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VOL. 86 • NO. 11

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Saporito's Pizzeria gets a visitor

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie visits Saporito's Pizzeria in Lena, IL as part of her program to honor and recognize great local businesses.

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# SSM Health Monroe provides 5,256 books to local youth in 2023

To foster a lifelong love of reading, SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group is providing free books to pediatric patients. The Reach Out & Read Program encourages families to celebrate literacy as part of healthy childhood development. Through this initiative, children receive a free book at each of their well-child visits, from age six months through five years. Books vary depending on age and are selected based on stages of development. In 2023, a total of 5,256 books were given out at SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group. This program is possible through sponsorship of the Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation, a member of SSM Health.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

(Right) Pediatrics team members Tiarra Jackson, MA and Marissa Eaton, RN hold a variety of Reach Out & Read books.



## 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. Please and join for fellowship and entertainment. Please call 815-369-4684 or email jamcps54@yahoo.com with any questions or to make reservations. Reservations are requested by April 10.

### Salvation Army events in March

The Salvation Army of Freeport will offer several events in March. Women's Ministry will be held on Saturday March 9 at 10 a.m. Free Food Friday will be held on Friday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Family Night with games and pizza will be held on Saturday, March 23 at 5 p.m. The Spring Clothing Give-Away will be held on Tuesday, March 26 and on Thurs-

day, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Easter Brunch will be held on Sunday, March 31 at 9:30 a.m. followed by Easter Service at 10:30 a.m.

### American Legion Auxiliary meeting

The March meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, March 14 at the Lena American Legion Home at 6 p.m. Attendees will make tray favors for the hospitalized veterans. New members are always welcome. Judy Oellerich is in charge of the social hour. Junior members will meet on March 9 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion Home. Junior members will participate in a service project and an Easter Egg Hunt.

### Lena Historical Society program

On Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 2 p.m. Dr. Gordon Dammann, Civil War Expert, will present a lecture on two of the historical artifacts on display at the museum. The society's annual meeting will be held before the Civil War presentation. The event will be held at the Lena Historical Museum, 427 Grove St. For more information please call 815-369-4094.

## Obituaries

### RALPH BASS

Ralph Wayne Bass, age 82 of Freeport, IL, formerly of Shannon, IL passed away Monday, Feb. 26, 2024. He was born July 2, 1941, in Stockton, IL to Raymond and Margorie (Plapp) Bass. Ralph grew up in Shannon, IL on the family farm with his three brothers. He was a graduate of Shannon High School in 1959.

After graduating, Ralph served in the United States Air Force from 1960-1968. During his time in the Air Force, Ralph really enjoyed being stationed in Fairbanks, AK and Klamath Falls, OR.

After his discharge from the Air Force, Ralph worked in the Carroll and Stephenson County area. On May 27, 1978, he married Dianne Feltmeyer at Church by the Side of the Road in Rockton, IL. For many years Ralph owned and operated Ralph Bass Boom Service, which earned him the nickname "Boomer".

Ralph's memberships included the American Legion Boyle-Hoy Post of Shannon, Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite Bodies in Freeport, and Tebala Shrine in Rockford, IL. He also served as a volunteer on the Shannon Fire Department. Ralph's hobbies and interest included raising and training horses for



riding for many years, landscaping, and gardening. He also enjoyed his annual summer vacation with his family in

Hayward, WI.

He is survived by his wife Dianne of Freeport, IL; two children Rodney (Lisa) Bass of Princeton, NJ and Angela (Steve) Chang of Camano, WA; two brothers Gene (Karen) Bass of Sun Prairie, WI and Robert Bass of Sarasota, FL; stepson Mike (Karen) Gothard of Richmond, VA and stepson-in-law Leonard Weiler of Sartell MN; nine grandchildren Ryan Bass, Alessandra Bass, Amelie Bass, Jenny Chang, Lindy Chang, Zoe Weiler, Zachary Weiler, Christopher Gothard and Emily Gothard; and many nieces and nephews. Preceding Ralph in death are his parents, brother Paul Bass and sister-in-law Marlis Bass, and stepdaughter Michelle Weiler.

Memorial services with Military Funeral Honors were held on Monday March 4, 2024, at Burke-Tubbs Funeral Home in Freeport. A memorial has been established in Ralph's memory.

### KAREN E. STEFFES

Karen E. Steffes, 78, Elizabeth, sadly left us on Feb. 29, 2024. She was the daughter of the late Dale and Doris Westaby. Surviving is her son Dennis (Jane), granddaughter Darcy (Austin) Ertmer, sisters Sandra (Kenneth) Groezinger, Mary (Rod) Reimers, and many nieces and nephews.

She was the kindness mother and grandmother. She loved sports and never missed a volleyball, basketball, or softball game. She was proud of her farm and her family and always supported them. Her smile will be missed by her many friends.

Dairy farming was her life. She passed her love of animals onto her family. Christmas was her favorite time of year. She always remembered to bake everyone's favorite treat. She looked forward to decorating and set-



ting up her Christmas village.

Anyone that worked on the farm for her she treated as family. Everyone

looked forward to her many treats and Sunday morning egg sandwiches. The family would like to thank Freeport Memorial Hospital and hospice.

The funeral service was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at St. John Lutheran Church of Massbach with a visitation at the Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton on Monday, March 4, 2024. Interment took place at Woodbine Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

**Lena-Orangeville BSA Troop 91**  
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# Pritzker commits another \$182 million to migrant response; details to come this week

By Andrew Adams  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state and Cook County announced Feb. 15 a roughly \$250 million plan to provide shelter, health care and other services for recently arrived migrants. But according to their own plan, there's still a roughly \$70 million funding gap for the rest of 2024.

That missing money could come from Chicago, although a proposal for additional funding has not been brought to Chicago's city council.

At a news conference, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson did not indicate any plans for the city to fill the remaining budget gap, noting that a lack of federal intervention could be an "incredible burden for the city of Chicago."

A source briefed on the matter told Capitol News Illinois Johnson had committed to providing the remaining funds at a Feb. 5 meeting between the mayor, governor and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

When he was asked about this on Feb. 15, Johnson said he was "not aware" of any deal between the three, also adding that "there is no disconnect" between his administration and Pritzker's.

In a news release, the governor's office said the state's portion funding will come from the state's fiscal year 2025 budget.

Gov. JB Pritzker, who committed the state to providing

more than half of the needed funds, was expected to provide more detail about where the money is coming during his annual budget address that took place on Wednesday.

House Democrats' chief budget negotiator, Rep. Jehan Gordon Booth, D-Peoria, and the head of a working group focused on recently arrived migrants, Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, D-Glenview, told Capitol News Illinois in a joint statement they will review the full details of the state's portion of the spending plan next week.

"We will remain focused on continuing to bring stakeholders together to continue making smart and compassionate decisions for our state and all of our communities," they said.

In December, following a Governor's Office of Management and Budget forecast, the governor urged caution for this year's budgeting process. That office projected a potential \$891 million deficit for the upcoming fiscal year. But GOMB also predicted a \$1.4 billion surplus for the current fiscal year, due to several one-time revenue streams.

In a statement, Pritzker indicated disappointment at the lack of a coordinated federal response to the influx of migrants.

"With thousands of asylum seekers continuing to come to Chicago in desperate need of support and with Congress

continuing to refuse to act—it is clear the state, county, and city will have to do more to keep people safe," Pritzker said.

Pritzker has been outspoken in calling for more federal involvement, repeatedly calling on President Joe Biden and congressional leaders to designate a federal office to coordinate the nation's migrant response and provide additional resources.

"As critical funding for this ongoing humanitarian crisis stalls in Congress, Cook County stands committed to the well-being of the region," Preckwinkle said in a news release. "We cannot wait for additional resources and Cook County is proud to stand alongside Governor Pritzker in this joint funding plan, ensuring that shelter capacity, healthcare and wraparound services remain accessible to those in need."

A compromise deal in the U.S. Senate that was meant to help address the increase in

border crossings disintegrated last week after Republicans backed out of the agreement.

The state in November committed to a \$160 million spending plan, although portions of that plan—such as a 2,000 bed shelter in Chicago—have yet to come to fruition.

The state also claims that it has spent \$478 million through existing channels, such as through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, over the past two years.

The influx of migrants coming from Texas has slowed in recent weeks, with Chicago's shelter system being at its lowest capacity since last fall. As of Feb. 14, there were about 12,900 people staying in city shelters—down from a peak of around 15,000 a few weeks ago.

There were also no migrants at the city's airports or at the "landing zone" facility, the location that the city instructs bus companies to drop people off.

