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VOL. 86 • NO. 27

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024



LENA-WINSLOW CUSD #202 FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Illinois State FFA Convention

Six students from Lena-Winslow received their Illinois FFA State Degrees during the annual FFA State Convention on Wednesday, June 12 at the Bank of Springfield Convention Center in Springfield, IL. Additionally, Luke Stabenow received the Section Star in Ag Placement Award and Odin Stabenow received the

Section 1 Star Farmer Award. The degree recipients are pictured with their advisor, Mr. Snook, (left to right) Kegan DeZell, Luke Stabenow, Odin Stabenow, Mr. Snook, Madalyn Schierloh, Mika Schoger, and Hannah Pecoraro. Congratulations!

## Dairy farmers donate 17,424 pounds of milk to Illinois food banks

Recognizing the hardships many communities are facing, Illinois Milk Producers Association (IMPA) donated 17,424 pounds of milk, including lactose-free, between three local food banks.

IMPA donated a combined 34,848 servings to Northern

Illinois Food Bank, Central Illinois Foodbank and Eastern Illinois Foodbank in celebration of June being National Dairy Month. The donation was made in partnership with Prairie Farms, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Corn Marketing Board (ICMB),

Illinois Soybean Association (ISA), St. Louis District Dairy Council (SLDDC) and Midwest Dairy.

"Many families are struggling with food insecurity amid rising prices at the grocery store," said Don Mackinson, IMPA president.

"Everyone deserves access to fresh, nutritious food, which is why Illinois dairy farmers came together to once again donate milk to local food

banks supporting our communities."

This is why farmers do the work they do; they love feeding people quality, whole-

some food," said Jon Rosenstiel, chairman of IL Corn.

See inside for this week's Stephenson County Farm Bureau news.

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# Obituaries

## JOANN MAGEE

JoAnn P. Magee, age 91, of Stockton, IL passed away Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Ascension St. Joseph Center in Freeport, IL. She was born on September 13, 1932, in Stockton, IL to the late Leon and Esther (Noll) Wise. JoAnn married Raymond Magee on March 10, 1951. Raymond passed away November 10, 2002.

JoAnn was a 1950 graduate of Stockton High School. She babysat many kids over the years and worked as an office manager for Stockton Harold News. JoAnn enjoyed traveling with her husband to craft shows, wintering in Texas, crocheting, spending time with her family at Crystal Lake, WI, and watching her great granddaughter dance.

She is survived by her daughters, Cindy (Dave) Pitterle of Roscoe, Peggy (Ron) Halzel of Freeport and Joy



(Paul) Weddle of Freeport; her sons, David (Micki) Magee of Olympia, WA and Bill (Wendy) Magee of Winchester,

WI; her grandchildren, Erin (Matt) Bennett, Kelsey Pitterle, Karley Pitterle and Adam Weddle; her great granddaughter, Kennlee Rayann Pitterle; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and her four sisters, Eula, Bernice, Ilene and Carol.

A private family graveside at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Stockton will be held. A memorial fund has been established for FHN Hospice. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).

## RUTH WINGERT

Ruth M. Wingert, age 96, formerly of Lena, IL passed away on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at Pleasant View Nursing Home in Monroe, WI. Ruth was born on September 15, 1927, to Franz "Frank" and Eunice (Duvall) Siedschlag. She married Arnold Wingert on January 8, 1948, in Freeport, IL.

Ruth helped her father when she was younger, driving the horses at age 12. She farmed alongside her husband Arnold until 1972, when they retired. Ruth also worked at Kolb-Lena, Structo toys, and as a telephone operator in Freeport. She was an avid vegetable gardener. She was a homemaker who enjoyed playing cards, especially euchre, and animals.

Ruth is survived by her children; Marcia (Neil) Connor of Sun Prairie, WI, and Charles Wingert of Gratiot, WI, grandchildren; Christopher (Katie) Connor of Anacortes, WA, Mary Jane (Corey Uselman) Connor of Madison, WI, Vicki (CJ Kaegi) of New Glarus, WI, Jessie Wingert of Florida, WI, and Jessica Wingert of Gratiot, WI, three great-grandchildren; Collins Uselman, Kholten and Keoghan Wingert, brother-in-law Boyd Wingert of Lena, nieces; Anne (Gerald) Schultz of Lake Carroll, IL Barbara Sargent of Blaine, MN, Nancy (Gary) Price of Lena, IL,



Rosemary Meier of Houston, TX, and Paula Berget, of Cliff, NM.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Arnold, daughter Vicki, granddaughter Diedra, mother and father-in-law; Floyd and Laurene Wingert, her sister Esther "Mae" Berget-Peterson, sisters-in-law Johanne Wingert and Ada Mae Welker, brothers-in-law Kenneth Welker and Merlin Peterson, nephews; Fred Welker and Lyle Wingert, and a niece Cheryl Markowski.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at the Lena United Methodist Church in Lena, IL. A visitation will be from 10 a.m. until time of services on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, at the church. Pastor Melwyn Alagodi will officiate the services. Cremation rites have been accorded. Burial will take place at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport, IL. A memorial has been established in her memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leamonfh.com](http://www.leamonfh.com).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

June 13 storm systems left behind hot and humid conditions that were expected to stick around for a while. As of June 10, the majority of Illinois' corn crop (87 percent) that has emerged was on its way to being well above "knee-high by the Fourth of July" in many parts of the state, including this Cass County farm.

## Storms pound state; heat wave follows

By Hannah Spangler  
FARMWEEK

Storms rolled through a large portion of Illinois in mid-June, leaving behind hot and humid conditions that are expected to stick around for a while.

June 13 storm systems caused widespread damage, mostly between Interstates 72 and 80. Winds up to 70 mph hit areas of DuPage, Peoria, Adams, McLean and Livingston counties among other locations—damaging trees, outbuildings, implement buildings and other structures.

State Climatologist Trent Ford said the most significant

wind damage occurred in the central part of the state spanning from western Illinois to the Indiana border. The National Weather Service (NWS) reported two EF-U Tornadoes in McDonough County near Macomb and Bushnell.

But crops should be OK for the most part, he said.

"It's a little too early to see reports of crop damage," Ford told FarmWeek. "In most places, the corn is not quite tall enough to sustain significant damage."

Even though most crops can be marked safe from this round of storms, the upcoming heat could cause prob-

lems.

According to Ford, rain totals from the storm varied from just 0.25 inches to as much as 2 inches, but missed many areas that need moisture. Ford expects the dryness to continue as temperatures climbed last week to the warmest levels of the year so far, well above 90 degrees.

"This is going to be a significant event," Ford said of last week's high temperatures. NWS's "Heat Risk" forecasted a major to extreme risk of heat through at least June 20 for the entire state. "We'll see how the crops respond," he said.

The extreme heat means the public should avoid the outdoors if possible, Ford said. When being outside is unavoidable, stay hydrated and take breaks.

Livestock are also at risk during long periods of high temperatures. "This is going to be one of those places where we need to watch our livestock to make sure they can get to shade and have plenty of water," he added.

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [FarmWeekNow.com](http://FarmWeekNow.com).*

## News briefs

### Lena American Legion cookout

The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will be manning the Cookout at Sullivan's in Lena on Friday, June 28 and Saturday, June 29 at lunchtime. Please join to help support the Legion programs.

### Stephenson County VA Pantry

The current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry are hand soap, laundry, toothpaste, men and women's body wash, shampoo and conditioner, Kleenex, and ramen noodles. Donations can be

brought to the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 316 W. Main St., Lena. Donations are greatly appreciated. This list is immediate need, however other items will always be accepted. Please call 815-369-4684 with any questions.

### Lobdell reunion

The Lobdell reunion will be held Sunday, June 30, 2024, at the Duane Lobdell residence at 9746 W Range Road, in Lena. It will begin at 12 p.m. Please bring table service, a dish to pass and your own drinks.

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I would like to thank anyone who remembered my 90th birthday in any way. Thank you for cards, phone calls, gifts and people who attended my open house and family party. I really appreciate all of you.

Don Brudi

457670

# Around the Northern Hills

Saturday, July 13 is our Farm Fun Day at Shenandoah Riding Center in the Galena Territory. This is a great chance for families to come out and milk a cow, see the animals in the Young Leaders' petting zoo bus, make ice cream and butter and so much more. Stop by from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and take part in the fun. This event will be held rain or shine.



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

## Peach orders

Are you already thinking about those fresh Illinois peaches? Orders are due by Wednesday, July 24 with payment and order form. Checks should be made payable to the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau. The price is \$43/box for members and \$48/box for non-members. Pick-up will be in the farm bureau basement with an anticipated delivery Aug. 7, depending on weather. Peaches must be picked up the day of delivery to ensure freshness. Order forms are available at our office or on our website.

## Appreciation picnic

Thanks to everyone that came out to our member appreciation picnic that we sponsor with COUNTRY Financial and Stephenson Service Company. We had a great night with steak sandwiches and the fixings. It's always great to talk to our members.

## Coloring contest winner

The Young Leaders are pleased to announce the winners of the "June is Dairy Month" coloring contest. The contest was open to all children Pre-K through second grade. The 113 entries were judged by the Young Leaders committee.

Winners in each category are:

**Pre-K:** Darrow Hefel, Scarlet Runde and Caterina Frieri  
**Kindergarten:** McKinley Schopf, Lila Heim and Everett Sproule

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Alexa Twombly, Rose Buisker and Owen Offenheiser

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Jaylynn Saldzar, Mackenzie DeLaCruz and Dylan Jackson

## Scholarships available

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation provides scholarships for college students studying agriculture and funds our Agriculture in the Classroom program which promotes agricultural and environmental education in all of Jo Daviess County's K-12 classrooms. Each year, our Agriculture in the Classroom program teaches children the importance of our food and fiber industry.

Anyone can contribute to the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation since it has a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status. The Foundation may accept charitable contributions of money, property, securities, and special memorials and endowments. The Foundation Board of Directors and the Farm Bureau staff administer the Foundation. The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Board of Directors appoints the Foundation directors. There are two ways to make a contribution; send a check to our office at PO Box 501 in Elizabeth or call with a credit or debit card to contribute.

