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VOL. 89 • NO. 52

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 2023



STOCKTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Walking into the Christmas season

The Stockton Chamber of Commerce had a blast kicking off the Christmas season during the annual Christmas Walk. Thank you to Brewster Cheese, Stockton ACE Hardware, Allure of Stockton, Stockton Strong, and Citizens State Bank for their support and donations to make this event happen! Pictured are Santa and his elf as they read aloud to children before sharing their Christmas wishes.

Postal Customer **ecrws

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Raders Insurance Holiday Drawing Winners

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Stateline Consignment Auction

Date: December 29th & 30th 2023 - Time: 8:00 AM - Location: 110 E Murray St Browntown WI 53522

Running 2 Auction Rings Both Days Bring A Friend - Online Bidding Available - Mike Powers: 608-214-5761

ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS DAILY UNTIL DECMEBER 22nd 2023 - CONSIGN TODAY!

MIKE KOCH FARM RETIREMENT LINE: 16' Case IH 8240 Combine, Deluxe Cab, Hyd Auger Ext, Chopper, Rock Trap, 1,657/1,211, Case IH 2208 Corn Head, New Roller Knives 2 Seasons Ago, Unverferth HT25 Header Trailer, 20' Case IH 3020 Bean Head, Full Finger, Single Point Hook Up, EZ Trail 680 30' Head Trailer, Case IH 335 Magnum Tractor, Deluxe Cab, MFWD, Front & Rear Duals, 3pt, Quick Hitch, PTO, 4 Hyd Remotes, 6,676 Hrs, John Deere 4955 Tractor, MFWD, 3pt, Quick Hitch, 3 Hyd Remotes, 20.8R38 Duals, 10,024 Hrs, John Deere 8870 Articulate Tractor, 4x4, 3pt, PTO, 4 Hyd Remotes, 18.4R42 Duals, 9,713 Hrs, Case IH 1240 16/31 Planter, Bulk Fill, Liquid Fertilizer, New Disk Blades On Corn Rows, Very Nice Planter, Case IH 1240 12/23 Planter, Bulk Fill, 15" Bean Rows, 30" Corn Rows, New Disk Openers, Completely Gone Through Recently, Nice Planter, 21' J&M Seedtender Pro 250 Seed Tender, Honda GX290 Gas, Tandem Axle, Dual Hopper, One Owner, Used Very Little, Unverferth 1115 Xtreme Grain Cart, Roll Tarp, Light Kit, Very Nice Unit, McFarlane RD4125RB 25' Reel Disk, Rock Flex, Knife Rolls, 3 Bar Spike Harrow, One Owner, Landoll 2510-4-30 4 Shank Ripper, Like New, Used Very Little, 99' Peterbilt 379 Semi Tractor, Coffin Sleeper, Cat Diesel, 10 Speed Trans, Tandem Axle, Air Ride, 1,617,037 Miles, 18' Stoughton AHV-421T-AR-S Grain Trailer, Platinum Series, 68" Sides, Shurco 4500HD Roll Tarp, Always Stored Inside, One Owner, Used 2 Seasons Only, 12' Utility FS2 CHHA 48' Step Deck Trailer, Tandem Axle, Spread Axle, Combo Trailer, Great Line Of Equipment - Well Kept!!

JOHN CREIGHTON FARM RETIREMENT LINE: 19' Horshe Maestro SW1630 Planter, 16R, 30" Spacing, Dry Fertilizer, 520/85R42 Duals, Very Nice Unit, One Owner! 17' New Holland CR7.90 Combine, Twin Rotar, Chopper, RTK Guidance, Front Duals, 1,800/1,100 Hrs, New Holland 740CF-35 Bean Head, Lots Of Work Done To Machine, Ready To Work, Patriot 35' Head Cart, 11' Geringhoff RD800/B Corn Head, 8R, Head Site, Poly Snoots, Chopping Head, Roll-o-Cones, One Owner Machine, Crop Sweeper Down Corn Reel, 08' Versatile 535 Articulate Tractor, Cummins, 12 Spd Trans, 5 Hyd Remotes, 3,561 Hrs, One Owner Tractor, New Holland T8030 Tractor, MFWD, 3pt, PTO, 4 Hyd Remotes, Front & Rear Duals, 5,399 Hrs, One Owner, New Holland 8770 Genesis Tractor, MFWD, Rear Duals, 3pt, PTO, 7,500 Hrs, 13' Kuhn Krause 4850 Dominator, 11 Shank, Rock Flex Disks, Rolling Basket, Wilritch XL 2 45' Field Cultivator, Hyd Fold, Guage Wheels, 3 Bar Spike Harrow, Brent 1194 Avalanche Grain Cart, Scale, Roll Tarp, Light Kit, Load Runner Fertilizer Cart, Hyd Drive Auger, Rear Unload Spout Auger, Roll Tarp, Surge Brakes, Demco 650 Gravity Wagon, Surge Brakes, Brent 544 Gravity Wagon, Surge Brakes, Light Kit, Ford 655A Loader Backhoe, D, Orops, Standard Hoe, 2wd, Case IH 496 22' Disk, Tile Plow, Time Well Tile Cart w/ Tile, 2 - 1,000 Gallon Fuel Barrels, DMI Anhydrous Tool Bar, NVHL 300XHD 3pt Hydraulic Blade, Bush Hog 13210 3pt Rotary Cutter, Strobel 3 Box Seed Tender, Case IH 800 9B Plow, Very Nice Unit, Great Line Up Of Quality Equipment! Do Not Miss This

CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT: 14' Cat D6T LGP Dozer, D, Cab/A/H, 6 Way Blade, 11,958 Hrs, 05' Vermeer SC60TX Stump Grinder, D, Remote Control, 836 Hrs, Municipal Unit, Case 475 Cable Plow, JD Diesel, Steel Tracks, Reel Carrier, Cat P4000 Fork Lift, LP, Pneumatic Tires, 3 Stage Mast Side Shift, 2,800 Hrs, Very Nice Unit, 05' John Deere 544J Wheel Loader, High Lift, 4,500 Hrs, Very Nice One Owner Machine, 96' John Deere 544G Wheel Loader, JRB Coupler, Aux Hyd, One Owner Machine, Cat 446B Loader Backhoe, 4x4, Extendahoe, Bobcat B300 Loader Backhoe, 4x4, Mech Quick Tatch Aux Hyd, 4 Wheel Steer, 1,915 Hrs, Cat 308C Excavator, Cah/H, New Steel Tracks, Aux Hyd, 2,300 Hrs, Case 590 Super L Loader Backhoe, 4x4, Extendahoe, Nice Machine, 17' Cat 305E2 CR Excavator, D, Orops, 2 Spd, Aux Hyd, Thumb, 575 Hrs, Cat 973 Crawler Loader, D, Cab/H, Runs Good, Takeuchi TB240 Excavator, D, Orops, 2 Spd, Hyd Thumb, 596 Hrs, John Deere 35G Mini Excavator, D, Orops, 2 Buckets, Hyd Thumb, 2,277 Hrs, Vermeer 420 Trencher, Gas, Orops, Canopy, Gear Drive, 4x4, Case TR270 Track Skid Steer, D, Orops, Heat, Aux Hyd, 3,014 Hrs, Case 95 XT Skid Steer, D, Orops, 2,206 Hrs, Case 95XT Skid Steer Erops, Heat, 5,927 Hrs, Ditch Witch RT95 Trencher, D, Orops 4x4, 795 Hrs

FARM EQUIPMENT: John Deere 5093E Tractor, D, Cab/A/H, MFWD, 3pt, PTO, 1,350 Hrs, One Owner Tractor, 10' John Deere 5085M Tractor, D, Cab/A/H, MFWD, 3pt, PTO, Turf Tires, 2,400 Hrs, 07' John Deere 4720 Tractor, D, Hydro, MFWD, 4,750 Hrs, New Holland TC33D Compact Loader Tractor, D, Orops, 8 Speed, MFWD, Ford 4610 Sickle Mower Tractor, D, Orops, 8 Spd Trans, 5' Sickle Mower, 22' Woods BW15.50 Batwing Mower, Never Used, Case IH 3412 Corn Head, Head Site, Poly, Knife Rolls, John Deere 4240 Tractor, Quad Range, 3pt, PTO, 4 Hyd Remotes, John Deere 2720 Compact Loader Tractor, D, Hydro, MFWD, 3pt, PTO, 62" Deck, 1,275 Hrs, John Deere 4410 Compact Loader Tractor, D, Orops, MFWD, 3pt, PTO, 1,375 Hrs, John Deere 2720 Compact Loader Tractor, D, Cab, MFWD, 3pt, PTO, 540 Hrs 13' Branson 3520R Loader Tractor, D, Orops, MFWD, 3pt, PTO, 80 Hrs, Bush Hog 2615 Batwing Mower, 540 PTO, Case IH 5100 12' Tandem Grain Drills, 7" Spacing, Marker Arms, New Holland BR7090 Round Baler, Net Wrap, 8,500 Bales, John Deere 401A Loader Tractor, John Deere 7200 Max Emerge 2, 16R Planter, Nice Planter, Knight 8118 Slinger Spreader, Tandem Axle

VEHICLES & TRAILERS: Mack RB6885 SN# M2AM0BC12M006128 Diesel, 8 Speed Trans, Air Brakes, 230,238 Miles, Vermeer VSK2200XTDV Vactor Truck Very Nice Machine, 19' Quality Steel & Alum 8316D14K Dump Trailer, 16' Ramps, Dual Hoist, Very Nice, 08' International 4300 Dump Truck, D, Single Axle, Hyd Brakes, Contractor Body, Roll Tarp, 96,123 Miles, 89 Mack R690ST Utility Truck, D, Single Axle, 16' Utility Box, 96' Dynaweld 10T Equipment Trailer, Tandem Dual, Air Barks, Fold Down Ramps, (2) - Redihaul FSL1628E-102 Tag Trailer, Pintle Hitch, Tandem Axle, Electric Brakes, 86' Holden Scissor Neck Low Boy Trailer, Tandem Axle, With 3rd Axle, Air Brakes, Spring Ride, 96' Jet 35' Equipment Trailer, Triple Axle, Air Brakes, Spring Ride, Fold Down Ramps, 04 Freightliner Business Class M2 Flat Bed Truck, Tandem Axle, Air Brakes, 226,291 Miles, 05' Freightliner M2 Garbage Truck

LAWN & GARDEN - GOLF/RECREATION: Befco 17-420-SFL Flex Wing Finish Mower, Frontier 2112 Flex Wing Mower, 99' John Deere 2020 Pro Gator Utility Cart, Gas, Hyd Dump, Manual Trans, 3 - Club Car Caryall Golf Carts, Electric, w/ Chargers, 03' John Deere 1600 WAM Mower, Diesel, Turbo, 12' Cut, 2,546 Hrs, John Deere 1445 Front Mount Mower, Diesel, 1,406 Hrs, John Deere 1565 Front Mount Mower, D, 4x4, Cab, 1,483 Hrs, John Deere 4x2 Gator, Gas, Canopy, Hyd Dump, John Deere 400 Loader Tractor, Gas, Gear Drive, New Stripe 5000 Airless Paint Stiper, Gas, Hydro, Like New, 20' Husqvarna Z254F Zero Turn Mower, 54" Deck, 200 Hrs, Kubota BX2230 Compact Tractor, D, 4x4, Hydro, 386 Hrs, 20' John Deere X758 Lawn Mower, D, Hydro, 4x4, 54" Deck, 173 Hrs, 14' John Deere 8800 Terrain Cut Rough Cut Mower, D, Hydro, 4x4, 17' John Deere 9009A Rough Cut Rotary Mower, D, Hydro, 4x4, 2,539 Hrs, Ty-Crop MH-400 Top Dresser, Spinners & Cross Conveyor, Very Nice Machine, Ty-Crop Pro Pass 180 Top Dresser, Bed Mount, Hyd Drive, Mill Creek 4300 Turf Tiger Top Dresser, Spinners & Beaters, Used 3 Times, Lasteck 3300 Zero Turn Mower, D, Hydro, 100" Cut, 2,300 Hrs, Nice

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Online Bidding Available Through Equipmentfacts.com **Terms and Conditions:** A Photo ID Is Required to Register. All Items Must Be Paid for The Day of Sale By: Cash, Check, ACH or Credit Card with a 4% Convenience Fee. Wisconsin Sales Tax Of 5.5% Applies to Certain Items. 2.5% Buyers Premium Day of Auction for Dec 29th Online Buyers Capped at \$750 Per Item Purchased, Dec 30th Buyers Premium 10% Live Onsite & 12% Buyers Premium Online. All Internet Buyers Must Pay Within 3 Days of Auction. All Sales Are Final - Everythin Sold AS IS - WHERE IS with No Warranties or Guarantees Expressed or Implied. A \$50 Doc Fee Applies on ALL Titled Registered Items. All Titles Will Be Sent 15 Business Days After The Auction. Powers Auction Service Is Not Responsible for Items Once Sold. Announcements Made Day of Sale Supersede Any Printed Materials. The Buyer Is Held Responsible to Inspect Merchandise Before Purchasing. All Items Must Be Removed Within 2 Weeks After The Auction All Items Left Will Be Consigned For Our Next Auction In April



110 E Murray St Browntown WI 53522

Obituaries

CAROL FISCHER

Carol J Fischer, 90, of Pearl City went to be with her Savior Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, peacefully in her home in Pearl City II. She was born Aug. 14, 1933, in Freeport, daughter of LaVerne and Ruby (Busekros) Gahm. Carol married Verlyn Fischer on June 14, 1953. They celebrated 68 years of marriage.

After marrying Verlyn, Carol traveled with him to Germany where he was stationed in the US Army. After returning home she went to work as the secretary to the President of Economy Fire and Casualty for many years. She also was a lifelong Homemaker and farmer with her husband Verlyn.

As a young girl she was very active in 4-H and showing cattle which led to her being crowned Stephenson County Dairy Queen. Her hobbies later in life included collecting many different patterns of depression glass with American Sweetheart being her favorite.

While she was known as an extremely hard-working woman, there was nothing more important to her and her family as her faith in Jesus Christ. She loved her family dearly and enjoyed spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchil-



She taught Sunday School for much of her life, served as Youth Leader taking kids on memorable mission trips, led many dramas and plays on Christmas Eve, and served as the leader of Lend a Hand for many years.

She enjoyed traveling and visited all 50 states and Germany, Luxembourg, Holland, France, England, Mexico, China, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Panama Canal, Italy, Israel, Switzerland, Canada & Austria.

She is survived by her daughter; Kathleen Lochowitz of Pearl City and her children, Shari (Dustin) Sickles and their children Emery and Kellyn; Melissa Coulibaly and her children Batan Jr & Sanouhan and Laura Lochowitz (Zach Janssen).

