Serving the communities in Fo Daviess County

# the Scoop Today



**VOL. 90 • NO. 30** 

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024



JO DAVIESS COUNTY FARM BUREAU FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishir

#### Farm Fun Day

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau held their Farm Fun Day on Saturday, July 13, 2024. The event took place at the Shenandoah Riding Center. The day was filled with a variety of farm activities and attendees could milk a cow, make ice cream and butter,

Postal Customer \*\*ecrwss

visit the petting zoo, create a circle of earth bracelet, and much more.



YOUR LOCAL, TOTAL ENERGY SOLUTION!

Deanna Rae Smith, age 68, of Stockton, IL passed away Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at OSF St. Anthony's Hospital in Rockford, IL. She was born in Chicago, IL on April 4, 1956, to LaVern and Donna (Lloyd) Stockwell. Deanna married Roger Smith on July 21, 1973.

Deanna was a member of Calvary Church of Stockton and the PBGV Club of America. She was a hard worker, starting at the age of 12 working at The Lantern in Stockton. She worked for All Rental Garments in Rockford, Eaton's in Warren, the Pharmacy at Hartigs in Stockton, she retired as Maintenance Director from the Stockton School District then went on to work at ACE Hardware in Stockton and lastly, at Fritz Nursery in Stockton. Deanna loved fishing, flowers, gardening, crocheting, and animals, often taking in strays. She groomed dogs for 12 years and showed dogs most of her

Deanna is survived by her husband, Roger Smith



moth-Donna Stockwell of Stockton; daugh-Jody (Kevin) Bausic of Pecatonica;

her son, Steve (Amy) Smith of Stockton; her brother, Brian Stockwell of Rockford; and her grandchildren, Hannah Smith, Bryce Smith, Kyla Bausic, Taya Bausic, and Jennika Bausic. She was preceded in death by her father, LaVern; and her sister, Diane Dolin.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, July 19, 2024, at Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton at 11 a.m. There will be a visitation on Thursday, July 18, 2024, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. also at the Funeral Home. Interment will take place at Ladies Union Cemetery in Stockton. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.

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#### of Stockton; MARY EVELYN **WILLIAMS**

Mary Evelyn Williams, 99, formerly of Lena and Nora, passed away July 10, 2024, at Parkview Home, Freeport. She was born May 30, 1925, the daughter of Henry J. Campbell and Anne (Foley) Campbell in Gratiot, WI township. She attended the White School down the road from the family farm and graduated Gratiot High School in 1943. She attended Platteville State Teachers College, graduating in 1945. Evelyn taught elementary school in Shullsburg, WI for two years.

On February 10, 1948, she married Jack F. Williams at St. Joseph Rectory in Gratiot. They farmed near Nora for 36 years before retiring to Lena in 1984 and enjoyed over 68 years of married life.

Evelyn was a member of St. Ann's Catholic Church in Warren where she was an Altar and Rosary Society member and catechism teacher. With the move to Lena, she became a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Evelyn volunteered at the Lena location of the Golden Meals



program many for years. She was a fan of the Chicago Cubs/Bears/ Bulls and the Wisconsin Badgers.

Mary Evelyn is survived by her two sons, Don (Judy) of DePere, WI and Tim of Monroe, WI; grandson, Chris of Avon, CO; nephews Dan (Mary) Schneider and Kelly Scnheider among many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; one step grandson Spencer (Cassandra) VanStraten and four step great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her husband Jack in 2016, her parents, three brothers (Cecil 'Ned", Art and Charles "Bud" Campbell), sister (Annette Schneider) grandson (Chad), step grandson (Ben VanStraten) and former daughterin-law (Suzanne).

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of Parkview Home-Health Center West for their care of Mom over the last four years (two of those years during the difficult pandemic). Your kindness and dedication will always be remembered.

Private family services will be held. Burial will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Lena, IL. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

# Bank awards scholarships to area students

Apple River State Bank and First Community Bank of Galena recently awarded \$1,000 college scholarships to six area high school graduates. These students include Joseph Heller (Galena High School), Ruby Dickerson (River Ridge High School), Anniston Werner (Scales Mound High School), Wyatt Janecke (Warren High School), Allyson Stanton (Southwestern High School), and Jessica De la Fuente (Darlington High School).

Heller is the son of Chad and Lynn Heller. He will attend South Dakota State University and major in banking/finance. Dickerson is the daughter of Jay and Hillary Dickerson. Ruby will attend Monmouth College and major in elementary education. Werner is the daughter of Brad and Keri Werner. She plans to attend the University of Wisconsin at La-Crosse and major in accounting and finance. Janecke is the son of Brett and Sara Janecke. Wyatt will attend Iowa State University and major in optometry. Stanton is the daughter of Isaac and Buffy Stanton. She plans to attend the University of Dubuque and major in nursing. De la Fuente will attend Southwest Wisconsin Technical College in Fenni-



Heller





**Anniston** Werner



Wyatt Janecke



Stanton



**Fuente** 

more and major in accounting.

scholarships, the bank's Trust

Department has awarded two-

\$1,000 scholarships from the

Earl, Vera, and Hal Heller Ed-

ucational Trust. The recipients

are Nick Handfelt, son of Jenny and Chuck Handfelt, will

attend Southwest Wisconsin Technical College for weld-

ing; and Tyler Temperly, son

of Jessica and Brett Temperly,

will attend Southwest Wis-

consin Technical College to

become an electro-mechanical

technician.

In addition to these six

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**News briefs** 

#### Lena Business and **Professional Association**

#### Lena Business and Professional Association (LPBA). together with Atkins Energy Ethanol + Biodiesel, will host LPBA After Hours on July 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. The event will include plant tours. family catch and release fishing, hot dogs and ice cream.

#### **Brudi Family Reunion**

The 99th Brudi Family Reunion will be held Sunday. July 28, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 625 Country Lane Dr., Lena, IL. at 12:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and table service. Lemonade and coffee will be available. Call Cindy at 815-369-4744 for more info.

Please join us in Larry C. Nichols October 22, 2023 July 20, 2024

2:00 p.m.

306 E. Hickory St. | Apple River, IL | 61001

We will be gathering to share some of our favorite memories, our stories, to laugh, to cry, and remember these two wonderful men, who will greatly be missed.

1915 S. Kent Road | Pearl City nathan@selecthardwoods.net

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# Former GOP state lawmaker, candidate for governor sentenced to 42 months in prison

#### Sam McCann abruptly ended February trial in guilty plea for stealing campaign funds

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Former Republican State Sen. Sam McCann was sentenced to 42 months in federal prison July 9 for stealing nearly \$700,000 in campaign funds and attempting to conceal his theft with false reports to state election author-

February, McCann pleaded guilty to seven counts of wire fraud and one count each of money laundering and tax evasion – but only after prosecutors had spent nearly three days presenting evidence against him at trial.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Lawless hearkened back to that moment as she was handing down her sentence, saying McCann's refusal to 'accept responsibility" until the last possible moment factored into her calculation for prison time. She also told Mc-Cann she was bothered that he 'continued to steal" all while 'holding yourself out (to be) a God-fearing public servant."

of your stump speech and your public persona," Lawyou said it over and over does not make it true."

McCann appeared in Lawless' courtroom clad in the gray-and-black striped uniform of the Macon County Jail, where he's been held since shortly before his trial began in February. The judge had ordered him detained when he disobeyed her directives after his sudden unexplained hospitalization on the eve of trial further delayed court proceedings, and she declined to release him on home confinement after his guilty plea to await sentencing.

But in addressing Lawless on July 9, McCann said he was "thankful" for his time in jail because of the relationships he was developing with other detainees and correctional officers. He also said he was coming to understand how some of the votes he took during his eight years in the

"That may have been part General Assembly translated to real-world policy that contributed to his fellow deless said. "But just because tainees' involvement with the criminal justice system.

"I'd trust these men more than some of my colleagues in Illinois government," Mc-Cann said of his fellow de-

A 'brazen...fraud'

McCann was elected to the Illinois Senate in 2010, and then twice more in 2012 and 2016. During his eight years in office, McCann represented a rural district spanning from Springfield westward to the Missouri border, sometimes breaking from his own party to vote in the interest of organized labor-a key constituency for Democrats.

McCann's disagreements with GOP leadership ultimately led to him leaving the Republican Party and forming his own "Conservative Party." In 2018, McCann ran on his new third-party ticket for governor, garnering \$3 million from the International Union of Operating Engineers-a funding move seen as a strategic way to draw votes away from then GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner, who was deeply unpopular with organized labor.

Though prosecutors alleged McCann's illegal campaign it ramped up in 2018, coinciding with McCann's run for governor and accompanying infusion of cash.

The government's evidence included checks and bank statements showing Mc-Cann used campaign money to pay two mortgages and delinquent loans in addition to helping finance multiple vehicles and vacations. Mc-Cann also fraudulently cut himself checks for work not performed and double-dipped on reimbursement for miles driven

During the summer of 2018, federal agents approached McCann about his campaign spending, but he denied any wrongdoing. In several hours of FBI recordings of the meetings played during trial, McCann stumbled over his explanations about why his campaign was paying to lease RVs and properties McCann personally owned, while the agents warned him that lying to them could land him in hot

Even so, Assistant U.S. Attorney Tim Bass reminded Judge Lawless on Tuesday, McCann kept spending the campaign money all the way up through mid-2020, including buying another RV and

spending dated back to 2015, cutting himself regular checks from the basically defunct Conservative Party of Illinois long after losing his bid for governor.

Bass said the continuation of illegal campaign fund spending even after multiple interviews with federal agents was McCann's "most brazen" act of "fraud."

"This wasn't a one-off. This wasn't an anomaly," Bass said. "He continued to use campaign funds for his personal expenses up to the point where there was nothing

McCann was indicted in early 2021, two years after he left public office after his failed third-party run for governor. He spent the next three vears after charges were filed against him maintaining his innocence, refusing multiple plea agreements and eventually electing to represent himself at trial after burning through multiple court-appointed attorneys. Ultimately, however, McCann accepted legal representation after his sudden hospitalization on the eve of his already-delayed trial in February.

On July 9, attorney Jason Vincent asked Lawless for 12 months in prison-way below the sentencing guidelines that suggested an imprisonment of between 37 and 46 months. Bass had asked Lawless to give McCann the maximum 46 months.

Vincent argued that Mc-Cann had already "been disgraced through his own actions" and pointed to the number of pre-sentencing letters of support he'd received from McCann's family, friends and even former constituents.

While Lawless said the show of support from Mc-Cann's family was encouraging, the judge said she ultimately viewed his actions in the larger context of other public corruption cases.

"Greed coupled with the abuse of power has become expected of public servants," she said.

In addition to his prison sentence, McCann was also ordered to pay \$683,816.61 in restitution, which will be split between Local 150 and the Illinois Education Association, which gave to McCann for his campaigns prior to 2018.



