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VOL. 86 • NO. 48

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 20, 2024



MCCONNELL AMERICAN LEGION POST #1225 FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

McConnell American Legion members encourage vets to seek help when needed

McConnell American Legion Post #1225 members Commander David Jordan, Adjutant Daryl Thyberg, and Sgt Brandon McGrew recently attend the American Legion Illinois 13th District Meeting at Dixons American Legion Post. McGrew presented the "Be the One" program which encourages veterans to seek help if necessary and support other veterans. The aim of the program is to reduce the stigma around asking for help, and to support veterans who may be struggling.

Postal Customer **ecrws

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Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education news

Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education (IAHCE) held their 100th annual meeting on Oct. 31, 2024, at the Farm Bureau in Freeport. The theme this year was *Diamonds are Forever and so is IAHCE*.

Following the election of officers, IAHCE President Angela Hicks installed the 2025 Stephenson County HCE board. Membership awards were presented to individuals who had been in HCE from five years to 69 years. The oldest member in attendance was recognized. Marjorie Lott, from the Pearl City Unit, is 98 years old!

Awards were also presented for volunteer hours. In 2023, Stephenson County HCE members gave a total of 11,563 volunteer hours. In our county, many organizations and individuals directly benefited from those donated hours.

Jo Ann Wenzel, Blackhawk Unit, was chosen as the 2024 Homemaker of the Year. She was nominated for her volunteerism and efforts to make our community a better place. Lucas Meyer and Matthew Meyer, graduates of Stillman Valley High School, were announced as the 2024 Stephenson County HCE scholarship recipients. Both young men are attending the University of Wisconsin.

The International program followed the business meeting and luncheon. IAHCE President Angela Hicks was the speaker on the country of Malaysia. In 2023, she was an Illinois delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) Triennial Meeting in Malaysia.

There are HCE units throughout Stephenson County. For more information, please contact Diana Ethridge at 815-275-0680.

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Obituaries

DAVE SWIFT

Dave Swift, age 69, of Freeport, IL, formerly of Lena, IL, passed away at home surrounded by his family on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024. He was born on July 22, 1955, in Freeport, IL to Bill and Verla (Broege) Swift. Dave met the love of his life, Jan Folgate, at the Lena Q in 1972. From that point on, they were inseparable and were married on June 26, 1976, in Lena, IL at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Dave graduated from Warren High School in 1973. His love for music started early. To his mother's dismay, he chose to play the drums at age 13. He played in the marching band throughout high school and was in many local rock bands including Zoid, Rage, Damian, Mason Brother's Band, Neighborhood, Flashback and Rockitt. With his best show opening for REO Speedwagon.

He started working at 13 years old, riding his bike to the Warren Drive Inn where he was a cook and found his love for a good cheeseburger. He was a salesman from day one and started his professional career working at the Warren Gamble store at the age of 15. He then worked at Warren Auto, Hoy Ford, Leamon's Furniture and McNett Chevrolet until he branched out on his own with wife, Jan, and partner Jeff Opie to open Lena Auto Mart in 1981.

Throughout the years, Dave was very active and held leadership roles in several organizations in the Lena and Freeport communities. This includes but is not limited to the Lena Business and Professional Association, Lena Lions Club, Freeport Chamber of Commerce, the Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and many other



boards. After over 25 years in the car business and with the love and support of his wife, Jan, they established Swift Hospitality Group. Through his leadership of Swift Hospitality, and in partnership with his team and investors, he cultivated the development and acquisition of 32 properties over twenty years. The property he had the most pride in, which was also his last, was when his vision for a local senior living community became a reality in WinnPraire Assisted Living and Memory Care.

Dave was also a sponsor and developer of the Highland Community College Hospitality Program. His legacy will live on in those he mentored and provided opportunities for both in business and his personal life. Dave was proud of his accomplishments, but he was the proudest of the family he and Jan built. In his free time, he enjoyed his Corvettes, music, cheering on his grandchildren in their many activities, traveling, a good meal with fine wine.

Dave is survived by his wife of 48 years Jan, of Freeport, daughter; Amy (Shane) Johnson of Lodi, WI, son; Brice (Danielle) Swift of Lena, IL, three grandchildren; Alexandria (Brandon) Taylor, Zoe (fiancée Andre Minnaert) Johnson, and Jaxson Swift all 3 of Lena, brother; Jon Swift of Warren, brothers-in-law; Bob (Marcy) Folgate of Freeport, and Jeff (Veronica) Folgate of Albuquerque, NM, his recently found family; Helen, Jay, Julyn, Jason, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death

by his parents, his father-in-law and mother-in-law; John and Irene Folgate, brothers-in-law; Jim and Ron Folgate, and recently found family Jerry and Jolene.

A memorial service was held on Monday, Nov. 18, 2024, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. A visitation was held on Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. Pastor Jim Parish and Hospice Chaplain Jeremy Heller co-officiated the services. Burial took place at Lena Burial Park in Lena, IL. Cremation rites have been accorded. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be shared with the family at www.leamonfh.com.

WAYNE ALBRECHT

Wayne Albrecht, 85, of Winslow, IL, passed away peacefully on Friday, Nov. 15, 2024, at the Lena Living Center in Lena, IL. He was born to Walter and Emma (Zink) Albrecht on May 21, 1939, in rural Stephenson County. He graduated from Lena-Winslow High School and upon graduating he attended DeVry Technical Institute for radio operation and repair. He took that knowledge to the Illinois State Police where he worked as a Dispatcher and did radio repair and installation as a lead tech for over 30 years. Wayne married Karen Lowe on Oct. 24, 1970, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa and together they had one child Geoffrey Wayne.

Wayne loved traveling, he often took trips to places like the Wisconsin Dells, Branson, Gatlinburg/ Pigeon Forge area, and Kentucky. He also attended a few boat shows yearly where he got to visit with many friends he had made throughout the years. He was very active in his community; he was a volunteer fireman for many years and was also active in the Winslow Historical Society. Also, if you knew Wayne, you knew he loved his Chicago Cubs.

He is survived by his son Geoffrey, sister-in-law, Nancy Albrecht and three nephews and two nieces. He is preceded in death by his parents, wife Karen in 2003, brothers Jim and Gary.

A funeral service took at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2024, at the Winslow Grace Bible Church in Winslow, IL. A visitation took place from 1 p.m. until time of service. Pastor Bob Patin officiated the service. Burial took place at Rock Lily Cemetery in Winslow, IL. A memorial has been established in his memory.

Lawmakers return to Springfield as projected budget deficit looms

Key Senate Dem says no tax increases being discussed; GOP calls for seat at table

By Ben Szalinski
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois lawmakers returned to Springfield last week for the first time since May following news earlier this month that they're facing a projected \$3.2 billion budget deficit for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The news didn't surprise Republicans, who condemned "drunken spending" policies, but the Senate's top Democratic budget leader defended the state's spending priorities and cautioned next year's budget is still more than six months away from passage.

"This was not unexpected and certainly there's a long time between now and the end of the fiscal year and we'll be prepared," Sen. Elgie Sims, D-Chicago, said.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget released a report on Nov. 1 projecting the state will face a \$3.2 billion deficit for fiscal year 2026, which begins July 1. The annual report from the governor's budget office typically sets a benchmark for state lawmakers as they begin budget talks early in the year.

How this shortfall will be addressed, either through corresponding spending cuts or new revenue increases, will be the focus of lawmakers and Gov. JB Pritzker during the spring session that begins in January.

The General Assembly was scheduled to be in town last week and this week for its annual fall veto session, and Senate Republicans held a news conference about the projected deficit a top priority.

Republicans said Democrats should start by cutting out programs for noncitizens and migrants.

"These are tradeoffs. So when Gov. Pritzker supports spending over \$1 billion on illegal immigrants, that means that schools aren't being properly funded in Illinois, that means developmentally disabled aren't being properly funded in Illinois," Senate Republicans' budget leader Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, told Capitol News Illinois. "That's a choice the Democrats are making."

Preliminary estimates show the state is on pace to spend \$568 million this year on a program that provides health care to undocumented immigrants, according to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. State lawmakers appropriated \$629 million in the spring for the programs, which are currently paused to new enrollment, plus \$182 million to pay for services for migrants sent to Illinois from Texas. Rose argued there's not enough transparency about the programs to know the true amount of state spending.

Senate Republican Leader John Curran, R-Downers Grove, also demanded Democrats spend more time negotiating with Republicans on the budget this spring, alleging that Democrats closed out the minority party earlier this year.

Sims noted recent budgets have also significantly increased education funding.

"If they want to classify investments in education and making investments in health care as overspending, I'll let them make that case," Sims said. "We've tried very hard to work with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and we'll continue to do so."

Pritzker declined to give many details when asked last week how he plans to propose closing the deficit when he presents his budget in February.

"It's kind of a flat projection forecast. It's been wrong every year, I guess you might say, or we've defeated it every year," Pritzker said, adding the budget he will present to lawmakers is going to be balanced.

The Illinois Constitution requires the General Assembly to pass a budget that is balanced on paper, meaning lawmakers won't pass a budget that contains a sizeable deficit according to their calculations.

But Pritzker also received some of his first legislative pushback to a budget in May when multiple Democrats in the House and Senate voted against parts of the spending plan.

This year's \$53.1 billion budget is currently expected to meet spending and revenue expectations and run a \$16 million surplus when accounting for contributions to the state's "rainy day" fund, according to the report. Lawmakers chose to raise about \$1 billion of new revenue to support this year's spending, such as by raising taxes on sportsbooks and video gambling and capping a sales tax discount for retailers.

One thing lawmakers can't do is implement across-the-board spending cuts, according to GOMB. The report said about 40 percent of state spending is required by courts, state law and other obligations. Another 24 percent is for education and higher education, including the \$350 million increase to education funding that is called for as part of the state's evidence-based funding formula for K-12 schools each year.

"We're looking at everything," Sims said. "That's the beauty of the budget process. Each budget has its own identity and this budget's no different."

Sims said there have been no discussions about tax increases to close the revenue gap. Curran said Democrats should pledge not to hike any taxes to balance the budget.

"What we're not interested in is making life worse for working families," Rose said. "The clear message from this election, whether you're in Illinois or Montana, is real people are tapped out. They don't have more money to give."

State lawmakers face a variety of spending pressures this year outside of what is already in the state budget. Chicago officials have asked Springfield to step up funding for Chicago Public Schools, sports teams want money from the state to build new stadiums and the Chicago area's transit agencies are facing a \$730 million budget gap next year that many hope the state can help fill.

Sims acknowledged the "infinite needs, but finite resources" of the state budget, but said Democrats will continue to prioritize investments in education, health care and other areas.

If Republicans get a better seat at the table, they would be looking for ways to reduce spending, Curran said.

"We are going to have to constrain spending," Curran said. "We're going to have to go line by line. Everything needs to be on the table for that and that's a process that needs to start early."

LOCAL MAKERS MARKET

Friday, Nov. 22 • 3 - 8 p.m.
Saturday, Nov. 23 • 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

*Come join Joanne & Judy
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**A Soup and Sandwich meal
will be offered both days,
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by The Thriving Thistle.**

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Little Blackhawks

Pictured are Stockton Elementary's Little Blackhawks for the week. These students were recognized for following the Blackhawk Way. Great job!

