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VOL. 86 • NO. 5

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 24, 2024



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pearl City Wolves' Ethan Petta celebrates a career milestone

Ethan Petta shoots one of his eight free throws against the River Ridge Wildcats on Jan. 18. Petta and the Wolves took home a 73-55 win in addition to celebrating Petta's 1000 point on the team. Congratulations, Ethan!

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Illinois ranks as No. 1 soy, No. 2 corn producing state for 2023

By Daniel Grant
FARMWEEK

Illinois once again produced some of the largest crops of any state in the nation despite drought and other weather challenges last year, according to USDA's crop production report released Jan. 12.

Prairie State farmers produced 648 million bushels of soybeans in 2023 (down from 2022 but the most of any state nationwide) and 2.27 billion bushels of corn (up slightly from the previous year and the second-most nationwide behind Iowa).

Statewide, yields averaged 206 bushels per acre for corn in 2023 (up 3 bushels from the November estimate but down 8 bushels from the 2022 record) and 63 bushels for beans (up 2 bushels from November and even with last year).

The trend of higher-than-expected yields was also evident nationwide in USDA's annual crop summary.

U.S. corn production was pegged at 15.3 billion bushels last year with an average yield of 177.3 bushels per acre, both records. Soybean production totaled 4.16 billion bushels last year (down 2 percent from 2022) with an average yield of 50.6 bushels (up 1 percent from the previous year).

"It's a bearish one this year, at least from the reaction so far," Joe Camp, of CommStock Investments, told the RFD Radio Network after the release of the report. "I think it was triggered first off by these higher yield estimates."

USDA raised corn yield estimates from its previous report by 9 bushels in Nebraska, 4 bushels in Minnesota and 1 bushel in Iowa, along with the boost in Illinois. Iowa finished with a final corn yield estimate of 203 bushels per

acre while Indiana was right behind at 201 bushels.

"Those are big states that really add extra production," Camp said. "It's hard to reconcile after the year we had."

"No doubt this crop ended up better than we feared it was going to be," he continued. "Still, to see states like Iowa be ahead of where they were a year ago is hard to put together."

Futures prices for corn, soybeans and wheat all closed the week on a down note following the release of the report.

"It can be a relief this report is out of the way, with an outlook toward higher seasonal prices normally leading us into spring," Camp said. "But there's nothing really friendly to talk about on this crop report."

As for crop inventory, USDA pegged stocks in all positions as of Dec. 1 at 12.2 billion bushels of corn (up 13 percent from the previous year), 3 billion bushels of beans (down 1 percent) and 1.41 billion bushels of wheat (up 8 percent).

USDA also released its winter wheat seedings report on Jan. 12. It pegged all winter wheat plantings for the 2024 crop at 34.4 million acres, down 6 percent from the previous year.

Seedings of soft red winter wheat totaled 6.86 million acres, down 13 percent from 2023. But Illinois farmers bucked that trend and planted 860,000 acres of winter wheat last fall, up 2 percent from the previous year and up significantly from 650,000 acres in 2022, USDA reported.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Illinois once again produced some of the largest crops of any state in the nation despite drought and other weather challenges last year, according to USDA's crop production report.

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. On Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. for Worship Service.

The service can be joined in person or via Facebook Live. The reading will be from Mark 1:21-28.

On Wednesday, Jan. 31 Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join, and no quilting experience is necessary. The Peace Corps is also looking for any extra or unused material to be donated to assist in making these quilts.

Pastor Thomas Mosbo will be installed as the new Pastor for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Shepley join at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024. Pastor Mosbo was ordained at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Rockford, IL. He is looking forward to meeting the community and the pastors in our

village of Lena.

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

Salem United Church of Christ

Join for a service led by Pastor Christopher Ham at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, Illinois, this Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, at 10 a.m. The Adult Sunday School will be hosted prior to service, starting at 9 a.m. on the lower level of the church. Children's Sunday School is held during church service, at 10 a.m.

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will be meeting Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2024, at 8 a.m. at The Big Apple, 1427

West Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL. Everyone is welcome to join.

If you would like to participate in a fun evening of crafting, please join us for Craft-ernoon from 4 to 7 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. This is hosted on the lower level of Salem United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join.

For more information on any Salem related items, please contact 815-369-4511 or salemwingsofjoy@yahoo.com.

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the fourth Sunday of Epiphany on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 9 a.m.

The Annual Congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 28 in Luther Hall right after worship.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 3:15 p.m. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

There will be cards and dominoes in Luther Hall on Thursday, Jan. 25 at 1 p.m. View Restaurant in Lena.

We would also like to thank the following businesses and individuals for making donations to Pearl City Community Christmas meal hosted by St. John's on December 25th: the Pearl City Hornets 4-H group, the State Bank of Pearl City, Spahn & Rose, the Pearl City Elevator, the Pearl City Rangers 4-H group, Brinkmeier Plumbing, the Lena Vet Clinic, Culver's of Freeport, Loran Mutual, Barry's Collision Center, GT Auto Plaza, Little John's Tap, Sullivan's of Stockton, Kempel Urish Construction, Johnson Appraisals, Hometown Motors, IES Drilling, Ken & Kathy Hillmer, Rollin & Judy Nelson, Thrivent Financial (seed money card from Kris Liebenstein), Curt & Pennie Miller, Solutions Bank in Kent, Visel Construction, J&N Garage Doors, the Pearl City Lion's Club, and Gertrude Heimerdinger.

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.

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Illinois proposal calls for expanding vote-by-mail

State representative proposes measure that would allow all-mail elections in some areas

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

As the 2024 election season draws near, voters in Illinois will once again choose whether they want to cast their ballots in person or by mail.

But one lawmaker is proposing a bill in the Illinois House that could make that decision a lot easier, making voting by mail the default option for people in counties and cities that choose to go that route.

State Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana, said voting by mail has been shown to be a more convenient and efficient way of running elections.

"Vote-by-mail has been proven by way of court order, as well as people's utilization of vote-by-mail—I vote by mail—that it has been safe," she said during an interview.

"There have been no problems. I have not missed a single election. And people who use it increase their voter participation."

Voting by mail, often referred to as absentee voting, was originally intended for people who planned to be away from home on Election Day, particularly military personnel, as well as college students and people whose jobs required them to travel. That often required voters to ask their state or local election official for an absentee ballot and, in some cases, explain why they wanted to vote by mail.

In more recent years, Illinois and other states have made voting by mail an option for anyone by adopting "no-excuse" absentee voting laws, meaning anyone could request a mail ballot without

giving a reason.

Illinois also gives voters the option of asking to be placed on a permanent vote-by-mail list so they can automatically receive a mail-in ballot without having to fill out a new request for one each election cycle.

And in 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the General Assembly passed a law requiring local election officials automatically send vote-by-mail applications to every voter in their jurisdiction, instead of requiring voters to ask for one.

During a special meeting of the House Ethics and Elections Committee held recently in her hometown of Urbana, Ammons said voting by mail has become increasingly popular. But she said the multi-step process of voting by mail is still inefficient

because it requires voters to fill out and send in a vote-by-mail application to receive a ballot.

"But when we went back to look at the utilization of the ballots, the number that came back, and the cost associated with mailing a ballot, we realized as we talked to other jurisdictions that you would actually save the money if you simply mailed them the ballot," she said.

Ammons is the sponsor of House Bill 4198, which would allow county clerks and other local election authorities to make voting by mail the default option in their jurisdiction. It would give them the option of mailing ballots to all registered voters in their jurisdiction, without requiring voters to ask for one. But it would still require local election authori-

ties to offer in-person voting as well for those who prefer to cast their ballot in person.

Currently, eight states and Washington, D.C., operate elections almost entirely by mail. William Cavecche, an election administrator in King County, Washington, which includes the city of Seattle, said that state passed a similar law in 2005 and immediately, two-thirds of the counties in the state shifted to vote-by-mail systems.

"Speaking to someone who has run both polling-place elections and vote-by-mail elections, I can tell you from experience that vote by mail elections are significantly easier to administer," he said.

Among other benefits, Cavecche said, in a vote-by-mail election, there is no need to worry about problems that commonly occur at in-person

polling places such as running out of ballots, voting machines breaking down or poll workers failing to show up.

He also said vote-by-mail elections are more secure because all ballots can be counted in a centralized location. He said ballot counting can also be livestreamed on the internet to provide more public transparency.

The meeting was a subject matter hearing, meaning the committee only heard testimony and did not take action on the bill. But Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, who chairs the panel, said he intends to hold additional hearings during the legislative session, which began Jan. 16, and it's possible lawmakers could vote on the measure in time to take effect for the 2024 general election in November.

As recreational cannabis sales again hit record, Illinois AG calls for federal rescheduling

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

As Illinois' recreational cannabis industry once again reported record sales for 2023, the state's attorney general is calling on the federal government to reclassify the substance.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency classifies cannabis as a Schedule 1 drug, meaning the federal government believes it has "no currently accepted medical

use and a high potential for abuse."

But Attorney General Kwame Raoul and his counterparts in 11 other states are calling on a reclassification to Schedule 3, meaning it has "a moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence."

Raoul and the other attorneys general said the reclassification would allow states to continue to "set the standard"

for legal products, would allow businesses to take ordinary tax deductions, and would increase the ability to research the substance to fully determine its effects.

"Illinois is one of several states that have established robust regulatory frameworks for legal cannabis sales," Raoul said in a news release. "State-regulated cannabis industries protect consumers from the dangers of unregulated products and the illicit market. Rescheduling cannabis will remove obstacles for legitimate businesses and allow them to better collaborate with law enforcement and regulators."

Last year, Illinois recreational cannabis dispensaries sold a record \$1.6 billion of product, accompanied by a record number of sales to Illinois residents.

