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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 14, 2024

Freeport Police Department receives generous donation



FREEPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Stephenson County Crime Stop donates money to the Freeport Police Department. The significant donation will be used to cover the cost of new tactical vest covers for the police department.

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Church news

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes will be on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. and the first Sunday in Lent on Sunday, Feb. 18 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play dominoes in Luther Hall on

Tuesday, March 5 at 9 a.m. The February Grace Meal will be on Sunday, Feb. 18. People can pick up a meal between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, Feb. 15. The menu for the February meal will be chili, cornbread, and pudding. This meal is possible due to donations and a grant from the Foundation of Northwest

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

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.

Ash Wednesday at Calvary Church

All are invited to the Ash Wednesday Service of Prayer and Anointing on Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at Calvary Church in Stockton. Pastor Scott Hess, the Pastor as of Jan. 1, will be officiating. This is a special

service to start off Lent. Calvary Church is now a Global Methodist Church, part of a new denomination whose core belief is in the Bible as the Word of God and a return to the message of salvation. Please also join on Sundays at 10 a.m. for weekly worship service. Calvary has an excellent worship team to lead in singing and an anointed messenger sharing life-giving

messages each week. The Youth meet every other Saturday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and adult Sunday School classes are held Sunday morning. Prayer Group is held on Mondays at 6 p.m., Bible Study on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., and Choir Rehearsal Thursdays at 7 p.m. Calvary Church is located just south of the schools and park at the corner of Rush and Maple Streets.

Obituaries

KEITH ALAN BEHLKE

Keith Alan Behlke, age 73, passed away peacefully on Feb. 7, 2024, after a long and courageous battle with Parkinson's Disease. Born Feb. 2, 1951, the son of Vernon E. Behlke Sr. and Marion E. Muchow in Hazel Green, Wisconsin. Keith lived his young life in Galena, IL. with his three siblings Butch, Barb, and Lynn.

Keith graduated from Galena High School in 1969 and went on to attend Highland Community College to play basketball. Keith then pursued an apprenticeship

with the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 23, which led him to his career at Mechanical in Freeport, IL.

Keith had a true love for sports. He was a tried-and-true fan of the Green Bay Packers, Cubs, and Iowa Hawkeyes. Growing up he excelled in both football and basketball. He continued his love for sports and competition by playing men's fast-pitch softball as well as coaching many teams. Aside from sports, his true love was for his family and his grandson Grayson. His grandson brought him end-

less joy.

Keith was generous, loyal, and brave. All of the heart he shared will be remembered by his friends and family. He truly loved each of them-if you knew him, you knew it.

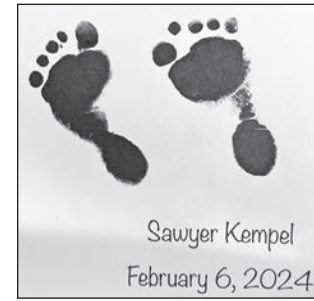
He is survived by his daughter LayCee (Lee) Lightfoot, grandson Grayson Lightfoot; his siblings, Butch Behlke, Barb (Jim) Korte, and Lynn (Darell) Puls. He was a wonderful father, brother, uncle, friend, and most of all the proudest grandpa ever. Preceded in death by his parents, Vernon Behlke Sr., Marion Muchow, and step-father Kenneth Muchow Sr.

Memorial Services will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024, at Schwarz Park Blvd Chapel, 608 S. Park Blvd. Freeport, IL. 61032. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until the time of service. There will be a Celebration of Life Gathering at Mort's Bar and Grill in Freeport, IL. following the services, where we will toast Keith per his request. Friends and family are encouraged to wear jerseys or sports attire of their favorite teams. GO-PACK-GO!

SAWYER KRUSE KEMPEL

Shortly after coming into the world, Sawyer Kruse Kempel passed away peacefully in the arms of his parents William and Codi (Sandell) Kempel at Javon Bea in Rockford, IL on Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2024. His time here on earth was short, he was loved more than words can say and will always be in our hearts.

Sawyer is survived by his loving parents William and Codi; his brother Oliver; grandparents- Don (Kristen Keith) Kempel and



ous great aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his Grandma Martha Kempel; great-grandparents- Dean Kempel, Theo (Dianne) Sandell, and Francis (Mary Charlene) Gassner and great uncle Jon Daws.

A Private Family Catholic Funeral Mass will be held. Father Mike Morrissey will be officiating the service. Interment will take place at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Lena. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

Thank You
The family of Sheridan Brinker thanks friends and family who sent condolences at the time of his death. We so appreciate your words of comfort, praise and sympathy.

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U of I Extension news

Register now for the Annual Joys of Gardening

Mark your calendars for the 26th annual Joys of Gardening program offered by the University of Illinois Extension and the U of I Extension Master Gardeners. Slated for Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Highland Community College Student Conference Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport, registration will begin at 8 a.m., the program starting at 8:25 a.m. with a keynote, and breakout sessions following.

The Keynote presenter is Tim Gruner, Garden Curator - Anderson Japanese Gardens. Tim will discuss *Patterns in Nature that Inspire Japanese Garden Design*. Tim will share a very brief history of Anderson Japanese Gardens, then reveal some of the patterns in nature that inspire Japanese garden design and the reasons for all the effort. Included will be some techniques for integrating the garden and architecture into one cohesive space.

Following the keynote presentation will be two breakout sessions. Each breakout session will include unique garden-related classes. Ses-

sion one classes: *Myth-Busting Nature, Backyard Cover Crops, Designing with Perennials—Looking Beyond the Bloom*, and *Bees as Pollinators*. Session two classes: *The Right Tool for the Job, Ornamental Grasses for Your Landscape, Spot the Spotted Lanternfly: Illinois' Most Unwanted Invasive Species*, and *Lilac Care and Pruning*.

Local professionals, Extension Staff, and U of I Extension Master Gardeners will lead each of the classes. For more information about Joys of Gardening visit go.illinois.edu/jogor call 815-235-4125. The registration is \$15.

Livestock webinar series continues

The final two topics of the Livestock Production and Principles for Beginners Webinar Series are approaching. On Thursday, Feb. 29, the topic will be "Selling Meat in Illinois" presented by Doug Gucker, Local Foods Systems and Small Farms Educator. While having the skills to raise your livestock is important, determining how you will market and sell your meat is another crucial piece. This session will provide an overview of the rules and regulations when

it comes to working with meat processors to sell meat within the state of Illinois. The final topic in the series is "Sheep and Goat Internal Parasite Management" by Sarah Farley on March 14.

The webinars begin at 6 p.m. on their respective nights. There will be a \$5 fee per session. Pre-registration is required by the day before each session to receive the Zoom link to attend. To register or for more information please visit us online at go.illinois.edu/jsjw or call U of I Extension at 815-235-4125.

Capitol briefs: Tax credits for children, manufacturers among new legislative proposals

Insurance coverage for fertility treatments, child internet regulations also introduced

By Andrew Adams, Cole Longcor and Alex Abbeduto
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

After failing to pass a child tax credit last year, advocates returned to Springfield last week to propose a scaled back version of the policy which they say would still reduce child poverty and spur economic growth.

The proposal, contained in House Bill 4917 and Senate Bill 3329, would create a \$300 per-child refundable tax credit for families who earn less than the state's median income – about \$75,000 per year for couples and \$50,000 for single parents.

The policy would cost the state about \$300 million, according to Erion Malasi, Illinois policy director for the Economic Security Project, an advocacy group backing the proposal.

A January report from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, a union-backed think tank, found that a \$300 tax credit would cost the state about \$471 million, although that estimate doesn't account for cost reductions in other state programs, like the earned income tax credit or the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children, known as WIC – and it assumes that 100% of eligible families will claim the credit.

Frank Manzo, an economist with ILEPI and co-author of that report, said a \$300 per-child credit would be lower

than in the other 15 states that have similar policies. Utah, Minnesota and Oregon, which enacted a similar credit last year, all offer \$1,000 or more in credits.

"But it does comport with some budgetary realities in the state of Illinois," he told Capitol News Illinois on Feb. 7.

In December, Gov. JB Pritzker urged a "careful" approach to next year's budget after his budget office projected a \$891 million deficit.

Omar Aquino, the chief Senate sponsor of the proposal, said he hopes the program, if passed, can be scaled up in the future.

The bills, which were introduced Feb. 7, await substantive committee assignments, a necessary step before they can be voted on by the full legislature.

Manufacturers' agenda

Tax credits were also included in a wide-ranging legislative agenda put forth by the Illinois Manufacturers' Association.

House Bill 4670 creates a pilot program to allow manufacturers to create onsite child care programs and provide tax credits to those who do.

"We know that the lack of available child care is a hindrance to getting and keeping people, especially women, in the workforce," sponsor Rep. Amy Elik, R-Godfrey, said.

The IMA reaffirmed support for three bills filed last spring, including two tax



CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS PHOTO BY ANDREW CAMPBELL *Rock Valley Publishing*
State Rep. Marcus Evans, D-Chicago, is joined by a coalition of advocates at a Statehouse news conference to push for a \$300 per-child tax credit.

credits – one sponsored by Democrats, the other by Republicans. The IMA did not provide cost estimates for the tax credits.

Sen. Meg Loughran Cappele, D-Shorewood, filed Senate Bill 1313 to create a tax credit for businesses that assist their employees in repaying student loans.

"Student debt is a huge issue. This proposal would allow an employer to help offset about five thousand dollars per year," IMA President and CEO Mark Denzler said. "It's a great opportunity to help those individuals struggling with college debt while also making sure we have a great workforce."

