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VOL. 90 • NO. 41

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2, 2024



STOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK PHOTO *Rock Valley Publishing*

Stockton celebrates homecoming

Stockton High School celebrates homecoming with a parade held on Thursday, Sept. 26. The entire week was dedicated to homecoming, complete with school dress up days, a pep rally, a volleyball team win, and a homecoming dance.

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Obituaries

VERNA STAMM

Verna Louise Stamm, 85 passed away peacefully on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, with her family by her side at the SSM Monroe Hospice Home in Monroe, WI. Verna was born on March 7, 1939, to Vern and Edith (Lutter) Stich in Chicago, IL. She was raised in Waddams Grove, IL. Verna nannied after high school in Highland Park, IL for a few years. She then went on to work at Stich Sand and Gravel where she met Gerald. On April 12, 1963, she and Gerald got married at the Lena United Methodist Church. Together Gerald and she started farming in 1967 in rural McConnell, IL.

Attending her grandchildren's sporting events and activities were just a few things Verna enjoyed doing. You could find her in the kitchen cooking, canning and baking pies, cookies or during Halloween making popcorn balls. If you knew Verna, you knew she loved Christmas and her Christmas village she set up (by the help of her grandchildren). She was involved with Home Extension and the Mock Orange Club. Verna enjoyed playing cards, specifically euchre. She would take yearly trips in the fall to Gays Mills, WI to visit the orchards and get apples. Most of all she loved spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her three children- Lisa (Neal) Boeke of Juda, WI, David Stamm of McConnell, IL and Lori (Brian) Rote of McConnell, IL ; seven grandchildren- Amber (Kyle) Tews of Orfordville,



WI, Andy (Hillary) Boeke of Juda, WI, Heather (Jim) Reilly of Brodhead, WI, Austin (Alli) Stamm of Oran-

geville, IL Carley (Brayden McDonald) Rote of Orangeville, IL Crystal (Mitchel) Stites of Rock City, IL, and Carson Rote of McConnell, IL; nine great grandchildren- Vera, Dorothy, and Liza Tews, Braxton, Kinzley, Barrett and Shay Boeke, William Reilly and River McDonald and two on the way; brothers-in-law- Larry (Peggy) Stamm of Freeport, IL, Ron (Pat) Stamm of Kent, IL, and Marlen Stamm of Winslow, IL; sister-in-law- Marlene Stamm of Aurora, CO; many nieces and nephews and special friends Tom & Ellen Rice.

She is preceded in death by her parents, husband Gerald "Jerry" in 2021 and sister-in-law Joanne Seffrood. Visitation was held Thursday, Sept. 26, 2024, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. A Funeral Service took place on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, at the Orangeville United Methodist Church in Orangeville, IL. Ernie Stabenow will be officiated the service. Interment took place at Cedarville Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in her name. The family would like to extend a thank you to the SSM Monroe Hospice and a special caregiver Tonya for her excellent care and compassion.

HAROLD GALLAGHER

Harold J. Gallagher, 96, of Apple River passed away on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, at Liberty Village, Freeport, with family by his side. He was born Dec. 20, 1927, in Warren Township to William and Mary (Bourquin) Gallagher.

Harold married Ilene M. Dittmar on Jan. 15, 1949, at The Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. She preceded him in death on March 14, 1986. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church where he had served as an el-



der and trustee. Harold worked at various jobs during his lifetime including Illinois Central Railroad, Atwood Manufacturing which also farming, and IL State Highway Dept. at Stockton for 21 years before retiring in 1991. He enjoyed visiting with family and friends, playing euchre, mowing, painting,

der and trustee.

He worked at various jobs during his lifetime including Illinois Central Railroad, Atwood Manufacturing which also farming, and IL State Highway Dept. at Stockton for 21 years before retiring in 1991. He enjoyed visiting with family and friends, playing euchre, mowing, painting,

TERRY BONNET

Terry L. Bonnet, 79, passed away at home surrounded by his family on Friday, Sept. 27, 2024. He was born on Jan. 28, 1945, in Freeport, IL to William and Lois (Graves) Bonnet. On Feb. 19, 1966, Terry married Diane Gille at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Warren, IL. He served in the United States Army for three years, and then later worked at Kelly Springfield for 36 years. Terry enjoyed cruises as well as traveling to Texas and Florida. He also enjoyed camping and gambling. Terry loved his family, grandchildren, and great grandchild deeply.

Terry is survived by his wife Diane of Lena; son- Tony (Cassie) Bonnet of Rockton, IL; daughter-in-law Kristy K. Bonnet of Yorkville, IL; grandchildren- Tyler (Phoebe) Bonnet, Haley (Collin) Wegener, Taylor (Thomas) Bible, and Jacob Fischer; great grandson- Thomas Bible IV; brother Dennis (Joyce)



by his parents, son Scott, and brother Steve Bonnet.

A visitation will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at St. Josephs Catholic Church in Lena. A Funeral Service will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024, at St. Josephs Catholic Church Lena, IL. Father Andrew Hernandez will be officiating the service. Cremation rites have been accorded. Interment will take place at St. Josephs Catholic Cemetery. A luncheon will follow at St. Josephs Catholic Church. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

Bonnet; sister Barbara (Michael) Daughenbaugh; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death

going to auctions, dancing at Hideaway Acres and spending time at the Casinos with his companion of 33 years, Winifred Luke, who passed May 13, 2024.

He is survived by his sons: Mark (Mary) Gallagher, Rock City, Greg (Joanne) Gallagher, Apple River, and his daughter- Marcia (Ken) Thompson, Freeport; six grandchildren: Chris (Larissa) Gallagher, Jeremy Gallagher, Shaun (Anne) Gallagher, Erin (Gary) Conaway, Derek (Angel) Thompson, Ashley (Sam)

Jorgenson, and eleven great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, four brothers: Francis, Laverne, Leo, and Orville, and one sister Alberta.

Private family service will be held. Burial will take place at Elmwood Cemetery in Warren. A memorial fund has been established in his name. Special thanks to the staff at the memory unit at Liberty Village for their care and compassion during his stay. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

Forage Council sets Hay Auction dates

The Northwestern Illinois Forage and Grassland Council has announced dates for their upcoming hay and straw auctions to be held in Orangeville, IL. The Council has sponsored these auctions for over 27 years.

The first auction will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Orangeville Boco on the corner of Route 26 and High Street. Subsequent auctions will be held the second and fourth Saturday of each month continuing through April 2025.

As in past years, a 7% commission will be charged to non-members of the Northwestern Illinois Forage & Grassland Council, members will be charged a 6% commission. There is no pre-consignment and no consignment fee. Quality tested hay with accompanying printed analysis is encouraged. Scale tickets are also encouraged so the hay can be sold by the ton. Weighing will be available on-site for individual bales. A skid loader will be available to unload bales for \$.50 per bale and reload bales for \$.50 per bale.

Drop off and unloading of hay and straw lots on Friday is by appointment only. Call Phil Barker at 825-821-2544. Drop off and unloading Saturday of the sale is from 9 a.m. to 10:30 am. Questions about the auction can be directed to Phil Barker at 815-821-2544 or Don Brown at 815-238-8372.



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Rockford man sentenced to more than seven years in prison for his role in retail store robberies

A Rockford man has been sentenced to over seven years in federal prison for conspiring to commit robberies of electronic stores.

Katrail Bridges, 32, was convicted after a four-day jury trial in March of conspiracy to commit robbery. U.S. District Judge Iain D. Johnston on Sept. 19 sentenced Bridges to 87 months in federal prison.

Bridges joined the conspiracy and agreed to participate

in the robberies of electronic stores at two locations: a Best Buy store in DeKalb on Dec. 2, 2016, and a Simply Mac store in Cherry Valley on Dec. 16, 2016.

During these robberies, the members of the group used pepper-spray against employees to gain compliance and to escape with merchandise. The group stole over \$22,000 worth of merchandise during these two robberies.

Eight other alleged con-

spirators were charged as part of the federal investigation.

The sentence was announced by Morris Pasqual, acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Douglas S. DePodesta, special agent-in-charge of the Chicago Field Division of the FBI.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office, Cherry Valley Police Department, and DeKalb Police Department assisted in the investigation.

Federal judge sentences man to 10 years in prison for illegally possessing firearm in Rockford

A federal judge has sentenced a Rockford man to 10 years in federal prison for illegally possessing a firearm in Rockford.

Lawndale Pelts, 36, was found guilty of the firearm offense in May following a jury trial in federal court in Rockford. U.S. District Judge Iain D. Johnston imposed the sentence on Sept. 20.

