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VOL. 90 • NO. 20

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024



SUBMITTED PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

River Ridge FFA Ag Day

The River Ridge FFA Chapter hosted its annual Elementary Ag Day on Monday, April 29. Students learned all about agriculture, farm animals, flowers, and more. Junior Brynn Fry helps one of the classes plant their flowers to take home.

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Obituaries

DONALD BROWN

Donald F Brown, age 82 of Lena, passed away May 2, 2024, at the Lena Living Center after two years of declining health. He was surrounded by love from his family and friends during his last few days. He was born January 13, 1942, to John and Vivian (Boumgarden) Brown. He grew up in Dixon, IL, and graduated from Dixon High School in 1960. He met his bride, Patricia L Dempsey, at the Dixon Dog n' Suds (the Dixon version of the Lena Drive Inn), where she was a car hop. They married on September 4, 1965, and shared 58 years together. They were blessed with two daughters, Brenda and Kathy.

The family lived in Grand Detour and Franklin Grove, IL before moving to Lena in 1980, where has lived for the past 44 years. Don worked for Commonwealth Edison for 38 years, retiring in 2005. He spent his retirement years helping Pat with her real estate business and maintaining various rental properties owned by him and Pat. He was often seen driving around Lena in one of his many classic cars, window rolled down and arm resting on the door.

He has an extensive model train collection and enjoyed sharing it with his grandsons and any interested extended family or community member. He stated he wanted to be remembered for his work ethic, which he has passed on to his daughters. He stated he had three loves in this world, his wife and daughters, grandsons, and his passion for classic cars. He was



a member of St. John's Lutheran Church and the Lena Lions Club. He was the chairman of the street committee for Fall Festival for 40 years and was very proud at the success of Fall Festival.

Don is survived by his wife, Pat of Lena, children Brenda (Bob) Werhane of Lena, IL, Kathy (Alan) Carda of Eagan, MN; Grandchildren Fritz (Amy) Werhane of McFarland, WI, Adam (Credence) Werhane of Lena; Alekx and Georgiy Carda of Eagan, MN Great-grandchildren; Bryce Werhane and Vivian Werhane. beloved grand dogs: Captain, Rookie, and Aspen. Brother Russell (Sue) Brown of New Lenox, IL and special friend of the family Jacyn Stultz (Jon) Harris of Rowley, MA. Don was preceded in death by his parents, John and Vivian Brown, and Brother Warren Brown.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, IL. A visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, IL. Burial will take place at Lena Burial Park in Lena, IL. Pastor Jason Shaw will officiate the services. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the Lena Lions Club and for St. John's Lutheran Church. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

EMMA EMANUELSON

Emma Grace Emanuelson, age 13, of Stockton, IL passed away unexpectedly at her home surrounded by her family, on April 30, 2024. Emma was born on April 14, 2011, in Freeport, IL to Tonya (Townsend) Nolan and Eric Emanuelson. She was currently in 7th grade at Stockton Middle School. Mr. Richardson was her favorite teacher.

Emma was involved in band and track at school and enjoyed helping her Grandma Sue at the Sidetrack in Apple River, IL. She was the silliest girl, with the best personality and the best jokes. She was loveable, fearless and pleasure to be around. Emma was happiest outdoors. Horseback riding, climbing trees, playing around the cars, hunting with her papa Bob, grandma Pat, going to demolition derbies, and helping her dad Mike build and work on the cars, and being with her family and friends were her favorite things to do.

Emma is survived by her parents: Tonya and Mike Nolan of Stockton; siblings: Karmen, Cora, and Koy; grandparents: Charles and Brittney Townsend, and Robert and Patty Nolan; great-grandparents: Thomas and Teresa Townsend, and Susan Kriebs; great great grandma Julie



Schmidt; uncle Case Townsend, and numerous great aunts, great uncles, cousins, and friends.

Emma was preceded in death by her grandparents: Cendra Wills, Jeanette Townsend, Dennis and Marilyn Emanuelson, and her great-great grandparents: Ernie Schmidt, Doris and Gene VanLent and S.A and Margaret Townsend, and her friend and classmate, Eli "Melon" Henderson.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the Stockton Elementary School Gymnasium (formerly the middle school) in Stockton, IL.

A visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2024, at the Stockton Elementary School Gymnasium in Stockton, IL.

A private family burial will take place at the Nora Community Cemetery in Nora, IL.

John Lee will officiate the services. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in Emma's memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.



MICHAEL BINNS

Michael T. Binns was born February 25, 1960, at the Savanna, IL Hospital. He passed away December 25, 2023, at Rockford St. Anthony's Hospital.

Michael graduated from Elizabeth High School in Elizabeth, IL. He worked at Kelly Springfield and later at Tiron Tires in Freeport. He was in the Army from 1981-1984 and was in Panama for two years. Later, he was in the Army Reserves until 2020. In 1991 he married Rose Stanger

in Freeport. Later divorcing and moving to Rockford, IL.

He is survived by his mother, Marian Binns; two sisters, Cheryl (Gary) Jay and Carolyn Holmer; one brother, James (Valerie); one adopted son; one step son; one step daughter; nieces and nephews; and step grandchildren.

A private family service will be held. Interment will take place at Ladies Union Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

FOSTER HELLER

Foster D. Heller, age 95 of Stockton, IL passed away Monday, April 29, 2024, surrounded by his children. The funeral service will be held Monday, May 6, 2024, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton. Interment took place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Stockton.

Foster was born Nov. 21, 1928, in Scales Mound, IL to Reynold and Ella (Siegel) Heller. He went to Scales Mound school and graduated from East Dubuque High School after his family moved to that area. He married the love of his life Rosemary (Ricke) on October 1, 1949, in Menominee, IL He was employed at John Deere Co before entering his passion of farming in 1954 where he and his wife moved to Woodbine, IL. He was a dairy farmer for 45 years as he had a deep passion for working with cattle and living the life of a farmer. After retiring he continued to help his son-in-law Grant on Offenheiser Farms in Derinda. He and his wife moved to Stockton in 2003.

Foster was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a former 4-H leader, and a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in which he served on the building committee when the church was built. He loved playing euchre and played in many different card clubs. He



was a great husband, father, grandpa, and great grandpa and was loved by all his family and close friends who knew him.

He is survived by and will be deeply missed by one son and three daughters. Sharon (Richard) Kump, Stockton, Kathy Knauer (Patrick Breen), Lacon, IL, Stan (Deanna) Heller, McFarland, WI, Donna (Grant) Offenheiser, Elizabeth, IL. Seven grandchildren, Melissa (Justin), Matthew (Victoria), Keri Ann, Kyle (Nikki), Jack, Claire, and Michael (Abby). Eight great grandchildren, Elyse, Audra, Owen, Abigail, Andrew, Wells, Willa, and Hayes. He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, one sister, Joyce Meyer, and 6 brothers, Harold, Lester, Clayton, Arnold, Robert, Billy and son-in-law, David Knauer.

We would like to thank dad's close neighbors who always had a watchful eye on him, Janet Broshous and Denny and Kathi Starr and his pew friend in church, Kathy Talbert. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

LORETTA J. CHEENEY

Loretta J. Cheeney, 82, of Lena, IL formerly of Kent, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at the Lena Living Center. She was born on June 22, 1941, in Freeport, IL to Martin and Ida (Duzan) Moe. Loretta was a 1959 graduate of Shannon High School.

Loretta worked at a restaurant in Lanark where she met the love of her life, Franklin Cheeney. They were united in marriage on August 1, 1959. She retired after 29 years from Atwoods Automotive in Stockton where she was an arc welder.

In Loretta's younger years, she belonged to the Bethel United Methodist Church in Shannon. She enjoyed horses and trail riding and traveling with Frankie in their younger years. Loretta was a Union Steward at Atwoods Automotive in Stockton. She was a dreamer and an animal lover. She loved spending time with her family, especially eating meals where her grandchildren joined her.

Loretta is survived by



her sons Leon (Lori) Cheeney of Kent, IL and Troy (Mary) Cheeney of Janesville, WI, grandchildren;

Amanda Cheeney, Benjamin (Lexie Joiner) Cheeney, Joseph (Marlena) Cheeney, Austin (Tina) Cheeney, Kyle Clement, Carson Clement, Jeff Cheeney, Tamra (Jason) Brown, and Caleb Cheeney, seven great-grandchildren, a sister Blondena Best, and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Frank, two sons; Curtis and Lonnie Cheeney, brother Howard Moe, and a sister Deloris Campbell.

Funeral services were held on Friday, May 3, 2024, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. Ken Lawson officiated the services. Burial will take place at Lena Burial Park in Lena, IL. A memorial has been established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

A heartfelt Thank you

The family of Larry Nichols, would like to express a heartfelt thank you to all of you who have extended your sympathies, love & support since the time of his passing. You are truly what got us through this difficult time.

Special thank yous to the Warren Ambulance, Warren Police Department, Apple River Fire Department, Memorial Hospital of Lafayette County & Leamon's Funeral Home.

We extend a sincere thank you to the wonderful assistance given to us by Shawn Saunders, Duane Maupin, Tim Toepfer, Paul Stadel, Brianna Trost, Stacey Winter, Danielle Cline & Ashley Hartzell.