Sen. Donald DeWitte, R-St. Charles, filed Senate Bill 163 would make a temporary research and development tax credit permanent, rather than expiring every five years. The current credit will expire in 2027.

House Bill 3307 would amend graduation requirements for students entering high school in 2028, allowing them to fill the requirement of two foreign language courses with career-focused courses.

Fertility treatments

Members of the state Senate Democratic Caucus introduced three bills Wednesday aimed at increasing access to infertility treatments and fer-

tility preservation.

If passed, the bills would require insurance companies to cover the diagnosis and treatment of infertility, certain prescription medications, and preservation of reproductive cells by amending the Illinois Insurance Code.

Senate Bill 2572 would require insurance coverage of procedures used to diagnose and treat infertility, as well as injectable medications used to treat prediabetes, gestational diabetes and obesity – all of which can make it harder to conceive and carry a baby to term.

Senate Bill 2623 would require insurers to cover the freezing of an individual's reproductive cells without restriction or exclusion.

Another measure, Senate Bill 2639, would prevent insurance companies from denying infertility treatment coverage when recommended by a physician.

Safe screens initiative

Another pair of bills introduced this week aim to create a safer online environment for children.

Sen. Sue Rezin's, R-Morris, proposals mostly affect children's data and privacy and how content is moderated.

The amended Age-Appropriate Design Code Act is a privacy law based on a similar one in California that Rezin said will help parents set

stronger privacy settings and change how companies use children's data, which she said can facilitate the development of addicting content.

Senate Bill 3355 would require social media companies to have a customer service line where concerned users can report inappropriate content that would need to be removed within three days.

Rezin said a third bill, which is still in development, would "require social media platforms to create an identity verification process."

The senator compared social media to the tobacco and opiate industries, saying people cannot trust them to regulate themselves. She also said Illinoisans cannot wait for the federal government to take action.

"Parents are mad," Rezin said. "They want us to act and pass legislation to protect their children. They don't care if it's a federal issue or a state issue."

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.

News briefs

McConnell American Legion Auxiliary Meeting

The McConnell American Legion Auxiliary Meeting for February will be held at the McConnell Legion on Feb. 21 at 1:30 p.m. with social time beginning at 1 p.m. If interested in the Auxiliary, please join.

Female veterans brunch

The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will honor female veterans with a brunch on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. This will be held at the Lena American Legion Home at 316 W. Main St., Lena. There will be no charge for this brunch. Please and join for fellowship and entertainment. Please call 815-369-4684 or email jameps54@yahoo.com with any questions or to make reservations. Reservations are requested by April 10.

American Legion Auxiliary meeting

The February meeting of

the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 14, at the Lena American Legion Home at 6 p.m. Delegates will be selected to American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State and tray favors for the hospitalized veterans will be made. Dues will be collected. New members are always welcome. Kathy Pignato is in charge of the social hour. Junior members will meet on Feb. 10 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion Home. The meeting will consist of working on earning patches, a fun project, and a service project.

Blackhawk Unit of SCAHCE meeting

The Blackhawk Unit of the Stephenson County Association of Home and Community Education (SCAHCE) will meet Feb. 15 at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. Judy Shippee will be giving the lesson on cheese. Program books for the year will be filled out.

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Soil moisture improving following 2023 drought

Wet January creates flooding issues across Illinois

By Rhiannon Branch
FARMWEEK

Welcomed precipitation across most of the state in late January contributed to what has been a slow journey to recovery from the 2023 drought.

Illinois received an average of 4.25 inches of precipitation Jan. 1-29, which was 2.53 inches above normal, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Illinois field office reported. The active pattern created some flooding issues and extremely muddy conditions.

"We made up some serious ground in drought relief over the last few weeks in southern Illinois," State Climatologist Trent Ford told *FarmWeek*. "Deep-layer soil and water table levels are still much below average, but they're improving."

Looking back on a roller-coaster crop season, a dry start to summer pushed the entire

state into drought by late June and while timely summer rains limited significant row crop impacts, a dry fall reignited the drought causing low water levels on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The tables turned again in January.

Ford said levels on the Mississippi River between Cairo and Memphis, Tennessee, have increased 10 to 15 feet in some areas over the past couple of weeks. While significant rainfall is encouraging, it will take a lot more to reach normal river levels due to the intensity of drought experienced across the entire Midwest down into the southern states.

Meanwhile, some bodies of water, including the Illinois and Rock rivers, reached or surpassed flood stage last week. Ice jams also contributed to flooding issues at some locations.

A similar story can be told for soil moisture levels across the state. Ford said there has been significant progress replenishing moisture, but especially in southern and western Illinois, two years of drought conditions have dried up deep-

er level soils.

"For example, our well at the water survey site in Belleville, the water tables are still 10 feet deeper than what we typically expect this time of year," he said.

The topsoil moisture supply ranked 57% adequate, 39% surplus and just 4% short statewide as of Jan. 28, according to NASS.

February is usually the driest month of the year, so Ford is not expecting much help in the near term, but he said, "The biggest determinant for crop impacts from drought is how much rain falls in spring and summer.

"So even if we come in with fairly dry soils in the spring, if we get enough rain this summer, there won't be that many impacts."

On the flip side, if there is a dry pattern in the spring and summer, Ford said Illinois remains in a vulnerable state for drought, but that does not mean a repeat of 2023 is inevitable.

"Because there isn't a strong signal pointing to drought in spring and summer, I'm not overly concerned at this time," he said. "The 2023 drought was not predicted very well more than a few weeks out, so we'll have to wait and see what weather we get come April and May."

At the end of January, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed parts of western Illinois and the entire southern third of the state were experiencing abnormally dry conditions with 18% in moderate drought.

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.



FARMWEEK PHOTOS BY CATRINA RAWNSON *Rock Valley Publishing*

Many fields across Illinois, such as this one in Mason County, received above-average precipitation last month, which created some flooding issues.



Many bodies of water, including Salt Creek along the Mason and Menard county line, rose near or beyond flood stage in parts of the state last week due to heavy precipitation and snowmelt. Ice jams on streams and rivers also contributed to flooding issues in some areas.

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'Serve It Safely' food handlers course

Selling and serving food remains a popular fundraising activity for many community groups. If you belong to a service club, church group, youth group, special interest club, or any non-profit organization, chances are good that you sell food. Any time your group sells food, it is essential to ensure that food safety practices are consistent and meet local and state regulations, create a food safety culture, and, more importantly, reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

University of Illinois Extension is offering the *Serve It Safely*, a non-restaurant food handles course, to assist you and your organization in learning about these food safety practices. The class is for volunteer group members and will focus on

safe food handling practices, preparing, storing, and serving food for public consumption.

Serve It Safely will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 9:30 to noon at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, 210 W Spring St, Freeport. To register, call U of I Extension at (815) 235-4125 or online at go.illinois.edu/jsw. Registration cost is \$10 for the first person from an organization and \$5 for each additional participant from the same organization (with one set of handouts per organization). Space is limited, so register today.

Please contact U of I Extension at 815-235-4125 if in need reasonable accommodations to participate in this program. Early requests are strongly encouraged.

Become a Certified Food Protection Manager

The Illinois Department of Public Health requires retail food establishment managers to obtain an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) certificate. This requirement helps ensure consumers' safety when eating away from home.

Those receiving this certification have specialized training regarding the safe handling, preparation, and storage of food to help prevent foodborne-related illnesses. The certificate is valid for five years from the exam date and must be retaken once the certificate expires.

University of Illinois Ex-

ension will hold the Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) course on Tuesday, March 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. AND Friday, March 8, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Building, 210 W. Spring Street, Freeport, IL. Participants must attend the full two-day training to be eligible for the exam. Please bring a valid photo ID and arrive 15 minutes early to check-in.

There is a \$125 program fee to cover this educational session. This fee covers the purchase of educational materials, examinations, and lunch. Preregistration is required. To register, contact U of I Extension (815) 235-4125 or online at go.illinois.edu/jsw.

25-Cent Event hosted by Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary a success



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation hosted their second annual "25-Cent Event" at Galena's historic Turner Hall on Jan. 31. The group raised \$6,435 for projects to enhance patient care at Midwest Medical Center and Midwest Senior Care Community.

Turner Hall in Galena was packed on Wednesday, Jan. 31 with participants ready to bid quarters to win prizes. The event raised over \$6,400 for the Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation—funds that will be used on projects at the hospital or senior care to benefit patients and residents.

"Thank you to all the businesses and Auxiliary members who attended, participated, donated auction items, set up, tore down, worked the event, baked and assembled cookies, donated snacks, and in any way helped make the 25-Cent Event a success. Your support for the Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary is very much appreciated," said

Connie Wiene, event coordinator.

Wiene shared that 173 bidding paddles were sold and more than 60 rounds of auctioning was done with one, two, or three items per round. Participants purchased a bidding paddle for \$20 and then contributed the set "bidding price" of one, two, or three quarters for each item presented. To win, the participant's paddle number would need to be drawn randomly, and the participant would have had to bid on the item.

The Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary is comprised of more than 100 volunteers who meet the first Tuesday of every month, except in the summer. The

group organizes fundraising events, operates the gift shop, and helps with other tasks for the hospital and Senior Care. The Auxiliary sponsors fundraising activities that enable the Auxiliary to donate items that directly enhance patient care to various departments. Fundraising events include the annual Tree of Love Event, Dinner Events, Gift Basket Raffles, and Bake Sales. The Auxiliary is currently selling tickets for a Basketball Brackets Sweepstakes through the first week of March.