Around the Northern Hills with Annette Eggers

Local young farmers rally to help farmers affected by hurricane

Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Young Leaders in conjunction with Ogle, Carroll, Stephenson, and Winnebago-Boone County Farm Bureaus, announce a donation hay drive to benefit farmers affected by Hurricane Helene. Local farmers are asked to donate round bales, large square, and small square of all types of hay. Hay must be good quality. No straw or cornstalks.

Please contact Nathan Koester at 815.291.3858 to donate by Nov. 26. Collection to take place on Nov. 30 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. In addition, monetary donations are



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

being accepted. Funds can be dropped off at the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau office at 212 N Main Street, Elizabeth, IL. For more information call 815-858-2235 or email jdcfboffice@gmail.com.

Become a member

Did you know that you don't need to be a farmer to be a farm bureau member? Give me a call at the office and I can tell you how you

can become a member. You will be able to take advantage of the many membership benefits that Illinois Farm Bureau and Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau has to offer.

Family Farm Signs and Plat books

As we are getting closer to the Christmas season, I have a great gift idea for that farmer on your list. "This is a Family Farm" signs are the perfect way to show pride in a farm. The signs are 17.5" x 23" and cost \$30.

Do you have a friend or family member that is hard to shop for the holiday season? We have 2024 Jo Daviess County Plat Books available in our office for purchase. The plat books at \$35 for farm bureau members and \$55 for non-members. Stop by our office to pick up a sign or a book today!

Farm Fun Fact

Do you like bread? The first wheat harvesting tool, called a wheat reaper, was invented in Chicago by Cyrus McCormick.

Senior Resource Center to offer Medicare Basics Class

The Senior Resource Center invites individuals aged 60 and older, as well as their caregivers, to attend a Medicare Basics Class on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at the Senior Resource Center Activity Room. This informative session will cover essential Medicare information and provide an opportunity for attendees to get their Medicare questions answered in a straightforward, supportive setting.

The Medicare Basics Class is designed to help participants better understand Medicare coverage options, enrollment periods, and other key details, ensuring they are equipped to make informed healthcare decisions. To secure a spot, please register by calling 815-235-9777. Walk-ins are welcome. The Senior Resource Center is located at 206 E. Stephenson Street in Freeport.

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When attending Orangeville's
Home for the Holidays
Craft Sale
Saturday, Nov. 23
Also visit the resale shop!!
313 West High
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SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The River Ridge FFA winning team of Ella Dittmar, Katie Cobine, Graci Vanderheyden, Nick Cobine and Sawyer Fry took first out of 18 teams at the Section One Agronomy Career Development Event.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Back row: Wes Haas, Russel Howard, Wyatt Lehman. Middle row: Lily Lucas, Berkeley Mensendike, Sawyer Fry, Gracie Allen, Bindi Boop, Ella Dittmar, Jason Lucas, Bronx Gonzalez and Hayden Diehl. Front row: Wyatt Ritchie, Allie Karburg, Graci Vanderheyden, Katie Cobine and Nick Cobine.

River Ridge FFA wins Section Agronomy Career Development Event

Fifteen high school and three Jr. High members from the River Ridge FFA Chapter traveled to Lena to compete in this year's Section One Agronomy Career Development Event (CDE) on Wednesday, Nov. 13. There were 12 different schools

at this event with a total of 18 teams competing.

Throughout the contest, students were tested in a variety of ways. They were challenged through weed identification, crop seed identification, harvesting/planting/research

equipment identification, a test on soil knowledge and judging sets of both corn and soybeans. This is a very competitive event where just a few points can make the difference between placing in the top 10 as an individual or not.

This year River Ridge was able to take home the win, Eastland was second and Pecatnica was third. The top 10 individuals were led by the Wildcats with Sr. Kaitte Cobine earning the most points followed by fellow senior and River Ridge Chapter President,

Graci Vanderheyden, sophomore and River Ridge Chapter Historian, Nick Cobine, and freshman Wyatt Lehman. These four individuals, along with the alternate Sawyer Fry, will be headed to Champaign to compete in the State Contest on Dec. 14.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

FFA Chapter members Bindi Boop, Izzy Haring, Graci Vanderheyden, Katie Cobine and Lily Lucas help pack meals to be donated to families in need. FFA members from local chapters helped pack over 15,000 meals on Nov. 7 with the Meals from the Heartland program.

Jo Daviess FFA donates 15,000 meals

Four FFA Chapters from Jo Daviess County worked together to pack 15,000 meals on Nov. 7 in conjunction with Meals from the Heartland. FFA members from Galena, River Ridge,

Stockton and Warren worked together to pack the non-perishable meals which will be donated to food centers, schools and refugee camps where they are needed the most.

Meals From the Heartland began in 2007 as a way to help those who are food insecure meet their basic human needs. They packaged and donated over 21 million meals in 2023.

Jo Daviess FFA was proud to be a part of their efforts this year. Students had a great time assembling the rice-based meals and doing their part to help out those in need.

Wildcats hopeful to build through growing pains

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound (RR-SM) Wildcats have a ton of shoes to fill in the 2024-2025 girls basketball season. After going 25-8 and capturing a regional championship last season, the Wildcats graduated six key seniors.

Addison Albrecht, Gwen Miller, Emily Wiederholt, Abigail Frank, Ava Travis, and Anniston Werner all graduated as seniors. Amongst the six of them were four starters and the first two off the bench. The Wildcats lost a ton of valuable experience and minutes on the floor. Despite that, RR-SM and their head coach, David Wiegel, have high hopes for the upcoming season.

The Wildcats do return one crucial piece from last year's team in senior Laiken Haas. A guard standing five-foot, nine-inches tall, Haas was a unanimous All-Conference selection in 2022 and a First Team All-Conference pick in 2023. She averaged nine points-per-game and over three steals-per-game as a junior. "Laiken is an exceptional athlete and a very skilled basketball player," Wiegel shared, before adding that Haas is "a very hard worker and leads by example, both physically and vocally." As the lone returning starter, Haas has major leadership expecta-

tions this year. "Laiken is a great teammate and will do a tremendous job of setting the course this season," Wiegel said of Haas.

The Wildcats do return a handful of players that got a solid amount of varsity experience last year. Wiegel is hopeful that a combination of the returning players and some newcomers can lead to sustained success for the program. "While this lack of experience may initially affect us, we hope to grow and develop as the season progresses and become a competitive basketball team," Wiegel shared.

The Wildcats will need their trio of juniors to take a step forward leadership wise. Wiegel is more than confident in the bunch. Kaci Patterson, Sarah Winter, and Berkeley Mensendike all begin the year with big expectations. Wiegel said, "Patterson will take on a large roll on this team both with her athleticism and defensive length and skilled offensive play." Winter will be expected to handle some of the dirty work down low. "Winter will be asked to man the middle and control the boards," Wiegel said. Wiegel added that Mensendike is also going to play "a big role with her offensive skill and defensive rebounding."

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, Nov. 17 for Christ the King Sunday. Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel John: 18:33-37.

On Wednesday, Nov. 27 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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 Christ the King Sunday at worship on Sunday, Nov. 24 at 9 a.m. Join on Facebook if you can't make it in person.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at 9 a.m. and on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. (there is no November date due to Thanksgiving). The December Grace Meal

will be on Sunday, Dec. 15. It will include ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, and a chocolate pudding dessert. Meals can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Dec. 15. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, Dec. 12. The meal is funded through the generosity of a grant from the Pearl City Lions Club and donations. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport.

If you have a child in grades K through 5 and would like them to be part of the Kids Klub, reach out to Pastor Roger Bronkema at 815-291-6261 to register. The Kids Klub is an after-school program where kids can take part in games, crafts, bible stories, and snacks. The next meeting of the Kids Klub will be at St. John's in Pearl City on Nov. 20 at 3:15 p.m. It is free of charge and students walk over from the school at the end of the day.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Nov. 21 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.

Calvary Church of Stockton

The next potluck will be on Sunday, Dec. 1, following the 10 a.m. church service. You are welcome to bring a dish and join us. The Pastor is Scott Hess who is bringing challenging Bible based messages every week.

Sunday School is at 8:45 a.m., Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., and Prayer Meetings are held on Mondays at 6 p.m. Choir rehearsal is held on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. with the Cantata Rehearsal at 7:30 pm. Mark your calendars for the Christmas Cantata, "This is Christmas," to be held on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

New in the last few months is The Fellowship of Christian Athletes that meets every other week on Thursday mornings before school. Because of Thanksgiving, the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 12. It is open to all students in sixth through twelfth grade, boys and girls. Breakfast pizza is served at 7:15 a.m. with the Huddle at 7:30 a.m. led by Noah Hess,

Stockton graduate from the class of 2023.

Calvary also has a Youth Group which will meet on Saturday, Nov. 23 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please call the church at 815-947-2414 or Pastor Scott at 815-821-9245 with any questions.

Lena United Methodist Church

The Lena United Methodist Church will host a Christmas Cookie Walk and Baked Potato Bar on Saturday, Dec. 7 in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 118 W. Mason Street from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Potato Bar starts at 4 p.m.). This is in conjunction with the annual Lena Hometown Christmas Celebration.

The Baked Potato Bar will include a beverage of either hot cocoa or coffee and costs \$10. Kids Meal will have macaroni and cheese and hot cocoa and cost \$5. The price of the candy and cookies is \$7 per pound.

Salem United Church of Christ

We welcome you to join us for our service led by Pastor Christopher Ham at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL, every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday School for children five years and older is held during

church service, and nursery is available for children under five years.

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet Nov. 20 at 8 a.m. at Beltline Café, 325 West South Street, Freeport, Illinois. Everyone is welcome to join.

Craftroom will be held on Nov. 20 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the lower level of the church. This space is handicap accessible, and all are welcome to join. During this

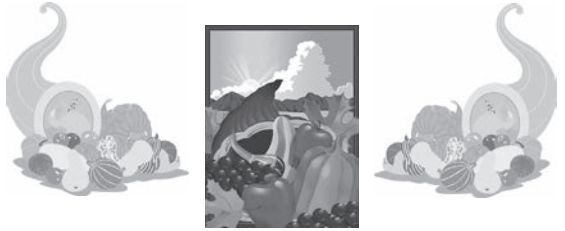
event, we enjoy snacks, crafting and good company. There is plenty of space to spread out a large project, or to work on something small.

Thanksgiving eve service will be held on Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. Please join us as we reflect on all the things we have to be thankful for, and the wonderful power of Christ.

For more information on any Salem related items, you can contact 815-369-4511 or ruth.dake@gmail.com.



"How do I thank God?" Psalm 100



JOIN US FOR A TIME OF THANKSGIVING

**Thanksgiving Eve Worship
Wednesday, Nov. 27
at 7 p.m.**

*Special Offering for the
Le-Win Food Pantry*



**625 Country Lane Drive
Lena, Illinois
815.369.4035**

**Worship Services
each week**

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday at 8 a.m.

& 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Children's

Ministry— BLAST! 9:15 a.m.

News briefs

Blackhawk Unit of SCHCE

The November monthly meeting of Blackhawk Unit of SCHCE will be held Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. Roll call will be "Family Favorite Food or Snack". The major lesson on "Fixins and Nibbles for the Holidays" will be given by Colleen Brown and Kim Planz. Anita Costello and Ruth Keltner will furnish items for the raffle. All are welcome to attend.

