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VOL. 85 • NO. 50

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, 2023

Music Trip gift carries special meaning for Scheider Family



On Nov. 27, the Scheider Family generously donated \$1,000 in memory of Le-Win Alumnus Terry Scheider to sponsor a student for the 2024 Le-Win Music Trip.

Janice Scheider explained the donation was a fitting way to honor her late husband, who passed away in January 2022. Le-Win Music Programs have meant a great deal to the Scheider Family. Terry himself was active in the Lena-Winslow Marching Band, as well as their three children and a grandchild. The family hopes that this gift will ensure a student who might otherwise not be able to experience the trip can do so.

Due to record travel costs, the Music Boosters are working to offset the trip expenses and make it affordable for the students. The public can help by sponsoring or purchasing a ticket for the Dec. 15 Holiday Variety Showcase to take place at 7 p.m. in the Panther Den. For details, contact Jody Schumacher, Music Booster President, at 608-347-3709 or visit the "Le-Win Music Boosters" Facebook page.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Janice Scheider donates \$1,000 to honor alumnus Terry Scheider and to sponsor a student for the 2024 Le-Win Music Trip. "We understand what it can be like to do without, and those music trips were special to our family," said Janice. "We're excited to help someone who needs it. Years from now, perhaps this student will look back on this experience and be able to do the same for another."

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Obituaries

GORDON HATFIELD

Gordon William "Bill" Hatfield, age 81, of Elizabeth, IL, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, at Midwest Medical Center. Visitation was held on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023, at Law Jones Funeral Home in Elizabeth, IL. A funeral service was held on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2023, at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elizabeth, IL. Burial followed at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Derinda. Any memorial funds may be given to Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Bill was born on Feb. 25, 1942, the son of C.J. Gordon Hatfield and Geraldine L. (Kuhns) Hatfield. He graduated from Elizabeth High School with the class of 1960, then began his beloved career as a full-time farmer and part-time employment at Jo Daviess County Highway Department. He continued farming and helping others with their farming until he went to his heavenly home.

Bill married his high school sweetheart, Mae Ann (Groezinger) Hatfield, on Jan. 21, 1962. They spent over 61 blessed years together and had four children that they raised on the family farm. Bill shared great pride in his community and was involved in many roles. He was a member of the Elizabeth School Board, AVC Board - Elizabeth, Jo Daviess County



Farm Bureau, Jo Carroll Holstein Board, and DHIA. Bill was a man of faith that invested in his church, Faith Evangelical

Lutheran Church, through leadership and membership roles. He attended church with Mae Ann every Sunday (as farming allowed) and shared his strong faith with many others, including his children and grandchildren.

Bill had an infectious laugh and smile that always brought everyone else in the room joy and happiness. As a pillar of his family and community, he brought comfort, faith, and stability to any difficult moments in life. If anyone had a question about farming (or anything), he always had an answer or solution that could solve it. He enjoyed playing baseball in high school and when he was a child. In his spare time, he especially enjoyed playing Euchre with friends and family. He was the friendliest person with anyone around him, would give anything to help another person in need, and worked hard every day of his life. He was and is cherished by his family, friends, community, and many more.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, C.J. Gordon and

Geraldine Hatfield; brother, Robert B. Hatfield; parents-in-law, Ralph and Lillian Groezinger; sister-in-law, Norma Groezinger; and grandsons, Damien Grube and Wyatt Potter. He now shares his heavenly home with each and every one of them.

Bill is survived by his wife, Mae Ann (Groezinger) Hatfield; children, Debra (Paul) Girot, of Elizabeth, Dennis (Rebecca) Hatfield, of Elizabeth, Bradley Hatfield, of Stockton, and Brenda (Jeff) Potter, of Hanover; grandchildren, Victoria (Keith) Girot, Valerie (Mason) Girot, Neil Girot, Nick (Claire) Girot, Tiffany (David) Hatfield, Brianne (Cory) Arthofer, Justin (Emily) Hatfield, Kimberly (Chris) Hatfield, Patrick Hatfield, Dillon Hatfield, Jennifer (Jeremiah) Hermann, and Cassidy (Dylan) Potter; great-grandchildren, Hope Mulholland, Hunter Mulholland, Harper Pfile, Dakota Pfile, Crew Pfile, Zoey Pfile, Bryce and Melody Grube, Margaret Hatfield, and Clara Hatfield; sisters, Sharon Hatfield and Sunny (Dave) Hughes; brothers, Gerald "Bud" (Barbara) Hatfield and Richard "Dick" (Mary) Hatfield; brother-in-laws, Allen (Pauline) Groezinger and Richard (Monica) Groezinger; sister-in-law, Joyce (Keith) Morhardt; and many nieces and nephews; and many other loved ones.

PATRICIA "PAT" MILLER

Patricia "Pat" L. Miller, 92, of Winslow, IL passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 27, 2023, at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford, IL. Pat was born on July 19, 1931, to Leland and Ruth (Bennehoff) Kilian in rural Winslow. She graduated from Winslow High School in 1948 and Brown's College of Commerce in 1950. Pat married Richard Miller on July 28, 1951, at Amity Lutheran Church in Lena. Pat farmed, ran a restaurant, and was a secretary/bookkeeper at Freeport High School and Lena-Winslow School District 202. After 31 years, Pat retired from Lena-Winslow School District.

Pat liked to read, work jig-



saw puzzles, bake, and play piano. She was a member of the McConnell United Methodist Church, the Winslow

American Legion Auxiliary, Isabel Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star for 70 plus years. For many years, Pat was a secretary for the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and Rock Lily Cemetery.

Pat is survived by her daughter Terri (Ken) Rose of Winslow, IL; two grandchildren Matthew (Traci) Rose of Beaver Dam, WI, and Sarah (Randy) Randolph of Havre, MT; great-grandchildren Dane Rose, Nicole (Chris)

Jensen, Carlos "Tony" Gallegos, Joram and Brin Randolph; sister Marjorie Barker, and a brother-in-law Al (Barbara) Goodman. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 1992, son Lynn in 1968, sisters Helen Goodman and Carol Dickerson and a brother Kieth Kilian.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. A visitation was held on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. Burial took place at Rock Lily Cemetery in Winslow, IL. Ernest Stabedren officiated the services. A memorial has been established in her memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

DENNIS DAVIS

Dennis Davis, age 66 of Warren, IL, passed away on Tuesday Nov. 28, 2023, after a yearlong battle with cancer at UW Hospital in Madison, WI. He was born on Nov. 11, 1957, in Freeport, IL, to William and Marian (Snyder) Davis. He graduated from Warren High School in 1976. Dennis worked at Eaton Corporation, Warren, IL and Sauer-Danfoss, Freeport, IL. He enjoyed tinkering in his shop, collectibles, and had a deep love for his cats and dogs.



He is survived by his son Garrett (Amy) Davis of Monroe, WI; 3 grandchildren - Hudson, Adelyn and Ella; brothers

and sisters- William Mark Davis, Brian (Joanne) Toay, Rose (Gary) Cashman, Mary Jo (Rodger) Miller, David (Anna) Davis, Rich (Julie) Davis, Bob (Cindy) Davis, John (Colleen) Davis, Betty (George) Schmel-

zle, Pat (Gary) Johnson and Marilyn Davis. Also, many beloved nieces and nephews. He was preceded by his parents, sister Joyce Davis, brothers James and Larry Davis.

A visitation will be held from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren. Private family graveside services at St. Michael's Cemetery in Galena, IL. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

LAVONNE SPILLANE

LaVonne T. Spillane, 80, of Apple River, Illinois passed away peacefully at home with her beloved family at her side. She was born Feb. 16, 1943, in Menominee, Illinois, the daughter of Albert & Theresa (Imbus) Erner. She graduated from Galena High School. LaVonne married her high school sweetheart Robert J Spillane (RJ) at Nativity BVM Church in Menominee on April 20, 1962. Together they were blessed with three wonderful daughters Mary, Patty and Connie.

LaVonne believed in hard work and a caring heart. She worked at the Apple River Dairy until it closed and then went on to work as an in-home caretaker for the elderly until she retired. LaVonne was the backbone of their family business, Stagecoach Trails Livery. Together, her and Bob hosted large groups and gave stagecoach and sleigh rides for many years. They eventually created Stagecoach Trails Limestone together.

LaVonne believed in service to her community. She sat on the board for Echoes of the Past throughout its entirety and truly enjoyed sharing the weekend with all who came. She was a member of St Joseph's Catholic Church, served on the Pastoral Council and was an active member in the Altar and Rosary Society where she served as Treasurer until her passing. LaVonne was very dedicated to the renovation of the St Joseph's cemetery, even asking for improvements to be made in her final days.

LaVonne loved her family with her whole heart and as a family they made an abundance of treasured memories.

TERRY THOMAS

Terry Lee Thomas passed away peacefully in his home on Nov. 25, 2023, after battling a cancerous brain tumor for several years. He was born on Aug. 27, 1961, in Freeport, IL to the late Stanley and Grace (Epling) Thomas. In April 1980 he married his Pearl City High School sweetheart, Barb Slick, in Kent. They were blessed with three children, Teresa, Tyler and Tiffany, who all also graduated from that same high school.

Terry was the owner/operator of Class One Performance Engines in Freeport for 28 years. His precision and quality of work helped him build clientele from all over the country, and engines were even sent to him from Europe. Many drag strips and stock car tracks in the region, as well as out of state, saw cars succeed with his engines.

Known as someone who could fix anything, Terry was always right there to help family, extended family,



LaVonne's greatest joy besides her daughters and son in laws were her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Family trips to Colorado, Ireland, Wyoming, Idaho, Texas and many camping trips along the way as well with her children and grandchildren. LaVonne and Bob were known to jump in the car and go for a drive to New Diggings on a Sunday for good music and a cold beer. LaVonne could always be found cleaning her house and enjoyed walking to the farm to feed the cows and then down to the cemetery to visit Bob. She enjoyed sitting on her front porch watching the hummingbirds and shelling corn for the squirrels. She loved quiet moments visiting with friends and family and her grand-dogs. As a grandma, LaVonne will be remembered for throwing the best New Year's Eve sleepovers that her grandchildren still talk about today. She was known for cooking the best peach cobbler, beef stew and pasta. LaVonne wasn't one to sit around but she did love watching Daniel O'Donnell every Saturday night on TV after attending mass at St Joseph's in Apple River. Her daughters were very blessed to take her to see him weeks before her illness.

She is survived by her daughters Mary (Jerry) Willer Peosta, IA, Patty (Mick) Arand, Stockton, IL and Connie (Greg) Kruger Scales Mound, IL. Ten grandchildren; Jessica (Winston) Storey, Bobbi (Brandon) Decker, Kevin



and friends whether it was to fix a car, any engine, or even help build and/or remodel a house. In fact, he completely turned his ranch-style house into a showcase log home. Terry could tackle any project and do it well.

Terry and family enjoyed spending time with his folks on their farm just down the road, and often with the whole Thomas clan - siblings and their families. He always helped make it a special time with bonfires, and tractor, four-wheeler and dirt bike rides. He and Barb and the kids enjoyed trailer camping at Indiana's Covered Bridge Festival, Door County and Devil's Lake. Later he and Barb relished time spent in their cabin on a lake in northern Wisconsin. And cats! The family could never turn away

(Molly) Arand, Jordan (Victoria) Arand, Destiny (Whitney) Perkins-Willer, Jenna-Lynn Willer (fiancé, Andie), Paige Willer, Katie (Greg) Leahy, Ryan Kruger (fiancé, Kristen), and Kristy Kruger. Nine great grandchildren; Stetson & Blakely Storey, Mayci, Briggson & Griffin Decker, Baylor & Briley Arand, Tyson Leahy, and Pacey Perkins-Willer due in January. LaVonne is also survived by her sister Elaine (Clinton) White; brother in laws: Ron Spillane, Barry (Janet) Spillane, Bobby (Sue) Stietz, Billy (Judy) Stietz; and sister in laws; Diane (Ed) Holland, Rosemary Crawford, Jean Maxwell, many nieces and nephews and her church family.

LaVonne was preceded in death by her parents, husband RJ, her sister Grace and brothers-in-law Leroy Fields, Jim and Joe Spillane and her sister-in-law Rose Spillane. She will be dearly missed by all who were fortunate enough to have known her.

Funeral mass was held on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Apple River, IL. Burial will be at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Apple River, IL. Father Andrew Hernandez officiated the services.

In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established for St. Joseph's Altar and Rosary Society and FHN Hospice. The family would like to thank the Doctors and nurses at SSM Health in Monroe, FHN Hospice, Leamon's Ambulance Service, and everyone else who made it possible for LaVonne to live her final days at home. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

a stray cat or an abandoned kitten. Many, many have been on the receiving end of their affection.

Terry is survived by his wife, Barb (Slick); daughter Teresa (Doug Mueller) of Madison, WI; son, Tyler or Pearl City; daughter, Tiffany (Chad Marsh) of Freeport; grandkids, Hayden and Teighan Muder and Grace Mueller; brother, Steve (Barbara) Thomas of St. Charles, MO; sister, Suzanne (Craig McCormick) of Albert Lea, MN; and many adoring nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Stanley and Grace Thomas; niece, Jody Thomas Abouchakra; in-laws, Forest and Nancy Slick; and sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Luanne and Scott Lartz.

A visitation was held on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, at Hermann Funeral Home in Pearl City. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.herrmannfuneralhome.com.

OPINION

Slices of life

Parenting adults

Life isn't easy. And the epitome of that, perhaps, might be parenting. (OK, maybe the epitome is death, but let's take a week away from that topic, shall we?)

With regard to parenting being difficult: stop the judgmental comments already. I know what you're thinking. People who dare say anything negative about parenting don't deserve to be parents.

I beg to differ. Parenting is a gift. It is wonderful. It is one of the very best things that has happened (so far) in my life. For sure.

How then, do I dare declare that parenting is filled with hard (very, extremely hard) work?

Because it is. Most of the things in life that are worth anything of substance require effort and hard work. This most definitely includes parenting.

Small caveat here. Being a parent isn't for everyone. It should't be. If you aren't called to be a parent—don't feel the need, don't feel the pull—that's OK. It's more than OK. Step away from the pack 'n play.

I wasn't sure about the whole parenthood thing myself. Neither was my husband. But something nudged us to dip our toes in the water and soon thereafter our daughter was born.

We learned that parenthood was full of love, miracles, first smiles, midnight feedings, countless diaper changes and tireless tasks.

If one word existed that combined love, work and lack of sleep it might describe the early years of parenting.

