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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3, 2024



ORANGEVILLE BRONCOS BASKETBALL FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

1000 points and counting

The Orangeville Lady Broncos basketball team celebrates the milestone of team captains Whitney Sullivan and Laney Cahoon as they both have scored over 1,000 career points. The two captains were presented with their framed jerseys to recognize

their achievement. Congratulations, Whitney and Laney!

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Obituaries

DIANE J. KLINFELTER *Loving Mother and Grandma and Friend*

Diane J. Klinefelter, 74, of Shannon, formerly of German Valley, died Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at the Serenity House in Oregon, after a brief illness and broken heart (from losing the Love of her life eight years ago), surrounded by her loving family. She was born Aug. 4, 1949, in Freeport, the daughter of James and Iva (Reemtsma) Mennenga. She graduated from Winnebago High School in 1967. Diane married Roger L. Klinefelter on January 25, 1974, in Silver Creek Reformed Church, German Valley. She worked as a beautician for many years. Diane also helped at the Valley Inn in German Valley. Diane enjoyed mowing their lawn and taking care of Silver Creek Cemetery for years with her husband Roger. She dearly loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and attending all of their events.

Diane is lovingly survived by her sons, James (Amanda) and Tim "Tiny" (Rachael) Klinefelter; grandchildren, Eric Schaney, Olivia, Ryker, Charles Klinefelter, Alley, Charles Abiageal, William Weber all of Shannon; Sister, Eunice (Norman) Miller of German Valley, Sister-In-Law Jean Mennenga of Pecaton-



ica; Great Grandchildren Piper & Haven Schaney; and Many nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews and cousins.

She was predeceased by her husband, Roger; parents, James and Iva Mennenga; brothers, Wayne and Merle; niece, Beth Miller, great niece Kaylee Hawk.

The family wishes to thank Dominique Beck who became a great friend and part of the family to Diane, the Serenity House and staff for all their kind care given to their mom and grandma, and Dr. Terry Miller for the care given and FHN staff.

Funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, in Bethel United Methodist Church, 217 S. Hickory St., Shannon, with Pastor Brenda Morris. Pastor Ellis Boughton and Dawn Barr will co-officiating. There will be a visitation at the church on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Burial will take place in Silver Creek Cemetery, German Valley. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

MARK CHAPMAN

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

His education included high school and welding school. He was a machinist for the Harper Wyman Corp, and a member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in rural Wyoming.

Carol Sander was Mark's lifelong companion, roommate, and caregiver, who both shared a home for 18 1/2 years that they built together. Carol tended to his needs for all those years, as he had been through years of tests, surgeries, and recovery times, which included open heart surgery and kidney dialysis, where he badly needed a kidney, as both of his had failed. Carol was with him during his final week here on earth. She was his Hospice caregiver and held his hand and talked to him until she told him it was ok to go. The skies were the most beautiful color that morning as she told him, "I think God is coming for you." He gave her hand a little squeeze, and he left. "I will always love you Mark Chapman" - Carol

Survivors include his brother Steve Chapman and his children, daughter Jen-



nifer (Eric Craft) Chapman, and son Joshua (Sarah); brother Mike (Rosanne) Chapman and their children,

Courtney (Scott Reynolds), and son Christopher (Kim) Chapman, and lifelong companion Carol Sander and her family: Jonathan Bonzi, Nathaniel (Chrystal) Bonzi, and her three grandchildren: Justin, Shane, and Olivia, all who would call him "grandpa".

Mark also had nieces, nephews, and two kids he helped raise named Chelsea and Jason, but no family ties, and their mom (Lucy) who was Mark's girlfriend at one time.

He was preceded in death by his mother Polly Chapman and father Kirby Chapman.

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

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

PATRICIA CURRAN

Patricia A. Curran, 79 of Lena, IL passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2023, in Lena. She was born on July 8, 1944, in Rockford, IL to James and Dorothy (Radtke) Monahan. She was united in marriage to the love of her life, John R. Curran on July 11, 1964. Following their marriage in 1984, the family moved to Lena, IL where their children grew up and they lived the rest of their lives.

Patricia is survived by her children: Chris (Jerry Pool) Curran of Freeport, Jody (Mark Fordham) Katzenberger of Rockford, Jolene (Dennis Pieper) of Lena, James (Lisa) Curran of Warren, IL, Jacquelyn (Terry Daschner) Curran of Lena, Julie (Todd Bessert) Curran of Lena, and Jaysen (Kristina Knesting) Curran of Racine, WI; her grandchildren: Jack, Megin, John, and Jordin Katzenberger, Brandyn (Kaleigh Storm) Curran, Jared (Samantha) Curran, Emily Pontnack, Jakeb Daschner, Abby (Bryant) Lawson, Ashleigh (Ian White) Wilson, Adriana (Wyatt Owen) Curran, Allie Curran, Lucas Baney, Jayden Hornung, Quinton Preston; her great-grandchildren: Ayden, Lenny, Luci, Laikyn and Carlisle; several brothers and sisters-in-law. Two family friends; Wayne Kitzberger and James Reichling and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by



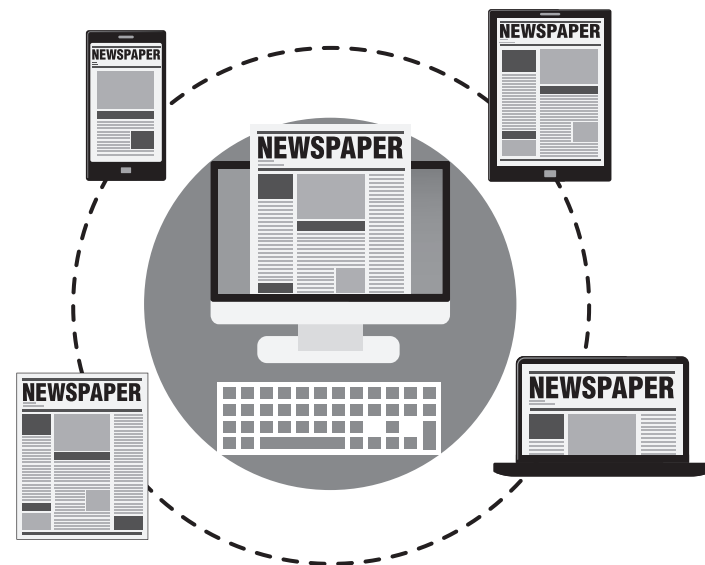
her parents; her husband John, brother Joe Monahan; two sisters Mary Jane Monahan, and Kathy Weber.

Patricia was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lena, IL. Her faith was very important to her. She was a religious education teacher and active in other areas of the church. She enjoyed shopping, doing puzzles, and watching Wheel of Fortune. Patricia was also an election judge. She cherished the time spent with family creating memories they will all remember forever.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lena, IL. A visitation will be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. Father Michael Morrissey and Father Andrew Hernandez will officiate the services. Burial will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Lena, IL. A luncheon will follow the services at the church.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Patricia's name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

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BASE Camp offers educational series for entrepreneurs and small businesses

The Business Academy for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs (BASE) Camp is an opportunity for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners to learn more about the important elements of business ownership to be successful. Classes begin on Jan. 30, 2024.

The goal of the educational series is to provide a resource and network of support for entrepreneurs, small business owners, and those looking to grow or expand their products or services to build a successful and thriving business. Important business topics including financing options, legal structure, business planning, and marketing will be addressed by local experts in an interactive and instructional format.

Attendees are encouraged to register for the full five-class series to gain the full depth of business knowledge offered by professionals. As an additional incentive to complete all five classes, graduates will be offered the opportunity to compete in a Business Pitch Competition for the potential to win \$2,000 in cash prizes to help grow their business. Courses are available individually, as well.

While BASE Camp is open to all entrepreneurs and small businesses, the program is especially designed for informal entrepreneurs who are moving from an idea phase to a formal business model, minority entrepreneurs and women-owned businesses. Minority and women-owned businesses are the fastest growing segment of small business development and BASE Camp courses are designed to create further opportunities to provide education and a framework for success.

BASE Camp is designed to maximize available time for busy people, making it possible to attend outside of normal work hours. Five classes are offered over 10 weeks, every

other week, lasting two to three hours and are held in person at the Greater Freeport Partnership office, located at 110 W. Main St. in Freeport. Local experts will instruct the class each week with verbal and interactive instruction and activities to help attendees understand and apply business principles.

The fee to register for all five classes is \$200. However, a scholarship is available for interested individuals to cover \$150 of the registration fee. Individual classes are available for \$50.

For more information and to register for BASE Camp, visit greaterfreeport.com/basecamp.

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

As dual credit participation grows in Illinois, study shows gaps widening

Urban, low-income, high-minority districts lag behind rural counterparts

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

As the cost of higher education continues to rise in Illinois and elsewhere, a growing number of students are working to earn as many college credits as possible while they are still in high school.

But even as the popularity continues to grow for “dual credit” offerings—courses in which a student earns credit toward both a high school diploma and a college degree—a new study shows disparities between racial, economic and geographic groups are also widening.

According to the study, dual credit programs are more prevalent in districts that serve rural communities and small towns in downstate Illinois than in suburban and urban districts. They are less prevalent in districts that serve minority and lower-income students.