For more information about the Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary or to become a member, please visit: www.MMCGalena.org/Auxiliary.

River Ridge-Scales Mound earns regional victory over Milledgeville

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats finished an excellent regular season and got their postseason started with a victory last week. The final game of the regular season, a Feb. 8 game against Pecatonica, was also senior night for the Wildcats. RR-SM has six seniors on its roster this year in Ava Travis, Addison Albrecht, Gwen Miller, Emily Wiederholt, Abigail Frank, and Annie Werner. "We more focused on celebrating our tremendous group of seniors," RR-SM head coach David Wiegel shared when asked about the victory over a solid Pecatonica team.

In a lot of ways, the final regular season game was a get right opportunity for both teams. Both RR-SM and Pecatonica are two of the top

teams in Northwest Illinois. However, they both dealt with late season injuries to key players. Pecatonica's leading scorer Elaina Rager did not play in the game. Neither did Kianna Degner who plays point guard for Pec. RR-SM was without Laiken Haas, who tied Albrecht as the team's leading scorer with over nine points per game. "There was some really good talent not in the game," Wiegel shared before adding that he was hopeful both Laiken and Pecatonica's players would be full strength for the postseason.

Despite the injuries, the Wildcats put on an impressive performance in their senior's final regular season home game. It's a class of seniors that absolutely deserves it as their impact on the Wildcats' program will be felt for years to come.

After their 49-25 win over Pec, this year's seniors held a career varsity record of 73-18. This group of seniors ensured that winning is not only a goal but is expected in the RR-SM program.

They added to that win total on Feb. 10 when the Wildcats played host to the Milledgeville Missiles. The Missiles finished the regular season with a record of 1-22 and their struggles would continue against RR-SM.

For what it's worth, Haas didn't end up playing in the opening regional game. RR-SM wouldn't need her, however, as they quickly took care of business against the Missiles. By the end of the first, the Wildcats already held a 14-8 lead.

The second quarter played the difference in this one. In fact, the Wildcats had one of their best quar-

ters of the season as they outscored Milledgeville 24-4. The combination of an efficient offense and some pesky defense allowed RR-SM to take a 38-12 lead into halftime.

The Wildcats continued to force turnovers throughout the game. Wiederholt specifically gave the Missiles problems as she racked

up six steals on the night. Campbell Hereau and Miller each finished with three steals. As a team, the Wildcats had 17 steals, which ultimately helped them secure the win.

Wiederholt also stepped up offensively. She led the team in scoring with 19 points when they needed someone to step up. Here-

au was next up with eight and Miller finished with six. Miller also led the team in rebounds with seven.

In the end, the Wildcats picked up a 58-33 victory over the Missiles. It was their 23 win of the season. They faced their next obstacle on Monday night, when they took on Polo in the next round of regional play.

NWILED announces 2024 Entrepreneurial Scholarship

Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) is excited to announce the application window for the annual John D. Cooke, III Memorial Entrepreneurial Scholarship is now open. Like in 2023, there will be one \$2,000 first place award and two \$1,500 runners up awards.

Recipients shall be full-time students who reside in Carroll or Jo Daviess

counties that are in good academic standing in the qualifying school year. The 2024 application can be downloaded at www.NWILED.org, and completed applications should be sent to David Schmit, Regional Director: DSchmit@nwiled.org or 1 Commercial Dr, Ste. 2, Hanover, IL 61041 by Friday, March 29, 2024.

You ought to be in pictures!

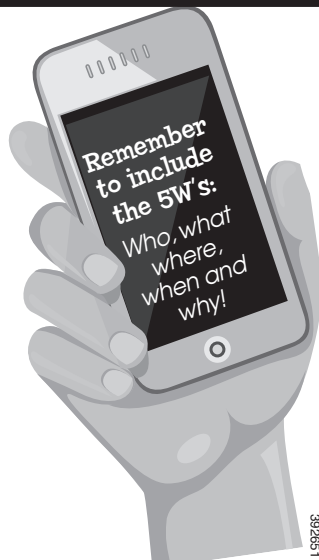
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OPINION

In my opinion

Expanding the Child Tax Credit

By U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi
CONTRIBUTOR

No child should live in poverty, and that is why I was proud to join a majority of my colleagues from both parties on Wednesday in voting to pass the bipartisan Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act to expand the Child Tax Credit.

This legislation will significantly reduce child poverty in America by lifting more than half a million children above the poverty line, helping 16 million more, and expanding the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to put a roof over the heads of 200,000 American families.

In addition, the legislation will eliminate red tape for small businesses and encourage domestic research investment, all without adding a nickel to the deficit. Despite the partisan theatrics that dominate too much of the news out of Washington, the American people sent my colleagues and I to Congress to make their lives better, and that is exactly what the bipartisan Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act does.

Protecting and strengthening the U.S. Postal Service

Recently, I joined with Congressman Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and 80 of my colleagues in urging President Joe Biden to swiftly fill the two open

vacancies on the United States Postal Service's (USPS) Board of Governors with members who are committed to lowering costs for consumers and businesses and maintaining the USPS's high service standards.

In the four years under current Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, the USPS has seen five separate price hikes, including one that took effect just days ago.

President Biden has a unique opportunity to positively shape the future of the USPS for generations to come by quickly nominating two members who will prioritize public service and the longevity of this critical American institution. In Congress, I will continue my work to hold Postmaster General DeJoy accountable and advocate for the protection and security of the USPS, which oversees the processing of 421 million pieces of mail and 23 million packages every single day for millions of Americans no matter their ZIP code.

Countering the threats posed by the Chinese Communist Party

As Ranking Member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) I recently led two separate bipartisan hearings on threats posed to America by the CCP. In the first hearing, we heard from former President Barack Obama's Secretary of Defense and CIA Director,

Leon Panetta, and former President Donald Trump's Secretary of State and CIA Director, Mike Pompeo, on the CCP's continued support for America's adversaries, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

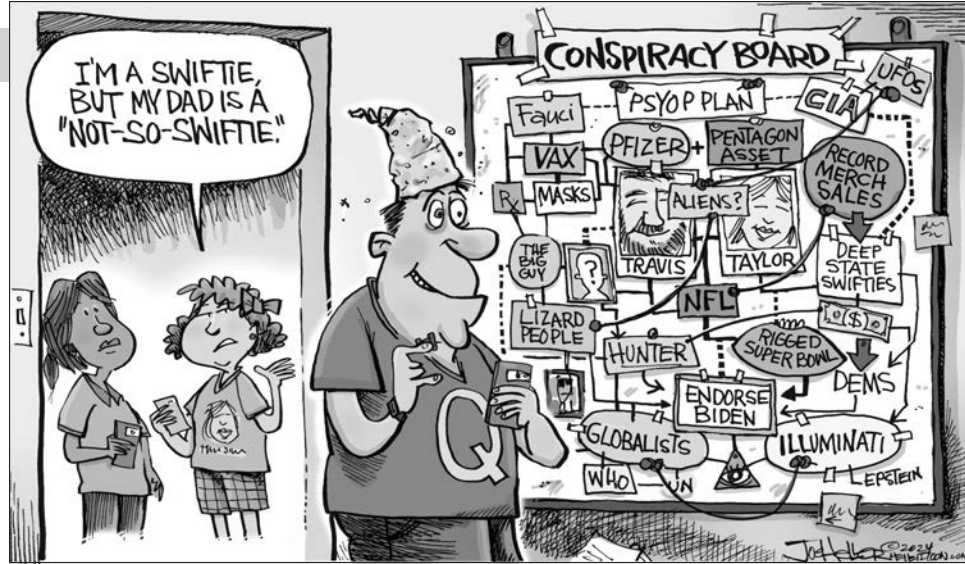
I questioned the two former secretaries on how the CCP's backing for President Putin during its ongoing invasion and war in Ukraine not only strengthens Putin's authoritarian grip on Russia, but how it threatens future peace in Europe and in Taiwan.

Former Secretary Pompeo told our committee during my questioning that ending support for Ukraine's efforts to drive out Putin's forces embolden the CCP's prospects of staging a similar invasion of the island of Taiwan and other democracies in the region.

We then held a second hearing on the threats posed by the CCP's cyber program to America's infrastructure and national security. The hearing featured a number of experts and stakeholders, including FBI Director Christopher Wray, U.S. Cyber Command General Paul Nakasone, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency Director Jen Easterly, and National Cyber Director Harry Coker, Jr.

During my hearing, Director Wray told our committee the CCP's hackers are standing by and awaiting orders to "wreak havoc" and attack critical civilian infrastructure, including electric grids, transportation systems, and water treatment facilities. As I said during the hearing, strengthening our cyber security and capacity to deter CCP aggression through offensive cyber operations is critical to our national security.

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



Slices of life

Never have I ever...



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

I started this column thinking I might write about some of the things I've never yet done, like take an Alaskan cruise, drink ouzo in Greece, taste French bread in France or parent a dachshund.

But I missed out on the most important never ever of all: Never, have I ever ... played pickleball.

There it is. I said it out loud. Please don't unfriend me on Facebook. I'm truly still cool. Or I'm trying to be, despite the vast pickleball oversight.

I've made pickles - from scratch.

I've played ball—as in tennis, croquet, ping pong—and even, most lately, wallyball.

But combining pickles and balls?

Never have I ever. Turns out I'm in the minority.

Everyone is playing pickleball. Some reports report it as the fastest growing sport in the nation. And not just among those as wrinkled as pickles.