According to evidence presented at trial, on July 6, 2021, multiple people began shooting at each other in a residential neighborhood on 41st Avenue in Rockford. Home security footage depicted Pelts in possession of a firearm as he fled the shooting. Pelts threw his gun in a residential yard and later,

while at the hospital, lied to police about what happened. As a previously convicted felon, Pelts was prohibited by federal law from possessing firearms.

The sentence was announced by Morris Pasqual, acting United States attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; Christopher Amon, special agent-in-charge of the Chicago Field Division of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives; and Carla Redd, chief of the Rockford Police Department.

The Beloit, Wis. Police Department assisted in the

investigation. The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jessica Maveus and Cassandra Mai-

er. Holding illegal firearm possessors accountable through federal prosecution is a centerpiece of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN)—the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction strategy.

In the Northern District of Illinois, the U.S. Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners have deployed the PSN program to attack a broad range of violent crime issues facing the district, particularly firearm offenses.

SOS+ presents October program

The Seniors of Stockton and Surrounding Areas (SOS+) are invited to enjoy the movie "Sweet Dreams" about the life of country legend, Patsy Cline, on Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024. The program will begin at 2 p.m. in Calvary Church of Stockton's Fellowship Hall.

Patsy Cline was an American country music icon. She began singing with gospel and country bands as a teenager in Virginia and achieved her breakthrough with the hit song "Walkin' after Midnight" in 1957. Three years later she became a regular perform-

er on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry radio broadcasts.

There will be a free will offering which helps in providing interesting and fun programs throughout the year. Refreshments made and shared by the seniors will follow the movie.

News briefs

Lena American Legion

The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will once again be putting up a window display of area veterans and currently serving military during the month of November. Pictures need to be submitted by Oct. 20 and can be sent to PO Box 21, Lena, IL 61048 or dropped off at the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Pictures will not be returned.

Stockton Community Choir

The Stockton Community Choir will begin rehearsals for the annual Christmas Cantata. This year's Cantata, "This is Christmas", will be performed on Sunday Dec. 8 at Calvary Church of Stockton at 6 p.m. under the direction of Lana Crandall. Everyone who loves to sing is asked to come and participate in the annual Community Choir.

Rehearsals will begin Thursday, Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

McConnell American Legion Auxiliary

The McConnell American Legion Auxiliary is preparing for the 5th annual troop care package project and is seeking addresses of active military personnel stateside or deployed. These addresses can be emailed to mcconnell-auxiliary@gmail.com or call Pat at 815-266-1165 or Terri at 815-541-6792. Addresses must be received no later than Nov. 8, 2024. All addresses are kept confidential.

Current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry

Items needed include diapers size 5 months, clothing size 12-18 months, baby bottles, and any kind of baby food. Donations can be brought to the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays

from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 316 W. Main St., Lena. Donations are greatly appreciated. This list is immediate needs; however other items will always be accepted. Please call 815-369-4684 with any questions.

The McConnell American Legion Auxiliary

The 5th annual troop care package drop-off and bake sale will be held on Oct. 26, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the McConnell Legion. Please note the change of date. Items for the troop care package and donations of baked goods would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Terri 815-541-6792 or Patty 815-266-1165 with any questions.

SSM Health hosting Diaper Drive to benefit local families

SSM Health is collecting new and unopened diaper packs or diaper sleeves from large boxes to benefit fami-

lies in Green and Stephenson Counties. All brands of diapers are accepted, with the most-needed sizes being sizes 3-6. Collected diapers will benefit Care Net Pregnancy Center in Monroe and Madonna Center in Freeport.

Diapers can be dropped off at SSM Health Monroe Hospital or at any SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group location between now and Oct. 11.

Lena American Legion Auxiliary

The October meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at the Lena American Legion Home at 6 p.m. for potluck dinner with the meeting to follow. District President Terri Akins will be attending and the. Tray favors will be made for the hospitalized veterans and dues will be collected. New members are always welcome.

Freeport Police shots fired incident

On Sept. 25, 2024, at 1:30 p.m., Officers of the Freeport Police Department responded to the 900 Block of S. Carroll Avenue in reference to a shots fired incident. When Officers arrived on scene, two victims were located who had been struck by gun fire. Officers then learned of a third victim who had been transported to FHN Hospital by a vehicle. One male victim age 53 sustained a minor graze wound and was released from FHN. The second victim male age 47 sustained a wound to his arm and is being treated at FHN Hospital. The third victim male age 50 sustained a gunshot wound and is stable; however, he is being transported to a Rockford Area hospital for further treatment.

During the course of the investigation, Officers learned the victims were in front of a residence on Carroll Avenue when a black male suspect began firing shots from behind a house. The suspect fled the area prior to Officers arrival. Officers learned there had been an argument between some of the individuals at the residence and the suspect prior to the shooting.

At this time, it is believed this incident was not a random act of violence and this is a fluid and active investigation. The Freeport Police Department is asking that anyone who may have information about this incident to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235- 8222, Stateline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW, or through texting at Tip411.

THE SCOOP TODAY

The Scoop Today (USPS #25-737) is published weekly by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy., Ste. 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.

Periodical Postage Paid at Rockford, IL.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to

The Scoop Today, 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy., Ste. 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.

Address for payment, correspondence and any other inquiries: 1102 ANN STREET, DELAVAN, WI 53115

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Ads: ads@rvpublishing.com • Legals: legals@rvpublishing.com

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Available online at: rvpnews.com

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OPINION



Weekly connection

Our second trip out west this summer

My wife and I were able to make a second trip out west this summer. The first time it was just her and me and we drove all the way to Oregon and Washington by way of the interstate highway system. Our second trip was by way of Southwest Airlines and a flight from Chicago to Denver where we rented a car and drove into the mountains with some of our family. We were very blessed to travel on this second trip with our daughter, her husband and their five kids. It was the



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

kid's first time flying and everything about the trip was very exciting for all of us. We loved seeing the look in the kid's eyes when we rolled into O'Hare Field and they saw the huge jet airplanes taking off and landing. The

look in their eyes when we took off and ascended above the fields and into the clouds was just priceless. It was also just amazing to drive and hike up in the mountains with the kids as they saw these majestic sights for the first time. Our first night was spent in Estes Park at the gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park. We walked around the town that night and watched the big elk strolling around the grassy areas or lying with their calves in the city

parks. The next morning, we were up early and off into the mountains. As we climbed higher and higher the air got thinner and thinner and some of us started to feel light-headed and weak. We decided to stop and take a couple mile hike, and the sights were just magnificent. There is something rather breath-taking about gazing over the tops of the Rockies and knowing that our great God's fingerprints are all

See TRIP, Page 11

Slices of life

Thoughts on love



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

We all want to be loved. I think that's a universal statement - and there aren't too many of them anymore. But I think it's safe to say we all seek love.

When I lost the love of my life, I lost a huge chunk of love. Of course it isn't gone, because love never dies; but it often feels gone—in many worldly ways—for now.

I live it on a daily basis. So, I guess it's pretty logical that I spend a lot of time contemplating love. What it is. How to define it. What it means. Why it's important. Why we seek it. Why it fuels us. Why it makes us feel good. And so on.

In this, I've come to a realization.

We all want to be loved. It starts on day one (and maybe even before) of our experience as humans. Tiny babies cry out, literally asking for love (and milk and a diaper change, but I digress).

Babies need to have their physical needs met, but they need love as well. It's a requirement just as critical as a clean diaper or full bottle of milk, because if babies don't receive love consistently, they may struggle with intimacy, trust and the ability to love others for the remainder of their life. (This is a condition called attachment disorder).

Imagine the ramifications. Not being loved leads to an inability to express love. I'm not sure there's been a sadder sentence ever written.

Craving to be loved, indeed, is a universal truth. But I think there is something beyond being loved that is even more universal: We want to give love. We want to love.

Can anybody find me somebody to love? Freddie Mercury had a point.

Being loved is nice. But it is a passive state of being. It requires nothing from you and you can't control its ebbs and flows because you are on the receiving end.

Someone can love you without you ever even knowing it. Think of all the rom-coms that have been based on this

premise! In that, you are a passive bystander to love, and life is not meant to be lived in bystander mode. At least not if it is going to be the best life - and who among us doesn't want that?

Being loved is passive. Loving someone—or something—on the other hand, is the the opposite of passive. And in that it activates mega-neutrons of positivity within our beings. Simply put, love makes us feel good, in more ways than one.

The active state of loving another being produces dopamine, which is associated with increased happiness, pleasure, positivity and well-being.

The physical touch often associated with love releases oxytocin, which lowers stress. In addition, love helps to boost immunity and tends to improve sleep patterns. Overall, it increases life expectancy and is good for heart health, which might help to explain the plethora of hearts on Valentine's Day.

