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VOL. 90 • NO. 51

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11, 2024



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## Stockton Middle School students at work

Eighth-grade students traveled to the CTEA on Dec. 5 for Career Exploration Fest. Students moved through eight career area stations and met with CTE teachers and business representatives. Students completed hands-on activities and listened to presentations from a wide variety of careers. Thanks to the CTEA and area businesses for providing a great experience for these Stockton middle-schoolers.

Postal Customer \*\*ecrws

## Warren Warriors off to hot start in 2024-2025 boys basketball season

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Warren Warriors rattled off four consecutive victories after dropping their season opener against Dakota 78-41. The disappointing season opener was not a sign of things to come, however. After starting 0-1, the Warriors improved to 4-1 with a pair of victories over Belmont and Milledgeville last week.

On Tuesday, Dec. 3 the Warriors played host to the Belmont Braves. The Braves lost their season opener against Iowa-Grant, so they were hoping to pick up their first win when they came to Warren. Belmont came out ready to play. An early three-pointer helped them take a slim lead over the Warriors. Warren had to live at the free throw line, where they made their shots. The Warriors took five free throws in the first quarter, sinking all five of them. Alex Niemann and Bryce VanRaalte both went two for two in the quarter to help Warren keep pace. Still, Belmont took a 14-12 lead into the second.

Belmont was unable to continue their offensive efficiency after that. The 14 point first quarter was their best of the night, whereas Warren only improved as the game went on. They matched their

first quarter total with another 12 points in the second. They also held Belmont to just eight points defensively. Niemann hit his second three-pointer of the night as Warren took a 24-22 lead into the break.

The Warriors blew the game wide open in the second half. They came out strong with Beau Podnar and Treyton Pafford each hitting third quarter three-pointers. Pafford had eight points in the quarter while Podnar added seven of his own. The duo helped to make a statement as Warren took a 44-32 lead into the fourth.

Pafford helped to seal the deal with another five points in the fourth. VanRaalte finished things off with eight points in the final quarter as Warren picked up a 60-42 victory. Pafford led all scorers with 23 points. VanRaalte was next up for Warren with 13 points. Podnar added 10 in the victory.


The Warriors continued to fight just three days later when they played host to the Milledgeville Missiles. The Missiles have stumbled out of the gates of this young season, and they came to Warren with an overall record of just 1-5. Things weren't getting any easier for the Missiles as

See WARRIORS, Page 6

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## Little Blackhawks

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

# Around the Northern Hills



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

What would Christmas be like without our country's strong agricultural base? The first thought that comes to mind is all the great food that we celebrate holidays with, but without agriculture, Christmas would be different in many ways. Agricultural products touch our daily lives in every way, and that's never more evident than Christmas.

Most of us don't have a place to cut out own Christmas tree. The Christmas tree, if you have a traditional Christmas tree, goes back to a Christmas tree farmer. We can also connect the dots between agriculture and the great food that we enjoy during the holidays. If you get a ham or a turkey, it goes back to the farmer raising the turkeys or the hogs. When you bake, whether it be bread or cookies, the ingredients have an agricultural base and come from a farmer.

Ag producers also deserve a lot of credit for many of the gifts we give and receive at Christmas. The belt, boots, or shoes that you get as a gift come from the leather of a beef farmer. Clothing gifts come from the farmer that raises cotton. Even some toys have roots in agriculture. So, whether it's that

Christmas day turkey your family is enjoying or the gifts we share with one another during this special time, it all relates back to agriculture. While you're giving thanks this holiday season, don't forget to thank our farmers.

### IAA Foundation scholarships

The IAA Foundation just announced the lineup for the 2025 IAA Foundation Scholarships. This includes 120 scholarships totaling \$210,251. We have had several winners from Jo Daviess County in the past, so I encourage anyone interested to apply. The link will be live for the IAA Foundation website until Jan. 1.

### Family Farm signs

It's that time of year that we are all thinking of what to get that hard-to-buy-for person for Christmas. Why not get them a "This is a

See EGGERS, Page 5

## News briefs

### Lena American Legion Auxiliary

The December meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the Lena American Legion Home at 6 p.m. Dues will be collected. New members are always welcome. Junior members will meet Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion Home. They will be doing a fun project and a service project. Guests are welcome to attend. Andrea Karnatz and Dawn Spinhirne will be in charge of the social hour.

### Current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry

Dish Soap  
Laundry Soap

Paper Towels  
Soups  
Mac & Cheese  
Cans of fruit and vegetables.

Dry panty foods  
Mittens  
Hats  
Women's socks

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.

### Freeport Salvation Army

The Freeport Salvation Army is in need of bell ringers to ring the bell from now

until Dec. 24. If able to ring the Red Kettle Bell, go to [registertoring.com](http://registertoring.com) or contact Sue Gronner, Red Kettle Coordinator at 815-541-1949.

### McConnell Area Historical Society Cookie Walk

McConnell Area Historical Society will host their Annual Christmas Cookie Walk and Santa Visit on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the museum on Main Street in McConnell. A variety of cookies, candy, and baked goods will be available for purchase. The museum is open to view all day.

Santa Claus will arrive and be on-hand for the kids from 2 p.m. to 4 pm. Each child will receive a small gift.

### 'Holiday Affair' on the big screen

FHN and Classic Cinemas Lindo Theatre will team up to share a holiday classic movie for area families to enjoy. Two special showings of the 1949 hit *Holiday Affair* will be held at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11 at the Classic Cinemas Lindo Theatre, 115 S. Chicago in Freeport.

Admission is a free-will offering and/or a food donation (there will be barrels available for food contributions, and monetary contributions also will go to the food drive). Donations will be distributed among area food pantries. For more information on this or any FHN Festival of Trees event, visit [www.fhn.org](http://www.fhn.org).

## Community Christmas Dinner in Stockton

The Community Christmas Dinner Committee announces the 38<sup>th</sup> annual dinner sponsored by the churches and businesses in the Stockton Community. It will be on Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2024, at Wesley Church of Stockton at 12 p.m.

All persons are invited, especially those who will not be with family on Christmas day. Deliveries can be made as needed in the immediate

Stockton area. Pickups will also be available. Please let your church know if you need a delivery or call Elaine Schlichting at 815-947-3795, or Wesley Church at 947-2541 on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Please provide an address and phone number when requesting a delivery.

The menu will be turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, green beans, raspberry salad, and pies.