Sales to out-of-state residents, however, fell by \$71 million from 2022's total, marking the first drop in that category since cannabis was legalized on a recreational basis in January 2020.

The growth in 2023 marked a 5 percent increase from the year prior, meaning the pace of the industry's growth is slowing. From its first year of legalization to its second, sales grew by 106 percent, while in 2022, growth was

marked at 12 percent from the year prior.

Lawmakers introduce bill to create state prescription drug price oversight board

A new bill in the Illinois General Assembly would create a board of health care experts that would have the authority to set price limits on prescription medications.

House Bill 4472 was introduced Jan. 17 by Rep. Nabeela Syed, D-Palatine, and Sen. David Koehler, D-Peoria.

Using a variety of information related to the medication's market, including the number of people taking the medication and its out-of-pocket cost, the board would assess its price. If the board finds it to be unreasonable, it could limit the amount wholesalers, pharmacies and hospitals can bill insurers and consumers for the drug.

The bill's sponsors said it was an effort to limit health care costs across the board.

See SALES, Page 5

News briefs

Savanna Community Blood Drive

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is hosting an upcoming blood drive event with the City of Savanna and the Savanna Fire Department. The Savanna Community Blood Drive will be held on Friday, Feb. 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Savanna Fire Department Truck Bay, 101 Main Street, Savanna.

Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment to donate, please call the Red Cross at 815-632-7384 or go to redcross.org.

SSM Health hosts blood Drive in Monroe

To help meet the continued national blood supply need, please consider participating in SSM Health's Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, Jan. 30. The Blood Drive will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the St. Clare Conference Center at their main clinic located at 515 22nd Avenue in Monroe.

Appointments are encouraged but not required. To schedule, please visit Bloodcenter.org or call SSM Health Monroe Hospital Volunteer Services Coordinator, Mary Berger, at 608-324-1569. Please eat before donating and bring a photo ID.

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The Scoop Today (USPS # pending) is published weekly by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC., 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy Ste 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.
Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Prices is Pending at Rockford, IL.
POSTMASTER: send address changes to
The Scoop Today, 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy Ste 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.

Lena Address
The Scoop Today, 240 W. Main Street, Suite B, Lena, IL 61048

Office Hours
Monday/Wednesday/Friday • 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed Tuesday/Thursday

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OPINION



Slices of life

More in 2024



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

Someone I've never met (social media, where else?) came up with a phrase for the new year:

"Let's do more in 2024." I've decided to adopt it for my own, because it's well-balanced, makes logical sense and has good meaning, purpose and intent.

Plus it rhymes; who doesn't appreciate a good rhyme?

But what, exactly, do I want more of in the next year? What do we all want?

The basics, of course. Here's my short list:

More peace.
Isn't this a nice thought? More peace: world peace, governmental peace, neighborhood peace, hippy peace, familial peace, marital peace and - most importantly—inner peace.

Peace is all-encompassing and all-good. There can never be too much peace. Unless you are talking an extra piece of pie after eating one already, but that's a different kind of peace and doesn't count, unless it's in calories.

More kindness.
Kindness ranks right up there with peace; the two are twin equals, or at the very least kissing cousins. Kindness begets peace and vice versa. Kindness is equally effective with family members, friends and strangers. It takes little to no effort and provides positive feel-goods to the giver as well as the receiver. Kindness costs nothing and it is something we all possess in infinite amounts.

Not even chocolate can claim that many attributes. More faith.

I'm not necessarily talking about the kind you get in church. Faith—and a deepened trust—reside far beyond church. That's the faith I aspire to. Faith in nature—that trees will shed their leaves in the fall; dandelions will sprout optimistically each spring. Trust in the human spirit—people are innately good. Trust in the future. Trust in today. Trust in yourself. Trust in something bigger than yourself.

That's faith. More doing and participating.

I don't know about you, but I've spent nearly a lifetime thinking about the things I'd like to do. Now is the time to actually do them. To participate for real. These bucket-list acts don't need to be earth-shattering or life changing. They just need to

be you doing them. Maybe that means world travel; maybe that means staying home and reading a good book. You do what means doing to you, just do it more, in 2024.

More connectivity.
But not to our phones or the internet. More than ever we need to realize and appreciate our connections to one another. We are all part of the whole. We may think of ourselves as individuals, be we are, truly, nothing without each other. No one is an island. We not only need one another; we are better together. Connections enhance our lives and make the world a better place—one handshake, one hug, at a time. More light.

Of the kind that requires no battery-power or electricity. True light is a beacon that knows no physical power source. We all have a light that shines from within - however cliché or corny that may sound. It's true. Open up. Flip your inner light switch to "On." Together we can illuminate the world, and that, my friends, can change everything.

More love.
You probably saw this one coming. The most basic tenet of all: we need more love. We can never overdose on love. We can never give too much of it. When we think about basic needs, we list food, water and shelter, but love should be at the top of the list—in both the giving and receiving mode.

Just like kindness, giving love provides just as much as receiving it does, perhaps even more so.

Doing more in 2024; More peace. More kindness. More faith. More participation. More connectedness. More light and more love. Seven aspirations for the year. Lofty? Perhaps. Doable? I think so. Maybe take one each day of the week. Maybe try them all at once.

Either way, you can't go wrong.

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.

In my opinion

The need to provide emergency funding to help cities, nonprofits care for migrant arrivals

By U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi

Last week, I spoke on the House Floor about the importance of Congress not only addressing border security, but also passing emergency supplemental aid to support local governments and nonprofit organizations caring for newly arrived migrant families.

These families, many of whom have been dropped off in new cities without

their consent, are left without stable housing options during the dead of winter. While organizations including Catholic Charities of Chicago are making an enormous difference in helping to move these families out of police stations and into reliable housing, they cannot do it alone.

That's why I urge Congress to pass emergency supplemental relief to help migrants like three-year-old

Jose Urribarri, who is one of the many people who have been left without housing options amid freezing Chicago winter temperatures. I urge House and Senate leadership to pass emergency supplemental aid to cities to bring help and safety to the many families who need it so badly this winter.

Preparing the American economy for the 21st century by ending degree-based hiring discrimination

The House Committee on Accountability and Oversight recently held a subcommittee

hearing on moving towards an AI-ready workforce and strengthening our economy.

During the hearing, I took the opportunity to question Timi Harda, a Client Partner and Senior Executive for West Virginia IBM, and Dr. Richard Levin, the former President of Yale University and a Senior Advisor to Coursera, on the importance of workers who are Skilled Through Alternative Routes (STARs).

This category of workers does not have a bachelor's degree but have acquired valuable professional skills

See **FUNDING**, Page 5

Letter to the editor

Dear Friends,

As Captains of the Salvation Army, we have seen the great impact that the Salvation Army has in our community and the four counties within Northwest Illinois. Its compassion reaches those in need with love.

The Salvation Army provides critical services with feeding, clothing, sheltering, ministry, and utilities, and serves through the extreme cold. Yet, services go beyond the food pantry and the holiday distributions. We are 83% of our Christmas Campaign, which runs

through Jan. 31. We need your help to ensure that those who need help will receive it in the new year. Please join us in these last days. Your donation now will help throughout the entire year.

Send your Donation today to Salvation Army, 106 W. Exchange St, Freeport. Illinois, 61032 or make a donation at SAFreeport.org The donation that you give stays local and helps those in our region. Together we can make a difference.

Sincerely,
Captains Tim and Lisa Thorson

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Lawmakers clear path for assault weapon registration rules

Some members record symbolic objection, saying rules are too vague and complicated

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

New permanent rules will soon go into effect spelling out how people who own assault weapons and related items that are now heavily regulated in Illinois can register them with the Illinois State Police.

The legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules voted along party lines Jan. 16 to let the rules go into effect, ending months of negotiations and debate between supporters of the law and gun rights advocates.

"Obviously, this is an issue where there is a difference of opinion on a partisan basis, and I think you saw that play out today," Sen. Bill Cunningham, D-Chicago, a co-

chair of the committee, told reporters after the meeting.

The rules are the result of an assault weapons ban that state lawmakers passed last year in the wake of a deadly mass shooting at an Independence Day parade in Highland Park in 2022.

That law, known as the Protect Illinois Communities Act, bans the sale, purchase, manufacture, or possession of a long list of firearms that are defined as "assault weapons," as well as several types of attachments, large-capacity magazines and certain kinds of high-power ammunition.

Under that law, people who already owned such items before the ban took effect are allowed to keep them. But to do so legally, they were sup-

posed to register those items with the Illinois State Police before Jan. 1.

Last fall, ISP published temporary "emergency" rules that went into effect Oct. 1, enabling people to begin filing online registrations ahead of the Jan. 1 deadline. But many gun owners, gun rights advocates, and state lawmakers pushed back against the rules, complaining that they were too vague in some areas, too complicated in others, and generally impossible to comply with.

In response, ISP held additional public hearings in October and November as it worked to craft permanent rules.

One of the concerns raised during the discussions focused on how ISP planned to collect and store information about the items people registered, and what the agency

would do with that information if the law is eventually overturned as unconstitutional.

So far, the law has survived legal challenges in both state and federal courts, but the National Association for Gun Rights, which is the major plaintiff in one of the federal lawsuits, has said it plans to file an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court within the next several weeks.

Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, who also co-chairs the committee, said he was frustrated by the short timeframe used to adopt the new rules and by the way some issues were handled. He then offered a motion to prohibit ISP from adopting the rules, arguing that the rules do not meet a requirement in state statute that they be "simple and clear" so that people and groups affected by them can understand

them. That motion failed because it needed eight votes on the 12-member committee but only received six.

Spain then made a motion to "object" to the rules on the same grounds that they were not "simple and clear." An objection has little practical effect on the rule, except that it requires the agency to respond to the objection in writing within 90 days before the rule can take effect.