Larry will be remembered as a man of honor who was outspoken. He had a heart of gold to those near and dear to his heart. He was the fixer of all things, and the endless love he had for his 3 ladies.

We will be gathering on July 20th at his home in Apple River, to share some of our favorite memories, our favorite stories, to laugh, to cry, and remember this wonderful man, who will greatly be missed.

With Love,
Margaret, Jessi & Kensi
Nichols

THANK YOU

The Lena Lions Club would like to thank area residents who supported the Lena Lions Tootsie Pop Days!

We can now help those in need.
THANK YOU everyone who contributed.

Sincerely,
The Lena Lions Club

News briefs

Blackhawk Unit of SCAHCE

The regular monthly meeting of the Blackhawk Unit of SCAHCE will be held on Thursday May 16, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. Becky Thomas will give the lesson on "Fair History" with the roll call being a memory from the fair. Joyce Bonnet and Jo Wenzel will be bringing a raffle item. All SCAHCE meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend.

Elizabeth Blood Drive

The Elizabeth Community Blood Drive will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. The blood drive is co-sponsored by Knights of Columbus #10212 and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Appointments are encouraged. To schedule, visit RedCrossBlood.org and search sponsor code ElizabethIL. Download the Blood Donor App, call 1-800-RED CROSS or 1-800-733-2767

SSM Health to host Blood Drive in Monroe

SSM Health welcomes the community to participate in its Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 7. The Blood Drive will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the St. Clare Conference Center at the main clinic located at 515 22nd Avenue in Monroe.

Appointments are encouraged but not required. To schedule, please visit www.bloodcenter.org or call SSM Health Monroe Hospital Volunteer Services Coordinator, Mary Berger, at 608-324-1569. Please eat before donating and bring a photo ID. All donors will have the choice of a gift card, a donation to Best Friends Animal Society, or bonus points.



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NASA launches 'out of this world' partnership with U.S. ag

By Hannah Spangler
 FARMWEEK

Working with NASA might seem out of this world, but a new program aims to show the public that NASA is in agriculture on Earth, not just in space.

On April 23, farmers, researchers and other stakeholders met at the University of Illinois for the inaugural NASA Acres Symposium.

"When you think about NASA, you think about launching rockets or launching satellites, but one of the biggest NASA programs is Earth Science," said Kaiyu Guan, founder of the Agroecosystem Sustainability Center at U of I.

In March 2023, NASA Acres was established to bridge the gap between space and farms. The program aims to strengthen U.S. agriculture by answering some of the most pressing challenges facing the industry.

NASA Acres works with agriculturalists throughout the U.S. to see how NASA's resources can be used to help farmers.

Guan, who is also the chief scientist for NASA Acres, said the satellite Earth Observation based data can be used to track and predict the impacts of weather and climate, pest damage and soil tillage.

NASA satellite data can also be used to monitor nutrient loss and deficiencies and help farmers understand the impacts of practices like planting cover crops.

"We've been extensively working on crop nitrogen concentration," Guan told FarmWeek. "We've started to have confidence that we can sense how much nitrogen has been absorbed by crops."

Guan said that by integrating all available data, farmers can determine optimal management practices for rotation patterns, cover crop

adoption and tillage methods. "This can help the whole system reduce nitrogen loss," he said.

Alyssa Whitcraft, NASA Acres executive director and associate research professor at the University of Maryland, said although NASA has been involved with agriculture since the 1970s, there has been a disconnect between the data and the farmer.

But throughout the past decade, Whitcraft said NASA has focused more on connecting with farmers to find the data that helps them.

Whitcraft said one of the main objectives of the program is to ensure NASA Acres' data can be integrated into some of the tools farmers already use. More than 30 agriculture and research groups, including Illinois Farm Bureau and U of I, are helping the program achieve this goal.

"Whether farmers use a preferred system for visualization when they're inside their combine or their sprayer, we would like our data and our tools to enrich that," Whitcraft said.

The next step is to inform farmers that they can access findings, data and tools and continue to provide their input through NASAacres.org.

"We know that success is predicated on farmer involvement," Whitcraft said. "Our mission, paid for by public dollars, is to support farmers in having a productive, sustainable and resilient system to support their rural communities for decades and generations to come."

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

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Immigrant advocates tout new report showing benefits of state-funded health plans

Noncitizen health care cost estimates have continued to decline since Pritzker capped enrollment

By Peter Hancock and Jerry Nowicki
CAPITAL NEWS ILLINOIS

Immigrant rights advocates on April 26 continued to push for one of their top budget priorities: full funding for state-run health care programs that benefit noncitizens, regardless of their immigration status.

Those programs offer health coverage for low-income individuals who would otherwise qualify for Medicaid if not for their immigration status. They have been the source of controversy in the General Assembly, especially after the initial cost of the programs far outpaced the original estimates, forcing Gov. JB Pritzker's administration to begin capping enrollment and instituting other cost-cutting measures last year.

But advocates for those programs unveiled a new report April 26 by the University of Illinois Chicago's Great Cities Institute that purports to show

how the benefits of providing health coverage to the state's immigrant population extend beyond those individuals to their families, communities and society at large.

"Ample research has shown that coverage improves labor force participation, which adds value to tax bases and reduces the need for financial assistance," Samantha Sepulveda, one of the authors of the report, said at a gathering of program supporters April 26 in Chicago. "It increases early disease detection which reduces long-term medical costs. It relieves financial hardship which helps individuals and members of their household and also improves health outcomes."

The report focuses on two programs that provide Medicaid-like health coverage to noncitizen adults—Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors, which began in 2020 and covers noncitizens age 65 and older; and Health Benefits

for Immigrant Adults, which began in 2021 and now covers noncitizens age 42-64.

Although the programs offer health benefits similar to those provided under Medicaid, they do not qualify for federal cost sharing under Medicaid and, thus, are funded entirely with state resources.

The state has offered reduced-cost health care coverage to noncitizen children under 18 in its All Kids Program since 2006.

Key findings

The report argues that noncitizens are employed at a slightly higher rate than the adult population as a whole in Illinois, so providing that group with health coverage promotes a healthier and more productive labor force.

It also argues that medical coverage reduces financial strain and medical debt for a group that would otherwise be uninsured and that covering noncitizen adults results in improved developmental outcomes for their children.

In addition, it argues that insuring the noncitizen population results in many of the same economic benefits as increasing coverage rates among the rest of society. Recipients will be less likely to postpone needed care, according to the report, which in turn prevents unnecessary emergency room usage, the costs of which

are either never recovered or spread to those with insurance. The report noted the programs also improve overall health outcomes by encouraging routine checkups and preventive care.

According to the state's Department of Healthcare and Family Services, which oversees the programs, they cost \$618 million combined in fiscal year 2023. Advocates from the Healthy Illinois campaign, which unveiled the report April 26, noted that accounts for just 0.6 percent of the state's total budget, or about 1.2 percent of the state's General Revenue Fund budget.

But as lawmakers sat down to approve the state's budget last spring, Pritzker's administration had projected the costs could rise to as high as \$1.1 billion for fiscal year 2024. While advocates continued calls to expand the program to serve immigrants between the ages of 18 and 42, lawmakers ultimately gave the governor authority to limit enrollment and cap general revenue spending on the programs at \$550 million.

Pritzker, meanwhile, has proposed \$629 million in spending on the program in the upcoming fiscal year that begins July 1, including a \$440 million appropriation from the General Revenue Fund. An estimated \$100 million would come from a federal emergency services match, with \$50 million coming from drug rebate payments and \$40 million from a state tax on Medicaid managed care organizations.

Pritzker's fiscal year 2025 funding plan drew praise from

the Healthy Illinois campaign after the governor unveiled it in February. The coalition's statement drew a more conciliatory tone than when it accused the governor of "aligning himself with anti-immigrant Republicans" for placing enrollment caps on the program months earlier.

"We recognize the real fiscal challenges facing the state, but urge both the General Assembly and the governor to pass a FY25 budget that fully funds the existing HBIA and HBIS programs as they currently exist in statute, with no caps and no co-pays," Healthy Illinois Director Tovia Siegel said in a statement after the budget address.

Enrollment caps and cost trends

Pritzker's enrollment caps for the HBIA program took effect on July 1, 2023, and the HBIS program was capped when it hit 16,500 enrollees weeks later.

Since then, enrollment in the programs has remained paused, and total enrollment has dropped from a high of about 69,300 in November 2023, to 66,430 as of the agency's April 9 report.

In March, HFS also noted it would begin the standard Medicaid redetermination process for the two programs. In March, a spokesperson said approximately 450 individuals are likely to be moved to Medicaid because they are legal permanent residents of at least five years; an estimated 5,200 individuals will be "closed" as of May 1 because they are no longer eligible; and approxi-

mately 6,000 individuals will lose coverage through the redetermination process.

Another roughly 6,300 individuals who have been legal permanent residents for less than five years will lose coverage and be referred to the Affordable Care Act Marketplace for alternative coverage.

