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VOL. 90 • NO. 10

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28, 2024

# Spelling Bee Champs

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Stephenson County Regional Spelling Bee was held Tuesday, Feb. 13 at Highland Community College. Pictured are (left to right) first place participant Hendrix Feld, second place participant Mason Coulthard, and Regional Superintendent of Schools Aaron Mercier.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

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# Obituaries

## DAN KEMPEL

Dan "Scoob" Kempel, beloved son, brother, father, husband, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully on Feb. 5, 2024, at the age of 62, surrounded by his loving family. Born on Sept. 27, 1961, in Freeport, Dan was the son of Marvin and Vera (Diestelmeier) Kempel. Dan was a devoted husband to his wife, Jane, and a cherished father to his three sons, Jamie (Marrisa) Kempel-children: Jayden, Jarod, and Jaxsyn; Tony (Tessa) Kempel-children: Autumn & Paxton; Michael (Grace) Kempel; and two step-children, Shane (Erica) Cook-children: Avery, Kady, Faith, & Harper; and Shannon Smith-children: Torey (Conor), Julie (Kyle), Kortny; mother, Vera Kempel; sisters, Cindy Kerchner and Nancy (Lloyd) Unger; brother, Randy (Linda) Kempel. His legacy also includes three great grandchildren as well as many nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and other extended family members. Dan is preceded in death by his father Marvin Kempel and his paternal and maternal grandparents.

Dan was a pillar of strength and wisdom, always providing unwavering support and guidance to his family. He enjoyed hobby farming on his property. He loved to spend time with his family and friends enjoying



everything his property had to offer. He loved to cheer on all his grandkids at their sporting events. He enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson. He was a casual Vikings fan, and he loved his beloved dog Shaggy.

Dan started Kempel/Urish Construction with John Urish over 30 years ago. He had passed on his knowledge and workmanship to many employees through the years. He was delighted to pass on his craftsmanship and compassion for customers to his children who continue to run the business.

He will be dearly missed by his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him. The family asks to dress casually and wear a Kempel/Urish shirt if you have one.

A service was held at Zion Community Church in Pearl City 10100 W. Sabin Church Rd. on Monday, Feb. 12, with Pastor Wayne Fischer officiating. There was a visitation from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. followed by the service from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. A luncheon followed the service at the church. Condolences may be shared at [www.walkermortuary.com](http://www.walkermortuary.com).



## CHARLES HICKS

Charles M. Hicks, age 86, of Stockton, IL passed away Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, at Allure of Stockton. He was born in High View, WV on April 13, 1937, to the late Boyd and Elsie (Whitlock) Hicks. Charles married Shelby Shumate on Sept. 11, 1962. She passed away in 2008.

Charles was a diesel mechanic and worked in waste management. He also worked at the Apple Canyon Lake Recycling Center. Charles

enjoyed old cars, entertaining kids, and being around friends.

He is survived by his daughter, Peggy (Carl) Sherblum of Rhode Island; his two granddaughters, Jennifer (Jeremy) Balfour and their daughter Hailey and Alicia Hey and her two sons, Bryce and Blake. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; his sister, Betty Lou; and his brothers, Jimmy, Billy and Micky. Arrangements are private per Charles's request.

## ANNA ESTHER MEYERS

Anna Esther Meyers, 93, of Lena passed away on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024, with family by her side. She was born at home in rural Orangeville, IL on Nov. 13, 1930, to Walter and Anna (Baumert) Brandli. As the daughter of a cheesemaker, her family moved to Lena to the Excelsior Cheese Factory. She attended Excelsior country school prior to her family moving to Lena and graduated from Lena High School in 1949. She worked at the Lena Drug Store after school as a "soda jerk". As a child, she spoke both Swiss and English and played the accordion.

She married her high school sweetheart, Harold "Spud" Meyers, Sr. on April 22, 1950. After their marriage, they began farming in Lena. Anna worked alongside "Spud" in the daily operations of the family farm, which included corralling cattle, driving tractors, doing chores, and running for parts.

One of her greatest sources of joy was raising their children: Linda, Christine, Pauline, Harold, Jr. "Mike", Lisa & Mark. She treasured the time that she spent with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren attending as many events as she could. Anna was a wonderful cook and baker. She also grew a large garden and would preserve the fruits of her labor to feed family and friends. In the 1980's she began working at AJ's Lena Maid Meats until she retired in 2006.

She was a lifetime member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and served as a Eucharistic Minister. She was also a member of Home Extension and Lena Woman's Club. Some of her hobbies included her vegetable and flower gardens, knitting, quilting, bus trips, playing euchre with her card clubs and joining a ladies bowling league at the age of 80. She also enjoyed going to see plays, walking, and visiting with neighbors.

As a child, she traveled by boat with her parents to visit their homeland, Switzerland. In 2013, she enjoyed a return trip by plane with her family to visit some of the places that she remembered visiting as a child. In 2015, she also



enjoyed a trip to Alaska to visit her granddaughter's family.

Anna is survived by her four children:

Christine Bartelt of Winslow, Pauline (Paul) Cyborski of Rockford, Lisa (Bart) Conrad of Anderson, Indiana, and Mark (Lori) Meyers of Lena. Grandchildren: Jennifer (Jason) Kempel, Kimberly Leamon, Karen (Adam) Norling, David (Brittany) Cyborski, Annie (Jon) Lohrenz, Carolyn (Philip) Cowden, Lee-Ann Meyers, Kayla (Mark) Hinton, Matthew (Katelyn Kimm) Conrad, Daniel (Kenzie) Conrad, Joseph (Holly) Conrad, Mark (Sara) Meyers and Malissa (Jed) Shultz. Great-Grandchildren: Owen, Emma & Lucas Kempel; Alexander Leamon; Breton, Leif, Burke, Lindy & Ella Norling; Jacob Cyborski; Clara, Samuel, Caleb & Lisbeth Lohrenz; Oliver & Jack Cowden; Walter & Henry Hinton; Waylon, Weston & Winton Meyers; Preston, Brycen & Ryan Shultz; Brother: Paul Brandli; Sister: Beatrice (Richard) Moritz; Sister-in-law Sandra Brandli as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends along with special family friend Scot Raymer.

Anna was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Harold "Spud" Meyers, children Linda Leamon and Harold "Mike" Meyers, Jr.; son-in-law Steve "Herm" Bartelt; brother Walter Brandli; sisters-in-law: Marilyn Uhe, Marian "Cel" Fransen and Burdene Meyers and brothers-in-law Donald Meyers, Eugene Uhe and Don Fransen.

A Catholic Mass will be held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lena, IL. A visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. before the. Father Andrew Hernandez will officiate the services. Burial will follow Mass at the Lena Burial Park. A memorial has been established in her memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leamonfh.com](http://www.leamonfh.com).

## KEVIN M. ZIMMERMAN

Kevin M. Zimmerman, age 66 formerly of McConnell, IL, passed away on Feb. 23, 2024, in Lena, IL. He was born on Oct. 5, 1957, in Freeport, IL, the son of Merle N. and Therese (Ciganek) Zimmerman.

Kevin graduated from Lena-Winslow High School in the class of 1975 and then went on to United Electronics Institute and graduated in 1977. He had worked for Ingersoll Milling and Machining and then was the owner/operator of Bobtown Computing Services. Kevin had been an EMT, a member of the McConnell Fire Department, the McConnell Historical Society and the Lena Evangelical Free Church.

Kevin is survived by his siblings - Christopher Zimmerman, Sarah (Fritz) Wenger, and Kurt Zimmerman; nephews - Steven Zimmerman, Fritz, and Ross (Ashley) Wenger; niece Stephanie (Jacob) Walter; great nephew Jackson Walter; great nieces Ava and Payton



Walter. He was preceded in death by his parents, paternal grandparents Merle C. and Hazel Zimmerman, maternal grand-

parents Michael and Mary Ciganek.

A visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until time of service on Friday March 1, 2024, at the Evangelical Free Church in Lena. Funeral service will follow beginning at 11 a.m. at the Evangelical Free Church in Lena. Officiating will be Pastor Casey Dwyer. Cremation rites have been accorded. Luncheon to follow the service at the Evangelical Free Church in Lena. A memorial has been established in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leamonfh.com](http://www.leamonfh.com).

A special thank you to Laurie, Sandy, Staci, and Maranda and all of the other caregivers who cared for Kevin throughout the years!

## Church news

### McConnell Community Church

McConnell Community Church, 211 N. Hulbert Rd., McConnell, IL, will be hosting their Annual Soup and Sandwich Lunch on Sunday, March 3 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the church located at 211 N. Hulbert Rd. in McConnell. The menu will include all-you-can-eat chili, vegetable beef soup, cheese sandwiches, celery/carrot sticks, dessert, and beverage. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 5-12 years old.

### Salem United Church of Christ

All are welcome to join for a service led by Pastor Christopher Ham at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, Illinois, this Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 10 a.m. The Adult Sunday School will be hosted prior to service starting at 9 a.m. on the lower level of the church. Children's Sunday School is held during church service at 10 a.m.

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will be meeting Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at

8 a.m. at Amigo's, 306 North Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois. Everyone is welcome to join.

