check the website at www.nifatrees.org.

Around the Northern Hills

I have had a couple of people ask me recently if we still collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City. The simple answer is, yes! We are happy to support a worthwhile cause that has benefited people from our area that have doctored in Iowa City.

If you have pop tabs that you would like to donate, please drop them off in any kind of container to the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau office Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau offering \$250 towards ROPS purchase

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau would like



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

to offer funds to reimburse farmers for purchasing Rollover Protection Structure (ROPS). Fifty-five percent of farm tractors in Illinois do not have a cab or ROPS. Only one in five victims will survive a tractor rollover accident. The leading cause of farm related deaths in Illinois is tractor rollover accidents. They account for more than 30% of farm related deaths. ROPS help protect farmers and family members from being crushed in the event of a tractor turnover or rollover.

Safety Chairman, Dan Robbe, states, "Safety is a priority of the farm bureau, and we would like to encourage our members to install ROPS on their tractors".

Jo Daviess County Farm

Bureau members who purchase a ROPS could receive a reimbursement of \$250 towards the purchase of a ROPS (there are six rebates available). To receive the \$250, members need to bring in their paid invoice to the Farm Bureau office in Elizabeth. Customers are responsible for the cost, freight, and installation which are available through the dealer. If you have been thinking about putting a ROPS on one of your tractors, now is the time! For more information about this program, or to become a member of our organization, contact the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau office at 815-858-2235 or email jdcfbmgr@gmail.com.

Equipment discounts

Illinois Farm Bureau members get deep discounts on equipment and supplies from Grainger, plus free standard ground shipping on standard Grainger products*.

Present the Illinois Farm Bureau organization account number at time of

purchase; IFB discount code #853007128, or go to <https://www.grainger.com/content/farmbureau> to establish a new Grainger.com® account using that account number.

To be sure you get your Farm Bureau discount, always reference Illinois Farm Bureau's organization account number when visiting your local branch, making a telephone order or when setting up your personal account online. If you have questions or need assistance, please call 309-557-2689 or visit your local Farm Bureau office.

*Free standard shipping on all orders shipped by ground transportation. Other freight charges will be incurred for services such as expedited delivery, special handling by the carrier, sourcing orders and shipments outside the continental United States.

Farm Fun Fact

Do you like bread? The first wheat harvesting tool, called a wheat reaper, was invented in Chicago by Cyrus McCormick.

Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for the Village of Lena

- I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Village of Lena, Stephenson County, Lena, Illinois for 2023 will be held on December 11, 2023 at 5:55 pm at the Lena Village Hall, 122 E. Main Street, Lena, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Claudia Simpson, Village Clerk, 122 E. Main Street, Lena, Illinois, 815-369-4016.

- II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$430,500.00.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$495,000.00. This represents a 14.98% increase over the previous year.

- III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$0.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$0.00. This represents a 0.00% increase over the previous year.

- IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$430,500.00.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$495,000.00. This represents a 14.98% increase over the previous year.

Any notice which includes any information not specified and required by this Article shall be an invalid notice.

All hearings shall be open to the public. The corporate authority of the taxing district shall explain the reasons for the proposed increase and shall permit persons desiring to be heard an opportunity to present testimony within reasonable time limits as it determines.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 29, 2023)

447456

Warren basketball tips off

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Warren Lady Warriors tipped off their 2023-2024 varsity basketball season. After battling through the Warren Turkey Tournament, Warren head coach, Fred Linker, and his squad held a winless record. Although they held a zero in the win column, there is reason to expect continued improvement from the Warren girls.

For the Warren Lady Warriors, it's been a tough start to the season. They opened their season by taking a 59-34 loss to East Dubuque. Things didn't get any easier when they faced off with the powerhouse that is the Galena Pirates in game two. After two big losses to start the year, the Lady Warriors continued to show they have plenty of fight in them, however. In their next two matchups, Warren came close, but

ultimately fell just short. With four losses to start the year, including two by a combined eleven points, the Warriors are learning there are more wins and losses than what shows up in the team's record.

This year is all about development for the Lady Warriors. Linker is in his third season at the helm of the program. Just last year, Linker's Warriors finished with an overall record of 16-15. That team lost a good chunk of their squad, however. This year, the Warriors are forced to lean on some younger kids as they develop into true varsity players.

"I see that we are really young at the guard position. We start a freshman and a sophomore." Linker shared, when discussing the team's youth. The Warriors lost five seniors in total, including three starters from last year.

They return just two starters in Addy Bohnsack and Lauren Williams. Fellow senior, Katie Schneider, stepped into the starting lineup after being a rotational player last year. Averi Sabinson is the sophomore on the starting lineup, and they also start freshman Mayci Mullen.

The development of Sabinson and Mullen is key to Warren's success this year, and beyond. Linker spoke about both, saying "They are decent shooters. Last night [Vs. Morrison] Mayci went off in the fourth quarter, and she's probably one of our better shooters as a freshman. She just is starting to get her confidence now." In that fourth quarter, Mullen sunk a trio of three pointers. She finished the game with twelve total points. Sabinson added four points of her own.

See WARREN, Page 7

ONLINE AUCTION - Multiple Sellers

Dieken Auction Service • 302 N. Center St., Warren, IL 61087
Bid online, go to Diekenauktion.hibid.com or Visit - Diekenauktion.service.com
Friday, Dec. 1, 6:00 a.m. - Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6:00 p.m.

Preview Date, Thursday, Nov. 30, 5 - 7 pm.

2 Arctic Cat Snowmobiles & lighted Sign, Coins, Furniture, Antiques, Collectibles, Household Items, Toys, Lawn/Garden/Tools, Snowblower, 8 x 16 Enclosed Trailer, Misc. & Lots more. 820 lots.

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Term/Cond.: Credit/Debit card payment only, 15% Buyers Premium. Everything is sold AS IS.

Dieken Auction Service, Warren, IL 61087

815-222-0542 Like us on facebook

diekenauktion@gmail.com Terry Dieken, IL Lic. #44000430/WI Lic. #859

•Event (Continued from page 5)

Grace Trone, Eleanor Loomis, Faith Trone, Gracie Kruse, Olivia Libberton, Raylan Albrecht, Heather Bradbury, Anna Dittmar, Lily Engle, Haddie Fogle, Hudson Fogle, Layna Kretschmer, Katya Linenfelser, Hale Moser, Josephine Moser, Dixi Palas, Cody Steffes, Izzy Steffes, Bradley Valezquez, and Travis Velazquez.

Achievement Level 2

Award Winners: Karley Belken, Tessa Belken, Willa Berning, Lincoln Oberfoell, Ben Heiar, Natalie Heiar, Annalee Anderson, Madalyn Koester, Denali Fenn, Jarrett Johnson, Sadie Johnson, Madelyn Libberton, Cody Noller, Evelyn Noller, Tessa Gemppler, Faith Morhardt, Rylan Cox, Kaitlin Linden, Bryce Long, Madyson Long, Eden Moore, Ezri Moore, Merrick Trone, Gracie Allen, Brook Bradbury, Hayden Bradbury, Ella Dittmar, Aletheia Fogle, Sawyer Fry, Alaluna Karberg, Gabrielle Kelly, and Alejandra Velazquez.

Achievement Level 3

Award Winners: Riley Bourquin, Eli Moore, Eve Moore, Owen Trone, Kaylee Molitor, Meredith Hesselbacher, Carissa Hinderman, Joseph Brudi, Kyle Haas, Jenna Haas, Karl Hubb, Josie Belken, Abbey Heiar, Hailley Heiar, Pierce Oberfoell, Brooke Dittmar, Chase Dittmar, Bryce Gemppler, Ashton Miller, Rylan Miller, Ashely Carroll, Cora Dittmar, Damon Dittmar, Isabella Haring, Keira Linenfelser and Graci Vanderheyden.

Top 4-Her of the Year: Carissa Hinderman of 21st Century 4-H club

4-H Hall of Fame Inductee: Betsy Muehleip

4-H Young Alumni Award: Codie Koester

Friend of 4-H Award: Bridget Zurcher, owner of Aunt Beez Greenhouse in Scales Mound, IL.

Program Book Cover Award: Denali Fenn of Scales Mound 4-H Club

4-H "I Dare You" Award: Kyle Haas of Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club and

Rylan Miller of Pleasant View 4-H Club

Spark Award: Karragan Vondran of Scales Mound 4-H Club

Youth in Agriculture Award: Karl Hubb of Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club and Ashley Carroll of Top Notchers 4-H Club

4-H Camp Counselor: Riley Bourquin of 21st Century 4-H Club, Damon Dittmar of Top Notchers 4-H Club, Jenna and Kyle Haas of Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club, Carissa Hinderman of 21st Century 4-H Club, Ashton Miller of Pleasant View 4-H Club, and Cody Noller of Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club.

Counselor in Training: Willa Berning of Menominee Achievers and Evelyn Noller of Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club

10 Year 4-H Members: Cora Dittmar of Top Notchers 4-H Club and Chase Dittmar of Pleasant View 4-H Club

11 Year 4-H Mem-

bers: Aly Anderson of Scales Mound 4-H Club, Joseph Brudi of Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club, Ashely Carroll of Top Notchers 4-H Club, Justin Eden of Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club, and Jenna Haas of Chelsea Busy Bees 4-H Club.


Cloverbuds and Cloverbud Graduates were recognized with a drawstring bag, a certificate, and a 4-H "Glory be!" animal. First-year members and 5-year members were also recognized with a special member pin. Members receiving a "Choice

Award" during the 2023 4-H Fair were also recognized.

Jo Daviess County 4-H also takes this time to recognize our 4-H Leaders and 4-H Volunteers. 4-H volunteers are the heart of 4-H and willingly give their time and support to our youth. In Jo Daviess County, we have over 60 4-H volunteers who serve as club leaders, committee members, superintendents, and judges for our 4-H shows, lead special interest clubs, or help lead workshops. "Our volunteers make the world go round," says

Angela Miller, 4-H program coordinator. "I have been involved in 4-H since I was eight years old, and Jo Daviess County has some of the most dedicated volunteers I have ever met. They care for our youth in a BIG way. We are fortunate and incredibly grateful for these individuals."

For more information about 4-H or the University of Illinois Extension, please contact the Jo Daviess County Extension Office at 815-858-2273.