After enjoying breakfast with Santa at the Orangeville Fire Department on Saturday, Dec. 14 Be sure to **CROSS THE STREET to The Resale Shop 313 W. High** Enjoy 25% OFF on all items \* Many like new gift ideas \* Gift Certificates Available Open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. **815-656-0605**

**Bake Sale** by St. John's Lutheran Church of Massbach **Saturday, Dec. 14 • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m** **Boy Scout Building, 126 S. Main, Stockton** **Questions? Call Sherry Sager 815-598-3310** Proceeds to help Voices, an organization helping women and their children in a domestic violence situation. 464878

The family of Sheridan Watson would like to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, and thoughts during the passing of our father, grandfather, and great grandfather. We especially would like to thank Leamon's for their assistance during this time as well. The families of Marge Mayer, Marsha Ernst, Marla Briggs, Marvin and Mark Watson. 465292

**Card Shower for Elmer & Nancy Hybarger's 70th Anniversary on December 12** The couple has 3 children: Mike (Kim), Deb (Leo) and Curt. 10 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and 2 great great grandchildren. Send cards to: **505 Fox Knoll Drive Lena, IL 61048**

# Back-to-back wins for the Blackhawks

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton Blackhawks improved to 4-4 when they picked up victories over Lena-Winslow and Pearl City last week. The Lady Blackhawks got off to a bit of a slow start in the 2024-2025 girls basketball season. After losing three out of their first four, the Blackhawks eventually saw their record drop to 2-4.

That early season record should have been taken with a grain of salt. Two of their four losses came against an Orangeville Bronco squad that is now 7-1. They lost those points by a combined six points. Additionally, they lost to Winnebago by just six and fell to an undefeated Stillman Valley squad.

The Blackhawks got their season back on track when they picked up a couple of much needed wins last week. On Dec. 6 the Blackhawks returned home to play host to the Panthers. At the time, Stockton was fresh off a 37-32 loss to the Broncos, and the Panthers were 3-3 themselves.

Things were tight in the first quarter. The Blackhawks had four different players score in the opening quarter, led by Taylor Haas with four. Ireland Mensendike, Madie Mammoser, and Emma Eisfeller each added first quarter baskets for Stockton.

After taking just a one-point advantage into the second quarter, Stockton would begin to expand their lead. Katelyn Winters hit a pair of baskets and Dylann Broshous added her first of the night as the Blackhawks combined for 12 in the quarter. They held Le-Win to just six second quarter points, allowing

Stockton to take a 22-15 lead into the break.

It was Le-Win who came out strong in the second half. The Panthers were looking to erase the deficit as they rattled off 15 points in the third quarter. Stockton struggled to get much of anything to fall outside of three-pointers from Winters and Mammoser. Those proved to be crucial as Stockton's lead dwindled to just two points heading into the final quarter.

It was Stockton's defense that stepped up big when they needed it most. Le-Win, battling through injuries, has struggled through the second half of games in the early parts of this season. Orangeville recently held the Panthers scoreless in the second half. Against Stockton, the Panthers put up just six points in the fourth quarter.

Those six points came by way of a pair of three-pointers. After allowing a huge comeback in the third quarter, Stockton regained the momentum with some lockdown defense. Offensively, they also hit some big free throws to insure the win. Kaydra Wright went three for four at the line in the fourth, which were her only three points of the game. They proved to be vital, as the Blackhawks won by a score of 41-36. Stockton was led by Winters, who finished with 11 points. Mammoser added nine in the victory.

Stockton continued to trend in the right direction when they traveled to take on the Pearl City Wolves on Saturday, Dec. 7. That afternoon, the Blackhawks improved to 500 as they picked up a comfortable win over a struggling Pearl City squad.

See STOCKTON, Page 6



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Stockton local joins Air Force

William "Will" Westaby was recognized by the Stockton American Legion at a luncheon in his honor recently. Friends and family gave Will a send-off to his new life in the Air Force. Pictured are (left to right) sister Emma Westaby, mother Kim Westaby, Will Westaby, father John Westaby, brother Brandon Westaby, and Legion Commander Ed Marcure.

## Farm Bureau Young Leader Hay Drive is a success

The Illinois Farm Bureau District 2 County Farm Bureau Young Leader Committees from Carroll, Ogle, Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Winnebago-Boone Counties held a Hay Donation Drive from farmers in the northwest region of the state in efforts to send forage to North Carolina to assist livestock producers in the area who were affected by Hurricane Helene earlier this fall.

The event coordinated donations to two drop points within the area, the Ogle

County Fairgrounds and the Stephenson County Fairgrounds for producers to drop off their hay to be loaded onto six semis to be sent to North Carolina. Overall, the donation efforts collected 145 round bales, 27 large square bales and 280 small square bales from area farmers to be sent to North Carolina. This project would not have been possible without the outpouring of support from the local communities.

The District 2 Farm Bureau Young Leader commit-

tees would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to Frank-fother Trucking Inc, for their supply of trucks and drivers, Carroll Service Company and Stephenson Service Company for their in-kind donation of fuel,

Helm Group for their donation of operators and machines to load/unload bales and Polo Co-op for their monetary support to the cause. We would also like to thank the individuals who donated money to the cause through each respective county farm

bureau office. And last but certainly not least, we would also like to thank the more than 20 farmers in the region who selflessly donated forage to this project to assist producers in need.



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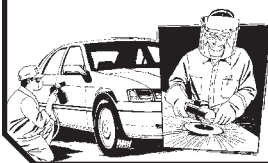
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# OPINION



## Slices of life

# Don't be afraid of the 'C' word



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

My journey through grief has been a public one, laid out for you here on these pages. Many of you have walked with me through the healing process, and for that I'm thankful.

It's funny (in a not so funny way) the things that help us heal. For me, much of the healing process has been lead by creativity – quite literally.

During the last four years, I've given myself lots of grace. Some of that grace involved the power to tap into my creative juices in whatever way felt right at the moment. In that, I became a Jill of all trades (or artistic endeavors).

I poured paint onto canvas, wax into candle forms and lye into liquid to make soap. I sculpted with cement, plaster, clay and stones. I twisted and tied rope, pool noodles and chicken wire. I built tables, trays, shelves and lamps. I embellished with glass, glitter and gold. Plus I've gathered heaps of random craft supplies, but that's another article.

Some of my projects look good, most didn't. Many were failures, but within the mix I was healing and learning.

Somewhere along the way, a kind friend asked if I might be able to share some of my hobbies with others. And in that, the student became the teacher.

What a gift that has been. Helping others tap into their own creative spirit is invigorating, rewarding and fun. But within these instructive endeavors, I've found that not everyone finds solace in creativity. In fact, there are those who believe they were born without the creative gene. They've even told me so. More than once.

"I'm not creative." I'd like to challenge that. We are all creative; I'll even take that one step further: we are all artistic.

Some people embrace and excel at these qualities more than others, but practicing creativity benefits every single one of us – much like exercise, a healthy diet, kindness and gratitude do.

Some people love exercising. They couldn't live without it and in many

instances they are very good at it. I am not one of these people, but that doesn't mean the habit of exercising doesn't bring me great benefits.

The same goes for creativity. It does for the brain what exercise does for the body.

Creativity helps you think outside the box. Just yesterday, I took two perfectly good cardboard boxes and made a kitty bed with them. This task required math computations, spatial skills, textile manipulation and a whole lot of duct tape.

Creativity reduces stress. When you are focused on art, you cannot focus on the negativity in your life, even if it does involve an upcoming car repair. Creating art makes you forget about the everyday – even if just for a moment in time and that moment is priceless.