Current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry

Body wash
Laundry soap
Shampoo and conditioner
Long underwear (tops,

bottoms, unisex)
Cans of fruit

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.

Lena Historical Society

The Lena Historical Society is selling gift boxes of three types of cheese (muenster, Colby jack, and Swiss) and a beef sausage from AJ's Lena Maid Meats. The cost of the gift box is \$30 and will be available by Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at

the Lena Museum, 427 W. Grove Street in Lena.

The deadline for ordering is Friday, Nov 22. Place an order by calling Cindy Drye at 815-369-4030 or Eleanor Holmes at 815-238-2372. This the perfect gift for the person that has everything, and it supports the Lena Historical Society. Cheese boxes can be delivered in town.

Lena Lions annual



collection to support vets


The Lena Lions are running their annual collection to support local veterans this holiday season. New or lightly used items requested include socks, gloves, stocking hats, and all types of toiletries. Collection bins are in Lena area churches now until Dec. 1, 2024. Please call 815-291-9361 with any questions.

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OPINION

ILLINOIS BUDGET
Jenga



Federal judge strikes down Illinois assault weapons ban, setting up likely appeal

Southern District court says law violates 2nd Amendment; other cases still pending

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A federal judge in East St. Louis on Nov. 8 struck down Illinois' assault weapons ban on the grounds that it violates the Second and 14th amendments to the U.S. Constitution and issued an order barring the state from enforcing it.

That order, however, was stayed for 30 days, giving the state time to file an appeal before it takes effect.

In a 168-page opinion, Judge Stephen McGlynn sided with plaintiffs in the case who argued the assault-style weapons banned under the law are commonly used for legal purposes such as self-defense.

"What is particularly disturbing is that the prohibition of weapons that are commonly owned and used by citizens are now banned, depriving citizens of a principal means to defend themselves and their property in situations where a handgun or shotgun alone would not be the citizen's preferred arm," McGlynn wrote.

In March, before the case went to trial, McGlynn issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the law, saying the plaintiffs challenging the law were likely to prevail on the merits of the case.

But the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision, and in July the U.S. Supreme declined to review it—along with several other cases challenging the law—and remanded all the cases back to district courts for full proceedings.

The case before McGlynn was the subject of a week-long trial in September. Two other cases, each with multiple sets of plaintiffs, are

pending before district court judges in the Northern District of Illinois in Chicago.

Meanwhile, a three-judge panel of the 7th Circuit was scheduled to hear oral arguments last week in a case challenging Cook County's local assault weapons ban.

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul did not immediately comment on McGlynn's ruling. Gov. JB Pritzker issued a statement saying he expects the attorney general will file "an immediate appeal" and for the law to be "upheld through this process."

"The Protect Illinois Communities Act was the result of hundreds of hours of deliberation between legal experts, legislators, and advocates, and it makes Illinois a safer place for everyone," Pritzker said in a statement. "Despite those who value weapons of war more than public safety, this law was enacted to and has protected Illinoisans from the constant fear of being gunned down in places where they ought to feel secure."

Gun rights groups like the Firearms Policy Coalition, meanwhile, issued statements celebrating the ruling.

"We are gratified that the Court properly found that these bans violate the constitutionally protected rights of Illinois residents and visitors. As we clearly showed at trial, PICA fails even under the Seventh Circuit's misguided test that conflicts with binding Supreme Court precedent," said FPC President Brandon Combs, noting the group was "hopeful" the U.S. Supreme Court would strike down similar bans.

OP-ED: Bipartisan solution needed to protect kids online

By Taunya Madden

There are a lot of moms like me who had kids at a young age and then after an extended gap had more kids later in life. Raising my two older kids in the early 2000s had its fair share of difficulties, but there is no question raising my two younger kids in the current digital age presents some unprecedented challenges.

As much as I would like to be able to monitor everything my kids see and do online, the truth is I can't be there 24 hours a day; seven days per week. It is impossible. I trust my kids, but I don't share that same trust of the online community. We need Congress to

act to help parents take on the challenges of the digital age, but whatever action is taken must be done in a responsible manner.

One bill still under consideration in Congress is the Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA). While the push to add new protections for kids online is a movement that many, including me, proudly stand behind, several debilitating flaws in the bill's construction were overlooked.

One central concern with KOSA is its "duty of care" provision. The duty of care calls on social platforms to regulate content considered "harmful to minors." Yet rather than provide further details

to explain its vague criteria, it leaves the authority to the platforms themselves and the FTC, which can take legal action against companies that refuse to take down content they consider "harmful." As platforms seek to avoid these legal battles, they are likely to take any content that could be deemed harmful by KOSA's enforcers, which essentially puts regulators in charge of what kinds of content my kids see.

Moreover, the FTC is not the only regulator that stands to gain tremendous authority to restrict content online through KOSA. In its current state, the legislation also empowers state attorneys general to wield it in coordination with state law to take action against platforms hosting content from individuals and organizations with whom they disagree.

The last thing we need in the effort to protect kids is to

have political bias interjected in the rules governing kids' ability to access online content. Access to the Internet is part of everyday life for kids. Kids need access to the Internet to do even basic things like getting their school assignments.

Too often, well-intentioned laws end up doing more harm than good because our leaders in Congress want to do something even if that something might not actually solve the problem.

I hope that Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski and her colleagues will take the time to get KOSA right. Doing something for the sake of doing something is not a real solution. We must protect kids online and prioritize their safety, but we must also ensure KOSA cannot be used as a political weapon.

Taunya Madden is an emergency room nurse at Memorial Hospital in Springfield.

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Weekly connection

Apples and a father's legacy



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

This fall season has been about as delightful as any that I can ever remember. The harvest came out of the fields in record time. The gardens yielded an abundant of produce as well and our apples have also been especially prolific this year. We have tried to use them all and have done everything from making several apple desserts to freezing quarts and quarts of applesauce to making gallons and gallons of apple cider. Still these red rubies continue to fall to the ground faster than I can pick them. I even mistakenly made some apple butter because I forgot that I had a big pot on the stove cooking on low

heat for most of the day. I was busy outside and when I came back in the house and saw what I had done, I thought that I had probably ruined a nice big pot of applesauce. Instead, it turned out that by cooking all the water out of the sauce, I actually made a quart or two of apple butter by mistake. Before this happened, I had no idea how to make apple butter, but it

seems I learned by accident, and it tastes mighty good to boot.

The other night my lovely wife and I took my mom to see the movie called, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever. My wife and my mom were both quite familiar with the book written by Barbara Robinson and requested that we go see it. We had a great time. It's the story of a family with five very poor misbehaving kids who decide to come to church because they were told they could get some great snacks if they came to Sunday School. Well it worked and in the process they heard about the Christmas pageant practice and wanted to be a part. The

story goes that they knew nothing of the Christmas Story when they came to the church, but soon became major players in what turns out to be the best Christmas pageant ever. We enjoyed this good clean movie very much, and we highly recommend it for lovers of wholesome entertainment. Heck, you could even take your kids to this one with no reservations whatsoever.

When my dad went home to be with the Lord almost two years ago, he asked our family to our best to meet one important mandate, that we work together to manage the farm that he left behind and do it such a way that

God would be pleased with our efforts. So far, his eight children have managed to work together very nicely to continue my parent's legacy of living for the Lord and for the family to work in harmony together. Recently we have begun getting some property ready for the construction of a ministry and family center on the farm. When our families get together, there are now over one hundred of us and currently there just isn't a good place for us all to meet. It's taken us a while, but we finally agreed on what our new building will look like and how big to build it.

So, the other day when the bulldozer was leveling

the construction spot my mom was watching from her back porch and she texted out a couple great verses of scripture to the family thread that she thought were fitting for my dad's dreams and for the project at hand. The verses are from Psalm 37:25-26 and they read like this, Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread. The godly always give generous loans to others, and their children are a blessing. These verses pretty much sum up the goodness of God to those who believe in Him and stand upon His word. Until next week, God bless.

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464580

Wildcats (Continued from page 4)

A trio of sophomores are also expected to take a step forward this year. A couple of them made big plays in last year's Regional run in Campbell Hereau and Kenley Patterson. Wiegel noted, "They both made big plays for us down the stretch and we hope to see more of that this year." Additionally, the team will have Halle Wiegel, who brings "defensive toughness" and "great energy" to the squad, according to the Wildcats head coach.

Wiegel and the Wildcats are plenty aware of what they are facing in the first half of this season. "Our focus in the early parts of the season is very simple. We are paying attention to detail, working on the fundamentals of defense, passing, catching, shooting, and dribbling. Our goal is to continue to work hard in practice, learn from each practice game, and be the

best team we can be," Wiegel explained.

The Wildcats get a couple of fun tests early in the season. They tipped the campaign off on Nov. 19 in a matchup against Pearl City. The excitement picks up at this year's annual Turkey Tournament at Dakota High School. There, the Wildcats will begin tournament play with a matchup against the tournament hosts in the Dakota Indians.

The Wildcats and Indians are set to tip off at 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 25. The Wildcats have a bye on Tuesday before returning to face the Pearl City Wolves on Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 3 p.m. On Saturday, Nov. 30 the Wildcats round out the tournament with two games against North Boone and Byron. They will tip off against North Boone at 10 a.m. The Byron game is scheduled to start at 1p.m.

Stockton claims second place at Illinois 1A Volleyball State Championship

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The 2024 season will forever be imbedded in Stockton Blackhawks' volleyball history. The Blackhawks went on an unforgettable run which included a co-conference title, the program's first ever Sectional title, first trip to the state championship, and a 1A second-place finish, making 2024 one for the books in Stockton.

After finishing the regular season with an overall record of 31-2, the Blackhawks began their magical postseason run. Victories over Dakota, Pecatonica, and Durand helped the Blackhawks capture a regional championship. An epic battle with Newark was followed by a dominant victory over the Galena Pirates, who beat Stockton in

the regular season.

That propelled the Blackhawks into the Super Sectional round, where they traveled to Aurora Christian High School to take on Harvest Christian Academy. The Blackhawks brought one of their best performances of the year as they beat HCA 25-16 and 25-21 to punch their ticket to their first ever State Championship Tournament.

The Blackhawks were in uncharted territory when they got to Normal, IL to compete at the CEFCU Arena, formerly known as the Redbird Arena. After getting an opportunity to practice on the Redbirds' court on Thursday, the Blackhawks had to await their State Semifinals matchup with the Hartsburg Stags on Friday, Nov. 15.

The Stags entered as a serious threat to the Blackhawks. Of course, in the State Semifinals, every team left has earned the opportunity to be there. Hartsburg was consistent from start to finish of the 2024 campaign.

There were more than 60 combined wins on the floor when Stockton and Harts-

burg faced off in the Semifinals. Stockton had 38 wins on their record, while Hartsburg came in with 31. The Stags also had a conference championship of their own in the 2024 season.

The nerves were evident when the Blackhawks began play against the Stags. Early on, it looked like the Stags would easily run away with things as the Blackhawks struggled to get things going. It was arguably the worst start Stockton had in all of 2024, as they dropped the opening set by a score of 25-12.