## Local member benefits

Don't forget to take advantage of member-only benefits for Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members. We have businesses around the County who have partnered with us to offer these discounts. Make sure to have your farm bureau membership card handy when asking for those discounts. For a full listing of the local benefits, go to our website [www.jodaviesscfb.com](http://www.jodaviesscfb.com) and click on membership, then local discounts.

## Farm Fun Fact

Cows tend to produce more milk while listening to classical music. Who knew? Some dairy farmers may have to change their taste in music.

# Church news

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, June 30 for Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Mark 5:21-43.

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

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

## St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the sixth Sunday after Pentecost and Holy Trinity Sunday on Sunday, June 30 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, June 27 at 1 p.m. and

dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, July 2 at 9 a.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, July 3 at 7:30 a.m. at the Garden View Restaurant in Lena.

The July Grace Meal will be on Sunday, July 23. Meals can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. on June 16. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, July 18. The menu for the July meal will be brats, baked beans, potato chips, Jell-o, and a Rice Krispie treat. 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.

## Salem United Church of Christ

All are welcome to join for a Sunday service led by Pastor Christopher Ham on Sunday, June 30, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL. The Adult Sunday School will be hosted prior to service, starting at 9 a.m. on the lower level of the church. Children's Sunday

School is held during church service at 10 a.m.

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet July 3 at 8 a.m. at Beltline Café, 325 West South Street, Freeport.

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

## Calvary Church of Stockton

On July 8 through July 12 Calvary will hold a five-day Bible Club. Children ages 5 - 12 are welcome to attend. There will be a missionary story, song, great games, a

Bible lesson and snacks. The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please call Calvary Church at 815-947-2414 or Pastor Scott Hess at 815-821-9245 to sign up.

The Calvary Youth will also be serving ice cream and the church will offer free bottled water on the church grounds on July 4. On July 6 Calvary will be hosting the Brat Stand at Sullivans.

On Aug. 10 the church will hold a "Praise in the Park" from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## Group study with Pastor Melwyn Alagodi

Join Lena UMC Church every Thursday from June 27 through Sept. 26, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for group study. The study will include history, culture, religions, geography, climate, and the growth of Christianity in India and its present situation. Please contact Pastor Mel at 815-631-2872 with any questions.

## Soul Purpose Free Community Lunch, Fellowship & Entertainment

Hosted by Elizabeth United Methodist Church Congregation

**Wednesday, July 10**  
**from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Elizabeth Community Building**



All are welcome

**RSVP by Monday, July 8 for lunch attendance and transportation by calling 1-815-858-2224**

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- July 13** Rugged
- July 20** United Methodist Praise Team
- July 27** Delta II
- Aug. 3** Steve Sheffey & Company
- Aug. 10** Simply Free Praise Band
- Aug. 17** Delta II
- Aug. 24** Gone Fishin'
- Aug. 31** Rick & Deb Leininger

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# OPINION



## Slices of life

# Dating after 50 - Part 2



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

I recently wrote a column about dating after a certain age—50 to be exact.

At the start, I planned on a brief column. How much could there be to write about such a dire subject?

Turns out I was wrong. There are myriad factors to dating at any age, but especially after 50.

Remember dating? Most people dabbled in the sport during their teens and 20s. The lucky among us ended it there. We found our special someone and left the dating pool to the tadpoles.

But then, some of us—too many of us—are thrown back in, much later than we ever thought possible. Imagine dating three decades (or so) after you thought you'd put that chapter of your life behind you, and imagine the surprises and changes it might entail.

Imagine the humor, of dating (or attempting to do so) after 50. Again, I have no firsthand knowledge of this late-dating phenomenon. I'm only observing and assuming, which isn't always prudent. You might want to close your eyes during the scariest parts because it isn't always pretty. But it can be fun and maybe even funny.

The following are my further thoughts on the subject. I reserve the right to return with more (thoughts) in the future. It's turned into a subject that just keeps on giving. Too bad dating at any age can't be more like that.

My thoughts, part two: Dating in your 20s: You look for someone who is a good listener.

Dating after 50: You look for someone who is willing to wear their hearing aids so they are able to listen to you.

20s: It's appealing when someone has a good head for business.

After 50: It's appealing when someone has a good head of hair.

20s: You look for someone with the potential for wealth.

After 50: You look for someone with the potential for health.

20s: You covet tickets to the concert of the newest pop

band.

After 50: You covet tickets to the concert of a classic rock band.

20s: You look for someone who doesn't cheat.

After 50: You look for someone who doesn't cheat at gin rummy.

20s: Dating someone with wrinkled shirts makes them less attractive.

After 50: You realize wrinkled faces show character.

20s: You need furniture.

After 50: You need someone who needs the old furniture you no longer need.

20s: You seek someone who likes kids and spending their life around them.

After 50: You seek someone who likes grandkids and spending an occasional weekend around them.

20s: You enjoy a vacation that involves boozing.

After 50: You enjoy a vacation that involves cruising.

20s: Your ideal match is a golfer with a low handicap.

After 50: Your ideal match is a golfer with no handicap.

Dating after 50 involves baggage, and not just the kind you check at the airport before boarding your plane.

While I'm no expert, and probably never will be, I do enjoy making observations. I've noticed definitive differences between dating in your youth versus dating, well, after that. The contrasts are humorous—laughable, even.

And what is life about if it doesn't include laughter?

Well, that and pickleball, followed by an early-bird dinner.

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

## Weekly connection

# Old combines and God's great love

A few years ago my brother, Kevin, found an old 303 International Harvester Combine listed for sale in the Wisconsin Agriculturalist and ended up purchasing it from an old retired farmer. The farmer had it sitting in the back of his shed just taking up space. At Thanksgiving that year when most of my brothers were home, we climbed up on that beautiful old machine with my Dad sitting on the driver's seat and had our picture taken. Here were six full-grown adults trying to reenact what we used to experience when we were all kids. In those days, we used to climb up on that combine whenever we could and ride with my dad as he cut beans, wheat, and oats. My grandpa and Dad bought that 303 back in 1966 and



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

practically ran the wheels off that machine for several years. When we moved to Wisconsin in 1972, we purchased a bigger combine at a farm sale and the old 303 got pushed aside. Today the high-tech tractors and combines are fully loaded with, two way radios, air conditioning, stereos, GPS's and everything else you might need for this day and age. Back in the day that 303 didn't even have a cab. We used to watch my dad going back and forth across the bean field in a huge cloud of

dust, and when he came in for dinner, he would be just black with dirt and dust. I'm not kidding; he probably had an eighth of an inch of dirt on his face, neck and arms. How he breathed in any oxygen with all that dust, I have no idea.

I was at the dentist this morning and the lady who cleaned my teeth asked if I was going to help my brothers make any hay this summer. "Well," I told her, "Considering everything is done by machinery, I doubt if there will be anything for me to help with." My, how times have changed. We used to spend almost every minute of summer mowing, baling, and filling the silo with haylage and the barn with little square bales to feed the dairy cows all winter long. If we had good summer rains, we could fill two or three sixty-foot silos as well as put twenty some thousand bales in the barn. We had one of the larger barns in Lafayette County at the time which housed ninety-six milking cows. We

thought that was big stuff until the dairies of today started to go up. Now a farm can milk hundreds or even thousands of cows on these dairies.

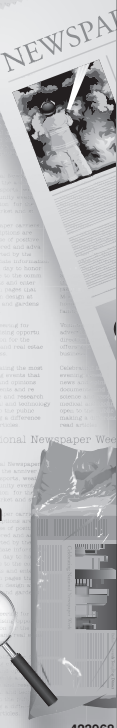
I'm so thankful for the heritage of farming and faith my dad passed on to us. Dads are so important in the growth of children. Like the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son found in Luke chapter 15, God allows his adult children the freedom to make decisions for themselves. The Prodigal took his inheritance and blew it. Then when he was starving hungry, he came to his senses. His Father saw him dragging his weary feet up the road back home, and he ran to him and welcomed him with tender love back into the family. The Prodigal son turned his heart back to his family where he knew deep down inside, he was truly loved despite his reckless actions. God is ready to welcome us back into the family too, but He won't force us. That is real love.

Until next week, God Bless!

## FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

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

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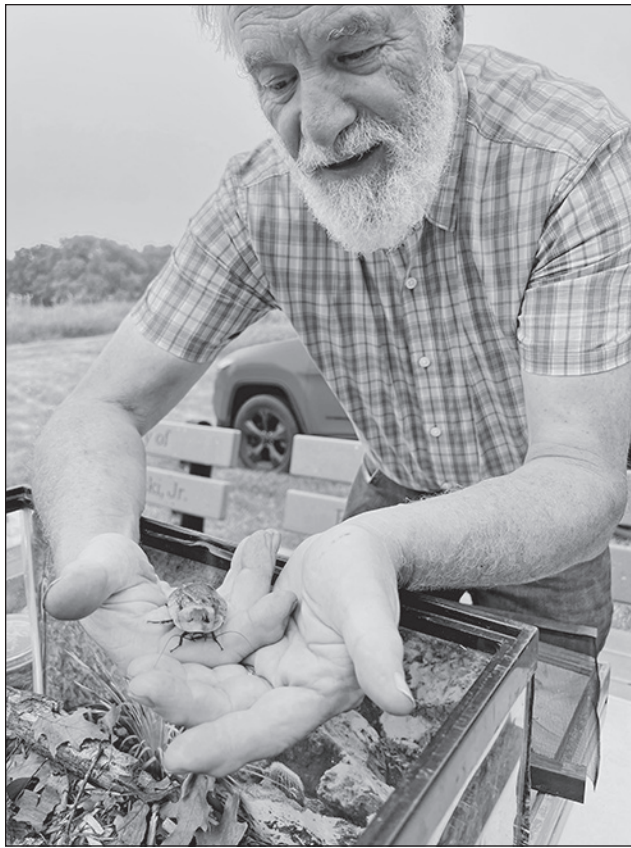


# Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation to host Weird and Wonderful Insects program

The public is invited to join Chicago Field Museum insect educators and scientists to see their amazing collections of local, native insects on Saturday, July 6. This free, family friendly event will be held at the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation's (JDCF) Casper Bluff Reserve, 870 S Pilot Knob Rd, Galena, IL from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Learn how to wield a sweep net to see what weird and wonderful insects you can find in the early summer prairie. Stay after the sun goes down to see and learn about the moths and other winged denizens of the night that are drawn to a special lighted viewing sheet. Take away knowledge and wonder of the strange but beautiful biodiversity that calls northwest Illinois home.

