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WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4, 2024



JO DAVIESS COUNTY FARM BUREAU / BRENT POLLARD FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Local young farmers rally to help farmers affected by hurricane

On Saturday, Nov. 30 the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Young Leaders in conjunction with Ogle, Carroll, Stephenson, and Winnebago-Boone County Farm Bureaus, held a donation hay drive to benefit farmers affected by Hurricane Helene. Six semi loads of hay were sent to North Carolina farmers thanks to donations and contributions from the community.

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Merry Christmas from: Nick Raab & Maya Curtis



447393

Obituary

PHILIP AUFMAN

Philip George Aufman blessed our world when he was born to Andrew Aufman and June (Emerson) Aufman on Nov. 19, 1951. He was the second born child and only son of very proud parents who had met in the Philippines while honorably serving their country in the military. Phil joined his sister Teresa (Sartain) who was 3 years older and ready to be the big sister, finally!

Out of high school Phil became an apprentice in sheet metal and joined The Sheet Metal Workers Union in which he was happy serving for 10 years. He gained so much experience in all types of construction builds, which he continued to build and tinker his entire life. There was nothing he couldn't do it seemed! He was able to overcome a fear of heights by working on the Sears Tower building in the early 1970's, putting in the HVAC runs and returns all the way up to the highest, unfinished floors.

While working as a sheet metal apprentice, he decided to join the Volunteer Firefighters of River Grove IL. He was ready to start his true calling in life: helping and serving others. Phil learned old school firefighting (no air packs, hose in hand, no no-mex hood) and served for 10 years as a volunteer. Phil had married his first wife right out of high school, and they had two beautiful children,



William and Kathy.

Phil was ready to firefight full-time and jumped at the opportunity to join the Schaumburg Fire Department in 1980, becoming part of the "Dirty Thirty" - 30 young men who all came on the job at the same time and formed one of the longest, strongest bonds of his life. The Brotherhood of Firefighters. Phil was a truckman to start, which he thoroughly enjoyed, but he loved the engine most. Phil loved the attack; he hunted fire and was never nervous or fearful. He would stay calm when most would be too scared to move, and he always provided that quiet, calm demeanor to any situation; especially to his brothers working a job.

Phil decided to take the LT's test and was ready to lead. He loved taking care of his guys and training others so they were as safe and knowledgeable as one could be as a new firefighter. There are situations and features in structures that can hang up someone wearing equipment, such as railings and fixed items and that did happen, but he was always the calm voice explaining how they could get out. He never lost air and had plenty left after the department is-

sued airpicks. Phil was very proud of his candidates but never jealous as they moved through the ranks. He knew where his heart was, and his place was on the engine as a LT where he could ALWAYS watch over his guys. He was always happy there.

It was there where he met the Love of his Life, Amy, who was a dispatcher for the Schaumburg Police and Fire. They bonded over the work that they both understood; the stresses and heartbreaks of the calls you keep inside to protect others, along with the victories great and small. They both had painful divorces, but Phil and Amy (Zumbrock) were married Oct. 7, 1999, and Phil became stepfather to two beautiful little girls, Jessica and Jacqueline. Shortly after they moved to Davis, then rural Lena, where they purchased a portion of the Alfred Schumacher Jr farm. They started a small-scale layer poultry, fruit and vegetable operation, Sunset Acres Farm. They sold market produce at the Lena Farmers Market for several years.

Phil served the Schaumburg citizens for 40 years and was actually "forced" to retire because he aged out. At 70 Phil wanted to try for the Illinois record for longest serving firefighter, but alas it was his time to move on. He was ready, but the hardest thing he ever did was to close the door on firefighting and the

tight bond of shift work with his brothers. And he never let them know how devastated he was at leaving the firehouse-and them that last day. His full-time job now was as a wonderful, caring, devoted and dutiful husband to Amy, which he was to the last day.

Phil passed quietly and peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of Nov. 23, 2024. Phil's wife Amy and devoted stepdaughter Jackie fought to resuscitate him until after Ofc Sierra of the Lena Police Dept arrived and took over and the brave volunteer firefighters of Freeport Rural Fire Protection arrived, who worked and did everything they possibly could, but were unfortunately unable to turn him back from his Lord and Savior's embrace.