Creativity can boost communication. "Do you think this looks more turquoise, teal, or green?" Will solicit responses on numerous levels.

Creativity promotes flexibility and can increase your adaptability to change. When you want to paint your background color in turquoise, but only teal is available, you learn to make it work – or make an extra trip to the craft store.

Creativity can give your life purpose and meaning. If the meaning of life isn't defined by a magnetic succulent garden "planted" vertically on your refrigerator, I don't know what the meaning of life might be.

Finally, creativity can help you, me – all of us – live a longer and healthier life. It's true! If you purchase more craft materials, the gods of the universe understand you must use them all before you leave this earth.

Therefore, the acquisition

## Weekly connection

# Those cows are sure smart

One of the coolest things about milking a barn full of 96 cows was that every cow was trained to know their own stanchion and to walk in the correct one each time they came in the barn. In the summer we got the cows in and hooked up two times a day, once in the morning after a night out under the stars, and again for the evening milking. In the winter the cows stayed in the barn all night, so they only had to come in and find their stall once a day. It really was a



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

remarkable thing to behold how some of them would come in the door and turn up the first aisle and find their stanchion and some would walk right past to the second aisle and then turn and walk to wherever their stanchion

was. They knew just what they were doing.

We made every cow wear a chain or a strap with its number clearly identifying it so the workers could easily see who each cow was as it looked for its stanchion. To this day I look back in amazement at how smart those cows were to find the same stanchion each and every time they came into the barn. It usually only took three or four days to train a new cow or heifer to find the correct aisle and then find its place. It was almost always necessary to have two people getting the cows in because there were always a couple, new heifers in training on any given day. Occasionally, a sneaky cow would come in and try to quickly steal some of its neighbor's grain out of the manger next to her own. These cows were sneaky and quick and tried to get away with the deed before a human would come running and lock them up by the strap. We had forty-eight tie stalls facing each other in the middle of the barn and then twenty-four on each side of the barn which were stanchions that could be locked up twelve at a time with the pull of a lever. If everything was clicking, getting the cows in usually took about seven or eight minutes, but it could take twenty or thirty if there were five or six in training at the same time. Yes, cows are

very smart.

One of my church men was trying to tell me that pigs are even smarter than cows, but I don't think I'm buying that. Although I have heard of people having pot belly pigs for pets and training them to use a litter box. Horses seem to be quite smart too. Once I was helping one of our Iowa beef farming friends round up and separate their beef cattle. The horse I was riding was so smart that it practically did all the work. It would turn on a dime at just the exact moment to separate the cow and calf, getting each of them to the right places they needed to be. Dogs can be trained to do amazing things as well. I was watching a sheep dog in a video the other day and it was actually running on the tops of sheep in a loading shoot to keep them moving along and into the trailer. I'm sure each of us have a memory of one of our pets that showed great intelligence. It's amazing how much brain power God has programmed in the animal kingdom.

Here's the difference between man and animals. The Bible says man is created in the image of God. The word image means that like God man has the ability to think and reason at a high level. Man chooses right and wrong and has been given free will to do so. Like God,

See **COWS**, Page 6

## FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

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

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# Applications now open for CFNIL winter scholarship cycle

Opening day for the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) winter/main scholarship applications was Dec. 1. CFNIL is the region's largest private scholarship provider, with over 125 unique scholarships totaling over \$550,000 to be awarded this year. There are three application cycles (fall, winter/main, and spring), each with its own application and timeline. Each cycle's application is accessed via CFNIL's online application portal at [www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfnil-scholarship](http://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cfnil-scholarship).

The winter/main cycle accepts applications from Dec. 1 through Feb. 1. This is the primary cycle and includes over 125 scholarships. All applications must be submitted through CFNIL's online application portal. Students answer questions about their academics, background, and extracurricular activities. From these answers, applicants will be automatically matched to all scholarships for which they are eligible. Details about every scholarship and the application process may be found at [cfnil.org/scholarships](http://cfnil.org/scholarships).

Each of CFNIL's scholarships was established by individuals or organizations that

recognize the importance of helping students achieve their educational goals, now and in perpetuity. The donors selected the criteria for each scholarship, based on their interests and the community's need.

CFNIL scholarships are primarily for students in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago counties, and each scholarship has unique criteria. There are scholarships for graduating high school seniors, non-traditional students, students with financial need, student athletes, students of color, and students pursuing careers in teaching, STEM, business, fire science, health-

care, and many, many more. Some scholarships are renewable for up to four years. The diversity of scholarship offerings reflects the diversity of CFNIL's donors and the communities of northern Illinois.

Applications are read and scored by committees of volunteers who use a "blind" review process and make award recommendations to CFNIL's Board of Trustees. Scholarship recipients are announced in late April. Awards are sent directly to the school the recipient will be attending. Scholarship seekers should visit [cfnil.org/scholarships](http://cfnil.org/scholarships) to learn more and apply.

## • Slices (Continued from page 4)

of craft supplies – and creativity by association – increases your lifespan.

It's almost like creativity is the answer to many of the problems you've been facing. It's a release and an outlet that provides respite from the everyday problems of the everyday world.

Plus, at the end of it all, you might find yourself with a brightly painted canvas or

a brightly lit holiday wreath.

I, personally, give a thumbs up to that. (Just don't look at my thumbs, they're most likely all full of paint.)

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

## • Eggers (Continued from page 2)

Family Farm" sign? The signs are 17.5" X 23" and cost \$30 and are available at the farm bureau office in Elizabeth.

### Farm Fun Fact

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in Germany, people used to hang their Christmas trees from the ceilings in their homes.

## Church news

### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, Dec. 15 for Worship Service. This will be the Third Sunday of Advent. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Luke 3:7-18.

On Wednesday, Dec. 18 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 24 a Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service will be held at 7 p.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated in worship.

A Christmas Day Worship will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 25. Holy Communion will not be served. Come join in with fellowship and song.

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.

### Calvary Church of Stockton

On Sunday, Dec. 15, Calvary will have its Christmas Program during the Worship Service time. During Christmas week we will hold the annual Christmas Eve Candle lighting Service at 7 p.m. on Dec. 24. This will be a special service with music selections from the Cantata sung by the Calvary Choir. The service will end as the lights are dimmed throughout the sanctuary with the only light being the candles each person is holding while the congregation sings "Silent Night, Holy Night."

Anyone in the community is invited to join us each Sunday. Sunday School begins at 8:45 a.m. with the Worship Service starting at 10 a.m.

### St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate third Sunday of Advent at worship on Sunday, Dec. 15 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 come

play cards and dominoes in Luther Hall on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 1 p.m. to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

We will not be having our December Grace Meal on Dec. 15 as originally planned. Instead, we will be hosting the Pearl City Community Christmas meal on Dec. 25. The meal will include ham and all the fixing along with dessert. You have the option of eating at St. John's or picking up the meal and taking it home. Reservations are due by Thursday, Dec. 19. The meal is funded through donations from Pearl City community businesses and will be prepared and served by members of St. John's Church of Pearl City, the Pearl City United Methodist Church, and Zion Community Church. If you would like to donate to this meal, reach out to the St. John's church office.

