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VOL. 86 • NO. 14

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024



VOICES FACEBOOK PHOTO ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING

## VOICES of Stephenson County

VOICES was honored to receive a donation of 30 soft tie blankets following a women's retreat at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena. The 80 retreat attendees completed the blankets as part of a service project during the retreat. Survivors already are using the bright, cheery fleece blankets to stay cozy. Shown, from left, are Lauren from St. John's Lutheran Church, who helped organize the retreat, and Donna, from the VOICES staff.

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# Obituaries

## DUANE LOTZ

Duane E. Lotz, age 88 of Lena, IL, passed away peacefully at Liberty Village in Freeport, IL surrounded by his family on March 19, 2024. He was born on April 9, 1935, in Freeport, IL the son of Leo and Kathryn (Stitzel) Lotz. Duane married Jo Ann Bares on September 11, 1954, at Cherry Grove Church of the Brethren in Lanark, IL.

Duane owned and operated Winslow TV for 27 years and loved serving his community. He loved his own airplane and enjoyed flying as well as playing basketball and golf. He also enjoyed a good card game. Duane loved attending his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren's sporting events. He was an avid Chicago Bears or Chicago White Sox's fan. For 30 years Duane and Jo Ann lived in Las Vegas and during his time there he worked at the Imperial Palace Casino. He was a former member of the Winslow Town Board and Winslow Fire Department, as well as a long-time member of the St John's Lutheran Church.



Duane is survived by his wife Jo Ann of Lena; children- Steve (Julie) Lotz of Lena, John Lotz of Bremerton, WA, Lizabeth "Betsy" (Michael) Kopko of Ottawa, IL; grandchildren- Susan (Ryan) Amendt, Melissa (Jessie) Smith, Lilly Lotz, John "JJ" Lotz, Kyle Burnett, Angela (Ian) Cordero, and Amanda Burnett; great-grandchildren- Max and Molly Amendt, Owen Smith and Oliver Cordero; brother- Arthur Lotz of Indianapolis, IN; and sister- Marilee (Walter) Gilliland of Fort Wayne, IN. He is preceded in death by his parents.

The family would like to thank Dr. Richard Bell and Staff at FHN and Manor Court staff for their excellent care.

A private family funeral service will be held at a later date. Cremation rites have been accorded. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leadmonfh.com](http://www.leadmonfh.com).

## DIANE WILLS

Diane B. Wills, age 71 of Warren, passed away Saturday, March 16, 2024, at home surrounded by her loving family. She was born on September 11, 1952, to John and Lillie Redington. She married the love of her life James Wills on April 29, 1978, in Warren, Illinois at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Diane graduated from Warren High School and worked for Micro Switch. She had a love for golf, watching grandkids play sports, gourd making, collecting Longaberger and rusty yard art. She was also entertained by watching all the wildlife out her back window.

She is survived by her husband, James Wills, and their three children Michelle (Kip) Raab of Warren, IL, Ryan (Ashley) Wills of Warren, IL, and Kimberly (Shawn) Saunders of Apple River, IL. She had 9 grandchildren: Brady (Ashley)Raab, Emily and Lane Raab, Addey and Ayla Wills, Tyler (Madysen) Saunders, Brayden, Carsyn and Kyron Saunders. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Hildi



Redington, sister-in-law Donna (Bill) Miller, and Richard (Mary) Wills. And her favorite canine, Holly.

She is preceded in death by her parents John and Lillie Redington, her brother Larry Redington, her father-in-law Wilbur Wills, mother-in-law Alice Wills, sister-in-law Rosie Wills, and her beloved pets.

The visitation was held at Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren, IL, on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, followed by a service on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at the funeral home. A private family burial followed the service at Scales Mound Township Cemetery in Scales Mound.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Warren Area Ambulance Service and Warren and Stockton Police Departments. A memorial fund has been established in her memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leadmonfh.com](http://www.leadmonfh.com).

## DONNA MUSSER

Donna Lee (Johnson) Musser passed away March 15, 2024, at Liberty Village in Freeport, IL, where she had been a resident since July of 2020. She was born May 10, 1934, to John and Esther (Korertner) Johnson. She graduated from Pearl City High School in 1952. Donna married Kenneth Musser on October 4, 1953, in what is now Zion Community Church in Pearl City; they celebrated 66 years of marriage.

She was a life-long member of Zion Community Church where she helped start the famous Swiss Steak Supper, held various leadership roles, taught Sunday School, played the piano, and sang. She was an election judge at Pearl City for decades. She was a long-time member of the Pearl City American Legion Auxiliary; she helped with poppy sales, monthly suppers, and held numerous leadership roles. Donna was well known for her pies and baked goods, being the Avon Lady for over 60 years, and was an avid knitter. She loved to exhibit at local fairs, and you would often find her name under "Best of Show". She would exhibit canned goods, baked goods, and her knitting. She enjoyed feeding everyone, but especially her grandchildren.

Married to a farmer, she was a dutiful farm wife. She tended a massive garden, cleaned the milk tanks, and did other duties around the farm. Once they moved off the farm into town, the couple enjoyed the socialness that town living brought them; regular after-school visits from their grandchildren, watching the traffic, and visiting with friends and neighbors that stopped by. Donna was all about the social. You



would find her at grandchildren's sporting events, local community events, county fairs, and sitting out on her deck.

Donna is preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth; parents John and Esther; her siblings Karl (Elaine) Johnson, Morrell (Betty) Johnson, Eileen (Robert) Eaglin, Jean (Dale) Wingert, and her son-in-law Edwin Curry. She is survived by her son: James (Denise) Musser; daughters: Barbara Curry and Leslie Musser. Grandchildren: Joel, Darin (Shannon), Brett (Aubrey), Courtney, Brock (Kim) Musser, Kerstin Curry (Cal Reiger), Morgan (Keagan) Blasing, and Grant Curry (Hannah Krahn). She is also survived by her great grandchildren: Drake, Brea, Charlotte, Gemma, Shea, Sawyer, Levi, and Tobias Musser, Brixtin and Layla Blasing, and Kasey Curry.

The family would like to thank the staff and residents of Liberty Village for taking great care of her and embracing Donna's last years. In addition, we would like to extend a thank you to Hospice for their care and compassion over the last several months.

Funeral service was held on Friday, March 22, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at Zion Community Church in Pearl City. There was a visitation on Thursday, March 21, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. also at the church. Interment took place at Oakland Mausoleum in Freeport. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).

## DAVID KLOEPPING

David Duane Kloeping, age 71, of Loran, IL passed away Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at his home. He was born on March 26, 1952, to

the late John and Leanela (Piper) Kloeping. David married Kathleen Schroeder. Kathleen passed away May 26, 2002.

David was a 1970 gradu-

ate of Lanark High School. He farmed his whole life and enjoyed hunting in his spare time.

He is survived by his son, John Kloeping of Loran, IL;

his daughter, Crena (Jason) Hamilton of Freeport, IL; his brother, Michael (Mary) Kloeping of Menasha, WI; his nephew, Christopher (Katie) Kloeping of German Town, WI; his niece, Sarah Kloeping of Green Bay, WI. He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at Hermann Funeral Home in Pearl City from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Interment will take place at Cherry Grove Cemetery in Lanark. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).



