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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 4, 2024

the Scoop Today

Lena Lions Club 73rd Annual Fall Festival



Lena Lions Diamond Jubilee Celebration continues with the 73rd 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 at 7 p.m. Following the parade on Saturday, the Ukulele Express 815 will perform at 3 p.m. The Rock Steady Band will take the stage on Saturday, July 7 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The festival will also host a 50/50 Cash Raffle. The winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday, Sept. 7 at the close of the festival. There will also be a raffle to win a 2024 Polaris Ghost Gray UTV SP570 Ranger. Tickets are available for \$10 each or three for \$20 and can be purchased from Lion members or at the festival.

Skinnners Amusements returns for the 64th year with carnival rides for all ages in the downtown parking lot starting at 6 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday. 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 parade will step off from the Old School Apartments at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7. 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.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Lena Lions are gearing up for their 73rd Annual Fall Festival to be held on Sept. 6 and Sept. 7, 2024. The event will feature live musical entertainment, a 50/50 cash raffle, carnival rides, delicious food stands, a parade, and much more. Come join the fun in downtown Lena!

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Farmland prices climb; rental rates set record

By Tammie Sloup
FARMWEEK

Farmland values continue to rise, but show signs of cooling off compared to increases in recent years.

The farm real estate value, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, averaged \$4,170 per acre for 2024, up \$200 (5 percent) per acre from 2023, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service's (NASS) annual land values summary. This follows a 6.7 percent, or \$250, increase between 2022 and 2023 and marks the fourth consecutive increase in agricultural land values.

Cropland value averaged a record \$5,570 per acre, an increase of \$250 per acre (4.7 percent) from the previous year, and pastureland is up 5.2 percent to \$1,830 an acre over last year.

NASS also released its cash rents survey results, showing values for cropland were up 3.2 percent to a record \$160 per acre.

"While record rental rates are an increased production expense for renters, on the flip side, when land values stagnate or decrease, so do collateral values, limiting farmers' ability to secure loans and access the increased capital needed to

acquire higher-cost inputs," American Farm Bureau Federation Economist Daniel Munch said in a recent Market Intel.

Agricultural land values vary significantly throughout the country, with the highest real estate values concentrated in areas producing high-value crops, such as wine grapes and tree nuts in California. Areas near urban centers with limited developable land, particularly in Northeast states, experience upward pressure on real estate values from competing uses. Much of the Midwest had higher total comparative agricultural land values,

followed by the South and Pacific Northwest, with the Plains and Mountain states experiencing the lowest values.

In Illinois, the farm real estate value averaged \$8,700 per acre—a 3 percent increase from 2023, while the cropland value came in at \$9,550, which is a \$3.2 percent bump.

The cash rental rate in Illinois averaged \$269 for the first half of 2024, which is the fifth highest in the country behind Arizona, California, Hawaii and Iowa.

"As pressures on open land intensify across the nation for residential and en-

ergy development, leasing cropland becomes less profitable," Munch said. "These trends have been strengthened by some employees' ability to work at home or away from a central urban office location, which provides people flexibility to work from rural communities and buy properties that compete with agricultural land use. Previously heightened commodity prices that led to larger increases in cash rents have cooled, paralleling the slowing in ag land values more broadly."

In periods of low crop prices, high rental values pose significant challenges to farmers' balance sheets, with this year's income expectations appearing even more dire than originally expected, Munch said, adding record rental rates are a significant problem for those reliant on renting land and new or beginning farmers.

USDA's Economic Research Service will release updated forecasts for 2024 net farm income Sept. 5, which will likely show lower returns for most crops in

2024 than were previously projected.

"The current economic environment highlights the farmers' call for updates to their safety net in the farm bill to support the continued stability and productivity of the agricultural sector," Munch said.

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

News briefs

The Freeport Salvation Army

The Freeport Salvation Army has a need for coats, winter clothes and winter items, hygiene items, and bedding. All donations stay local and are given to individuals and families. The local Salvation Army of Freeport serves Jo Ogle, Carroll and Stephenson counties.

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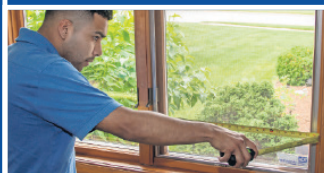
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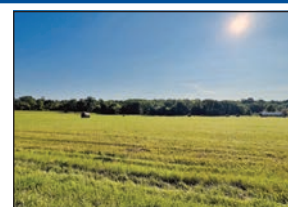


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Obituaries

WILLIAM KORTE

William H. (Bill) Korte passed away on Aug. 28, 2024, at the age of 90. Bill was born on Feb. 27, 1934, to Raymond and Rose Mougion Korte in Galena, IL. He graduated from Warren High School in 1952. He served in the US Army from 1956-1958.

On Aug. 15, 1959, Bill married Colleen Rose McDermott at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Darlington, WI. They lived in Warren, IL, for nine years and then moved to Stockton, IL where he was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church. They recently moved to Freeport, IL where he was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. Bill enjoyed farming, gardening, cutting wood, picking grapes at their friends' winery, reading, and traveling with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Colleen, and their three children: Katherine (George) Esser, Alma Center, WI, Tom (Jean) Korte, Freeport, IL, and Mary Korte, St. Louis, MO. He is also survived by his five grandchildren, Nicole Esser, Lucas (Lindsay) Esser, Caitlin (Justin) Solsrud, Jacob Esser and Ayla Masurin, and Michael Ryan Decker. He is survived by ten great grandchildren.

He is also survived by his sisters Lenora Jackson of Santa Ana, CA, Rita (Darrell) Orr of Hartland, WI, and Cheryl (Richard) Holland of Flower Mound, TX, sister-in-law Linda Korte of Lena, IL and his brothers Robert (Sharon) Korte of South Beloit, IL, Donald Korte of Warren, IL, and Roland Korte of Warren, IL. He is survived by a large family of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Donna (Mervin) Hintz, Deloris (Eldon) Ertmer, Shelby Jean (James) Young and brothers Richard Korte and Harold "Chris" (Carol) Korte. The family would like to extend their thanks to the staff of FHN and Freeport Memorial Hospital and Liberty Village for their care and assistance.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton at 11 a.m. with a visitation beginning at 9 a.m. Interment will take place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

JEANNINE RADERS

Jeannine Louise Raders, 83, of Lena, IL, passed away peacefully at the Lena Living Center on Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, after an extended illness. She was born in the Land of Lincoln, coincidentally on his birthday, Feb. 12, 1941, to Frederic and Norma (Baughman) Held in Freeport, IL. Jeannine was a 1959 graduate from Freeport High School.

Jeannine married Terry Scott Raders on April 3, 1960, and for the next 30 years helped on the farm and raising their three boys. When time and reasons permitted, they would enjoy small trips par-



ticularly camping and fishing at the lakes of central WI, and were fortunate to visit Ontario, Canada and made a trip to Germany and Switzerland.

After Terry's untimely passing in 1991, in order to stay occupied Jeannine worked at several endeavors including hostessing, catering, and being a dental assistant, finally staying with the Lena

Dentists, assisting in bookings and records. In the late 1990's, she started driving school bus routes for the Lena School District until retiring in 2011, a job which she greatly enjoyed, especially dealing with the younger children and transporting the older kids to their sports activities and field trips. Jeannine also appreciated the time and friendship over the years with her many Beta Sigma Phi Sorority sisters.

Jeannine is survived by her three sons, Jeff Raders of Freeport, Craig Raders & wife, LeAnne of Lena, and Tracey Raders & wife Francie of Erie, CO; six grandchildren, Caden

Raders (Bailey) of Rockford, IL, Carrie Raders & fiancé Gage Gilbert of Pocatello, ID, Callie Raders of Nevada, IA, Lacey Raders also of Erie, CO, Claire (Jacob) Zee of Highland Ranch, CO and Emma Raders & fiancé Javan Clement of Grand Island, NE, and three step-grandchildren, Jennifer (James) Schmidt of Elburn, WI, Tamara (Alfred) Triem of Janesville, WI and Amber (Jose) Triem of Milton, WI.

Her sister, Sherilyn (Sheri) & husband, William (Bill) Leege of Oconto, WI; two nephews, Brad Leege & wife, Carol Kolb of Madison, WI

Brian Leege & wife, Kristine of Minneapolis, MN and a niece, Erin Leege & husband, Doug Dionne, of Green Bay, WI.

Jennine was preceded in death by her husband Terry, her parents, Frederic & Norma Held, mother and father-in-law Francis & Betty Raders and her grandparents, George & Louise Held and Wade & Gladys Baughman.

A private family service will be held. Paster Thomas Mosbo will officiate. Burial will be at Lena Burial Park. In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in Jeannine's name.