RSVPs not needed. This event is subject to weather related cancellations. Please check the JDCF website at [www.jdcf.org](http://www.jdcf.org) for updates. For more information about JDCF, please visit their office at 126 N Main Street, Elizabeth IL, or contact them at [www.jdcf.org](http://www.jdcf.org) or [info@jdcf.org](mailto:info@jdcf.org).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Everyone's favorite entomologist, Jim Louderman, from the Field Museum, will lead Weird and Wonderful Insects at the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation's Casper Bluff Reserve on July 6, 2024.

# Stockton Chamber of Commerce presents Stockton 5k/10k Run

The Stockton Chamber of Commerce is excited to present the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Stockton 5k/10k Run/Walk, taking place near Stockton Park on Saturday, July 6, 2024. Registration will be by the Park District Pool starting at 7 a.m. with the 10k race beginning at 8 a.m. and the 5k race following promptly at 8:05 a.m.

Perks of the run include family entry discounts, performance t-shirts provided to all runners, on-course entertainment, breathtaking views on a scenic community course, a great spread of snacks and refreshments after the race sponsored by Citizen State Bank, and

instant race results online provided by J3 Timing.

Visit the race Facebook page for more details at <https://www.facebook.com/Stockton5k10k>

Register online to take advantage of early registration discounts by visiting: [runsignup.com/Race/IL/Stockton/Stockton5k](http://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Stockton/Stockton5k) or scanning the QR code.

For more information about this and other Chamber events, contact the Chamber's marketing assistant Sherry Morhardt at [info@stocktonil.com](mailto:info@stocktonil.com) or through Facebook at [facebook.com/stocktonchamber/](https://www.facebook.com/stocktonchamber/).

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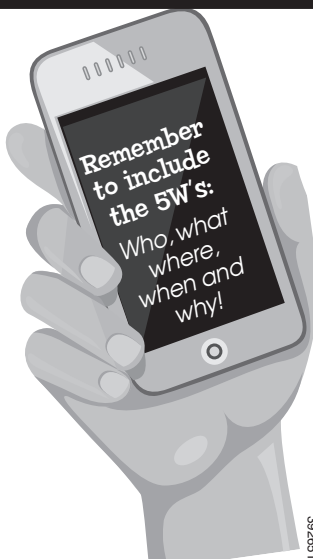
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 PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEB SITE, [rvpnews.com](http://rvpnews.com)

# River Ridge FFA wins at State competition

The FFA Wildcats traveled to Springfield to compete in the State Greenhand Quiz Bowl competition as a part of the Illinois State FFA Convention held June 11 through June 13 at the Bank of Springfield Center. Having previously won the section contest (the state of Illinois is divided into 25 sections and each section has between 11-18 schools in it) to qualify for State, the five-member team faced off against 23 other schools from across the state.

Team members Hamish Boden, Jackson Goldsmith, Natalie Keleher, Nick Cobine and Graci Allen were tested on their FFA knowledge in a broad scope of areas; FFA history, dates, notable individuals, definitions, Career Development Events (CDE) information, and Leadership Development Events (LDE) information.

In the first round the Greenhands (first year FFA members) won their round to be seeded in the top five. They then won the next round and were on to the championship finals. At the end of the championship match the Wildcats were tied for first with Kewanee and moved into a nail-biting final round of questions. Each of the five team members faced off one vs. one with buzzers and had the chance to answer one final question. In the end the River Ridge Chapter buzzed in quickest on two of the questions and got them right while the Kewanee team came in second after gaining one point. The team became the State Champions by just one point! This is the first time in over 25 years that the FFA Wildcats have won a State Championship in a CDE.

In addition to winning the CDE, Chapter members showcased their year-end

accomplishments by earning silver level in the National Chapter application. Senior Graci Vanderheyden received Silver level recognition for Outstanding Chapter Reporter and four members received their State FFA Degree. The four State Degree recipients were Isabella Haring, Lucas Holland (turf placement), Graci Vanderheyden (swine entrepreneurship and beef placement) and Arthur Horn (speciality animal entrepreneurship). Only the top 2% of all FFA members in Illinois earn their State FFA Degree.

The theme for the 96<sup>th</sup> State Convention was "United as One". In addition to celebrating this year's theme at the various convention sessions, students also had the opportunity to learn more about the greater Springfield area. They toured the State Capitol and Governor's Mansion as well as attended a "Lincoln Ghost Walk" where they got to hear stories about the Lincoln family

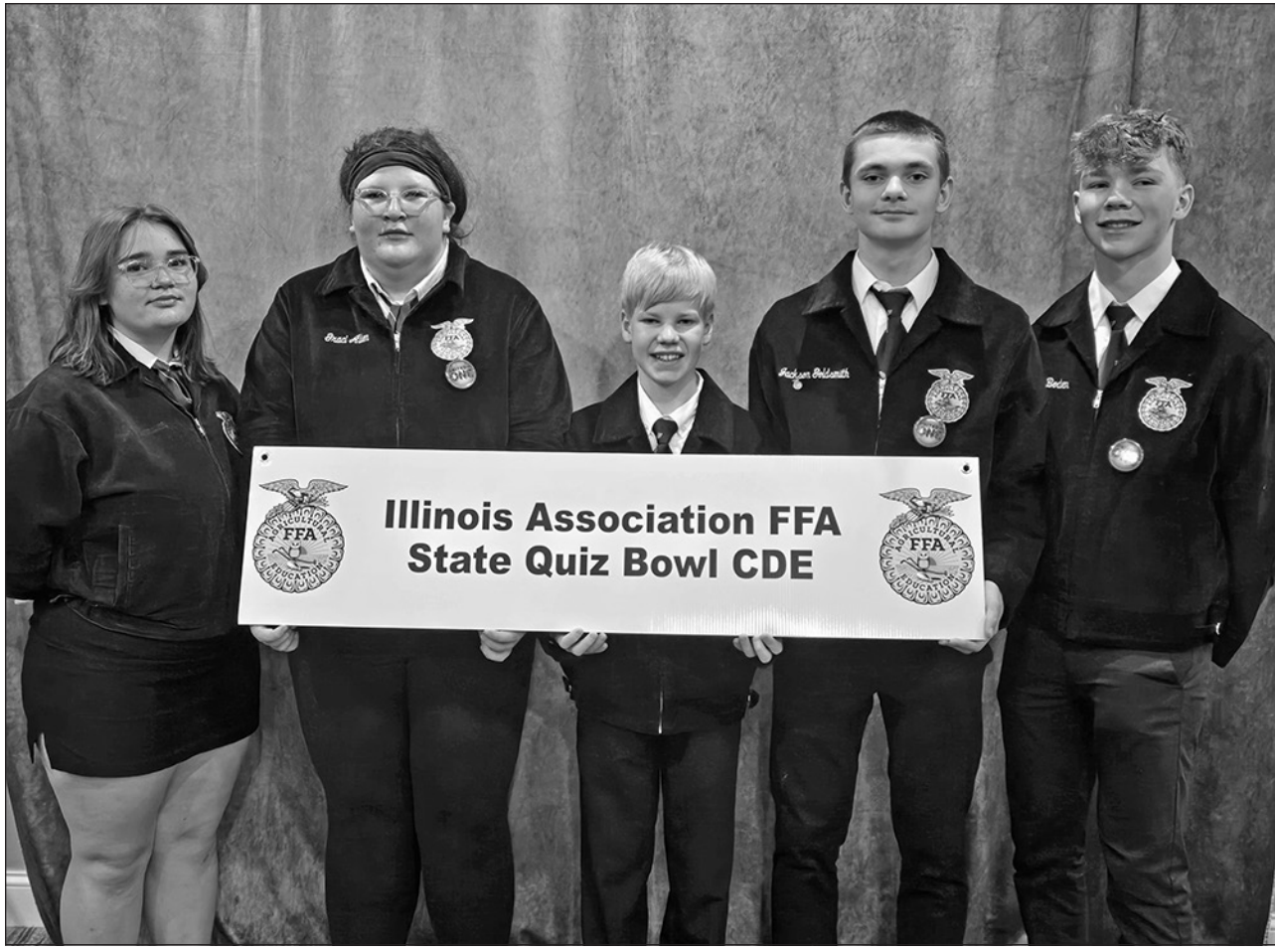
and see his law office, house and the train depot where Abraham Lincoln spent his final moments in Springfield.

The Chapter also volunteered their time to help pack meals through the "Meals from the Heartland" program. The meals were bagged and packed to ship to Ukraine and West Africa. Ty Spahn (class of 24') and Sawyer Fry (River Ridge Chapter Treasurer) served as the chapter delegates to the State Convention this year. It was a great convention all around for the 11 River Ridge FFA members who attended.

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**Natalie Keleher, Graci Vanderheyden, Nick Cobine, Jackson Goldsmith and Hamish Boden placed first in the state at the FFA Quiz Bowl competition. It is the first time in over 25 years that River Ridge FFA won a State Championship in a Career Development Event. Congratulations!**



**Lucas Holland, class of 2024, with his State FFA Degree.**



**River Ridge FFA members Nick Cobine, Jackson Goldsmith, Lucas Holland, Mrs. Peggy Trone, Lily Lucas, Graci Allen, Hamish Boden, Faith Morhardt and Natalie Keleher stand outside the Governor's Mansion on their trip to Springfield, IL.**



**River Ridge FFA Chapter members (left to right) Lucas Holland, Jackson Goldsmith, Hamish Boden, Faith Morhardt, Lily Lucas, Natalie Keleher, Graci Allen and Nick Cobine in the Senate hearing chambers at the State Capitol.**



JIM VAUPEL SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Stockton's Mavrick Winters enlists in the Marines

The Stockton American Legion is proud to announce that another Stockton resident has decided to serve the country in the Military. Mavrick Winters decided to join the Marines when he was 14 years old. Winters left for Boot Camp on June 17, with intentions to become a guard at a United States Embassy. The Stockton American Legion hosted a sendoff party for Winters with family and friends. Pictured is Mavrick (center), surrounded by his mom and dad and grandparents (front row), alongside many friends, family, and Legionnaires (back row).