The state also began transitioning enrollees from fee-for-service plans to Medicaid managed care, a system through which private insurers known as managed care organizations contract with the state to oversee routine and follow-up health care. An HFS update on program enrollment dated April 9 noted more than 45,500 enrollees had been transferred to managed care while 17,879 remained in fee-for-service plans.

The state also negotiated with managed care organizations to allow—but not require—them to charge copays or co-insurance for certain services provided. CountyCare in Cook County, where most program participants are served, has chosen not to charge those fees.

As of April 9, HFS projects the program to cost \$697 million in fiscal year 2024. Those estimates are based on the number of enrollees and their average monthly costs, and they can fluctuate each month based on retroactive claims adjustments, provider rate changes and program enrollment, among other factors.

While higher than what's budgeted in general revenues, the estimates have decreased significantly since September, when the agency projected the programs would cost \$831 million in the first report following the announcement of enrollment caps.

In February, an HFS spokesperson said state cost-saving measures—as well as revenue-generating measures such as taking advantage of a new federal claiming methodology for emergency services—will help bring costs in line with the allocated budget amount. Additionally, the state expects the per-month costs for patients to continue to decrease as enrollees receive more regular care.

"Taking together these changes, we anticipate our costs will be in line with our budget projections as we near the end of the fiscal year, keeping in mind that these are still relatively new programs where costs have not been as stable as in more established programs," a spokesperson said in a statement.

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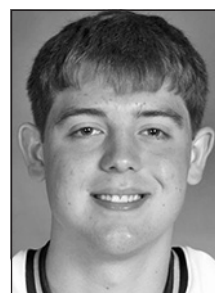
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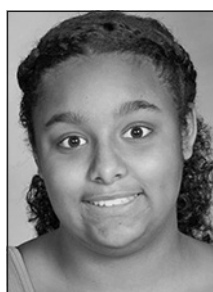
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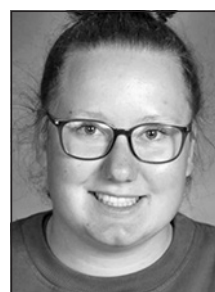
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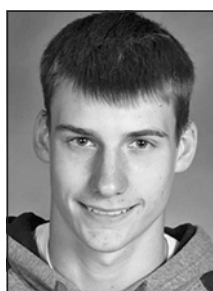
**Isabelle
Paulsen**



**Deaken
Randecker**



**Aspen
Roberts**



**Quinn
Rodebaugh**



**Jacob
Schumacher**



**Mason
Spidahl**



**Luke
Stabenow**



**Odin
Stabenow**



**Lincoln
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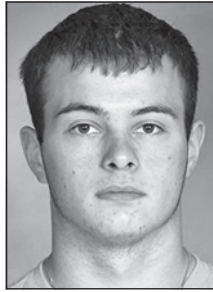


**Lyric
Stouffer**

CONGRATS LE-WIN 2024 GRADUATES



Garrett Sutter



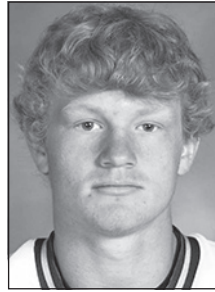
Trenton Swedlund



David Tasej-Sorcja Jr.



Brianna Taylor



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Hornets pull off comeback against Warhawks

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Scales Mound-River Ridge Hornets won their third consecutive game when they swept the Warren-Stockton Warhawks late in the season. The Hornets came into last week with an overall record of just 2-13. Two of those victories came the week prior. Once the Hornets completed the two-game sweep over the Warhawks, they were 4-1 over their last five games played.

While the Hornets have had a change of fortune late in the year, the Warhawks have been on a downward trend. At one point, Warren-Stockton held an overall record of 5-8. After dropping five consecutive games, including the two against the Hornets, the Warhawks' record fell to 5-13.

The Hornets and Warhawks faced off for the first time on Tuesday, April 30. Both teams were starving for victory when they competed in the final game of the month. The Hornets got off to a buzzing start. With runs in each of the first three innings, SM-RR looked like they were running away with it.

The Hornets got the scoring started when Amie Richmond hit a leadoff single in the bottom of the first. Even-

tually, Evelyn Walters hit a sacrifice bunt that led to an error by the Warhawks. That error allowed Richmond to reach home safely, giving SM-RR their first lead.

The leadoff hits proved crucial for the Hornets. In the bottom of the second, they doubled their lead as Sarah Winter crushed a homerun over the center field fence. Later, Richmond drove in their third run with a single up the middle.

In the bottom of the third, another leadoff homer helped to extend the lead. Millie Boden sent a ball over the center field fence, putting the Hornets up 4-0. With Laiken Haas in the pitcher's circle, the Warhawks stood little chance at a comeback. Warren-Stockton went scoreless through the first three innings. In the end, Haas pitched a complete game, striking out 10 while allowing two earned runs on three hits.

At the plate, Richmond led the way, going two for four with one run scored and one run batted in. Katherine Bilderback went two for two with a run scored and a walk. Boden and Winter both had homers in the 4-2 victory.

Two days later, the Warhawks looked to be on their way towards revenge. After taking the lead two different

times, the Warhawks eventually lost to a three-run seventh inning.

Warren-Stockton took their first lead in the bottom of the third. After a leadoff walk to Madalynn Perry, Ady Baker doubled to left, driving in the run. Baker eventually scored on an Ireland Mensendike groundout to put the Warhawks up 2-0. After the Hornets tied the game in the top of the fourth, the Warhawks took their second lead with two runs in the fifth. Baker hit a leadoff double to get the inning going. She was eventually driven in by an Addy Bohnsack two-run single to left.

Heading into the final inning, the Warhawks held a 4-2 lead. They came just one out away from closing out the victory. With two down and runners on second and third, Haas struck a two-run double to center, tying the game. Winter followed up with an RBI single to right, giving the Hornets their first lead of the day.

Haas had the big hit in the top half, and she closed things down in the bottom. After allowing a leadoff walk, Haas sat down the next three batters for the 5-4 victory. SM-RR improved to 4-13, while the Warhawks fell to 5-13 late in the season.

Haas led the way for SM-

RR. Not only did she pitch a complete game with nine strikeouts, but she led the way at the plate too. Haas went three for four with two runs scored and two RBI in the win. Winter was right with her, going three for four with a run scored and two

RBI. Richmond went three for four with a run scored, as well.

Warren-Stockton was led by Baker, who went two for three with a walk, a run scored, and one RBI. Bohnsack was one for two with two walks and two RBI. The

Warhawks combined for just five hits in the game.

On Friday, May 10 Warren-Stockton is scheduled to travel to take on Winnebago at 4:30 p.m. For the Hornets, they will play host to West Carroll on Monday, May 13 at 4:30 p.m.

River Ridge FFA Ag Day



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Kollins Patterson wins the Hoppy Horse race.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lola Gonzalez plants a marigold in the greenhouse as part of Ag Day.

The River Ridge FFA Chapter hosted its annual Elementary Ag Day on Monday, April 29. FFA members led the elementary classes through five different stations where the students learned about different aspects of the agriculture field.

The high school members staffed the Ag Education room where students learned about horse tack, fishing, or building an agriculture item from legos. Younger students read the book "Who Grew My Soup" and tried to identify different animal sounds.

Other stations included planting a marigold in the greenhouse, ice cream, relay races, a petting zoo with tractors, and the ever-popular Hoppy Horse races. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn more about agriculture and to get to see farm animals and equipment up-close.

Despite living in a rural area, many students have never actually been on a farm and still delight in seeing chicks, ducklings, emus, sheep, cows and pigs. The high school FFA members had just as much fun as the elementary students as they led the students through the different stations.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rock Valley Publishing

FFA Officer Graci Allen introduces Ronan Marcotte to a goat.

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Wildcats defeat Warhawks in recent baseball matchup

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound (RR-SM) Wildcats and the Warren-Stockton Warhawks faced off in a much-anticipated matchup last week. The Wildcats and Warhawks have both had solid 2024 baseball seasons. As they approach the end of this year's regular season, both teams have proven the ability to compete with other top competition in the area.

On Tuesday, April 30 the Wildcats were seeking their tenth win of the season as they prepared to host the Warhawks. RR-SM held an overall record of 9-7, while the Warhawks were already 10-6 themselves.

On the field, it was the Wildcats who held the early advantage. RR-SM rallied after their pitcher Joe Winter opened the game with a one, two, three inning. That includ-

ed a big strikeout for the final out, bringing the RR-SM bats to the plate.

Kaden Duerr led the bottom half off with a single to the left side. George Winter followed up with a single up the middle. Later, Ben Richmond took a one out walk to load the bases. Joe then got an opportunity to help himself out as he drove in the game's first run with a liner up the middle. Damon Dittmar would drive in their second run with a sacrifice fly.

The Wildcats held onto their two-run advantage until they expanded it in the bottom of the third. Once again, the scoring inning was set up by a dominant pitching performance in the top half. This time, Joe struck out the side in order, bringing fresh bats to the plate. Once again, it was Dittmar who drove in the run as his grounder up the middle brought Mason Smith in for a score.