## That's My KING by S.M. Lockridge

The Bible says He's the King of the Jews  
He's the King of Israel  
He's the King of Righteousness  
He's the King of the Ages  
He's the King of Heaven  
He's the King of Glory  
He's the King of Kings  
And He is the Lord of Lords  
That's my King! I wonder, do you know Him?  
The Heavens declare the glory of God  
and the firmament shows His handiwork  
No means of measure can define His limitless love  
No far seeing telescope can bring into visibility the coastline  
of His shoreless supply


No barriers can hinder Him from pouring out His blessing  
He's enduringly strong, He's entirely sincere  
He's eternally steadfast, He's immortally graceful  
He's imperially powerful, He's impartially merciful  
That's my King! Do you know Him?  
He's God's Son, He's the sinners' Savior  
He's the centerpiece of civilization  
He stands alone in Himself  
He's unique, He's unparalleled  
He's supreme, He's pre-eminent  
He's the loftiest idea in literature  
He's the highest personality in philosophy  
He's the supreme problem in higher criticism  
He's the fundamental doctrine in true theology  
He's the cardinal necessity of spiritual religion  
That's my King!  
He's the miracle of the age  
He's the superlative of everything good that you choose to  
call Him

He's the only one able to supply all of our needs  
simultaneously

He supplies strength for the weak  
He's available for the tempted and the tried  
He sympathizes and He saves  
He guards and He guides  
He heals the sick  
He cleansed the lepers  
He forgives sinners  
He discharges debtors  
He delivers the captives  
He defends the feeble  
He blesses the young  
He serves the unfortunate  
He regards the aged  
He rewards the diligent  
And He beautifies the meek Do you know Him?  
My King is the key of knowledge  
He's the wellspring of wisdom  
He's the doorway of deliverance  
He's the pathway of peace  
He's the roadway of righteousness  
He's the highway of holiness  
He's the gateway of glory  
He's the master of the mighty  
He's the captain of the conquerors  
He's the head of the heroes  
He's the leader of the legislators  
He's the overseer of the overcomers  
He's the governor of governors  
He's the prince of princes  
He's the King of Kings  
And He's the Lord of Lords  
That's my King

His office is manifold, His promise is sure  
His life is matchless, His goodness is limitless  
His mercy is everlasting, His love never changes  
His word is enough, His grace is sufficient  
His reign is righteous  
His yoke is easy and His burden is light  
I wish I could describe Him to you. Yes...  
He's indescribable  
He's incomprehensible  
He's invincible, He's irresistible  
I'm trying to tell you the heaven of heavens  
cannot contain Him let alone a man explain Him  
You can't get Him out of your mind  
You can't get Him off of your hands  
You can't outlive Him and you can't live without Him  
The Pharisees couldn't stand Him but they found they  
couldn't stop Him  
Pilate couldn't find any fault in Him  
The witnesses couldn't get their testimonies to agree  
And Herod couldn't kill Him  
Death couldn't handle Him and the grave couldn't hold Him  
He always has been and He always will be  
He had no predecessor and He'll have no successor  
There was nobody before Him and there'll be nobody after  
Him

You can't impeach Him and He's not going to resign  
Amen  
(not in its entirety)




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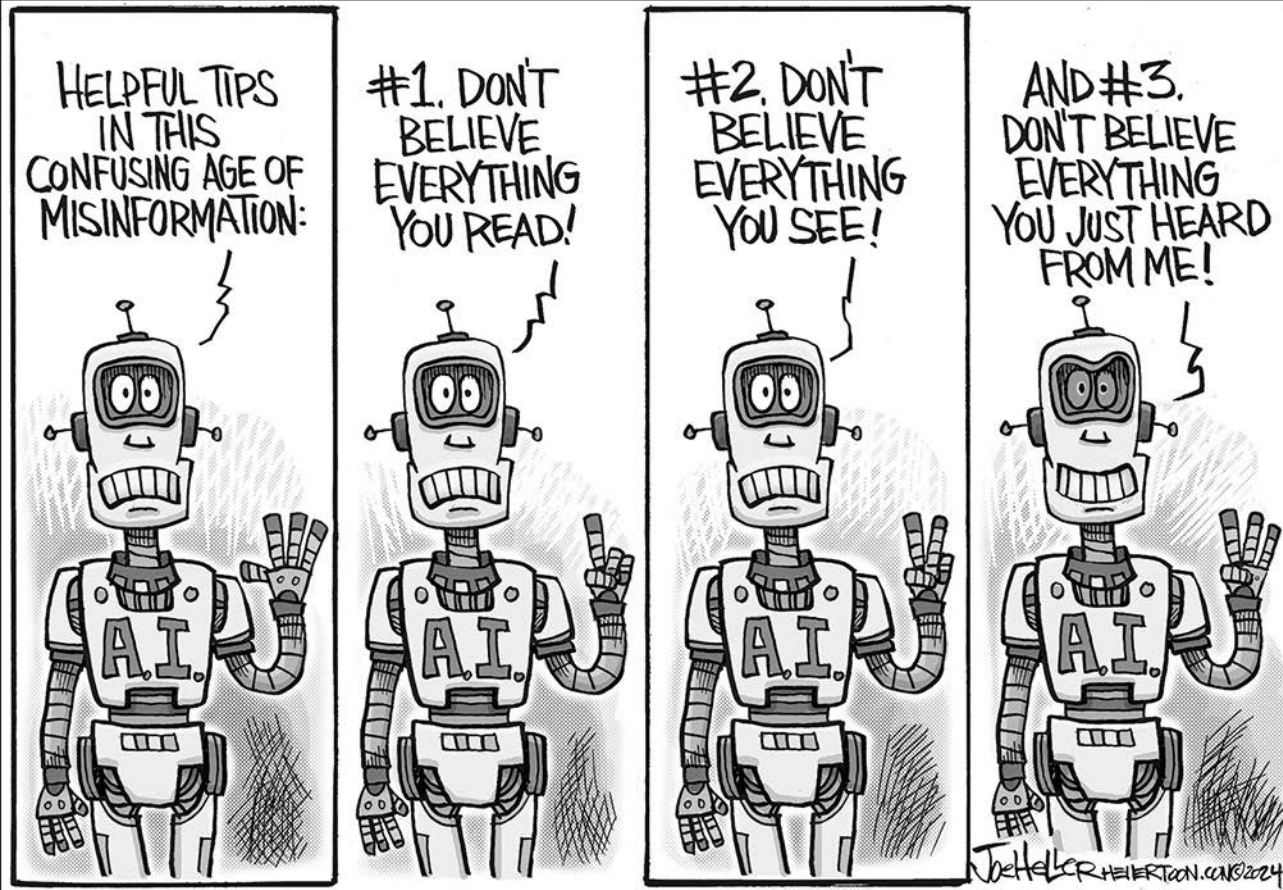
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# OPINION



## Weekly connection

# Making the big move

I was only ten years old when my world was turned upside down. It happened like this, after my parents did a two year search for dairy farms to buy, it finally happened. They found one and all at once one day we loaded up our farm machinery, tools, and

household furniture into four or five grain trucks and headed up the road from Indiana to Wisconsin to begin a whole new life. With those big loads and slow-moving trucks, it took about six hours to make the two-hundred-mile trip which included stopping to let air out of our

combine tires to get under an overpass near Chicago.

I had only been to Chicago a few times in my life, once to a Cubs game and once to Brookfield Zoo when I was in kindergarten. We also made the trip up to McCormick Place for a Billy Graham Crusade, and a couple times to O'Hare International Airport to either pick them up or say good-bye to our aunt, uncle and family who were missionaries in Kenya, Africa. Every four years they got to come home for a whole year to visit family and their supporting churches. They got to tell all of their exciting stories about their lives in the Bush. This trip to Chicago however, was different. We kept driving right on past those huge skyscrapers and right up the interstate past O'Hare Field too. I remember watching the lights of the city slowly fade away into flat corn and soybean fields, and a tear or two slowly trickled down my cheek. I remember feeling very lonely all of a sudden and wondering if I would ever see my friends, grandparents, cousins, and aunts and uncles again. It was the summer of 1972, and everything was about to change in a big big way our lives.

My dad, a couple brothers and I arrived at our new farm on that summer evening, and



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

I remember thinking that the house didn't smell too nice. We threw some blankets on the floor that night and I fell into a fitful sleep. I was far away from home and full of uncertainty. In the morning a couple more trucks arrived, and we got busy unloading everything, and trying to figure out where everything needed to go. My brothers and I explored every building on the place, and then we walked down to the creek and proceeded to explore every inch of the farm over those first few days. It wasn't long before we bought a nice herd of fifty Holsteins, and began milking half a barn full. My dad had to travel back down to Indiana to finish out the farm lease there for a few months and so we six boys and mom got the work done in Wisconsin while he milked the herd in Indiana. There was plenty of work to do that first summer with getting the hay made, the silos filled, and the corn picked without our dad around, but we got it done.

See CONNECTION, Page 5

## Slices of life

# Life's queue



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

My family and I are amusement park geeks. Always have been.

Non-amusement park aficionados see the long lines as a deterrent. Why spend so much time in line just waiting for the 90 seconds of roller coaster wonderment?

Seems like a waste. Admittedly, there is a lot of waiting time while in the parks. Down time. Standing-in-line time. Ho-hum time. Fidget time. Mom, I'm bored time. Dad, I've got to go real bad time.

People who don't appreciate the parks, or places like them, point out the long waits as reason enough to avoid the magic altogether.

That logic used to cause me to pause (often while waiting in line), but then I realized: isn't most of life about waiting?

Waiting for the park to open. Waiting in line for the biggest rollercoaster.

Waiting for the wedding. The births. The birthdays. The holidays. Vacation. For graduation. For the new job. For retirement.

Waiting for lunch or dinner. Waiting for the water to boil. Waiting for the garden to grow or the flowers to bloom.

Waiting for the next really big moment, or even the not-so-big moments. Standing in the proverbial queue.

Isn't that life? The majority of the time, day in, day out?

Aren't we just waiting for the Next Big Thing, or maybe even just waiting for the bathroom?

This, honestly, caused me to gulp. And ponder. And really, really think.

We're all standing in a queue of one sort or another. It's inevitable. We can't ride the rollercoaster every hour of every day of our life.

So we stand (or sit or lie) and we wait. But does waiting have to be simply just that?

I don't think so.

Therein lies the key.

Waiting in line (in the true or proverbial sense) is a life truth we all experience daily. In rush-hour traffic.

At the airport and the grocery store. While on hold with the cell phone company. Waiting for the coffee to brew or the shower water to get hot. Time spent

driving to work or pumping gas. Even at home, while waiting for the bathroom.

Standing in the queue is a reality for all us—whether it's at a theme park or inside our own home.

Waiting is a part daily existence. It is inevitable and unavoidable. It is commonplace.

What we do while waiting, however doesn't have to be.

Waiting can be meaningless or meaningful. I propose we attempt to make it the latter.

And it doesn't have to be anything monumental or life-changing. It can be as inconsequential as putting together a mental grocery list. Or, better yet, a mental gratitude list. Maybe you hum a little tune or repeat a positive mantra or prayer. Maybe you just take a moment or two to focus on the peace within your own being.