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Stockton FFA competes at state convention

Illinois FFA Vice President Eric Wisley, Ashlyn Schubert, Tiffany Schubert, Mick Schubert, and Advisor Hannah Brudi attend the Illinois FFA State Convention.

# Highland Community College Spring Graduates 2024

Highland Community College announces the 2024 spring graduates. Graduates were awarded associate degrees, associate of applied science degrees, or certificates.

Apple River: Diana Montalvo, Associate of Arts

Davis: Ashlee Fisher, Associate of Arts; Kalli Kaskovich, Associate of Arts; Emma May, Associate of Science; Madelyn Montgomery, Cosmetology Certificate; Savannah Peterson, Associate of Science; Alexander Porter, Associate of Arts; Ruby Snyder, Associate of Arts; Isabel Ugalde, Medical Assistant Associate of Applied Science, Medical Assistant Certificate

Elizabeth: Maria Bender, Associate of Arts

Freeport: Lenie Adolphson, Associate of Arts; Clara Bartels, Associate of Arts; Finley Blakely, Associate of Science; Aaliyah Bostic Aaliyah, Associate of Arts; Andrew Bowman, Associate of Arts; Grayce Busker, Associate of Arts; Clay Cardoza, Associate of Arts; Kyley Cardoza, Associate of Arts; Deontae Collier, Associate of Arts; Jessica Cook, Associate of Arts; Allison Coon, Associate of Science; Emerson Coon, Early Care and Education; Isabella Coverstone, Associate of Applied Science Nursing; Noah Currier, Associate of Arts; Marie-Louise deJong, Associate of Science; Madilyn Diddens, Associate of Applied Science Accounting, Accounting Certificate, Account Clerk Certificate, Quickbooks Professional Certificate, Professional Tax Preparer Certificate; Kayla Drosih, Cosmetology Certificate; Noah

Eisenhower, CAD Mechanical Certificate, Welding & Fabrication Certificate, Basic Welding Certificate; Shavanti Euells, Welding & Fabrication Certificate, Basic Welding Certificate; Isaiah Field, Associate of Science; Zachary Fisher, Associate of Science; Sarah Foster, Associate of Arts; Kirsten Frautschy, Associate of Arts; Adrianne Garduno, Associate of Arts; Christian Gasmund, Associate of Science; Anthony Gennusa, Criminal Justice Certificate, Associate of Arts; Hailley Golackson, Account Clerk Certificate, Entrepreneurship/Small Business Certificate; Ja'Maya Graham, Associate of Science; Jeaneane Guess, Medical Assistant Certificate; Kalli Halverson, Associate of General Studies; Jose Hernandez, Welding & Fabrication Certificate, Basic Welding Certificate; Cyrus Noele-Huggard, Associate of Arts; Tiarra Jackson, Medical Assistant Certificate; Adam Jacobs, Associate of Arts; Joshua Janicke, Associate of Arts, Associate of Science; Jacob Joseph, Associate of Arts; Owen Jacobs, Associate of Arts; Damian Kauffman, ECE Infant/Toddler Certificate; Riley Kleckler, Associate of Science; Milos Kovacevic, Associate of General Studies; Ariadna Kuc, Associate of Arts; Elias Lassandro, Associate of Science; Andrew Leverton, Associate of Arts; Moira Loring, Associate of Arts; Brooklyn McDonald Nail Technology Certificate; Thalia McDougal, Associate of Science; Mason McIntyre; Ian McLain, Associate of Arts; Carissa Minx, Agricultural Production Certificate, Associate of Applied

Science Agribusiness Management, General Equine Science Certificate; Anna Morgan, Associate of Applied Science Industrial Manufacturing, CNC Machinist Certificate; Corrina Noble, Associate of Arts; Barbara Nunez, Associate of Applied Science Nursing; Anayeli Paliero Teles, Associate of Applied Science Nursing; Banshi Panchal, Accounting Certificate, Account Clerk Certificate; Amanda Patterson, Level 2 EChildhood Education Credential Certificate, Infant/Toddler Level 2 Credential Certificate, ECE Infant/Toddler Certificate; Bayley Pierce, Associate of Science, Associate of Arts; Lane Pierson, Associate of Science; Kimberly Rosenstiel, Associate of Arts; Connor Senneff, Associate of Arts; Brennen Simler, Associate of Science; PaytonThompson, Nail Technology Certificate; Ryan Thruman, Welding & Fabrication Certificate, Basic Welding Certificate; Tina Thruman, Associate of Applied Science Accounting, Accounting Certificate, Account Clerk Certificate, Quickbooks Professional Certificate, Professional Tax Preparer Certificate, Entrepreneurship/Small Business Certificate; Aiden Valkema, Associate of Science; Elena Wheeler, Associate of Applied Science Nursing; Olivia Wilhelms, Associate of Science; Diamond Wilson, Associate of Science; Angelina Wolford, Associate of Arts; Elizabeth Wuebbels, Associate of Science; Gregory Yount, Professional Tax Preparer Certificate

Lena: Stefany Arreola, Automotive Service - Level I;

Tara Crothers, Associate of Applied Science Nursing; Brady Eilders, Associate of Arts; Leah Goebel, Associate of Science; Evan Peterson, Associate of Science; Ava Randecker, Associate of Science; Jaydon Stouffer Criminal Justice Certificate, Associate of Applied Science Criminal Justice; Hannah Visel, Associate of Science; Kylie Zimmerman, Cosmetology Certificate

McConnell: Jennifer Froning Croffoot, Associate of Arts

Orangeville: Cooper Chapman, Associate of Arts; Daniel Kreuzer, Associate of Science;

Grace Edler, Early Childhood Development Online; Natalie Smith, Associate of Arts

Pearl City: Conor DeZell, Associate of Science; Skyler Dirksen, Associate of Applied Science Automotive Mechanics, Automotive Service - Level I, Automotive Service - Level II

Stockton: Jared Bergeman, Agricultural Production Certificate, Associate of Applied Science Agribusiness Management; Peter Bonvillain, Associate of Science; Joseph Brudi, Associate of Science; Nathan Coffey, Welding and

Fabrication Certificate, Basic Welding Certificate; Ashton Davis, Criminal Justice Certificate; Vanessa Ernst, Cosmetology Certificate; Avri Miller, Associate of Arts; Kassadie Sullivan, Certificate, Trace Williamson, Associate of General Studies

Winslow: Nicole Guetke, Level 2 Early Childhood Education Credential Certificate, Infant/Toddler Level 2 Credential, Early Childhood Education Infant/Toddler Certificate, Early Child Care and Education; Adam Setterstrom, Associate of Science

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# Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

Did you know that July is National Ice Cream month, which I think is a pretty perfect idea since July is typically a hot month and ice cream is a great way to cool down. I love hearing what everyone's favorite ice cream flavor is. I personally enjoy most coffee flavored ice cream, but recently I've really been enjoying butter pecan and smores. I also enjoy the occasional root beer float or dipped cone.

According to frozendesertsupplies.com the top 10 ice cream flavors include vanilla, chocolate, cookies and cream, mint chocolate chip, chocolate chip cookie dough, butter pecan, birthday cake, strawberry, moose tracks and Neapolitan. In celebration of National Ice Cream month, I encourage you to enjoy a scoop or two or three from your favorite Stephenson County Ice Cream spot. You can even make yours at home using this recipe.

## Ice Cream in a Bag recipe

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk
- Duct tape
- Bath towel
- 1 cup whipping cream, half & half or Milnot
- Crushed ice (1 bag of ice will freeze 3 bags of ice

cream)

1 cup rock salt (approximately 8 cups per 5lbs.)

1 quart and 1 gallon size Ziploc freezer bags

Put the milk, whipping cream, sugar, and vanilla in a 1-quart freezer bag and seal. For security, fold a piece of duct tape over the seal. Place the bag with the ingredients inside a gallon freezer bag. Pack the larger bag with crushed ice around the smaller bag. Pour 3/4 to 1 cup of salt evenly over the ice. Wrap in a bath towel and shake for 10 minutes. Open the outer bag and remove the inner bag with the ingredients. Wipe off the bag to be sure salt water doesn't get into the ice cream.

Cut the top off and spoon into cups. This makes about three cups, and one bag will serve approximately four students. Serve plain or top with nuts, coconut, or fruit. ENJOY!

## Summer Agriculture Institute

On Tuesday, July 18 and Wednesday, July 19 the Agriculture in the Classroom team including Debbie and Aaliyah were able to attend the Amazing Agriculture Summer Ag Institute (SAI) covering the Winnebago and Boone County Areas.

During the SAI trip, the group toured different ag-

ricultural facilities to learn about how the operations ran and what the producers wanted community members to know about them. Tuesday started with touring at the Hildebrandt Dairy Farm in south Beloit. The Hildebrandt family farm is a carousel-style milking parlor, milking about 1,200 cows 3 times daily. Attendees were able to see the entire milking process from start to finish, watch and learn how their feed is prepared, and see their calf operations.

After Hildebrandt's, the group traveled to Alpaca Pines Farm and Fiber Mill where they met some cool alpacas and learned how their fiber is processed and turned into yarn for fabrics and crafts. For lunch, Edwards Apple Orchard West offered their cellar to dine in before they toured the orchard and learned the history of the operation.

The next stop was Piscasaw Gardens, touring their garden and greenhouse operation. The last stop on Tuesday was to The Delong Company, which was a grain bin operation where most of the product goes to Texas to be turned into chicken feed.