You might be surprised to learn that the start of pickleball had nothing to do with gardening, cucumbers or vinegar. The game's humble beginnings began in someone's backyard and was soon picked up by seniors as a way to play tennis without running or jumping or having to move around too much.

It was ingenious. So much so that it caught on with younger demographics who likely thought it wasn't fair for all the baby boomers to monopolize the pickle action.

But what is this entity entitled pickleball? Does

it involve eating pickles? Swatting them with a paddle? Using them as a paddle? Is an extra large pickle carved into a ball formation? How does a pickle become a ball?

The simple answer: it doesn't.

Pickleball actually has nothing whatever to do with pickles. But I'm no expert. I've yet to play even one game or match or set or whatever the pickleball lingo requires.

Although I've been invited—often.

People who play pickleball (known by the in-crowd as "pickleballers") are so overjoyed and enamored with the sport they can't wait to share it with others and get them hooked as well. It's almost like a new experimental drug, which would explain why the baby boomers, formally known as hippies, like it so much. (Just kidding, boomers! Learn to take a joke already!)

Never mind about that; I wasn't insinuating anything about the Woodstock era and experimental drugs. Just a friendly nod to adrenaline and the feel-good feelings sports-like activities released into the system.

Let's say definitively that drugs have no part in pickleball—unless they are of the prescription variety.

Suffice to say, the Woodstock generation has matured since their experimental days.

They've since graduated to pickleball and they are bringing us all along for the ride.

They want us all to serve and volley—but most of all to stay out of the kitchen. In pickleball, the kitchen is off limits, which might explain why no teen-age boys are drawn to the sport.

I'd like to try it. I think I possess the eye-hand coordination to hit the ball and the stamina to make it through an extra-long volley, but from what I understand the hardest thing about pickleball is scoring.

When you play doubles, each point is called out in three numbers. I don't know about you but this sounds like a game created by an accountant. Numbers have never been my forte.

I'm all for exercise and recreation, but the thinking part has me stymied, which just may be the reason why I haven't tried to pickle with balls just yet.

I've been invited by well-meaning friends many times, but I've yet to make it into the court, much less the kitchen. I did purchase a set of paddles awhile back, in anticipation, but don't tell my friends. I'm not sure I'm ready for the fierce competition.

Not to mention the rigors of scoring.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

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Blackhawks defeat Pearl City in regional matchup

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton Blackhawks experienced a lot in their 2023-2024 girls basketball season. Not only did they begin a new run under a first-year head coach in Jill Pepin, they went through all the ups and downs of a long year.

The campaign began with a four-game losing streak and a 1-7 overall start. Things started to click after that. A seven-game winning streak revitalized their season. At the end of the regular season, the Blackhawks held an overall record of 13-16. Although not pretty, it was a record the Blackhawks could be proud of

as they entered the postseason.

Stockton began this year's regional play with a matchup against the Pearl City Wolves. At just 5-24 on the year, the Wolves didn't pose much of a threat on paper. The playoffs are a different atmosphere, as the Blackhawks had to take care of business if they wanted a postseason victory in Pepin's first year at the helm.

On Feb. 10, the Blackhawks and Wolves faced off in the afternoon regional opener. From the opening tip, Stockton came ready to play. Eve Moore got the game started with a three-pointer from the right corner. On the next possession, Moore found Taylor Haas

open on the left wing. Moore picked up the assist as Haas sunk a three-pointer, quickly putting the Blackhawks up 6-0.

Stockton continued to find success from three-point range. Following a Madie Mammoser rebound, she took it up the court and hit Dylann Broshous for a deep three. Broshous went off the glass on her first three, but she hit nothing but net on her second three just moments later. With that, four three-pointers got the game started with a 12-point run for the Blackhawks. By the end of one, Stockton already maintained a double digit lead up 16-5. Although Pearl

City kept things much closer in the second quarter, the Blackhawks still took a 24-14 lead into the halftime break.

Much like the start of the first half, the Blackhawks came out to a hot start in the second. That's where they did most of their damage, outscoring Pearl City 31-14 in the first and third quarters combined.

Stockton's first points of the half came from a baseline pass as Mammoser hit Haas for an assist on a midrange jumper. Moments later, Mammoser had another opportunity to create a play with another inbound pass from the baseline. This time, Mammoser tossed it off a Pearl City defender's

back and quickly laid it in while being fouled on the shot. She converted the and-one opportunity, putting Stockton up 29-17.

Midway through the third, the Blackhawks nearly doubled up their opponent as Katelyn Winters sunk a three-pointer. By the end of three, Stockton held a 39-23 lead over the Wolves. In the end, the Blackhawks held on to defend their home court with a dominant 48-26 victory over Pearl City. Mammoser led the team in scoring with 15 points. Winters was next up with 13, and Broshous finished with 10. Haas added six in the victory.

Following the game, Pepin

shared her excitement for the girls. "This season has been truly awesome. These girls have worked so hard. They set big and small goals throughout the season and with this win, they continue to surpass them." Pepin shared. The first-year head coach was also asked what the postseason victory meant for her and the program. "This regional win was a big milestone for the program and myself. I'm excited to see what we can accomplish next," Pepin stated.

Following the victory over Pearl City, the Blackhawks took on East Dubuque in the next round of regional play on Tuesday night.



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Little Blackhawks

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

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing



1826 Creative Company awarded GenZ Fund

Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) has announced the presentation of the organization's Genz Small Business Development Fund to the 1826 Creative Company. A check for \$9,625 was issued to co-owners Michelle and Brendan Sullivan from the fund, NWILED's largest award yet. According to the Sullivans, the grant will specifically be used to assist

in the purchase of a 2023 Mac Studio workstation and an industry specific camera package. "Having been awarded the Genz Small Business Development Fund from NWILED is a major game-changer for our developing company," said Brendan. "We'll be able to provide our current and prospective clients with industry standard high-end content

using state-of-the-art photo and video equipment. With the awarded funds, we plan to purchase a formidable Apple MacStudio workstation and a robust 6K video camera package from DJI. We look forward to combining our community's classic feel with the modern contemporary digital landscape."

Established in 2020, the Genz Small Business Development Fund was formed by the late John "Jack" Genz of Galena to provide gap financing to retailers, small manufacturers, wholesalers, and hospitality industry genres, along with farmers and food processors. Awards can be used for capital projects, to purchase an existing business or farm or for startup and pilot projects. Administered by IL Bank & Trust, a division of HTLF Bank, the fund does have requirements.

"As the fifth recipient of the Genz Small Business Development Fund, NWILED is proud to help another business make



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pictured left to right are David Schmit with Northwest Illinois Economic Development, Gavin Doyle with IL Bank and Trust, a division of HTLF Bank, Michelle and Brendan Sullivan with 1826 Creative Company.

their dreams a reality," said David Schmit, Regional Director for NWILED. "The award is assisting 1826 in a way that will help accent and accelerate the services that they can offer to their clients."

Established in March of 2023 1826 Creative Company came from the need to provide powerful, customized solutions to help small businesses strengthen their brand identities and better engage with

customers across digital touch points. They offer services like that of their competitors such as graphic design, website and mobile app creation, and photo and video production; but also focus on a niche of services such as 3D modeling, motion graphics, animation, and instructional design. By bundling these services, 1826 can provide their clients with comprehensive, yet budget-friendly digital brand makeovers and unique services that are not widely offered in the Galena community and surrounding area. Their website is www.1826creative.com and their phone number is 563-590-8972.

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Panthers split games with Pecatonica, Stockton

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

As the Lena-Winslow Panthers approach the end of their 2023-2024 boys basketball season, they have faced off with some fierce competition. Back on Feb. 3, the Panthers picked up a 66-50 victory over a 14-win River Ridge squad. Then on Feb. 5, the Panthers got a rematch with one of the toughest opponents on their schedule in the Pecatonica Indians.

Just three weeks prior, the Panthers traveled to Pecatonica to face off with the highly ranked Indians. Back then, the Indians floated around in the top 10 of Illinois 1A basketball standings. Since then, the Indians have climbed near the top of the class with an overall record of 23-4. After taking a loss to the Indians on their home court, the Panthers were hoping to return the favor when they played host to Pecatonica in their most recent matchup.

Le-Win hit the court with some energy in the first quarter. All season long Jaylen Rakowska has provided a spark for this team. That remained true against Pec as Rakowska hit a pair of big three-pointers in the opening quarter. Mason Spidahl added a three of his own and at the end of one Le-Win held a 19-18 lead.

The first half was incredibly even. After a tight first, Pec evened the game out in the second. Cobryn Lynch continued to attack the defense as a pair of baskets gave him eight first half points. Miles Mahon, Koby Kearns,

Gage Dunker, and Michael Mowery each added baskets in the second as well. At the break, the Panthers and Indians sat tied at 34-34.

Coming out of the break, Pec managed to shift the momentum. A pair of three-pointers by the Indians' all-time leading three-point shooter, Mason Peterson, sparked a run for them. The Indians outscored Le-Win 20-10 in the third, which left the Panthers facing a 10-point deficit heading into the final quarter.

The Panthers tried to chip away in the closing minutes. Mahon let it fly from deep as a trio of three-pointers brought them closer. Rakowska racked up seven points of his own in the fourth. In the end, the Panthers put up 25 fourth quarter points.

It wasn't enough to erase the deficit, however. Pec hit their late free throws, which ultimately won them the game. The Indians went 13 for 14 at the line in the final quarter, which helped them hold onto the lead.

In the end, Le-Win fell by a score of 74-69. Although it was another frustrating loss, the Panthers have proven they can compete with the best of the best. By taking Pec to the final minute in both games, the Panthers look like a dangerous team for the postseason. Le-Win was led in scoring by Rakowska, who had 24. Mahon was next up with 14 in the loss.