Daughter; Marsha Manthei of Machesney Park and her children Anthony (Nicole) Manthei and their children Spencer, Madisyn & Natalie; Tarah (Kevin) Dumas and their children Keyton &

dren. She was a member of Zion Community Church of Pearl City where she was very active her entire life. Trinity. Son, Wayne (Melissa) Fischer of Freeport and their children Austin (Baylee) Fischer and their son Waylon; Skyler (Alexa Sohner) Fischer; Christian Fischer; Jordan (Kayla) Potter and their Children Trace, Jensen and Deacon; Aaron (Mari) Potter and their children Wesson, Rydlee, Barrett and Whittlee; Hayden (Taylor) Potter and their children Grayden and Ledger. Son, Joe (Jodi) Fischer of Freeport and their children Shania (Eric) Schaney and their children Piper and Haven; Moriah Fischer; Aliya Fischer; Jeremiah Fischer and Megan Fischer.

She was preceded in death by her husband Verlyn; parents LaVerne & Ruby Gahm, brother Theron Gahm; sister-in-law Leona Schneider, mother & father-in-law Harold & Mabel Fischer and grandson, Zachariah Fischer.

The visitation was held on Saturday, Dec. 16 and the funeral on Sunday, Dec. 17, both at Zion Community Church of Pearl City, 10100 Sabin Church Rd, Pearl City II, officiated by Pastor and friend Chip Sohl. Burial followed at Zion Community Church of Pearl City. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

TERESA MAGEE

Teresa Kay Magee, age 61, of Stockton, IL passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023. She was born in Freeport, IL on Sept. 13, 1962, the daughter of LaVerne and Janice (Klepack) Beyer. Teresa married Gene Magee on Nov. 30, 1985, at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton.

Teresa was a 1980 graduate of Stockton High School. She was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton. Teresa had worked



as a book-keeper for M&M Concrete for many years. She enjoyed gardening, sewing, mowing, reading, spending time at the cabin, jet skiing on the river and traveling to their home in Flagler Beach, FL. Most of all, Teresa loved spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her husband, Gene Magee; her

father, LaVerne Beyer; her daughters, Michelle (Rob Chambers) and Sam (Brady Stuckey); her son, Brian Magee; her grandchildren, Veyah, Knox, Maycee, Maggie, Kael and Luca; and her sister, Lisa Hastings. She was preceded in death by her mother, Janice.

A Celebration of Life was held on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023 at the Corner Tap in Stockton. Interment took place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.



*** ONLINE ONLY ***

WWW.KITSONAUCTIONS.COM

END OF YEAR POWER EQUIPMENT & MORE AUCTION SATURDAY, DEC. 30 • 10 A.M.

This auction is packed with 100s of lots at multiple locations.

NEW MOWERS/SNOWBLOWERS MOST W/ FACTORY WARRANTY: Cub Cadet ZT1-54P, Cub Cadet ZTS1-46, Cub Cadet Pro x636, Pro X654, Cub Cadet 2x30 Max snowblower, Cub 3x26 snowblower, Cub 3x26 trac snowblower, Cub Cadet 30H mower, Cub Cadet ZT1 42, ZT1-54, ZT2 60, Cub Cadet 534SWE snowblower, EGO cordless power equipment.

USED AND COLLECTOR EQUIPMENT: Cub Cadet RZTS 42, BobCat 36" commercial walk behind, Gravely L, Struck "Big Job", Cub Cadet 1914 with deck/blower, Bolens Ride-Master, Homelite riding mower, Toro Greens mower, vintage reel mowers, Wheel Horse D160 with loader, John Deere wheel weights, Cub Cadet #1 cart, Simplicity Sovereign, Allis Chalmers, Heckendorn 88", Choremaster, Bolens Huski gardener, vintage snowblowers, Allis Chalmers Big Ten.

UTVS: Big Horn 200, Big Horn 450 with blade, Big Horn 450. These machines were demo units for the Kane County Cougars.

MISC.: Huge selection of manuals, micro fiche cards, signs, advertising, utility trailers, air compressors, tools and much, much more!

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This is a very partial listing as the catalog is still being built.

*** LIVE & ONLINE ***

3RD ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY PREMIERE AUCTION MONDAY, JAN. 1, 2024 • 10 A.M.

118 W. LINCOLN AVE., BELVIDERE, IL

INDOOR CLIMATE CONTROLLED FACILITY WITH AMPLE SEATING

VEHICLES: 1993 40th Anniversary Chevy Corvette, 1938 Ford truck, 2013 Nissan NV3500 passenger van.

FIREARMS: .44 cal Duck foot pistol, Stevens 410, Remington Nylon 11 .22, Winchester 290 .22, Smith Corona A3-03 30-06, Winchester 1200 20ga, Hi-Standard Sport King .22, Stevens 12ga, Winchester 255 .22, Browning light 12 ga semi auto, Winchester 37 16 ga, Ruger 10/22, Winchester 370 12 ga, Marlin 22 bolt action, Iver Johnson .44 black powder pistol, FIE .25 pistol, M1860 Naval Cutlass Civil war sword.

SIGNS: Bubble up, AAA, porcelain double sided Standard Service, Delco Batteries Masonite, Chicago Motor Club Service Station, AAA Service sign, lighted PBR, Amalie Motor oil lighted Pam clock, Socony porcelain thermometer, Welch Motor oil sign, Casite pam style thermometer, double sided 1954 Valvoline, cast aluminum Blatz baseball, 1950s yellow STOP, Hamm's lighted Beer, Texaco Chief, Texaco Sky Chief, Snapper lighted, Value and Service Hardware, Wolfs Head Oil, 1963 Coca Cola Pam Clock, Pirelli tires lighted, SS gas pump sign, Purina, Dekalb Seed.

PEDAL TRACTORS: Eska John Deere 60, Eska Farmall 400, Scale Models Cub Cadet.

TOYS: Lost in Space roto jet gun, Major Matt Mason, Keystone Packard, Buddy L, tin friction, Hot Wheels Redline, promo cars, Data East Hook pinball machine, art deco wind up truck/trailer, Lost in Space RC Robot, Tonka, Turner Toys, Tru-Scale Ryerson Steel truck, Mettlach stein #2871, vintage G.I. Joe action figures.

COINS: 1850 Liberty Head \$20 gold coin graded xf-45.

ANTIQUES: lightning rod balls, Monmouth pottery crocks, Macomb pottery, butter churns, stacking lawyers book cases, ice boxes, coin op player piano, 1968 Minnesota North Stars pennant, 1913 Fatima Cigarettes Baseball cards, 7' aluminum Christmas tree, 1904 John Deere Plow Co. vehicles book, 1908 Atomic pencil sharpener, Civil war reunion display, Railroad cannon ball caboose lights, MCM George Nelson Cigar Lamp, 1944 M-1 rifle grenade launcher, lithographic limestone printers block, Brass fighting ring bell, large brass Dolphin carburetor, cast iron figures, cast iron door stops, slag glass light, rail road lanterns, Duncan parking meter, Nazi Germany hats and uniform, Arcade Andy Gump car, West Chicago Police badge.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This is a very partial listing of the 500 lots in this auction all available for online or live in person bidding. Happy Holidays and we hope to see you on New Years Day.

Andrew Kitson 815-973-0915 • www.KitsonAuctions.com

News briefs

Community Christmas Dinner in Stockton

The Community Christmas Dinner Committee announces the 37th Annual Dinner sponsored by the churches and businesses in the Stockton community. It will be held on Monday, Dec. 25, 2023, at Calvary Church of Stockton at 12 p.m. The menu will be turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, green beans, red salad, and pies.

All are invited, especially those who will not be with family on Christmas Day. Deliveries can also be made to the immediate Stockton area and pickups will be available. Please inform the church if you need a delivery and give your name, address and phone number. Requests can also be made by calling

Elaine Schlichting at 815-947-3795 or Calvary Church at 947-2414 on Christmas Day.

Veterans' Pantry in need of items

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

so grateful. Items may be brought to the American Legion Home at 314 W Main Street on Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Please call 815-369-4684 to make other arrangements. The current needs for the Veterans Pantry in Freeport are bodywash (especially for men), paper towels, men's jeans (size 26, 28, 33 and 34), women's jeans (size small), and canned goods.

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Slices of life

Maintaining the personal in an impersonal world

By definition, I am an introvert. I'm usually OK with time alone and minimal interactions with other humans. I enjoy conversations within my own head and maybe, perhaps have a significant relationship with both my phone and my laptop.

However, lately I've noticed the world has sort of taken this concept and injected it with steroids.

In just the last decade or so, things have changed. COVID fueled these changes, but they were occurring even before the pandemic. Gradually—or perhaps not so gradually—we are losing our day-to-day human connections. Our



By **JILL PERTLER**
 Columnist

world is becoming more and more impersonal.

For most of my lifetime friendships used to involve actually meeting in-person—for lunch, happy hour or play dates.

Now I have friends online whom I've never met. They live in different cities and different states than me. Sometimes I forget who they

are and wonder how we ever became "friends" in the first place. But I feel close to quite a few of them; I just don't know if we'll ever meet in person.

Speaking of meetings, how did we exist before the likes of Zoom?

These next few are going to date me (and not like going out to the Steve Martin movie called "The Jerk" with a cute guy in high school).

My mom never learned how to pump her own gas. She grew up and grew into adulthood having someone pump it for her, and she liked it that way. When the gas guy left his post, he was replaced by a new gas guy: my dad, who made sure my mom's tank was also at least half-full.

Remember standing in line for concert tickets? Sometimes we'd sleep on the sidewalk. Lordy, lordy, what we'd do to see REO Speedwagon, Styx or Journey live.

Now we have the privilege of picking our exact seats without ever leaving the comfort of our living rooms—until concert day. They haven't been able to figure out how to provide us with the true concert experience from

our homes. Not yet, but I'm sure it's coming.

My daughter and her family haven't been to the grocery store in more than a year. There is no need. They order online and do a pick up at the store without ever leaving their car. There is no need for human contact—just a credit card.

Shopping in general has changed. I recently furnished an entire house online. The same goes for kitchen appliances. I live in a rural area, so my experience may be different from someone in a big city, but my appliances weren't even available to see at the appliance store that's more than an hour's drive from my home.

So I read the online descriptions about features, picked out the models of my choice, measured carefully and had them delivered. I'm happy to say they all fit!

Remember when banking was in in-person thing? A few months ago, I needed a document notarized so had to visit a real, live brick and mortar bank. I hadn't been in one for at least a year.

I recently bought a new

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

Today's American Legion

Many of you may have seen notices each week in the Shoppers Guide about events being held by local American Legions. Maybe you have wondered "What is the American Legion all about?" The original organization be-

gan in 1919 as a Patriotic Veterans Organization founded by veterans to help veterans. Today's American Legion is a nonprofit and receives no money or grants from the federal government and still the goal is to help veterans and

the community. In McConnell Illinois, our American Legion Post 1225 was started in 1952 when young men came home from World War II and Korea. Sixteen men organized the group and today there are 42 members. There is also a Woman's Auxiliary Unit within the Legion with 30 members. Each group meets monthly and plans events and fundraisers.

Each year on the Sunday before Memorial Day, we hold a parade to and from the Pecatonica River bridge west of town and have a service to honor and remember veterans who have passed. In 2023, we added a town picnic after the parade and over 100 people attended.

Seven times a year (January through April and September through November) the Legion sponsors a "stag" where men grill their own steaks. In the past five years, there have been several other dinners, including a pork chop drive-thru during Covid times, and a famous Shippy's fish fry.

The Auxiliary is especially active in the fall accepting donations to make troop pack-

ages for Christmas giving to our military men and women here and overseas. In 2023 we packed 79 boxes. Twenty-five boxes were sent to local service members with addresses provided by their families. The balance of the packages was delivered to the USO to distribute.

On Veterans Day gifts are made for local veterans in Stephenson County nursing homes. The Auxiliary helps and supports the Legion whenever needed. The McConnell American Legion has a full kitchen and shelter house which are available for a donation to hold birthday parties, holiday get togethers, reunions, wedding receptions, etc.

We thank everyone for their support to help keep the Legion thriving for the past 71 years. We are always looking for new members. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in joining, please contact Legion member Daryl Thyberg at 815-541-8869 or Auxiliary member Pat Mahon at 815-266-1165 or any of our other members. McConnell American Legion



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Members of the McConnell American Legion come together to make care packages for troops both in the United States and overseas. Seventy-nine boxes were packed this year. This is just one of the many ways in which the American Legion supports the local community, veterans, and military men and women.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Each year the McConnell American Legion hosts a Memorial Day Parade to recognize veterans who have passed away. This past year, attendees were invited to a picnic where over 100 people gathered to honor the veterans, which will now be a tradition in the years to follow.

• Slices (Continued from page 4)

home and had the option to do the closing online. I wonder how long it will be before we can get something notarized online. Or perhaps get married online?

Why meet the person in-person when you can marry them first?

How far are we going to take this? I'm almost afraid of the answer to this semi-facetious question.

I think we, as humans, crave real-alive connections, and there is nothing the Internet or our phones can ever do to replicate that. And whether

we realize it or not, they just might be contributing to our loneliness.

How sad, and lonely, is that?

My advice? Close your laptop. Put down your phone. Go outside. Say hello to your neighbor. Start a conversation.

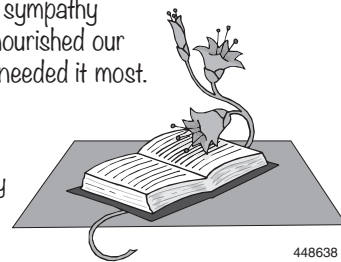
Even if you are an introvert. Especially so.

Take it from me. We all need each other.

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.

Thank you to all who sent condolences, cards and prayers at the time of our mother and grandmother's passing. Your kind expressions of sympathy warmed our hearts and nourished our souls at a time when we needed it most.

The family of Pat Miller
Ken & Terri Rose
Matt & Traci Rose & family
Sarah & Randy Randolph
& family



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Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL for Sunday worship on Dec. 24 at 9:30 a.m. This will be the fourth Sunday of the Advent Season. Holy Communion will be celebrated in worship. The reading will be from Luke 1:26-38.

On Dec. 24, we will celebrate Christmas Eve Candle-

light Service starting at 7 p.m. Communion will be served at this service. Worship service will include hymns with chimes and choir. On Monday, Dec. 25 we will have Christmas Day worship service at 9:30 a.m. We will sing Christmas Carols.

On Wednesday, Dec. 27 Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience is necessary.