If you are standing in a line with others you can tell a joke or play 20-questions or a hearty game of "I spy with my little eye."

Bottom line, you can be present and do whatever you can to enjoy the moment—with yourself or with others. You can find fun in what appears to be the absence of it. You can discover and create meaning in what seems to be the absence of it. You can corral peace and contentment anytime, anywhere, while simply waiting for the next big moment. Your next big moment.

Even if that moment is waiting for the coffee to brew.

It might not be as exciting as a roller coaster, but it can be just as satisfying.

Am I right? Ponder that. But not for long. There are lots of other, bigger life truths worthy of your time and consideration—while waiting in line, of course.

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

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

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### Office Hours

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

EDITOR: Kathleen Cruger

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# Full repeal of California's Prop 12 is urgently needed

By Brian Duncan  
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU  
PRESIDENT

A lot has changed on our Ogle County farm since I first started helping my dad take care of the pigs over 50 years ago. Gone are the open sheds and large pens for our pigs of multiple sizes and ages—pens where they were exposed to the weather as well as disease.

On my farm and others around Illinois, outdoor facilities have been replaced with protective indoor, climate-controlled housing with modern waste management systems providing a cleaner, safer environment for animals and caretakers.

Behind every pig stands a person. Livestock farmers spend countless hours in all conditions, ensuring the security and well-being of their animals.

We adopt scientifically backed, veterinary-approved, animal care and husbandry practices with the best interest of the animals and those of us who care for them in mind.

Like other producers, I am troubled that people without animal care experience or ex-

perience can dictate the practices that must be used on livestock farms.

In 2018, a proportionately small number of Californians passed a ballot initiative, known as Proposition 12, restricting the sale of eggs, veal and certain cuts of pork that were produced in a manner that did not meet the standards outlined in the initiative. Consequently, uncooked or unblended pork products must come from animals who are the offspring of sows given 24 square feet of floor space upon reaching reproductive age.

Various vet-approved solutions are used for housing breeding females in modern pork production, including grouping sows. Yet Prop 12's arbitrary requirement of 24 square feet per sow can increase the opportunity for the animal to engage in aggressive and sometimes violent behavior, risking injuries to themselves, their pen mates and their caretakers.

American Farm Bureau Federation, along with the National Pork Producers Council, challenged the law's constitutionality as a violation of the

Interstate Commerce Clause. We were greatly disappointed last summer when the U.S. Supreme Court, in a narrowly split decision, declared the initiative to be constitutional.

With the law's enactment on Jan. 1, pig farmers are now uncertain if they will make massive infrastructure investments to comply with California's arbitrary animal welfare standards which could be subject to change with future ballot initiatives. Ultimately, Proposition 12 not only violates the principles of interstate commerce but also undermines food access and affordability.

Nobody understands these concerns better than USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack.

Vilsack told U.S. House Ag Committee members during a recent hearing that "there's nothing preventing any state from doing what California did (with Prop 12)," and if Congress doesn't "take this seriously, we're going to have chaos in the marketplace."

That "chaos" from Prop 12 will hit fixed- and low-income consumers the hardest, as the law is expected to severely reduce the affordability of

high-quality protein. In fact, prices for certain pork products in California have risen as much as 41 percent since Prop 12's implementation, according to a USDA study.

State regulations like Prop 12 shouldn't dictate commerce or agriculture production in other states. Prop 12 endangers the financial health of livestock producers, and smaller farms especially might be forced out of business due to high compliance renovation costs and lack of long-term incentives. This could lead to more consolidation in the industry.

Processors also face challenges due to uncertain demand and higher costs to trace and segregate products for Prop 12 compliance.

But California's market is too big to ignore. Nearly 15 percent of the pork consumed in this country is eaten in California. And future demand

prospects could be significant there as well.

Proposition 12 also serves as a template that ultimately could be used to regulate all sectors of agriculture. Standards could be placed around labor rate, crop inputs used, or certain production methods that could ultimately create chaos in the agriculture space. The risk of disruption increases if more states adopt individual agricultural standards creating an unworkable patchwork of regulations.

I support any farmer's decision to comply with Prop 12 but advise caution with the uncertainty of further regulatory changes, such as Massachusetts' Question 3.

A full repeal of Prop 12 is urgently needed.

The Supreme Court has called on Congress for a legislative solution. Farm Bureau continues to advocate for one as well.

Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Pork Producers Association and state commodity group partners recently sent a letter to the Illinois congressional delegation outlining concerns with Prop 12 and calling for a legislative fix in the next farm bill.

Most vital to addressing Prop 12 is continued collaboration, bipartisan relationships and speaking as the unified voice of Illinois agriculture. Illinois producers can trust there's a grassroots organization committed to protecting the economic well-being of their businesses, just as consumers can trust the family farmer behind every pig.

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

## • Connection

(Continued from page 4)

I sure missed my old friends in Indiana, but soon I made new friends at our new school and life seemed to get back to normal. One of the new things that occurred after the move was that whenever any of our family came to visit from Indiana, they would stay for the whole weekend, and we would all sleep under the same roof and eat all our meals together. It was pretty fun to have these times with our cousins throughout the years. It sure is amazing how fast time flies, but how clear

the memories still are today. Psalm 143:5 "I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done." Today,

our family is still farming the land only the Lord has blessed us with more land, more cows and more kids. God is good. Until next week, God bless.

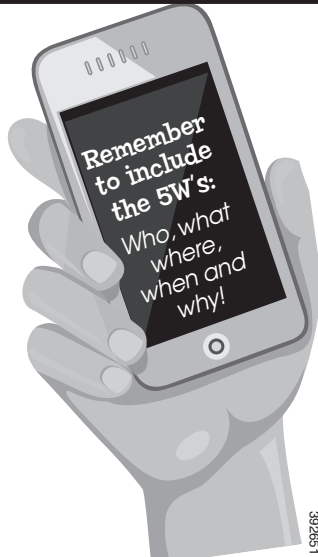


## You ought to be in pictures!

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- Show the community what your group has been doing!
- NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**
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This is your chance to promote your organization or special event!



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BY NOON ON FRIDAY

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# Our Area Churches Welcome You

## APPLE RIVER UMC

102 E. Baldwin St., P.O. Box 188,  
Apple River, IL 61001  
**Pastor Libby Rutherford (815) 990-1428**  
**Church (815) 594-2223**  
• **Sunday Worship – 9 a.m.**  
• Bible Study - Every Monday 9 a.m.  
*Friendly Folks - Casual Attire - Join Us!*

## CALVARY CHURCH OF STOCKTON

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

## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON

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

## EBENEZER – SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

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

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

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

## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

## LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## MARTINTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

## McCONNELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

## NEW VINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

## PROVIDENCE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

## SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

## SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

## SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

## ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062  
[www.stjohnspearlcity.org](http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org)  
815-443-2215  
• **Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.**  
• Christian Education for all Ages - 10:15 a.m.  
Handicapped Accessible

## ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028  
**Pastor David Russell**  
**Church: 815-589-3367**  
• **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**  
"Celebrating 165 Years of Faith"

## ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001  
**Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312**  
• **Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.**  
• Reconciliation Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

## ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENT

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

## WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

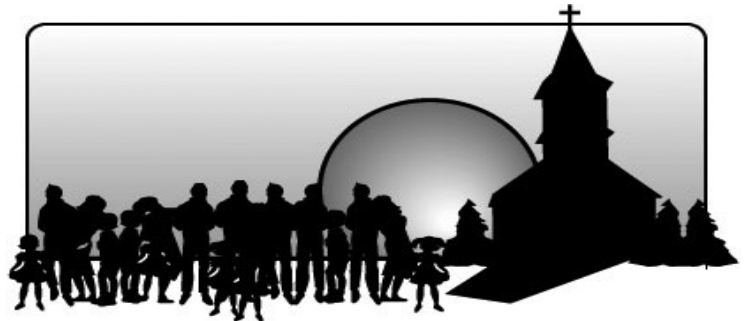
Corner of Hudson & Benton St.,  
Stockton, IL 61085  
**Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 947-2541**  
• **Sunday Worship – 11 a.m.**  
• Adult Bible Studies Available  
• Communion Every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
• First Sunday potluck following church services.  
Find us on website [StocktonWUMC.org](http://StocktonWUMC.org)  
or Facebook-Stockton Wesley United Methodist Church  
*\* Handicapped Accessible*

## WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

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

## ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

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



# Come worship with us!

# Church news

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL, on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. for Communion Sunday Worship Service. This will be the Fourth Sunday of Lent. The reading will be from John 3:14-21.

On Wednesday, March 13, 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.

## 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 10, 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, Illi-

nois. Everyone is welcome to join.

If interested in participating in a fun evening of crafting, please join for Crafternoon 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).

## St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the fourth Sunday in Lent on Sun-

day, March 10 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come play cards and dominoes on Thursday, March 28 at 1 p.m. The Men's Breakfast will be Wednesday, March 6 at Garden View restaurant in Lena at 7:30 a.m.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, March 7 at 3:15 p.m. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

The March Grace meal will be on Sunday, March 17. Meals can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on the 17. Reservations for the meal are due in the church office by Thursday, March 14. The menu for the March meal will be ham loaf, potatoes, green beans, applesauce, cinnamon Jell-O, and dessert. This meal

is possible due to donations and a grant from the Foundation of Northwest Illinois.

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.

## 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 13: Zion Community Church

March 20: Ebenezer/ Salem United Church

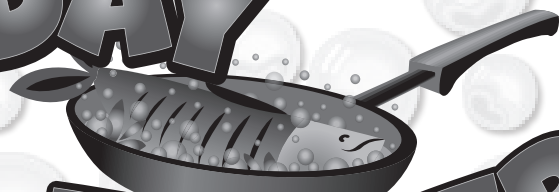
## Seasons of Life ladies conference

Cedarville Baptist Church will host Seasons of Life April 26 and 27, 2024. On Friday, April 26 enjoy dinner at 5 p.m. and Christa Mielke at 6 p.m. On Saturday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. you will hear Christa Mielke and Cheryl Stitzinger. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and then all are welcome at 2 p.m. to hear Tom Meyer, The Bible Memory Man, recite the book of Revelation.