KEITH HECKMAN

Keith LeRoy Heckman, 75, of Rockford, IL passed away on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer. Keith was born on Jan. 1, 1949, in Rockford, IL to LeRoy and Eva (Pash) Heckman. He graduated from Rockford East High School in 1966 and went on to join the United States Air Force. He was a Vietnam Veteran, serving in South Vietnam and Thailand from 1969-1973 as a Staff Sergeant. After his honorable discharge from the USAF, he attended Rock Valley College via the GI Bill and earned an associate degree for Applied Science in Electronic



Technologies.

Keith worked for Bally's Aladdin's castle from 1974-1982 and was promoted to

a roving Area Store Manager covering locations as far away as Billings, MT. He then worked for Allied Games in Beloit, WI from 1983-2000 as a shop supervisor. He finished his career working for R.K. Dixon as a copy repair technician until he retired in 2007.

Keith enjoyed spending time tending to his garden of

vegetables, fruits and flowers, while also canning, cooking, and sharing them with others. His Thanksgiving meals were unmatched, and his dessert pies should have won awards. He enjoyed hosting craft and bake sales with his mother, and dutifully cared for her after she was widowed in 1985.

Keith was a huge Atlanta Braves fan and traveled to several cities with his brother and nephew to root on his favorite team, including games in the NLCS and World Series. He was also heavily involved within the War Birds online game community where he shared his passion for flying with many other

dedicated players and anyone else who would listen.

He is survived by his brother, Gary, Sr. of Carrollton, GA; nephews Gary (Chip) Heckman and David Crooks; niece Sarah Heckman; great nephews Justin McLester, Joshua McLester, Aidan Heckman, and Garrett Heckman; great nieces Rebecca McLester, Alison (Gabriel) Ihm, Rachel Heckman, Koda Heckman, and Karena Dean. Keith also left behind numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and his special friend Carla. Keith was preceded in death by his parents LeRoy and Eva, sister Louise (Don) Crooks, sister in-law Karen

Heckman, and niece Jeanine Shickles.

Keith was honored with a time of visitation on Wednesday Aug. 28, 2024, at Bartell Leamon Funeral home in Warren, IL. Roger Bronkema officiated the service. Burial will take place at the Nora Cemetery following the service. A memorial has been established in his memory.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff at Alden Debes Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, Amberwood Care Center, and St. Croix Hospice. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leanonfh.com.

NANCY MOLITOR

Nancy A. Molitor, age 88, of Freeport, IL, formerly of Stockton, IL, passed away on Friday, Aug. 23, 2024. She was born in Freeport, IL on Aug. 23, 1936, to the late Kenneth and Elvira (Korte) Glanville. Nancy married Eldred Molitor on April 27, 1957, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton.

Nancy was a 1954 graduate of Stockton High School where she was known for her musical talents. She went on to graduate from Rockford School of Business. Following graduation, she worked as a bookkeeper for both Masters and Harrison Agency and the Stockton School District. She then operated Glanville True Value Hardware Store in Stockton with her husband for 25 years, the business her grandfather James Glanville Sr began in 1887.

Nancy was a longtime pa-



rihoner of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton and was a member of the Altar and Rosary Society. She also en-

joyed being an active volunteer for Hospice of Northern Illinois. After moving to Freeport in 2021, she joined St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.

She enjoyed playing the piano (with both her kids and grandkids dancing energetically), bird watching, golfing, reading, and watching sports. Football season was her favorite time of year. She was happiest when she was riding shotgun to attend any of her grandchildren's school, musical or sporting events. She could most often be found in her favorite chair with one of her many rosaries, prayer

books and a mug of tea.

Nancy is survived by her husband, Eldred Molitor; her son, Jerry (Sue) Molitor of Eden Prairie, MN; her daughters, Kathy (Tom) Simon of Cedarburg, WI and Jana (Tim) Colborn of Pecatonica, IL; her grandchildren, Nathan (Jessica) Simon, Kristin (Michael) Egan, Kara (Ethan) LeGault, Fr. Grant Colborn, Clayton (Maddy) Colborn, Zachary Molitor and Nicole Molitor; and her great grandchildren, Eli and Hudson LeGault, Charlie and Fritz Egan, and Lilian Simon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Kenneth and Elvira; her infant daughter, Maria Jo; and her sister, Janelle

Batley.

Services will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Freeport. Visitation beginning at 9 a.m., Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. followed by interment at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Stockton. Rosary to be said prior to the visitation.

Thank you to Dr. Martinez for his caring guidance and the staff at Freeport Memorial

Hospital for their exceptional care. Special thanks to Tanya and the ICU staff, Kara and the hospice team and Heather, Kelly and the nursing staff on 3 East for their attentive compassionate care.

Memorials to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Spina Bifida Association and Childhood Glaucoma are suggested. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

THE SCOOP TODAY

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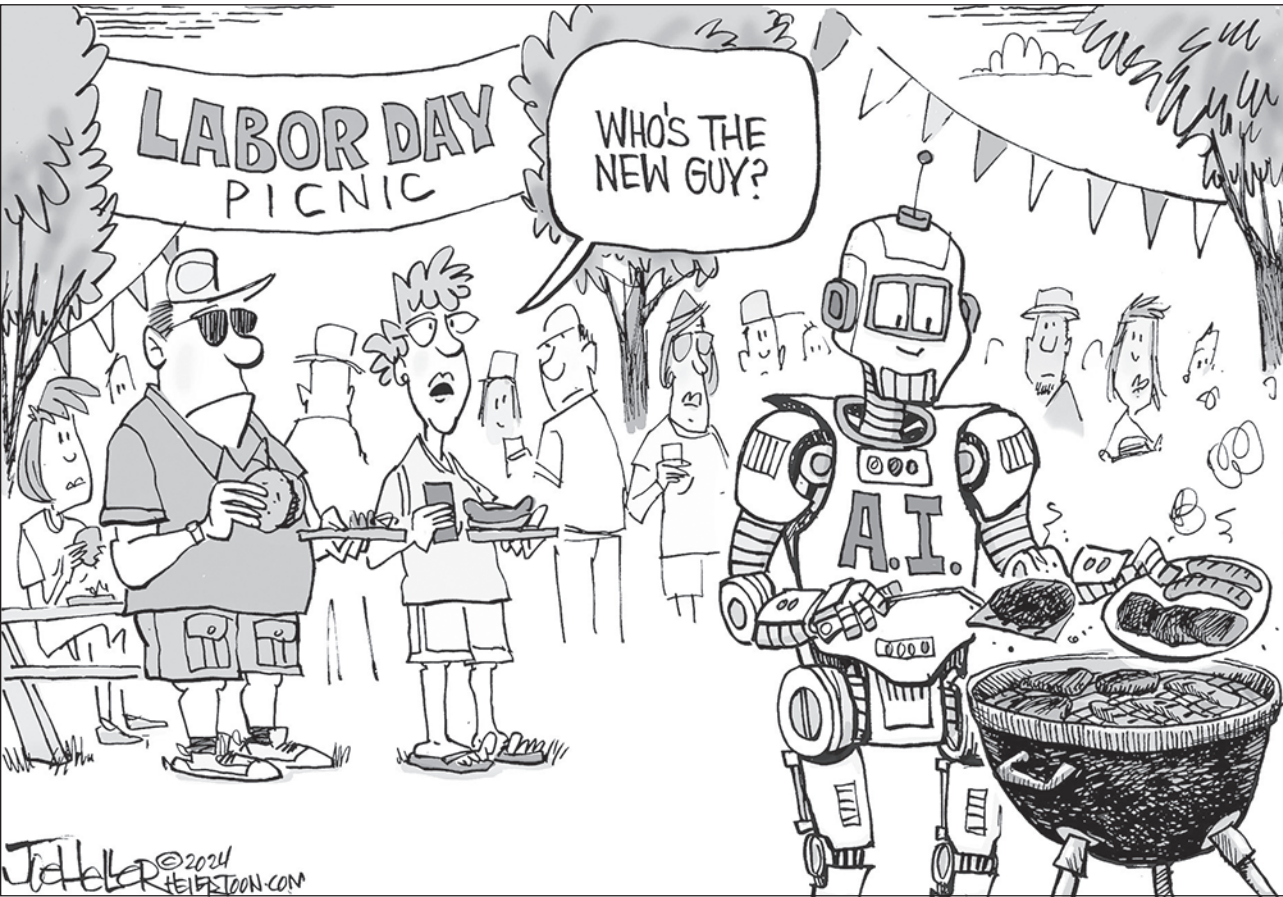
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OPINION



Slices of life

Fixing a broken wheel



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

We are all broken. Some have just a dent in the fender; others need a whole new transmission.

We are dinged, bent, damaged, hurt, cracked, confused, crushed and cut to the quick.

Because life will sometimes do that to you—to me—to all of us.

It changes us. It challenges us. It tosses us into the deep dark waters during a violent tempest because we were meant to whirl with the waves and experience the storm.