That motion, which only requires a simple majority of members taking part, passed on a 6-5 vote.

That vote allows ISP to move forward by adopting the permanent rules and enforcing them into the future. But it remains unclear how many assault weapon owners will comply with the law by registering those firearms.

According to data main-

tained by ISP, just under 30,000 individuals had filed registration forms ahead of the Jan. 1 deadline. Those registrations covered roughly 69,000 firearms that fall under the ban as well as nearly 43,000 accessories.

It is not known what percentage that represents of the total number of assault weapons and banned accessories in circulation in Illinois, but many people have suggested that a large number of gun owners will refuse to comply with the registration requirement.

Cunningham, however, said he was not concerned about speculation of widespread noncompliance with the law.

"I would just repeat what I said earlier, which is the law is in place, and I would encourage people to follow the law," he said.

McCombie calls for nominations to honor local businesses

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is looking to honor local businesses throughout the 89th Legislative District. Each month the Representative will choose a business to highlight, visit, and present them with a special certificate of recognition from the Illinois House of Representatives. This new program will help promote the great business community in northwest Illinois and encourage area residents to shop locally.

Leader McCombie has recognized businesses in the 89th District throughout her tenure, but this year would like to hear input from constituents as to which businesses should be highlighted. "We have so much to offer in this corner of Illinois and I am curious to find out which businesses are favorites amongst area residents," said

McCombie.

To gauge feedback, Leader McCombie has created an online form where residents can nominate a business of their choosing to be recognized. "Local businesses are the backbone of our economy, and I am excited to continue showing my support for them through this special recognition," continued McCombie. Residents can access the form here: <https://repmc.com/local-business-highlight-submission-form/>.

This will be an ongoing program for the Representative. The 89th District includes all of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and DeKalb counties. With questions, constituents can contact Leader McCombie's Office at 815-291-8989.

• Sales (Continued from page 3)

Dr. Anthony Douglas, general surgery resident at University of Chicago, said he sees patients every day who struggle to afford their medication—some of whom cut their pills or skip doses to make their prescriptions last longer.

"I cannot effectively care for patients if they cannot afford the therapies necessary to keep them well," Douglas said at a Statehouse news conference to introduce the bill.

The five-person board would be appointed by the governor and work with a bipartisan 15-member coun-

cil of legislators and relevant experts to address the price of medications.

The board would be tasked with assessing high-cost drugs, like ones used to treat cancer, auto-immune disease, and diabetes, as well as other drugs that might impact the state health care system. The board members may receive compensation from a special fund created through an annual tax on prescription drug manufacturers.

The bill had not yet been assigned to committee as of Jan. 17, although House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch signed on as a cosponsor.

• Funding (Continued from page 4)

through other means such as apprenticeships, internships, and previous work experience. However, due to automated hiring systems, which many companies use to help screen job applicants, applications by qualified workers who do not have a four-year degree are being filtered out, even when a bachelor's degree is irrelevant to the role.

This type of degree-based discrimination in hiring not only hurts skilled workers, but also businesses and our

entire economy by preventing us from making the most of our workforce. I introduced my bipartisan Opportunity to Compete Act to end this and help ensure that Americans who have developed the skills necessary to succeed in a job don't hit a 'paper ceiling' of being rejected simply because they lack a piece of paper in the form of a four-year degree. As we work to strengthen our middle class and our economy, it is critical that we expand apprenticeships and skills-based

education while also ensuring that the workers benefiting from them can reach their full potential so our economy can do the same.

Supporting Taiwan's democracy and others against Chinese Communist Party interference

On Jan. 13, Taiwan successfully held free and democratic elections despite attempted interference, coercion, and threats from the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Beyond its significance as a single election, the stability of Taiwan's democracy in the face of the machinations of the CCP is an important example for the world's democracies as the CCP and similar totalitarian regimes continue their efforts to destabilize and weaken the free nations of the world, especially the United States.

To address these issues and discuss my work on them

as the Ranking Member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the CCP, I joined a Politico discussion panel with my colleague Congressman Andy Barr, Yun Fan, a legislator and member of the Taiwanese Democratic Progressive Party, and Jason Hsu, Harvard Kennedy School Fellow and a former Taiwanese legislator.

As our discussion emphasized, while the threats posed by the CCP to Taiwan are unique as a matter of its close physical proximity to the People's Republic of China and their shared history, the CCP's political and economic coercion against Taiwan are indicative of the threats posed by the regime to other U.S. partners and allies in the region, as well as to our own country.

Raja Krishnamoorthi represents the 8th Congressional District of Illinois, which includes part of Addison, Wood Dale and Bensenville.

Guidelines for writing, submitting a letter to the editor

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

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

Send letters to: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com
Letter-writers will be limited to one letter per month except for locally elected officials, or individuals specifically associated with local village governments or entities such as school districts, park districts or library districts.

No letters directed to a third party will be accepted for publication.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The first Little Blackhawks of the year!

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

Midwest Medical Center offers medical field scholarships

Five loan/scholarship programs are available through Midwest Medical Center to provide financial assistance to persons pursuing an education in a medical field at an accredited school of the student's choice. These programs have been made available to area students by seven benefactors which include W. Clifford Stauss, C. Palmer and Eunice Eustice, Josephine Harvey, Richard and Marilyn Eastman, and Melvin E. Young.

Persons planning to enter careers in nursing, physical therapy, medicine, and dentistry, as well as careers in related technical fields, such as radiology, laboratory, or some other qualifying medical professions, are eligible to apply. All loan/scholarship applications must be submitted to Midwest Medical Center by noon on March 22, 2024.

If the student, upon graduation from their health career program, is employed at

Midwest Medical Center for a period of time equivalent to the number of years financial assistance was received, the money becomes a scholarship and does not have to be repaid. If the graduate either chooses to work elsewhere or if no position is available at Midwest Medical Center in their field, the money becomes a loan; however, the annual interest rate is only 3%.

The education monies are administered in accordance with the wishes of the donors of the funds. Money is awarded to successful applicants who meet the criteria established for each fund/donor. Additional information and applications may be found at www.MMCGalena.org/scholarships. Questions about the program should be directed to Kelli Jackson, CFO at Midwest Medical Center, One Medical Center Drive, Galena, IL 61036, 815-776-7277.



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Wildcats bounce back from loss to Pearl City

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge Wildcats have dropped back-to-back games just one time this season. The team's biggest strength is arguably the way they respond to their losses. That sentiment remained true when the Wildcats split games with Pearl City and Ashton Franklin-Center last week.

River Ridge entered the week with an overall record of 11-6. They were coming off victories over Belmont and Stockton. With another important game coming up against the Pearl City Wolves, it looked like the Wildcats had a chance to win their third in a row.

Pearl City entered their Jan. 18 matchup against the Wild-

cats with a record of just 5-12. The Wolves were on their home court and with their leading scorer, Ethan Petta, nearing 1000 points, they brought the energy.

Pearl City did a ton of damage from outside the three-point line. The shots fell for the Wolves all night long, and the Wildcats did their best to keep pace. By the end of the first, River Ridge was already trailing 15-13.

Pearl City really made a difference in their second quarter. The Wildcats were outscored 21-10 in the quarter, leaving them trailing 36-23 at halftime. It was a deficit that River Ridge was unable to erase as they eventually fell by a score of 73-55.

Despite the loss, the Wild-

cats still had three players in double figures for scoring. Joe Winter led the team with 15, while Sam Rife had 12, and Ethan Walters had 11. Seth Nichalos led the team in rebounds with nine, and Mason Smith had three steals in the loss.

Just two days later, the Wildcats were back in action with an opportunity to bounce back as they faced off with AFC. Once again, the Wildcats were the favorites on paper ahead of this matchup. AFC came into the game with a record of just 3-16. They were also riding an eleven-game losing streak at the time. The Wildcats hoped to avoid the trap game and keep AFC's losing streak alive when they met up on Jan. 20.

This time around, the Wildcats wasted no time in getting their offense going. Walters came out bound and determined for a win as a pair of first quarter three-pointers helped him put up ten points in the opener. Damon Dittmar and Isaac Rife each hit first quarter three-pointers of their own. Winter added four points as the Wildcats combined for 25 points in the quarter.

It was one of the best offensive starts River Ridge has seen this season. With six different Wildcats scoring in the first, River Ridge quickly jumped out to a 25-14 advantage. Both offenses slowed things down in the second quarter. The Wildcats didn't have that same production, but they did enough to maintain their lead. Winter had three

points in the second, while Smith, Walters, Dittmar, and Nicholas each added a basket of their own. By the half, River Ridge held a 35-24 lead over AFC.

The third quarter featured more of a physical, defensive game. Dittmar and Walters both hit three-pointers coming out of the half, but the Wildcats attacked the defense to get to the line as well. Walters went two for two at the line, while Winter was two for two himself.

Defensively, the Wildcats held AFC to just five points in the quarter, allowing them to expand their lead even further. By the end of three, the Wildcats appeared well in control of the game with a 47-29 lead.

AFC wouldn't go away so easily, however. With a trio of

fourth quarter three-pointers, AFC managed to combine for 21 points in the fourth. It was almost enough to complete a miraculous comeback, but the Wildcats hit the shots they needed to.

River Ridge didn't shoot a great percentage at the free throw line, but they hit enough to win. In the fourth quarter alone, the Wildcats hit just six of their 13 attempts. On the game, River Ridge hit fifty-eight percent of their free throws, going 17 for 29 at the line.

In the end, River Ridge held on to win by a score of 60-50. Walters led the team in scoring with 20, while Dittmar and Winter each added 12. The victory improved the Wildcats' record to 12-7 on the season.

Stockton Chamber of Commerce annual meeting

The Annual Chamber Meeting will be held at Mud Run on Thursday, Feb. 8. Social hour commences at 5:30 p.m. with meal and presentation to follow at 6 p.m. Please RSVP for the buffet meal by e-mailing stocktonilchamber@gmail.com or using the

online link found on our Facebook event. The meal costs \$15+tax.