Warren-Stockton finally cracked the scoreboard in the top of the fourth. Trailing by three, Wyatt Janecke got things started with a one out liner to left. An errant pickoff move would allow Janecke to reach third safely. He then scored on a wild pitch, bringing the Warhawks within two.

The Wildcats quickly got that run back. After Duerr crushed a double to left, a defensive error by the Warhawks' shortstop Colby Tucker allowed a run to come in. That put the Wildcats up 4-1 at the end of the fourth.

The Warhawks once again tried chipping away at the lead in the top of the sixth. Tucker picked himself up with a lead-

off single up the middle. Later, with one out, Tucker would score on a sacrifice fly by Trey Pafford. At that point, it was a two-run game with a 4-2 RR-SM advantage.

Much like they did all game, the Wildcats had yet another response for the Warhawks. In the bottom of the sixth, RR-SM scored another run when Richmond reached safely on another defensive error. That put the finishing touches on what was a 5-2 victory for the Wildcats. It improved their record to 10-7 before facing off with Fulton and Galena later in the week. For the Warhawks, they saw their record fall to 10-7 as well.

The Wildcats were led by

Joe's excellent pitching night. In a complete game, Joe allowed just two earned runs off six hits. Despite only striking out four, the Wildcat pitcher had a clean defense behind him. RR-SM had just one error in the game.

At the plate, the Wildcats combined for eight hits. George finished the day two

for four with a run scored and one run batted in. Deurr was two for three. Joe went two for four with one RBI.

The Warhawks were led by Tucker and Janecke, who both finished the day one for four with a run scored. Will Stietz took the loss from the mound. In five innings, Stietz allowed two earned runs off seven hits.



IAA Foundation awards scholarships to students pursuing agriculture degrees

Students can count on support of scholarships for college tuition during the 2024-2025 school year, courtesy of the IAA Foundation. The charitable arm of the Illinois Farm Bureau, the IAA Foundation, is awarding \$151,501 to 89 students pursuing degrees in agriculture-related fields. Students are selected based on their activities and leadership, their community involvement, professional career goals and their overall commitment to success. "Each year we are proud to support and encourage students who represent agriculture's strong and vibrant future," said Jennifer Smith, Development Manager, IAA Foundation.

Jo Daviess County has two recipients this year. Aimee Henderson, is the Jean Stubblefield Memorial Fellowship recipient and receives a \$2,500 scholarship for the honor and Cora Dittmar is the recipient of the Allen & Ellen Blessman Scholarship win-

ning \$1,000. Other scholarships being presented range in value from \$1,000 to \$3,001. A full listing of recipients can be found at www.iaafoundation.org.

Annually, the Illinois Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus combine to award more than \$1,000,000 in scholarship support. "The scholarship program acknowledges hard-working students and offers financial support so they can pursue their dreams and land careers in agriculture," Smith said. "Through generous farm gifts and contributions from individuals, farm families, Illinois Farm Bureau members, and others who support our industry, we continue to see diversification and growth in our program."

For more information on the IAA Foundation scholarship program, how to establish a scholarship, or to donate to a scholarship fund, visit the IAA Foundation's website at www.iaafoundation.org or call 309-557-2232.

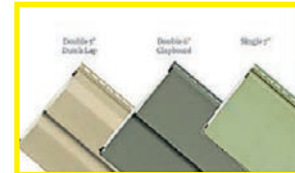
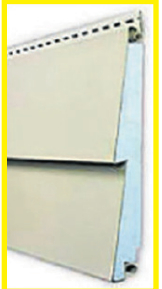
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Pearl City splits games with Orangeville-Aquin

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Pearl City Wolves and the Orangeville-Aquin Broncos faced off in a battle of the area's top softball teams last week. Coming into the week, the Wolves held an impressive overall record of 12-6. Meanwhile, the Broncos were 17-6 themselves. With nearly 30 wins combined competing on the field, the Wolves and Broncos provided an excellent show.

Pearl City played host for game one on Tuesday, April 30. The Wolves knew they had a big opportunity to close

out the month of April in front of their home crowd. A quality start and some clutch hits helped the Wolves do just that.

Early on, it was the Broncos who stole the show. Meghan Carlisle gave her team an early advantage when she crushed a two-run homerun over the left field fence. Pearl City's starting pitcher Mackenzie Lotz wasn't shaken by the hit. Mackenzie would allow just three hits over her next five scoreless innings pitched.

While the Pearl City starter settled in, she gave the bats

enough time to get things going. In the bottom of the second, the Wolves got on the board with their first run. It was Mackenzie who helped herself out as a double up the middle drove Kylie Campbell into score.

Pearl City then took their first lead in the third. After a defensive error, the Wolves made the Broncos pay for their mistake. Natalie Lotz singled up the middle, driving Kendra Kuhlemeier in for the 3-2 lead.

Orangeville-Aquin made things interesting when they tied the game in the top of the

sixth. They returned the favor as a Pearl City error allowed the game tying run to come in.

Pearl City answered in a big way. Scarlett Snyder and Danica Stager had back-to-back hits, driving in a trio of runs and giving the Wolves a 6-3 lead. That three-run lead would hold as the Wolves held off the Broncos the rest of the way.

Mackenzie got the win from the circle, pitching seven innings with four hits and two earned runs allowed. She struck out eight and walked just one in the victory. At the plate, Mackenzie went one for

three with a run batted in.

Natalie led the Wolves going two for three with one run scored and two RBIs. Campbell was one for two with a run scored. Snyder was two for three with a run scored and one RBI in the win.

Orangeville-Aquin would even the series when they faced off with the Wolves just two days later. It was another low-scoring affair that saw both starting pitchers battle until the end. This time, it was Laney Holland who took the win. Holland pitched a complete game with zero walks and zero earned runs

allowed. Holland trusted the defense behind her as she allowed eight hits in the game.

Carlisle opened the series with a homerun, and that's how she ended it too. In the bottom of the sixth, Carlisle crushed a leadoff homerun to center, giving the Broncos a 3-2 lead. That wound up being the game deciding run as the Broncos held on to split the series.

On Thursday, May 9 the Broncos are scheduled to travel to take on Fulton at 4:30 p.m. At the same time, the Wolves are set to play host to West Carroll.

Panthers bounce back from loss to Durand-Pecatonica

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Just two weeks ago, the Lena-Winslow Panthers split a couple of baseball games with NUIC opponent Durand-Pecatonica. After beating the Rivermen in the first game, the Panthers fell 14-7 to close the week against Du-Pec. Splitting those games saw Le-Win's overall record grow to 12-5 in the 2024 season. Despite ending the prior week with a loss, the Panthers had plenty of good to take out of the series, as well.

First off, Le-Win managed to go into Du-Pec territory for a 7-2 victory over the Rivermen. Du-Pec has been a quality team in recent years, and

they proved to be a solid test again this year. The Rivermen got their revenge when they outhit the Panthers in game two.

Le-Win managed to get some valuable pitching experience in the game. Koby Kearnes pitched three and one third innings, as did Cohen Weegens. Kearns allowed four earned runs off four hits, while striking out three. Weegens racked up five strikeouts while allowing two earned runs off six hits.

At the plate, Aiden Wild had another big day. In three at bats, Wild finished with two hits, a walk, three runs scored, and one run batted in. Miles Mahon was one for four with

a run scored and two RBI. Cobryn Lynch was one for three with a run scored and one RBI. Still, the Panthers saw themselves drop their fifth game of the season.

Le-Win had three big defensive errors against Du-Pec, and each one of them cost them in the end. When the Panthers prepared to face off with the Dakota Indians to open last week, they knew they needed to play a much cleaner game. Dakota is another solid team who recently approached another double-digit win season. When the Indians took on the Panthers on Tuesday, April 30 both teams ended the month with a stressful pitcher's duel.

Luke Madigan was on the

mound for the Panthers. In five and two third innings, Madigan struck out nine Dakota batters while walking four more. Madigan earned his share of swings and misses, but he had to trust the defense behind him.

The Panther defense responded by having just two errors in the game. More importantly, Le-Win didn't allow a single run off either of those errors. A clean defensive game, combined with Madigan's quality start, was a perfect recipe for victory for the Panthers.

Although it was a low-scoring game, the Panthers held the lead for nearly the entire game. Le-Win took

their first lead in the bottom of the second inning. Weegens got the early scoring opportunity started with a one out single up the middle. An error would allow Weegens to reach third base. Landon Grindey then doubled to center, driving Weegens in and giving the Panthers an early 1-0 lead.

That provided most of the scoring from that point on. The Panthers didn't bring another run in until the bottom of the sixth. This time it was a Kearns' double to left, driving Wild in, and putting the Panthers up 2-0.

Kearns also shut things down from the mound in relief. In one and one third

innings, Kearns didn't allow a hit or a walk, while striking out a pair. Kearns and Madigan combined to pitch a shutout in a 2-0 victory over Dakota.

Wild had another multi-hit day at the plate, going two for two with a walk and a run scored. Kearns was one for three with one RBI. Grindey finished the day one for two with one RBI, and Weegens was one for two with a run scored.