Early registration is \$35 per adult and \$15 per youth. After March 16 is \$40 per adult and \$20 per youth. Tickets for Saturday 2 p.m. only are \$10. Call or Email Pastor Pankonin at 507-276-1436 or [jdpankonin@gmail.com](mailto:jdpankonin@gmail.com) with any questions.



# FRIDAY FISH FRY



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815-369-4112 or  
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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.

# Around the Northern Hills



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

We need to replenish our farm toys used at Farm Fun Days this summer and thought who better to ask than our members. If you have gently used farm toys that are no longer being used, we would love to put them to good use. We would rather bring new life to old toys than buy new. If you can help us out, please drop them off at our office. Thank you in advance!

www.jodavinesscfb.com and click on the freezer meal tab.

### Ag in the Classroom Freezer meal fundraiser

Want home cooked meals, but short on time? I've got the perfect solution for you! Take part in the Ag in the Classroom Freezer meal fundraiser. You will get 10 meals frozen for you and ready to re-heat. Each meal feeds three to five people. The cost is \$195 for the set.

The 10 meals include:  
Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork

Hickory Smoked Pork Loin  
Smoked Sausage with peppers and onions

Chicken Teriyaki  
Pork Fritters with mixed veggies

Ham Steak with mashed potatoes

Sweet Chili Meatballs  
Mostaccioli with meat sauce  
Chicken Cavatappi

Pulled Pork Mac and Cheese

Orders are due to our office March 7. Pick-up is set for March 28 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. To place your order, stop in our office visit our website

### Become a member

Did you know that you don't need to be a farmer to be a farm bureau member? Give me a call at the office and I can tell you how to become a member. You will be able to take advantage of the many membership benefits that Illinois Farm Bureau and Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau has to offer!

### Stay in touch

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

### Farm Fun Fact:

The Illinois livestock industry contributes \$31+ billion in economic activity, supporting more than 91,000 jobs.

## SOS+ celebrates 20<sup>th</sup> year with Pastor Scott and Cathy Cernek

Senior Outreach of Stockton and Surrounding Areas (SOS+) celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> year with a variety of musical and educational programs planned for the seniors. The 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration begins with a musical program by Pastor Scott and Cathy Cernek of Peace Bi-

ble Church in Browntown, WI, on March 14, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Calvary Church of Stockton's Fellowship Hall. All seniors are invited to the monthly meetings.

In addition to the beautiful musical program by the Cernek's, seniors will also enjoy reminiscing over a vid-

eo of friends and neighbors who are and were a big part of the success of the program over the past 20 years. Refreshments will follow with a beautifully decorated anniversary cake.

SOS+ meets at 2 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, March through De-

ember at Calvary Church of Stockton, 315 W Maple Street in Stockton, IL. If in need of a ride to the programs, please contact Mary Feltmeyer 815-297-5425, Nancy Rice 815-275-0303 or Shirley Toepfer 815-947-3639 to make accommodations.

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**22nd Annual Sunday, March 10 Jane Addams Community Center**  
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10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
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# River Ridge celebrates National FFA Week

Members of the River Ridge FFA Chapter celebrated National FFA Week Feb. 18 through Feb. 24 with a variety of activities for both FFA members and non-members alike. The week celebrates the National FFA Organization that has more than 760,000 members nationwide in over 8600 FFA Chapters across the nation. The mission of the FFA Organization is to prepare stu-

dents for careers in a wide variety of fields, both agricultural and non-agricultural. Whether it is in production, processing, marketing, developing, inspecting or researching; these youth have been tasked with the challenge of feeding a growing population across the world.

This year students were invited to participate in a duck hunt where they had to find rubber ducks hidden through-

out the school, a trivia contest, agricultural games like musical buckets and the hay bale toss, a best truck voting contest, daily agricultural facts in the announcements and making dirt desserts. This was a fun week for FFA members to participate and show students the many things they can become involved in as FFA members and that no farming background is needed in order to participate.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Greenhand members Nick Cobine, Jackson Goldsmith, Faith Morhardt, and Natalie Keleher enjoy their "dirt desserts".



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Junior FFA members David Buck and Thomas Harms give it all they've got in the tug-o-war.



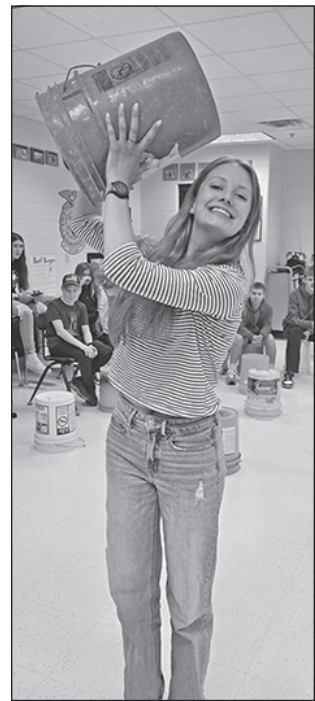
SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Chapter Historian Arthur Horn serves teachers Cole Havens, Jay Dockerson, and Cory Walters.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Eighth grade FFA member Jason Lucas participates in the hay bale toss while Ty Spahn and Lucas Holland get ready to measure.



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Chapter President Avery Engle wins the Musical Buckets competition this year.

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# Wildcats hoping to build off last year's success on the baseball diamond

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats took a step in the right direction last season. After finishing with a record of just 8-13 in 2022, the Cats managed to improve to 16-13. That included a postseason victory over the Orangeville Broncos.

In 2024, the Cats and their head coach Jeremy Knauer are hoping to see another step forward. It won't be easy though. After losing Maddox Knauer, Dylan Diehl, Charlie Wiegel, and Jacob Deurr to graduation, RR-SM has some big shoes to fill.

Three of those four players were All-Conference selections last year. Maddox now plays college ball at Sauk Valley Community College.

One reason for the Cats' improvement last year was they met the demands of coach Knauer. One thing he asked of the team was to improve upon reducing their strikeout rate and increasing overall contact. Knauer acknowledged those improvements throughout last season and hopes to see it continue in 2024.

Despite losing a strong class, the Cats return a solid nucleus to build around.

Four seniors return in George Winter, Ethan Walters, Ty Spahn, and Ben Richmond. A strong class of juniors will be significant with Damon Dittmar, Derek Distler, Joe Winter, mason Smith, and Camden Flack.

Just as every year, the Cats will have to rely on a handful of newcomers. Sophomores Sam Rife and Kaden Duerr, as well as freshman Hamish Boden should see some opportunities in 2024.

Overall, the Cats should rely on their experienced upper classmen. "We are returning a good portion of our offensive lineup and de-

fensive strengths. Dittmar took a huge step forward last year in solidifying our catcher spot. Everything starts up the middle for us," Knauer shared of his team's strengths.

The RR-SM head coach also has big plans for Deurr. "We expect big things from sophomore Kaden Duerr in the outfield," Knauer shared. Knauer also mentioned the team returns their second baseman in Evan Cogan, and their first baseman Joe Winter who Knauer said, "had a great season last year at first."

Once again, the Cats hope

to use their athleticism to their advantage. "This is probably the fastest team we have had since our 2019 Elite 8 team," Knauer said, which is high praise for this group.

There is still plenty of work to be done. Specifically, the Cats will have to find some new arms to eat up innings on the mound. They have to replace 140 of their 180 innings pitched from last year. George Winter was originally expected to be the team's leading pitcher this year, but a shoulder injury will keep him off the mound. Knauer acknowledged these obstacles saying,

"We need to find eight guys to throw strikes for us. If we can find some strike throwers, we have a chance to be very competitive this season. It's probably going to take us awhile to get those things figured out."

The Cats are expected to open the season on March 16 when they play host to the Milledgeville Missiles. They immediately jump into the heat of things on March 20 when they travel to Lena to take on the Lena-Winslow Panthers. Weather permitting, that early season game should be a good litmus test for both squads.

# NUIC West announces boys basketball All-Conference teams

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The NUIC-West recently released their 2023-2024 All-Conference boys basketball teams. This year's teams feature a plethora of area talent, including this year's Most Valuable Player.

That award went to none other than Scales Mound's Thomas Hereau, who led the Hornets in scoring with just under 20 points-per-game. Hereau also added six re-

bounds and four assists per-game to his season stat line. Hereau was also a unanimous First Team All-Conference selection.

It was the second time in a row Hereau had been selected as the conference's MVP. Following the announcement, Hereau was asked what it meant to win again. "What winning the West MVP means to me as a senior player means so much. You know with working around basketball

so much, how much work the game takes to be a good player. You can't just pick up a basketball and be good. I have put so much time into the sport and winning MVP back-to-back years couldn't make me happier," Hereau stated before humbly sharing the award with his teammates. "MVP is an individual award, but also a team award. I couldn't just win that by myself. I had my teammates, who do so much to help our team win and help me as a player. I have so much motivation to win as a team and get better individually, and I

think that helped me get back-to-back MVPs," Hereau added.

Joining Hereau from Scales Mound were Seth Birkett and Jonah Driscoll. All three award winners from the Hornets were seniors, who helped lead the way in the Hornets' recent success over the last couple years. Birkett and Driscoll were both Honorable Mentions this year.

It was no surprise to see East Dubuque dominate the list. East Dubuque finished as conference champs with a league record of 11-1, and their players were recognized

for it. Aidan Colin and Carter Widmeier were both unanimous First Team All-Conference selections, making East Dubuque the only team to have two unanimous selections. They also had Brody Culbertson on Second Team and Bradin Lee as an Honorable Mention.