If interested in participating in a fun evening of crafting, please join for Craft-ernoon from 4 to 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. During this time there are snacks, a brief devotional thought, and plenty of time to work on crafts individually or together. This is hosted on the lower level of Salem United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join. For more information on any Salem related items, contact 815-369-4511 or [salemwingsofjoy@yahoo.com](mailto:salemwingsofjoy@yahoo.com).

### Lenten soup lunches

Join Pearl City Methodist Church for a brief message and a Lenten meal on Wednesdays at 12 p.m. Various area churches will sponsor the meal. A good will offering donation will be taken.

March 6: Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren

March 13: Zion Community Church

March 20: Ebenezer/ Salem United Church

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# Vilsack: Agriculture census serves as a 'wake-up call'

By Tammie Sloup  
FARMWEEK

The number of farms and farmland in the U.S. continues to fall, as the average age of farmers ticks higher.

USDA's 2022 Census of Agriculture released Feb. 13 serves as a "wake-up call" to policymakers, said USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, noting the number of farms plummeted by 142,000 from 2017 to 2022, and the country lost 20 million acres of farmland during that same period.

"This survey is essentially asking the critical question of whether as a country, are we OK with losing that many farms? And are we OK with losing that much farmland?" Vilsack said during a news conference.

"Or is there a better way?" Nationally, there were 1.9 million farms and ranches (down 7% from 2017) with an average size of 463 acres (up 5% on 880 million acres of farmland (down 2%). That is 39% of all U.S. land.

The data-rich report, produced by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, spans more than 6 million data points about America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them down to the county level. The census dates back to 1840 and is conducted every five years to help tell agriculture's story and provide valuable data for policymakers.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said the new census data shows an alarming loss of family farms.

"The latest census numbers put in black and white the warnings our members have been expressing for years," Duvall said. "Increased regulations, rising supply costs, lack of available labor and weather disasters have all squeezed farmers to the point

that many of them find it impossible to remain economically sustainable.

"Family farms not only help drive the economy, they allow the rest of the nation the freedom to pursue their dreams without worrying about whether there will be enough food in their pantries. We urge Congress to heed the warning signs of these latest numbers. Passing a new farm bill that addresses these challenges is the best way to help create an environment that attracts new farmers and enables families to pass their farms to the next generation."

The data also contained bright spots, including a rise in the number of new and beginning (operating 10 or fewer years on any farm) as well as young (under the age of 35) farmers.

Young farmers made up 9% of all producers, with the 221,233 farms with young farmers making decisions tending to be larger than average in both acres and sales.

In fact, 33% of all farms in 2022 had a new or beginning producer, NASS Statistician Virginia Harris highlighted during a presentation during USDA's Ag Outlook Forum on Feb. 15.

Vilsack said young and beginning farmers have an opportunity to help create a different industry model that not only acknowledges the importance of production agriculture and the significant investments in large farm operations, but one that also sends a message of hope and opportunity to smaller and midsize operators by giving them multiple sources of revenue and not requiring those operators to also work off-the-farm jobs to survive. USDA has been striving to do this with several climate-smart programs and initiatives to help develop diverse market

opportunities, he said.

While the number of producers between the ages of 35 and 64 declined 9%, the number of producers 65 and over increased 12% outpacing the 3.9% increase of young farmers. However, more than 1 million beginning producers were counted in the 2022 ag census.

Illinois also is in line with a decrease in farms and farmland, as well as an aging farmer demographic. The number of farms decreased 2.1% to 71,123 (the fifth highest number of farms in the U.S.), with farmland acres falling from 27 million to 26.29 million. The average age of an Illinois farmer rose to 58.6, slightly higher than the national average of 58.1.

Of the 121,342 Illinois farmers, 10,632 are under the age of 35, and 32,538 are new and beginning farmers — an increase from 2017 of 11%.

New census questions dealt with hemp, precision agriculture and internet access. Farms with internet access continued to rise from 75% in 2017 to 79% in 2022. In Illinois, farms with internet access increased slightly from 77% of all farms to 79%.

The census also included: Family-owned and operated farms accounted for 95% of all U.S. farms and operated 84% of land in farms.

U.S. farms and ranches produced \$543 billion in agricultural products, up from \$389 billion in 2017. With farm production expenses of \$424 billion, U.S. farms had net cash income of \$152 billion. Average farm income rose to \$79,790. A total of 43% of farms had positive net cash

farm income in 2022.

The total value of crops in 2022 was \$281 billion, up 45% from 2017. For livestock, the value was \$262 billion, up 35%.

A total of 153,101 farms and ranches used renewable energy producing systems compared to 133,176 farms in 2017, a 15% increase. The majority of farms (76%) with renewable energy systems reported using solar panels.

In 2022, 116,617 farms sold products directly to consumers, with sales of \$3.3 billion. Value of sales increased 16% from 2017.

The 105,384 farms with sales of \$1 million or more were 6% of U.S. farms and 31% of farmland; they sold more than three-fourths of all agricultural products. The 1.4 million farms with sales of \$50,000 or less accounted for 74% of farms, 25% of farmland, and 2% of sales.

Nearly three-fourths of farmland was used by farms specializing in two commodity categories: oilseed and grain production (32%) and beef cattle production (40%).

In 2022, 1.2 million female farmers accounted for 36% of all producers. Fifty-eight percent of all farms had at least one female decision maker.

The response rate for the 2022 ag census was 61%; Illinois' response rate was 67.5%. To read the ag census, visit: [nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/](http://nass.usda.gov/AgCensus/).

*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](http://FarmWeekNow.com).*

## February Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing Winners

The Northwest Illinois Daily (a cooperative fundraiser) announces the February winners in the 2023-2024 drawing year. The Daily Drawing is a drawing for 366 daily cash prizes from Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2024, to those donating for a ticket. Over \$21,000 is paid out to ticket holders during the drawing year. Cash prizes vary between \$50 and \$250. A ticket may win multiple times as each ticket remains in the drawing each day for the entire year, no matter how often it may be drawn.

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

### February winners include:

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| \$50 – Cole Dunlavey, Stockton      | \$50 – Brad Kempel, Lena            |
| Browntown, WI                       | \$50 – Kathy Hawkins,               |
| \$150 – Anna Hoffman, Lena          | Stockton                            |
| \$50 – Kathleen Miceli, Elizabeth   | \$50 – Pamela Oney, Dubuque, IA     |
| \$50 – Jessica Firzloff, Asbury, IA | \$50 – Diane Ege, Warren            |
| \$50 – Jeff Blair, Winslow          | \$150 – Sedona Kirk, Raleigh, NC    |
| \$50 – Karen Griffin, Apple River   | \$50 – Jen Trebian, Galena          |
| \$50 – Thomas Taylor, Dubuque       | \$50 – Malerie Mullen, Warren       |
| \$50 – Brianna Trost, Warren        | \$50 – Chad Adam, Dubuque, IA       |
| \$50 – Joni Dauphin, Mt Carroll     | \$50 – MaryAnn Smith, Hanover       |
| \$50 – Mackenzie Knautz, Galena     | \$50 – Colleen Raders, Lena         |
| \$50 – Ann Bausman, Poplar Grove    | \$50 – Nick Leiendecker, Warren     |
| \$50 – Carlene Haring, Elizabeth    | \$50 – Shelly Holverson, Cedarville |
| \$50 – Carlene Ertmer, Elizabeth    | \$50 – Lizzy Eaton, Galena          |
| \$150 – Dennis Oppold, Elizabeth    | \$50 – Joyce Gerleman, Elizabeth    |
|                                     | \$150 – Matt Noll, Stockton         |

## THE SCOOP TODAY

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# OPINION



## Weekly connection

# Peace in a crazy world



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

In all my years of life, I have never seen the world as crazy as it is today. When I was a kid, I thought the world was perfect. I thought every family was an all-American family like ours. My parents made sure we kids weren't exposed to very much of the real world, and that was good by me. We didn't have a TV that worked very well, and we never really watched it much anyway. The thing I remember about our TV whenever we did get to watch it was about every ten or fifteen minutes the picture would disappear. Then there would just be a little tiny dot in the middle of the screen for about five minutes and then the picture would come back on. That was really frustrating, and so we just never watched it much.

Besides, there were a million and one things to do outside on the farm that was far more exciting than watching TV.

We always ate our meals together as a family and then cleaned up and did the dishes as a family too. My folks made sure the kitchen was clean before we moved on with the evening. While some were taking baths the rest of us went to the living room and played with our farm toys or read books or magazines. After everyone had their baths, it was time for some family reading when my dad and mom would take turns reading us some exciting chapter books out loud as we lay around on the floor or couch trying not to fall asleep. Most of the stories were about missionaries in far off lands living out their faith. Life was pretty good, and we were pretty well protected from the concerns of the outside world. Who knew that President Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr. or Robert Kennedy had been assassinated? I sure didn't.

I do remember trying to watch the cubs or Notre Dame football games on TV once in a while. I remember it well as my brothers tried to adjust the rabbit ears on the television antennae so we could see more clearly what

was going on. I remember thinking it looks like there's a snowstorm on the baseball field, but really it was just the horrible reception. TV and technology were bad, but life was good, and we kids lived innocently in a simple world.

The first things I remember about the outside world being a little different from out homelife was during the days of the Vietnam War. There was a casualty report on the radio each day when the news came on. My mom always had the Christian radio station on in the kitchen throughout her day and I would hear the news from time to time. I remember wondering if I would have to go and fight the communist in the Vietnam War when I was older. Then, just like that it was over, and we were hearing the stories about the POW's being released and their subsequent stories of torture and struggle at the hands of our enemies. I think that's when I realized that life wasn't quite as perfect as I thought it was.