Phil was preceded in death by his parents Andrew and June (Emerson), and brother-in-law Brian Sartain. He is survived by his big sister Teresa Sartain, niece Jennifer (Eli) Sanchez of New Mexico, his devoted wife Amy (Zumbrock) of Lena, his stepdaughters Jacqueline Jelen of Lena and Jessica (Adam) Behrman of Denver Colorado, granddaughters Jojo & Julia Behrman, his father & mother-in-law Lawrence & Nancy Zumbrock of Des Plaines, sister-in-law Julie (Steve) Unruh of Carpentersville, brothers-in-law Steve (Mary) Zumbrock of Wheaton and Ken (Chris) Zumbrock of Schaumburg, many nieces and nephews, and his eldest children William and Kathy who, although there was distance, Phil always loved and cherished.

Cremation rites have been accorded and condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonthfh.com. In lieu of flowers, please donate to T2T.org aka The Tunnel to Towers Foundation that cares for the families of our bravest fallen EMS.

New vehicle helps Highland bring medical services to rural communities

Highland Community College's (HCC) Nursing and Allied Health program is hitting the road. A mobile medical unit, unveiled today, will bring care to those who need it most in Northwest Illinois. Set up to function as a health care clinic on wheels, the specialized vehicle provides new avenues of student instruction and community services to residents of Stephenson, Ogle, Jo Daviess and Carroll counties. The college hosted nearly a hundred guests at a ribbon-cutting for the mobile medical unit.

"To our knowledge, no other community college in Illinois has a mobile medical unit like this one," said HCC President Chris Kuberski. "This unit creates a unique learning experience for our students while also serving the health care needs of the communities across our Northwest Illinois district."

Beyond being a high-tech learning tool for current Nursing and Allied Health students, the vehicle will meet prospective students where they are for such services as sports physicals at local high schools. Perhaps most critically, the mobile medical unit will help fill gaps in the area's health-care deserts.

"We are excited about the opportunity to build stronger, healthier connections within our community. This unit will not only be an asset for health care, but also a symbol of partnership, compassion and a shared responsibility to care for one another," said Alicia Kepner, Highland's coordinator of Nursing and Allied Health. "We can provide essential check-ups, health screenings and vaccinations for those who may not otherwise have access to these services — whether they live in a rural area, face financial barriers or have limited transportation options."

HCC's nursing program funded the mobile medical unit with a \$300,000 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services. Former Congresswoman Cheri Bustos assisted Highland with pursuing this opportunity during her time as the U.S. representative from Illinois's 17th congressional district.

"This was not an 'I alone can do it' situation," said Bustos, who helped Highland secure the grant through a Community Project Funding Request. "You partnered. You worked together. You told our congressional office how this wasn't just a Highland Community College project — this was a community project. ... For me, that was enough to say, 'Let's make this happen.'"

The Greater Freeport Partnership chosen this morning's ribbon-cutting, and the project has been supported by multiple community organizations, some of which include Freeport Health Network, Sisters of St. Mary Health, the Stephenson County Health Department and the Salvation Army.

"The mobile medical unit allows our instructors and students to collaborate with these organizations — exposing students to a variety of settings in their education and ensuring they are prepared to care for those in our community after graduation," said Dr. Stephanie Eymann, HCC's dean of Nursing and Allied Health. "Through this project, we hope to continue those partnerships while providing a unique and innovative educational outlet for HCC students to serve some of our most vulnerable neighbors."

To learn more about Nursing and Allied Health at Highland Community College, visit highland.edu.



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On Monday, the Le-Win Stadium Committee announced Community Bank will be the Stadium Sponsor for the new complex, taking them half-way to their fundraising goal of \$1.25 million with a donation of \$625,000.

More than a football field

Community Bank announced as Stadium Sponsor for Le-Win's new community sports complex

For the average visitor, a five-minute drive through the Village of Lena will establish its identity as a football community. But the folks who live there know it's about so much more. Sure, the handmade Panther Football signs lining the streets serve as a love letter to a team that has brought home six Illinois 1A championships since 2010, punched consecutive tickets to state since 2019 and enter each season fielding questions about their chances of adding to the trophy case.