This meeting is a great opportunity to learn about some of the annual events, expenditures, members and directors, and more. The Chamber of Commerce is

honored to have guest speaker Michelle DeHaven-Quast of the Foundation for Northwest Illinois. The chamber was recently awarded a grant from this local foundation that will be reinvested in the community for signage, items required for hosting events, and more.

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Sr. Couple (1 - Age 62+)	\$865.00	\$895.00
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Stockton boys fall to Scales Mound in NUIC matchup

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Late last week, the Scales Mound Hornets and the Stockton Blackhawks faced off in an NUIC boys basketball matchup in the Hornets' nest.

The 2023-2024 boys basketball season has been very different for the Hornets and Blackhawks. Scales Mound has consistently been ranked among the top 1A teams in

Northern Illinois. Scales Mound recently took second place at this year's Martin Luther King Tournament, and they brought a record of 14-5 into their matchup with Stockton.

The Blackhawks have had a very different experience. With injuries and a tough schedule, the Blackhawks saw their season get off to a 3-11 start. Stockton took its twelfth loss of the season

when they met up with the Hornets on Jan. 18.

Despite being on the road, it was Stockton who brought the fire early on. The Blackhawks hit a pair of early three-pointers coming from Bennett Graves and Noah Larson, which helped provide a spark. Will Westaby went two for two at the line and Colby Tucker added a two-point field goal of his own.

It is possible Scales Mound was caught off guard by the early Stockton baskets. One place the Hornets have seen inconsistencies this year is at the free throw line, and that was the case in the first quarter against Stockton. Evan Cogan was zero for two at the line in the first, while Wienen was one for two. Thomas Hereau went two for two in his trip to the line, as the Hornets hit just three of their six free

throws in the quarter.

At the start of the second, Stockton held a slim 12-11 advantage over the Hornets. That's where Scales Mound began to find their rhythm, however. In the second quarter alone, Scales Mound combined for 22 points as all their shots were falling. Seth Birkett, who went scoreless in the first, broke onto the scene with seven points, including a three-pointer. Hereau matched him with seven second quarter points of his own. Wienen added three points of his own.

The Stockton offense didn't quite have enough to keep pace with the Hornets, but most teams wouldn't. The Scales Mound offense is already efficient enough, let alone when shots are falling like that. Westaby did his best to keep them in the game by attacking the defense and getting to the line.

In the second quarter alone, Westaby went four for four at the line. Westaby put up six points in the quarter, but the Blackhawks didn't find much production outside of him. By the break, Scales Mound held a 33-22 lead.

Scales Mound continued to expand their lead in the third quarter. Derrick Distler, who went scoreless in the first half, put up a trio of baskets to help the Hornets in the third. Jonah Driscoll also put up a pair of baskets. The duo of Driscoll and Distler combined for 10 points in the third quarter, helping to grow the Scales Mound advantage.

Stockton wouldn't go down easily. In the third quarter, Graves hit his second three-pointer of the night. Westaby, Tucker, Carter Blair, and Jacob Harbach each hit baskets in the quarter, as well. Despite

four different Blackhawks scoring in the quarter, Stockton still went into the fourth trailing Scales Mound 47-34.

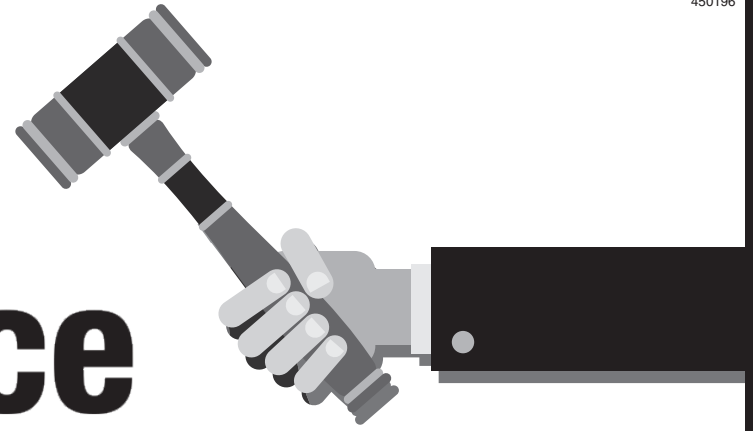
The Hornets' offense was consistent until the final buzzer. Kaden Deurr had a big quarter, hitting a three-pointer and going two for two at the line on his way to seven fourth quarter points. Hereau added a successful and-one opportunity, and the Hornets clinched a 63-43 victory over Stockton.

Scales Mound was led by Hereau, who finished with 14 points. Deurr was next up with 11. Cogan and Distler each added eight, Birkett had seven in the victory.

Stockton was led by Westaby, who finished with 14 points in the game. Graves was the only other Blackhawk in double figures with 10, and Tucker added six in the loss.



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Petta surpasses 1,000 points, leads Wolves to victory

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Pearl City Wolves have battled their way through the 2023-2024 boys basketball season. After their first 14 games, the Wolves held a record of just 5-9. The new year hasn't been friendly to them as they went just 1-4 through their first five games of 2024.

Despite getting off to a 5-12 start, the Wolves continue to show up and play hard in each and every game. Ethan Petta continues to lead the way for the Wolves, win or lose. Petta and the Wolves may have been overlooked by their Jan. 18 opponents in the River Ridge Wildcats. River Ridge came into the matchup with an overall record of 11-

6, making them the favorites on paper. The Wolves proudly wear the badge of the underdog, however. With Petta nearing his career milestone of 1000 points, they came out ready to pull off an upset.

There was no shortage of production from the Pearl City offense. Petta found success from all over the floor in the opening quarter. A three-pointer, a free throw, and a pair of two-point field goals gave Petta eight first quarter points. Lane Kempel added a three-pointer of his own. By the end of one, Pearl City held a slim 15-13 lead.

All eyes were on Petta, but it was Will Birchen who took over the second quarter. Birchen hit a pair of three-pointers, leading his

way to 12 points in the quarter. Petta sunk his second three-point shot of the night and went four for four at the line. Jayden Downs hit his second basket of the night as the Wolves combined for 21 points in the quarter.

It was one of Pearl City's best quarters of the season. Not only did their offense rack up points in a hurry, but they held River Ridge to just 10 points on the defensive end. Ultimately, the second quarter played a crucial role in the game as an 11-point swing led to a 36-23 Pearl City lead at the break.

Petta had strong performances to start both halves. After putting up eight points in the first quarter, Petta matched his efforts with an-

other eight points in the third. This time, Petta did all of his work from inside of the arc. Not only did Petta hit a trio of baskets, but he went two for two at the line in the quarter. Petta found success at the line all night for the Wolves, hitting seven of his eight free throw attempts.

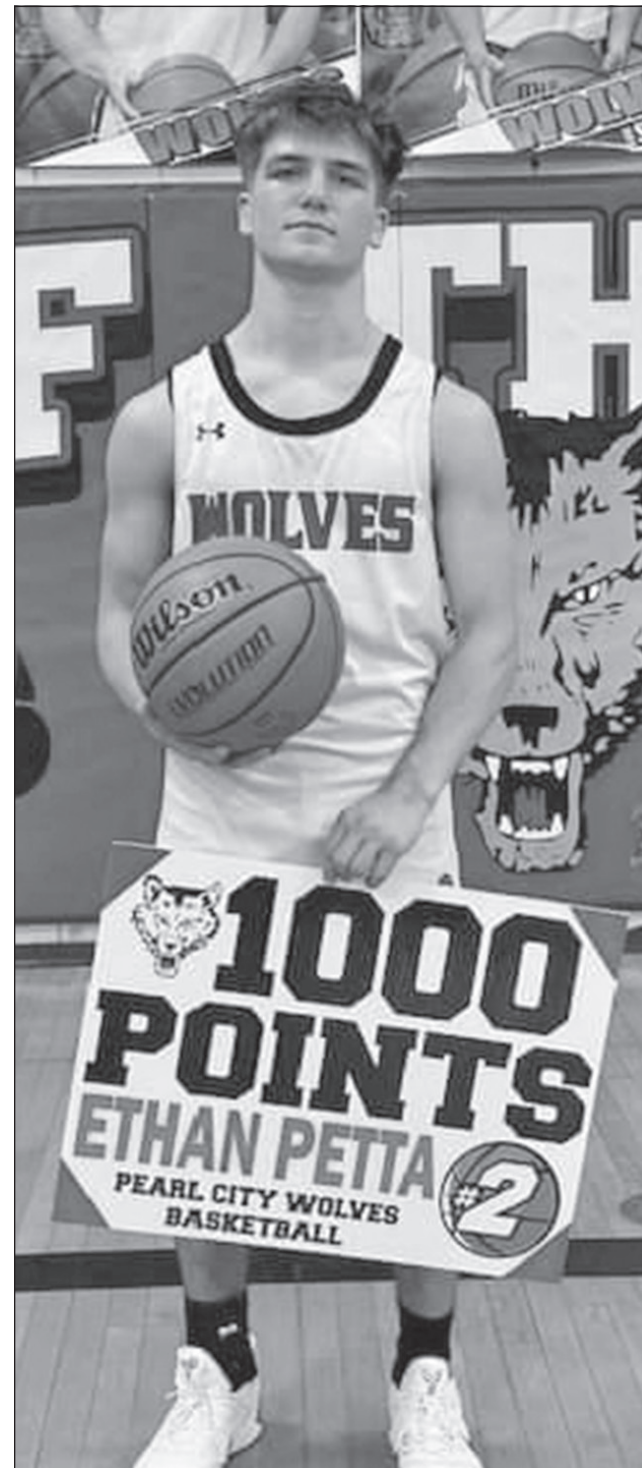
Birchen added another five points in the quarter as his three-pointer helped the Wolves maintain their lead. Downs added four third quarter points of his own. River Ridge put up 17 points in the quarter, but the Pearl City offense matched them basket for basket. By the end of three, the Wolves held a 53-40 advantage.