And even within individual districts, the study found that white students and those from more affluent backgrounds were more likely to enroll in and complete dual credit courses than minority students or students from lower-income households.

The study was conducted by the Illinois Workforce & Education Research Collaborative, or IWERC, a research arm of the University of Illinois System’s Discovery Partners Institute, which works to develop the state’s high-tech workforce and economy.

Dual credit courses are offered through partnerships between high schools and post-

secondary institutions.

According to the study, a small number of dual credit courses are offered through public four-year universities, but the overwhelming majority, about 97 percent, are offered through local community colleges. As a result, the courses offered in any given high school are strongly influenced by the policies and programs of the community college district that overlaps with the high school district.

Sarah Cashdollar, an IWERC researcher and author of the report, said in an interview that details of those partnership agreements may help explain some of the disparities between school districts and between different geographic areas.

“It is costly to provide dual credit, especially for community colleges,” she said. “Depending on the partnership, it can also be costly for the school district. And so there might be variation in terms of how community college districts have managed those costs.”

Although students typically pay some tuition to enroll in a dual credit course, Cashdollar said the cost is typically only a fraction of what students would pay otherwise, which is one of the reasons why dual credit programs help lower the overall cost of higher education.

In recent years, Illinois lawmakers have taken several steps to make dual credit pro-

grams more accessible and affordable.

Among those actions is the Dual Credit Quality Act, first passed in 2010 and amended several times since then, which requires public colleges and universities to accept credit from those courses if a standard agreement is in place. It also requires community colleges to enter into dual credit agreements with any high school in their district that requests one.

The Education Workforce Equity Act, passed in 2021, provides that starting this year, high school students who meet or exceed state standards on their annual assessments in English language arts, math, or science may automatically be enrolled the following year in the next most rigorous level of advanced coursework offered by the school. For seniors, that must include a dual credit, Advanced Placement, or International Baccalaureate course.

And this year’s state budget includes just over \$3 million for community colleges to help them lower the cost of dual credit programs.

Despite those efforts, however, the study found that while overall participation in dual credit programs has grown—from 10.2 percent of high school students in the 2018 school year to 14 percent in 2022—the racial and economic disparities in participation rates and completion rates has widened.

That was due mainly to the fact that participation rates grew more slowly among students of color and students from lower-income backgrounds than they did among white and Asian students and students from more affluent backgrounds.

Cashdollar noted those kinds of achievement gaps are similar to the gaps that researchers find in other aspects of education, including college enrollment rates and college completion rates. And because dual credit programs are, by definition, intended for students who aspire to continue their education beyond high school, she said the gaps point to differences in the types of students who are seen as being college-bound.

She said prior research on the topic has found the biggest predictor for racial gaps in students enrolled in dual credit was enrollment in accelerated coursework taken prior to high school.

“So who are those kids who are in the gifted classes? Who are taking algebra in eighth grade? Who are the kids in the honors program, maybe at the middle school?” She said. “And it’s kind of like, that sets the wheel in motion in terms of who is then either tracked into these higher-level courses, who is thinking about themselves as the type of kid who takes these courses.”

See GAPS, Page 8

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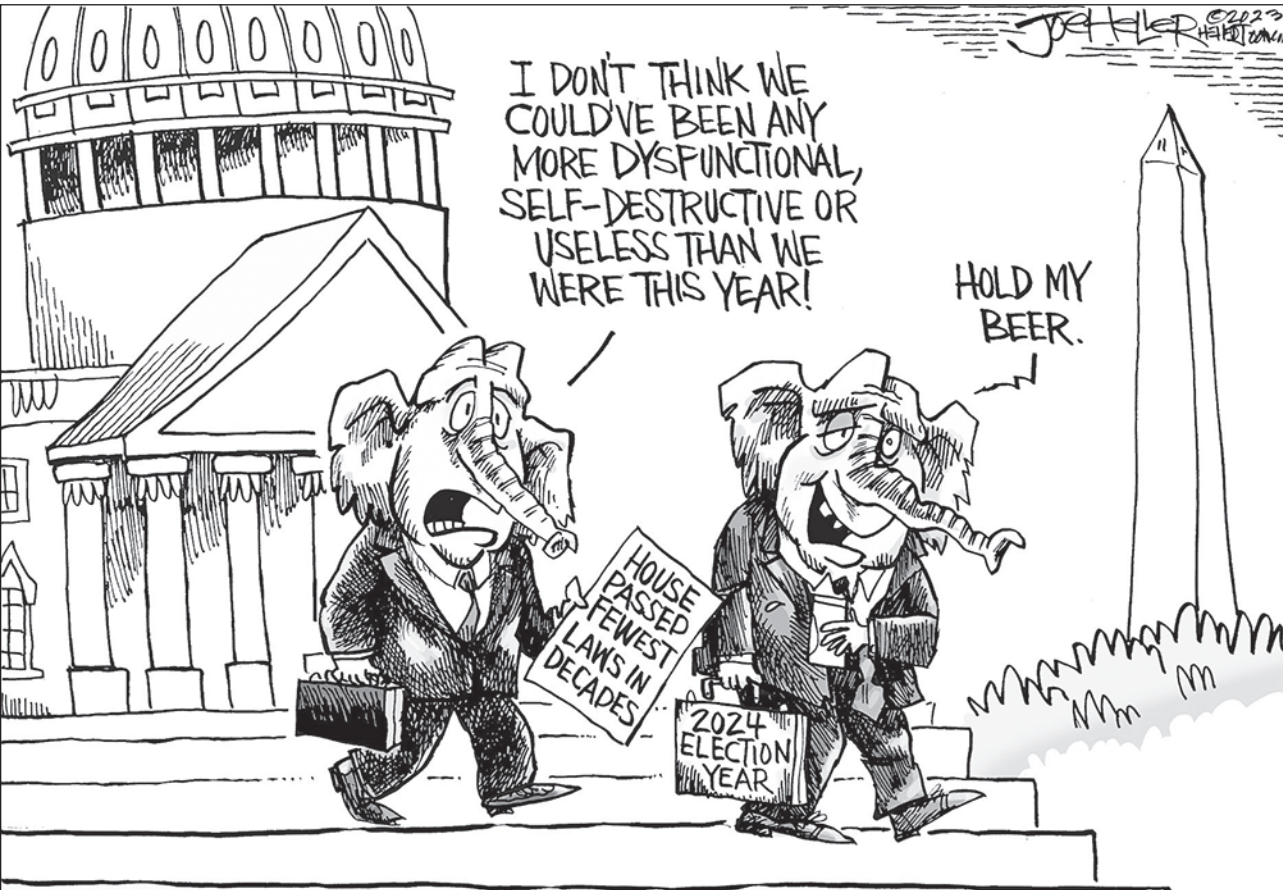
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OPINION



Slices of life

A new pair of shoes



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

I love my wardrobe. Heck, I love clothes.

A lot. But for years (for decades, people) I put that all on the back burner.

It was due to the kids. It's always due to the kids, isn't it?

They always bear the brunt of our angst. We sacrifice for them. Gladly.

Because that is what you do. It is what you want to do as a parent. You wouldn't have it any other way.

I sacrificed for Nike tennis shoes. I sacrificed for American Eagle, Abercrombie, and Lulu Lemon, depending on the kids and the decade.

And I sacrificed for my husband's clothes as well. He needed suits and ties, and they don't come cheap.

It was what it was. I wouldn't change it for anything.

But suffice to say, my kids had tennis shoes with the correct logo and my husband had iron-free shirts because my family was my pride and joy (and we all had a distain for ironing).

I didn't care much where my clothes came from (still don't) but while making sure my kids and husband had the correct attire, I still attended to mine, albeit in the minimalist regard. I didn't care what I had and I didn't care if I had much.

Just the basics, if you will.

Mind you, I never wanted for anything. I could have bought expensive jeans or shoes and my husband would have applauded me. It was my decision, completely.

I guess I just felt the people around me, the people I

cared about, needed clothing and brand name shoes more than I did. And for the most part, I'd created these human beings with needs, so I felt the obligation make sure they had enough—or even a smidge more than enough.

And that goes for love as well as clothes. But (drum roll ...) now it's my turn.

The kids are grown with feet that are no longer growing and in need a new pair of tennis shoes every September. My husband is gone—quite literally—and I donated many of his suits, shirts and shoes to charity. He no longer wears his clothes out. Heck, he no longer wears them.

That leaves ... just me. My goodness, have I been having a good time with this.

I still don't wear many name brands, but I've developed my own style. It's flashy, it's unique and it's fun. And I'm having a grandiose time with it.

I think this probably happens to a lot of us—men and women. For many years, we put our own needs on the back burner because there are others, often needy and helpless others who call us mom and dad, who are relying on us to make sure their needs get met in a healthy and timely fashion.

See **SHOES**, Page 5

Weekly connection

Another year of blessing

Here it is a new year and it's fun to look back and think about all the blessings that God has supplied over the last 12 months. Probably the biggest blessing was when my dad went to be with the Lord last January. It was a bittersweet time for sure as all of us gathered together at his bedside in front of the big wood stove that he loved so much to say our goodbyes. The previous year had seen dad slowly decline physically, but his mind and spirit were as alive as ever.