And the storm changes us in ways we never would have imagined. It leaves us broken—in tiny or all-encompassing ways.

We often try to hide this. The broken pieces that reside within us. But people are smart. They see through our forced smile, our transparent armor, and they want to help.

They want to fix it. I've thought about this and I think it's simply a part of human nature—to want to heal the hurts in others—to make everything okay. To fix them.

Thing is, there is no undoing what's been done. There is no changing the dings and the scrapes and the collisions we'd had in life. They exist as sure as the sunrise and sunset, and they can't be erased.

And they needn't be. They shouldn't be.

Because our experiences, our past—good and bad—aren't supposed to be overlooked, ignored or

erased. They happened for a reason. And that reason, however cliché, made us the person we are today—scars and all.

But here's something I've observed about scars and human nature and the troubles we all encounter in life:

Sometimes I just want to talk about mine. Sometimes I want to unload. Sometimes it feels like a relief to talk about these things out loud. Maybe it lessens them. Maybe it makes them more real - or less real.

Maybe it just helps to share. But here's the crux: sometimes sharing is all I want to do. I'm not necessarily looking for a fix, because there often is no fix, and I'm guessing when you share like this, you aren't looking to be fixed, either.

We tend to listen with the intent of responding and that involves solving or fixing. There's nothing inherently wrong with this, it's just not what most people want or need.

We don't necessarily want, much less need, a response. We've probably already heard them all already. What we need is to be heard. We

See SLICES, Page 5

Letter to the editor

The privilege of calling him 'friend'

On Aug. 18, we laid him to his well-deserved rest. He truly was a man among men. He lived for 88 life-filled years. I don't think he ever gave much thought to leaving a "legacy," but he certainly did. In casual conversation over the years, I clung to most every word; more often

than not they were profound. We often hear of people who "suck the oxygen out of a room" with their rhetoric. This man did it with his quiet, unassuming mannerisms.

The person I'm commenting on is Gary Schreiner, a Lena, IL businessman. Gary was a long-time farmer who evolved into a farm equipment dealer with a small lot on Highway 20 at Eleroy, known as "Eleroy Sales," where he bought and sold used farm equipment. From there, he ran Northwest Equipment in Stockton, IL. He went on to become the

sales manager for Curtis and Son John Deere of Lanark, IL.

It's often difficult to nail down just what it is about someone that attracts people to them. I wrote of his quiet, unassuming mannerisms; you always felt like that long-lost friend who just came back into his life even if you just saw him the day before.

The memory card at his service in Lena Burial Park, with all of us gathered next to the beautifully restored John Deere "A" that Gary started farming with those many years ago, summed it up beautifully. Words written

by his family, "Whether he was needed by people, crops or farm animals, Gary instinctively knew what they needed to thrive. He was a person of action. Nothing happened on its own."

"Gary's success can make it look like he knew how to do everything right. It's important to remember that he was living in the present. No one, himself included, knew how it would turn out. The excitement was how it might turn out. He shows us that we should love what we do, and then persevere."

Gary Schreiner, a remarkable man, left an amazing legacy. Rest in peace, dear friend.

Jim Sacia

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Weekly connection

Remembering America's favorite preacher

A few years back in 2018 Billy Graham, America's pastor, went home to be with the Lord. He was just a few months shy of one hundred years old. Without a doubt he was one of my all-time favorite preachers. I even had the privilege of watching him in person on two separate occasions. The first time was in June of 1971 at Chicago's McCormick Place. I was nine years old, and I just remember the place being packed with people



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

including my mom and dad and five siblings who were alive at that time. I'll never forget the crowd, the choir, the soloist George Beverly Shea, and a rousing message by Dr. Graham. Even though

he was Dr. Graham, he was just a dairy farmer's son from North Carolina, and it just seemed like someone we could all call "Billy". Most of his crusades were outdoors in huge stadiums, but this one at McCormick Place was inside in a packed five thousand seat arena. The other time I heard him was also indoors at a little larger venue, the Rosemont Horizon in 1986. That place is now called the

See PREACHER, Page 5

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• Preacher (Continued from page 4)

Allstate Arena in Rosemont, Illinois. It was the closing session of the Moody Bible Institute's One hundredth year Founder's Week Conference. I was a student at Moody at the time and they brought in the biggest name in preachers to close out the weeklong event. He challenged us students to be the ones to continue to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world. The place was packed and his message struck deep in my spirit and I knew I had to give my life to the cause of the gospel.

I like to go to YouTube and watch his old crusades from time to time. Last night I was watching a black and white one that also took place in Chicago. This one was in June of 1962 when I was just a baby, so I didn't get to go. As I was watching I decided to text this to my siblings on our family text thread and my oldest brother texted back that he remembered going to that very crusade with my parents. He remembered it being extremely hot and windy and our dad making him hold on tight to his hand so he wouldn't lose him as they walked down to go to the bathroom from way up in the nosebleed seats.

In his lifetime, Billy Graham preached to some 215 million people all over the world. At each and every one of those crusades he shared the simple gospel of Jesus Christ so that people could understand it. He always stated that God has such an

immense love for mankind that He came to the earth in the form of a man to be a living sacrifice for our sin so that God could give us the free gift of eternal life. I love how Billy Graham always talked about how the entire world down through the ages has been obsessed with just who Jesus Christ is. They want to know if this gospel could be true. Jesus has impacted every corner of the earth in one way or another and people want to know who He is. Billy tells the story of when Helen Keller, the blind and deaf girl who lived in the 1900's was made aware of who God and Jesus Christ were, she said that she always knew God, but now she finally learned His name. How awesome is that!

Dr. Graham's favorite scripture was John 3:16-17. In a statement in 1995, Billy Graham said this: "My favorite verse of Scripture was taught to me by my mother when I was just a little boy. This is the one Scripture that I always preach on in a crusade, usually on the opening night. I suppose it is the most familiar passage in the Bible. Here it is once again. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.* Until next week, God bless.

• Slices (Continued from page 4)

want someone to listen without judgement, but even as importantly, without providing solutions that we've most likely already thought of ourselves.

I guess I'm just thinking out loud here because I've got as much to learn here as anyone else. I'm venting, if you will. And in that, I'm not looking for a quick fix from anyone. I am realizing I need to/want to be more mindful (not to mention silent) when others confide in me. I'm going to try to remember my own advice and not give unwarranted advice. (Or at least ask if my advice is wanted.)

Times of trouble can be very large and very lonely. It is during those times we aren't necessarily looking for solutions or problem-solving. People confiding in us don't always need ideas about new

hobby suggestions, church locations or places to meet new people. Maybe they aren't looking for any of that maybe, instead they are looking (we all are looking) simply for an ear. Maybe they are looking for the opposite of a quick fix. Maybe what they need most is a silent, supportive friend who has no need to fix because they love us just as we are, cracks and all.

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



Dee Dee Calow, Warren Elementary Principal, accepts a \$10,000 check from Valerie Stocks on behalf of Apple River State Bank.

Apple River State Bank donates to new Warren Elementary Playground

Apple River State Bank recently donated \$10,000 to Warren Community Unit School District #205 for its newly completed elementary and preschool playgrounds. The bank made the donation in honor of Valerie Stocks, who retired late last year as Senior Vice President and Mortgage Banking Manager after 40 years of service.

"We are proud to support this playground project in Val's honor," said Joel Holland, the bank's Chief Executive Officer. "It seems fitting since she spent much of her career in the

Warren office and was actively involved in the community."

During the school year, the playgrounds are open to the public from dusk to dawn on weekdays and all weekends. In the summer months, they will be accessible at all times. The playgrounds have handicapped-accessible features and swings to ensure everyone can participate.

Apple River State Bank is a locally owned, independent community bank with over \$550 million in total assets. The bank operated eight locations in Apple River, Darling-

ton (WI), Elizabeth, Hanover, Hazel Green (WI), Scales Galena), plus a network of 48 Mound, Warren, and Galena ATM locations.