Wednesday was a lot slower. They started the journey at Perks Ranch in Rockford where they specialize in the genetic improvement of Herford Cattle. The tour ended at

Behn's Clydesdales in Pecatonica where their operations are for show horses, a few of them are even Budweiser Clydesdales. After lunch, the day ended with presentations from Illinois Corn Growers, Midwest Dairy, and Ag in the Classroom.

## Save this Summer

Get the most out of your summer as an Illinois Farm Bureau member! By being a member, you unlock thousands of deals and discounts on all the summer necessities, from travel to healthcare. Search for local food and products on the go while enjoying inclusive access to thousands of discounts on Shop Local, an online directory to help you find the best local products in and around your community. Plan your summer road trip while accessing discounts to rental cars through Alamo, Enterprise, Avis, and National. Make booking overnight stays a breeze with your exclusive discounts on Choice, Drury, Wyndham, and Sonesta International hotel chains. Find incredible deals on concerts and events, attractions and tours, movie tickets, restaurants, zoos, aquariums, theme parks, and waterpark locations to help you plan an unforgettable excursion or a fun-filled family Saturday staycation.

And don't worry, if allergies or germs from traveling get the best of you, your farm bureau membership also secures you deals with ScriptSave and SingleCare to help you find the best prescription prices. Check with your county Farm Bureau office to discover even more county-specific benefits, from local product sales to discounted vacation trips. Farm Bureau's got you covered. To learn more visit [www.ilfb.org](http://www.ilfb.org)

## Dairy farmers donate 17,424 pounds of milk to Illinois food banks

Recognizing the hardships many communities are facing, Illinois Milk Producers Association (IMPA) donated 17,424 pounds of milk,

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## Lena Lions award scholarships to local students

Lion Bill Crichton presents Mikaela Nieman with a scholarship from the Lena Lions.



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Lion Bill Crichton awards Faith Jordan and Trenton Swedlund the Friends of the Lions scholarship.



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Lion Bill Crichton presents Jacob Schumaker, Sarah Geiseman and Chloe Mader with scholarships from the Lena Lions.



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# Lena Beautification Committee news

The Lena Beautification Committee would like to thank the generous people that have contributed to the flowers that were recently planted downtown. The sponsors include Brian and Jo Wenzel, Community Bank, Citizens Bank, Lena State Bank, Jim and Lee Cox, Lena Historical Society, My Friend's Closet, Flynn Insurance, Engel's Repair, Paris Hughes, Lingle Design, Lena Lions, Julie Wenzel, Leamon's Funeral Home, AJ's Meats, Buss Boyz, Sugarbaker's Cocktail Lounge, Sweet Stiches, Country Financial, and Lena Mercantile.

The planters are maintained by the Lena Beautification Committee. Members of the committee are Lee Cox, Cheryl King, Paris Hughes, Danita Emfords, Darci Meyer, Eleanor Holmes, Ryan Buss, Kathy Heinkel, Tony Babosa, Ruby Schultz, and Jean Engel. The

committee waters the planters every day during the growing season. During the summer they honor three homeowners with a "Yard of the Month" award. Members also decide the planters for the fall and Christmas season.

Other projects from the committee include honoring three homes for the creative Christmas decorations, sponsoring Santa's visit, and awarding and judging entries in the Christmas parade and window decorations. This year the committee painted the inside of the Visitor's Booth and have also contributed toward the lighting for the new fence and pavilion, purchased a trash receptacle for the pavilion, and donated toward the music that is played in the downtown area. The committee would like to extend a special thank you to True Vine and Six Point Services for helping with the projects.

# Freeport Police Department plans stepped-up traffic enforcement for July 4 celebrations

As Independence Day approaches, the Freeport Police Department is gearing up for increased traffic enforcement to ensure the safety of all residents and motorists. From June 21 through the early-morning hours of July 8, our Officers will be working tirelessly to keep impaired drivers off the road and ticketing unbuckled motorists.

"It's a straightforward message: If you're behind the wheel, stay sober. Don't drink, use marijuana, or consume any other impairing substances before or when driving," said Chief Chris Shenberger. "Our officers will be on duty around the clock, dedicated to enforcing traffic laws and, most importantly, saving lives."

Driving under the influence not only poses a grave risk to oneself but

also endangers passengers and fellow road users. The financial and human costs of a DUI are immeasurable. The decision to avoid driving impaired is simple and could spare lives.

The Freeport Police Department is collaborating with the Illinois State Police and over 200 local police and sheriffs' departments in this unified effort to enhance statewide enforcement during this period.

To ensure a fun and safe holiday celebration, we urge everyone to follow these tips:

- Designate a sober driver before heading out.
- Prevent friends and family members from driving under the influence.
- If you find yourself impaired, use safe alternatives such as taxis, public transit and ride-sharing apps,

or contact a sober friend or family member for a ride.

- Report suspected drunk drivers promptly to law enforcement by pulling over and dialing 911.

- Ensure that all passengers in your vehicle buckle up. It's not only the law, but also a crucial defense against impaired drivers.

The traffic safety enforcement effort, including the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," "Drive High Get a DUI," and "Click It or Ticket" programs, is made possible through federal highway safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. These efforts are complemented by IDOT's "It's Not a Game" media campaign, which emphasizes the serious consequences of impaired driving and other unsafe driving behaviors.

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<p><b>Sliced to Order WINTERS COOKED HAM 1.99/lb</b></p>	<p><b>Niagara PURIFIED WATER Select Varieties 24 pk/8-16.9 oz 2/\$5</b></p>	<p><b>Kingsford CHARCOAL Select Varieties 8-16 lb 9.99</b></p>	<p><b>RED CHERRIES 2.49/lb</b></p>

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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

The longest day of the year was last week. Now days get shorter! June is also coming to a close, and the Fourth of July is coming up. The weather was hot last week, and as I write this column, they say a storm is brewing. Hopefully when you read this paper, the weather will have gotten cooler. This week there are salads and main dishes as well as a yummy dessert. Have a great week cooking!

## Green Olive Dip

If you are an olive lover, you will like this unique olive dip. Most of the olive dips I have had were just ground olives and cream cheese. This is a hot olive dip that is good for every season. If you are a spice lover, you can use medium or hot salsa.

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium red pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 can (16 oz.) refried beans
- 1 jar (16 oz.) mild salsa
- 2 C. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 C. shredded cheddar cheese

1 jar (5 3/4 oz.) green olives with pimientos, drained  
 In a large skillet, cook the beef, pepper, and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink, 5 to 7 minutes, making sure the beef is crumbled. Drain off any excess liquid. Transfer to a greased 3-qt. cooker. Add the beans, salsa, cheeses and olives. Cover and cook on low for 3 to 4 hours; stir occasionally and serve when cheese is melted. Serve with tortilla chips.

## Romaine Wedge Salad with Buttermilk Dressing

This green salad can be

served on a large plate or serve the wedges on individual plates. It has some bacon and homemade croutons for garnish; the homemade onion rings are an added touch. I love to make onion rings out of Vidalia onions which are available this time of the year. You can substitute canola for peanut oil if you don't have any peanut oil. Don't forget that A.J.'s Lena Maid Meats has the very best bacon!

1/2 lb. fried crisp bacon, drained and chopped, reserving drippings in the skillet

3/4 C. cubed French or Italian bread

- 2 C. peanut oil
- 1 medium sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 C. flour
- 3 heads of romaine lettuce, halved
- 2 tomatoes on the vine, sliced

## Buttermilk Dressing

- 1 C. mayonnaise
- 1/2 C. whole buttermilk
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 2 T. minced fresh chives or 2 t. dried chives
- 1/2 t. pepper
- 1/2 t. salt

Dressing:  
 In a small bowl mix the mayo, buttermilk, sour cream, chives, pepper and salt. Refrigerate for an hour.

Place reserve drippings in a skillet, cook the bread cubes over medium heat until browned. Remove from skillet. Add oil to skillet, and heat over medium heat until a deep fry thermometer reads 350. In a medium bowl, toss together onion and salt. Add flour and toss onions to coat. Shake off extra flour and cook in oil until golden brown about 3 minutes. Drain on a paper towel and sprinkle with salt.

Place wedges on a large plate. Top with bacon, tomatoes, toasted croutons, and fried onions. Drizzle with dressing and serve extra dressing on the side.

## Roasted Potato Salad

Most potato salads are made with mayonnaise; some people make warm German potato salad. This roasted vegetable potato salad is served

another way to serve a summer potato salad that will not have to worry about refrigeration. Try this new take on potato salad.

2 lb. red potatoes, cut into 3/4 inch pieces

1/4 C. plus 2 T. extra virgin olive oil

1 1/4 t. salt

1/2 t. pepper

1 1/4 C. fresh whole kernel sweet corn from 2 cobs

1/2 lb (about 2 C.) green beans, ends, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces

1/4 C. white wine vinegar

2 t. chopped fresh dill

1/2 C. sliced green onions

1 C. halved cherry or grape tomatoes

Place one oven rack in upper one-third of oven and second in bottom one-third of oven. Heat oven to 400. Spray two sheet pans with cooking spray. In medium bowl, add potatoes, 1 T. of olive oil, 1 t. of salt, and 1/4 t. of pepper, tossing to combine. Place in one of the pans, potatoes, cut side down. Roast potatoes on the top oven rack 20 minutes; stir.

In same bowl, add 1 T. of olive oil, the corn and green beans; spread out on remaining pan, and place on lower oven rack. Roast corn mixture and potatoes 20 to 25 minutes or until potatoes are browned and tender when poked with a fork and green beans are slightly shriveled. Cool roasted vegetables 10 minutes and transfer to a large bowl. In a small bowl, beat remaining 1/4 C. olive oil, the vinegar, remaining salt and pepper with whisk until combined. Stir in chopped dill. Add to vegetables, tossing to combine. Add the green onions and tomatoes; stir. Serve immediately or refrigerate until serving.