"We're Off to See the Wizard (Follow the Yellow Brick Dorothy and her friends will have you trotting delightfully and tunefully down that fabled Yellow Brick Road. Information and tickets for all Timber Lake events are available online at 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.

Wizard of Oz at Timber

Lake Playhouse

Timber Lake Playhouse (TLP), the premier

The most beloved tale of all time comes to life

on stage! Based on the 1939 film of the same name, the musical is based on L. Frank Baum's novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz." The story of a Kansas farm

girl who travels over the rainbow has entertained

audiences for generations with songs like "Over the

Rainbow," "Munchkinland (Ding Dong! The Witch Is Dead)," "If I Only Had a Brain/a Heart/the Nerve," and

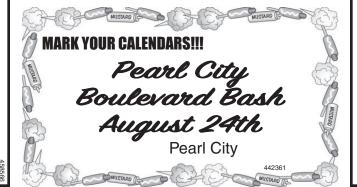
professional summer theatre of northwest Illinois, becomes a Merry Old Land for this summer's The Wizard of Oz for three weeks of performances from July 11 through July 28.

> The family of Lorraine Runkle requests a card shower to honor her on the occasion of her 80th birthday on July 20th.

Please send cards & memories to: Lorraine Runkle 1910 N. Kent Rd. Kent, IL 61044

Thank you for helping to make this a fabulous milestone birthday.

A special thank you to everyone for making my 90th Birthday such a Special Day by stopping by to see me. A day I will never forget. A special thank you to my family for planning this for me. Clyde Eden



# **Check Out Our Large**

#### Selection of Summer Sandals!

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#### THE SCOOP TODAY

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# **OPINION**









# Pritzker 'all in' for Biden following visit to White House By Jerry Nowicki Trump, which raised concerns Biden. I think you've seen I've But despite some member

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker said last week he is "all in" for President Joe Biden after visiting the White House with other Democratic governors.

He headed to Washington, D.C., to meet with the president and members of the Democratic Governors Association July 3 on the heels of Biden's performance during the first of two scheduled debates with former President Donald about the president's mental acuity.

The governors were seeking reassurances of Biden's viability as a candidate following the June 27 debate performance.

On July 9, Pritzker said the exchange between Biden and the Democratic governors was 'a robust discussion"—and he's "all in" for Biden.

"Listen: Joe Biden is our nominee. I am for Joe Biden. I've been campaigning for Joe

got dates scheduled to go to Indiana, to Ohio for Joe Biden," he said at an unrelated event July 9.

Pritzker, who is frequently named as a potential Biden replacement should the campaign reach that point, was scheduled to speak at the Indiana Democratic Party's Hoosier Hospitality Dinner in Indianapolis on July 12 before heading at the Ohio Democratic Party's Family Reunion in Columbus on July 13.

And he said he wouldn't engage in "hypotheticals" when asked if he'd be interested in replacing Biden should he drop out of the race.

What we're doing is talking about why it's important to reelect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, and why it's important to defeat Donald Trump, who's trying to take away your freedoms, who's trying to send jobs overseas, and frankly, would be bad for the economy and bad for working families, Pritzker said.

Pritzker said "it's not unreasonable" for opinions to differ on the president's performance and political chances following the debate.

There were questions of the president. He answered those questions. You know, some people came away with different impressions, maybe," Pritzker said of Biden's meeting with the governors.

But despite some members of Congress calling for Biden to step aside—including U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley of Chicago—Pritzker said he believes Democrats are united in their efforts to defeat Trump.

He added that his advice to Biden was to "go out there and answer all the questions," and to "show people that he is the leader of the free world.'

"I think that, obviously, the president had a bad performance at a debate—that doesn't help anybody. He knows that," Pritzker said. "And what you have to do is stand up, say 'I didn't do it well,' which I think he's said, and prove people wrong about what they want to say about him. And he's doing that."

It was a similar comment to one he made in a recent CNN interview in which he suggested Biden do more public appearances to turn the tide following the debate.

The Democratic National Convention is scheduled for Aug. 19-22 in Chicago, but Democrats plan to nominate Biden prior to that date virtually-a move that is needed to ensure he can appear on the Ohio ballot.

When asked about the possibility of the DNC convention being "brokered" for another candidate, Pritzker said: "I don't expect that to happen. We're going to have an orderly convention.'

#### **Slices of life**

# Let it go

My granddaughter likes to watch a certain movieover and over again. In it, the protagonist belts out a message in song: Let it go.

There's lots to be learned from Elsa.

We should all be better at simply letting it go.

Letting things go. Letting the past go.

Forgive. Forget. Like it

never even happened. (Easier said than done.)

Letting the future go.

Be open to possibilities even the ones you've never considered or imagined. Control is over-rated anyway. (Easier said than done.)

I learned the lesson of letting go awhile back, but I realized it (again) just this morning. I guess it's an idea worth repeating.

Or maybe we just have to remind ourselves over and over. In the midst of the storm. In the midst of the calm. In the midst of whatever life throws your

Let it go.

The plans for today that go thwarted by a flat tire. The relationship that didn't work out. The beach day ruined by rain. The marriage that ended in a bad way. When you planned on chicken for dinner and the grocery store is out of chicken.

When you utter harsh words you wish you could take back. When someone utters harsh words toward you. When you break a window. When you break your word. When the air conditioner breaks down on the hottest day of the year. When an unexpected expense threatens your monthly budget. When someone disappoints you and your heart feels like it is breaking.

When any number of things crop into your day or your week or your life and you sigh because you didn't want or expect that thing or person or event to crop up just then—or ever. But it did.

Just let it go.

Realize fully that you can't change your circumstances. You most often have no control of your circumstances.

But you are in control of something even more powerful than circumstances: how you choose to perceive and react to them. And in that vein, I suggest (sing it with

I understand this isn't easy. I know I am asking a lot. I realize sometimes letting go



By JILL PERTLER

may be unattainable. It is for me some days. But I keep trying. As they say, tomorrow is another day.

In the song from Frozen, Elsa sings, "It's funny how some distance makes everything seem small, and the fears that once controlled me can't get to me at all.'

This pretty much sums up the rationale and benefit behind letting things go.

Time often brings with it the gift of perspective. When we truly understand this, the mundane of the everydayhowever devastating or joyous—is fleeting. And there's no reason to perseverate on the fleeting. Best to experience it and then move on.

Let it go.

Letting go is emancipating. It is breathing when breath was a daily struggle.

It is trusting in the future. It is forgiving the past.

It is making meatloaf for dinner when chicken isn't available.

Letting go is liberating. It is growth.

And there are so many things we can let go.

Let go regrets. Let go drama. Let go trauma.

Let go of the

Let go of the big stuff. Let go of the small stuff.

inconsequential. Let go of the life-changing.

Let go of the benign. Let go of the malignant. Let go yesterday. Let go

today. Let go tomorrow, and the day after that.

Let go thoughts of the way things should be. Let go ideas that don't fit anymore. Let go of anything you can't control (and let's be honest, that is just about everything).

Let go and simply breathe. Life is beautiful. The world is beautiful, if we allow it to be.

And allowing it, most often starts with relinquishing control. With letting go.

It's as simple, and as complicated, as that.

Give it a try. Give it a go. Thanks, Elsa.

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

#### 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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# Around the Northern Hills

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream, especially during July since it's National Ice Cream Month. It's the perfect excuse to eat more ice cream (did we need an excuse?). Here are a few interesting facts about our favorite frozen treat:



**ANNETTE EGGERS** Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

The average American consumes approximately 12 pounds of ice cream each year. California is the largest ice cream consumer in the country with 4,263 ice cream parlors across the state. Twenty-three states chose chocolate as their favorite ice cream. The top five ice cream flavors in Illinois are chocolate, cookie dough, rocky road, neapolitan and cherry.

#### **Cover Crop Field Day**

We will again be holding a field day at Greg Thoren's farm on Friday, August 2 at 11:30 a.m. It will be held at the first field entrance south of 4629 IL Route 78 on the east side of 78 (South of Stockton).

Come see the updates on the multi-year cover crop project. Speakers will include Greg Thoren, owner and host, John Musser, Stephenson Service Co., Art Scheele, AgNetic, UW-Platteville Researchers and more.

#### **Elizabeth Community Fair**

Make sure to come out to the Elizabeth Community Fair the weekend of July19-21. The Young Leaders will be at the Fair on Saturday holding the Kiddie Tractor Pull at 1

#### Farm Fun Day success

We had a great day for our Farm Fun Day at Shenandoah Riding Center in the Galena Territory. A lot of families came out for the morning to milk a cow, see the animals in the Young Leaders' petting zoo bus, make ice cream and butter, take part in the make and take activities and so much more. It's always great to see all of the smiling faces!

#### **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-farm bureau members. Pick-up will be in the farm bureau basement with an anticipated delivery August 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 at www.jodaviesscfb.com and scroll down for a printable order form.

#### 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 and click on membership, then local discounts.

#### Farm Fun Fact:

76% of Illinois land is farmland.

#### INTERNATIONAL LAMP SHOW & SALE



**JULY 26-27, 2024** 

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#### **Church news**

#### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, July 21 for Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Communion will be served. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

On Wednesday, July 24 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 ninth Sunday after Pentecost on Sunday, July 21 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, July 25 at 1 p.m. and to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 9 a.m.

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

Join us for our Outdoor Worship on Sunday, August 4 at the Pearl City Park District shelter. There will be refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and worship will begin at 10 a.m. Special live music will be provided that day as well.

Our Social Ministry group is collecting school supplies for students at Pearl City School through Aug. 11. Items needed include markers, cravons, pencils, colored pencils, glue bottles, rulers, erasers, wireless computer mice, and earbuds. Monetary donations

are also accepted and encouraged.

The July Grace Meal will be on Sunday, July 21. 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, July 21, 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.

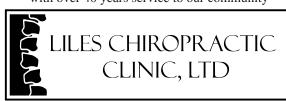
The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet July 24 at 8 a.m. at Garden View Family Restaurant, 101 South Schuyler Street, Lena, IL.

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.

#### **Calvary Church of** Stockton

On Aug. 10 the church will

Your "Main Street Chiropractors" with over 40 years service to our community



Dr. Jared Liles & Dr. Jim Liles

238 W. Main St. • Lena 815-369-4974

M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. • Saturday by Appointment.

 Palmer Graduates • Digital X-Ray

• BCBS, Quartz and Medicare Provider

hold a "Praise in the Park" from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

#### **Rob Melville to speak** at Calvary Church of Stockton

Special Guest speaker, Rob Melville, Area Director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), will speak on Sunday, July 21 at Calvary Church of Stockton during the 10 a.m. Worship Service. Plans are to start a FCA Huddle for the Stockton School District. The public is invited to attend.

#### **Scales Mound UMC** "Young at Heart" features the Peace Seekers music group

Scales Mound United Methodist Church is pleased to host the Peace Seekers at its July "Young at Heart" community gathering on Tuesday, July 23 at 1:30 p.m. This local musical group has gathered musicians throughout the years, and they love to play Gospel, Rock 'n Roll, Folk and more!