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Financial Advisor
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•Warren (Continued from page 6)

With youthful players comes growing pains, and Linker knows the team will have to be patient with them. "For both of them, they are just so inexperienced on the defensive end right now. I think, as they come along, we're going to come along. Last night, we were down by twenty-one going into the fourth quarter, and we cut it to three. All I want to do is have a chance, and we fell a little bit short." Linker shared.

Linker is hoping the seniors can help smooth the transition. "We play hard. Addy [Bohnsack] is really coming into her own this year. She doesn't take a play off offensively or defensively. Last year, if she was missing, her defense would lag. She's totally different right now, and that's what is keeping us going. And Lauren Williams, she's a fighter. She'll fight you tooth and nail on the board. They really fight their rears off and, even though we're 0-4, I'm just proud and I think we're getting better and starting to get it a little more." Linker shared.

The Warriors will also have to rely on the development of their bench players. Maddie McKee, a senior, is one of the first ones off the bench. Meridyth Neff is another

senior who comes off the bench. Then, the Warriors rely on two more freshman in Emily VanRaalte and Madison Cook. On VanRaalte, linker said, "She's a heck of a rebounder and she's really coming along. I'm really happy to see her come alive." On Cook, who is a freshman that didn't play in seventh or eighth grade, Linker had high praise. "She's a sparkplug. I put her in for defense and she'll play her butt off for me."

"Rebuild" isn't necessarily the right word for a high school program, but it's clear the Warriors are hoping for development toward the future. Linker is hoping the team can see improvement from their underclassmen to play their best ball at the end of the season and have something they can build off in future years.

Early on, another area of focus for Linker and his staff is fixing their second half woes. Against Morrison, the Lady Warriors scored just four points in the third quarter. Against Freeport, Warren scored ten in the third, but they allowed eighteen on the other side. Linker is trying to find a way to bring that spark out of the break. "We know our third quarters are just bad,

for some reason or another. That's why we get behind. We play a good first and second quarter, but we come out in the third quarter and just, don't score, and can't stop anybody." Linker shared.

Despite the struggles, Linker sees the positives from this team. There is certainly no shortage of fight. "They won't quit. They absolutely won't quit." Linker shared, before adding that, "They just proved to themselves against a good Morrison team that, even though we are behind by twenty, we have good enough shooters that, if they got hot, we're not out of a ballgame. If I could just get them to focus on what they did in the fourth quarter, it would be awesome." The Warren coach is already considering changes to the halftime strategies in order to spark some energy. "That's something that's in the back of my head right now, to try and get that resolved, one way or another. We definitely have to do something different." Linker said.

On December 2, the Lady Warriors hit the road to face off with Polo. Then, on December 4, Warren plays host to the Juda Panthers of Wisconsin at 6:30 p.m.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR LENA-WINSLOW COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 202

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax increase for the Lena-Winslow Community Unit School District No. 202 for 2023 will be held on December 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the junior high school library, 517 Fremont St. Lena, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Dr. Tom Chiles, Supt. (815-668-0800).

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for the year 2022 were \$5,670,562.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$6,277,891. This represents a 7.49% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 were \$347,386.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 are \$348,000. This represents a 0.18% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2022 were \$6,017,948. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$6,277,891. This represents a 7.49% increase over the previous year.

Pete Conway, Secretary
Lena-Winslow School Board

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 29, 2023)

your source for on-line news:



RVPNEWS.COM

Lena-Winslow falls in 1A State Title game

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers made the trip to Bloomington for the Illinois State Football Championships last week. After capturing three consecutive state championships and six over the last decade, the Panthers went to Bloomington with title number seven on their mind.

It was a cold, windy, 31-degree day as the Panthers hit the field for their matchup against Camp Point Central (CPC) at 10 a.m. It was a rematch of last year's 1A State Title game, with both Le-Win and CPC returning for another go. Both teams came into the title game with a perfect record of 13-0. Le-Win was riding a 32-game win streak, including last year's championship victory over CPC.

The only thing colder than the weather might have been Le-Win's offense, however. In what was an unusual performance by Le-Win's big hitters, it was the CPC defense that stood out. From the jump, the CPC defense put their speed on display as they refused to surrender the edge to Le-Win.

Early on, the Panther offense showed flashes. After forcing a quick three and out for CPC, Le-Win took over at their own 34 yard line. After a pair of nice runs by Gage Dunker, a handoff to Lucas Fye went around the edge for 19 yards. Eventually, the Panthers got deep into CPC territory, but were stuffed for a turnover on downs. CPC took over at their own six.

That was the story of the

day for Le-Win. Too many fourth down situations and for the most part, they were unsuccessful. By halftime, the Panthers had converted just one of their four attempts on fourth down conversions. With a windy day and an already limited passing game, the Panthers were unable to get first downs when they were behind the sticks.

Le-Win head coach Ric Arand spoke about CPC's defensive performance, following the game. "We couldn't convert on third down and we ended up in second and long a lot of times, which is not good for us. They were just extremely fast on defense," Arand said. When asked further about the speed the CPC defense displayed Arand said, "They were incredible. 52 [Kadin Niekamp] was making plays from the backside defensive end spot on our perimeter run. 33 [Elijah Genenbacher], the middle linebacker, was making plays on the sideline on perimeter runs. Everything we tried to do, they countered."

CPC put points on the board midway through the second quarter. They nearly put more on the board, but a late, first half interception by Jaylen Rakowska kept them off the board. At the break, CPC held a 7-0 lead, despite being fairly even with Le-Win in yardage. In the first half, Le-Win had 113 total yards, while CPC had 121. Even in the first down column, both teams were tied with six. CPC even lost the time of possession battle as Le-Win held the



The Lena-Winslow offense huddles up before one of the final drives of their 2023 season.

TRENTEN SCHEIDEGGER SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

ball for 14 minutes. The biggest difference was that CPC didn't put themselves in fourth down situations and they managed to convert on third down.

After last week's tough battle with Chicago Hope, the Panthers found themselves in uncharted territory once again. With CPC keeping Le-Win off the board in the first half, it was the first time the Panthers had been shutout in the opening half since round two of the 2015 playoffs. Le-Win went on to lose that game 14-7.

See LOSS, Page 10



Coach Arand and players face the media after the 1A Title Game as they reflect on their hard work and accomplishments this season.

TRENTEN SCHEIDEGGER SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

These businesses would like to congratulate the LeWin Panthers on a successful season

Congrats Le-Win Panthers

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PHOTONEWS MEDIA/CLARK BROOKS SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Rock Valley Publishing

(Above) Lena-Winslow's Gage Dunker (#4) breaks through the line with one of his 28 carries during the IHSA Class 1A State Championship Game on Friday morning. Dunker would finish with 112 rushing yards in his final game as a Panther football player.



(Above right) Lena Winslow's Nick Tippett pushes a Camp Point Central defensive player as he runs the ball. Tippett also played defense for the Panthers and finished with four tackles.

PHOTONEWS MEDIA/CLARK BROOKS SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

O'Marion Pasley (#25) makes one of his team-leading nine tackles in the state title game at Illinois State University. Looking on is his fellow Lena-Winslow Panther Lucas Fye (#24). Lena-Winslow finished second in the state among IHSA Class 1A teams. Their 14-0 loss to Camp Point Central in the title game was their only loss of the year.

TRENTEN SCHEIDEGGER SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
The Lena-Winslow football team took home the 1A runner up plaque after a remarkable season came to an end on Friday, Nov. 24. The team wrapped up the year with a nearly perfect 13-1 record.

These businesses would like to congratulate the LeWin Panthers on a successful season

Congrats Le-Win Panthers
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COUNTRY FINANCIAL
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447615

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201 Dodds Drive • Lena
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447619

Congrats Le-Win Panthers
Edler Plumbing
Jerry Edler • Owner
Lic# 058-112368
Lena • 815-369-4847
408726

Congrats Le-Win Panthers
Stagecoach Trail Storage
Gary & Aileen Schreiner
Lena • 815-369-4794
408668

Congrats Le-Win Panthers
Pat BROWN REALTY
Lena
815-369-5599
www.patbrownrealty.com
408758

Congrats Le-Win Panthers
My Friend's Closet Thrift Store
Lena • 815-369-4527
408674

Congrats Le-Win Panthers
SAPORITO'S PIZZERIA
222 W. Railroad • Lena • 815-369-4400
429313

Congrats Le-Win Panthers
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625 Country Lane
Lena • 815-369-4035
408667



PHOTONEWS MEDIA/CLARK BROOKS SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Lena-Winslow quarterback Jake Schumacher prepares to handoff to Gabe Dunker. Lena Winslow finished the year with a 13-1 mark. In the last four years, Lena Winslow has won the state title three years in a row, before taking second this year.



PHOTONEWS MEDIA/CLARK BROOKS SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

From left to right Lena-Winslow Panthers Jimmy Goebel (#32), Jaylen Rakowska (#17) and Lucas Fye (#24) as well as Camp Point Central's Conner Griffin scramble for the loose ball on Friday morning. In a rematch of last year's state title game, in which the Panthers won, Camp Point Central topped the Panthers 14-0.

• Loss (Continued from page 8)

This time around, Le-Win was shutout for the entire game as CPC went on to capture a revenge title over the Panthers. CPC tacked on a late fourth quarter touchdown, making the game 14-0. With under three minutes left to play, that put the game out of reach for Le-Win's running offense.

The Panthers and their offense elected not to throw the ball in the championship game. Following the game, Arand spoke about keeping the ball on the ground. "The conditions weren't great. Early on, we threw a half-back option pass. He never threw it; he tucked it and ran. Most of the play ac-

tion routes we run, they have seen. We were never really in a position to execute that," Arand explained.

Despite a 14-0 loss in the title game, you can't take anything away from the Lena-Winslow program and what they have accomplished over the last 13 years. Three consecutive titles, six in a decade, and historic 32 game winning streak. "I told our kids before the game, coach Rickels has a saying about getting from the start of the season to the end of the season. The start of practice to the end of practice. When we ended the season last year, these guys went on to play basketball and wrestle, and

run track, and play baseball and things like that. Then, to see what we had left, coming back early in the spring and summer, it was like 'Wow, the cupboards were bare.' We lost virtually everybody, which isn't unusual for us. We tend to have 16 or 18 seniors and we're pretty senior dominated, so it wasn't unusual for us, but last year was a little bit more than typical. I think we brought back four starting positions. For these guys to accomplish what they did, based on that, that's pretty awesome. There are not too many other teams in the state



that can say they did what these guys did with what little experience we had coming back," Arand said.