That's about the time my faith became serious and I trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior because I had grown up hearing of his great salvation and the gift of eternal life through faith in Him. Romans 10:9 says that if we confess with our mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. Some people say it's too hard to believe that the Bible is true about God coming to earth as a man to die for our sins, but I've never found it difficult to believe. The alternative of living on my own without God's love and grace is much too daunting a task. It's so much better to trust the Savior and walk side by side with Him in faith each day. I challenge you to give Him a chance today. You'll never regret it. Even though the world is crazier than ever, God's peace and confidence will reign in your heart as you grow in grace and truth. Until next week, God bless.

## McCombie helps area nurse amid state agency crisis

Illinois State government agencies have been dysfunctional for quite some time, and this includes the State's Department of Financial Professional Regulation (IDFPR). This has created hardships for countless Illinois residents, as the department controls professional licensing.

Despite bipartisan calls for improvements to IDFPR, problems still exist. House Minority Leader Tony McCombie has heard personally from dozens of frustrated constituents who want to get to work, but are unable to do so because of system inefficiencies, lack of communication within the agency, and archaic technology in use at ID-

FPR. Last month, Leader McCombie took matters into her own hands to help a constituent in need and learned first-hand just how difficult it can be to simply renew a license under current procedures at IDFPR. While in the Capitol, McCombie fielded an email from a constituent who was set to begin work as a nurse in Galena but was unable to do so until her nursing license was reinstated, and electronic payments were not accepted. Instead, McCombie walked over to the Springfield office to pay the fee for the license, and her constituent was able to begin work the next day. "This is just one example

of antiquated government systems," said McCombie. "As a real estate license holder, I can pay to renew my license online, but other licenses are unable to do that. This is not just my district or my constituents having trouble—this is a statewide, bipartisan issue that we must fix."

Leader McCombie has introduced legislation called the License Convenience Act to provide such a solution. Her bill, House Bill 4855, would call for electronic payments to be accepted for all licenses at IDFPR. "This shouldn't take a bill, it is common sense," said McCombie. "There are too many residents who want to work but are prevented from

doing so because of existing inefficiencies and I look forward to getting a solution accomplished this spring."

Leader McCombie met the nurse she helped this week in her district. It was a great full-circle moment and one that will stick with the Leader as she pushes for state agency changes this spring in the legislature.

As issues continue to arise with the IDFPR under the Pritzker Administration, Leader McCombie urges District 89 constituents to contact her office for assistance.

*Submitted by the office of House Minority Leader Tony McCombie*

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# Budget reaction: Retailers, municipalities critical of Pritzker's proposed tax changes

Comptroller praises 'targeted approach' as revenue proposals draw GOP, interest group ire

By Alex Abbeduto, Cole Longcor and Jerry Nowicki  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS  
The annual process of negotiating the state budget kicked off last week with Gov. JB Pritzker proposing a \$52.7 billion spending plan that includes hundreds of millions of dollars in new spending and tax increases, particularly for businesses.

hiatus.  
The IML particularly criticized this year's proposal in light of continued underfunding of the state's local government distributive fund. Municipalities are currently getting less than 7 percent from the state's income tax, although last year's budget contained a small increase. That's less than the 10 percent cut municipalities were getting prior to the passage of a state income tax hike in 2011.

"It's yet another cut for local revenues at the same time municipalities are given more and more unfunded mandates and less and less cooperation from the state," IML CEO Brad Cole said in a statement.

But Pritzker's office said municipalities seeking to replace the tax money can issue grocery taxes at the local level instead.

Pritzker's office also pointed to another proposed change—a \$1,000 monthly cap on a tax credit claimed by Illinois retailers for administering the state's sales tax, which will generate an estimated \$85 million for local governments and \$101 million for the state.

But that measure drew the ire of the influential Illinois Retail Merchants Association.

"The retail discount is a partial reimbursement to the hard-working retailers across Illinois who collect sales taxes on behalf of state and local governments," IRMA president and CEO Rob Karr said in a statement. "Contrary to claims, this proposal does not just target large retail stores but would impact retailers of all sizes, from independent grocers to the corner hardware store."

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition, which advocates for transportation infrastructure investment, said

it was "disappointed" with a separate proposal to move \$175 million in public transit spending from the state's general fund to its Road Fund—a source that's required by law to fund transportation-related projects.

The coalition, which includes influential labor groups and trade associations among

others, said the plan would "pit transportation needs against each other." It estimated diverting the funds could cost the Road Fund \$1 billion in possible improvements "over the next few years."

Groups such as the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities and the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association

also noted that while they agreed with Pritzker's plan in some areas, it lacked specific funding for their workforces.

IARF President and CEO Josh Evans said in a statement he was "deeply concerned" that Pritzker's plan lacked pay increases for direct service providers for people with de-

velopmental disabilities, particularly as the state is moving to end a federal consent decree that provides court oversight of its system of care.

The Community Behavioral Healthcare Association and the Illinois Health and Hospital Association both praised

See REACTION, Page 13

The governor's proposal to generate more than \$1 billion in revenue through tax code changes—which would affect the state's road fund, tax rates for retailers and funding to local governments—drew criticisms from industry groups such as the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, the Illinois Municipal League, and a coalition of transportation and union groups.

Republicans generally criticized the budget for relying on the revenue proposals which are not yet contained in law, faulting the governor for raising taxes to cover new spending.

Pritzker's fellow Democrats were generally supportive of the plan, although factions of the party laid out their own priorities.

## Interest groups

Some of the starkest criticisms of Pritzker's proposal came from the advocacy groups for the organizations that will be hardest hit by his proposed revenue changes.

That includes the Illinois Municipal League, which called Pritzker's plan to repeal a 1 percent statewide tax on grocery items "insulting," because it does not include a corresponding reimbursement plan for local governments.

Lawmakers paused the tax for fiscal year 2023, but that move reimbursed municipalities for the \$400 million not collected due to the temporary



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RIVER RIDGE CUSD #210 FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Rotary Club Student of the Quarter

On Friday, Feb. 23 the Galena Rotary Club held a meeting where they honored local sophomore students who were nominated by staff members of their respective schools for performance in the classroom, personal growth, and more. River Ridge staff nominated Ian Spangler as the Rotary Club Student of the Quarter for his academic growth and leadership in the classroom. Spangler is pictured (fourth from left) alongside fellow recipients. Congratulation, Ian!



RIVER RIDGE CUSD #210 FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## River Ridge-Scales Mound girls basketball finish strong

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats wrapped up the season with record of 25-8 overall and 7-3 in conference play. River Ridge-Scales Mound was also given the Sportsmanship Award. Senior Addison Albrecht and junior Laiken Haas both had a First Team All-Conference selection, with seniors Emily Wiederholt and Gwen Miller making the Second Team All-Conference.

# Wildcats, Hornets fall to Le-Win in regional play

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

This year's East Dubuque boys basketball regional featured a plethora of talent. The River Ridge Wildcats and the Scales Mound Hornets both had excellent regular seasons. River Ridge finished their year with 16 wins, and they proved themselves with close games against Scales Mound and Galena late. Scales Mound was consistently ranked as one of the top Illinois 1A teams as they finished the year with 23 wins in their record. Both of them found themselves in the same position when they faced off with the Lena-Winslow Panthers in regional play.

For River Ridge, they knew what they were getting themselves into. The Wildcats faced off with the Panthers late in the regular season. The Panthers controlled the game from start to finish as the Cats fell by a score of 66-50. They knew they would have to be better if they wanted to upset the Panthers in the regionals.

In the first half, the Cats appeared poised to upset the feisty Panthers. River Ridge found success by getting to the line four different times in the opening quarter. Damon Dittmar hit a pair of free throws, as well as a big three-pointer, helping River Ridge take an 11-10 lead into the second.

The Cats were even better in the second quarter. Joe Winter attacked the interior of Le-Win's defense as a pair of baskets and a two for two trip to the line helped him put up six points. Ethan Walters added four second quarter points of his own. Meanwhile, the Wildcats held Le-Win to just seven points on the other end. The

big second quarter allowed River Ridge to take a 25-17 lead into the break.

This game told the story of the season for the Cats, however. Often times, River Ridge struggled to play a complete game with four quarters of complimentary basketball. That was the case against Le-Win, as things fell apart in the second half.

River Ridge found themselves outscored 19-7 in the third and 19-12 in the fourth. They were unable to defend their lead as they eventually fell to Le-Win by a score of 55-44. The Cats were led by Walters and Winter, who both finished with 12 points on the day. Dittmar added 10, while Seth Nicholas added six in the loss. The Wildcats lose seven different seniors this year in Walters, Nicholas, Isaac Rife, Tyson Heidenreich, Aden Ahmedi, George Winter, and Edoardo Marcolin.

Enter Scales Mound. After being the higher seeded team, the Hornets were next up as they took on the Panthers in the next round of regional play. Perhaps the Hornets would have benefited from playing in the opening round as they appeared a bit rusty against the Panthers. Scales Mound had nearly a full week between their final regular season game and their first regional matchup.

