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VOL. 86 • NO. 1

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27, 2023



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Students recognized for supporting community

Kristin Jones, a member of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary, presents Good Deed Awards to members of the Lena-Winslow Honor Society. These students raked yards for area veterans on Veterans Day.

# Agronomy Summit in Freeport is slated for Jan. 31

Producers faced another challenging crop growing season this year with dry weather and added weed pressure. "The short yet intense periods of drought this year, although mitigated by timely rainfall, made for an interesting growing season," stated Kathryn Seebruck, U of I Extension Crops Educator, "it taught us a lot about the importance of setting the crop up for success in defense

against these types of adverse conditions."

To address these growing season challenges and more, the University of Illinois Extension is pleased to announce the annual Northwest Illinois Agronomy Summit that will be held at Highland Community College Conference Center in Freeport, IL, on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, with the program running from 10 a.m.- 2:30 p.m.

The theme for this year's conference is *Updates in Nutrient, Weed, and Soil Health Management*, with University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin-Madison specialists discussing strategies for weed, nutrient management, and plans to build soil health.

Topics for the day include *Practical Nitrogen Management for Corn*, presented by Giovanni Preza Fontes, Field Crops Agronomist,

U of I Extension. Connor Sible, a Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Crop Physiology Department at the University of Illinois, will present *Understanding Biologicals for Row Crops. Navigating the Inevitability of Herbicide Resistance* will be delivered by Kathryn Seebruck, Crops Educator, U

of I Extension. Dan Smith, Southwest Regional Specialist, Nutrient and Pest Management Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, will discuss *Building Soil Health in Northern Climates*. Highland Community College Agriculture Instructor Justin Ebert will be on hand to talk about the Highland Commu-

nity College research plots and the results from this past growing season.

To register or for more information about the Northwest Illinois Agronomy Summit, visit us online at [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw) or call U of I Extension at 815-235-4125. Registration is required to attend. Registration cost is \$25.

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# Pasture Management: Recovering from 2023

Why recover from 2023? Timely early-season rains, which help start crops off reasonably well, gave way to hot, dry conditions for the last half of the season. This resulted in many area pastures and hayfields ending the growing season in rough, beatdown conditions. Add to the short hay supply; spring 2024 will likely start with much demand for forages. Will the pastures and hay fields spring back to meet the demand? Are there management strategies that could make the most of available forages?

"Pasture Management: Recovering from 2023," hosted by the University of Illinois Extension, will focus on recovering from the drought and short forage supply in three evening sessions. The sessions are intended to build upon each other by looking at options and management practices to make the most of existing resources, consider overlooked resources, and build future forage resources. The sessions will be held on consecutive Tuesday nights, March 12, 19, and 26, starting at 6:30 pm each evening at the Lena Community Center, 497 Lions Drive, Lena, IL.

The Pasture Management series is designed to help experienced and new livestock managers define a successful path forward. The focus of the individual 1.5-hour session will be:

- March 12: Pasture Options and Economics
- March 19: Pasture Recovery and Weed Control
- March 26: Keeping the pasture working

"There is data to back up

our visual perceptions that pastures and forages were dry, and production was down last year," commented Jay Solomon, Extension Educator, Natural Resources, Environment, and Energy. "Regionally, we have trended dry to moderate drought for much of the last three years. These long-term dry conditions have negatively impacted forage production in pasture and hayfields." An example of the data is the water table level monitor at the State Water Survey's WARM station in Freeport, which indicated a significant drop during late summer, ending 1.5 feet deeper than that a year before. Early in crop season, we had adequate moisture to raise the water table up to around 10 feet, but the level had a near-steady decline throughout the season down to a level below 21 feet.

Management tools can help forage crops bounce back from these conditions. Many of these tools can also help mitigate the impacts in the future. Many of these can be accomplished at no or minimal cost while reaping significant benefits and cost savings. Pasture renovation, weed control, utilization of hay and alternative forages, and harvest timing are among the topics that will be discussed.

To register or for more information, call the U of I Extension at (815) 986-4357 or online at [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw); registration is required to attend. If you need a reasonable accommodation to attend this program, call (815) 986-4357 or email [tbene@illinois.edu](mailto:tbene@illinois.edu).

# New year, new name for local co-op

Effective in January, Jo-Carroll Co-op is rebranding to become JCE Co-op. The new name reflects the cooperative's history and brings one name to all the services it provides to members.

The name of the co-op's internet service, Sand Prairie, also is changing to JCE Co-op fiber. "As the co-op has grown, we've developed a mix of new and legacy programs, products and services, some with their own identities such as Sand Prairie fiber," said the co-op's president and CEO Mike Casper. "Looking ahead to our 85th anniversary in 2024, we wanted to ensure that our identity still connects with members while supporting the strategic direction of the co-op. No matter what services you receive, we want our new identity to convey to members that you can expect the same reliable, high-quality service you've had since the co-op was founded as an electric co-op," he added.

Area farmers formed the co-op as Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative in 1939 to meet the need for electricity in rural areas of Jo Daviess and Carroll counties. Over the next eight decades, the membership grew, spurred first by agriculture and later by tourism, development of subdivisions, lake

communities and second homes, larger commercial accounts and the addition of new co-op services.

One of the biggest changes for the co-op came with the acquisition of former Alliant Energy electric territory in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties and natural gas service territory in Carroll and Whiteside counties. A merger with Farmers Mutual Electric Company added more electric territory and members in Henry County.

In 2009, the co-op introduced the addition of Sand Prairie to bring high-speed internet access to its members. After a successful pilot project in Galena, the co-op committed to build out fiber internet throughout its service territory and beyond.

The co-op's new logo – intertwined abstract "Cs" – represents how JCE Co-op works and connects with its members and communities. "Our new logo pays tribute to those connections," Casper noted. "We are proud of our history, so it was important to us that the new name honors that heritage," Casper said. "Our new name, JCE Co-op, utilizes the abbreviation of the previous names and restores 'co-op', reminding all about the co-op difference and advantage."

Although the new name will be in use Jan. 1, 2024, Casper said members can expect to see a gradual rollout of items branded with the new name and logo to conserve budget dollars. "The brand launch also coincides with our 85th anniversary, allowing us to wrap the new logo into our anniversary communications and celebrations," he said.

An updated brand identity gives the co-op an opportunity to provide enhanced communications with members. In January, its two websites for the co-op and Sand Prairie are merging into one new site at [www.jcecoop.com](http://www.jcecoop.com). News and services sections will update frequently to provide more information about programs and services, including buildout of JCE Co-op fiber, according to Casper. Social media pages are merging into one JCE Co-op identity, as well.

"This was an exciting project for us as we explored options for our new identity," Casper said. "We think the result is one that reflects our relationship with our members and communities, the pride we take in serving you and our dedication to enhancing the quality of life in our communities."

# Around the Northern Hills with Annette Eggers

I'm excited to announce that the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau just received a nutrient management grant from Illinois Farm Bureau. I look forward to giving you more information on the field days that we will have once the growing season is underway. Stay tuned....



Annette Eggers

for the Ronald McDonald House. Remember, you can drop those tabs off any time Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

They go towards a good cause.

**Scholarships available**  
As we are nearing Christ-

mas break for students, make sure that they are working on scholarships! The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation has scholarships available. We again have two different scholarships for

those students majoring in an agricultural related field. The first scholarship is geared specifically to Highland Community College Ag students.

**See EGGERS, Page 6**

# Obituary

**MARK CHAPMAN**

Mark E. Chapman, 65, of Lena, IL, passed away on Dec. 15, 2023, at home. He was born on Aug. 16, 1958, in Kewanee, IL, to Kirby and Polly (Ptashnik) Chapman.

His education included high school and welding school. He was married to Katy Perdeu from 1979-1980. He was a machinist for the Harper Wyman Corp, and a member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in rural Wyoming.

Mark opened a welding shop later in years, as he loved helping the local farmers. He welded, loved mowing grass with his Dixie Chopper, and operating tractors during fall harvest. He will be missed by many.

Survivors include his brother Steve Chapman and his children, daughter Jennifer (Eric Craft) Chapman, and son Joshua (Sarah); brother Mike (Rosanne) Chapman and their children, daughter Courtney (Scott Reynolds), and son Christopher (Kim) Chapman. Mark also had nieces, nephews, and two kids he helped raise named Chelsea and Jason, but no family ties, and their mom (Lucy) who was Mark's girlfriend at one time. He was preceded in death by his mother Polly Chapman and father Kirby Chapman.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the "Iron Horse Tap" in Lena, IL.

# News briefs

## Veterans' Pantry in need of items

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

as well as the veterans are so grateful. Items may be brought to the American Legion Home at 314 W Main Street on Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Please call 815-369-4684 to make other arrangements. The current

needs for the Veterans Pantry in Freeport are bodywash (especially for men), paper towels, men's jeans (size 26, 28, 33 and 34), women's jeans (size small), and canned goods.

Donors that give blood Jan. 1-5 will receive a Red Cross T-shirt (limited quantity) and an automatic entry for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in Vegas (includes travel, hotel, \$1,000 gift card, pre-game activities). Terms apply; visit [RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl](http://RedCrossBlood.org/SuperBowl).

For an appointment, please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and search sponsor code StocktonIL or call Nicole at 563-275-0597.