Warren's standout player, Treyton Pafford, had an excellent junior season. Pafford was recognized as the only other unanimous First Team

All-Conference selection. Bryce VanRaalte, a sophomore at Warren, was a Second Team All-Conference selection.

The Stockton Blackhawks had a pair of award winners on this year's teams. Two seniors in Bennett Graves and Colby Tucker were both selected to the Second Team All-Conference squad.

Finally, River Ridge had a pair of award winners. After going 16-15 throughout the season, River Ridge had a pair of juniors in Damon Dittmar and Joe Winter recognized for their play. Dittmar and Winter were both Second Team All-Conference selections. River Ridge also won this year's Team Sportsmanship Award.

With such a loaded class of talent, a number of deserving players were left off this year's awards list. The West teams of the NUIC had three teams with over 20 victories on the year, and a fourth with 16 win.

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# Stephenson County 4-H- brings STEM activities to Pearl City Middle School

Creative thinking, hands-on problem solving, critical reasoning—these are just some of the skills seventh and eighth-grade students at Pearl City Middle School used on Friday, Feb. 16. Staff from the University of Illinois Extension provided four different STEM activities for students to engage with throughout the morning. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering, and math. This curriculum allows students to actively participate while learning.

Students were separated into four smaller groups and rotated through completing the different STEM activities. These included wind-powered cars, Lego boats, STEM Frogs, and Catapults!

“Critical thinking and reasoning are such important life skills for youth to be able to utilize and apply throughout their lives. On STEM Day the youth are the engineers. They get to build, create, troubleshoot, and sometimes they find that they need to try again, but in a different

way!” says Brenda Heimann, Stephenson County 4-H, and Youth Development Program Coordinator.

For more information on

4-H and Youth Development in Stephenson County, contact Brenda Heimann at 815-235-4125 or by email at bheimann@illinois.edu.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pearl City Middle School students test their wind-powered cars out as one of the many STEM activities University of Illinois Extension shared on STEM day.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Wade Sheffey and Lucas Bremmer find out if their Lego Boat will float.

## McCombie chooses Saporito's Pizza for first business highlight

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie spent time honoring a local business this month through her new program launched earlier this year to help promote the great business community in northwest Illinois.

This month, Leader McCombie visited Saporito's Pizza as her first local business highlight and presented them with a special certificate of recognition. The restaurant is known as a “taste Italy in downtown Lena,” that serves up homemade pizza's pastas and various signature dishes. McCombie was encouraged to highlight Saporito's this month based on a constituent's referral and her craving for pizza!

“This is a great local spot with a fantastic menu and even better service—I am pleased that folks around the 89<sup>th</sup> are helping me support our local economy with our business spotlight outreach,” said McCombie.

This is an ongoing effort for McCombie, and she is continuing her call for constituents across the 89<sup>th</sup> District to suggest local businesses that deserve some extra recognition. To gauge feedback, Leader McCombie has created an online form where residents can nominate a business of their choosing to be recognized. Residents can access the form at <https://repccombie.com/local-business-highlight-submission-form/>.

The 89<sup>th</sup> District includes all of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and DeKalb counties. With questions, constituents can contact Leader McCombie's Office at 815-291-8989.

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# Panthers hoping to replace leadership on the diamond

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

With spring quickly approaching, local varsity baseball teams are preparing for another grind. Weather permitting, the Lena-Winslow Panthers will open their 2024 baseball season on March 12 when they play host to the Forreton Cardinals at 4:30 p.m.

Although there isn't much time, the Panthers still have a



lot of work to do if they want to continue their success from recent years. After going 15-7 and finishing as Co-Conference Champions last year, the Panthers fell in the regional semifinals. With that loss, the program graduated a tremendous class of seniors.

Le-Win head coach Nick Werhane is plenty familiar with filling in some big shoes. Werhane holds a career record of 92-101-1, but his team is 35-14 over the last two years. Even Werhane acknowledged how challenging it will be to replace the players from those teams. "We lost a very successful senior class last year. Jake Zeal, Drew Streckwald, Rowen Schulz, Ayden Packard, and Wes Offerman are going to be very tough to replace," Werhane shared. Zeal and Offerman are both playing college baseball now as

Jake attends Loras College and Wes is at Concordia University in Nebraska. "Their talent and love for the game will be missed, but their leadership is what we will miss the most," Werhane added.

This year, the Panthers will look to their only returning senior Lucas Fye to take on a bigger leadership role. They will also have to rely heavily on other returning starters like juniors Cobryn Lynch and Maverick Cass. Luke Madigan, a sophomore, returns after an excellent freshman season where he was named First Team All-Conference.

Fye will have to lead the way. "Lucas will anchor our outfield this year, and we are going to rely on him to get on base and hopefully be one of our better baserunners," Werhane said. Lynch is an exciting player as well. As a soph-

omore, Lynch played infield and pitched. He was named Second Team All-Conference for his play in the infield last season. Cass also returns as a pitcher-infielder, while Madigan can play pretty much anywhere.

"Obviously experience and leadership is something you can't replace from the last two seasons. All of our seniors that graduated last year had significant contributions to our program. Regional championship in 2022. Back-to-back conference championships in '22 and '23, and 35 wins in those seasons combined. With so many contributors to our program, it's going to be fun to watch them mature and grow into their roles. We definitely have talent here, but there are going to be some learning curves along the way. We are very excited about

their work ethic, energy, and excitement they bring to our program," Werhane stated.

A handful of newcomers will immediately step into big roles at the varsity level. Cohen Weegens, a junior infielder, and Landon Grindey, a junior outfielder, are both expected to play big roles for the Panthers this year. For sophomores, the Panthers will have outfielder-pitcher Koby Kearns, catcher-infielder-pitcher Miles Mahon, and infielder-pitcher-outfielder Aiden Wild in action. Werhane also mentioned that Jaden Schubert and Ashton Gerber could also be sophomores that are in the mix.

Although the Panthers should be expected to undergo some growing pains, the excitement remains very real. "Our lineup is going to be very athletic, and we should

have pretty decent team speed on the bases. We also have a lot of players who can play multiple positions. Almost any of my varsity infielders can also play outfield if needed. We will also have a lot of players who can pitch, and we will need as many as we can get with the pitch limitations in place," Werhane shared.

Once again, the Panthers will be playing on an improved field. Last season, the Panthers brought in a turf home plate. Studies have shown that turf can lead to less rain outs, low-cost maintenance, and less injuries. This year, the Panthers have brought in a turf pitching mound. "Those are going to be awesome additions to our already beautiful baseball field. Our kids are so fortunate to play here," Werhane added.

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# Pearl City baseball looking to find their new identity

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

nine starters from last year, but they will have to replace two of the best baseball players to come through the Pearl City program.

Nathan Brinkmeier and Tanner Perdue led the way on the diamond for nearly

the last half decade for the Wolves. Brinkmeier was the NUIC MVP, an All-Stater, and a First Team All-Conference selection last year. Perdue was also a First Team All-Conference selection. They both provided great bats to the lineup, but they dominated from the mound.

Losing their top two pitchers, the Wolves are going to have to work a little differently in 2024. Last year, the squad went 18-10, captured a Co-Conference championship, and a regional championship. Despite returning a majority of the team, the Wolves could look very different this year.

Pearl City head coach Ryne Plager spoke about how the team is going to approach this year. "We are going to have to play a different style of baseball than we have in the past. You can never replace guys like Brinkmeier

and Perdue. Those guys, when pitching, could keep you in a 2-1, 1-0 game. Our pitchers this year are going to have to throw strikes and let the defense play behind them," Plager shared.

Plager isn't just asking the new pitchers to step up either. With the expectation of possibly struggling in close games, the Wolves are going to have to improve at the plate. "That being said, hitting is going to have to be another huge focus. We are going to have to put the ball in play and put the pressure on the opposing team, using our team speed to push the envelope on the base path and generate runs," Plager explained.

Losing two iconic players can feel like a changing moment for a program. The Wolves are still going to sport a familiar and experienced roster, however. Lexton Enderess, a senior catcher-pitch-

er, returns off a Second Team All-Conference selection. Jayden Downs, a senior first baseman-Designated Hitter, also returns off a Second Team All-Conference selection. Kip Martens, a sophomore outfielder, had an excellent freshman season where he earned Second Team All-Conference. Martens is expected to take another leap forward this year. Finally, the Wolves also return senior Kyle Niehaus, junior Myles Freedlund, junior Jared Runkle, sophomore Will Birchen, and sophomore Brandon Hille.

"We will be young, but also return a lot of guys that started and played varsity last year. Having played in games that decided a conference championship, winning a regional, and playing in a Sectional, these returners have the big game experience," Plager said of the re-

turning group.

The Wolves also have a pair of exciting freshmen coming in that are going to get some early shots on the field. Currently, the Wolves are dealing with some injuries from previous sporting seasons. According to Plager, some freshmen are "going to get thrown in starting roles and see how they handle it" Parker Allen, a catcher-infielder-pitcher, and Brycen Voegeli, a shortstop-pitcher, are two freshman who could make their way onto the scene early this year.

The Wolves open the 2024 season on March 11 when they travel to Freeport to take on the Pretzels at 4:30 p.m. Pearl City is back on the road on March 13 when they travel to take on Warren-Stockton. On March 16, the Wolves hold their home opener as they host Amboy at 11 a.m.

## Village of Lena happenings

With the weather finally moving from winter to spring, there are a few exciting things to look forward to. A Farmers Market is in the works for Lena. Check out the semi-annual newsletter coming out in April for more information regarding the Farmers Market, and other highlights for the Spring/Summer season for the Village of Lena.

2023 UTV stickers will expire on April 30. Stop at Village Hall to purchase your 2024 sticker or register a new UTV.

Brush Pick Up will resume on the first and third Monday from April through October. Please remember to limit the amount of brush to a pile similar in size to a 50-gallon drum. Loose sticks being placed in a reusable container is appreciated, but not required. As always, brush can be taken to the drop location on Townline Rd at any time. (For Lena residents only.)

