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VOL. 90 • NO. 12

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024



LACY HEFFERNAN PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Scales Mound seniors sign letters of intent

Scales Mound seniors Thomas Hereau, Annie Werner, and Anna Wentz celebrate after officially signing their letters of intent to play their respective sports at the college level next year.

Postal Customer \*\*ecrws



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# Obituaries

## JOSEPH SMECK

Joseph Samuel Smeck 81, of Lena, IL passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, March 2, 2024, with his family by his side. Joe was born Dec. 16, 1942, in Lena, IL, to Joe and Dorothy (Klinger) Smeck. He attended Lena Winslow High School and moved to Chicago shortly after graduation where he attended Barber School. At the age of 22 he enlisted in the US Army where he would go on to serve his country as a First Cavalry Military Police being stationed in Germany and in the Vietnam War. When he returned home, he worked as a barber in Chicago and he met his wife Ruth Jurdzy. They got married on April 12, 1969, in Freeport, IL.

Shortly after they got married, he took a job at WMAQ & WKQX Radio as a Studio/Field Engineer operating the sound boards for air talent. He transitioned to a job with NBC Sports which took him all over the country and world. He was a key member of the audio crew from setting up



everything related to the sound inside the stadiums to driving the 18-wheel mobile trucks from city to city. He worked

at about every sports event one can think of and had the opportunity to go to the Olympics games in Montreal, Atlanta, Salt Lake City and Australia. Later he transitioned to Channel 5 in Chicago and was the lead operator of the satellite truck as well as a news photographer. This led to multiple Emmy awards for his work. He retired in 2004 and dedicated his time back to Lena to live on the farm with his Charolais beef cattle.

He had a great sense of humor and was a collector of all things, he loved his bargains and bulk buying, and enjoyed his pet cats, farming and traveling. He was always on the go. His favorite saying was, "Let's take a ride" and you know you would get the full tri

## LARRY NICHOLS

Larry C. Nichols Jr. 60, of Apple River, IL passed away unexpectedly, surrounded by his family at his home, on March 4, 2024. He was born on March 26, 1963, to Larry and Lillian (Lomas) Nichols in Freeport, IL. After Larry graduated from high school, he attended college, and then he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. Larry proudly served his country. While in the Marine Corps, Larry met the love of his life, Margaret Cronk, and they were united in marriage in 1989. Together they raised their daughter Jessi and owned and operated L & M Express Trucking.

Larry enjoyed working with his hands. He liked to



build things, do wood working. When Larry was home, his world revolved around his granddaughter Kensli and his family. Larry was a Jack of All Trades, but most importantly, he was a loving husband and the proudest dad, and the best papa. He enjoyed having a few cold ones by the campfire, playing with all of his fur babies, listening to Kid Rock while waving the American flag, watching Dale Earnhardt Sr., and the New Mexico Lobos, all while Kensli razzled him

state tour.

He is survived by his children- Julie (John) Carlucci of Arlington Heights, IL and Joseph (Danielle Bonebright) Smeck Jr. of Lena, IL; 6 grandchildren- J.J., Michael, Nicholas, Mia, Madilyn, and Grace; girlfriend- Linda Vick and her son Zachary (Taylor Carter) Vick. He was preceded in death by his Parents; wife Ruth in 2004; and numerous family and friends.

A visitation was held on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, Illinois. A Funeral Service was held on Monday, March 11, 2024, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, Illinois. Burial took place at Waddams Grove Cemetery. Faye Darnall officiated the service. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in his name.

Leamon Funeral Home  
ATTN: Joseph Smeck Family  
P.O Box 226  
Lena, IL 61048  
Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leamonfh.com](http://www.leamonfh.com).

about being his number one little Badger.

Larry is survived by his loving wife, Margaret of Apple River, daughter, Jessi Nichols of Scales Mound, and his number one granddaughter, Kensli, his bonus children: Sarah "Big Boot" (Quinn) Hill, Brian "Boo" Vance, Aaron Vance, and Stacie (Kyle Dolphin) Anson, brother Lonnie (Bonnie) Nichols of Green Bay, WI, and several nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Larry and Lillian Nichols, brother Jerry Nichols, and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

A celebration of Larry's life will be held at a later date at their home in Apple River.

# 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 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. for Communion Sunday Worship Service. This will be the Fifth Sunday of Lent. The reading will be from John 12:20-33.

On Wednesday, March 20 The Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience necessary and all are welcome to join. Come and tie the quilts and make difference in the world.

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

## St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the fourth Sunday in Lent on Sunday, March 17 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come play cards and dominoes on Thursday, March 28 at 1 p.m. and dominoes on Tuesday, April 2 at 9 a.m. The Men's Breakfast will be Wednesday, April 3 at Garden View restaurant in Lena at 7:30 a.m.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, March 14 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.

## Primroses to perform at Scales Mound UMC

Scales Mound UMC is

pleased to host the Primroses for a very special musical worship service on March 17 at 10:30 a.m., with fellowship hour starting at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and breakfast treats.

The Primroses are a trio of three friends that include pianist Carly Winslow of Darlington, vocalist Clarey Knellwolf-Schwartz of Darlington, and violinist Emily Hefty-Dieckhoff of rural Mount Horeb. The Primroses met when they played for a wedding together in 2018. Since then, they have played at numerous weddings, churches, and community events around Wisconsin and Illinois. The group includes an Emergency Room Nurse, a high school English Teacher, and a scientist/dairy farmer who all have a passion for sharing music with others. In fact, Hefty-Dieckhoff started her wedding musician career at Scales Mound UMC when she was just 13 years old.

Scales Mound UMC's mission is to love Scales Mound through Jesus Christ, and they have been doing that since 1855. The church is located at 319 Mason St. in Scales Mound.

## "No Worries" to perform at Calvary Church

The "No Worries" band will be at Calvary Church in Stockton for a Palm Sunday Lenten Service. The music will begin at 6 p.m. with refreshments in Fellowship Hall following.

No Worries is a three-member Band who has joined together to share their love of Gospel, Folk, Country, and Bluegrass Music. They love sharing their joy of music with others and spreading God's word. A freewill offering will be taken. The public is invited to attend.

## Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton, IL will host a Chili/Beef Noodle Supper on Monday, March 18 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. The menu will include chili, beef and noodle soup, potato soup, ham sandwiches, relishes and a dessert. Carry outs will be available. The proceeds will benefit Tyler's Justice Center and the Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC Homeless Shelter).