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315 W. Maple St., Stockton, IL 61085
815-947-2414
Pastor Scott Hess
E-Mail: calvarychurchofstockton@yahoo.com
• **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
• **Sunday School – 8:45 a.m.**
• Communion and Potluck every 1st Sunday (except no potlucks during summer)
• Monday Group Prayer - 6 p.m.
• Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
• Every other Sat. Youth Group - 6 - 8 p.m.
You may find our facebook page and weekly messages by searching for "Calvary Church of Stockton on facebook.com"
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600 N. Main St., Stockton
Pastor Chrissy Salser (815) 988-9450
E-Mail: cle600@mediacombb.net
Find us on Facebook at ChristOnMainSt
• **Worship times: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.**
Sunday, 10 a.m.
• **Sunday School: Sunday, 9 a.m.**

EBENEZER – SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028
email: firstumcfeizabeth@gmail.com
Pastor Donna Hoffman 608-293-0163
email: dhoffman8@gmail.com
• **Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.**
• Women's Faith Group -
1st Tuesday monthly - 9:30 a.m.
We are handicapped accessible
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GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

MARTINTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

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211 Hulbert Rd. P.O. Box 97,
McConnell, IL 61050
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Pastor Jordan Cernek
• **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
Fellowship hour after every service
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NEW VINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

PROVIDENCE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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Cell (815) 238-0670
www.schapvillezion.org
• **Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.**
• **Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.**
• Bible Study Classes Available

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Scales Mound, IL 61054
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Rev. James Mehlretter
Website: www.shepherdofhill.com
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• **Sunday School (Sept. – May) – 8:45 a.m.**
• Holy Communion is celebrated weekly.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062
www.stjohnspearlcity.org
815-443-2215
• **Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
• Christian Education for all Ages - 10:15 a.m.
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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
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Church: 815-589-3367
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105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001
Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312
• **Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.**
• Reconciliation Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

411 W. Catlin St., P.O. Box 506
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Church: 815-858-3334
www.stpauelizabeth.org
All services are available to watch online@
Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Elizabeth, IL
YouTube channel: Pastor Mike Nesbit
• **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
• **Adult Bible Study - Sunday 10:30 a.m.**
Super Sunday on the first Sunday of the month, with Sunday School from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Worship services will be held outside during the summer. Please bring a lawn chair.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENT

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WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Hudson & Benton St.,
Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 947-2541
• **Sunday Worship – 11 a.m.**
• Adult Bible Studies Available
• Communion Every 1st Sunday
• First Sunday potluck following church services.
Find us on website StocktonWUMC.org
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WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

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

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

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



Come worship with us!

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, Sept. 8 for Quilt Sunday, Blessing of the Quilts Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Mark 7:24-37.

On Wednesday, Sept. 11 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. On Thursday, Sept. 12 Friendship Club will meet at 12:30 p.m. for a potluck and entertainment by Deb Leininger.

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/GSL-CLenaIL>) 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 sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost on Sunday, Sept. 8 at 9 a.m. Join us on Facebook if you can't make it in person.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 1 p.m.

The September Grace Meal will be on Sunday, Sept. 15. It will include meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, Jell-O, and chocolate chip cookies. Meals can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Sept. 15. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, Sept. 12. The meal is funded through the generosity of a grant received by The Foundation of Northwest Illinois, a grant from the Pearl City Lions Club, and through donations.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Sept. 5 at 3:15 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

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, Sept. 8, 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 Sept. 11 at 8 a.m. at Beltline Café, 325 West South Street, Freeport, 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.com.

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

The Evangelical Free Church of Lena has begun registration for AWANA, our discipleship program for children age three through grade six. AWANA runs from 5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Wednesday from Sep-

tember to April. Opening night for the 2024-25 school year is Sept. 11. Clubbers play games, recite verses and learn truths from the bible. Register at lenafreechurch.org.

New Vine Community Church of Lena

New Vine Community Church of Lena (NVCC) invites all to join in worship led by Pastor Doug Carroll on Sundays at 9 a.m. in Coach's Golf Grill Gymnasium (621 West Lena St). All services are live streamed on our Facebook page. For recordings and information please visit our Facebook page and website (www.NewVineLena.com).

NVCC will be having a Pre-harvest Blessing on Sept. 15, 2024, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the Kryder Farm (15812 W Howardsville Rd, Lena, IL 61048). Please join us in a blessing before the harvest season. We will have hotdogs, chips, root beer floats, and a wagon ride. We encourage you to bring your own chair, stories, and your antique tractor. Please contact Randy Kryder for information on bringing your tractor at 815-541-5434.

SOS+ to offer history program by Daryl Watson

Apple River Canyon was a local attraction long before it became a State Park in 1932. Back in the early 1800's it had been the site of K Frink and Walker Stagecoach stop after the construction of a sawmill in 1836. It soon became the thriving town of Millville which many of our ancestors once lived.

Given its beautiful bluffs, and cool rippling water, this area attracted many visitors, mostly those living close-by for picnics, hiking and fishing, that it became known as the Apple River State. Daryl Watson's grandfather purchased the family farm, a short distance downstream in 1895. Watson grew-up exploring those bluffs, gullies and rock formation even as he pursued college degrees at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville and University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Through the years,

Watson has collected many photos highlighting the history of Millville and the significance of the canyon.

Watson is thrilled to share his knowledge with our Senior Outreach (SOS+) of Millville and the early days of this beautiful canyon we know as Apple River State Park. The program will be held on Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Calvary Church of Stockton at 2 p.m. All are welcome to join. A love offering will be taken for the

Program, and light refreshments provided by the seniors following the program.

If interested in volunteering, sharing suggestions for upcoming programs, or if in need of a ride to the event, please feel free to call Mary Feltmeyer 815-297-5425, Nancy Rice 815-275-0303 or Shirley Toepfer 815-947-3639.

Do people really plan their funerals in advance?

Many people choose to pre-arrange their funerals for a variety of reasons. For some it is to plan your funeral the way you want it, or simply to relieve the stress and financial burdens for families making decisions at the time of death. Making pre-arrangements with one of our directors helps make sure your wishes are met.

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Lena Library

Sign up for Story Hour at the Lena Library
August 26th through September 7th



After School Program
Kindergarten - 5th Grade
Mondays 3:30 - 4:30

Story Hour Times
Preschool Ages 3-5
Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:00
Preschool Ages 3-5
Wednesdays 10:00 - 11:00

Programs will begin Tuesday, Sept. 10th
Hope to see you there!
Any questions, call 815-369-3180

Good Luck Warriors on your Homecoming



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IN*CI*DENTAL*LY

Legislation to address America's dental crisis

As a follow-up to last week's column on Medicare reform, on May 17, 2024, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP), introduced legislation to address the dental care crisis in America.



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

Some of the statements that Senator Sanders voiced in introducing this legislation include, "Far too many Americans, especially in rural areas, do not have access to a dentist, which forces them to either travel long distances or go without the care they need. The results have been tragic: One out of five seniors in our country are missing all of their natural teeth. Over 40 percent of children in America have tooth decay by the time they reach kindergarten. "Seventy percent of older Americans have some sort of periodontal disease which can lead to rheumatoid arthritis and cardiovascular disease. That is why I have introduced the most comprehensive dental care bill in the history of our country. Dental care is health care and health care must be considered a human right, not a privilege."

"Research shows that treating periodontal disease in people with chronic health conditions can save money. In fact, up to \$27.8 billion could be saved annually for Medicare patients with heart disease if these patients got the dental treatment they need. Each year, visits to the emergency department for dental care cost over \$2 billion, but research shows that nearly 79 percent of those visits could have been addressed by a visit to the dentist, which would save up to \$1.7 billion per year."

To help you understand the impact that this legislation can have on both our rural community and the health of our entire nation, I would like to share a copy of the summary of this legislation that HELP has provided:

Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2024. This bill covers five main areas aimed at ending the dental crisis in America by expanding coverage, creating new access points, enhancing the workforce, improving education, and funding new research.

Coverage: This bill extends comprehensive dental health insurance to millions of Americans who do not have coverage today.

- Extends comprehensive coverage to all Medicare, Medicaid, and VA beneficiaries
- Makes dental services an essential health benefit for adults under the ACA
- Allows States to be eligible for an enhanced FMAP (15% increase) for dental services under Medicaid if they meet requirements to address provider participation and patient utilization
- Requires public reporting of states' Medicaid dental benefits and utilization

Access Points: This bill ensures that there are more places people can go to access a qualified oral health care professional to get the care they need.

- Increases funding for oral health services for health clinics, such as community health centers
- Increases funding for school-based dental services
- Authorizes emergency department care coordination grants to enable individuals to receive dental care in clinics rather than in emergency department settings
- Authorizes funding for mobile and portable services and outreach to underserved populations
- Encourages the delivery of telehealth-enabled dental services

Workforce: This bill uses multiple strategies to increase the number of oral health professionals who will work in communities with the greatest need.

- Authorizes funding for additional National Health Service Corps scholarships and loan repayment to recruit and support oral health professionals to work in underserved communities
- Creates two oral health professional student loan programs, one through Veterans Affairs

- Authorizes additional funding for community-based dental residencies and dental student training
- Incentivizes higher reimbursement rates for dental services to encourage greater provider participation in Medicaid
- Creates new demo programs for the training and employment of alternative dental health care providers

(Veterans Affairs, Bureau of Prisons, Indian Health Service)

Education: This bill addresses the need to educate current and future oral health care providers to better serve vulnerable populations and to integrate oral health care into overall health care.

- Authorizes additional funding for programs to

educate non-dental health professionals about oral health to encourage the integration of oral health care into overall health care

- Requires that dental schools accepting any federal funding meet criteria designed to prepare students to meet the needs of diverse and underserved populations

Research: This bill

authorizes funding for research on prevention and disease management to improve oral health care delivery and the oral health status of our country.