Scales Mound UMC is located at 319 Mason St. and holds Young at Heart gatherings on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Each gathering offers refreshments, entertainment and speakers, and great community. Anyone who is

"young at heart" is invited to attend. There is no charge for this event. Please contact Pastor Libby Rutherford at rutherford.libby@gmail.com or 815-990-1428 with any questions.

#### "Love: God, Others, Self!" for Kids at Apple River UMC

Apple River United Methodist church will host "Love: God, Others, Self!", a teacher-designed, creative way for kids to explore different aspects of love, and how they can integrate love into their lives and the lives of others. Each day will be centered around one theme - either loving God, loving others, or loving oneself, with a bible story, kids' literature, innovative art projects, service and lots of snacks. All of this is designed to help kids explore love and build a loving community around them and in them.

"Love: God, Others, Self!" will take place on July 17 through July 19 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., at Apple River UMC, 102 E Baldwin in Apple River. Pre-K through sixth graders are welcome, and a snack is included. There is no charge for this event. Please contact Pastor Libby Rutherford at rutherford.libby@gmail.com or call / text 815-990-1428 with any questions.

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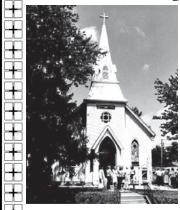
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Homecoming Service #



Sunday, July 28 10 a.m.

Please join us for a time of worship, fellowship and food.

Questions? Call Pastor Dottie at 815-845-2272

Schapville Zion Presbyterian Church 635 E. Schapville Road Elizabeth, IL 61028 • www.schapvillezion.org



Carroll County Longspurs Trapshooting team traveled to Sparta, IL to participate in the Scholastic Clay Trap Program State Trap Shoot.

# 2024 Scholastic Clay Trap Program State Trap Shoot

County Longspurs Trap- lastic Clay Trap Program shooting team traveled to (SCTP) State Trap Shoot.

from age 9-21 competed in took second place. An open took fourth. six classes of 16 yards singles trap.

The team shot 200 birds each over two long rounds and came home with a lot mediate entry squad (first als, the varsity and rookie

squad of Sr. and Jr. varsity shooters took second place. The collegiate squad took first place.

Along with these three to show for it. The Inter- teams receiving med-

Multiple 25, 50, and 75 straight rounds were shot throughout the day. Person- ers and coaches want to al best rounds were plentiful. Coach Brock Wackerlin organizations that sponsor was very pleased with the and support them throughteams' concentration. The

Thirty-two shooters ranging year 6-8 grade shooters) (3-5 grade) squads each national shoot in Ohio will be the next chance for the team to showcase its skills.

All the Longspurs shootthank the numerous local

#### Pearl City Lions awarded the **Global Action Team Honors** for service to community

The Pearl City Lions Club recently concluded their 2023-2024 year. Past President Jeff Thomas and his officer team were congratulated for leading the club through an outstanding year that was highlighted by inducting seven new members and distributing \$54,350 to 36 individuals, local organizations, and Lions national and Illinois charitable causes. Additionally, the club distributed flowers to over 30 community residents and served a free community breakfast attended by over 225 people. In recognition of their past year's achievements, the club was awarded The Global Action Team Honors certificate by Lions International President Dr Patti Hill.

The Pearl City Lions Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Pearl City Fire Station. For more information about the club, or to become a member, please contact the club at pclionsclub@gmail.com.

#### Lena Lions Club 73rd Annual Fall Festival

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Lena Lions Diamond Jubilee Celebration continues with the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Fall Festival. The festival, known as "The Cadillac of Small-Town Festivals", will be held in downtown Lena on Sept. 6 and Sept. 7.

Free entertainment on Friday showcases Sophie Coyote, a singer/songwriter from Waddams Grove, at 7 p.m. Sophie Coyote was raised on a broad range of musical influences including classic, rock and roll, honky-

10% MORE for

tonk, country, and a bit of the blues.

Following the parade on Saturday, the Ukulele Express 815 will perform at 3 p.m. The Ukulele Express 815 is a five-piece ukulele and vocal group from Freeport. The Rock Steady Band will take the stage on Saturday, July 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The band is a family friendly music group performing rock and country hits from the 60's, 70's, and

a 50/50 Cash Raffle. Tickets are available for \$10 each or three for \$20 and can be purchased from Lion members or at the festival. The winning ticket will be drawn on Saturday, Sept. 7 at the close of the festival. A second prize of \$250 Lena Money gift certificate, and third prize of \$100 Lena Money gift certificate will also be awarded.

The Lena Lions will also sell raffle tickets for the 2024 Polaris Ghost Gray UTV SP570 Ranger to be given away on Saturday at approximately 11 p.m. The tickets cost \$10 per ticket or three for \$20. A \$200 Lena Money gift certificate will be awarded as the second prize and a \$100 Lena Money gift certificate will be the third prize.

Skinners Amusements returns for the 64th year with carnival rides for all ages in the downtown parking lot

The festival will also host starting at 6 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday. Merchandise Bingo and the Ham Stand, Lion's operated favorites, will be in their usual places on Main Street. Please note that no pets will be allowed on the midway except for service dogs for people with disabilities. Credit cards will be accepted again this year to purchase ride tickets.

The Lena Lions famous Pork Chop on a Stick", Le-Win Sports Association Food Stand, and other favorites will provide food. Favorites like cotton candy, elephant ears, ice cream, and soft drinks will be available.

The parade will step off from the Old School Apartments at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7. A flyover by the Freeport Pilot's Association will start the parade, taking the same route through town as previous years. High school bands, church floats, Scouts, 4-H groups, antique and classic cars, antique tractors, and area fire trucks will be featured. Kids are encouraged to decorate their bikes and participate in the parade. Parade entry registration starts at 9 a.m. Please, no 4-wheel drive tractors, duals, or semis. A valid driver's license will be required to drive tractors.

For parade registration and information, please contact Bill Crichton at 815-291-9361.

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#### Freeport police reports Aggravated reckless driving arrest

On July 5, 2024, Ethan Weber, a 21-year-old resident of rural Freeport, was served with a felony warrant and complaint for one count of Aggravated Reckless Driving stemming from a traffic accident that occurred on June 4,

On that date at 11:57 a.m., Officers of the Freeport Police Department responded to a traffic accident involving two vehicles at the intersection of Galena Avenue and Iroquois Street. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that Ethan Weber operated a 2007 Chevrolet Corvette with wanton disre-

gard for the safety of persons ness Act. or property, resulting in an accident that caused great bodily harm to another individual.

On July 5, 2024, Ethan Weber was served copies of the warrant and complaint at the Freeport Police Department. Weber was processed at the Police Department and released under the provisions set forth in the Pre-Trial Fair-

#### College news Local students named to

university Spring 2024 Dean's List

#### Augustana College

Adriana Curtiss Shelby Homan Kobe Magee Jenna Revell

#### **Aurora University**

Abigail Weber

#### **Bradley University**

Keegan Strauch Laine Rosenstiel Cody Pitts Ella Williams

#### Clarke University

Sarah Pratt Braden A. Jacobs Ethan R. Kleckler Addison J. Roberts Jennifer E. Swedlund Mitchel J. Coffey

#### Georgia Southern University

Benny Koch

#### lowa State University

Madeline E. Harbach Ashley V. Carroll, Colin J. Greiner Julianna M. Kuzniar Owen Tones Gilbertson Andrew Lynn Kempel Ella Elizabeth Wolfrom Marianna Avery Brenner Isabella A. Kostallari Oliver Phenie Petta Alice Joan Coats

#### Marquette University

Ethan Fye

#### McKendree University's **President's List**

Tessa Tucker

#### University of Iowa

Gennings Dunker Madeline Klippert Daisy Timp Padric Timp Madison Haynes

#### University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Ellie Eden

#### University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Benjamin Vandigo

#### University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Lila Rudisill

#### **University of Wisconsin** Oshkosh

Hanna Brinker

#### University of Wisconsin-**Platteville**

Jamie Schnitzler Nicholas Schnitzler Bryant Keeffer Sam Mock Zoe Barnes **Dustin Oppold** Rachel Young

#### **University of Wisconsin-**Superior

Jessie Oostenryk

#### **Upper Iowa University** Benjamin Werner

#### **Lena Bike** and Pet Parade 2024

The Lena Lions Club will be hosting the second annual Bike and Pet Parade on July 20, 2024. The goal of this family-friendly, free event is to increase diabetes awareness and encourage a healthy, active community. The parade starts at 10 a.m. at the entrance of Citizen's State Bank's parking lot on West Mason Street. It continues down past the library and turns onto North Vernon Street at the triangle and then right onto West Main Street to the downtown parking lot. Prizes will be awarded for best bike decoration, best pet costume and the best human dressed up as a pet costume. Parade participants are to gather in the Citizen's State Bank's parking lot. Please arrive 30 minutes early if you would like to compete for

The fun continues downtown from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. with games for pets and kids of all ages, pet supply vendors and hot dog stand. The Lions of Illinois Foundation will be providing free hearing and retinal screenings at the FHN office at 160 W. Main St. A collection box for used eyeglasses and free blood pressures will be offered there as

More information can be found on the Lena Illinois Lions Club Facebook page.

#### Virgil Swanson Estate Auction

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Mike Powers: 608-214-5761 Dan Powers Sr.: 608-214-3765

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable

#### Felony burglary arrest

On July 10, 2024, at 5:01 a.m., Freeport Police Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of W. Chestnut Street regarding a masked white male who was attempting to break into a garage in the neighborhood. Officers arrived on scene and located

20-year-old Freeport resident four felony charges for Hell-Joshua Heller after he was observed running from the garage that was reported by the witness.

During the course of the investigation, Officers were able to determine that Joshua Heller entered and stole property from two vehicles; one in the 900 block of Monroe Drive and one the 800 block of Jefferson Drive. Officers recovered stolen property in close proximity of where Heller was located after he discarded the stolen property.

The Stephenson County Attorney approved

er that included two counts of Burglary from a Motor Vehicle, Attempted Burglary to a Building and Theft with a Prior Conviction. Heller was placed under arrest and processed at the Police Department. Heller was then taken to the Stephenson County Jail where he was released to jail personnel pending the outcome of a detention hearing.

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

#### U.S. 20 work in Elizabeth begins July 22

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that weather permitting, construction on U.S. 20 in Elizabeth will begin Monday, July 22. The work zone is from Scales Mound Road to East Street.

Work will patch the road. There will be daily lane closures controlled by flaggers during the project, which is expected to be completed Aug.

'Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. To avoid the work area, when feasible, use of alternate routes should be considered. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to changed conditions and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits, refrain from using mobile devices and be alert for workers and equip-

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on X at @ IDOTDistrict2 or view area construction details on IDOT's traveler information map on GettingAroundIllinois.com

## **IRENE BROADDUS** TRUST AUCTION

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REAL ESTATE: Nice 2-Story 3-bedroom Home on 91.5'x150' Corner Lot. 18'x24' Detached Garage.