On Thursday, May 6 Le-Win is scheduled to travel to face off with Milledgeville at 4:30 p.m. The next day, they travel to take on West Carroll for the final game of the regular season at 4:30 p.m.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

Growing up, one of my favorite summer activities was Sunday barbeques with my extended family. During these summer evenings we would

ride four-wheelers, play with a gigantic frisbee, and sit around the bonfire. But no cookout was complete without the food. Our dinners would entail potato salad, baked beans, fruit, veggies,

and delicious burgers grilled to perfection.

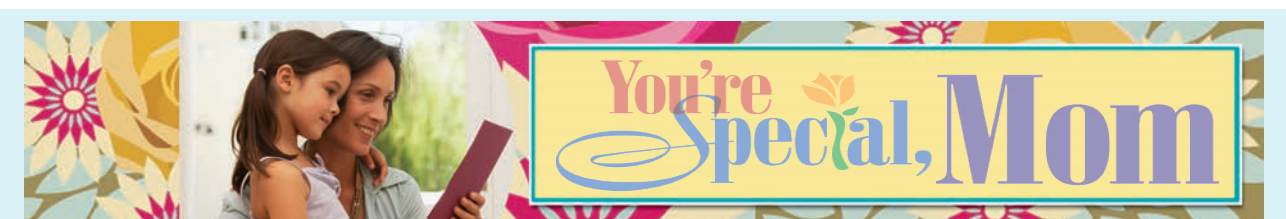
May is the unofficial kickoff to summer, National Barbeque month and National Beef month. In celebration of Na-

tional Beef month and all those who are involved in the beef industry, I will share a few beef related facts with you. The average American eats 62 pounds of beef each year but we get

more than meat from beef cattle. Other beef by-products include candles, crayons, detergent, and insulation. We use 99% of every steer. The top five counties in Illinois for beef cattle include JoDaviess, Adams, Fulton, Hancock and Henry. Beef has 10 essential nutrients: iron, choline, protein, selenium, zinc, phosphorus, niacin, riboflavin, vitamins B6 and B12. For more beef facts visit www.agintheclassroom.org and look at the new Beef AgMag.

D-Springfield. Topping the list of policy issues discussed was the farm bill, which has continued to face delays after the reauthorization was postponed a year to September.

"Our main message is farmers need a farm bill," Whitehouse told FarmWeek, adding he encouraged lawmakers to work to get a farm bill done this year. House Ag Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Pennsylvania, says the committee will mark up a farm bill before Memorial Day, and expects to release farm bill text to the public several days before a scheduled markup, likely in mid-May. Whitehouse said his sense is committee members want to move on the legislation. "The Illinois delegation is optimistic and motivated to get a markup of the farm bill to be debated," he said. "And IFB is appreciative and also motivated to get a markup going." IFB is asking its delegation to be "outspoken champions" on the importance for agriculture in getting a farm bill done, Whitehouse said, adding the organization remains open and committed to working with members on policy text.



Join these businesses in celebrating Mother's Day

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Lena Illinois, 6048
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455028

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Maybe we are done with cold weather. The weather people say that we can put out plants in the garden or in pots and not worry about freezing. I will wait until after Sunday because I hate having to cover anything. Hopefully there will be some plants left to buy!

I heard on a morning television show that because fast food prices are so high, there is more home cooking going on. Two of this week's recipes fall into that carryout category. They are pretty economical to make, so if you want to save some money, try them. I have also included some Mother's Day Brunch recipes. Have a good week cooking.

Crispy Crab Rangoon

This Chinese staple appetizer is easy to make at home. It involves wonton wrappers and not a lot of oil. If you don't have access to Chinese food and get a hankering, you might try these.

- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- ¼ C. finely chopped imitation crabmeat
- 1 t. minced garlic
- 16 wonton wrappers
- Oil for frying
- Sweet and sour sauce

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Stir in onions, crab, and garlic. Place about 1½ t. of the filling in the center of a wonton wrapper. Keep remaining wrappers covered with a damp paper towel until ready to use. Moisten edges with water; fold opposite corners over filling and press to seal. Repeat. In an electric skillet, heat one inch of oil to 375. Fry wontons in batches until golden brown, about one minute on each side. Drain on paper towels. Serve with Sweet and Sour Sauce.

Bacon Pea Salad

Pea salad was one of my mother's favorites, so it is appropriate I have a recipe for it on this Mother's Day week. This one is easy because it uses Ranch dressing instead of making a mayonnaise dressing. The red onion puts color into it too. It goes great on a brunch table too!

- 4 C frozen peas, thawed
- ½ C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- ½ C. ranch salad dressing
- 1/3 C. chopped red onion
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- 4 strips of bacon, cooked and crumbled

Combine the peas, cheese, salad dressing, onion, salt and pepper in a bowl. Refrigerate, covered, at least 30 minutes. Stir in bacon right before serving.

Amish Breakfast Casserole

There are many breakfast casseroles out there. This one only uses bacon for meat and the cottage cheese makes it really creamy. I like the Mr. D's Hash Brown potatoes if you can find them. It is a great Brunch Casserole for Mother's Day.

- 1 lb. sliced bacon, diced
- 3 medium sweet onions, chopped
- 6 large eggs, beaten
- 4 C. frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 3 C. shredded cheddar cheese
- 1½ C. 4 % cottage cheese
- ¼ C. shredded Swiss Cheese

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large skillet, cook bacon and onion over medium heat until bacon is crisp, drain. In a large bowl, combine the remaining ingredients; stir in bacon mixture. Transfer to a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Bake, uncovered, for 35 to 40 minutes or until a knife inserted into the center comes out clean. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Slow Cooker Orange Chicken

If you want to do something totally different for Mother's Day, you can make this Chinese staple to go along with the appetizer. I always use low-sodium chicken broth and soy sauce. Try this great Chinese entrée for a special occasion or a Sunday dinner.

- 1 C. chicken stock
- 1 C. orange juice
- 1 C. orange marmalade
- ½ C. ketchup
- ¼ C. Dijon mustard
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 2 T. rice vinegar
- 2 T. soy sauce
- 2 T. minced ginger
- 1 t. garlic powder
- ¾ t. crushed red pepper flakes

- 2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into ¾ inch pieces
- ½ C. cornstarch
- ¾ t. salt
- ½ t. pepper
- 1 large sweet red pepper,

cut into 1-inch pieces
2 C. broccoli florets
Hot cooked rice
In a small bowl, combine the first 11 ingredients to make a stock mixture. In a 4-qt. slow cooker which has been sprayed with cooking spray, combine the chicken, cornstarch, salt, and pepper. Toss to coat. Top with red pepper. Pour stock mixture over the top. Cover and cook on low for 4 hours or until chicken is tender. Stir in broccoli. Cover and cook on high 30 to 40 minutes longer or until broccoli is crisp tender. Serve with rice. Sprinkle with any or all of the following toppings: chopped green onions, peanuts, fresh cilantro.

Cream-Filled Cinnamon Coffee Cake

If you are looking for a pretty dessert on a Mother's Day Brunch table, this coffee cake will be it. It takes a little time, but it can be made the day before and refrigerated. It calls for both butter and shortening in the filling. When a recipe calls for shortening, I use Crisco. It comes in sticks if you don't want to buy it in cans. Try this show stopping dessert on your brunch table.

- ½ C. butter, softened
- 1 C. sugar
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1½ C. flour

- ½ t. baking soda
- ½ t. salt
- 1 C. sour cream
- Topping:
- ½ C. sugar
- ½ C. chopped pecans
- 2 t. cinnamon
- Filling:
- 1 T. cornstarch
- ¾ cup 2 % milk
- ¼ C. butter, softened
- ¼ C. shortening
- ½ C. sugar
- ½ t. vanilla
- Caramel ice cream topping, optional

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, 5 to 7 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. Combine the flour, baking soda, and salt in another bowl; add to creamed mixture, alternately with sour cream, beating just until combined.

Pour into 2 greased and parchment lined 9-inch round baking pans. Combine the topping ingredients, sprinkle over batter. Lightly cut through with a knife to swirl. Bake at 350 until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes; remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

Filling: In a small saucepan, combine the cornstarch and milk until smooth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 1 to 2 minutes or until thickened. Cover and refrigerate until chilled. In a small bowl,

cream the butter, shortening and sugar until light and fluffy, 5 to 7 minutes. Add vanilla and chilled milk mixture; beat on medium speed until smooth and creamy, about 10 minutes. Place one cake on a serving plate or cake stand. Spread with filling. Top with remaining cake layer. Store in the refrigerator. When serving, drizzle caramel topping on each piece.

Rhubarb Bread

- 1 1/3 C. packed brown sugar
- 2/3 C. vegetable oil
- 1 large egg, room temperature, beaten
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 C. buttermilk
- 2½ C. flour
- ¾ t. salt
- ½ t. cinnamon
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1½ to 2 C. finely diced fresh rhubarb, ¼ inch cuts
- ½ C. chopped pecans

In a bowl, combine sugar and oil, blend in egg, vanilla and buttermilk. In a separate bowl, combine flour, salt, cinnamon, and baking soda. Add to moist ingredients. Stir in rhubarb and nuts. Transfer to 2 well-greased 4 x 8 loaf pans. Bake at 350 for about 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks.