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Thank You

We are touched by the generous outreach of support that has been shown to us in gifts of flowers, food, cards, calls, and donations to Anna's memorial. Your kindness and compassion during this time is greatly appreciated. We would also like to thank FHN Memorial Hospital, Supportive Care, and Hospice as well as the Lena Living Center for their support and care.

With Grateful Hearts, The Family of Anna Meyers

453003

# Church news

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024, to celebrate Easter Sunrise worship. Service will be at 7 a.m. The Gospel will be from Mark 16:1-8. Easter Sunday Worship service will be held at 9:30 a.m. with special music by choir, and handbells. Holy Communion will be celebrated in this service. This week's gospel reading is from Luke 24:13-49.

On Wednesday, April 3 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience necessary and all are welcome to join. Come and tie the quilts and make difference in the world.

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

## St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate Maundy Thursday on March 28 at 7 p.m., Good Friday on March 29 at 7 p.m., and Easter Sunday on March 31. Children will be receiving their first communion at the Maundy Thursday service.

Everyone is welcome to come play cards and dominoes on Thursday, March 28 at 1 p.m. and dominoes on Tuesday, April 2 at 9 a.m.

The April Grace Meal will be on Sunday, April 21. Meals can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on the 21. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, April 18. The menu for the April meal will be Pork Chops, Lutheran Potatoes,

Corn, Cole Slaw and Tapioca Pudding. This meal is possible due to donations and a grant from the Foundation of Northwest Illinois.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, April 4 at 3:15 p.m. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

St. John's will be hosting a Wellness Screening on Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The screenings done will include blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol for adults (fasting is not required). It is open to the public and free of charge.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is an ELCA parish and is located at 229 First St. in Pearl City. We are handicapped accessible. If you need to contact the pastor or church, you may call 815-443-2215 for information.

## Evangelical Free Church of Lena

The Evangelical Free Church of Lena will sponsor Egg Hunts for all children at the following homes:

Friday, March 29, 10 a.m. at Corbin home, 230 S. Summit, Pearl City, IL.

Friday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. at Graham home, 503 Locust St., Lena, IL.

Saturday, March 30 2:00 p.m. at Campbell home, 208 Bitternut Drive, Lena, IL.

Good Friday service will be held at 7 p.m. Easter Sunday service will be held at 10 a.m.

## Salem United Church of Christ

Join Salem United Church of Christ for an Easter service led by Pastor Christopher Ham on Sunday, March 31, 2024, at 10 a.m. Before service, an Easter breakfast will be held on the lower level from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School is held during church service at 10 a.m.

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet April 4 at 8 a.m. at Landmark Family Restaurant, 1 East Main Street, Freeport, Illinois. Everyone is welcome to join.

Please join for Crafternoon from 4 p.m. 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.

## McConnell Community Church Holy Week services

Maundy Thursday Service will be held on March 28 at 6:30 p.m. Easter Sunday Resurrection Service will be held on March 31 with breakfast at 8 a.m. and worship at 9 a.m.

## Calvary Church of Stockton

The public is invited to any and all of the activities during Passion week at Calvary Church of Stockton who will be holding a Maundy Thursday Service, and a Good Friday service, in addition to an Easter Day Service and Breakfast.

At 7 p.m. on March 28, at the Maundy Thursday Service, Calvary holds a special service that everyone looks forward to. The focus of the message will be on the value of the "30 Pieces of Silver" which was given as payment to Judas for Jesus. Calvary Church practices Open Communion which means that anyone who professes Christ may partake.

Easter Sunday will begin with a breakfast and brief message at 8 a.m. Sunday School for both adults and children will begin at 8:45 a.m. The Easter message will start at 10 a.m.

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## This is what Love looks like - God's love for us in Christ



Worship with our family at St. John's this Holy Week and find out what God's love looks like for you!

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 7:00 p.m.           | Maundy Thursday Worship<br>Holy Communion<br>Stripping of the Altar  |
| 7:00 p.m.           | Good Friday Tenebrae Worship<br>Singing is Acapella  |
| 7. 9 and 10:30 a.m. | Easter Worship<br>Special Music<br>Children's Message<br>Power Point & Video   |
| 8 a.m.              | Easter Breakfast - eggs, sausage, pancakes, donuts, coffee, milk<br>Served by our Junior & Senior High Youth<br>Free will donation |

*Artwork by Lisa Lobdell, used with permission.*

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## Meat Raffle

### Sunday, April 14

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at 1 p.m.

All proceeds to Support the McConnell American Legion Auxiliary Post 1225



Meat provided by AJ Lena Maid Meats

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# OPINION

## Slices of life

# Funny things you think, do and say when you are a widow

You know what they say: sometimes you just have to laugh. And why not?

Laughter can be healing. It can be an escape. It lowers stress. It gives a boost to your immune system. It is relaxing. It is stimulating. It increases endorphins and it can provide a respite from an otherwise bleak situation. It can be fun.

And what, if not widowhood, correlates so very closely with laughter? I can't think of a thing, she said with a wry, all-knowing, sarcastic smile.

Gotcha. Being a widow has provided a unique, albeit,



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

quirky and (dare I say) weird outlook into the everyday and even the mundane. Nothing is expected or unexpected. It is new and heartbreaking and hilarious - all at the same time.

I hesitate to share, because the humor of widowhood can be dark, or at least dark-ish. But don't knock it until you've lived it. Sometimes

you just have to giggle at the pain.

I do it all the time.

Take this afternoon. I was in a good mood and looked at myself in the bathroom mirror and said, rather jokingly, "I hope my boyfriend calls tonight." Until I remembered ...

I don't have a boyfriend.

(A note about sanity here: It is sanctioned and definitely okay to talk to yourself in the mirror when you are a widow. Who else do you have to talk to?)

Back to my mirror, mirror on the wall:

My original statement (to myself) was somehow exceedingly humorous to me in that moment. I gave myself a smile in the mirror and said it out loud, "You don't have a boyfriend."

Next, through my giggles I whispered, "Yet." And that one extra word seemed vindicating in a number of

ways. Plus hilarious—and hopeful.

I'll take hopeful any day, even Tuesday.

But there's more! Bedmaking 2.1: I still sleep in "my" side of the bed. Yet when I wash the sheets, I have to do the whole set - both sides. This seems like half a waste - washing half-clean, half-dirty sheets. I wish there was a way to wash half the bed, but I've yet to determine a solution to that one.

Maybe I could sleep on each side of the bed half the time, a night here and a night there, in order to use the sheets evenly.

I thought about this, and then considered the downside. I mean, think about it, a woman sleeping here and there—willy-nilly—depending on the night. It just isn't for me. I was in a loyal marriage for more than three decades. I didn't make it this

far to engage in behavior that could get me accused of sleeping around—even if it is within my own bed.

Oh goodness, who am I kidding? I'm not nearly that exciting. I don't even have a TV in my bedroom.

One final example: Remote controls (okay, that's multiple examples, but you catch my gist.)

I now enjoy possession of the TV remote. And the fan remote. And a remote for which I know not its purpose, but it is a remote and it is mine.

Dang, I'm not lying people, it feels good to actually hold the remote (or maybe three of them) in my two hands.