Authorizes additional federal funding for oral health research and evaluation related to the care and needs of underserved and vulnerable populations.

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Ranch home with covered front porch and back paver patio. Main floor offers living room, family room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths and laundry. Primary bedroom has walk in closet and full bath with shower. Lower level rec room, craft/office, multiuse room with closet and another full bath, workshop and mechanical room, plus multiple storage closets. Storage shed and garden area in back yard. Newer roof, furnace, central air and water softener.



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appliances including a double oven, dining room, full bath with shower, laundry room with additional cabinets and door to concrete patio, back yard and 2 1/2 stall garage. The upper level has the 4 bedrooms and second full bath. Finished walk up attic and lower level has family room with bar, woodstove, wine cellar room, half bath, workshop and stairs to the outside bilco door. Newer gas dryer, central air, garage door opener & garage windows, concrete patio, some new windows and rooms painted and rubber roof.

Listings



222 N. Washington • \$95,000

Great location, close to park and downtown. The main floor features kitchen, large dining, L shaped living room, full bath and laundry room. Upstairs you will find 2 bedrooms with a tandem room between them. Deck off of kitchen overlooks backyard and one stall detached garage.



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Several other lots available in Oak View Terrace priced \$32,000 - \$38,500.



129 W. Railroad \$99,900

Mixed use building in downtown Lena. The main floor has two good size office/retail spaces, storage room, half bath and back room with entrance off of alley. The second level has a one bedroom apartment with a spacious living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, full bath and back storage/laundry room. There is a ramp on the side of the building. New are the furnaces and air conditioners, mostly new windows upstairs, front facade updated, front window and door.



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Sept. 6th & 7th • Lena, IL

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Start at Old School Apartments (Old Grade School) and follow same route as years past
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Look for "Pork Chops on a Stick" during the parade!



Friday 7 p.m. - Free Entertainment
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\$10.00 each or 3/\$20.00
Only 5,000 tickets will be printed with only one prize so get your tickets early!

2024 Polaris Ghost Gray UTV SP570 Ranger
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2nd Prize: \$250 Lena Money Gift Certificate
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Around the Northern Hills

Do you want home cooked meals, but are short on time? I've got the perfect solution for you! Take part in the Ag in the Classroom Freezer meal fundraiser. You will get 10 meals frozen for you and ready to re-heat. Each meal feeds three to five people. The cost is \$200 for the set.



By **ANNETTE EGGERS**
Jo Daviess
County Farm
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- The 10 meals include:
- Chicken & Biscuits
 - Broccoli Cheese Soup
 - Pulled Pork Mac & Cheese
 - Chicken Bacon Ranch Pasta
 - Ham & Beans
 - Smoked Pork Tenderloin
 - Swiss Steak
 - Pulled Pork
 - Chuckwagon Beans
 - Hawaiian Chicken

Orders are due to our office Sept. 18. Pick-up is set for Oct. 10 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. To place your order, stop in our office or go to our website www.jodaviesscfb.com and click on the freezer meal

tab.

Cover Cop Field Day

Mark your calendars, the cover crop field day is set for Friday, Sept. 13 starting 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). Full details will be shared soon.

Pop tabs

I have had a couple of people ask me recently if we still collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in Iowa City. The simple answer is, yes! We are happy to sup-

port a worthwhile cause that has benefited people from our area that have doctorate in Iowa City.

If you have pop tabs that you would like to donate, please drop them off in any kind of container to the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau office Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Young Leaders Committee

The Young Leaders Committee will have their next meeting on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m. at the farm bureau office in Elizabeth. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 35 that has an interest in agriculture is welcome to attend. For more information, call our office at 815.858.2235 or email me at jdcfbmgr@gmail.com.

Farm Fun Fact

September is National Honey Month.

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High School golfers hit the course for 2024 season

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The 2024 High School golf season has begun, and the local golfers haven't skipped a beat. Both Stockton and the River Ridge-Scales Mound golf teams enter 2024 with some exceptional players on their rosters. Just a couple weeks into the season, both teams have put up some impressive performances.

Casey Kenna and the Stockton golfers were coming off a 13-3 team record from last year. Immediately, Masyn Cahill stands out as one of Stockton's top golfers. Last season, Cahill was a Sectional qualifier, as well as a First Team Girls' All-Conference golfer. Prior to the season, Kenna mentioned that Cahill is "hoping to exceed last year's accomplishments."

Cahill and the other Blackhawk golfers ran into some tough competition when they faced off with Eastland on Aug. 20. That day, Stockton was led by their junior Blake Zink. As a two-time varsity letter winner and a third-year golfer, Zink hit the links running on Aug. 20. He took third place against

Eastland with a 47. That was only enough to tie Eastland's third best scorers. By the end of the match, Eastland beat Stockton 178-198. Eastland's Braden Anderson was the top medalist as he shot a 40 on the day.

Two days later, Anderson and the Eastland golfers put on an even better performance when they faced off with River Ridge Scales Mount (RR-SM) at the Eagle Ridge North Golf Course. The RR-SM roster hoists plenty of talent itself, headlined by Camden Flack.

It was Anderson who would bring home another first-place finish. Eagle Ridge North is a par 36 course, and Anderson came in just plus three as he shot a 39 on the day. Flack had a solid performance shooting a 43, but that was good enough for just a third-place finish. Eastland's Cam Huber finished with a 42 on the day. That was enough to make the difference in the matchup as RR-SM fell to Eastland by a final score of 172-170.

The Blackhawks and Wildcats were scheduled to face off with each other on Sept. 3 at Eagle Ridge North.

WA TAN YE community contributions

WA TAN YE (WTE) has been busy preparing for the 97th WA TAN YE Association Convention. The convention will be held locally this year on Oct. 4 through Oct. 5, 2024, and will highlight the Stockton community, businesses, services, and eating establishments.

Stockton's WTE contributed over 25 hours of volunteer time to help the Stockton Lions Club during their July 4 chicken bar-be-que. This year Lions Club served 91

home delivery dinners, and the bar-be-que made over \$2000 more than the previous year.

The August meeting was held at Massbach Ridge Winery with wine tasting and the beautiful scenery. The Sept. 5 meeting will be at the Corner Tap, starting the evening with a Steak Fry. New members are always welcome to join the group. Additionally, the club would like to thank the Stockton community for all its support.



STOCKTON BLACKHAWKS VOLLEYBALL FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Stockton's Kacy Wright makes her 1000th assist on Aug. 28 against the Morrison Mustangs during the season opener.

Wright notches career assist 1,000 as Stockton wins home opener

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton Blackhawks tipped off their 2024 Varsity volleyball season with a bang. Last week, the Blackhawks earned a pair of victories, notched a career milestone, and defended their home court. Stockton was originally set to open their season on Aug. 26 in a matchup against the Orangeville Broncos. When temperatures approached one hundred degrees outside, many local sporting events and practices were cancelled or postponed. That includes the season opener between the Blackhawks and Broncos.

After a two-day delay, the Blackhawks were finally in action when they played host to the Morrison Mustangs. In 2023, Stockton beat the Mustangs 2-1 in the first game, making it fitting that these teams met up in another opener. The Mustangs were unable to put up as big of a fight this time around. With the Blackhawks playing in front of their home crowd, Stockton put things away in a hurry. After a 25-14 victory in the first set, the Mustangs were locked in the stables. A 25-10 victory in the second set sealed the deal on a 2-0 sweep to open the season for the Blackhawks.

It was a memorable day for Kacy Wright, who notched career assist number 1000. Kacy has been facilitating the Stockton offense for a few years, and that remained true in game one of 2024. Kacy led the team with 11 assists, including number 1000, in the victory. Kacy added two kills, three aces, two total blocks, and four digs to her stat line.

Madie Mammoser didn't skip a beat. Mammoser dropped seven kills and a pair

of blocks as she dominated around the net. Freshman Emma Eisfeller had a breakout performance with four kills. Emily Broshous led the team with eight digs in the victory.

The Blackhawks kept things rolling in the second game of the year, when they faced off with the Pearl City Wolves. After splitting the first two sets, things were set up for an exciting finish. In the end, Stockton persevered as they won the third set 25-20.

That sent the Blackhawks into the weekend with a 2-0 record to start the year. After picking up wins both at home and on the road, Stockton couldn't have asked for a better start to their season.

Over the weekend, the Stockton volleyball team continued play as they went to compete in this year's Galena Tournament on Aug. 31. There, they faced off with teams like East Dubuque, Annawan, Durand, and Winnebago.

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Wildcats earn first week one victory since 2018

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

It has been six years since the Eastland-Pearl City Wildcats won their football season opener. The last time the Wildcats began their year with a 1-0 record was in 2018. They went on to finish that season with a 12-1 overall record. Their only loss came to the eventual 2A state champions in the semifinals.