As bleak as I might make it, it couldn't have been all that bad because my husband and I went on to repeat the process three more times, for a total of four: one girl and three boys.

With four, in the tempest years, I can tell you life was busy. I didn't get to relax at will. I didn't get to relax much at all.

But it was all good. I was raising little people, whom I loved more than life itself. I changed crib sheets in the dark in the middle of the night because they were wet. I cut grapes in half. I sucked out the snot from their noses. I worried when they didn't eat their vegetables. I read them bedtime stories and rocked them when they had a bad dream.



By
**JILL
PERTLER**
Columnist

I messed up a couple of times on the whole tooth fairy thing, but no parent is perfect.

And then the magic happened.

They grew up.

In many ways this was bittersweet. Them growing up, because it was the end of an era.

But was also a beginning. And beginnings can be fun. And beautiful. And just another wonderful chapter in life.

The loss of their childhoods blossomed into the cusp of their own adulthoods.

And you want to know something no one ever tells you when you contemplate having children?

Adult children can be even more rewarding than regular children.

Adult children become your contemporaries. They share interests and history. When adult children want to spend time with you in many ways it is 100-times more valuable than 10 years prior, because as adults they now have the choice, and in choosing you they are showing their true heart. They are demonstrating the culmination of all those late-night feedings, middle of the night diaper changes, three-hour long dance recitals and T-ball games.

Babies are beautiful. Kinders are wonderful. The loose tooth years are fabulous. Teens can be trying but also tremendous.

But your kids as adults? It is amazing. They are amazing.

I never thought about parenthood as raising adults, but it's exactly what I did. And I'm so glad, because I may have birthed four babies, but now, I have four friends. The outcome is something I never anticipated or expected, but it's better than I ever could have imagined.

Times a million. Maybe even more. For sure even more.

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.



Weekly connection

Thanks to God



By
**SCOTT
CERNEK**
Columnist

It's always a great time to get together with our family for birthdays, holidays or just because it's been a couple of weeks since we last saw each other and we just need to hang out. So, on Thanksgiving Day we jammed twenty-five of us into our house for a great feast, and it got pretty loud at times, but that didn't stop us from having a great time. There's a great hymn that tells it all, Thanks to God for my Redeemer. This was one of my dad's favorite hymns, and before everyone headed for home, I gathered all our grandchildren and their parents around and I read the lyrics. It goes like this.

Thanks to God for my Redeemer, Thanks for all Thou dost provide!

Thanks for times now but a memory, Thanks for Jesus by my side!

Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime, Thanks for dark and dreary fall!

Thanks for tears by now forgotten, Thanks for peace within my soul!

Thanks for prayers that Thou hast answered, Thanks for what Thou dost deny!

Thanks for storms that I have weathered, Thanks for all Thou dost supply

Thanks for pain, and thanks for pleasure, Thanks for comfort in despair!

Thanks for grace that none can measure, Thanks for love beyond compare!

Thanks for roses by the wayside, Thanks for thorns their stems contain!

Thanks for home and thanks

for fireside, Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain!

Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow, Thanks for heavenly peace with Thee!

Thanks for hope in the tomorrow, Thanks through all eternity!

See THANKS, Page 5

Guidelines for writing, submitting a letter to the editor

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Advertising Sales: Cyndee Stiefel • lenaads@rvpublishing.com

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315 W. Maple St., Stockton, IL 61085
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• *Sunday School – 8:45 a.m.*
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• Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
• Every other Sat. Youth Group - 6 - 8 p.m.
You may find our facebook page and weekly messages by searching for "Calvary Church of Stockton on facebook.com"
You are welcome! Please visit us!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON

600 N. Main St., Stockton
Pastor Chrissy Salser (815) 988-9450
E-Mail: cle600@mediacombb.net
Find us on Facebook at ChristOnMainSt
• *Worship times: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.*
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EBENEZER – SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 102, Pearl City, IL 61062
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See Facebook or call 815-291-1965
• *Sunday Worship: Currently 8:30 a.m.*
(may vary)
• December worship is at Salem UCC Church, corner of Loran and Kent roads

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

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• Pastor's weekly sermons at
www.lenafreechurch.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028
email: firstumcofelizabeth@gmail.com
Pastor Donna Hoffman 608-293-0163
email: dchoffman8@gmail.com
• *Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.*
• Women's Faith Group -
1st Tuesday monthly - 9:30 a.m.
We are handicapped accessible
Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fumcelizabeth

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 East Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048
Vicar Thomas Mosbo (815) 369-5552
• *Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 10:45 a.m. (Sept. - May)*
• Piece Corps Quilters –
Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

1904 S. Vel Tera Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Michael Burdett (815) 858-3843
• *Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.*
• *Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*
• Prayer meeting – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday services broadcasted at 11:30 a.m. on
Radio WCCI 100.3 FM

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

223 E. Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085
Father Mike Morrissey (815) 947-2545
• *Saturday Evening Mass – 4:30 p.m.*
• *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.*
and 5:00 p.m.
• Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.
• Parish Hall for Rent – Seats 200

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

118 West Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048
Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 369-5291
• *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.*
• *Daily Dial-A-Devotion 815-369-4411*

MARTINTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

W8996 Lena St., Martintown, WI 53522
(1 mile north of Winslow, IL)
Pastor Kevin Cernek • 608-558-0974
• *Sunday Worship – 8 & 10:30 a.m.*
Worship inside or watch from the parking lot on the jumbotron
• *Sunday School for all ages – 9:30 a.m.*
• *Sunday Youth – 6 p.m.*
• *Tuesday Bible Study - 10:30 a.m.*
• *Thursday Prayer & Bible Study - 6 p.m.*

MCCONNELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

211 Hulbert Rd. P.O. Box 97,
McConnell, IL 61050
815-868-2324
Email: mcconnellmtychurch@yahoo.com
Pastor Jordan Cernek
• *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
Fellowship hour after every service
Find us on Facebook
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mcconnellcommunitychurch.com
* *We are handicapped accessible*

NEW VINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

621 W. Lena St., Lena, IL 61048
(Coach's Gymnasium)
Pastor Doug Carroll 815-541-4112
• *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
with fellowship following
• *Communion first Sunday of each month*
Bible Study Groups available
newvinelena.com
Facebook: New Vine Community Church of Lena, IL
* *We are handicapped accessible*

PROVIDENCE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

15010 W. Howardsville Road
Lena, IL 61048
217-357-3723
Pastors Robert Webb & Rob Webb
• *Sunday Worship*
- each 3rd Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Potluck lunch following service

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL 61048
(Turn on Salem Road at Eleroy Rest Stop)
Pastor Christopher Ham (815) 369-4511
• *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
• *Adult Sunday School - 9 a.m.*
(before service)
• *Children's Sunday School - 10 a.m.*
(during service)
* *We are handicapped accessible*
Watch our services or see our upcoming events on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/OldStoneChurchWithTheLightedCross/

SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

635 East Schapville Road,
Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Dottie Morizzo
(815) 845-2272
Cell (815) 238-0670
www.schapvillezion.org
• *Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*
• Bible Study Classes Available

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

536 E. Schapville Road,
Scales Mound, IL 61054
Church number (815) 845-2061
Rev. James Mehlretter
Website: www.shepherdofhill.com
• *Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*
• *Sunday School (Sept. – May) – 8:45 a.m.*
• Holy Communion is celebrated weekly.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

608 East Railroad, Warren, IL 61087
Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312
• *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m.*
• Reconciliation Sunday – 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
625 Country Lane Drive, Lena, IL 61048
Rev. Jason Shaw (815) 369-4035
• *Saturday Evening Worship – 5:30 p.m.*
• *Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*
• Blast Program at 9:00 a.m.
• High School & Adult Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062
www.stjohnspearlcity.org
815-443-2215
• *Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
• Christian Education for all Ages - 10:15 a.m.
Handicapped Accessible

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor David Russell
Church: 815-589-3367
• *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
"Celebrating 165 Years of Faith"

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001
Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312
• *Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.*
• Reconciliation Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

410 West Lena Street, Lena, IL 61048
Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 369-2810
• *Saturday Mass – 4:00 p.m.*
• *Sunday Mass – 10:00 a.m.*
• Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 – 3:50 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENT

The Little Church with a Big Heart
1334 Sunnyside Road, Kent, IL 61044
1/2 mile north on Kent Road
• *Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.*
• *Holy Communion every Sunday*
• Women Meet at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday
• Chair Lift to Sanctuary

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Hudson & Benton St.,
Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 947-2541
• *Sunday Worship – 11 a.m.*
• Adult Bible Studies Available
• Communion Every 1st Sunday
• First Sunday potluck following church services.

Find us on website StocktonWUMC.org
or Facebook-Stockton Wesley United
Methodist Church
* *Handicapped Accessible*

WILLOW VALLEY CHURCH

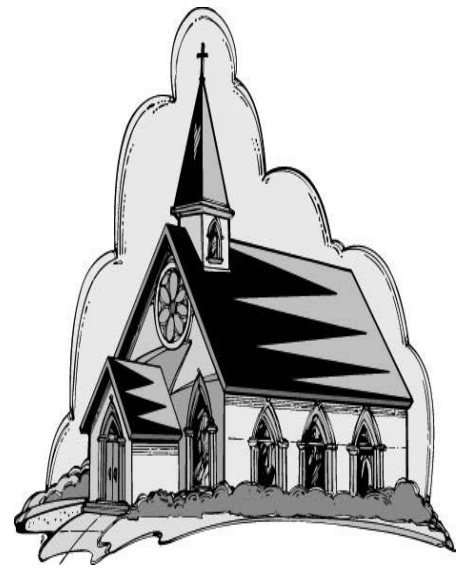
6522 S. Willow Road, Stockton, IL 61085
Mark Mehl - Player/Coach
(563) 258-9526 • mehlmark34@gmail.com
• *Weekly Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.*
with community fellowship following
• *Sunday School – 11 a.m.*

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

197 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089
Pastor Robert Patin (815) 230-1862
608-669-5770
• *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.*

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

10100 W. Sabin Church Rd.,
Pearl City, IL 61062
Pastor Wayne Fischer • 815-266-6260
Pastor Chip Sohl • 815-541-1425
• *Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.*
• *Children's Church - during church service*
• *Prayer Shawl Knitting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.*
• *Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.*



Come worship with us!

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL for Sunday worship on Dec. 10 at 9:30 a.m. This will be the second Sunday of the Advent Season. The reading will be from Mark 1:1-8. Chime practice will be at 10:45 a.m. and choir practice will be at 11 a.m.

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

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

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate second Sunday of Advent on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 9 a.m.

There will not be a December Grace Meal, but St. John's will be hosting a Community Christmas meal on Dec. 25. Curbside pick-up will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. People may also join us in Luther Hall to enjoy the meal from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reservations for dine-in or curbside pick-up are needed in the church office by Thursday, Dec. 21. A major source of funds for the meal come from a generous grant from the Foundation of Northwest Illinois.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Dec. 7 at 3:15 p.m. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

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

A collection for the Giving Tree will run through Jan. 7. This year we will be collecting items for the Stephenson County Veterans Footlocker. There will be a Christmas tree in the narthex with paper ornaments that have items listed that are needed for the veterans. Please take a paper ornament with an item that you intend to buy and replace it with a real ornament that is provided. Then purchase the item and put it in the box next to the tree so that we can provide for the needs of the veterans. Thank you in advance for your generosity in this ministry and for improving the lives of those that have served our country.

The men's breakfast will be on Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 a.m. at Garden View Restaurant in Lena. There will be cards and dominoes in Luther Hall on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 1 p.m.

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

Salem United Church of Christ

All are welcome to join for

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

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet Wednesday, Dec. 13 at 8 a.m. at the Garden View Family Restaurant, 101 South Schuyler Street, Lena, IL. Everyone is welcome to join.

On Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. we will be hosting a Movie Night to watch Polar Express. The show will start shortly after 6 p.m. and will take place in the sanctuary of the church. Please bring blankets and pillows to create a cozy experience. There will be a concession stand in the narthex with candy, popcorn, and drinks including hot chocolate! These goodies are complimentary, but if you would like to provide a donation it is greatly appreciated and will be placed towards the Christmas fund at Salem.

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

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

of Jesus.

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

McConnell Community Church

McConnell Community Church, 211 N. Hulbert Rd, McConnell, IL, will host a Family Craft and Movie Night on Saturday, Dec. 9 starting at 4 p.m. Crafts will be available from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Wizard of Oz movie begins at 5 p.m. This event is open to everyone and free. Bring blankets and pillows, wear your pj's, and get cozy while the movie plays.

Wesley United Methodist Church

Everyone is invited to see "A Super Christmas" held at Wesley United Methodist Church at 127 E. Benton in Stockton on Dec. 10 at 11 a.m. It is about a group of famous superheroes who discover that while baby Jesus did come to save the world, he won't be stealing their jobs! Christmas refreshments will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

November Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing winners

The Daily Drawing is a drawing for daily cash prizes from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024, to those donating for a ticket. Over \$21,000 is paid out to ticket holders during the drawing year. Cash prizes vary between \$50 and \$250. A ticket may win multiple times as each ticket remains in the drawing each day for the entire year, no matter how often it may be drawn.

Sponsoring organizations from Jo Daviess, Carroll and Stephenson County include: Caring Community of Elizabeth, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music Boosters, Galena Key Club, Hanover Alumni Association, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, Philanthropic Educational Organization-Chapter OH, River Ridge Drama Club, Scales Mound Travelers, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Stockton Girls Sports, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

November 2023 Winners:

\$50 - Brandon Busch, Scales Mound
\$50 - Taryn Manns, Bakersfield, CA
\$50 - James Oleson, Dubuque, IA
\$50 - Todd Anderson, Brandenburg, KY
\$50 - Diane Bradford, La-

nark
\$50 - Roger Wentz, Brooklet, GA
\$50 - Valerie Stocks, Apple River
\$50 - Owen Kempel, Winslow
\$50 - MaryAnn Smith, Hanover
\$50 - Leslie Koehler, Scales Mound
\$150 - Rod Wurm, Scales Mound
\$50 - Luke Barker, Warren
\$50 - Carla Personette, Pearl City
\$50 - Mark Rice, Stockton
\$50 - Nicole Manthei, Pearl City
\$50 - Mel Voss, Pearl City
\$50 - Taytum Johnson, Galena
\$50 - Willa MacKenzie, LaCrosse, WI
\$50 - Sam Stoddard, Stockton
\$50 - Dorothy Bohnsack, Galena
\$50 - Kristy Wolter, Hanover
\$50 - Maddy Chiles, Lena
\$250 - Bill Meyer, Galena
\$50 - Quin Wells, Galena
\$50 - Sunny Beaulieu, Elizabeth
\$50 - John Williston, Warren
\$50 - Sherri Bunn, Montpelier, ID
\$50 - Julie Mensendike, Stockton
\$50 - Bill Heidenreich, Monroe, WI
\$50 - Pam Lippstock, East Dubuque

• Thanks

(Continued from page 3)

The words to this hymn point out that as Christians we should be thankful in all circumstances. We talked about how important it is that we can feel pain. Without pain receptors in our skin our lives would be in grave danger every day. Emotional pain is a little different. It helps to make us strong in our inner man by the power of the Holy Spirit. God uses hurts to draw us closer to His heart of protection and to help us yield our lives to His will. When He helps us through difficulties and we see how good God is, we are filled with gratefulness for His daily presence.