## Stockton Community Blood Drive

On Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, Calvary Church of Stockton will host a community blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Twenty Highland Community College of Agriculture students participate the 2023 Illinois Professional Agricultural Student Organization Conference on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

# Highland Agriculture has Success at 2023 Illinois PAS Conference

The 2023 Illinois Professional Agricultural Student Organization (PAS) Conference was held on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at Hancock Stadium on the campus of Illinois State University. Twenty Highland Community College Agriculture students participated in the one-day event.

While in attendance students from across the state competed in several competitions. Competitions included employment interviews, career planning project presentations, agricultural sales presentations, agricultural teaching demonstrations, and knowledge-based exams and practicums in the areas of crop science, landscape horticulture, farm business management and equine science.

To prepare for the conference students complete resumes, career planning projects, lesson plans, sales presentations, and study content-related materials. "Students did a great job of preparing materials to compete against their peers from other colleges across Illinois. This competition allows students to work on developing soft skills needed to secure employment in the Agriculture Industry," Justin Ebert, HCC Agriculture Instructor.

PAS Organization is a national student organization

that provides opportunities for college agriculture students to experience individual growth, leadership and career preparation through competition and cooperative activities. Below are the individual results from the 2023 Illinois PAS Fall Conference.

**Sara Johnson:** Agricultural Education Teaching Demonstration, First Place, Agricultural Education Employment Interview

**Zorie McNamara:** Agriculture Sales Employment Interview, First Place

**Taylor Robinson:** Agricultural Education Career Planning Project, First Place

**Hannah Visel:** Animal Systems Career Progress Project, First Place; Equine Specialist Individual First Place

**Madison Simms:** Plant Systems Career Planning Project, Second Place, Agronomic Production Employment Interview

**Morgan Winebaugh:** Power, Structural, Tech Career Planning Project, Second Place

**Isabella Forbes:** Animal Systems Career Planning Project, Third Place, Livestock/Dairy Services Employment Interview

**Jason Niemann:** Agribusiness Systems Career Planning Project, Third Place

**Aaliyah Whitney:** Agribusiness Administration Employment Interview, Third Place, Agribusiness Systems Career Planning Project

**Karlee Etchberger:** Agriculture Sales Employment Interview

**Hayden Ruter:** Agriculture Equipment/Machinery Interview

**Magen Busker:** Livestock/Dairy Production Employment Interview

**Ethan Pratt:** Agronomic Services Employment Interview

**Zoe Newton:** Livestock/Dairy Services Employment Interview, Animal Systems Career Planning Project

Highland's Equine Science team consisting of Hannah Visel, Carissa Minx, Zoe Newton, Hayden Ruter, Taylor Robinson, and Liberty Hayes

finished in third place in the team competitions. Kayden Clark, Hayden Ruter, and Casey Moore participated in the Crop Production contest. Dylan Lewis, Casey Moore, and Kayden Clark participated in the Landscape Design contest. The Farm Business Management team consisted of Ethan Pratt, Jason Niemann, and Jack Ketelsen.

The next competition is the Illinois PAS Spring Competition on Feb. 8, 2024, at Heartland Community College in Normal. The spring contest will include Livestock, Dairy, Soils, Precision Technology, public speaking, and college bowl competitions. The final competition of the year will be the National PAS Conference being held March 11-14, 2024, at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.

For more information on the Highland Community College Agriculture Program or the PAS Organization please

contact Justin Ebert at justin.ebert@highland.edu or Monica Pierce monica.pierce@highland.edu.

## THE SCOOP TODAY

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# OPINION

# HOME ALONE

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## Slices of life

# Finding your mantra



By  
**JILL  
PERTLER**  
Columnist

We all experience tough times. And you know what? It's okay.

Not the tough times, but the way we deal with them. However we deal with them. It's okay.

However it looks; however it is. Our response, our fortitude (or lack thereof). Our strengths. Our weaknesses. The good days. The bad. Finding happiness. Accepting sorrow. Sometimes (oftentimes) living a life you never would have or could have or wanted to imagine. It's okay.

It has to be. Sometimes we

don't have a choice.

In my darkest days, I found myself trying to self-comfort my own devastation. In those moments, when I was literally at the end of my coping skills, I often found myself whispering the same phrase over and over again: It's okay. It's okay. It's

okay. Like saying the words could make it so.

Sometimes I repeated the words a few times; other times it was dozens—whatever it took to get me through the mini-crisis and breathing normally again.

Because that's what we all want, don't we? To get over each crisis and have the luxury of breathing normally again.

If you don't understand that last sentence, consider yourself fortunate.

But, the truth of life is that we all go through tough times—hard times—and we all have our own mantras, whether we are cognizant of them or not.

Thing is, you want to make sure you choose your mantra and not let your mantra choose you. So many of us go through life with blinders on, not aware that the mantra we are mantra-ing can be damaging to our soul and our psyche.

"I'm too fat." "I'm ugly." "I'm not smart." "I'm not good enough." "They don't like me." "I'm going to fail." "Everyone's against me." "It's not okay."

And so on, when none of this is true.

Repeat that to yourself: None of those negative thoughts that want to creep

in, oh so furtively, in the dark corners of the night, are true. Not in the least.

But our default voice, our default mantra, will try to convince us they are. Don't believe that voice. It speaks anything but the truth. Our own inner voice often speaks lies, because it is not, truly, our inner voice.

And, therein lies the reason why we need to be mindful of our inner mantra: The sentence we repeat over and over to ourselves when things go south and life seems less than ideal.

I started with something a little more complicated and biblical, but I found in the darkest moments I needed the simplest phrase I could think of: It's okay.

When my husband died and I couldn't fathom the reality that was now mine.

It's okay.

When I delayed going to bed because sleep was elusive.

It's okay.

When I didn't want to get out of bed in the morning because my purpose was no longer evident.

It's okay.

When I woke up in the middle of the night and realized (again) that no one was lying beside me.

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# Lady Blackhawks begin to find their stride

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton Lady Blackhawks are one of the more interesting girls basketball teams in the area. After starting their season with a 1-7 record, Stockton flipped a switch as they won six in a row. That streak includes impressive victories over Polo, Benton, Dakota, and Ashton-Franklin Center.

On Dec. 9, the Blackhawks were riding a three-game losing streak as they saw their record fall to 1-7. That night, they were set to play host to a Polo Marcos team that was 5-4 at the time. On paper, it looked like the Marcos were the clear favorites in this matchup.

Stockton had other plans. A big second quarter really sparked their momentum as they outscored Polo 19-5. That gave the Blackhawks a 31-14 lead at halftime, and they never looked back.

Kaydra Wright had a big night offensively as she racked up 19 points. Madie Mammoser finished with 14 points as the Blackhawks beat Polo by a score of 51-41. Katelyn Winters added eight points in the victory.

Two days later, the Blackhawks faced off with the Benton Zephyrs out of Wisconsin. Once again, Stockton found their stride in the second quarter as they outscored the Zephyrs 12-5.

In back-to-back games, a big second quarter ultimately led to a victory as the Blackhawks won by a score of 34-25. Mammoser remained consistent with another 14 points in the victory. She was four for six at the free throw line on the night. Dylann Broshous added nine points as the next leading scorer.

After back-to-back victories, the Blackhawks took their momentum on the road as they faced off with the Dakota Indians on Dec. 13. Dakota is another team that looked like the favorites over Stockton. Prior to their matchup, the Indians were 5-8, while the Blackhawks were just 3-7.

This time around, it didn't take the Blackhawks a quarter to get going. They hit the court running as they quickly built up a lead in the first quarter. Broshous hit a pair of first quarter three-pointers. Mammoser went to work down low with a trio of baskets. By the start of the second quarter, Stockton held a 14-2 advantage.

Mammoser kept it rolling in the second quarter with another six points. This time, Wright sunk a pair of three-pointers to spread the floor. The

Blackhawks had everything working for them as they took a 28-9 lead into the halftime break.

The Blackhawks kept their foot on the gas in the second half. It was their highest scoring night of the season as the Blackhawks won by a score of 59-22. It was the type of dominant performance Stockton was looking for. Mammoser racked up 21 points and 16 rebounds in a double-double performance. Broshous balled out with 16 points, four rebounds, four assists, and three steals. Winters added eight points in the Blackhawks' third consecutive victory.

The next day, the Blackhawks continued their dominance. Milledgeville stood no chance against Stockton as the Blackhawks picked up a 54-16 victory. In just two days, the Blackhawks had outscored their opponents 113-38. Four consecutive victories had the Blackhawks looking like a new team at 5-7.

After a few days off, Stockton returned home to play host to the Pearl City Wolves on Dec. 18. They proved their dominant stretch to be no fluke as they routed the Wolves 43-17. There was no player that really stood out that day as the whole team got involved. Broshous, Mammoser, and Eve Moore each finished with seven points. Winters led the team with eight points. Wright and Taylor Haas each finished with six. Ireland Mensendike added two points in the victory.

The Blackhawks kept marching on when they faced Ashton-Franklin Center on Dec. 20. AFC came into the game with a record of 11-6. Once again, the Blackhawks played the role of the underdog, and they played it well.

Mammoser had a takeover performance as she bullied her way to another double-double with 15 points and 23 rebounds. Winters posted seven points, while Wright and Haas each had five. Broshous finished the day with six points as Stockton won by a score of 41-32.