It's been a long road for the Wildcats ever since the 2018 run. After dropping the opener for five consecutive seasons, the 2024 Wildcats are already off to their best start in the last half decade. EPC head coach, Jared McNutt, and the Wildcats are hoping this is just the beginning.

The Wildcats opened the 2024 season against the Galena Pirates on Aug. 30. Just last

season, Galena delivered the Wildcats a 28-6 loss on EPC's home territory. This year, the Wildcats got the opportunity to return the favor. EPC and Galena found themselves in a bit of a defensive battle in the first half. Perhaps it was more of an offensive struggle than it was defensive prowess. Both teams struggled to finish drives as ball control became a factor.

Protecting the rock is the key to success and the Wildcats taught the Pirates that lesson last Friday. The Wildcats forced five turnovers in the game, including four interceptions. Peyton Spears, Will Birchen, Draven Zier, and Jacob Runkle each snagged interceptions in the game. EPC had just one turnover of their own in the game.

Despite the five to one turnover ratio, the EPC offense failed to make Galena pay for their mistake. EPC needed every added opportunity they could get, and even then, they couldn't pull away. EPC ran 10 more plays than Galena. Twice the Wildcats had the ball inside the five yard line and came away with

zero points. The Wildcats finally cracked the scoreboard in the third when they combined for 16 points. In such a low-scoring affair, the two-score advantage was probably enough to seal the deal. A third touchdown in the fourth helped put things away as the Wildcats won by a score of 22-6.

The EPC offense had just two touchdowns on the day. Both came by way of the ground as Jaxsyn Kempel rushed in for a pair of scores. Zier carried a heavy workload in the backfield, rushing for 65 yards on 22 carries.

EPC's biggest play of the day came with the offense on the sideline. A 93-yard kick return touchdown by Adam

Awender provided the Wildcats with some much-needed insurance.

In terms of yardage, it was a very close game. EPC out-gained Galena by just three yards as the Wildcats totaled 163 yards while Galena had 160. It was the turnover rate that played the difference in this one. "We did a lot of things really well and our defense played great. Our offense had short fields because we had the four interceptions and the recovered fumble," McNutt shared following the game.

The Wildcats face quite the challenge in travel two. This Friday, EPC travels to Durand to take on the Durand-Pecatonica Rivermen at 7 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICES

LIEN SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLL as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on September 19, 2024 at approx. 1:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com Cube 1005 Larry Parsons

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Sept. 4 & 11, 2024)
460525

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust Plaintiff

vs.
Shanin J. Solt; et. al
Defendant
23 FC 57

CALENDAR 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 October 9, 2024, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT 3 OF WINDHAVEN ACRES PLAT NO. 1 RECORDED NOVEMBER 10, 1998 IN BOOK "M" OF PLATS, PAGES 93-93A AS DOCUMENT NO. 9893524, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF A PART OF THE SOUTH-EAST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER

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For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-23-06280 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13250841

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Sept. 4, 11 & 18, 2024)
460549

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Village of Lena will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 23, 2024, at 5:55pm at Village Hall, located at 122 E. Main Street, Lena, IL 61048, to provide interested parties an opportunity to

express their views on the proposed Illinois Department of Transportation's ITEP Grant Application project and application submittal.

On or about September 30, 2024, the Village of Lena intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Transportation for a grant from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). These grant funds will be utilized to help the Village develop Pedestrian/Bicycle pathways that facilitate transportation from one destination to another, allowing for the community to be connected to all necessary services and amenities. The goal of the ITEP grant project is to support alternate modes of transportation, enhance the transportation system throughout the community, and improve the quality of life for members of the communities.

Written comments should be submitted to Village Hall no later than September 23, 2024, in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Village Hall at 815.369.4016 or email Village Hall at office@villageoflena.com. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking person who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Village Hall at 815.369.4016 no later than September 23, 2024. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

(Published in
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Sept. 4, 2024)
460746



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lena Year of the Month

The Lena Beautification Committee and the Lena Business and Professionals Association have selected Eric and Erin Haan's home for the August Yard of the Month. The couple has completely redone the landscape around their home since they moved there in 2020. Erin loves hydrangeas and has planted several varieties. Other perennials planted in the flower bed include hostas, purple phlox, and lilies. A lemony lace elderberry offers a variety of color for different seasons. When it is time to rest, Erin enjoys sitting in her bench made from an old metal baby crib. The Haan's enjoy working in their yard and their hard work has paid off. Congratulations, Eric and Erin!

Village of Lena happenings

We hope to see everyone for the Fall Festival on Sept. 6 and 7. The parade begins at noon on Saturday, Sept. 7th. Thank you to the Lena Lions for organizing such a fun event for the Village of Lena.

The Village of Lena is applying for an ITEP Grant to fund a couple sidewalk projects. The grant would help complete the sidewalk to Fairway Hills, and to the Oak View Terrace Subdivision. This is a highly sought after grant, so the more support we have the better. If you would like to write a letter of support to accompany our ap-

plication, please call Village Hall at 815-369-4016 for more information. Any letters of support would need to be turned into the Village by Monday, Sept. 23.

The IEPA Loan was funded for the sewer lining project. We will be putting the project out for bid this fall and plan to have it start this coming spring.

As a reminder, please do not blow grass in the street while mowing. The grass ends up being washed down the storm drains causing them to clog and back up. If you have excess grass to dis-

pose of, it can be dropped off at the Streets Department on Townline Road in the designated yard waste pile.

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

No 'slated' GOP candidates will be kept off ballot after rulings from Supreme Court, elections board

Kennedy to remain on Illinois presidential ballot, 2 third-party candidates removed

By Jerry Nowicki and Jennifer Fuller

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A law banning political parties from waiting until after the primary election to place a state legislative candidate on the general election ballot won't keep any Republicans from running this November.

The Illinois Supreme Court and State Board of Elections each made rulings Aug. 23, ensuring that a law rushed through by Democrats in May wouldn't throw a wrench into the filing process for the current election cycle.

The decisions pertain to "candidate slating," a process through which party insiders can name a candidate to the general election ballot for their party, even if no candidate ran in the party's primary. The law, which is now officially on hold for 2024, still allows parties to replace withdrawals but prevents slating in cases where the party didn't run anyone in the primary.

The elections board ruled that slated Republican candidate Jay Keeven may appear on the November ballot, throwing out challenges against him and other candidates that would have been affected by the law.

Hours later, the high court issued what's known as a "Perlman order," affirming a lower court's decision to temporarily halt the law for the current cycle without setting a precedent in future cases. That ruling doesn't void the law in its entirety, but rather blocks it only for this year's general election for the 14 plaintiffs—all slated Republican candidates—that sued the state after the law's passage.

Democrats introduced the bill in May, then passed it and sent it to the governor for a signature within 48 hours.

While Democrats billed the law as one to would weaken "party bosses," Republicans decried it as a majority-party power grab to keep Republicans off the ballot in tight races.

A Sangamon County judge agreed in a June ruling that Democrats were out of line in changing the rules mid-cycle. Judge Gail Noll blocked the law from taking effect against the candidates who sued the state following its passage. The Supreme Court's Aug. 23 opinion—which noted two justices recused themselves and the remaining judges couldn't come to a four-vote majority—upholds the order.

Keeven, a candidate in what's expected to be a tight House race against incumbent Democrat Katie Stuart in the Metro East, was not party to the lawsuit, because he filed petitions before the law took effect. Democrats challenged his candidacy, seeking to use the law to remove him from the ballot.

The Illinois State Board of Elections rejected the challenge on Aug. 23 on the grounds that "he filed his nomination papers in an accordance with the law in effect at the time." They accepted the recommendation of a hearing officer with one dissenting vote from Board Chair Casandra Watson.

"For months, Democrats in Springfield have tried ev-

ery possible way to keep the voters in the Metro-East from having a choice in November," Keeven said in a statement. "Today, they lost. With every attempt to kick me off of the ballot, our campaign continues to gain momentum."

Keeven's challengers were represented by Michael Kasper, a Democratic election lawyer who has long been a power player on issues such as redistricting and candidate challenges. He argued that the hearing officer erred by enforcing a law that was no longer on the books.

"The board's powers are to apply the law as it is today," he argued.

But John Fogarty, the GOP's counterpart to Kasper, argued the General Assem-

bly shouldn't be allowed to change the rules in the middle of an election cycle, particularly for candidates for the General Assembly.

"The role of this body is, yes, to apply the law, but you also apply the law as it was when this act was taken," he said, noting that if the General Assembly wanted the law applied retroactively, it could have specifically said so.

Presidential action

In other action, the board removed two third-party candidates from the presidential ballot while ruling that independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. can remain on the ballot despite objections.