Being loved is wonderful. Loving, especially in the reciprocal sense, is beyond wonderful. It is what life is all about. Quite simply. Quite literally. Quite understandably. Quite magnificently.

It's hard to wrap your head around it. But I think maybe the Beatles alluded to the thought when they sang: All you need is love.

Of course coffee, wine and chocolate probably also belong on that list, but love is key.

And it doesn't have to be romantic love, or even person to person love. Giving love is remarkably flexible. Ask any pet owner if the love they have for their four-legged friend is real. You already know the answer.

See LOVE, Page 11

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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



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

We all know how important that agriculture is to our county. But did you know some of the statistics that go to support that? According to the Census of Agriculture, Jo Daviess County has 935 farms with an average farm size of 291 acres. Some of the statistics that stand out that help make Jo Daviess County unique are listed below.

Jo Daviess County ranks first in the state for production of forages, second for production of oats, fourth in the numbers of acres of corn for silage, second in the total number of cattle and calves, eleventh in the total number of sheep and lambs, and sixteenth in the number of horses and ponies. We all think of the cattle in the county, but did you find some surprising numbers listed? We must remember that there are a lot of things going on that we don't always think about.

Who doesn't need another one of those (thanks to Ace Hardware in Stockton for donating the buckets)! There are a limited number of these, but if you are interested, stop in at the office and pick yours up before they are gone.

Members discounts

Don't forget to take advantage of the member discounts from local businesses. Show your membership card at the business to claim your discount. For a full listing of local benefits, visit our website at jodavinesscfb.com. Go to membership, then local discounts.

Family Farm Signs

As the seasons are changing, we all start thinking of the fall weather coming soon. There's still time to do some work around the farm and spruce things up a bit. Why not add a "This is a Family Farm" sign to your landscape? The signs are 17.5" X 23" and cost \$30. Stop by our office and pick one up.

Farm Fun Fact

October is National Pizza Month. One of my family's favorite things to do together is make homemade pizza!



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Little Blackhawks

Pictured are Stockton Elementary's Little Blackhawks for the week. These students are recognized for following the Blackhawk Way. Keep up the good work!

Stockton Heritage Museum to host 'The Winston Tunnel -- Jo Daviess Historic Railway Relic' presentation

Stockton Heritage Museum will host a presentation by Brian and Joyce Ostberg. The presentation, "The Winston Tunnel -- Jo Daviess' Historic

Railway Relic," will take place on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, at the Stockton Heritage Museum, 107 West Front Street, Stockton, IL, at 2 p.m.

Regional historians Brian and Joyce Ostberg will discuss the Winston Tunnel, the Chicago Great Western railroad's epic engineering feat, drilled through nearly half a mile of Jo Daviess' rock and shale. Their talk will describe the history of the tunnel, from its costly construction in the mid-1880s, its engineering challenges through the early 20th century, its closure and abandonment in the 1970s,

and its subsequent decay and deterioration leading to its present state.

The event is free and open to all audiences. For more information, please visit our website at www.stocktonheritagemuseum.org, visit us on Facebook: Stockton-Heritage-Museum-309324911534, email us at info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org, or leave a message at 815-947-2220.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Brian and Joyce Ostberg will visit the Stockton Heritage Museum on Sunday, Oct. 6 to present "The Winston Tunnel -- Jo Daviess' Historic Railway Relic". Brian and Joyce have published over 70 documentaries on topics related to history, archaeology, and geology. Whenever possible, they collaborate with state archaeological and geological organizations, as well as local historical societies, such as the Stockton Heritage Museum, to produce their videos. Their series topics have centered on abandoned railways, such as the Chicago Great Western, regional Native American archaeological sites, regional fossil sites, and selected historical topics related to the early history of Illinois and Iowa, such as the Prairie Bandits of the 1840s.

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* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 09/24/24. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

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Church (815) 594-2223
• **Sunday Worship – 9 a.m.**
• Bible Study - Every Monday 9 a.m.
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CALVARY CHURCH OF STOCKTON

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"
You are welcome! Please visit us!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON

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.**
• October services are at Salem UCC Church
Corner of Loran & Kent Roads

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: firstumcfoelizabeth@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
Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fumcelizabeth

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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

1904 S. Vel Tera Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
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.**

MCCONNELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

211 Hulbert Rd. P.O. Box 97,
McConnell, IL 61050
815-868-2324
Email: mcconnellcommunitychurch@yahoo.com
Pastor Jordan Cernek
• **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
Fellowship hour after every service
Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/
mcconnellcommunitychurch.com
* **We are handicapped accessible**

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
217-357-3723
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)
* **We are handicapped accessible**
Watch our services or see our upcoming events on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/OldStoneChurchWithTheLightedCross/>

SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

635 East Schapville Road,
Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Dottie Morizzo
(815) 845-2272
Cell (815) 238-0670
www.schapvillezion.org
• **Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.**
• **Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.**
• Bible Study Classes Available

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

536 E. Schapville Road,
Scales Mound, IL 61054
Church number (815) 845-2061
Rev. James Mehlretter
Website: www.shepherdofhill.com
• **Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**
• **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.
Handicapped Accessible

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor David Russell
Church: 815-589-3367
• **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
"Celebrating 165 Years of Faith"

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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
Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Mike Nesbit - Cell: 815-858-5621
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

The Little Church with a Big Heart
1334 Sunnyside Road, Kent, IL 61044
1/2 mile north on Kent Road
• **Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.**
• **Holy Communion every Sunday**
• Women Meet at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday
• Chair Lift to Sanctuary

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
or Facebook-Stockton Wesley United
Methodist Church
* **Handicapped Accessible**

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!

Illinois fall trout season opens Oct. 19 in locations statewide

The 2024 Illinois fall trout season will open Saturday, Oct. 19 at 60 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state.

The early catch-and-release season is scheduled to open Saturday, Oct. 5 this year. No trout may be taken from any of the stocked sites until the regular fall season opens at 5 a.m. on Oct. 19. The daily catch limit is five trout.

All anglers, including those who participate in the early catch-and-release season, must have an Illinois fishing license and inland trout stamp, which are available at Illinois Department of Natural

Resources license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores, and other retail outlets. Check the IDNR website for locations. Fishing licenses and trout stamps can be purchased online with a credit card.

For information about all site regulations, anglers should contact individual sites that will be stocked with catchable-size trout. Not all sites open at 5 a.m. on opening day. Anglers are reminded to check the opening time of their favorite sites prior to the open date.

The fall trout season offers opportunities for fami-

lies to get outdoors and enjoy fishing. Online resources are available for taking kids fishing.

IDNR reinstated its catchable trout program in 1994, funded in part by those who use the program through the sale of inland trout stamps. IDNR stocks more than 80,000 rainbow trout each year in bodies of water where trout fishing is permitted during the fall season. An additional 80,000 trout are stocked for the spring season, which begins each April. For more information on trout seasons and other Illinois fishing opportunities, visit www.ifishillinois.org.

Some of the local northern Illinois locations scheduled to be open for the 2024 fall trout season are:

- Jo Daviess County**
 - Apple River, Apple River Canyon State Park **
 - McHenry County**
 - Spring Grove Hatchery Pond, Spring Grove
 - Ogle County**
 - Pine Creek, White Pines Forest State Park **
 - Winnebago County**
 - Baumann Lake, Cherry Valley
- **Denotes sites open for catch-and-release early fall season fishing.

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, Oct. 6 for Sunday Communion Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Mark 10:2-16.

On Wednesday, Oct. 9 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. On Thursday, Oct. 10 Friendship Club will meet at 12:30 p.m. for a potluck dinner with entertainment by No Worries Band.

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 twentieth Sunday after Pentecost on Sunday, Oct. 6 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, Oct. 24 at 1 p.m.

The October Grace Meal will be on Sunday, Oct. 20. It will include a pork chop, baked beans, coleslaw, and applesauce. Meals can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Oct. 20. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, Oct. 17. The meal is funded through the generosity of a grant from the Pearl City Lions Club and donations. If interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

St. John's will be hosting a FHN Flu Shot clinic on Sunday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Adults under 65 will receive a \$35 trivalent vaccine and those 65 and over can get a \$85 high-dose vaccine. There will be no out-of-pocket expense if you are covered by Medicare Part B or a Medicare HMO accepted by FHN. Be sure to bring your insurance card. Immunizations may be paid for by cash or check and you can use your receipt for reimbursement from your health insurance carrier. Per government regulations, no MEDICAID cards can be accepted at these clinics. For more information, call FHN Community Services at 815-599-7437.

The next Men's Breakfast

will be on Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 7:30 a.m. at the Garden View Restaurant in Lena.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Oct. 3 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.

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).