As we were discussing all this, our son-in-law reminded us of the scripture in James 1:2-5 which says, My brethren, count it all joy when you fall

into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

The food was great. The laughter was a blessing, all the grandkids helping me do my farm chores was amazing, but the joy we shared together remembering my dad's favorite hymn and in knowing Christ Jesus as our Savior and Lord was off the charts. I pray you are able to have some blessed time with your family and church families this Christmas season.

Until next week, God bless!





McConnell Area Historical Society
202 E. Main St.
~We Invite You~

Annual Cookie Walk
Saturday, December 9th
12 pm - 4 pm
Variety of candy and cookies for sale!

Visit With Santa
2 - 4 pm
Bring your camera for photos
All kids will receive a gift from Santa!

448001

McConnell Community Church Movie Night

The WIZARD of OZ

December 9

Games/Crafts @ 4
Movie @ 5

•BIG screen
•Popcorn
•Hot Coco

Meet Dorothy, Scarecrow, TinMan, and Lion

Valerie Stocks marks 40 years at Apple River State Bank

Valerie (Val) Stocks, Senior Vice President and Mortgage Banking Manager, celebrated her 40th anniversary at Apple River State Bank on Nov. 22.

Stocks joined the bank in 1983 and has spent her entire career at Apple River State Bank. She has worked in operations, loan support, as a loan officer, served on multiple committees, and is branch manager for the Warren office. Stocks plans to retire on Friday, Dec. 22 this year. A reception will be held in her honor at the bank's Warren office that day.

A native of Freeport, Stocks has attended numerous training schools and graduated from the Midwest School for Community Bankers. She has been involved with Jo Daviess County Habitat for Humanity, Jo Daviess County Fair Queen Pageant, Warren Chamber of Commerce, Apple River Ballpark and Concessions, Village of Apple River, Village Voices Theater Awards, Warren Community Unit District 205 School Board, Community Bankers Association of Illinois, and Jo Daviess County Development, Inc. She served as the



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing

Valerie Stocks will celebrate her 40 years of service to Apple River State Bank as she retires on Dec. 22 this year.

Clerk for Apple River Township and Treasurer for Apple River and Thompson Township Assessment District for 32 years. She is currently the Warren Women's Club Treasurer, and the Coordinator and Treasurer for the Apple River Stagecoach Event Center.

Stocks and her husband Greg have two daughters, a son, four grandchildren, and three grand dogs.



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Little Blackhawks

Pictured are this week's Little Blackhawks. These students have been recognized by their teachers for their great behavior and excellent work. Congratulations for continuing to do great things at school!

Around the Northern Hills with Annette Eggers

This past weekend I traveled into Chicago with our Jo Daviess County delegates to the Illinois Farm Bureau annual meeting. The delegates from across the state worked hard to determine the changes and additions to Illinois Farm Bureau's policy. This is what is so great about farm bureau, it is truly a grassroots effort. Would you like to know how

the process works? Feel free to give me a call.

You don't farm, so should agriculture and Farm Bureau matter to you? According to the Census of Agriculture, roughly 108,000 Illinoisans farm, just a small portion of the population. What I'm about to say next about the value of agriculture and Farm Bureau doesn't apply to you, right? Wrong. Yes, farming and an organization that supports farmers probably don't matter to you in the same way that they mattered to your great grandparents, but they do matter, differently. Farming may not be your job, but for many of us, it's the economic foundation we are standing on. With almost one million agriculture-related jobs in Illinois, more than 13% of Illinois jobs are supported by agriculture. It is the source of your food (Jo Daviess County is #1 in the state for beef production and the total number of cattle, the #1 alfalfa producer, and the #3



Annette Eggers

dairy county), and it is still one of the top economic drivers of your small town. Agriculture is not only dependent on those in production agriculture, it includes the driver that takes the products to market, the mechanic that keeps the machinery running, the factory worker that makes tires for the equipment, those that work in processing that convert the farm commodities into foods that consumers enjoy, the chef that prepares the food at your favorite restaurant, and the mom who picks out the food to feed her family just to name a few.

On a different note, Farm Bureau is continually investing in member programs, educational efforts (such as Ag in the Classroom activities) and

investing in our future leaders (through scholarships and leadership programs). So, do farming and Farm Bureau matter to you, as much as they mattered to your ancestors? Maybe not. But if you take time to study your roots and look around at the people, industries, and institutions that are helping enrich your community and everyday life, you might find out that they matter even more.

Scholarships available

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.

Family Farm Signs

It's that time of year that we are all thinking of what to get that hard-to-buy-for person for Christmas. Why not get them a "This is a Family Farm" sign? The signs are 17.5" X 23" and cost \$30 and are available at the farm bureau office in Elizabethtown.

Farm Fun Fact

The value of all Christmas trees harvested was \$399 million. Illinois' crop was worth 7.6 million.

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Notice of Proposed Property Tax increase for Oneco Township Cemetery Association (OTCA)

A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the Oneco Township Cemetery Association for 2024 will be held on December 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oneco Township Garage.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact: James Setterstrom, Supervisor at P.O. Box 28 Orangeville, IL 61060, (815) 789-3104.

The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$381.91. This represented five percent (.05) of the 2022 levy of \$7600.00.

The total estimated property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$7600.00. This represents a 2000 percent increase over the previous year, but a return to the 2022 levy amount.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 6, 2023)

447784

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0822-032MM,28988-10/9/2023

448003



The Stockton FFA Agronomy Team includes (back row left to right) Karl Hubb, Jackson Martin, Eve Moore, Javier Montalvo, Michael Haas, (front row left to right) Ava Hess, Ashlyn Schubert, Shirley Cook, and Amber Haas.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Stockton FFA competes and places in Career and Leadership Development Events

On Nov. 14 the Stockton FFA competed in the Section One Agronomy Career and Leadership Development Events (CDE). The high school agronomy team placed second overall. Individually, Karl Hubb placed sixth, Ashlyn Schubert placed seventh, Amber Haas placed ninth, and Michael Haas placed tenth.

The chapter also competed in the Section One Dairy Foods CDE on Nov. 14 at Lena schools. The high school and junior high team competed in this event. The junior high team placed first in their division, and individually Allison Kline placed third, Ryker Kurek placed fourth, Peyton Weipert placed fifth, Delilah Hess placed sixth, and Dominick Laino placed eighth.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Junior High Dairy Foods Team is made up of (back row left to right) Ryker Kurek, Brier McPeck, Peyton Weipert, Maranda Volling (front row left to right) Allison Kline, Dominick Laino, and Delilah Hess.



The High School Dairy Foods team consists of (left to right) Robert Ernst, Kendra Robledo, and Kyle Haas.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Wildcats place second at Dakota Tournament, off to 6-2 start

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats couldn't have asked for a much better start to their 2023-2024 girls basketball season. After eight games, the Wildcats' only two losses of the season came against a pair of undefeated teams in Aquin and Orangeville. The Wildcats struggled to keep pace offensively in those games, but other than that, they have been one of the top teams in the area.

RR-SM opened their season with a matchup against the Pearl City Wolves. It was as quick of a start to the season as the Wildcats could have hoped for. By the end of the very first quarter, RR-SM already held a massive 25-4 advantage. In the end, RR-SM pulled away with a 52-23 victory over the Wolves.

Emily Wiederholt led the way with 14 points and five steals as she got it done on both ends. Addison Albrecht was next up with 12 points and three steals, including going two for two at the free throw line. Gwen Miller finished the day with five points and a team-leading eight rebounds.

Two days later, the Wildcats were set to face off with a solid Durand team. After six games, Durand held a 3-3 record, but they struggled in their early games. That includes a 51-12 loss against the wildcats. RR-SM had three players in double figures as Albrecht led the team with 15 points. Laiken Haas and Wiederholt were the other two with 10 points each. Annie Werner led the team with five rebounds in the victory.

The Wildcats then turned their focus to the Dakota Indians. Once again, the Wildcats were boosted by a massive first quarter. At the end of one, RR-SM held a 19-2 advantage over the Indians. At the half, it was even more out of reach with a 34-7 lead. Dakota fought back against

the bench players late, but the Wildcats eventually improved to 3-0 with a 51-31 victory.

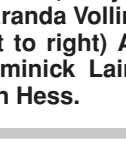
Albrecht remained consistent with another 13-point performance. Everyone got involved for the Wildcats against Dakota, however. Two players finished with seven points in Wiederholt and Abigail Frank. Miller and Werner each finished with six points. Haas added five points of her own. Miller remained the team's leading rebounder with another nine boards. Werner was right there with her with eight rebounds.

After winning three consecutive games to start the year, RR-SM took its first loss on Nov. 21 when they faced off with an Aquin Bulldogs squad that is now 8-0. In the first quarter, it looked like things were set up for an exciting finish. Aquin held just a one-point advantage with a 14-13 lead over RR-SM. The Wildcats couldn't keep pace, however. In the second quarter, the Wildcats put up just two points as Aquin jumped out to a 25-15 advantage at the break.

Werner led the way with nine points, while Miller was next up with six. Albrecht had an unusual offensive performance with just four points. Miller led the team in rebounds with nine, which was the only consistent thing for the Wildcats that day. Eventually, RR-SM fell by a score of 39-24.

What is important for RR-SM and their head coach Dave Wiegel is how the team would respond to those losses. They didn't have to wait long to do so, as they faced off with the North Boone Vikings the very next day. They looked to their offense to step things up and they did just that. Miller had her best performance of the season with 20 points on 82 percent shooting. Albrecht was next up with 10 points, while Haas added eight. As

See WILDCATS, Page 8



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River Ridge FFA hosts successful food drive

The River Ridge FFA Chapter hosted a non-perishable food drive in the weeks before Thanksgiving. The elementary, junior high, and high school students were all invited to donate food items as well as paper products. Members of the officer team collected the items in several different locations. The elementary classes had a competition to see which grade could donate the most. The third graders earned an ice cream sundae treat for being the class with the most donations! The FFA Chapter was happy to donate 468 pounds of needed items to the Elizabeth Food Basket. Pictured are President Avery Engle, Vice President Cora Ritchie and Treasurer Lucas Holland delivering the donations to the Elizabeth Food Basket.

SOS+ Dec. 14 Christmas program with Pleasant Hope

Senior Outreach (SOS+) extends a warm welcome to the Mai family teens, also known as "Pleasant Hope," for the Christmas Celebration on Dec. 14, 2023. The festivities will kick off with a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 12 p.m. at Calvary Church of Stockton, Stockton, IL. Following the feast, the Mai family will grace guests with their musical talents at 1 p.m., followed by the eagerly anticipated seniors' white elephant gift exchange.

Ava, Vivienne, and Oliver Mai, students of the skilled bluegrass musician Jacob Underwood, have ventured into entertaining others with their musical prowess. They aptly named their group "Pleasant Hope" after a town in southern Missouri where they spent their formative years, cultivating a love for bluegrass music. However, their musical palette extends beyond bluegrass, encompassing a delightful mix of country, gospel, and Christmas favorites. The Mai kids live by the motto, "...whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Eighteen-year-old Ava Mai takes center stage with the fiddle, occasionally showcasing her talents on the banjo, guitar, and mandolin, while harmonizing with finesse. Vivienne Mai, at 15, commands the guitar and lends her vocals as the lead singer. Thirteen-year-old Oliver Mai, a versatile talent, excels in playing the mandolin, bass, violin, and banjo. All three siblings are accomplished

pianists. Having delighted the audience back in August, we are thrilled that they have agreed to present a Christmas musical program this December.

The Mai family, residing in Galena with parents Dan and Susie Mai, balances their musical pursuits with typical teenage activities. Ava and Vivienne are avid horseback riders, and Oliver is an enthusiastic fisherman.

Following the musical interlude, seniors will gather for a lively game of "Tis the Night Before Christmas" white elephant gift exchange around large tables. Each senior is encouraged to contribute a white elephant gift from their home, adding an element of surprise to the occasion.

This marks the conclusion of our 19th year of SOS+. While the program hibernates during January and February due to the cold winter weather, they plan to reconvene in March 2024. The SOS+ team takes pride in curating engaging and diverse programs for seniors, meeting at 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, March through December. Volunteers who are willing to contribute to the ministry's success are always needed. If interested in joining the planning committee or to offer talents, please contact Mary Feltmeyer at 815-297-5425, Nancy Rice at 815-275-0303, or Shirley Toepfer at 815-947-3639. Seniors in need of transportation to the programs can call these numbers for assistance.

• Wildcats (Continued from page 7)

a team, the Wildcats hit five three-pointers, including a pair of them by freshman Campbell Hereau. Fellow freshman Kenley Patterson also hit a three. Eventually, RR-SM bounced back with a 65-34 victory over North Boone.

The Wildcats then had their first rematch of the season as they met up with Pearl City in the Dakota Tournament. They proved the first matchup was no fluke as they delivered a 55-16 victory over the Wolves. It was another quick start as the Wildcats jumped out to a 15-2 lead in the first quarter.

It was an all-around perfor-

mance for RR-SM once again. Ava Wiederholt and Albrecht led the team with eight points each. Miller, Ava Travis, and Hereau each finished with six.

The Wildcats went on to secure a second-place finish in the tournament with a 54-50 victory over the Byron Tigers. Following the tournament, RR-SM took their second loss of the season as they fell to the Orangeville Broncos 53-37, which dropped their record to 6-2.

The Wildcats will be back in action on Dec. 11 when they travel to face off with Dakota. On Dec. 13 they return home to play host to the Eastland Cougars.

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Stockton WA TAN YE news

Stockton WA TAN YE has been part of the Association of WA TAN YE since 1956. The club has 35 current members and one honorary member. The club is a not-for-profit organization that is made possible by members' volunteer hours within the community.

Recently, the club held a very successful bake sale at Ace Hardware and wishes to thank them. The Stockton community has been very generous and supportive.

In October, seven members attended the 96th annual WA TAN YE Convention in

Cresco, IA. Nine of the 10 association clubs were represented.