REAL ESTATE TERMS: \$5,000 down day of auction as earnest money, balance at closing with no contingencies. Home is being offer in "as-is" condition with no warranties. Buyers are welcome to make any inspections at their cost. Buyers will be required to sign an offer to purchase on day of auction.

CAR: 2007 Nissan Murano SL AWD SUV, navy blue, 16,200 miles, 3.5L, V-6, 4-door, tan interior,

GUNS: #1-S.S.P. .380 Pistol with clip; #2-Smith & Wesson 357 Revolver; #3-Sears & Roebuck .22 bolt action; #4-Harrington & Richardson Topper Model 48.28 ga. single shot, full choke; #5-Ceskoslovenska .30 caliber bolt action; #6-Winchester Model 94 30-30 lever action; #7-J.C. Higgins Model 101.7 16 ga. double barrel; #8-Mossberg 12 ga. Pump, full choke; #9-.25 Auto Pistol with clip.

AMMO & MORE: 1-metal ammo box; 2-357 boxes, full; 2-12 ga. shot shell; 28 ga. shot shell; Fiocchi .38 special shells, full box; 2-30-30 shells; 2-30-06 shells; 2-25 auto, full box, full metal case; 2-.22 shells; 2-.38 special; .45 shells; 357 shells; pistol holster; knife with sheath.

COLLECTIBLES: Papal Legacy Proof Coin Collection; Elvis collectibles coins/tokens; Presidential Coin collection; Wheat Pennies, Liberty dollars from 1970s; old nickels & dimes; old time radio collection, Amos & Andy; classic shows cassettes; Terry Redlin tins, From Dusk Till Dawn & America the Beautiful sets; Budweiser & Anheuser Busch wood beer box; Pyrex mixing bowl set; Road Runner Glasses; Chicago Jacket.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS: Crosley Washer & Dryer, Whirlpool electric flat surface stove; Whirlpool Refrigerator with bottom freezer; Bedroom set includes 2-chest of drawers & 2-night stands, nice; China cabinet with drawers & glass doors, very nice; sm. China cabinet; wood kitchen pantry with 4 shelves; dining room table with 6 chairs; beige sofa; coffee tables & end tables; 4-drawer filing cabinet; office chairs; metal office desk; 2-entertainment centers; sm kitchen appliances; microwave; kitchen utensils; China set; Corelle dishes; oversees figurines; vac cleaner.

MISCELLANEOUS: 24" Samsung TV; Panasonic TV/Tape/Radio System; electric floor fan; Radio Shack scanner; DVDs, VHS tapes; asst of cameras; walkie talkies; luggage; AM/FM direct programming scanner; Sony Entertainment; HP computer system; Printer/Scanner; costume jewelry, books, small SentrySafe; clarinet in case; 12x50 Tasco Binoculars; fishing poles; tackle box; lamps; window A/C; window fan; handcuffs.

SHOP TOOLS: Porter Cable Pancake Air Comp., like new; 20hp shop vac; Clarke HD Plus Stack-On Tool Chest with 19 drawers on wheels; Craftsman Circular Saw; Ryobi 20" Hedge Trimmer; sander; old metal Craftsman tool box; Good Year shop stool; saw horses; metal detector; dolly cart; wood step ladder; asst. of hand tools; asst. of lumber.

SNOW, LAWN & GARDEN: Craftsman 8.5 hp 27" Electric Start walk behind Snowblower, like new; garden wagon with drop down sides; yard & garden tools.

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# **Stephenson County Farm Bureau news**

UV Safety Month is observed in July to raise awareness about the dangers of UV radiation and the importance of protecting our skin from the sun's harmful rays. It's a great time to remind everyone, especially agricultural workers, to take precautions when working outdoors to prevent skin cancer. Remember to wear sunscreen, protective clothing, and seek shade whenever possible. Stay safe in the sun!

Wear **Sunglasses:** Protect your eyes from the sun's harmful UV rays by

ing to break into an apart-

ment. When Officers arrived

wearing sunglasses when-UVA and UVB protection. 2. Apply Sunscreen: Make sure to apply sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 to all exposed skin. Reapply every two hours and after swim-

ming or sweating. 3. Check the UV Index: The UV Index is a measure of the strength of the sun's UV radiation at a particular location. Check the index before heading out and if it's high, take extra precautions.

4. Wear Protective Clothing: Cover up with protec-

tive clothing such as wide ever you're outside. Look brimmed hats, loose-fitting for sunglasses that have long-sleeved shirts, and pants when possible. Tightly woven fabrics are best at blocking UV rays.

#### **Peach orders**

Peaches, Peaches! We are excited to share the great news that we will again be able to offer southern Illinois peaches from Rendleman Orchard. The 25-pound box is \$43 for Farm Bureau members, and \$48 for non-members. In addition to the delicious fresh peaches, we will also be offering the infamous

Rendleman Orchard's peach crisp mix for \$8. For county specific information regarding pickup date and order deadline please call 815-232-3186 (Stephenson) or visit www.stephensoncfb.org 815-244-3001(Carroll) www.carrollcfb.org.

#### **Stephenson County** Farm Bureau fair week

Our office will be closed Thursday, July 25 and Friday, July 26. During this time if you need assistance, you can reach Manager Victoria at 815-353-9655.

# Critical incident involving the Freeport Police Department

On July 9, 2024, at 1:36 on scene, they encountered a.m., Officers of the Freeport Police Department were called to a residence at the Mary Hosmer Apartments floor of the building. located in the 600 block of N. Walnut Avenue regarding a female who was attempt-

of Freeport kicking at an apartment door on the third

make contact with Bernice McNair; however, McNair ran away from Officers and entered an elevator. Officers

were able to apprehend Mc-57-year-old Bernice McNair Nair inside of the elevator despite her resisting their efforts to take her into custody by hitting them with a bag Officers attempted to that contained United States Currency.

Once McNair was restrained, Officers observed McNair to be under the in-

fluence of narcotics and also saw she was clenching an offwhite substance inside of her mouth. The Officers on scene then asked the Dispatch Center to send Freeport Fire Department EMS to their location at the Mary Hosmer Apartments. The responding Officers requested to have McNair remove the substance from her mouth, but she refused to do so. Officers also recovered an amount of suspected controlled substances from McNair's person and a bag that was in her possession.

Freeport Fire EMS transported Bernice McNair to FHN Hospital. It is believed at some point, McNair ingested the off-white substance causing a medical emergency. McNair was later pronounced deceased at FHN

The Freeport Police Department has turned over the investigation into this incident to the Illinois State Police Zone 2 Investigations. An update will be released pending the conclusion of the investigation being conducted by the Illinois State Police.

# Pritzker signs health insurance reform measures

#### New law bans practices aimed at lowering insurance payouts

By Peter Hancock CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation July 10 that puts new controls on the state's health insurance industry, including bans on certain practices companies have used to reduce costs by controlling the amount of health care services a patient receives.

The Health Care Protection Act, House Bill 5395, was among Pritzker's top legislative priorities during the justcompleted legislative session.

Pritzker also signed House Bill 2499, which bans the sale of short-term, limited-duration insurance plans in Illinois – policies Pritzker and other critics refer to as "junk insurance" because they are not required to meet the minimum standards under the federal Affordable Care Act.

"For too long, insurance companies have used predatory tactics to make an extra dime at the expense of Illinois consumers," Pritzker said at a bill signing ceremony in Chicago. "For too long, patients have delayed or been denied medically necessary treatments because of profit-driver utilization management practices. For too long, shoddy networks, price gouging and overly complicated bureaucracies have stood in the way of our families getting the care that they deserve. Today, with my signature, Illinois is addressing and rectifying that problem."

Among other things, the Health Care Protection Act bars the use of a restriction known as "step therapy," also known as a "fail first" provision, that requires a patient to try and fail on one or more treatments preferred by the insurance company before they can access a treatment recommended by their doctor.

It also prohibits insurers from requiring prior authorization before a patient can receive emergency inpatient treatment at a psychiatric facility.

'Illinois, by the way, is once again a pioneer, the first state in the nation to do this for adults and children," Pritzker said.

The new law also requires insurers to maintain accurate, up-to-date lists of providers in their networks. And it gives the Illinois Department of Insurance authority to approve or reject proposed premium rate changes in large-group health insurance plans, similar to the authority it already has over smallgroup plans.

See PRITZKER, Page 20

# A Great Big

who have sent a donation to help underwrite the Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide. For those of you who haven't done so in the past year, but enjoy this newspaper and would like to help us pay for its operation, please send a donation in any amount to:

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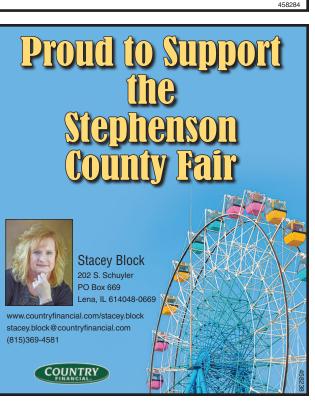


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#### 2024 4-H Project Shows take place at fairgrounds will follow the Dairy Goat cash award, plus a special

The Stephenson County 4-H is gearing up for our summer shows. Even before the official start of the local county fair, most 4-H activities will be taking place at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds. From foods to livestock, and horticulture to rabbits, 4-H members will exhibit many projects at this year's shows. Following is a summary of the activities that are planned:

#### Wednesday, July 17

At 9 a.m. the 4-H General Projects Day will take Friday, July 19 place in the two large commercial buildings out at the fairgrounds. 4-H members will be bringing out their 4-H projects to be judged in a conference-style platform by judges. This will be a full morning of judging projects such as Aerospace, Natural Resources, Visual Arts, Woodworking, and Animal

Science to name a few.

The Sewing and Textiles, Food Decorating, and Flower Arranging Shows will be held at the Highland Community College- Community Resource Building R. The Clothing and Textiles show will begin at 9 a.m. Food Decorating/ Candy Making starts at 9:45 a.m. And lastly, the flower arranging will

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#### Saturday, July 20

The 4-H Horse show will take place at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds. Starting at 8:30 a.m. Feel free to come out and bring lawn chairs to enjoy the show. The Benchwarmer's food truck will be on site with all kinds of food to enjoy.

#### Monday, July 22

A full slate of shows begins at 9 a.m. with Crops, Foods, and Horticulture and Floriculture projects in the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds. Cloverbuds who are five to seven years old will have their projects judged in the 4-H Building starting at 1 p.m.