Nobody appreciates that more than Head Coach Ric Arand, who now shares his name with the Panther's football field. As a gym teacher, father and Lena resident, Arand also knows that field tells a bigger story. He sees it as a gathering place where students of all ages, families, volunteers, veterans and neighbors bring out the best in one another—year-round. "I moved my family to Lena 30 years ago because of the community—namely the school and park districts. Since that time, both have maintained and improved their facilities, and the Village of Lena has totally revitalized the downtown business district," said Arand.

Now the school needs to resurface the track and make other major repairs, and it seems like the right time to address longtime community requests to improve and modernize the entire area. Arand explained, "We have an opportunity to extend our community's appeal to include a state-of-the-art athletic complex that will benefit every student that walks through our school doors—all athletes, marching band mem-

bers, hundreds of flag football players and their fans, as well as countless community members that use our facility daily. This will truly be a community facility!"

Private donors get in the game

The Le-Win Stadium Committee consists of school, business and community members who are raising funds to digitally enhance the current scoreboard and replace the grass field with high quality field turf to provide a consistent playing surface—a goal that will require \$1,250,000 in donations. This is in addition to the school's \$2,150,000 investment in new bleachers with a 900+ person capacity, track resurfacing and expansion from six to eight lanes, drainage repairs

and hard-surface pathways.

The total project cost is estimated at \$3.4 Million.

In October, the Stadium Committee launched a website and Facebook group to share project details with the public. And now they are much closer to their goal as they announce Community Bank as their Stadium Sponsor—a singular category reserved for their \$625,000 contribution. It comes with name rights to the stadium for 10 years

"We at Community Bank, with locations in Lena, Winslow, Orangeville and Warren, believe that school districts are the most vital assets in the communities we serve and, to that end, investing in the schools is investing in the community," said Bob Lyvers, President of Commu-

nity Bank.

"Keeping our communities financially healthy and prosperous is our utmost concern. We are excited and happy to invest in this project as we feel this is a step toward keeping the Lena-Winslow Community School District and the area it serves vibrant and growing."

The Lyvers family, who raised their children in the Lena-Winslow school district, also provided a generous personal contribution toward the project, as have other familiar

See STADIUM, Page 13

Broncos fall to Warren, River Ridge at Scales Mound Tournament

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

It has been a slow start to the 2024-2025 boys basketball season for the Orangeville Broncos. After suffering a 90-16 loss in the season opener, the Broncos went on to fall in back-to-back games against Warren and River Ridge.

On Nov. 27, the Broncos faced off with the Warren Warriors in their second game of the Scales Mound Turkey Tournament. Warren had also dropped their opening game of the tournament as they fell 78-41 to Dakota.

The Broncos struggled to stop Warren's leading scorer, Treyton Pafford. With a big first half, Pafford helped Warren take control of this game early on. By the end of the first quarter, the Broncos faced a 15-9 deficit. They were outscored 25-7 in the second half. With that, Orangeville went into the halftime break trailing 40-16.

The Broncos also struggled to get anyone going offensively. Kaiden Baker led the way in scoring with eight points, and three others finished with six in Drew Kloeping, Amery Dinderman, and Zavion McClain. They just

didn't have anyone takeover, and they ultimately fell to Warren 67-31. Orangeville's Junior Varsity team did pick up a 47-35 win over the Warriors.

Things didn't get any easier when the Broncos ran into the River Ridge Wildcats just a few days later. River Ridge had their first two games of the tournament as well. However, they fell in close games to Galena and Pearl City. The Wildcats got their first win when they ran into a depleted Bronco team in the third round.

Facing illness and injuries, the Broncos struggled to get anything going offensively once again. Defensively, they also struggled to stop the opposing team's leading scorer. It was also another first half that saw the Broncos face a seemingly insurmountable deficit at the break.

One big difference in this one was the number of trips each team took to the free throw line. The Wildcats shot 15 free throws as a team, sinking nine of them. The Broncos shot just three free throws of their own, hitting just one.