It would have been really easy for the Blackhawks to roll over and accept defeat. The Stags clearly looked like the superior team after more than doubling up Stockton in the opening set. That's not who the Blackhawks were in 2024, however, and they proved that with one of the most epic comebacks in state history.

Stockton responded resoundingly in the second set. Madalyn Mammoser refused to go down without a fight as she began to let it fly. She had 34mkill attempts and ev-

ery one of them was needed in this comeback. Mammoser wound up leading the team with 17 successful kills on the day.

Taylor Haas continued to be a dynamic partner with Mammoser. Haas found some holes in the Hartsburg defense as the duo helped the Blackhawks find their confidence. The sophomore finished with ten kills in three sets played.

Stockton took the second set by a score of 25-20. Not only did they even the series 1-1, but they knew they had what it took to beat the Stags. If anything, they fully shifted the momentum into their hands.

By the third set, Stockton was working like a well-oiled machine. They eventually captured a trip to the championship game with a 25-21 victory.

Haas led the team in total blocks with two. Mammoser led the team in digs with 11, but Kacy Wright was right behind her with 10. Kacy also led the team with 19 assists, while Kaydra Wright added 15 assists of her own.

Stockton went on to fall to Calhoun in the State Championship game. It might not have been a first-place miracle, but the 2024 season will go down in the Stockton record books. Especially under Stockton head coach, Maddie Pontius's, second season. The Blackhawks will lose six incredible seniors in Mammoser, Katelyn Winters, Emily Broshous, Kyla Arnold, Kacy Wright, and Ava Hess. That class set the standard moving forward, and the program appears to be in good hands with Pontius leading the way.

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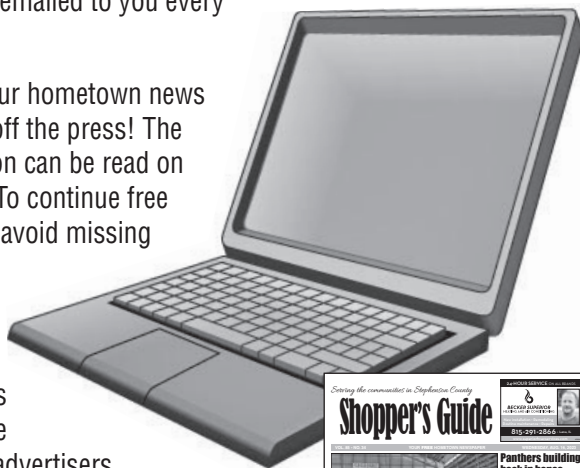
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A big thank you!

Pearl City says thank you to the Boulevard Bash Committee for all their support and for providing every staff member and student with a Pearl City Pride t-shirt.

Pearl City school news

The entire Pearl City school population, including students and staff, recently got together to say thank you to the Boulevard Bash Committee. The "Bash Committee" raises money for multiple community needs which includes the Pearl City School District. The money and resources the Bash Committee has poured into this district is incredible. They have contributed to new playground equipment, t-shirts, the needy children's fund, library books, a book vending machine, and much more. The value, work, and contributions the Bash Committee brings is immeasurable. The school district extends a big thank you to the committee. Choir Director, Mrs. Tam-

my Ehlers, puts together a musical event for parents and community members every year. This event includes elementary, junior high, and high school concerts, however, this year looked a different. Rather than hosting a traditional holiday concert, Mrs. Ehlers decided to have a fall concert where the students could dress up in their Halloween costumes for the show. The concert featured traditional Halloween songs complete with dance moves and hand motions. The concert was a huge success and enjoyed by both students and attendees. Thank you to Mrs. Ehler's for once again putting on one of the best shows Pearl City schools could ever ask for!



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Fall concert a smash hit

Pearl City students dress up and perform at the Oct. 29 fall concert put together by Choir Director, Mrs. Tammy Ehlers.



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Honoring our veterans

Ev and Andrea Karnatz, members of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary, posted pictures of veterans and active military in the Kleins building on West Main St. in Lena, IL. Pictures will be on display for the month of December.



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Broncos, Panthers prepped for 2024-2025 girls basketball season

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The NUIC doesn't get any less exciting as winter sports roll around. The NUIC North sports plenty of competition when girls basketball tips off, and the same will be true in the 2024-2025 season.

Orangeville and Lena-Winslow are both hoping to be near the top of the conference, but they both have some big shoes to fill. The Broncos graduated the program's all-time leading scorer in Whitney Sullivan, who was a four-year starter. The same can be said for Lena-Winslow, who graduated their all-time leading scorer in Grace Groezinger. Both players are impossible to replace, leaving significant holes in the respective rosters.

Orangeville appears prepared to at least somewhat handle the blow. Despite losing a superstar talent in Sullivan, who now plays at Tulsa University, the Broncos returned their four other starters. Laney Cahoon and Nadalee Doyle lead the way as the duo

that helped produce so much offense in year's past. They also return Kaylynn O'Haver and Addy Wheeler, who will be expected to take another step forward this season.

Le-Win is in a similar position, but they have a lot of size to replace. Groezinger's talent can't be replaced, but her size will also be missed down low. The Panthers also graduated Molly Amendt, who provided another sizeable defender in the paint. They do return a trio of experienced guards, headlined by seniors Alyssa Daughenbaugh, Rachael Setterstrom, and Ava Vlasin.

Orangeville and their head coach, Jay Doyle, are hoping to continue their run atop the NUIC despite the loss of Sullivan. Even when Sullivan missed games in the past, Doyle and Cahoon proved to be a lethal duo. Jay acknowledged that the experience remains the team's strongest asset. "Our strength will be bringing back the core group of players who have played the last three years together,

along with a large senior group that will have played multiple big games together. Hopefully that experience will lead to another solid year," Jay explained.

The Panthers are looking to rely on their guard play. Le-Win head coach, Dennis Huttenlocher, thinks the team can create some mismatches with their ball handlers. Huttenlocher mentioned Quickness, ball handling, and shooting when asked what the team strengths were this season.

Huttenlocher, in his seventh year as the girls' coach, knows the team is going to need more from their bench if they want to find success this year. When asked about areas of concern, Huttenlocher mentioned that the team will have to develop their bench players throughout the season. The Le-Win head coach also mentioned that low numbers are an issue.

Jay is hoping to see the Broncos continue to develop confidence and strength. The Orangeville head coach mentioned that the team looked im-

pressive in the offseason. "We need to continue to improve on toughness and handling the basketball. We have shown that we can be a pretty good team this summer and we will see if that work can translate to this winter," Jay explained.

Both Jay and Huttenlocher agreed that the NUIC North is Pecatonica's early on, but the competition is stiff from top to bottom. Huttenlocher said, "Pecatonica and Orangeville look to be the top teams in the conference with the rest of the teams chasing them. It should be a pretty balanced conference." Jay shared a similar message, stating, "As a conference, it is Pecatonica's to lose, but hopefully we can compete in games as we do, and see where that leads us."

Le-Win tipped off the season on Nov. 18, but they will be at home on Dec. 3 to play host to the Dakota Indians. Then, on Dec. 5, the Broncos and Panthers face off in their first meeting of the 2024-2025 regular season. The game is set to tip off at 7 p.m.

Lena-Winslow football advances to round four

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers are playing for an opportunity to play in the Illinois 1A State Football Championship game for the seventh consecutive season. After beating Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley (GCMS) in round three, the Panthers are set to travel to LeRoy to face off against a different set of Panthers. In fact, it's a guarantee that at least one Panther mascot will be in the Illinois 1A State Championship game. Of the last four 1A teams competing, three of them are named the Panthers. The LeRoy Panthers and Lena-Winslow Panthers face off on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 2 p.m.

At the same time, the Camp Point Central Panthers will take on the Althoff Crusaders for their own opportunity to reach the state title game. Overall, the Panther name has been in the Illinois 1A title game for six consecutive seasons, and 2024 will make it seven. Le-Win has been a part of five of those six seasons. In 2018, the year where Le-Win didn't reach the title game, CPC punched their ticket to the game, keeping the Panther run alive. The last four 1A champs go by the Panthers and there is a good chance that number hits five in 2024.

Being called the Panthers might be a sign of good fortune if you are a 1A Il-

inois Football team. It is Lena-Winslow who sets the standard for all, however. Le-Win is on the verge of yet another undefeated season. Even in round three, when the Panthers took on a 10-win GCMS squad, they still ran away with a comfortable victory.

It was another dominant rushing attack that led the way to round four for Le-Win. Once again, Alec Schlichting's big play ability sparked a quick start for the Panthers. Less than four minutes into the first quarter, Schlichting was off and running for a 70-yard rushing touchdown. Kash Lessman completed the two-point conversion, putting Le-Win up 8-0 early in the game.

The Panthers would take a two-score advantage before the end of the first. Aiden Wild busted through the GCMS defense for a 48-yard rushing score. Schlichting capped the drive off with a two-point conversion, and the Panthers took a 16-0 lead.

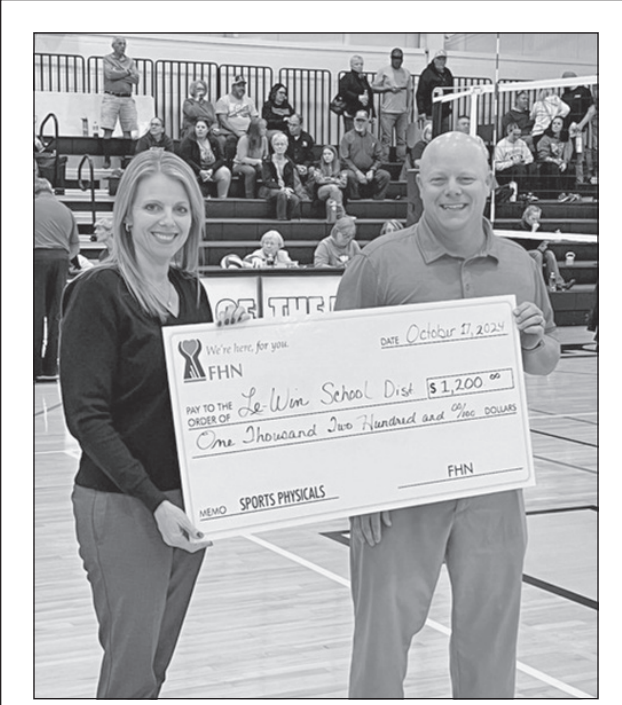
That was just Wild's first 40-plus-yard rushing score of the day. In the second quarter, Wild broke free for another 40-yard rushing touchdown, which gave the Panthers a three-score advantage. Before the end of the half, Schlichting tallied his second score of the day. He took it 23 yards to put Le-Win up 32-0 with four minutes left in the first half. Le-Win was comfort-

ably in position to coast to victory after that. GCMS scored a late fourth quarter touchdown, but the Panthers walked away with a 40-7 victory.

Wild and Schlichting were a force to be reckoned with in round three. The duo combined for over 300 yards and

five scores on the ground. Wild led the team with 153 yards and three touchdowns on just 14 touches. Schlichting finished with 149 yards and two scores on 12 carries. The Panthers punted just one time in the win.