There is clearly a level of respect between CPC and Le-Win. After two consecutive state title matches and a split series of 1-1, both teams are quite familiar with each other. Arand spoke about CPC saying, "Camp Point this year is what we were last year. A lot of guys coming back. They are going to be decimated by graduation as well but, just like us, next year they are going to be back."

All that and the winning isn't even what stands out the most to Le-Win senior, Gage Dunker. Following the game, Dunker was asked what the players take away from the Panthers run. "Probably going to take away, not the wins and losses, but how much fun we had. Knowing you maxed out how many games you played in your entire high school career, not many people can say that. Maxed out practice, before practice and after practice just hanging out, is really what I'm going to miss the most," Dunker shared.

It might be the end of an era for Le-Win, or at

the very least the end of an epic streak. Many thought this run would come to an end after last season, however, and the 2023 Panthers proved them wrong by going 13-1. The Le-Win standard is as high as ever and Dunker hopes the future Panthers can find a way to keep it going. "Do things your own way. Just because of the way we did stuff, doesn't mean that's the right way to do it. Find your own leaders. We had great leaders last year, and hopefully we were great leaders this year. Hopefully, people step up and take our role next year," Dunker said after his Panther football career came to an end.

Go Panthers!

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Stockton basketball seasons underway

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton boys and girls basketball seasons have begun as the Blackhawks transitioned into the new winter sports season. For the boys, there will be a number of new faces on the court with a familiar head coach in John Hammann. On the girls side, it's a new but experienced coaching staff, and a solid returning core.

The Stockton boys are coming off a year in which the team finished just 11-19. That squad lost five players to graduation in Alex Altfillisch, Dayton Julius, Parker Luke, Dustin Oppold, and Ryley Schultz. Hammann, in his tenth season at Stockton, held a career record of 114-135 before the new season. He will have to develop a mostly un-experienced squad if he wants to see that win-loss record improve this year.

Hammann acknowledged the team's experience when asked about their potential weaknesses. "We have a very young, inexperienced team this year. We have several players with no varsity experience that we will need to rely on. I think how quickly they adjust to the varsity level will depend on our success this year," Hammann explained.

The Stockton boys return

just one starter in senior guard Colby Tucker. They return a trio of other players with varsity experience in senior guard Bennett Graves, senior forward Wesley Logemann, and senior forward Will Westaby.

The Blackhawks will be forced to rely on a handful of newcomers. Freshman guard Carter Blair, junior forward Eli Haas, junior forward Jacob Harbach, sophomore guard Noah Larson, junior guard Javier Montalvo, and sophomore forward Jon Randecker.

Stockton will look to their guards to lead the way this year. "We have strong guards that we are hoping to carry the majority of the scoring workload this season. We also have some solid post players, so we are hopeful to play an inside out game when needed," Hammann explained.

For now, Hammann is hopeful to see development that leads to them playing their best ball late in the year. "Our schedule is very difficult this year, but we are hoping to be competitive in the NUIC-West division. If we can develop throughout the season, it should put us in a position to make a postseason run," Hammann shared.

Hammann further elaborated on the importance of devel-

oping this team. "My goal is to make sure this team is improving each and every night in practice. We tell our team 'You are either getting better or you are getting worse every day. So, let's make sure we are getting better.' We are a very young team, so I'm hoping to make sure they come together and improve individually and collectively. If this team comes together, I think we can be dangerous as the season progresses."

The Stockton boys opened their 2023-2024 season on Nov. 29. They will be back on the floor on Dec. 5 when they travel to face Ashton Franklin-Center at 7:30 p.m.

For the Lady Blackhawks, it's a fresh start with first-year head coach Jill Pepin taking over. Pepin coached the eighth-grade level in 2016-2017, then was an assistant under former head coach Tim Timpe. For the past three seasons, Pepin was the JV coach. Now, Pepin takes the next step with a handful of her former JV players.

Pepin is extremely involved in the community and that only grows with her becoming the varsity coach. Pepin and her husband own Community Funding & Planning, where they write grants

See BASKETBALL, Page 14



The Stockton Boys Basketball Team.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



The Stockton Girls Basketball Team.

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Basketball

(Continued from page 11)

and loans for small municipalities in Northwest Illinois. Pepin, from Indianola, Iowa, moved to Stockton back in 2014.

Pepin is hoping her experience with the girls will help the team in the long run. When asked how Stockton returns to their winning ways of just a few years ago, Pepin gave an in-depth response. "It really does start with the younger kids. I have been working closely with the youth sports and trying to establish expectations for each grade level. The high school aged girls I have now are committed. They know their potential and are working hard to accomplish big

things. They are buying into the expectations I am setting for them and trusting the process," Pepin said.

The Lady Blackhawks have a solid nucleus to build around. Junior guard Katelyn Winters, junior point guard Dylann Broshous, and Senior guard Eve Moore are expected to lead the way in the back court. Madalyn Mammoser, a junior post player, is also showing flashes as a junior. Mammoser has battled through two ACL surgeries, and Stockton is hoping she can stay healthy as the team's main player down low. Recently, Mammoser posted a 19 rebound, eight-point game as she's already proven her-

self early on.

The Lady Blackhawks picked up their first win on Nov. 21, when they faced off with the Forreston Cardinals. In that game, Winters led the team with 15 points. Mammoser continued to shine with 14 points, and Moore added 11. The expected leaders came together for one of their best performances of the early season when Stockton needed it. In the Forreston Tournament, Stockton got off to an 0-4 start after battling tough squads in Stillman Valley, Eastland, Winnebago, and Orangeville.

Stockton put up a strong performance against Eastland, but ultimately fell

short 34-37. "Starting the season against Stillman was kind of a wake-up call for a lot of these girls. It's faster paced, this team is very good. They had some fire in them, and they got upset that they got beat by so much," Pepin shared when asked about the opening loss to Stillman. So far, Pepin has seen the team confidence improve game by game. That led them to their battle with Eastland. "The girls just went into that game with a whole other level of confidence. They were aggressive, they did all the little things that they didn't do against Stillman. I was so incredibly proud of them," Pepin shared. The Stockton

coach added that they had every opportunity to come out on top. "We missed so many free throws in that game. We really should have finished that on top, but they will learn from that," Pepin added.

Pepin has made sure to surround herself with an excellent staff. Kiersten Winters is the JV coach. Aspyn Stewart is an assistant coach, as is former varsity coach Tim Timpe. "Something that was important to me was to surround myself with a good coaching staff. People who knew the game, knew what to do, and people who worked well together," Pepin explained.

Aspyn, in her senior year, was a member of the Stockton team that made the trip to state. She works with the guards now. Stockton also has Elizabeth Eisfeller as the basketball youth coordinator. Eisfeller works with the younger kids and is tasked to be sure each level hits certain milestones each year so when they get to high school they have the fundamentals they need to be successful.

On Dec. 1, the Blackhawks will travel to face off with the Pecatonica Indians. Then, on Dec. 5 they travel to face off with Morrison. Stockton doesn't return home until Dec. 9 when they host Polo.



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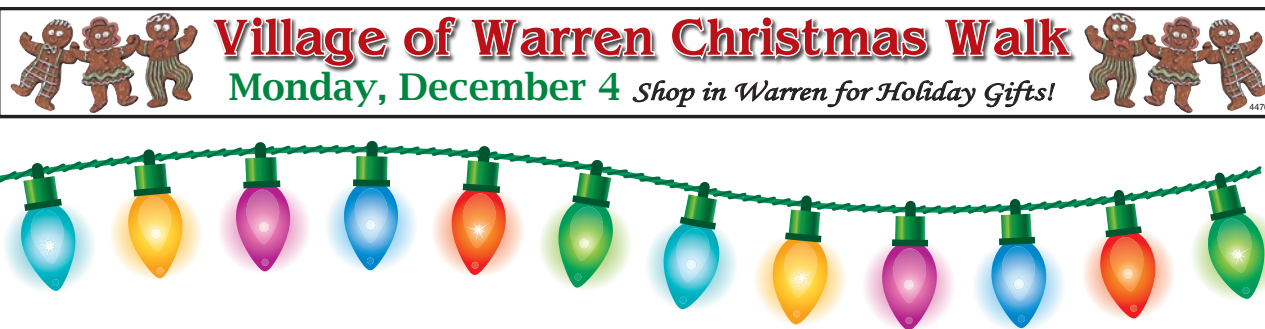
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Pearl City Historical Organization news

The Pearl City Historical Organization (PCHO) is intending to build a building to be used as a Museum to house local artifacts. Currently the collection is scattered among five different locations. The organization would like to consolidate to one location. Real Estate has been purchased and some funding has been achieved for the building.

The organization has carried out several fundraising projects. The annual Tractor Drive was successful with a variety of tractors and stops at Fischer's antique tractors and Brandt's antique corn planters. A garage sale brought in a few more dollars. PCHO also had booths at the Fair, Loran Fest and Blvd, and held a 50/50 raffle. Raffle winners were Stephanie Granno at a special drawing and Donna Eisenbise at the final drawing. Calendars are also sold each year with the 2024 calendar featuring old area businesses.

working on a book about the history of the families of early settlers in Pearl City who had an influence in the area. Work on this project began several years ago but was delayed in part due to Covid. The community will be informed when the book becomes available for sale.

PCHO is also collecting family trees and old farm abstracts. These activities help provide funds for the museum building. However, fund raisers will not provide sufficient funds for the entire museum. Financial contributions will be needed from the community as well. Any donations of a reasonable size will include a name on a plaque to be placed at the building. Pledges of future donations are also acceptable. Payments and correspondence can be sent to the Pearl City Historical Org, P.O. Box 324 at Pearl City.

We trust that the community will support our Museum project.