See BRONCOS, Page 4



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Hornets tip off 2024-2025 boys basketball season

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Scales Mound Hornets Varsity boys basketball team began their 2024-2025 season on Nov. 26 at this year's Scales Mound Turkey Tournament. They opened the new campaign with a big win over the Pearl City Wolves.

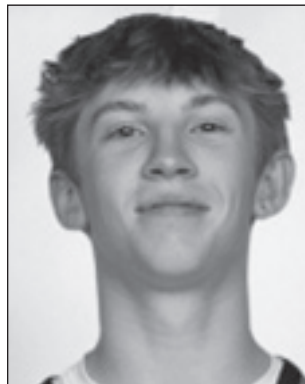
The Hornets are fresh off a season that ended a little earlier than they would have liked. After attending the state tournament in back-to-back seasons, the Hornets fell to Lena-Winslow in regional semi-final play last year. They also graduated their entire starting lineup, including a couple of household names.

Thomas Hereau wasn't just a team captain, he was a two-time All-State player, a First Team All-NUIC player, the conference MVP, and a school record holder. Hereau graduated as the Scales Mound all-time leader in made three-pointers, as well as free throw percentage. He also set the school record for points in a single season with 655 his junior year.

The Hornets also lost Evan Cogan, Jonah Driscoll, Seth Birkett, Max Wiene, and Travis Wallin. All of which made their own impact, but the major one being that they were members of the back-to-back state tournament teams. Now, the Hornets are in a new season with many new faces on the court.

Leading the way for the Hornets is an experienced trio of three-year varsity athletes in Derrick Distler, Connor Ellis, and Kaden Deurr. They also have a trio of second-year varsity players in Aidan Soppe, Payton Van Lent, and Degan Busch.

The Hornets also have sophomore Brennan Schnowske who head coach Erik Kudronowicz had slated to be an early contributor. Kud-



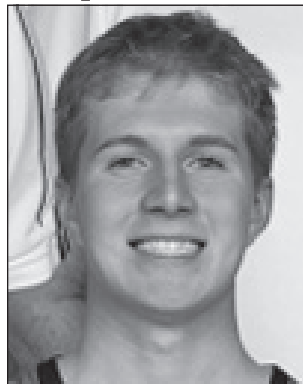
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Connor Ellis: Senior captain, 17 games played last year.

ronowicz called Schnowske a "very skilled scorer in the open court, off the dribble, and at the three-point line." Adyn Travis, Khai Ellsworth, Bode Dittmar, and Kamran Meftahi round out this year's roster.

Despite the new faces, Kudronowicz, has the utmost confidence in this year's roster. Although they weren't on the starting lineup, a good chunk of the roster has not just varsity experience, but they know how to win. "The Scales Mound Hornets not only have a nucleus of players to rely on, but have plenty of capable basketball players ready to earn new roles and spots with this team. I look for this team to play competitive basketball all season long, while being one of the best teams in the NUIC West, and the region," Kudronowicz shared before the start of the season.

The Hornets graduated their entire starting lineup, and yet the 19-year head coach expects the team's experience to be an early strength. "This group of returning Hornets have played at a high level over their basketball careers. However, they have had a great group of players gradu-



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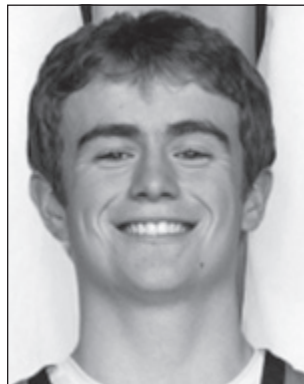
Derrick Distler: Senior Captain, 7.2 PPG last year.

ate out of the program. This group will have to pave their own path in Hornet basketball lore," Kudronowicz said.

With 14 players on the varsity roster, the Hornets will have a versatile attack this year. "We have size, experience, and quickness. We should be able to match any team and style," Kudronowicz explained. He expects this year's team to be one of his better offensive teams. "This version of the Scales Mound Hornets is the most offensive group, with a greater ability to score baskets consistently," Kudronowicz said while noting that they averaged over 60 points-per-game over the last few seasons together.