See FOOTBALL, Page 16



LENA-WINSLOW CUSD #202 FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

FHN in Lena gives back

Dr. Schleich from FHN in Lena presented a check for \$1200 to High School Principal, Mrs. Anna DeZell, to go towards sports physicals. The Lena-Winslow School district appreciates FHN's support!

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Last week we received some much needed rain; it helped get more leaves to the ground. However, there are a lot more left on the trees. Maybe by Thanksgiving it will be a little more seasonable. This week's recipes are all about Thanksgiving. There are some unusual ones for people who aren't feeding a crowd and some tried and true ones that are shortcuts for your dinner. Enjoy cooking this week.

Party Cheese Ball

This cheese ball uses some shelf cheeses along with some fresh cheese to make a great spreading cheese ball. You can get the Kraft pimento cheese spread at most grocery stores, and the American cheese spread is really Cheeze Whiz. It makes enough for two cheese balls.

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 2 C. shredded sharp cheddar
- 1 jar Kraft pimento cheese spread
- 1 jar American cheese spread
- 3 T. finely chopped onion
- 1 T. lemon juice
- 1 t. Worcestershire sauce
- Dash garlic powder
- ½ C. minced fresh parsley
- ½ C. chopped pecans, toasted
- Crackers and vegetables

In a large bowl, mix the cream cheese, shredded cheddar, jars of cheese spread, onion, lemon juice, Worcestershire sauce and garlic powder until blended. Cover and refrigerate until easily handled, about 45 minutes. Shape into 2 balls; roll in parsley and pecans. Cover and refrigerate. Remove from the refrigerator 15 minutes before serving.

Molded Cranberry-Orange Salad

I know it is retro, but I still like a Jell-O salad for holidays. This pretty molded salad can be made in a ring mold, but if you don't have one, you can make it in a Bundt pan. The cranberry-orange combination is a traditional one, and the addition of the apples gives it just a little crunch.

- 1 t. unflavored gelatin
- 1 T. plus 1 C. cold water, divided
- 1 C. boiling water
- 1 pkg (3 oz.) raspberry Jell-O
- 3 C. fresh or thawed frozen cranberries, divided
- 2 medium apples, cut into wedges
- 1 medium navel orange, peeled
- 1 C. sugar

½ C. chopped nuts
 ½ C. finely chopped celery
 Sprinkle unflavored gelatin over 1 T. cold water; let stand 1 minute. Add boiling water and raspberry Jell-O; stir until gelatin is dissolved, about 2 minutes. Stir in remaining cold water. Refrigerate until thickened, about 45 minutes. Pulse 2 1/3 C. cranberries, apples and orange in a food processor until chopped. Transfer to a bowl, stir in sugar. Stir fruit mixture into thickened gelatin. Fold in nuts, celery and remaining whole cranberries. Coat a 10-inch fluted tube pan or an 8 cup ring mold with cooking spray; pour Jell-O mixture in molds. Cover and refrigerate overnight or until firm. Unmold onto a platter. Garnish with whipped cream.

Brussels Sprouts Gratin

If you are tired of the usual green bean casserole, this Brussels sprouts casserole with cheese and crunchy bread-crumbs is a great side.

- 2 T. unsalted butter, cut into pieces
- 1 lb. Brussels sprouts, outer leaves and stems removed
- Pinch of red pepper flakes
- 1 t. salt
- ¼ t. black pepper
- 2 C. heavy cream
- ½ C. grated cheddar cheese
- ½ C. breadcrumbs

Preheat oven to 400. butter a 2-quart baking dish. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the Brussels sprouts and cook until tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Drain the Brussels sprouts and coarsely chop. Transfer to the prepared baking dish and toss with red pepper flakes, salt and pepper to taste. Spread out the sprouts evenly. Pour the cream on top. Sprinkle with the cheese and breadcrumbs and dot with butter pieces. Bake until golden brown, about 15 minutes.

Deluxe Mashed Potatoes

So many mashed potato recipes that you make ahead are for a crowd. This one is for a small group. You can make it two days ahead of time. If you are feeding only a few, it is a great potato side dish.

- 4 to 5 large potatoes (about 2½ lbs.)
- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened
- ½ C. sour cream
- 1 T. chopped chives
- ¾ t. onion salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 T. butter
- Paprika

Peel and cube the potatoes; place in a saucepan and cover with water. Cook over medium heat until tender; drain. Mash until smooth (do not add milk or butter). Stir in cream cheese and sour cream. Add chives, onion, salt and pepper and stir. Spoon into a greased 1½ qt. baking dish. Dot with butter; sprinkle with paprika. Cover and bake at 350 for 35 to 40 minutes or until

heated through.

Stovetop Turkey Stuffing

If you are adventurous and want to try something really different, try this stove top stuffing that has lots of interesting additions.

- 3 C. chicken stock
- 1 C. walnuts
- 1 loaf day old French or Italian bread, cut into ¼ inch cubes (about 2 cups)
- 2 C. chopped onion
- 2 C. chopped celery
- 6 T. unsalted butter
- 1 green apple, peeled, cored and chopped
- ¾ C. raisins
- 5 large green olives, chopped
- ¼ C. chopped fresh parsley
- 1 t. poultry seasoning or ground sage to taste
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Toast the walnuts in a small saucepan with enough water to cover them by an inch and bring to a boil. Boil them for 3 minutes. This will remove some of the tannins from the skins. Let the walnuts dry, then toast them by heating them in a frying pan on medium high heat for 3 minutes, stirring until they are slightly browned. Let the nuts cool.

Toast the bread: Dry the cubed bread in the oven first. Spread the bread on a baking sheet and dry it in a 200 oven for 10 minutes. You can also dry the cubed bread ahead of time and skip this step.

In a large Dutch oven, sauté chopped onions and celery on medium-high heat with 3 T. butter until cooked through, 5 to 8 minutes. Add the bread, chopped walnuts, chopped apple, raisins, olives and parsley to the pot. Add one cup of stock at

a time until bread is moist. Add the parsley and poultry seasoning, salt and pepper. Cover and turn the heat to low. Cook for an hour or until the apples are cooked through, checking every 15 minutes, adding stock to keep dressing moist and keep it from sticking to the bottom of the Dutch oven.

Herb-Roasted Turkey Breast

Some people aren't cooking for a crowd, so they opt for a turkey breast. This recipe is for a moist turkey breast that uses a paste to help brown the skin and keep the meat moist.

- 1 turkey breast, 6 to 7 ½ lbs.
- 2 T. minced garlic (3 cloves)
- 2 t. dry mustard
- 1 T. chopped rosemary
- 1 T. chopped sage leaves
- 1 T. chopped thyme leaves
- 2 t. salt
- 1 t. pepper
- 2 T. olive oil
- 2 T. fresh lemon juice
- 1 C. dry white wine or chicken stock

Preheat the oven to 325. Place the turkey breast skin side up on a rack in a roasting pan sprayed with cooking spray. In a small bowl, combine the garlic, mustard, herbs, salt, pepper, olive oil, and lemon juice to make a paste. Loosen the skin from the meat with your fingers and smear half of the paste directly on the meat. Spread the remaining paste evenly on the skin. Pour the liquid into the bottom of the roasting pan. Roast the turkey for 1¼ to 2 hours until the skin is golden brown and a meat thermometer registers 165 when inserted in the thickest part of the breast. If the skin is browning too much, cover the breast

loosely with foil. When the turkey is done, cover the turkey loosely with foil and allow it to rest at room temperature for 15 minutes. Slice and serve. Use pan juices to pour over turkey or to make gravy.

Best Pumpkin Cookies

The pumpkin cookie recipes I have had in the past have all had cream cheese frosting. This brown sugar pumpkin recipe uses a cooked glaze on the top.

- 1 C. butter, softened
- ½ C. sugar
- ½ C. packed brown sugar
- 1 C. canned pumpkin
- 1 egg
- 1 t. vanilla
- 2 C. flour
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 t. baking powder
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 1 t. ground nutmeg
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. salt
- Glaze
- 6 T. butter
- ½ C. firmly packed brown sugar
- ¼ C. milk
- 2 C. powdered sugar

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugars together until light and fluffy. Blend in pumpkin, egg and vanilla. In a separate bowl, stir together flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Mix flour mixture into butter-sugar mixture until combined. Drop by Tablespoons 3 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake the cookies for 10 to 12 minutes until golden around the edges. Remove warm cookies and transfer to racks. Let cool completely for at least one-half hour then frost with glaze.

Glaze: In a medium sauce-

pan, heat butter and brown sugar over medium heat until bubbly. Cook, stirring constantly, for one minute or until slightly thickened. Beat in the milk. Blend in the powdered sugar until the glaze is smooth and spreadable. Using a silicone basting brush or butter knife, spread the glaze on the cookies. Glaze will harden quickly so keep the saucepan over the stove on the lowest possible setting to prevent it from hardening.

Final Thoughts

Congratulations to the Stockton volleyball team who is playing in the Final Four. We have pretty good volleyball in our area because we have had good representation from Northwest Illinois. We also still have three teams playing football. I wrote this column before I know what happens; here is hoping we still have three left next week too. Basketball and wrestling have started, so I guess winter is knocking on our door.

Reminder that we have Small Business Saturday on Nov. 30. We have some new stores in Lena that you will want to check out. Have a great week and get ready for Turkey Day!

It is time to think about Christmas cookies and candies, so send some favorites our way. We also will be looking for some holiday 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.

Mrs. Raab's Jr. Kindergarten class at Lena-Winslow Elementary explains how to cook a turkey

Claire - First, go to Walmart and buy the turkey. Next, put it on the pan. Then, put it in the oven. Cook at 5 degrees for 6 hours. Serve with the front side and water to drink.

Oliver - First, you go to a store, Sullivan's or Menards, and buy a turkey. Next, we take it to our house, and we put it in our pan. Then, put salt on it and popcorn and flour. Put it in the microwave. Cook at 19 degrees for 50 hours. Serve with hot dogs and water.

Colden - First, you need to go to the forest to hunt for a turkey with a gun. Next, cut the feathers off and pick it up and put in the car. Take it home and put it on the counter. Then, put it on the tray and put pepper on it. Put it in the oven. Cook at 100 degrees for 1 hours. Serve with a plate and lemonade.

Elena - First, go to Walmart and get a turkey. Next, make it in the oven. Then, take it to out with thingy (gloves) and start to eat it. Cook at 1 degree for 1-2 hours. Serve with pepper and orange juice.

Christian - First, cut it out of the lake. Next, put sugar on the head. Then, put it on a pan. Then put it in the oven. Cook at 45 degrees for 68 minutes. Serve with steak, watermelon, and chocolate milk.

Remy - First, go to Dollar General and get a turkey. Next, put it in the fridge and then put it on the table. Then, put it on a pan and put it in the oven. Cook at 60 degrees for 2 minutes. Serve with Oreos and water.

Jaxson - First, go to the wild. Find a turkey and shoot it. Next, rip off the feathers

and put it in a pan. Then, put salt and pepper on it. Put it in the oven. Cook at 6 degrees for 6 minutes. Serve with a knife and with a fork.

Reece - First, go to the grocery store, Walmart, to get the turkey. Next, put the turkey in a pan and cut it. Then, put it in the oven. Cook at 20 degrees for 80 minutes. Serve with a plate and milk and then you eat it.