With the double-digit lead, the Wolves didn't take their foot off the pedal. The Wildcats were forced to foul early in the fourth quarter, in hopes of extending the game. Downs had four trips to the line in the fourth, hitting six of his eight attempts. Petta provided another six points as the duo helped to ensure the victory.

The free throw line is, perhaps, where the Wolves made their biggest difference. On the night, Pearl City shot nearly eighty percent at the line, hitting 15 of their 19 attempts.

For Petta, it was a night to remember. Not only did he surpass 1000 career points at the varsity level, but he dropped 31 points to help his team upset the Wildcats. Birchen was next up with 17 points, and Downs as the third Wolf in double figures with 16. The trio provided most of the offense as Pearl City beat the Wildcats 73-55.

The Wolves are scheduled to travel to face off with the Pecatonica Indians on Friday, Jan. 26.



Submitted photo Rock Valley Publishing
Ethan Petta celebrates 1000 points as a member of the Pearl City Wolves.

Pearl City Hornets 4-H Club offers Taco Dinner

Join the Pearl City Hornets 4-H Club for their annual Taco Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 7, at the Pearl City School Cafeteria from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The dinner includes a choice

of three soft shell tacos or nachos with all the fixings, dessert, and drink for \$7. A child meal is \$3. Tickets are available at the door. All proceeds benefit the activities and com-

munity outreach of the Pearl City Hornets 4-H Club. Stay after the dinner and cheer on the Pearl City Wolves boys basketball team as they take on the Orangeville Broncos.

Around the Northern Hills

All of our farming "MM" members should have received their dues notices by now. You have a few options for paying your dues. You can return the dues slip with your check in the envelope provided, pay online at myilfb.org (note, you will need to create a username and password), or you can call our office and pay by credit card. If you are in Elizabeth, you can drop payment off at our office Monday through Friday or use our drop box outside the front entrance. Thank you for your continued support of our organization!



By ANNETTE EGGERS
Jo Daviess
County Farm
Bureau

will be awarded). A copy of the application can be found at www.jodavinesscfb.com. Click on the foundation tab to find the link to the application.

4-H public speaking workshop offered

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau, along with several other farm bureaus, are offering 4-H'ers a public speaking workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Rockford. The training will go from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 4-H'ers will learn to write and perform a speech, focusing on how to get their point across to the audience. They will also learn the types of speeches that can be used in the 4-H presentation contest. Watch for more information to come soon!

Join FB ACT text messaging

The Illinois Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team (FB ACT) is comprised of Farm Bureau members who are ready to respond to IFB action requests. When Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) issues an action request, it signals your voice is needed on a major action request, or on a major legislative or regulatory issue facing Illinois farmers.

By signing up for FB ACT text messages, you will be notified the instant your voice is needed in Washington D.C., or Springfield. To sign up or renew your FB ACT text message subscription, please text the keyword "FARM" to this number - 52883, and you will be ready to act for ag!

Farm Fun Fact

My farm fact is more spring related this week. Spring can't come soon enough! Every baseball requires 150 yards of wool to make.

Scholarships program

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation's scholarship program provides scholarships to students who are majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, vocational or an agriculture related course of study. The scholarships are awarded on the basis of exceptional scholastic ability.

All applicants must meet these eligibility guidelines:

1. Must be a Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau member, spouse of member or member's child.
2. Must be accepted for enrollment or be enrolled at an accredited college, university, community college or vocational/ technical school.
3. Must be majoring in agriculture or an ag-related study.
4. Must exhibit potential for successful completion of study.

General scholarship applications must have successfully completed 12 college credits and be enrolled as a full-time student (up to two \$500 scholarships will be awarded). Highland Community College applicants do not have to have any college credits completed to apply for the scholarship (up to two \$500 scholarships

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Sullivan's career day leads Broncos to victory

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Time and time again, the Orangeville Broncos have proven they have what it takes to compete with the top Illinois 1A girls basketball teams. After getting off to a 22-1 start to the 2023-2024 girls basketball season, the Broncos faced another imposing challenge. The Aquin Bulldogs got off to an impressive 15-4 start of their own. Aquin has especially found success in this year's NUIC play, getting off to a 4-1 start. By all means, the Bulldogs are one of the NUIC's top challenges for Orangeville.

even equal the enrollment of any of the schools to vote against the co-op. Next year, both schools' enrollments are projected to drop even further.

Pecatonica's enrollment is over 270, and Dakota's enrollment is 258. Every school to vote 'no' has an enrollment of over 200 students. Eastland is the only school who didn't, and their enrollment is 199. The decision left many in the Orangeville-Aquin communities puzzled, as Aquin struggles with numbers to form their own teams.

Despite the drama prior to the matchup, the Broncos and the Bulldogs put on a show when they faced off on Friday, Jan. 19. Coming into the game, Orangeville sat atop the NUIC, while Aquin sat just behind them in second place. These teams met up earlier this season, with Orangeville winning by a score of 53-34. This time around, Aquin came better prepared to prove themselves.

This game had a ton of hype leading up to the matchup and the teams played up to that hype right away. Orangeville's Whitney Sullivan was approaching another career milestone with 1000 rebounds. On the other end, Aquin's Payton London is leading the way for a special Bulldogs' season. Those two players rose to the occasion on Jan. 19.

In the first quarter alone, London and Sullivan combined for 18 points. London

put up 10 quick points. On Orangeville's end, Sullivan hit a three-pointer and a free throw on her way to eight first quarter points. Both athletes provided a majority of their team's offense on the night. By the end of the first, Orangeville held a slim 14-13 advantage.

Sullivan continued to attack in quarter two. Her second three-pointer of the night helped to expand their lead. Laney Cahoon and Nadalee Doyle complimented their big's play with some threes of their own. Cahoon hit her first three, while Doyle hit her second three of the night. They helped to slightly expand the lead as Orangeville took a 27-23 lead into the half.

Sullivan took things up a notch in the third quarter. She came out firing, hitting her third three-pointer of the evening to start the second half. Sullivan wound up putting up another 10 points in the third. Kaylynn O'Haver added a three of her own as the Broncos outscored the Bulldogs 12-8 in the quarter.

The Broncos came out looking to put things away in the fourth. Sullivan remained consistent, hitting her fourth three-pointer, giving her one in each quarter of the game. Although the focus was on Sullivan for most of the night, it was Doyle who took over the fourth quarter. Doyle hit a trio of three-pointers in the fourth, giving her five on the night. Doyle's 11 fourth

quarter points played a crucial role in the final outcome.

Aquin made things close in the closing minutes. London refused to let her team go down easily as she hit a pair of late three-pointers, keeping her team in the game. In the end, the Bulldogs didn't have enough to produce around London. Orangeville held on for a 58-54 victory, improving their record to 23-1 on the year.

Sullivan put up jaw-dropping numbers with 30 points and 16 rebounds. Not only did she have a double-double and four threes, but she eclipsed the 1000 rebound mark, stamping herself in Orangeville history once again. Doyle added 17 points in the victory as well. Aquin was led by London, who put up 29 points on the night.

Lena-Winslow FFA to host Chili Supper

The Lena-Winslow FFA will be hosting a Chili Supper on Feb. 9 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Lena-Winslow Elementary Cafeteria. They will be serving bean and meat chili and ham/turkey sandwiches, and dessert. A portion of the proceeds will also be going to the Farm Rescue Charity which provides equipment and volunteers to farmers in times of personal need. It is requested that tickets are pre-ordered in the Le-Win High School office. If there are any questions, please contact Jacob Snook at 815-668-0787.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

As I write this column it is Thursday, Jan. 18 and it is 14 degrees out, which is much warmer than the beginning of the week. The beginning of the week brought canceled school, extracurriculars and office closures. The Farm Bureau continued our normal routine, but as I drove between Stephenson and Carroll Counties, I thought about our farmers who even though at times the temperature was negative 17 degrees. Our dedicated farmers worked diligently to care for their livestock. Their commitment to healthy animals doesn't stop when the weather becomes too cold or too hot. I hope you will help me in saying, "Thank you and may you have a safe winter" to our farmers.

Illinois Farm Bureau Foundation

Illinois Farm Bureau offers more than \$192,000 in scholarships and the application period is open until Feb. 15, 2024. For more information or to apply for these scholarships please visit www.iaafoundation.org

Carroll County Farm Bureau Foundation

The Carroll County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering seven, \$1,000 scholarships. Applications can be found online at Carroll County Farm Bureau's Facebook page or on their website at www.carrollcfb.org. Applications are due March 4, 2024, at 1p.m.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation

The Stephenson County Farm Bureau scholarship applications will open on Feb. 1, 2024. Applications can be found online at www.stephensoncfb.org or on the County Farm Bureau's Facebook page. Applications will then be due on April 5, 2024, at 4:30 p.m.

Succession Planning Seminar

Farm transition and succession planning will be the topic of a Feb. 29 seminar offered by local county Farm Bureaus. "Empowering Farm Families to Achieve Succession Planning Success" will be hosted by Dr. Ron Hanson and will take place at the White Pines Lodge in Mt. Morris from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. "Communication is the most important part of succession planning, but it's also the most difficult," said Ron Kern, the manager of the Ogle County Farm Bureau. "Professor Hanson is an esteemed teacher and expert in this area, and his presentation will provide a tremendous value to our members." Dr. Hanson will share insights on business management, common mistakes, decision-making processes and more during the event, enabling farm families to seamlessly carry forward their family farming legacy. A professor emeritus at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dr. Hanson has earned 31 university and national award recognitions in a 46-year teaching and advising career. He is an Illinois native and holds degrees from both Western Illinois University and the University of Illinois.