Final Thoughts

There were big happenings

in Lena this past week. The Lena Drive Inn reopened under new management. They have been remodeling and working for several months. It looks bright and clean from the outside. There are wonderful ice cream selections with shakes, sundaes, sodas, cones (dipped ones too) and a selection of different hot dogs.

The other big happening was the Lena Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings from 9 to 12. They have a Facebook Page with a listing of vendors. Not all vendors will be there every week. Try both of these new adventures out! I plan to do just that.

I imagine that there are plenty of Mother's Day Brunches and Buffets to celebrate the big day. We have plenty in Lena, and I know there are several in Freeport and the area. To all the moms, grandmothers, and adopted moms, I hope you have a wonderful Mother's Day.

We continue to look for spring recipes and summer ones too! It is time for rhubarb, asparagus, and strawberry recipes, so send some favorites our way. If you find some recipes to share, you can contact us by email at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com or by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, *The Shopper's Guide* at Rock Valley Publishing, 1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115. Have a great week.

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide Service Corner

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Lena Townwide Garage Sales

105 HICKORY TERRACE/LENA May 9th, 1 -6, May 10th, 8-6 & May 11th, 8-Noon. Flipable Entertainment Center, Computer Desk & Chairs, Bookshelves, Rugs, Household Kitchen, Dressers, Vintage Stereo Equipment. Twin Bookcase & Bed Frames. Women's Clothing, Board Games, plus lot's more!

106 SOUTH STREET/LENA May 10, 8-4 & May 11, 8-2. MULTI-FAMILY. Baby items: toys & books, seats, linens, swings, car seats, nursery decor, boys & girls clothing NB + 3T; lots of home decor, pool table, 1967 Skylark Hub Caps (4), sports cards, Wii Console & lots more!

113 ROLLIN DRIVE May 9, 10, 8 - 5 & May 11, 8 - 1pm. Girl's clothes 2T-6, Kids shoes, women's clothes, med to Large, women's shoes, Whirlpool electric stove, Maytag microwave, beautiful deck chairs, Bristo table, old antique Singer sewing machine with cabinet, wall decor, craft items, lots of beautiful xmas items, kitchen items, picture frame collages, kids Art Easel, kids toys, stuffed animals & lg collection of DVD's.

207 BRIARWOOD LANE Friday May 10, 8:00-5:00 & Saturday May 11, 8:00-1:00. LITTLE BIT of EVERYTHING! Sofa, Reclining love seat, TV stand, Coffee table, Dressers, Twin bed w/mattress, Shelving units, Lamps, Table w/7 leaves, Mini fridge, Toaster oven, Dish sets, Craft table & Bar stools. KIDS: Toys, Puzzles, Books & Clothes.

212 E. RAILROAD /LENA May 9 & 10, 9 - 5 & May 11, 8-2. HUGE MULTI -FAMILY GARAGE SALE! Clothing: Infant - Children, Boys & Girls, all sizes, Adults Men & Women, Big

& Tall, Furniture, Toys, Bikes, Bedding, Holiday-House Decor, Lots of Misc. Baby Brezza, Bouncers, Walker, Halo Bassinet, Swing + More!

213 W RAILROAD ST (in garage off alley) Fri. & Sat. 8-5. Patio table w/chairs & umbrella, outdoor fire pit, small generator, table top grill, compact drill, pop-up tent, wine frig, Instant Pot, air fryer, lots of Women's S - XL clothing, hospital scrubs, 7 1/2-8 women's shoes, jewelry, wall art & home Decor, books, Christmas decor & lots of misc.

221 ROUSCH ST./LENA 5/10 & 5/11/ 8 - 3. Antiques, Old Mason Jars, Insulators, Pressed Back Chairs, Tools, Wooden Step Ladders, Home and Garden Decor, Microwave/Air Fryer Combo, Old Bottles and Misc.

223 EAST PALM DRIVE Friday May 10, 8:00-5:00 and Saturday May 11, 8:00-2:00. 2 Pop up canopies 10x10 like new. Outdoor yard ornaments, Outdoor Christmas decor, Craft show items, Wreaths, Gnomes and lots of Misc!

300 LOCUST STREET MULTI-FAMILY Friday May 10, 8:00am-3:00pm & Saturday May 11, 8:00am-11:00am. Clothing: Women's size Small to Large, Girls size new born to 7/8 & Boy's size 7/8 & 9/10. Misc. household items. Pitching machine, car seat, comforter desk & shoes. Too much to list!

314 N FREEDOM ST Fri. 8-3 & Sat. 8-12. Boys/Girls NB-2T, Pack-N- Play Bouncer Swing, toys, play kitchen, blankets, bottles, high chair, slides, ride on toys, baby items, tools, home decor, 9.9HP Johnson Boat Motor, Antique Desk, 2005 Starcraft Centennial Pop-up Camper, adding more each day!!!

326 EAST LENA STREET Women's Leather Coats, Women's Leather Chaps. Several Riding Gloves. Alot of Harley Shirts. Knick- Knacks, collectibles, too numerous to mention. Indoor & Outdoor Furniture.

408 N. FREEDOM ST. May 10, 8:30-4:30 & May 11, 8:30-12:30. Greco 4 in 1 car seat, Girls size 2 T-8 yrs. clothes, Girl's shoes 13-2. Home decor, many toys! Household items: rugs, Instantapot, lamps, etc. Flocked Christmas tree. Ikea dresser and night stand. Women's & men's clothes! Many more exciting items and great bargains!

408 OAK STREET, LENA Name brand children's clothing: Girls infant - 4T, Boys infant - 12 months. Baby items: Swings, Play mats, Jumperoo, etc. Toys. Name brand clothing: Juniors, womens & mens. Panther clothing. Household & Seasonal decor. Furniture, Fridge, Stove & Bunk beds.

436 N. FREEDOM ST. Thurs., May 9, Fri., May 10 & Sat., May 11, 9 - 5. Hoosier Cabinet, Glass Front Cabinet, Engine Lift/ Cherry Picker, Receiver Mount Hitch Hauler, Receiver Mount Motorcycle Hauler. Inflatable Boat w/Oars, Outboard Motor Mount. Golf Balls, Baby Items, Tools, Cross Necklaces, other Household Items.

492 LIONS DRIVE Fri 8-5 & Sat 8-12. Hand & Power Tools, Harley men & women's clothes & other adult clothes, men's work pants. Saw Horses, Shop Vac, misc. Harley & Car Parts. Microwave, Air fryer, Tent, Dining Room Table, Pots & Pans & other Kitchen Items, Flower Pots & misc Garden/Yard Items!

510 W. FAIRWAY DRIVE/LENA Fri. 5/10 8 -4 & Sat. 5/11 8 - Noon. We are downsizing-everything must go-TV stands, headboards, dressers, night stands, farmhouse signs. Baskets, storage bins, picture frames and craft supplies. Retired teacher 4 - 6 grade novels and teacher books.

514 W. FAIRWAY DR. Thur. Fri, 9-5 & Sat. 8-? Girls clothes toddlers to size 10, cookbooks, 31" vanity top for bathroom cabinet/brand new. Household items. Vintage chicken crates, DVD's. Lots of misc.

518 W. FAIRWAY DRIVE/LENA May 9, 10, 11, 9 - ?. Vintage Dolls, American Girl clothes, clothes, many XL, new dish towels, Tin Doll House, shoes, books, jewelry, purses, dishes, scrapbook paper, Vintage Avon in Boxes, electric foot warmer, house ware items, Barbies, Tupperware, decorations, walker, Shark Steam Mop, & much More!

526 W. FAIRWAY DRIVE Friday May 10 & Saturday May 11, 9:00am-4:00pm Ladies: Clothing, mink coat, leather coat and winter coats. Men's long leather coat.

535 N. FAIRVIEW DRIVE/LENA Clothes, Books, Toys. Stamping supplies misc & Ladies 2x.

560 W FAIRWAY DR. MOVING SALE Thursday 8-5, Friday 8-5 and Saturday 8-1. Multi Family. Clothing Men & women L-2XL and young girl's 14-16. Housewares, TV's, seasonal decorations, pots & pans, bedding and linens. Too much more to list.

6318 N. LAKE ROAD Fri. 10-5 & Sat. 9-5. Seed starting, growing & flower pots. Garden ac-

cessories, Old Radio Flyer wagons, Xmas tree drill & yard stands. Garden & fiction books. White iron daybed, VCR tapes, clothes & shoes. Men's clothes, Vintage aprons, Lil Tykes toy box. Vintage household & toys. Dishes, furniture, glassware, jewelry, tools, home decor, holiday items. So much more!

717 MAPLE STREET Friday May 10, 7am-4pm. Boy's clothing size 4-5 & 10-12, Girls clothing size 6-8 and Women's clothing. China - service for 12 with completor set. 36 piece Lennox crystal stemware service for 12. Home deco, rugs, linens, floor lamp, kids electric scooter (never used). Childs electric ATV.

728 S. SCHUYLER Thursday 9-5, Friday 8-5, Saturday 8-3. LARGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE! Lots of Infant-18 mo girls, 4-5T boys, dresses & adult name brand clothes, toys, puzzles, tools, jewelry, books, antiques, collectibles, dorm size refrigerator, snow blower, bike & lots of misc. household goods.