See BALLOT, Page 20



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Pearl City students back in action

Pearl City students are back in school and back to work. This week, fourth graders in Mrs. Brouhard's science class worked with partners to create a simple electrical system that would power a fan. They were given the materials with no directions and had to work together to figure out how to make their fan function. Pictured are Kamryn Shellhause and Fallyn Pauley as they design their electrical motor system.



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Pearl City kindergarten and first grade students practice their teamwork skills, helping others, and taking turns in the "train tracks" game. Groups had to move and lay down the tracks so that their friends could make it across the gym. Pictured are students Cruz Lopez, Logan Liebenstein, Macklin Sheffey, Cadence Pickard, Hazel Sillane, Harra Allen, Emily Panico, and Brantley Worrell.



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Natalie Dinderman, Micah Daiker, and Everly Corbin help Kayslee Kostenbader cross the gym in their team building and problem solving game.

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Report shows Illinois union participation declining despite growth in new petitions

'State of the Unions' study shows public sector unions shrink following 2018 Janus decision

By Jerry Nowicki
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
 Overall participation in labor unions has declined in recent years in Illinois, although the state has seen an increase in successful unionization efforts for the second year in a row.
 That's according to the State of the Unions 2024 report, the latest installment in an annual review of unionization in Illinois and the U.S. by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute and the University of Illinois' Project for Middle Class Renewal. ILEPI is a nonprofit research organization with a board of directors that's closely tied to organized labor.
 The study found that Illinois saw 86 successful union petitions in 2023, up from

67 the year before. Those are the two highest totals in a 10-year period dating back to 2014. The prior eight years ranged from 25 to 62 successful petitions.
 "When you see a couple of positive years where you're seeing growth in numbers, it does suggest that there's some change in the labor market, there's some change in worker attitudes, there's some change in the strategy of union organizers," Robert Bruno, a report co-author and director of the Project for Middle Class Renewal said in an interview. "It all suggests a positive turn."
 The successful petitions led to 4,399 additional workers being unionized in 2023, down from 9,497 in 2022.
 "That's from coffee shops

to hospitals to cannabis producers to top-ranked universities," said Frank Manzo, a report co-author and economist with ILEPI, said. "You know, private and nonprofit workers successfully organized dozens of workplaces, showing that the labor movement is gaining traction in new and emerging industries."
 Despite the increase in private sector unionization efforts, the percentage of Illinois' workforce that is unionized dropped below 13 percent for the first time in the 10-year period surveyed. At 12.8 percent, Illinois had the 13th-highest unionization rate among all states. A total of 707,829 people in Illinois were unionized in 2023, down from nearly 847,000 in

2015.
 The public sector unionization rate has declined by a total of 4.1 percentage points since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in Janus vs. AFSCME, from 52.1 percent to 48 percent. That ruling put an end to public sector unions being able to charge fees to individuals who benefit from union representation but choose not to join the union.
 Those fees, often referred to as "fair share" fees, helped unions better negotiate wage and benefit structures for all employees, regardless of whether they are part of the union. Without them, Manzo said, unions are required to represent those individuals without compensation.
 "It is true that the most

significant contributor to the declines in Illinois' unionization rate has been drops in worker bargaining power in the public sector that was sparked by a 2018 Supreme Court decision," Manzo said.
 Another contributor to union participation decline is that the economy has added jobs in sectors with "low union densities," like management, professional services, e-commerce and the gig economy, he said. At the same time, careers with long-standing union ties, such as mining and manufacturing, have either grown more slowly or "been lost altogether," he said.
 But he added that other states, including many surrounding Illinois, have enacted "right-to-work" laws, which create "Janus-like conditions" in the private sector.
 Illinois' Workers' Rights Amendment—an amendment to the state constitution that was approved by voters in 2022—"effectively bans those so-called right-to-work laws from ever coming to the state," Manzo said.
 "And the data show that states that protect workers rights, like Illinois, have higher wages, faster wage growth and stronger unions compared to those that have weakened collective bargaining rights," he said.
 While Illinois' unionization rate was 12.8 percent in 2023, nearby states that have right-to-work laws—Iowa,

Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin—had rates ranging from 7.1 percent to 8.8 percent.
 Average hourly earnings in Illinois were \$36.82 in 2023, compared to rates of \$28.82 to \$31.84 in the four neighboring right-to-work states, although Illinois' cost of living is generally higher than in those states, which don't have a city comparable to Chicago's size.
 Illinois' wage growth from 2017 to 2023 was an average of 4.6 percent higher than those four states, based on the study's review of the U.S. Department of Labor's Current Population Survey data. Unionized Illinois workers earn about 12.6 percent more than non-union workers, per the same analysis.
 The study found Black workers, men, military veterans, and workers with master's degrees have the highest unionization rates in Illinois.
 Nationally, the U.S. added 135,000 new union members in 2023, following a gain of 277,000 union members in 2022, according to the report. Unions are also seeing near record-high support, with 67 percent of respondents viewing them favorably, per a Gallup poll cited in the report.
 "Despite dealing with an economy in transition and facing considerable legal challenges, unions are organizing new industries and improving job quality," Manzo said.

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 Students will have the opportunity to speak with health care professionals and participate in hands-on activities that will allow them to experience firsthand what it might be like to work in a variety of health care settings such as Cardiac Cath Lab, Emergency Department, Family Medicine Residency, Operating Room, Pharmacy, Eye Care, Orthopedics and Physical Therapy.
 Club Scrub will start Oct. 9 and end Dec. 18 with a graduation ceremony. Each session will be held on Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at SSM Health Monroe Hospital, 515 22nd Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin. Applications are due by Sept. 20, 2024.
 Please complete the application form that can be found at ssmhealth.com/clubsclub.
 For questions, please contact Club Scrub Coordinator, Stacie Natter at stacie.natter@ssmhealth.com.

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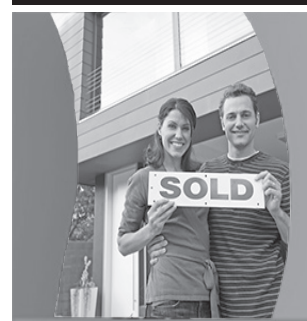
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IT'S GARAGE SALE TIME AGAIN!

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

I had almost forgotten that this week was a milestone in my column writing. I started the week of Fall Festival in 2004. It is hard to believe that we have been sharing this space for 20 years. As I looked back through earlier columns, so many loyal readers have passed away. I also

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remembered them fondly as they sent me their treasured recipes. I have written 960 of these little recipes, and hope I have a few more left in me. Today's recipes have a mixture of some new and some from my first columns. Thanks for letting me wax nostalgia this week.

Merry Berry Salad

This refreshing salad uses several of this fall's fruits to enhance a green salad. I like to use Braeburn apples and Granny Smith apples. If you don't have any frozen cranberries because fresh ones aren't in season, you can substitute raspberries or blueberries.

1 large pkg. (10 oz.) mixed salad greens
1 medium red apple, diced
1 medium green apple diced
1 C. shredded Parmesan cheese
½ C. dried cranberries
½ C. slivered almonds, toasted

Dressing
1 C. fresh cranberries
½ C. sugar
½ cider vinegar
½ C. thawed apple juice concentrate
1 t. salt
1 t. ground mustard
1 t. grated onion
1 C. canola oil

Combine the salad ingredients in a large bowl. In the food processor, place all dressing ingredients except oil and pulse until well blended. While processing, gradually add the oil in a steady stream. Drizzle over salad greens.

Orange Caramelized Squash Rings

This recipe was in my very first column. It is easy to

make and is a good seasonal recipe.

1 medium acorn squash
2 T. butter melted
2 T. orange marmalade
2 T. packed brown sugar

Heat the oven to 350.

Wash squash and pierce several times with a fork. Place squash in a low glass baking dish. Microwave on high 5 to 6 minutes, turning and rotating twice until the skin starts to soften. Let stand in microwave about 5 minutes to cool slightly. Cut off a small portion of each end of the squash. Cut the squash into 4 rings about 1 inch thick. Remove the seeds. Place the rings in an ungreased 9 x 13 baking dish. Brush tops with ½ of the butter. Turn and brush the other side with butter. Bake 30 minutes. In a small bowl, mix marmalade and brown sugar. Brush over the top of each squash. Return to the oven and bake an additional 10 minutes. Turn slices over; brush with remaining mixture. Bake 5-10 minutes longer or until squash is tender. This is a wonderful vegetable dish to serve with roast pork or pork chops.

Cabbage Roll Casserole

This recipe was also in my very first column. Gloria Kayser, who had a local floral shop for many years and a farmer's market long before farmer's markets were popular, shared this recipe because she didn't like all the fuss of rolling up the cabbage rolls.