The Blackhawks have come full circle. Just two weeks ago, Stockton sat at the bottom with a record of 1-7. Six games later, Stockton is 7-7 and they look like a team you don't want to run into. Over the first eight games of the year, Stockton was averaging just over 29 points per game. Defensively, they were allowing 49 PPG. During the winning streak, they are averaging 47 PPG offensively, while allowing just over 25 PPG defensively.

## Opinion Weekly connection

# The blessings of God at Christmas



By  
**SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

Ever since I was a kid, there were three things that I cared about the most. One was the farm. Everything about the farm just resonated in my spirit. Every tractor and implement and every animal fascinated me. Each animal has its own unique way. I used to love watching the chickens scratch around in the ground looking for bugs and seeds and such. When they laid an egg, they always cackled at the top of their lungs declaring what an amazing job they had just done. The pigs could make all kinds of unique noises as they fought for every bite of feed they could steal from their comrades. Then when there was no feed left in the trough they would lay down and grunt or scratch their backs on the fence rail and make all kinds of contented sounds. The sheep did everything in a hurry. They ran to the manger for hay and grain when we came to feed them. Then if one got startled, they would all race away in a mad sprint for about 15 yards and then turn in unison and come back for more feed. The barn cats always knew when the milking chores were wrapping up and they all would huddle by the milkhouse door for milk. They would drink a bit and then sit around and contentedly lick their fur. The dogs had their own dish for milk, but always kept an eye on the cats to make sure they weren't coming over for a slap and a steal. While all this was going on, I used to sit on a bucket by the milkhouse door and watch the cows eating their feed and hay too. They chomped away and then ran their long, long tongues up their noses to get any feed that might have got stuck in there. They would get another

big mouthful and lift their heads up high so that they wouldn't spill out their big mouthfuls as they chewed.

The second thing I really loved was going to school and playing games in gym class and then later on our school teams. Competing and winning just consumed me every day. It was all I could do to be a good loser. I despised losing even if it was just a timed math facts test. This is why I tend to have a little more empathy for the students in my gym classes who struggle with the same problem, and believe me there are some who struggle. It's good to learn how to win and lose, but sometimes I stop the game when it's tied so I don't have to put up with all the whining and fighting about who won and lost.

The third thing that has driven my life since I was a child is my love for God. The Bible teaches that God is three persons in one. The Father is on the throne in heaven where He is all loving and all knowing. He created things to be perfect but has allowed Satan to have his day in leading as many people as he can into sin and rebellion against God. The son, Jesus Christ, is God in the flesh who came to rescue us from the punishment we deserve because of our sinful condition. All we must do is believe and walk with Him. He was born of a virgin on that first Christmas day and that's why He is perfect. He is God and He is the spotless

sacrificial lamb who shed His blood so all who believe will be saved. Finally, the Holy Spirit is our guide. He is our comforter and counselor. God, in His wisdom, gives us free will to choose Him because He doesn't want a bunch of robots walking around down here. When we do choose Him, man are we blessed!

I love Psalm 37:4, "delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart." Thank you, God, for your blessings at Christmas and all year long.

Until next week, God bless!

## • Mantra

(Continued from page 4)

It's okay.

And when life turned around, and I had a pretty good day.

It's okay.

And so on.

Make your mantra simple. Make it yours and most of all make it positive.

So that when you fall in love again—with an experience, a hobby, yourself, another person and most importantly, life—you'll know exactly what to say.

It's okay!

And know that at some point it will be not just okay, but more than okay.

I'm trusting in that.

*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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# Warren defeats Stockton in this year's Forreston Tournament

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton Blackhawks lost their stride after getting off to a 2-1 start to this year's 2023-2024 boys basketball season. Since then, the Blackhawks are just 1-5, including going 1-3 at this year's Forreston Tournament.

Stockton dropped the tournament opener when they faced off with Leona-Winslow on Dec. 16. Despite the loss, the Blackhawks came out with some positives to build on. The Blackhawks went down big in the first half, but they fought their way back to make it a close game in the end.

Stockton trailed Le-Win 26-9 at halftime. The Blackhawks came out strong after the break, though. Bennett Graves hit a pair of three-pointers in the third quarter, while Colby Tucker hit one of his own. Carter Blair and Will Westaby each hit baskets as the Blackhawks began to chip away.

The Blackhawks continued to let it fly in the fourth. Graves, Tucker, and Westaby each hit three-pointers as Stockton made it a game again. Ultimately, it wasn't enough as Le-Win won by a score of 43-39. Graves led the team in scoring with 15, while Tucker finished with 13. Tucker also led the team in rebounds with six.

Stockton's best performance of the tournament came in their next game when they faced off with the host team, the Forreston Cardinals. The Blackhawks were boosted by a solid first quarter as they outscored Forreston 9-5.

The Blackhawks continued to hold the lead until halftime. Jon Randecker hit a pair of baskets in the second, while Jacob Harbach added three points of his own. By the break, Stockton held a 20-18 lead.

The third quarter is where the Blackhawks set themselves apart from Forreston. Graves had seven points in the quarter, including a three-pointer. Harbach added

four points of his own, including going two for two at the free throw line. At the start of the fourth, Stockton held a 33-26 advantage.

Harbach led the team in scoring with 13 points. It was also a double-double performance for Harbach, who led the team with 10 rebounds on the night. Blair, Graves, and Randecker all finished the game with nine points as the Blackhawks found production from numerous shooters. Harbach also led the team with four assists as the Blackhawks won by a score of 46-39.

The Blackhawks went on to drop their next game against the Winnebago Indians, which set them up for a matchup with the Warren Warriors. The Warriors looked to be a tough opponent for the Blackhawks, and they proved that in their matchup in the final game of

the Forreston Tournament.

It was Warren who got off to a hot start. Bryce VanRaalte and Brady Stietz had things working early as they combined for nine first quarter points. Treyton Pafford added four points of his own as the Warriors jumped out to an early lead.

Stockton fought back hard in the second quarter. After hitting a pair of three-pointers in the first quarter, Tucker continued to let it fly as he hit three more three-pointers in the second. Tucker had 13 points in the quarter as he helped the Blackhawks close the gap. By halftime, the game was tied 24-24.

Much like the first half, Warren came out strong to start the second. VanRaalte put up another six points in the third as he helped the Warriors regain their lead. Stockton had just eight third quarter points as a team,

seven of which came from Westaby. The big third quarter helped Warren take a 37-32 lead into the fourth.

That's where Warren put things away. Stockton was held to just two points in the fourth, which came off a Randecker basket. Meanwhile, Pafford put up seven points in the fourth for Warren as the Warriors held on for a 45-34 victory.

Pafford led the Warriors in scoring with 19 points. VanRaalte was right behind him with 17, while Teagan Sabinson and Stietz finished with four each. Stockton was led by Tucker, who had 20 points. Westaby finished the game with 12. That duo's stats would indicate a good day for the Blackhawks, but the rest of the offense didn't provide much. Randecker's two points were all the rest of the Stockton offense could provide in the loss.

## •Eggers (Continued from page 2)

High School Seniors or those already enrolled at HCC can apply.

The second scholarship is a general scholarship for any post-secondary school. For this scholarship, the student needs to be currently in their first year of college. This scholarship is only available to Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members and their children. You can find the application on our website at <https://jodavinesscfb.com/scholarships/>. Applications are due March 1.

Do you know a graduating senior or college student? The IAA Foundation just announced the lineup for the 2024 IAA Foundation

Scholarships. This includes 95 scholarships totaling \$177,001. We have had several winners from Jo Daviess County in the past, so I would encourage anyone interested to mark Jan. 1 on their calendar so they don't miss this great opportunity. The link will be live for the IAA Foundation website until Jan. 1.

### Join FB ACT text messaging

FB ACT – the Illinois Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team, is comprised of Farm Bureau members who are ready to respond to IFB action requests. When IFB issues an action request, it signals your voice is needed on a major

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

By signing up for FB ACT text messages, you will be notified the instant your voice is needed in Washington D.C., or Springfield.

To sign up or renew your FB ACT text message subscription, please text the keyword "FARM" to this number – 52883, and you will be ready to act for ag!

### Farm Fun Fact

Bacon is the most popular pork item found on restaurant menus, with ham and breakfast sausage coming in second and third, respectively.

## Affordable health screenings coming to Stockton

Residents living in and around Stockton, IL can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Calvary Church of Stockton will host this community event on Jan. 17, 2024. The site is located at 315 W Maple Ave in Stockton.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and

overall vascular health, HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels, diabetes risk, kidney and thyroid function, and more. Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at [www.lifelinescreening.com](http://www.lifelinescreening.com). Pre-registration is required.