The updates to William St., Leet St., and School St. are scheduled to begin soon. The utilities are almost complete, and contractors are set to begin early spring.

The Village Board meets at Village Hall on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend to see what is happening within the Village of Lena. If you have a topic that you would like to discuss you can call Village Hall at 815-369-4016 to be put on the agenda for Public Participation.

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# Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

With warm weather just around the corner it makes me think about pork chops on

the grill which is a great time to remind everyone that both the Carroll and Stephenson County Farm Bureau offices

sell Custom Culinary Pork Barbeque Spice. This is a favorite of Farm Bureau members across the state. The cost

for these items is \$13 for a 12-ounce shaker bottle, \$93 for a 10-pound pail, and \$156 for a case of 12, 12-ounce shaker bottles.

To guarantee large quantities please contact your county Farm Bureau. Carroll County members should call 815-244-3001 and Stephenson County should call 815-232-3186.

### Carroll County office hour update

The Carroll County Farm Bureau has adjusted our office hours to Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. To schedule an appointment, call 815-244-3001 or email carrollcfb@gmail.com

### Carroll County Farm Bureau accepting orders for Freezer Meals

The Ogle Carroll Agriculture Partnership Foundation is excited to announce we are now accepting orders for our spring freezer meal program. Each menu item serves

about five people. The menu includes Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork, Hickory Smoked Pork Loin, Smoked Sausage with Peppers and Onions, Chicken Teriyaki, Pork Fritters with Mixed Vegetable, Ham Steak with Mashed Potatoes, Sweet Chili Meatballs, Mostaccioli with Meat Sauce, Chicken Cavatappi and Pulled Pork Mac and Cheese. The meal sets are \$185 if you pay with check or cash and \$190 if you pay with credit card.

Orders forms can be printed from our website www.carrollcfb.org or online using the link on our website. Orders are due on or before March 11, 2024. Order pick-ups will take place on Friday, March 22 from 12p.m. to 4p.m. If you have questions, please call our office at 815-244-3001.

### Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation:

The Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation scholarship applications can

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

### Carroll and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus host Wind Energy meeting:

A Wind Energy Landowner Informational Meeting will take place on Monday, March 11 at 9 a.m. at the Carroll County Farm Bureau office. During this program attendees will learn about their rights, contract implications and negotiating options. Guest speakers include Bill Bodien, Director of Business and Regulatory Affairs with Illinois Farm Bureau and Garrett Thalgot, Assistant General Counsel with Illinois Farm Bureau. This program is a member only program and registration is required. Registration is due on or before Friday, March 8 at 12 p.m.. If you have questions or want to reserve your spot call 815-244-3001.

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451168

## FARM EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 • 10 A.M.

Paul J. Gitz Estate

4118 S. Park Road, Freeport, IL

**IHC TRACTORS & OTHERS:** 1977 IHC 1486 Diesel Tractor with cab, wf, hyd, wts, 3 pt, 540-1000 PTO, 20.8-38 tires & axle duals; 1966 IHC 806 Diesel Tractor with Cab, wf, 3 pt, hyd, 18.4-38 tires, wts & duals; 1964 IHC 806 Diesel Tractor with wf, 3 pt, 540-1000 PTO, flat top fenders, 18.4-34 tires & duals; 1959 IHC 560 Diesel Tractor with flat top fenders, nf, hyd standard drawbar, 16.9-38 tires; 1953 IHC Super M with nf, 13-38 tires, pulley, standard drawbar, repaint, nice!; 1952 IHC Super C Tractor with nf, 10-36 tires; 1946 IHC B Farmall with nf, wts, 9-24 tires, PTO, 1946 IHC "A" Tractor with wf, wts, belly Mower, new 11.2-24 tires; 1949 IHC W-6 Standard Tractor with 16.9-30 tires, pulley, fenders; 1928 IHC Farmall Regular Tractor, nf, also extra set steel wheels fit this tractor, to be restored; 1929 McCormick-Deering 10-20, wf, PTO, to be restored; M.F. 1938 Case DC Tractor with fenders, nf, 13.6-38 tires, hyd, PTO, repaint, nice; M.F. 202 Work Bull Loader Tractor with rear wt, 16.9-24 tires, shuttle gear!; M.F. 300 Loader Tractor with 50A Loader, 7' Bucket, rear wts, flat fenders, 18.4-26 tires. All tractors are running and in clean condition.

**TRUCKS AND LIVESTOCK TRAILER:** 1986 Ford F350 Pickup XLT 4x4, flat bed, goose neck hitch, high mileage, not running; 1974 Chevrolet C-30 Ambulance Truck; 16' Cattle Trailer Bumper Hitch; 1968 IHC 1890 Grain Truck, not running; 1967 IHC 1700 Grain Truck, not running.

**FARM MACHINERY:** IHC 6-16" Bottom 3 pt. Plow with Harrow; Top Air 40' Trailer Sprayer, 600 gal; IHC 1450 Cadet with deck; IHC 1250 Mix Mill; Fox Forage Blower; J.D. 200 gl. Trailer Sprayer; 2 Fox 3000 Forage Harvester's with Corn & Hay Heads; Flow-EZ Bu. Gravity Box with 1074 Gear, nice; JD 953 gear with flair box & hoist; Glencoe 9 shank Chisel Plow with drag; 60' 8" Auger with elec. Motor; IHC #490-20' hyd. Fold Disk with flex Harrow; IHC-6R. Front Cultivator; IHC-4R. Front Cultivator; Gehl 72 Green Chopper; 16' Green Chop Wagon; Kewanee 22' Flat Fold Cultimulcher; 24' 4 Section Harrow & cart; IHC 55T Baler with motor; IHC 4 cylinder Ind. Motor; Knight 410 Tandem axle Spreader with dual apron, hyd. Gate, 2 beaters; IHC Cyclo Planter parts; IHC 55T Baler, PTO; JD Rotary Hoe; Cart with End gate Seeder; 18' Flat rack & Gear; Hessler #10 Stack; Woods 214 Bat Wing Mower, parts; Cattle Squeeze Chute; 20+ Assort. Pipe Gates; Water Tanks.

**SHOP - TOOLS (3-4 WAGONS FULL):** US General 30 double R.A. Tool Box; HD 12T Bearing Press; Century AC-DC 250-295 Welder; 3 Bench Grinders; 20" Power Hack Saw; 16 Speed Floor Drill Press; 200 amp Battery Charger; 1000 Watt Battery Booster; 12" Craftsman Radial Arm Saw; Hyd. Floor Jack; Porta-Power; 2 Chain Saws; Air Tools; 1" Air Impact; RR Jack; Anvil; Power Mitre Saw; 50+ Nut & Bolt Containers; Milwaukee SawzAll; 1" Sockets; Ladders; Log Chains; 2 hp Demolition Hammers; XC Torch Set; Sand Blaster; Lg. amt. Hand Tools, Sockets, wrenches, etc.

**NOTE:** This is a large Estate with many farm related items and tools. A nice lineup of IHC Tractors to be offered. Paul lived on the family Sesquicentennial farm his entire life, and was the original owner of many of the tractors to be sold. He had a special passion for Farmall tractors. Be sure to see the pictures on the websites. Lunch stand and portable toilet on grounds.

**TERMS:** Cash or check with picture ID required. All equipment sold in AS-IS condition. No exceptions. Number system to be used. Check website for directions to farm.



Check website for many pictures: [proauctionsllc.com](http://proauctionsllc.com)  
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451323

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457477

# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

March came in like a lion as the song from the musical Carousel Says. The wind is certainly whipping up the water on the rill. We had a pretty unusual February, so I imagine March will be an adventure. This week the recipes include some "green" recipes for St. Patrick's Day and some Lenten recipes. Have a great cooking week.

## Cheesy Spinach Puff Pastry Bites

This appetizer uses puff pastry making for an easy prep and clean up. The cheese melded with the spinach makes this an appetizer that you can serve any time.

- 4 slices bacon, diced
  - 1/2 medium onion, minced
  - 4 cloves garlic, minced
  - 4 C. lightly packed spinach leaves
  - 1/2 t. salt
  - 1/4 t. pepper
  - 2 eggs
  - 1/2 C. (4 oz.) cream cheese, softened
  - 2/3 C. grated Parmesan
  - 1/2 C. crumbled feta
  - 1 T. chopped chives
  - Flour for dusting
  - 1 pkg. (2 sheets) thawed frozen puff pastry left at room temperature for 30 minutes
- Preheat the oven to 425. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the bacon and cook until crisp, 5 to 7 minutes; transfer the bacon to a paper towel lined plate with a slotted spoon, leaving the bacon fat in the pan. Set the

lettuce to medium-high heat and add the onion. Cook, stirring occasionally, one minute. Stir in the garlic. Add the spinach and cook until the spinach is wilted, two to three minutes. Stir in the salt and pepper and set aside.

Stir one egg, the cream cheese, Parmesan, feta and chives together in a large bowl. Stir in the spinach mixture and the bacon; set aside. Dust a work surface with flour and roll out the pastry with a rolling pin to smooth out any creases. Cut into 4-inch pieces; you should get about 9 squares. Place the squares on the prepared baking sheet. In a small bowl, beat the remaining egg together with a splash of water. Using a pastry brush, brush two adjacent sides of each square with the egg wash. Place a heaping tablespoon of filling into the center of the square. Fold the dough over the filling, forming a triangle, and crimp the edges together. Place the bites in the fridge for 10 to 15 minutes. Remove from the fridge and brush the tops with the remaining egg wash. Bake until golden brown and puffed, 15 to 20 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes before eating.

## Dilly Pea Soup

This pea soup is not your usual split pea soup. You can make it meatless by using vegetable stock and omitting the ham. The dill gives it an extra zip, and the potatoes make it just a little heartier.