Please contact any member if interested in joining or for further information; Sally Tucker 815-821-3602, Carrie Haug 815-266-9714, Lu Douglas 815-541-9952.

Farm Bureau offers scholarships to Drive Agriculture Forward

Truck drivers are critical for transporting farm commodities, inputs and food throughout Illinois and the nation. The IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is pleased to administer the Driving Agriculture Forward Scholarship to help offset the cost of needed commercial truck driver training and ensure more well-trained, safe drivers are available.

"It's great that the types of scholarships available through IAA Foundation are diverse," said Annette Eggers, Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau manager. "We are encouraged by the insightfulness of donors who choose to support all facets of agriculture." In late 2021, the Illinois

Farm Bureau committed to funding the Driving Agriculture

culture Forward Scholarship. This donor agreement will continue for the next five years.

Applicants enrolled, or planning to enroll, in a commercial driver training program at an Illinois Community College are encouraged to apply. Five \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded every three months and are based on the Illinois Farm Bureau region where the applicant resides.

All applicants must be Illinois residents and must provide proof of enrollment in during the corresponding award cycle. Additionally, an endorsement is required from a farmer, County Farm Bureau leader, agribusiness, or food processing business. Full eligibility guidelines and

the link to apply is available on the Foundation website, www.iaafoundation.org.

For more information, contact the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau at 815-858-2235 or jdcfbmgr@gmail.com. The mission of the IAA Foundation, Illinois Farm Bureau's charitable arm, is to fund education, research, and charitable activities that benefit Illinois farm families and agriculture.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Daughters of the American Revolution honors veterans

Carroll Jo Daviess Chapter NSDAR held their November meeting at the Lena Public Library in Lena, IL. During the meeting members honored service veterans. The guest speaker was Edward F. Gaulrapp, Jr. Navy Veteran. Gaulrapp spoke about his 20 years of service. The DAR thanks him for his service and his very informative presentation. Pictured are DAR member Sondra Strohecker and Edward F. Gaulrapp.

Will Family County Scholarship Program

The Wills' Family, longtime residents and philanthropic members of the area, have established a scholarship program for Jo Daviess County residents through the family trust. The Scales Mound School District Board of Education will administer the Scholarship program. Scholarships will be available to support attendance at vocational two- and four-year institutions. Recent or past high school graduates are eligible to apply.

Please send a letter of application to the Scales Mound School at 210 Main St., Scales Mound, and Illinois by April 30, 2024, for the coming school year. Please note the Wills Family Scholarship Program on the envelope.

Wills Family Scholarship Fund

In honor of Goldie Wills Family, namely Eldon Wills, Gordon Wills and Wilbur Wills, have established the "Wills Family Scholarship Fund." The goal of this special fund is to assist this year's Jo Daviess County high school graduate and current full-time college or vocational students with

their education.

Basic Requirements

Any senior student or high school graduate student who is intent upon pursuing either a two year or four year, vocational or academic post-secondary education. Good academic standing with at least a "C" cumulative grade point average. A resident of Jo Daviess County.

Selection Procedure

Qualifying applicants will submit a written letter of application including a list of all school activities, community activities, a description of the post-secondary coursework to be pursued, and career intentions. The letter of application must be submitted by April 30th.

Selection Committee

Three Scales Mound board members, Principal and Superintendent.

Claim Procedure

Proof of registration at either a two year or four year post-secondary education program. Such proof will be presented to the Administration at Scales Mound High School.

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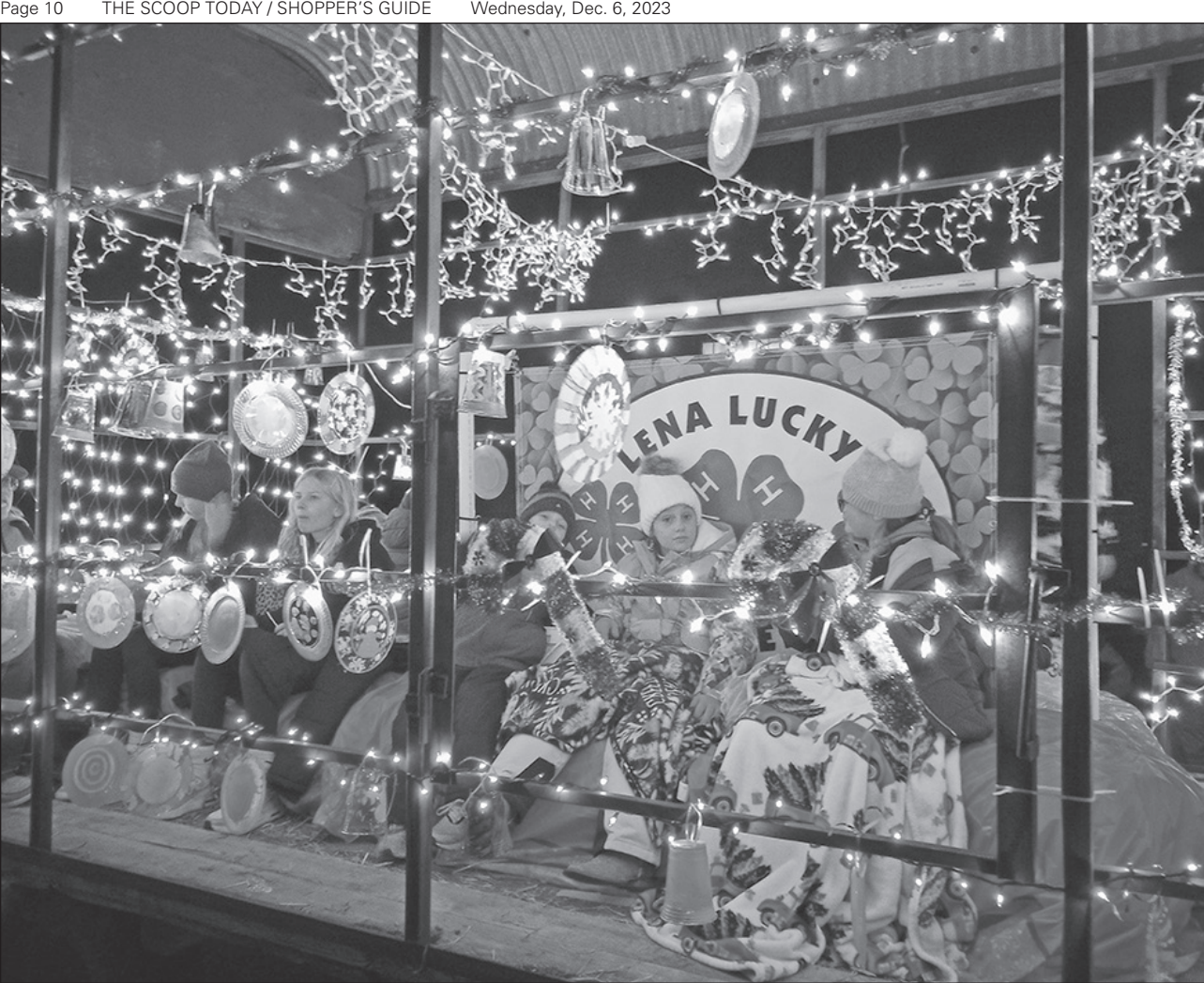
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JESSICA TESSENDORF PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Celebrating the season

The Lena Christmas Parade helped ring in the season on Saturday, December 2. The gingerbread house pictured is the creativity of Village President, Steve Buss.

A young lady patiently waits for Santa to arrive and listen to her list.

Food vendors as well as mobile shopping and games were available in the Main St. parking lot to entertain and provide dinner. Businesses were open later for the festivities.



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Getting in the Christmas spirit

Liesl Jones helps decorate the Christmas tree at the Lena American Legion Home.

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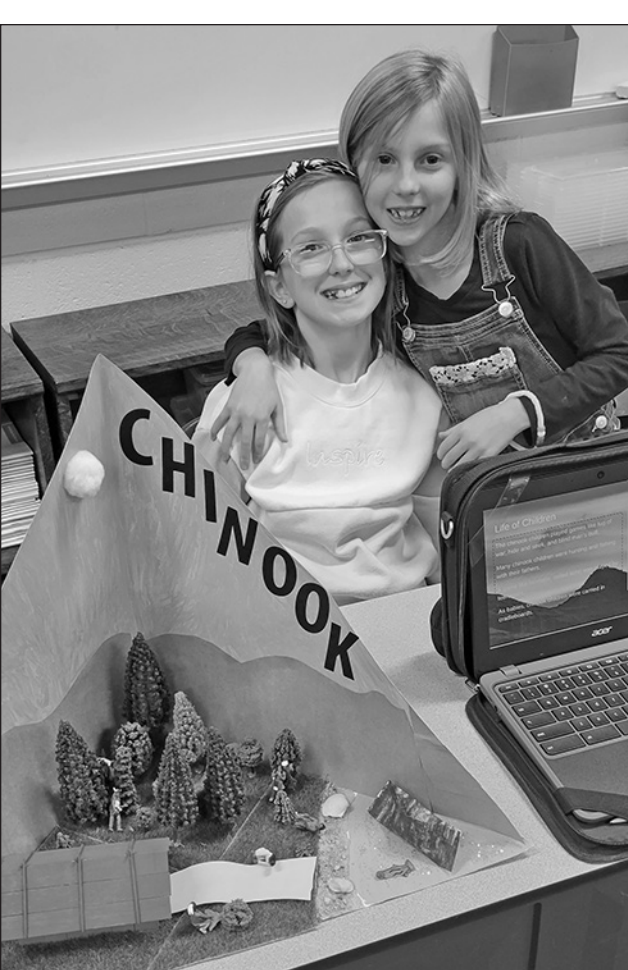
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Thank you to everyone who remembered us with cards, flowers, food and memorials since Dean passed away. A special thank you to Father Andrew Hernandez and Leamon's Funeral Home. Also to everyone who came to the visitation and funeral. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Margaret, Don (Kristen) & family, Gary, Amy & family, Anne & family, Keith, Christy & Emily

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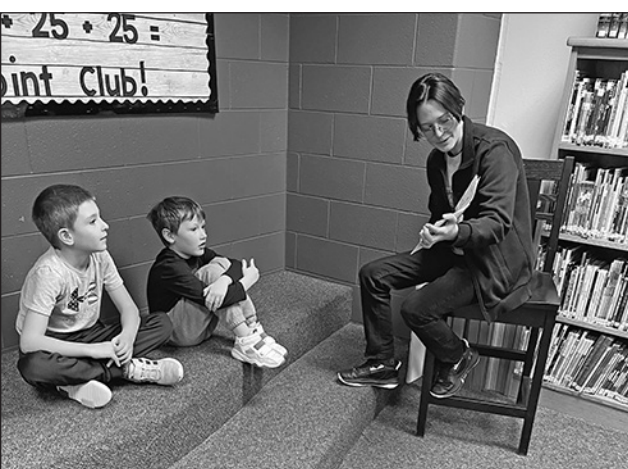
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Penelope Ruach and her sister Jasmine celebrate Penelope's American Indian project in fourth grade.



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Mattie Schauer reads to the second-grade class using a piece from her creative writing class.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Randi Posey reads her creative writing to second graders Hudson Sheffey and William Liebenstein.



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(Above) Hendrix Feld, Marlee McPeck, Scarlett Snyder, Kip Martens, Natalie Greene, not pictured: Lakota Scace are honored as Students of the Month.

Pearl City School news

(Righth) Pearl City's State Scholars are Jayden Downs, Kyle Niehaus, Ethan Petta, and Randi Posey.



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Ava Bremmer receives Pearl City's Top Dog award for the month of November.



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PantherHawks bounce back by going 3-0 at this year's North-South Quad

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow-Stockton PantherHawks had a bit of an unusual start to their 2023-2024 wrestling season. In the season opener, the PantherHawks fell to Dixon in a close battle on Nov. 2. Arrison Bauer (132), Mauricio Glass (138), Karl Hubb (144), Jared Dvorak (165), Eli Larson (175), Jeremiah Luke (215), and Michael Haas (285), all picked up victories on the day for the PantherHawks. It wasn't enough, however, as the PantherHawks fell by a score of 34-28. The biggest difference in the scorecard came in escapes, where Dixon outscored Le-Win-Stockton 10-3.

After facing off with Dixon, the PantherHawks went on to compete against Stillman Valley and Rochelle, in Rochelle on Nov. 30. The PantherHawks had little trouble against Stillman Valley. As a team, they racked up nine victories by fall as the PantherHawks dominated Stillman Valley all over the mat. Reece Demeter (120), Tegan Arnold (126), Bauer (132), Glass (138), Hubb (144), John Mensendike (150), Mark Detweiler (157), Oliver McPeck (190), and Haas

(285), each picked up victories by fall over Stillman Valley. Eli Larson (175) also picked up a victory by technical fall with a score of 16-1. In the end, the PantherHawks went on to beat Stillman Valley 71-9 in an impressive performance.

They didn't have the same success against the host team Rochelle, however. Against Dixon, Le-Win-Stockton struggled in the lower weight classes. The same was true against Rochelle, as the PantherHawks dropped matches at 106, 113, 120, 126, and 132. The lightest PantherHawk to pick up a victory was Glass with a 5-4 decision in the 138 class. Mensendike, Detweiler, Larson, and Luke each picked up victories, but the PantherHawks fell to Rochelle 40-24.

The PantherHawks got a chance to right the ship on Dec. 2 when they went to compete in this year's North-South Quad. Le-Win-Stockton faced off with Aledo, Port Byron, and Sherrard. The PantherHawks had a dominant day as they took care of business against each of their opponents.

Against Aledo, the PantherHawks outscored their opponent 70-3. They

picked up six victories by forfeit, which heavily skewed the score. That doesn't take away from five fall victories and one major decision victory with a score of 9-1 by Larson. Arnold, Bauer, Oliver McPeck (190) Luke, and Haas all earned victories by fall over Aledo.

It was much of the same in their matches against Sherrard. This time around, the PantherHawks had to earn it. With only two victories by forfeit, they had to go out there and compete for another victory. The results on the mat proved to be dominant once again. David Prater (113), Bauer, Detweiler, Dvorak, Larson, and McPeck each picked up victories by fall. Luke and Haas each got the two forfeit victories in the heavier weight classes. Glass earned a 9-3 victory by decision, while Hubb earned a 14-2 major decision. Le-Win-Stockton went on to beat Sherrard by a score of 59-12.

Port Byron gave the PantherHawks their toughest battle of the day, but Le-Win-Stockton still came out on top by a score of 48-25. It was a perfect day for the PantherHawks as they went 3-0 and improved their team record to 4-2 on the young wrestling season.