#### Tuesday, July 23

The day begins with the Rabbit Show at 8:30 a.m. in the Rabbit/Poultry barn. The Poultry show will begin at 8:45 a.m. in the Poultry/ Rabbit barn. The Sheep, Beef, and Swine Shows will begin in their respective barns starting at 9 a.m. At 9:30 a.m. the 4-H Dairy and Dairy Goat Show will take place in their respective barns. The Meat Goat Show

A fun evening of activities is scheduled for 4-H families inside of the 4-H building, taking place from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday evening. Trophy winners will be announced, and the 2024 4-H Hall of Fame nominee as well as the Diamond and Emerald Clover Experience winners will be recognized. There will be games, activities, and root beer floats. All of 4-H members and families are invited to come out for a fun evening.

#### Saturday, July 27

The Master Showmanship Contest will begin at 1 p.m. in the swine show ring. This contest is coordinated by the Stephenson County Farm Bureau and the Stephenson County 4-H. 4-H members ages 14-18 (as of 9/1/2023), who are enrolled in a livestock project through 4-H may participate. Registration is required by July 24.

Master Showmanship is a contest where 4-H members will show a sheep, pig, and beef animal and are individually scored on how they did with each species. The top two winners will receive a

prize, provided by the Stephenson County Farm Bu-

Throughout the week of the Stephenson County Fair the 4-H building will be full of 4-H projects on display for our community to come and see what the local 4-H members have worked so hard on! There will be a coloring table for youngsters, and hands-on activities at 3 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, yard games that will change daily, and a fun lifesized straw couch.

There will also be a couple of contests going on including a Garbology contest where 4-H members paint garbage cans to promote the theme 4-H. Be sure to look for these cans throughout the fairgrounds. Returning this year, the 10 local 4-H clubs will be decorating a round bale at the fairgrounds. Each club is doing its own theme. Each decorated Hay Bale will have a yard sign with a QR code on it for visitors to scan and vote on the spot for their favorite hay bale at the fair. Awards include 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place, along with a people's choice award.

Lastly, the 4-H Ambassadors are collecting Canned Goods for their Food Drive Campaign for our local food pantries this summer. Non-perishable canned food items in will be collected in the 4-H building during the week of the fair. Please feel free to bring non-perishable canned food items to the 4-H building and drop them in the box Tuesday through Saturday. All donations will be donated to the local food pantries within Stephenson County.

# Receive your FREE copy of the Scoop Today every week by email or mail!

PAINT AND BODY @

301 Dodds Drive, Lena, IL

815-369-4148

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Mail to: The Scoop Today, c/o Rock Valley Publishing, 1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115 OR send by email to: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com For out of county subscription rates call 815-369-4112



#### **Don't Forget!**

School exams are required for students entering kindergarten, 2nd, 6th and 9th grades

\$25.00 school exams and x-rays

> Friday, August 2 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. By appointment only



**Dr. Stephen Petras** 

**Stockton Dental Center** 

120 West Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085

815-947-3700

Licensed Illinois General Dentist

FDIC

Support these businesses and come to the Elizabeth Community Fair - July 19-21









# Apple River STATE BANK Located In Elizabeth Hanover 815-858-2225 815-591-2201 www.appleriverstatebank.com www.communitybankgalena.com Locally Owned, Independent, full service loans. HAVE FUN AT THE FAIR

# THE 103RD ELIZABETH COMMUNITY FAIR

#### FRIDAY, JULY 19

7:00 a.m. Steer Weigh-in
9:00 a.m. Dairy & Sheep Show
10:00 a.m. Crafts & Gardening
Judging
1:00 p.m. Dairy Goat Show
7:00 p.m. Fantasy Truck Pullers
(weigh-in beginning at 5:00 p.m.)

#### PARADE INFORMATION

Parade theme "Boots, Jeans &
Country Dreams"
Saturday, July 20th
Grand Marshalls: Former Mayor
Mike Dittmar & family
Line up at 9:30 a.m.
Parade Steps off at 11:00 a.m.
Categories include: Floats, Kids,
Antique Cars & Tractors
\$1,000 in Prizes!

For information contact Jason Thomasson at 815-930-4425

JULY 19, 20, 21 2024

#### **SATURDAY, JULY 20**

8:00 a.m. Beef Show begins - heifers and steers to follow
11:00 a.m. Parade Sponsored by the Elizabeth Chamber of
Commerce and Apple River State Bank
Noon - Free Lunch for first 500 people
Prepared by The Jo Daviess County Beef Association
and sponsored by Citizens State Bank
Noon - 2:00 p.m. Music by Betty Calling
Noon - 5:00 p.m. Bingo - Cash Prizes and More!
1:00 p.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull by the Jo Daviess County
Young Leaders. Sign up at 12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. Ag Games by River Ridge FFA
2:00 - 5:00 Music by the Resistors

3:00 p.m. Elizabeth's Best BBQ Competition Public Tasting
6:00 p.m. The Elizabeth Community Fair Queen, Teen Miss,
Junior Miss & Little Miss/Mister Pageant
7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Home Grown Wrestling
8:30 p.m. Midnight Music by the Deal Breakers

Throughout the weekend: Great Food, Vendors, Carnival Rides, Antique Tractor and Farm Demonstrations, Music, Beer Tent and More!

#### SUNDAY, JULY 21

9:00 a.m. Community Church Service-St. Paul Lutheran Church 10:00 a.m. Bean Bag Tournament Sponsored by G.E.A.R. 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Bingo

Noon - Fantasy Truck Pullers

(weigh-in beginning at 10:00 am.)
4:00 p.m. Ice Cream Eating
Contest by Three Sisters Sweet
Shoppe

4:30 p.m. ComedySportz Quad
Cities

Stick around for the Pie and Cake Auction

#### **ADMISSION**

\$15 Adult Season Pass \$10 Child (11-17) Season Pass \$10 Daily Adult \$5 Daily Child (11-17) 10 & Under FREE

Check out our website! www.elizabethcommunityfair.com





#### Inclusive Goat Show at Stephenson County Fair

The Stephenson County Fair is thrilled to announce the "Shine Bright Like a Star Inclusive Goat Show," an event dedicated to fostering inclusion and participation in agricultural activities for youth and young adults with disabilities. Scheduled for Friday, July 26 at 4 p.m. in the Dairy Goat Ring, this unique event will pair participants aged 8-21 with peer mentors and provide goats for the show. This initiative highlights the fair's commitment to accessibility and community engagement. If interested in participating in this event, please contact the Stephenson County Fair office at 815-235-2918.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Support these businesses and come to the Stephenson County Fair - July 23 - 27



COUNTRY Financial® is proud to support the 2024 Stephenson County Fair



FDIC

Deb Brown

Lena

deb.brown@countryfinancial.com

(815)369-2881

0421-058MM 07764-7/10/2024



## Enjoy the Stephenson County FairI



216 W. Main St. Lena • 815-369-5549 HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sat. 8:30 a.m. - noon devoefloral@yahoo.com







# Spinhirne Transfer 815-275-4215

Enjoy the Stephenson County Fair!







#### Brandon's Hardware & Rental



Have a great time at the Fair!!!

145 W. Railroad St. • Lena 815-369-5542



Stagecoach Trail Storage
We have reasonable rates on clean, secure units.



Gary & Aileen Schreiner **PHONE:** 815-369-4794 12410 W. Galena Road Stagecoach Trail, Lena, IL 61048

40009

# GAME PAGE

4	6				2		9	
						4		3
	8		4					
							5	
	2			1	5		8	
	7	1			8		2	
		2						8
6			3					7
7			2				6	9

Level: Intermediate

			5			2		4
	9		6				7	5
8		3	2					
		2				4	5	
		5		4				1
7			1		8			
	5	1	9		6			
					2	6		

Level: Advanced

#### **SUDOKU Fun by the Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test! Here's How It **Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid. broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

### TAKE A TRIP WORD SEARCH

G ٧ Χ Ι F D 0 Ι U Ε Ι 0 W U S Ε U U U N 0 G Ι Ε C Ρ F S G ٧ C K X Ε Τ Ι Н G Ι Υ G S S Т В D R G Ι Ι ٧ P 0 Ι U S K C В K Ι 0 0 М 0 G Α U Α G Ρ G R C Ε N C Ε C Ε 0 X Τ X D Υ U X C Α C Υ Ε L R Ι S S 0 Ε Ι Ε Ε G S 0 Ε М М Ι 0 G ٧ U G Ρ 0 0 Ι R N C Α Н В L Υ D L Н N Υ ٧ N Н М

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

**AIRPORT** ALL-INCLUSIVE **CRUISE DEPARTURE** DESTINATION **EMBARK HIGHWAY HOLIDAY** HOTEL INTERNATIONAL **ITINERARY** LANDING LUGGAGE **MEMORIES PACKING POSTCARD** RELAXATION RESORT **ROAD TRIP ROOM SIGHTS TAKE-OFF TRAIN** 

VACATION

#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 4. Cause to become entangled
- 10. Swiss river
- 11. Conversation
- 12. "Magnum" was one
- 14. Small integer
- 15. Christmas
- 16. Of a specific mountain region
- 18. Burrowing bugs
- 22. Of a symbol worthy of veneration
- 23. A type of syndrome 24. Cephalopod mollusks
- 26. Metric ton
- 27. Ornamental box
- 28. As quickly as can be done
- 30. "Hoop Dreams" subject Arthur
- 31. Old TV part
- 34. Extinct flightless birds
- 36. Former CIA
- 37. Successor
- 39. Archaic form of you
- 40. Within
- 41. Danny Hurley's alma mater
- 42. Not sacred or biblical
- 48. Written law
- 50. Popular hairstyle
- 51. Congressman
- 52. Type of font
- 53. A predetermined period in office
- 54. Pouch
- 55. Hormone that stimulates ovulation (abbr.)
- 56. One from a particular Asian
- 58. One's sense of self-esteem
- 59. Headgear used to control a horse
- 60. The habitat of wild animals

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. A right conferred through legal
- 2. American island state

- 10 14 15 16 18 22 23 24 26 28 30 34 37 38 40 42 48 51 52 58 56 59 60
- 3. Inflexibly entrenched
- 4. "Pollock" actor Harris
- 5. Foolish person
- 6. Follows a particular Chairman
- 7. Choose
- 8. Sunrooms
- 9. One hundred grams (abbr.)
- 12. A symptom of some physical
- hurt or disorder 13. South American hummingbird
- 17. "Girl Chopping Onions" painter
- 19. Wild dog 20. Units of land
- 21. Footwear
- 25. Possessing a constant temperature

- 29. Hormone that promotes water retention (abbr.)
- 31. Popular game
- 32. Pension (German)
- 33. Giant of industry
- Inferred
- 38. One who revolves
- 41. Kept possession of
- 43. Loss of electricity
- 44. Stoppered bottle
- 45. Everything
- 46. First to walk on the moon
- 47. Engrave
- 49. Female organs
- 56. Equal to 1,024 bytes (abbr.)
- 57. Northeast

THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE Wednesday, July 17, 2024

IN THE CIRCUIT

**COURT OF THE** 

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL

**CIRCUIT** 

**STEPHENSON** 

COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ASSOCIATION,

PLAINTIFF,

LINN PERKINS,

RATKOVICH,

DECEASED;