The next Men's Breakfast

will be on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 3:15 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

We will have two candlelight services for Christmas Eve on Dec. 24. One will be at 5 p.m. and the other will be at 9 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is an ELCA parish and is located at 229 First St. in Pearl City. We are handicapped accessible. If you need to contact the pastor or church, you may call 815-443-2215 for information.

### Salem United Church of Christ

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, Illinois, 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.

Crafternoon will be held on Dec. 18 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.

Family Movie Night will be on Dec. 20 at 6pm, featuring Dr. Seuss' The Grinch. The movie will play in the main sanctuary. Snacks and cocoa will be available, make sure to bring pillows and blankets to get cozy. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information on

any Salem related items, you can contact 815-369-4511 or [ruth.dake@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.dake@gmail.com).

### St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City

St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City will be hosting a free community Christmas meal on Wednesday, Dec. 25 with the help of First United Methodist Church and Zion Community Church. People will have the option of dining in Luther Hall or picking up a meal curbside at the church (229 S. 1st Street). Dine in and pick-ups will be between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, Dec. 19 and can be made by calling 815-443-2215. The menu for the meal will be ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, cinnamon applesauce salad, Hawaiian rolls, and a dessert pudding.

**Free**  **Free**

**Community Christmas Meal**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 25**  
**11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**MENU:** Ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green bean casserole, cinnamon applesauce salad, Hawaiian rolls and a dessert pudding

*You have the option of dining in Luther Hall or picking up meals curbside at the church.*

*Reservations are due in the church office (815-443-2215) by Thursday, Dec. 19*

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
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*Join us for*  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**  
Tuesday, Dec. 24  
5:00 p.m.

465488

# Panthers start 1-0 in Blakely era

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers came out on top of their season opener where they faced off with the River Ridge Wildcats. It was the season opener for both teams and a battle of first-year head coaches.

Mark Blakely is in his first year at the helm of Le-Win, while Jacob Green took over the River Ridge program. Green's Wildcats went 2-2 through their first four games of the season. They had bounced back from an 0-2 start with back-to-back wins over Orangeville and Polo. They fell below 500 once again when they dropped their game against the Panthers.

Despite River Ridge being at home and having a four-game head start on Le-Win, it was the Panthers who came out ready to play. Le-Win put up 13 points in the first quarter, while holding River Ridge to just five. Aiden Wild and Miles Mahon

combined for eight points as the Panthers took the early lead.

Both offenses picked up the intensity in the second quarter. River Ridge began to find success from inside as they put up 15 points in the quarter. They were just three for eight from the free throw line in the second. Meanwhile, the Panthers didn't miss a beat. They didn't just maintain their lead, but they expanded it as Jaylen Rakowska and Koby Kearns caught fire. Rakowska hit his second three-pointer of the evening. Kearns put up seven points as the duo combined for 12 in the quarter, leading the Panthers to a 33-20 halftime break.

Le-Win continued to find success from all over the floor in the second half. Coming out of the break, Mahon sunk his first three-pointer of the season. Wild had a successful two for two trip to the line. Michael Mowery scored four points from inside. The Panthers looked like a

team in mid-season form.

River Ridge managed to slightly close the gap as they put up 15 points in the third. Still, the Panthers would take a 45-35 lead into the final quarter. That 10-point advantage wound up proving to be the difference as the Panthers went on to win by a final score of 59-49. Mahon helped the Panthers cruise their way to victory with a 10-point fourth quarter performance. He finished the game with seventeen points, which led all scorers.

Kearns added 12 points in the victory, and Wild was the third Panther to finish in double figures with 10 points. Rakowska added eight in the victory. River Ridge was led by Damon Dittmar, who finished with 15 points.

On Dec. 13 the Panthers hit the road as they look to take on the Dakota Indians at 7 p.m. Dakota is off to a 4-1 start to the season as they look like a much-improved team.

## • Stockton (Continued from page 3)

Stockton immediately jumped out to a 13-4 advantage in the first quarter. Mammoser and Eisfeller each combined for eight points while Winters added an early three-pointer. Six different Blackhawks scored in the second quarter as Stockton combined for 16 points. Kacy Wright led the way with five points in the quarter, including an early three-pointer. Broshous added four as the Blackhawks took a big 29-10 lead into the break.

They were able to coast to victory from there as they went on to win by a score of 50-25. Mammoser led the way in scoring with 12 points, while Broshous was next up with nine. Kacy and Winters both finished with seven points in the victory.

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, the Blackhawks play host to the Morrison Mustangs at 7:15 p.m. They return home on Dec. 16 to play host to the Dakota Indians at 7:30 p.m.

## • Cows (Continued from page 4)

we also feel and express emotions as well. Animals can be pretty smart, but they do not have souls that need to be saved from sin. The Bible says that even though man is sinful and that our natural ways are at odds with God, He died for us anyway. It's hard to believe that He could love us so much that He died

to pay the penalty that we were supposed to pay so that when we believe in the Lord Jesus and receive Him as Savior and Lord of our lives, God pronounces that we are not guilty. He then gives us eternal life so we can live with Him in His glory forever. What an awesome gift! Until next week, God bless.

## • Warriors (Continued from front page)

the Warriors picked up another convincing win in front of their home crowd. Pafford helped get the night going as an early three-pointer quickly had him up to five points. Pafford posted eight points in the first quarter alone.

Jordan Kohl added a first quarter three-pointer of his own, while Podnar and VanRaalte added two points each. By the end of the first quarter, Warren had jumped out to a 17-11 advantage. Warren was extremely well-balanced in the

second quarter. Not only did five different Warriors score in the quarter, but the 18 total points scored were spread evenly across the board. VanRaalte, Pafford, Niemann, and Kohl each posted four points in the second quarter. The efficiency helped Warren take a 35-19 lead into the break.

Warren had no trouble working their way to victory in the second half. Pafford wound up leading all scorers with 22 points. VanRaalte added 15 and Kohl finished with 12. Podnar added four as the Warriors won by a final score of 63-48.

After improving to 4-1, the Warriors have another tough test ahead of them. On Thursday, Dec. 12 the Warriors play host to the River Ridge Wildcats. That game is set to tipoff at 7 p.m.

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# Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

'Tis the season for Christmas Trees. It's that time of year when families are in search for that perfect evergreen tree to display in their homes for the Christmas season. I love driving through our county and seeing the lighted trees through the windows. But how much do you or I even know about Christmas trees? Keeping that in mind, I would like to share a few of my favorite facts about these wonderful trees.

There are approximately 350 million Christmas trees growing on U.S. farms. Christmas trees are grown and harvested in all 50 states. Top Christmas tree producing states are Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Washington, New York and Virginia. The first Christmas tree retail lot in the United States was started by Mark Carr in New York, in 1851. From 1887-1933 a fishing schooner called the "Christmas Ship" would tie

up at the Clark Street Bridge in Chicago and sell spruce trees from Michigan to Chica-goans. I hope you will share these facts with your families while you pick out your pre-ferred tree.