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# GAME PAGE

Answers on page 17

		5	3			7	
7				2			
		2					8
						3	
		9	1	4	8		7
	8						2
			5			1	
	6		4	1			
	9				2		4

Level: Advanced

				5	9		1	
						8	9	7
	7	6						1
	8			4				3
			5	6				
9				7				4
	3	4						8
8			1				5	6

Level: Intermediate

## SUDOKU

### Fun by the Numbers

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

## WINTER WONDERS WORD SEARCH

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

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

- BLANKET
- BLIZZARD
- BRISK
- BUNDLE
- DOWNHILL
- FROZEN
- HAZARD
- HEAVY
- ICECAP
- ICE SKATING
- LAKE
- MITTENS
- MOUNTAIN
- NOR'EASTER
- PARKA
- SCARF
- SKIING
- SLED
- SLIPPERY
- SNOWMAN
- TEMPERATURE
- WINTRY
- WOODBURNING
- WOOLEN

### CLUES ACROSS

1. A way to injure
5. Mutual savings bank
8. Rock TV channel
11. Large number of fish swimming together
13. Military mailbox
14. Female of a horse
15. Category
16. City
17. Breezed through
18. Officer who bears a mace
20. Tax collector
21. "Cheers" actress Perlman
22. Pauses before acting
25. Extracted information from a wave
30. Tendency to revert to something ancestral
31. No seats available
32. Nocturnal rodents
33. Moves gently to and fro
38. Not good
41. A way to ready
43. One who makes something better
45. Things associated with American history
48. Ancient Phoenician fertility god
49. A continuous portion of a circle
50. Volcanic craters
55. Units of electrical resistance
56. Gamble on
57. Ethiopian town
59. One point east of northeast
60. Polynesian garland of flowers
61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
62. State of fuss
63. Keyboard key
64. Partner to relaxation

### CLUES DOWN

1. "The world's most famous arena"
2. Polite interruption sound
3. Private school in New York
4. Refuse of grapes

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12		13				14			
15						16				17			
	18				19		20			21			
					22	23				24			
25	26	27	28	29									
30							31						
32									33	34	35	36	37
					38	39	40		41	42			
					43				44				
48									50	51	52	53	54
55							56			57			58
59										61			
62						63					64		

5. \_\_\_ Tomei, actress
6. Adult beverages
7. Supporter
8. Papier-\_\_\_, art material
9. Forests have them
10. Most ancient Hindu scriptures
12. Downwind
14. Marketplace
19. Flowering plant genus
23. Street where nightmares happen
24. Admirer
25. Dip lightly into water
26. When you hope to get there
27. Partner to cheese
28. Egg
29. A way to disqualify
34. South American plant
35. Fold-away bed
36. Debbie Harry album "\_\_\_ Koo"
37. Swedish krona
39. Displaying warmth and friendliness
40. Official orders
41. Bowling alley necessity
42. Stray
44. About milk
45. Expressed pleasure
46. Caribbean dance
47. If not
48. \_\_\_ fide (Latin)
51. Swiss river
52. Hebrew calendar month
53. One easily swindled
54. Point that is one point south of southwest
58. Small island (British)



# Lena parade and window decoration winners announced

The LBPA and Lena Beautification committee would like to thank everyone that came to the parade and participated in making the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event a huge success.

Participants entered to win awards based on their parade decorations, window displays, and Christmas decorations. The winners of each category are as follows:

## Parade entries

Best light display: Lena Lucky Clovers  
 Best use of theme: Kent Farms  
 Most unique: Steve Buss

## Best us of theme in window decorations

The Lena Mercantile

## Home Christmas decorations

Most unique: Grandon and Kristen Harn at 200 Briarwood Lane

Best light display: Ryan and Heidi Werhane at 502N.Center  
 Judges choice: James and Joan Liles at 615 Deer Trail Drive

Thank you to the community for making the Candy Cane Christmas the best ever.

# Panthers take on Pearl City at this year's Forreston Tournament

By Trenten Scheidegger  
 CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers had an impressive showing at this year's Forreston Tournament. Despite finishing in fifth place, the Panthers had just one loss in the tournament. This year, they faced off with the Stockton Blackhawks, the Sterling Newman Comets, the Polo Marcos, and the Pearl City Wolves.

The Panthers entered the tournament coming off one of their best performances of the season. They shut down Winnebago by a score of 46-16 in Winnebago. Two days later, the Panthers began tournament play as they took on the Blackhawks.

This year, the Panthers continue to find themselves in close games. That remained true when they took on the Blackhawks as the game came down to the wire.

It was a low scoring first quarter. A Jaylen Rakowska three-pointer provided most of the excitement as the Panthers took a 7-2 lead into the second. That's where the Le-Win offense picked up as they combined for a trio of three-pointers in the quarter. Cobryn Lynch, Cohen Goeke, and Koby Kearns each hit a three in the second. The Panthers eventually took a 26-9 lead into the break.

Stockton has been one of those teams that won't roll over easily. They continued to fight against the Panthers, and they nearly pulled off a second half comeback. Stockton's offense exploded for 16 points in the third quarter as they set things up for an exciting finish.

Le-Win had just enough to hold on. Rakowska and Miles Mahon hit some big free throws as they locked

away a 43-39 victory over Stockton. Rakowska and Lynch led the way offensively as they each finished the game with 10 points.

The Panthers had another tough matchup when they took on the Sterling Newman Comets just days later. The Comets were 5-5 ahead of their game against Le-Win.

This time around it was the Panthers that found themselves trailing early on. Le-Win's offense struggled to find a basket in the first as Mason Spidah's three-pointer provided a majority of the scoring. In the second quarter, Lynch and Goeke each hit three-pointers. Still, the Panthers found themselves trailing 23-17 at the break.

Despite making a comeback in the third quarter, the Panthers eventually suffered their one and only loss of the tournament. Sterling held on to win by a score of 48-39. Quinn Rodebaugh led the team in scoring with 10, while Mahon finished the game with nine.

The Panthers didn't have to wait long for an opportunity to bounce back. The very next day, Le-Win took on the Polo Marcos, who came in with a record of 4-4. The Panthers wasted no time getting their offense going in this one. Specifically, it was Rodebaugh who has started to find his confidence on the court. Rodebaugh racked up eight first quarter points as Polo had no answer for him down low.

Lynch added a pair of baskets in the second quarter, but the Panthers still found themselves trailing at the break. Polo got off to a hot start as they put up 18 points in the first quarter. Despite that, the Le-Win defense held them to just four points in the second. That was enough for

the Panthers to keep it close as they went into the break trailing 22-20.

In the second half, Le-Win began to find success from deep. With a trio of three-pointers in the second half, the Panthers managed to pull off a comeback of their own. Rodebaugh continued to attack the defense as he finished the day with a team-leading 16 points. Rakowska was next up with 12, and Lynch was the third Panther in double figures with 10.

That set the Panthers up for their final game of the tournament as they took on the Pearl City Wolves on Dec. 21. The Wolves struggled through the early parts of the 2023-2024 season, but they put up a good fight against the Panthers.

It was the Panthers who jumped out to the early lead. Rakowska hit a pair of early three-pointers to get things going. Spidah hit a pair of baskets down low as well. Pearl City couldn't find many clean shots, but they found success at the free throw line. Lane Kempel went four for four at the line in the first. Ethan Petta went one for three as the Wolves went into the second trailing 10-5.

Le-Win only grew their lead ahead of the break. Mahon put up six points in the quarter. Rakowska hit his third three of the half as Le-Win took a 22-7 lead into halftime.

Once again, the Panthers allowed a big second half. Pearl City began to claw their way back in the third quarter as the shots began to fall. Lexton Endress went two for two at the line before hitting a three-pointer. Myles Freedlund added a pair of free throws of his own.

See PANTHERS, Page 13

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# Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

“Oh Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree” ‘Tis the season for Christmas Trees. It’s that time of year when families are in search for that perfect evergreen tree to display in their homes for the Christmas season. I love driving through our county and seeing the lighted trees through the windows. But how much do you or I even know about Christmas trees? Keeping that in mind I’d like to share a few of my favorite facts about these wonderful trees.

There are approximately 350 million Christmas trees growing on U.S. farms. Christmas trees are grown and harvested in all 50 states. Top Christmas tree producing states are Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Washington, New York and Virginia. The first Christmas tree retail lot in the United States was started by Mark Carr in New York, in 1851. From 1887-1933 a fishing schooner called the “Christmas Ship” would tie up at the Clark Street Bridge in Chicago and sell spruce trees from Michigan to Chicagoans.

## Holiday hours

Carroll County Farm Bureau will be closed for the Holiday Season beginning on December 25 and will reopen on January 2. If you need assistance during this time, please call our office at 815-244-3001 or email carrollcfb@gmail.com

Stephenson County Farm Bureau will be closed beginning December 25th and will remain closed until 8:00a.m. on Tuesday, January 2. If you need assistance during this time please call our office at 815-232-3186 or email manager@stephensoncfb.org.

## Circa 21 bus trip

On Sunday, Feb. 18 the Carroll and Stephenson County Farm Bureaus will travel to see a production of Murder on the Orient Express at the

Circa 21 Theater in the quad cities. The trip will depart the Freeport Walmart parking lot at 1:15 p.m. and will stop at the Carroll County Farm Bureau in Mount Carroll as an additional pickup at 1:45 p.m. The trip is estimated to return to Mount Carroll at 9 p.m. and Freeport at 9:30 p.m.

The member Price is \$100, and the non-Member Price is \$120. The cost includes transportation, show admission, dinner/dessert and all gratuities. Reserve your spot by calling either the Carroll County Farm Bureau at 815-244-3001 or the Stephenson County Farm Bureau at 815-232-3186.

## From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference

Our second annual From Food to Flowers: Everything Local Conference, will be held Jan. 17-19, 2024, at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. This combined Illinois Food, Farmers Market and Specialty Crop Conference is a collaboration among the Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Specialty Growers Association and Illinois Farmers Market Association to bring together more people than ever from across Illinois’ local food, specialty crop and farmers market supply chains. This unique gathering combines the best parts of the events previously known as the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference and the Live Local: Local Food and Farmers Market conference.