The Lena United Methodist Church

The Lena United Methodist Church will host a Lena Love Feast Dinner for the public on Oct. 6 from 5 p.m.

to 7 p.m. The meal and event are free, however, anyone attending must respond before Sept. 30. RSVP by calling the church office at 815-369-5291 or email umclena@gmail.com. Please provide a name, number of people attending, and phone number. This event will be held at the Lena United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall.

Calvary Church of Stockton

Calvary Church of Stockton will have its first fall monthly Potluck following the worship service on Oct. 6. The service is at 10 a.m. with the Potluck starting around 11:15 a.m. The community is invited to bring a dish and attend. Pastor Scott Hess will be bringing the message.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes will meet on Thursday, Oct. 3 at 7:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Breakfast pizza from Caseys will be served at no cost to all students attending. The Fellowship is open to all students, 7th to 12th grades, boys and girls. The Huddle will be at 7:30 a.m. led by Noah Hess, a 2023 graduate. For more information, call Calvary Church at 815-947-2414 or Pastor Scott Hess at 815-821-9245.



STOCKTON HIGH SCHOOL FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Masyn Cahill makes first team all-conference

Stockton's Masyn Cahill finished fourth overall at the girls conference golf meet on Wednesday, Sept. 25. Cahill also made first team all-conference! Congratulations, Masyn!



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Lena United Methodist Church Rummage Sale

- Fellowship Hall -
118 W. Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048
Oct. 17 & Oct. 18 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Oct. 19 - 9 a.m. to noon with \$1 bag day

We will accept donations Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (October 14th-16th) 9 a.m. to noon. If you would like to drop off items after noon, please contact the church office at 815-369-5291 or Pat at 815-618-9899 to schedule a time.





Orangeville Legion Post #720
20th Annual

CHILI AND SOUP SUPPER

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 16 • 4:30 - 7:30 P.M.
Orangeville Village Hall
301 S. East Street • Orangeville, IL 61060

\$9 Adults
\$5 ages 6 - 10 yrs
Under 6 FREE

Menu includes:
Choice of Chili, vegetable soup or ham & bean soup, ham or turkey sandwiches, applesauce, crackers, cheese, dessert, beverage (milk, coffee or water)

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Dennis (Denny) Davis Estate
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or Visit diekenauktion.com

Friday, Oct. 4 - Wednesday, Oct. 9, 6 p.m. (Soft Close)
Preview date, Thursday, Oct. 3 from 5 - 7 p.m.
Come-N-Look

NOTE: Parking will be tight/congested. Please be understanding.

12 Pedal Tractors, Shop Equip., IH 184 w/Loader, Log Splitter, Lots of Tools/Power Tools, Wood Working Items, Clamps, Freezers, Toys, Lawn/Garden, Port. Gen., Hardware, Garage/Shop Items, Lots of Misc. 1,300 Lots, Some Items New/Like New.

Pick up only: Friday, Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
and Saturday, Oct. 12 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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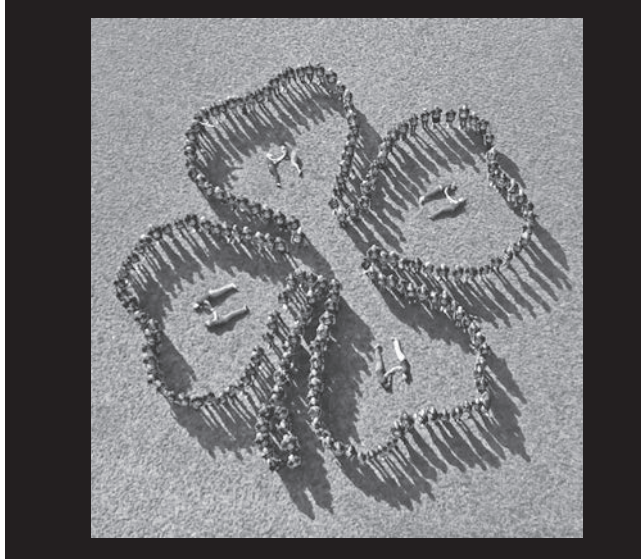
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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

All-Tournament team

The Scales Mound Volleyball Invitational named (left to right) Domyinique Lego, Kacy Wright, Madalyn Mammoser, Carissa Hinderman, Paisley Williams, Campbell Hereau, (not pictured) Laney Cahoon, and Kaylynn O'Haver to the all-state team.

Stockton wins Scales Mound Invitational

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton Blackhawks have been on a dominant run on the volleyball court. After a first-place finish at this year's Scales Mound Volleyball Invitational, the Blackhawks kept the momentum rolling with a pair of conference victories over Warren and East Dubuque.

The Scales Mound Invitational was a six-team round robin tournament. Stockton took home the first-place finish, while Orangeville came in second. Scales Mound took third, followed by Warren, Benton, and West Carroll, in that order.

Stockton had a pair of players named to the All-Tournament team in Madie Mammoser and Kacy Wright. Scales Mound's Campbell Hereau and Warren's Carissa Hinderman were both named to the All-Tournament team, as well.

With the tournament championship, the Blackhawks ex-

tended their winning streak to 11 games. They got another opportunity to add to that when they traveled to take on the Warren Warriors on Sept. 24.

Stockton proved to be too much for the Warriors, sweeping them by scores of 25-11 and 25-17. Mammoser was nearly unstoppable at the net as she finished with 10 kills in just 14 attempts. Taylor Haas also scored at a high rate with five kills on seven attempts. Emma Eisfeller and Katelyn Winters each added a trio of kills in the win. Kaydra Wright led the team in assists with 10. Defensively, Mammoser and Haas each finished with two total blocks. Emily Broshous posted six digs, which led the team. Winters added four digs of her own.

The Blackhawks inched closer to victory number 20 when they took on East Dubuque the very next day. Stockton had the perk of returning home for this match-up, and they did not disap-

point.

Stockton took the first set by a final score of 25-19. Things got out of hand in the second set with Stockton blowing out East Dubuque 25-7. With yet another sweep, the Blackhawks improved their overall record to 19-1 on the season. More importantly, they are 5-0 in NUIC play.

Stockton will play host to the West Carroll Thunder on Thursday, Oct. 3. On Oct. 8 they travel to take on the Scales Mound Hornets in a rematch.



Hornets defeat Wildcats in NUIC matchup

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Scales Mound Hornets and the River Ridge Wildcats faced off in a recent NUIC volleyball matchup on Sept. 24. Both teams were eager for a victory as they entered the second half of the 2024 volleyball season. Prior to the matchup, the Hornets held an overall record of just 6-10, while the Wildcats were just 5-12-1 themselves.

The first set came down to the wire. Scales Mound ultimately pulled away in the end. The Hornets took the first set by a score of 25-23. Set two was much of the same, but the Wildcats were left trailing. Scales Mound eventually completed a 2-0 sweep, winning the second set 25-21.

The Hornets were led by sophomore Ellaina Kostenbader. In two sets played, Kostenbader led the team with eight kills. She also had nine digs on the night. Ava Wiederholt added five kills. Lila Anderson led the team in blocks with four solo blocks. Halle Wiegel led the team in digs with 15. Campbell Hereau added 18 assists in the victory.

River Ridge's leading scorer was Ava Ketelsen, who finished with five kills. Laiken Haas was next up with three kills, while Kaylen Bond added two. Haas and Gracie Schnitzler split the ball handling duties as they each had five assists in the game.

Defensively, Haas and Ketelsen combined for four blocks on the night. Haas

led the team with four solo blocks of her own. She also posted two digs, which led the team.

It was just the first time these teams met up in 2024. They are set to square off again in just a couple of weeks. Scales Mound will travel to Hanover to take on the Wildcats on Oct. 17. If their first meeting was any indication, that should be an exciting, late season match-up.

On Oct. 8 the Hornets are scheduled to play host to the red-hot Stockton Blackhawks. That same night, River Ridge will play host to the 3-15 Warren Warriors.



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Wildcats continue their climb to the top

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Eastland-Pearl City (EPC) Wildcats won just three games in all of the 2023 football season. Now just five weeks into the 2024 campaign, they have already surpassed that total. With an impressive 34-8 victory over a tough Stockton squad, the Wildcats improved to 4-1 on the season.

EPC made a statement with their week five victory. Stockton came into the game with a record of just 2-2, but they have proven to be a tough opponent for even the top NUIC teams. Stockton took Durand-Pecatonica down to the wire in a 32-26 loss. They also came out swinging in the first half against the Lena-Winslow Panthers. EPC was sure not to overlook the Blackhawks in week five.

The Wildcats didn't take long to get on the scoreboard and once they did, they put

them up in a hurry. Draven Zier immediately got the scoring started with a 64-yard scamper to paydirt. Later in the first, Zier tallied his second score of the day with a five-yard touchdown run. By then, Zier and the Wildcats had jumped out to a 14-0 advantage.