Still, when the Hornets returned to the court they got off to a good start. A pair of three-pointers from Thomas Hereau and Derrick Distler helped the Hornets jump out to a four-point advantage. Seth Birkett also hit a pair of first quarter baskets, while Jonah Driscoll converted a successful and-one opportunity.

By the end of one, the Hornets sat in a good spot

with a 15-11 lead. That's where things took a turn for Scales Mound. Le-Win's offense exploded for 15 points in the second. On the other end, the Hornets put up just six points all of which came from Distler three-pointers. Not only did the Hornets lose their lead, but they went into the break trailing 26-21.

The Scales Mound offense would return to life in the third quarter. Driscoll began to take over as he quickly put up eight points to spark some momentum. Kaden Deurr also converted and an opportunity, and Evan Cogan got on the board with a three-pointer. The Hornets combined for 14 in the quarter.

Unfortunately for them, they allowed 16 on the other end. Le-Win's offense continued to find success as the Panthers took a 42-35 lead into the fourth. Facing a seven-point deficit, the Hornets had a lot of work to do if they wanted to go on another deep postseason run.

The 2024 postseason just wasn't their year. The Hornets did just enough to keep the game alive until the final buzzer, but eventually fell by a score of 52-51. Hereau led the team with 15 points. Distler was next up with 12 all of which came from three-point land. Driscoll was the third Hornet in double figures with 11.

The Hornets lose an incredible class of seniors. Although we have seen them do it before, Scales Mound will have to replace a number of key players. Cogan, Hereau, Birkett, Driscoll, Max Wienen, and Travis Wallen all graduate from the program. Distler and Deurr should both expect to take on bigger leadership roles in their absences.

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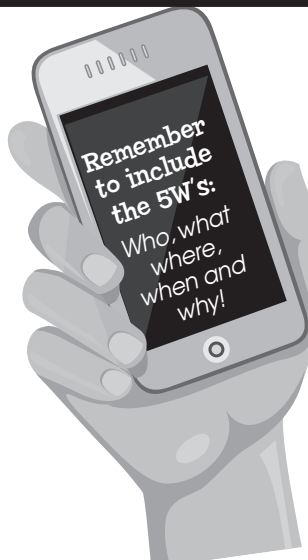
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# Health talks with Dr. Mike Wampfler

Join Dr. Mike Wampfler on Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, at the Freeport Public Library for talks on health. Dr. Mike Wampfler, a native of Stockton, IL, has over 20 years of experience in the diagnosis and treatment of spinal disorders. He is a graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic and is one of a small number of chiropractors in the entire state of IL certified in Chiropractic Biophysics® Technique.

much beyond. Instead of just addressing symptoms, the talk will cover three possible causes of fibromyalgia (physical, emotional, and chemical trauma) and possible solutions to all three.

### SADS\*: On the Rise – 7 p.m.

Why are so many Americans dying early? 158,000 more Americans in the 1<sup>st</sup> nine months of 2023 than in the same part of 2019. It's time to ask why!

\*Sudden Arrhythmic (Adult) Death Syndrome

Please call 815-947-3320 or visit [pchiropractic.com](http://pchiropractic.com) with any questions.

### Fibromyalgia – 6 p.m.

Fibromyalgia affects 18 million Americans with debilitating pain and



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## 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.



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# Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

Feb. 17 through 24 commemorated the annual National FFA week. The week holds a special place in my heart. My love for the agriculture industry began in FFA. I started as a freshman and grew into an American Degree recipient with a love and appreciation for an industry that gives so much to those around them.

FFA shaped much of my life. It provided me with skills to be successful such as time management, public speaking, record keeping and how to run a meeting just to name a few. I was able to experience several different aspects of the agriculture industry through different contests. I was able to develop leadership skills while serving as a chapter and section officer. I traveled to Springfield for State Convention and to Indianapolis for National FFA Convention. These are just a few things I gained from FFA. I am thankful to be part of the Farm Bureau and our support for the FFA in our community. Please help us celebrate this week by reflecting about your own FFA experiences and all the good FFA has done during its 90-plus years of service.

## Illinois Farm Bureau awards 27 local pollinator, environmental stewardship grants

In support of farmer-led, locally developed conservation efforts, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) is awarding 27 Nutrient Stewardship and Pollinator Conservation grants to county Farm Bureaus (CFBs) across the state for local projects. "Illinois' agricultural community is dedicated to finding innovative solutions

to protect water quality and preserve our vital pollinator habitats," said Raelynn Parmely, IFB environmental program manager. "IFB is thrilled to support projects at the local level to further research and provide community outreach and educational opportunities to share best practices. We have a great lineup of projects this year including cover crop programs, nutrient stewardship field days, watershed outreach, and pollinator seed distribution." Since 2015, IFB has awarded nearly \$1.17 million for over 150 county Farm Bureau-led nutrient projects. For the third year in a row, IFB will also distribute grants for farmer-focused programs and materials to support pollinators and monarch butterflies. In 2024, 25 CFBs will collaborate on 18 Nutrient Stewardship Grant projects. Additionally, 13 CFBs will work together on nine Pollinator Conservation Grant projects. Several CFBs with Pollinator Conservation Grant projects will also receive discounted pollinator seed from local FB locations through a partnership with local FS companies and GROW-MARK. The Nutrient Stewardship Grant program is part of IFB's ongoing commitment to furthering the state's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs). The program was developed to engage all levels of IFB in the NLRs.

Projects have focused on four priority areas including education and outreach to farmers, landowners and the public, support for research of best management practices to reduce nutrient loss from agricultural fields, support for farmer implementation efforts

across the state, and demonstrating progress toward the long-term goals of the Illinois NLRs.

The Pollinator Conservation Grant Program provides CFBs and farmers with opportunities to engage in locally led pollinator projects. The program was developed based on interest and recommendations from CFBs and farmers who wanted to access additional support for farmer-focused pollinator programming and materials.

IFB maintains an active role in supporting CFBs and local partners to develop projects that address farmer needs for research, education and outreach, and implementing best management practices for nutrient loss reduction and pollinator conservation.

The Nutrient Stewardship Grant recipient CFBs and their projects are:

Bureau will continue to support the research of Andrew Margenot, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in collecting data and developing opportunities to share preliminary results. Calhoun and Greene will continue to maintain and implement a cover crop demonstration plot and offer outreach opportunities. Clark, Douglas and Vermilion will collaborate with Illini FS to host cover crop education meetings across the counties. Clinton will continue to implement a cover crop and manure management project, including hosting multiple education and outreach opportunities. Cook will host a nutrient stewardship field day for specialty crop growers and partner with Fulton CFB and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Henry and Mercer will facilitate a farmer-led watershed advisory group and support ongoing outreach

efforts. Jo Daviess will continue to host several research trials, including trials focused on cover crops, nitrogen management and water quality. The CFB will host several education and outreach events to share results and the impact of ongoing research. Knox will maintain a Young Leader-led cover crop program which focuses on partnering with the local FS to plant one 20-acre cover crop plot per township. Partners will also develop updated data handouts and host a field day. LaSalle will host an educational event focused on advances in nutrient stewardship and technology. Lee will host a soil health exchange with Northwestern University faculty and students. Madison will initiate a soil health and manure management project, including outreach opportunities. Montgomery will host a cover crop field day in Lake Hillsboro area to support local watershed planning and implementation. Piatt and Macon will partner on a field day and other projects as part of an ongoing effort to support watershed planning efforts near Lake Decatur. Tazewell, Mason and Cass-Morgan will continue to collect data and develop a multifaceted groundwater monitoring project. Washington will continue to develop a cover crop project that includes education and outreach materials and will host a field day and summer tour. Wayne will continue field trials to demonstrate fertilizer efficiency and economic advantages compared to fertilizer applications and share results at a field day. Whiteside will host an educational meeting focused on topics related to regenerative agriculture, including cover crops and soil health. Will plans to host a series of educational meetings focused on

advances in nutrient stewardship policy, research and technology developments.

Pollinator Conservation Grant recipients and their projects include:

Clinton will continue to develop a pollinator habitat demonstration plot and work with local partners to establish an additional habitat. Cook will enhance its pollinator garden and expand its partnership with Lincoln Park Zoo. The county Farm Bureau will also distribute seed to farmer members with the assistance of Conserv FS. DeWitt will maintain its existing pollinator plot and develop educational signage. LaSalle will continue its pollinator seed distribution to farmers, as well as outreach efforts. Lee, Bureau, Stark, Marshall-Putnam and Whiteside will again offer a program to sell pollinator habitat seed at a subsidized cost to members and distribute pollinator field signs with Ag View FS. Lee will collaborate with Cook CFB to develop pollinator habitat in their adopted legislator's district. Stephenson

and Carroll will continue to work with Highland Community College to support its pollinator plot, as well as distribute pollinator seed to local farmers with the support of Stephenson and Carroll Service Companies. Washington will maintain its on-farm pollinator plot, including evaluating different establishment and management strategies. Winnebago-Boone will distribute mason bee kits and pollinator education signs.

## Pollinator presentation

On Saturday, March 9 at 1 p.m. the Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education will host a presentation on Pollinators. This event will take place at the Farm Bureau Building, 210 West Spring Street, Freeport, IL 61032.