Luci - First, you go to the grocery store, Dollar General, and get stuffing and turkey. Next, you put the stuffing in the turkey, and we put it in the oven with a pan. Then, pull it out with mittens. Cook at 10 degrees for 10 hours. Serve with water and I think mashed potatoes.

Brooklyn - First, go to Walmart to get a turkey. Next, put it on a pan and put stuffing in it. Then, put it in

the oven. Cook at 5 degrees for 6 hours. Serve with cauliflower and broccoli with pop or apple juice.

Gentry - First, go to Walmart and buy the turkey. Next, put it on a plate and put cheese on it. Then, put it in the oven. Cook at 10 degrees for 45 hours. Serve with grapes, strawberries, blueberries, and orange juice.

Arely - First, go to Walmart to get the turkey. Next, put it on a plate. Then, put it in the oven. Cook at 5 degrees for 10 minutes. Serve with a knife and grapes and juice.

Hunter - First, go to Walmart and buy it. Next, put it on plate. Then, put it in the oven. Cook at 41 degrees for 5 hours. Serve with salt and pepper and juice.

LEGAL NOTICES

The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024
Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

Lena Winslow CUSD 202	401 Fremont St Lena, IL 61048 8610	815-668-0801	M-F, 8:00-4:30
<i>School District/Joint Agreement Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>

Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	4,823,346	1,306,817	338,883	34,280	212,601	2,383	71,036	122,574	115,172
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	2,979,285	50,000	18,000	401,541	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	648,697	348,468	0	42,268	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		8,451,328	1,705,285	356,883	478,089	212,601	2,383	71,036	122,574	115,172
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		7,946,247	1,445,201	370,784	708,978	260,826	0		134,528	
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		0	0	0	130,106	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2023		4,735,322	3,053,694	17,609	580,118	279,701	58,475	578,253	131,428	65,490
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		5,240,403	3,313,778	3,708	479,335	231,476	60,858	649,289	119,474	180,662
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		5,576,585	3,313,778	3,708	479,335	231,476	60,858	649,289	119,474	180,662

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000 Arendt, Conor; Best, Rory; Coulson, Matthew; Crandall, Richard; DeVries, Carmen; Gerbode, Joy; Gerke, Leesa; Gullickson, Dale; Hayes, Chelsea; Heimerdinger-Baake, Grace; Hillmer, Katherine; Homer, D'Anne; Jakel, Brenda; Jogerst, Nancy Jean-Paige; Kuhlmyer, Susan; Malone, Justin; Matz, Olivia; Mensendike, Julie; Moest, Barbara; Ortmeier, William; Price, Leslie; Schneiderman, Steven; Schulz, Bethany; Searby, Barbara; Shaw, Joy; Simler, Linda; Trost, Mae; Unger, David; Voreis, Linda; Weegens, Michelle; Werhane, Adam; White, Emily; Yeager, Justin; Yeager, Noelle **Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999** Carus, Megan; Drake, Shayna; Jakel, Morgan; Schultz, Katelyn; Smith, Nealion; Weegens, Allison **Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999** Anderson, Rebecca; Baldauf, Brooke; Blakely, Jessica; Blakely, Matthew; Butler, Matthew; Duchow, Tiffanie A; Feiner, Jane; Fink, JorjAnn; Fry, Tabitha; Gerlach, Mariah; Gift, Jerrid; Hasselman, Jessica; Kent, Lindsey; Killian, Lindsey; Lazzara, Jamie; Leamon, Kimberly; Linden, Andrea; Lyvers, Alison; March, Jason; Monigold, Debra; Parkinson, Christina; Raab, Katy; Sauer, Sue; Schoony, Tracy; Stodden, Lindsay; Werhane, Katherine; Wirtz, William **Salary Range: 60,000 - \$89,999** Amendt, Susan; Arand, Richard; Benson, Heather; Benson, Kyle; Blakely, Mark; Bonebright, Sara; Chrisman, Holly; Daughenbaugh, Tamarah; Freedlund, Brianne; Geiseman, Michael; Hahne, Ryan; Jones, Kristin; Linnemann, Katrina; Meyers-Matz, Stephanie; Milder, Kevin; Milder, Kimberly; Modica, Mary; Ortiz, Jacqueline; Pieper, Kelli; Richardson, Erin; Robinson, James; Sargent, Stacy; Schultz, Renee; Smargiassi, Brenda; Smargiassi, Thomas; Snook, Jacob; Snyder, Jesse; Spidahl, Allison; Stevens, Catherine; Tiesman, Kristin; Werhane, Nicholas; Wild, Joel; Woodley, Jamie **Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over** Chiles, Thomas; DeZell, Ann; Kuehl, Mark; Lobdell, Andrew

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000 Alagodi, Sabina; Albright, Shannon; Amendt, Max; Barrett, Erin; Benson, Cade; Blakely, Mark; Block, Jodi; Bonebright, Danielle; Bower, Abigail; Brunner, Kiley; Chappa, Shannon; DeVries, Carmen; DeVries, Janelle; Downs, Jessica; Draeger, Julie; Drake, Brittany; Dunlavey, Valerie; Edler, Grace; Ertmer, Kim; Fransen, Abby; Gapinski, Susan; Gerbick, Lindsey; Gerbode, Joy; Gerke, Leesa; Gift, Jerrid; Gile, Jennifer; Gruhn, Staci; Hastings, Lorna; Hermann, Jared; Hilaj, Jessica; Hille, Leigh; Hintz, Duane; Hollister, Brendan; Holtz, Melissa; Hornung, Donna; Huttenlocher, Dennis; Jensen, Kaylee; Kampmeier, Sandy; Kempel, Kolton; Kent, Lindsey; Kent, Ryan; Klever, LuAnn; Koehler, Leonard; Krogull, Douglas; Kurth, Janis; Lotz, Steve; Lynch, Shaun; Maltry, Jack; Mau, Kaitlyn; McCrary, Jessica; McMahon, Gracie; Milks, Seth; Monigold, David; Myelle Martinez, Elizabeth; Myelle, Gary; Ognibene, Michael; Palermo, Lisa; Phillips, Larry; Raab, Tonya; Rickels, Austin; Runkle, Sharon; Salomon, Norma; Sarandi, Janelle; Scace, Megan; Schrader, Pamela; Schulz, Amy; Schulz, Bethany; Schulz, Riley; Shumaker, Cynthia; Simler, Linda; Spinhirne, Karen; Taft, Michael; Then, Adam; Then, Craig; Tootelian, Liam; Tootelian, Nicola; Trost, Mae; Vlasin, Katie; Wenger, Carol; Werhane, Adam; Werhane, Nicholas; Williams, Christine; Wybourn, Nick **Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999** Ackerson, Sherri; Dameier, Hewitt; Eichmann, Raymond; Hook-Winters, Lori;

Schierloh, William; Solverson, Clara; Spinhirne, Dawn; Stamm, Marlen; Taylor, Tammy; Wild, Rebecca; Winchel, Steve **Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999** Crothers, Julie; Klaas, Kirk; Schierloh, Darcy; Winning, Debra; Wybourn, Ryan **Salary Range: \$60,000 and Over** Groezinger, Amy; Reed, Duane; Wybourn, Doug

Payments to person, firm, or corporation over \$2,500, excluding wages and salaries.

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
Admin Partners	103,610.00
Advanced Technologies Inc	28,195.00
AFLAC	6,483.55
ALL AMERICAN SPORTS CORP.	10,091.81
Amazon Capital Services	6,231.18
AMAZON.COM	33,063.23
Anderson's	3,858.82
Baker Group	67,687.50
Barkau CDJR	25,520.26
BENNING GROUP LLC	26,550.00
BLICK ART MATERIALS	8,829.27
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	64,695.38
Bonebright Construction LLC	4,487.00
Bonnell Industries Inc	2,910.41
Boss Tables	32,780.00
BRAIN POP LLC	3,795.00
BRG Precision Products Inc	8,779.66
Bruce Boiler Burner	3,068.00
Calibrant Energy	48,266.90
CDW GOVERNMENT, INC.	109,338.35
City Experiences	4,840.00
ComEd	37,713.12
Community Bank	1,091,337.35
COMMUNITY BANK HSA	47,931.57
Costco	12,101.88
Crexendo	16,610.85
DELTA DENTAL OF ILLINOIS	73,646.60
DISCOVERY EDUCATION	2,755.96
Doubletree	4,803.42
Easterseals	95,483.59
EBSCO Information Svcs	3,024.00
Educational Networks	3,600.00
Edward Don & Company	2,550.17
Embrace Education	3,880.00
Engie Resources LLC	27,610.71
ENTRE COMPUTER SOLUTIONS	17,687.52
Explore Learning	2,965.50
Fehr Graham	20,000.00
Follett Content Solutions LLC	2,900.13
Follett School Solutions	3,022.65
FREEPORT GLASS COMPANY	7,272.00
FREEPORT RUG/LINOLEUM,INC	73,038.00
FREEPORT SCH DIST NO 145	31,604.90
GILL'S FREEPORT DISPOSAL	18,690.00
GM Financial Leasing	5,252.90
Gordon Food Service Inc	195,841.90
GRAINGER	3,075.16
HD Supply	42,005.20
Health Equity	18,478.68
Heartland Fire & Security	4,883.34
Helm Group	97,741.96
Hertz Furniture	3,164.28

HORACE MANN	6,090.72
Horace Mann-Supplemental	6,518.93
Hudl	8,000.00
ILLINOIS ASSOC SCHOOL BDS	11,784.27
Illinois Fiber Resources Group	8,400.00
ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIRE	179,010.51
Illinois Scholastic Cooperative	627,929.80
Ingram	6,757.17
Intek Strength	6,208.20
IPA	2,514.00
ISCorp	3,000.00
Jakel, Morgan	2,625.00
JW Pepper	2,625.00
Kami	3,240.60
Kent, Lindsey	2,625.00
Kunes	22,152.88
KURT'S POLAR AIR, INC.	6,981.20
KYLE BENSON	2,703.60
LAKESIDE INTERNATIONAL	7,475.60
Learson & Darby Inc	26,417.87
LEAMON'S AMBULANCE SVCS.	3,650.00
Lena Sign Shop	3,484.54
LENA-WIN DENTAL INS	61,307.84
LENA-WIN LIFE INS	2,804.45
LENA-WIN VISION INS	6,583.51
LENA-WIN SLOW HEALTH INS	740,290.19
LE-WIN ATHLETIC BOOSTERS	7,790.29
LE-WIN DIST REVOLVING FD	6,130.21
LE-WIN ESPA	6,831.54
LeWin Flex	17,984.61
LE-WIN H.S. ACTIVITY FUND	8,958.07
LE-WIN TEACHERS' ASS'N	43,222.35
L-W HS REVOLVING FUND	36,389.00
L-W JH REVOLVING FUND	9,404.92
Maddock Industries Inc	3,340.90
Marco Technologies LLC	28,328.64
Marriott	2,984.43
McGraw-Hill Education	19,592.95
MENARDS, INC	9,639.55
MIDWEST TRANSIT EQUIP.INC	66,999.00
MONTICELLO SPORTS	4,071.00
Mulgrew Asphalt Maintenance	18,750.00
National Seating & Mobility Inc	5,871.00
Nelson Carlson Mechanical	239,796.89
NICOR GAS	12,410.78
NORTHWEST SP. ED. COOP.	341,716.38
Orangeville School District #203	17,294.64
PC Collision Center	2,640.00
PEARL CITY CUSD #200	5,920.22
Pearl City Elevator	6,346.16
Pepper Better	8,557.00
Pieper Lawn Care	6,748.00
PIONEER MANUFACTURING CO.	3,076.21
Prairie Farms Dairy Inc	37,147.19
Prairie State Insurance Cooperative	129,327.07
Quinn Construction	42,946.33
REGIONAL OFFICE OF ED.	3,025.00
RENAISSANCE LEARNING, INC	5,179.20
Ruda Toyota	25,262.00
SAMS CLUB	7,818.12