EPC would make it a three-score game before the end of the first quarter. Jaxsyn Kempel crossed the goal line from two yards out as he put the Wildcats up 20-0. The three-score lead would hold until halftime.

While the Wildcat offense put up the big plays, it was their defense that stood out in this one. They held Stockton to just over 100 yards on the night, including shutting them out through the first half. Stockton didn't crack the scoreboard until the fourth quarter when the game was well out of reach.

Both Brody Simons and

Jacon Runkle had fumble recoveries in the game. Zyaqn Haverland had a pair of tackles for loss, while Will Birchen and Zier each added one of their own. Tanner Stern snagged an interception as the EPC defense made a number of plays on the night.

Adam Awender put the Wildcats up by four scores with a third quarter touchdown. Awender took it 45 yards to the endzone, putting EPC up 28-0. Before the end of the third, Zier tallied the hat trick. For the second time that night, Zier went 64 yards for a touchdown. His third score gave EPC a 34-0 lead over Stockton.

Zier had himself a day as he wound up surpassing 200 total yards on the ground. On just 15 touches, Zier scored three times and rushed for 207 yards. He also punched in a pair of two-point conversions, accounting for 22 total points

on the night.

With the road victory, EPC won their third consecutive game. They are now 7-2 over their last nine games played, going back to last season. They

are also nearing playoff eligibility.

On Oct. 4 the Wildcats return home to play host to the Westmont Sentinels. Westmont is off to a 1-3 start to the

season, losing back-to-back games by scores of 54-0 and 46-20. The Wildcats will look to extend their winning streak when they kick off against the Sentinels at 7 p.m.

Village of Lena happenings

Hydrant flushing will take place on Oct. 14 through Oct. 25. Please avoid washing clothing while the hydrants are being flushed in your neighborhood as it can cause discoloration.

The last day of brush pick up will be the first week of October, tentatively Oct. 7. Leaf removal will begin once brush pick up has been completed. Leaves should be raked to the curb, but not overflowing into the street. No brush, lawn clippings, yard waste or other

foreign objects should be included in the leaf piles, or they will not be removed. Leaves must remain loose at the curb; bagged leaves will not be disposed of by the Village Street Department. Open burning is not permitted within the Village. Trick or Treat will be on Thursday, Oct. 31 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. The following streets will be closed for Halloween from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.: West Mason Street from Schuyler Street to Freedom Street and Oak Street from

West Mason Street to Locust Street. Please be extra cautious during this time to ensure the safety of the trick or treaters.

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, call Village Hall at 815-369-4016 to be put on the agenda for Public Participation.

Jobs up, unemployment down in majority of metro areas in August

Stephenson County

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.0% in August 2024 from 5.4% in August 2023.

Total nonfarm employment increased by +275 over-the-year.

Over-the-year, total nonfarm jobs increased in eight metropolitan areas, decreased in five and was unchanged in one for the year ending August 2024, according to data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (DES). Over-the-year, the unemployment rate decreased in nine areas, increased in four, and was unchanged in one.

"Stable, consistent job growth across the state continues to position jobseekers and employers to leverage new and developing opportunities," said Deputy Governor Andy Manar. "IDES and its essential workforce partners are working throughout the state to offer critical employment services to enthusiastic jobseekers."

The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate decreases were the Rockford MSA (-1.0 percentage point to 6.0%), and the Decatur MSA (-0.5 percentage point to 6.3%). The metro areas with the largest unemployment rate increases were the Chicago Metro Division (+0.7 point

to 5.7%), the Davenport-Moline-Rock Island IA-IL MSA (+0.5 point to 4.9%), and the Bloomington MSA (+0.2 point to 4.8%). There was no unemployment rate change in the Carbondale-Marion MSA.

The Government (+125), Construction (+100), Manufacturing (+50) and Private Education-Health Services (+50) sectors had the largest payroll gains over-the-year. The Leisure-Hospitality (-25), Financial Activities (-25) and Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-25) sectors recorded employment decline over-the-year.

Disclaimer: The data contained in the metro area employment numbers press releases are not seasonally adjusted, and therefore are subject to seasonal fluctuations due to factors such as changes in weather, harvests, major holidays and school schedules.

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Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

During the month of August Illinois Farm Bureau Served its members in many ways, including:

A state appellate court sided with Illinois Farm Bureau and landowner groups, reversing the certification of the Grain Belt Express Project, a statewide high-voltage direct current transmission line.

Seven county Farm Bureaus hosted field days supported by IFB's Nutrient Stewardship Grant Program, highlighting Illinois farmers' contributions to goals in the State's Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

The 2024 Summer Agriculture Institute, a collaboration between Ag in the Classroom (AIRC) and the USDA Agricultural Research Service, concluded in August after providing 437 AIRC teachers with new activities and resources to increase students' agriculture literacy.

IFB hosted the 24th Annual Master Showmanship Contest

at the Illinois State Fair, promoting skill and knowledge of animal husbandry across beef, sheep and swine.

If you have questions, please contact your county Farm Bureau office.

2024 Crop Marketing Program

The Lee, Carroll, Ogle and Whiteside County Farm Bureaus along with COUNTRY Financial will host a crop marketing outlook on the evening of Nov. 20 at the Days Inn, Rock Falls, IL. "Managing Tight Crop Profit Margins" is a two-hour seminar designed specifically for producers to help them manage risk associated with the current commodity markets and identify market conditions to capture profit margins through this year into next.

Dr. Steve Johnson, Iowa State University Extension Farm Management Specialist, will facilitate the program. Steve has served as the Farm & Ag Business Management

Specialist in Central Iowa for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach since 1999. He specializes in topics related to government farm programs, crop insurance, crop marketing, grain contracts, farmland leasing and other crop risk management strategies. In the past year, he has conducted more than 120 meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences across the Corn Belt with nearly 15,000 in attendance. Steve uses web sites such as ISU Ag Decision Maker and Polk County Extension Farm Management along with various print and electronic media. Annually he reaches more than 200,000 producers, land-

owners and other agribusiness professionals.

During the two-hour program producers will examine global supply/demand and crop price outlook, utilizing futures price and crop insurance, implications for US elections and Farm Bill Implementing a '24-'25 Marketing Plan, estimating '24 crop profit margins, and feature 7 strategies to manage tight margins.

This presentation will assist producers in designing and implementing a marketing plan that is specific to their own operation. It will present producers with various options they can effectively utilize to capture market profits,

manage market risks in this volatile market, minimize cost increases and make informed decisions on input pricing, storage options and position their marketing plan for profit protection. Market, global and recent economic factors will be examined, and producers will learn to identify where profit opportunities and pitfalls lie for their farm operations. Pre-registration is required. To register for the program call 815-732-2231 or email cfb@ogle.comcastbiz.net. The program begins at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20; Days Inn, Rock Falls, IL.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau to host

Open House

On Friday, Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again Saturday, Nov. 2 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. the Stephenson County Farm Bureau will invite members and the community to visit their office, 210 West Spring Street, Freeport, IL 61032. During these times there will be a McNess Trunk sale going on, refreshments and giveaways, additionally you can purchase items from the Stephenson County Farm Bureau such as honey and pork spice. If you have questions, please reach out to the Stephenson County Farm Bureau office at 815-232-3186 or by emailing manager@stephensoncfb.org.

• Trip (Continued from page 4)

over the place. I was glad when we stopped and had a sandwich and something to drink because that seemed to really help with the elevation sickness for most of us. We continued on up the road and took another hike taking each of the kids by the hand and helping them navigate the way.

Fortunately for us one of my brothers lives out there near Colorado Springs where he has been pastoring a church for many years. They have a big house so when we finished our day at Rocky Mountain National Park, we were able to drive down to Springs and spend the next three nights with them. Each day we would spend time with them in the morning and then go out on our expeditions each day. Each night we returned to their house quite exhausted but so grateful for the getaway together. On the second day we went to the Focus on the Family Ministry for a day of fun at their kid's center. That evening we visited the Garden of the Gods which is the name for some beautiful red rock formations that one

can drive and walk through. We got some great pictures with the kids before heading home for the day. On our last day after worshipping at my brother's church with him and his family, we drove to Pike's Peak and took the Cog-rail train some 14,000 feet up the side of the mountain to the top and again enjoyed some amazing beauty from high atop the earth. We were up early Monday morning to catch our flight and just like that we were back in Chicago and heading up I-90 to Wisconsin.

It is awesome to know that the words of Psalm 90:2 are so true. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. We worship a very big and capable God. He wants us to get a glimpse of how big He really is. Bigger and stronger than the highest mountain. I'm quite sure we will continue to drive out west when we can in the future, but it was very nice to fly this time and save a lot of hours of driving. Until next week, God bless.