Orangeville basketball recap

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Last week was a big week for both the Orangeville Broncos boys and girls basketball teams. The boys snapped their losing streak with a pair of wins over Hiawatha and Benton. Meanwhile, the girls extended their winning streak to six games with, perhaps, their biggest victory yet.

The Orangeville boys got off to a slow start. With some tough early matchups on the schedule, the Broncos got off to an 0-4 start. One of those losses came against Scales Mound, who was in last year's 1A State Title game. The Broncos put up a tough fight, but eventually fell 73-55 to Scales Mound.

On Nov. 29 the Broncos suffered a heartbreaking defeat as they fell 31-24 to the Stockton Blackhawks. It was a game that saw the Broncos surrender a 9-2 advantage they held at the end of the first. Things took a swing in the second quarter as Stockton outscored Orangeville 13-2. Orangeville was led by Brant Carlson, who finished with eight points. Cody Wirth and Ben Briggs each finished with five points.

The loss to Stockton dropped Orangeville's record

to 0-4. They didn't have to wait long before getting another opportunity, however. The very next day, Orangeville returned to their home court to play host to Hiawatha.

The Orangeville offense needed a breakthrough game and that's just what they got against Hiawatha. It came by way of a massive first quarter that saw the Broncos put up 27 points. By halftime, Orangeville held a 45-28 advantage. The Broncos could have coasted to victory in the second half, but they didn't let up. They outscored Hiawatha 15-10 in the third quarter and 13-8 in the fourth. Wirth had a monster performance as he racked up 24 points. Carlson also finished with 20 points as he drilled a trio of three-pointers. Briggs added six, while Anthony Garcia and Brock Tyrrell each added five in a 73-46 victory over Hiawatha.

After getting their first win of the season, the Broncos kept things rolling when they faced off with Benton, Wisconsin, on Dec. 2. Benton has struggled on the year as they came into the matchup with an 0-3 record. It was the perfect matchup for Orangeville, however, as they got a chance

See RECAP, Page 18



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Warren boys off to quick start in 2023-2024 basketball season

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Warren Warriors got off to a hot start to their 2023-2024 boys basketball season. After facing off with Belmont and Benton up in Wisconsin, the Warriors found themselves sitting at 2-0 early on.

Warren and their head coach Branden Behlke may take those wins with a grain of salt, however. Despite Behlke being in year one as head coach, the Warriors are coming off a 23-9 season. Their postseason run came to a quick end with a loss to Scales Mound in Regional play. Despite that, the Warriors returned some key players from that 23-win team.

Both Belmont and Benton are struggling programs. Last year, Belmont went just 1-24 and they are off to an 0-2 start this year. Benton was a solid 17-9, but they lost a majority of that team. Including the loss to Warren, Benton is off to an 0-3 start this year.

"We are fortunate to have a very well-balanced team with our leading scorer and leading rebounder from last year returning," Behlke shared ahead of the season. Despite losing names like Reed McNutt, Landon Mahoney, Tyler VanHuizen, Alex Harris, Tyler Heller, Jason Niemann, and Cyler Cornelius to graduation, the Warriors feel good about their returning talent.

Junior guard Treyton Pafford, senior guard Teagan Sabinson, and junior forward-center Brady Stietz are all back from last year's squad. Pafford was the team's leading scorer in just his sophomore campaign. Not only at Warren, Pafford was one of the top scoring sophomores in all of Illinois. Now as a junior, the Warriors are hoping to see him take it to another level. Stietz is also dominant in the paint. Behlke referred to Stietz as "one of the top rebounders in class 1A." Those two look to lead the way for Warren this year as they provide some early confidence for the team. "Along with those two, we have very

skilled guards and forwards that have a chance to add to a well-balanced offensive and defensive attack," Behlke added.

Some of those players include sophomore forward Bryce VanRaalte, junior guard-forward Piercen Mahoney, and sophomore guard Jordan Kohl. The Warriors will be expecting those three to take on much larger roles as newcomers to the varsity team. "We only have three seniors this season, so we will need to continue to grow as a team to compete against other teams in our conference that are senior-laden," Behlke shared.

Coming off a strong season and returning some exciting pieces, the Warriors have to like where they sit. Things got off to a great start when they faced off with Belmont on Nov. 28. It was a closer matchup than the Warriors would have liked, but a strong second half helped them secure the victory.

At the end of the first half, Warren found themselves trailing by one as Belmont held a 28-27 advantage. The Warriors came out strong after the break. Pafford found his momentum offensively and Sabinson joined in. The duo combined for 32 points in the matchup as they helped lead the way in the second half. Stietz' rebounding ability played a difference as the junior racked up 11 boards, including four on offense. Vanraalte added another nine rebounds, and the Warriors took advantage of their second-chance opportunities.

In the second half, Warren

outscored Belmont 24-18 as they went on to pick up a 51-46 victory. Pafford and Sabinson each finished the game with 16 points, while VanRaalte added eight. Mahoney finished the game with six.

The Warriors took the momentum from that second half and translated it into their next game. On Nov. 30, they were back in Wisconsin to face off with the Benton Zephyrs.

This time around, Warren got off to a much quicker start. The Warriors doubled up the Zephyrs early on as they took a 33-16 advantage into the break. The second half featured much of the same as Warren outscored Benton 33-24.

Pafford, Sabinson, and Blake LaDow each hit three-pointers in the first half. In the second, it was Stietz who took over as he went to work down low. After going scoreless in the first half, Stietz put up 10 points in the second. VanRaalte also added 10 points in the second half as the Warriors' versatile attack began to stand out.

In the end, Warren had four players in double figures as Pafford led the way with 18. VanRaalte was next up with 15, while Stietz and Sabinson each finished with 10. Stietz had a double-double as he racked up 17 rebounds. VanRaalte also finished the game with a double-double, adding 15 boards of his own.

After getting off to a 2-0 start, the Warriors are probably pleased, but where they expected to be. They will look to keep it rolling on Dec. 8 when they travel to face off with Milledgeville at 7 p.m.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

It has been feeling a lot like winter this week. I find myself bundled up with a sweater, fuzzy socks and something warm to drink. With the cold weather and snow forecasts increasing, it is important to remember those who deliver propane to your home or business.

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Additional tips and propane information can be found at <https://www.fssystem.com/Products-Services/Energy/Propane/Residential-Propane>

Carroll County Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Carroll County Farm Bureau will take place on Thursday, Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. at the Farm Bureau office located at 811 South Clay Street, Mount Carroll, IL. If you have questions, please call our office at 815-244-3001.

Knox County Agronomist named 2023 Top Crop adviser

Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and Illinois Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Board recently named Brandon Hall, of Knox County, recipient of the 2023 Illinois CCA Award in recognition of his exemplary service and knowledge in nutrient management and crop production.

The CCA Award, the top award from IFB and the Illinois CCA Board, is designed to increase awareness that farmers and their crop advisers strive to make economically and environmentally sound cropping decisions. The award recognizes an individual who is highly innovative and performs superior service for their farmer customers in nutrient management, soil and water management, integrated pest management and crop production.

"When I found out I got this award I think it is just a testimony to number

See NEWS, Page 24

McConnell Area Historical Society Cookie Walk

McConnell Area Historical Society will host their Annual Christmas Cookie Walk and Santa Visit on Saturday, Dec. 9 from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the museum on Main Street in

McConnell.

A variety of cookies, candy, and baked goods will be available for purchase. The museum is open to view all day. Santa Claus will arrive

and be on-hand for the kids from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Bring a camera to take photos with Santa by the beautiful new backdrop and tree. Each child will receive a small gift.



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Applications open for NewBiz grants for new start-ups in 2020 and 2021

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced \$25 million in available grant funding through the Back to Business (B2B) NewBiz program. Businesses that launched in 2020 or 2021 and remain in operation have faced significant impacts during the pandemic, but they have not been eligible for other federal or state relief programming since they were not operational prior to the pandemic.

To provide hands-on support and raise awareness about the program, the State has

mobilized a network of nearly 100 community navigators across Illinois. The Greater Freeport Partnership has once again accepted the role as a community navigator to help spread the word as well as help local businesses apply for grants.

The Partnership will host a webinar at 10:30 am on December 12 for any businesses interested in the NewBiz grant program. The webinar will cover topics such as eligibility requirements, application details, and award timelines. To register, go to greaterfreeport.com/newbiz or call 815-233-

1350.

Applications are open from November 30 through January 11, 2024, and awards are expected to be made several weeks after the deadline date. All eligible applicants will receive a grant as long as the business meets eligibility requirements and submits proper documentation and attestations. Applicants are encouraged to visit b2bnewbiz.com to learn more and apply.

To qualify for the B2B NewBiz program, businesses must have launched between January 2020 and December 2021 and be in an industry that was

particularly impacted by the pandemic or a business that was started by an individual or individuals that became unemployed during the pandemic. Eligible funding amounts are based on when the business was established and whether the business is home-based or operating out of a brick-and-mortar establishment.

The Greater Freeport Partnership is a collaboration of business, community, visitor, and economic development services with the mission to drive economic growth for Freeport and Stephenson County.

Freeport High School presents Christmas Memories

Help Freeport High School theatre students collect food donations for the Freeport Area Church Cooperative and ring in the Christmas season! FHS hosts Christmas Memories, a collection of charming songs and stories. Guests should bring non-perishable food donations for the Freeport Area Church Cooperative. All ticket sales will support college scholarships for Freeport High School theatre students.

The cast features two new members this year in Pat Norman and Roman Viveros. They join repeat performers LaFrancine Baker, Gary Brubaker, Jody Brubaker, Becky Connors, Tim Connors, Derek Simons, and Laura Stocker. Bob Winter is the techni-

cal director for the production.

Three new stories and one new poem, as well as several new songs, highlight this year's performance. Food Network star Carla Hall has written a homespun Christmas story with a gastronomical twist, and LaFrancine Baker portrays Carla onstage, while Pat Norman and Roman Viveros play her grandparents in "Carla and the Christmas Cornbread." Children's author Kate DiCamillo's book "A Very Mercy Christmas" focuses on a little girl (played by Laura Stocker) who desperately wants her family and neighbors to go caroling with her, even a crabby woman played by Jody Brubaker. A delightful Hanukkah story called "The Was a Young Rabbi" features Becky Connors as a rabbi who gets overwhelmed while preparing for the holiday. Baker and Norman will interpret Maya Angelou's poem entitled "Amazing Peace," which was written for the lighting of the National Christmas Tree at the White House in 2005.

This year's Christmas

Memories also features several sentimental favorites. Tim Connors entertains the audience in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Derek Simmons and Gary Brubaker portray Charlie Brown and Linus in "A Merry Peanuts Christmas. Tim and Becky Connors open the show with their comic version of "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

Directors Becky and Tim Connors are pleased to announce a wide variety of music in the program, too. Gary Brubaker has composed a joyful new song called "Nine Christmas Ornaments." Soloists Derek Simons, Laura Stocker, LaFrancine Baker, and Tim Connors perform "Winter Wonderland," "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm," "Still, Still, Still," and "Christmas in Killarney," respectively. Jody and Gary Brubaker perform a duet of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." The whole group joins in together to perform "Feliz Navidad," "We Need a Little Christmas," "Jingle Bell Rock," "Here We Come A-Wassailing," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Jody Brubaker

er and Becky Connors share a flute duet of "The First Noel," too.

Becky Connors remarks, "Putting this show together is a labor of love. All year round I'm looking and listening for stories that I can turn into scripts for Christmas Memories. Then it usually takes me several weeks to convert those stories into our reader's theatre format. Luckily, Gary Brubaker is such a terrific musician that he can write new music for us and accompany any song on the piano or guitar." Co-director Tim Connors comments, "This group of friends works so well together. We look forward to it all year round."

General admission tickets cost just \$6 plus a non-perishable food donation for the Freeport Area Church Cooperative. Please bring canned goods to the Jeannette Lloyd Theatre when you come to the performance. To purchase tickets, go to FSD145.org/tickets or call the Freeport High School business office at 232-0428. For more information, contact becky.connors@fsd145.org.

Royal Scots to hold Holiday Concert at historic church in Galena

Join the Royal Scots and Chamber Singers for an evening of seasonal music from around the world and across time on Saturday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. in the historic Galena United Methodist Church, 125 S. Bench St., Galena, Ill.

“Come join Highland Community College’s renowned Royal Scots and Chamber Singers for a special night of music,” said Randy Haldean, director. “Presented in the historic Galena United Methodist Church as part of Galena’s Luminaria Night celebrations, concert-goers additionally will be bathed in the lights from the sanctuary’s 12 magnificent stained glass windows and immersed in the sounds of the restored 1880s Moline Pipe Organ.”

The Royal Scots will partner with the church choir for some musical numbers. There will be a reception after the concert in the fellowship hall. Parking will be limited as thousands of people are expected to attend downtown Galena to view the special Christmas lights.

Some of the musical numbers to be performed will include a 9th Century Gregorian Chant, "A Light for Revelation to the Gentiles for Your Glory," "Fanfare for Christmas Day," "African Noel," "All on Christmas Morning," "Caribbean Carol," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," to name a few of the many musical selections.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more on Highland's Fine Arts Program, visit highland.edu.

McCombie offers Winter Clothing Drive

This Giving Tuesday, House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is encouraging area residents to give back to those in need. Leader McCombie launched a winter clothing drive, which is a great opportunity for residents looking to make an impact this Tuesday.

McCombie's Winter Clothing Drive accepts any winter gear like coats, hats, gloves, or scarves in all sizes from infant to adult. The winter items will be collected at Leader McCombie's District Office in Savannah, 9317B IL Rt 84, and then donated to the Regional Office of Education for distribution to area families.

Additional collection sites include the Jo Daviess, Ogle, and Stephenson County Farm Bureaus, which will accept drop-

offs Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Carroll County Farm Bureau will accept drop-offs Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.- to 2 p.m. The Village of Winnebago Village Hall will also be a drop-off location from Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. On-site donations in Savanna will only be accepted on Wednesdays.

"I encourage you to consider donating any gently used winter items that you may not use or need anymore," said Leader McCombie. "I am hosting this drive to help those in need stay warm this winter, and I know our community will come together to get the job done!"

8. With questions, contact Leader McCombie's office at 815-291-8989.

Search warrant resulting in the seizure of firearms

On Nov. 18, 2023, Officers with the Freeport Police Department conducted a search warrant at a residence in the 100 block of N. Cherry Avenue. During a search of the residence, Officers located and seized two semiautomatic pistols. One of the pistols had been affixed with an illegal “switch” which converted the pistol to fire as a fully automatic weapon. Officers also discovered one 50 round drum magazine, one extended high-capacity magazine, an amount of live ammunition and one Glock conversation kit which would fit a Glock pistol and allow it to fire as a short-barreled rifle.