Due to recent vandalism at

area churches Good Shepherd will be locked whenever there are not any scheduled activities. If you need to be in the church for any reason, please call the church office at 815-369-5552, Monday-Wednesday 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Advent on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9 a.m. There will also be a Christmas Eve service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

There will not be a December Grace Meal, but St. John's will be hosting a free Community Christmas meal on Monday, Dec. 25. People will have the option of picking up a meal between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. or dining in

Luther Hall between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, Dec. 21. The menu for the Christmas meal will be ham and all the trimmings along with homemade pie. This meal is sponsored by donations from the Pearl City Community.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 3:15 p.m. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

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.

There will be cards and dominoes in Luther Hall on Thursday, Dec. 28 at 1:00 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. If you need to contact the pastor or church, you may call 815-443-2215 for information.

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. 24, 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. We will also be hosting a Christmas Eve evening service at 7 p.m.

to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 8 a.m. at the Big Apple, 1427 West Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL. Everyone is welcome to join.

If interested in getting more involved in the church community, check out the monthly gatherings. Men's Night is at 6:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. During this time the men playing games and get to know each other better. Bible Study is offered at 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Cafternoon 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.

JDCF accepting nominations for Conservation Leadership Award

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) is accepting nominations for the *Nancy Hamill Winter Conservation Leadership Award*, which will be presented at the Foundation's annual meeting in early 2024. An individual, organization, governmental entity, educational institution, or business that has demonstrated creativity and/or leadership in the preservation, restoration, or stewardship of natural areas and/or Native American cultural resources or has a strong history of promoting an understanding of the natural world in Northwest Illinois, particularly Jo Daviess County, is eligible.

Nominees may have also shown financial leadership that supports land conservation. Priority will be given to nominees with distinguished lifetime accomplishments and

impact made in the service area of the Foundation. JDCF's Executive Committee seeks nominations annually beginning in December each year and uses the above criteria to make its selection. Nominations are due by Dec. 31, 2023. Current staff and board members of JDCF are not eligible. A nomination form can be found at www.jdcf.org.

The *Nancy Hamill Winter Conservation Leadership Award* is named after JDCF's long-time board member and past Board President and Vice President, Nancy Hamill Winter. Formerly a Stockton resident Nancy dedicated much of her adult life to the preservation and care of natural habitats and the Native American cultural heritage of Northern Illinois. For more information, visit www.jdcf.org.

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SUNDAY, DEC. 24

Morning Worship at 9 a.m.
Candlelight Worship at 3:30 & 5:30 p.m.

•••

MONDAY, DEC. 25

Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion at 9:00 a.m.

•••

SUNDAY, DEC. 31

Regular Worship at 8 & 10:30 a.m.
BLAST and Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.

•••

You may watch any of our services on YouTube by going to either our St. John's website: www.stjohnslena.org or going to our Facebook page.

•••

REGULAR WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Worship: Saturday 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Children's Ministry & Adult Bible Classes 9:15 a.m.

•••

Rev. Jason Shaw, Pastor
David Offermann, Director of Family Life Ministries
Michelle Rothschadl, Parish Assistant
Sid Kemmis, Lay Minister
Linda Long, Secretary

448618



Free Community Christmas Meal Monday, Dec. 25 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ham with all the trimmings & homemade pie!

You have the option of dining in Luther Hall or picking up meals curbside at the church.

Reservations are due in the church office (815-443-2215) by Thursday, Dec. 21

St. John's Lutheran Church
229 S. 1st Street • Pearl City • 815-443-2215

448580

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Join us for
Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Worship
Sunday, Dec. 24
5:00 p.m.

448302

McConnell Community Church

Christmas Eve Morning
Worship
Sunday, Dec. 24 • 9 a.m.

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 24 • 7:00 p.m.



211 N. Hulbert Rd, McConnell, IL

#10874

Jo Daviess County 4-H member selected to attend National 4-H Congress

Ten teens from Illinois attended a five-day national conference in Atlanta, GA, designed to expand their skills, engage with other 4-H members, and provide inspiration. Delegates to National 4-H Congress are selected for their outstanding 4-H accomplishments.

National 4-H Congress is an educational event designed to make an impact as one of the premier experiences 4-H members across the country can come together and participate in.

The 2023 delegation included Kyle Haas, Jo Daviess County; Natalie Otto, Woodford County; Alana Dolan, Vermilion County; Jeremiah Todd, Champaign County; Janella Neary, Monroe County; Andrea Schaffnit, Adams County; Alex Paul, Wayne County; Nickolas Sloan, Williamson County; Olivia Passig, Coles County; Amanda Niemann, Montgomery County.

Teens attended educational workshops focused on diversity, cultural experiences, leadership, and team development and were able to network with 4-H members from across the United States.

They also had the opportunity to listen to and learn from nationally recognized speakers.

"It's an absolute blast," says delegate Kyle Haas of Jo Daviess County. "You get to talk and meet people from all over the country. This is the best 4-H experience I have ever had, and I don't think anyone should pass on this opportunity. It is not just a trip to Atlanta; it is a chance to learn how to lead better because youth are the future of this country, and we need to recognize that."

National opportunities allow 4-H members to build new connections, hone their leadership abilities, and bring back new skills that will help them impact their club, community, country, and world.

"My favorite part of Congress has been all of the connections we've made from all across the country," says delegate Amanda Niemann of Montgomery County. "This weekend has really pushed me outside of my comfort zone, and I'm so grateful for all of the new friendships."

The Illinois 4-H Foundation and Nann Armstrong provided support for this trip.



The Illinois 4-H Delegation attends National 4-H Congress Nov. 24 through Nov. 28, 2023, in Atlanta, GA.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Kyle Haas of Stockton was one of over 800 delegates across the country who exchanged pins and other mementos representing their state.

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Merry Christmas

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Letters To Santa

Mr. Allen's Kindergarten Pearl City Elementary

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? How do you have magic? I have been good this year. I would like a boy baby doll and baby doll clothes. Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Natalie Dinderman

Dear Santa,
Thank you for all the presents. I love you so much! You're my best friend. I'm trying my best to be good so I don't get coal. You're the best in the whole wide world. For Christmas I would like a little toy sled, a little toy phone, and a Barbie truck that I can ride in. Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Annemarie Merboth

Dear Santa,
My brothers, Kipton and Deklan, and I want finger skateboards. I would also like some tractors, a remote control helicopter and

airplane, and paw patrols, those are my favorite. Maybe a gumball machine? The elves made a mess with toilet paper in my house, which was naughty. I have been good. Thank you and merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Kezlin Pickard

Dear Santa,
How do you fit down a small chimney? What do you do if there is a fire in the fireplace? Do you think I have been good? I think I've been good. I would like a microphone that repeats back and a remote control plane. Thank you!

Your friend,
Adler Maurer

Dear Santa,
What's your favorite cookie? Do you have a favorite reindeer, I bet its Rudolph. I want to ask for a hover board and a pink camera. I've been really good this year! Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Bryn Plager

Dear Santa,
How are your elves? How is Rudolph? He's my favorite reindeer. I would like racecars and hot wheel cars. I've been good this year. My sister wants a toy bunny and Barbies. Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Micah Daiker

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? How do the elves make all of the toys? I want Barbies, stuffed animals, and fake food. My brother, Waylon would like a stuffed animal dinosaur. My sister, Payton wants a card with money in it. My sister, Ellaina wants a skateboard. I think my dog Lacey wants a chew toy. I think daddy wants a skateboard, and mommy wants a big bike. I have been good this year. Thank you for everything!

Your friend,
Kayslee Kostenbader

Dear Santa,
I like your reindeer. I like presents. I would like a yoyo and legos. I hope my sister gets a Barbie dream house. I have been good this year! Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Caleb Pasch

Dear Santa,
I want a fake elf for Christmas. I think you'll like our Christmas decorations. I think you will bring me some good presents. I would like a Santa stuffy and a Spiderman car that I can drive in. I have been good and naughty, but I

hope you still bring me presents. I really want to be able to give you a hug. I like the presents you bring.

Your friend,
Deacon Reed

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite kind of cookie? Mine is chocolate chip. I want L.O.L puppies, monster high dolls, and Pikachu Pokémon cards. I've been good this year. Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Madalyn McNally

Dear Santa,
Which reindeer is your favorite? Mine is Rudolph. I want fortnite stuff, and a ball that flies. I think I've been good this year. Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Cain Leighty

Dear Santa,
How do you have magic? How many elves do you have? I would like football stuff for Christmas. Can you bring me slippers? Will you make sure my brother Blake gets football stuff too? How many reindeer do you have? How many letters do you read every year? I've been good this year. Blake has been good too.

Your friend,
Tate Williams

Dear Santa,
I want three monster trucks, two dinosaurs, and one hot wheel. I want you to bring Zoey three ballerinas and two bunny rabbits,

please. I'm a good boy. Merry Christmas!

Your friend,
Bodhi Thompson

Dear Santa,
I want Spiderman, sonic, and Mario toys, and gum-my chair. I want you to send an elf to my house. I would also like snacks, a Spiderman cup, and a computer. I was a good boy this year. I love you, Santa!

Your friend, Javier Cancel

Mrs. Alongi Pearl City Early Learning Academy Preschool

Dear Santa,
Here at Pearl City Early Learning Academy our Preschoolers have been working very hard at following directions, cleaning up, following classroom rules, being nice to each other, good choice, making friends, letters, shapes, and numbers. Please bring my students something special!

Love,
Mrs. Alongi

AM Kindergarten:

Olivia B - a rock painting thing, a spiderman, a watch, and a flashlight
Andrew - Mind Craft and robots

Henry - Moana toys, Nightmare Before Christmas toys, Rudolph toys, ornaments
Rilynn - Mighty Paw Patrol, a big game

Olivia D - a princess phone, and probably a skateboard,

and mermaid roller skates, that's what I want and other stuff, a lot of other toys.

Gracie - a rainbow unicorn
Jeremy - a toy Porche car and a toy mermaid

Kamryn - some lota Barbies, a Barbie house, um a pool and a slide and a "shwang" (swing)

Myrah - mini toys, puppy house, and um a doll... Barbie
Kashton - tractors, a rake, a bailer, and hay, and a house.

Callee - a little real kitty, a mermaid that's real, and a snake that's not real a stuffed animal, a real snake that's really nice, and a lollipop, and I don't know what else.

Adriana - a Sonic doll
Dalen - new dinosaur toys
Dylan - a new army jet with a guy and a boat and that's all.

PM Kindergarten

Jaxon - a tractor and a combine

Lyla - furby
Ben - a real lava lamp, electric ball, and plushy

Logan - baby yoda, a diamond that grows that comes in different colors, and that's it.

Cruz - cars
Emmett - presents, tractors, and apples and gum.

Emily - Santa likes chicken nuggets. I want candy.

Zoey - Ice cream Truck
Winifred - mini phone, mini farm, mini car, and mini tea set

Linkin - autobots and a lot of things, slime, and candy canes

Ryleigh - a real kitty
Esme - a Barbie toy, and a Barbie helicopter

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Santa found them all in aisle three?
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There are plenty in store.
Goodwill, understanding.
Good thing we ordered more!*

*Best wishes to you, our friends.
May your good times never end!*

HARTZELL'S IGA
Warren, IL

409511

Letters To Santa

Mrs. Bunker kindergarten Pearl City Elementary

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been a good boy this year. I would like a couple of Goo Jit Zu's. I will leave you some milk and cookies. Merry Christmas!
Bradly

Dear Santa,
How is Mrs. Claus? Did she make a lot of cookies? I have been a good girl this year. I would like an Ipad. I would also like some make-up! I will share jolly ranchers with my brother and sisters. Merry Christmas! I will leave you cookies and milk!
Bryce

Dear Santa,
Hi! How are you? I love you, Santa. I would like something for Christmas. I want a desk for my room. I want a new backpack. Can I have some new crayons and markers?
I will leave you cookies and milk. Merry Christmas,
Bently

Dear Santa,
Hi! How is Rudolph? I would like a real phone for Christmas. I want a fake Christmas tree for my bedroom. I have been good all year! (just ask my teacher). I will leave you milk and cookies.
Tristan

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! Are the Elves busy making toys? How do you get around so fast? Your sleigh must be speedy! I would like a dirt bike and a four-wheeler. I would like a go cart too! I love fast stuff. I would like my dad to have a Bears shirt and a motorcycle. I will leave you cookies and hot cocoa! What kind of cookies would you like? Merry Christmas,
Lennon

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! I have been very good, I would like a polaroid camera. I would like new baby dolls. I would also like a princess kitchen with the supplies! I will leave you

a treat and reindeer food!
Collins
Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! I want a grain semi for Christmas! I would also like a combine. Clara would like a Little Mermaid, I will leave you some treats that my mom is baking! Oh, I also would like legos!
Jackson

Dear Santa,
I would like a watch for Christmas. I want an Ironman mask. A And a stuffed Rudolph the reindeer.
Merry Christmas! I will leave you rootbeer!
Hudson

Dear Santa,
I would like a mixsy so I can shake it up and get a character. How are the reindeer? And Mrs. Claus? Bundle up on Christmas Eve. I will leave you treats!
Kyllyne

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! How warm is your suit? I hope it is an easy flight on Christmas Eve. I would like a dinosaur truck and a pretend lazer. I will leave you treats and the reindeer food!