9358 W. CEDARVILLE RD. Fri & Sat 8-4pm. Live edge boards, crafts, lamps, wooden rockers, lawn chairs, oak commode, patio table and chairs, plants, bulbs, shutter shelf, decorative boxes, HOME signs, little red wagon, pedal tractor, oak desk chair, books and much more!

DRYER STORAGE May 9, 12 -4, 10th, 8-5 & 11th, 8-4. Sale at Dryer Storage Unit at the corner of Williams & Rantoul.

**Garage Sale
Shoppers Are
On The Move**

Garage Sale Shoppers Are On The Move

**Friday, May 10
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 11
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

LEGAL NOTICES

Lena Sons of the American Legion to host annual raffle

The Lena Sons of the American Legion (SAL) have tickets available for their annual calendar raffle. The SAL uses the proceeds to support The American Legion programs. Once a year they take veterans to an outing to a Chicago Cubs game, providing them with lunch and a treat at the ballpark. They support young men to attend Boys State, help present flags at the sporting events, march in the parade, and more.

Tickets are \$10 and are good for everyday in July. After a ticket is drawn, it is returned to the drum to be included in the next drawing. Tickets are available by calling 815-369-4684 or at the American Legion Home in Lena on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

•Eggers

(Continued from page 5)

and Aimee Henderson of Stockton received the Jean Stubblefield Memorial Fellowship.

FS patronage benefits

Did you know that if you are a Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau member and a customer of Stephenson Service Company that you may be eligible for FS patronage benefits? Qualified purchases you make from FS gives you the potential to become an owner of the company, thereby giving you a voice in its governance.

Each year, the FS Board of Directors considers the payment of patronage refunds based on each division's sales and profitability and only pays patronage refunds to Farm Bureau members. If you are not already a member, please contact our office at 815-858-2235 or sign up at www.myifb.org.

Family Farm signs

It's that time of year that we are all thinking of planting (okay, maybe wishing) and sprucing things up around the farm. Why not add a "This is a Family Farm" sign to your landscape? The signs are 17.5" X 23" and cost \$30.

Farm Fun Fact

Cattle and calves, corn, and soybeans are the top three U.S. farm products.

intercountyjudicialsales.com
13242382
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
April 24, May 1, 8, 2024)
454252

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE OF THE LBDWELLING SERIES V TRUST;
Plaintiff,
vs.
TOM FIELD AKA TOM L. FIELD; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendants,
23 FC 45

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
April 24, May 1, 8, 2024)
454255

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE:
The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLL as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on May 23, 2024 at approx 1:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com Cube 1487 Nada Jones

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 8 & 15, 2024)
454610

NOTICE
Stockton CUSD #206 Board of Education in Jo Daviess County announces the availability of the amended budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023. The budget will be available for public inspection online at stocktonschools.com or at the District Office, 540 North Rush Street, Stockton, Illinois during normal school hours beginning on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing regarding the Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024 on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 6:20 pm in the Stockton Elementary School Conference Room at 500 North Rush Street, Stockton, Illinois.

Nicole Haas
Secretary, Board of Education
(Published in The Scoop Today May 8, 2024)
455180

Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust Plaintiff,
vs.
Shanin J. Solt; et. al. Defendants,
23 FC 57

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT 3 OF WINDHAVEN ACRES PLAT NO. 1 RECORDED NOVEMBER 10, 1998 IN BOOK "M" OF PLATS, PAGES 93-93A AS DOCUMENT NO. 9893524, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN. SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF PEARL CITY, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
P.I.N. 89-02-17-08-477-003.

Commonly known as 504 Breezeway Dr., Pearl City, IL 61062.

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

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Sale Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-23-06280

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES

OF WINNESHEIK ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FREEPORT; SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS..
P.I.N. 181432328019.

Commonly known as 818 East Shawnee Street, Freeport, IL 61032.

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

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barille, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130. (440) 572-1511. ILF2203047 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com
13242376

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
April 24, May 1, 8, 2024)
454249

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

US Bank Trust National

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

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as trustee for LBIgloo Series IV Trust

Plaintiff,
vs.

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jerry Moutrey; The Bank of New York Mellon FKA the Bank of New York, as Successor for the CWABS Master Trust, Revolving Home Equity Loan Asset Backed Notes, Series 2004-C; Mariah Moutrey; Kipp E. Meyers, as Special Representative of Jerry Moutrey; Michelle Moutrey; Pamela Moutrey; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants,
Defendants,
22 FC 25

Plaintiff,
vs.

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jerry Moutrey; The Bank of New York Mellon FKA the Bank of New York, as Successor for the CWABS Master Trust, Revolving Home Equity Loan Asset Backed Notes, Series 2004-C; Mariah Moutrey; Kipp E. Meyers, as Special Representative of Jerry Moutrey; Michelle Moutrey; Pamela Moutrey; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants,
Defendants,
22 FC 25

22 FC 25

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT 3 OF A SUBDIVISION OF THE SOUTH HALF OF OUT LOT 8



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

eruption. From the ages of 6 to 8, your child's mouth is much more responsive to interventional treatment.

Preventing orthodontic problems is easier and

cheaper than fixing them after they develop. Interceptive orthodontic treatment can improve your child's smile by correcting the alignment of their teeth and jaws, as well guiding and regulating the width of both dental arches to assure there is enough room for the permanent teeth to erupt correctly. Improving the function of a child's teeth and jaws can help prevent or reduce the need for future

orthodontic treatment.

Malocclusions can develop because of genetics (birth defects: cleft palate, narrow jaw, missing teeth, supernumerary teeth, delayed or early loss of teeth, abnormal eruption of teeth), external influences (trauma, tumors, restricted airway, prolonged thumb, or pacifier sucking,) or a combination of these factors. A malocclusion is not just a cosmetic issue. It can affect growth of the jaw and palate, alter the shape or appearance of facial features and/or symmetry, cause jaw strain/pain from uneven engagement of the facial and jaw muscles, headaches, uneven wearing of the tooth enamel, tooth chipping, tooth grinding, gum disease, tooth decay, frequent biting

of the inner cheek, mouth breathing, and sleep apnea. Malocclusions affect the way your child smiles, chews, speaks and their self-esteem.

Crowded, twisted, and tilted teeth are also much more difficult to brush and floss, which may contribute to tooth decay and periodontal disease. Corrective procedures make it easier for your child to clean their teeth and gums. This means there are fewer places for food to get stuck and plaque to build-up.

It is ideal to treat malocclusion in children, as we can take advantage of being able to guide growth and prevent further damage. Your dentist will develop an individual treatment plan to address the severity of the malocclusion and any

underlying medical, dental, and developmental issues. Treatment may include addressing dysfunctional habits that are contributing to or accelerating damage, palate expanders (fixed or removable orthodontic device to widen the upper jaw), clear tooth aligners, spacers (to maintain the space of missing teeth so the permanent tooth erupts in its proper position), referral to an ENT, an oral surgeon (for airway obstructions), and/or a speech pathologist.

For children who have difficulty biting properly, who prematurely lose their baby teeth, whose jaws click during movement, or who use their mouth (as opposed to their nose) to breathe, early orthodontic evaluation and intervention is crucial.

REAL ESTATE NOTICES

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

US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust Plaintiff,
vs.
Shanin J. Solt; et. al. Defendants,

23 FC 57

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 89-02-17-08-477-003. Commonly known as 504 Breezeway Dr., Pearl City, IL 61062.

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

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Sale Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-23-06280

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
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(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 24, May 1 & 8, 2024) 454253

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

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE OF THE LB-DWELLING SERIES V TRUST; Plaintiff,
vs.
TOM FIELD AKA TOM L. FIELD; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,

23 FC 45

NOTICE OF SALE

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P.I.N. 07-14-22-353-013. Commonly known as 2267 Lancaster Heights Road, Freeport, IL 61032.

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

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130. (440) 572-1511. ILF2302017 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
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13242381

(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 24, May 1 & 8, 2024) 454256

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

U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual

capacity but solely as trustee for LBIgloo Series IV Trust Plaintiff,

vs.
Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jerry Moutrey; The Bank of New York, as Successor for the CWABS Master Trust, Revolving Home Equity Loan Asset Backed Notes, Series 2004-C; Mariah Moutrey; Kipp E. Meyers, as Special Representative of Jerry Moutrey; Michelle Moutrey; Pamela Moutrey; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants, Defendants,

22 FC 25

NOTICE OF SALE

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P.I.N. 181432328019. Commonly known as 818 East Shawnee Street, Freeport, IL 61032.

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

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds.

The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 LUCERNE DRIVE, MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO 44130. (440) 572-1511. ILF2203047 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
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(Published in The Shopper's Guide April 24, May 1 & 8, 2024) 454250

• News (Continued from page 12)

Crop insurance, specifically maintaining the safety net, also was a priority Whitehouse discussed with lawmakers, as well as a fix to California's Proposition 12, which places housing restrictions on farms that ship pork to the state and has major implications on pork prices, costs to farmers and interstate commerce. Whitehouse said he specifically advocated for solutions to mitigate the issues Prop 12 creates for livestock farmers. Coincidentally, U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai was on the Hill during the same time testifying during House and Senate committee Hearings on President Joe Biden's trade policy agenda.