The suspect in this case was a 17-year-old juvenile male who resided in the residence where the seized items were located. The juvenile has been petitioned into Juvenile Court by the Stephenson County State's Attorney's Office and will be subject to Juvenile Court proceedings.

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.

Homicide investigation update

Tevin Walker, a 30-year-old Freeport resident, has been identified as the victim who died after being struck by gunfire on Nov. 26, 2023,

in the 600 block of S. Carroll Avenue. This incident was not believed to have been gang related and was not a random act of violence. The

suspect in this case, Christopher Calvin, is still at large. The Freeport Police Department is asking anyone who may have information about this case or the whereabouts of Calvin to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235-8222, or State-line Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW or through texting at Tip411.

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.



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

Level: Advanced

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

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!

HOLIDAY BAKING WORD SEARCH

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

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

- BAKED
- CHOCOLATE
- COOKIES
- CREAM
- CRUMBS
- DESSERT
- EGGS
- FOLD
- FRUITCAKE
- GINGERBREAD
- INGREDIENTS
- KNEAD
- PASTRY
- PLATTER
- PUDDING
- PUMPKIN PIE
- RECIPE
- ROLLING PIN
- SPRINKLES
- STRUDEL
- TEMPERATURE
- TORTE
- TREATS
- VANILLA

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. Salt
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. It begins with them
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Governmentt lawyer
- 20. Back parts
- 22. 8th month (abbr.)
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Quebec river
- 29. A doctrine
- 30. Popular pickup truck
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A "place" to avoid
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Canadian politician Josephine
- 48. French ballet/acting dynasty
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom
- 55. Sound
- 56. Yankees' slugger Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. More wise
- 60. Flash memory card
- 61. Exposing human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary assessment of patients

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Craft supply

	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				45		46		47				48	49	50
51			52		53		54				55			
56				57		58				59				
60			61		62				63				64	
65		66						67				68		
	69							70						

- 4. Storage units
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. Colorado Heisman winner
- 7. In a way, sank
- 8. Post-birth brain damage (abbr.)
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. The opposite of yes
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Messianic in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Showing since conviction
- 18. Not safe
- 21. The number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Yard invader
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start anew
- 32. While white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Graphical user interface
- 38. Up-to-date on the news
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch softly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Phony person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. Man
- 68. Legal bigwig (abbr.)

FHN December calendar of events

Dec. 5:
Breastfeeding Class
6 - 8 p.m.
FHN Memorial Hospital
Globe Room (lower level),
1045 W. Stephenson Street,
Freeport
Instructor is Annette
Gielenfeldt. For more infor-
mation or to register, vis-
it fhn.org/ob or call 815-599-
6221.

Dec. 6:
**Blood Pressure Screen-
ing**
9 - 11 a.m.
German Valley Food Pan-
try, 65 State Street, German
Valley
Open to the public; no cost
or registration required.

**Adult Diabetes Support
Group**
5 - 6 p.m.
FHN Memorial Hospital
Conference Dining Room -
Lower Level; 1045 W. Stephenson Street, Freeport
Participation is free for
anyone in the general pub-
lic who has diabetes, and
no referral or registration is
required. Topic is Staying
Active in the Winter Months.
Meetings are facilitated by
FHN Diabetes Educators.
For more information, call
815-599-6253.

Dec. 7:
**Blood Pressure Screen-
ing**
10 a.m. - noon
Bridges of Carroll County,
417 Main Street, Savanna
Open to the public; no cost
or registration required.

Holiday Storytelling
6:30 p.m.
Freeport Public Library,
100 E. Douglas Street
Listen to a holiday story or

two by Santa and Mrs. Claus
in Santa's visiting area. Host-
ed by FHN and the Freeport
Public Library.

Dec. 11
**FHN Holiday Classic
Movie - Bell, Book, and
Candle**
1 p.m.
Classic Cinemas Lindo
Theatre, 115 S. Chicago,
Freeport

Enjoy this 1958 classic
comedy starring James Stew-
art, Kim Novak, Jack Lem-
mon, and Ernie Kovacs for
the cost of a contribution to
local food pantries. Limit-
ed seating available; no ad-
vance ticket sales. Ed Finch
and Alan Wenzel will lead a
discussion after the movie.

**FHN Holiday Classic
Movie - Bell, Book, and
Candle**
7 p.m.
Classic Cinemas Lindo
Theatre, 115 S. Chicago,
Freeport

Enjoy this 1958 classic
comedy starring James Stew-
art, Kim Novak, Jack Lem-
mon, and Ernie Kovacs for
the cost of a contribution to
local food pantries. Limit-
ed seating available; no ad-
vance ticket sales. Ed Finch
and Alan Wenzel will lead a
discussion after the movie.

Living Through Grief
6 p.m.
FHN Memorial Hospital
Deaconess Room, 1045 W.
Stephenson Street, Freeport
This group helps partici-
pants learn more about the
grief process, share stories
of loss, and regain hope for
healing. For more infor-
mation, contact FHN Hospice
815-599-7240.

Legislative Commission Forwards 14 Proposals to IHSA Member Schools

The Illinois High School Association's Legislative Commission voted Monday (Nov. 27) to advance 14 proposals to amend the IHSA Constitution and By-laws to a vote of the general membership. The Commission voted after hearing feedback from member school personnel at 28 town meetings held virtually and in-person around the state during the month of November.

The ballot containing the proposals will be available to each member school's official representative in the IHSA's online Schools Center, beginning Monday, December 4. The deadline to submit the ballot is midnight, Monday, Dec. 18. The ballots are expected to be tabulated, and the results posted on Tuesday, Dec. 19. Schools may vote in favor, against, or no opinion on each proposal. A simple majority of yes or no votes cast will determine whether each proposal passes. Proposals that receive the simple majority vote from the IHSA membership will go into effect on July 1, unless another date is noted within the proposal.

Here is a summary of the proposals on the ballot:

Proposal 4: Allows coaches to conduct out of season strength and conditioning workouts with limits of no more than 4 days per week and no more than 90 minutes per session outside the season. No coaching of the skills of a sport during any session.

Proposal 5: Allows students to meet the residence by-law when

their parent/guardian is a full-time staff member at a public school whose attendance boundary they do not reside in if the district has a Board Policy permitting students of employees to attend tuition free.

Proposal 9: Modifies the All-Star games participation limit to include all sports as opposed to just basketball, football, soccer and volleyball.

Proposal 11: Modifies the number of summer contact days restriction from 25 to 18 days.

Proposal 12: Allows coaches to conduct strength and conditioning workouts with limits of no more than 4 days per week and no more than 90 minutes per session during the summer contact days. Conditioning training does not count against the summer contact day count. No coaching of the skills of a sport during any session in order for the session not to count as a summer contact day.

Proposal 14: Restricts a Pre-Contest Physical Examination from determining a student's eligibility for a contest other than in sports that require weigh-ins or sports-specific nail or skin checks.

Proposal 15: Modifies the participation under an assumed name to match the language passed two years ago in By-law 3.090.

Proposal 16: Eliminates the IHSA Tournament Limitations By-law (5.004).

Proposal 17: Creates the opportunity for football teams to conduct a pre-season scrimmage with another school. Specific scrimmage

limitations include the following: Use of IHSA Officials, 4 separate 12 play segments, no special teams, 48 total play limits per player, no live contact or thud in practice the day before or after the scrimmage. Scrimmage to be held on Friday or Saturday of IHSA Week 7. Players are eligible to participate in the scrimmage after participating in 8 different days of practice.

Proposal 18: Establishes districts in the sport of football to be determined by the IHSA using geography and classification. Eight districts in each class with eight schools in each district. District games in weeks 3 - 9 of the regular season. Top 4 schools in each district qualify for the IHSA Play-offs. Seeding procedures will be similar to current seeding procedures with teams from the same district not to play in the first round.

Proposal 19: Eliminates the Boys Gymnastics season and contest limitation by-law.

Proposal 20: Eliminate the match limit per tournament language in girls and boys volleyball.

Proposal 22: Increase the number of girls' wrestling team contests from 18 to 25.

Proposal 23: Establishes a Girls Flag Football fall season limitation (Monday of Wk. 6 to Saturday of Wk. 21), a pre-season practice requirement of 9 practices before a contest and a regular season contests limitation of 25 games exclusive of the IHSA State Series.

Freeport Police Department releases Thanksgiving enforcement numbers

The Freeport Police Department conducted a traf-
fic safety campaign Nov. 17
through Nov. 27 reminding
motorists to buckle up and

drive sober. The "Click It or
Ticket" and "Drive Sober or
Get Pulled Over" mobiliza-
tion was conducted by the
Freeport Police Department
and other state and local law
enforcement agencies across
Illinois to reduce highway
fatalities.

During the campaign, the
Freeport Police Department

issued twelve seat belt cita-
tions. "We issue tickets to
remind drivers and passen-
gers that seat belt use isn't
a suggestion, it's the law,"
said Sgt. Tim Weichel. "This
year's campaign was suc-
cessful in grabbing people's
attention with highly visible
enforcement methods. As al-
ways, our goal is a safe com-

munity with safe drivers."

The Thanksgiving en-
forcement effort is made
possible by federal traffic
safety funds administered
by the Illinois Department
of Transportation and is part
of the statewide "Drive So-
ber or Get Pulled Over" and
"Click It or Ticket" cam-
paigns.

Lena American Legion December meeting

The December meeting of
the American Legion Auxil-
iary is scheduled for Wednes-
day, Dec. 13, at the Lena
American Legion Home, be-

ginning at 6 p.m. The meet-
ing will include making treat
favors and wrapping gifts for
hospitalized veterans. Addi-
tionally, dues will be collect-

ed, and we extend a warm
welcome to new members.

Junior members will meet
on Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. at the
American Legion Home for a
combination of a fun project
and a service project. Guests
are encouraged to attend this
session. Andrea Karnatz and
Dawn Spinhirne will oversee
the social hour.

You ought to be in pictures!

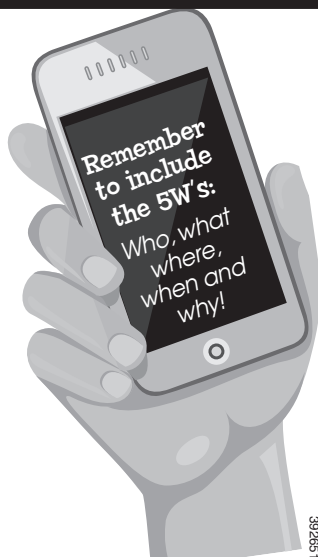
THIS IS AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMITTED PHOTOS
TO BE USED IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

- Community events, car washes, festivals, lemonade stands, school projects - people at work and at play.
- We are interested!**
- Show the community what your group has been doing!
- NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**
- Just shoot and e-mail!
- We need you to ID everyone in the photo *first* and *last* names required
- Tell us what's happening in the photo
- Please do NOT crop your photos.**
- Tell us who took the photo and we will give them a photo credit

E-mail your photos at the highest possible resolution to:
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BY NOON ON FRIDAY

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Belvidere fire chief gets rare opportunity

Shawn Schadle meets President Biden

By Jane Charmelo
NEWS COORDINATOR
BELVIDERE REPUBLICAN

Belvidere Fire Department Chief Shawn Schadle got a Sunday night phone call that was the beginning of an experience he will likely never forget—that of meeting President Joe Biden.

As the chief tells it, he found out Sunday night before the president's Nov. 9 visit to Belvidere, to support the United Auto Workers, that there was to be a meeting with the Secret Service on Monday morning that included the fire department and other area agencies.

While Schadle figured the fire department might have some role in the president's visit, he remembers thinking, "I expected to hear back that there was a change of plans."

Instead, he and representatives from first-responder agencies such as the Belvidere Police Department, Boone County Sheriff's Office, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Rockford Police and Fire departments, Illinois State Police and the Illinois Tollway met with about 25 members of the president's Secret Service detail to work out details and logistics of the president's visit. He was scheduled to arrive at the Chicago/Rockford International Airport, then visit the Community Building Complex of Boone County the following Thursday.

"They work in teams," Schadle related, "each in charge of a different aspect of the visit."

He said the Belvidere Fire Department's role was that of "emergency rescue and response," adding, "Our ambulance was in the motorcade and was the ambulance for the president."

The rest of the motorcade was made up of vehicles from the represented agencies, the chief described, adding that Rockford's ambulance served as the emergency vehicle for the rest of the motorcade.

Schadle added that the president's personal motorcade of seven vehicles had been flown in the night before on a transport plane.

On the day of the president's arrival, the agencies met at the airport and traveled with the president's motorcade to the Belvidere facility.

In the building a communications room, or command center, was set up, Schadle narrated, so he and the other agencies could communicate



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHAWN SCHADLE Rock Valley Publishing

The Belvidere Fire Department participated in President Joe Biden's visit to Belvidere on Nov. 9, at which time Chief Shawn Schadle briefly met the president. He said the local and state agencies involved got to see the president's motorcade up close (pictured inside a hangar), and also participated in a motorcade (pictured next to the president's plane), from the Chicago/Rockford International Airport to the Community Building Complex of Boone County in Belvidere, then back to the airport.



with the drivers of their respective motorcade vehicles.

He mentioned that law enforcement had one of the toughest roles, because "Routes had to be shut down," such as parts of I-90, and they "had to coordinate with other agencies."

When the president's visit was over—which Schadle estimated to be about two-and-a-half hours—the whole scene played out in reverse, going from the center back to the airport.

"The Secret Service was great to work with," the chief praised, noting that first responders got a chance to see the president's motorcade vehicles the night before the

president's arrival, and also as a thank you, a representative from each agency "got to have a picture taken with the president."

When asked what that was like, Schadle quipped, "It was a brief conversation, a handshake and photo."

Looking back on his department's involvement in a visit from the president to his community, the chief commented, "It was just a neat experience all the way around."

The bottom line for Schadle, though, is, "It was an honor to work with the Secret Service and see how they operate."

"They had a serious job to do," he added.



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the Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

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Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

The snow has melted, and Christmas lights are turning on. Our column this week continues to offer seasonal recipes. There is a great appetizer, a different salad, some soup, some casserole, and a cookie and bread recipe. Have a great week cooking.

Cranberry Cheese Ball

This great cheese ball can be made ahead. It uses the fruit of the season, cranberries. It is a great winter appetizer.