I'm not going to imply nor allege that I have mastered the control of the remotes. I've only been a widow for three years; give me time. But I do have possession, and I've heard (from someone I

may have been married to) that possession is nine-tenths of the law.

For now, that will have to suffice. And in finding congruity with the theme of this column, holding the remotes, while not fully understanding their function, gives me a knowing, wry smile.

I'm smiling more these days, whether it's in response to the incongruity of widowhood or life in general—or maybe just the fact that I'm alive, the sun is shining and I'm finding new ways to giggle at myself each a day, even if the gal in the mirror is the only one who sees it.

(So far.)

Isn't that grand?

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

## Guidelines for writing, submitting a letter to the editor

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

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

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

**We reserve the right to edit a letter for reasons of clarity, space restrictions and libel.**

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**EDITOR:** Kathleen Cruger

**Advertising Sales:** Cyndee Stiefel • [lenaads@rvpublishing.com](mailto:lenaads@rvpublishing.com)

**Office Manager:** Jessica Tessoroff

**Telephone:** 815-369-4112 • **Fax:** 815-369-9093

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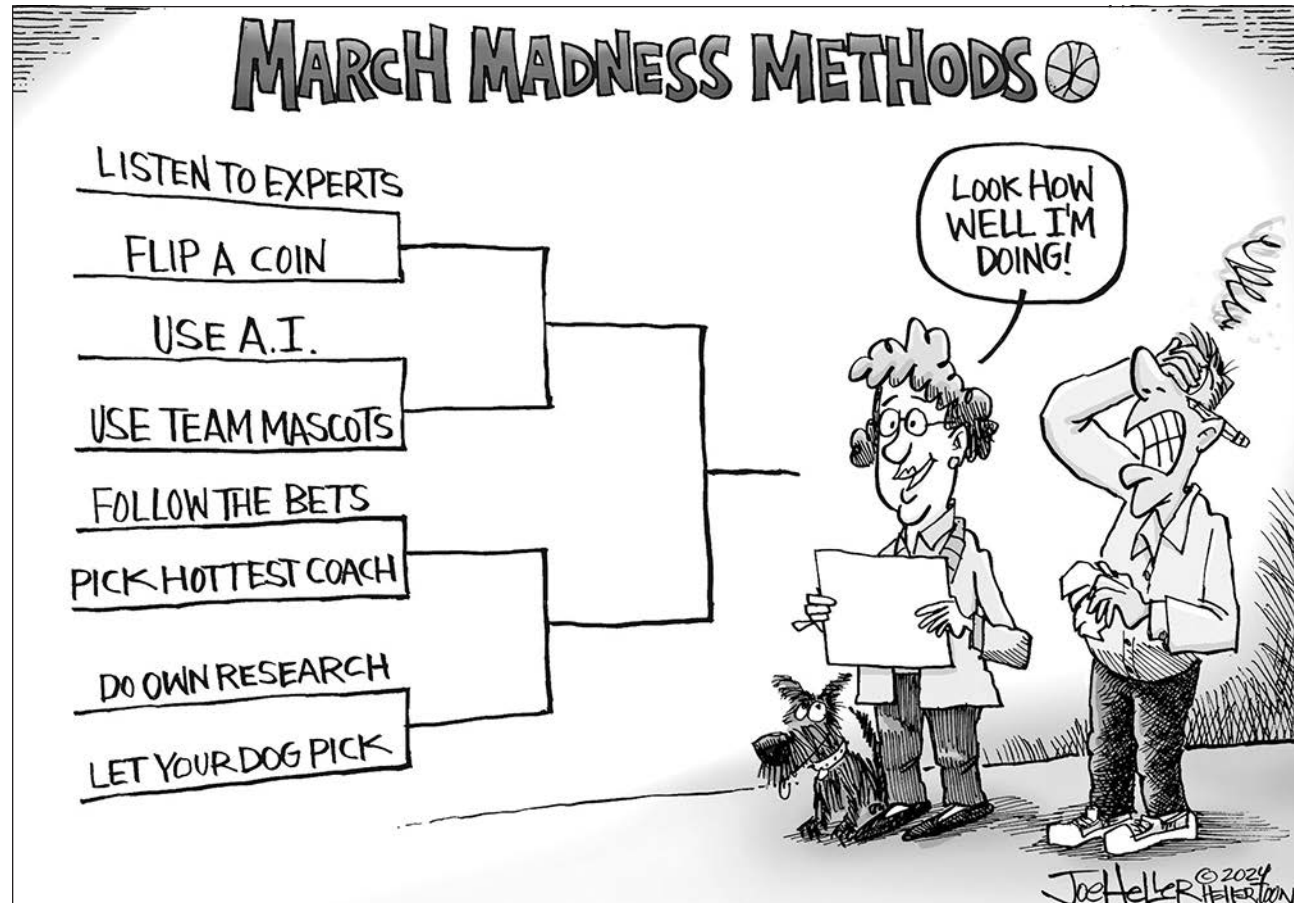
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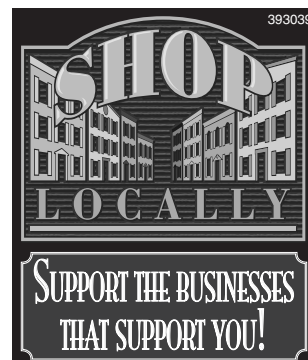
## News briefs

### Female veterans brunch

The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will honor female veterans with a brunch on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. This will be held at the Lena American Legion Home at 316 W. Main St., Lena. There will be no charge for this brunch. Join for fellowship and entertainment. Please call 815-369-4684 or [jamcps54@yahoo.com](mailto:jamcps54@yahoo.com) to make reservations or with any questions. Reservations are requested by April 10.

### McConnell Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual McConnell Easter Egg Hunt will be held rain or shine on Saturday, March 30 at Community Church Hall, 211 N. Hulbert Rd., in McConnell. All children up to age 10 may participate. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the Egg Hunt will begin at 1 p.m. sharp. This event is sponsored by The McConnell Area Historical Society.





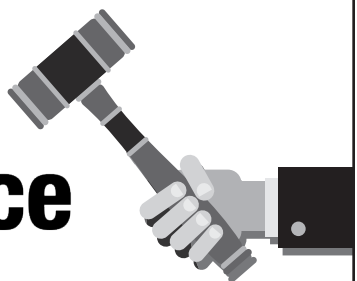
SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Delta Kappa Gamma Society International introduces new art pieces to gallery

The Arts and Humanities Jury of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International is pleased to announce the publication of two photography pieces. The pieces are 'Icy Blanket' and a mixed media piece entitled 'Tangled Dish'. They are now on display in the DKG Gallery of Fine Arts, an online gallery of works of art and letters at [www.dkg.org](http://www.dkg.org). Artist Mary Stayner is a resident of Stockton, Illinois, and a member of Pi Chapter of the Illinois State Organization of the Society.

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Sale bill will be posted on [AuctionZip.com](http://AuctionZip.com) (ID #43915)

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# Wildcats open 2024 baseball season with offensive breakout

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

Most teams are expecting to shake off the rust and wake up the bats when they step on the baseball diamond for a new season. That is especially true in the Midwest, where teams suffer through repeated cancellations and brutal weather to begin the year.