2 lbs. ground beef
1 large onion, chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
2 cans (15 oz. each) tomato sauce, divided
1 t. dried thyme
½ t. dill weed
½ t. dried sage

¼ t. salt
¼ t. pepper
¼ t. cayenne pepper
2 C. cooked rice
4 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

1 medium head cabbage (about 2 lbs.) shredded
1 C. shredded mozzarella cheese

Preheat the oven 375. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat, crumbling beef, until meat is no longer pink. Add the garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Drain. Stir in 1 can tomato sauce and spices. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, 5 minutes. Stir in rice and bacon and remove from heat.

Grease a 9 x 13 baking dish. Layer a third of the cabbage in the baking dish. Top with half the meat mixture. Repeat layers, top with remaining cabbage. Pour remaining can of tomato sauce over the top. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle with cheese. Bake until cheese is melted, about 10 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving

Carol's Pumpkin Bars

This recipe was also in my very first column. My mother's friend, Carol, made the best pumpkin bars. For years I had to make these for my fellow teachers on their birthdays. I have never found another pumpkin bar recipe that is as good as this one. The best part of the recipe is that it only takes 10 minutes to put it together! I'm remembering the good times of both my mom and Carol.

2 C. flour
2 t. baking powder
1 t. baking soda
¼ t. salt
2 t. cinnamon
1 t. pumpkin pie spice

2 C. sugar
1 C. salad oil
4 eggs
16 oz. can of pumpkin
1 C. pecans (optional)

Frosting

1 stick unsalted butter
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
3½ C. powdered sugar
1 t. of vanilla

Preheat the oven to 350. In a mixing bowl, mix ingredients together on medium speed in order and blend well. Bake in a jelly roll pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray for 25 minutes at 350. For frosting: Cream together the butter and cream cheese; carefully add the powdered sugar and mix until blended; add the vanilla and mix again. Frost when cool. I think they are better if they have been refrigerated for a while. If you have any left, refrigerate the rest.

Mom's Apple Cake

My mom's apple cake is still the best. I used to make it every year, but lately haven't been able to chew it. I am looking forward to the day I can savor this cake again.

1¼ C. cooking oil
2 C. sugar
3 eggs
1 t. soda
1 t. salt
3 C. flour
3 C. chopped apples
1 C. chopped pecans

Sauce:

1 C. brown sugar
½ C. butter
¼ C. canned milk
1 t. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350. Mix oil, sugar, and eggs in standing mixer. In a separate bowl, combine the soda, salt, and flour. Whisk ingredients together. Add to sugar mixture. Remove from mixer and fold in apples and nuts. Place in a large pan sprayed with cooking spray. Bake until crusty on top about 55 minutes. Cook sauce ingredients on low to slow boil until slightly thickened. Spread warm

sauce over cake.

Final Thoughts

Thanks for letting me go down memory lane this week. I never told anyone but my mother that I was writing this column. Years later I was really surprised when people still didn't know I was doing it. I guess you can keep a secret in Lena for a long time. I have been fortunate to have people give me lots of recipes. I have had only three incidents where people were upset with me. We were able to get those times straightened out.

There are some things that have remained the same in twenty years. I always use all-purpose flour unless I specify, I always use low-sodium chicken or beef broth as well as low sodium soy sauce. I do like arugula lettuce and a lot of people don't. I am a big user of Watkins spices because my college roommate used to sell them. I always use unsalted butter unless the recipe specifically tells me to use salted butter. Like the Pioneer Woman, I have rarely had a recipe with bananas—she hates them, and I am allergic to them. Remember to use good ingredients because cheaper does not mean better, especially when dealing with chocolate! I love church cookbooks. If you have followed me a lot of years, you already know these things. I have written through the deaths of friends and family, back surgery, and cancer treatments. We will see if I make it to start my 21st year! Thanks for sticking with me.

We will be looking for some good squash and apple 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.

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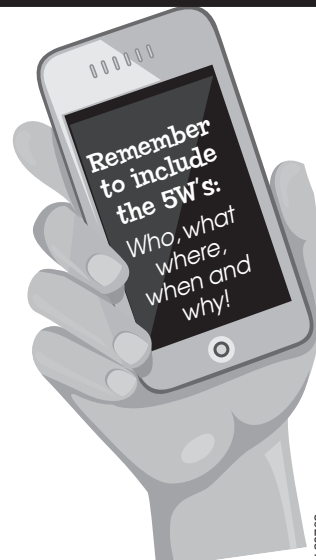
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Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

It may not feel like fall, but it will be here before we know it. Fall is my favorite season of them all. I love the cooler temperatures, and I prioritize many visits to apple orchards. One of my favorite parts of visiting the apple orchard is strolling through the area with all the different apple varieties. There are nearly 100 varieties of apples grown in the United States, but only a handful of those make it to the top of the "apple charts" which then account for more than 90 percent of apple production.

Americas top favorites include:

Gala: crispy, juicy, and very sweet. Galas are ideal for snacking.

Red Delicious: sweet-tasting and best eaten fresh or on salads

Fuji: sweet flavor and firm, perfect for eating fresh.

Golden Delicious: a mild, buttery-honey taste that is perfect for pies and crisps

Granny Smith: green-colored, crisp, and tart makes for a fun snack-try it with peanut butter.

Honey Crisp: explosive crispiness and sweet like honey - these apples are great for snacking, putting in salads or making sauce.

My favorite apples include golden delicious and galas. I can't wait to enjoy some caramel apples and a cup of hot apple cider. Be sure to get out and support our local apple orchards this fall.

Calling Carroll and Stephenson County teachers

Want to get some new learning activities for your class this year? Attend the Awesome Agriculture free online workshop! At the workshop you will learn about on-line resources from Illinois Ag in the Classroom and how to use them.

Teachers will earn 1 PD for attending and get a \$20

Amazon gift card to use for classroom supplies. The program will take place on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 4 p.m. to 5p.m. Registration is due on or before Sept. 9 and can be completed by visiting <https://form.jotform.com/241864447555163>

Illinois Farm Bureau's Actively Engaged Student of the Month

Do you know an actively

engaged student with participation in FFA, 4-H, IHSA and a student activity, club or organization? Nominate them for Illinois Farm Bureau's Actively Engaged Student of the Month. The student must participate in all of the defined areas to be considered. Nomination is good for the entire 2024-2025 school year and do not reset each month. Winners will be selected on the

first Friday of each month, starting in September. Nominations should come from FFA advisor, coach, club or activity sponsor, and/or 4-H or county fair rep. Nominator's may also include a letter with further details at the end of the form. To nominate an individual www.farmweeknow.com/actively-engaged/ Direct questions, to JTaylor@ifb.org

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Ballot (Continued from page 15)

Libertarian candidate Scott Schluter and Green Party candidate Jill Stein were both ordered removed due to lack of signatures.

The challenges to Kennedy's candidacy stemmed largely on the argument that he falsified his address, among other challenges to signatures and nominating petitions. But a hearing officer recommended he be kept on the ballot and the board agreed.

Kennedy's lawyer didn't

comment when asked about the candidate's future in the race.

"Is your client dropping out?" Watson asked.

"That's beyond my pay grade. I'm sorry, I don't know," Kennedy's attorney Andrew Finko replied. "I'm here for the electoral board and that's it."

Hours later, Kennedy said he's not terminating his campaign but is taking his name off the ballot in swing states

as to not play "spoiler." He's endorsing former President Donald Trump over Vice President Kamala Harris.

The Illinois State Board of Elections confirmed Aug. 23 that Kennedy's name would appear on the ballot and he had not filed to withdraw as of Aug. 23.

Bost elections case denied

A federal appeals court this week rejected a lawsuit from U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphysboro, that argued Illinois' policy of accepting mail-in ballots for two weeks after

election day violates federal law.

In its 2-1 decision, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals panel agreed with a circuit court that Bost and other plaintiffs in the case lacked standing, because they didn't have evidence that they were tangibly harmed by the law.

Illinois allows mail-in ballots to be counted up to 14 days after Election Day, as long as they are postmarked by Election Day. Bost and other plaintiffs argued their votes would be diluted, and that candidates would have to spend more money, in part by

maintaining campaign offices for longer periods.

Writing for the majority, Judge John Lee said Bost's claims failed to show voters were harmed by ballots being counted after Election Day.

"Even if we were to accept Plaintiffs' premise that inclusion of these ballots would cause vote dilution, their votes would be diluted in the same way that every other vote cast in Illinois prior to Election Day would be diluted," Lee wrote. "Thus, to the extent Plaintiffs would suffer any injury, it would be in a generalized manner and

not "personal and individual" to Plaintiffs, as the Supreme Court requires."

U.S. District Judge John Kness dismissed the case last year. Bost appealed, and that appeal was heard nine days after the 2024 primary he narrowly won over challenger and former state Sen. Darren Bailey, R-Xenia.

Judge Michael Scudder Jr. agreed the votes would not be unfairly diluted, but he disagreed with the other two judges on Bost's standing in the suit. Rather, Scudder classified Bost as an "active stakeholder."



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