## Stephenson County Prep, Freeze Cook orders due Feb. 28

The Stephenson County Farm Bureau and Agriculture in the Classroom program

See NEWS, Page 15

## Around the Northern Hills

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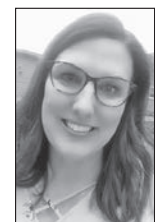
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## Member picnic save the date

Our member appreciation picnic is back this year and will be held on June 12. Members, you can look for your postcard invitation to come in the mail as it gets closer to the date.

## Scholarship deadline approaching

The scholarship deadline is coming up soon. The



By ANNETTE EGGERS  
Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

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](http://www.jodaviesscfb.com). Click on the Foundation tab, then the red scholarship button.

## Farm Fun Fact:

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## Boy Scouts to host Pancake Supper fundraiser event

The Lena-Orangeville Boy Scout Troop 91 will host a Pancake and Sausage Supper fundraiser on Monday, March 11, 2024. The event will be held at the American Legion Hall in Lena from 4:30 p.m.

to 7:30 p.m.

The donations for attending are \$8 per adult and \$6 per child aged three to ten. Tickets are available for purchase from the Scouts and at AJ's Lena Maid Meats.

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# Panthers go on unforgettable regional run

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers boys basketball team had a regional run to remember. After finishing the regular season with a record of 21-8, the Panthers went on to pick up a pair of postseason victories. The Panthers immediately faced a tough challenge when they opened up regional play with a matchup against the River Ridge Wildcats. The Cats finished the year with 16 wins and would prove to be a solid test for Le-Win.

By the end of the first quar-

ter, the Cats held a slim lead thanks to some solid free throw shooting. River Ridge got to the line four different times in the opening quarter, hitting four of their seven attempts. If it weren't for a hot start from Miles Mahon who put up six quick points, the Panthers would have faced an even bigger deficit.

River Ridge put the pressure on in quarter two. They went four for four at the line in the second, while the Panthers had zero free throws on their end. In total, River Ridge outscored Le-Win 14-7 in the second

quarter. Despite the Panthers being the higher seed and on their home court, they faced a 25-17 discrepancy heading into the break.

It didn't take long for Le-Win to get to work on chipping away at the lead. The Panthers came out strong in the second half as Mahon and Jaylen Rakowska began to pick up the pace. Mahon had another trio of baskets, giving him six points in the third. Rakowska hit a three-pointer, which led to six points of his own. Gage Dunker, Michael Mowery, and Quinn Rodebaugh each added

baskets as the Panthers outscored River Ridge 19-7.

Not only was the big third quarter enough to erase the deficit, but the Panthers took a four-point lead into the final quarter, up 36-32.

Le-Win had to earn it at the line in the fourth. Mahon hit some clutch free throws as he went four for four. Rakowska was one for two, while Cobryn Lynch went two for six in the quarter. In the end, the Panthers shot just well enough to pick up a 55-44 win over the Cats. Mahon led the way with 24 points, while Rakowska added 13 in the win.

That set the Panthers up for one of their biggest matchups in years. Their opponent for the next round was none other than the highly ranked Scales Mound Hornets. Scales Mound finished the regular season with 23 wins, although they didn't have to meet up with the Panthers. Le-Win was sure to give them a proper introduction when they met up in the post-season.

The Panthers found themselves trailing in the first half. Despite Rakowska and Mahon combining for nine first quarter points, the Hornets got off to a hot start. A pair of three-pointers helped Scales Mound take a 15-11 lead into the second.

That's where the Panthers swung the momentum. Le-Win had a big second quarter where they put up 15 while holding the Hornets to just six. Rakowska hit his second three-pointer of the game, and Mahon added a trio of interior baskets. Koby Kearns hit his lone basket of the night as the Panthers took a 26-21 lead into the break.

The Panthers kept things rolling in the second half. Mahon continued to have the hot hand as he converted a successful and-one opportunity. Mowery added four points in the third. Rakowska also hit his third three-point shot of the night as the Panthers combined for 16 in the quarter.

At the start of the fourth, Le-Win held a 42-35 advantage. Just eight minutes away from

avenging their playoff loss to Scales Mound two years prior, the Panthers locked it in. Le-Win relied on their defense and clutch free throw shooting to defend their lead. Le-Win hit six of their seven free throws in the fourth, which was just enough to hold on for the win.

Scales Mound made things interesting with a last second three-pointer, but with just one-tenth of a second left on the clock, the game was essentially over. Le-Win held on for a 52-51 victory as Mahon led the way with 17 points. Rakowska added 14, while Dunker had eight in the win.

Le-Win's run would come to an end in the regional final when they fell to South Beloit 48-44. With that, the Panthers say goodbye to their seniors in Dunker, Rodebaugh, Jake Schumacher, Cohen Goeke, Garrett Sutter, Deaken Randecker, and Mason Spidahl. Despite losing such a class, the Panthers will return a good majority of their offensive production from this 23-8 season.

## Applications now accepted for SCAHCE Scholarship

The Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education (SCAHCE) is happy to announce that applications are now being accepted for a \$300 scholarship. Individuals who are or will be studying in a family-related program such as food management, textiles, diet, nutrition, childcare, marketing, agriculture communications, business management, nursing or social services can apply.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a member in good standing or a family member, child, grandchild, niece, or nephew of such member of a

county HCE for a minimum of three years. Recipient of an SCAHCE Scholarship must be a current resident of Illinois regardless of whether they attend a school in Illinois. The applicant must attend a vocational institution or institution of higher learning working toward a vocational certification, undergraduate degree, or graduate degree.

For more information about the scholarship, or to review the application, please pick one up at the University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County Office, Building R, Highland Community Col-

lege or call 815-235-4125. Completed applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2024 and addressed to the University of Illinois Extension Office at Highland Community College, 2998 W. Pearl City Rd, Building R, Freeport, IL 61032.

The Stephenson County Association with a committee of three including the president and two present SCAHCE board members, will meet in May to review applications and select a winner for the scholarship. Past recipients may re-apply for consideration but can only be received twice.

## College news

### Western Illinois University Dean's List

A total of 1,183 undergraduate students enrolled at Western Illinois University were named to the Fall 2023 Dean's List. The total includes 107 students at the WIU-Quad Cities Campus.

To receive this award, an undergraduate student must earn at least a 3.6 grade point average on a scale of 4.0, which equals

an A in a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded courses; pass-fail hours are not counted (e.g., student teaching, internships).

Students earning Dean's List honors are listed by Illinois counties, cities and towns; as well as other states/towns and other nations.

### Apple River

Megan M Hynek (Senior)

### Stockton

Kylah A Kurek (Freshman)

### Freeport

Alexandra Q Daggert (Senior)  
Hayley S Feary (Junior)  
Nicholas S Grunewald (Senior)  
Madeline A Hasken (Senior)  
Brycelynn A Smith (Senior)

### Lena

Payton D Scace (Sophomore)



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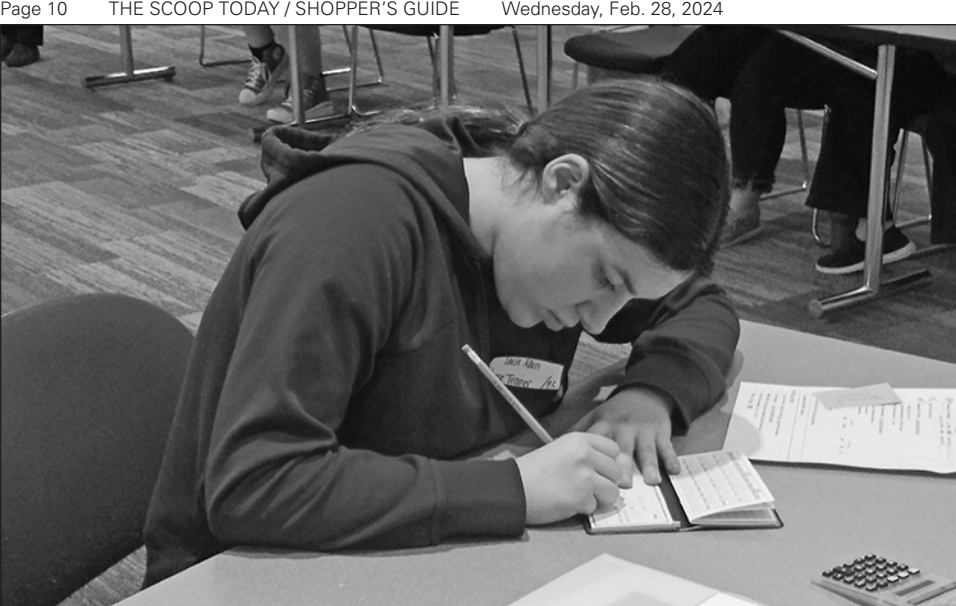
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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Students prepare for the future

Sixth grade students at Pearl City Elementary attended the Mall of Life last week. Mall of Life is organized by CareerTec and helps students practice budgeting skills, check-writing, and career choices. All the students truly enjoyed the experiences they learned from the CareerTec staff. Pictured is Lacie Allen as she writes out a check during the activities.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Sixth grade students from Pearl City visit the Mall of Life. Pictured are Cara Brinkmeier, Brennan Munoz, Adeline Pickard. Pearl City Elementary would like to extend a big thank you to the CareerTec staff for providing so many wonderful opportunities for the students.