The Panthers bounced back in a big way when they returned home to play host to

the Stockton Blackhawks on Thursday, Feb. 8. Rakowska and Lynch provided an early spark as they each hit first quarter three-pointers. Mahon added five points, including a successful and-one opportunity.

The second quarter was just as consistent. Rakowska hit his second three-point-er of the night. Mahon went two for two in another trip to the line. Spidahl added a pair of baskets to help extend the

lead.

Perhaps what was most impressive about the Panthers' performance was their defense. They held Stockton to just nine points in both the first and second quarters. That allowed Le-Win to take a 28-18 lead into halftime.

The Panthers had an even better second half. The offense exploded for 18 points in the third as Mahon continued to find success inside.

Orangeville-Aquin boys' co-op basketball showing much needed improvement

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville-Aquin Broncos boys basketball co-op is nearing the end of its first regular season. Many hoped to see improvement from the program throughout the year. Starting with lowered expectations, Orangeville-Aquin and their head coach Josh Fahs were hoping to nudge the program in the right direction this year. Fahs took the time to discuss the development of the co-op both then and now.

It was a slow start for the Broncos. If final scores and stat sheets are all you pay attention to, the Broncos couldn't have gotten off to a much worse start. After 16 games, they were just 3-13 on the year. Fahs spoke about the slow start, what he believes caused it, and how they still see some of those mistakes in a more limited fashion.

"Consistency was and still is the biggest factory in starting slowly at 3-13. Five of those losses were by nine points or less, and it seemed to be a different struggle every game. Sometimes it was offense, some high turnover games, and some poor shooting nights. Other

nights, it was defense and/or rebounding," Fahs shared.

Despite all the struggles, Fahs and the Broncos still saw their potential from within. "The close losses were definitely a sign that we were capable of more. Plus, battling really good teams like Scales Mound and Fulton. Losing a starter in Miklo Webb for nine games to a broken foot didn't help either, but sophomore guard Jaxon Grilliot played well in place of him, and we stayed competitive most nights," Fahs added.

The second half of the season has shown us a program that is moving forward. After the slow start, the Broncos not only found a way to compete with some of the tougher teams, but they started winning those close games. From Jan. 20 to Feb. 7, the Broncos went 5-5 over a 10-game stretch. That includes a 53-51 victory over Milledgeville and two victories over Pearl City by a combined five points. It also includes five-point losses to Lena-Winslow and Durand, and an eight-point loss to Warren.

In their most recent matchup, the Broncos beat Pearl City by a score of 56-55. The game

Spidahl converted an and-one opportunity of his own, and Quinn Rodebaugh got on the board after going scoreless in the first half.

Le-Win didn't let up in the fourth quarter as they posted another 20 points. The fourth quarter belonged to Jake Schumacher, who put up nine points on four baskets. Schumacher didn't score in the first three quarters, but he took advantage of his opportu-

nity in the fourth. Rakowska also hit his third three of the night as the Panthers captured a 66-28 victory over Stockton.

Le-Win had three players in double figures as Mahon led the way with 15. Rakowska was next up with 13, and Spidahl had 11. With the victory, the Panthers improved to 18-8 on the season. On Feb. 15 the Panthers travel to take on South Beloit in their final game of the regular season.

came down to the final seconds as the Broncos held possession for an inbound play. After passing it in from the right side, Brant Carlson took a hand-off pass from Webb. Carlson wrapped around the left side and took a jumper from the left elbow. The shot hit the back of the rim and fell right through the net at the buzzer, giving Orangeville-Aquin the win. Cody Wirth led the team in scoring with 17, while Webb added 11. Both Krittipong Pimson and Joe Isenberger had nine in the win.

On finding ways to win those close games Fahs said, "We have done a lot of the little things better. Our turnovers have gone down from 17 per game in the first 16 games, to only 12 per game in the last 10. Our assists are up as we are finally starting to play more team basketball. We have shot free throws well, which has helped us close out some of these close wins. Defense has been better with just two teams in the last 10 games scoring 60 or more. I think the LaMoille game helped us start learning how to and that we can win close games."

Fahs mentioned some of the

team leaders who stepped up over the stretch. "Cody Wirth, who has been great all year, has been fantastic the last 10 games," Fahs shared. Wirth averaged 13 points, five rebounds, and four assists per game over the span of those ten games. Fahs also mentioned Carlson, the only starter from Aquin, who has improved to 11 points, six rebounds, and three assists per game over the stretch.

Although the season isn't over and the Broncos hope to make a run, their recent improvement has them feeling excited about their future. "I am so excited for the rest of the season and the co-op going forward," Fahs said, before explaining that the team could have been even better than 5-5 over the 10-game stretch with three losses by eight points or less. "I still wanted more wins in that stretch, as well as to close the regular season and in regionals. I believe we can beat anyone any given night when we play well, but it is about the boys believing in that message, while understanding we can lose any given night when we

See BASKETBALL, Page 10

Pearl City High School first semester honor roll 2024

Highest Honor Roll

Seniors: Mattie Schauer
Juniors: Natalie Greene, Brinkley Knoup, Talia Stewart
Freshmen: Mackenzie Lotz, Scarlett Snyder, Natalie Todd

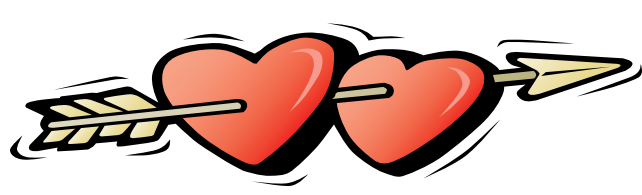
High Honor Roll

Seniors: Ava Bremmer, Weston Gronewold, Rayce Mullen, Ethan Petta, Randy Posey, Georgia Shallenberger
Juniors: Kylie Campbell, Kaitlyn Christensen, Paige Hille, Gerald Hoppe, Jorja Johnson, Marley Joseph, Jaxsyn Kempel, Kendra Kuhlemeier, Alonna Posey, Adeline Smith, Lucas Tichler
Sophomores: Kameron Downs, Tana Gravert, Oscar Ugalde-Sanchez, Jakari Wool
Freshmen: Parker Allen, Donna Baker, Eli Bremmer, Tristan Ertmer, Tanner Hester, Braylon Liebenstein, Leo Petta, Danica Stager

Honor Roll

Seniors: Daneli Ayala, Lisa Baker, Jesus Bernal Zetina, Jayden Downs, Lexton Endress, Rhett Forth, Logan Freier, Kyleigh Gentz, Austin Gravert, Jacob Lieb, Kyle Niehaus, Lakota Scace, Alex Spahr, Olivia Williams
Juniors: Ayden Bratley, Ethan Bremmer, Joely Christiansen, Jackson Corbin, Anna Dampman, Fallyn Endress, Myles Freedlund, Edgar Hidalgo, Sydni Lower, Taytum Mullen, Emma Otte, Jacob Runkle, Jared Runkle
Sophomores: William Birchen, Gracie Ditsworth, Daniel Garcia, Roy Hackbert, Makenzie Ihus, Lane Kempel, Kip Martens, Nakiya Pickard, Kenadee Schreck
Freshmen: Eli Baker, Parker Cantwell, Clayton Downs, Brissia Garcia, Lila Gerber, Braxton Kubatzke, Brynlee McPeek, Mya Miller, Lincoln Voss

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Mon., Feb. 12 through Wed., Feb. 14
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Around the Northern Hills

Join FB ACT text messaging

FB ACT – the Illinois Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team, is comprised of Farm Bureau members who are ready to respond to IFB action requests.

When IFB issues an action request, it signals your voice is needed on a major action request, 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!

Stay connected

We are always looking for ways to communicate with



By **ANNETTE EGGERS**
Jo Daviess
County Farm
Bureau

our members. Many people read my column in the paper, others follow us on Facebook or Instagram, but would you like to receive Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau news directly to your inbox? Share your email with us and we will make sure to add you to our periodic email newsletter. If you are interested, please share your email with me at jdcfbmgr@gmail.com.

Scholarships program

Do you know any college students looking for scholarships? The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau scholarships are live! We

offer two scholarships - one strictly for Highland Community College students and the other for any school. Students or their parents need to be JDCFB members and majoring in agriculture or an ag-related field.

A copy of the application can be found at www.jodaviesscfb.com. Click on the Foundation tab, then the red scholarship button.

Young Leaders Committee

The Young Leaders Committee will have their next meeting on Sunday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. here at the farm bureau office in Elizabeth. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 35 and has an interest in agriculture is welcome to attend.

Farm Fun Fact

One acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons

Local students earn Dean's List recognition Fall 2023

Aurora University

Abigail Weber

Central College

Jason Herman

Grove City College

Lauren Williams

Iowa Central

Isaiah Bruce

Iowa State University

Madeline E. Harbach
Ashley V. Carroll
Julianna M. Kuzniar
Owen Tones Gilbertson
Andrew Lynn Kempel
Ella Elizabeth Wolfrom
Marianna Avery

Brenner

Jordan Ann Johnson
Oliver Phenie Petta
Alice Joan Coats
Kendra Leanne Scace

Loras College

Jacob Zeal
Ian Broshous
Kaylee Luke

University of Dubuque

Dharma Heidenreich
Caden Albrecht
Riley Finn
Tayden Patterson
Mariah Petsche
Bryton Engl
Ashtyn Brinker
Kaytelynn Gable

Emma Kempel
Madison Young

University of Iowa

Madalyn Fitzanko
Darren Dameier
Madeline Klippert

University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Ellie Eden

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Benjamin Vandigo
Hayley Johnson

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Hanna Brinker

Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

BY VICTORIA HANSEN

An often-asked question this week is, "What are you doing for Valentine's Day?" Since college my husband and I have celebrated the holiday by making dinner at home and testing our limited culinary skills with an elaborate dessert. Everyone celebrates this day differently. But most, if not all, means of celebration have a relation to agriculture.