PCHO members are again



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lena American Legion Auxiliary receives awards

The Junior members of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary were the recipients of three awards for their service to veterans and the community this past year. They received the Beulah M. Unfer plaque at the Department Convention in July for the best Unit Children and Youth Report. They also received the Central Division Award for the best Unit Junior Activities report in the Central Division, which consists of nine states. This award was announced at the Pre-Con meeting in August. Finally, they were given the National President's Award of Excellence, Honorable Mention. The National President has five awards for the best units in the United States. This year an Honorable Mention was awarded for the report of the activities of the Juniors from the Lena American Legion Auxiliary. Shown here are some of the Junior members and Julia Moore, Junior Chairman.

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The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

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SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2023

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	2,493,968	472,399	197,513	100,719	57,388	0	37,039	31,170	8,341
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	1,221,158	14,595	0	118,817	2,094	0	0	0	50,000
Federal Sources	4000	416,845	234,911	0	0	5,741	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		4,131,971	721,905	197,513	219,536	65,223	0	37,039	31,170	58,341
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		3,870,618	674,333	483,515	268,544	82,486	0		31,170	12,771
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		45,746	-276,675	287,170	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2022		680,369	285,545	9,921	348,825	141,365	0	777,446	0	140,568
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023		987,468	56,442	11,089	299,817	124,102	0	814,485	0	186,138
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023		1,072,505	56,442	11,089	299,817	124,102	0	814,485	0	186,138

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Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000 Jennifer Confer; Mitchell Dean; Brian Dinderman; Kristi Dinderman; James Dusing; Ruth Fuersten; Mary Gerbode; David Goeke; Paul Gregersen; Mariane Hansen; Tonya Heldt; Danielle Hoshaw; David Hoshaw; Andrew Janecke; Nancy Paige-Jogerst; Zowie Kauffman; Ann Kitch; Jayne Kleckler; Marlene Kleckler; Ryan Klein; Cheryl Kolb; Kenneth Lawson; Devra Leverington; William Logemann; Jessica Love; Kevin Malley; Olivia Matz; Julie Maurer; James Moscato; Lisa Nadig-Mehdipour; Wesley Ozarowski; Mark Peterson; Linda Pontnack; Amy Schultz; David Unger; Wesley Winter; Olivia Zimmerman
Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999 Elizabeth Frautschy; Annalee Kelly; Rachel Klein
Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999 Samantha Biddick; Joshua Fahs; Meggan Franklin; Raizel Hanson; Christina Howard; Kari Janecke; Erica Kraft; Sharon McDivitt; Amber Misek; Christopher Moore; Joseph Pisciotto; Kendahlyn Schlueter; Abigail Schroeder; Chelsea Shellhause; Katie Wells; Collin Zier
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Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999 Julianna Bonifay; Tonya Doyle; David Jordan; Garilynne Reed; Brooks Scherer
Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999 William Guy; Rachel Heck; Cindy Wells

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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023

The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

Stockton CUSD 206	540 N Rush St Stockton, IL 61085 1033	8159473391	8 AM TO 3:30 PM
<i>School District/Joint Agreement Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>

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Local Sources	1000	4,297,441	1,193,352	0	200,854	156,150	576,569	45,777	171,137	70,797
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	1,416,733	50,000	0	89,901	3,731	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	583,149	896,423	0	25,498	1,378	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		6,297,323	2,139,775	0	316,253	161,259	576,569	45,777	171,137	70,797
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		6,280,041	2,343,120	326,859	478,777	176,329	3,949,385		159,404	113,467
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		-1,253,609	1,207,500	326,859	0	0	-273,250	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2022		5,053,417	463,915	0	471,751	172,160	5,314,040	315,921	35,646	159,665
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023		3,817,090	1,468,070	0	309,227	157,090	1,667,974	361,698	47,379	116,995
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023		3,967,159	1,468,070	0	309,227	157,090	1,667,974	361,698	47,379	116,995

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000 ARNOLD, DARCY W.; BUSSAN, ELLEN A; CASSENS, KIMBERLY J; CLOUGH, CANDY; CRANDALL, RICHARD W; HILL, CARYN E; HOFFER, CINDY L; HUSO, DEBRA A; JANECKE, BRETT; JOGERST, NANCY; LOGEMANN, WILLIAM S; NEWCOMER, BRIDGET; PARRY, KENT R; PONTNACK, LINDA; REEL, TERESA A; RENZ, MICHAEL A; RINKER, CRYSTAL M; ROBERTS, SUE ANN; SCHRADER, KEELEY J; THOMPSON, BRIAN; VINCENT, TANYA D. **Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999** BROGE, KENNETH; CRANDALL, LANA M; HERMANN, JARED W **Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999** BAUGHN, TINA; BRUDI, HANNAH; BUSCH, RENEE L; DOWNEY, SEAN M; DUERR, LINDSEY L; HAWLEY, AMY ELIZABETH; LAWFER, SAMANTHA J; OFFENHEISER, KALLI A; SCHEID, HEIDI L; SLAGLEY, CHARLES; WADE, THOMAS **Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999** ADLEMAN, PATRICIA J; ALT, KIMBERLY A; BUSKE, TINA M; CURTISS, STEPHANIE J; DOWNEY, CASEY J; HAMMANN, JOHNATHON D; HARBACH, MELISSA L; HEIDENREICH, KRISTINE M.; HUPPERICH, JOSEPHINE R; JURKOVIC, ELIZABETH; KENNA, CASEY S; KRYWARUCZENKO, NIKOLAS J; KURTH, ANGELA; LEITZEN, MATTHEW LEE; LEVERTON, GENA L; LIBBERTON, KATIE JO; MALONE, SHARON R; MILLER, SUSANNE M; OFFENHEISER, DONNA M; OFFENHEISER, TRACY A.; PEARCE, JENILYNN; PFEIFER, RONALD E; PINNEY, SUSAN K.; PLATT, CYNTHIA M; POLHILL, KAITLYN A; POSEY, KRYSTLE R; RAMEY, DOROTHY A; RICHARDSON, BRETT M; RILLIE, ELISA L.; SARGENT, JENNA E; SCHUBERT, TIFFANY L; SMITH, TINA M; THOMPSON, AMANDA B; VOLK, JASON E **Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over** BUNTING, JAMES A

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000 ALBRECHT, DENISE K; BERGEMAN, JARED; BOWER, MELANIE; BROSHOUS, DERYL L; BROSHOUS, DOUGLAS A; CONFER, JENNIFER L; COOK, KRISTINE M.; CROWLEY, DAWN; DOWDALL, JANET L; DROUGANIS, STYLIANOS; DUCHOW, PENNY M; EDEN, ELIZABETH; FELTMEYER, PAULA; FINLEY, CYNTHIAL; GERBODE, JOYE; GERBODE, ROBERT J; GILE, JENNIFER J; GRONWOLD, CHRISTIAN; GROSHANS, PENNY; HAAS, ANDREW W; HAAS, CAROLINE; HAAS, DEBRA; HARMSTON, TY L; HAYES, ASHLEY; HEIDENREICH, MARK H.; HENDERSON, AIMEE; HERMANN, JASON R; HESSELBACHER, MALLORY N; HOEFER, COLLEEN; HUBB, LEISA; HUGHES, ANDREW K; KOESTER, JASON J; LANGFIELD, EMILY; LARSON, HEATHER; LAWSON, KENNETH; LEITZEN, DANIEL A.; LEITZEN, SUSAN J; LOGEMANN, MICHELE; LUNING, DONNA K; MATZ, OLIVIA; MCCALLIPS, ALLISON S; MCPEEK, PERRY L; MONTALVO, LORI ANN; MOSCATO, JAMES C; NEWMAN, JODY L; NEWMAN, KASSIDY; NOLLER, KARLA J; OPPOLD, DANIEL J; PEARCE, MYRA L; PEPIN, JILL; PIEFER, RYAN; RAAB, JERRY; RANDECKER, DIANE L; REUSCH, WENDY S; RICHARDS, EULALIA; ROBERTS, GARY L; SCHOENHARD, LISA D; SCHOLL, EMILY; SCHULTZ, CODY; SCHULZ, BETHANY; SCHULZ, ROBYN P; SIKORA, ELIZABETH M; SKUTT, EUGENE; SMITH, SHARON K; STAVER, KATELIN J; TOWNSEND, GARY E; TOWNSEND, LILLIAN H; VENHUIZEN, AMBER; WESTABY, DEBRA K; WESTABY, KIMBERLY A; WINTER, WESLEY; WINTERS, KIERSTEN; WINTERS, LINDY; WISKERCHEN, STEVEN J; WITZ, AMY E; WITZ, KENNETH; WURSTER, DAWN

Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999 BLAIR, TERESA M; BOOP, NANCY S; COPPES, MICAH; ENRIGHT, BRENDA L; GRABBE, ERICA R; ISBELL, ERIKA L; SCHULTZ, BARBARA J; STARR, KATHI A; STEFFES, DANYEL; SULLIVAN, DEBORAH R; WRIGHT, LORIE A **Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999** EDEN, VICKI L; HOLLAND, DOMINIQUE V; NOLLER, SCOTT **Salary Range: \$60,000 and Over** LYONS, CARL W.

Payments over \$2,500, excluding wages and salaries.