# NUIC-West announces All-Conference Girls basketball team

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Northwest Upstate Illini-West recently announced the 2023-2024 All-Conference girls basketball teams. To no one's surprise, the teams were dominated by players from the Galena Pirates. Galena went a perfect 10-0 through conference play as they captured another NUIC-West championship. It was another step in what has been a dominant, multi-year run for the Pirates. They finished with an overall record of 29-1 and had five All-Conference players this year. Their leading players Gracie Furlong and Addie Hefel were each named NUIC-West Co-Players of the Year. Both were unanimous selections on the First Team All-Conference.

Despite Galena being an absolute powerhouse over the last few years, the NUIC-West remains loaded with talent behind them. The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats continued an excellent run of their own, going 25-8 overall and 7-3 in conference play. River Ridge-Scales Mound

won this year's Sportsmanship award.

The Wildcats had a unanimous First Team All-Conference selection of their own in Addison Albrecht. The senior led the team in scoring this year with over 10 points-per-game. She was also an efficient shooter, hitting at a 45 percent clip for the year. Joining Albrecht on First Team was junior Laiken Haas. Statistically, Haas led the team in multiple categories with 2.5 assists and 3.5 steals per game. Haas was also the second leading scorer with nine points per game. On Second Team All-Conference, RR-SM had a pair of seniors in Emily Wiederholt and Gwen Miller.

The Stockton Blackhawks were a fun team in the 2023-2024 season. After their slow start, they went on a 10-2 run that should shape the future of the program. Additionally, the Blackhawks picked up a regional victory before ending the year with an overall record of 14-17.

Stockton's Madalyn Mammoser was a unanimous selection to the First Team

All-Conference team. Mammoser, a junior, led the team in scoring with nearly 12 points per game. She averaged a double-double through the year with over 12 rebounds per game, to go along with 2.3 assists and 2.4 steals per game. Stockton had a pair of Second Team All-Conference players in junior Katelyn Winters, and senior Eve Moore. Winters averaged over seven points per game, while Moore averaged four points and three rebounds per game. Junior Dylan Broshous was also an Honorable Mention. Broshous was the team's leading three-point shooter with 33 of them on the year.

Warren was also a fun team to follow throughout the year. After an 0-5 start, the Warriors finished the year on a 13-14 run, making them 13-19 overall. Warren's senior Addie Bohnsack surpassed 1000 career points this season as she led the Warriors in scoring. Bohnsack caps off her Warren basketball career with a First Team All-Conference selection of her own. Warren also had senior Lauren Williams as an Honorable Mention.

## Northwest Upstate Illini-North All-Conference girls basketball team line-up

### First Team:

Whitney Sullivan (Sr./Orangeville) – Most Valuable Player  
Paityn London (Fr/Freeport Aquin)  
Grace Groezinger (Sr/Lena-Winslow)  
Laney Cahoon (Jr/Orangeville)  
Elaina Rager (Jr/Pecatonica)  
Nadalee Doyle (So/Orangeville)  
Kianna Degner (Jr/Pecatonica)

### Second Team:

Hanna Broge (Sr/Freeport Aquin)  
Megan Holder (Sr/Freeport Aquin)  
Rachael Setterstrom (Jr/Lena-Winslow)  
Alyssa Daughenbaugh (Jr/Lena-Winslow)  
Fallyn Endress (Jr/Pearl City)  
Lauren Mellentine (Sr/Pecatonica)

### Honorable Mention:

Meghan Carlisle (Sr/Freeport Aquin)  
Jasmyn London (Sr/Freeport Aquin)  
Finley Banks (So/Dakota)  
Cora Ingram (Jr/Dakota)  
Reagan McCallips (Sr/Durand)  
Molly Amendt (Sr/Lena-Winslow)  
Ava Vlasin (Jr/Lena-Winslow)  
Payton Thomas (Jr/Pecatonica)

## Highland Gallery announces a call for entries for the 51st annual District High School Juried Art Exhibit

Highland Community College announces a call for entries for the 51st annual District High School Juried Art Exhibit on view at the Highland Gallery from April 17 to May 8. Work is due Wednesday, April 3 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the west wing of the Ferguson Fine Arts Center, Highland Community College, 2998 West Pearl City Rd., Freeport, Ill.

The juried art exhibit is designed to recognize high school artists in Northwest Illinois to celebrate their visual contributions to the community. "This exciting annual spring exhibit showcases the

many talented high school students who choose to share their visual art accomplishments with our college and the community," said Art Instructor and Gallery Director Robert Apolloni. "Highland Gallery has been hosting this juried high school art exhibit for 51 years, serving as a highly successful collaboration between the college and our district high schools."

An Opening Reception and Awards Presentation will take place on Wednesday, April 17 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Awards will be given at 5:30 p.m. outside the Highland Gallery.

"Juried Art exhibitions

reflect the spirit and ideas of a community, allowing an opportunity to peek into the overall wellbeing of that community through the eyes of artists," Apolloni added. "Celebrating the completion of their work in such an exhibit is an important facet of maturing as an artist, and Highland Gallery is proud to offer this opportunity to our high school artists."

For more information about this exhibit or the Highland Gallery, contact Bill Buehler, Office Coordinator, Humanities, Social Sciences & Fine Arts, at 815-599-3490 or bill.buehler@highland.edu.

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Registration form to come in next issue.

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451493



# Freeport police reports

## Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon arrest

On Feb. 19, 2024, Freeport Police Officers were called to a residence in the 400 block of E. Iroquois Street to investigate a reported incident of domestic violence. Officers spoke to the female victim. The male suspect left the residence but was later located in the 500 block of S. Liberty Avenue. The male suspect was identified as 41-year-old Freeport resident, James Myles. During the course of the investigation, Officers discovered that Myles stashed a bag after he left the residence on Iroquois St. Upon further examination of the bag left behind by Myles, Officers recovered one (1) .357 magnum revolver loaded with live ammunition, one 9mm semi-automatic pistol that had been disassembled, live 9mm ammunition, an amount of substance suspected to be cocaine and an amount of substance suspected to be cannabis.

Myles was arrested by Freeport Police Officers. Felony charges of Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon and Possession of a Controlled Substance were approved by the Stephenson County State's Attorney. Myles was also charged with misdemeanor charges related to the domestic incident and Unlawful Possession of Cannabis. Myles was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he is being held pending the outcome of a detention hearing.

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.

## Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon arrest

On Feb. 18, 2024, Freeport Police Officers were investigating a reported crime that just occurred in the 200 block of W. Spring Street when Officers observed a male walking in the area of Blackhawk Avenue and Broadway Street who matched the clothing description of the reported suspect. When a Freeport Police Officer attempted to make contact with the male, he began running away from the Officer. The Officer pursued the male to a residence in the 100 block of S. Cherry Avenue. The male was given commands to stop running but refused to comply with the Officer. As the male entered the residence, the Officer saw the male toss an item inside of the residence and shut and lock the entrance door.

After a few seconds, the male exited the residence and surrendered to Officers.

During a consent search of the residence, Officers located a loaded .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol in the area where the Officer believed the suspect tossed an item. The suspect was identified as 18-year-old Freeport resident, Zyaire Erving. Erving was arrested by Freeport Police Officers and a felony charge of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon was approved by the Stephenson County State's Attorney. Erving was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he is being held pending the outcome of a detention hearing.

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.

## Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon arrest

On Feb. 20, 2024, Freeport Police Officers conducted a search warrant at a residence in the 300 block of W. Clark Street. During a search of the residence, Officers recovered a loaded 9mm semiautomatic pistol that had been altered to accommodate an automatic "switch"; however, the switch was not attached to the pistol when it was recovered. An extended magazine and live ammunition were also seized as a result of the search warrant.

The Stephenson County State's Attorney approved a felony charge of Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon for the resident, 19-year-old Deontae Swanigan. Swanigan was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he is being held pending the outcome of a detention hearing.

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.

## Aggravated Robbery arrest

On Feb. 18, 2024, Freeport Police Officers were called to a convenience store located in the 200 block of W. Spring Street regarding a robbery that just occurred. The suspect ran from the store before Officers arrived on scene. During the course of the investigation, Officers learned the male suspect entered the store with his face partially covered. The male demanded money from the cashier and implied that he was armed with a pistol. The suspect reached across the counter and opened the cash register. The suspect then took cash from the register and exited the store.

After reviewing surveillance video from the store and other locations, the suspect

was identified as 31-year-old Freeport resident, Cody Farr. Farr was arrested on February 20, 2024, after felony charges of Aggravated Robbery and Theft with a Prior Conviction were approved by the Stephenson County State's Attorney. Farr was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he is being held pending the outcome of a detention hearing.

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.

## Aggravated Battery with Strangulation arrest

On Feb. 21, 2024, Freeport Police Officers responded to a service involving a battery between a male and female at an apartment in the 2600 block of Stephenson Circle. When Of-

ficers arrived on scene, they met with the female victim who had blood on her face, chest, and arms. The female reported that she had been attacked by a male suspect who she allowed to stay with her at the apartment for the past week. The female was awakened by the male who was naked at the foot of her bed. The male then attacked the female and tried to stab her with a knife. The female fought back and was able to get the knife away from the male. The male then started choking the female for a period of time until she almost lost consciousness. The female broke free and was able to get her phone and called 9-1-1.