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

Those final days though were a tremendous blessing. We had returned from a week up at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota where we had tried one last time to see if there was anything more we could do to get him some help. I had

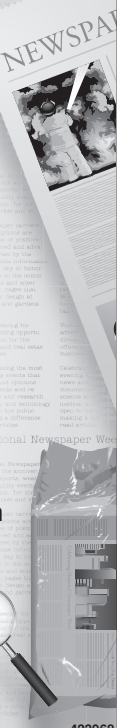
driven him and my mom up to Rochester that last time and we spent a couple of days and nights together as they ran more tests throughout the days. He was so kind to the nurses and doctors as they tried over and over to insert an IV line for fluids in his arms to help him regain some strength. He was alert and felt pretty good, and we were just trying to see if there was anything else we could do for him. He had been on dialysis for a couple years back home and although the dialysis was taking the toxins out of his blood, he just never seemed to regain his good appetite and had lost a lot of muscle from his strong body. After a couple days of tests and discussion about what more could be done, it was determined that there wasn't much more that could be done. Dad felt frustrated because he wanted to keep going but was running out of steam. He stayed up there for about a week as I returned home to take care of some things, and some other family members drove up to the clinic to take over. After a few more tests and consultations with the doctors, it was clear that dad's time on this earth was winding down. He accepted it with the confidence that he would soon be going home to be with His Savior and Lord. My brother and sister-in-law brought him back home one

last time and the rest of us met them at the house. We helped him into the house and lifted onto a small bed in front of that wood stove where he smiled and fell asleep peacefully. The next few days he sipped some soup and ate crackers when he could as family came to say their goodbyes. There was so much love, so many hugs and so much laughter in the house those final days. Each day we gathered and reminisced, sang some hymns, and shared stories as dad held tightly to the hands of those who sat by his bed. Mom was never far from his side, holding his hand and laying her head on his shoulder from time to time. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren climbed up on his bed and he would smile at them and hug them goodbye. Those final hours were a rich blessing from God. Dad had always been a man who loved the Lord Jesus with all his heart. He loved the word of God and taught it week after week as a Sunday School teacher for some 60 years. His love for Jesus was first and his love for his family and the farm was a close second.

Experiencing dad's passing this past year has helped me transition into being a better husband, pastor, father and grandpa

See **BLESSING**, Page 5

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Banning Congressional stock trading through the ETHICS Act

By U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi

Early last month, with public trust in Congress falling to the lowest levels ever recorded, I joined my colleagues in voting to expel former Rep. George Santos for his litany of lies and alleged crimes.

While that is a step toward addressing the loss of public trust in Congress, far more action is needed.

One of the most immediate and significant steps we can take is to ban members of Congress from trading stocks while in office to ensure legislators put their constituents ahead of their portfolios. That is why in May I introduced my bipartisan and bicameral Ending Trading and Holdings in Congressional Stocks (ETHICS) Act which would ban Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents from owning, selling, and trading individual stocks.

Despite opposition from some members of Congress, three-quarters of voters support prohibiting members of Congress from trading stocks while serving in office, and that support crosses party lines as 70 percent of Democrats, 78 percent of Republicans, and 80 percent of independents favor a stock trading ban.

I discussed the urgent need to strengthen congressional ethics through the ETHICS Act earlier this month in an op-ed I wrote with Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon and Noah Bookbinder, President of the government ethics watchdog Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW).

Event Jan. 8 to focus on bill to end degree-based hiring discrimination

On Monday, Jan. 8, I will be hosting a panel discussion at Harper College at 1 p.m. on fighting hiring discrimination against people without four-year degrees who are still otherwise qualified for the job.

We need to ensure that workers skilled through training and experience, rather than a bachelor's degree, receive fair consideration in hiring. While automation and other technical advances in hiring have made application screening easier for employers, they have also significantly contributed to the trend of unfairly discriminating against those without four-year degrees by requiring degrees for jobs that previously did not demand them.

To address this problem, I partnered with Republican Congressman John James in October to introduce the Opportunity to Compete Act, bipartisan legislation that would open the door for qualified workers without a bachelor's degree, who have acquired relevant skills through other means such as apprenticeships and previous job experience.

Raja Krishnamoorthi represents the 8th Congressional District of Illinois.

Shoes (Continued from page 4)

So we go without sleep. We go without new clothes and a new car. We make do with what we have so our littles can have what they need - and sometimes beyond what they need because it is what we do—as adults, as parents, as caring human beings.

And then that ends, because kids grow up don't they? What follows is the me years.

I'm at the cusp of them and they feel quite nice, thank you. I still look after my kids and grandkids, but I have more time to think about what I might want to do or experience, and after giving for so long it feels okay.

Maybe even better than okay. I give thanks for better

than okay every day. To be in this place and in this space is truly worth my gratitude.

Well, that and a new pair of shoes.

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.

Illinois agriculture remains resilient amid year of challenges, uncertainty

By Richard Guebert Jr. FORMER ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT

Everyone can point to that year in their lives—the year when 23 inches of snow blanketed the state, the year an EF3 tornado ripped through a rural community, or the first holiday without mom or dad. There are some years that stick out more than most.

Last December, I called on everyone in Illinois agriculture to come together to make 2023 the “Year of the Farmer,” but for many Illinois farm families, this year was shaping up to be full of heartaches and hardships.

Tornadoes, hailstorms and derechos blasted much of the state in early spring and summer, exacerbating already challenging planting conditions and damaging homes. Severe thunderstorms producing dozens of devastating tornadoes tore through fields of farmland and rural communities.

Families lost their homes, and many were left with extreme damage to their livelihoods. Others lost family members, neighbors and friends.

Then drought hit nearly every corner of the state as

farm production, equipment and land costs reached record highs, squeezing our pocketbooks. At the same time, global conflicts put a new focus on food security and the need to pass a modernized farm bill that meets the needs of all Americans.

Yet, in the face of uncertainty, our farm families remained resilient. Through thunderstorms, drought, inflation and global unrest, Illinois farmers dug in their heels and got to work producing 3 billion bushels of grain in the 2023 crop year. And, together, farmers across the country grew the largest corn crop on record, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Despite the challenges, Illinois farmers rose to the occasion. We started off the year strong with the Illinois Farm Families coalition launching the “We are the 96%” campaign during Super Bowl LVII to bring awareness to Illinois’ nearly 70,000 family-owned farms. This campaign showed consumers that our farms might look different than they did 100 years ago, but that’s because they’ve evolved so that multiple generations of families can continue farming together.

Illinois farmers also emphasized sustainability and conservation through embracing new technology and research. Nutrient stewardship field days put a focus on emerging strategies to protect water quality, and a new survey from the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association, with support of Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) and several other agriculture organizations, released new data showing farmers’ progress in this space.

Last year, IFB debuted its Emmy-Award-winning documentary, “Sustaining Our Future: A Farm Family Story,” which told Ganschow Farms’ conservation story. IFB continues to highlight Illinois farmers’ stories, and I look forward to the coming launch of “Fields Apart: Rooted Together,” a three-part long-form video series showcasing shared characteristics, goals and challenges facing rural and urban farmers.

Life is full of challenges, both good and bad, and Illinois farm families know that it’s the many little things that can make a major impact. When I look back on all the progress we’ve made this year, I’m excited for the next

chapter in Illinois agriculture. Serving as president of IFB the past 10 years has been a true privilege. I’ve been very fortunate for the opportunity to steward this organization toward a bountiful future. I am proud to see my friends and colleagues Brian Dunca of Polo, Ogle County, and Evan Hultine of Princeton, Bureau County, elected to be IFB’s next president and vice president, respectively. I look forward to seeing the course they chart for IFB.

As I wrap up my final column on behalf of IFB, I’d like to thank our members, current and former county leaders and managers for their engagement and dedication to Illinois agriculture. I am also thankful for the IFB directors who currently serve and who have previously served for investing their time and energy in leading this organization. And, finally, my family for their infinite support and patience while I was away for this role.

It was really all of them who gave me this opportunity to serve, and I am forever grateful for the sacrifices they made. May Illinois agriculture continue to prosper in 2024 and beyond!

Blessing (Continued from page 4)

to my own grandkids. There is nothing as precious as reading Bible stories to them on the couch when they come for a sleep over. I love making pancakes as they sit at our big table, each one waiting for the next batch to come off the griddle. There is nothing like having all 12 of them over to our house for times of laughter and joy. Sometimes we will have a

prayer time where each one of us prays and then calls out the name of somebody else to pray. Even the two-year-olds get involved. Each prayer is so simple and sweet, and I am reminded of my own dad’s gift of faith to all of us. I don’t know what 2024 has in store, but I know who will be with us each day giving strength and love as each of us lives out our faith.

Lamentations 3:22-23 is one of my favorite passages and it reads, “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never

come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness O God.” Until next week, God bless.