That hasn't been an issue for the River Ridge-Scales

Mound Wildcats, however. Sure, they had a couple of early cancellations, but what team hasn't? The difference is that RR-SM's offense hit the field looking like a team of seasoned vets. After just two games of play, the Wildcats had already put up 48 runs on the young season. It wasn't heavily lopsided to come game either. The Wildcats came into each game with a balanced attack as their bats led the way to victory.

RR-SM opened the 2024 season on March 14 when they took on the Oregon Hawks. It didn't take long for the Cats to get things going at the plate. A nine-run first inning gave the Wildcats a massive lead before they even recorded three outs. Kaden Deurr had the big hit of the inning as his single up the

middle drove in a pair of runs. George Winter followed up with an RBI single of his own. George eventually reached home safely, putting the Cats up 9-0.

Oregon chipped away with three runs in the bottom half, but that was as close as the Hawks could get. RR-SM blew the game wide open with six runs in the top of the third. Joe Winter crushed a double to center, which drove in Ben Richmond to score. Mason Smith, Damon Dittmar, and Sam Rife followed up with three consecutive singles, putting the Cats up 14-4. Before the inning came to an end, George expanded the lead when he ripped a line drive into left. After one run had already crossed, an error on the

throw allowed another to come in. By the middle of the third, RR-SM held a massive 17-4 lead.

The Wildcats put the finishing touches on in the top of the fourth. A slew of defensive errors allowed a game that was already out of reach to get out of hand. In the end, RR-SM picked up a 23-7 victory in what was a dominant season opener.

Deurr led the way at the plate, going four for five with four runs batted in and two runs scored. Smith was next up, going three for four with three RBI and four runs scored. George was two for five with three RBI and two runs scored. Joe was right there, going two for five with two RBI and two runs scored. Seven different

Wildcats had multi-hit days in the opener.

The Wildcats had to wait a week before getting back on the diamond for a live game, but when they did, they didn't skip a beat. On March 21 the RR-SM offense had another explosive day as they faced off with Orangeville-Aquino.

Once again, the Wildcats got off to a red-hot start. Eleven runs in the top of the first had this game in fear of a mercy rule from the start. Joe drove in the game's first runs with a groundball through the left side. Camden Flack followed up with a two-run single to right.

The Wildcats put up another nine runs in the top of the third as they quickly put this one away. The Winters com-

bined for an exceptional day at the plate as George and Joe led the way to victory. Joe was nearly perfect on the day, going three for five with four RBI and three runs scored. Joe was one for two with three RBI and two runs scored. Flack was also one for two with three RBI, two walks, and three runs scored.

On the mound, Dittmar tossed two clean innings with four strikeouts and one hit allowed. Rife also pitched a quick inning with one strikeout and zero hits allowed.

After the 2-0 start, the Wildcats are sitting high. They will need to remain focused when they face much tighter defenses later on. This Thursday, March 4 the Wildcats are set to host East Dubuque at 4:30 p.m.



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# Around the Northern Hills

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau, in cooperation with Midwest Medical Center, announces a new mental health program specifically designed for women. The program, called "Mocktails and Mental Health", aims to address the unique mental health challenges that women face and provide them with the support and resources they need to thrive.



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

Join us for an evening of love and laughs as we find ways to seek joy, speak well, and stress better! Adrienne DeSutter, Mental Health Specialist will help you discover a work/life balance, manage stress, improve communication skills, and shift your perspective.

This program is being held at Midwest Medical Center, 1 Medical Center Drive in Galena on Wednesday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. This event is free, but space is limited, and an RSVP is required. Please call the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau at 815.858.2235 to register.

## Cover Crop Field Day

We will be hosting his annual fall field day on Friday, April 5 at 1 p.m. It will be held at the first field entrance south of 4629 IL Route 78 on the east side of 78 (south of Stockton). Come see the updates on the multi-year cover crop project. Speakers will include Greg Thoren,

owner and host, John Musser, Stephenson Service Co., Art Scheele, AgNetic, UW-Platteville Researchers.

## The Young Leaders Committee

Are you between the ages of 18 and 35 and have an interest in agriculture? The Young Leaders Committee is a great group of individuals that enjoy promoting agriculture and I would love to see more people join in. The next meeting is Sunday, April 7 at 6 p.m. here at the farm bureau office in Elizabeth. If you have any questions, call our office at 815.858.2235 or email jdcfbmgr@gmail.com.

## Nurse practitioner scholarships

Applications are now available for nurse practitioner scholarships through the Illinois Farm Bureau Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship program. There will be 15 scholarships, worth \$4,000 each. The scholarship program helps encourage and develop a pool of rural health practitioners to help meet the health care needs in

rural Illinois. Students who receive the scholarship agree to practice for two years in an approved rural area in Illinois. To be eligible, students must be Illinois residents and be a registered nurse accepted in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program. Applications are available at [www.rimsap.com](http://www.rimsap.com) and are due May 1.

For further information, please feel free to reach out to Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or via email at [dgallivan@ilfb.org](mailto:dgallivan@ilfb.org).

## Farm Fun Fact

One-third of the U.S., or 750 million acres, is covered with trees.



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 doing great things at school.

## Affordable health screenings coming to Stockton

Residents can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Calvary Church of Stockton will host this community event on April 24, 2024. The site is located at 315 W Maple Ave in Stockton.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and

overall vascular health, HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels, diabetes risk, kidney and thyroid function, and more. Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

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

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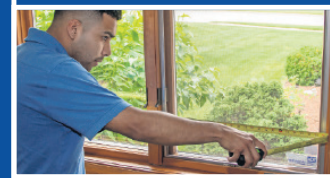


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# Pearl City Junior High and High School Third Quarter Honor Roll Awards

## Highest Honor Roll

**Seniors:** Jesus Bernal Zetina, Ethan Petta, Georgia Shallenberger

**Juniors:** Natalie Greene, Jakari Wool

**Freshmen:** Mackenzie Lotz, Scarlett Snyder, Natalie Todd

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Kassidy Dorty, Briahna Duncan, Deaken Hofmaster, Brogan Keltner, Dustin Martens, Sandra Martens, Marlee McPeek, Nola Milam, Camdyn Smith, Jayelle Spahr

## High Honor Roll

**Seniors:** Ava Bremmer, Logan Freier, Kyleigh Gentz, Austin Gravert, Weston Gronewold, Kyle Niehaus, Randy Posey, Lakota Scafe

**Juniors:** Ayden Bratley, Joely Christiansen, Elizabeth Dinderman, Fallyn Endress, Edgar Hidalgo, Paige Hille, Marley Joseph, Brinkley Knoup, Kendra Kuhlemeier, Zinnia Larson, Adeline Smith, Talia Stewart,

Lucas Tichler

**Sophomores:** Kameron Downs, Tana Gavert, Oscar Ugalde-Sanchez

**Freshmen:** Eli Bremmer, Clayton Downs, Tristan Ertmer, Brissia Garcia, Lila Gerber, Tanner Hiester, Braylon Liebenstein, Leo Petta, Danica Stager