Officers located the suspect male in the area where the apartment was located. The male told Officers he had a knife and stated, "You are going to have to kill me." The male was taken into cus-

tody without incident and Officers located a knife in the male's pants pocket. The male was identified as 34-year-old Rockford resident, Hezekiah Glover. Felony charges of Aggravated Battery with Deadly Weapon, Aggravated Battery with Strangulation and Aggravated Assault were approved for Glover by the Stephenson County State's Attorney.

Glover was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he is being held pending the outcome of a detention hearing. 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.

## Felony Retail Theft and Possession of a Weapon arrest

On Feb. 22, 2024, Freeport Police Officers responded to

a call for service involving a Retail Theft that just occurred from a retail store in Freeport. The caller at the store knew the suspect as "Jack Cartwright" and gave Dispatch the description and registration of the vehicle Cartwright left the store in. Officers located that vehicle in the 1000 block of S. Oak Avenue. The vehicle had two occupants. The driver was identified as 44-year-old Freeport resident Anthony Evans and the passenger was identified as 33-year-old Freeport resident Jack Cartwright.

Officers attempted to detain Evans and Cartwright pursuant to the investigation. Evans resisted the Officers attempt to detain him. Cartwright was detained without incident. After Evans was secured, Officers were able to recover the item stolen from the store, a bottle of alcoholic

See REPORTS, Page 15

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

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# LEGAL NOTICES

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 65-00-36' 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 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 The Scoop Today Feb. 14, 21 & 28, 2024) 450936

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: Exam-

ine 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](mailto: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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE In the Matter of the Estate of BENJAMIN P. MAHONEY, Deceased.

Case No. 24 PR 15 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - WILL AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of Benjamin P. Mahoney. Letters of Office were issued on February 14, 2024, to Susan Ward, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Nathan J. Noble, P.C., 504 North State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

Claims against the estate may be filed on or before August 22, 2024, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

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

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk's Office-Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered. Continued on next page



# • **Reaction** (Continued from page 5)

Pritzker's proposed changes to the state's insurance code, a package of proposals aimed at controlling strategies that insurers use to reduce the amount of health care patients receive.

## Republican response

The Republican response generally focused on the increase in proposed spending, particularly for programs serving noncitizens, and the tax increases needed to pay for it.

Pritzker's plan seeks to raise \$526 million by extending a cap on the amount of net operating losses that corporations can claim on taxes. Lawmakers created a \$100,000 cap on such deductions in 2020, but it was set to expire in the 2025 tax year. The proposal would cap that number at \$500,000 for FY 25.

Pritzker proposed generating another \$93 million by capping a standard deduction claimed by millions of Illinoisans at \$2,550, rather than allowing it to increase to \$2,775 as it was slated to, due to inflation.

"After last year's session we made something very clear as a caucus – the actions taken by Democrats as it relates to an inflated budget would require tax increases," House Republican Leader Tony McCombie said.

She said the fact that the budget requires several tax increases to meet proposed spending is proof that they were right.

"We described how the state budget was built on one-time federal revenues and it would be the taxpayers that are on the hook to cover the shortfalls when those federal dollars run out," she said. "Now we are dealing with that aftermath."

Her concerns echoed those of Sen. John Curran, the Senate minority leader, who described Illinois' policies as creating "a noncitizen welfare state."

"Our priorities are simple this year: No tax increases, fund education, pay the pension bill, and fix agency dysfunction," McCombie said.

Members of the more conservative Freedom Caucus were also critical of the spending plan.

"We cannot support the expansion of new programs and new services when we have a massive budget hole," Rep. Brad Halbrook, R-Shelbyville, said. "Further, we will absolutely stand against and condemn any proposed new fee or tax increase to fill this gap."

Halbrook was particularly critical of the governor's plan to dedicate another \$182 million to services and housing

programs for migrants bused or flown to the Chicago area from the nation's southern border, particularly Texas. He did, however, say he supported the proposed elimination of the grocery tax.

## Comptroller Mendoza

Comptroller Susana Mendoza called the governor's plan "austere" and praised the governor's "targeted approach" to the upcoming fiscal year 2025.

"I think this is one of the best budgets I have ever seen in my 23 years in public service," Mendoza said. "I have been super, super critical about making sure that we don't overspend our means but honestly this budget was pretty much flat."

Last year's budget allocated \$50.4 billion in spending, or about 4.5 percent less than this year's. But the governor's proposal also included \$1.2 billion in supplemental current-year spending, which would put FY25 about \$750 million ahead of the previous year.

Mendoza said spending on programs including early childhood education – set for a \$150 million increase – and the Department of Children and Family Services – set for a \$76 million increase – are good investments. Mendoza added she supports the move to increase the pension funding goal from 90 percent to 100 percent and extend the state's timeline for achieving that another three years, to fiscal year 2048.

"I've always said we should be at 100 percent funding. I think it's a wonderful idea," Mendoza said. "It's why I believe that we need to pass my rainy-day legislation."

## Black Caucus

Members of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus held their annual response under the Capitol dome, calling the governor's budget a starting point for negotiations.

Sen. Lakesia Collins, D-Chicago, said she thinks there is much in the proposal that could help Illinois move forward – but she indicated housing people will require a greater effort by the state.

Collins said there's "a lot of work to do."

"We need home ownership," Collins said. "We hear people talking about affordable housing, but it is not affordable. The average family is making \$38,000 but living in a community where there's \$500,000 houses down the street – which drives up the market. We know this."

Senator Robert Peters, D-Chicago, said members of the Black Caucus will continue to "push" and make taking care of unhoused people

"more than a conversation."

The proposed \$50 million increase to "Home Illinois" – the governor's homelessness initiative – would support court-based rental assistance, an emergency and transitional housing program, rapid rehousing, shelter diversion techniques and the conversion of temporary shelters into permanent ones.

The Black Caucus is also interested in several other social issues that could need state appropriations, including health care, violence prevention and K-12 and vocational education. Caucus members said housing and other issues disproportionately affect Black communities, but ultimately impact all Illinoisans.

## Latino Caucus

Members of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus said they are in favor of several programs in the proposed budget, such as a new child tax credit. The credit would be available to families with children under the age of three, offering 20 percent of the taxpayer's state portion of the earned income tax credit. The governor's office estimated it would cost about \$12 million—far below a \$300 million credit sought by advocates.

But the caucus called for additional strides in funding health care.

"In order to achieve health equity in Illinois we should make additional investments in health," Lilian Jiménez, D-Chicago, said. "I am confident that the governor is working to expand health care to all Illinoisians, and we want to make sure we're working to ensure that Latinos including immigrants and refugees are included in that conversation."

Pritzker's proposed budget includes \$440 million in general revenues for a program providing state-funded health care to low-income noncitizens who would qualify for Medicaid if not for their immigration status. While it's a \$110 million general revenue decrease from last year, advocates were placated by the fact that it included another \$189 million in other funding, such as federal reimbursement for emergency services.

Sen. Celina Villanueva, D-Chicago, said the caucus will further advocate for violence prevention programs. Pritzker's budget materials highlighted \$112 million in cannabis revenues that go partially toward violence prevention, as well as a \$30 million state contribution to the Reimagining Public Safety Act, which was previously funded with federal investments.

Continued from previous page  
ered to the estate legal representative and to his attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Date: 2/15/24

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

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
Feb. 21, 28 & March 6, 2024)  
451293

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 Com-  
pany, 205 West Stephenson  
Street, Freeport, IL 61032,  
sell to the highest bidder  
for cash, the following de-  
scribed mortgaged real es-  
tate:

LOT THIRTY-ONE (31)  
IN WINTER HEIGHTS  
SUBDIVISION, A SUB-  
DIVISION IN THE  
SOUTHWEST QUARTER

(1/4) OF THE SOUTH-  
WEST QUARTER (1/4)  
OF SECTION 25 AND  
THE NORTHWEST  
QUARTER (1/4) OF THE  
NORTHWEST QUAR-  
TER (1/4) OF SECTION  
36, ALL IN TOWNSHIP  
27 NORTH, RANGE 7  
EAST OF THE FOURTH  
PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN,  
ACCORDING TO THE  
PLAT THEREOF RE-  
CORDED SEPTEMBER  
16, 1954 IN BOOK "F"  
OF PLATS, PAGE 5; SIT-  
UATED IN THE TOWN-  
SHIP OF FREEPORT,  
COUNTY OF STEPHEN-  
SON AND STATE OF IL-  
LINOIS. P.I.N. 18-13-36-  
104-012.

Commonly known as  
1450 Winter Drive, Free-  
port, IL 61032.

The improvement on the  
property consists of a sin-  
gle family residence. If the  
subject mortgaged real es-  
tate 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 Sec-  
tion 18.5 of the Condo-  
minium Property Act.

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

For information call Law  
Clerk at Plaintiff's Attor-  
ney, 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

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

KNOLLWOOD  
ESTATES, LLC,  
an Illinois Limited  
Liability Company,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Craig C. Jacobs,  
Defendants. )

No. 2024 MR 3  
NOTICE OF PETITION  
FOR TRANSFER OF  
ABANDONED TITLE

Notice is given to Defen-  
dants, Craig C. Jacobs and  
UNKNOWN OWNERS  
and UNKNOWN TEN-  
ANTS that a petition was  
filed in the Circuit Court  
of Stephenson County, Illi-  
nois, for Petition for Trans-  
fer of Abandoned Title to  
the following described  
manufactured home:

1. The owner is: Craig C.  
Jacobs.

2. The description is:  
1984 Commodore manu-  
factured home.

3. The location is: 106 Ar-  
ber Dr., Freeport, IL 61032

Now therefore, unless  
you and all whom it may  
concern, file your answer  
to the petition in the ac-  
tion or otherwise file your  
appearance therein, in the  
said Circuit Court of Ste-  
phenson County, in the  
City of Freeport, Illinois,  
on or before April 29,  
2024, a default judgment  
may be entered against you  
at any time after that day a  
judgment entered in accor-  
dance with the prayer of  
said Petition.