With Illinois a national leader in ag exports, trade is top of mind for IFB. Tai faced criticism in both chambers for the administration's "feckless" stance on trade, as one member of the House Ways and Means Committee characterized, with lawmakers pointing to a lack of negotiations to open new markets for U.S. agricultural products and absence of enforcement actions against China. USDA's prediction of a record

agricultural trade deficit of \$30.5 billion for fiscal year 2024 — nearly double the \$16.7 billion deficit in FY 2023 — also prompted lawmakers to demand more details about the trade agenda. Whitehouse commended LaHood, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, for asking Tai about the status of negotiations with Brazil over the South American country's 18% tariff on U.S.-imported ethanol. Also, while on Capitol Hill, Whitehouse thanked Durbin for his continued push for a summertime E15 sales waiver, referring to a recent letter to the Biden administration signed by the senator. Previously IFB's associate director of national legislation and policy development from 2013-2019, Whitehouse is no stranger to Washington, D.C. Initially meeting with Illinois members of the House Ag Committee and members in farming districts, Whitehouse plans to meet with other members of Illinois' delegation in future trips to Washington, D.C. "It's important for Illinois Farm Bureau to be seen on the Hill," he said. "And Illinois Farm Bureau is a very reputable

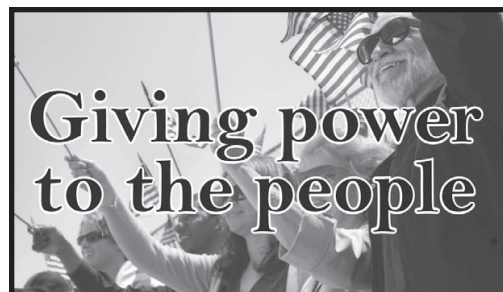
organization; every door was open."

Roots and Shoots now accepting grant applications

Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation is now accepting applications for our Roots and Shoots Apprentice/Internship Grants. While Bruce Johnson was the Manager of the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, he established the Roots and Shoots Program.

The goal of Roots and Shoots is to encourage Stephenson County youth to explore job opportunities within our community and the agriculture industry. As part of this we are offering a matching grant for Agriculture-related businesses who employ high school students or college students.

More information along with an application is available at www.stephensoncfb.org under "news" tab or by emailing manager@stephensoncfb.org. Funding can be used for intern/apprentice salaries, mileage, employee materials, etc. Applications are due on or before the end of the day on Friday, June 7, 2024.



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Democrats muscle through changes to ballot access, advisory questions

Amendment was introduced and passed within hours

By Jerry Nowicki, Hannah Meisel and Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Supermajority Democrats in the Illinois House moved quickly May 1 to push through a change to state election laws that partially limits ballot access and adds three nonbinding referendums to the 2024 general election ballot.

It's a move that caused minority party Republicans to vote "present," then walk off the House floor without even debating the measure, while four Democrats voted against the bill that would amend ballot laws for the election cycle that is already under way.

Republicans were particularly critical of a provision that prohibits political parties from appointing a candidate to a general election ballot if no member of that party filed nominating petitions for the primary.

The minority party also criticized Democrats' hasty movement of the proposed changes from introduction to floor passage. Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, filed the amendment to an unrelated bill, Senate Bill 2412 May 1 before it was quickly moved to committee for passage, then to the floor within hours. It now awaits action in the Senate.

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, noted at an impromptu news conference on a Capitol stairwell that the GOP has grown accustomed to legislation moving with little public notice—but it usually happens closer to the General Assembly's end of May adjournment.

"But we don't understand the sense of urgency right now, unless the goal—the end goal—is to stifle the democratic process through the changes on slating candidates," she said.

At the same time the amendment was moving through the House, senators were being briefed separately on the proposed changes.

In the Senate Executive Committee, which meets one floor below the House chamber, Republican Leader John Curran, of Downers Grove, argued that changing the rules in the middle of an election cycle would be unfair to potential candidates who are operating under existing rules.

He also said such a move could add to what he called

the public's growing mistrust of the election system generally.

"There's a lot of talk around the country about stealing elections," Curran said. "And the faith in the democratic process has been shaken a bit around the country. I believe Illinois would be adding to that, really, national problem, if it took that step here and changed the rules midstream rather than just waiting to the next election cycle."

But Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, noted there are other ways to get on the ballot after the primary has passed.

"A candidate who would want to run for General Assembly seat after the primary will have to run, as they can today, as an independent or a third-party candidate," Har-

mon said. "They would no longer be able to appeal to the local party bosses to have them installed as the candidate of a major political party."

Privately, GOP lawmakers said they believe the proposed change is designed to influence the outcome of one particular race this year: the 112th House District in the Metro East area, where incumbent Rep. Katie Stuart, D-Edwardsville, is running for reelection.

No Republican filed to run in that race in time for the March 19 primary, but party officials say one is currently being lined up.

Republicans believe that district is winnable for them. Stuart won reelection to that seat in 2022 by a 54-46 margin over Republican Jennifer

Korte.

Rep. Lindsey LaPointe, D-Chicago, was one of the four Democrats to vote "no" on the bill May 1, though others skipped the vote. She said she's not opposed to eliminating the slating process beginning in the 2026 election cycle but said doing it now is "moving the goal posts" in the "final minutes of a ballgame."

"That's problematic for me because as an elected official in Illinois, I'm constantly trying to rebuild trust in Illinois government and politics that many of the people I represent...don't have," she told Capitol News Illinois after the vote.

The measure would also pose three nonbinding advisory referendum questions to voters on the November ballot, including asking whether

health insurance plans that cover pregnancy benefits should be required to cover in vitro fertilization and other fertility treatments.

That mirrors legislation passed in the state Senate last month that would require IVF and other fertility coverage for insurance plans with pregnancy benefits that are sponsored by companies with 25 or more employees.

The other questions would ask voters whether they'd favor civil penalties for any candidate who "interferes or attempts to interfere with an election worker's official duties" and whether the state should adopt an additional 3 percent tax on income over \$1 million.

The extra revenue would be collected "for the purpose of dedicating funds raised to

property tax relief"—a perennial concern in a state with the second-highest property taxes in the U.S., just behind New Jersey, according to a 2023 report from The Tax Foundation.

Illinoisans were already asked a similar nonbinding referendum a decade ago, when nearly 60 percent of voters said "yes" to a question about a 3 percent tax on income over \$1 million for the purposes of education, which is largely funded by local property taxes. Then-House Speaker Michael Madigan's push for the so-called millionaire's tax was seen as a poke at then-gubernatorial candidate Bruce Rauner, a self-funded Republican who ultimately won the governor's

See **BALLOT**, Page 20

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Highland recognizes the life and legacy of Nancy Ferguson Seeley

Nancy Ferguson Seeley and the Ferguson family of Freeport have a rich history of giving to Highland Community College. The family's local legacy took root through the Newell Companies and has continued through Nancy's unwavering commitment to giving back to the community.

Seeley, 95, died April 18 after a full and remarkable life, and she will be warmly remembered for the joy she had in her family and friends, the value of helping others, her love of the outdoors and adventure, a keen interest in new experiences and

her enduring zest for life. Her generous donations to the Highland Foundation, often made in honor of others, exemplify her deep care for the people and institutions around her. Through her contributions, Seeley leaves a lasting impact that will continue to benefit the community for generations.

"The Fergusons gave back to the Freeport area in many ways, including scholarships, support to the Fine Arts, and most recently, the Mildred F. Ferguson Simulation Hospital," said Foundation Executive Director Dan Dick. "Nan-

cy had a heart to give back, and to me, her perspective was grounded in this philosophy, which she shared with me and President Kuberski on our most recent visit: 'I give back to Freeport because Freeport provided so much for our family.'"

"Nancy lived by the motto: 'Living is giving.' She gave of her time, talents, and resources. Her giving was centered on improving the lives of others, particularly through education," added Highland President Chris Kuberski. "Nancy supported our nursing program by

donating to the accreditation process and the hospital simulation lab. These enhancements have elevated our program's quality, and her generosity will have a positive ripple for future generations. I am so thankful I could express our gratitude to Nancy in person. She was a remarkable role model for us all."

Seeley graduated from Stanford University in 1950 with a bachelor's in economics, and in 1954 married a childhood friend from Freeport, Robert Seeley. They raised three children together.



Nancy Ferguson Seeley

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• Ballot (Continued from page 19)

race and spent his four-year term fighting with the powerful Democratic speaker.

McCombie said Republicans had offered bills aimed at property tax relief on several occasions in recent years. She and state Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, argued the referendums were a distraction.

"What you saw today was a phony attempt to solicit feed-

back from voters that was covering up the real intention to the Democrats' bill upstairs, which is to eliminate competition in our elections," Spain said.

As state law limits the number of questions on a statewide ballot to three, SB 2412 would also crowd out the possibility of any other citizen-initiated questions from making it to the ballot.

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