This one-of-a-kind event brings together farmers and agribusiness leaders from across the state with other partners throughout the Illinois local food supply chain. By more efficiently connecting the supply chain, more income is generated; fewer businesses handle the product in processing and transit; and the products are harvested and packaged at a fresher stage. These improvements benefit

See NEWS, Page 13

# Pearl City FFA to host Pork Chop Dinner

The Annual Pearl City FFA Pork Chop Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 16, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The dinner will be held at the Pearl City School Cafeteria. Tickets can be purchased from Pearl City FFA members or at the door. The dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, chips, cookie, and drink for \$8. Carry-outs are available.

FFA Alumni host this dinner and a silent auction to raise funds to benefit the Pearl City FFA Chapter. Illinois Pork Producers and Stephenson County Pork Producers support this event with grant funds.

After dinner, cheer on the Pearl City Wolves boys basketball team as they play the Le-Win Panthers. Please join for an evening of fun and help support the Pearl City FFA!



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## The Lena America Legion provides gifts for veterans

Tim Schoeny and Henry Saavedra of the Lena American Legion present a Christmas gift to David Bower. Bower lives at the Lena Living Center. The gift was given as part of a program created by The American Legion in which veterans who are in nursing homes or VA facilities receive a gift for Christmas.

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# Highland Community College Foundation recognizes Distinguished Alumni

On Nov. 16, the Highland Community College Foundation recognized five Distinguished Alumni at the Freeport Club. This is the 27th year the Foundation has recognized individuals who made their mark at Highland Community College, have shown community leadership, and believe in the mission of higher education. To date, Highland has named more than 160 individuals as Distinguished Alumni.

The following were recognized as Distinguished Alumni:

## Terry Camplain (Davis Junction)

Nominated by Vicki Schulz  
Camplain began his path to his psychology career with an Associate Degree from Highland in 1986, going on to advanced education and a successful career as a school psychologist and for the past 19 years as Principal of Chana Education Center, a therapeutic day school of the Ogle County Educational Cooperative. This program focuses on the social and emotional

growth of students. Camplain has been recognized as the Illinois School Psychologist of the Year and Focus House Volunteer of the Year. He is also a member of the Ogle County Juvenile Justice Council and a Certified Trainer for Trauma Informed School Approaches. Since 2008, he has been sharing his experience as a speaker for the Highland First Year Experience class and works with HCC education majors.

## Drew Groezinger (Stockton)

Nominated by Pattie Krippeford  
While earning his Associate Degree at Highland in 2020, Groezinger was working full-time building his business. What began as one greenhouse producing vegetables for his 35 CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) customers has grown to five greenhouses, four tunnels, and 14 acres of cut flower production with seven employees. He is active in the Association of Cut Flower Growers (ASCFC) serving as an industry expert at their na-

tional conferences. He is currently serving his second term with the University of Illinois Extension Council. He has been an industry speaker at the Illinois State Floral Association conference and Extension conferences. He shares his knowledge about the cut flower production industry and wedding design industry on his Podcast "Between Me and Drew."

## Benjamin Huber (Monroe, Wis.)

Nominated by Kevin Heimerdinger  
Huber is a native of Lena and a 2004 Highland Community College graduate. While pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Education at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, he was recruited by Frontier FS as a Crop Specialist and has since held positions as Crop Specialist, Seed Specialist, Agronomy Marketing Manager, Strategic Marketing Manager, Energy Marketing Manager, and Agronomy Department Manager. Since 2022, he has been General Manager and CEO

of Insight FS. As an advocate for agriculture and community service, he has served as a member of the Green County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, including a role as president. In his current role, he promotes the value of educational opportunities, especially from those at community and technical colleges.

## Steven Kenneke (Lantana, Texas)

Nominated by Chrislyn Senneff  
Kenneke is a 1991 graduate of Highland. He earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree while working for UPS. He began his career with UPS as a porter and part-time package driver, and now holds the position of

Vice-President of Air Operations over the Central Zone of the United States, overseeing the largest air operation in the U.S and the work of 5,000 employees who handle more than \$33 million in business per year. He has embodied the mission of higher education and has strived to share this as widely as possible through his roles as Ambassador for UPS Congressional Awareness Program, Community Internship Program-Diversity & Inclusion, and executive sponsor for Veterans Business Resource Group (BRG), Advisory Council for the Frontiers of Flight Museum-Dallas, TX, and Adult Leader for Boy Scouts of America.

## Kristin Rademaker (Freeport)

Nominated by Nicole Vick  
Rademaker is a 1995 graduate of Highland, going on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration. She has been involved in education for more than 20 years, spending the first part of her career teaching elementary and middle school students who are deaf or hard of hearing, moving on to teaching high school science in regular and special education classrooms. She has been president and secretary for the Illinois Science Teachers Association and co-leader of the Storylines Working Group. She also serves as a National Science Teachers Association Curator and on the Equip Peer Review Panel member for Achieve. She is a writer for the Next Generation Storylines website and has shared her work at state and national conferences. In 2017, she received the Robert E. Yager Excellence in Teaching Award from the National Science Teachers Association and was named that year's Yager Scholar.  
For more on the Highland Community College Foundation, visit [highland.edu/foundation](http://highland.edu/foundation).

## Felony drug arrest

On Dec. 20, 2023, at 12:29 a.m., Officers of the Freeport Police Department were called to a business parking lot in the 800 block of W. Galena Avenue regarding an individual who was slumped over on a curb. Upon arrival, Officers made contact with 25-year-old Freeport resident, Austan Bardell. As Officers attempted to check on Bardell's welfare, he became combative. Officers were able to take Bardell into custody and during that time, two Officers were exposed to an unknown substance. Both Officers were taken to FHN hospital for treatment. Bardell was found to be in possession of a brown rock-like substance believed to be heroin and a white powdery substance which was later determined to be cocaine.

The two Officers were treated and released from FHN hospital. The Stephenson County State's Attorney approved felony charges of Possession of more than 15 Grams but Less than 100 Grams of a Controlled Substance, Possession with the Intent to Deliver to Another Person More than 15 Grams but Less than 100 Grams of a Controlled Substance and Aggravated Battery to a Peace Officer. Bardell is currently in the custody of the Stephenson County Jail where he will be held pending the outcome of a detention hearing.

The Freeport Police would like to thank the Stephenson County Sheriff's Department and the Illinois State Police for assisting the Police Department during the time the Officers were being treated. The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

# 20



# 24

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# Analysis: Pritzker urges 'careful' approach as current-year surplus could be followed by deficit

## Five-year forecast from gov's budget office indicates Illinois still facing structural budget hole

By Jerry Nowicki  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

With Illinois lawmakers scheduled to return to legislative session in less than a month, a recent government fiscal forecast provides an overview of the budgeting landscape that awaits them.

The bottom line from the five-year forecast from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget: The current fiscal year is now projected to end with a \$1.4 billion surplus, while the upcoming fiscal year 2025 is projected to face an \$891 million deficit.

"So that five-year forecast, you know, we look at it as a guide for how careful do we need to be as we move forward in the in the budget year thinking about FY '25," Gov. JB Pritzker said at a recent event in Springfield.

"I think it's a signal that everybody, we need to be careful in Illinois, we have to balance our budget..." Pritzker added. "And so, if that requires us to reduce the increases that may occur in certain programs, maybe that will be necessary."

The mandatory GOMB report is published each No-

vember. It takes stock of the state's general revenue fund, which is the main discretionary spending account that's subject to budget negotiations each spring. This year's five-year forecast projected deficits of over \$1 billion from FY 2026 through FY 2029.

But, as Pritzker noted in his interview with the news media outside of the Governor's Mansion Dec. 14, future-year budgets can be "very hard to project" due to state, national and global economic factors.

It's noteworthy that actual revenue performances have routinely exceeded prior-year estimates during Pritzker's tenure—his GOMB has proven a conservative prognosticator. And the governor noted he expects some fluctuation in the anticipated FY 2025 revenue total as the state gets closer to the fiscal year that begins July 1.

"I think you're going to see different projections as we go forward just because the economy is changing," Pritzker said, alluding to strong stock market gains Dec. 14 after the Federal Reserve indicated interest rates would remain

flat for the time being and decrease in the coming months.

While budget surpluses have routinely yielded supplemental spending plans in Pritzker's tenure amid sustained revenue booms, the governor and lawmakers have been noncommittal when asked about such a plan passing in the upcoming session.

But Pritzker on Dec. 14 noted at least one area of supplemental spending need.

In November, he announced \$160 million in state support to aid and house migrants being bused to Chicago from U.S. border states, particularly Texas. That plan shifted money from elsewhere in the Department of Human Services' budget, including block grant funding and \$40 million that was backing a pending application for Federal Emergency Management Agency funding.

Pritzker said it "is going to be a requirement" that the state reexamines "whatever buckets that we've had to pull from" to provide aid to migrants as winter approaches.

The five-year report from GOMB identified another

\$969 million in added "spending pressures" that could also require supplemental appropriations. Those include potential state assistance for asylum seekers, increased caseloads at the Department on Aging and the Department of Human Services, delays in other federal reimbursements, increased group insurance costs, and outstanding technology bills.

While the report didn't break down the costs in each area, it noted that the "spending pressures" serve to offset much of the anticipated surplus. "After accounting for the supplemental budget pressures, the revised fiscal year 2024 surplus is projected to total \$422 million," GOMB noted in the report.