REPRESENTATIVE

UNKNOWN HEIRS

RATKOVICH; TRICIA

A HALTER; ROBERT J

RATKOVICH; BRIAN

**ILLINOIS HOUSING** 

UNKNOWN OWNERS

NO. 2023FC53

145 NORTH WHISTLER

AVENUE FREEPORT, IL

NOTICE OF SALE

**PURSUANT TO** 

JUDGMENT OF

**FORECLOSURE** 

**UNDER ILLINOIS** 

**MORTGAGE** 

FORECLOSURE ACT

pursuant to a Judgment of

Foreclosure and Sale en-

tered by the Court in the

above entitled cause on

February 20, 2024, will

on August 20, 2024, in

Stephenson County Court-

house 15 N. Galena Ave

(West Door), Freeport, IL

61032, at 9:30 AM, sell at

public auction and sale to

the highest bidder for cash,

all and singular, the follow-

ing described real estate

mentioned in said Judg-

ment, situated in the Coun-

ty of Stephenson, State of

Illinois, or so much thereof

as shall be sufficient to sat-

NORTH

TY (60) FEET OF LOT

IN POWELL AND WAD-

DELL'S SUBDIVISION

OF THE EAST HALF

(1/2) OF THE NORTH-

EAST QUARTER (1/4)

OF SECTION 36, TOWN-

SHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE

7 EAST OF THE FOURTH

PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN,

THE PLAT OF WHICH

SUBDIVISION IS RE-

CORDED IN BOOK 26

OF DEEDS ON PAGE

(28)

isfy said Judgment:

TWENTY-EIGHT

THE

NOTICE IS

**GIVEN** 

AND NON-RECORD

**DEFENDANTS** 

AND LEGATEES

OF PATRICIA L.

R RATKOVICH;

DEVELOPMENT

**AUTHORITY**;

CLAIMANTS,

61032

**PUBLIC** 

OF PATRICIA LOUISE

VS.

**SPECIAL** 

#### **LEGAL NOTICES**

267 IN THE RECORD- LINOIS ER'S OFFICE OF STE-**PHENSON** COUNTY. ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, **COUNTY** OF STEPHENSON AND U.S. BANK NATIONAL STATE OF ILLINOIS. TAX NO. 18-13-36-226-

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 145 North Whistler Avenue Freeport, IL 61032 Description of Improvements: White vinyl siding, detached garage The Judgment amount

was \$87,897.07. Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS. The subject property

is subject to general real

estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of

the bid amount, the pur-

chaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will In Re the Matter of the entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. The successful purchaser

has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal

fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-SESSION, IN ACCOR-DANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE IL-

For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please

refer to file# 23-16149IL

PURSUANT TO THE

FORECLOSURE LAW.

FAIR DEBT COLLEC-TION PRACTICES ACT, single family ranch with THE PLAINTIFF'S AT-TORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLEC-TOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND **INFORMATION ANY** WILL BE USED FOR

THAT PURPOSE.

required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale. I3246652 (Published in

The Shopper's Guide

July 10, 17 & 24, 2024)

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON

Estate of: Patricia A. Curran Deceased. No. 24-PR-45

**COUNTY-IN PROBATE** 

NOTICE FOR **PUBLICATION** -CLAIMS Notice is given of the death of Patricia A. Curran, of Lena, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June 21, 2024, to:

James R. Curran 501Anson St. Warren, Illinois 61087 as independent Executor of the Estate of Patricia A. Curran, whose attorney is Anthony V. Coon Attorney At Law 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210

Freeport, Illinois 61032 The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 28.4 of the Probate Act (7551LCS 5/28-4), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to the Clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office

MORTGAGE of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before January 6, 2025, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Date: June 26, 2024. James R. Curran, Executor By: Anthony V. Coon

Anthony V. Coon,

Attorney At Law

Anthony V. Coon, #6269568 Attorney at Law Plaintiff's attorney is not 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210 Freeport, IL 61032 815-235-2212 Fax 815-232-5500 tonycoonlaw@aol.com (Published in The Shopper's Guide July 3, 10 & 17, 2024)

> IN THE CIRCUIT **COURT OF THE 15TH** JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON -FREEPORT, ILLINOIS U.S. Bank National Association Plaintiff,

David Brubacher; et. al. Defendants, 23 FC 50 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freehighest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: LOTS 7, 8, 9, 10 AND 11

port, IL 61032, sell to the IN BLOCK ONE (1) IN EBY'S SECOND ADDI-TION TO THE VILLAGE OF PEARL CITY; AND THAT PART OF THE VA-CATED ALLEY LYING SOUTH OF AND ADJA-CENT TO AFORESAID LOTS AS VACATED BY ORDINANCE RECORD-ED SEPTEMBER 5, 1975 IN BOOK P-219 ON PAGE 680 AS DOCUMENT NO.

90-8335; SITUATED IN

PHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 02-17-08-280-009. Commonly known as 309 W. South St., Pearl City, IL 61062. The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other testimony of the witnesses than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required to the Will in open Court or by subsection (g-1) of Secother evidence as providtion 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down

THE COUNTY OF STE-

by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Sale Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Front-

age Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-23-04721 IJSC ADC **INTERCOUNTY** JUDICIAL SALES **CORPORATION** intercountyjudicialsales. com I3247865

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL **CIRCUIT** 

STEPHENSON COUNTY

(Published in

The Shopper's Guide

July 17, 24, 31, 2024)

- IN PROBATE In Re the Matter of the Estate of: WILLIAM D. GUMS Deceased.

No. 24-PR-50 **NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION** 

Notice is given of the death of William D. Gums, of Freeport, Illinois. An Order was entered July 3, 2024, admitting the Will of the decedent dated March 16, 2003, issuing Letters of Office as described herein. Letters of Office were issued on **July 3, 2024,** to: Marjorie M. Bower 836 S. 15th Ave.

Freeport, IL 61032 as independent Executor of the Estate of William D. Gums, whose attorney is: Anthony V. Coon **Attorney At Law** 10 N. Galena Ave.,

Ste. 210

Freeport, Illinois 61032

who are heirs or legatees in the above proceeding to probate a Will whose name or address is not stated in the Petition to Admit the Will to Probate. That an Order was entered by the Court on July 3, 2024, admitting the Will to probate. That on or before August 26, 2024, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by

Notice is given to persons

ed in Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975. (755 ILCS 5/6-21). You also have the right under Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/8-1) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a Petition with the Court on or before January 21, 2025.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before January 21, 2025, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Date: July 8, 2024.

Marjorie M. Bower, By: Anthony V. Coon

Executor

Anthony V. Coon, Attorney At Law Anthony V. Coon, #6289568 Attorney at Law

10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210 Freeport, IL 61032 815-235-2215 Fax 815-232-5500 tonycoonlaw@aol.com (Published in

The Shopper's Guide July 17, 24, 31, 2024)

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# State ends fiscal year with nearly \$5 billion cash on hand

#### Leaders say record balances drive investment revenue, ensure vendors are paid on time

By Jerry Nowicki CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois entered a new fiscal year July 1 with a bit of a financial cushion as the prior year's revenues exceeded final projections by about \$123

The state ended fiscal year 2024 with about \$4.7 billion cash on hand, or about 9 percent of the allocated spending for fiscal year 2025, which began July 1. That included a record high \$2.1 billion in the state's budget stabilization, or "rainy day" fund, which has seen its balance grow steadily over the past five years.

Comptroller Susana Mendoza noted the high cash balance helped Illinois generate over \$558 million in interest income in FY24, a 53 percent increase from the previous year. She said in a news release she plans to exercise new authority granted to her office in the budgeting process this year to pre-pay required monthly pension payments while funds are avail-

"This will enable the (pen-

sion) systems to plan accordingly and keep more of the cash on hand represents more pension funds in their investment portfolios," Mendoza said in a statement.

Gov. JB Pritzker's office said the year-end balance represents "part of a pattern of fiscally responsible policies." He mentioned the nine credit upgrades Illinois has received from the nation's three major credit rating agencies since he took office.

"Nine credit rating upgrades, bill backlogs eliminated, six balanced budgets, and now the state's highest ever General Funds balance-this is the result of disciplined, responsible fiscal management that prioritizes serving taxpayers and helping working families," Pritzker said in a statement.

The \$52.6 billion in revenue collected in FY24 was about 4 percent more than the \$50.6 billion anticipated when lawmakers approved the budget last May. But lawmakers largely allocated those unforeseen revenues in a supplemental spending plan

approved this May, so the of a cushion for the upcoming fiscal year than a license to approve more spending.

The cash on hand is also not the same as a surplus, as it includes dollars that may have been appropriated but not yet spent.

The year-end revenues were published July 2 by the legislature's fiscal forecasting agency, the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability. Eric Noggle, COGFA's revenue manager, noted revenues matched the agency's March forecast almost exactly—a rarity in a fiscal landscape that has been difficult to project since COVID-19 first upended state finances.

Both Pritzker and Mendoza celebrated the fact that Illinois no longer has a backlog of unpaid bills.

In the wake of a two-year state budget impasse between Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Democrats in the General Assembly in 2016 and 2017, the backlog had risen to about \$16 billion. Now, all bills are paid within 30 days of reaching the comptroller's desk, Mendoza said.

"I'm committed to giving our state providers and vendors the stability and predictability that they should expect from state government," Mendoza said in a statement. "Having received countless hardship calls from these providers and vendors during the state's budget impasse, I believe it is the responsible approach we must continue to take."

Still, COGFA's June report noted that while state finances have improved in recent years, Illinois' economy continues to lag the U.S. as a

"Illinois' poor economic performance has many contributing factors. The State has earned a reputation for poor fiscal health over decades," COGFA chief economist Benjamin Varner wrote in the monthly briefing.

He mentioned the budget impasse, Illinois' "relatively high business taxes," population growth as contributing factors.

"Despite these challenges, the situation has been improving in recent years,' Varner added. "The state's budget has been more balanced over the past five years, thanks to federal government aid, a strengthening economy, and improved budgetary discipline. This has led to a much more stable financial situation."

That's partially due to the state eliminating the bill backlog, building its fund reserves and allocating money to tax incentive programs that have lured businesses to move or expand here, he wrote.

"Although the Census Bureau still estimates that Illinois is losing population, the rate of annual declines has slowed," Varner wrote.

Pritzker has also frequently noted that the state has lowered the corporate franchise tax paid by businesses in Illinois, exempting the first \$10,000 in liability under the tax beginning in 2025.

and stagnant or declining In 2019, the governor signed a plan to fully phase out that tax, but he ultimately reversed that decision amid the COVID-19 pandemic. He and lawmakers have since increased the exemption from \$30 in 2020 to \$10,000 in 2025—a doubling from the previous year.

As for the fiscal year 2024 revenues, Illinois' main funding source remains the personal income tax. Noggle noted the state collected \$30.1 billion in personal income tax revenue in FY24 along with \$6.5 billion in corporate income tax revenue, which collectively performed better than the previous year.