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 C. shredded cheddar
1 C. toasted, chopped pecans

1/4 C. chopped chives
1/4 t. garlic salt
1 C. dried cranberries

Combine cream cheese, cheddar, pecans, chives, and garlic salt in a bowl with mixer until smooth. Shape into a ball and cover with plastic wrap. When ready to serve, roll in cranberries. Serve with crackers.

Kale and Pea Salad

This salad is a great winter side for any meal. Serve it with a meat or even a casserole.

2 T. olive oil
2 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
1/2 C. red pepper, finely chopped
2 bunches kale, stemmed

and chopped

1/2 t. sugar

1 bag (16 oz.) frozen peas

Add oil to medium saucepan and heat. Add garlic and peppers; cook, stirring often until garlic is fragrant, 2 minutes. Add kale, sugar, 1/4 t. salt, 1/4 t. pepper. Cook until kale is tender, stirring several times for 4 to 5 minutes. Stir in peas and cook until heated through, about 4 minutes.

Creamy Turkey Noodle Soup

This soup is hearty and makes a great weeknight dinner or a Sunday soup after decorating for Christmas. You can buy Kluski noodles at Sullivans. I also always buy reduced sodium chicken broth.

1/3 C. butter, cubed
1 medium carrot, shredded
1 celery rib, finely chopped
1/3 C. flour

1 carton (32 oz.) chicken broth
1/2 C. half-and-half cream
1/2 C. 2% milk

1 C. uncooked Kluski or other egg noodles
2 C. cubed cooked turkey
1 1/2 C. shredded cheddar cheese

1/4 t. salt
1/4 t. pepper

In a large saucepan, heat butter over medium-high heat; sauté carrot and celery until tender, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in flour until blended; gradually add broth, cream, and milk. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in noodles. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered until noodles are al dente, about 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add turkey and cheese and cook until turkey is warmed through, and cheese is melted.

Chicken and Spinach Plus Artichoke Biscuit Casserole

This is an easy and delicious casserole that features spinach and artichokes. The jarred artichokes are easy to find. The Italian blend cheese is also easy to find. You could substitute turkey for the chicken.

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese softened

2 C. shredded Italian cheese blend

3/4 C. milk

1/4 t. pepper

1 t. chopped chives or dried chives

2 cans (16.3 oz.) Grands Flaky Biscuits (8 count)

2 C. rotisserie chicken, chopped

3 C. fresh baby spinach

1 jar of artichoke hearts (6 oz.) drained and chopped

Chopped basil leaves for garnish

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a 9 x 13 baking dish with cooking spray. In a microwaveable bowl, mix the cream cheese and 1 C. Italian blend cheese. Microwave uncovered on high 1 minute to 1 minute 30 seconds or until cheese is starting to melt into cream cheese. Beat in milk, pepper, and chives with a whisk until mostly smooth. Separate dough into 8 biscuits; cut each into sixths. Gently stir cut biscuits into cream cheese mixture; stir in chicken, spinach and artichoke hearts. Spoon into baking dish. Bake 35 minutes; sprinkle with remaining cup of cheese. Bake 8 minutes longer or until deep golden brown and biscuits are baked through in center of baking dish. Sprinkle with basil.

Butter Richies

This recipe was given to me by my dear friend, Lynn. She was the daughter of a baker and really could make beautiful cookies, cakes, and desserts. This little cookie melts in your mouth and provides a neutral cookie for a cookie plate.

3/4 C. butter

1/2 C. brown sugar

1 T. sugar

1 egg yolk

1 t. vanilla

1 3/4 C. to 2 C. flour

Combine butter, brown sugar, and white sugar in a mixing bowl. Add egg yolk and vanilla and mix until blended. Add the flour until consistency to make balls. Place on greased cookie sheet. Flatten the balls with a glass dipped in sugar. Bake at 350 for 7 to 9 minutes.

Frosting:

1/4 C. butter

2 1/2 C. sifted powdered sugar

1 t. vanilla

3-4 T. whipping cream

Brown the butter in a saucepan. Pour browned butter in a bowl, add powdered sugar and vanilla. Gradually add the whipping cream until it is a consistency to spread.

Praline-topped Apple Bread

This beautiful holiday bread makes a great gift. You can make the bread and freeze it. Before you serve or gift it, you can make the topping.

2 C. flour

2 t. baking powder

1/2 t. baking soda

1/2 t. salt

1 C. sugar

1 C. sour cream

2 eggs, room temperature

3 t. vanilla

1 1/2 C. chopped, peeled Granny Smith apples

1/4 C. chopped pecans, toasted and divided

1/2 C. butter, cubed

1/2 C. packed brown sugar

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, mix flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In another bowl, beat sugar, sour cream, eggs, and vanilla until well blended. Stir into flour mixture just until moistened. Fold in apples and 1 cup pecans. Transfer to a greased 9 x 5 loaf pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 50 to 55 minutes. Remove to a wire rack to cool completely.

In a small saucepan, combine butter and brown sugar. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly until completely dissolved. Working quickly, pour over cooled bread. Sprinkle with pecans; let stand until set.

Final Thoughts

The Lena Hometown Christmas brought a lot of people into town. If you didn't find anything to do, you must be hard to please. There was a lot of activity on Saturday.

This coming Saturday the Lena Park District will sponsor a Breakfast with Santa. A brunch will serve all kinds of goodies from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Lena Fire Station. It is always a good time for everyone. The cheese and sausage boxes will also be distributed that day. Check out the specials at our local businesses too.

We will continue to offer seasonal recipes the month of December. If you have some favorite Christmas recipes you would like to share, you can contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, *The Shopper's Guide* at 240 W. Main St. or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

Northwest Illinois Agriculture Industry Expo to showcase local opportunities for students

The Highland Community College Agriculture Department would like to invite area students and employers to the Northwest Illinois Agriculture Industry Ag Expo. The event will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 8 at Highland Community College, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd., Freeport, Ill.

The Ag Expo brings together local agricultural employers with college and high school students for a day of exploring career opportunities. Employers will put on display the variety of agricultural employment options available in northwest Illinois. Career-ready college students along with career-exploring high school students will connect to match interests with opportunities.

"By uniting agricultural employers with future employees at this event, we hope

we can expose students to diverse career options available in agriculture, and also facilitate the hiring process for employers," said Justin Ebert, Highland Agriculture instructor.

In addition to professional networking, the full-day event for students includes hands-on activities related to Highland Agriculture certificates and degrees, a complimentary lunch, and an optional campus tour.

"It is our intent that students in attendance can link their personal interests to classes and degrees, and most importantly, to professional opportunities available in our region. We hope this event encourages, inspires, and invites the next generation of agriculturalists to plant their future, right here in northwest Illinois," said Monica Pierce, Highland Agriculture Instructor.

•Recap (Continued from page 12)

to build their confidence by stringing together a pair of wins.

Orangeville jumped out to a 15-2 advantage and never looked back. By the end of the third, the Broncos were up by a score of 46-14. Wirth remained consistent as the team's leading scorer with 15. Tyrrell added eight, while Briggs and Joe Isenberger had six. The Broncos improved to 2-4 with a 54-28 win over Benton. The Broncos will be back on the floor on Dec. 14 when they travel to face off with West Carroll.

For Orangeville's girls basketball team, things couldn't be going much better. After taking first place at this year's Forreston Tournament, the Lady Broncos went on to capture, perhaps, their biggest victory yet.

On Friday, Dec. 1 the Lady Broncos opened the new month with a matchup against the River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats. It was a highly anticipated matchup as the Wildcats came into the game at 6-1, while the Broncos were a perfect 5-0. Orangeville was also coming off a 10-day break since their last played game.

Orangeville proved the layoff didn't have much of an impact on their momentum. The Wildcats looked to be one of the first real tests to the 2023-2024 season, and the Lady Broncos rose to the occasion once again.

The first quarter looked like a close matchup. The Orangeville defense was already doing their damage, however. Just one player managed to put points up for RR-SM in the opening quarter. On Orangeville's end, Laney Cahoon sunk a pair of first quarter three-pointers. Whitney Sullivan added three first quarter points of her own as the Broncos jumped out to an 11-7 advantage.

Things really opened up in the second quarter. RR-SM had no answer for Sullivan, who dominated her way to 15 points in the quarter. Nadalee Doyle tacked on a pair of baskets, while Cahoon sunk another three pointer in the quarter, as well. By halftime, the Broncos jumped out to a 33-15 lead.

The RR-SM offense couldn't close that gap in the second half. Sullivan put the finishing touches on the Wildcats as she finished the game with 27 points and 12 rebounds, giving her a double-double. Cahoon was next up with 20 points as the duo continued to stand out. Doyle finished the game with six points. The trio provided all of Orangeville's points in a 53-37 victory over the Wildcats.

With that, the Lady Broncos improved to 6-0 on the young season. They will be back in action on Dec. 7 when they play host to the Lena-Winslow Panthers at 5:30 p.m.

FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED



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

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Rock Valley Publishing LLC
The Scoop and Shopper's Guide

LEGAL NOTICES

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

In the Matter of the Estate of
TERRANCE F. GROVES,
Deceased.

Case No. 23 PR 70

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - WILL AND CLAIMS

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

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Stephenson County Circuit Clerk, 15 North Galena Ave., Freeport, IL 61032, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

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

Date: 11/16/23

Nathan J. Noble
Attorney for Estate

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

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2023)
447446

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other good will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street Freeport, IL 61032 to satisfy a lien on December 21, 2023 at approx. 1:00 p.m. at www.storage-treasures.com. Cube 1059 Stephen Calvillo; Cube 1324 Kristian Crawford; Cube 1433 Leah Ryan

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Dec. 6 & 13, 2023)

447489

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

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
AMBER M VAUGHAN;
UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.

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

NOTICE OF SALE
PURSUANT TO
JUDGMENT OF
FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS
MORTGAGE

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

PART OF LOT ONE (1)
IN BLOCK THIRTY (30)

OF KNOWLTON'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE TOWN (NOW CITY) OF FREEPORT, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JUNE 4, 1850 IN DEED BOOK I, PAGE 122 DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT: BEGINNING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT ONE (1); RUNNING THENCE SOUTH ON AND ALONG THE LINE BETWEEN SAID LOT AND SOUTH OAK AVENUE TO A POINT, SAID POINT BEING 154 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT THENCE WEST PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT TO THE WEST LINE THEREOF; THENCE NORTH ON AND ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT TO THE SOUTH LINE OF WEST BROADWAY STREET THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY ON AND ALONG THE LINE BETWEEN SAID LOT AND WEST BROADWAY STREET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT ONE (1), 154 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID LOT RUNNING THENCE NORTH ON THE SAID LAST LINE 4 FEET THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY IN A STRAIGHT LINE TO A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SAID LOT ONE (1), 154 FEET NORTH OF THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT THENCE EAST A DISTANCE OF 76.4 FEET, MORE OR LESS PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT ONE (1) TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

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

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

Description of Improvements: The property is a two unit apartment. The property has a two car garage. The garage is de-

tached. The exterior is wood siding. The color is white. I am unable to verify that the gas is on or off. I am unable to verify that the water is on or off. The property does not have a fence. The property is vacant.

The Judgment amount was \$53,300.22.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N.

Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 23-15624IL

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

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

I3232112

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

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

SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING LLC,
PLAINTIFF,

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

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

NOTICE OF SALE
PURSUANT TO
JUDGMENT OF
FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS
MORTGAGE

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

Lot 3 in a Subdivision of Farwell's Addition to West Freeport, situated in the City of Freeport,

Stephenson County, Illinois, according to the Plat thereof recorded May 24, 1901 in Book C of Plats, Page 1. EXCEPTING the North 55.4 feet of said Lot 3. ALSO EXCEPTING that part of the following described premises lying within said Lot 3; Part of Lots 3 and 4 in a Subdivision of Farwell's Addition to West Freeport described as follows: Beginning at a point 55.4 feet South of the North line and 48.85 feet West of the East line of Lot 3 of a Subdivision of Farwell's Addition to the Village of West Freeport and running thence West parallel with the North line of Lots 3 and 4 of said Subdivision 49.38 feet to a stake set at the Northeast corner of land heretofore Deeded to William J. Smith by Deed recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, in Book 115 of Deeds, Page 329; thence Southerly along the line of said last mentioned lands 146 feet to the Northerly line of Stephenson Street at a point 98.9 feet Southwesterly from the Southeast corner of said Lot 3; thence Northeasterly along the Northerly line of Stephenson Street 50 feet; thence Northerly in a straight line 141.6 feet to the place of beginning. AND ALSO EXCEPTING and reserving the right of way over and across the North 10 feet of the property herein described. All situated in Stephenson County and the State of Illinois.

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

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

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

The Judgment amount was \$120,981.88.

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

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

Continued on next page

IN*CI*DENTAL*LY

Acid reflux and your oral health

Reflux is defined as the flow of a fluid through a vessel or valve in the body in a direction opposite to normal. Normally when swallowing, a band of muscles around the bottom of the esophagus (the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach) relaxes to open and allow food and fluids to enter your stomach, then closes to protect the esophagus from the strong acids in the stomach. When this band of muscles (the lower esophageal sphincter/LES) doesn't function properly or stays relaxed, the acids from your stomach can flow back upwards (reflux) into the esophagus. When this reflux becomes frequent it can progress to gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Current data shows that approximately 20% of the US population suffers with GERD.

Laryngopharyngeal reflux (LPR) is another form of GERD. LPR occurs in people with GERD, when the upper sphincter of the esophagus also does not function properly, and the stomach acids enter the oral cavity. While the most common symptoms of GERD are heartburn, esophageal inflammation and tooth erosion, some people may develop chronic cough, non-cardiac chest pain and asthma. These symptoms worsen at night or while lying supine. People with LPR tend to not have heartburn, but often experience laryngitis, (inflammation of the vocal cords) hoarseness (voice changes due to chronic inflammation), chronic sore throat, excess throat mucus, difficulty swallowing, sensations of a lump or something stuck in their throat, frequent upper respiratory infections, postnasal drip, and a frequent need to clear their throat. In contrast to GERD, their symptoms tend to worsen during the day, while standing, bending over or exercising.