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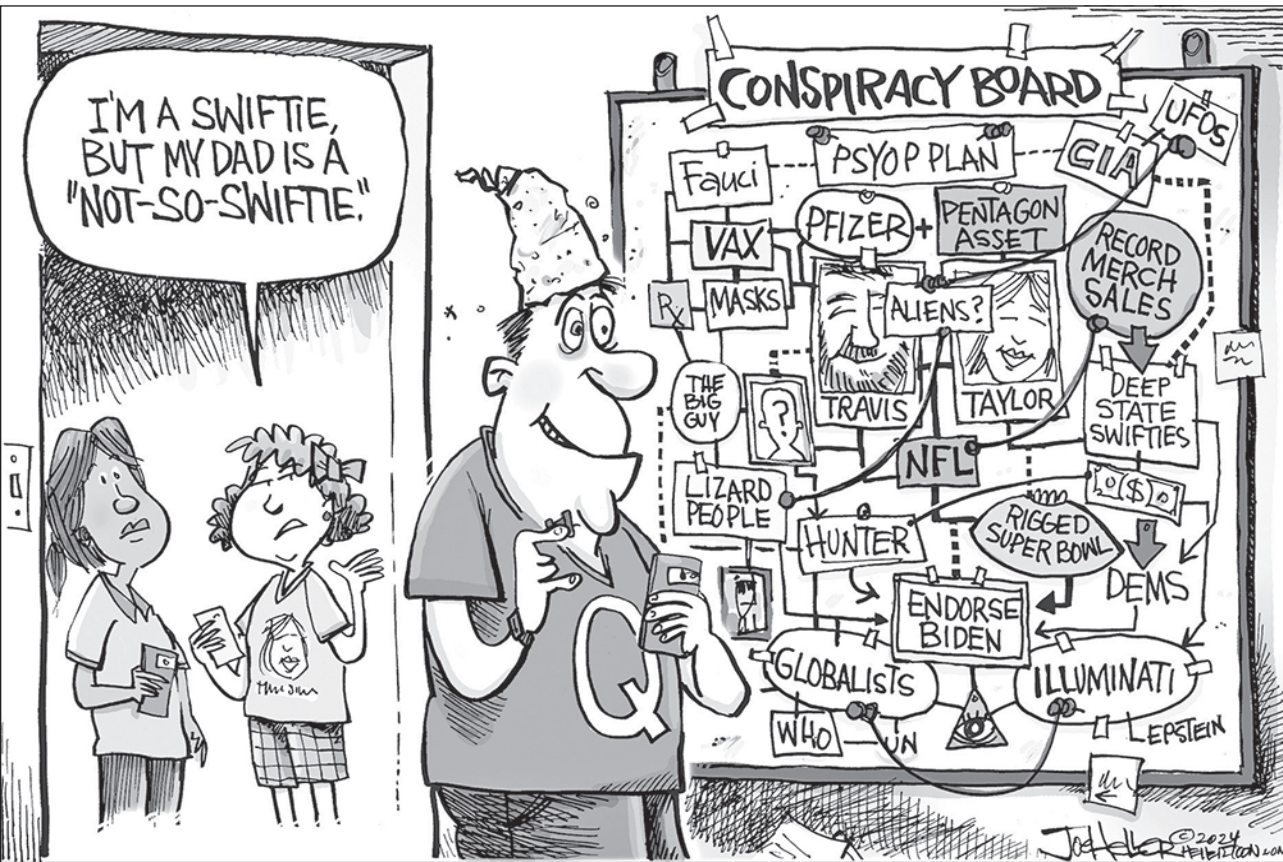
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# OPINION



## Weekly connection

# The babies are coming



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

We've had a bunch of new births on our farm this late winter although it feels like spring the last several weeks. It all started with some baby lambs that came along in early January. Two months later my six older ewes have given me nine surviving lambs. Along with all these baby lambs, our eighth granddaughter was born in February. Then a couple days ago as we moved into the month of March my young nanny goat gave birth to a set of twins. It was her first kidding, and the baby female is very tiny about half the size of her male brother. To top it off early this morning our youngest daughter and her husband welcomed their fourth child and our sixth grandson into the world. We had been blessed to have his three older siblings with us for three of the previous five nights. You see there were some false alarms, so we got to have some extra sleepovers. It's what keeps us young, I suppose. The great thing is that all of the moms and little ones are doing wonderfully. Now I'm excited about the upcoming births of my beef cows that should kick in over the next few weeks as well. We were joking that our son-in-law now has three sons to help run their arborist business someday. There won't be a tree left standing east of the Mississippi.

They can even jump off of all four legs at once. It is quite a thing to behold. Our grandkids were over yesterday for a birthday party, and they were out mingling with the sheep. When one of the grandkids got a little too close to the baby lambs one of the mommas turned and gave her a little head butt to let her know that she better keep her distance. It kind of startled my granddaughter and she quickly moved away.

It is so amazing the instincts that God has placed inside all moms. God has put inside a mom some wonderful instincts of protection and also of comfort. When our new granddaughter was crying yesterday and I couldn't seem to help, our daughter who wasn't even her mother took the baby in her arms and just started dipping and gently walking around almost like she was doing a silent dance. Instantly, the baby just calmed right down. Dads have some of those instincts too, but I think our greatest instincts come in teaching the little ones when they get a little older how to be tough. A good balance of a mom's tenderness and dad's strength help a child develop with a good sense of who God has created them to be. It's when things get out of balance that confusion sets in. Psalm 104:24 reads, "What a wildly, wonderful world, God! You made it all, with Wisdom at your side, made earth overflow with your wonderful creations."

Speaking of these baby lambs, it is so fun to watch them racing around in a pack of nine dancing and prancing all over the pasture. Even some of last year's ewe lambs join in with the newborns running and jumping. We can look right out the windows of the house and watch them anytime we want. They are so entertaining. Sometimes they jump right up in the air about three feet off the

## Letter to the editor

I have had the pleasure to serve you on the Jo Daviess County Board for many years (Thompson Township for six years and for the last three years for Elizabeth and Woodbine Townships). I have always tried to listen to what people say and then "thus you will recognize them by their fruits" (Matt. 7:20). Words are easy to say but backing your words with action speak louder than any spoken word. You have the opportunity to vote on March 19 for my replacement on the county board. Mike Dittmar is one of the candidates running on the Republican ticket for county board district #13. I have watched Mike as mayor

of Elizabeth since 2009 and have seen his passion for our county and our Village. When he is able, he backs his words up with action. Elizabeth has grown and supported many businesses (Dollar General, Elizabeth Business Hub, Antique Mall and Lola's Deli), fixed internal streets and water/sewer infrastructure, secured grants for many projects like the Main St. sidewalk replacement and splash park, and increased community spirit through our local festivals and the wonderful community park for our children. These are all actions that went into place under Mike's Mayorship. If you like action behind

the words, less government involvement, a more business friendly county, more community spirit, more county improvements without undue burden on us citizens, and you would like a person that will serve with the passion that

Mike has for our future, our kids, our village, our county, and our home, I hope you will join me in support for Mike Dittmar running for County Board District #13.  
Steve McIntyre  
Elizabeth, IL

## • Trump (Continued from page 3)

week, Gov. JB Pritzker said he believed Trump remaining on the ballot would be a net positive for Democrats in Illinois. "We're going to win here in Illinois and beat Donald Trump and, I think I said yesterday or the day before, I think it will help Democrats that he's on the ballot," Pritzker said. David Becker, executive director of the nonpartisan Center for Election Innovation & Research, said the decision effectively put an end to state-level challenges to Trump's candidacy based on

the 14th Amendment. But he said the issue will almost certainly come up again if Trump wins the general election in November.

"The one place where I think this is likely to come up is on Jan. 6, (2025)," he said. "If Donald Trump wins, I think we can absolutely expect that there will be members of Congress who will object to his electoral votes—perhaps in many, many states—on the basis that he's not a qualified candidate, because he violated section three of the 14th Amendment."