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Pastor Libby Rutherford (815) 990-1428
Church (815) 594-2223
• *Sunday Worship – 9 a.m.*
• Bible Study - Every Monday 9 a.m.
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CALVARY CHURCH OF STOCKTON

315 W. Maple St., Stockton, IL 61085
815-947-2414
E-Mail: calvarychurchofstockton@yahoo.com
• *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 8:45 a.m.*
• Communion and Potluck every 1st Sunday (except no potlucks during summer)
• Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
• Every other Sat. Youth Group - 6 - 8 p.m.
You may find our facebook page and weekly messages by searching for "Calvary Church of Stockton on facebook.com"
You are welcome! Please visit us!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON

600 N. Main St., Stockton
Pastor Chrissy Salser (815) 988-9450
E-Mail: cle600@mediacombb.net
Find us on Facebook at ChristOnMainSt
• *Worship times: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.*
Sunday, 10 a.m.
• *Sunday School: Sunday, 9 a.m.*

EBENEZER – SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 102, Pearl City, IL 61062
Pastor Randy Nicholas
See Facebook or call 815-291-1965
• *Sunday Worship: Currently 8:30 a.m.*
• Jan. worship is at Ebenezer-UCC Church
5421 S. Stone Church Road

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

720 N. Freedom Street, Lena, IL 61048
815-369-5591
Pastor Casey Dwyer, Pastor
• Adult bible study and Children's Sunday School - 8:45 a.m.
• *Sunday Morning Worship Service and Children's Church/Nursery – 10:00 a.m.*
• Awana Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (Sept. - April)
• Pastor's weekly sermons at
www.lenafreechurch.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

MARTINTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

McCONNELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

NEW VINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

PROVIDENCE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062
www.stjohnspearlcity.org
815-443-2215
• *Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor David Russell
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105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001
Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312
• *Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.*
• Reconciliation Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENT

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

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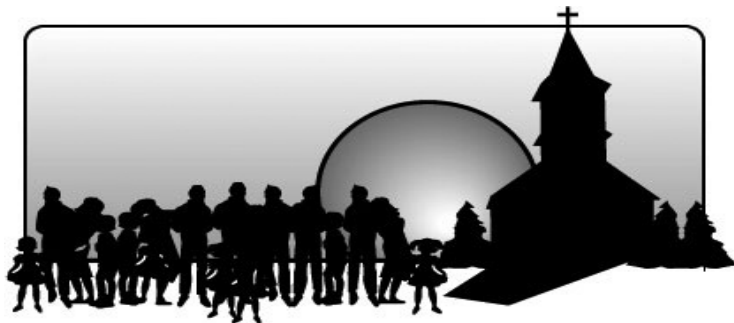
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Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 947-2541
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• Adult Bible Studies Available
• Communion Every 1st Sunday
• First Sunday potluck following church services.
Find us on website StocktonWUMC.org
or Facebook-Stockton Wesley United Methodist Church
** Handicapped Accessible*

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

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

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

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



Come worship with us!

Please call 815-369-4112 or 815-947-3353 if you wish to have your church listed on the church page.

Prohibition on book bans, right to sue for 'deepfake porn' among new laws in 2024

More than 300 statutes become law in the new year

By Peter Hancock, Andrew Adams and Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

More than 300 new laws took effect Monday, ranging from a ban on book bans to the regulation of "deepfake porn" and prohibitions on videoconferencing while driving.

Thanks to a law signed in 2019, workers at the lowest end of the pay scale will see a pay raise with the new year as the state minimum wage increases by one dollar, to \$14 per hour.

Gov. JB Pritzker championed and signed that law after it was approved by lawmakers within his first two months of office. The law gradually phases in a \$15 per-hour minimum wage starting in 2025.

The minimum wage applies to most workers 18 years of age and older. Teens who work less than 650 hours in a calendar year will go up to \$13 an hour while the minimum wage for tipped workers will increase to \$9 an hour.

Also going into effect on Monday, Illinoisans who own guns, ammunition and accessories prohibited under the state's "assault weapons" ban will be in violation of the law if they don't register them with the state. A federal judge recently chose not to temporarily halt the law's enforcement while a broader legal challenge plays out. The U.S. Supreme Court also recently declined to stay the law.

While permanent administrative rules regulating which guns and ammunition must be registered with the Illinois State Police remain in flux, temporary rules governing registration remain in effect.

Other laws hitting the books include a measure granting paid leave to all workers, in-

door vaping restrictions and a ban on youth solitary confinement in state correctional facilities, among others.

Paid leave for all

Starting Jan. 1, anyone who works in Illinois will be entitled to earn up to 40 hours of paid leave during a 12-month period, time they can take off work for any reason, regardless of whether they are full-time, part-time, or seasonal employees.

The Paid Leave for All Workers Act passed during the lame duck session in January, 2023—a session that was called primarily to pass the assault weapons ban. Pritzker signed it into law March 13.

"That is a game changer for many employers, particularly those who have not previously offered any type of paid leave to their employees," Scott Cruz, a labor attorney, said during an interview with Capitol News Illinois in November.

In particular, he said, the law will be a major change for waiters, waitresses and other workers in the hospitality industry who have never received paid leave benefits in the past.

The Illinois Department of Labor has published a list of frequently asked questions to help guide employers and employees through the new law.

Banning book bans

Libraries in Illinois will lose access to grants administered by the secretary of state's office after Jan. 1 if they ban books or other material "because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

The so-called ban on book bans, House Bill 2789, was an initiative of Secretary of State

Alexi Giannoulis. The secretary of state in Illinois also serves as the state librarian, which awards millions of dollars a year in grants to public and school libraries around the state.

Under the new law, libraries must either adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights or develop a written statement prohibiting the practice of banning specific books or resources.

Giannoulis said he proposed the legislation after extremist groups targeted Illinois libraries with efforts to ban certain materials from circulation.

"The concept of banning books contradicts the very essence of what our country stands for," he said in a statement. "It also defies what education is all about: teaching our children to think for themselves. This landmark law is a triumph for our democracy, a win for First Amendment Rights, and a great victory for future generations."

Digital forgeries

Lawmakers this spring approved a new protection for victims of "deepfake porn." Starting in 2024, people who are falsely depicted in sexually explicit images or videos will be able to sue the creator of that material.

The law is an amendment to the state's existing protections for victims of "revenge porn," which went into effect in 2015.

In recent years, deepfakes—images and videos that falsely depict someone—have become more sophisticated with the advent of more readily available artificial intelligence tools. Women are

disproportionately the subject of deepfake porn.

Some sponsors of the legislation, notably chief sponsor Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, D-Glenview, have indicated interest in further regulating the use of artificial intelligence.

Zooming while driving

It is now illegal for Illinois drivers to participate in videoconferencing or check their social media pages while behind the wheel.

The law adds the use of any mobile videoconferencing software, explicitly referencing Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Webex, to banned actions under existed distracted driving laws.

The law also specifically names social media sites Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and "Twitter," which was rebranded to X a few months after the law's passage.

Illinois law currently bans cell phone use generally while driving, although it does allow drivers to use phones through hands-free or voice-activated means.

In 2022, more than 24,000 drivers were cited for distracted driving in Illinois, according to the secretary of state's office.

Illinois drivers continue to be able to use cell phones in handheld mode if they are reporting an emergency, are parked on a road's shoulder or if they are stopped due to a traffic obstruction and the vehicle is in neutral or park.

Vaping indoors

People who use electronic cigarettes or vaping devices will now face the same restrictions as cigarette smok-

ers.

It's an update to the state's Smoke-Free Illinois Act, which banned smoking in most indoor public spaces and within 15 feet of building entrances in 2008. "Public places" include restaurants, theaters, offices, stores, libraries, schools, polling places, all government-owned buildings and banks among others.

Tobacco stores and vape shops are exempt from the law, as well as some other facilities, such as smoking rooms at nursing homes, some hotel rooms and tobacco conventions.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this summer that in 2021, nearly 5 percent of adults were e-cigarette users, although that figure was 11 percent among people 18 to 24.

Other new laws

Youth solitary confinement: House Bill 3140 prohibits solitary confinement in youth detention facilities for any purpose other than temporarily preventing serious and immediate risk of physical harm.

Grocery initiative: Senate Bill 850 created a Grocery Initiative program which will receive \$20 million to fund grants and financial aid to grocery stores opening or operating in "food deserts." It also requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to study food deserts.

Underground Railroad task force: Senate Bill 1623 creates the Underground Railroad Task Force to develop a statewide plan for creating a "cohesive statewide history" of the Underground Railroad and developing new educational and tourism opportunities.

Utility shutoffs: House Bill

1541 prohibits utilities from shutting off gas or electric services due to nonpayment of bills when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees or there is a heat advisory in effect.

Rearview mirrors: It's long been illegal in Illinois to hang an object that obstructs a driver's view from a rearview mirror. House Bill 2389 maintains that driving with such an obstruction is prohibited, but it also prevents law enforcement from stopping and searching a vehicle solely because the driver is violating that law.

Civil rights violation: Under Senate Bill 1817, anyone who considers immigration status during a real estate transaction, including purchase and rental transactions, could be guilty of a civil rights violation.

Dangers of fentanyl: House Bill 3924 requires high schools to teach students about the dangers of fentanyl in state-required health courses. The coursework would include differentiating legal and illegal uses of the drug, details about "the process of lacing fentanyl in other drugs" and why drugs get laced with fentanyl, as well as information on how to detect fentanyl in drugs and how to save someone from an overdose.