The event is sponsored by Farm Bureau Young Leader committees in the participating counties. Farm Bureau Young Leaders promote agriculture and professional development through leadership, education, legislation, and networking. While Farm Bureau provides continuing education opportunities to them, the county Young Leader committees are paying that forward by

See NEWS, Page 11



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Homicide investigation update

On Jan. 13, 2024, at 2:26 a.m., Officers of the Freeport Police Department responded to a residence in the 1100 Block of S. Oak Avenue for a reported shooting incident. Upon arrival, Officers found an unresponsive 41-year-old male victim who had been shot. The

victim was transported to the FHN Hospital by Freeport Fire Ambulance where he was pronounced dead. Javarski McGee, a resident of the City of Freeport, has been identified as the individual who died as a result of being struck by gunfire.

The Freeport Police Department is investigating the incident and is asking for anyone who has any information to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235-8222, the Stateline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW or through texting at Tip411.

News (Continued from page 10)

sponsoring this seminar for all Farm Bureau members in their counties. A \$50 registration includes dinner and is open through Feb. 15 to members of the Carroll, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago-Boone County Farm Bureaus. To register or learn more, call the Ogle County Farm Bureau at 815-732-2231 or email cfb@ogle.comcastbiz.net.

p.m. to 7 p.m. for a member social. A light dinner will be provided. This is a great opportunity to network with other Farm Bureau members. Reservations not required. Call 815-232-3186 with questions.

Prep, Freeze, Cook back by popular demand:

The Stephenson County Farm Bureau and Agriculture in The Classroom program wants to help make your life easier with our Prep, Freeze, Cook fundraiser. Proceeds of this fundraiser help support the Agriculture in The Classroom program in Stephenson County.

Agriculture in The Classroom teaches students about where their food comes from and the importance of agriculture. So far this year students have learned about apples, pumpkins, turkeys, cranberries, and pigs. This program is free to all classrooms in our county.

Prep, Freeze, Cook makes family mealtime easy, by providing 10 prepared and frozen meals for five person or two person quantities. Each individual who orders will receive one of the following meals: Three Cheese Lasagna, Gravy Pork

Roast, Root Beer Pulled Pork, Chicken and Broccoli Mac n Cheese, Bacon Caesar Chicken Casserole, Ham Breakfast Burritos, Honey BBQ Chicken, Cheddar Bacon BBQ Burgers, Taco Casserole, and Chicken Pot Pie Soup.

Five person meals are \$175 and the two person meals are \$90. We are accepting orders now through Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m. Orders will be ready for curbside pickup on Wednesday, March 8 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau. Orders can be placed over the phone at 815-232-3186, in person at 210 West Spring Street, Freeport, IL, or by printing and mailing the order form off our website: www.stephensoncfb.org under "news" tab.

If you would like to support the Agriculture in The Classroom program but aren't interested in meals, donations can be made to the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation by mailing/dropping off donations to 210 West Spring Street, Freeport, IL. If you have questions, please contact our office at 815-232-3186 or by emailing office@stephensoncfb.org.

Free Museum Pass available to 89th District constituents

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is again offering a free 'Constituent Education Resource Card' available to residents wishing to visit select museums and zoos in the Chicagoland area.

Families in the 89th District can utilize the pass to visit some of Chicago's world-class museums through the pass, which is available on a first come first serve basis.

The following museums are available in 2024:

- Adler Planetarium
- The Art Institute of Chicago
- Brookfield Zoo
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Chicago Children's Museum
- Chicago History Museum
- Dusable Museum of African American History
- The Field Museum
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Museum of Science and Industry
- National Museum of Mexican Art
- National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts

& Culture

- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- John G. Shedd Aquarium
- Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center
- CZS Chicago Academy of Sciences

The pass is provided to Leader McCombie's office by the Museums in the Park Organization. Only one group of up to four can reserve the pass at a time. Please contact McCombie's office at 815-291-8989 and provide your name and address along with the dates you are requesting (can be used for up to three days in row) to reserve the Constituent Education Resource Card for your use.

"This is a great resource for families to take advantage of all the museum options the city of Chicago has to offer," said McCombie. "As the cold winter months set in, a day of fun at any of these museums is a great opportunity!"

It is strongly recommended that families utilizing the card contact the museum they plan to visit to learn if pre-registration is required to visit.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau Member Social

Join the Stephenson County Farm Bureau at Lena Brewing on Feb. 8 from 4

Lena-Winslow to host Spelling Bee

The Lena-Winslow 2024 District Spelling Bee will take place on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria. In the event of inclement weather, the Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, Feb. 2, at 9 a.m. Participants in grades four through eight will compete to earn an opportunity to advance to the Regional Spelling Bee to be held at Highland Community College on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.



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- **Illinois Shines: Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECS)**
- **Federal Investment Tax Credit (ITC)**
- **Net-Metering (pending your utility)**

If you would like to learn more about these great solar incentives and more potential options available to you, contact our team of local solar professionals!

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GAME PAGE

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

SUDOKU

Fun by the Numbers

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

BATH SAFETY WORD SEARCH

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

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

- ANTISKID
- BALANCE
- BARS
- BATH
- BENCHES
- ELDERLY
- FALLS
- HANDHELD
- HOT
- INSTALLATION
- LIGHTING
- MATS
- MOISTURE
- RAILS
- REACH
- RETROFIT
- SAFETY
- SEAT
- SENIORS
- SHOWER
- SLIP
- SUCTION CUPS
- TOILETRIES
- TRANSFER

CLUES ACROSS

1. Winged nut
7. ___ Humbug!
10. One who sets apart
12. Circle above a saint's head
13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh
14. Expressed pleasure
15. Feminine given name
16. Company of badgers
17. Popular Dodge pickup truck
18. Witty sayings
19. Leader
21. Autonomic nervous system
22. Premolar
27. Atomic #28
28. Holiday decorative item
33. Exclamation of surprise
34. Rusk or cracker
36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
38. Eat
39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
40. Ceases to exist
41. Male Arabic name
44. Series of ridges on an organ wall
45. Places where bees are kept
48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
49. Church office
50. Single lens reflex
51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

CLUES DOWN

1. Classify
2. Dismounted
3. Produced
4. Consumed
5. Director Howard
6. The products of human creativity
7. Thai monetary units
8. Away from wind

			1	2	3	4	5	6			7	8	9
	10	11									12		
	13										14		
	15										16		
17										18			
19			20							21			
22				23	24	25	26			27			
	28							29			30	31	32
					33			34					35
						36					37		
						38						39	
	40									41	42	43	
44								45	46	47			
48								49					
50								51					

9. Builder's trough
10. Relating to Islam
11. It can sometimes ache
12. Small quantities (Scot.)
14. Poisonous plant
17. Laugh at
18. Vogul
20. C. European river
23. Type of cat
24. Exclamation of disgust
25. Stephen King novel
26. Without armies
29. Expression of sympathy
30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
31. Previously
32. Illegal drug
35. Kiloelectronvolt
36. Large, flightless birds
38. For smoking
40. Binary
41. Competition
42. Mark resembling an arrow
43. Containers
44. Root mean square (abbr.)
45. Commercials
46. I.M., architect
47. 007's creator

IN*CI*DENTAL*LY

The Spread of health misinformation on social media

Since its inception in 1997, social media has become a global phenomenon. The average American adult now spends over two hours a day on social media and the average teenager spends four plus hours a day. Keep in mind that these are averages I am talking about. Some teenagers report up to nine hours a day spent on social media platforms.

Social media is often the first place Americans go for health information. Unfortunately, information on social media can range from accurate, to misleading, to dangerous. Whether to increase company profits or to contradict scientific evidence-based health care for political or ideological reasons, the explosion of health misinformation on social media has become a major issue of concern for public health.



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

Researchers looking into how to best address this public health concern define misinformation as false or inaccurate information deliberately intended to deceive. This may include manipulating facts, propaganda and misleading or biased information based solely on anecdotal evidence and lacking precise scientific data. Their research has revealed the increasing use of social media bots, (automated programs that engage in either a partially or fully autonomous fashion with social media platforms,) to promote certain products for

material gain.

For example, one study showed that registered dietitian influencers had been paid by the American Beverage Company as part of a campaign to promote their products and undermine the World Health Organization's warnings about aspartame, an artificial sweetener. Social bots can also tailor your content, limiting your exposure to other, reliable information and your ability to make an informed decision.

In order to fully understand what is needed to address this issue, numerous research projects are being conducted to try to understand which platforms are best at spreading health misinformation, what tools and/or methods are they using to propagate this misinformation, what is their impact on the development

of unhealthy or dangerous behaviors and what are the costs in terms of damage to mental, oral and systemic health.

To protect your family's health, do not accept any health information you find on social media without checking the source. Rely on known, trusted sources such as the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and established medical institutions such as the Mayo Clinic. Make sure that the information is current and accurate. Be alert for sponsored content or potential conflicts of interest. Misleading health information often utilizes marketing techniques that prey on your emotions. When you see phrases such as "miraculous results," "awe-

inspiring," or "exclusive", or emphasis on the "trendiness" or "FOMO" (fear of missing out) or that rely on personal anecdotes or stories but lack any specific details or knowledge gained from scientific research and reliable data, these are red flags of warning for you to heed. Be aware that researchers have found that some of the "bad players" on social media are now incorporating scientific language into their content to appear more legitimate.

Talk with your health care provider before making any decision about your healthcare. They can answer any questions and verify or health information that you find on social media. Rely on their knowledge and experience, as well as their understanding of your unique health care needs before making any decisions that could negatively impact your health. Be part of the solution. Never share any unverified health information.