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page
 Santander Leasing
 Savvas Learning Co LLC
 SCHOOL SPECIALTY, LLC
 Schultz, Renee
 Scott Shaw
 SHARE CORPORATION
 SJ Smith Co Inc
 Skyward Inc.
 SSM Health Medical Group
 STEPHENSON SERVICE CO

123,390.00
 7,494.56
 8,596.74
 2,625.00
 6,000.00
 2,593.80
 5,748.00
 8,405.12
 6,165.00
 61,103.77

Stockton CUSD #206
 Stodden, Lindsay
 SULLIVAN'S FOODS
 Symmetry Energy Solutions LLC
 T.H.I.S. FUND
 TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM
 THE BANK OF NEW YORK Mellon
 The Electric Guys
 The Richardson School
 ThinkSafe

2,852.44
 3,675.00
 4,934.25
 22,792.06
 78,438.37
 486,056.76
 342,875.00
 9,599.90
 54,770.40
 5,980.00

TimeClock Plus
 Turnitin LLC
 Tyler Technologies
 Verizon
 VILLAGE OF LENA
 WAL MART STORES, INC
 webrestaurantstore
 West Music Company

2,944.00
 2,713.25
 46,983.69
 3,164.09
 21,075.22
 4,964.53
 11,291.90
 5,629.52
 464426

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 20, 2024)

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024

The summary must be published in the local newspaper.

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024
Individuals wanting to review this form should contact:

will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by November 30 annually.

Orangeville CUSD 203

201 S Orange St Orangeville, IL 61060 9720

815-789-4450

7:30 am to 4:00 pm

School District/Joint Agreement Name

Address

Telephone

Office Hours

Also by January 15 annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024

will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website at www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2024

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	3,157,664	1,021,337	199,792	137,077	85,576	0	58,316	33,288	29,092
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	1,220,233	50,000	0	132,779	1,287	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	313,249	38,748	0	0	1,287	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		4,691,146	1,110,085	199,792	269,856	88,150	0	58,316	33,288	29,092
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		3,861,968	968,990	530,726	294,666	79,341	0	0	33,288	183,351
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		-330,445	0	331,645	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - July 1, 2023		987,468	56,442	11,089	299,817	124,102	0	814,485	0	186,138
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances without Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		1,486,201	197,537	11,800	275,007	132,911	0	872,801	0	31,879
Ending Fund Balances (all sources) with Student Activity Funds - June 30, 2024		1,569,047	197,537	11,800	275,007	132,911	0	872,801	0	31,879

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000 Rory Best; Samantha Biddick; Emily Campbell; Jamie Daub; James Dusing; David Goeke; Paul Gregersen; Mariane Hansen; Christina Howard; Kari Janecke; Nancy Jogerst; Mariah Katzenberger; Annalee Kelly; Rachel Klein; Ryan Klein; Cheryl Kolb; Kenneth Lawson; William Logemann; Kevin Malley; Julie Maurer; Perry McPeck; James Moscato; Kendira Niedermeier; Nicole Oosthuizen; Laura Rankin; McKayla Riemer; Amy Schultz; Stacey Schulz; Chelsea Shellhause; Morgan Stamm; David Unger; Katie Wells **Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999** Marie-Louise Colver; Alana Coon; Heather Goeke; Angela McKay; Meghan Salamon **Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999** Joshua Fahs; Elizabeth Frautschy; Catherine Greene; Raizel Hanson; Marlene Kleckler; Erica Kraft; Devra Leverington; Sharon McDivitt; Amber Misek; Christopher Moore; Joseph Piscioti; Benjamin Riddle; Kendahlyn Schlueter; Collin Zier **Salary Range: 60,000 - \$89,999** Stacey Brown; Julie Cahoon; Toby Golembiewski; Amanda Hofmaster; Bradley Kolar; Elizabeth MacKenzie; William Meier; Kelly Scheuerell; Lon Scheuerell; Abigail Schroeder **Salary Range: \$90,000 and Over** Julie Katzenberger

EFTPS
 Northwest Cooperative
 Teacher Retirement
 Davis Bus Lines
 Carroll Seating
 PSIC
 GSF USA Inc
 Illinois Dept of Revenue
 Sysco Foods
 Computer Dynamics
 Midamerican Energy Svc
 Helm Civil
 Illinois Virtual Schools & Academy
 Dolan Education Center
 Richard L Johnson Assoc
 Robbins Schwartz
 Illinois Municipal Retirement
 Careertec
 BMO Harris Commercial Card
 Imprest Fund
 Atlanta National Bank
 Amazon Capital Services
 Bowen Oil
 Jayne Kleckler
 Computer Information Concepts
 DEM Services
 Alpha Controls
 Wisc Dept of Revenue
 Benning Group
 Prairie Farms Dairy
 Dell Marketing
 Loescher Heating & Air
 Dawn Brinkmeyer
 Mainstage Theatrical Supply
 Ill Education Association-NEA
 Marco
 Rocket Industrial Inc
 CDW-G Government
 Regional Office of Education
 Ill Association of School Boards
 Heather Andrews
 Frontline Technologies Group
 Vanguard Energy Svc
 Bader Sealcoating
 Tyler Technologies
 Putnam Investments

333,896
 273,161
 242,525
 176,637
 174,274
 136,608
 101,114
 99,371
 89,554
 70,804
 53,562
 52,254
 51,300
 50,118
 38,333
 36,476
 35,995
 35,262
 30,492
 28,041
 27,424
 26,474
 25,431
 25,000
 21,098
 16,700
 16,649
 16,611
 16,275
 16,118
 15,842
 15,635
 14,909
 14,632
 14,000
 13,861
 12,777
 12,202
 11,495
 11,135
 11,118
 11,026
 10,995
 10,400
 9,593
 9,365

Committee for Children
 Gills Freeport Disposal
 Community Bank
 Pieper Lawn Care
 Quality Electric
 Marten Portable Buildings
 Nicor Gas
 Eflex Group
 National Seating & Mobility
 Menards
 Apptegy Inc
 Lena State Bank
 Ralph Grimm
 First National Bank
 Capital Bank & Trust
 Wayne Schofield Plumbing
 Sharp Custom Painting
 NWEA
 Gopher Sport
 Ideal Environmental Engineering
 Bunker Corporate Leasing
 Heying Co
 Getz Fire Equipment
 Molitor Plumbing
 IXL Learning
 Brooks Scherer
 McGraw Hill School
 American Family Life
 All American
 Larson & Larson Builders
 Lakeshore Learning
 National Council for Ag Education
 Midland Paper
 Family Support Payment Center
 BSN Sports LLC
 Christopher Moore
 Drive Right School of Driving
 SSM Health Medical Group
 Agigail Schroeder
 Elon Cloud
 Trimbleit
 Sherwin Williams
 Spigot Networks
 Play Illinois LLC

9,068
 8,916
 8,782
 8,569
 8,463
 8,181
 7,946
 7,634
 7,458
 7,266
 6,654
 6,523
 6,260
 5,200
 5,200
 5,084
 4,856
 4,765
 4,246
 4,196
 4,149
 4,048
 4,036
 4,000
 3,963
 3,831
 3,784
 3,501
 3,493
 3,454
 3,433
 3,400
 3,361
 3,285
 3,175
 3,126
 3,125
 3,095
 3,022
 3,000
 2,820
 2,694
 2,675
 2,602

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Nov. 20, 2024)

Person, Firm, or Corporation

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
UMB Bank	493,004
Apex	422,148
Blue Cross Blue Shield	342,199

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT STEPHENSON
COUNTY-IN PROBATE
In Re the Matter of the
Estate of:
ORA MAE BASTIAN,
Deceased.

No. 24-PR-76
**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION -
CLAIMS**

Notice is given of the death of Ora Mae Bastian, of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on November 6, 2024, to: **Joseph E. Bastian**
536 Timber Hills Dr.
Freeport, IL 61032

as independent Executor of the Estate of Ora Mae Bastian, whose attorney is **Anthony V. Coon**
Attorney At Law
10 N. Galena Ave.,
Ste. 210
Freeport, Illinois 61032

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 28.4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 16, 2025, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Date: November 7, 2024.
Joseph E. Bastian
Executor
By: **Anthony V. Coon**
Anthony V. Coon,
Attorney At Law

Anthony V. Coon,
#6269568
Attorney At Law
10 N. Galena Ave.,
Ste. 210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212
Fax 815-232-5500
tonycoonlaw@aol.com
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 13, 20 & 27, 2024)
464190

CAUCUS NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on December 3, 2024 a caucus of the Republican Party in the Township of West Point, Stephenson County, will be held at Lena Community Center, Upper Level, commencing at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Supervisor, Clerk, Road Commissioner and (4) Trustees.

Dated: November 11, 2024.

/s/ Bill Staton
Presiding Officer
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 20, 2024)
464387

CAUCUS NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on December 3, 2024 a caucus of the Democratic Party in the Township of West Point, Stephenson County, will be held at Lena Community Center, Upper Level, commencing at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Supervisor, Clerk, Road Commissioner and (4) Trustees.

Dated: November 11, 2024.

/s/ Bill Staton
Presiding Officer
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 20, 2024)
464388

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that on December 3, 2024 a caucus of the Republican Party in the Township of Winslow, Stephenson County, will be held at Winslow Community Building, Lower Level, commencing at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Supervisor, Clerk, Road Commissioner and (4) Trustees. Dated: November 13, 2024. /s/ Tara Reynolds
Presiding Officer

Notice is hereby given that on December 3, 2024 a caucus of the Democratic Party in the Township of Winslow, Stephenson County, will be held at Winslow Community

Building, Lower Level, commencing at 6:30 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices:

Supervisor, Clerk, Road Commissioner and (4) Trustees. Dated: November 13, 2024. /s/ Tara Reynolds
Presiding Officer

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 20, 2024)
464502

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that German-American State Bank, 100 Church Street, German Valley, Illinois 61039, has submitted an application (the "Application") to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for permission to relocate its main office to 809 Cannel Puri Drive, Winnebago, Illinois 61088 and redesignate its current main office as a branch office.

Any person wishing to comment on the Application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its Regional Office located at 300 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois 60606, or via email to CHIMailroom@fdic.gov with the subject of "Public Comment to German-American State Bank, German Valley, Illinois, Relocation Application". Any comments should be submitted no later than December 12, 2024. The non-confidential portions of the Application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the Application files will be made available upon request.

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Nov. 20 & 27, 2024)
464578

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Legals@rvpublishing.com

425124



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The stress of an illness, injury or tight farm finances is daunting, but there are resources to help.