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Braylen Bingham, Jayden Bremmer, Lucas Bremmer, Nathan Buss, Morgan Campbell, Brianna Christiansen, Hannah Dinderman, Colton Gronewold, Bridget Hoffman, Samuel Howe, Colt Kempel, Porter Krolow, Maliani Munoz, Gemma Musser, Isaac Pickard, Alexander Reed, Kennedy Solt, Elley Voss

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Kolton Kampmeier, Aubrianna Mefford, Mason Pauley

## Honor Roll

**Seniors:** Daneli Ayala, Lisa Baker, Jayden Downs, Lexton Endress, Rhett Forth, Jacob Lieb, Katelyn Little, Rayce Mullen, Mattie

Schauer, Alex Spahr, Olivia Williams

**Juniors:** Ethan Bremmer, Kylie Campbell, Kaitlyn Christensen, Jackson Corbin, Anna Dampman, Jorja Johnson, Jaxsyn Kempel, Natalie Lotz, Sydney Lower, Taytum Mullen, Alonna Posey, Jacob Runkle, Sylvia Schnoor

**Sophomores:** Gracie Ditsworth, Daniel Garcia, Makenzie Ihus, Lane Kempel, Kip Martens

**Freshmen:** Parker Allen, Donna Baker, Eli Baker, Parker Cantwell, Braxton Kubatzke, Jocelynn Kubatzke, Brynlee McPeek, Camden Miller, Mya Miller, Lincoln Voss, Sawyer Williams

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Baylee Boeke, Miles Corbin, Brodie Dahl, Jesse Halverson, Karsen Kuhlemeier, Spencer Manthei, Chralotte Musser, Wade Sheffey, Easton Turrell

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Aubrey Allen, Abigail Ditsworth, Hendrix Feld, Ty Gerber, Ayden Hayes

# Stephenson County 4-H works to create a Green Community

Stephenson County 4-H along with the Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Jane Addamsland Park Foundation (JAPF) are working to help save the planet, one oak savanna at a time. All youth who love to be outdoors and explore nature are invited to come out and help plant an oak tree in rural Orangeville on Saturday, April 20 at 9 a.m. at the Butterfly Farm, located at 10405 Bellview Rd. Orangeville, IL. This opportunity is open to all youth, whether a 4-H member or not, and will help youth learn to identify an oak tree, how to properly plant an oak tree, and learn about the benefits trees offer us and our community.

"Research shows that nature provides youth with creativity, discovery, and STEM education. We have a great variety of forest preserves, state parks, and hiking trails here in northern Illinois, one of them being right outside of Orangeville. This

oak savanna tree planting will benefit youth today in understanding the importance of community service and environmental awareness that will last for many years to come," states Brenda Heimann, Stephenson County 4-H Program Coordinator.

Illinois 4-H offers Forestry as part of its natural resources project area. The 4-H Forestry program drives youth in a positive direction that creates a positive environmental impact. Through this project, youth will gain a sense of leadership and civic engagement as they learn together with adults in their community to help make a difference in rebuilding the numbers of trees across Illinois!

To register for this event please visit <https://go.illinois.edu/butterflyfarm>. There is no cost to participate. For more information contact University of Illinois Extension- Stephenson County, 815-235-4125, and ask for Brenda.

# Stephenson County Fair announces the grandstand line up

The Stephenson County Fair, the highlight of the summer, is gearing up for its 170th anniversary celebration this year. Scheduled to take place from July 23 to July 27, 2024, the fair promises to be bigger and better than ever before. Admission to the Fair is \$6 for those over the age of seven, and only \$3 on Thurs-

day. The festivities will kick off on Tuesday, July 23, with an antique tractor parade through the city of Freeport. Throughout the week, fairgoers can look forward to thrilling grandstand shows, including the Midwest Summer National Tractor Pulls on Tuesday and Wednesday, Youth and

Family Night on Thursday, and much more. Grandstand shows are \$10 per ticket, with free admission for children seven and under.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of free activities and entertainment options. Music

**See LINE UP, Page 11**



## EASTER BRUNCH 2024

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# Panthers bounce back after 0-2 start

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

After dropping back-to-back games to open the 2024 baseball season, the Lena-Winslow Panthers bounced back with a pair of victories over Polo and Alleman. It was a good sign for the Panthers. Not only did they come into last week with an 0-2 record, but they were coming off a pair of losses in which they fell by a combined score of 28-1. That's far from the Le-Win standard established in recent years.

The Panthers were looking to wake up their bats, but they needed to play a complete game of baseball. From the mound, the defense, to the batter's box, the Panthers needed to see improvements in all aspects of their game. Not only did they accomplish that, but they learned they can compete in close games.

On Saturday, March 16 the Panthers prepped for another home game as they played

host to the Polo Marcos. It was a game that saw the Panthers jump out to an early lead before fending off a Polo run.

In the bottom of the second, Le-Win came to the plate with the game tied 0-0. At that point, the Panthers had put up just one run in 12 innings played. Something had to give, and it was Luke Madigan's triple over the center fielder that broke the cycle. Aiden Wild followed up with a grounder to the left side. A defensive error allowed Le-Win to score, and the Panthers held their first lead of the season.

That sparked something for Le-Win. Before Polo had recorded an out, back-to-back singles by Jaden Schubert, and Cohen Weegens had the Panthers up 2-0. Before the inning came to an end, Lucas Fye and Miles Mahon each had one-run singles, giving Le-Win a 5-0 advantage.

Outside of that big inning,

there wasn't much offensive production in this one. It was Madigan's excellent performance on the mound that stood out. In five and one third innings, Madigan struck out 11 while allowing zero runs on three hits. Wild came in to throw nearly two innings of relief. Wild struck out three during his time on the mound.

Le-Win's defensive struggles returned in the final inning as a pair of big errors allowed three unearned runs to come in for Polo. It wasn't enough to complete a comeback, as Le-Win held on for a 6-3 victory.

Schubert had a big day at the plate, going three for three with a run scored. Fye was one for two with a walk, two runs batted in, and one run scored. Madigan was two for four with two runs scored, and Weegens went two for

three with one RBI and one run scored in the victory.

Five days later, the Panthers played their first away game of the 2024 season. That night, they traveled to take on the Alleman Pioneers in what turned out to be a thriller of a matchup. The Panthers found themselves trailing multiple times in this one. Alleman took an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first. Later on, after Le-Win took a slim lead of their own, Alleman responded with three runs in the bottom of the third.

The Panthers found their rhythm in the top of that third inning. After going up 2-1, Le-Win went on to score in each of the final five innings of the game.

It was Mahon who tied the game early on as his grounder through the left side allowed Fye to score. A defensive er-

ror by Alleman allowed another run to come in as the Panthers took their first lead of the day. Alleman responded with a trio of runs in the bottom half, and Le-Win went into the fourth trailing 4-2.

Another two-run inning in the top of the fourth allowed the Panthers to tie the game again. In the top of the fifth, they once again regained the lead after Wild led the inning off with a triple. Wild eventually scored on a wild pitch, giving his team the 5-4 advantage.

The sixth inning saw that lead expand as Mahon doubled to put runners in scoring position. Maverick Cass drove in a run with a sacrifice fly, but an error on the throw allowed Mahon to score as well. By the middle of the sixth, Le-Win held a 7-4 lead.