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
ACCESS SYSTEMS LEASING	\$16,251.58
ACCESS SYSTEMS	\$3,180.00
ALL INCLUSIVE REC	\$23,962.50
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$16,411.98
AMERICAN FUNDS SERVICE	\$11,550.00
B L MURRAY COMPANY, INC	\$9,763.04
BAINTER BROS TRUCKING	\$3,135.13
BARKAU AUTOMOTIVE INC	\$27,911.10
BAUER AGENCY	\$91,844.00
BENNING GROUP LLC	\$17,300.00
BIMBO BAKERIES USA	\$4,831.15
BLUECROSS BLUESHIELD IL	\$1,041,850.08
BRUDI, HANNAH	\$2,700.00
BSN SPORTS LLC	\$2,553.51
CASSENS, KIMBERLY	\$6,300.00
CDW.G GOVERNMENT INC	\$10,827.20
CENTRAL STATES BUS SALES, COMED	\$13,442.72
COMED	\$61,186.65
COMMON GOAL SYSTEMS INC	\$12,975.42
CONNECTION FINANCIAL SERV	\$23,202.81
CONTROL TECHNOLOGY & SOLUTIONS LLC	\$5,678,429.96
CORDOGAN CLARK	\$17,500.00
CRANDALL, LANA	\$5,780.00
DE LAGE LANDEN FINANCIAL SERVICES INC	\$26,526.06
DEARBORN NATIONAL	\$9,818.96
DEARBORN NATL LIFE INS CO	\$2,854.91
DECKER EQUIPMENT	\$5,220.69
DELTA DENTAL - RISK	\$48,367.66
DOWNEY, CASEY	\$2,700.00
EDUPARTS	\$2,804.55
EMS LINQ	\$6,736.20
E-RATE FIRST LLC	\$26,625.80
FICA-EFTPS	\$171,738.82
FIT/US DEPT OF TREASURY	\$370,006.66
FREEMPORT INDUSTRIAL	\$5,515.00
FRONTIER	\$13,783.53
GALENA UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 120	\$13,636.90
GEMINI COMPUTER SYSTEMS	\$22,039.88
GILL'S FREEMPORT DISPOSAL	\$22,451.25
GLOBALCOM TECHNOLOGIES	\$39,911.34
GORDON FOOD SERVICE INC	\$118,796.92
GOVCONNECTION INC	\$19,300.71
GREENHOUSE MEGASTORE	\$6,909.00
HELM MECHANICAL/HELM SERVICE	\$25,029.43
HELM TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	\$6,188.89
HOFFER, CINDY	\$5,250.00
HOUGHTON MIFFLIN	\$3,502.92
HUSO, DEB	\$9,000.00
IL MUNICIPAL RETIRE FUND	\$100,004.45
ILLINOIS ASSOC OF SCHOOL BOARDS	\$7,023.00
ILLINOIS DEPT.OF REVENUE	\$200,270.91
ILLINOIS EDUC. ASSOC.	\$32,572.00
ILLINOIS FIBER	\$16,800.00
IRWIN PLUMBING	\$3,669.84

JASPER ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS	\$4,512.00
JOHNSON CONTROLS FIRE PRO	\$8,486.43
KURTS POLAR AIR INC	\$3,094.87
LENA-WINSLOW CUSD #202	\$11,971.35
LIFETIME PRODUCTS	\$3,799.99
LOESCHER HVAC	\$11,166.45
MCGRAW-HILL LLC	\$31,425.38
MEDICARE-EFTPS	\$91,351.60
MENARDS	\$4,898.30
MIDLAND PAPER	\$5,394.65
MIDWEST BUS SALES	\$99,040.57
MIKE'S PLUMBING SOLUTIONS	\$4,888.19
N2Y	\$3,014.71
NEW GENERATION AUTO	\$3,023.20
NICOR GAS	\$19,938.54
NORTHWEST SPECIAL	\$206,831.55
NWEA	\$6,075.00
OPPOLD & SONS	\$73,000.00
OPPOLD BACKHOE SERV. INC.	\$34,558.75
ORANGEVILLE CUSD #203	\$46,960.98
PIERCE ELECTRIC, INC	\$4,592.91
POMPS TIRE SERVICE INC	\$5,617.10
PRAIRIE FARMS DAIRY INC	\$28,054.32
PRECISION DRIVE & CONTROL	\$4,002.11
PRECISION TRANSMISSION SERVICE	\$2,606.00
REG. SUPT.-TREASURER	\$55,979.99
REGIONAL OFFICE OF ED #08	\$20,930.00
RENAISSANCE	\$19,289.98
REVOLVING FUND	\$29,876.92
RIDDELL/ALL AMERICAN	\$6,797.15
ROBBINS SCHWARTZ NICHOLAS	\$8,142.27
ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$3,846.50
SAUNDERS OIL COMPANY INC	\$13,755.74
SAVVAS LEARNING CO LLC	\$22,302.72
SCALES MOUND HIGH SCHOOL	\$39,461.05
SCALES MOUND SCHOOL	\$15,784.42
SCHOLASTIC, INC.	\$3,332.26
SPAHN & ROSE LUMBER CO.	\$7,322.81
SSM HEALTH MEDICAL GROUP	\$7,357.00
STAPLES BUSINESS CREDIT	\$4,708.04
STEEL MART	\$5,212.32
STEPHENSON SERVICE CO	\$23,838.09
STOCKTON AUTO SUPPLY	\$7,102.96
STOCKTON HARDWARE	\$2,905.47
STOCKTON PARK DISTRICT	\$3,000.00
STOCKTON TRAVEL CENTER	\$17,218.57
STOCKTON WATER DEPT	\$12,353.10
SYMMETRY ENERGY SOLUTIONS LLC	\$29,982.35
THE HARTFORD	\$28,573.00
THE HOME DEPOT PRO	\$11,938.00
TOWER EQUIPMENT CORP NORTH	\$3,200.00
TRS 9%	\$330,703.08
TRS FEDERAL	\$8,152.88
TRS.58	\$21,311.34
TRSTHIS	\$57,689.13
TRUCK COUNTRY OF IOWA	\$5,636.10
UNITED LABORATORIES	\$3,951.73
US CELLULAR	\$11,565.55
VIRCO INC	\$19,465.91
VISA	\$18,566.60
WARREN SCHOOL DIST 205	\$6,126.87
WENGER CORPORATION	\$10,831.47
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT	\$7,414.93
ZIONS BANK	\$209,575.00
ZIONS BANK-EFT	\$64,125.00

LEGAL NOTICES

The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023
Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

River Ridge CUSD 210 <i>School District/Joint Agreement Name</i>	4141 IL Route 84 S Hanover, IL 61041 9631 <i>Address</i>	815-858-9005 <i>Telephone</i>	8 AM - 3 PM <i>Office Hours</i>
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Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2023

will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2023

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	6,514,762	1,147,014	0	468,164	404,112	473,581	0	119,707	1,737
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Sources	3000	548,506	0	0	222,211	0	50,000	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	1,083,690	41,177	0	114,894	1,080	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		8,146,958	1,188,191	0	805,269	405,192	523,581	0	119,707	1,737
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		7,615,963	855,357	0	687,997	314,411	172,265	0	110,921	0
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2022		5,792,445	4,042,061	0	2,592,943	105,433	1,034,007	0	284,040	57,946
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023		6,323,440	4,374,895	0	2,710,215	196,214	1,385,323	0	292,826	59,683
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2023		6,988,432	4,374,895	0	2,710,215	196,214	1,385,323	0	292,826	59,683

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000 Anderson, Ari A; Baltz, Cindia L; Berlage, Jared K; Bussan, Ellen A; Byers-Spraez, Jeanne R; Byrne, Natalie J; Clough, Candy M; Crandall, Richard W; Decker, Michael D; Diestelmeier, Tracy M; DUNCAN, LAURA K; Fennell, Francis E; Fox, Bradley T; Gunning, Elissa B; Harbaugh, Brenden J; Harkness, Robin E; Hill, Caryn E; Howard, Linda J; Parry, Kent R; Roberts, Sue A; Smith, Kylie A; Thorsen, Kimberly V; Watts, Pamela K; Wiegel, David L **Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999** Dickman, Jacob R; Diederich, Nicole E H; Howell, Darlene A **Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999** Bingham, Kate L; Brooks, Kelli A; Dickerson, Jay E; Hanson, Sarah M; Sinagra, Brittany L; Taylor, Thomas S; Winders, Emily E **Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999** Benson, Guinevere J; Bochniak, Ann M; Fry, Brett W; Green, Jacob W; Haas, Michelle A; Ketelsen, Tara M; Kuzniar, Laura A; Lehman, Stephanie; Leitzen, Kristy M; Richmond, Sara J; Schafer, Linda K; Steele, Mary A; Stewart, Candace S; Walters, Cory J; Wright-Holcomb, Carmen C **Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over** Albrecht, Corey K; Albrecht, Shean M; Ditsworth, Tamara L; Dittmar, Michael E; Downs, Dennis D; Ebensberger, Deborah Ann; Einsweiler, April J; Foltz, Jack M; Fry, Krista A; Holland-Fox, Colleen A; Kelzer, Michelle L; Klippert, Alaina M; Knauer, Jeremy J; Laity, Jennie A; Mc Govern-Mensendike, Molly A; Miles, Susan M; Nicholas, Karla B; Potter, Brenda A; Ransom, Rhonda L; Reese, Debra C; Smith, Tomera K; Tippett, Judy A; Trone, Margaret L; Vandigo, Douglas H; Walters, Lara S; Wurster, Brian L; Wurster, Stephanie L

Nicholas, Douglas C; Randecker, Sharon L; Schleicher, Gloria J **Payments over \$2,500, excluding wages and salaries.**

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
** IMPREST FUND **	\$37,234.63
2ND GEAR	\$14,937.72
AFLAC WORLDWIDE HEADQRTS	\$8,053.88
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$15,077.20
AMERICAN FUNDS SERVICE CO	\$6,270.00
AMPLIFY EDUCATION INC	\$24,614.62
APPLE RIVER STATE BANK	\$29,724.03
APPTEGY, INC	\$7,450.00
BENNING GROUP LLC	\$17,250.00
BIMBO BAKERIES USA	\$7,998.56
BLUE CROSS-BLUE SHIELD OF IL	\$900,300.32
BRIAN FELTES & ASSOC INC	\$3,111.00
BROADSTEP ACADEMY-IL	\$6,274.84
CERTASITE LLC	\$2,739.96
CHARACTER STRONG	\$2,999.00
CHILEDA INSTITUTE INC	\$337,926.07
CITIZENS BANK & TRUST	\$8,234.64
CONSERV FS	\$10,370.03
COUNTRY LIFE INS CO	\$4,320.00
DEARBORN LIFE INS CO	\$4,342.76
DOMINICK E DEFILIPPO	\$5,400.00
DUBUQUE FIRE EQUIPMNT INC	\$5,028.01
EAST DUBUQUE SCHOOL DIST	\$6,253.47
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION	\$35,366.75
ELIZABETH GARAGE INC	\$12,828.63
ELIZABETH ST BANK-FED TAX	\$515,898.10
ELIZABETH ST BANK-FICA	\$190,204.26
ELIZABETH ST BANK-MEDICAR	\$117,697.94
EMS LINQ INC	\$5,020.00
EQUITRUST LIFE INS CO	\$5,275.00
ESPAK	\$4,180.00
EXQUISITE-SCAPES INC	\$2,860.00
FREEMPORT INDUSTRIAL ROOF	\$3,814.00
FRONTIER	\$12,453.65
GEOCON PROF SERVICES	\$16,431.00
HELM MECHANICAL/HELM SERV INC	\$83,800.56
HM FLEX-DAYCARE	\$2,500.12
HODG LOIZ EISENH ROD KOHN	\$2,856.70
HOME DEPOT PRO	\$29,053.44
HOR MN-FLEX MEDICAL CARE	\$42,394.46
HORACE MANN LIFE INS CO	\$4,396.35
HORACE MANN-LIFE & ANN	\$115,691.52
HOSKINS BUILDING CENTER	\$15,967.09
IA STATE TAX	\$9,374.70
IFIBER	\$8,400.00
IL ASSOC OF SCHOOL ADM	\$3,555.76
IL ASSOC OF SCHOOL BOARDS	\$4,540.00
IL CO RISK MANAGMNT TRUST	\$48,629.00
IL DEPT OF REVENUE	\$243,821.42
IL SCHOLASTIC COOPERATIVE	\$79,589.52