• Love (Continued from page 4)

I've just got one more point to make on this topic. We often think about loving another or acting in such a way as to gain the love of another. This is okay, but sometimes I think we forget to love the most important person in our own lives: Ourselves.

Because that has to come first. Then all the rest about

love for and from others will simply fall into place. And when it does, it's almost like magic.

Which is a lot like love. 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.

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Area schools earn FHN Miles and Minutes cash

Nine area schools received checks from FHN this fall thanks to their dedicated fans who counted their exercise minutes through the summer with FHN's Miles and Minutes program. In the average miles per participant category, Pearl City schools took first place with 310.88 miles per participant and received \$2000. Lena-Winslow schools took second with 255.30 miles per participant and received \$1000.

Together, exercisers logged enough activity (for the contest, miles were normalized to help ensure a more level playing field for schools of all sizes) to equate to 177,738.5 miles. FHN's Miles and Minutes encouraged participants to be active and log various types of physical activity to win prize money for the school of their choice.

Schools that did not win a prize in the two main categories were eligible for Sweepstakes prizes. This year's winners are Warren (\$500), River Ridge (\$400), Eastland (\$300). The free program had 283 participants who logged all types of exercise from May 27 through Aug. 25.

Winners in the Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing for September

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

Sponsoring organizations from Jo Daviess, Carroll & Stephenson County include: Caring Community of Elizabeth, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music Boosters, Galena Key Club, Hanover Alumni Associa-

tion, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, Philanthropic Educational Organization-Chapter OH, River Ridge Drama Club, Scales Mound Travelers, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Stockton Girls Sports, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

The September 2024 winners are:

- \$50 – Jacob Soppe, Benton, WI
- \$150 – Missy Roe, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Sara Wentz, Benton, WI
- \$50 – Eric Runkle, Pearl

- City
- \$50 – Ruth Montgomery, Galena
- \$50 – Brenda Ferrell, Hanover
- \$50 – Cathy Johnson, Las Vegas, NV
- \$50 – Duane Tessendorf, Lena
- \$50 – Sharon Bianchetta, Geneseo
- \$50 – Debra Jordan, Freeport
- \$150 – Dan Davis, Scales Mound
- \$50 – Judy Williams, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Kim Falk, Savanna
- \$50 – Steven Joh, Madison, WI
- \$50 – B'Ann Dittmar, Galena
- \$50 – Kim Falk, Savanna
- \$50 – Rachel Dyson, Warren

- \$50 – Karen Sperber, Chippewa Falls, WI
- \$50 – Joann Blair, Pekin
- \$50 – Alex Burrows, Oregon
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Concerns about toddler milk

Childhood is a time of rapid growth and development. For optimal development, it is critical to ensure your children get the right nutrients, vitamins, and minerals that their bodies require at each stage of their development.

The American Association of Pediatricians (AAP) recommends that babies younger than 12 months drink breast milk (or infant formula if unable to breastfeed). Infant formulas are required to meet nutritional requirements as a sole liquid source of nutrition for infants through the first 12 months of life. All infant formulas sold in the United States, therefore, whether manufactured in the United States or imported, must meet the requirements of the Infant Formula Act.

Toddler milk is a powdered drink made primarily of



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

powdered milk, vegetable oil, and sweeteners. It is located in the same aisles as infant formulas and is marketed for toddlers (12–36 months) as the “next step” after infant formula. Of great concern is the fact that, unlike infant formulas, there are no US national standards set for either the composition or definition of formulas for children older than 12 months. This means that any health or “expert-recommended” claims on their packaging are not required to be based on scientific evidence. They are not

mandated to be reviewed or approved by the FDA, either.

False, unfair, and deceptive marketing practices by manufacturers of toddler milk includes labels that promise, numerous nutrition-related and child development claims, such as “an essential nutritional tool for your child’s development” or “improved immune function” or “DHA and iron to help support brain development,” or “probiotics to help support digestive health.” Although none of these claims are supported by any scientific research, these labels and a seventeen million dollars per year marketing budget have proven quite successful in misleading caregivers to believe that toddler milk provides more benefits than cow’s milk for their child’s nutrition and development.

This has also resulted in the continuing exponential growth in the lucrative “toddler milk” industry.

Compounding the problem, manufacturers also label these beverages in a similar way to the regulated infant formulas. Research conducted by the National Institute for Health and the AAP documented that this labeling confused some parents, leading them to purchase and feed their infants toddler’s milk instead of infant formula.

Toddler milk is expensive, and you are not really getting any additional benefit that makes it worth the cost. In fact, not only are they lacking nutrients, but they also have a higher sodium, fat, and sugar content, and lower protein content than cow’s milk.

In addition, the AAP recommends that children

under 2 years of age should not consume any added sugar. We already know that excess sugar can wreak havoc on their oral health, but early childhood is a time when taste preferences develop. Sweetened beverages, such as toddler milk, contribute to conditioned preferences for sweetened drinks and food over plain drinks and less-sweet foods. This contributes to oral disease, obesity, and the development of diabetes.

The goal is to ensure your child consumes a balanced diet that sets them up for a healthy life. After age one, growing children thrive on a balanced diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein. Pasteurized, whole cow’s milk provides the vitamins and minerals your children require to grow into healthy, strong adults. That

makes it not only a more nutritionally sound choice, but a less expensive choice as well.

As nutritious as milk is, keep in mind that the AAP recommends you limit cow’s milk to 1 and 2/3 to 2 cups (17 ounces) per day for toddlers up to 2 years of age. Drinking too much milk can make your child too full to eat nutrient-rich foods during mealtimes. Consuming too much milk and not enough fiber can cause gastrointestinal discomfort and constipation in toddlers. Too much milk can also lead to iron-deficiency anemia and/or excessive weight gain. Encourage your children to sip water in lieu of other beverages. Fluoridated tap water will help keep your child’s body hydrated and their mouth moist, clean, and more resistant to oral disease.

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Concerns of low river levels rise into harvest

By Daniel Grant

FARMWEEK

The U.S. agriculture sector is facing a familiar issue as it begins to either store or ship crops coming out fields this harvest.

A recent run of dry conditions in the Midwest, particularly in the eastern Corn Belt, caused water levels on the Mississippi River and key tributaries to decline since July. Barge companies subsequently reduced tonnage on recent shipments.

"It's quite remarkable we're back in this situation, this unfortunate three-peat we're experiencing," Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soy Transportation Coalition, told the RFD Radio Network. "We had low water levels in 2022 and 2023."

River levels returned to more normal readings the first half of this year, but things began to change in July as the weather pattern dried out in key areas.

Large portions of Illinois and Indiana were rated abnormally dry with southern portions of the two states in moderate drought as of Sept. 11, ahead of expected precipitation from the remnants of Hurricane Francine, while much of Ohio was in severe to extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"A lot of the Midwest had been much better this year (in terms of precipitation)," Steenhoek said. "It really is a lesson that you can have an adequate amount of precipitation during the year but all of a sudden when the spigot turns off starting in July, it doesn't take much for (river) water levels to drop."

Mississippi River levels were about 2.5 feet higher compared to the historically low water event last year in



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Water levels on the Mississippi River declined in recent months due to a lack of rainfall and reduced flow from adjoining rivers such as the Ohio and Illinois (pictured). The barge industry responded by reducing tonnage on barge shipments by 20-25 percent in recent weeks.

Memphis and 5 feet higher in St. Louis, but still below normal as of the second week of September. The situation has already affected barge freight. "We're seeing barge companies have to respond once again by light-loading barges and limiting the number of barges attached as a unit," said Steenhoek, who estimated barge tonnage has been reduced 20-25 percent in recent weeks. "That's a real concern as we proceed further into harvest."

The situation isn't limited to the U.S. this season. Low water levels on the Amazon River network in South America are also limiting shipments of grain and oilseeds in some areas due to a historic drought there.

In the U.S., remnants of Hurricane Francine were expected to provide some relief, with parts of southern Illinois expected to receive 1-3 inches of rain through the weekend, Freese-Notis Weather Meteorologist Paul Otto told RFD.

Harvest under way in select areas

The recent run of dry conditions, prior to the arrival of Francine, allowed some farmers to begin harvest the first two weeks of September.

"The dust is flying," said Ken Taake, FarmWeek crop watcher from Pulaski County. "Harvest is ramping up with both soybeans and corn."