## Carroll County annual meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Carroll County Farm Bureau will take place on Thursday, Dec. 19 at 11 a.m. at the Farm Bureau office located at 811 South Clay Street, Mount

Carroll, IL. A light lunch was provided. If you have ques-tions, please call our office at 815-244-3001.

## Beneficial ownership information reporting

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, Federal law – the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA) – requires certain entities, including many farming operations and other small busi-nesses, to report information about ownership to the Finan-cial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN). The CTA was originally passed to combat money laundering and organized crime funding, through numerous actions, in-cluding Beneficial Ownership Information (BOI) filing to FinCEN.

This filing requirement may affect nearly 5,000 farm-ing operations in Illinois, in-cluding many family farms and partnerships. However, less than 11% of eligible businesses nationwide have filed their BOI. Those who don't report BOI to FinCEN by the Jan. 1, 2025, deadline\* or who fail to update infor-mation in the future could

face civil (\$591 per day of violation)<sup>1</sup> and criminal pen-alties (up to two years im-prisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000).

## IFB Young Leaders donate 41,527 pounds of food during Harvest for All Campaign

Recognizing tremendous need in their communities, Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders proudly raised more than \$94,000 and donated a total of 41,527 lbs. of food and 501 volunteer hours during the annual Illinois Har-vest for All campaign. "The IFB Young leaders continue to demonstrate remarkable com-mitment to fighting food inse-curity in our communities," said Perry Harlow, IFB Young Leader Program Coordinator. "With these great accomplish-ments, our Young Leaders are making a tangible difference in the lives of Illinois families who struggle with hunger." He added, "These numbers re-lect not just charitable giving, but the deep-rooted values of compassion and community support that are defined by the Young Leader's mission."

Each year, IFB Young Leaders through their local county Farm Bureaus sup-port food banks with innova-tive food drives and donation campaigns to alleviate hunger. IFB is recognizing the CFB Young Leaders committees with outstanding programs and donation contributions.

## 2024 Most Outstanding Harvest for All Programs

Henry CFB Young Leaders for their Cram the Cab Food Drive

McDonough CFB Young Leaders for their FFA Week Food Drive Challenge

Sangamon CFB Young Leaders for their Fill-a-Ford Food Drive

Harvest for All Top Con-tributors awards recognized CFBs with outstanding hun-ger-relief efforts. Each was selected based on a combi-nation of overall pounds of food donated, volunteer hours and dollars raised. Winners in each category were also se-lected. Award recipients were given a cash prize to further their Harvest for All efforts.

See NEWS, Page 9



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## In the holiday spirit

Marsha Tessendorf, Henry Saavedra and Judy Oellerich decorate the American Legion Auxiliary Christmas tree at the Lena Living Center. The Lena American Legion Auxiliary also baked and delivered over 43 dozen cookies for the veterans at the James A Lovell Federal Health Care System at Great Lakes.

## Enchanted Forest Holiday Open House

Wednesday, Dec. 18 • 5 - 7 p.m.

Entertainment • Refreshments • Cookie Decorating Station  
Mr. & Mrs. Clause

A beautiful display of decorated trees created by community clubs, groups, businesses and individuals

All are welcome to attend

Lena Living Center 1010 Logan Street, Lena, IL  
815-499-9002

## STATELINE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

December 27<sup>th</sup> & December 28<sup>th</sup> 2024 – Auction Starts at 8:00 AM

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# FHN OB team presents PBA-OB program at national perinatal event

FHN's Perinatal Health-care team is sharing the impact of its Post-Birth Alert Orange Bracelet Program (PBA-OB) with the nation's perinatal care leaders. The leadership team recently presented at the Synova Perinatal Leadership Forum in Florida, a premier event for perinatal care leaders, highlighting the program's inno-

native approach to reducing maternal mortality and improving postpartum care. The FHN Post-Birth Alert Orange Bracelet Program, one of the first of its kind in the nation, is focused on giving every new mother an orange bracelet to wear as an alert to potential medical complications. Alert bands are worn six to twelve weeks

after delivery of their baby. The patient and her support person also receive focused education, utilizing the AWHONN (Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses) Post-Birth Warning Signs guidelines, linking the importance of the Post-Birth Alert orange band and recognizing when to seek immediate

care. Women in the first six to 12 weeks after giving birth face heightened risks of life-threatening complications, including hypertensive disorders, venous thromboembolism (blood clots), sepsis, cardiomyopathy, perinatal death, and substance use disorder. Recognizing these dangers, FHN developed the Post-Birth Alert Orange Bracelet Program, which includes all education, to empower EMS personnel and families to act quickly in emergencies and identify the orange post-birth alert band. Region 1 EMS covers Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Carroll, Whiteside, Ogle, Lee

and Dekalb counties. As a provider of curriculum and ongoing education, FHN created Post-Birth Alert education materials that are now an integral part of Region 1 EMS's on-boarding and annual competency training, ensuring that emergency personnel are equipped to identify and respond effectively to postpartum complications. "If a woman has a medical emergency and isn't able to communicate, the bracelet will alert providers and emergency personnel of her postpartum status," said FHN OB Service Line Perinatal Educator Keri Schubert, BSN, RNC-MNN, C-EFM. "That fast identification can be crucial in sav-

ing that woman's life." Linn Carter, MSN, APN, NEA-BC, Director of Women's Health Services, has already seen the orange bracelet identification in action. "Within 10 weeks of implementing our program, our first post-partum mom, experiencing severe high blood pressures was identified and treated within 22 minutes of arrival to the emergency department due to being identified by the orange bracelet." The FHN Post-Birth Alert Orange Bracelet Program team has information available on postpartum risks, as well as program materials for EMS and medical professionals. Visit [fhn.org/PBA-OB](http://fhn.org/PBA-OB) for more information.