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## Little Blackhawks

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

# Apple River State Bank shows community spirit with mascot debit cards

When Apple River State Bank introduced its new Mascot Debit Card last year, they promised to donate money to our local schools each time our customers used it. The first annual Mascot Debit Card donations were recently given to seven area schools (Galena, River Ridge, Scales Mound, Stockton, Warren, Southwestern, and Darlington) in the amount of \$2,844. Shullsburg (WI) and South Wayne (WI) schools will soon join the program. For anyone that hasn't requested a Mascot Debit Card, they are encouraged to contact their local bank office.

"We are excited to show Apple River State Bank's community spirit by using our new mascot debit cards," said Joel Holland, the bank's Chief Executive Officer. "Let's work together and support our local schools!"



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Apple River State Bank donates \$236.02 to Stockton schools through their mascot debit card program. Pictured are Ben Wooden, Superintendent James Bunting, and Bobbie Schubert as the donation is received.

## News briefs

### Easter cards for active military

The Junior members of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary has made Easter cards to send to active military. If interested in sending someone a card, please give the name and address to jamcps54@yahoo.com or call 815-369-4684.

### Salvation Army events in March

The Salvation Army of Freeport will offer several events in March. 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 Thursday, 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.

### Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension

The March meeting of the Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension will be held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. The lesson "Nuts to You" will be given by Kim Planz who will also give the minor lesson on "When to Plant Spring Seeds". Roll call will be "What is your favorite nut?" Everyone is invited to attend.

### Female veterans brunch

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

## Around the Northern Hills

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Young Leaders Farmer Appreciation Breakfast this past Saturday. This breakfast is the Young Leaders way of saying thank you to the farmers during National Ag Month.



By ANNETTE EGGERS  
Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

### Cover Crop Field Day

Our first Cover Crop Field Day of the year is Friday April 5. Watch for more information to come in the next couple of weeks.

53,000 sheep and 5.5 million hogs.

### Farm toys wanted

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!

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Illinois has 341,000 cattle.

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# Northwest Illinois Economic Development hosts annual meeting

Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED) hosted their Annual Meeting for 2024 celebrating the organization's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Thursday, Feb. 22, 2024, at Timmerman's Supper Club in East Dubuque. The sold-out event gathered about 145 stakeholders from 47 different local and regional organizations and involved a NWILED Board of Directors meeting, business spotlights, guest speaker remarks, and the organization's annual Collaboration Awards.

During the NWILED Board of Directors meeting Marisa Kappes of TBK Bank and Susan Jacobs of the Carroll County Board were elected for a three-year term, while Diane Gallagher of the Jo Daviess County Board and Tiffany Brandt of Dupaco Community Credit Union were reelected for additional

three-year term. NWILED's 2024 Officers were also elected to serve on the organization's Executive Committee. David Schmit, NWILED Regional Director, closed the business portion of the program with remarks about the successes NWILED experienced in 2023 and gave a preview of the organization's planned programming for 2024. He also announced the public release of NWILED's 2023 Annual Report, which is available in both English and Spanish at [www.NWILED.org](http://www.NWILED.org).

To showcase NWILED's ongoing Made in NW Illinois business spotlight series, representatives from Carroll Industrial Molds and EVS Hobbies USA in Milledgeville and Clara Joyce Flowers of rural Stockton were invited to share details about their operations. The Illinois Finance Authority also spoke

about their role in bringing their C-PACE program to the region.

The evening ended with NWILED's Collaboration Awards. The 2024 recipients were:

- Member of the Year award went to Highland Community College
- Board Member of the Year award went to Joseph Mattingley
- Community of the Year award went to Mount Carroll, Illinois

"NWILED would like to acknowledge the ongoing support members Conlon Construction, Illinois Bank and Trust, JCE Cop, and Jo Daviess County give to NWILED," said NWILED Regional Director, David Schmit. "We also appreciated the assistance Amy May Photography and Timmerman's Supper Club gave that helped make the evening successful."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Members of the Northwest Illinois Economic Development Board of Directors attend the organization's annual meeting and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on Feb. 22, 2024.



## FRIDAY FISH FRY

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# Hornets hoping bats can lead the way through early learning curve

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Scales Mound-River Ridge Hornets are prepping for another challenging softball season. After going just 7-18 last year, the Hornets are hoping to build off what they did late in the season. Despite the disappointing overall record, SM-RR went 4-1 through a late five-game stretch. That came just before a regional battle against the East Dubuque Warriors, which saw the Hornets fall 12-8. Although the record wasn't pretty and the Hornets lost a good chunk of that team, they are still hoping that late run can spark something from the program.

The Hornets will look like a very different team in 2024. After losing Emily Wurster, Sophie Buck, Cora Dittmar, Garrett Pickel, Hanna Reddington, and Mickayla Bass, the Hornets have some shoes to fill. Bass leaves behind a big hole as she now plays at Sauk Valley CC.

SM-RR will have to let their returning players lead the way as the rest of the lineup gets accustomed. Senior shortstop Amie Richmond should be expected to take on one of those leadership roles. Richmond

has already been a leader of the program. Last year, Richmond earned a First Team All-Conference selection as she hit .413 with a pair of homeruns. Richmond is also a problem on the basepaths with 18 stolen bags last year.

The Hornets are solid up the middle, especially behind home plate where senior Millie Boden sits. Boden was a Second Team All-Conference selection last year as she hit .357 with a team leading seventeen runs batted in. Boden also had eight doubles and two homers on the year.

Sarah Winter also returns as a promising sophomore infielder. As a freshman, Winter hit .354 and tied Boden with 17 RBI. Winter had 28 hits in her first varsity season and she is expected to build off that as a sophomore.

Additionally, the Hornets will return senior outfielder Evelyn Walters and junior infielder-pitcher Laiken Haas. Last year, Haas hit .312 with 13 RBI. She is also expected to make another jump this year. Walters provides the team with another steady, yet exciting bat. Despite hitting .270 with 17 hits last year, seven of those were for extra bases. The Hornets

would probably like to see Walters be more consistent at the plate, however her bat provides a spark when the team needs it.

SM-RR head coach Kate Bingham is in her seventh season as varsity coach. When asked about the team's strengths and weaknesses this year, it's easy to see why he plans to rely on their bats early on. Defensively, the Hornets are left with a bunch of holes that need to be filled. In the box, however, the Hornets will sport another exciting lineup that can put the ball in play.

"This is going to leave some major holes defensively," Bingham said when talking about last year's graduating class. "We graduated a few key players from our field last year that will be tough to replace. As we begin our season, we will need some of our underclassmen to step up and fill those roles. If our pitchers are able to throw strikes, our defense will have a better chance of success. Amie, Evelyn, and Millie will be our leaders on the field, with Laiken carrying the weight on the pitcher's mound," Bingham explained.

That's why the Hornets plan to rely on their offensive play to

carry the team through the early part of the season. Bingham is confident in the team's bats and their ability to get on base. On Richmond, Walters, and Boden, Bingham explained, "They are athletes that put in a lot of time outside of our season and I expect their bats to show it."