All told, GOMB now expects FY 2024 to see just over \$52 billion in revenues, up from the \$50.6 billion when lawmakers approved the budget in May.

GOMB's report noted the main drivers of the increase—including the state receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in reimbursement for federal matching funds not

properly claimed in a previous fiscal year—are likely "one-time" in nature and shouldn't be built into annual budgets.

Other surplus drivers include a \$255 million greater-than-expected transfer from the income tax refund fund due to a strong tax filing season a year ago, good investment and interest returns, and strong corporate and sales tax performance.

The one-time nature of much of this year's surplus drivers plays into next year's projected deficit, as GOMB anticipates revenues to decline to \$51.5 billion, with expenditures growing to \$52.3 billion.

The main drivers of spending growth each year are the state's public school and pension funding formulas. The school formula calls for an added \$350 million each year. A recent report from the legislature's Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability noted Illinois' FY 2025 general fund pension payment is also expected to grow by \$350 million, to about \$10.2 billion.

All told, that adds up to the

\$891 million projected deficit for FY 2025, although that number drops to \$721 million when accounting for the statutory contribution to the state's "rainy day" savings fund.

That rainy day fund has been a major beneficiary of recent surpluses and is now at its strongest-ever balance of over \$2 billion. Pension funds have also benefitted, with lawmakers and the governor adding \$700 million to the funds beyond statutory requirements in recent years.

Other recent surpluses have gone to pay down interest-accruing debt and to replenish the state's unemployment insurance trust fund amid the crush of claims brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As for the anticipated current-year surplus, we're likely a few months away from knowing the full scope of any supplemental spending plan it will yield.

Pritzker is scheduled to give his budget address to lawmakers on Wednesday, Feb. 21. After that, budget negotiations normally continue until the legislature adjourns and approves a budget in May.

# Highland Fall Honors students present semester projects

On Dec. 8, 13 Highland Honors students presented their semester projects via Zoom™. Highland's Honors students created and designed projects based on their own chosen topics.

The Honors Program at Highland Community College is designed to provide eligible students with enhanced educational experiences in select courses chosen in cooperation with College faculty. Students must maintain a 3.5/4.0-grade point average to remain eligible for the Honors Program. Students must possess an ACT composite score of 25 or greater, or 1200 out of 1600 on SAT, or finish in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class. This is the 14th year of the program.

"The Honors Program provides great opportunities for

students to deepen their educational pursuits while at the college," said Evan Talbert, Honors Program director and Highland instructor. "These presentations are always exciting, as we get to hear what projects our students have developed in conjunction with our instructors, and it is always a great sample of the many different programs and areas of study the college offers."

Talbert adds, "These projects, and the Honors Program in general, allow our students to dive into concepts which are important to them and their further educational journey, giving them a more in-depth look at these topics."

The Honors Program provides additional hands-on workforce and learning experience. Students work alongside an instructor to develop and

complete the project. Topics include research of a particular field of study, current events or trends, a course's curriculum, and the student's interests and goals.

### Students who presented were:

**Daniel Creuzer** of Orangeville completed a chemistry project with Dean of Science and Mathematics and Instructor Dr. Brendan Dutmer, in which he researched the value of implementing Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) for all Chemistry 222 students.

**Olivia Wilhelms** of Freeport worked with Instructor Jeremy Monigold to create a computer program and accompanying paper related to purchasing movie tickets and updating inventory.

**Clara Bartels** of Freeport

worked with Instructor Kathy Sleezer on a research paper on how artificial intelligence is used and how it will affect education.

**Genesis Cole** of Freeport worked with Instructor Laura Early with a research paper on a visual artist's life, work, and influences and the impact on the artists.


**AJ Evon** of Freeport

worked with Instructor Harry Bodell to complete a "Speech to Entertain" to the Speech class to persuade classmates on a particular topic while using jokes and other humorous elements for audience engagement. AJ also worked with Instructor Laura Early appearing as a character as the Red Dog in the children's production of "Go, Dog, Go, creating cue

lists, memorizing lines and stage direction.

**Kee Henze** of Ridott worked with Instructor Juliet Moderow researching birds seen on campus and studied their migration patterns, including if and how manmade structures may affect populations.

See PROJECTS, Page 16



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Financial Advisor

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News (Continued from page 9)

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agriculture system. To Learn More Visit: https://www.specialtygrowers.org/everything-local-2024.html

Feb. 29 seminar Farm transition and succession planning will be the topic of a Feb. 29 seminar offered by local county Farm Bureaus.

"Communication is the most important part of succession planning, but it's also the most difficult," said Ron Kern, the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau.

farming legacy. The event is sponsored by Farm Bureau Young Leader committees in the participating counties.

and networking. While Farm Bureau provides continuing education opportunities to them, the county Young Leader committees are paying that forward by sponsoring this seminar for all Farm Bureau members in their counties.

ner and is open through Feb. 15 to members of the Carroll, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago-Boone County Farm Bureaus.

Panthers (Continued from page 8)

Le-Win continued to score on the other end, however. Rakowska and Spidahl combined for 10 points in the third as the Panthers took a 37-19 lead into the fourth.

quarter. Endress sunk a pair of threes, while Petta and Kempel each hit one of their own. The Wolves put up 17 points in the quarter as they looked to fight back.

Panthers claimed fifth place in the tournament. At the conclusion, the Panthers were 5-1 over their last six games played and 7-3 overall.



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# LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. ROBIN LYNN MARTIN A/K/A ROBIN MARTIN; GERALD NORDGREN, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ROBIN LYNN MARTIN, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ROBIN LYNN MARTIN; JOE ANDREWS A/K/A JOSEPH ANDREWS; CHRIS ANDREWS A/K/A CHRISTOPHER ANDREWS; GABRIELLE ANDREWS; JOSH ANDREWS A/K/A JOSHUA ANDREWS; TYLER ANDREWS; ALISSA ANDREWS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RICKY ANDREWS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JOHNNY ANDREWS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 22 FC 55  
1011 SOUTH MAPLE 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 November 8, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 2/6/2024, 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:

COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 14 IN BLOCK 32 IN KNOWLTON'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE TOWN (NOW CITY) OF FREEPORT, WHERE THE EAST LINE OF MAPLE AVENUE (NOW SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE) INTERSECTS SAID SOUTH LINE; THENCE RUNNING EAST ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE 120 FEET TO A POINT 150 FEET WEST OF THE WEST LINE OF UNION STREET (NOW SOUTH CHICAGO AVENUE); THENCE NORTH PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF UNION STREET (NOW SOUTH CHICAGO AVENUE) 65 FEET; THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT, 120 FEET TO SAID EAST LINE OF MAPLE AVENUE (NOW SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE) 65 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

TAX NO. 18-14-31-453-013  
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1011 South Maple Avenue  
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Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property

has a two car garage. The garage is detached. The exterior is vinyl 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 has a fence. The property is vacant. Boarded up front door

The Judgment amount was \$75,653.70.

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.mrpilc.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# 22-11906IL

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.

13232775  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 27, 2023 and Jan. 3 & 10, 2024) 448462

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS - GALENA, ILLINOIS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF IDA MAE NORTON, CFNA RECEIVABLES (TX), LLC SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO THE ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL SERVICES OF IOWA, SHERI HORNUNG, KELLY ASHFORD, ROBERT NORTON, TIM MILLER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, UNKNOWN TENANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants,

22 FC 78  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. in the Office of James J. Nack, 106 North Main Street, Galena, Illinois 61036, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE EAST ON

THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 2088.31 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 85 DEGREES - 25 MINUTES - 28 SECONDS AS MEASURED COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 348.66 FEET TO A POINT IN A TOWNSHIP ROAD; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ON SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 187 DEGREES - 52 MINUTES - 10 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 756.94 FEET; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTHWESTERLY ON SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 203 DEGREES - 48 MINUTES - 35 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 715.90 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTERLINE OF SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 174 DEGREES - 41 MINUTES - 10 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 399.05 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ON THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 221.11 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 64 DEGREES - 41 MINUTES - 44 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 217.92 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 58 DEGREES - 18 MINUTES - 31 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 234.92 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS. THE ABOVE

DESCRIBED PROPERTY LOCATED IN A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 28 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, CONSISTING OF THREE TRACTS OF LAND, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED ABOVE. AND BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED FROM ELMER HARRISON SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 187 DEGREES - 52 MINUTES - 10 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 756.94 FEET; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTHWESTERLY ON SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 203 DEGREES - 48 MINUTES - 35 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 715.90 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTERLINE OF SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ON THE CENTERLINE OF SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 174 DEGREES - 41 MINUTES - 10 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 399.05 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ON THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 221.11 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 64 DEGREES - 41 MINUTES - 44 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 217.92 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 58 DEGREES - 18 MINUTES - 31 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 234.92 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS. THE ABOVE

P.I.N. 13-000-038-33.  
Commonly known as 9792 W. BUCKHILL RD. A/K/A 9798 W. BUCKHILL RD. GALENA, IL 61036.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. File Number 22-03577 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13234418

(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 13, 20 & 27, 2023)



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425128



# LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS U.S. Bank National Association PLAINTIFF**

**Vs. Carol Keister; et. al. DEFENDANTS**

No. 2023FC24  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 09/26/2023, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on January 25, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

**LOT 1 AND 2 IN BLOCK 27 OF WRIGHT AND LORD'S ADDITION TO THE TOWN (NOW VILLAGE) OF DAVIS; SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF DAVIS, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**

**PIN 06-10-13-378-004**  
Improved with Residential

**COMMONLY KNOWN AS:**  
611 East Snyder Street  
Davis, IL 61019

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further

subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-23-01863. I3234500

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 13, 20 & 27, 2023) 448257

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

**VS. LINN PERKINS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF JESSIE LEE EVANS, DECEASED; ANN EVANS A/K/A ANN M EVANS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; BARBRETTE EVANS; KARLOS M EVANS; GREGORY A EVANS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JESSIE LEE EVANS, DEFENDANTS.**

**NO. 2022FC46**  
701 SOUTH BENTON 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 October 26, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 2/6/2024, 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:

**LOT NUMBER SEVEN (7) IN BLOCK NUMBER THREE (3) IN PURINTON'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FREEPORT, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.**

**TAX NO. 18-14-31-436-007**  
**COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 701 South Benton Avenue**  
Freeport, IL 61032  
Description of Improve-

ments: The property is a single family home.