I have been very good,
Thatcher

Dear Santa,
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus. I wish you a merry Christmas and I hope you get to everyone's houses on time. I love you so much!! I hope you bring me what I want! I like toys! Merry Christmas,
Everly

Dear Santa,
How are you? I have been very good this year. I would like farm sim 19. I would like a karaoke machine. I would like a hay wagon. I will leave you cookies and milk! Merry Christmas,
Tripp

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? How do you get around so fast? I would like a Minnie Mouse microwave. And a Minnie Mouse microphone. I will leave you cookies and milk.
Merry Christmas!
Vivienne

Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year and I love Paw Patrol. I also like Daniel Tiger and Snoopy. Merry Christmas and I will leave you Oreos.
Penelope

Mrs. Lawler's first grade Pearl City Elementary

Dear Santa Claus,
How do the elves get their magic? How do the reindeer fly? First, my mom wants a new coat. My dad wants a cat. Jesus wants video games. Andrew wants a remote-control car. Next, I want video games. Last, I tried to be good all year! Merry Christmas! Your friend, Ashley

Dear Santa Claus,
How do elves get their magic? How does Santa fit down the chimney? Please bring my sister a swimming pool. Mom would like new glasses. Dad wants a new puppy. Please bring me super cool board games. Also, I would like bath bombs and crafting supplies. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, Jordan

Dear Santa Claus,
How do the elves fly? How does your sleigh fly? Please bring Clayton and Lily a PS5. Hunter would like a scary movie. Ryleigh wants a baby doll. Please bring me a new phone. Also, I would like a head set and a PS4. I have tried to be good all year! Your friend, Garrett

Dear Santa Claus,
How does Santa fit in the chimney? How do you get into the workshop? First, could you bring my dad brown boots, my mom new feed buckets, and my brother a toy jeep. Next, would you please bring me a princess suitcase, a mystery egg, and a tower game. Last, I have tried to be good all year. Thank you for the gifts! Your friend, Nora

Dear Santa Claus,
Does Mrs. Claus have make-up? How does Santa fit in the chimney? First, could you bring my dad new boots, my mom new shoes, my brother new Hot Wheels and my sister a clipboard. Next, would you please bring me a stuffed animal, a toy puppy, a baby doll, and a notebook. Last, I have tried to be good all year! Merry Christmas!
Bella

Dear Santa Claus,
Does Mrs. Claus have make-up? How do the reindeer fly? First, could you bring my dad a new hammer, my mom more pens, my sister a new shirt, and my brother new pants. Next, would you please bring me a real puppy, make-up, and a Barbie dream house. Last, I have tried to be good all year. Merry Christmas!
Charlotte

Dear Santa Claus,
How do reindeer fly? How do the elves work so fast? First, my mom wants jewelry. My dad wants a pair of work gloves. My sisters

want clothes. Brian wants headphones. Next, I want a VR and a remote-control car. Last, I tried to be good all year! Merry Christmas! Your friend, Julian

Dear Santa Claus,
Does Mrs. Claus have make-up? How do elves fly? First, my mom wants a jewelry box. My dad wants video games. Next, I want a video switch, a make-up set, and a TV for my room. Last, I have tried to be good all year! Merry Christmas! Your friend, Adalyn

Dear Santa Claus,
Does Santa have brown skin? How does Santa fit in the chimney? First, my mom wants make-up. My dad wants new shoes. Easton wants video games. Charlee wants Polly pockets. Next, I want a real phone, dinosaur toys, and a TV for my room. Last, I have tried to be good all year! Merry Christmas!
Your friend, Emma

Dear Santa Claus,
How do elves fly? When does Christmas Eve come? My sisters would like a TV and a mini fridge. My mom and dad would like a new blanket. My brother would like a new phone. I would like a remote controller. I

also want a new Xbox game. Lastly, I want a new Nintendo. I've tried to be good all year! Your friend, Jaxon

Dear Santa Claus,
When does Christmas Eve come? Do the elves have tan skin? Ella would like a brand-new bed. Olivia wants a brand-new toothbrush. My brothers would like new shoes. I would like brand new shoes that are Nike and you can slip on. I've tried to be good all year! Your friend, Blake

Dear Santa Claus,
How does your sled fly? How do the reindeer fly? My dad would like a video game. My mom wants jewelry. My sister would like a Roblox card. I would like a Google card. I also want a new Nintendo game. Lastly, I want a new Xbox game. I've tried to be good all year! Your friend, River



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Letters To Santa

Mrs. Merboth's first Grade Pearl City Elementary

Dear Santa Claus,
Do you like Oreos? How old are you? First, could you bring Ryan an X-Box, Bridget a PS2, my mom an X-Box, my dad a cool chair, and Owen a tablet case. Next, would you bring me a phone and a desk? Last, I have tried to be good all year. You are the best!
Your Friend, Aidan

Dear Santa Claus,
How old are you? How fast do the reindeer fly? Please bring my mom a snowman decoration. Lakynn would like a real cat. Rilynn wants Paw Patrol. Dad would like a new truck. Please bring me horses and a barn. Please bring me a backpack to play school at home. I have tried to be good all year.
Your Friend, Weslynn

Dear Santa Claus,
How many reindeer do you have? How old are you? Please bring Tanner weights to work out. Knox would like Madden 24. My mom wants a blanket with a picture of me on it. Dad would like new dirt bike tires. Please bring me a little trampoline and a decoration with a picture of my brother Kolt. Am I on the naughty or nice list? I have tried to be good all year.
Your Friend, Kruz

Dear Santa Claus,
Do you like Oreos or birthday cake cookies? How old

are you? First, could you bring Nathan a PS2 and my mom Carlee, a new game. Next, would you please bring me the pd game Crash? Last, I have tried to be good all year. Merry Christmas, Santa!
Your Friend, Cooper

Dear Santa,
How old are you? How many elves do you have? My dad likes football. My mom wants a new job. My sister would like a Barbie Doll. I would like a phone for Christmas. I have tried to be good all year.
Your Friend, Paxton

Dear Santa,
How old are you? Does Mrs. Claus wear make-up? My brother wants a PS4. My sister wants a dinosaur pillow. Mom would like a candle. Dad wants a nice big pan. I would like make-up and stickers. I've tried to be good all year.
Your Friend, Charlee

Dear Santa Claus,
How fast can reindeer go? How many elves do you have? Please bring my mom a robot vacuum. Dad would like a money machine. Please bring me Pokemon Arlo. I would like Bakagan Dragon and a picture of my family. I have tried to be good all year.
Your Friend, Mavrick

Dear Santa,
How old are you? How bright is Rudolph's nose? My dad would like cooking tools. My mom would like a scentsy candle. Henry would like Blippi toys. I would like

Herosot Goo Jitzu, also a Bakugan, and beast strike toys. I have tried to be good all year.
Your friend, Amalia

Dear Santa Claus,
How old are you? How fast do your reindeer fly? Abril and Jose would like toys. Mama and Papa would like food. I have tried to be good all year.
Your Friend, Alejandra

Mrs. Robinson's second grade Pearl City Elementary

Dear Santa,
I have been naughty and nice. I need to listen to my family and stop being lazy. I help clean the bathroom and answer the phone for my parents. Could you bring these gifts for my family? My dad would like tools. Mom would like dry erase markers. My sister would like an American Girl doll treehouse set. Would you please bring me these gifts? I would like an American Girl doll treehouse set, American Girl doll hair set, and school set. I was wondering how are your elves so tiny? you should trade Rudolph for Star the golden nosed reindeer. Thank you for your gifts! with love,
Jasmine

Dear Santa,
I was pretty good this year. I need to work on being nicer to my brother. I help with feeding the dogs. My mom would like slippers. My dad wants a bear's jersey. My brother would like a monster

truck. First, I would like Nike shoes. Next, I want a watch. Lastly, I would like more toy horse stables. Is my elf being good? if my elf is not being good she can do chores.
Love, Claire

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. I help my mom do laundry. I am a good friend. I want Mom to have a necklace. Dad needs a new chair. My sister needs more earrings. My dogs need toys and treats. I would like an electric scooter with a seat behind it. I also want a watch and an LOL doll. How do the reindeer fly? I hope you get a lot of sleep. Have a good Christmas!
Love, Scarlett

Dear Santa,
I have been naughty and nice. I need to listen to my parents more. I have helped sort the laundry. Could you bring me these gifts for my family? My mom would like a new charger for her phone. Dad wants hunting boots. Would you please bring me these gifts? I would like a VK and Minecraft game and a warden Minecraft Lego set. I was wondering how you fit all the toys in one bag? be sure to train your reindeer. Merry Christmas!
Love, Ben

Dear Santa,
I have been naughty and nice. I need to clean my room whenever it's dirty. I have held the door for people. My mom would like a garage. Dad wants automatic shed doors.

My sisters want makeup. I would like a new helmet and a drone. I was wondering if I could have a job there? you need another reindeer with a red nose. Happy holidays!
With love, Hawkin

Dear Santa,
I have been naughty and nice. I need to listen better to my mom. I help my team work. Could you bring these gifts for my family? My mom wants some gloves. Dad would like hunting gloves. My brothers want two footballs. Would you please bring me these gifts? I would like a VR and a Minecraft game for it. I was wondering if I can work for you? If it's foggy, have your elves put a light on the sleigh. Happy holidays!
Love, Tysen

Dear Santa,
I was very good this year. I also helped with feeding all my dogs. My mom would like pillows. My dad would like a new dog. My sister would like a new doll. First, I would like a tractor. Next, I want a toy Bean Head mover. Does Rudolph's nose glow? How many elves do you have?
Love, Daatin

Dear Santa,
This year I have been naughty and nice. I need to stop fighting with my sister. My sister would like new clothes. My brother would like a new game station. My dad wants a new car. First, I need 1 million face masks. Next, I want a Barbie house.

Lastly, I want Santa and Mrs. Claus to come to my home. How did you get magic? How did your reindeers learn to fly?
Love, Michaela

Dear Santa,
I was pretty good this year. I need to practice being nice to my brother. My sister would like a special cup. My brother wants a real tractor. My mom would like a family picture frame. My dad wants a new bow and arrow set. First, I would like to have 10 toy stables. Next, I would like 10 toy horses with a farmer. Lastly, I want a real makeup box. Is Rudolph good? Is my elf good?
Love, Cora

Dear Santa,
I was nice this year. I helped a friend when he was scared. I took over chores for my brother. I wish you could give my mom new boots for the winter. I wish my brother Miles could get a PlayStation gift card. Jackson would like a mouth guard for snowboarding. Dad would like a dumbbell. Lola and Trixie want a new toy. Sheldon wants a cat bed. Humphrey needs a cat scratcher. I want an iPhone 15 pro. I would also like a new bike without training wheels. I want a king size bed. Can you make both of my elves come to my house tonight, please? I think you should drink light blue bubblers. My family wishes you a Merry Christmas!
Love, Everly

Christmas Greetings from The Village of Lena

Thank you to the following who helped put up the Lena Downtown Nativity Scene and Christmas decorations:

Village of Lena:

Ben Cheeney
Brandt Esling

Lena Park District:

Andy Martin
Vince Decker
Kevin Warner

Volunteers:

Jim Cox
John Keeffer
Don Strohecker
Jerry Fox
Bill Engel
Dan Erner
Bill Crichton
Ryan Buss

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Letters To Santa

Dear Santa,
I was very good this year. I was very helpful with mowing the lawn. I also cleaned the basement. My mom would like new pillows. My dad would like a new house. My mom would like a vacuum. My dad would like a new shirt. My sister would like dolls. First, I would like a vr. Next, I would like a hoverboard. Lastly, I would like a drone with a camera. Is Rudolph a real reindeer? If it is really dark you should bring a flashlight.
Love, Owen

Dear Santa,
I was nice this year. I helped a friend put together the blending board. I picked up the dog's poop for my mom in the yard. I want my mom to get a new dog. I want my dad to get what he's always wanted: an 85 in. TV for our basement. Kezlin wants Paw Patrol toys. Adeline wants makeup. Kiptin wants a new Xbox. Jasper loves bones to chew on. I want an I-phone. I would also like a skateboard. Does Mrs Claus make a lot of cookies and coffee? I hope you use your magic to stay awake all night.
Love, Deklan

Dear Santa,
I have been naughty and nice. I need to listen to my parents better. I help my mom and dad make dinner. Could you bring these gifts for my family? My mom would like pans. Dad wants a hunting coat. My sisters want makeup. Colt wants farm toys. and Ranger wants treats. Would you please bring me these gifts? I would like a DJ Moore Jersey and a Bear's helmet. I was wondering if I can work for you? Be careful not to crash into the houses. Happy holidays!
Love, Oakley

Dear Santa,
This year I have been nice. I help my dad cook. I help my mom do laundry. I will give my mom a ring. Dad needs new shoes. My brother wants an Alexa. My dog wants a treat. I would like a remote control car, a dirt bike, and Mini brands. How many presents can you fit in your sleigh? You need to feed your reindeer. Merry Christmas.
Love, Marco

Mrs. Timmer's second grade Pearl City Elementary
Dear Santa,
First, I was nice this year. I helped split wood. I helped dad make bacon. When my dad and mom are on the farm doing stuff, I watched my sister. Next, Santa, please bring my family gifts. My mom wants farm boots. My sister wants stuff animals. My dad wants new gloves. Last, don't forget me. I want Hey Dudes. I want my own tv in my room. I want ice cream. Finally, why don't you come in the morning? I want to say hi. Why won't you give 1,00 gifts? I hope you have ice cream and a happy new year.
Love, Gwen

Dear Santa,
I was nice this year. I give hugs to my dad when he gets home from work. I helped my mom when she had surgery. My mom would like pajamas. My dad wants new tools. First, I would like a T-Rex blow up costume. Next, I would like a posca and neon markers. Last, I want an elf. Finally, I want a best friend necklace. How do reindeer fly? What does Rudolph look like?
Love, Johan

Dear Santa,
I think I was good this year. I helped take care of my little brother. I was kind to friends. I would like you to bring gifts to my family. Mom wants new clothes. Dad wants a video game. My brother wants toy cars. Elana wants make up. Kayslee wants a Barbie doll. My dog wants a toy. Santa, I want a Barbie doll, more scrunchies, and makeup. I also need a new bike. How do you get in houses if there is no chimney? Santa, be careful not to slip on the roof. Don't eat too many cookies!
Love, Payton

Dear Santa,
I have been nice and naughty. I help my mom bake cookies. I need to share with my brother. Could you bring these gifts for my family? Jackson would like a toy skid loader set. My dad would like new farm boots. My mom would like new cookie cutters. Would you please bring me these gifts? I would like a fingerling. I was wondering what your

favorite cookie is and your favorite reindeer. Make sure the reindeer are ready. Merry Christmas!
Love, Clara

Dear Santa,
First, I was nice this year. I helped my sister find her toy. I helped my mom clean. I helped my dad on the farm. Next, please bring my family gifts. My mom wants a mini fridge. My sister wants a karaoke machine. My dad wants grill. Last, please don't forget me. I want an easel. I want a mini fridge. I don't want anything else. Finally, can you fly without a sleigh? Have you eaten snow before? Have a happy new year.
Love, Camryn

Dear Santa,
I have been nice this year. I helped Paige find her yo-yo. I carried the groceries in for my family. My dad wants a hammer. Mom would like cooking pans. My sisters want a unicorn pillow and a phone. I want a mini claw machine and a transformer

mask. I was wondering do you have magic? Don't fall asleep on Christmas! Thank you for the gifts!
Love, Griffin

Dear Santa,
I was naughty and nice this year. I need to be nicer to my sister. I have been listening to my mom and dad. Blair wants mini brands. My mom would like earbuds. My dad wants a pool. First, I want a giant panda stuffed animal. Next, I want mini brands. Last, I want a giant T-rex stuffed animal. What do reindeer eat besides carrots? Do reindeer fly fast?
With love, Rylee

Dear Santa,
First, I was nice this year. I helped my mom do dishes. I helped my sister get her toy. I helped my mom and dad make a cake. Next, bring

my family gifts. My mom wants a new watch. My dad wants a new watch. My dad and mom want \$1,000. Last, I want things. I want a puppy. I want V-bucks. I want \$100. Finally, why do you say Ho, Ho, Ho? Why do you go down the chimney?
Love, Isaac

Dear Santa,
I was naughty and nice this year. I need to be nicer to my sister. I've been playing nicely with my sister. Katniss would like art supplies. Talia wants squishmellows. My mom would like a Betty Boop car. My dad would love a gun. First, I want a Stitch iphone. Next, I want a Stitch apple watch. Last, I want 1,000 mini verses. You should get 3 sleighs to help you. How many presents do you normally get?
With Love, Octavia

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What Christmas Means To Me

Mrs. Walter's fourth grade River Ridge Elementary

By Amia Stegle
I love Christmas because I get to spend time with my family and open really awesome presents. We also make cookies, decorate Christmas trees, and watch a movie before bed. That's my favorite part. Then in the morning I get up, get my teeth brushed and hair into a messy bun and run down the stairs. I wake up mom and the boys and then we open presents all together. Next, we have some breakfast and get dressed then we watch a movie and eat. I love Christmas so much.