## Broccoli Shrimp Pasta Toss

If you need a quick and easy weeknight dinner for these hot days, this pasta dish is one most people will like. If you want to jazz it up a bit, you can add some basil pesto to it.

2 C. uncooked bow tie pas-

- ta
- 1/4 C. chopped onion
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 T. butter
- 1 t. olive oil
- 2 C. fresh broccoli florets
- 1/4 t. salt
- 8 oz. uncooked medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/4 C. Parmesan cheese

Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and reserve 1/2 C. pasta water in a large nonstick skillet sauté onion and garlic until tender. Add broccoli and salt; cook and stir over medium-high heat for 8 minutes. Add shrimp; cook and stir for 2 to 3 minutes longer or until shrimp turn pink and broccoli is tender. Place pasta in a large serving bowl. Add broccoli and shrimp mixture. Toss gently; if the mixture seems to need some liquid, add pasta water a little at a time to make the mixture moist. Sprinkle with cheese and serve.

## Chicken and Swiss Casserole

If you are tired of skillet meals and the temperature does go down, you can make this chicken and cheese casserole. Use rotisserie chicken, and it is really easy.

- 5 1/2 C. uncooked egg noodles
- 3 T. olive oil
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 3 small garlic cloves, minced
- 1/3 C. flour
- 2 C. chicken broth
- 3/4 C. 2% milk
- 1 1/2 t. dried thyme
- 3/4 t. lemon zest
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. ground nutmeg
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 5 C. rotisserie chicken
- 1 C. frozen peas
- 2 C. shredded Swiss cheese
- 3/4 C. breadcrumbs
- 2 T. melted butter

Preheat oven to 350. Cook noodles according to package directions; drain. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions and garlic; cook and stir 45 seconds. Stir in flour; cook and stir one minute. Add broth, milk, thyme, lemon zest, salt, nutmeg, and pepper. Stir in chicken and

peas; heat through. Stir in noodles and cheese. Transfer to a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. In a small bowl, mix breadcrumbs and butter. Sprinkle over top of casserole. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until top is browned.

## Strawberry Cheesecake Pie

If you are lucky enough to have some fresh strawberries, this great dessert is one you will want to try. It is patterned after the strawberry pretzel dessert.

- 1 1/2 C. finely crushed pretzels
- 1/2 C. unsalted butter, melted
- 1/2 C. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 T. flour
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.)
- 1 C. powdered sugar
- 1/2 C. heavy whipping cream
- 1 C. sugar
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 1/2 t. salt
- 2 T. light corn syrup
- 3 T. strawberry Jell-O
- 1 T. fresh lemon juice
- 2 t. vanilla
- 4 C. halved fresh strawberries

Cool Whip  
 Preheat the oven to 350. In a medium bowl, stir together the pretzels, melted butter, brown sugar, and flour until well combined. Firmly press mixture into bottom and up sides of a 9-inch pie plate. Bake until set, 15 to 20 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack.

In another bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar with a mixer at medium speed until smooth and creamy, about one minute. Add cream, and slowly increase mixer speed to high. Beat until thick and smooth, one to two minutes. Spread into prepared crust. Refrigerate until ready to use. In a medium saucepan, whisk together the sugar, cornstarch and salt. Add 1 C. warm water and corn syrup, whisking until smooth. Bring to a boil over medium heat, whisking occasionally for 10 minutes. Mixture will be thick. Remove from heat and whisk in Jell-O, lemon juice, and vanilla. Pour

into a heat proof bowl and let cool at room temperature for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Place strawberry halves on top of pie. Pour cooled strawberry sauce over berries. Refrigerate until set, at least 3 to 4 hours. Serve with Cool Whip.

## Final Thoughts

I was lucky enough to get some home-grown strawberries that were delicious in my strawberry smoothie. I also heard that people are picking cherries. There was even some garden lettuce that was on Facebook. My mother and I loved garden lettuce. We would have it with chopped onions (you all know I love Vidalia) and some good bacon, and then our favorite was to make a hot bacon dressing and wilt the lettuce. You really didn't need much more to eat than a big bowl of that! One of these days lettuce will be back in my eating repertoire.

I hope everyone had a "taste" of Lena last weekend. Don't forget the Music in the Parks, both at the lake on Saturday night and Lions Park on Sunday night. I got to see "Footloose" at Timberlake Playhouse, and it was great. Highland is also putting on their summer production. And if you want some beautiful music under the stars, the Freeport Concert Band performs at 7 p.m. on Sunday nights at Krapp Park. There are certainly a lot of entertainment possibilities in our area. Of course, ice cream is great in Lena! The Drive Inn every day, Café 217 on Sunday evenings, and Sweetie Me afternoons on Tuesday through Saturday are great ice cream places to cool off!

We continue to look for summer fruit and vegetable 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.

## •News (Continued from page 8)

including lactose-free, between three local food banks. "Many families are struggling with food insecurity amid rising prices at the grocery store," said Don Mackinson, IMPA president. "Everyone deserves access to fresh, nutritious food, which is why Illinois dairy farmers came together to once again donate milk to local food banks supporting our communities."

IMPA donated a combined 34,848 servings to Northern

Illinois Food Bank, Central Illinois Foodbank and Eastern Illinois Foodbank in celebration of June being National Dairy Month. The donation was made in partnership with Prairie Farms, Illinois Farm Bureau, Illinois Corn Marketing Board (ICMB), Illinois Soybean Association (ISA), St. Louis District Dairy Council (SLDDC) and Midwest Dairy. "Milk is greatly desired by our neighbors because it provides the valuable nutrition

they need to thrive," said Julie Yurko, President and CEO at Northern Illinois Food Bank. "We are grateful for this generous milk donation and ongoing partners joining us in the fight against hunger."

The donation is a continuation of IMPA's efforts to support communities struggling with food insecurity. Since 2023, IMPA has donated 27,360 pounds of milk to local food banks for a combined 54,720 servings. "IL Corn is

proud to help this milk donation get to the families in Illinois that need it," said Jon Rosenstiel, chairman of IL Corn. "As a farmer, I feel satisfied knowing that the corn I'm growing is feeding cattle all over Illinois, and that the milk from those cattle is now getting into the hands of children and families struggling with food insecurity. This is why farmers do the work they do; they love feeding people quality, wholesome food."

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# IN\*CI\*DENTAL\*LY

## School Meals: Small changes reap big benefits

Children's oral and overall health is dependent on adequate nutrition. It is not enough to make sure that our nation's children have food security. We must also assure that the food we provide them meets their nutritional requirements.



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

School nutrition staff serve breakfast and lunches to almost 30 million children in grades K-12 every school day. Although research shows that school meals are often the healthiest meals these children get in a day, there is clearly room for improvement. That is why the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced that they have set new nutrition standards that limit added sugars and sodium in school breakfast and lunch programs.

Research data confirms that the majority of children in America consume too much added sugars and sodium and not enough fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, as diet-related diseases, such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension, continue to rise amongst the youth in America, the USDA believes that these small changes will reap big benefits in combatting this trend.

Currently, about 17 percent of calories in school breakfasts and 11 percent of calories in school lunches are from added sugars. The USDA believes that to successfully implement these changes in a population that routinely overconsumes sugar and sodium, it must be implemented gradually to give students time to adjust their palates. To that end, these new changes that just became effective on July 1 will be implemented in the following manner:

Starting in school year 2025-26 (July 1, 2025), there will be a limit on the amount of added sugars allowed for specific foods (breakfast cereals, yogurt, and flavored milk) that tend to be higher in added sugars.

Starting in school year 2027-28 (July 1, 2027), in addition to limits on added sugars in those specific foods, no more than 10 percent of weekly

calories in the meals can be from added sugars. By school year 2027-28 (July 1, 2027), schools will implement a ten percent reduction in sodium for breakfast and a 15 percent reduction for lunch.

Starting in Fall 2025, schools will have limits on the percentage of non-domestic grown and produced foods they can purchase. This will provide our nation's children with fresh, nutritious, locally sourced food, while supporting American farmers.

Helping your child develop lifelong healthy dietary habits requires the same process as establishing the lifelong habit of maintaining oral health. Just as you provide your child with the right tools (toothbrush, floss and toothpaste), brush and floss their teeth until they have the manual dexterity to do it on their own, educate them on how this keeps them healthy, and model your own daily oral hygiene habits, children require the right "tools," (nutritious food they need to grow and develop) education (teaching them about the nutrients in food and the benefits of making healthy choices) and role models (parents, teachers and caregivers) that model healthy eating habits. Just as a child cannot concentrate when they are in pain from oral disease, hunger and malnutrition affect a child's ability to concentrate and do well in school.

The USDA's Healthy Meals Incentives Initiative distributed \$150,000 dollars each to 264 small and rural school districts for the 2024 school year. For more information about the USDA's incentive grants for small and rural schools, nutrition education, school meal programs, and farm to school promotions visit [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

## FHN Gran Fonda Tour Against Cancer is June 29

Area cyclists and families are invited to enjoy some healthy exercise and see some of the area's most beautiful roads as part of this year's Gran Fonda Tour Against Cancer.

Dave Fonda, the founder of and inspiration for this event, loved cycling and his community. He began this fundraiser in 2007, dedicated to parlaying his passion into a cause that could help those fighting cancer. Dave lost his own battle with cancer in 2018, and the event has been renamed in his honor. (A *Gran Fondo* – Italian for "Big Ride" – is a timed long-distance road cycling ride officially

defined by the Italian Cycling Federation as being at least 75 miles long.)

The event will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, June 29 at Tutty's Crossing, 238 E. Stephenson Street in Freeport. Riders can choose from a number of our "classic" routes including a 5-mile out-and-back route on the trail for families with young children; the standard 30-, 50-, and 75-mile road routes; a 30-mile to Orangeville and back trail route; and new 40- and 50-mile gravel routes.