Giannoulas encourages Illinoisans to check DMV availability during cold snap

Due to inclement weather conditions, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas is encouraging those seeking Secretary of State services at Driver and Motor Vehicle facilities to call (800) 252-8980 or visit www.ilsos.gov to en-

sure availability.

"In times of inclement weather, like the current cold snap the state is experiencing this week, Illinoisans should check ahead to ensure that they have access to the services they require before heading

out to the DMV," Giannoulas said. "We've also made more services available online at www.ilsos.gov so people no longer need to visit a DMV."

In addition to more services now available online at ilsos.gov as a part of Giannoulas'

"Do-it-Online, Skip-the-Line" approach, the office has made design changes to its website to make all available online services more accessible and expanded eligibility for online driver's license and state ID renewals.

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to bath safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 12 = A)

A. 15 25 6 22 22 2 13 19
Clue: Slick

B. 14 13 12 11
Clue: Hold onto

C. 12 5 5 6 21 2 24 3
Clue: Mishap

D. 11 12 3 8 13 23 23 7
Clue: Tiled room in house

Answers: A. slippers B. grab C. accident D. bathroom

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

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410541

Northern Illinois 4-H Summer Camp

Registration for 4-H Camp 2024 is open. 4-H Camp is set for June 9-13, 2024, at Rock River Christian Camp, Polo, IL. 4-H Camp is a five-day, four-night residential camping experience that is conducted cooperatively by University of Illinois Extension staff in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties and the professional staff at RRCC.

Campers at 4-H Camp will check in from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, June 9,

2024, and check out from 6 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2024. During camp week, youth will engage in a variety of activities designed to challenge, educate, and entertain. Two or three free-choice periods will be offered daily, including hiking, shooting sports, arts and crafts, crate stacking, team-building challenges, zip-lining, swimming, and more. Evening activities will be provided by the 4-H camp counselors and include campfires, a games night, and a dance.

4-H Camp is open to all boys and girls, ages 8-14 by June 9, 2024. 4-H membership is not required; however, all participants will be expected to comply with the same high behavior standards expected of 4-Hers. Youth need to be interested and excited to have a week of outdoor fun, away from television and technology.

The cost is \$300 for 4-H members and \$320 for non-4-H members until March 1. After that date, the price goes up \$50. All camp fees must be paid in full by May 15,

2024. Download a camper application online at: <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/bdo/northern-illinois-4-h-camp> or you can register online at: <http://go.illinois.edu/4HSummerCamp>.

Call an office near you with any questions; Jo Daviess County at 815-858-2273; Stephenson County at 815-235-4125; Ogle County at 815-732-2191; or Whiteside County at 815-632-3611. Slots for boys' and girls' cabins will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Galactic adventures await at Discovery Center

Since its debut in 1977, the saga of Star Wars has transported children and adults to a galaxy far, far away. But on Sunday, Jan. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 pm, Discovery Center Museum will be at the center of that galaxy for *Galaxy Adventures!*

Junior Jedis can hone their skills and learn the ways of the Force during this Star Wars-themed event. Form a star, escape from the Moon, and engineer a spaceship to fly far, far away. Mingle with iconic characters from the 501st Midwest Garrison/

Rebel Legion (Star Wars costumers) and enjoy space-themed games and crafts. Galactic attire is encouraged for this day of imaginative fun.

No registration required. The cost is included with museum admission of \$10/

person, and free to Discovery Center members and children age one and younger. Sponsored in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency. To learn more about Discovery Center Museum or to donate, go to <http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org/>

Highland announces call for entries to 52nd annual District Juried Art Exhibit

Highland Community College announces a call for entries for the 52nd annual District Juried Art Exhibit. Works are due on Wednesday, Feb. 1 for the exhibit, which runs Feb. 14 to March 11. Submission directions can be found at highland.edu/juriedart.

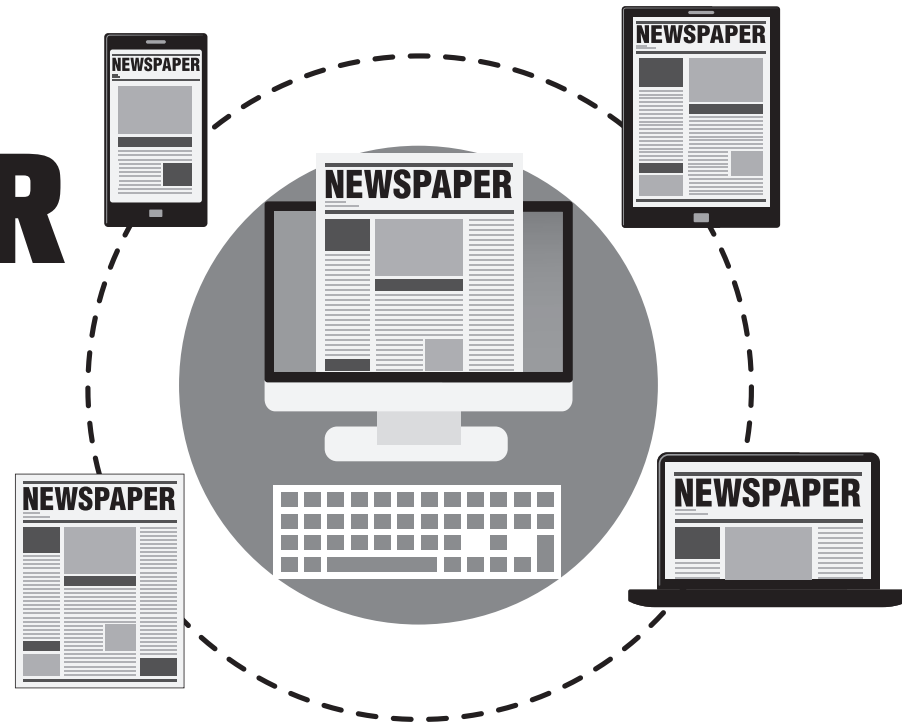
The exhibit celebrates area artists and Highland students by displaying their artwork in the Highland Gallery and online. Submission is open to original two- and three-dimensional works in any medium completed in the last two years and not previously exhibited in the Highland Gallery. Current students and all artists 18 and older residing in the Highland Community College district are welcome to submit pieces.

"Submitting works of art for exhibition consideration is an important aspect for all artists, and this exhibit stands as a testament to the vitality of the arts in our district," said Highland Art Instructor and Gallery Director Bob Apolloni. "This has become a prevalent tradition acknowledging and celebrating the arts from community and student artists."

To submit work, find the entry form at highland.edu/juriedart or contact Bill Buehler at 815-599-3490 or bill.buehler@highland.edu.

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Weekly connection

Train whistles and grandparents



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

I just love train whistles, especially the long slow ones in the middle of the night. The soft sound of that whistle wafting through the night sky, drifting across the fields, and into my ears as I lay there in bed is one of the most peaceful tranquilities in the entire world to my ears. There is something very nostalgic and sentimental for me in a train whistle, and it has a lot to do with the times I spent with my Grandpa and Grandma when I was a boy. Gramps was the kindest and sweetest man I think I have ever known. That's not to take anything away from my own Dad; he's a pretty great guy too, for sure. Nevertheless, Gramps would come over and help us on the farm quite often in the summers when I was a boy. He loved being out there on the baler keeping everything moving. Somehow, he and

my Dad would get all six of us boys working to make the haymaking run smoothly. Don't ask me how they did it with a bunch of boys between the ages of six and thirteen, but they did. We all worked hard and tried to do a good job to please them. Gramps had arthritis in his knees and hands that caused him to limp, and curled his fingers into funny shapes, but he worked right on through the pain. He was our hero, and we all watched his every move as we knew he was a very special man. Grandma had broken her hip and was in a wheel chair for a few years, and so

each night Gramps would head for home at supper time to take care of his wife. Because I was the youngest, and didn't have a lot of extra chores, I sometimes asked if I could go home with him and spend the night. Many times Gramps obliged and I would run and grab my PJ's kiss my mom goodbye, and hop into his car. What a joy those times were. Grandma would see me coming and throw open her arms, pull me up into her chair and give me a big hug. She always had something wonderful cooking on the stove, and Gramps and I would go out to the garden and bring in whatever she needed to finish the meal. We washed up and sat down for supper just the three of us. I think I forgot just how lucky I was, and how blessed to have had such opportunities. They bowed their heads and Gramps thanked the Lord

“But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him and his righteousness with their children's children.”

— *Psalms 103:17*

for the meal and for the good hard day's work. When we were all finished eating, Gramps and I went back out to the garden to pick some raspberries or pull some weeds for a while. Later, after I took a bath, I would sit and play on the floor with some toys that they kept on hand for their grandkids. It was fun to have them all to myself for a change. Gramps and Grandma would sit in

their chairs and read their Bibles before bedtime while I played at their feet. Soon my eyes grew heavy and sleepy, and I crawled into bed and lay there waiting for the sound of the trains. They lived very near a train station, and the trains rolled in and out all night long. Those train whistles were the most wonderful sound to my little ears. So today every time I hear a train roll through our

nearby town in the middle of the night with its soft long whistle, I think of the time I got to spend with my wonderful grandparents at their house. Now I have my own grandchildren and love the time we have together. What an amazing blessing they are. *Psalms 103:17* reads; “But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—” I know that my Grandparents feared that the Lord and believed in Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord. What a blessing. It's pretty amazing how God is faithful from one generation to the next to those who love him and hear his call to salvation. Until next week, God bless!