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## LEGAL NOTICES

**LIEN SALE**  
The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLL as Agent for owner #4409. 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on December 19, 2024 at approx. 1:00 PM at [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). Cube 1029 Chari Thill; Cube 1072 Daniel Pontarelli; Cube 1109 Monica Hayenga; Cube 1162 Daniel Charneski; Cube 1258 Marcus Williams

SCRIBED PROPERTY IS LOCATED IN STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. LOT 1 IN BLOCK 7 OF WELTY HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, ALSO BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 1, BLOCK 7 OF WELTY HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, THENCE WEST ALONG THE NORTHERLY BOUNDARY OF SAID LOT 1, BLOCK 7 A DISTANCE OF 120 FEET TO THE NORTH EAST CORNER OF LOT 14, BLOCK 7 OF WELTY HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, THENCE NORTH AT RIGHT ANGLES, A DISTANCE OF 25 FEET, THENCE EAST AT RIGHT ANGLES A DISTANCE OF 120 FEET, THENCE SOUTH AT RIGHT ANGLES A DISTANCE OF 25 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THE SAME BEING THE SOUTH EAST QUARTER OF BELMARSER STREET. P.I.N. 18-18-01-206-005. Commonly known as 1440 S. Burchard Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032.

for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-23-07033 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION [intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com) I3256825

QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 29, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 8 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, AS SURVEYED AND PLATTED BY W.H. BUTTERFIELD, PUBLIC SURVEYOR, AUGUST 17, 1896, SITUATED IN LANCASTER TOWNSHIP, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING 16 CHAINS NORTH AND 33 FEET EAST OF THE WEST QUARTER SECTION CORNER OF SECTION 29, IN TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, OF RANGE 8 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, AND RUNNING THENCE NORTH 92 LINKS; THENCE EAST 10 CHAINS 90 LINKS TO THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF THE CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL RAILWAY COMPANY; THENCE SOUTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY 1 CHAIN 3 LINKS; THENCE WEST 10 CHAINS 43 LINKS TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. P.I.N. 07-14-29-100-003. Commonly known as 593 North Henderson Road, Freeport, IL 61032.

minium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-24-03263 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION [intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com) I3256826

vin J. Kerr, 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 (755ILCS 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 June 13, 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: 12/3/24

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 4 & 11, 2024) 464646

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 11, 18 & 25, 2024) 465305

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS Fifth Third Bank N.A. Plaintiff vs. Deborah L. Roush; et. al. Defendant

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 11, 18 & 25, 2024) 465308

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY-IN PROBATE In Re the Matter of the Estate of: ALVIN J. KERR, Deceased.

24 FC 25 CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on January 15, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: LOT 13 OF HOLSTE'S SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE NORTH HALF OF THE SOUTHWEST

No. 24-PR-81 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS Notice is given of the death of Alvin J. Kerr of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 3, 2024, to: Steven P. Kerr 6902 Spruce St. Finleyville, PA 15332 as independent Administrator of the Estate of Al-

Steven P. Kerr, Administrator By: 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](mailto:tonycoonlaw@aol.com) (Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 11, 18 & 25, 2024) 465305

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS Carrington Mortgage Services LLC Plaintiff vs. Kerri Lynn Gerke; et. al. Defendant 23 FC 60 CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on January 15, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: THE FOLLOWING DE-

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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

After Thanksgiving, the weather really hit us with winter. The wind was whipping again, and the temperature plunged. It did warm up a little for the Christmas parade which was a great way to welcome Santa to town. This week's recipes feature some holiday dishes as well as some more Christmas cookies. Have a great week cooking!

## Cranberry Cream Cheese Spread

This appetizer is super easy because it has such a few ingredients. It is different from the savory appetizers but would be great for any holiday party. Try the cranberry, apricot, and orange combination.

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese  
 1/2 C. dried cranberries, chopped  
 1/2 C. chopped dried apricots  
 1 t. grated orange zest  
 Crackers

In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, cranberries, apricots and orange zest until blended. Chill at least 1 hour before serving. Serve in a glass bowl with butter crackers.

## Grape Salad

Vicki from our home Rock Valley Publishing sent this grape salad favorite that is perfect for any holiday meal. It is one that has been around before with different kinds of dressings. It is easy to make and delicious.

3 lbs. red and green seedless grapes  
 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened  
 1 C. sour cream  
 1/2 C. sugar  
 2 t. vanilla

In a large bowl, mix the cream cheese and sour cream

together until blended. Add the sugar and vanilla and blend with sour cream mixture. Stir in grapes. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. You can cut the grapes in half to give them more surface for the dressing. Place in a pretty glass bowl for serving

## Turkey Corn Chowder

To warm you up on these cold days, this hearty soup can use up some of that turkey you put in the freezer from Thanksgiving.

1 lb. thick sliced bacon strips, chopped  
 3 celery ribs, sliced  
 1 medium onion, chopped  
 1 medium carrot, chopped  
 1/2 C. chopped red onion  
 1 bay leaf  
 1/2 C. flour  
 1 carton (32 oz.) chicken stock

1 can cream of chicken soup  
 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened  
 1/2 C. 2% milk  
 3/4 C. heavy whipping cream  
 2 1/2 C. frozen corn  
 2 1/2 C. cubed cooked turkey  
 2 C. refrigerated shredded hash brown potatoes  
 3/4 C. turkey gravy  
 1 T. dried parsley  
 Green onions and hard-boiled eggs for garnish

In a Dutch oven, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp, stirring occasionally. Remove with a slotted spoon. Drain on paper towels. Discard drippings, reserving 1/4 C. in pan. Add celery, onion, carrot, red onion, and bay leaf to pan; cook and stir over medium-high heat until vegetables are tender, 8 to 10 minutes. Stir in flour until blended; gradually whisk in stock. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir 2 minutes. Add soup, cream cheese, milk, and cream; mix well. Stir in corn, turkey, hash browns, gravy, parsley, and 3/4 C. reserved bacon; reduce heat. Cook, covered, for 20 minutes, stirring chowder occasionally. Discard bay leaf. Serve with remaining bacon. Garnish with green onion and chopped boiled eggs for garnish.

## Chocolate Crinkle Cookies

I love these chocolate crinkle cookies. They go great with coffee, tea, or cold milk. They are a great addition to a cookie tray because they are pretty!

2 C. semisweet chocolate chips, divided  
 2 T. butter, softened  
 1 C. sugar  
 2 large egg whites, room temperature  
 1 1/2 t. vanilla  
 1 1/2 C. flour  
 1 1/2 t. baking powder

1/4 t. salt  
 1/4 C. water  
 1/2 C. powdered sugar  
 In a microwave, melt 1 C. chocolate chips. Stir until smooth. Beat butter and sugar until crumbly. Let stand 2 minutes. Add egg whites and vanilla. Beat well. Stir in melted chocolate. In a large bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually add to butter mixture alternately with water. Stir in remaining 1 C. chocolate chips. Refrigerate, covered, until easy to handle, about 2

hours. Preheat oven to 350. Shape dough into 1-inch balls. Roll in powdered sugar; place 2 inches apart on baking sheets coated with cooking spray. Bake until set 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

## French Christmas Cookies

These are unusual cookies in that they have a graham cracker consistency and look great in little foil cups. They have a great taste and make

just the right size so that you can eat them along with other cookies.

1/2 C. butter, softened  
 1 C. packed brown sugar  
 1 C. 2% milk  
 2 3/4 C. graham cracker crumbs  
 2 C. finely chopped pecans  
 2 C. milk chocolate chips  
 Topping  
 1/2 C. milk chocolate chips, melted

Preheat oven to 375. In a large bowl, cream butter and brown sugar until light and

See KITCHEN, Page 12

## The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide Service Corner

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## News (Continued from page 7)

**2024 Harvest for All Top Contributors**  
 First Place Overall, Fayette CFB Young Leaders  
 Second Place Overall, Carroll CFB Young Leaders  
 Third Place Overall, Henry CFB Young Leaders

**2024 Harvest for All Top Category**  
 First Place Pounds of Food Donated, Fayette CFB Young Leaders

First Place Dollars Raised, Carroll CFB Young Leaders  
 First Place Hours Volunteers, Carroll CFB Young Leaders  
 The Illinois Harvest for All program demonstrates the generosity of Illinois agriculture. IFB encourages local involvement and partners with county Young Leader Programs, FFA chapters and Collegiate Farm Bureau chapters to fight food insecurity in Illinois.