Alleman did enough to

keep things close in the final outs. A run in the bottom of the sixth made it a two-run game. In the seventh, a hit by pitch and a single gave Alleman an opportunity as they had two runners on with just one out. Madigan closed the game in excellent fashion. After a groundout, Madigan had Alleman down to their final out with the score in Le-Win's favor up 8-7. Madigan earned the would-be last out, but a dropped third strike kept the game alive. Finally, it was catcher Mahon who closed the game as he caught a runner trying to steal second.

Mahon shined behind the plate and in the box, where he went four for five with three RBI and one run scored. Wild was two for four with a walk and a run scored. Cass also had one RBI in the victory.

## McConnell Easter Egg Hunt

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**Maundy Thursday - March 28**  
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McConnell Community Church

**Good Friday - March 29**  
Service at 6:30 pm  
Nora Community Church

**Easter Sunday - March 31**  
Breakfast at 8:00 am  
Worship Service at 9:00 am  
McConnell Community Church  
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Good Friday at 7 p.m.

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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

cream cheese and milk and beat until smooth. Stir in crab until blended. Stir in Worcestershire sauce and seasonings until well combined. Place in a small crock pot sprayed with cooking spray. Top with green onions and slivered almonds. Cook on low for 30 minutes. Serve warm with crackers and vegetables.

## Strawberry Salad with Poppy Seed Dressing

Several strawberry salad recipes have appeared in this column, but this one has a mayonnaise dressing. It would make a beautiful Easter salad for dinner or a brunch.

- 1/4 C. sugar
- 1/3 C. slivered almonds
- 1 bunch romaine, torn (6 C.)

- 1 small onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 2 C. halved fresh strawberries

### Dressing:

- 1/4 C. mayonnaise
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 T. sour cream
- 1 T. 2 % milk
- 2 1/4 t. cider vinegar
- 1 1/2 t. poppy seeds

Place sugar in a small heavy skillet; cook and stir over medium heat until melted and caramel colored, about 10 minutes. Stir in almonds until coated. Spread on foil to cool.

Place romaine, onion, and

strawberries in a large salad bowl. In a small bowl, whisk dressing ingredients together. Toss with salad. Break candied almonds into pieces and sprinkle over salad. Serve immediately.

## Cauliflower Casserole

If you need a great Easter side, this tasty casserole would be a great vegetable. The cauliflower has great cheesy flavor with the added zip of peppers. The cornflakes add just the right amount of texture to this vegetable dish.

- 1 medium head cauliflower, broken into florets
- 1 C. sour cream
- 1 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 C. crushed cornflakes
- 1/4 C. chopped green pepper
- 1/4 C. chopped red pepper
- 1 t. salt
- 1/4 C. grated parmesan cheese
- Paprika

Preheat oven to 325. Place 1 inch of water in a saucepan and add the cauliflower. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until crisp tender, 5 to 10 minutes. Drain. In a large bowl, combine cauliflower, sour cream, cheddar cheese, cornflakes, peppers, and salt. Transfer to a greased 2 qt. glass baking dish. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese and paprika. Bake, uncovered, until heated through, 30 to 35 minutes.

## Creamy Seafood Casserole

The last of our Lenten dishes is another casserole made with different seafoods. This one has a crunch with artichoke hearts and water chestnuts. It is good enough to keep for all year round.

- 1/2 lb. sea scallops
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 celery rib, finely chopped
- 6 T. butter, cubed
- 7 T. flour
- 1 1/2 C. half-and-half
- 1 C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 6 T. apple juice
- 3/4 t. salt
- 1/4 t. cayenne pepper
- 1 lb. cooked shrimp (31 to 40 per lb.) peeled and deveined
- 1 can (6 oz.) crab meat
- 1 can (14 oz. water-packed artichoke hearts, drained, rinsed, chopped and patted dry)
- 1 can (8 oz.) sliced water chestnuts, drained
- 1/2 C. sliced almonds
- 1/4 C. grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 350. In a Dutch oven, sauté scallops, onion, and celery in butter until scallops are firm and opaque. Stir in flour until blended. Add cream. Bring to a boil; cook and stir 2 minutes or until thickened. Reduce heat; add cheddar cheese, apple juice, salt, and cayenne stirring until cheese is melted. Remove from heat;

set aside. In a greased 11 x 7 baking dish, layer the shrimp, crab, artichokes, and water chestnuts. Top with scallop sauce. Sprinkle with almonds and Parmesan cheese. Bake, uncovered, 25 to 30 minutes or until heated through. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

## Creamy Ham and Asparagus Fettuccine

Many people have ham for Easter. Those same people have leftover ham, and they have to do something with it. Today we have a recipe that is different than the usual ham and bean soup.

- 12 oz. fettuccini noodles
- 8 oz. fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 C. heavy cream
- 1/2 C. butter
- 3/4 C. grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 t. garlic powder
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 1 pinch cayenne pepper
- 1/2 lb. cooked ham, diced

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add fettuccini pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes until al dente. Stir asparagus into pot for last five minutes of cooking; drain. Heat cream and butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat until mixture begins to bubble; stir in parmesan, garlic powder, pepper and cayenne. Cook until mixture thickens, stirring occasionally. Stir in ham until heated through. Toss pasta and asparagus with sauce until well combined. Serve immediately.

crust even with edges of pan. Flute or crimp edges; prick crust several times with fork. Bake 10 minutes until golden brown.

Coarsely chop 4 oz. of the white chocolate; sprinkle onto hot pie crust and let stand 5 minutes. With an offset metal spatula, carefully spread melted white chocolate across bottom of crust (will be thin layer). Freeze 10 minutes or until set.

In a small microwavable bowl, microwave 7 oz. of the remaining white chocolate and milk, uncovered on High for 30 seconds; stir. Continue heating in 10 second increments, stirring after each until chocolate is smooth. Set aside to cool. Shave remaining 1 oz. of white chocolate and set aside for topping.

In large bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar with mixer until well blended. Add cooled white chocolate mixture to bowl. Beat well until blended. Gently fold in whipped topping. Spread jam on top of set layer on crust. Spoon chocolate mixture on top of jam layer; carefully spread to cover jam layer. Refrigerate at least 1 hour until chilled. Cut into squares. Just before serving top with strawberries and reserved shaved white chocolate.

## Angel Food Strawberry Cake

This dessert takes a little planning, but it is delicious and pretty enough for a holiday. If you make your own angel food cake instead of using a mix, that is better. However, using a box cake mix will work just fine. Note: If you see that the recipe calls for a lot of boiling water, the frozen strawberries take the place of cold water.