See CONCERNS, Page 16

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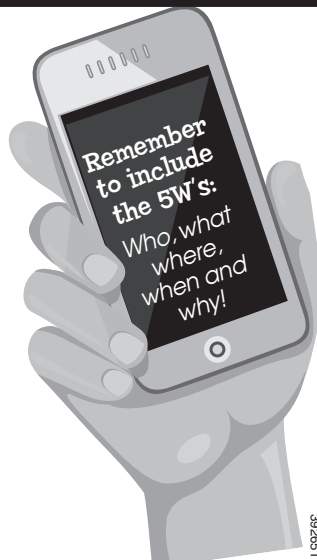
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State Supreme Court hears arguments in Jussie Smollett's effort to overturn conviction

Actor was convicted of disorderly conduct for falsifying a hate crime in 2019

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
The Illinois Supreme Court recently heard arguments in actor Jussie Smollett's appeal to overturn his conviction on disorderly conduct charges for falsifying a hate crime. Smollett, who was an ac-

tor on the TV show "Empire," was improperly charged with the same crime twice, his legal team argued. The trial court was also "influenced by improper aggravating factors" when he was sentenced to jail, a \$25,000 fine and to pay more than \$120,000 in restitution for overtime expenses incurred by the Chicago Police Department, his team argued in the filing.

In early 2019, Smollett made what turned out to be a false police report alleging that he'd been violently at-

tacked by two men in downtown Chicago. The men allegedly punched him and yelled homophobic slurs, put a noose around his neck and told Smollett, "This is MAGA country," a reference to then-President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

A month later, prosecutors charged Smollett with five counts of disorderly conduct for putting on the hoax with a pair of brothers he'd paid to perpetrate the attack.

Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx drew

sharp criticism when her office suddenly dropped the charges, prompting the involvement of a special prosecutor who filed six new disorderly conduct charges in 2020. Smollett was convicted in 2021 and given a 150-day jail sentence, which has been put on hold as Smollett goes through the appeals process.

In his process, Smollett argued that he should not have been charged again because he'd voluntarily forfeited his \$10,000 bond after his arrest and done community

service—things he claimed constituted a non-prosecution agreement and punishment.

As evidence, Smollett's team pointed to a 2019 court filing from Foxx's office that said it would drop the charges in part due to "Mr. Smollett's volunteer service in the community and agreement to forfeit his bond to the City of Chicago."

That statement was included in what's referred to as a nolle prosequi notice that the state was not planning to prosecute. The state's attorney's office said it constituted a "just disposition" of the case and it was accepted by a judge.

"In this particular case, the deal was not just there was an offer made. There was an acceptance, and it was executed," Neny Uche, Smollett's lawyer, argued in court last week.

Smollett's lawyers argue that when he was later charged by a special prosecutor, it was in violation of the Fifth Amendment's protections against "double jeopardy," or being punished for the same crime twice.

But Shawn Wieber, a deputy special prosecutor on behalf of the state, countered that a nolle prosequi decision does not "provide finality" in a case.

"We're not running from the fact—the state is not running from the fact—that the nolle prosequi is a dismissal," Wieber said. "The question is, is it a dismissal with prejudice that precludes potential future indictment? And the answer is 'unequivocally no.'"

Smollett took his case to the Supreme Court after an appellate court ruled against his appeal in a 2-1 decision in December, finding the record did not support Smollett's claims that the nolle prosequi filing precluded further prosecution.

Much of the questioning from justices focused on the implications of what precedent a ruling in favor of the state would set. Justice

Mary Kay O'Brien asked how it would affect state's attorneys' discretion.

"If the same situation were to arise somewhere else, you're saying that that discretion is going to be upended by the potential for a special prosecutor coming in, or special prosecution being commenced, which would, in circumstances like this, impede state's attorneys from exercising their discretion?" she asked.

Wieber said the precedent for ruling that the state has the authority to bring another prosecution dates back to 1985. He added it's because Smollett was not found guilty or sentenced for any offense.

"It's been 2,058 days since the underlying incident. I would respectfully suggest that this case must end," Wieber told the court. "I firmly believe that the facts support affirmation. I believe the law supports affirmation. I believe justice and fairness support affirmation. And, by the way, I think that's totally fine. He doesn't have anyone to blame but himself."

Wieber said Smollett "preyed upon society's empathy," seized upon the issues of race and sexuality and "blamed it all on his perceived opponents."

But Smollett's legal team made other arguments in its court filings as well—including that the types of sentiments shared by Wieber affected the fairness of the legal proceedings.

Smollett's sentencing, fine and restitution were all excessive because, his legal team argued, the "driving consideration" was "the significant public exposure he had attracted by his case."

Smollett also argued his legal team was improperly denied access to the government's interviews of the prosecution's star witnesses—the two brothers he'd allegedly paid to perpetrate the attack—and that he was improperly ordered to pay for police overtime as restitution.

• Concerns (Continued from page 15)

Illinois farmers harvested 1 percent of soybeans and 2 percent of the corn crop as of Sept. 9, both 1 point ahead of the average pace, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service Illinois field office.

Most of the initial field activity is taking place in southern Illinois while some crops to the north are still weeks away from maturation.

Overall, the crops continue

to progress quickly with 40 percent of corn rated mature and 35 percent of soybeans dropping leaves statewide as of Sept. 9, which was 16 and 24 points ahead of the average pace, respectively.

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

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

October is here, and we still have warm weather. Leaves have begun to fall from trees and fall marches on. This week we have some fall recipes for you to try. Enjoy cooking this week.

Baked Sausage Corn Dip

You can make this ahead of time and freeze it. It is a spicy corn dip that is a hit for those who like a lot of zing in their appetizer. Use regular pork sausage and cut down on the peppers to make it milder.

- 1 lb. spicy pork sausage
- 2 cans (18½ oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
- ½ C. finely chopped red pepper

- 1 C. finely chopped seeded jalapeño pepper
- 6 green onions chopped
- 1 C. mayonnaise
- ½ C. grated parmesan cheese
- ½ t. chili powder
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 3 C. shredded monterey jack cheese
- Tortilla chips

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large skillet, cook sausage over medium heat until cooked through, 6 to 8 minutes, breaking into crumbles; drain. In a large bowl, combine cooked sausage and corn, red pepper, jalapeño peppers, green onions, mayo, parmesan, chili powder, garlic, and monterey jack. Transfer to an ungreased 9x13 pan. Bake until heated through, 30 to 35 minutes. Serve warm with tortilla chips.

Freeze option: Freeze uncooked sausage mixture in freezer containers. To use, partially thaw in refrigerator overnight. Bake as directed in recipe, increasing time as necessary for dip to be heated through.

Brussels Sprouts Slaw

A different kind of slaw, this uses Brussels sprouts and apples with a sweet and sour dressing.

- 6 slices bacon
- 1 tart apple, peeled, cored, chopped
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 1 T. packed brown sugar
- 2 t. Dijon mustard
- 3 T. white wine vinegar
- 1 T. apple juice
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1/3 C. olive oil
- 6 C. brussels sprouts
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced

Coat nonstick skillet with cooking spray; over medium-high heat, cook bacon, flipping once until crisp, 3 to 4 minutes per side until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Let cool; chop into small pieces. In blender, puree the apple, onion, brown sugar, mustard, vinegar, apple juice, salt, and pepper; gradually stream in oil until smooth. Transfer to a large bowl; add brussels sprouts and onion. Toss gently until evenly coated. Serve immediately or cover and chill until ready to serve. Garnish with bacon before serving.

salt and cook another 20 minutes until mushrooms are tender.

Parmesan-Crusted Pork Chops

October is Pork Month so this recipe is one of several we will feature during the month of October.

- 1 egg
- 1 T. water
- ¼ C. Italian style bread-crumbs
- 1/3 C. grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 boneless pork loin chops, ¾ inch thick
- 1 T. olive oil

Heat oven to 400. Line a 15x10x1 inch pan with foil; place cooling rack in pan. In a shallow bowl, beat egg and water with fork or whisk. In another shallow bowl, stir bread-crumbs and parmesan cheese until well blended. Dip each pork chop into egg mixture; coat with bread crumb mixture. In a nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add pork chops; cook 1 to 2 minutes, turning once, until golden brown. Place pork chops in pan. Bake 13 to 18 minutes or until pork is no longer pink in center and meat thermometer inserted in center reads 145.