Bingham also expects Haas and Winter to be reliable in the box. "My hope is that our bats will keep us competitive in games until we settle in and find our groove defensively."

This year's SM-RR campaign begins on Thursday, March 14 when the Hornets

travel to take on the Oregon Hawks at 4:15 p.m. SM-RR's first home game isn't scheduled until March 19 when they play host to Southwestern at 4:30 p.m. The Hornets return home the next day to face off with the Lena-Winslow Panthers at the same time.

## Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education hosts domestic violence program

Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education sponsored a program on Domestic Violence on March 6 at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau. This informative program was open to the public. Beth Maskell, Executive Director, Voices of Stephenson County, gave the presentation.

Voices provides assistance for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, teen dating violence, stalking and human trafficking. They can help with counselling, emergency shelter and housing solutions. If in need of assistance, please call the Domestic Violence Crisis Line at 815-235-1641 or the Sexual Abuse Crisis Line at 815-232-7200.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Diana Ethridge (2nd Vice President, Stephenson County HCE), and Beth Maskell (Executive Director, Voices of Stephenson County) participate in the Domestic Violence program on March 6 at the Farm Bureau in Freeport. This program was sponsored by Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education and was open to the public.

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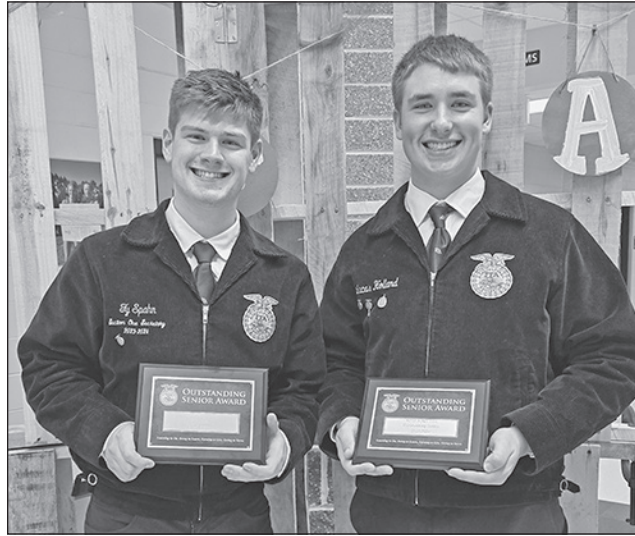
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# River Ridge FFA holds awards banquet

The River Ridge FFA Chapter held its annual awards banquet on Thursday, March 7 at River Ridge High School. Each year this banquet is held in order to celebrate the outstanding achievements of the FFA members. Families were invited to attend the banquet to support their student as well and share in a community meal. Below is a list of the highlights from this year's banquet.

- STAR Discovery: Wyatt Ritchie
- STAR Greenhand: Nick Cobine
- Outstanding Sophomore: Sawyer Fry
- Outstanding Junior: Graci Vanderheyden
- Outstanding Senior: Ty Spahn and Lucas Holland
- STAR in Ag Placement: Lucas Holland
- STAR in Entrepreneurship: Arthur Horn
- DeKalb Award: Avery Engle
- Blue and Gold Award (FFA Spirit as voted on by the chapter members) Winner: Ty Spahn
- Sr. Honors Society: Lucas Holland, Avery Engle, Arthur Horn, Cora Ritchie and Ty Spahn.
- Students who attend five or more Career Development



**Ty Spahn and Lucas Holland both receive the Outstanding Senior award.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



**River Ridge FFA Chapter Vice President Izzy Haring, Lily Lucas and Chapter Reporter Berkeley Mensendiek attend the award banquet on March 7, 2024.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

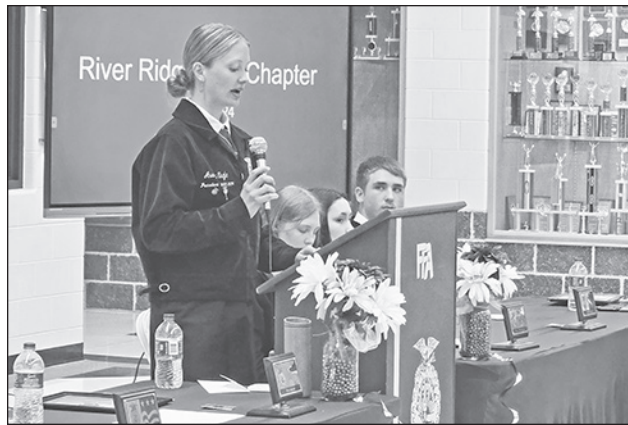


**Nick Cobine receives the STAR Greenhand award.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

ment Events (CDE's) each year are inducted into the "500 Club." This year's members are Allie Karberg, Graci Allen, Lucas Holland and Nick Cobine.

The Officers for the 2024-2025 school year were also installed. Congratulations to President Graci Vanderheyden, Vice President Izzy Haring, Reporter Berkeley Mensendiek, Secretary Bindi Boop, Treasurer Sawyer Fry, Sentinel Graci Allen, and Historian Nick Cobine.



**Retiring President Engle shares her retiring address.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



**Nick Cobine, Lucas Holland, Graci Allen and Allie Karberg receive recognition as members of the 2024 "500 Club" after having attended five or more Career Development Events this year.**

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**The Retiring Officer team of Sawyer Fry, Arthur Horn, Lucas Holland, Izzy Haring, Graci Vanderheyden, Cora Ritchie and Avery Engle attend the River Ridge FFA awards banquet.**

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**Sawyer Fry receives the Outstanding Sophomore award.**

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LACY HEFFERNAN PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Anna Wentz (second from the left) signs her letter of intent to play volleyball at Loras College.



LACY HEFFERNAN PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Annie Werner (second from the right) and family celebrate her signing to UW-La Crosse where she will play volleyball next year.



LACY HEFFERNAN PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Thomas Hereau (second from the left) is supported by his family after Hereau signs his letter of intent to play golf at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

# Scales Mound athletes sign letters of intent to compete at the next level

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The class of 2024 is a special one for the Scales Mound School District, especially in athletics where the class recently had three athletes sign their letters of intent to play at the next level. On Wednesday, March 6 the Hornets held a signing event in their main gymnasium. That day, Anna Wentz, Annie Werner, and Thomas Hereau made clear their plans for post high school.

Wentz and Werner will both be playing volleyball at the collegiate level. Just last year, Wentz and Werner led Scales Mound volleyball to a 20-win season. Werner led the team in kills with 263 and aces with 34. She did that all while missing some time in the season. Wentz was the team's next leading scorer with 118 kills on the year. Wentz also had 307 digs and led the team with 438 serve receptions.

Over the last three years, Wentz and Werner each played a vital role in making Scales Mound Volleyball a winning program. After going 11-24 in 2021 and 13-

18 in 2022, the Hornets saw their best volleyball season in years.

Wentz and Warner's play didn't go unnoticed as they both earned the opportunity to play at the collegiate level. Wentz recently signed her letter of intent to play volleyball at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. Just after, Werner signed her name to play volleyball at Loras College. The duo's prints will be left on the Scales Mound program for years to come.