Maybe you plan to treat yourself with a themed specialty coffee at the local shop on your way into work. The milk used to prepare that beverage comes from our dairy farmers. Does your significant other send you a dozen roses to the office? Those roses come from rose gardens and farmers who raise flowers; it is estimated that this year over 100 million roses valued at over 18 million dollars will be sold for Valentine's Day. Imagine that number if it included all the other flowers that will also be given on that day! Do your coworkers split a box of chocolates with you? Those chocolates

are an agriculture product that includes sweeteners, milk nuts, fruits and other farm commodities. Valentine's Day candies account for about 40% of all almonds grown and about 20% of all peanuts; that's a lot of nuts! Valentine's Day is known to have love in the air but with the love, let's remember agriculture is all around us too.

Carroll County Farm Bureau accepting orders for Freezer Meals

The Ogle Carroll Agriculture Partnership Foundation is excited to announce we are now accepting orders for our spring freezer meal program. Each menu item serves about five people. The menu includes Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork, Hickory Smoked Pork Loin, Smoked Sausage with Peppers & Onions, Chicken Teriyaki, Pork Fritters with Mixed Veg, Ham Steak with Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Chili Meatballs, Mostaccioli with Meat Sauce, Chicken Cavatappi and Pulled Pork Mac and Cheese.

The meal sets are \$185 if

you pay with check or cash and \$190 if you pay with credit card. Orders forms can be found online at www.carrollcfb.org. Order pick-ups will take place on Friday, March 22 from 12p.m. to 4 p.m. If you have questions, please call our office at 815-244-3001.

Scholarships available: Carroll County Farm Bureau Foundation

The Carroll County Farm Bureau Foundation is offering 7, \$1,000 scholarships. Applications can be found online at Carroll County Farm Bureau's Facebook page or on their website at www.carrollcfb.org. Applications are due March 4, 2024, at 1 p.m.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation:

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

• Basketball

(Continued from page 9)

don't come out ready to play," Fahs shared. He also mentioned the team is yet to play their best basketball for 32 minutes.

Fahs also hopes to see the co-op continue for years to come. They are already approved for next year, but Fahs would like to see it continue past that. "Todd Kramer [Aquino and the co-op's athletic director] and everyone at Aquino have been great to work with," Fahs said.

The program does lose a handful of key players after this season. Wirth, Webb, Ben

Briggs, and Brock Tyrrell are all seniors, who Fahs said will be "hard to replace." The future looks promising, however. Five of the top 10 varsity rotation players should return, and they have a large junior varsity roster. Both freshman classes from both schools sport some exciting talent as well.

"The future is definitely bright for this program and co-op, and hopefully learning to win some close games this year will lead to more wins next year," Fahs shared. For the Broncos' head coach, it has

been a pleasure to watch from the sideline. "It's been great to see the development of these young men, this co-op, and this program. There has been too much negativity from outside our locker room about our team since a rough season last year and a slow start to this year. So, it is nice to see these guys have a little well-deserved success lately. I hope to see them continue to get better every day to see more of that success to finish this season and continue next year," Fahs concluded with.

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Highland College news

Highland celebrates Black History Month with 'Jazzin' it up for PEACE' concert

Join Highland Community College for an evening of music at the "Jazzin' it up for PEACE," a concert celebrating Black History Month. This free event will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16 in the Fine Arts Theatre at the Ferguson Fine Arts Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport.

The concert features Cole and Company with Carl Cole and the SOGN Productions family, as well as a collaboration with Music Instructor Dr. Randy Haldeman and the Highland Chamber Singers. "We're always thrilled to celebrate February as National Black History Month with our friends at Highland Community College, where we're 'Jazzin' it Up for Peace," Cole said. "This year, we are excited to welcome our SOGN Family, as well as the HCC Chamber Singers."

"PEACE," an acronym for Positive Energy and Character Excellence, is the foundation of the "Young Eagles Success" (YES) Club Youth Program Charity, founded by Cole. This concert experience will use the universal language of music to inspire and empower listeners to embrace "Unity in Diversity," "Healing Racism" and "Community Fellowship." Music styles include Spirituals, Blues, Gospel, Jazz, Pop, R&B, and more, complete with facts regarding historical composers and song content.

The program highlights the talents of the Highland Chamber singers, under the direction of Dr. Halderman, in collaboration with Cole. The Highland Chamber Singers will sing "By and By" and "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The concert is presented by the Highland Diversity Committee, Highland Foundation and the Humanities, Social Sciences and Fine Arts Division. No tickets are needed for this open event.

Clarence Mitchell Library presents The Black Chicago Renaissance

Highland Community College's Clarence Mitchell Library will present "The Black Chicago Renaissance," at 2 p.m. on Feb. 20 in the Clarence Mitchell Library for Black History Month. Guest speaker, Dr. Amira Millicent Davis will guide participants through the Chicago Black Renaissance. The presentation focuses on the early to mid-20th-century migration of Southern Blacks to Chicago and the cultural revolution

they trailblazed in their new setting. The presentation will include a Q&A and an opportunity for attendees to share their family migration stories.

The event is being co-produced by the Illinois Humanities Road Scholars Speakers Bureau, which invites Illinois authors, artists, and educators to share their expertise and enthusiasm with people throughout the state, enabling local nonprofit organizations to present free-admission cultural programs to their communities.

Amira Millicent Davis holds a Master's in Education in Curriculum and Instruction and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies with a concentration in African American Studies from the University of Illinois-Urbana. She also conducted post-doctoral research on Supplementary Saturday Schools in London.

Dr. Davis is the author of *Jalimusa: An Epic Tale of Black Women's Mothering*. Several of her book chapters and articles are in publication, and she has been invited to present at numerous conferences. Amira is a mother, grandmother, and activist-artist-educator using African drums, percussions, and stories to entertain, educate, and motivate.

The event is free and open to all audiences. For more information on the program contact Laura Watson at 815-599-3456 or laura.watson@highland.edu.

FHN, HCC offering CNA Open House Feb. 21

FHN and Highland Community College in Freeport will hold an open house for HCC's Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program this month.

The event, from 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21 in the Ray and Betty Stamm Health Science Nursing Wing of HCC's Natural Science and Health Center (building N), is an opportunity for interested individuals to talk with students and instructors from HCC's Nursing and Allied Health programs, as well as staff representatives from FHN.

FHN representatives will be on hand to talk to candidates about entering the field of nursing through the "gateway" of becoming a CNA, and interested candidates can register for the HCC CNA program that night.

Student Services staff will be available to help candidates with financial aid, placement testing and any paperwork necessary to get started as an HCC student. Interested students could begin classes

as soon as March 11.

HCC CNA program alumna – and current FHN CNA – Sarah Salazar credits her academic achievements from Highland Nursing and Allied Health with helping her secure a job she loves at FHN:

"Highland's CNA program prepared me very well for the real-world work of a CNA. The hands-on training helped me to be able to begin working confidently and to quickly become successful at FHN," she said. "I'm already considering going back to Highland for my nursing degree and then on to complete a BSN."

For more information about the HCC program or the open house, contact HCC Basic Nursing Assistant Coordinator and Nursing and Allied Health Instructor Cassie Mekeel, RN, at cassie.mekeel@highland.edu or 815-599-3685.

United Way of Northwest Illinois now accepting grant applications

The United Way of Northwest Illinois (UWNIL) is pleased to announce the opening of the Request for Proposals (RFP's) for the 2024.2025 Community Impact Grants. The RFPs are for Education, Financial Stability, Health, and Basic Needs in Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties. Funding will be for the period of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. In 2023, United Way funded over \$247,000 towards local Community Impact Initiatives.

Community Impact RFPs will be available online at www.uwni.org. RFPs open for application on Feb. 10, 2024, and remain open until March 10, 2024. All applications are due by 4 p.m.

The Community Impact RFP's are open for application to previously funded United Way Partner Agencies. In addition to the Request for Proposals, United Way will be accepting Letters of Interest from Programs that have not received funding

from United Way in the past. The Letters of Interest will be available on the uwni.org website from Feb. 10 through March 10 also. Letters of Interest should also have a focus on the community impact model.

The Request for Proposals is a competitive application process. Applications will be reviewed by United Way Community Impact Committee members. The Community Impact committees are made up of community volunteers with diverse backgrounds in education, human services, finances, local governments, business leaders and more. The committees review the requests and make recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors. If you have any questions regarding the Community Impact Requests for Proposal (RFP) process, please contact United Way of NWIL Executive Director, Connie Kraft at 815-232-5184 or director@uwni.org.

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LEGAL NOTICES

2024 SR. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PERSON 65 YEARS OF AGE

Qualifications:
 • **Must own and occupy home as a full time resident as of January 1, 2024**
 • **Must be liable for paying the real estate taxes on the property**
 • **Must be of the age of 65 or older in 2024**

Apply at the Chief County Assessment Office, 219 Kelly Lane, Galena, IL prior to May 31, 2024 or phone 815-777-1016. First time applicants are required to submit a copy of their driver's license. Those currently receiving this exemption do not need to reapply.