The registration fee is \$25. For more information and to register

or donate, visit [www.fhn.org/gran-fonda-tour-against-cancer.asp](http://www.fhn.org/gran-fonda-tour-against-cancer.asp). This year's sponsors are Premier, McPherson Law Offices and Winter Construction; Platinum – Paramount Oncology Group Management; Gold – Cornerstone Credit Union, Loescher Heating and Air Conditioning; Lucas Group Financial Advisors and CPAs and State Bank; Silver – Citizens State Bank, Highland Community College and HCC Foundation; Bronze – ELKAY, Pearson's Plumbing and Heating, Reed's Auto Repair and Sanitary Cleaners.

## June winners in the Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing

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

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

- \$50 – Claire Bane, Hazel Green, WI
- \$50 – Denal Fenn, Scales Mound
- \$50 – Alvin Ertmer, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Suzy Taylor, Bozeman, MT
- \$50 – Judy Wilson, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Jeff Schelberger, Warren
- \$50 – Lucas Wurster, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Sarah Niensteadt, Galena
- \$50 – Celia Amill, Stockton
- \$50 – Tina VanRaalte, Shullsburg, WI
- \$50 – Tim Zigler, Madison, WI
- \$50 – Michele Thoren, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Suzy Taylor, Bozeman, MT

- \$150 – Kyle Broege, Apple River
- \$50 – Kathy Hawkins, Stockton
- \$150 – Randy Goodwin, Scales Mound
- \$50 – Emily Nicolin, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Melanie McCalley, Galena
- \$150 – Rae Lynn Jackson, Peosta, IA

- \$50 – Don Kautz, Hanover
- \$50 – Pat Halstead, Hanover
- \$50 – John Bonnet, East Dubuque
- \$50 – Amanda Haas, Stockton
- \$50 – Michelle Haas, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Tammy Flynn, Dubuque, IA

- \$50 – Amy Krolow, Pearl City
- \$50 – Pat Schroeder, Zwingle, IA
- \$50 – Verda Gochee, Maple Park
- \$50 – Jacob Brunner, Stockton
- \$50 – Luke Saunders, Warren

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# LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS**  
Carrington Mortgage Services LLC  
**PLAINTIFF**

**Vs.**  
Kerri Lynn Gerke;  
United States of America  
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;  
Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants;  
Sheila Gunn a/k/a Sheila Scherrer; Kim M. Houck a/k/a Kim M. Raab;  
Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Marcia K. Duffield; Kipp Meyers, as Special Representative for Marcia K. Duffield (deceased)

**DEFENDANTS**  
No. 2023FC60  
**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**  
**NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:**

Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants  
Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Marcia K. Duffield  
That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:  
**COMMONLY KNOWN AS:**  
1440 S Burchard Avenue  
Freeport, IL 61032  
and which said Mortgage was made by:  
Lloyd S. Duffield  
Marcia K. Duffield  
the Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for American Advisors Group, as Mortgagor, and recorded in the Office of the Record-

er of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 201600151432; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

**NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Shanelle Bardell Clerk of the Circuit Court 15 North Galena Freeport, IL 61032 on or before July 12, 2024, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.**

**CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C.**  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100  
Burr Ridge, IL 60527  
(630) 794-5300  
DuPage # 15170  
Winnebago # 531  
Our File No. 14-23-07033  
**NOTE:** This law firm is a debt collector.  
I3245505  
(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
June 12, 19 & 26, 2024)  
456873

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**THE ESTATE OF EARLE M. MOOTE, BY ITS INDEPENDENT EXECUTORS SCOTT MOOTE AND, KEVIN**

**M. MOOTE**  
Plaintiff,  
-v.-  
**SUSAN K. BUNNELL, WILLIAM W. SCOTT, ALL NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS AND UNKNOWN OWNERS**  
Defendant

21 CH 28  
**NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 3, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on July 12, 2024, at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Ave. (West Door), FREEPORT, IL, 61032, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

**LOT 455 OF CHEROKEE HILLS SUBDIVISION PLAT NO. 10 ACCORDING TO THE PLAT RECORDED MAY 18TH, 1994, IN BOOK "M" OF PLATS, PAGE 48-48B, AS DOCUMENT NUMBER 9849566. SITUATED IN THE CITY OF FREEPORT, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.**

Commonly known as 1075 APPALOOSA DRIVE, FREEPORT, IL 61032  
Property Index No. 89-18-13-26-277-003

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$178,508.46.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The bal-

ance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, 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.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

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

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

**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.**

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact **MARY M. VINCENT,**

**VINCENT LAW OFFICE**  
Plaintiff's Attorneys, 125 E. MAIN STREET, WARREN, IL, 61087 (815) 745-2624.

**THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION**  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

**MARY M. VINCENT VINCENT LAW OFFICE**  
125 E. MAIN STREET  
WARREN IL, 61087  
815-745-2624  
Fax #: 815-745-3115  
E-Mail:

[mary@warrencounsel.com](mailto:mary@warrencounsel.com)  
Attorney ARDC No. 06186210

Case Number: 21 CH 28  
TJSC#: 44-1276

**NOTE:** Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.  
Case # 21 CH 28  
I3245944

(Published in  
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457064

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - 15 NORTH GALENA AVENUE, FREEPORT, ILLINOIS**  
**ESTATE OF Gene Yount, DECEASED**

24 PR 28  
Notice is given of the death of the above named decedent.

Letters of Office were issued to Arthur Szczypta, 7153 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60634, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Joanna Long, Long Law Group, 1717 North Naper Boulevard, Suite 111, Naperville, Illinois 60563.

Notice is given to Pamela Zagabe and Unknown Heirs, Heirs of the Decedent whose names or addresses were not stated in the petition for independent administration that an order was entered on June 6, 2024, granting independent administration of the estate. This means that the

administrator will not have to obtain court orders of filed estate papers in court during probate. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless interested persons ask the court to become involved.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before December 12, 2024, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Joanna Long  
Long Law Group  
(6313370)  
1717 North Naper Boulevard, Suite 111  
Naperville, Illinois 60563  
(312) 344-3644  
I3245991

(Published in  
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June 12, 19 & 26, 2024)  
457135

**ATTENTION LENA RESIDENTS**

A Public hearing will be held for the Village of Lena 2024-25 Appropriation Ordinance on July 8, 2024, at 5:50pm. A copy of the proposed Appropriation Ordinance is available to view at Village Hall during normal business hours prior to the public hearing. The board will act on the Appropriation Ordinance at the July 8, 2024, Board Meeting to be held at 6:00pm.

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457420



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# Lawmakers pass on oversight vote for Pritzker's prison closure, rebuild plan

By Hannah Meisel and Dilpreet Raju  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

For the last two decades, each time a governor has moved to close a large state-run facility like a prison or mental health center, a legislative oversight panel has voted on the plan.

That changed on June 14—at least for now—when only three lawmakers made it to Springfield for the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability's scheduled vote on Gov. JB Pritzker's plans to demolish and rebuild Stateville Correctional Center in Crest Hill and Logan Correctional Center in Lincoln. State Department of Corrections officials and the governor have indicated they're strongly considering rebuilding Logan 140 miles northwest of its decadeslong home in central Illinois to the grounds of Stateville in Chicago's southwest suburbs.

Without a quorum, the 12-member panel was unable to take an official vote on the matter within the timeline specified under law for reviewing facility closures. But COGFA's Democratic co-chair, Sen. Dave Koehler of Peoria, had told reporters the previous evening that even if absences were not an issue, the Pritzker administration's current plans for Stateville and Logan are so vague that

"We don't really know what we're voting on."

After the meeting June 14, Koehler told reporters the fact that COGFA failed to vote "doesn't really change anything"—the governor's office can move forward with a closure regardless.

The vote from the bipartisan panel would merely have been a recommendation; some governors have still gone ahead with closures even after the panel has voted to reject those plans.

But with the exception of a few instances where closure plans have been withdrawn before COGFA's scheduled vote, the appointed members of the body have formally registered their positions on nearly three dozen proposed closures since 2005.

Despite not voting, the three members present at the June 14 meeting registered their criticisms anyway.

"This is really a concept and not a plan, in my estimation, because a plan has details," Koehler said, though he spoke for the panel in saying he was supportive of the idea of "having new state-of-the-art facilities" to replace the crumbling prisons. He added the commission would be willing to work with IDOC and the administration once more details of the plan are available.

Koehler's Republican co-chair, Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer

of Murrayville, was far blunter in his appraisal of the Pritzker administration's approach to the closure process.

"I think that we have a thought bubble more so than the written-down plan, right?" he said.

He blamed the governor for not working with COGFA—and accused him of either not having a plan or not being willing to divulge it publicly.

"I think this is coming from the top, and they put their appointees and their Department (of Corrections) in a place to defend their idea," Davidsmeyer said.

During an unrelated news

conference June 14, Pritzker insisted "the legislature is ultimately going to have a lot to say along the way" even without an advisory vote from COGFA.

Though he said some groups will inevitably be "disappointed with whatever the final outcome ultimately will be," he reiterated that the closure and rebuild plans are still taking shape.

"And it may be that changes might get made along the way, but no final decisions have been made," he said.

IDOC officials testified in front of the legislative panel three times in the last several weeks, including at a pair of

hearings in the prisons' current host communities. At those hearings, prison employees and local residents had the opportunity to air their concerns with the closure and rebuild plans.

Before both hearings last week, COGFA members and local state lawmakers were given the opportunity to tour both Stateville and Logan, which a 2023 state-commissioned report identified as among a handful of prisons with unlivable conditions caused by years of deferred maintenance by the state.

Reflecting on the tours during the June 14 meeting, Davidsmeyer said they were

"very eye-opening," but urged the Pritzker administration to keep Stateville, a men's maximum-security prison, open during the rebuild process. IDOC officials last month said they may close Stateville as early as September but planned to keep Logan running during a rebuild.

"Stateville is beyond disrepair," Davidsmeyer said. "I agree that we should continue to operate Stateville while we build. We should make Stateville a priority to rebuild right now, immediately. Put a rush on it."

See CLOSURE, Page 14

## Freeport police reports

### Shots fired incident June 15

On June 15, 2024, at 1:52 a.m., Officers of the Freeport Police Department responded to a Sound Thinking alert in the 1000 block of S. Carroll Avenue for a report of gunshots being fired. Upon arrival, Officers discovered evidence that showed more than one firearm had been discharged in the area. Two vehicles parked in the vicinity of where the gunshots were fired sustained damage. There were no reported injuries.