The Judgment amount was \$29,170.00.

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 Rayermer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-09062IL

**PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLEC-**

**TION 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.

I3232773  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 27, 2023 and Jan. 3 & 10, 2024)

448459  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., PLAINTIFF**

**vs. MARLEEN M. COON; THOMAS E. COON, SR. A/K/A THOMAS E. COON;**

**DEFENDANTS**  
**NO. 2023FC52**  
Address: 920 S. Chicago Avenue Freeport, IL 61032  
**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 6, 2023, I, Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois, will on January 18, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena, Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

**THE NORTH 42 1/2 FEET OF THE EAST 135 FEET OF LOT 13 IN BLOCK 32 IN KNOWLTON'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE TOWN (NOW CITY) OF FREEPORT. EXCEPT THAT PART THEREOF TAKEN FOR SOUTH CHICAGO AVENUE; SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**COMMON ADDRESS: 920 S. Chicago Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032 P.I.N.: 18-14-31-453-038**

The real estate is improved with a single-family residence.

**THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$37,426.40**

Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser 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 and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice.

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: Examine the court file or contact



# Prisoner Review Board releases final Illinoisan serving life sentence for 'three-strikes' drug offense

**Charles Collins was sentenced to life in 2010 for cocaine offenses**

By Beth Hundsdoerfer  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

For at least two hours of the ride home, Charles Collins feared someone was following his father's car, looking to take him back to prison for the rest of his life.

At an interstate rest stop between Western Illinois Correctional Center and Chicago, Collins said the reality of his freedom settled in and he let go of the anxiety. He would be with his family for Christmas for the first time in 14 years. "It's going to be a party, that's for sure," he said

during an interview.

Collins, 49, was sentenced to life in prison without parole in relation to a 2010 charge for cocaine possession with intent to sell. It was his third felony, making him eligible for an enhanced sentence under the state's habitual criminal, or "three-strikes," law. He had two prior felonies on drug trafficking charges from 1998 to 2007 that made him eligible for the enhanced sentence. The judge told him she had no choice, he recalled, before she sentenced him to life without the possibility of parole. "For a minute, it didn't sink in. I was shocked that the judge went through with it," Collins said.

The three-strikes law allows that a defendant is convicted more than three times of the same or similar offenses, the judge can aggravate the crime to one

that is eligible for a life sentence. The law was designed to combat recidivism, but advocates argue it was draconian and unfairly targeted minority defendants.

Jennifer Soble, the executive director for the Illinois Prison Project, an advocacy group for incarcerated people, noted in 2020 that 75 percent of people serving life sentences in Illinois were African American and 94 percent of people serving life sentences in Illinois for a third strike for armed robbery or drugs were African American or Latino.

Collins was the last man serving life in the Illinois Department of Corrections under the three-strikes law for drug offenses, Illinois Prison Project legal director Candice Chambliss said.

Earlier this year, Gov. JB Pritzker commuted the life sentence for the three people who were doing life without parole for drugs under the three-strikes law. One of those offenders, Michael Lightfoot, 67, received clemency and was released from Danville Correctional Center last month.

Pritzker commuted Collins' sentence in February 2023 from life without the possibility of parole to parole eligible. In a rare move, the Illinois Prison Review Board voted unanimously last week for Collins' release.

The Illinois Prison Project took up the cause of three-strikers in 2020, pro-

viding legal representation for incarcerated individuals. It currently has 74 pending cases for inmates serving three-strikes sentences for non-drug offenses. To date, 27 people have been released through commutation, parole, or medical release, according to Chambliss. Thirty-three others have been denied, and six people died before the governor issued a decision.

The scope of the three-strikes law has been narrowed over the years—including as part of the criminal justice reform known as the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today, or SAFE-T Act—but the statute remains on the books in Illinois. While one lawmaker proposed a measure in the spring session that would have fully repealed it, the legislation failed to gain support in the General Assembly and did not receive a vote in committee. "Gov. Pritzker is a lifelong advocate for criminal justice reform and signed legislation making our criminal justice system more equitable," Pritzker Spokesperson Jordan Abudayyeh said in a statement. "The SAFE-T Act reformed the habitual offender law to ensure it is used only in the most serious circumstances."

After his 2010 arrest, Collins spent months in Cook County Jail before he was

transferred to IDOC, eventually ending up at Menard Correctional Center in Chester. He said fellow inmates who had been convicted of violent offenses could not believe he was sentenced to life without parole. For years, Collins spent time in the law library in the prison to try to find a way to have his sentence reconsidered. "I knew it was time for me to get to work; that it couldn't end this way for me," Collins said.

Mira de Jong, an attorney with the Illinois Prison Project, took his case in 2020. In an interview with Capitol News Illinois, de Jong noted that none of the crimes used to aggravate Collins' sentence were violent but were drug offenses normally punishable by a maximum of 15 years. "Most times, the sentence does not take into account growth and change. The system isn't designed to help people," de Jong said. "I don't think there's a lot of space for redemption there."

After his commutation, Collins was transferred to Western Correctional Center in Mount Sterling. It was there that Collins had access to educational and reintegration programs, he said. He took advantage of the opportunities—achievements noted by the parole board.

After the holidays, Collins said he's going to try to

get his commercial driver's license reinstated. A friend offered him a job driving a truck and later financing to start his own trucking business.

He knows he has missed a lot, time with his children and grandmother, celebrating graduations, birthdays, and holidays, grieving deaths. Through it all, Collins said his family was his constant.

Charles Dunn, Collins' father and best friend, was at the Prisoner Review Board hearing in Springfield last week. He made the call to Collins to let him know the board's decision. Collins was in the barber shop at Western Illinois Correctional Center when he received that call from Dunn, who was standing outside the hearing room. "You made it!" Dunn told Collins. "You are coming home!"

Within 24 hours, he was on the road, headed home, looking over his shoulder for the first half of the trip. He didn't want to eat, he said. He just wanted to get home to Chicago. The only stop on the way was that rest stop where he realized no one was behind them. "I think I have done all the right things. I have taken responsibility for my actions. I have shown remorse for those poor decisions. I have worked to be rehabilitated," Collins said. "Now, I am just ready to make a life."

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## LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page  
Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 23 0499.  
Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois  
Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC  
30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Email: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com  
Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711  
JB&A # IL 23 0499  
I3234910

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 20, 27, 2023 & Jan. 3, 2023)

## ISP Troop 1 announces monthly activity for November

Illinois State Police Troop 1 Captain Joseph Blanchette announces enforcement figures and activity for November.

Illinois State Police Troop 1 issued 1,502 citations, 1,573 written warnings, and made 37 criminal arrests during the month of November. Troopers issued 595 citations for speed-

ing, 78 citations for distracted driving violations and 128 citations for occupant restraint violations.

Troopers also investigated 54 traffic crashes, assisted 153 motorists, and conducted 400 commercial motor vehicle inspections, 50 of which were placed out-of-service for

safety reasons. There were 15 arrests made for driving under the influence.

Troop 1, which encompasses Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties, thankfully investigated no fatal traffic crashes for November.

## • Projects (Continued from page 11)

**Alexa Lancaster** of Baileyville worked with Julie Hartman-Linck to research and present current sociology topics for Freeport High School students.

**Hilaree Lombardo** of Rockton worked with Instructors Jessica Larson and Jessica Schneiderman on how such artificial intelligence tools as ChatGPT can be used in nursing education.

**Franklin Munda** of Freeport worked with Instructor Aaron Sargent by creating models, blueprints and programs for both a soap dish and

guitar neck support, as well as creating parts in the CNC mill.

**Kaitlynn Smith** of Shannon worked with Instructor Jennifer Alderman researching and updating study guides for the Accounting program, making it easier and clearer for future students.

**Colleen Stone** of German Valley worked with Instructor Tony Grahame on a research paper on the physiology of death, focusing on concepts through the perspectives of anatomy and physiology.

**Daeshon Verner** of Free-

port worked with Instructor Karla Giuffre to conduct a simulated experiment detecting the sickle cell gene using a gel electrophoresis kit, and to educate others on the disease.

**Natalie Yeoman** of Freeport worked with Instructor Jeremy Monigold to conduct a research paper on self-driving vehicles, specifically about how artificial intelligence is improving and expanding in this area.