IL SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENCY	\$3,477.00
IL STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$26,650.50
ILL MUN RET FUND-IMRF	\$229,760.73
ISCORP	\$2,592.00
IXL LEARNING INC	\$5,345.00
JO DAVIESS-CARROLL CTEA	\$117,920.80
JO-CARROLL ENERGY	\$294,443.11
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	\$3,829.24
KAMI	\$2,700.00
KNAUTZ FLOORING INC	\$20,807.00
LARSON & LARSON BUILDERS INC	\$8,092.55
LIFELINE AUDIO VIDEO TECH	\$29,131.00
LIMINEX INC	\$13,170.00
M & N SPOULE CONSTRUCTN	\$7,840.00
MIDLAND PAPER COMPANY	\$6,391.44
MIDWEST MEDICAL CENTER	\$5,834.00
MIDWEST TRANSIT EQUIP INC	\$322,512.42
MONTGOMERY TRUCKING INC	\$3,476.40
MOUNT VERNON CONSTRUCTION, INC	\$40,498.75
NEIGHBORHOOD OFFICE SOLTN	\$8,705.77
NORTHWEST SPECIAL ED DIST	\$618,164.27
ORANGEVILLE SCHOOL DIST	\$26,191.90
PERMA-BOUND INC	\$4,008.17
POWERSCHOOL GROUP LLC	\$7,102.50
PRAIRIE FARMS DAIRY INC	\$31,115.42
PRO COM SYSTEMS	\$4,612.00
PROJECT LEAD THE WAY INC	\$3,200.00
QUILL CORPORATION	\$9,243.99
REGIONAL OFF OF EDUCATION	\$8,336.86
RENAISSANCE LEARNING INC	\$11,332.80
REVTRAK	\$3,178.75
RICHARD L JOHNSON	\$69,957.56
ROCK VALLEY CULLIGAN	\$11,102.00
SAUNDERS OIL CO INC	\$64,013.65
SCHOOL SPECIALTY LLC	\$14,424.46
SKYWARD INC	\$7,128.00
STEPHENSON SERV CO	\$5,409.07
STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCT	\$8,125.23
SYSCO FOODS OF BARABOO	\$93,687.68
T.H.I.S.	\$73,129.25
TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTE	\$439,825.42
TEAMSTERS LOCAL #120	\$2,646.00
TRS-NEC .58%	\$27,014.68
VAN METER INC	\$2,761.52
VERIZON WIRELESS	\$3,931.52
VETERANS FLOORS INC	\$2,995.00
WASHINGTON NATL INS CO	\$12,483.90
WI SCRUB & SWEEP LLC	\$9,161.00
WORKERS' COMPENSATION	\$53,302.00

(Published in The Scoop Today Nov. 29, 2023)

447494

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC, PLAINTIFF,

VS. JOSE NEVARES; LISA C NEVARES; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2022FC48 2 NORTH HARLEM AVENUE

FREEPORT, IL 61032 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE

FORECLOSURE ACT PUBLIC NOTICE IS

HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on September 12, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 01/02/2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 09:30 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

Lot 3 in a Subdivision of Farwell's Addition to West Freeport, situated in the City of Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois, according to the Plat thereof recorded May 24, 1901 in Book C of Plats, Page 1. EXCEPTING the North 55.4 feet of said Lot 3. ALSO EXCEPTING that part of the following described premises lying within said Lot 3; Part of Lots 3 and 4 in a Subdivision of Farwell's Addition to West Freeport described as follows: Beginning at a point 55.4 feet South of the North line and 48.85 feet West of the East line of Lot 3 of a Subdivision of Farwell's Addition to the Village of West Freeport and running thence West parallel with the North line of Lots 3 and 4 of said Subdivision 49.38 feet to a stake set at the Northeast corner of land hereto-

fore Deeded to William J. Smith by Deed recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, in Book 115 of Deeds, Page 329; thence Southerly along the line of said last mentioned lands 146 feet to the Northerly line of Stephenson Street at a point 98.9 feet Southwesterly from the Southeast corner of said Lot 3; thence Northeasterly along the Northerly line of Stephenson Street 50 feet; thence Northerly in a straight line 141.6 feet to the place of beginning. AND ALSO EXCEPTING and reserving the right of way over and across the North 10 feet of the property herein described. All situated in Stephenson County and the State of Illinois.

TAX NO. 18-13-36-253-016

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 2 North Harlem Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

Description of Improvements: The property is a single family home.

The Judgment amount was \$120,981.88.

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

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

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than

a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

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

For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Rayment Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-09223IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

I3229618
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2023) 446731

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. AMBER M VAUGHAN; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 23 FC 43 201 AND 201 1/2 WEST BROADWAY STREET FREEPORT, IL 61032 JUDGE PRESIDING JUDGE

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on October 26, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 1/2/2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

PART OF LOT ONE (1) IN BLOCK THIRTY (30) OF KNOWLTON'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE TOWN (NOW CITY) OF FREEPORT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 4, 1850 IN DEED BOOK I, PAGE 122 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT ONE (1); RUNNING THENCE SOUTH ON AND ALONG THE LINE BETWEEN SAID LOT AND SOUTH OAK AVENUE TO A POINT, SAID POINT BEING 154 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT TO THE WEST LINE THEREOF; THENCE NORTH ON AND ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT TO THE SOUTH LINE OF WEST BROADWAY STREET THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ON AND ALONG THE LINE BETWEEN SAID LOT AND WEST BROADWAY STREET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT ONE (1), 154 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT RUNNING THENCE NORTH ON THE SAID LAST LINE 4 FEET THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO A POINT ON THE WEST

LINE OF SAID LOT ONE (1), 154 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT THENCE EAST A DISTANCE OF 76.4 FEET, MORE OR LESS PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT ONE (1) TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

TAX NO. 18-14-31-408-036

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 201 and 201 1/2 West Broadway Street Freeport, IL 61032

Description of Improvements: The property is a two unit apartment. The property has a two car garage. The garage is detached. The exterior is wood siding. The color is white. I am unable to verify that the gas is on or off. I am unable to verify that the water is on or off. The property does not have a fence. The property is vacant.

The Judgment amount was \$53,300.22.

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

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

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the pur-

chaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

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

For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Rayment Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 23-15624IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

I3232112
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2023) 446729

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - 15 NORTH GALENA AVENUE, FREEPORT, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF Terry Brady, DECEASED.

23 PR 69

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Terry J. Brady, 4412 65th Street, Urbandale, Iowa 50322, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Louis T. Wierenga, Law Office of Louis T. Wierenga, LLC, 3 North Grant

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page
Street, Suite 402, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act III. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before May 15, 2024, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Louis T. Wierenga
Law Office of Louis T. Wierenga, LLC (6297947)
3 North Grant Street,
Suite 402
Hinsdale, Illinois 60521
(708)288-8978
I3232596

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 15, 22 & 29, 2023)
446849

IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE 15th
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON
COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN
PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate
of
TERRANCE F. GROVES,
Deceased.
Case No. 23 PR 70

NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION - WILL
AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Terrance F. Groves. Letters of Office were issued on November 17, 2023, to Merialyce G. Groves, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Nathan J. Noble, P.C., 504 North State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before **May 23, 2024**, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Stephenson County Circuit Clerk, 15 North Galena Ave., Freeport, IL 60132, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office—Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Date: 11/16/23

Nathan J. Noble
Attorney for Estate

Nathan J. Noble, P.C.
Attorney Nathan J. Noble
504 North State Street
Belvidere, IL 61008
815.547.7700

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2023)
447444

ANNUAL
TREASURER'S REPORT
PEARL CITY PARK
DISTRICT
FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING MAY 1,
2022, AND ENDING
APRIL 30, 2023

Revenues: Property Taxes, \$127,011; Replacement Taxes, \$19,782; IDNR Grant, \$24,500; Program Fees, \$30,932; Misc., \$8814. TOTAL = \$211,039.

Salaries: Michael Palm-

ard, \$21,441; Nathan Pickard, \$8724; Kevin Kohl, \$5507; Kristine Visel, \$4075; Sidney Wright, \$3976; Ella Williams, \$3789; Cade Monks, \$3505; Hailey Johnson, \$2986; Jared Runkle, \$2765; Quinn Schneider, \$2739; Christy Youtzy, \$2537; Mikaela Nieman, \$2510; Andre LeDoux, \$1788; Jared McNutt, \$595; TOTAL = \$66,937.

Vendors: Kempel/Urish Construction, \$34,107; EFTPS, \$18,746; Sloan Implement, \$14,087; Menards, \$13,962; VISA, \$13,243; I Parks, \$7604; ComEd \$6599; Spahn & Rose \$6555; The Hartford, \$5725; Nicor \$5604; Mat Diehl, \$5000; Scott Stichter \$4699; Champion HVAC/R, \$4605, IL Dept of Revenue, \$4384; Sub Total = \$144,920; All Disbursements under \$2,500 = \$28,732. Grand Total = \$173,652

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION

General
Beginning:
Fund Balance \$131,562
Revenue \$211,039
Expenditures \$240,589
Other Financing Transfers In (Out) 0

Ending:
Fund Balance \$102,012
I, Kristine Visel, Treasurer of the Pearl City Park District, Stephenson County, Illinois, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2023.
Kristine Visel, Treasurer
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 29, 2023)
447631

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Turkey trot champs

Pearl City fourth graders are the 2023 Turkey Trot Champs. While the fourth graders ran and walked the most, altogether the third through sixth graders logged over 300 miles during the Turkey Trot in PE class.