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# Classifieds

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rentals & real estate



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Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com  
Fax: (262) 725-6844

444841

For details on placing an ad in our  
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Serving the communities in Jo Daviess County Serving the communities in Stephenson County  
**the Scoop Today Shopper's Guide**

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## for sale

## real estate

### Announcements

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

**DISCLAIMER NOTICE** 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.

### Livestock

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### Pets

**AKC LAB Puppies**-\$900. 608-445-4107 Facebook: Two Rivers Retrievers Kennel. Amazing hunting and house dogs with strong pedigrees.

### Other Real Estate

**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



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17 Papers

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Are you selling a single item for  
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Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price


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**IN\*CI\*DENTAL\*LY**

# Crohn's disease and Colitis awareness week

Inflammatory bowel diseases (IBDs, Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis) are chronic and relapsing/remitting disorders of the gastrointestinal tract. Of the more than ten million people in the world living with IBDs, approximately 1.6 million reside in the United States. There is no known cure for IBDs, so it is imperative for patients with these diseases to understand the mechanisms that contribute to the development of IBDs and how to control the symptoms. Therefore, the first week in December has been designated as Crohn's Disease and Colitis Awareness Week.

While Ulcerative Colitis (UC) primarily affects the lining of the large intestine (colon), Crohn's disease (CD) can involve any part of the GI tract, from the oral cavity to the anus. So, it should come as no surprise that poor oral health can contribute to exacerbation of IBD symptoms and IBD damage, flare-ups, and the medications used to control them can contribute to poor oral health.

To develop a cure for any disease you must fully understand the interplay of environmental and genetic factors that cause it. IBDs are not just caused by a genetic pre-disposition, but environmental and immune factors contribute to the development and severity of these two autoimmune diseases. In addition, inflammatory responses vary from patient to patient as well as over the duration of time an individual has the disease. Numerous medical research studies are being conducted around the world to try to understand why some people with IBDs oral symptoms and others have do not and if changes in oral inflammation and bacteria imbalances happen before or after similar changes in the gut.

What we do know is that patients with IBDs have a decrease of bacteria with anti-inflammatory capacities and an increase of bacteria with inflammatory capacities compared to healthy individuals. Further, in both patients who have periodontal disease and those with IBDs, this harmful bacterium triggers an excessive inflammatory response in their immune system, which in turn initiates tissue damage either in the bowel or at the tooth supporting structures.

In patients with oral disease, harmful oral bacteria can enter the bloodstream and induce the development of IBD via



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

several mechanisms. These include destruction of the intestinal epithelial barrier, release of pro-inflammatory cytokines (small proteins that function as a chemical messenger in the immune system), disruption of the immune system (oral bacteria can migrate to the gut interrupting normal signal pathways) and an overstimulated inflammatory response.

While we wait for a cure for IBDs, medical and oral physicians around the

world seek to educate their patients and the public how to mitigate the symptoms by recognizing and avoiding situations that trigger flare-ups. A healthy diet is not only a cornerstone for your oral health, but it is critical to control your IBD. Diets rich in saturated fatty acids, sugar and processed meats increase the risk of developing IBD and promote flare-ups and further damage. Conversely, a high-fiber diet has been found to reduce the risk of CD. Fruits and vegetables contain vitamins, minerals and fiber that not only promote gut health, but the way in which your gut bacteria metabolizes fiber produces beneficial metabolites that have an anti-inflammatory affect. IBDs affect how your body absorbs

certain nutrients, especially during a flare up. Low levels of key vitamins or minerals makes you more susceptible to developing oral health symptoms. Angular cheilitis (inflamed lips), glossitis (inflamed tongue), aphthous ulcers (canker sores), halitosis (bad breath) and changes in how things taste or a bad taste in the mouth are some of the potential manifestations of a vitamin deficiency with IBD.

Some medications used to treat CD and UC can cause dry mouth. Your oral cavity relies on saliva to remove food and bacteria and neutralize acids. A decreased salivary flow increases the risk of developing dental caries. Your dentist can recommend dental toothpastes and rinses

formulated to help with this decrease in saliva. He or she may also recommend fluoride rinses or trays if you are experiencing acid reflux and/or vomiting during flare-ups or extensive decay. Avoid toothpastes with Sodium Lauryl Sulphate, as this ingredient is caustic and has an astringent or drying out effect that can further irritate your dry oral tissues and mouth ulcers. Some Colgate, Oral B, and Sensodyne toothpastes are formulated without this ingredient, so check the ingredient list before purchasing.

Smoking does not just harm your dental health; it contributes to

both the development and exacerbation of CD and UC. Patients who have IBDs and use tobacco products are much more likely to have more extensive disease symptoms, flare-ups, and damage.

There is correlation between the severity or exacerbation of oral symptoms with the severity of gut inflammation, so maintaining your oral health with regular check-ups, daily oral care, and a healthy diet, while avoiding the use of tobacco products, will have a positive effect on keeping your IBD in check. This in turn will help promote your oral health.

## REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS  
Carrington Mortgage Services LLC  
Plaintiff  
vs.  
Kerri Lynn Gerke; et. al.  
Defendant

23 FC 60  
CALENDAR

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on January 15, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
P.I.N. 18-18-01-206-005.  
Commonly known as 1440 S. Burchard Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-23-07033 IJSC  
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
intercountyjudicialsales.com  
13256825  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide  
Dec. 11, 18 & 25, 2024

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS  
Fifth Third Bank N.A.  
Plaintiff  
vs.  
Deborah L. Roush; et. al.  
Defendant

24 FC 25  
CALENDAR

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on January 15, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
P.I.N. 07-14-29-100-003.  
Commonly known as 593 North Henderson Road, Freeport, IL 61032.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-24-03263 IJSC  
INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
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13256826  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide  
Dec. 11, 18 & 25, 2024)

**DUE TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25**

**The Deadline to place your *Display* ad will be Thursday, Dec. 19 at 3:00 P.M.**

**The *Classified* deadline will be Friday, Dec. 20 at 10:00 A.M.**

**Rock Valley Publishing Wishes Everyone A SAFE & MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

# Freeport Police shots fired incident

Officers of the Freeport Police Department are investigating a shots fired incident that occurred in the 1000 block of S. Kunkle Blvd on Dec. 4, 2024 at 2 a.m. During the course of the investigation, Officers discovered that an apartment in the 1000 block of S. Kunkle Blvd had been struck by a projectile. The investigation into this incident is ongoing at this time. The Freeport Police Department is asking anyone who may have information about this incident to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235-8222, State-line Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW, or through texting at Tip411.