For the new fiscal year that began July 1, lawmakers approved \$53.1 billion in spending, or roughly 1 percent more than FY24's final revenues.

But Noggle also noted the last fiscal year included about \$881 million in one-time revenues from sources that won't repeat in FY25-so base revenues will have to grow by over 2 percent to meet spending demand.

#### Op-ed: Sound policymaking needed to fully scale sustainable aviation tuel ethanol would make up another

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU PRESIDENT

Ethanol represents a significant market for my Ogle County family farm. We can deliver corn to seven ethanol plants within a 70-mile radius, and distillers' grains are a valuable input for our livestock enter-

Biofuels like ethanol can benefit both the economy and the environment. Illinois, which ranks third in the nation for ethanol production, is meeting the demand of consumers and industries for cleaner, domestic energy sources.

But this demand did not build itself.

Decades of sound policymaking created channels and incentives for the agriculture and biofuels industries to supply a growing market.

The expanded Renewable Fuel Standard mandating the use of renewable fuels in transportation, and year-round use of higher blends of homegrown biofuels such as E15 and E85 have bolstered the ethanol market. State and federal tax credits tied to biofuels have been economic game changers for our

Sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), a bio-based jet fuel made from corn ethanol or soybean oil, holds similar economic and environmental opportunities as a path to decarbonize the aviation industry with homegrown biofuels.

While farmers, airlines and

the ethanol industry are eager to embrace SAF, challenges persist in scaling up SAF production. Sound, reasonable policies are needed to ensure that significant changes and cost investments are worthwhile.

A first step came with recently released guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department acknowledging that feedstocks grown utilizing conservation practices can reduce overall SAF greenhouse gas emissions. This will play a role in the federal SAF production tax credits authorized under the Inflation Reduction Act.

40B, Known as \$1.25-per-gallon tax credit will be awarded to SAF products with greenhouse gas emissions scores 50 percent lower than petroleum-based jet fuels along with additional incentives. This credit is retroactive to 2023 and extends through 2024.

The Greenhouse Gases, Regulated Emissions, and Energy Use in Technologies (GREET) model will be used to assess the 50 percent emission reduction.

Illinois Farm Bureau policy supports use of the GREET model in scoring the carbon intensity of agricultural feedstocks for SAF and other biofuels. We have advocated with federal officials to select GREET because it incorporates accurate, updated data around emissions and land-use changes, and recognizes on-farm practices to lower the carbon intensity of SAF and biofuel feedstocks.

for ethanol and biodiesel facilities will require farmers to demonstrate multiple sustainable practices including no-till farming, cover crops and energy-efficient fertilizer use. The bundled requirements are restrictive and lack the flexibility farmers need to use carbon-reducing practices that work for their farm.

Development of 45Z SAF tax credit guidance for 2025 through 2027 should include more options and flexibility in farming methods that qualify and allow farmers to adjust their methods from year to year.

It should also utilize the existing feedstock calculator available for use with GREET to determine on-farm carbon intensity of practices implemented by farmers to grow grain for SAF.

Federal and state-level incentives, such as Illinois \$1.50-per-gallon SAF purchaser and user tax credit, are crucial for stimulating the SAF market. About 25 million gallons of SAF were produced in 2023, far below the current administration's SAF goal of 3 billion gallons by 2030 and 35 billion gallons by 2050.

Modeling from Iowa-based **Decision Innovation Solutions** suggests U.S. agriculture has the production capacity of meeting about half of future SAF grain demand. SAF produced from soybean oil would account for four billion gallons, while SAF made from corn 6 to 11 billion gallons.

To contribute to those production levels, Illinois would need to establish 14 more 200-million-gallon ethanol plants and invest in other SAF

could lead to an extra \$13 billion in economic activity per year, DIS models show.

Without a viable SAF market, corn farmers risk losing out on \$2 billion per year through

dollars that farm families can use to sustain their operations and pass them on to the next generation.

See OP-ED, Page 20



#### Yard of the Month

The Lena Beautification Committee and Lena Business and Professionals' Association have chosen Jerry and Becky Edler's home at 511 S. Washington St. as the "Yard of the Month" for June. Becky loves geraniums and uses them in decorative pots and flower beds all around their house. Being a creative person, she has a display of miniature gnomes and other figurines that her grandchildren like to play with. She has also created solar lights with clear glass dishes to enhance the side flower beds. A small vegetable garden and perfectly maintained lawn makes this yard worthy of recognition.

# From Lena's Kitchen



The not so skinny cook

We have been dodging rain for the last week as well as trying to stay cool. We are behind in 90-degree days for July, but maybe after this past week we will catch up. This week's recipes are full of some favorites with a different spin and some new ones. Have a great week cooking!

#### Dill Dip

I really like a good dill dip. I often use the Watkins Dill Dip if I want something quick, but sometimes you want to make a really good dill dip. I like it on vegetables and pretzels. You can also use it to top baked potatoes, enchiladas, tacos, and as a pizza dipping sauce!

1 C. mayonnaise

1 C. sour cream

2 T. dried parsley flakes

1 T. dried minced onion 2 t. dill weed

1½ t. Lowry's seasoned salt

1 t. sugar

Fresh dill, optional

In a small bowl, combine the mayo, sour cream, parsley, onion, dill weed, seasoned salt, and sugar. Chill for at

The Scoop Today

& Shopper's Guide

least 2 hours. Garnish with In a small bowl, mix dress-

#### Make Ahead Hearty Six-Layer Salad

We all have had the tradi-tional lettuce seven-layer salad. This recipe is a spin-off on that salad, but it uses small pasta shells as a layer. If you put it in a trifle bowl or a large glass salad bowl, it is really pretty. It makes a great potluck pleaser any time of the year. Hint: Use a rotisserie chicken for a quick step.

1½ C. uncooked small pas-

1 T. canola oil

3 C. shredded lettuce

3 hard boiled eggs, sliced

¼ t. salt

1/8 t. pepper

2 C. shredded, cooked chicken breast

1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen peas, thawed

#### Dressing:

1 C. mayonnaise

1/4 C. sour cream

2 green onions, chopped

2 t. Dijon mustard

#### Toppings:

1 C. shredded Colby or Monterey Jack cheese

2 T. minced fresh parsley

Cook the pasta according to package directions; drain and rinse with cold water. Drizzle with canola oil and toss to coat. Place the lettuce in a 21/2 qt. glass serving bowl, top with pasta and eggs. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Layer with chicken and peas.

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ing ingredients until blended; spread over top. Refrigerate, covered, for several hours or overnight. Just before serving, sprinkle with cheese and

#### Slaw Dogs

If you want a different take on the summer hot dog, this recipe is easy and gives the standard dog a different taste. Give this recipe a try to step up the summer favorite.

1 head cabbage, grated, reserving some to slice for added texture

1 medium onion, chopped ½ C. carrot, shredded

1 C. mayonnaise

1 T. white vinegar

1 T. sugar

½ t. garlic powder

½ t. onion powder

½ t. salt

1 t. celery seed

1 t. pepper

Grated onion to taste

#### **Hot Dogs:**

4 hot dogs

Butter

4 hot dog buns

Mayonnaise to taste, mustard to taste

Coleslaw: In a large bowl, combine the grated cabbage, onion and carrot. In a small bowl, mix mayo, vinegar, sugar, and spices. Stir to combine. Let stand 5 minutes before mixing into coleslaw. Taste and add salt for season-

In a pot, boil hot dogs un-

til warmed through or grill until browned and cooked through. Spread butter on cut sides of buns. In a skillet or a grill, toast buns on all sides until warm and toasty. Add hot dogs to buns and top with slaw. If desired serve with mayo and mustard.

#### Million Dollar Spaghetti

It seems that "million dollar" any kind of recipes are making the rounds this cooking season. This million-dollar recipe uses spaghetti and lots of cheese. It really is very economical; if you are wanting to make it meatless, skip the hamburger.

1 pkg. (8 oz.) spaghetti

1 lb. ground beef

1 small onion, chopped 2 garlic cloves, minced

1 jar (14 oz.) spaghetti sauce

½ t. salt

¼ t. pepper

3 oz. cream cheese, soft-

ened and cubed

1 C. ricotta cheese

1 C. sour cream

3 green onions, chopped

1½ C. shredded cheddar-Monterey Jack cheese

Preheat oven to 350. Cook

spaghetti according to package directions for al dente; drain. In a large skillet, cook the beef, onion and garlic over medium heat until beef is no longer pink, 6 to 8 minutes, breaking up beef into crumbles; drain. Stir in spaghetti

**DeVoe** 

License

sauce, salt and pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 20 minutes, stirring occasional.

In a small bowl, mix cream cheese, ricotta cheese, and sour cream until blended; stir in green onions. Grease an 11 x 7 baking dish, layer the spaghetti, cream cheese mixture, and meat mixture. Top with shredded cheese. Bake, covered for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake until cheese is bubbly, 5 to 10 minutes longer. Garnish with additional green

#### **Strawberry Dump** Cake

Last year I had a recipe for Strawberry Rhubarb Dump Cake which had at its base a spice cake mix. This recipe uses strawberry pie filling and white cake mix. It is an easy dessert that is delicious. If you need dessert in a hurry, try this cake.

1 can (21 oz.) strawberry pie filling

1 white cake mix

34 C. cold butter, cubed Strawberries for Garnish

Whipped cream or Cool Whip

Preheat the oven to 350. Spread pie filling in a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Sprinkle with cake mix. Dot with cubed butter. Bake until filling is bubbly, and top is golden brown, 45 to 55 minutes. Serve warm with fresh strawberries and whipped cream.

#### **Blueberry Crumble Bars**

There are a lot of fresh blueberries in stores these days, and they are selling at a reasonable price. One of my friends goes to pick them near Rockford. Try this easy bar recipe with some fresh blueberries.

1 pkg. yellow cake mix 2½ C. old-fashioned oats 3/4 C. butter, melted

1 jar (12 oz.) blueberry pre-

1/3 C. fresh blueberries 1 T. lemon juice

1/3 C. finely chopped pe-

2 t. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, oats and butter until crumbly. Press 3 C. into a greased 9-inch square baking dish. Bake 15 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 5 minutes.

In a small bowl, combine

preserves, blueberries and lemon juice. Spread over crust. Stir pecans and cinnamon into remaining crumb mixture. Sprinkle over Bake until lightly the top. browned, 18 to 20 minutes. Cool on a wire rack before cutting into bars.

#### **Final Thoughts**

We saw a wonderful production at Timberlake last week. The Cole Porter musical, Anything Goes, was one of the best dance productions we have seen there. We are so lucky to have live theater at a reasonable price within driving distance. Their next production of The Wizard of Oz should be great too. Don't forget to either participate or watch the Lions Club's Pet and Bicycle parade this coming weekend. Last year was great for the first year, and I am hoping it will be even better this year. Music in the Park continues on Saturday and Sunday nights. Soon the summer will be winding down, and we won't have these great outside activities.