Chief County Assessment Office
 (Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 14, 2024)
 450804

2024 OWNER OCCUPIED EXEMPTION

Qualifications:
 • **Must own and occupy home as a full time resident as of January 1, 2024;**
 • **Must be liable for paying the real estate taxes on the property**

Apply at the Chief County Assessment Office, 219 Kelly Lane, Galena, IL prior to May 31, 2024 or phone 815-777-1016. Applicants are required to submit a copy of their driver's license or Federal Income Tax form. Those currently receiving this exemption do not need to reapply.

Chief County Assessment Office
 (Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 14, 2024)
 450805

2024 SR. CITIZEN ASSESSMENT FREEZE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Qualifications:
 • **Must be 65 years of age or older in 2024;**
 • **Have used the property as your principal place of residence since January 1, 2023;**
 • **Own the property on January 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024;**
 • **Must be a single family residence;**
 • **Be liable for the payment of property taxes**

for 2023 and 2024;
 • **Have a total household income (includes everyone who lives at the residence) of no more than \$65,000 for 2023.**
 • **Must renew annually**

You must submit a complete copy of both your Federal income tax including Schedule 1 with your application. If you DO NOT file income tax, then you must submit a copy of your Statement of Social Security Benefits, Statement of Pension Benefits, W-2's and 1099's or any other household income. You must apply for this exemption every year.

This exemption freezes the assessed value of your property. It does NOT freeze your tax bill. The deadline for filing is July 1, 2024.

If this is the first time you are eligible, please contact the County Assessment Office at (815) 777-1016 for an application.

Chief County Assessment Office
 (Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 14, 2024)
 450806

2024 DISABLED VETERANS' STANDARD HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Qualifications:
 • **You must be an Illinois resident who has served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty, Illinois National Guard, or U.S. Reserve Forces and not dishonorably discharged;**
 • **You must have at least a 30% service-connected disability certified by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs;**
 • **You must own and occupy the property as your primary residence on January 1, of the assessment year (2024), or the exemption granted under this Section shall be prorated on a monthly basis, beginning the first completed month in which the person occupies the qualified residence, and be liable for the payment of the property taxes;**
 • **You must have a total EAV of less than \$250,000 for the primary residence;**
 • **MUST renew and provide VA disability documentation annually.**

Chief County Assessment Office
 (Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 14, 2024)
 450808

2024 RETURNING VETERANS' HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Qualifications:
 • **You must be an Illinois resident who has served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Illinois National Guard or U.S. Reserve Forces;**
 • **You must have recent-**

A certified DD Form 214 and a current disability certification letter from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs for the current assessment year must be provided.

Deadline for filing an application is July 1, 2024.

Please contact the Chief County Assessment Office at 815-777-1016 for an application.

Chief County Assessment Office
 (Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 14, 2024)
 450807

2024 DISABLED PERSONS' HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Qualifications:
 • **You must be disabled or become disabled during the assessment year;**
 • **You must own or have a legal or equitable interest in the property on January 1, 2024;**
 • **You must occupy the property as your principal residence on January 1, 2024;**
 • **You must be liable for the payment of the property taxes;**
 • **Must renew annually.**

Proof of disability must be submitted in the form of a Class 2 Illinois Disabled Person Identification Card, Social Security Administration disability benefits, Veterans Administration disability verification you are receiving a person for non-service connected disability. Railroad or Civil Service disability benefits (100% disability).

Deadline for filing is July 1, 2024.

Please contact the Chief County Assessment Office at 815-777-1016 for an application.

Chief County Assessment Office
 (Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 14, 2024)
 450808

2024 RETURNING VETERANS' HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Qualifications:
 • **You must be an Illinois resident who has served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Illinois National Guard or U.S. Reserve Forces;**
 • **You must have recent-**

ly returned from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the U.S.;

• **You must have owned or had a legal or equitable interest on January 1, 2024;**
 • **You must be liable for the payment of property taxes.**

A certified DD Form 214 must be provided or if not discharged, then your military orders and travel voucher showing date of return must be provided.

Deadline for filing is December 31, 2024.

Please contact the Chief County Assessment Office at 815-777-1016 for an application.

Chief County Assessment Office
 (Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 14, 2024)
 450809

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS.

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

NO. 22 FC 11 101 PLUM COVE DRIVE GALENA, IL 61036

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 20, 2023, will on March 27, 2024, in the Galena Primary School, 219 Kelly Lane, Galena, IL 61036, at 10:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Jo Daviess, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

Eagle Ridge Townhouse Unit 101, being part of Lot 1 of "Branigar's Plat of Eagle Ridge Unit "B", of the Galena Territory"

A subdivision located in the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 19, Township 28 North, Range 2 East of the Fourth Principal meridian, Guilford Township, Jo Daviess County, Illinois;

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

TAX NO. 08-408-101-00 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 101 Plum Cove Drive Galena, IL 61036

Description of Improvements: The property is a townhouse. The property has no garage. The exterior is wood siding. The color is gray. I am unable to verify that the gas is on or off. The water is off. The property does not have a fence. The vacancy is unknown for this residency. None

The Judgment amount was \$116,798.85.

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# 21-07158IL

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

Continued on next page

LEGAL NOTICES

Florida murder suspect arrested in Freeport

On Jan. 30, 2024, the United States Marshals Service arrested 24-year-old Yoel Paredes of Freeport on a residence in Freeport on a charges related to a 2022 homicide that occurred in the State of Florida. Paredes was transferred to the Stephenson County Jail where he is awaiting extraction to the State of Florida.

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

McCombie launches February office hours

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is launching a new set of mobile office hours around the 89th District. McCombie's Office has continued to host these events throughout her tenure to help accommodate constituents across the 89th legislative district, which includes all of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and DeKalb counties.

"My office is offering the next set of office hours for February so constituents can continue getting the services they need from state government," said McCombie. "I encourage anyone who needs assistance with state agencies to stop by and get your questions answered!"

Reaching every corner of her legislative district remains a priority for Leader McCombie, and she looks forward to making the services of her office accessible to everyone at the upcoming events:

- Stockton Library**
Feb. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Stockton Library, 140 W Benton Ave.
- Galena City Hall**
Feb. 14 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Galena City Hall, 101 Green St.

With questions about the office hours, please contact Leader McCombie's office at 815-291-8989.

Continued from previous page
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.

I3238119
(Published in
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Feb. 14, 21 & 28, 2024)
450936

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLL as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on February 22, 2024 at approx. 1:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com. Cube 1141 Blair Jami Colquitt

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Feb. 7 & 14, 2024)
450374

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

Bankers' Bank;
Plaintiff,

vs.
Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Daniel J. de Waard a/k/a Daniel De Waard; David De Waard; Sietze De Waard, III; John De Waard; Kay De Waard; Karen O'Keefe; Gretchen Stastny; William Butcher, as Special Representative for Daniel J. de Waard a/k/a Daniel De Waard; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants Defendants,

23 FC 30

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE

is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. in the office of Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT THIRTY-ONE (31) IN WINTER HEIGHTS

SUBDIVISION, A SUBDIVISION IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 25 AND THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 36, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED SEPTEMBER 16, 1954 IN BOOK "F" OF PLATS, PAGE 5; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 18-13-36-104-012.

Commonly known as 1450 Winter Drive, Freeport, IL 61032.

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

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

For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3237904

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Feb. 14, 21 & 28, 2024)
450812

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., PLAINTIFF

vs.
SCOTT ENGELKENS; DEFENDANT
NO. 2023FC46 Judge
Address: 1717 N. Henderson Road

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 October 3, 2023, I, Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois, will on March 21, 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:

A TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN A PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, LANCASTER TOWNSHIP, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, THE BOUNDARY OF SAID TRACT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE WEST QUARTER OF SECTION 20, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN; THENCE NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, ALONG THE WEST LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 20, A DISTANCE OF 858.80 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST, ALONG SAID WEST LINE, A DISTANCE OF 469.98 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 89 DEGREES 22 MINUTES

30 SECONDS EAST, 469.94 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 08 MINUTES 40 SECONDS WEST, 470.95 FEET, THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 15 MINUTES 15 SECONDS WEST, 468.76 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SUBJECT TO ANY AND ALL

RECORDED EASEMENTS AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS, ALL BEING SITUATED IN LANCASTER TOWNSHIP, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

COMMON ADDRESS: 1717 N. Henderson Road, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N.: 07-14-20-100-007
The real estate is improved with single-family residence.

THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$139,197.39

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

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

Pursuant to 735 ILCS

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

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

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 23 0451.

Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Email: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 23 0451 I3237991

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Feb. 14, 21 & 28, 2024)
450934



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For immediate consideration send resume/job history to:
Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising
Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
Fax: (262) 725-6844

444841

real estate

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

Lots/Acreage

LAND FOR SALE 53 acres for sale between Orangeville and McConnell. Look for signs. 10617 N. Orangeville Rd. Call 815-789-4012



422786

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448651

for sale

Announcements

CLASSIFIED IN-COLUMN ADS cannot be credited or refunded after the ad has been placed. Ads canceled before deadline will be removed from the paper as a service to our customers, but no credit or refund will be issued to your account.

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

Burial Needs

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



Auction Deadline is Noon Friday!
Contact Rhonda at rmarshall@rvpublishing.com for information on advertising.

transportation

Automobiles

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

2010 TOYOTA COROLLA LE Good brakes, good tires, new battery. No rust. 183500 miles. Good running car! \$5,150. Call 815-520-1094.