Fentanyl test strips: House Bill 3203 allows pharmacists and retailers to sell fentanyl test strips over the counter.

Bears and primates: Senate Bill 1883 prohibits keepers of bears and nonhuman primates from allowing members of the general public to come into contact with them. Violators of the law would be subject to a Class B misdemeanor. "General public" does not include employees at the facility where the animal is kept, veterinarians or professional film crews.

Church news

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the first Sunday of Epiphany on Sunday, Jan. 7 at 9 a.m.

The January Grace Meal will be served on Sunday, Jan. 21. It will consist of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, a vegetable, and dessert. Reservations for the meal need to be placed by Thursday, Jan. 18 and can be done so at the church office. The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday Jan. 4 at 3:15 p.m. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the

church office for more information.

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

vance for your generosity in this ministry and for improving the lives of those that have served our country.

There will be cards and dominoes in Luther Hall on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 1 p.m. The Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 7:30 a.m. at Garden View Restaurant in Lena.

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.

Calvary Church of Stockton

Calvary Church of Stockton will be celebrating the church's membership into the Global Methodist denomination on Jan. 7, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. The GMC is a Wesleyan based denomination, and the mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. The church will also be installing Scott Hess as the Presiding Pastor for Calvary. A potluck luncheon will follow the worship service. The public is invited to the celebration.





SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Welcome to the community!

Hudson's Tack and More has officially opened. On Dec. 18, 2023, Hudson's Tack celebrated their store opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a grand opening on Dec. 27. The shop is located at 110 West Front Avenue, Stockton, IL. Stop by the shop and welcome them to the neighborhood!



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Hudson's Tack and More offers horse saddles, tack and gear for every discipline, tack cleaning, consignment tack, as well as horse care and gifts.

Affordable health screenings coming to Stockton

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

is located at 315 W Maple Ave in Stockton.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health, HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels, diabetes risk, kidney and thyroid function, and more. Screenings

are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

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

Around the Northern Hills with Annette Eggers



Annette Eggers

We all know how important that agriculture is to our county, but did you know some of the statistics that support that? According to the Census of Agriculture, Jo Daviess County has 935 farms with an average farm size of 291 acres. Here are a few of the categories that Jo Daviess County ranks high in the state:

- 1st in the state for production of forages
- 2nd for production of oats
- 4th in the numbers of acres of corn for silage
- 2nd in the total number of cattle and calves
- 11th in the total number of sheep and lambs
- 1st in duck production
- 16th in the number of horses and ponies

We all think of the cattle in the county, but did you find some surprising numbers listed? We must remember that there are a lot of connected to agriculture that we don't always think about.

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!

Scholarship opportunities

Students, make sure that you are working on scholarships! The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation has scholarships available.

We again have two different scholarships for those students majoring in an agricultural related field. The first scholarship is geared specifically to Highland Community College (HCC) Ag students. High School Seniors or those already enrolled at HCC can apply.

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

Additionally, the IAA Foundation just announced the lineup for the 2024 IAA Foundation Scholarships. This includes 95 scholarships totaling \$177,001. We have had several winners from Jo Daviess County in the past, so I would encourage anyone interested to mark Jan. 1 on their calendar so they don't miss this great opportunity. The link will be live for the IAA Foundation website until Jan. 1.

Farm Fun Fact

January is National Oatmeal Month.

Blood drive coming Jan. 5

A blood drive will be held Friday, Jan. 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Calvary Church of Stockton, 315 W. Maple Ave. Come give and receive a Red Cross t-shirt, limited quantity. There is automatic entry for a chance to win a trip for two to Super Bowl LVIII in

Vegas. Includes travel, hotel, \$1,000 gift card, pre-game activities and more, terms apply.

For an appointment, please visit RedCrossBlood.org and search sponsor code StocktonIL or call Nicole at 563-275-0597.

•Gaps (Continued from page 3)

The report recommends the state continue investing in efforts to make dual credit programs more accessible and affordable but that it focus on increasing dual credit offerings in districts that currently have the lowest participation rates, especially

urban and suburban districts. "Only by attending to these issues of representation can the potential for (dual credit) coursework to reduce inequities in postsecondary educational attainment be fulfilled," the report concludes.

PantherHawks place seventh at Abe's Rumble

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Held in the Bank of Springfield Center, Abe's Rumble is a Class A Dual Meet. The meet consists of two days of competition in a 60-team tournament. The first day of the tournament features pool play to determine the top 32 teams. From there, seeding determines the championship bracket and eventually splits off into 16 gold, 16 silver, 16 bronze, and 12 team consolation tournaments. The Goal of Abe's Rumble is to determine the number one class 1A wrestling team in all of

Illinois. This year, the Le-na-Winslow-Stockton PantherHawks faced off with some premier competition in the rumble. Following their pool-play, the PantherHawks met up with Monticello to begin tournament matches. The PantherHawks dominated the mat against Monticello. Le-Win-Stockton beat Monticello by a score of 53-12 as Reece Demeter [120], Karl Hubb [144], Jared Dvorak [157], Brady Haas [165], and Eli Larson [175] picked up victories by pinfall. David Prater [113]

picked up a major decision victory with a score of 14-5. Tegan Arnold [126] also had a 12-5 decision victory, while Mauricio Glass [138] won by a score of 12-2. John Mensendike [150] won a close 2-1 match over his opponent, and Jeremiah Luke [190] picked up a 7-5 victory by decision. Duncan Nevel [215] also picked up a win in his match. In the round of 15, the PantherHawks continued to dominate. This time, they faced off with Anna-Jonesboro, and the dual meet was even further out of reach.

Kameron Rowe [106], Prater, Arrison Bauer [132], Hubb, Mensendike, Dvorak, Haas, Larson, Nevel, Luke, and Gannon Dunker [285] all had victories by fall. The PantherHawks ran through the round of 16 with a 67-12 victory. In the quarterfinals, Le-Win-Stockton met up with some tougher competition. Roxana matched up well with the PantherHawks and it showed as they edged out a 39-30 victory. Rowe, Prater, Glass, Hubb, Mensendike, Dvorak, and Larson did pick up victories over their Rox-

ana opponents, but it wasn't enough for a team victory. In the wrestle back round, the PantherHawks faced off with another tough team in Stanford-Olympia. Le-Win-Stockton struggled at the lower weight classes. The 106, 113, 120, 126 weight classes all saw victories for Olympia. The lightest PantherHawk to pick up a win was Bauer, who won by technical fall. In the end, Le-Win-Stockton tied Olympia 37-37, but Olympia held the tie breaker. After that, the PantherHawks faced off with Oregon in the seventh-place match.

There, the PantherHawks bounced back with a 55-21 victory. Demeter, Bauer, Glass, Hubb, Mensendike, Haas, Larson, Luke, and Dunker all picked up wins over Oregon. Marian Central Catholic beat Coal City to take this year's championship. With that, the PantherHawks proved themselves as one of the top teams in all of Illinois class 1A wrestling. Le-Win-Stockton is set to compete in Durand on Jan. 17, 2024, against Durand-Pecatonica and Honeogah.

Laney Cahoon surpasses 1000 points in year's Reindeer Games Tournament

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville Broncos recently made a few trips to Rockford to compete in Boylan's Reindeer Games Tournament. This year, the Broncos were the smallest school in the tournament as they faced off with some impressive 3A and 4A competition. Despite that, the Broncos put on quite a showing as they went 3-1 through the tournament. Although the Broncos suffered their first loss of the season, they came out of the tournament feeling even more confident about themselves. Playing up in competition, the Broncos proved they can compete with just about anyone. The Broncos opened the tournament on Dec. 27, with two games on the schedule.

The tournament began with a matchup against Proviso West, which saw the Broncos add another impressive victory to their resume. Orangeville had a dominant first quarter as they quickly put up 24 points. Whitney Sullivan couldn't be stopped as she put up 15 points in the first quarter alone. For perspective, Proviso had just 15 first quarter points as a team. Sullivan matched them as she helped the Broncos jump out to a 24-15 advantage. The Broncos never looked back. The second half was all about running out the clock on their 15th win of the season. Sullivan led the way with 31 points and Laney Cahoon was next up with 18. Nadalee Doyle added seven as the Broncos won by a score of

67-39. It was a double-double performance for Sullivan who had 10 rebounds in the win. Later that day, the Broncos faced off with Boylan Catholic. As of the end of 2023, Boylan held a record of 15-2. One of those victories came in a thrilling victory over the Broncos. Orangeville gave Boylan a run for their money. At the end of the first, the Broncos held an 11-9 advantage. By the break, their lead had grown to seven as they took a 19-12 lead into halftime. It was Boylan who came out strong in the second half, however. They outscored the Broncos 13-9 and 12-9 in the third and fourth quarters as they forced an overtime period. By that time, Boylan had all the momentum as they

outscored Orangeville 12-4 in OT. Sullivan led the Broncos with 23, while Cahoon had 16 in the loss. Despite watching that game slip out of their grasp, the Broncos had a couple days off before they returned. Boylan is a great team, but the Broncos came out feeling like they let that one get away from themselves. It was a winnable game for the Broncos, and they came back to prove that on Dec. 29. That day, Orangeville took on Woodstock-Marian Central Catholic in their third game of the tournament. Not only were the Broncos eager for a win, but one of their key players, Cahoon, was nearing a career milestone. Orangeville wasted little time in getting things back on track.