- 1 T. olive oil
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 2 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into 1/2 inch pieces.
- 1 t. salt
- 1/2 t. pepper
- 4 cans low sodium chicken broth
- 2 pkg. (16 oz. each) frozen peas, thawed
- 2 T. chopped dill
- 1/2 C. heavy whipping cream
- 1/4 C. shredded ham

## 2 T. Chopped Parsley

In a large pot, heat oil over low heat; add onions. Cook, stirring occasionally until softened, about two minutes. Add potatoes, salt and pepper; cook, stirring often, until golden, about two minutes. Stir in broth; cover. Over low, cook, partially covered until potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes.

Add peas and dill to potato mixture and cook, uncovered, about two minutes. Let cool slightly. In batches, using a blender, puree until smooth (or use an immersion blender in pot). Strain and return soup to pot. Over low heat, stir in whipping cream; cook until heated through, one to two minutes. Transfer soup to bowls. Add additional cream on top. Top with ham and garnish with chopped parsley.

## Arugula and Spinach Salad

This green salad mixes the tartness of Arugula to the healthy spinach greens. The dressing is a little sweet added to the peppers to make a sweet and sour taste. You could substitute strawberries or blackberries for the raspberries.

- 6 C. fresh baby spinach
  - 2 heads Arugula, torn
  - 2 C. fresh raspberries
  - 1/2 C. raisins
  - 1/4 C. chopped cashews, toasted
  - 1/4 C. thinly sliced red onion
  - 1/4 C. minced fresh mint
  - 3 T. lime juice
  - 2 T. olive oil
  - 2 t. honey
  - 1 1/2 t. chopped chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
  - 1/4 t. salt
  - 1/2 C. crumbled feta cheese
- In a large bowl, combine first seven ingredients. In a small saucepan, over medium heat, combine the lime juice, olive oil, chipotle peppers and salt. Cook and stir until blended and heated through. Immediately pour over the

salad; toss to coat. Sprinkle with cheese.

## Upside Down Pizza

This easy pizza is different because the crust is on the top. You can use any kind of pasta sauce; there are many out there with spices, mushrooms, and cheese. If you can't find the crescent dough sheets, use the regular ones, and then use a small rolling pin to get rid of the perforations. This recipe is a great and quick weeknight meal.

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 2 jars (25.5 oz.) pasta sauce
- 2 t. dried oregano
- 1 C. mini pepperoni slices (4 oz.)
- 2 cans (2 1/4 oz.) sliced ripe olives, drained, about 1/2 C.
- 2 C. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 can refrigerated Pillsbury Crescent Dough Sheet
- 1 T. olive oil
- 1 t. Italian seasoning

Preheat oven to 375. Spray a 9x13 baking dish with cooking spray. In a large skillet, cook beef over medium-high heat five to seven minutes, stirring frequently, until beef is brown; drain. Add the pasta sauce and oregano and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer, uncovered for five minutes. Add pepperoni slices and olives. Cook for one to two minutes until hot. Stir in cheese. Spoon into baking dish.

Unroll dough and press to form a 9x13 rectangle. Place on beef mixture; cut four to five vent holes in dough. Brush dough with olive oil. Sprinkle the top with Italian seasoning. Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until crust is a deep golden brown.

## Pasta Tuna Bake

This recipe is not your usual tuna casserole. I have found several unique ones that I will share during the Lenten season. This one uses mustard for some zip and mixed vegetables for easy prep.

- 12 oz. rigatoni
- 3 T. flour
- 3 C. milk
- 1 T. Dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 t. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 8 oz. sharp cheddar, shredded
- 2 cans (5 oz. each) tuna in water, drained
- 1 1/2 C. frozen mixed vegetables, thawed and drained
- 1 t. grated lemon zest
- 2 T. chopped fresh parsley

Preheat oven to 400. Spray a 2 1/2 qt. baking dish with cooking spray. In a large pot of salted boiling water, cook pasta according to package directions for al dente, drain. In same pot, whisk flour into milk; over medium-high heat bring to a boil, stirring constantly. Reduce heat to low. Stir in mustard, Worcestershire and pepper until blended. Reserve 1/2 C. shredded cheese. Add remaining shredded cheese to pot; cook, stirring until melted, about 2 minutes. Add tuna, vegetables, lemon zest and pasta; stir until evenly coated and combined. Transfer tuna mixture to baking dish. Sprinkle with reserved cheese and parsley. Bake until hot and bubbly, about 15 minutes. Heat broiler. Broil until lightly golden, two to three minutes. Serve immediately.

## Cherry Pie Bars

If you want to make cherry pie for a group, this recipe will do that. Sometimes these recipes are called slab pies, but this one is made in a 9 x 13 pan. The aluminum lining makes for easy cutting into bars. I have mentioned before that you need to get the cherry pie filling with the extra cherries for best results. I think you could use blueberry or peach instead of the cherry pie filling.

- 3 C. flour
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 1/2 C. cold butter, cubed
- 3 C. canned cherry pie filling
- 3/4 C. chopped pecans
- 1 C. powdered sugar
- 4 to 5 T. whole milk
- 1/4 t. almond extract

Preheat oven to 350. Line bottom and sides of a 9x13 baking dish with heavy-duty aluminum foil, allowing two to three inches to extend over the sides; lightly grease foil with cooking spray. Pulse flour, sugar, and salt in a food processor until combined. Add butter cubes, and pulse until mixture is crumbly. Reserve 2 C. flour mixture. Press remaining flour mixture onto bottom of prepared pan. Bake in preheated oven until lightly browned 25 to 30 minutes.

Spread cherry pie filling over crust in pan. Toss together reserved 1 C. flour mixture and pecans. Sprinkle pecan mixture evenly over filling. Bake in preheated oven until golden brown, 40 to 45 minutes. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack.

See KITCHEN, Page 17

## STATELINE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

### HUGE 3 DAY AUCTION!!

**101 E Murray St Browntown WI 53522 - Mike Powers (608) 214-5761**

**FRIDAY APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> - SUNDAY APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>**

**Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> - LIVE & ONLINE** - Large Equipment, Construction & Farm Equipment

**Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> - LIVE & ONLINE** - Support Equipment

**Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup> - ONLINE ONLY** - Signs, Toys, Yard Art, & MORE!

## ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS!!

**Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM or By Appointment**

**Powers Auction Service**  
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Office: (608) 439-5761

LIVE Online Bidding Provided By **EquipmentFacts**  
451779

## LARGE FARM TOY AUCTION

### SATURDAY, MARCH 16 • 9:30 A.M.

**Jane Addams Community Center**  
**430 W. Washington St., Cedarville, IL 61013**  
**500+ FARM TOYS & IMPLEMENTS FROM AREA CONSIGNORS**

**PEDAL TRACTORS:** Super M Pedal; J.D. A Pedal; IHC 66 Series Pedal, Oliver 70, J.D. A with cart; J.D. 20 Series Pedal. **PRECISION JD:** 214T Baler, F-145 Plow, Waterloo Boy, JD B Tractor, 494 Planter, 4000 Tractor, 4020 with 237 Picker, 2-730 Tractors, 630 Tractor, JD Precision D; Assort. J.D. Memorabilia. **OLIVER:** Oliver Slik 77, Oliver 77 with Picker, Oliver S, 77, 880 twin, 88, 77 Orchard, 2 custom Oliver Hay Mowers, Oliver HG, 2255, 1855, 1950T, 77 with Cultivator, 770 with NI Loader, S-99, 1750, S-77; **IHC:** 1468, 2-1566, Hydro 100, M.T.A., 450, 656, 1256, 460, 1256, 340, 1086, 300,350, 3588 2+2, 6588 2+2, Hydro 666. **CIH:** CIH MX 305, 245 Magnum, 480 Quad Trax, 530 Steiger with duals, 5120, MX110, 5130, 7140, 480. **IH:** 4944, IH Payloader, 1206 Big Farm, 756, WD-9. **JD:** Custom 2030, JD Plow City 8850, 8760, 2510, 1010, 7020, 2755 Loader, 630, 7250, 7610, 8410, 9300. **AC:** 7045, D-17, D-14 LP, 6070, 220, 8010, Roto Baler; Kinze 1305 Grain Cart; T.S. Spreader; T.S. M with Loader. **FORD:** 881, 6640. **CASE:** 15-27, 9-18, 12-55; N.H. T9060 HD with Scrapers. **OTHER:** Red Power IHC 806, 1586, 600, 82 PTO Combine; Midge Toys; Harley Davidson Items; Plus much more. **1/64TH:** Terra Gators; Ro-Gators; CIH 140; 2-CIH Steiger 535 FPS with chrome chaser; NH T7040 with chrome chaser; NH T9615; JD S690 Combine; TTT Big Bud 440 & 500; NH Combine. **1/32ND:** N.H. 565; Ford 5610, Ford 7610; MF 6480; Lots Universal Hobbies Impl; NH CR 9080, 9090 Combines. **1/25TH:** IH 24 Dozer with Karry Area; IH 24 Bulldozer with umbrella; IH 24 Pipe Layer. **SPECIAL ITEMS:** Full series of IHC Buyers Guides from 1962-2004. Lots of IHC Literature & Sale Papers. **NOTE:** Large assort. 1/64th Tractors & Implements. 100+ of 1/64th Semi Trucks & Trailers. Many items not listed. **TERMS:** Cash or check with picture ID required. Auction held inside with seating, lunch, and restrooms.