By Kollins (Koko) Patterson

What Christmas means to me. Every year on Christmas eve I can never go to sleep. I am so excited about Christmas. We open our presents and we start to pack to go to

the territory. All of my family is there, that is where we stay every year. I have so much fun staying there every year with my family. My grandma gives us our presents and the food is so good. On the second day we went to the indoor pool. We played on the basketball hoop that was at the pool. We went into the sauna. It was really hot. Then we leave it is the last day we pack up and leave. I think Christmas means to me is to be with family.

By Keegan Nicolin

Christmas to me means being thankful for having a roof over my head and being able to have food to eat. Christmas to me also means being a part of a family that is welcoming and that cares about me. Something else that we do on Christmas is spend time with family and friends. Christmas to me also means opening presents and baking cookies. Christmas to me also means sledding and snowball fights and decorating our tree.

By Brynley Gaul

What Christmas means to me, is celebrating time with family. Christmas means spending time with your loved ones and appreciating the people in your life. The day after Thanksgiving, our Elf On The Shelf comes, Nina the big elf, and pinky and violet, our baby elves. Then, during December we go get our Christmas tree. Then, me and my little sister might make homemade presents, and my parents will go Christmas shopping and they'll drop us off at our Grandma and Grandpas. Then lastly, on Christmas Eve we'll jam out to some Christmas music, clean up the house, put up the Christmas decorations, put the presents under the Christmas tree, and make some cookies and milk to leave out for Santa Claus. That is how me and my family spend Christmas.

By Maddie Edler

This is what Christmas means to me. To me Christmas means to have fun and spend time with family. The first thing we do on Christ-

mas is wake up mom and dad then we can open our presents. Next, we play with my new stuff for a little. Then we get ready to go to my grandma's house with my dad's family because my mom's family lives in Arizona. Last we open the presents that are at my grandma's house then a little later we go home. Thank you for reading What Christmas Means to Me.

By Jayden Bourrette

Christmas means to spend time with family. On Christmas it's fun to celebrate and decorate and spread joy, happiness, and help people. I love Christmas because you get to decorate the tree and be with your grandparents. Every year my grandma and grandpa celebrate Christmas at Cajun Jacks and get us all presents. It's so fun because last year a grinch came and it was funny but my sister and my cousin were crying because he was scary but then he handed out candy and they were ok. I love it when I get to see all my family on Christmas. And that's why I love Christmas.

By Brantley Liberg

I love Christmas because it is time with family and friends. I love decorating my house. Also, trees and celebrating opening presents with your family. And get a lot of toys that you can play with, and I love Christmas really really love Christmas. Also, I love it because it is the best time of the year.

By Diara Ahmed

On Christmas day my family and I open presents under the Christmas tree. Also, we go to my cousins' house for Christmas. On Christmas my family and cousins always watch Christmas movies. Next, we play with the toys that we got. Also, we bake cookies sometimes with my cousin. That is what Christmas means to me.

By Aaliyah Thomas

Christmas is fun. We get to make cookies and milk for santa. I get lots of presents and my brothers and sisters. We always put decorations on Christmas trees. The dec-

orations are cool and cute. The tree looks like a snowman with pretend icicles. The last Christmas I got a present from my mom and dad. And it was amazing! I got a phone. The type of the phone was a Samsung. My brothers and sisters got one too. This Christmas I might get a lot of toys from mom and dad and Santa. All Christmas we drink hot chocolate, jump in snow, make snowballs and throw them. It is cold though we always make snowmen in our backyard. Last Christmas from my mom and dad my favorite present from them was the phone. My favorite present from Santa was the kitty corn egg and I am very happy with it. My kitty corn name is Clover. My sister's kitty corn name is Bubbles. My grandma gives me presents too and grandpa. We go to the Christmas lights too. It is cool. The lights are bright. The lights look like Santa reindeer trucks, elves' cars, candy canes. Last Christmas my sister Lexi got a big huge toy house.



Day of Celebration



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Merry
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and a Happy New Year!*

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What Christmas Means To Me

By Jace Altman
Christmas means spending time with your family. Going out to eat with your family at a restaurant. Going Christmas shopping with your family. My family gives me special gifts.

By Jesse Peck
Christmas means spending time with family. It is fun too. It's nice to spend time opening presents with your family. To have nice food with your grandma, grandpa, mom, dad and brother. It's fun hanging ornaments and opening presents with your family.

By Jaymie Feldermann
I love the cookies and to have my family come together. I also love putting ornaments on the tree. I also love wrapping presents small or big. I love to sing the jingle bell song too. That is what Christmas means to me.

Ms. Fry's fourth grade River Ridge Elementary

By Mason Brown
What does Christmas mean for you? It means to me family gatherings and Christmas feasts. You also will be glad to see presents, but sad your elf is gone. Santa is here but Christmas is leaving soon.

Advent calendars are gone but are gone but hearts are filled with joy and happiness. **MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!!!**

By Beverly Howard
Christmas means Jesus's birthday. When I see snow, Christmas trees, and jingle bells, I think of Christmas. When I hear Christmas carols, jingle bells, and crinkling of presents being opened, I think of Christmas. I also think of presents and Santa coming down the chimney. What does Christmas mean to you?

By Elliana Martinez
I love Christmas because you get presents. And Christmas is a joy to me. I love the cinnamon rolls I eat at breakfast. Christmas is fun because you spend time with family and friends. And you get to open advent calendars. Do you love Christmas?

By Evelyn Allendorf
Christmas is a time of joy. What do you do for Christmas? Christmas means a celebration for me. It's fun and you feel excited because the presents are being opened. Joy fills the room as you learn what Christmas means to you! It fills you with joy when you see all your family eating a feast. And when the day is done you lay in bed cozy and

tight just waiting for a new day.

By Madeleine Bertucci
What does Christmas mean to you? What Christmas means to me is spending time with family and friends! Christmas is about having fun! You get a bunch of presents from Santa! Also, we make traps for Santa and his elves! I love opening presents and spending time with family! And having a funny elf! This is why I love Christmas time! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

By Danny Sample
I love Christmas because we get to see family members. We also get to lay out cookies for Santa. We get to have presents. We get to do a fun thing when we hide a pickle and try to find it. Whoever finds it gets a prize.

By Brodi McLane
It means to me being around family. Setting up Christmas stuff and opening presents. I like it when it snows on Christmas because then you can go outside and play in the snow. When you come in from playing in the snow you can have hot chocolate. This is what Christmas means to me.

By Ezri Penoyer
What does Christmas mean to you? For me, it means spending time with my family. I'm looking forward to Christmas because it means my big sister can come home from college for about a month. And she always brings home her Nintendo Switch home so we can play Mario on it. It also means we get toys so me and my siblings can play together with our new toys. Christmas is a special time

when me and my family get together and have fun. This is what Christmas means to me. Merry Christmas!

By Ruby Radick
You can wake up with presents under the tree and snow outside. You get to spend time with your family. You can go play outside in the snow. You can have hot chocolate. You get to find your elf in the morning! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

By Mick Boop
It means to me that we have family gatherings and feasting. There is also love and joy and happiness. We have fun too! That's what Christmas means to me.

By Zoey Altman
I love Christmas. The things I like are opening presents with my family together. I let

my mom and dad open first. It is fun together every day. I love Christmas and I am happy every day of Christmas.

By Alivia Klippert
I like family coming together at a very big Christmas feast at my house. I think Christmas means peace, joy, and more! On Christmas it is my time because I like to watch Christmas movies. Do you like Christmas? Merry Christmas!





Welcome to The Season

May the Holidays bring much joy to your home & family.
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Bill Scheider
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FHN December calendar of events

Dec. 19
 The First Steps Grief Support Group
 10 - 11:30 a.m.
 FHN Memorial Hospital cafeteria meeting rooms - Lower Level
 No charge; registration not required. For more information, call FHN Pastoral Care at 815-599-6160.

vate Dining Room, Freeport
 This support group is for anyone in the general public who has CHF. Our group meets the third Tuesday of every month. Participation is free, and no referral is needed. No advance registration is required. Meetings are facilitated by FHN Cardiopulmonary Educators, Carly and Krista. For more information, view the schedule or call 815-599-6388.

2 - 3:30 p.m.
 Virtual Meeting
 Free group for those who provide care to a family member, friend, or member of the community. Open-forum discussion and a chance to ask questions and share resources. Visit www.fhn.org/caregivers for the secure Zoom link or contact Sean Huguenin at 815-599-6160 for more information.

2 p.m.
 Freeport Public Library, 100 E. Douglas Street, Freeport
 Bring your baby and join other moms to share knowledge and talk about the most up-to-date breastfeeding information. Discussions will be led by lactation experts from the FHN/SCHD Breastfeeding Task Force. This group is open to all moms and free to attend; visit <https://www.fhn.org/breastfeedingtaskforce.asp> for more information.

Congestive Heart Failure Support Group
 1 - 2 p.m.
 FHN Memorial Hospital - Lower Level Pri-

Dec. 27
 Caregiver Support Group

Dec. 28
 Breastfeeding Support Group



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 1 to 8 p.m.



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Nick Cobine places second at the Ag Education Leadership Development Event.



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Faith Morhardt, Lily Lucas, and Allie Karberg participate in an academic-bowl style that tests their FFA knowledge during the in the Section One FFA Greenhand Quiz Bowl competition.



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River Ridge FFA champion team members (left to right) Jackson Goldsmith, Graci Allen, Natalie Keleher, Hamish Boden and Nick Cobine are all smiles after their win.

River Ridge FFA wins Greenhand Quiz Bowl

Eight members of the River Ridge FFA Chapter traveled to Pecatonica High School on Dec. 5 to compete in the Section One FFA Greenhand Quiz Bowl competition. A greenhand is a first-year high school FFA member and the competition is restricted to only those students.

Students use an academ-

ic-bowl style format with buzzers but have a head-to-head competition instead of the questions being open to everyone on the team. Students were tested on their FFA knowledge; FFA officers, impactful leaders, historical dates, meeting etiquette and a lot of acronyms. The River Ridge Greenhands did a fan-

tastic job and were undefeated as they barely beat the Pecatonica FFA Chapter in the Championship game. Each of the 25 sections from across the state will send its winning team to the State competition which is held as a part of the State FFA Convention in June in Springfield.

The Ag Education Lead-

ership Development Event was also held the same evening. Nick Cobine placed second with his lesson on horse breeds and tack and he will represent our section in February at Black Hawk East College. The top two competitors from the district will get to move on to the State competition.

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Little Blackhawks

Pictured are the final Little Blackhawks of 2023! These students have been recognized for doing great work and having excellent behavior. Congratulations for continuing to do great things at school.

Around the Northern Hills with Annette Eggers

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau! I hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and New Year! As a reminder, our office will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 to celebrate the holidays.



Annette Eggers

Scholarships available

As we are nearing Christmas break for students, make sure that they are working on scholarships! The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation has scholarships available. We again have two different scholarships for those students majoring in an agricultural related field. The first scholarship is geared specifically to Highland Community College Ag students. High School Seniors or those already enrolled at HCC can apply. The second scholarship is a general scholarship for any post-secondary school.

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

Do you know a graduating senior or college student? The IAA Foundation just announced the lineup for the 2024 IAA Foundation Scholarships. This includes 95 scholarships totaling \$177,001. We have had several winners from Jo Daviess County in the past, so I would encourage anyone interested to mark Jan. 1 on their calendar so they don't

miss this great opportunity. The link will be live for the IAA Foundation website until Jan. 1.

FS patronage benefits

Did you know that if you are a Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau member and a customer of Stephenson Service Company that you may be eligible for FS patronage benefits? Qualified purchases you make from FS gives you the potential to become an owner of the company, thereby giving you a voice in its governance. Each year, the FS Board of Directors considers the payment of patronage refunds based on each division's sales and profitability and only pays patronage refunds to Farm Bureau members. If

you're not already a member, please contact our office at 815-858-2235 or sign up at www.myifb.org.

Gift ideas

Are you looking for an idea for that hard to shop for person on your Christmas list? We have Jo Daviess County land plat books for sale at our office. These were published by Rockford Map and are for sale for \$35 for farm bureau members and \$55 for non-members.

Farm Fun Fact

For every Christmas tree harvested, 1-3 seedlings are planted. At the time of this writing, 350 million Christmas trees are growing in the United States.