To conclude the event, Scales Mound had one of their all-time athletes in the gym. Thomas Hereau's senior year has been loaded with excitement. After capturing his 1A Golf State Championship, Hereau went on to be named the NUIC-West's Most Valuable Basketball Player. Now, Hereau turns his focus to the next level as he signed his letter of intent to play golf at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

Congratulations to these three Scales Mound seniors, all of whom changed the status of Scales Mound athletics for the better.

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# Orangeville-Aquin hoping for strength on baseball diamond

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

Bronco baseball is entering a new era as they begin the first year of their Orangeville-Aquin coop this season. With a pair of players coming over from Aquin and a deep returning class, the Broncos are hoping to have strength in numbers in 2024.

Orangeville-Aquin head coach Josh Fahs is excited for the new coop. Fahs, who also coaches varsity basketball, just led said basketball program through the first year of their respective coop. Now, Fahs will do it all over again as the Broncos welcome Aquin to their baseball program.

For the first year of the coop, Aquin is providing two players that Fahs is extremely excited about. Anthony Garcia and Colton Veruchi are a pair of Aquin juniors who joined the program this year. "I'm excited for the players we have joining us from Aquin. Both Anthony and Colton have good arms, should pitch some games for us, and have good speed and versatility," Fahs shared.

Garcia and Veruchi will provide the Broncos with a ton of relief in their defensive lineups. When Garcia isn't pitching, he plays shortstop and outfield. Veruchi can play second, third, outfield, and pitch.

Those two join a strong group of returning starters. The Broncos finished with a disappointing record of just 2-21 last season, but they had just two seniors on the roster in Mitch Soddy and Karsen Henneman. It was also Fahs's second year at the helm of the program.

This year, Fahs and six returning starters are back to continue building what they started last year. Junior Boden Gustafson returns for the Broncos as a pitcher-catcher-first baseman. Senior Adam Setterstrom returns as a first baseman-outfielder-catcher. Junior Zach White is back in the outfield and sophomore Kayden Pfeiffer is

back as an outfielder-second baseman-shortstop. Sophomore Blake Komprood returns to play second, third, and outfield. Junior Mason Conrow also returns as a second baseman.

It's easy to see why the Broncos will rely on versatility and depth this year. Should they suffer any injuries, Fahs should have plenty of options to fix the lineup. Multiple players with experience in different positions should benefit the Broncos this year. "Compared to the last two years, we have way more players with baseball experience, versatility, and skill," Fahs explained.

The 2024 Broncos will have plenty of varsity experi-

ence, but they still have a lot of work to do if they want to turn the program around. For Fahs, that starts on the pitching mound. "Pitching should be a lot stronger this year than the last two years with more arms and stronger arms, but it will still need to be our biggest improvement for us to start winning more games," Fahs shared. "Defense will have to be much improved from the last two years to help keep us in games, as we are not going to win many slug-fests."

On top of all the experienced players, the Broncos are also bringing in a compelling class of freshmen who should get opportunities at the varsity level. "I'm also very excited for our incoming class

of five freshman who have all played a good amount of baseball. Several of them should contribute at the varsity level this season," Fahs said of the class. That class includes Nathan Briggs, who can pitch and play both corners of the infield. Mathew Soddy is also expected to get opportunities as he plays second, third, and pitches. Additionally, the Broncos add senior Gavin Roth as a pitcher-catcher-third baseman.

Orangeville-Aquin's 2024 campaign is set to begin on Monday, March 18 when they travel to take on Warren-Stockton at 4:30 p.m. The Broncos' home opener is the next day when they host Milledgeville at 4:30 p.m.

## Lady Broncos return loaded roster for 2024 softball season

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville-Aquin Broncos look to be one of the premier softball teams in Northwestern Illinois. After a 30-win season and losing just one player to graduation, the 2024 Broncos just might be one of the top teams in all of Illinois.

Leah Baker was the lone senior on last year's Bronco squad which finished 30-3 overall. The same Bronco team that captured another conference championship, a regional championship, and won a sectional. Baker leaves behind some big shoes to fill, but the Broncos return a plethora of talent that can handle the job.

First and foremost, the Broncos are led by their hall of fame coach Lon Scheuerell. In his 23<sup>rd</sup> season, Scheuerell's career coaching record is 487-191. This year, Scheuerell will have one of his most experienced squads as the Broncos look to make another deep run.

Leading the way on the field are a pair of seniors in Megan Holder and Meghan Carlisle. Last year, Holder was a First Team All-State Shortstop after being on Second Team in 2022. Holder has also been a First Team All-Conference selection the past two seasons. Carlisle was a Second Team All-State Catcher last season, Third Team All-Conference in 2022, and First Team All-Conference the past two seasons. Together, Holder and Carlisle hold down two of the main positions on the field.

There is no shortage of talent behind Holder and Carlisle. The Broncos also return sophomore Second Team All-Conference center fielder

Anicka Kraft. Senior Second Team All-Conference first baseman Hanna Broge also returns. At second base, Junior Second Team All-Conference player Addison Wheeler is back. Senior infielder Laney Holland also returns off a Second Team All-Conference selection. Senior outfielder Isabelle Talbert returns off an Honorable Mention pick last season. In 2022, Talbert was Second Team All-Conference. Finally in the outfield, senior Ava Theisen returns.

Not only are the Broncos loaded with All-Conference talent, but they are basically the same team from last year. The expectations should be through the roof for the Broncos. Additionally, Orangeville-Aquin will have a deep group of newcomers.

Six different juniors join the varsity level in infielder Alaina Dinderman, utility Alex Schmidt, outfielder Britta Bissel, outfielder Emmory Thrusell, first baseman Olivia Schroeder, and utility Katie Fryer. They also have a trio of sophomores in infielder Kylie Wolfe, outfielder Lily Rodebaugh, and outfielder Jada Reed.

When Scheuerell was asked about this team's strengths, it was no surprise that he spoke about experience. "We are a very experienced team with eight starters returning from a team that lost in the Super-sectional last year. Our lineup should be able to score runs. Our team also has more depth this year with a strong incoming freshman and sophomore class of players that could fill in positions when necessary," Scheuerell shared.

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 12

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# LEGAL NOTICES

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

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

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

If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser

shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

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

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

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

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

(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 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

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

### NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal residents of the town of Erin in the county of Stephenson and the State of Illinois that the ANNUAL MEETING of said town will take place on

TUESDAY, APRIL 9TH, 2024.

being the second Tuesday of said month.

The town meeting will be held at the hour of seven o'clock PM\* on said day at Erin Township Building, 2699 N. Unity Rd, Lena, IL 61048 and a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following: Agenda 1: Elect Moderator and Administer the Oath of Office; 2: Approve minutes from 2023 Annual Township Meeting; 3: Report of Officers Financial Reports and Statements; 4: Discussion of Sale/ Lease of Excess Property- Eleroy Parcel. 091213334001; 5:

Open Forum; 6: Adjournment

Dated at Eleroy, this 4th day of March, 2024

Ryan A. Pickard Erin Township Clerk

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 13, 2024) 452277

## DOCUMENT 001116 - INVITATION TO BID

### 1.1 PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Notice to Bidders: Qualified bidders are invited to submit bids for Project as described in this Document according to the Instructions to Bidders.