4½ C. shredded cooked chicken

- 4½ C. cooked long grain white rice
- 3 C. small broccoli florets
- 2 C. crushed butter crackers
- 2 T. unsalted butter, melted

Preheat the oven to 350. spray a 9x13 baking dish with cooking spray. In a large Dutch oven, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion and garlic; cook, stirring occasionally, until tender, about 5 minutes. Whisk in flour; cook, whisking in broth; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cook; whisking constantly, until thickened, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat, whisk in cream cheese, poppy seeds, thyme, mustard, salt, lemon zest and pepper until smooth. Stir in chicken, rice, and broccoli, transfer to prepared pan. In a small bowl, stir together crackers and melted butter, sprinkle onto chicken mixture. Bake until golden brown and bubbly, 25 to 30 minutes, covering with foil to prevent excess browning if necessary. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

sugars, eggs and vanilla until combined. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. Add flour mixture to batter mixture, and fold until almost completely combined. Add apples, 2/3 C. caramel bits, and pecans; fold until combined and no dry streaks remain. Spread batter in prepared pan in an even layer.

Bake until firm to the touch and top is golden, about 40 minutes. Let cool in pan for at least 20 minutes. Using excess parchment as handles, remove from pan, and let cool completely on a wire rack. In a small microwave safe bowl, combine cream and remaining ¼ C. of caramel bits. Heat on high in 30-second intervals, stirring between each, until caramel is melted, and mixture is fully combined. Drizzle over blondies. Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

Oreo Dump Cake

This easy chocolate dessert is a great ending to any meal. For chocolate lovers, this dessert is a real treat.

- 24 Oreo cookies
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- ¾ C. semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 pkg. chocolate fudge cake mix
- ¾ C. cold butter, cubed
- Whipped cream and chocolate sauce

Preheat oven to 350. Layer Oreo cookies over bottom of a greased 9x13 baking dish. Spread sweetened condensed milk over cookies. Spread whipped topping over top; sprinkle with chocolate chips. Sprinkle with cake mix; top with butter. Bake until filling is bubbly, and top is golden brown, 40 to 45 minutes. Serve warm with chocolate sauce and whipped cream.

Final Thoughts

September went by fast, and October is here. The River Ridge Craft Fair is fast approaching. It is one of my favorites. I visited an apple orchard last week. People were buying apple cider donuts like mad. I also got some beautiful mums from the Amish north of Warren. It is fun to see all the pumpkins and fall squash available. Football and volleyball games continue, and golf is winding down. Have a good week of enjoying fall activities.

We will be looking for some good squash and apple recipes, so send some favorites our way. We also will be looking for some pork recipes as well as some soup recipes. 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.

LEGAL NOTICES

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(Published in The Shopper's Guide Oct. 2, 9 & 16, 2024) 461884

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(Published in The Shopper's Guide Oct. 2 & 9, 2024) 461615

Cabbage Barley Soup

This soup is a good one for a cool fall night. It has lentils for body and uses V-8 Juice and is a great way to use up extra cabbage.

- 1 C. dried brown lentils, rinsed
- ½ C. medium pearl barley
- 3 medium carrots, chopped
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- ½ t. poultry seasoning
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 bottle (46 oz.) V-8 Juice
- 4 C. water
- 8 C. shredded cabbage
- ½ lb. sliced fresh mushrooms
- ¾ t. salt

Place the lentils, barley, carrots, celery, poultry seasoning, pepper, and V-8 Juice in a 6-qt. slow cooker that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Add cabbage. Cook, covered on low until lentils are tender, 6 to 8 hours. Add mushrooms and

Chicken Poppy Seed and Rice Casserole

I have made poppy seed chicken casseroles in the past, but I have never seen a recipe with a starch and a vegetable. Everything you need for a full dinner is in this casserole. Using rotisserie chicken makes it easy to prepare. If you don't have fresh thyme, use 3 T. dried thyme.

- ¼ C. unsalted butter
- 1¼ C. chopped red onion
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- ½ C. flour
- 3 C. chicken broth
- 1½ (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 ½ t. poppy seeds
- 1½ T. chopped fresh thyme
- 1½ T. Dijon mustard
- 2¼ t. salt
- 1½ t. packed lemon zest
- ¼ t. pepper

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Youth robotics competition revolves around work of ag scientists, engineers

Youth from 30 teams across Illinois demonstrated their learning, celebrated their accomplishments, and interacted with others who share an interest in robotics at the 2024 4-H Robotics Competition held at the Interstate Center on the McLean County Fairgrounds.

The competition theme this year tasked youth with thinking about a world of never-ending technological advancements through the lens of AgTech.

"From the foods that we eat, to the clothes that we wear, Agriculture plays both the lead, and several supporting roles in this theater. With the threat of drought, global disasters and worldwide food shortages, AgTech may be the hero mankind has been waiting for," says University of Illinois Extension 4-H youth development specialist Keith Jacobs. "It will be this generation of youth minds that will be charged with saving our civilization and innovating the changes we hope to see for our agricultural future and that's what we're challenging youth

to bring to this competition."

Stephenson County's 4-H Robotics Club had a team of 9 youths that spent Thursday nights from January through April planning, building, coding, and laying out their runs for their robots so that they could be ready for this competition. Coaches, Ryan and Nikki Keltner helped guide the team with problem-solving & team building activities to help them be a united front when competition time came. "The team had a great time building and programming robots to perform the tasks on the agriculture-themed mission list," says Nikki Keltner, 4-H Volunteer and Robotics Co-Coach. "The kids grew together as a team, learning how to work together and solve problems as a group.

Pictured right: Mae Cifonie, Colson Lamm, Grant Marvin, Dylan Brennan, Jace Forth, and Clay Headlee participate in the 2024 4-H Robotics Competition.



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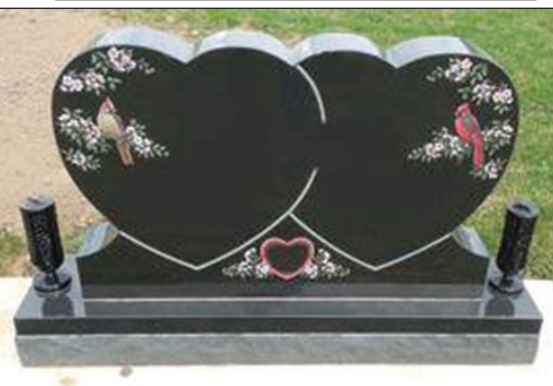
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GROUND FRESH DAILY!



ONE DAY ONLY!

Fresh
80% LEAN GROUND BEEF
8-10 lb Pkg **3.49 lb**

Wholey, Farm Raised
PEELED & DEVEINED RAW SHRIMP
Frozen, 16-20 ct, 1 lb bag **6.99 ea**

Wholey, Farm Raised
PEELED & DEVEINED COOKED SHRIMP
Frozen, 31-40 ct, 1 lb bag **7.99 ea**

Wild Caught
ALASKAN POLLOCK FILLETS
Frozen, 10 lb box **29.99 ea**

Wholey
COOKED SHRIMP RING WITH SAUCE
16 oz **8.99 ea**

SLICED FOR FREE!



USDA CHOICE
Grade

ONE DAY ONLY!

USDA Choice WHOLE BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN **5.69 lb**

ONE DAY ONLY!



US Gov't Inspected
BABY BACK PORK RIBS **2.49 lb**

HOT DEAL!



ONE DAY ONLY!

John Morrell
PREMIUM STACK PACK BACON
3 lb Pkg **8.88 ea**

ONE DAY ONLY!



Sullivan's Signature
BREAKFAST SAUSAGE PATTIES
Frozen, 5 lb box **16.99 ea**

US Grade A
FROZEN TURKEY BREAST **1.39 lb**

US Grade A
CHICKEN THIGHS
Family Pack **1.29 lb**

Sullivan's Signature
BRATS OR SAUSAGES
Select Varieties, 9-10lb box **39.99 ea**

US Grade A
BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST
Family Pack **2.29 lb**

US Grade A
CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS
Family Pack **89¢ lb**

US Grade A
CHICKEN WINGS
Family Pack **2.29 lb**

Meat Masters State Champion
BONELESS SMOKED HAM **4.49 lb**

Meat Masters State Champion
FULLY COOKED SMOKED BONELESS PORK LOIN
Regular or Garlic **3.99 lb**

Wild Caught, 5 oz
COD LOIN FILLETS
Frozen, 10 lb box **69.99 ea**

Shullsburg
SLICED AMERICAN CHEESE
5 lb block **14.99 ea**

Chuckwagon
FROZEN CORN DOGS
10 lb box **10.99 ea**

Klondike
BONE-IN SMOKED HAM PORTIONS **99¢ lb**

Restaurant Grade
FROZEN FRENCH FRIES
5 lb bag **4.99 ea**

Glant, Wild Caught
FROZEN LOBSTER TAILS
16 oz **24.99 ea**

Available at all Sullivans Foods including:
103 W North Ave, Stockton, 815.947.3318 OPEN 6AM TO 9PM 7 DAYS A WEEK
201 Dodds Dr, Lena, 815.369.2311 OPEN 6AM TO 9PM 7 DAYS A WEEK
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTING ERRORS