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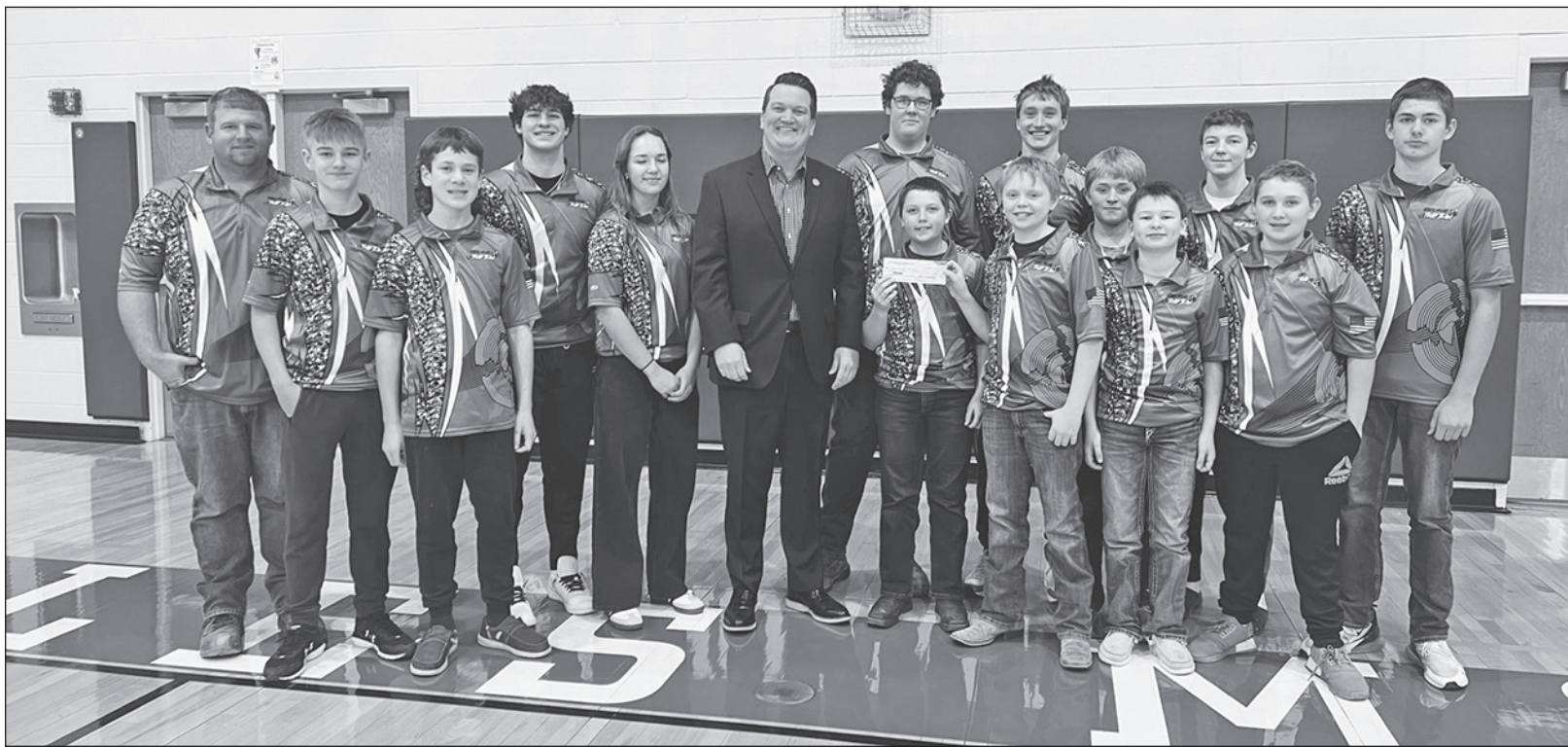
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Senator Andrew Chesney presents Scales Mound High School Trap Team with \$500 scholarship

Christmas came early this year for the Scales Mound High School Trap Team when State Senator Andrew Chesney (R-Freeport) surprised the students and coaches on Dec. 5 with a \$500 scholarship to help support the program. The scholarship was made available by the Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.

"The Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus works to protect and advance policies that promote hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife management. As a member, this year I was able to provide a \$500 scholarship to a program that supports these activities," said Chesney. "Trap shooting requires a great deal of skill and practice, and I was pleased to be able to present a check for \$500 that will help with the purchase of ammunition and jerseys for the Trap Team at Scales Mound High School."

According to Chesney, the Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus is the largest and one of the oldest caucuses in the General Assembly and includes membership from the Senate and House. With regard to trap shooting, Illinois is home to about 500,000



State Senator Andrew Chesney gives the Scales Mound Trap Team \$500 to support the program made possible by Illinois Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Head Coach Jeremy Williams, Hunter Hesselbacher, Jonathan Weis, Jonah Driscoll, Rori Distler, Hale Moser, Beau Travis, Jaxon McCartney, Derrick Wallin, (back row, left to right), Jonathan Reddington, Maxwell Wiene, Garren Goodwin, Adyn Travis, and Graham Koehler, (not pictured) Assistant Trap Team Coaches Amanda Williams and Michael Conrad.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

recreational shooters, and trap shooting is a sport that can be enjoyed by sportsmen and women of all ages.

"We want to thank Senator Chesney for his generous financial support of our Trap Team," said Head Coach Jer-

emy Williams. "Trap shooting helps develop accuracy and the ability to follow a fast-moving target, so the Sen-

ator's financial support will go far in helping students improve skills they will be able to use their whole lives."

The Scales Mound Hornets Trap Team competes annually in competitions at the local, regional, and state level.

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Orangeville-Aquin Coop splits games with West Carroll, River Ridge

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT
After getting off to a slow start, the new Orangeville-Aquin boys basketball coop has begun to build some chemistry. The Broncos dropped their first four games of the 2023-2024 season. It was clear the new combination of players was going to need some time to get going.

Something clicked in their Nov. 30 matchup against Hiawatha. On a night where the Broncos had their best offensive performance of the season, Orangeville-Aquin brought it all together.

Perhaps most notable was the performance of Orangeville-Aquin's duo of Cody Wirth and Brant Carlson. Against Hiawatha, Wirth led

the way with 24 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Carlson was right there with him with 20 points on a trio of his own three-pointers. Together, the duo combined for over sixty percent of the Broncos' offense. Boden Gustafson added seven as the Broncos picked up their first win of the year by a score of 73-46.

That was the start of a little run for Orangeville-Aquin. They quickly earned their second win of the season when they took on Benton on Dec. 2. That day, the Broncos found themselves in a physical battle. It came down to defense, and the Broncos held Benton to just 28 points on the night.

On the other hand, Wirth remained consistent as the team's scoring leader with 15

points. Brock Tyrrell added eight points, while Joe Isenberger and Ben Briggs each had six. Despite Wirth being the only Bronco in double figures, Orangeville took home a 54-28 victory.

On Dec. 8, Orangeville-Aquin fell to the Fulton Steamers by a score of 51-37. After six days off, the Broncos were unable to keep their momentum rolling. The loss to Fulton dropped their record to 2-5 on the season.

Following the loss, the Broncos had another long delay as they waited another six days before their next game. On top of that, they were back on the road for their third consecutive road matchup. Technically speaking, it was their fourth consecutive road game

if you count their matchup against Benton in this year's Stateline Shootout. Despite that, the Broncos found a way to bounce back in their matchup with West Carroll.

They did so in a big way. In the very first quarter, the Broncos spun off 23 points. While many modern teams try to do their work from beyond the arc, the Broncos aren't scared to get inside the paint. They gave West Carroll the business as they jumped out to a 15-point advantage in the very first quarter.

Orangeville continued to pile it on in the second quarter. Carlson had the hot hand as he led the way to a 36-16 lead at the break.

In the second half, the Broncos could have let the clock

slowly run out. The new coop kept their foot on the gas pedal, however, as they let their offense keep going. It was an all-around performance as nine different Broncos scored field goals in the game.

Carlson led the team with 16 points, while Wirth added another 15. At this point in the season, it's clear the Broncos are going to rely on that duo to lead the way. Briggs was next up with nine points, while Jaxon Grilliot added eight. Tyrrell and Nate Briggs each added six as the Broncos picked up a 68-31 victory.

The Broncos went on to drop their next matchup as they faced off with River Ridge in their first game of this year's Forrester Tournament. Despite the loss, it was another

important performance for a learning Bronco team. They managed to compete with a tough Wildcats squad until the very end. In fact, the Broncos held an 18-13 lead at the end of the first.

River Ridge slowly chipped away, however, and the Broncos fell by a score of 66-57. Carlson posted 20 points, while Ben Briggs added 14. Wirth finished with 12 and Tyrrell added 11. Despite the Broncos having four in double figures, it wasn't quite enough to keep up with River Ridge.

The loss dropped Orangeville-Aquin's record to 3-6 on the year. They were 3-2 over their last five games played. The Broncos are set to travel to take on the Dakota Indians on Dec. 30.

Orangeville, Lena-Winslow impress at this year's Pearl City Tournament

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Pearl City Lady Wolves hosted their annual Pearl City Tournament, recently. From Dec. 9 to Dec. 14, Pearl City played host to eight different competing teams. Oregon, Warren, Lena-Winslow, AFC, Orangeville, East Dubuque, Morrison, and, of course, Pearl City competed in the tournament.

Pearl City's best performance came in their final game of the tournament where they faced off with East Dubuque. Despite going down early, the Lady Wolves continued to fight until the final buzzer. At the end of the first, Pearl City trailed by a score of 16-9. In the second quarter, Pearl City found success at the line. Kady Miller went three for four at the charity stripe in the quarter. Despite that, East Dubuque took a 28-15 lead into the break.

Pearl City's offense picked up in the third when they

combined for 12 points. Stager had a pair of baskets, while Tana Gravert and Makenzie Ihus added four points each. The trio combined for some late momentum for the Wolves.

In the fourth, Pearl City kicked things up a notch. At the line, Stager went six for eight. Gravert added another pair of baskets. Ultimately, Pearl City put up 16 points in the fourth. It wasn't enough, however, as the Wolves fell 56-43. Stager led Pearl City with 14, while Gravert had nine and Ihus added eight.

Although Pearl City went winless through the tournament, the Orangeville Broncos had a different experience. Orangeville entered the tournament with an undefeated record. That statement remained true even after the tournament as the Lady Broncos dominated their way to a Pearl City championship.

The Broncos opened the tournament with a 50-29 vic-

tory over Oregon. After that, the Broncos went on to beat the Eastland Cougars and the Pearl City Wolves. Orangeville jumped out to a 16-4 lead in the first quarter against the Wolves. By the half, Laney Cahoon had already racked up thirteen points, giving Orangeville a 27-11 advantage.

Pearl City didn't have the offense to keep up with Orangeville. Especially with the Broncos' stifling defense. The Wolves were led by Ava Bremmer, who finished with

seven points. Gravert was next up with four. Orangeville was led by Nadalee Doyle, who posted 23 points in the victory. Cahoon added 16 as the Broncos won by a score of 54-22.

That victory propelled Orangeville into the championship game, where they were set to face off with the Morrison Mustangs. Prior to the big game, the Mustangs held an overall record of 8-5.

Once again the Broncos were boosted by a fantastic first quarter. Doyle continued

to have the hot hand as a first quarter three-pointer helped her post seven points in the opening quarter. Whitney Sullivan returned to the team with three quick baskets. Cahoon hit a three-pointer of her own as the Broncos jumped out to a 20-6 lead in the first.

Orangeville handled business the rest of the way as they captured this year's Pearl City Championship by a score of 57-32. Sullivan led the way in scoring with 22 points. Cahoon was next up with 19 and Doyle finished with 10 as the

Broncos had three in double figures. Addie Wheeler added four in the victory. It was also a double-double performance for Sullivan, who led the team with 10 rebounds. Both Sullivan and Cahoon were named to the All-Tournament Team.

Although the Broncos captured the first-place finish, another area team showed up and showed out in the Lena-Winslow Panthers. This year's Pearl City Tournament was a story of redemption for

See **TOURNAMENT**, Page 20

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COUNTRY FINANCIAL

240424

Wildcats split games with Dakota, Eastland

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats got off to a hot start in their 2023-2024 girls basketball season. After a 6-1 start, the Wildcats ran into some tougher obstacles.

They took their second loss of the season when they faced off with an undefeated Orangeville team on Dec. 1. Good teams bounce back, however, and that's exactly what the Wildcats did on Dec. 4 when they dominated their way to a 40-12 victory over Milledgeville.

After a long delay, the Wildcats hit the road on Dec. 11 to face off with the Dakota Indians. Despite the Wildcats looking like heavy favorites on paper, the Indians gave them a battle. Dakota was just 5-7 prior to the game, while RR-SM was 7-2. Despite their record, the Indians have been a tough team all year. They proved that again when they played host to the Wildcats.

Many could have expected a defensive battle, and that's just what ensued in the first quarter. Both teams struggled to put up points in the opener, but the Wildcats found themselves holding a slim advantage after the first eight minutes.

Heading into the second, the Wildcats were up just 6-3. Their offense really began to find their momentum. Emily Wiederholt's steal and score gave the Wildcats a 12-7 lead. Later, another steal and score by Addison Albrecht would give RR-SM a double-digit lead. The Dakota turnovers began to cost them as RR-SM took a 20-9 lead into the halftime break.

Coaches often point out that the most important quarters are the second and third. Teams want to close out the first half with a statement and they want to bring the energy out to start the second. That's just what the Wildcats did in the third quarter as they outscored Dakota 11-4.

Dakota made things appear closer than they really were with a big fourth quarter. They outscored RR-SM 14-5 in the fourth, but the Wildcats went home with the win. Gwen Miller led the team in scoring with 14 points. That was Miller's second-best offensive performance of the year, with her season-high being 20. Miller also led the team in rebounds with seven. Ava Wiederholt and Albrecht each finished with five points. Abigail Frank and Laiken Haas each had four as the Wildcats won by a score of 36-27.

Two days after the road victory over Dakota, the Wildcats played host to the Eastland Cougars. Eastland is one of those sneaky teams that has really started to find their momentum as of late. The Cougars came into their matchup against RR-SM with a record of 6-5. They picked up their seventh victory of the season when they upset the Wildcats on Dec. 13.

From the jump, the Wildcats found themselves trailing. Eastland got off to an 11-8 advantage in the opening quarter. The Wildcats kept things close in the second, but Eastland still expanded their lead as they outscored RR-SM 7-6.

By the break, RR-SM trailed by a score of 18-14. The second half was even worse for the Wildcats as a big third quarter saw things fall even further out of reach. In the fourth, Eastland outscored RR-SM 22-14 to secure a 53-35 victory.

Miller led the team in scoring with 11 points, while Albrecht added nine. Emily Wiederholt was next up with six. Miller also led the team in rebounds with five, while Albrecht and Emily finished with five steals each.

The loss dropped RR-SM's record to 8-3 on the season. The Wildcats are set to play host to the East Dubuque Warriors on Jan. 5.

Lady Warriors compete in third place game at Pearl City Tournament

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Warren Warriors were one of eight girls varsity basketball teams to compete in this year's Pearl City Tournament. This year's tournament featured Pearl City, Warren, Oregon, Morrison, Lena-Winslow, Orangeville, AFC, and East Dubuque. The entire tournament took place across five days as Pearl City hosted the event from Dec. 9 to Dec. 14.

Warren came into the tournament with a record of just 3-5. Despite that, the Warriors showed some fight as they gave themselves an opportunity to compete in the third-place game against Lena-Winslow. Before they got there, the Warriors had to take on a trio of other teams.

On Dec. 9, the Warriors began tournament play as they faced off with the host team in the Pearl City Wolves. For Warren, it was a hot start to the tournament as they quickly got things going in the very first quarter. Addy Bohnsack had seven opening quarter points, including a three-pointer. Lauren Williams also had the hot hand from deep as a pair of three-pointers gave her eight first quarter points. Mayci Mullen added three as the Warriors took an 18-7 lead into the second.

The Warriors never looked back. By halftime, Warren held a 35-14 advantage as everything was going their way. Mullen added another pair of three-pointers in the third quarter as the Warriors put the finishing touches on.

In the end, Warren won by a score of 53-33. Mullen led the team in scoring with 14 points. Williams was next up with 13, and Bohnsack finished with 12. At the time,

that was the fourth consecutive victory for the Lady Warriors.

That winning streak would come to an end in their next matchup. Although the final score wasn't pretty, the Warriors went to battle against one of the best teams in the area, the Orangeville Broncos. Orangeville dominated their way to a 56-16 victory over the Warriors.