B. Project Identification: Summer 2024 Roofing Restoration Projects, Lena-Winslow School District #202, Lena, Illinois

C. Owner: Lena-Winslow School District #202, 401 Fremont Street, Lena, IL 61048

D. Project Description: Project consists of roofing restoration.

E. Construction Contract: Bids will be received for the following Work:

- 1. Lump Sum Contract (all trades).

### 1.2 BID SUBMITTAL AND OPENING

A. Owner will receive sealed bids until the bid time and date at the location indicated below. Owner will consider bids prepared in compliance with the Instructions to Bidders issued by Owner, and delivered as follows:

- 1. Bid Date: March 22, 2024.
2. Bid Time: 10:30 a.m., local time.
3. Location: Administration Office, with social distancing in place, 401 Fremont Street, Lena, IL 61048
4. Address bid package as follows: Lena-Winslow School District #202 Attn: Dr. Tom Chiles - Superintendent "Bid for Summer

Continued on next page

# LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page  
2024 Roofing  
Restoration Projects”.

B. Bids will be thereafter publicly opened and read aloud.

### 1.3 BID SECURITY

A. Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of 10 percent of the bid amount. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after opening of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities and irregularities.

### 1.4 PREBID CONFERENCE

A. A pre-bid conference for all bidders will be held, with social distancing in place, at 401 Fremont Street, Lena, IL 61048 on March 14, 2024 at 9:30 a.m., local time. Prospective bidders are requested to attend.

### 1.5 DOCUMENTS

A. Bid Documents: Bidders may obtain access to PDF copies of the Drawings and Project Manual after 3:00 p.m. on March 4, 2024 by contacting Larson & Darby at 815-484-0739. Request them from the front desk personnel.

B. Documents will be provided to prime bidders only.

C. Only complete sets of documents will be issued.

### 1.6 TIME OF COMPLETION

A. Bidders shall begin the Work on receipt of the Notice to Proceed and shall complete the Work within the Contract Time.

### 1.7 BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS

A. Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work. A Performance Bond, a separate Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Insurance in a form acceptable to Owner will be required of the successful Bidder.

1. Bidder shall be in good standing as a vendor for the Lena-Winslow School District 202, including a minimum of five solid references for projects of similar scope and size over the past five years.

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 13 & 20, 2024)  
452283

### 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 ROWE**  
Deputy

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

# Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

The Carroll and Stephenson County Farm Bureaus are excited to announce our partnership to offer the second year of our pollinator seed sale program. Both counties are now accepting orders of one-pound bags of pollinator seed. The seed mix includes Alaska Shasta, Black-eyed Susan, Butterfly Milkweed, Candytuft, Dwarf Godetia, Dwarfed Mixed Cosmos, Gayfeather, Illinois Bundleflower, Indian Blanket, Lance-leaved Coreopsis, New England Aster, Pincushion Flower (Imperial Mix), Purple Coneflower, Purple Prairie Clover, Rocket Larkspur (Imperial Mix), Round-headed Bush Clover, Siberian Wallflower, Sweet William Pinks, Tall White Sweet Alyssum, and Zinnia 'Dahlia Flowered Mix'.

Orders will be accepted until April 8 with delivery the end of April/early May. The price for Farm Bureau members is \$25/pound and \$30/pound for non-members. There is a limit of 5lbs

per order (roughly one-acre's worth). Seed supplies are limited, so place your orders early! To place an order call or stop by your County Farm Bureau: Carroll County 815-244-3001 or Stephenson County 815-232-3186. This program is made possible with support from Illinois Farm Bureau, Growmark, Carroll Service Company and Stephenson Service Company.

### Wisconsin State Fair Bus Trip

Our Trip to the Wisconsin State Fair is less than five months away. On Aug. 8, 2024, the Carroll and Stephenson County Farm Bureaus will travel to the Wisconsin State Fair. The trip will begin with a 7 a.m. pick up at the Carroll County Farm Bureau building in Mt. Carroll and then a secondary pickup at the Freeport Walmart at 7 a.m. We will arrive at the Wisconsin State Fairgrounds around 10 a.m. and depart at 4 p.m., arriving at the Freeport Walmart around 6 p.m. and the

Carroll County Farm Bureau around 6 p.m.

The cost for Farm Bureau members is \$60 and non-members is \$75. Trip cost includes transportation, all gratuities and water on the bus. Fair admission not included. The deadline to reserve your spot is July 19. Reserve your spot by calling either County Farm Bureau; Carroll County 815-244-3001 or Stephenson County at 815-232-3186.

### Event space to rent

With graduation right around the corner, don't wait to book your event at the Carroll or Stephenson County Farm Bureau buildings. Rooms start as low as \$100. Summer Saturdays and Sundays are limited. Call the Farm Bureau of your choice for availability and to learn more about the rental process. Carroll County Farm Bureau 815-244-3001 or Stephenson County Farm Bureau at 815-232-3186.

## Pearl City Education Foundation 2024-2025 Upperclassman Scholarship

Pearl City Education Foundation (PCEF) offers \$22,000 in Upperclassman Scholarships for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. This program is for those Pearl City graduates who have successfully completed their first year of college, vocational, or trade school, and will be going into their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> year as a full-time student. Current maximum to be awarded per student is \$1500 and is subject possible increase.

Upperclassman Scholarship application forms are available by mid-March in the State Bank of Pearl City lobby, the Pearl City Public Library, or on the Pearl City School's website at www.pcwolves.net The deadline for receipt of completed applications, with their required short essay, and most recent transcript(s) is July 1, 2024. Mail to Pearl City Education Foundation, Upperclassman Scholarships, P.O. Box 278, Pearl City, IL 61062. Complete, timely submissions are necessary for Upperclassman Scholarship consideration.

Since its inception, the Pearl City Upperclassman program has awarded over \$110,000 in scholarships. This program is designed to be perpetual. Pearl City Education Foundation (PCEF) has a 501 (c) (3) tax status.

## ISP Troop 1 announces monthly activity for February

Illinois State Police Troop 1 Captain Joseph Blanchette has announced enforcement figures and activity for February.

ISP Troop 1 troopers issued 1,312 citations, 1,837 written warnings, and made 29 criminal arrests during the month of February. They issued 411 citations for speeding, 39 citations for distracted driving violations and 97 citations for occupant restraint violations.

### • Softball (Continued from page 10)

It's not often that a high school softball team can enter a season with limited questions. Most teams and coaches are trying to find their new identity as they look

Troopers investigated 48 traffic crashes, assisted 277 motorists, and conducted 540 commercial motor vehicle inspections, of which 61 were placed out-of-service for safety reasons. There were 21 arrests for driving under the influence.

Troop 1, which encompasses Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties, investigated no fatal traffic crashes in February.

to replace a handful of players and deal with position changes. The Broncos really only have one question however, and that is, "Who can replace Leah Baker in the pitcher's circle?" Scheuerell spoke a bit about that challenge saying, "We will need to replace conference MVP last year Leah Baker in the pitcher circle. Laney Holland and Addyson Wheeler will be counted on to fill in for Baker." Holland went 8-1 from the circle last year, and Scheuerell has big expectations for her. "She will be counted on to throw a significant amount of innings," Scheuerell said of Holland. "Defensively, we will be looking for someone to step in and play third base this year since Laney will be pitching more."