- 1 box of Angel Food Cake Mix
- 1 pkg (3 oz.) strawberry Jell-O
- 2 1/2 C. boiling water
- 1 lb. frozen sliced strawberries

- 1 1/2 C. heavy cream
- 2 T. sugar

Make angel food cake according to package directions. Cool cake according to directions. Sprinkle Jell-O into a bowl and pour in 2 1/2 C. boiling water. Stir to dissolve, then add the frozen sliced strawberries. Stir to cool the mixture and set aside. Place cake on a cake plate. With a serrated knife, carefully cut the top 1 inch of cake from the top. Remove it and lay it beside the cake. Next, with a small paring knife, make two concentric cuts in the cake: one cut is 1 inch from the outside rim, the

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# Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing winners for March

The Northwest Illinois Daily, a cooperative fundraiser, announces the March 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: Carling Community of Elizabeth, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music Boosters,

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Stockton Girls Sports, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

The March 2024 winners are:

- \$50 – Charlene Wooley
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- \$50 – Judy Skupien
- \$50 – Greg Stocks
- \$50 – Ashley Wills
- \$50 – Janice Wasmund
- \$50 – River Ridge Band Program
- \$50 – Joan Liles
- \$250 – Cheryl Frey



PINK HEALS STEPHENSON COUNTRY FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Servant leadership team dodges for donations

The Servant Leadership team from Warren recently donated to the Pink Heals nonprofit organization. The team raised funds by hosting a dodgeball tournament several months ago. Pink Heals would like to thank the Servant Leadership team and team leader Cody for their generous support.

## LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, VS. LINN PERKINS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PATRICIA LOUISE RATKOVICH, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA L. RATKOVICH; TRICIA A HALTER; ROBERT J RATKOVICH; BRIAN R RATKOVICH; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2023FC53  
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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 February 20, 2024, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on May 7, 2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

THE NORTH SIXTY (60) FEET OF LOT TWENTY-EIGHT (28) IN POWELL AND WADDELL'S SUBDIVISION OF THE EAST HALF (1/2) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED IN BOOK 26 OF DEEDS ON PAGE 267 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

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The Judgment amount was \$80,895.82.

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.

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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# 23-16149IL

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.

I3238741  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 27, April 3 & 10, 2024)

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# IN\*CI\*DENTAL\*LY

## The value of basic research findings

In today's column I want to share information about two research projects the National Institute of Health recently reported on. But first, I must remind you that both studies are in the preliminary stage of research and therefore their conclusions each provide what is termed a basic research finding. Well-executed research, which provides advancements in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease, is a long and arduous process. Basic research findings provide both the rational and the foundation for further research.

The American Cancer Institute is conducting research on ways to adapt a successful treatment, against certain cancers of the blood, bone marrow or lymph (CAR T-Cell therapy), so it can be used to treat solid tumors.



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

T-cells are part of your body's immune system. CAR T-cell therapy involves collecting T cells from the patient's blood and re-engineering them in the laboratory to produce proteins on their surface called chimeric antigen receptors (CARs) that recognize and bind to specific proteins (antigens) on the surface of cancer cells. The engineered T cells are then stimulated to replicate in the laboratory and infused intravenously into the patient, where they kill any cancer cells on their surfaces.

There are a number of hurdles that must be addressed to adapt CAR T-cell therapy to treat solid tumors. Unlike blood cancer cells, solid tumor cells antigens may or may not be expressed on the surface of the cell and solid tumor cells of the same cancer type can vary from patient to patient, and even within a particular patient. In addition, immune-suppressing molecules produced from either the solid tumor or other immune cells can prevent the CAR T-cells from entering the tumor or render them too weak to kill cancer cells (exhaustion).

To overcome the antigen issue, researchers have created a synthetic antigen to mark cancer cells. These synthetic antigens function as a beacon, guiding the CAR T-cells to the tumor, where they attack and destroy it. The researchers

delivered the CAR T-cells to mice with multiple types of cancer, by directly injecting them into the tumors or by administering it intravenously into the bloodstream. After two rounds of CAR T-cell treatment, significant reduction in tumor growth was noted. However, as humans are far more sensitive to bacteria than mice are, rigorous safety studies will need to be undertaken before it is evaluated in human patients.

To overcome the issue of T-cell exhaustion, researchers from around the world first had to identify the proteins in the body's defensive systems that lead to T-cell exhaustion. Once they had identified the proteins, they had to learn how and why they attacked the T-cells. Once they understood the process the next step was to engineer

CAR T-cells that could evade triggering it.

The second study is seeking to find new ways to treat bacterial infections in skin wounds and the oral cavity without antibiotics. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and Stanford University have developed gold covered nanoparticles that can both identify and target germs associated with oral disease, Streptococcus mutans and Staphylococcus aureus. Staphylococcus aureus is also the most prevalent of the four bacterial pathogens associated with infections in skin wounds.

When exposed to light, the nanoparticles emit ultrasonic waves. By encapsulating the nanoparticles in gold, which converts the energy from light into heat, the pathogen can be both identified by the ultrasonic

waves(photoacoustic imaging), then killed by the heat (photothermal therapy). To make the nanoparticles even more appealing to the bacteria, they coat the gold in a type of sugar known as dextran.

The nanoparticles were more effective in treating Staphylococcus aureus infections in skin wounds than those treated with the antimicrobial, gentamicin. When the nanoparticles were applied to Streptococcus Mutans-infected teeth that had been removed from rat's jaws, researchers noted they killed almost one hundred percent of the bacteria.

These positive basic research findings will serve as the foundation for further research into the role of engineered nanoparticles in preventing oral disease and accelerating wound healing.

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**IT'S GARAGE SALE TIME AGAIN!**

# NUIC announces 2023-2024 All-Conference wrestling team

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

As another excellent wrestling season has come and gone, the Northwest Upstate Illini Conference recently released their 2023-2024 All-Conference Wrestling team. To no surprise, the Le-Win-Stockton PantherHawks absolutely dominated the list of wrestlers. Perhaps it's expected with one of the only wrestling co-ops in the conference, minus Durand-Pecatonica. However, even when you divide Le-Win-Stockton's 12 First Team wrestlers in half, they

still have more award winners than every other program.

Of the 28 total First Team wrestlers, Le-Win-Stockton had nearly half of them. After the PantherHawks' 12 members, the next closest program was Dakota with four wrestlers on First Team. It should be noted that there are no Second Team selections in wrestling, only First Team and Honorable Mentions.

The PantherHawks were led by Eli Larson, who racked up 44 wins on the year, 24 of which came by way of pinfall. Eli also tallied a sec-

ond-place finish in this year's Individual IHSA Wrestling Tournament. His sophomore season ended with a First Team All-Conference selection and an overall record of 44-6.

Jeremiah Luke also had an incredible sophomore season. After going 43-8 on the year, Luke earned a First Team selection. Arrison Bauer, a fellow sophomore, was the third and final PantherHawk with over forty wins as he went 41-13. Bauer was also a First Team selection as the PantherHawks have a trio of excellent sophomores leading

the way in the foreseeable future.

Karl Hubb just missed that 40-win mark in his senior campaign. With a record of 39-11, Hubb earned his own First Team selection. Jared Dvorak, a fellow senior, matched Hubb's record with 39 wins of his own. Dvorak finished the year 39-8, earning a First Team selection. Michael Haas was the next leading senior with 34 wins on the year. Brady Haas, also a senior, finished right behind him with 33 victories. Both Michael and Brady were First Team selections as seniors.

John Mensendike was another shining sophomore for the PantherHawks. If it weren't for the dominant trio ahead of him, Mensendike would have garnered even more notice with a record of 32-17. Mauricio Glass, also a sophomore, tied Mensendike with 32 wins of his own. Glass went 32-16 on the year as both him and Mensendike earned First Team selections.

Rounding out the First Team selections, the PantherHawks had two more sophomores and a freshman. Both Tegan Arnold and Reece Demeter finished with over 20

wins as sophomores, which earned them a First Team selection. Freshman Gannon Dunker also earned a First Team selection as the youth shined for the 2023-2024 PantherHawks.