McCombie announces upcoming office hours

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is launching additional traveling office hours around the 89th District. McCombie has hosted regular events like this to help accommodate constituents across the 89th legislative district, which includes all of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and DeKalb counties.

"Our next round of office hours is a continuation of my office's efforts to help area residents with questions or concerns about state government or state agencies," said McCombie. "I encourage anyone who is in need of assistance to stop by when we are in your area!"

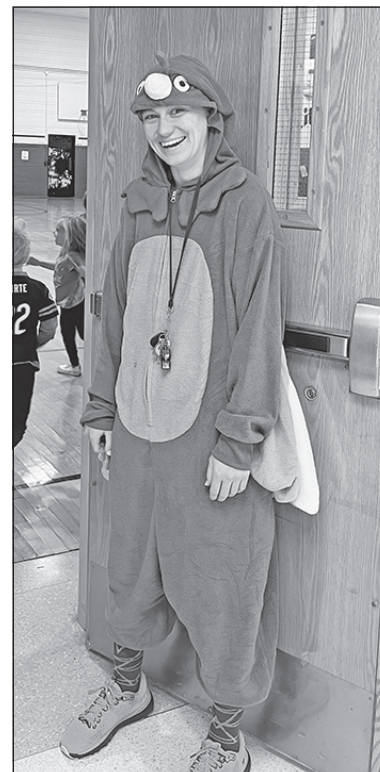
Reaching every corner of her legislative district remains a priority for Leader McCombie, and she encourages area residents to stop by.

McCombie will be in Lena on Nov. 21 from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., at 122 E. Main Street.

Leader McCombie recently launched a winter clothing drive to help those in need stay warm this season. The office will be collecting items at the above events; if you have new or gently used winter gear like coats, hats, or gloves, please consider bringing them by any of the above events.

With questions about the office hours or the winter clothing drive, please contact Leader McCombie's office at 815-291-8989.

your source for on-line news:
RVPNEWS.COM



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pearl City Elementary PE teacher Miss Collins challenged the third through sixth graders to walk or run over 300 miles during the Turkey Trot in PE. Because the students accomplished their goal, Miss Collins dressed up as a turkey. Pictured is Miss Collins, Pearl City Elementary PE teacher, as she meets her students on Nov. 21 wearing a turkey costume.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pearl City science students put their knowledge to the test

Students in Mrs. Rauch's sixth grade class spend the day before Thanksgiving playing Guess My Molecule to show what they learned about how molecules are delivered to cells.

REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC, PLAINTIFF,
VS.
AMBER M VAUGHAN; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 23 FC 43
201 AND 201 1/2 WEST BROADWAY STREET FREEPORT, IL 61032 JUDGE PRESIDING JUDGE

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on October 26, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 1/2/2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 18-14-31-408-036
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 201 and 201 1/2 West Broadway Street Freeport, IL 61032
Description of Improvements: The property is a two unit apartment. The property has a two car garage. The garage is detached. The exterior is wood siding. The color is white. I am unable to verify that the gas is on or off. I am unable to verify that the water is on or off. The property does not have a fence. The property is vacant. The Judgment amount was \$53,300.22.

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

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

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at

the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g) (4).

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

For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 23-15624IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.

I3232112
(Published in The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2023)
446730

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC, PLAINTIFF,
VS.
JOSE NEVARES; LISA C NEVARES; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2022FC48
2 NORTH HARLEM AVENUE FREEPORT, IL 61032

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

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on September 12, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 01/02/2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 09:30 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 18-13-36-253-016

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 2 North Harlem Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

Description of Improvements: The property is a single family home.

The Judgment amount was \$120,981.88.

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

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

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

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

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

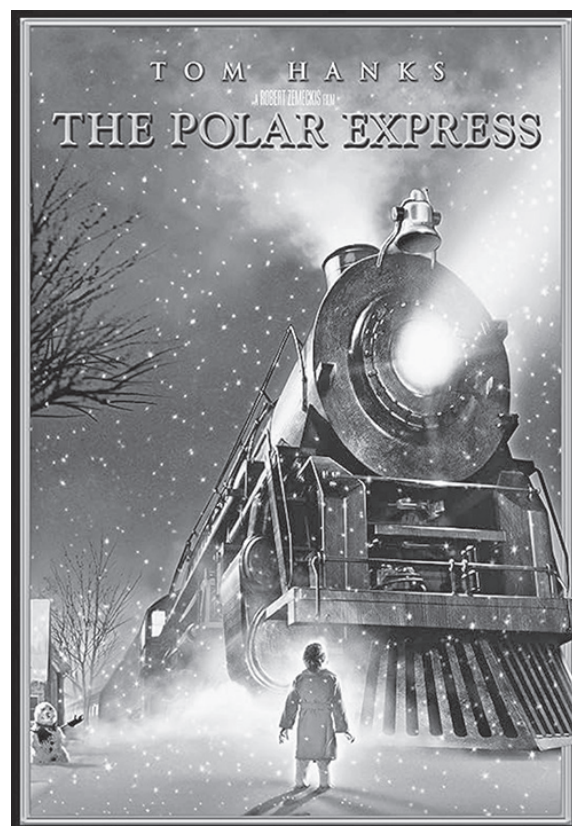
For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-09223IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

I3229618
(Published in The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2023)
446732



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

You're Invited to Movie night!

Salem United Church of Christ will host a free movie night on Dec. 14, 2023. The show will start just after 6 p.m. and will take place in the sanctuary of the church. Attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and pillows. There will be a concession stand in the narthex with complimentary candy, popcorn, and drinks. Donations for the Christmas Fun will be accepted and are greatly appreciated.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

BY VICTORIA HANSEN

Just in time for the holiday baking season, the Stephenson County Farm Bureau is excited to remind you we are an authorized McNess Home Products retailer. Our current stock of McNess products include Pure Ground Cinnamon, 3.8 oz. for \$6, Black Pepper 3.6 oz. for \$6, Champion Madagascar Vanilla Compound, 12 oz. for \$15.00, Imitation Un-colored Vanilla Extract for \$10, Wonder Flavor and Peppermint Extract for \$10. These products can be purchased during regular business hours, which are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 210 W. Spring Street, Freeport, IL 61032. We accept cash, check and credit/debit card methods of payment.

If you don't see a McNess product you would like to have, contact our office before noon on Dec. 6 to be included in our special order. You can contact our office for a list of items available for special orders as well. Special orders can be placed at 815-232-3186 or by stopping by our office.

In addition to McNess items both the Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau offices carry Custom Culinary Barbeque Spice, Raines Honey, Hogback Haven Maple Syrup (Stephenson County exclusive), and limited

varieties of Terri Lynn Nuts and Candies. To learn more about any of these products, call your local county Farm Bureau: Carroll County Farm Bureau, 815-244-3001 or Stephenson County Farm Bureau at 815-232-3186.

Ogle Carroll Ag in The Classroom fundraiser

Support the Ag in The Classroom program for Ogle and Carroll counties by purchasing 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 are individual servings. 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 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and Ogle County pickup is from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meals can be ordered online at <https://checkout.square.site/buy/YB65ZZKU2FTCZ6REBFT-PQS7R>.

Ag-Inspired Elf on the Shelf booklet available

He's making a list and checking it twice before flying back to the North Pole to report to Santa Claus, but in the meantime,

Village of Lena happenings

December is here! We hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and found all the best Black Friday deals. You will notice that Christmas music is now playing downtown to get everyone in the holiday spirit. Thank you to all the businesses and organizations who have made donations every month to make the music downtown happen.

Santa will be in town on Dec. 9 for Breakfast with Santa. This event is put on by the Lena Community Park District and hosted at the Lena Fire Department.

The leaf vac will make one final loop through town during the week of Dec. 4 to get any remaining leaf piles. Once the loop is done, leaf pick up will be complete, and any piles raked after the leaf vac goes by will not be picked up. Leaves and any other yard waste, branches or brush can be disposed of at the streets department at any time throughout the year.

The Village Board meets at Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend to see what is happening within the Village of Lena. If you have a topic that you would like to discuss you can call Village Hall at 815-369-4016 to be put on the agenda for Public Participation.

Sprout the Elf on the Shelf is teaming up with Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom (IAITC) to teach fun agriculture facts in a new free resource booklet. "Each year teachers and families make new memories through the ever-popular Elf on the Shelf tradition during the holiday season," said Kevin Daugherty, IAITC education director. "We wanted to put our own twist on this holiday favorite while providing access to free resources to teach kids the value of agriculture."

The Elf on the Shelf with IAITC resource booklet contains ideas for 20 agriculture-themed Elf on the Shelf scenes, complete with example photos, materials needed, setup information, and a suggested note from Sprout. Each idea also contains book recommendations, age facts to share and activities to pair.

View and download the entire booklet at agintheclassroom.org or plan ahead utilizing IAITC full materials list to gather everything needed for extra-ag-ant-elf fun. Sprout's antics will also appear on IAITC Facebook and Instagram @ilaic, so be sure to follow along. Those using the resource book are encouraged to share their Spout-inspired Elf shenanigans with IAITC on social media.

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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 Dec. 3 at 9:30 a.m. This will be the first Sunday of the Advent Season, and Holy Communion will be celebrated in worship. The reading will be from Mark 13:24-37. Chime practice will be at 10:45 a.m., and choir practice will be at 11 a.m.

On Wednesday, Dec. 6 Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience is necessary.

Friendship Club will meet on Thursday, Dec. 14 at 12:30 p.m. for potluck and entertainment by Set Free. No reservations are required. Come and enjoy the afternoon with music and friends.

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 first Sunday of Advent on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 9 a.m.

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the November Grace Meal; the Heimerdinger family, (Jim, LeAnn, Gertrude and Grace), Marlee McPeck, George Snetcher, Porter Freedlund, Colton Gronewold, Karla Hendee, John Zajicek, Bill Corvin, Joan Klatt, Brandon Scharping, DJ Scott, Angie and Wayne Niehaus, Kris and Marion Eden, Lois Hunsaker and Marge and Bob Roiland. We prepared 265 meals, 28 deliveries and 237 curbside pickup. Funding for the Grace Meal was provided by a grant from the Freeport Community Foundation and Thrivent.