What was important for the Warriors was how they would respond to the loss. Things didn't get much easier in their next matchup as they faced off with the Oregon Hawks on Dec. 12. Oregon would prove to be another tough matchup for Warren.

This time around Warren got off to a slow start. The offense struggled to find clean shots as they put up just seven first quarter points. Four of those points came from a pair of baskets by Bohnsack. At the end of one, Warren found themselves trailing 11-7.

The Warriors turned things around in the second. Not only did they hold Oregon to just six points, but the offense found some momentum. Mullen and Averi Sabinson each hit three pointers in the quarter. Bohnsack remained consistent with another four points. By the break, Warren gave themselves the lead with a 19-17 advantage.

The third quarter is where Warren began to put things away. Early in the year, Warren head coach Fred Linker spoke about the team's second half struggles. Especially coming out of the break, the Warriors needed to bring more energy. That wasn't the case against Oregon as the Warriors came out firing. Mullen sunk a pair of big three-pointers. Bohnsack drilled her first three of the

night, and Williams added four points. The Warriors managed to outscore Oregon 14-7 in what was arguably their best third quarter of the season.

The Warriors closed it out in the fourth as they went on to win by a score of 39-33. Bohnsack led the team in scoring with 14 points, while Mullen added 11. Williams and Sabinson each added six as the victory gave Warren an opportunity to compete in the third-place game against Lena-Winslow.

The Warriors found themselves facing another exceptional defense in that third-place game. Not only did they get shut down by Orangeville just a few days before, but Le-Win held the Warriors to just 21 points back on Nov. 27. Warren refused to let that happen again as they got another shot at the Panthers in the third-place game on Dec. 14.

In the first quarter, the Warriors gave Le-Win a run for their money. Bohnsack got off to a quick start with a pair of three-pointers and two free throws. Emily VanRaalte added a basket of her own. Early on, it was Warren's defense that stood out. If it wasn't for Grace Groezinger, who wound up on the All-Tournament team, the Warriors would have jumped out to an early lead. Groezinger single handedly led the Panthers with 11 points in the first, however, and the Warriors went into the second trailing 14-10.

Both offenses slowed down in the second as the defense took over. Warren put up just eight points in the quarter, five of which came from Bohnsack. Sabinson drilled a three-pointer, but the Warriors went into the break

trailing 24-18.

Coming out of the half, Warren experienced some of those third quarter woes they have been working on avoiding. Le-Win put up 16 points in the third quarter, while Warren's offense continued to struggle. Bohnsack continued to find success, but outside of her, Warren didn't get much. Mullen hit her first basket of the night with a three-pointer, while Bohnsack added four points of her own. Eventually, Warren went into the fourth trailing 40-25.

Warren wouldn't go away easy in the fourth quarter. Mullen caught fire from deep as she hit a pair of three-pointers in the fourth. Bohnsack added another five points, and Williams went two for two at the line. Katie Schneider also hit her first basket of the night as Warren combined for 17 in the fourth.

It wasn't enough, however, as Le-Win walked away with a 54-42 victory. Bohnsack led the way in scoring with 21 points. Mullen was next up with 11 on a trio of three-pointers. Sabinson finished the day with three points as Warren took the loss.

Although the Warriors went just 2-2 at the tournament, they walked away with something to build on. They were much better against Le-Win than they were in their first matchup of the year. With such a youthful squad, the Warriors appear to be right on track. They have improved as the year goes on, and that's just what the Warriors and coach Linker wanted to see.

Warren's next home game isn't until Jan. 5 when they play host to the Stockton Blackhawks.

• Tournament (Continued from page 19)

the Panthers. After starting the tournament by facing off with Orangeville and Morrison, the two championship teams, the Panthers found themselves 0-2. Those losses dropped their overall record to 8-4.

Things didn't get much

easier in their third matchup either. On Dec. 11, the Panthers faced off with AFC in a battle that came down to the wire. The game featured a high-scoring first quarter as AFC took a 16-14 lead into the second.

That's when things began to pick up for the Panthers. Rachael Setterstrom and Ava Vlasin each hit three-pointers in the quarter. Grace Groezinger put up six in the second as well. Le-Win managed to outscore AFC 16-10 in the second as they took a 32-24 lead into the break.

In the end, the Panthers picked up their first win of the tournament with a 44-41 victory over AFC. Groezing-

er led the Panthers with 15 points, while Setterstrom and Molly Amendt each had 10.

The victory sparked a nice little run for the Panthers as they went on to win their next two games. Their biggest matchup of the tournament came on Dec. 14 when they faced off with the Warren Warriors in the third-place game.

Groezinger is one of the Panthers' best players offensively, but she took things to another level in the third-place game. In the first quarter alone, Groezinger racked up 11 points, including going three for three at the line. Janessa Esser added a three-pointer as Le-Win

jumped out to a 14-10 advantage.

Groezinger kept things rolling in the second quarter as she put up another seven points. Sophie Johnston added a three-pointer of her own as the Panthers took a 24-15 lead into the break.

The second half was perhaps closer than the Panthers would have liked. Although Le-Win had the game in control, some late three-pointers gave the Warriors hope. In the end, Le-Win captured third place with a 54-42 victory. Groezinger led the team with 22 points, while Amendt added nine. Groezinger was also named to the All-Tournament team for her play.

Annual Pie Baking Contest set for Jan. 20

The American Legion Auxiliary will hold the annual Pie Baking Contest on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2024, and the Soup Tasting on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024.

The American Legion Auxiliary Units of the Thirteenth District will host the pie baking contest. Fruit

pies should be delivered to the American Legion Home in Lena between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Pies will be judged, and cash prizes will be awarded.

The Units will once again sponsor an activity from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Annual Soup Tasting will feature

over 15 different soups and dessert for \$8 for adults and \$3 for children under 10.

Join for a weekend of fun. The American Legion Home is located 316 West Main Street in Lena, across from the historical water tower. Please call 233-9078 or 369-4684 with any questions.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen
 Just like other professions, for farmers, growing and raising our food means improving. It means discovering ways to do things better and finding solutions to complex problems. Farmers make decisions every day that advance their methods for raising animals and growing crops. Innovation on the farm such as self-steering equipment, field mapping drones, and animal health monitors mean less environmental impacts, safer food, and a healthier world. In Illinois, farmers use the latest in science and technology to advance the ways they grow and raise food that is better for you and our world. To learn more about how farmers bring their innovations to life visit www.watchusgrow.org/innovation-grows-here/

Everything Local conference strengthens Illinois food supply chain

Recognizing that Illinois producers and agribusiness leaders are increasingly seeking new opportunities to boost local food systems, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB), Illinois Specialty Growers Association (ISGA) and the Illinois Farmers Market Association (IFMA) are excited to announce the return of the From Food to Flowers: Everything Local conference this January. "Producers want to know more about getting the most from their farms, and local food interests and farmers markets want to work with excellent producers to promote our state's local food systems," said Raghela Scavuzzo, IFB associate director of food systems development. "Efforts to build these relationships don't stop at the fencerow or market gate. That's why we have come together to connect the right people and boost local food systems." Everything Local will take place Jan. 17-19, in person at the Springfield Crowne Plaza, 3000 S. Dirksen Parkway. Visit <https://www.specialtygrowers.org/everything-local-2024.html> for more information or to register. Media interested in attending should email Sierra Henry, IFB media relations specialist, at shenry@ifb.org.
 The conference combines the Illinois Specialty Crop Conference and Live Local: Local Food & Farmers Market Conference. It will feature three general sessions with leaders in the industry, more than 100 educational sessions and 65 trade show exhibitors. Topics include specialty crop production, farmers market



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lena Lions donate to living center

Thank you to the Lena Lions Club for buying and donating a puzzle table for the residents at the Lena Living Center. The table tilts, has drawers, is on wheels, and has a cover. It is sure to bring a lot of fun to the center.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lights Parade

The Pearl City Fourth Annual Lights Parade was held on Dec. 16, 2023. Parade goes decorated cars, trucks, and tractors with lights to show off their holiday spirit. The parade included a non-perishable food and children's gift drive with donations given to the Pearl City Food Pantry.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

A tractor decorated with lights joins in on the Pearl City Fourth Annual Lights Parade.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured right to left are team members Madalyn Schierloh, Mika Schoger, Ava Fiedler, Hannah Pecoraro, Kegan DeZell, and State FFA Treasurer Benjamin Bremmer at the CDE event.

Lena-Winslow FFA news

The Lena-Winslow FFA Chapter recently had a very successful Dairy Foods judging team that not only placed first at the section level, but also excelled in the state competition as well.
 Team members Ava Fiedler, Hannah Pecoraro, Mika Schoger, Kegan DeZell, and Madalyn Schier-

loh placed second out of 33 teams at the state competition at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign on Dec. 9. Madalyn Schierloh and Hannah Pecoraro placed sixth and eighth, respectively, out of 145 individuals. The team had a fun drive down stopping at the LaSalle-Peru Christmas Light Show and for dinner at

Woody's Family Restaurant in El Paso.
 Congratulations to Ava, Hannah, Kegan, Madalyn and Mika for all of their hard work and their phenomenal finish at state! Also, a big shout out to their FFA Advisor, Jacob Snook, for all the endless hours he spent training this team and sharing his wisdom.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pearl City Technowolves qualify for sectionals

The Pearl City Technowolves had a successful day at the Rockford Qualifier. They brought home the Finalist for the Champion's Award, which is essentially second place overall of 24 teams. The team will move on to a Sectional in January. They had the third highest table mission score of the day and represented Pearl City well. Pictured are Pearl City Technowolves team members (front row) Abby Ditsworth, Aubri Mefford, Jonah, Ehlers, Hendrix Feld, (back row) Dahlia Cervantes, Cassidy Dorty, Hannah Dinderman, and Jace Forth.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

22 FC 78

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

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SAID SECTION 9; THENCE EAST ON THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SAID SECTION 9, A DISTANCE OF 2088.31 FEET; THENCE SOUTHERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF

85 DEGREES - 25 MINUTES - 28 SECONDS AS MEASURED COUNTER-CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 348.66 FEET TO A POINT IN A TOWNSHIP ROAD; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ON SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 187 DEGREES - 52 MINUTES - 10 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 756.94 FEET; THENCE CONTINUING SOUTHWESTERLY ON SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 203 DEGREES - 48 MINUTES - 35 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 715.90 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTERLINE OF SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ON THE CENTERLINE OF SAID TOWNSHIP ROAD, AT AN ANGLE OF 174 DEGREES - 41 MINUTES - 10 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 399.05 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE HERINAFTER DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND; THENCE NORTHEASTERLY ON THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 221.11 FEET; THENCE WESTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 64 DEGREES - 41 MINUTES - 44 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST

DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 217.92 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, AT AN ANGLE OF 58 DEGREES - 18 MINUTES - 31 SECONDS AS MEASURED CLOCKWISE FROM THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE, A DISTANCE OF 234.92 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS. THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY LOCATED IN A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER (SE 1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW 1/4) OF SECTION 9, TOWNSHIP 28 NORTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, CONSISTING OF THREE TRACTS OF LAND, BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED ABOVE. AND BEING THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED FROM ELMER HARKWICK, A MARRIED PERSON, THE GRANTOR(S), TO ROBERT WILLIAM NORTON, SR. AND IDA MAE NORTON, HIS WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP AND NOT AS TENANTS IN COMMON, THE GRANTEE(S) BY VIRTUE OF DEED DATED 08/14/1973, AND RECORDED 08/14/1973, IN BOOK 193 AT PAGE 792; RE-RECORDED 10/09/1973, IN BOOK 194 AT PAGE 152 AMONG THE AFORESAID LAND RECORDS.

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

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

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

For information call Mr. Ira T. Nevel at Plaintiff's Attorney, Law Offices of Ira T. Nevel, 175 North

Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (312) 357-1125. File Number 22-03577 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13234418

(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 13, 20 & 27, 2023) 448262

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 es-

tate 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 13234308

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 2023) 448083

Buckeye Township Cemetery Association Financial Statement

Balance	
12-1-22	\$ 488.31
Taxes	<u>\$ 13,973.11</u>
	\$ 14,461.42
Expenses:	
Rock Valley Publishing	\$ 37.50
Afolkey Cemetery	\$ 2,090.00
Bellview Cemetery	\$ 1,114.00
Cedarville Cemetery	\$ 9,059.00
Richland Cemetery	\$ 836.00
Zion Cemetery	\$ 696.00
Total Expenses	\$ 13,832.50
Balance	
12-1-23	\$ 417.18
Trustees Dennis Fryer Denise Hayunga Jim Obert	

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



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U.S. Supreme Court refuses to block assault weapons ban as full legal challenges progress

Pritzker says he still believes law is constitutional

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The U.S. Supreme Court issued two orders last week turning down requests to block enforcement of Illinois' assault weapons ban while challenges to the law are still being heard in lower courts.

On Dec. 13, Justice Amy Coney Barrett turned down a request from Republican state Rep. Dan Caulkins, of Decatur, and other gun rights advocates who lost their challenge to the law earlier this year at the Illinois Supreme Court.

And on Dec. 14, the full court issued an unsigned order denying a similar request for an injunction by the National Association for Gun Rights, one of the plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging both the statewide ban and a local ban

in the city of Naperville.

NAGR filed its request Nov. 29 while it was waiting for the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to decide whether it would reconsider its earlier decision upholding the law as constitutional. But the 7th Circuit said Dec. 11 it would not reconsider that decision.

Because of that, NAGR said this week it is now preparing to ask the Supreme Court for a full review of the law.

Speaking to reporters in Springfield at an unrelated event Dec. 14s, Gov. JB Pritzker, who signed the law back in January, said he still believes it is constitutional. "I still believe that—as everybody that voted on the law and voted for it—that this is not only a legal undertaking and an appropriate undertaking to keep and safeguard the people of the state of Illinois, but a constitutional one too," he said.

•News (Continued from page 21)

management, community food development, business development, funding, and financing and more. In addition to four other keynote speakers and panel discussions, Chef Rick Bayless will join the conference for a fireside chat. Bayless won the title of Bravo's Top Chef Masters with his authentic Mexican cuisine. He also hosts a highly rated Public Television series, Mexico – One Plate at a Time, which is broadcast coast to coast and has earned him multiple Daytime Emmy nominations for Best Culinary Host.

Aside from networking opportunities to develop and share new ideas, attendees of the conference will have the chance to: Hear perspectives from general session keynote speakers who understand and champion the specialty and local food markets. Engage in breakout tracks ranging from grower production practices and business development to farmers market management and community food systems. Attend workshops on GAP certification, farm-to-school training, social media management and more. Interact with vendors, associations and non-profits at the conference's trade show.

Other highlights taking place will be the Illinois Apple Cider Contest, the three hosting organizations' annual meetings, awards, meet-the-buyer events, stakeholder

meetings, specialized trainings and workshops.