Officers on scene received information stating two males ran from the scene after the gun shots were fired. No description of the males was provided to the Officers investigating the shots fired incident.

The Freeport Police department is investigating the incident and is asking for anyone who has any information to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235-8222, or Staline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW or through texting at Tip411.

### Shots fired incident June 20

On June 20, 2024, at 9:05 p.m., Officers of the Freeport Police Department responded to a report of gunshots being fired in the 200 Block of W Empire St. Officers arrived on scene shortly after receiving the call.

During the investigation Officers learned that two suspects exited an SUV and fired shots at subjects standing in a drive way. The suspects then returned to the vehicle and fled the scene prior to officer's arrival. Officers were able to locate evidence at the scene. There are no reports of any persons being injured in the incident and no reports of damage.

At this time, it is believed this incident was not a random act of violence. The Freeport Police department is investigating the incident and is asking for anyone who has any information to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235-8222, or Staline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW or through texting at Tip411.

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# Illinois' ban on 'bump stocks' remains in place despite U.S. Supreme Court decision

## SCOTUS expected to announce whether it will hear unrelated appeal of 2023 assault weapon ban

By Peter Hancock

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

An Illinois law banning the sale and use of "bump stocks" and other devices that increase the firing power of semiautomatic weapons remains in place, at least for now, despite a U.S. Supreme Court decision June 14 striking down a federal ban on such items.

"Illinois law is not affected by the decision," a spokesperson for Attorney General Kwame Raoul said in an email statement June 14.

Meanwhile, however, advocates on both sides of the gun control debate in the United States are anxiously waiting to learn whether the high court will hear a broader constitution-

al challenge to the state's 2023 assault weapons ban, which includes the state-level ban on bump stocks. An announcement on that appeal could come at any time in the next several days.

Bump stocks are devices that attach to a semiautomatic weapon that enable it to fire multiple shots in rapid succession with a single pull of the trigger, effectively enabling the weapon to function like a fully automatic weapon.

Those devices became the focus of gun control debate following a 2017 mass shooting at a music festival in Las Vegas, Nevada. A gunman used weapons equipped with bump stocks to fire more than 1,000 rounds into a crowd in a matter of minutes, killing 60 people and injuring more than 400.

Although public ownership of "machine guns" had long been banned under the National Firearms Act, a 1934 law originally written in response to gangland violence of that era, that law had never been interpreted to include the use of bump stocks. Public outrage over the Las Vegas massacre prompted the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to adopt a new regulation imposing a federal ban on

bump stocks.

In a 6-3 ruling June 14, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down that regulation, saying ATF exceeded its authority in issuing a rule that classifies bump stocks as machine guns. The majority did not, however, say a ban on bump stocks per se would violate the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.

"The Supreme Court decision, as you know, is not a Second Amendment decision," Gov. JB Pritzker said at an unrelated news conference just hours after the decision was released. "It was a decision about whether the ATF has the authority to issue the rules that they put out back then. ... I do think it's going to spur action at the state level as well as the federal level to try to once again ban bump stocks. Here in Illinois, we've already done that."

The Illinois bump stock ban was enacted as part of the state's overall ban on assault-style weapons, which came in response to another mass shooting, this one at a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park in 2022.

The law bans a long list of firearms defined as "assault weapons," as well as large-capacity magazines and various

kinds of attachments. Those include attachments that "increase the rate of fire of a semiautomatic firearm above the standard rate of fire" for a weapon not equipped with such a device.

That law was passed during a special lame duck session of the General Assembly in January 2023, just six months after the Highland Park shooting. Pritzker signed it into law within hours of its final passage, making Illinois the ninth state in the nation at the time to enact such a ban. Washington became the 10th state a few months later.

Legal challenges to the Illinois law moved swiftly through both state and federal courts. In August, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled 4-3 the law did not violate a narrow provision of the Illinois Constitution that prohibits the passage of "special legislation," or laws that apply only to certain classes of individuals.

At the federal level, however, decisions so far have been mixed. Two separate district court judges in the Northern District of Illinois rejected constitutional challenges to the law and refused to block enforcement of either the state ban or local bans enacted in Naperville and Chicago.

But in April, a judge in the Southern District of Illinois granted a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the law on the grounds that it likely violates the Second Amendment.

Those three cases were later consolidated at the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, where a three-judge panel Nov. 3 that the law could remain in force while challenges to it are being considered.

That is the decision now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court, which so far has declined to issue its own preliminary injunction to block enforcement of the law while the cases are being heard.

Legal challenges are also pending against assault weapon bans in other states, but a spokesperson for the National Association for Gun Rights, one of the leading organizations challenging those laws, said Monday the Illinois case is the only one currently poised to be taken up by the Supreme Court.

If the court agrees to take the case, oral arguments would be scheduled for the term that begins in October. A decision against hearing the appeal would leave the Seventh Circuit's decision from November in place.

## REAL ESTATE NOTICE

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

THE ESTATE OF EARLE M. MOOTE, BY ITS INDEPENDENT EXECUTORS SCOTT MOOTE AND, KEVIN M. MOOTE  
Plaintiff,

-v.-  
SUSAN K. BUNNELL, WILLIAM W. SCOTT, ALL NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS AND UNKNOWN OWNERS  
Defendant

21 CH 28

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 3, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:00 PM on July 12, 2024, at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Ave. (West Door), FREEPORT, IL, 61032, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 1075 APPALOOSA DRIVE, FREEPORT, IL 61032

Property Index No. 89-18-13-26-277-003

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$178,508.46.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation.

No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours.

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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.

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minium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1). 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.

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For information, contact MARY M. VINCENT, VINCENT LAW OFFICE Plaintiff's Attorneys, 125 E. MAIN STREET, WARREN, IL, 61087 (815) 745-2624.

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Case # 21 CH 28  
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(Published in The Shopper's Guide  
June 12, 19 & 26, 2024)

457065

## Timberlake Playhouse continues 63<sup>rd</sup> season with Cole Porter

Timber Lake Playhouse (TLP), the premier professional summer theatre of north-west Illinois, sets sail with the delightful, Tony Award-winning *Anything Goes* from June 27 to July 7. This splendid madcap musical comedy stars Broadway's Heather Parcells as Reno Sweeney and Scott Cote as Moonface Martin in a hilarious shipboard romp wrapped in one of Cole Porter's most magical scores.

TLP's production of *Anything Goes* is directed by TLP Artistic Director, Tommy Ranieri. Ranieri directed

last season's successful *9 to 5: The Musical*. He is joined on the creative team by Music Director Matthew W. Surico, Choreographer Lauren Kadel, Scenic Designer and TLP Alumn Spencer Donovan, Costume Designer Thomas J.C. Gluodenis, and Lighting Designer Erik Herskowitz. Props are designed by Gabe Seplow and sound design is by Rory Shea. Kyle Simkins returns to TLP as Technical Director, Julia Grace Kelley is Production Manager, and Meg Rosenberg will assume the role of Production Stage

Manager.

The cast features Heather Parcells as Reno Sweeney, Sitare Sadeghi as Hope Harcourt, Nancy Teerlinck as Mrs. Harcourt, Adam Brett as Billy Crocker, Mark Woodard and Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, Fred Frabota as Eli Whitney, Gabriela Hernandez as Erma, and Scott Cote as Moonface Martin. Also in the cast are TLP Resident Company members Caroline Lynch Desmarais, Morgan Milone, Malai-ka Wanjiku, Anya Katherine Jones, Gabe Seplow, Emma Theriot, Kyle Ahmeer Bethea,

Sawyer Coffin, Jack Cate-na, Joshua Credle, Matthew Hommel, and Lucas Diego Marinetto.

Music, dance, laughs and the age-old tale of boy meets girl... *Anything Goes* is delightful, delicious and de-lovely!

Information and tickets for all Timber Lake events are available online at [www.timberlakeplayhouse.org](http://www.timberlakeplayhouse.org) or by calling the Box Office at 815-244-2035. The Box Office is open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and through intermission on performance days.

## • Closure (Continued from page 13)

Logan, a multi-security women's prison, currently houses more than 1,000 individuals. Formerly incarcerated women testified on Thursday that relocating the prison to the Stateville site would help the 40 percent of residents who are from the several counties that comprise the Chicagoland area.

But Logan employees balked at that idea, even citing an individual in custody with a life sentence and mental health issues who has been worried that a move north would mean she would never again see her mother, who is located downstate. The state's only other wom-

en's prison in Decatur is currently a minimum-security prison.

At the June 14 hearing, Sen. Don DeWitte, R-St. Charles, said he cannot support the plans with "so many unanswered questions."

"To suggest that I've been disappointed with how this process has played out would be an understatement," he said.

IDOC officials contend the rebuilds are necessary considering an ongoing class action lawsuit filed in the Northern District of Illinois, and other court rulings the department says forced it to build new, safer facilities.

Pritzker and his administration also echoed that sentiment – and included a \$900 million line item for capital improvements at Stateville and Logan, which house about 1,500 individuals, in the upcoming fiscal year budget.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees union representing employees at both prisons agrees the prisons need to be rebuilt but disagrees with moving their jobs, along with individuals in custody, to other prisons while rebuilds happen.

Michael Newman, deputy director of AFSCME Council

31, said the union needs more answers.

"We're not arguing that the state-built facility that exists now is the right kind of facility for the long-term, what we're talking about is how you get from here to there," Newman said at a news conference ahead of Tuesday's Joliet hearing. "Let's do it in a rational, smart way to assure safety and the best conditions for both employees and incarcerated individuals."

AFSCME says about 1,000 workers are directly threatened by potential closures at both facilities.

*Jerry Nowicki contributed.*

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## SCHEDULE

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- 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Food/Craft Booths and Mobile Bingo - Open at 9 a.m.
- Kiddie Tractor Pull - 11 a.m.
- Bounce Houses - 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
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