Who to call in a farm crisis?

Plenty of resources available

By Phyllis Coulter
FARMWEEK

The stress of an illness, injury or tight farm finances is daunting, but there are resources to help.

The resources for farmers in crisis webinar offered by the University of Illinois Agricultural Safety and Health Program and farmdoc on Oct. 15 highlighted a few such services.

Farm rescue

Based on the principle of farmers helping farmers, Bill Gross, a UPS pilot who grew up in rural North Dakota, created Farm Rescue, a nonprofit organization.

Today, 600 volunteers in 49 states come to help farmers with equipment or labor in nine Corn Belt states, including Illinois, when a crisis arises, said Terry Johnston, farm rescue development officer.

The injury, illness or death of a farmer, a sick child, a family member getting cancer treatment or a natural disaster are reasons to call for help, he said.

To nominate someone, to get help or to inquire about volunteering, visit the website farmrescue.org.

AgrAbility

AgrAbility helps enhance the quality of life for farmers and ranchers with injuries or disabilities, said Haley Jones, Illinois AgrAbility program coordinator with the Illinois Extension. The program helps farmers safely do their work and reduces barriers to continuing with their livelihood.

Farmers or seasonal workers suffering from circumstances as varied as arthritis, a spinal cord injury, a chronic condition, hearing loss, respiratory impairment or an amputation, can qualify for free services.

On request, AgrAbility staff conducts a free on-the-farm assessment and recommends equipment or assistive devices or provides education to help.

The National AgrAbility Toolbox, a public website, has information on 1,000 tools and devices at agrability.org/toolbox.

Helplines and hotlines

Josie Rudolphi, a University of Illinois occupational and environmental health profes-

sor, said resources are available to farmers in a crisis by email, texting or telephone.

The suicide and crisis lifeline at 988 is a hotline. "It is a huge relief that it is a three-digit number now," she said of the easier-to-remember number. People can text, call or chat 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Concern Line, a helpline started by Iowa University Extension during a farm crisis, offers legal, financial and disaster resources at 800-447-1985.

The Farm Aid Farmer Hotline has specific hours of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The caller is assigned a specific case worker to help them over time. The contact number is 800-327-6243.

The Illinois Mental Health Voucher Program for Ag Producers allows ag producers and their families to get free help from a certified mental health professional through the Illinois Extension program. Email Kacie Hulshof for information at khulshof@illinois.edu.

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.

Senior Resource Center seeks contractors for Home Maintenance Program

The Senior Resource Center is looking to expand its list of licensed and insured contractors to support its Home Maintenance Program, funded by Freeport Township. This program is designed to assist residents of Freeport Township with essential home upkeep and minor repairs to improve their quality of life. The services needed include:

- Snow Removal
 - Gutter Cleaning
 - Lawn Care/Landscaping
 - Tree Trimming
 - MINOR Home Repairs
- This opportunity is ideal for contractors looking to make a positive impact in the community by supporting older adults and individuals in need.
- If you are a contractor with the necessary qualifications

and are interested in partnering with us, please contact Gloria at 815-235-9777, ext. 237, for more information.

The Senior Resource Center is dedicated to serving the community and appreciates the support of skilled professionals who can contribute to this valuable program to help seniors maintain safe and comfortable environments.

Call
815.369.4112
to place your ad

Rock Valley Publishing

Classifieds

AD DEADLINE:
Friday
at 4 pm

SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN



help wanted

LENA PARK DISTRICT IS HIRING!
Superintendent of Maintenance (permanent, part-time)
Application & Job Description at lenaparkdistrict.org/staff
Applications due December 2
info@lenaparkdistrict.org | 815.369.5351 463464

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE
Rock Valley Publishing is looking for a Part-Time Advertising Sales Executive. Approximately 20 hours per week.
We publish newspapers, shoppers, and niche publications throughout the stateline. You have the opportunity to sell into all Rock Valley Publishing. L.L.C. publications, making your paycheck much larger!
For immediate consideration send resume/job history to:
Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising
Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com
Fax: (262) 725-6844 444841

For details on placing an ad in our
Classified Section
Call 815-369-4112
Serving the communities in Jo Daviess County *Serving the communities in Stephenson County*

Find us online: rvpnews.com


transportation

Boats
1997 17' SYLVAN PRO SELECT FISHERMAN. 100 hp Mariner outboard motor, front & rear anchor mates & Bimini top. Trolling motor, fish locator, boat & motor cover, 2 live wells, radio, rod storage, batteries & battery chargers, asst. life jackets, additional extras, Shorelander trailer. Call 262-643-8017.

Motorcycles
1994 350 SUZUKI CLIMBER Asking \$1700. Call/text (262) 210-3147

Sport Utilities
2008 JEEP LIBERTY 4X4 i25k. New battery, exhaust, water pump, AC compressor & brakes all around. AZ car. 2 Key Fobs, \$7,100. Call 262-716-6180.

Trucks & Trailers
2002 FORD F-250 SUPER DUTY V-10, with 8' Western Plow, 37k miles, excellent cond., no rust, \$28,000. 262-497-3162.

2006 V8 DODGE PICK UP 4 door, new tires, sharp! East Coast truck-no rust. runs great. \$6,500. OBO 224-361-3059.

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



real estate for sale

Other Real Estate Announcements

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, disability, familiar/ status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

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

Burial Needs
7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to sell as a group or individually. Located at Roselawn Memory Gardens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. **This is a private sale. Contact Randy, the seller at randy@slpublishers.com.**

for rent

Other For Rent

DUPLEX FOR RENT
2 bedroom, 1 bath ranch style duplex for rent in Lena. Available December 1 - Rent \$600/mo. No Pets - No Smoking • Call 815-990-2096 463558

To place an ad in our Real Estate Section
Call (815) 369-4112

Auction Deadline is Noon Friday!
Contact Rhonda at rmarshall@rvpublishing.com for information on advertising.

The Wheel Deal
Place your car, truck, motorcycle, boat or RV for one price and it runs for up to 16 weeks.
\$19⁹⁵
1st three lines
Extra lines are \$1.95 each
17 Papers
Starts for 4 weeks and if not sold you call us and we will renew at no additional charge! (Maximum run 16 weeks total)

PRIVATE PARTY ONLY.
Ad must be prepaid.
Deadlines vary.
Call 815-877-4044



FREE
Are you selling a single item for **LESS THAN \$100?**
IF SO, WE WILL RUN YOUR AD IN THE SCOOP TODAY AND SHOPPER'S GUIDE AT **No Charge!**

Private Party Only
Just fill out the coupon below and mail to:
Rock Valley Publishing, FREE Ad,
1102 Ann. St., Delavan, WI 53115

Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price

Ads will not be accepted without the following information. Only one free ad per month.

YOUR NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____

Football

(Continued from page 10)

GCMS was held to just 55 yards on the ground. They threw for over 130 yards, completing seven of their 19 attempts. They were forced to punt the ball five times. Wild and Landon Grindey led the team with six total tackles each.

Le-Win now faces the one seed in their side of the bracket. LeRoy sports an undefeated 12-0 record of their own. They have also played two common opponents with Le-Win. LeRoy beat GCMS by a score of 34-14 in the regular season. In the postseason, they beat Galena 37-21. Le-Win beat GCMS 40-7 in the playoffs, and Galena 22-10 in the postseason.

A long-awaited matchup will take place when LeRoy plays host to Le-Win this weekend. With two undefeated teams and an opportunity to reach the title game, only one Panther squad moves on.



DAN CHAMNESS, THE COLLEGE REPORT PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Panthers score another win

The Lena Winslow Panthers run another play during their recent 40-7 victory over Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley. The Panthers are set to travel to LeRoy to face off against a different set of Panthers. The LeRoy Panthers and Lena-Winslow Panthers face off on Saturday, Nov. 23, at 2 p.m.

99¢ lb

US Grade A BEST CHOICE FROZEN TURKEYS

Assorted Sizes

LIMIT ONE (1) TURKEY PER TRANSACTION

SPEND \$100

GET YOUR BEST CHOICE TURKEY ANY SIZE FOR ONLY

39¢ lb

SPEND \$50

GET YOUR BEST CHOICE TURKEY ANY SIZE FOR ONLY

69¢ lb

SPEND \$150

GET YOUR BEST CHOICE TURKEY ANY SIZE FOR

FREE

Prices Effective: Wednesday, November 20 thru Thursday, November 28, 2024

CLOSING THANKSGIVING DAY AT 3PM

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Folgers COFFEE Select Varieties 22.6-25.9 oz or 10-12 ct K-Cup 7.99	Frito-Lay PARTY SIZE CHIPS Select Varieties 9-18 oz 2/\$11	Stove Top STUFFING Select Varieties 6 oz 2/\$4	Swanson BROTH OR STOCK Select Varieties 32 oz 2/\$4	US Grade A FROZEN TURKEY BREAST 1.88 lb	Bakery Fresh PUMPKIN BARS 14 oz 5.99
Green Giant VEGETABLES Select Varieties 7-8 oz 5/\$5	Kemps EGG NOG Select Varieties 32 oz 3.49	POTATOES Red, Russet or Yukon Gold 5 lb Bag 2.99	SWEET POTATOES 49¢ lb	CRANBERRIES 12 oz 1.99	Bakery Fresh PUMPKIN PIE 8 inch 4.99

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT SULLIVANS MEAT DEPARTMENTS FOR ALL YOUR DEER PROCESSING SUPPLIES!
FROM PORK AND BEEF TRIMMINGS TO HI MELT CHEESES, SEASONINGS AND CASINGS WE HAVE IT ALL!

<p>USDA Choice BEEF BONE-IN RIBEYE ROAST</p> <p>11.99 lb</p>	<p>US Gov't Insp Twin Pack BONE-IN PORK BUTT ROAST</p> <p>1.59 lb</p>
---	--

Bakery Fresh INNER ROLLS Butter & Egg or Wheat 12 ct 2.99	Bakery Fresh POTATO ROLLS 12 ct 3.59
Bakery Fresh PUMPKIN PIE 8 inch 4.99	Bakery APPLE PIE Regular or Dutch 8 in 5.99

MEAT DEPARTMENT HOLIDAY DEALS!

COOK'S BONE-IN SMOKED WHOLE HAM 2.49	COOK'S SMOKED SHANK PORTION HAM 1.69	COOK'S SMOKED BUTT PORTION HAM 1.99	MEAT MASTER ILLINOIS STATE CHAMPION OFF THE BONE SMOKED HAM 4.99 lb
FRICK'S PREMIUM BUTT PORTION HAM 2.49	BEST CHOICE BONE-IN SPIRAL SLICED HAM 2.49	US GRADE A FROZEN TURKEY BREAST 1.88	KENTUCKY LEGEND BONELESS SMOKED HALF HAM 4.99
FRICK'S PREMIUM SHANK PORTION HAM 2.19	KENTUCKY LEGEND BONELESS SMOKED WHOLE HAM 4.89	<p>\$3.00 OFF Off KENTUCKY LEGEND BONELESS SMOKED WHOLE OR HALF HAM</p> <p><small>Manufacturer Coupon. Expiration: 11/30/24. Limit one coupon per household. Not valid on other products. See store for details. ©2024 Sullivan's Foods. All rights reserved.</small></p>	

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