Carroll County Farm Bureau offers members health screenings/blood draw

On Friday, Jan. 19 from 6 a.m.-8:30 a.m. the Carroll County Farm Bureau will host a preventative health screening with a three-panel blood draw. The cost is \$100 for the basic package, a fraction of what you would like pay out of pocket at a doctor's office. Preventative Health Screening package for \$100 includes Full blood draw CMP, CBC & Lipid panels, Cholesterol blood sugar, protein counts electrolytes, liver enzymes, blood cell counts and much more! Blood Pressure checks will also be given. Participants will receive the results within three weeks. Blood draw is on par with standard draw at doctors' office. Appointments are required and must be scheduled in advance. To schedule please call Thrive Wellness at 309-550-9172.

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.

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

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

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

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

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

611 East Snyder Street Davis, IL 61019

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

the court.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

448257

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

COMMON ADDRESS: 920 S. Chicago Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N.: 18-14-31-453-038 The real estate is improved with a single-family residence.

THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$37,426.40

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

the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

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

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

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 23 0499.

Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Email: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 23 0499 I3234910

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

448630

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

By the time you get this paper, Christmas will be knocking at the door. It has been a long journey for me to get to this Christmas. It began in the spring when I was having what I thought was sinus trouble. Many months later I was diagnosed with tongue cancer and my life drastically changed.

When you hear the "C" word, you have no idea what is ahead of you. Because it took so long to diagnose my cancer, the waiting game was very stressful. The cancer doctors at the Ferguson Center were my

heroes. They got me into a specialist at University of Wisconsin in Madison. My journey finally began on Sept. 21 when they removed a cancerous tumor from my tongue. After several weeks I began chemotherapy and radiation. Because my cancer was invasive in my mouth, the treatments were very difficult. I eventually could not eat and lived on a liquid diet (do you know how hard it is to write a cooking column when you can't eat anything?).

I decided I had to have a goal to get through this journey. I would continue my cooking column and because I love Christmas, I would decorate my house for the holiday. This column is my last of the year and my house twinkles! I have had so many people who have helped me in this journey. I was humbled by the many cards, the prayer lists on churches, my friends who were

my uber drivers and my chemo buddies as well as my family and friends here and far. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all your love and support. I am especially grateful to *The Shopper's Guide* and Jessica. They were on standby if I couldn't get my column done, and Jessica was a great cheerleader.

I have a long road of recovery. I am hoping to eat a little something by the middle of January and not just live on a liquid diet. That will be a red-letter day. I will be reading my paper every week and hoping to submit a column in January.

In leaving our time together today, I would share with you my traditional Christmas message that I received many years ago from a dear friend. It has certainly been true this year for our me and my family. Remember, "Every time a hand

reaches out to help another... that is Christmas. Every time someone puts anger aside and strives for understanding... that is Christmas. Every time people forget their differences and realize their love for each other... that is Christmas. May this Christmas bring us closer to the spirit of human understanding, closer to the blessing of peace." May the blessings of Christmas be on all of you as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and the promise of eternal life. Merry Christmas from Lena's Kitchen and the not so skinny cook.

After I return in January, I will be looking for some recipes 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.

Jeri Strohecker

IN*CI*DENTAL*LY

Maintain your dental health during the holidays

With shopping, wrapping, baking, church, and school holiday programs, and traveling to be with family and friends, the winter holidays mark one of the busiest seasons of the year. As your normal routines become lost in the "madness" I would like to share some tips that can help you to greet 2024 with the same healthy smile that you started this holiday season with.

1) Do not use your teeth as a tool - The holidays come with sales tags to remove, packages to open, and tape to apply to presents. Ripping open presents, tearing off labels, or cutting tape with teeth may save a few seconds, but more often than you would think, also leads to chipping or breaking a tooth. In that same vein, please take the extra minute to grab a nutcracker or bottle opener. Opening bottles or cracking nuts open with your teeth can damage both your teeth and gums.

2) If your holiday plans include traveling, do not leave if you suspect you have a dental issue. Schedule an appointment so that you do not end up with a dental emergency while out of town. Even if you are not travelling far for the holidays, unpredictable winter weather may mean an unexpected overnight stay. Packing travel sized toothpastes, floss, and toothbrushes for you and your family at this time of the year can come in handy, especially



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

after eating all those sugary treats.

3) During the holidays we tend to graze on snacks and sweets throughout the day. You can help avoid holiday weight gain and a 24/7 plaque attack by taking the focus off food. Try to limit serving food to mealtimes and have a list of activities planned to keep your family's minds off food. These can include crafts, building snow forts, flag football or other outside activities, card or board games, and a movie or trivia marathon.

4) The holidays are one of those times of year where we are most likely to consume more than our fair share of sugary and/or acidic drinks such as hot chocolate, and alcoholic beverages. As if the acid and sugar were not already doing enough to harm your teeth, these can also dehydrate you. Make sure that you and your children are staying hydrated with fluoridated tap water, rinsing your mouth out with tap water to help remove food particles, sugars, and acids, and are waiting at least a half hour after eating and drinking

See **HEALTH**, Page 26

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

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444841

real estate

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

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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.

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

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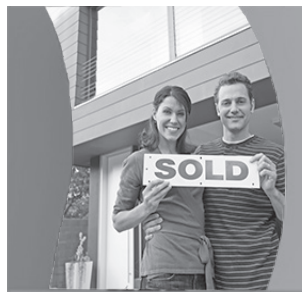
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REAL ESTATE NOTICES

• Health

(Continued from page 24)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS - GALENA, ILLINOIS NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC,

Plaintiff, vs. UNKNOWN HEIRS OF IDA MAE NORTON FRECEIVABLES (TX), LLC SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO THE ASSOCIATED FINANCIAL SERVICES OF IOWA, SHERI HORNING, KELLY WASHFORD, ROBERT NORTON, TIM MILLER AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, UNKNOWN TENANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants,

22 FC 78

NOTICE OF SALE

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

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

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

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

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

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3234418

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

448264

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 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 following 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 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

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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)

448084

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

U.S. Bank National Association PLAINTIFF

Vs.

Carol Keister; et. al.

DEFENDANTS

No. 2023FC24

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

PIN 06-10-13-378-004

Improved with Residential COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 611 East Snyder Street Davis, IL 61019

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

If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers oth-

er than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Published in The Shopper's Guide

Dec. 13, 20 & 27, 2023)

448260

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

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

NO. 2023FC52

Address: 920 S. Chicago Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

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

as set forth below, the following described real estate:

COMMON ADDRESS: 920 S. Chicago Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N.: 18-14-31-453-038

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

THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$37,426.40

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

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

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

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

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 23 0499.

Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois

Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC

30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650

Chicago, Illinois 60602

Email: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com

Ph. 312-541-9710 /

Fax 312-541-9711

JB&A # IL 23 0499

I3234910

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 20, 27, 2023

& Jan. 3, 2024)

448631

before brushing, so you are producing enough saliva to neutralize these acids.

5) Speaking of brushing, with all these disruptions in our normal routines, oral care routines seem to go by the wayside during the holiday season. It may be helpful to set an alarm on your cell phone both in the morning and at night to help remind you and your children to brush and floss. You can use the holiday spirit to promote brushing for the recommended two minutes by having your child hum a holiday song while brushing.

6) Replace sweet treats in Christmas stockings with a character toothbrush, small toys, puzzles, or family activity coupons. If your family uses an advent calendar, avoid the ones that contain candy for the daily treat.

7) Avoid crunchy candies that can break teeth (peanut brittle, candy canes, etc.) or break into shards and damage gums when you chomp down, and sticky candy that lingers in the mouth for extensive time (chewy toffee or any candy that you lick or suck on for extended periods.) Choose dark chocolate over white or milk chocolate.

8) Offer your family and guests healthy/tooth friendly snacks such as cheese, crunchy vegetables, and fruit.

9) If you did not schedule a checkup before your child left for college, or if they have developed a dental issue while away at school, take advantage of your child's holiday vacation to address any dental concerns.

10) Stress, poor nutrition, and lack of sleep during the holidays make you vulnerable to developing a cold or the flu. Sucking on throat lozenges, cough drops and cough syrup (which often contain high fructose corn syrup, sucrose, citric acid and/or alcohol), throughout the day, or taking cough medicine before bed to fall asleep, means that these harmful substances stay in your mouth and make you more susceptible to developing cavities and periodontal disease. This is one more reason to keep yourself well hydrated with tap water, keep up your oral hygiene and choose nutrient dense foods to boost your immune system.

Taking care of your health is more important than completing an endless list of tasks. Your family will not miss having a multitude of holiday treats or a house so lit up it can be seen from space, as much as they will miss your presence if you are too ill to be part of the festivities.

My family and I, along with the entire SDC team, hope you have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season.

Blackhawk, Open Bible Earn Top Community Festival of Trees Honors

A tree from Blackhawk Elementary School won first place from FHN's panel of judges and third place in People's Choice voting for this year's FHN Community Festival of Trees at the Freeport Public Library. Blackhawk will receive \$600 for its "Holiday Magic Around the World" tree - \$500 for the judges' category and \$100 for People's Choice.

Open Bible Learning Center Elementary School's "The Magic of Christmas Isn't in Presents But In His Presence!" took first place in the People's Choice category, and will receive a \$500 donation. There were 571 votes in this year's People's Choice competition.

"Sugar Plum Fairy" from the Freeport High School National Art Honor Society was the judges' second place winner, netting the non-profit a \$300 prize.

The Family YMCA of

Northwest Illinois tree, "YMCA Elves Searching for Magic in the Air," won the judges' third place prize - and a \$150 donation.

"It Is Christmas in the Heart that Puts Christmas in the Air," a W.T. Ellis quote and the theme of the Lincoln-Douglas Elementary School 4th grade classes, is the second-place People's Choice winner, garnering a \$200 prize.

The FHN Community Festival of Trees brings non-profit organizations from across the area to decorate holiday trees, with cash prizes awarded by a panel of judges and the public. The Community Festival of Trees is on display free of charge at the Freeport Public Library (100 E. Douglas Street in Freeport) through Wednesday, Dec. 27. For more information on any of this year's Festival of Trees events, visit www.fhn.org/festivaloftrees.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Donations pour in at Tree of Love Lighting Ceremony

Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation members Rose Lorenzen and Donna Ferry presents a check for \$16,000 to Midwest Medical Center CEO Tracy Bauer and CFO Kelli Jackson during the 2023 Tree of Love Lighting Ceremony held on Dec. 13. Donations received will be used to purchase new dining room furniture at Midwest Senior Care Community. Pictured (left to right) are Tracy Bauer, Rose Lorenzen, Donna Ferry, Janelle Keeffer, Kelli Jackson, and Danielle Miller. As of tree lighting, 518 ornaments honoring special people were sponsored. The Tree of Love will be on display at Midwest Medical Center until Jan. 1.

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Merry Christmas

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Angus by any other name isn't the same.
There's Angus. Then there's the Certified Angus Beef® brand

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BONELESS TOP ROUND ROAST
4.99 lb

Prices Effective: Wednesday, December 13 thru Tuesday, December 26, 2023
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CHRISTMAS EVE STORES CLOSE AT 5PM | CHRISTMAS DAY STORE HOURS ARE 8AM-NOON

2.29 lb
Cook's **SMOKED BONE-IN WHOLE HAM**

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Prices Effective: Wednesday, December 13 thru Tuesday, December 26, 2023
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CHRISTMAS EVE STORES CLOSE AT 5PM | CHRISTMAS DAY STORE HOURS ARE 8AM-NOON

4.99 lb
MEAT MASTERS ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPION **BONELESS SMOKED WHOLE HAM**

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4.49 lb
Kentucky Legend **SMOKED BONELESS WHOLE HAM**

2.49 lb
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4.99 lb
Kentucky Legend **SMOKED BONELESS WHOLE HAM**

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Welch's SPARKLING JUICE
Select Varieties
25.4 oz
2/\$7

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All Purpose or Unbleached
5 lb
2/\$5

Green Giant FROZEN VEGETABLES
Select Varieties
7-8 oz
89¢

Whipped TOPPING
Select Varieties
8 oz
99¢

Best Choice BUTTER
Salted or Unsalted
16 oz
2/\$5

Best Choice FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP RING
10 oz
6.99

USDA Choice BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE ROAST
Perfect for your Holiday Prime Rib Dinner
12.99 lb

Hillshire Farm LIT'L SMOKIES
Select Varieties
12-14 oz
2/\$7

General Mills CHEX CEREAL
Select Varieties
12-14 oz
2/\$5

PUMPKIN PIE
8 inch
3.99

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6.99

Gift Baskets

Holiday Heat of Home The Miracle of Christmas LASAGNA MEAL
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Holiday Heat of Home The Miracle of Christmas HAM DINNER
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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US!



Warren personnel: Back row left to right: Bobbie Schubert, Lindsay Kent, Laurie Busch, Cindy VanRaalte, Lori Langfield
Front row: Ben Wooden, Tammy Renz, Brynn Calow, Devon Kempel
Not pictured: Val Stocks, Peter Zito, Janette Leehan and Cameron Kent



Apple River personnel: Back row left to right: Scott Sigafus, Brenda Story, Jacob Underwood, Shelley Thompson
Front row: Janel Radaszewski and Kindra Hamilton
Not pictured: John Heimann



Scales Mound personnel: Left to right: Shari Altfillisch, Kristy Allen, Crystal Erdenberger, Goldie Foley
Not pictured: Laura Grindey and Anna Wentz



Hanover personnel: Back row left to right: Mary Ohms, Dawn Callahan, Crystal Geerts, Anita Larson
Front row: Jason Thomasson and Sue Fulton



Elizabeth personnel: Back row left to right: Nancy Boop, Kally Richmond, Bridgette Krug, Abby Offenheiser
Front row: Jason Thomasson and Troy Pafford



Hazel Green personnel: Back row left to right: Tracy Padulla, Stacey Redfearn, Tim White, Amber Rury
Front row: Beth Taylor and Kim Lutes
Not pictured: Jeff Millin



Galena personnel: Back row left to right: Mike Levens, Austin Gerlich, Devin Patterson, Nathan Vondra, Chris Weis, Esta Poulton, Ashley Peterson, Sarah Muchow, Nicole Winter, LaVonne Ohms, Rena Smith, Mikayla Mitchell, Marcy Doyle, Jenni Holcomb, Susan Schultz, Frances Beadle, Linda Hyde, Heather Forseth
Front row: Isaac Morhardt, Zeke Winders, Greg Duerr, David Wilmarth, Joel Holland, Russ Farrey, Jeff Becker, Zack Ehrler, Logon Kaiser
Not pictured: Doug Laity, Erica Grate, Cyndy Muchow, Janet Bussan, Conner Soat, Adam Simmons

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