Orangeville-Aquin is set to begin this year's campaign on March 14 when they play host to Polo at 4:30 p.m. No worries if you can't make it, the Broncos return home on March 16 to host Amboy at 11 a.m.

**Stockton Town Garage Sales**  
**June 14 & 15**  
**Mark Your Calendar!!!**  
Registration form to come, beginning in April  
**REGISTER EARLY!!!!**

**— PUBLIC NOTICE —**  
**NOTICE - ACCEPTING MOWING BIDS**  
We are now accepting bids for mowing the Elizabeth Cemetery & Old Log Church.  
*Bids should be per mowing.*  
**Deadline to submit bids is March 29, 2024.**  
Any questions call Jeff Spoerl - (815) 858-4045.  
Submit bids to: Candis Albrecht,  
313 Orange St., Elizabeth, IL 61028  
(Liability Insurance is required)

# Rock Valley Publishing

Call  
815.369.4112  
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## help wanted

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422795

## real estate

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

### Lots/Acreage

**FREE** buildable lot on private Apple Canyon Lake in Jo Daviess County, IL. Great fishing. Pay closing fees, lot is yours. 2024 dues prorated. Call 815-978-5161



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## business & service

### Auctions

**Antique Toys & Dolls  
Trains Auction** Hotwheels NASCAR  
10am Saturday, March 23  
Doors open at 8am. Preview Fri. 3/22, 12-7pm  
8512 S. Union Rd. Union, IL 60180  
Live and Online! See all the lots at  
**DonleyAuctions.com**  
Call Randy Donley at 815-790-9435  
Info@DonleyAuctions.com

432952

## for sale

### Announcements

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

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

### Burial Needs

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



## transportation

### Automobiles

**1990 CADILLAC FLEETWOOD** Coral. Florida car no rust. 1 owner. 45k miles. \$20,000. 262-379-4161.

**2005 CHRYSLER LIMITED** Mint condition mechanically & body. All records included. 140k miles \$13,000. 262-379-4161.

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

### Automobiles Wanted

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

### Boats

**2003 ALUMACRAFT 175 TROPHY** With 2002 Trailer. 90 HP, 9.9HP, Elec. 50lb Troller, Elec Anchor, Helix5 Hummingbird. Call only if interested 815-389-2480.

### Campers and RVs

**2023 ROCKWOOD MINI LITE** Travel Trailer. Model 22055. Hardly used. 262-237-2196.

### Trucks & Trailers

**CARGO TRAILER 5x8** Enclosed, needs cosmetic work. Elkhorn location \$199. 262-949-6997.

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

**FIND BARGAINS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS**

# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We certainly had our share of wind and rain last week. The warm weather stayed with us which is probably why we had storms. We are approaching the middle of March and St. Patrick's Day. There are some great Irish recipes this week for you all to try. Even if you aren't Irish, you will want to try some of them. Have a great cooking week!

cubed  
1 can (8 oz.) sauerkraut, rinsed and drained  
1 C. sour cream  
1 C. shredded Swiss cheese  
¼ C. Thousand Island salad dressing  
Rye rounds or crackers  
In a 1½ qt. slow cooker, combine the corned beef, cream cheese, sauerkraut, sour cream, shredded Swiss, and salad dressing. Cook on low for two hours or until cheese is melted. Stir until blended. Serve with rye rounds or crackers.

## Green St. Patrick's Day Jell-O

This salad is a refreshing gelatin with a little zip and a delicious creamy taste. It looks great in a trifle bowl or a pretty glass bowl.  
2 C. lemon-lime soda  
2 pkgs. (3 oz. each) lime Jell-O  
6 oz. cream cheese, softened  
2 C. lemon-lime soda, chilled  
1 carton (12 oz.) Cool Whip, thawed  
Microwave 2 C. soda on high until hot, one to two minutes. Place hot soda and Jell-O in a blender; cover and process until gelatin is dissolved. Add cream cheese; process

until blended. Transfer to a large bowl; stir in chilled soda. Whisk in Cool Whip. Pour into a 3-quart trifle bowl or glass bowl. Refrigerate, covered, until firm, about 4 hours.

## Corned Beef and Cabbage Pizza

If you are tired of the traditional corned beef and cabbage meal for St. Patrick's Day, you might want to try this nontraditional dish. You can buy corned beef in the deli by the pound and have it sliced to your desired width.

1 lb. Yukon gold potatoes (2 to 4), very thinly sliced  
2 T. extra-virgin olive oil  
Salt and pepper  
4 C. very thinly sliced green cabbage  
Flour for dusting  
Prepared pizza crusts  
1 C. shredded white cheddar cheese  
½ C. shredded mozzarella cheese  
4 oz. cooked corned beef, chopped  
Fresh parsley and grated Parmesan for topping  
Preheat the oven to 475. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Toss the sliced potatoes with 1 T. olive oil and a pinch of salt and

pepper. Spread the potatoes out on the pans and bake until tender, 8 to 10 minutes. When cool enough to handle, remove the potatoes and place on a plate.

Heat the remaining 1 T. olive oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the cabbage and a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally, until tender but not brown, five to seven minutes. Remove from the heat. If necessary, place flour on counter and roll pizza dough to fit a pizza pan. Place pizza dough on a pizza pan. Scatter the cheddar to the edge of the dough. Top with a layer of potatoes and then top with mozzarella, cabbage, and corned beef. Bake until the crust is golden brown and the cheese is melted and bubbly, about 10 to 12 minutes. Top with parsley and parmesan; cut into wedges or pieces.

## Modern Tuna Casserole in a Skillet

Our Lenten selection for the week is another version of the tuna casserole. Tuna is very economical compared to a lot of other kinds of fish. This dish has pasta, tuna,

and vegetables; it is a perfect whole meal in a skillet.

3 T. butter, divided  
4 medium carrots, chopped  
1 medium onion, chopped  
1 medium sweet red pepper, chopped  
1 C. sliced mushrooms  
2 cans (5 oz. each) white tuna in water, drained and flaked  
2 C. fresh baby spinach  
1 C. frozen peas  
3 C. uncooked spiral pasta  
1 T. flour  
2/3 C. chicken broth  
1/3 C. half-and-half cream  
½ C. shredded Parmesan cheese  
¾ t. salt  
¼ t. pepper  
In a large skillet, heat 1 T. butter over medium-high heat. Add carrots, onion, red pepper, and mushrooms. Cook

and stir until tender, eight to ten minutes. Add tuna, spinach, and peas. Cook until spinach is just wilted, two to three minutes.

Cook pasta according to package directions for al dente. Drain pasta, reserving 1 C. pasta water. Place pasta and tuna mixture in a large bowl; toss to combine. Wipe skillet clean. In the same skillet, melt remaining butter over medium heat. Stir in flour until smooth; gradually whisk in broth and cream. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened, one to two minutes, adding reserved pasta water if needed. Stir in parmesan cheese, salt, and pepper. Pour over pasta; toss to coat.