Check website for many pictures: [proauctionsllc.com](http://proauctionsllc.com)  
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# LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS Illinois Housing Development Authority PLAINTIFF

Vs. Nichole Jones; et. al. DEFENDANTS

No. 2023FC33 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 11/14/2023, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on April 18, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

PART OF THE NORTH EAST QUARTER OF THE NORTH WEST QUARTER OF SECTION 6, TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE WEST LINE OF SOUTH WALNUT AVENUE, SAID POINT BEING 657 FEET SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE WEST LINE OF SAID SOUTH WALNUT AVENUE WITH THE SOUTH LINE OF WEST EMPIRE AND RUNNING THENCE WESTERLY PARALLEL WITH THE SAID SOUTH LINE OF WEST EMPIRE STREET, 120 FEET, THENCE SOUTHERLY PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF SOUTH WALNUT AVENUE, 60 FEET, THENCE EASTERLY PARALLEL WITH SAID SOUTH LINE OF WEST EMPIRE STREET, 120 FEET TO THE WEST LINE OF SAID SOUTH WALNUT AVENUE, THENCE NORTHERLY ON SAID WEST LINE OF SOUTH WALNUT AVENUE, 60 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY;

ILLINOIS. ALL SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF STEPHENSON, STATE OF ILLINOIS.

PIN 18-19-06-129-019 Improved with Residential

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

1418 South Walnut Avenue Freeport, IL 61032

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

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

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

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

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

presently in possession of the subject premises.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-23-03758. I3239260

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 6, 13 & 20, 2024) 451881

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 60132, 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 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

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other good will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street Freeport, IL 61032 to satisfy a lien on March 21, 2024 at approx. 1:00pm at [www.storagetreasures.com](http://www.storagetreasures.com) Cube 1121 Amari Parker; Cube 1297 Sherman Dean; Cube 1487 Nada Jones

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 6 & 13, 2024) 451393

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 Defendants, Craig C. Jacobs and UNKNOWN OWNERS and UNKNOWN TENANTS that a petition was filed in the Circuit Court of Stephenson County, Illinois, for Petition for Transfer of Abandoned Title to the following described

manufactured home:

1. The owner is: Craig C. Jacobs.

2. The description is: 1984 Commodore manufactured home.

3. The location is: 106 Arber Dr., Freeport, IL 61032

Now therefore, unless you and all whom it may concern, file your answer to the petition in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Stephenson 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 accordance 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS In the Matter of: IRVIN M. KOWALSKI, Deceased.

2024-PR-2 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of IRVIN M. KOWALSKI of Davis, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on February 26, 2024 to GLORIA KAESE, as Independent Executor whose attorneys are WILLIAMS McCARTHY LLP, 120 W. State St., P.O. Box 219, Rockford, IL 61105.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena

Avenue, Suite 2, 2nd floor, Freeport, IL 61032 or with the representative, or both, on or before September 6, 2024, or within 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery of notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

GLORIA KAESE Independent Executor (Published in

The Shopper's Guide March 6, 13 & 20, 2024) 451745

## ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, February 29, 2024, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons, owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: **The Willow Boutique**, located at **7449 S. Bethel Rd., Stockton, IL 61085**.

Dated this 29 day of February, 2024 No. A2024-003

ANGELA KAISER County Clerk JAMIE DEWE Deputy

(Published in The Scoop Today March 6, 13 & 20, 2024) 451953



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# IN\*CI\*DENTAL\*LY

## Effective pain management targets the source

When it comes to addressing dental pain, it is necessary to take into consideration a number of factors. Some of these include your health history, current medications, the source, severity, and duration of your pain, presence of infection and allergies or adverse reactions to any medications.

Pain management is the most effective when it targets the source of pain. While you may think that common over the counter (OTC) pain medicines such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) including aspirin, ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) and naproxen (Aleve) could not be as effective as opioids for acute dental pain, research conducted by the joint efforts of the American Dental Association Science and Research Institute, the University of Pittsburgh and the University of Pennsylvania, reaffirms once again that opioids do not address the underlying cause of most dental pain, which is inflammation.

NSAIDs work locally to reduce pain by reducing inflammation at the site where the pain is occurring.

### •Kitchen (Continued from page 15)

about one hour. Lift baked bars from pan, using foil sides as handles.

Stir together powdered sugar, 4 T. milk and almond extract. Add additional milk, if needed to reach desired consistency to drizzle. Drizzle over pecan mixture; cut into bars.

### Homemade Cherry Crisp

If you need an easy dessert, this next recipe is for you. The total prep time is 15 minutes. You can make it right before you serve it, and everybody who loves cherries will love this warm treat.

- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 t. lemon juice
- 1 C. flour
- ¼ C. packed brown sugar
- ¾ t. cinnamon
- ¼ t. ground allspice
- 1/3 C. cold butter, cubed
- ½ C. chopped pecans or walnuts
- Vanilla ice cream

Combine the pie filling and lemon juice in an ungreased 1½ qt. microwave-safe dish; set aside. In a small bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and allspice; cut in butter until mixture resembles



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

Acetaminophen blocks the transmission of pain signals within the central nervous center. Provided that you do not have any contraindications for use of either of these medications, your dentist is likely to prescribe a combination of these two medications for acute dental pain. This is highly effective as the pain is being blocked at both ends of the pain pathway. As I reported in 2021, this method is more effective at reducing pain than opioid analgesics, while avoiding their potential for adverse reactions, abuse, and addiction.

Efforts to spread the word that the FDA has set Clinical Practice Guidelines for the management of acute dental pain through national news sources is critical for a reason. Despite the clinical evidence that NSAIDs provide safer and more effective pain relief for acute dental pain, while

coarse crumbs. Add nuts and sprinkle over filling. Microwave, uncovered, on high until bubbly, three to four minutes. Serve warm with ice cream.

### Final Thoughts

The Lena-Winslow musical *SpongeBob Musical* is this coming weekend, March 8 and 9. They have added a performance in the afternoon. It should be a fun production.

Spring sports have started practices, so meets and games will be starting soon. The golf course is open, and people are looking at seed packets. I know several people have started tomatoes and peppers in the house. All these things make us itch to have winter over. I have put my snowmen to bed for the season and after St. Patrick's Day, we have an early Easter.

We are looking for Easter recipes because it is really early this year, 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.

avoiding the many risks of opioids, emergency medicine physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners and other health care providers are still prescribing opioids to treat acute dental pain.

To counteract these practices that put patients at unnecessary risk and contribute to the opioid crisis, Congress set a mandate to produce these Clinical Practice Guidelines for management of acute pain in adolescents, adults, and older adults. Because some patients may be unable to take NSAIDs and/or acetaminophen, the guidelines include evidence-based recommendations

for the rare occasions that limited use of opioids may be necessary.

Evidence showing that adolescents are at an even higher risk of developing an addiction to opioids, overdose, and severe adverse reactions, led to pediatric guidelines for dental pain management being issued earlier, in fall of 2023. These state that children under 12 should not be prescribed opioids for short-term dental pain.

A word of caution: Acetaminophen is the most common drug ingredient in our country. The American Liver Foundation reports that it is found in more than

600 OTC and prescription medications. This shows the importance of providing a complete and updated medical history and full disclosure of all OTC meds that you are taking. It also points to the necessity for reading labels to avoid exceeding the daily limits of acetaminophen which has been associated with liver damage and acute liver failure, as well as headaches, gastrointestinal effects, and agitation.

Contraindications for NSAIDs include but are not limited to pregnancy (except for low dose aspirin therapy prescribed by your obstetrician), certain

cardiovascular conditions, bleeding disorders, taking blood thinners, taking lithium, allergies, aspirin induced asthma, breastfeeding (no aspirin or aspirin containing meds or naproxen) and patients with Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Aspirin should not be given to children under the age of sixteen, unless on the advice of their primary physician.

Like acetaminophen, NSAIDs can be found in other medications, so read labels, do not exceed daily limits, and do not take for extended periods of time unless under the guidance and regular evaluation of a physician.

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# 'Your Voice' essay contest focuses on dangers of repeating history's hate

History provides powerful lessons about the dangers of hate and intolerance. We must learn from them and not repeat those same dangerous mistakes. The Mobile Museum of Tolerance, created by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, hopes this message resonates in school districts across Illinois this spring as part of its latest "Your Voice: Changing the World, One Speech at a Time" statewide essay contest, for students from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. The Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes is sponsoring the essay contest

as part of its support of the mission of the MMOT.

The contest asks students to respond to these words from Simon Wiesenthal, "The history of man is the history of crimes, and history can repeat. So information is a defense against repetition." Submissions, via a three-minute speech of 450 words or less, are due Friday, March 22. First-place winners in each category will receive a MacBook, with other prizes for the runners-up.

**About the essay contest**  
The Your Voice contest

asks Illinois students from 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to write a three-minute written speech (of 450 words maximum) on how this Wiesenthal quote applies to them, and ways we must be proactive to address intolerance, hate, and bigotry. Submit the speech/essay in a Word document by Friday, March 22, 2024, to: mmot@wiesenthal.com. Submissions must include the name and age of contestant, name of contestant's school and contact details for the contestant.

Five finalists from each category (Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12) will be chosen on March 29 to compete virtually on April 14 by performing their speech/essay in video submissions virtually. A distinguished panel of judges will review the submissions and select winners.

Organizers say the rise in hatred and extremist behavior targeting people of many ethnic and religious backgrounds underscores the need for more awareness and proactive ac-

tion by young people to fight hate and intolerance.

"As time passes, we forget the immense pain our ancestors have suffered through at the hands of zealots who destroyed lives and created misery," said Alison Pure-Slovin, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Midwest Region. "The goal of the MMOT and our work in schools and communities across the state is to help people recognize the threats around them and take meaningful steps to stop

them. We had many powerful submissions in last year's contest and are excited to see the creativity and deep personal conviction driving this year's participants."



## REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS Illinois Housing Development Authority PLAINTIFF Vs. Nichole Jones; et. al. DEFENDANTS

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

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For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-23-03758. 13239260

(Published in The Shopper's Guide

No. 2023FC33 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 11/14/2023, the Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois will on April 18, 2024 at the hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson County Courthouse 15 North Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West door of courthouse Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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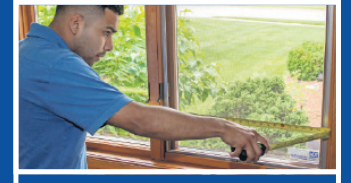
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