Woodstock-Marian finds a way to win more often than not. At the time of their matchup with Orangeville, W-M held a record of 15-2. They found themselves facing off with an angry Broncos squad that wasn't about to drop two straight. Cahoon quickly went to work. In the first quarter, Cahoon hit a pair of three pointers as she quickly put up 11 points. That allowed Cahoon to surpass 1000 career points as she sealed her name among Orangeville's best basketball players of all time. The Broncos weren't done there. The Orangeville offense was firing on all cylinders as they went on to dom-

inate W-M 63-35. Doyle led the way in scoring with 22 points and Sullivan finished the day with 20 points. Cahoon added 16 on her big day. The Broncos closed out the tournament with a 59-31 victory over Harlem. Cahoon led Orangeville in scoring with 20 points. Doyle and Sullivan each finished the game with 14. In the end, Cahoon and Sullivan were both named to this year's All-Tournament team. Following the tournament, the Broncos returned to conference play with a 56-21 victory over Dakota. Cahoon racked up 16 points as Orangeville improved to 18-1 on the season.

Village of Lena happenings

Thank you to the LBPA and volunteers for all the time and effort to put together the 10th Annual Christmas Parade. We look forward to another fun event next year! Also, thank you to the Lena Community Park District and Lena Fire Department for teaming up to bring Santa to town for Breakfast with Santa. Here are a few reminders for the winter season when there are two or more inches of snow accumulation. Overnight parking is not permitted in the following areas: Main St from Washington to Freedom, Railroad St from Washington to Center, Center St from Main to Mason, Rantoul St from Main to Mason, Vernon St from Main to Mason and Freedom St from Main to Mason. All vehicles should park on the odd numbered side of the street on odd numbered days of the month and even numbered side of the street on even days of the month from Nov. 1 to April 30. Vehicles parked in the parking lot on Main St should park at the fence side closest to the railroad tracks. Following these guidelines makes plowing more quick, efficient, and clean.

When shoveling your driveway or sidewalks, please shovel snow into your yard and not into the street. If a snow event coincides with garbage pickup, please bring your garbage and recycling containers in at your earliest convenience to keep the streets clear for plowing.

Christmas Tree disposal
Lake Le-Aqua-Na will be collecting BARE Christmas Trees (no lights, ornaments, or decorations of any sort) to help rebuild the fish habitat at Lake Le-Aqua-Na. Bare trees can be dropped off at the designated areas at the Lake Le-Aqua-Na Park Office or at the designated area at the Streets Department on Townline Rd. If you have any questions, please call Village Hall at 815-369-4016.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Christmas cheer in the community

Commander Marcure of the Stockton American Legion delivers Christmas gifts to six veterans in Alure nursing home.



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New Year's financial resolutions

Now that we've reached 2024, you might be thinking about your goals and hopes for the new year. But in addition to whatever personal resolutions you might make — volunteering, going to the gym more, learning a new language and others — why not make some financial resolutions, too?

Here are a few to consider:

- Boost your retirement savings. If you can afford it, try to increase your contributions to your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. The more you put away in these accounts, the greater your chances of reaching your retirement goals. At a minimum, contribute enough to your 401(k) to earn your employer's match, if one is offered. And whenever your salary goes up, consider raising the amount you put in to your 401(k).

- Reduce your debts. It's not always easy to reduce your debts — but it's worth the effort. The lower your debt load, the greater your monthly cash flow. So, look for ways to consolidate debts or find other, possibly more productive, ways of using credit. And if you truly can't afford something that's non-essential, don't go into debt for it. "Live within your means" is an old piece of advice, but it's just as valid now as ever.

- Build an emergency fund. If you suddenly needed a major home or car repair, or received a large medical bill not

fully covered by insurance, would you have the funds available? If not, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or other long-term investments. To avoid this possibility, try to build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that's separate from the ones you use to meet your daily expenses. It can take a while to build such a fund, but if you make it a priority and contribute regular amounts each month, you can make good progress.

- Avoid emotional decisions. Too many people overreact to events in the financial markets because they let their emotions get the better of them. If the market is temporarily down, it doesn't mean you need to sell investments to "cut your losses" — especially if these investments still have good fundamentals and are still appropriate for your portfolio. It can be hard to ignore market volatility, but you'll be better off if you focus on the long term and continue following an investment strategy that's designed

to meet your needs.

- Review your goals. Over time, your goals may have changed. For example, while you once might have wanted to retire early, and planned for it, you may now find that you'd like to work a few more years. If that's the case, you may also need to adjust your financial and investment strategies.

- Revisit your estate plans. If you've married, divorced, remarried or added children to your family within the past few years, you may need to review the account titling and beneficiary designations on your 401(k) and other retirement assets, along with your estate-planning documents, such as your will or living trust. You might also need to revise these documents in other ways.

Of course, you may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you can work at them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024 — and beyond.

*This article was written by Edward Jones
Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

FHN adjusts visitor guidelines

As respiratory illnesses spread in the community, FHN Memorial Hospital will implement enhanced visitor guidelines effective Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024.

Visiting hours remain between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily. No children under the age of 18 should visit the hospital. Patients are limited to 2 visitors at a time. Masking is suggested for all visitors; masking is required when visiting patients in droplet isolation and for visitors experiencing

a headache, cough, sore throat, fever of 100.4F, shortness of breath, joint or muscle aches, recent loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

As always, visitors must sign in at the registration desk to receive a visitor's badge — a photo ID will be requested. People with obvious signs of infection should not visit the hospital. Please do not visit if you have a fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose or congestion, upset stomach or are vomiting.

Veterans' Pantry in need of items

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

American Legion Home at 314 W Main Street on Saturdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Please call 815-369-4684 to make other arrangements.

The current needs for the Veterans Pantry in Freeport are

mouthwash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, lotion, dish soap, Kleenex, paper towels, toilet tissue, laundry detergent, light bulbs, pillows, soups, food, fruit cups, and can openers.

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

Level: Intermediate

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

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!

NEW YEAR'S WORD SEARCH

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

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

- BABY
- BALLOONS
- CALENDAR
- CELEBRATE
- CHAMPAGNE
- CHEERS
- CLOCK
- CONFETTI
- COUNTDOWN
- GAMES
- GOALS
- HAPPY
- INVITATION
- JANUARY
- KISS
- MIDNIGHT
- NEW YEAR
- NOISEMAKER
- PARTY
- RESOLUTION
- STREAMER
- TIMES SQUARE
- TOAST

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snakelike fish
9. Database management system
13. Russian-American violinist
14. Wendy's founder Thomas
15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks to
21. Island nation native
22. Trade
23. Detergent brand
24. Famed NY Giant
25. Before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David ___, US playwright
38. Move one's head slightly
39. Secret rendezvous
41. Improved
44. A place to exercise
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. You can take it
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of an animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless and undisguised
60. Horizontal passage into a mine
61. Adult males
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. City in north-central Utah
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Oxygen
68. Make law

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. From pentane (Chemistry)
4. Gradually gets into

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13						14				15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28			29				30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38			39				40
	41				42			43		44			
			45					46		47		48	
49	50		51			52				53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60						61					62		
63						64				65			
66						67				68			

5. Commercial document (abbr.)
6. Overhang
7. Christmas and New Year's have them
8. Type of bulb
9. Lacking a plan
10. Tattle
11. Rockers like it "heavy"
12. One who's been canonized
14. Indicate time and place
17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
20. The voice of Olaf
21. Fragmented rock
23. They ___
25. Master of Philosophy
26. Backside
27. Landmark house in L.A.
29. An act of undue intimacy
30. From which a later word is derived
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Computer language
37. Sacred book of Judaism
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A way to dedicate
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large, influential bank
50. Portended
52. Cavalry-sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Napoleonic Wars general
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. ___ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Decorative scarf
65. Delaware

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other good will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street Freeport, IL 61032 to satisfy a lien on January 18, 2024 at approx. 1:00 p.m. at www.storagetreasures.com Cube 1318 Adryanna Pempilton

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 3 & 10, 2024)

448863

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust F
PLAINTIFF
 Vs.
 Rodney C. Bratley; et. al.
DEFENDANTS

No. 2023FC36
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 08/22/2023, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on February 15, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THE SOUTH 41 FEET AND 3 INCHES OF THE WEST 165 FEET OF THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 41 OF POWELL AND WADDELL'S SUBDIVISION OF THE EAST HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS; ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED NOVEM-

BER 11, 1857 IN BOOK 26 OF DEEDS, PAGE 267 PIN 18-13-36-226-009
 Improved with Single Family Home
COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

307 N. Whistler Ave
 Freeport, IL 61032
 Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

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

The property will NOT

be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-23-03741.