See KITCHEN, Page 16

## REAL ESTATE NOTICE

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:

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 Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

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

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

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

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

March 6, 13 & 20, 2024)

451880

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# Crime news

## Criminal Sexual Assault charges

The Jo Daviess County State's Attorney, Chris Allendorf, would like to inform the public of the following information. Alycia J. Deckert, 42, Scales Mound, was charged by State's Attorney's Information on March 4, 2024, in Jo Daviess County Circuit Court for the 15th Judicial Circuit with two counts of Criminal Sexual Assault and two counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse. All of the charges are Class 1 felonies and are based on the age of the victim, as well as Deckert holding a position of trust or authority in relation to the victim.

These charges stem from an investigation by the Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Office and the Elizabeth Police Department into a report that Deckert, employed as a paraprofessional with a local school, engaged in a sexual



**Alycia J. Deckert**

relationship with a 17-year-old juvenile student. Deckert was taken into custody on an arrest warrant issued for the charges. She is being held in the Jo Daviess County Jail pending the outcome of a pre-trial detention hearing pursuant to the provisions of the Illinois Safe-T Act.

The Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Office is handling this ongoing investigation. The Elizabeth Police Department and the Jo Daviess County State's Attorney's Office are providing assistance. The State's Attorney would like to remind the public that all persons charged are presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

## Domestic violence incident leads to weapons arrest

On March 7, 2024, Freeport Police Officers responded to a call for service involving an incident of Domestic Violence between a male and female in the 800 block of W. Avon Street. During the course of the investigation, Officer learned the 33-year-old suspect and resident of Freeport, Marquis Chatman, physically injured the female victim and threatened her with a firearm. Officers were able to find Chatman inside of the residence and discovered an unloaded semi-automatic pistol in close proximity to where he was located. Chatman was taken into custody without incident.

A felony charge of Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon and a misdemeanor charge of Domestic Battery were approved for Chatman by the Stephenson County State's Attorney. Chatman was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he is being held pending the outcome of a detention hearing. The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

## Scholarships available through Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation

Monroe Clinic & Hospital Foundation, a member of SSM Health, will be assisting two individuals who may have a financial burden and are unable to otherwise attend Highland Community College (HCC).

The scholarships will financially assist and admit two well-rounded students into the HCC Medical Assistant Program who meet the following criteria:

- Academically able to meet the challenges of the curriculum,
- Well suited for a health care profession and,

• Have exhibited a commitment to serving their communities.

The deadline for application submission is May 1, 2024. While encouraged, scholarship recipients are not required to work at SSM Health after the completion of the program. The application, along with additional information, is available at <https://www.givetossmhealth.org/foundations/wisconsin/monroe-clinic-hospital-foundation/scholarships>. For scholarship questions, please contact Tammie Jamiska at [tammie.jamiska@ssmhealth.com](mailto:tammie.jamiska@ssmhealth.com).

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# Kitchen (Continued from page 14)

## Irish Cream Chocolate Bundt Cake

As most of my readers know, I love Bundt Cakes. I am not a real cake lover, but Bundt cakes are the exception. This beautiful cake is moist and delicious. It is beautiful on a cake stand or a fancy plate.

- 2 1/3 C. flour
- 1/4 C. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 1/4 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 1 1/4 C. butter, softened
- 2 1/2 C. sugar

- 5 eggs
- 2 t. vanilla
- 3/4 C. brewed coffee, cooled
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 1 1/4 C. heavy cream
- 1/3 C. powdered sugar
- 1/2 C. Bailey's Irish Cream liqueur
- Green concentrated food coloring
- 1/3 C. chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350. Butter and flour a 12 C. Bundt pan. In a mixing bowl, mix flour, cocoa, baking powder, 1 t. salt and baking soda. Set aside. In a mixing bowl, beat the butter and sugar until creamy, two to three minutes. On low, beat in eggs, one at a time; add vanilla and beat. Beat in coffee and sour cream. Add flour mixture slowly and combine with butter mixture until all the flour has been combined. Transfer to Bundt pan. Bake until pick inserted comes out with moist crumbs, about 50 minutes. Let cool 20 minutes. Transfer from pan to a baking rack; let cool.

Beat 1 C. cream and powdered sugar to stiff peaks.

Fold in 1/4 C. liqueur; tint mixture green. Cover and chill. Transfer cake to serving plate or cake stand. Insert toothpicks all around the side of the cake 1 inch below the top. Using toothpicks as a guide, cut off in one piece the top; reserve. Insert toothpicks into cut cake top 1/2 inch from inside and outside edges. Using picks as a guide, vertically cut 1/4 inch deep ring into cake. Cut ring in chunks, leaving about 1 inch of cake in the bottom layer; scoop out. Reserve chunks for another use. Spoon whipped cream into cake tunnel. Replace top. Cover and chill at least 1 hour. In a microwave safe bowl, microwave chips, remaining cream and remaining liqueur in 15 second intervals, stirring until smooth. Let cool slightly; spoon over cake.

## Mint Baileys Bars

If you aren't into cake and want something simpler for your St. Patrick's Day dessert, this bar recipe is tasty and unique. Enjoy these bars that

put some jazz in traditional brownies. You can buy the different chocolate chips at most grocery stores.

- 3/4 C. butter, cubed
- 1 C. 6 oz. chocolate chips
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 2 eggs, plus 1 egg yolk, room temperature
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 C. flour
- 1/3 C. baking cocoa
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 C. mint baking chips
- Topping
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 2 C. sugar
- 1/4 C. Baileys Irish cream liqueur
- 1 egg plus 1 egg white, room temperature

Preheat oven to 350. Line an 8-inch baking pan with parchment paper, letting ends extend up sides. Spray with cooking spray. In a large microwave-safe bowl, microwave butter and chocolate chips on high until butter is melted, about 60 seconds. Stir until chocolate is melted. Whisk in sugar. Cool slightly.

Whisk in eggs and yolk, one at a time and add vanilla until blended. Stir in flour, baking cocoa and salt; fold in mint chips. Spread into prepared pan.

Topping: in a large bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in Baileys. Add egg and egg white; beat on low speed just until blended. Pour over brownie layer. Bake until center is almost set, 45 to 50 minutes. Cool one hour on a wire rack. Refrigerate at least three hours or overnight. Lifting with parchment, remove brownies from pan. Cut into 1-inch squares.

## Final Thoughts

I can't believe that we are getting close to Easter. St. Patrick's Day is almost here, and I have hardly had my decorations up before it is time for bunnies!

There are still some Lenten Luncheons at the Evangelical Free Church on Wednesdays. On March 13 Gone Fishin' will be performing and on March 20 Steve Sheffey will

play his trumpet and sing. They are at noon at the church. If you have questions, contact Barb Wire at 815-757-4267.

Spring baseball training is in full force, and baseball season begins before Easter. Time is going fast. The spring flowers have started to bloom because of this warm weather. I hope they are hardy enough to stand up to what probably will be a cold spell in April or even May. We have a lot of corned beef and cabbage meals in restaurants around our area if you don't want to make your own. Check them out because they usually give you enough to have some the next day! Support your local restaurants and grocery stores.

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.



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