A Great Big
THANK YOU TO OUR READERS

who have sent a donation to help underwrite the Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide. For those of you who haven't done so in the past year, but enjoy this newspaper and would like to help us pay for its operation, please send a donation in any amount to:

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC Plaintiff,

-v.- DENNIS C CLIFFORD A/K/A DENNIS CHRISTY CLIFFORD, SUSAN M CLIFFORD A/K/A SUSAN MARIE CLIFFORD, JOHN LYDON, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ROSEMARY A CLIFFORD, DECEASED, THE GALENA TERRITORY ASSOCIATION, INC., EAGLE RIDGE TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC., UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ROSEMARY A CLIFFORD, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, KATHLEEN BAILEY, FRANK CLIFFORD, PAULA HERRMANN, KAREN DENNIS Defendant

22 FC 11

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 20, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on February 22, 2024, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Eagle Ridge Townhouse Unit 101, being part of Lot 1 of "Branigar's Plat of Eagle Ridge Unit "B", of the Galena Territory" A subdivision located in the Northeast Quarter of

the Southwest Quarter and the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 28 North, Range 2 East of the Fourth Principal meridian, Guilford Township, Jo Daviess County, Illinois; (According to the Plat thereof recorded September 18, 1981 as Document No. 160560, in Plat Book 14, Pages 124 and 125 and now located in plan hold B of Plats, No. 83, A&B; said part being bounded by a line described as follows;) Beginning at a point in said Lot 1, which is South 89 Degrees 50' 00", West 57.52 feet from the Northeast Corner of said Lot 1; thence South 65 degrees 36' 38" East, 26.08 feet; Thence South 24 degrees 23' 22" West 50.00 feet; Thence North 65°36'38" West, 26.08 feet, thence North 24 Degrees 23'22" East, 50.00 Feet to the Point of Beginning, in the County of Jo Daviess and State of Illinois.

Commonly known as 101 PLUM COVE DRIVE, GALENA, IL 61036 Property Index No. 08-408-101-00

The real estate is improved with a townhouse no garage.

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/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 fur-

ther 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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.

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.

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E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 21-07158IL_784827 Case Number: 22 FC 11 TJSC#: 43-4400 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 # 22 FC 11 I3236250

(Published in The Scoop Today Jan. 17, 24, & 31, 2024) 449645

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC; Plaintiff,

vs. CHARLOTTE R GRANT; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS AGENCY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,

23 FC 14

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, February 14, 2024, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, AND STATE OF ILLINOIS, BEING DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT 26 IN BLOCK 8 OF WESTWOOD HILLS SECOND

SUBDIVISION IN THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTH EAST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN BOOK "F" OF PLATS, PAGE 52, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 18-13-35-276-007.

Commonly known as 1713 REVERE STREET, FREEPORT, IL 61032.

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. Chad Lewis at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 205 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 23-096726 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3235902

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 10, 17 & 24, 2024) 449351

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

Vs. David Brubacher; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jake Brubacher; Kathy Brubacher; Cheyanne Brubacher; Roberta Jean Brubacher; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; Kipp Meyers, as Special Representative

for Jake Brubacher (deceased) DEFENDANTS No. 2023FC50 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jake Brubacher Roberta Jean Brubacher Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit: COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

309 W. South St Pearl City, IL 61062 and which said Mortgage was made by:

Jake Brubacher the Mortgagor(s), to U.S. Bank National Association, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 202000175263; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court,

Shanelle Bardell Clerk of the Circuit Court 15 North Galena Freeport, IL 61032

on or before February 16, 2024, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 DuPage # 15170 Winnebago # 531 Our File No. 14-23-04721 NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. I3236545

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 17, 24 & 31, 2024)



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PUZZLE 2

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
DEUTSHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAA TRUST 2004-3, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2004-3;
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
ROY R. RODDEWIG; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;
 Defendants,

23 FC 42
NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Stephenson County will on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the hour of 9:30 a.m., 1st floor, Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Ave., Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Lot 10 Block 6 Lincoln Boulevard Subdivision; Situated in the City of Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois.
 P.I.N. 89-18-13-36-377-007.
 Commonly known as 1247 W. STOVER ST., FREEPORT, IL 61032.
 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. James P. Palazzolo at Plaintiff's Attorney, Potestivo & Associates, P.C., 223 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (248) 853-4400 ext 1200. I3235908

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 10, 17 & 24, 2024) 449353

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
 Plaintiff,
 -v.-
JOSHUA MCCLELLAN, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
 Defendant

2023 FC 11
NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 8, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 15, 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:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE TRACT OF LAND IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, LYING EAST OF FOLEY STREET AND NORTH OF LOT TWENTY-SIX (26) OF POWELL AND WADDELL' SUBDIVISION IN THE EAST HALF (1/2) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, CONVEYED BY CONRAD EDLER AND MINNIE, HIS WIFE, TO FRED EDLER, BY WARRANTY DEED, DATED MAY 4, 1895, AND RECORDED MAY 4, 1895, IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN BOOK "93" OF DEEDS, PAGE 387, REFERENCE TO WHICH DEED IS HEREBY MADE; RUNNING THENCE NORTH ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID FOLEY STREET, 42 FEET, THENCE EASTERLY ALONG A LINE AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE EASTERLY LINE OF SAID FOLEY STREET TO THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF LOT THIRTY-ONE (31) IN SAID POWELL AND WADDELL'S SUBDIVISION; THENCE EASTERLY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF SAID LOT THIRTY-ONE (31) TO A POINT 50 FEET NORTH OF THE NORTHEAST-ERLY CORNER OF SAID

TRACT OF LAND SO CONVEYED TO SAID FRED EDLER; THENCE SOUTH 50 FEET TO SAID NORTHEAST CORNER, THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF SAID TRACT SO CONVEYED TO SAID FRED EDLER, TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 249 N FOLEY AVE, FREEPORT, IL 61032

Property Index No. 18-13-36-229-001

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$61,853.00.

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 23-095397.

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. 23-095397
 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439
 Case Number: 2023 FC 11 TJSC#: 43-3285

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
 Case # 2023 FC 11 I3236601

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 17, 24 & 31, 2024)

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real estate

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REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC

Plaintiff, -v.- DENNIS C CLIFFORD A/K/A DENNIS CHRISTY CLIFFORD, SUSAN M CLIFFORD A/K/A SUSAN MARIE CLIFFORD, JOHN LYDON, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ROSEMARY A CLIFFORD, DECEASED, THE GALENA TERRITORY ASSOCIATION, INC., EAGLE RIDGE TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC., UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ROSEMARY A CLIFFORD, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, KATHLEEN BAILEY, FRANK CLIFFORD, PAULA HERRMANN, KAREN DENNIS

Defendant 22 FC 11

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 20, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on February 22, 2024, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 101 PLUM COVE DRIVE, GALENA, IL 61036

Property Index No. 08-408-101-00

The real estate is improved with a townhouse no garage.

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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200, Chicago, IL, 60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088. 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.

MCCALLA RAYMER LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC One North Dearborn Street, Suite 1200 Chicago IL, 60602 312-346-9088 E-Mail: pleadings@mccalla.com Attorney File No. 21-07158IL_784827 Case Number: 22 FC 11 TJSC#: 43-4400

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 # 22 FC 11 I3236250 (Published in The Scoop Today Jan. 17, 24, & 31, 2024) 449646

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC; Plaintiff, vs.

CHARLOTTE R GRANT; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ACTING BY AND THROUGH ITS AGENCY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,

23 FC 14

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, February 14, 2024, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 18-13-35-276-007.

Commonly known as 1713 REVERE STREET, FREEPORT, IL 61032.

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. Chad Lewis at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 205 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 23-096726 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3235902

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 10, 17 & 24, 2024) 449352

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COUNTY OF STEPHENSON - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS DEUTSHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR GSAA TRUST 2004-3, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES SERIES 2004-3; Plaintiff, vs. ROY R. RODDEWIG; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,

23 FC 42

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause the Sheriff of Stephenson County will on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at the hour of 9:30 a.m., 1st floor, Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Ave., Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 89-18-13-36-377-007. Commonly known as 1247 W. STOVER ST., FREEPORT, IL 61032.

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. James P. Palazzolo at Plaintiff's Attorney, Potestivo & Associates, P.C., 223 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60606. (248) 853-4400 ext 1200. I3235908

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 10, 17 & 24, 2024) 449354

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff, -v.- JOSHUA MCCLELLAN, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

2023 FC 11 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 8, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on February 15, 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:

Commonly known as 249 N FOLEY AVE, FREEPORT, IL 61032 Property Index No. 18-13-36-229-001

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$61,853.00.

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 23-095397.

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. 23-095397 Attorney ARDC No. 6306439 Case Number: 2023 FC 11 TJSC#: 43-3285

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

Case # 2023 FC 11 I3236601

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 17, 24 & Feb. 1, 2024) 449886

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SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group medical assistant receives BEE Award

SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group Medical Assistant, Bree Schneider, has been named the newest recipient of the BEE Award. Schneider serves patients at

our clinic in Freeport on Kiwanis Drive. Schneider was nominated by fellow Freeport Medical Assistant, Erin Foster. Her nomination shared, "Bree is

an exceptional team member to our branch, patients and staff. In January 2020, our family was delivered some devastating news, your child has cancer. Bree and the whole

clinic were the "normal" to the nightmare we were about to endure for the next 2.5 years. Bree treated Emilee so well! I was able to witness the relationship these two have grown to have. Whenever Emilee comes into the clinic, she is always looking to see if Bree is here. When Emilee finished her cancer treatment, Bree and the team put together an end of treatment celebration surprise. There are no words to express all the gratitude, prayers and kind words that have come from Bree and the rest of the team. Bree is going to make a wonderful nurse when she finishes school. She has the most caring, gentle personality there is. Bree is very deserving of the BEE Award!"

The BEE Award was created to recognize any non-nursing staff members who demonstrate excellent quality care, extraordinary compassion, focus on the patient and the patient's needs and effective collaboration with other members on the patient care team.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing
Bree Schneider received the BEE Award on Jan. 15.

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