I3235675

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 3, 10 & 17, 2024)

449163

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

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

NO. 2022FC46

701 SOUTH BENTON AVENUE
 FREEPORT, IL 61032

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

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on October 26, 2023, Sheriff

of Stephenson County will on 2/6/2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

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

TAX NO. 18-14-31-436-007

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 701 South Benton Avenue

Freeport, IL 61032
 Description of Improvements: The property is a single family home.

The Judgment amount was \$29,170.00.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-09062IL

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

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

I3232773

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

448459

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
 VS.

ROBIN LYNN MARTIN A/K/A ROBIN MARTIN; GERALD NORDGREN, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ROBIN LYNN MARTIN, DECEASED; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF ROBIN LYNN MARTIN; JOE ANDREWS A/K/A JOSEPH ANDREWS; CHRIS ANDREWS

A/K/A CHRISTOPHER ANDREWS; GABRIELLE ANDREWS; JOSH ANDREWS A/K/A JOSHUA ANDREWS; TYLER ANDREWS; ALISSA ANDREWS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RICKY ANDREWS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF JOHNNY ANDREWS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 22 FC 55

1011 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE

FREEPORT, IL 61032

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE

FORECLOSURE ACT PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on November 8, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 2/6/2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

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

Continued on next page

Unions look to state for solutions after year of higher ed labor action

Report finds public university employees paid 21% less than state agency workers in similar jobs

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

At public universities across the state, staff and faculty unions have faced a contentious year of negotiations and, in some cases, strikes.

Pay has been a major issue on several campuses and the unions are now looking to Springfield for potential reforms to the state's higher education funding.

At Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, negotiations are ongoing between campus leadership and the union that represents clerical workers.

Amy Bodenstab, who works as an office manager in the Department of Teaching and Learning, also picks up weekend shifts at a local domestic violence shelter and contract work in data analytics to make ends meet.

She is on the bargaining team of AFSCME Local 2887, which has been without a contract since June 2022. She said the low pay and perceived lack of respect has resulted in high turnover rates, hampering university staff's ability to do their jobs. She said it's especially troubling because of the complexity of the positions her union represents, which can involve financial management, purchasing, scheduling and more.

"If you're staff, you're

treated as 'less than,' " Bodenstab told Capitol News Illinois.

Nicole Franklin, a spokesperson for the university, declined to comment specifically on the ongoing negotiations but said the university "continues to bargain in good faith" with the union.

But Bodenstab's experience is echoed on other campuses around Illinois.

In mid-November, dozens of building services, clerical and culinary staff at Eastern Illinois University held an "informational picket" as negotiations continued between the local union and administrators at the Charleston campus.

"The number one issue is pay," Kim Pope, an office manager and the head of the local union, said.

Negotiations between the building services workers at Northern Illinois University are also ongoing. The head of the union there, Patrick Sheridan, also said pay is the focus of negotiations.

Research published this fall by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, a think tank with strong ties to organized labor, found that pay for staff at state universities is 21 percent less than the rate paid to employees at state agencies who are performing the same or similar work.

When controlling for hours

worked, occupation and several demographic factors, the research found the average staff pay at state universities is 14 percent less than at state agencies.

Robert Bruno, a University of Illinois professor in the School of Labor and Employment Relations and lead author of that report, said these trends made him consider the impact on staff morale.

"You worry about turnover, about positions not being filled, about if people don't feel regarded or respected," Bruno said.

He also noted these trends could be explained by an ongoing trend in higher education.

"It starts to look like a more for-profit model," he said. "Part of that is a lack of support at the state level."

That research and recent university staff negotiations have led union organizations to begin planning a bigger request to the state in next year's budget talks — an ask that could prove challenging as early estimates from Gov. JB Pritzker's budgeting office project a revenue shortfall for the upcoming fiscal year.

"We'll be pushing for an appropriation that can be earmarked for wages," Anders Lindall, a spokesperson for the statewide AFSCME organization, said.

He specifically pointed to

Bruno's research as part of the reasoning for this push.

"We're going to be talking to legislators about these systemic pay gaps," he said.

AFSCME is one of the most powerful lobbying organizations in Illinois. In the 2022 election cycle, AFSCME, through its state council and national organization, spent \$2.6 million on campaign contributions and expenditures around the state. That includes over \$300,000 each in contributions to House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, and Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park.

In addition to staff negotiations, the past 12 months have seen a wave of strikes led by faculty unions. In January, faculty at the University of Illinois Chicago struck for five days.

In April, faculty at Chicago State University, Governors State University and Eastern Illinois University all went on overlapping strikes, lasting between five and 13 days. Northeastern Illinois University authorized a strike, although the faculty union there never formally struck.

In private higher ed, Columbia College Chicago faculty also went on an unusually long strike which lasted all of November and ended in mid-December.

Dan Montgomery, head

of the Illinois Federation of Teachers, said after the Columbia strike ended that he had "never seen anything like it in any other year."

"We're a strong labor state. I think those trends you're seeing play out in Illinois are playing out around the country," Montgomery told Capitol News Illinois. "We're just better organized."

Montgomery said he is "cautiously optimistic" that a new funding model being developed by the Commission on Equitable Public University Funding could help alleviate some of the problems that led to the strikes.

The commission, which was created by the General Assembly in 2021, is tasked with developing a new model for funding higher education. The legislature charged the commission with "remediating inequities" in the higher education system that have led to disparities in access for underrepresented students such as Black and Hispanic students and those who come from low-income families.

The commission's work is ongoing but was delayed by this summer's U.S. Supreme Court decision about affirmative action and race in higher education. While the commission's work is likely not going to impact next year's budget, it could create a drastic shift in the long term.

The model being developed will be similar to the funding formula used for K-12 schools in Illinois, which was rolled out in 2017. The K-12 model calls for an added \$350 million in funding each year and sets a funding adequacy target for each district. It then directs greater portions of the new funding to the schools furthest from their adequacy

target. While the commission has not finalized a formula, some draft meeting materials presented at the board's November meeting suggest it would require as much as an overall \$14,000 per-student increase in state appropriations to fully fund higher education. With 130,000 undergraduates and 56,000 graduate students enrolled at state universities this year, these numbers suggest the needed funding increase could reach into the billions.

Lawmakers allocated about \$4.5 billion from the state's general revenue fund to higher education in the current fiscal year.

Any recommendations from the commission, however, would need to be approved by the General Assembly, leaving room for doubt when it comes to fully implementing — and funding — the commission's recommendations.

"The problem is always the problem: finding the funds to do it," Montgomery said.

The state revenue landscape could further compound the challenge. The Governor's Office of Management and Budget is projecting an \$891 million deficit for the upcoming fiscal year 2025, although that number drops to \$721 million when accounting for the statutory contribution to the state's "rainy day" savings fund.

"I think it's a signal that everybody, we need to be careful in Illinois, we have to balance our budget..." Pritzker told Capitol News Illinois when asked about the projection earlier this month. "And so, if that requires us to reduce the increases that may occur in certain programs, maybe that will be necessary."

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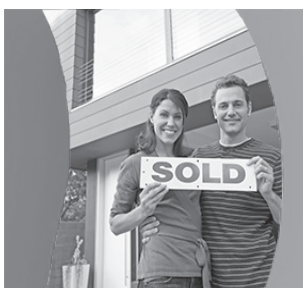


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REAL ESTATE NOTICES

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

NO. 2022FC46
 701 SOUTH BENTON AVENUE FREEPORT, IL 61032
 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on October 26, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 2/6/2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 18-14-31-436-007
 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 701 South Benton Avenue Freeport, IL 61032
 Description of Improvements: The property is a single family home.
 The Judgment amount was \$29,170.00.
 Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
 Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
 The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
 The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
 If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g) (4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
 For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.
 Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-09062IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND

highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:
 COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 14 IN BLOCK 32 IN TAX NO. 18-14-31-453-013
 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1011 South Maple Avenue Freeport, IL 61032
 Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property has a two car garage. The garage is detached. The exterior is vinyl siding. The color is white. I am unable to verify that the gas is on or off. I am unable to verify that the water is on or off. The property has a fence. The property is vacant. Boarded up front door
 The Judgment amount was \$75,653.70.
 Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.
 The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
 Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
 The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
 The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
 If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g) (4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
 For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.
 Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-11906IL

FOR INFORMATION: VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.
 BETWEEN 3 P.M. AND 5 P.M. ONLY - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-09062IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
 Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
 (Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 27, 2023 and Jan. 3 & 10, 2024)
 448460

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

NO. 22 FC 55
 1011 SOUTH MAPLE AVENUE FREEPORT, IL 61032
 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on November 8, 2023, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on 2/6/2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the

highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:
 COMMENCING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 14 IN BLOCK 32 IN TAX NO. 18-14-31-453-013
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 Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.
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 For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.
 Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-11906IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND

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 The Judgment amount was \$75,653.70.
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 Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
 The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
 The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
 If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g) (4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
 For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-23-03741.
 (Published in The Shopper's Guide Jan. 3, 10 & 17, 2024)
 449164

ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
 Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
 (Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 27, 2023 and Jan. 3 & 10, 2024)
 448464

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
 SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC., PLAINTIFF
 VS.
 MARLEEN M. COON; THOMAS E. COON, SR. A/K/A THOMAS E. COON;
 DEFENDANTS
 NO. 2023FC52
 Address: 920 S. Chicago Avenue Freeport, IL 61032
 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 6, 2023, I, Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois, will on January 18, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena, Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
 COMMON ADDRESS: 920 S. Chicago Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032
 P.I.N.: 18-14-31-453-038
 The real estate is improved with a single-family residence.
 THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$37,426.40
 Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
 Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
 Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice.