Automobiles Wanted

TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR FULL SIZE JUNK TRUCKS & SUV's. Haul away 7 days a week. 262-758-1807

Trucks & Trailers

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

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Post-natal and infant oral care

The most important thing a new mother can do to ensure her child's dental health is to take care of herself and her oral health. If you are not healthy, you will not have the energy to make sure that your baby is healthy.



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

For both oral and overall health, new moms need to stay hydrated. Dehydration drains your energy and your ability to think clearly. To stay hydrated, while also rinsing away food particles and neutralizing the acid that can lead to decay and gum disease, drink fluoridated tap water throughout the day.

New moms must not neglect their oral care by letting their brushing and flossing routine slide. Just like when you were pregnant, you are still "brushing for two." The bacteria that cause you to develop decay and gum disease can easily be transferred to baby through such activities as kissing or tasting their food (this goes for fathers as well). If you experience a dental emergency be sure to let your dentist know that you are breastfeeding, so he/she can prescribe antibiotics and other medications that are safe for baby.

Postnatal growth is most rapid during the first year of life. This early development influences orofacial function throughout your child's life, so we want to do everything in our power to promote positive/healthy growth. To this end, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding for the first year of a child's life. Breast milk provides your child with all the nutrients they require to grow healthy bodies, supports brain development, and provides both immediate and long-term immunities. It also encourages nasal breathing, guides optimal tongue position, and stimulates facial muscles. These actions promote optimal formation of the jaw, oral muscles, and palate. Nasal breathing also brings more oxygen to the brain and promotes optimal sleep cycles.

Exclusively breastfeeding also helps to prevent tooth decay. In breastfeeding, the nipple is drawn deep within a baby's mouth and the milk is projected to the back. In contrast, when bottle-feeding juice, formula, or milk (all of which contain sugar) pass over the teeth, while the nursing child must swallow before any further milk will

be expressed, liquids in a bottle can leak out even when your infant is not sucking.

If an infant is unable to move their tongue and lips to latch on, form a tight seal, and maintain this correct position while breastfeeding, this may indicate tethered oral tissues, (tongue tie, lip tie, etc.). Dysfunctional breastfeeding can be quite painful and reduce milk production. Your child's tongue and lips require their full range of motion to develop, grow and function properly. Left untreated, tethered oral tissues interfere with functional eating, swallowing, and speaking. If your infant struggles with dysfunctional breastfeeding, I strongly encourage you to seek out a consultation with a pediatric dentist. If your infant does require a frenectomy (release of tissues restricting function) this procedure can be performed with a laser and does not require anesthesia. Baby can and will be encouraged to breastfeed immediately following the procedure.

Even though you cannot see them, your child is born with all their teeth. A few days after birth, you should begin wiping your child's gums with the corner of a clean, damp washcloth after each feeding. This will not only help to remove harmful bacteria but will establish a routine. As soon as your child begins to teeth, (around 3-6 months) purchase an infant toothbrush and gently clean and massage their gums. It will feel good on those teething gums and get your baby used to the experience of brushing. As soon as a tooth erupts, it will need to be brushed twice a day. Babies thrive on routine, so make it part of your morning and evening routine. For example, bath bottle, book, brush then bed. Use no more than a rice grain amount of toothpaste.

The importance of brushing your child's teeth cannot be overstated. Primary or "baby" teeth hold the space for adult teeth. They allow your child to chew food, speak and smile with

See ORAL CARE, Back Page

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS
PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.

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

NO. 22 FC 11
101 PLUM COVE DRIVE
GALENA, IL 61036
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 20, 2023, will on March 27, 2024, in the Galena Primary School, 219 Kelly Lane, Galena, IL 61036, at 10:00 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Jo Daviess, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 08-408-101-00
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 101 Plum Cove Drive
Galena, IL 61036
Description of Improvements: The property is a townhouse. The property has no garage. The exterior is wood siding. The color is gray. I am unable to verify that the gas is on or off. The water is off. The property does not have a fence. The vacancy is unknown for this residency. None
The Judgment amount was \$116,798.85.

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.

REAL ESTATE NOTICES

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.mrplc.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# 21-07158IL

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 Scoop Today
Feb. 14, 21 & 28, 2024)
450937

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

Bankers' Bank; Plaintiff, vs. Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Daniel J. de Waard a/k/a Daniel De Waard; David De Waard; Sietze De Waard, III; John De Waard; Kay De Waard; Karen O'Keefe; Gretchen Stastny; William Butcher, as Special Representative for Daniel J. de Waard a/k/a Daniel De Waard; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants
Defendants,
23 FC 30

NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. in the office of Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 18-13-36-104-012.
Commonly known as 1450 Windsor Drive, Freeport, IL 61032.
The improvement on the proper-

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

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

For information call Law Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, The Wirbicki Law Group, 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603. (312) 360-9455.

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(Published in The Shopper's Guide
Feb. 14, 21 & 28, 2024)
450813

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

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., PLAINTIFF
vs.
SCOTT ENGELKENS;
DEFENDANT

NO. 2023FC46 Judge
Address: 1717 N. Henderson Road 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 October 3, 2023, I, Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois, will on March 21, 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: 1717 N. Henderson Road, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N.: 07-14-20-100-007
The real estate is improved with single-family residence.

THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$139,197.39
Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to real estate

taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 23 0451.

Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois
Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC
30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650
Chicago, Illinois 60602
Email: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com
Ph. 312-541-9710 /
Fax 312-541-9711
JB&A # IL 23 0451
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450935

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Legals@rvpublishing.com

425128

U of I Extension news

Final days to register for the 2024 Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference

Blueberries, pumpkins, apples, and tomatoes are all on the agenda for the 28th Annual Stateline Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference in UNIU-Rockford, 8500 E State Street, Rockford, Illinois on Monday, Feb. 19. Serving commercial growers that sell to farmers markets, orchards, and other direct to consumer channels, this day-long University of Illinois Extension conference provides educational sessions for attendees to learn about best practices for the upcoming 2024 season.

"I have been privileged to coordinate this established Extension agricultural conference for the last 10 years" states Grant McCarty, Local Foods and Small Farms Educator serving Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties. "Each year, we try to provide sessions that our Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin growers need to

hear from regarding relevant research and best practices from midwestern University Extension services. While specialists from University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension provide the core of the program, we have been fortunate to add experts from Michigan State University and for 2024, will include University of Minnesota for the first time."

The 2024 conference will further see a new track of sessions for beginning growers/new farmers in specialty crops production. "We understand growers are busy and can't always get away for a multi-day conference. This year, we're thrilled to offer the most diverse lineup of speakers and topics yet—all at the same cost and central location in Northern Illinois, made possible by the continued support of our sponsors," shares Sarah Farley, Local Foods and Small Farms Educator serving Lake and McHenry counties. "From cutting-edge research to practical tips, we believe this con-

ference will provide valuable information to both new and experienced growers alike."

This day-long conference costs \$35 and \$25 for additional employees of the same farm. For more information and to register, please visit go.illinois.edu/Stateline2024 or call 815-235-4125. Register soon, the registration deadline is Feb. 16.

4-H Super Saturday scheduled for Feb. 24

University of Illinois Extension is hosting its annual 4-H Super Saturday on Saturday, February 24 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring St. Freeport, IL. Super Saturday is a 3-hour event designed to give area youth ages 5 to 18 a chance to explore the many project areas available through the 4-H program. This event is open to all area youth, regardless of 4-H membership.

Youth between the ages of 8-18 are invited to attend and experience three hands-

on workshops where they can choose from making sock bunnies, Candy making, farming simulator, Ag careers, plant science, Shooting sports, Swag making, how to give a pet an exam, and how to be a pharmacist. The cost is \$3 per participant.

Youth between the ages of 5-7 are invited to participate in our 4-H Cloverbud Super Saturday at the same time and location. This workshop is also from 8:30 a.m. – noon, but the younger youth will be exploring "FUN with COLOR." Youth will paint, tie-dye t-shirts, & create fun colorful snacks. The cost for these youth is \$3 per participant.

Registration deadline for Super Saturday 2024 is February 18, 2024. To see a list of workshops available for each age group and to register, visit the University of Illinois Extension website at: go.illinois.edu/2024supersaturday. Workshops have size limitations, so don't delay and register soon. Call Brenda at 815-235-4125 with any questions.

• Oral care (Continued from page 15)

confidence. If a child loses a tooth prematurely due to decay, it can cause the teeth around it to shift, affecting jaw and tooth alignment.

Schedule a well-baby or first dental visit before they are one. To prepare your child for their first dental visit, have them practice opening their mouth for when the dentist, "counts their teeth." Do not schedule it during their nap time. Make sure they have a light meal beforehand, so they are not hungry and remember to brush their teeth. Request and fill out all forms before the appointment. First visits should be quick, easy, and positive. During the exam, your dentist will check for tooth decay, evaluate your child's bite, jaw, oral tissues, and dental developmental issues. This first visit establishes that going to the dentist is just part of a routine to keep us healthy and not something

to be feared. It allows your dentist to detect and correct oral health issues in their earliest stages. It also gives you the opportunity to gain experience in providing preventative oral care and how to instill lifetime oral hygiene habits.

No child should ever have to experience tooth decay. Whether regular or sugar free, never put carbonated drinks, like pop in a baby's bottle. The acid will erode their teeth. If you give your infant juice, dilute it with water to decrease the sugar. Whether it is milk, formula, or juice, take the bottle away from your child when they are finished and wipe their mouths. Do not let them continuously drink from a bottle throughout the day unless it contains only water. Never put your baby to bed with a bottle. If using a pacifier, never put honey or any other substance on it.



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