## •Kitchen (Continued from page 9)

fluffy. Beat in milk. Gradually beat cracker crumbs into creamed mixture. Stir in nuts and 2 C. chocolate chips. Fill 2-inch foil baking cup lines three-fourths full. Place 1 inch apart on a 15x10x1 inch baking pan. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until set. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely. Drizzle with melted chocolate; let stand until set. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

### Chocolate Snowballs

There have been a lot of white snowball cookies, but this one has chocolate in it. It makes for a pretty addition with the powdered sugar balls on a holiday cookie tray or use them for a great gift.

- ¾ C. butter, softened
- ½ C. sugar
- ½ t. salt
- 1 egg, room temperature
- 2 t. vanilla
- 2 C. flour
- 1 C. chopped nuts
- 1 C. (6 oz.) chocolate semi-sweet chips

Powdered sugar  
Preheat the oven to 350. In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar, and salt until light and fluffy, 5 to 7 minutes. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Gradually beat in flour. Stir on nuts and chocolate chips. Shape dough into 1-inch balls; place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake until set and bottoms are lightly browned, 15 to 20 minutes. Cool on pans 2 minutes. Roll warm cookies in powdered sugar. Cool completely on wire racks. If desired, reroll cookies in powdered sugar.

### Cherry Bars

Everyone knows that I love a great bar cookie. This one has a cherry flavor which is different from a lot of chocolate cookies that are made at Christmas. Be sure to buy the cherry pie filling that has extra cherries in it; there are two kinds, and it is worth the extra money to get the more expensive pie filling with extra cherries.

- 1 C. butter, softened

- 2 C. sugar
- 1 t. salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- ¼ t. almond extract
- 3 C. flour
- 2 cans (21 oz.) each cherry pie filling

### Glaze

- ½ C. powdered sugar
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- ½ t. almond extract
- 2-3 T. milk

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large bowl, cream the butter, sugar and salt until light and fluffy. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in extracts. Gradually add the flour.

Spread 3 cups batter into a greased 15x10x1 baking pan. Spread with pie filling. Drop the remaining batter by teaspoonfuls over the filling. Bake 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely in the pan on a wire rack.

In a bowl, mix in the powdered sugar, extracts and enough milk to reach

desired consistency. Drizzle over the top.

### Final Thoughts

There are a lot of events happening in Lena in the next few weeks. Breakfast with Santa will be Saturday, Dec. 14 from the 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Lena Fire station. The Le-Win Music Department is presenting a fundraising Christmas Variety Showcase on Sunday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center. Reservations are required.

We continue to encourage small business shopping. There are many great stores in Lena to buy gifts from: DeVoe Floral, Down Home Farm Toys, Home-town Trophies, Lena Drug Store, Dollar General, and Brandon's Hardware; fashions at Sweet Stitches, Head to Toe, and Ev Marie Boutique; Antiques and Collectibles at Lena Mercantile; Candy and gifts at Sweetie Me and meat and cheese gifts at A.J.'s and Torkelson

Cheese. Don't forget all the eating places we have to purchase gift cards: Café 17, Coaches, Garden View, Mulligans, Main Street Eats and Treats, Saporitos Pizza, Subway, Sullivan Foods, and Rafter's. We also have gas cards available at FS Fast Service and Casey's. And for everything else there is always My Friend's Closet Thrift Shop. You can buy a lot there for a little amount of money. Have a good week preparing for Christmas!

We are searching for recipes for 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.

**SULLIVAN'S FOODS**  
HOT DEAL  
WONDERFUL HALOS 3 LB BAG 2.99  
Look For Our **Holiday Cookie Walk**  
Details Inside!  
PERFECT FOR YOUR PRIME RIB DINNER  
USDA Choice **BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE ROAST** 10.99/lb

Prices Effective: Wednesday, December 11 thru Tuesday, December 17, 2024  
**CHRISTMAS EVE STORES CLOSE AT 5PM | CHRISTMAS DAY STORE HOURS ARE 8AM-NOON**

**FRESH MEAT**  
Sullivan's Signature **HOLIDAY ROAST** Certified Angus Beef® brand **EYE OF ROUND ROAST TIED TOGETHER WITH A CENTER CUT BONELESS PORK LOIN ROAST** 4.99/lb  
USDA Choice **BONELESS BEEF NEW YORK STRIP HALF ROAST** 8.99/lb  
Certified Angus Beef® brand **BONELESS TOP ROUND ROAST** 4.99/lb  
Sullivan's Signature **SEASONED HAM LOAF** 3.99/lb  
US Grade A **WHOLE CHICKEN** 1.49/lb  
Sullivan's Signature **FRESH MADE PORK BREAKFAST OR ITALIAN SAUSAGE OR GROUND PORK** 2.88/lb  
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**CAKE OF THE WEEK**  
HOLIDAY **CUPCAKES** White or Chocolate 6 ct 2.99  
CHRISTMAS **TREE SHAPE CUT OUT CINNAMON ROLL** 9 ct 7.99  
SANTA **FACE CAKE** Chocolate or White 8 inch round 7.99  
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Kretschmar Brand **BLACK FOREST HAM** Sliced to Order 6.99/lb  
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Sullivan's Signature **POTATO SALAD** 2.99/lb  
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CHRISTMAS **DIP FEST** Spinach Dip or Dill Dip 5.99/lb  
Sullivan's Signature **MACARONI SALAD** 2.99/lb

**SULLIVAN'S FOODS**  
GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE AT SERVICE DESK!  
Over 31 varieties **MIX & MATCH**  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday **December 13th, 14th, 15th**  
**Christmas COOKIE WALK**  
\$8.99/lb  
GREAT TO SERVE, GIVE, OR EAT!  
December 13th & 14th, 10am-6pm  
December 15th, 10am-1pm

**FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup> ONE DAY SALE**  
Friday, November 13th, 2024 Only.  
PERFECT FOR THE COCKPOT ON OVEN  
US Gov't Insp **BONELESS COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS** BOGO  
80% **LEAN GROUND BEEF** 2 lb package 3.13/lb  
Deli Fresh **ROTISSERIE CHICKEN** 5.13 ea  
Bakery Fresh **PUMPKIN PIE** 8 Inch 3.13  
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MEDLEY **GRAPE TOMATOES** pint 1.13  
Best Choice **CANNED VEGETABLES** Select Varieties 14.5 - 15.25 oz 2/\$1.30  
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Crystal Sugar **GRANULATED SUGAR** 4 lb 3.49

**SULLIVAN'S FOODS**  
Holiday Heat at Home **DINNERS**  
Lasagna Family Dinner Serves 6-8 \$64.99  
Family Ham Dinner Serves 8 \$139.99  
Order by December 20, 2024!  
Available for pick-up COLD on Monday, December 25 or Tuesday, December 24 anytime during store business hours.  
Bump Up Sides \$12 for three 1 pound sides