IF THIS PROPERTY IS A CONDOMINIUM UNIT, THE PURCHASER OF THE UNIT AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE, OTHER THAN A MORTGAGEE SHALL PAY THE ASSESSMENTS AND THE LEGAL FEES REQUIRED BY THE CONDOMINIUM PROPERTY ACT, 765 ILCS 605/9(G)(1) AND (G) (4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
 For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, Illinois 60602
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust F
 PLAINTIFF
 Vs.
 Rodney C. Bratley; et al.
 DEFENDANTS
 No. 2023FC36
 NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 08/22/2023, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on February 15, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
 PIN 18-13-36-226-009
 Improved with Single Family Home
 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 307 N. Whistler Ave Freeport, IL 61032
 Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property

is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
 If the property is a condominium unit and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
 If the property is located in a common interest community, purchasers other than mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under the Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
 If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
 Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
 The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
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Chicago agriculture tour brings rural and urban producers together

By Erin M. Henkel
FARMWEEK

Cold rain couldn't stop a busload of Illinois farmers from experiencing urban agriculture at the Taste of Illinois on Location in Chicago earlier this month.

This year's urban agriculture experience included three stops: Windy City Mushroom, Green Era Chicago and Wild Blossom Meadery and Winery. Each visit provided a different perspective on producing in the city and the opportunities for collaboration with rural producers in ensuring food security.

As participants stepped off the bus at the first stop at a building resembling a warehouse, it was a pleasant surprise to walk inside to the familiar sight of an auger.

"We think there's a huge problem in our food system that we need to be providing

people with real food, not synthetic, hybrid, processed or adulterated food," John Staniszewski, co-owner, head of sales and mycologist for Windy City Mushroom, told FarmWeek. "Being able to offer this up to the community at a low, affordable cost is really what we're trying to accomplish here."

Windy City Mushroom was founded at the start of the COVID pandemic due to a shortage of healthy food options, including mushrooms, in the city.

The operation grows three main types of mushrooms: oyster, maitake and lion's mane, and is planning on expanding the facility. Because mushrooms differ from traditional crops, the company has relied on innovation and experimentation to develop their growing process.

The process includes inoculating a brick of soy-hull

and hardwood dust with the different fungi spores and letting the spores incubate and consume the biomass, before moving them into converted shipping containers serving as climate-controlled grow rooms.

Staniszewski said using soy-hull as a substrate presents the opportunity for collaboration.

"There's a lot of possibilities for more sustainable farming and regenerative farming and I think there's a big synergy between us because a lot of our substrate can go to their farms and allow their soil to be healthier," he said.

Staniszewski said the operation can also use pelletized soy-hull for the growing process.

As members stepped off the bus for the second stop of the tour, they were greeted by a mosaic mural on the

side of a Metra overpass bridge depicting the cultural significance of local food.

The Green Era Campus is a multi-million-dollar project transforming a 9-acre brownstone by restoring contaminated soil and using an anaerobic digester that processes urban food waste to create renewable natural gas. The anaerobic digester and commercial compost building is estimated to divert 42,500 tons of carbon dioxide.

The campus grows more than 125 varieties of culturally relevant fruits, vegetables, herbs and plants at the greenhouse and urban farm. Once expanded, the campus will increase food accessi-

bility for 2,000 people per year at the retail store and nursery and will provide 500 people per year with educational and life-enriching opportunities in the Community Education Center.

"Experiencing urban agriculture is a wonderful thing," state Rep. Sonya Harper, D-Chicago, chair of the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, told FarmWeek.

"I love the way residents in the city are reclaiming their land and taking vacant spaces and putting them to productive use and are taking their food access in their own hands and using these spaces to grow; to create opportunity; to create dialogue;

to create community and economic development."

Harper, who grew up in rural Pembroke, is also excited to see rural and urban farmers discussing shared priorities of ensuring access to healthy food.

"We suffer from the same issues, but we have this energy that I think if done right can really benefit both urban and rural communities, not just in Illinois, but all over the country," Harper said.

Green Era Campus partners with Urban Growers Collective (UGC) and uses urban agriculture to address structural inequity to food access.

See TOUR, Page 20

•Measure (Continued from page 13)

Rezin told Capitol News Illinois last month she hopes Illinois' and other states' moves to reverse their construction bans will encourage nuclear energy development in the U.S.

Pritzker did not issue a

statement but signed the bill along with 15 others that were sent to his desk following November's fall veto session. That included a measure that would require the state to purchase exclusively "zero-emission vehicles," such as electric

vehicles, after Jan. 1, 2030.

Senate Bill 1769 excludes law enforcement vehicles and vehicles purchased by the Illinois Department of Transportation as part of a program that provides buses to some mass transit systems.

Answers

PUZZLE 1

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

PUZZLE 2

1	3	6	4	9	5	7	2	8
9	5	2	6	7	8	1	4	3
4	8	7	3	2	1	9	5	6
5	7	4	9	8	2	6	3	1
6	2	3	1	4	7	5	8	9
8	1	9	5	3	6	4	7	2
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• Tour (Continued from page 19)

Malcolm Evans, director of farms at UGC, said he became interested in farming at 9 years old after Erika Allen, co-founder of Green ERA Campus and co-CEO of UGC, started a community garden in his neighborhood.

"For me and my brothers at the time, we were just trying to see what was going on in the neighborhood, what they do and to get something to eat. Evans said the garden became a place where he felt safe and learned the impact

farming can have on community.

"Folks want this, and I think about us doing this here and these neighborhoods that already have food deserts or the neighborhoods that have shortages of food or no healthy food," Evans said. "I think this is going to change the world. The neighborhood is going to feel safer because of what we're doing."

The third stop on the tour offered members a warmer afternoon experiencing the delicious result of Greg Fischer's busy beehives at Wild Blossom Meadery and Winery.

For more than two decades, Wild Blossom Meadery and Winery has been using local ingredients to produce sustainable beverages and building a "strong food system."

For each bottle of wine pro-

duced, the company estimates around 2 million flowers are pollinated by their bees, producing between 20 to 40 million seeds.

"Bees themselves are very important to agriculture. We need bees and actually the bees are almost telling us the state of the state, almost like a canary in a coal mine," Fischer said. "Bees are really sometimes the foundation of the ag system, and the more bees are healthy, then we're getting more crops."

Fischer, who grew up on a farm in upstate New-York, said he enjoys working with farmers to build a strong food system that doesn't rely on other countries.

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.

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430988



GROUND FRESH DAILY!

TOMATOES ON THE VINE
1.69 lb

Sullivan's Signature SUPER LEAN GROUND BEEF ROUND
4.88 lb

BUY 5 SAVE \$5

MIX & MATCH SALE!

Prices Effective: Wednesday, January 3 thru Tuesday, January 9, 2024
ALL ITEMS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO RAIN CHECKS | NO RETURNS | NO EXCHANGES

FRESH MEAT

Sullivan's Signature **OVEN READY STUFFED BELL PEPPERS**
4.99 lb

US Grade A BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST TENDERS
2.99 lb

US Govt Insp BONELESS SIRLOIN PORK CHOPS
1.99 lb

US Govt Insp BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN ROAST
1.89 lb

US Govt Insp FRESH PORK CUTLETS
2.99 lb

Certified Angus Beef® brand **BONELESS STEW MEAT**
5.99 lb

Certified Angus Beef® brand **BONELESS BOTTOM ROUND RUMP ROAST**
4.99 lb

Certified Angus Beef® brand **TOP SIRLOIN STEAK** 8 oz
\$4 ea

HEALTHY NEW YEAR HEALTHY NEW YOU

ONE DAY ONLY January 6

New York Style BAGELS Select Varieties 4 ct
1.99

Family Pack US Grade A BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
1.69 lb

Meat Master's Deli Fresh POLISH COOKED HAM
2.99 lb

Frescodos TORTILLAS Low Carb White or Wheat Carb Fit 8-10 ct
3.49

BAKERY

Cake of the Week

BLACK FOREST CHOCOLATE LAYER CAKE 8 inch Round
7.99

HAMBURGER OR HOT DOG BUNS 8 ct
2.59

FRUIT FILLED DANISH SWIRLS 3 ct
3.99

Sullivan's Signature COOKIES Soft Choc Chip 12 ct
5.49

Kretschmer Brand OFF THE BONE TURKEY 8 ct
8.99

Kretschmer Brand COLBY JACK CHEESE 8 ct
7.59

Mrs. Gerry's SHARP CHEDDAR PASTA 12 ct
5.99

www.sullivanfoods.net
Available at all Sullivan's Foods including:
103 W North Ave, Stockton
815.947.3318
OPEN 6AM TO 9PM 7 DAYS A WEEK
201 Dodds Dr, Lena
815.369.2311
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