Dated: February 21, 2024.

Knollwood Estates LLC

By: /s/Anthony V. Coon  
Anthony V. Coon,  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Anthony V. Coon,  
#6269568

Attorney at Law  
10 N. Galena Ave., Ste.  
210

Freeport, IL 61032  
815-235-2212

Fax 815-232-5500  
tonycoonlaw@aol.com

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide

Feb. 28, March 6 & 13, 2024)

451551

## ROCK VALLEY *Publishing* LLC

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AD DEADLINE: Friday at 4 pm

Call 815.369.4112 to place your ad

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for sale

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automotive

services offered



help wanted

real estate

for sale/private party

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Rock Valley Publishing is looking for a Part-Time Advertising Sales Executive... Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising

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...

for rent

Duplex APARTMENT/DUPLEX 2 bdrm, 1 bath \$600 rent/\$600 sec. dep. available April 1. 312 Maple St., Lena. 815-990-2096



Time To Sell Your Home?

Call 815-369-4112 for details on placing an ad



Find your next home in the classifieds

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.

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.

In Memory Of

GERALD (JERRY) COX, 90 of Pecatonica passed away on January 17th, 2023 after a brief illness. Please join the family and friends to honor and celebrate his life on Sunday, March 3rd, 2-4 pm at Ciminos Restaurant, Pecatonica.

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.

transportation

Automobiles

2010 TOYOTA COROLLA LE Good brakes, good tires, new battery. No rust. 183,500 miles. Good running car! \$5,150. Call 815-520-1094.

Trucks & Trailers

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

TRUCK FOR SALE 1992 Ford F-250 XLT Super Cab, 7.5 Liter gas, Four wheel drive with locking hubs, automatic. 123,000 original miles. This California truck is super clean. equipped with power windows, power door locks, power steering, bluetooth stereo, 2-tone paint, excellent tires. This truck is really nice. Must See! Elkhorn, WI. \$13,950. (262) 949-6997.

Automobiles Wanted

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

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Ad must be prepaid. Deadlines vary.

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Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price

Grid for writing ad details with 4 columns and 4 rows.

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388156

422785



# •Reports (Continued from page 11)

liquor. Officers also recovered a loaded .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol in the area of the vehicle last occupied by Evans.

Felony charges of Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon, Aggravated Unlawful Use of a Weapon and Obstructing Justice were approved for Evans by the Stephenson County State's Attorney. A felony charge of Retail Theft with a Prior Conviction was approved for Cartwright by the Stephenson County State's At-

torney.

Evans was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he is being held pending the outcome of a detention hearing. Cartwright was processed at the Police Department and released under the provisions set forth in the Pre-Trial Fairness Act. The public is reminded that the defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

# •News (Continued from page 8)

wants to help make your life easier with our Prep, Freeze, Cook fundraiser. Proceeds of this fundraiser help support the Agriculture in the Classroom program in Stephenson County. Agriculture in the Classroom teaches students about where their food comes from and the importance of agriculture. So far this year students have learned about apples, pumpkins, turkeys, cranberries, and pigs. This program is free to all classrooms in our county.

Prep, Freeze, Cook makes family mealtime easy, by providing ten prepared and frozen meals for five person or two person quantities. Each individual who orders will receive one of the following meals: Three Cheese Lasagna, Gravy Pork Roast, Root Beer Pulled Pork, Chicken and Broccoli Mac n Cheese, Bacon Caesar Chicken Casserole, Ham Breakfast Burritos, Honey BBQ Chicken, Cheddar Bacon BBQ Burgers,

Taco Casserole, and Chicken Pot Pie Soup.

Five-person meals are \$175 and the two-person meals are \$90. We are accepting orders now through Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m. Orders will be ready for curbside pickup on Wednesday, March 13 from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau. Orders can be placed over the phone at 815-232-3186, in person at 210 west Spring Street, Freeport, IL, or by printing and mailing the order form off our website: [www.stephenson-cfb.org](http://www.stephenson-cfb.org) under "news" tab. If you would like to support the Agriculture in the Classroom program but are not interested in meals, donations can be made to the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation by mailing/dropping off donations to 210 West Spring Street, Freeport, IL. If you have questions, please contact our office at 815-232-3186 or by emailing [office@stephensoncfb.org](mailto:office@stephensoncfb.org).

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## FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

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

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**Rock Valley Publishing LLC**  
 The Scoop and Shopper's Guide

# REAL ESTATE NOTICES

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 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](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com)  
 13237904

(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).

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:

ments 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](mailto:ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com)  
 Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711  
 JB&A # IL 23 0451  
 13237991

(Published in The Shopper's Guide  
 Feb. 14, 21 & 28, 2024)  
 450935

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.

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.mrpilc.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# 21-071581L

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.  
 13238119

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## Adolescent oral health issues

Dr. Stephen Petras  
AN ILLINOIS LICENSED GENERAL DENTIST

Adolescence refers to the period of accelerated biological growth and changes that occur as a child transitions to becoming an adult. Because of these biological changes, adolescents face additional challenges to their oral health. In addition to maintaining daily oral hygiene, today's adolescents are exposed to unprecedented social media misinformation and influencers that put them at risk for oral and other injuries, eating disorders, nicotine and alcohol abuse and other harmful behaviors. Taking charge of maintaining their oral health is an important part of growing up, as oral disease can affect an adolescent's speech, ability to concentrate and learn, production status, self-esteem, social life, and overall health. Understanding these changes will help as you guide your child towards healthy independence.

The increase in sex hormones during puberty make adolescents more prone to gum disease. This occurs for the following reasons. These hormones may alter capillary permeability and increase fluid accumulation in the gingival tissues, modify the gingival inflammatory response and cause exaggerated gingival inflammation. Unfortunately, adolescents' increasing autonomy and involvement in extracurricular activities often lead to behaviors that further contribute to oral disease. They snack frequently on sweet and starchy foods, drink copious amounts of carbonated beverage and sports drinks, and neglect to floss and brush their teeth at night, leaving remnants of everything they ate that day on their teeth all night, when saliva production is at its lowest.

Adolescence is characterized by an increase in risk-taking behaviors (use of tobacco, alcohol, etc.) especially in the presence of peers. This is a

result of changes in the brain around the time of puberty. Although your child's brain stops growing in terms of size by early adolescence, brain development continues to age 25. The pre-frontal cortex undergoes considerable development during the adolescent years. This area of the brain is responsible for reasoning, planning, judgement and impulse control. The use of nicotine not only wreaks havoc on your child's oral health, but it has a strong negative impact on their brain development. Drinking alcohol dehydrates you, making you more prone to decay and periodontal disease. Drinking alcohol during adolescence not only affects brain development, but it can also cause permanent brain damage. For adolescents having trouble with impulse control, drinking alcohol not only exasperates this, but it also compromises their ability to sense danger by disrupting

the part of the brain called the amygdala.

While data from the CDC 2023 National Youth Tobacco Survey showed a decline in reported current use of tobacco products in high school students (16.5% to 12.6%), middle grade student's use grew from 4.5% to 6.6%. Similarly, the CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System's 2023 report showed that alcohol use has declined in high school students, while remaining steady in middle grade students.

Stress during adolescence can lead to habits that compromise oral health. Persistent nail biting can lead to dental erosion, lacerated gums, and infections. Chewing on ice can lead to chipped or cracked teeth, damaged fillings, and nerve sensitivity. Extreme dieting and/or purging can affect oral, mental and overall health.

Third molars can present acute and chronic problems for the adolescent. Impaction or

malposition can lead to such problems as pericoronitis, caries, cysts, or periodontal problems. Disorders of the TMJ joint can occur at any age, but symptoms appear more prevalent in adolescence. Adolescent females had more TMJ disorders than males.

Malocclusion refers to improper relation to the upper and lower jaws. Skeletal malocclusions occur when an abnormal jaw length creates a misalignment of the teeth. A dental malocclusion occurs when the upper and lower jaw lengths are considered normal, but one or more teeth are out of alignment. Malocclusions can result in functional, esthetic, physiologic, or emotional problems for the adolescent. Abnormal eruption patterns of the adolescent's permanent teeth can contribute to root resorption, bone loss, gingival defects, space loss, and esthetic concerns.

As your adolescent gains

independence over their personal care, it is important to keep oral hygiene a priority because lifelong health habits are created during these formative years. This is most effective when focused on what matters to adolescents at present rather than focusing on the future. Stress that practicing good oral hygiene, improving diet, and wearing protective gear can enhance physical appearance and self-esteem. Encouraged them to drink water rather than sodas, sports drinks, energy drinks, or fruit juices for the same reasons. Adolescents are concerned about their performance in sports, so use this concern to emphasize that junk food does not provide the energy or the ability to maintain focus and energy for athletic success. Not taking care of their oral health also puts them at risk of missing a game because of a dental emergency. That is neither a team-building nor winning strategy.

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