For more information on the Honors Program, contact Evan Talbert at [evan.talbert@highland.edu](mailto:evan.talbert@highland.edu).

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# CRYPTO FUN

☼ ☽ ☿ ♀ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓  
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to winter.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 13 = I)

**A. 7 12 13 22 22 11 5 9**

Clue: Big snow storm

**B. 21 16 13 12 12 18**

Clue: A bit cold

**C. 9 5 13 24 6**

Clue: Pile of snow

**D. 25 3 10 14**

Clue: Frozen precipitation

Answers: A. blizzard B. chilly C. drift D. snow

## Answers

### PUZZLE 1

8	4	5	3	9	6	7	1	2
7	3	6	8	2	1	9	5	4
9	1	2	7	5	4	6	3	8
4	5	1	2	6	7	3	8	9
3	2	9	1	4	8	5	7	6
6	8	7	9	3	5	4	2	1
2	7	4	5	8	9	1	6	3
5	6	8	4	1	3	2	9	7
1	9	3	6	7	2	8	4	5

### PUZZLE 2

7	4	8	2	5	9	3	1	6
3	5	9	7	1	6	8	2	4
6	1	2	4	3	8	9	5	7
5	7	6	3	8	2	4	9	1
2	8	1	9	4	7	6	3	5
4	9	3	5	6	1	2	7	8
9	6	5	8	7	3	1	4	2
1	3	4	6	2	5	7	8	9
8	2	7	1	9	4	5	6	3

### CROSSWORD

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



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

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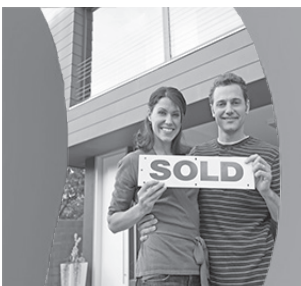
real estate

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

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# REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. ROBIN LYNN MARTIN A/K/A ROBIN MARTIN; GERALD NORDGREN, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ROBIN LYNN MARTIN, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ROBIN LYNN MARTIN; JOE ANDREWS A/K/A JOSEPH ANDREWS; CHRIS ANDREWS A/K/A CHRISTOPHER ANDREWS; GABRIELLE ANDREWS; JOSH ANDREWS A/K/A JOSHUA ANDREWS; TYLER ANDREWS; ALISSA ANDREWS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RICKY ANDREWS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JOHNNY ANDREWS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 22 FC 55  
1011 SOUTH MAPLE 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 November 8, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 2/6/2024, 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:

COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 14 IN BLOCK 32 IN TAX NO. 18-14-31-453-013 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1011 South Maple Avenue Freeport, IL 61032 Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property has a two car garage. The garage is detached. The exterior is vinyl 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 has a fence. The property is vacant. Boarded up front door The Judgment amount was \$75,653.70.

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# 22-119061L

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.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 27, 2023 and Jan. 3 & 10, 2024) 448464

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS U.S. Bank National Association PLAINTIFF Vs. Carol Keister; et. al. DEFENDANTS

No. 2023FC24  
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 09/26/2023, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on January 25, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described

real estate: PIN 06-10-13-378-004 Improved with Residential COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 611 East Snyder Street Davis, IL 61019

Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-23-01863. 13234500

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 13, 20 & 27, 2023) 448260

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, VS. LINN PERKINS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF JESSIE LEE EVANS, DECEASED; ANN EVANS A/K/A ANN M EVANS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; BARBRETTE EVANS; KARLOS M EVANS; GREGORY A EVANS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JESSIE LEE EVANS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2022FC46  
701 SOUTH BENTON 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 October 26, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 2/6/2024, 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. 18-14-31-436-007 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 701 South Benton Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

Description of Improvements: The property is a single family home. The Judgment amount was \$29,170.00.

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# 22-090621L

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.

13232773  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 27, 2023 and Jan. 3 & 10, 2024) 448460

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., PLAINTIFF vs. MARLEEN M. COON; THOMAS E. COON, SR. A/K/A THOMAS E. COON; DEFENDANTS

NO. 2023FC52  
Address: 920 S. Chicago Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 6, 2023, I, Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois, will on January 18, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena, Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

COMMON ADDRESS: 920 S. Chicago Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032 P.I.N.: 18-14-31-453-038

The real estate is improved with a single-family residence. THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$37,426.40

Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as

to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser 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 and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information. Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice. 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: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 23 0499. Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Email: [ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com](mailto:ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com) Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 23 0499 13234910 (Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 20, 27, 2023 & Jan. 3, 2024) 448631

to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser 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 and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice.

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: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 23 0499. Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Email: [ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com](mailto:ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com) Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 23 0499 13234910

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 20, 27, 2023 & Jan. 3, 2024) 448631

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS - GALENA, ILLINOIS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC, Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF IDA MAE NORTON, CFNA RECEIVABLES (TX), LLC SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO THE ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL SERVICES OF IOWA, SHERI HORNUNG, KELLY ASHFORD, ROBERT NORTON, TIM MILLER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, UNKNOWN TENANTS, UNKNOWN

Continued on page 20



# Public health officials urge caution around respiratory illnesses

## COVID-19 hospitalizations up in recent weeks, masks recommended in certain settings

By Andrew Adams  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois Department of Public Health is advising Illinoisans to take precautions to avoid spreading respiratory illnesses as cases around the state and country are on the

rise. IDPH recently issued a health alert to hospitals, long-term care facilities and local health departments advising the use of masks and using screening techniques to reduce the spread of COVID-19

and other respiratory illnesses, particularly in areas of the state with elevated levels of COVID-19 hospitalizations.

Hospitalizations for COVID-19 were up 22 percent statewide during the week ending Dec. 16, compared to the week before. Eight west-central Illinois counties are now at "high" levels of COVID-19 hospitalizations according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This means that there were more than 20 hospitalizations per 100,000 people in those counties during the most recent week for which data is available. Iroquois and Kankakee counties in northern Illinois also face high hospitalizations.

Hospital admissions related to COVID-19 have made up around 3 to 4 percent of all admissions in the past month, according to data on respiratory illnesses from IDPH, the highest they have been since this time last year. Hospitalizations for other respiratory illnesses have also spiked in recent weeks.

These figures are still far below the peaks seen in late 2020 and early 2022, when COVID-19 accounted for roughly 18 percent and 25 percent of hospital admissions respectively.

While statewide hospitalization rates remain at "low" levels according to the CDC, neighboring states Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Iowa all face elevated levels, which has caused some concern for officials at IDPH. "With the alarming rise in respiratory viruses we are seeing across the state and the country, IDPH is recommending healthcare facilities take precautions to reduce the spread of these viruses and protect their patients, staffs and visitors," IDPH Director Dr. Sameer Vohra said in a statement last week.

In addition to the coronavirus, IDPH tracks hospital admissions stemming from influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, a common respiratory virus often referred to as RSV that can be dangerous for certain high-risk individuals, like those with asthma or COPD.

For all Illinoisans, IDPH recommended taking precautions for holiday gatherings, particularly for those at high risk of complications from a respiratory infection like older or very young individuals.

This includes practicing good hand hygiene and proper indoor ventilation for any gatherings. For someone experiencing symptoms of a respiratory illness, like coughing, sneezing, sore throat, runny nose or a fever, IDPH encourages testing and staying home if possible.

Vaccinations for COVID-19 and the flu are available at most pharmacies. A vaccination for RSV is available for those age 60 and older and for some pregnant people.

In some state-run facilities, COVID-19 infections have

already interrupted daily life. Earlier this month, the state Department of Human Services announced that several COVID-19 outbreaks had occurred at state-operated developmental centers in Waukegan, Park Forest, Centralia, Anna and Kankakee.

In response, IDHS reduced communal dining, group activities and some planned outings, and introduced social distancing and quarantine measures for those served at the centers.

The number of people testing positive for COVID-19 in these state-run centers has fallen since the beginning of the month, with 12 residents and 22 staff members testing positive as of Dec. 18, down from 58 residents and 35 staff members on Dec. 6. "IDPH has been working closely with our counterparts at IDHS facilities to monitor conditions, to offer strategies to contain any outbreaks, and to provide resources, direct consultations and assessments," Hilary Spencer, head of the IDPH infection prevention team, said in an early December news release.

## REAL ESTATE NOTICES

Continued from page 19

**OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants,**

**22 FC 78**

**NOTICE OF SALE**

**PUBLIC NOTICE** is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. in the Office of James J. Nack, 106 North Main Street, Galena, Illinois 61036, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 13-000-038-33.

Commonly known as 9792 W. BUCKHILL RD. A/K/A 9798 W. BUCKHILL RD. GALENA, IL 61036.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family res-

idence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

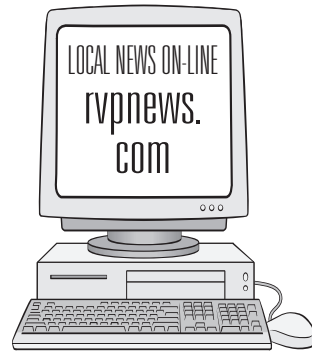
Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. File Number 22-03577 IJSC

**INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION**  
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13234418

(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 13, 20 & 27, 2023)

448264



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**ALL STORES CLOSE AT 7PM NEW YEAR'S EVE AND 6 PM ON NEW YEAR'S DAY**

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