There will not be a December Grace Meal, but St. John's will be hosting a Community Christmas meal on Dec. 25. Curbside pick-up will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. People may also join us in Luther Hall to enjoy the meal from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reservations for dine-in or curbside pick-up are needed in the church of-

fice by Thursday, Dec. 21. A major source of funds for the meal come from a generous grant from the Foundation of Northwest Illinois.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Dec. 29 3:15 p.m. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

The Women's Gathering group is collecting monetary donations to help 24 families in the Pearl City community for Christmas. Donations will be collected through Dec. 17. The money collected will be used to purchase \$50 gift cards for each of the 24 families. They hope to help these families have a Merry Christmas this year.

A collection for the Giving Tree will run through Jan. 7. This year we will be collecting items for the Stephenson County Veterans Footlocker. There will be a Christmas tree in the narthex with paper ornaments that have items listed that are needed for the veterans. Please take a paper ornament with an item that you intend to buy and replace it with a real ornament that is provided. Then purchase the item and put it in the box next to the tree so that we can pro-

vide for the needs of the veterans. Thank you in advance for your generosity in this ministry and for improving the lives of those that have served our country.

There will be cards and dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 1 p.m.

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.

Salem United Church of Christ

All are welcome to join for service led by Pastor Christopher Ham at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, Illinois, on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, at 10 a.m. The Adult Sunday School will be held prior to service starting at 9 a.m. on the lower level of the church. Children's Sunday School is held during church service at 10 a.m.

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 8 a.m. at Amigo's, 306 North Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois. Everyone is welcome to join.

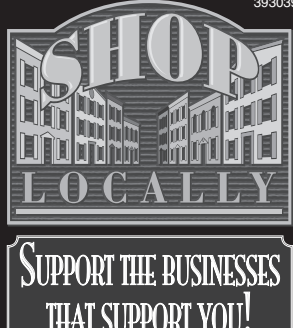
On Thursday, Dec. 14 at

6 p.m. we will be hosting a Movie Night to watch Polar Express. The show will start shortly after 6 p.m. and will take place in the sanctuary of the church. Please bring blankets and pillows to create a cozy experience. There will be a concession stand in the narthex with candy, popcorn, and drinks including hot chocolate! These goodies are complimentary, but if you would like to provide a donation it is greatly appreciated and will be placed towards the Christmas fund at Salem.

On Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 3:30-7:30 p.m. we will be hosting a Christmas Cookie Decorating Day. Bring along premade cookies and decorating goodies like frosting and sprinkles, and we can work together in decorating cookies and arranging goodie bags to deliver to our church members that could use extra holiday cheer. If you have any members, or friends and family in mind that could use a goodie bag, please call Hilary Fiene at 815-275-2528, and we can ensure they get one for the holidays.

On Sunday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. will be the Christmas Eve service. Please join us for this service as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

If interested in getting more involved in the church community, check out the monthly gatherings. Men's Night is at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. During this time the men playing games and get to know each other better. Bible Study is offered at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Crafternoon is held from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. During this time there are snacks, a brief devotional thought, and plenty of time to work on crafts individually or together. All of the events are hosted on the lower level of Salem United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join. For more information on any of these gatherings, please contact salemwingsofjoy@yahoo.com.



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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Turkey day has come and gone, so we turn to holiday cooking. What is more traditional than Christmas cookies? This column is dedicated to my best Christmas cookie recipes. Most of these are recipes handed down by my family or friends. I like to have cookies and bars on my cookie platters. Enjoy baking them and have a good couple of weeks baking.

Czechoslovakian Cookies

These cookies came from a monthly magazine that my friend Susan, who was Lynn's sister, sent me. I loved this little magazine and got many great recipes from it. Sue was a great cook also, and she shared a love for these bars. My friend, who has Czech ancestry, says these are not any kind of Czech recipe she has ever seen, but we figured the Americans got a hold of it, and they did their magic. They are a great bar with the surprise jam inside. Note that it does take planning because you do have to bake it slowly in a low temperature oven.

1 C. unsalted butter
2 C. flour
1 C. sugar
1 C. chopped pecans
2 egg yolks
½ to 1 C. raspberry preserves or jam

Cream butter until soft; add sugar creaming until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks and blend. Add flour slowly and mix thoroughly. Fold in the nuts. Spoon one half the batter into a buttered 8-inch square pan that has been lined with aluminum foil and greased. Top with jam; keep jam away from sides. Cover with remaining dough. Bake in a 325 oven for one hour or until lightly browned. Cool and dust with powdered sugar. Cut into 1 x 2 inch bars.

Frances' Coconut Pecan Squares

I have shared this recipe before. Frances Blocker was our neighbor when I was growing up. She was originally from California and brought a lot of recipes with her when she married her husband. She was a war bride, and she and my mother traded recipes on a regular basis. Frances was an elementary teacher and gave me my desire to become an educator. We always had these bars at Christmas because they resemble pecan pie. Cut them into small pieces because they are very rich.

First Layer

½ C. unsalted butter (soft-

ened)
½ C. brown sugar
1 C. flour
Second Layer
2 eggs
1 C. brown sugar
2 C. chopped pecans
½ C. shredded coconut
tossed with 2 T. flour

1 t. vanilla
Pinch of salt
For the first layer cream butter, brown sugar, and flour together. Press into an 8 x 8 square pan lined with aluminum foil and sprayed with cooking spray, spreading batter evenly. Bake in a 350 oven for 15 minutes.

While the first layer is baking, beat the eggs until frothy, add the brown sugar, pecans, and coconut with flour. Add the salt and vanilla. Spread over baked crust and return to the oven for 20 minutes until they are well browned and spring to the touch. Sprinkle with powdered sugar when cool and cut into one-inch squares.

Gloria Kayser's Date Filled Cookies

From the time I was a little girl, my grandmother made date filled cookies at Christmas. Somewhere along the line, we lost her recipe. When I worked with Gloria at DeVoes, we were talking about them. Gloria said she always made them at Christmas, and I got her recipe which tasted just like grandmother's. If anyone remembers Gloyra,

she was a wonderful cook. She often had a farmer's market in the parking lot at the old Double K Nursery. These are an old-fashioned cookie that goes great with coffee.

½ C. butter
1 egg
1 C. sugar
1 t. vanilla
½ C. milk
½ t. salt
2 t. baking powder
1 t. baking soda
¾ C. flour

In a mixer, mix butter, egg, and sugar until creamed. Add vanilla and milk. In a separate bowl, mix the salt, baking powder, baking soda and flour by whisking gently. Add dry ingredients to mixer and mix until flour has been incorporated.

Filling:

1 lb. dates chopped
¾ C. water
½ C. sugar

Boil filling ingredients in a medium saucepan until dates are hydrated, 10 to 15 minutes. This filling takes a double batch of dough.

Preheat oven to 350. Roll dough out on a floured surface thinly. Cut out with round or fluted edge cookie cutter. Put 1 t. filling on cookie. Fold over and press edges to seal. Bake at 350 for 10-12 minutes.

Lenore's Thumb Print Cookies

I have put this cookie in my column many times because it is the best and easiest thumb print around. Lenore Benson gave me the recipe, but it was her husband Frank who made these cookies. This cookie melts in your mouth. It is often used by people who have an egg allergy because it contains no eggs. You don't have to roll the cookies in anything because the pecans are right in the dough. Plan ahead because you must start these in a cold oven and bake

for an hour. The recipe makes four dozen cookies on two large cookie sheets.

2 sticks of unsalted butter
4 T. sugar
2 C. ground pecans
2 C. flour
1 t. vanilla
1 t. salt
Frosting
½ stick of unsalted butter, softened
4 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 C. powdered sugar
1 t. vanilla
A few drops of food coloring

Cream room temperature butter and sugar. Add the rest of the ingredients. Shape into small balls and put on ungreased cookie sheet. Press with your thumb. Place cookie sheets in a cold oven. Bake at 250 for one hour. When cool, frost with cream cheese frosting or drop jelly or jam in the print. Store in a cool place. These freeze well and keep (if you don't eat them all) well for several weeks.

Thelma Maaske's Sugar Cookies

This recipe was one I inherited when I was teaching. Dorothy Maaske always sent cookies to school with her husband, Larry. These were the first to be eaten. I always have said that I never was around a frosted cookie that didn't have my name on it. I have shared this recipe several times; I still think it makes the softest most delicious cut-outs around. The hardest part is doing the cutouts and then frosting. They are worth all the effort.

2 C. sugar
1 C. unsalted butter
1 t. salt
4 eggs
1 C. sour milk (sour cream)
1 T. soda
1 T. cream of tartar
1¼ t. vanilla
¾ to 4 C. flour

Mix the butter and sugar together. Add the eggs and beat. In a small bowl, combine the salt, soda, cream of tartar and ¾ C. of flour. Alternate the sour milk (sour cream) and the flour mixture. Add the vanilla. Mix well and refrigerate for at least two hours. Add more flour if necessary if you are rolling them into cut out cookies. Use flour if you are dropping them. Bake on parchment lined cookie sheets.

Bake at 375 until brown—8-10 minutes. Remove to cooling racks or waxed paper. Frost with the frosting recipe featured below. Hint: use clean parchment for every batch you make.

Frosting
1 stick of unsalted butter, softened
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
¾ C. powdered sugar
1 t. vanilla
A few drops of food coloring

Cream the butter and cream cheese together; carefully add the powdered sugar and mix together. Add the vanilla and food coloring. Frost cooled cookies.

Final Thoughts

Lena's Hometown Christmas is this weekend. There will be events starting on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. with kid games, a Craft Show at the American Legion Home, food vendors, a photo booth and a cookie walk at the Lena United Methodist Church. Wagon rides will be before and after the parade which will start at 6 p.m. in downtown Lena. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving and lighting the tree. Children can visit Santa after the lighting at the Citizen's Bank. Stores will be open and offering specials. Mulligan's Bar and Grill will hold a chili cook off. It is a great event for all ages. Hope to see you kick off Christmas in Lena!

I hope you enjoyed the trip down Christmas Cookie Lane. We will continue to offer seasonal recipes the month of December. If you have some favorite Christmas 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.

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