All in all, Le-Win-Stockton had seven different sophomores and one freshman receive a First Team selection. Additionally, sophomore David Prater was also named an Honorable Mention for this year's class.

The PantherHawks are going to lose a few high-quality seniors, but their future looks brighter than ever.

## For the most part, incumbents beat back challengers amid low primary turnout statewide

By Peter Hancock  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

With only a few exceptions, incumbent officeholders in Illinois cruised to easy victories in primary elections last week that were marked by historically low voter turnout.

Although final numbers won't be known for several more days, preliminary returns from many of the state's larger counties showed turnout hovering in the range of 20-25 percent.

That compares to a statewide average of 47 percent in 2016, when the White House was an open race, and 28 percent during the pandemic-impacted primaries in 2020.

That may have been due to the fact that there were few truly competitive races for voters to decide, especially at the top of the ballot. Democratic President Joe Biden and Republican former President Donald Trump had both secured enough delegates to win their respective party nominations a full week before polls even opened in Illinois.

One race that did prove competitive, though, was the 12th Congressional District race in southern Illinois, where incumbent Republican Mike Bost, of Murphysboro, survived a challenge from former state Sen. Darren Bailey, the unsuccessful GOP candidate for governor in 2022.

Bost is a former state legislator who was first elected to Congress in 2014. Bailey had served only one term in the state House and half a term in the state Senate before running for governor.

Both portrayed themselves as pro-Trump Republicans. Although Trump had endorsed Bailey in his bid for governor, he endorsed Bost in the primary.

Bailey conceded the race Tuesday night when unofficial returns showed Bost ahead by about 3 percentage points, with 96 percent of the votes counted.

Another close congressional race was in the 7th District of Chicago, where longtime incumbent Democrat Danny Davis fended off challenges from Chicago City Treasurer Melissa Conyears-Ervin and community organizer Kina Collins among others.

Davis, who is 82, was first elected to Congress in 1996. Before that, he served on the Cook County Board of Commissioners and, starting in 1979, the Chicago City Council. Although his challengers argued it was time for a new generation to step into leadership, Davis drew on his support from Gov. JB Pritzker and other established Democrats to win the race with an estimated 53 percent of the vote.

In state legislative races, two Democratic lawmakers from the Chicago area were ousted by challengers in the primaries.

In the 20th Senate District, Democratic Sen. Natalie Toro was defeated by challenger Graciela Guzman.

Democratic Party officials

appointed Toro to that seat to fill a vacancy when the last elected senator, Christina Pacione-Zayas, resigned to take a job in Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration. Toro had backing from Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, but Guzman was endorsed by liberal U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.

And in the 31st District, Rep. Mary Flowers, the longest-serving member of the House who had fallen out of favor with Democratic leaders in recent months, lost her seat to challenger Michael Crawford.

House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, appointed Flowers to his leadership team when he was elected speaker in 2021. But Welch removed her from leadership in 2023 amid allegations that she was abusive to staff. Welch endorsed and raised money for Crawford, who carried roughly 70 percent of the vote as of Wednesday.

Republican Rep. Blaine Wilhour, of Beecher City,

fended off a challenge in the 110th House District from Matthew Hall, of Vandalia, who had the backing of teachers unions and other organized labor groups.

Results were not immediately available, however, in the 102nd House District where another labor-backed candidate, Jim Acklin, of Ogden, was trying to unseat Rep. Adam Niemerg, of Dieterich. That's because both men were running as write-in candidates after Niemerg was removed from the ballot due to a technical error in his candidate filing and Acklin entered the race after the filing deadline.

In the 88th District of central Illinois, Decatur native Regan Deering, who ran unsuccessfully for Congress in 2022, edged out McLean County Board member Chuck Erickson in the Republican primary. That's a seat where incumbent Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, is stepping down. No Democrat has entered that race so far.

See PRIMARY, Page 16

## REAL ESTATE NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, VS. LINN PERKINS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PATRICIA LOUISE RATKOVICH, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA L. RATKOVICH; TRICIA A HALTER; ROBERT J RATKOVICH; BRIAN R RATKOVICH; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS. NO. 2023FC53 145 NORTH WHISTLER AVENUE FREEPORT, IL 61032 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on February 20, 2024, Sheriff of Stephenson County will on May 7, 2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30am, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment: TAX NO. 18-13-36-226-020 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 145 North Whistler Avenue Freeport, IL 61032 Description of Improvements: The property is a single family home. The Judgment amount was \$80,895.82. 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# 23-16149L

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. I3238741

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 27, April 3 & 10, 2024) 452733



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# •Kitchen (Continued from page 12)

second cut is 1 inch from the inside rim. Be careful not to cut all the way through to the bottom of the cake. Leave about an inch from the bottom. Tear out a trench in between the two cuts and save the torn cake pieces for another use.

Making sure the strawberry mixture is cool and thickened (if it is not thickened, put it in the freezer for 15 minutes or until thickened), carefully spoon the mixture into the trench in the cake, filling it

all the way to the top and just above to allow for a little settling. Place the top piece of cake back on top, lining it up. Refrigerate the cake for at least 2 hours. Before serving, whip the cream and sugar until stiff. Spread over the cake. Cut into slices and serve.

## Final Thoughts

Everyone is talking about our trees and flowers which have started to bud and appear. As I write this column,

snow is predicted as well as cold temperatures. The spring sporting events are already in the rescheduling mode. We had all that beautiful weather in February and now can't buy a decent day. It is hard to believe we are galloping into Easter. April Fool's Day is the day after. Hopefully the weather won't fool us anymore.

The Bunny Hop in Lena was a success with lots of girls and dads eating, dancing, and socializing the night away. Hats off to the committee who offers this activity every year. Congratulations on

another successful "Hop".

I am putting St. Patrick's Day away in my house and hope to get Easter up before the actual date. My favorites are the bunnies; they will stay up for a couple of months because I really do like them.

We are looking for spring recipes. It is time for rhubarb and strawberry recipes, so send some favorites our way. If you find some recipes to share, you can contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, *The Shopper's Guide* at 240 W. Main St. or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

# •Primary (Continued from page 15)

In a race to replace retiring Sen. Win Stoller in the 37th Senate District, former Dixon Mayor Li Arellano Jr. won a three-way primary against Henry County Board member Tim Yager and Chris Bishop, a former teacher and high school wrestling coach who now works in crop insurance.

In the 53rd Senate District, where incumbent Sen. Tom Bennett, R-Gibson City, is stepping down, Grundy County Board member Chris Balkema came out ahead in a four-way race against Susan Winn Bence, Jesse Faber, and

Mark Kirkton.

And in the 58th District in southern Illinois, Sen. Terri Bryant, R-Murphysboro, the only incumbent senator to face a primary challenge, won her race against local attorney Wesley Kash.

In the 1st District Democratic primary for a Cook County seat on the Illinois Supreme Court, incumbent Justice Joy Cunningham defeated challenger Jesse Reyes, an appellate court justice, by a roughly 75-25 percent margin. Cunningham was appointed to the seat in 2022 to replace retiring Justice Anne Burke.

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