While their symptoms vary, both GERD and LPR are chronic conditions that can cause serious harm to your oral and esophageal tissues. People who suffer from heartburn generally turn to their physicians for help, but in the absence of heartburn, or "silent GERD",



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

the first indications of acid reflux may be detected during a dental exam. Oral symptoms from acid reflux include tooth erosion not related to bulimia, xerostomia (dry mouth) not related to medications or other medical conditions and bad breath not related to periodontal disease. Other oral conditions that may accompany these include decay, chipped and stained teeth and tooth sensitivity. If your dental exam reveals signs of damage from GERD, the first step will be a referral to a physician/gastroenterologist for a definitive diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

The most effective way to prevent further damage is to control or eliminate the incidence of acid reflux. This is accomplished with nutritional guidance to avoid the foods that aggravate GERD, eating smaller, more frequent meals, avoid activities such as bending over, heavy lifting and vigorous exercise or lying down immediately after eating, abstaining from food for three hours before bedtime, elevating the head of the bed and consistently taking your physician prescribed medications as directed. Nicotine must be avoided as it both stimulates acid production and interferes with the sphincter's function.

To protect your oral tissues after reflux episodes, rinse with water and baking soda if possible (about a half teaspoon of baking soda to four ounces of tap water) or just water. If you are not near water, allow a sugar free antacid to slowly dissolve in your mouth. Do not brush after a reflux incidence because the acid will soften the enamel and brushing will cause damage to the weakened enamel. Wait thirty minutes so your saliva can neutralize the acids, then use a soft bristled brush and a low abrasive/tooth sensitivity fluoridated toothpaste that is not mint flavored. Avoid

See HEALTH, Page 23

Continued from previous page and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I3229618

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

446731

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS PLATINUM HOME MORTGAGE CORPORATION Plaintiff,

-v.- KIMBERLY SMITH Defendant

2022 FC 44

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 12, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on January 11, 2024, at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Ave. (West Door), FREEPORT, IL, 61032, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 5 AND ALL OF LOT 6 IN BLOCK 2, DEMETER HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION IN FLORENCE TOWNSHIP; SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 1331 S DEMETER DRIVE, FREEPORT, IL 61032

Property Index No. 18-18-01-202-004

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$76,648.25.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will

entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

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

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

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

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

For information, contact CHAD LEWIS, ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601 (561) 241-6901. Please refer to file number 22-045386.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

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

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

CHAD LEWIS ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC 205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810 CHICAGO IL, 60601 561-241-6901 E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM Attorney File No. 22-045386 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439

Case Number: 2022 FC 44 TJSC#: 43-4388

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

Case # 2022 FC 44 I3234308

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 2023)

448083

Public Notice

The Chief County Assessment Officer for Jo Daviess County will be holding the Annual Township Assessor's meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023, in the County Board Room on the 3rd floor of the Jo Daviess County Courthouse at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to hand out guidelines, workbooks, and exemption forms for the 2024 assessment year. Laura Edmonds, CIAO Chief County Assessment Officer

(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 6, 2023)

447935



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444841

real estate

Farms



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447640

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Info@DonleyAuctions.com

447999

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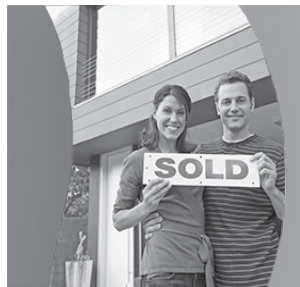
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on placing an ad

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for sale

Announcements

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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.

Burial Needs

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

Furniture

WHITE brand sewing machine-Deluxe ZigZag, Model STD-270, w/manual, small chest full of thread, bobbins, tools, etc. \$90 cash. 815-541-9729 call or txt

transportation

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2000 S-10 BLAZER 4x4, new brakes & tires, 4 dr/power windows. \$3,100 OBO 262-914-1091.

RUZZ MINI BIKE Looks like a motorcycle, Fat Boy tires. \$450 OBO 262-914-1091

To place an ad in our
Business & Service
Section...
Call (815) 369-4112

Trucks & Trailers

2000 F250 4x4, Lariat Crew Cab. 7.3. Powerstroke, auto, good condition and well maintained. \$12,300 obo. Call or text 608-897-5775

2020 DIAMOND C TRAILER PSA 12 X 83. W/spare, never used. \$1,600 262-642-1866.

CARGO TRAILER 5x8 Enclosed, needs cosmetic work. Elkhorn location \$295. 262-949-6997.

The Wheel Deal

Place your car, truck, motorcycle, boat or RV for one price and it runs for up to 16 weeks.

\$19⁹⁵

1st three lines

Extra lines are \$1.95 each

17 Papers

Starts for 4 weeks and if not sold you call us and we will renew at no additional charge!
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PRIVATE PARTY ONLY.

Ad must be
prepaid.
Deadlines vary.

Call
815-877-4044



422785

Hort for the Holidays Jo Daviess County edition

Gather your friends for an afternoon of decorating fun as the University of Illinois Extension hosts "Hort for the Holidays - Jo Daviess County Edition". This program is being held on Wednesday, Dec. 20 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Jo Daviess County Extension Office, 204 Vine St. Elizabeth, IL 61028. There will be a \$30 charge to attend, and attendees will leave with two projects to take home with them. Pre-registration is required by Dec. 13 to attend. To register or for more information visit us online at go.illinois.edu/jsw or call us at 815-858-2273.

Participants will complete two make and take projects: a Mason Jar Oil Candle and a Holiday Centerpiece using fresh flowers and greens — each of these projects will make beautiful stand-alone items to give or keep, but they also pair well together for a gorgeous holiday display for your dining table.

The Mason Jar Oil Candle is a combination of beautiful pinecones, evergreen sprigs, cinnamon sticks and essential

•Health

(Continued from page 21)

all mint flavored products (antacids, gum), food and drinks, as mint can cause the esophageal sphincters to relax and increase acid reflux. Other foods that relax the lower esophageal sphincter include foods high in fat, onions, garlic, carbonated drinks, chocolate, caffeine, and alcohol. While you may already be aware that acidic foods, such as citrus and tomatoes, are linked to acid reflux, you may be surprised to learn that milk and other dairy products can increase acid production in your stomach. Spicy foods can not only trigger acid reflux but can make your inflamed tissues even more painful.

Once the initial damage is diagnosed and treated, your dentist will continue to monitor for further enamel erosion and may prescribe custom fluoride treatments, saliva stimulating products or a custom mouthguard to prevent additional damage. As always, daily oral hygiene, staying hydrated, regular check-ups and professional cleanings are critical to maintaining your oral health.



oils—perfect for illuminating your home during the dark and cold winter months.

With the Holiday Centerpiece, participants will learn the basic elements of floral

design and create a stunning centerpiece using fresh evergreens, fresh flowers, novelties, and ribbon.

If in need a reasonable accommodation to attend this

program, please contact the Jo Daviess County Extension Office at 815-858-2273. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet individual needs.



REAL ESTATE NOTICES

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

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

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT
TO JUDGMENT OF
FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that pursuant to a
Judgment of Foreclosure and
Sale entered by the Court in the
above entitled cause on October
26, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson
County will on 1/2/2024, in Ste-
phenson County Courthouse 15
N. Galena Ave (West Door), Free-
port, 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 suffi-
cient to satisfy said Judgment:

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

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

The subject property is subject
to general real estate taxes, spe-
cial 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 confirma-
tion by the court.

Upon payment in full of the bid
amount, the purchaser shall re-
ceive a Certificate of Sale, which
will entitle the purchaser to a
Deed to the real estate after con-
firmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open
for inspection. Prospective bid-
ders 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 indi-
viduals presently in possession of
the subject premises.

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

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

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

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR
DEBT COLLECTION PRACTIC-
ES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S AT-
TORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A
DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPT-
ING 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 no-
tice of sale.

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
SPECIALIZED LOAN
SERVICING LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
JOSE NEVARES; LISA C
NEVARES; UNKNOWN
OWNERS AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS,
DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2022FC48
2 NORTH HARLEM AVENUE
FREEPORT, IL 61032
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT
TO JUDGMENT OF
FORECLOSURE
UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE
FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that pursuant to a Judg-
ment of Foreclosure and Sale
entered by the Court in the above
entitled cause on September

12, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson
County will on 01/02/2024, in Ste-
phenson County Courthouse 15
N. Galena Ave (West Door), Free-
port, IL 61032, at 09:30 AM, sell
at public auction and sale to the
highest bidder for cash, all and
singular, the following described
real estate mentioned in said
Judgment, situated in the County
of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or
so much thereof as shall be suffi-
cient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 18-13-36-253-016
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 2
North Harlem Avenue Freeport,
IL 61032

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

The Judgment amount was
\$120,981.88.

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

The subject property is subject
to general real estate taxes, spe-
cial 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 confirma-
tion by the court.

Upon payment in full of the bid
amount, the purchaser shall re-
ceive a Certificate of Sale, which
will entitle the purchaser to a
Deed to the real estate after con-
firmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open
for inspection. Prospective bid-
ders 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 indi-
viduals presently in possession of
the subject premises.

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

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

For Information: Visit our web-
site at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.

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

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR
DEBT COLLECTION PRACTIC-
ES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S AT-
TORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A
DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPT-
ING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND
ANY INFORMATION WILL BE
USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not re-
quired to provide additional infor-
mation other than that set forth in
this notice of sale.

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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY,
ILLINOIS
PLATINUM HOME MORTGAGE
CORPORATION
Plaintiff,
-v-
KIMBERLY SMITH
Defendant

2022 FC 44
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN that pursuant to a Judg-
ment of Foreclosure and Sale en-
tered in the above cause on Janu-
ary 12, 2023, an agent for The
Judicial Sales Corporation, will
at 1:00 PM on January 11, 2024,
at the Stephenson County Court-
house, 15 N. Galena Ave. (West
Door), FREEPORT, IL, 61032,
sell at a public sale to the highest
bidder, as set forth below, the fol-
lowing described real estate:

Commonly known as 1331 S
DEMETER DRIVE, FREEPORT,
IL 61032
Property Index No. 18-18-01-
202-004

The real estate is improved with
a single family residence.

The judgment amount was
\$76,648.25.

Sale terms: 25% down of the
highest bid by certified funds at
the close of the sale payable to
The Judicial Sales Corporation.
No third party checks will be ac-
cepted. The balance, in certified
funds/or wire transfer, is due
within twenty-four (24) hours.
The subject property is subject to
general real estate taxes, special
assessments, or special taxes
levied against said real estate and
is offered for sale without any rep-
resentation as to quality or quan-
tity of title and without recourse to
Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition.
The sale is further subject to con-
firmation by the court.

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

The property will NOT be open
for inspection and plaintiff makes
no representation as to the con-

dition of the property. Prospective
bidders are admonished to check
the court file to verify all informa-
tion.

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

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

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

For information, contact CHAD
LEWIS, ROBERTSON AN-
SCHUTZ SCHNEID CRANE &
PARTNERS, PLLC Plaintiff's
Attorneys, 205 N. MICHIGAN
SUITE 810, CHICAGO, IL, 60601
(561) 241-6901. Please refer to
file number 22-045386.
THE JUDICIAL SALES
CORPORATION

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

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

CHAD LEWIS
ROBERTSON ANSCHUTZ
SCHNEID CRANE &
PARTNERS, PLLC
205 N. MICHIGAN SUITE 810
CHICAGO IL, 60601
561-241-6901
E-Mail: ILMAIL@RASLG.COM
Attorney File No. 22-045386
Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
Case Number: 2022 FC 44
TJSC#: 43-4388

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair
Debt Collection Practices Act,
you are advised that Plaintiff's at-
torney is deemed to be a debt col-
lector attempting to collect a debt
and any information obtained will
be used for that purpose.
Case # 2022 FC 44
I3234308

(Published in The Shopper's
Guide
Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 2023)
448084

News (Continued from page 13)

one, the team I work with every day," Hall said. "Number two, the customer base that we have here in Wataga. I believe they're very progressive. "I believe they're a group of farmers that are wanting to do better and I believe they're wanting to learn and they're hungry for knowledge that ties into the community service side of things."

Hall is an innovative agronomist and location

manager at the West Central FS-Wataga dedicated to delivering exceptional, highly valued customer service to his customers. He also strives to provide updated technology and nutrient stewardship information to area growers. Hall is known to his employees as the "soil nerd" due to his vast knowledge of soil compositions in the Knox County area, which gives him a strong foundation to help customers make decisions to

grow a productive crop. As the West Central FS Wataga Location Manager, Brandon is responsible for over 4,800 acres where he is the direct contact to the farmers and producers assisting with daily field decisions in all aspects of agronomy. He also manages the employees in Wataga that service an additional 70,000 acres year-round. He provides expertise for those with traditional farm models as well as those with livestock and pasture, small hobby farms and turf care. In 2019, Hall, who serves as vice president for Knox County Young Farmers, also worked with GROWMARK and IFB to put in 20-acre cover crop plots in 20 townships in Knox County. The project received an IFB Nutrient Stewardship Grant and aims to help those who are on the fence about using cover crops. Knox County Farm Bureau (CFB)

nominated Hall for the award. "Brandon promotes the implementation of new and innovative technologies, programs, and practices to enhance, improve and assist in needed changes to promote stewardship, sustainability and improved return on investment for his farmers and producers," said Drew DeSutter, Knox CFB president. "He takes everything that happens in the fields personally, as if they were his own fields and pastures." Outside of his work, Hall serves as Williamsfield FFA Soils and Land Use coach and contest official for chapter and section levels, Williamsfield Ag Day festival coordinator and Knox County Farm Safety Camp-Chemical safety instructor. He is also a member of the Knox County Cattlemen's board and social media chair, Knox CFB

Young Farmers vice president and Cover Crop Project chair. Hall is also a Knox CFB Ag in the Classroom soils presenter. Hall's accomplishment will be recognized at the IAA Annual Meeting and the Illinois CCA Conference. As this year's CCA Award Winner, he will also be considered for the International CCA Award.

About Illinois Farm Bureau

The Illinois Farm Bureau is a member of the American Farm Bureau Federation, a national organization of farmers and ranchers. Founded in 1916, IFB is a non-profit, membership organization directed by farmers who join through their county Farm Bureau. IFB has a total membership of more than 364,452 and a farmer membership of 75,959. IFB represents three

out of four Illinois farmers.

Members Save with Case IH

Tractor? Baler? Can't decide? Get them both! There's plenty of field work to be done this fall, and what better time to take advantage of this great CASE IH discount. As an Illinois Farm Bureau member, you can save up to \$500 on eligible equipment. <https://www.ilfb.org/membership/benefits/#case>

Room Rentals

Are you looking for someplace to host your next family get together? The Stephenson County and Carroll County Farm Bureaus have meeting rooms available for rent. To inquire about room availability please call your respective Farm Bureau. Carroll: 815-244-3001 Stephenson: 815-232-3186

Your weekly community news in your hands...

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Tempo • Belvidere Republican
The Clinton Topper • The Shopper
The Independent-Register
The Scoop Today • The Shopper's Guide

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393035

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