I need to give a shout out to the wonderful people at Rock Valley Publishing. On the Fourth of July, we had a transformer catch on fire on Maple Street in Lena. We had some "brown" out problems, and many of us lost electricity for several hours. I didn't know how you were going to get to read last week's column. I called the Shopper's Guide office and we began to try to figure out how to get my column to the publisher. Thanks to Kelsey at Citizens State Bank who helped me fax it to the office and the office being able to get it ready to publish, the column appeared in last week's paper. I was blessed with people who were able to use technology to do marvelous things; and even though there is no office in Lena, they do care about us and will respond. Thank you all at the home office of the Shopper's Guide for your work above and beyond. 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.

# your source for on-line news: RVPNEWS.COM







G & H PAINTING



# Healthy, adequate sleep essential to physical and cognitive development

When it comes to sleep, both quality and quantity matter. This is especially true in children because deep, uninterrupted sleep is essential to both their physical and cognitive development. Sleep-disordered breathing (SDB) occurs when something repeatedly partially or completely blocks the airway during sleep. When this happens, your child's respiratory and nervous systems are focused on getting oxygen, and their brains cannot achieve the deeper levels of sleep that are essential for proper growth and development, support of the immune system, metabolism, and hormone balances.

The ability to achieve deep sleep is critical because this is when the body



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

produces growth hormones and cytokines. Our bodies use these cytokines to fight infection, illness, and stress. Excessive brain arousal with SDB also causes the body to secrete undue amounts of stress hormones and cortisol. raise blood glucose levels and increases insulin resistance.

Lack of sleep leads to a lack of energy. Children who are overtired crave higher fat and carbohydrate foods to give them the energy they are lacking. Your child's body also tries to compensate for this lack of energy by

secreting extra adrenaline. This leads to your child feeling both wide-awake and exhausted, which in turn makes them irritable, impatient, demanding, anxious, overly emotional, depressed and stressed. Sleep deprivation also decreases a child's attention span and makes them more likely to experience hyperactivity, impulsivity problems and poor academic performance, which may lead to a misdiagnosis of ADHD. It also increases their chances of developing diabetes, obesity, and heart disease.

Sleep is essential to proper brain development. Deep sleep allows the brain to process information and experiences that your child learns during the day. Uninterrupted, deep sleep

improves memory, the ability to concentrate and learn, solve problems, and develop emotional resilience.

Screening for SDB and airway concerns is a crucial part of your child's dental exam. Mouth breathing and SDB cause distinctive oral and craniofacial developmental issues. The presence and extent of these signs and symptoms, along

with your child's medical history and a discussion of their sleep patterns alert your dentist to the presence of a compromised airway.

SDB can be multifactorial (genetic, health, anatomical and lifestyle), so referrals to your child's pediatrician and other appropriate specialists may be necessary to obtain a comprehensive diagnosis of system involvement. This

information will be used to create and implement a collaborative treatment plan to address these issues. Improving your child's airway issues allows them to achieve the deep, uninterrupted sleep levels necessary for proper physical and neurological health. It also allows your child to avoid serious and life-long dental and medical consequences.

#### REAL ESTATE NOTICES

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

U.S. Bank National Association Plaintiff.

David Brubacher; et. al. Defendants,

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 02-17-08-280-009.

Commonly known as 309 W. South St., Pearl City, IL 61062.

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

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Sale Clerk at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-23-04721 IJSC ADC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com

> (Published in The Shopper's Guide July 17, 24, 31, 2024)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL **CIRCUIT** STEPHENSON COUNTY. **ILLINOIS** 

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF,

LINN PERKINS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PATRICIA LOUISE RATKOVICH. DECEASED: UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA L. RATKOVICH; TRICIA A HALTER; ROBERT J RATKOVICH; BRIAN R RATKOVICH; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,

DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2023FC53 145 NORTH WHISTLER **AVENUE FREEPORT, IL 61032** NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT

TO JUDGMENT OF **FORECLOSURE** UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE

FORECLOSURE ACT PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on February 20, 2024, will on August 20, 2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TĂX NO. 18-13-36-226-020 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 145 North Whistler Avenue

Freeport, IL 61032

Description of Improvements: White vinyl siding, single family ranch with detached garage

The Judgment amount was \$87,897.07.

Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g) (4). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAG

OR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POS-SESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-SESSION. IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAĞÉ FORECLOSURE LAW.

For Information: Visit our website at http://ilforeclosuresales. mrpllc.com. Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

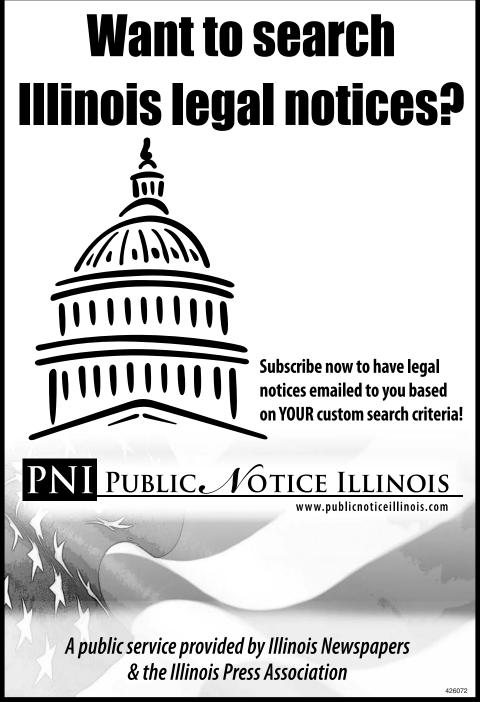
only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 23-

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTIC-ES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPT-ING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not reguired to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale. 13246652

(Published in The Shopper's Guide

July 10, 17 & 24, 2024) 457507



THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE

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#### **Help Wanted**

HELP NEEDED: For removal of an old empty fuel tank & a large upright freezer, both items are in basement with outside accéss. 815-821-5441. Call or text /leave a Msg.

#### Auction Deadline is Noon Friday!

Contact Rhonda at rmarshall@rvpublishing.com for information on advertising.





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# garage sales

#### **Pearl City**

503 GUSTY TRAIL-MULTI FAM-**ILY** July 18-20. Thurs. 3-6pm Fri. 8-5, Sat. 8-noon. HH items, milk glass, elec filet knife, office sign & items, Marvel desk file cabinets/ drawers/corner sections. Dremel, plants, ceiling lights, Tupperware, Pampered Chef, Instant pot, Beanie Babies, Carhartt & Duluth Trading pants/jeans size 38x36, Mens 38 shorts, prom dresses 9/10, Holiday decor, lift chair, electric grill, wood crafts, sterling silverware, Coke/Pepsi carrier, Terry Redlin-MJ plates, golf bag, much more!!

**1110 S. FLACK ROAD** 7/11 -7/12, 8-5 & 7/13, 8-2 Also July 18-19, 8-5 & July 20th, 8-2. Dog kennel & steps, TV, furniture, adult clothes, girls clothes NB -12, boys clothes 12-14, Vintage items & H/H. Brass bed frame. bar signs, tools & lawn chairs.



# for sale

#### **Announcements**

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

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

#### **Burial Needs**

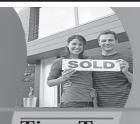
7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to sell as a group or individually. Lo-cated at Roselawn Memory Gar-dens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. This is a private sale. Contact Randy, the seller at randy@slpublishers.com.



#### Misc. For Sale

**Companion Electric Scooter** (Like New, only used short time). **Deep Red with Black Seat** including arms, front basket, safety flag, 2 keys, charger, 2 mirrors, and cover. \$1,900 or make an offer.

815-369-2844.



#### Time To Sell Your **Home?**

815-369-4112 for details on placing an ad

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NOMAD **5THWHEEL** Slideout, new tires, new roof clean, \$4,000 OBO 262-374-0051

2016 COACHMEN MOTOR-HOME, V-10 30FW, 22 ft. slide, 20 ft. awning. All appliances work great. Outdoor TV, fridge and freezer. Above cab sleep ing. Available mid to late August \$35,000. Call 262-492-6351.

2022 COACHMAN FREEDOM **EXPRESS** 24' Travel Trailer with Q bed. Very clean. \$19,000. OBO. 262-470-4083.

#### **Motorcycles**

**1974 HD FL** Very good original condition. \$14,995. OBO Txt 262-914-6486.

#### Other Automotive

**SNOWBLOWER 5 HP SPRINT** 24" \$300. 608-365-6936

#### Sports/Classic **Cars**

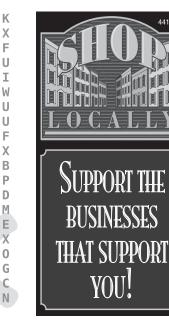
1952 CHEVY PICKUP Solid Nevada truck, runs great. \$19,750 (262) 949-6997. Answers

PUZZLE 1

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HELP WANTED



# MEMORIALS STATES







# **MONUMENT SALES** LOTS OF GRANITE IN STOCK

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207 LEET STREET, LENA, ILLINOIS



# • Pritzker (Continued from page 8)

Pritzker first announced the plan in his State of the State address in February, saying he expected stiff resistance from the insurance industry but vowing "to spend serious political capital" if necessary to pass the legislation.

The bill was, in fact, the subject of intense behind-thescenes negotiations between the administration, insurance industry representatives, health care providers and other stakeholder groups. In the end, the final version of the act had little opposition and drew some Republican support. It passed 45-14 in the Senate and 83-23 in the House.

Part of the reason for the bipartisan support was that the more controversial provision banning the sale of short-term, limited-duration insurance plans was taken out and put into a separate bill.

Those policies are marketed as temporary plans intended mainly for people who find themselves in between coverage plans, often because of changes in employment. Supporters of the bill argued those plans provide substandard coverage and often leave individuals liable for huge medical bills. But many Republicans argued that those policies provide a lower-cost option that suits the needs of some individuals.

That measure passed largely along party lines: 40-19 in the Senate, and 72-35 in the House.

Pritzker signed the two bills at a ceremony at Rush

University Medical Center in Chicago where he was joined by lawmakers who supported the bill, as well as health care providers.

"The health insurance reforms passed by the Illinois lawmakers, many of them are right here, will ensure that administrative delays caused by the insurance companies as well as their inadequate provider networks, so called ghost networks, should be a thing of the past," said Piyush Vyas, president of the Illinois State Medical Society.

#### • **Op-ed** (Continued from page 15)

To fully scale SAF technology and realize its market potential, today's policy decisions around SAF must provide the certainty and flexibility farmers need to meet demand.

Airlines and biofuel producers require a solid backstop to their major investments into SAF technology just as much as farmers deserve credit for adopting and implementing

sustainable farm practices used to produce SAF feedstocks.

This economic opportunity is too valuable to get wrong.

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