Kudronowicz is well aware of the type of competition the team will have to overcome if they want to see continued success. "I would like to think that the Hornets will have a chance to be in the mix for the NUIC West Conference Championship. However, the defending NUIC Conference champion East Dubuque Warriors have the advantage with the number of returning players that they possess. East Dubuque, this Scales Mound team, and Galena lead the group of Western division teams. The league will be ultra-competitive and very balanced for the 2024-2025 season," Kudronowicz said.

The Hornets ran into some of that competition top open the new year. After beating Pearl City to begin the Scales



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing

Kaden Deurr: Junior Captain, 5 PPG and 50 assists last year.

Mound Turkey Tournament, the Hornets went on to Galena and East Dubuque. Galena came down to the wire, but Scales Mound eventually fell 57-54. They lost 67-40 against East Dubuque.

The Hornets hit the road on Dec. 7 to take on the Lena-Winslow Panthers. They return home on Dec. 16 to play host to Marquette. That game tips off at 6:30 p.m.

•Broncos

(Continued from page 3)

By the end of the first quarter, River Ridge had already jumped out to a 23-12 advantage. Another big second quarter saw the game blow wide open as the Wildcats took a 49-20 lead into the break. Orangeville tried to keep pace from three-point range, where they sunk five shots as a team. Kloeping, Baker, Joe Isenberger, Boden Gustafson, and Nathan Briggs each hit a three-pointer in the game.

Briggs led the Broncos in scoring with eight points, while Isenberger was right behind him with seven. Kloeping added five as Orangeville fell to River Ridge 78-30.

On Wednesday, Dec. 4 the Broncos travel to take on the Stockton Blackhawks at 7 p.m. They return home on Dec. 10 to play host to the Dakota Indians at 6:45 p.m.

Wildcats place second at Dakota Tournament

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound (RR-SM) Wildcats got their season off to a hot start by rattling off five consecutive wins. They didn't suffer a loss until they reached the championship round of this year's Dakota Thanksgiving Tournament.

The Wildcats opened their new season with a big win over the Pearl City Wolves. They hardly broke a sweat as they beat Pearl City by a score of 44-18. Senior Laiken Haas got her season started with a bang as she dropped 17 points in the victory.

That was a sign of things to come. In their next non-conference game, the Wildcats blew out Milledgeville 37-19. Once again, Haas continued to find success as she led the team with 12 points. Sarah Winter quietly had a big day with six rebounds and three defensive steals.

After the 2-0 start, things would pick up as the Wildcats began participating in this year's Dakota Turkey Tournament on Nov. 25. They began the tournament by taking on the host team Dakota Indians in what was their closest game up to that point.

In what RR-SM head coach, David Wiegel, described as a difficult shooting night, the Wildcats managed to overcome an aggressive effort from the Indians. Fortunately for the Wildcats, they were boosted by an early lead that they maintained until the very end. Haas got the Wildcats going with a trio of baskets in the first quarter. Winter added four points of her own, including a pair of trips to the free throw line. Kaci Patterson sunk a three-pointer that helped the Wildcats take a 13-8 lead in the first.

That advantage proved to be crucial throughout the game. Although the Wildcats struggled offensively, they still maintained their slim lead over the Indians. By halftime, they held a 23-16 lead. At the end of three, they were up 30-24 and in the end, they picked up a 37-30 victory. Haas led the way in scoring with 17 points. Winter nearly reached double figures as she was next up with nine points. Ellie Rife added three points in the win, all of which came from the free throw line.

On Nov. 27, the Wildcats faced their first repeat matchup of the season as they took on Pearl City in Dakota. They proved the season opener was no fluke as they went on to beat the Wolves by a nearly identical score of 45-19. Winter reached the double-digit mark as she led the team in scoring with 11 points. Kenley Patterson was next up with nine, all of which came from three-point range. Berkeley Mensendike added six points in the victory.

With the win, the Wildcats improved to 4-0 on the young season. They also set themselves up with an opportunity to play in the tournament's championship game. On the morning of Saturday, Nov. 30, RR-SM faced off with the North Boone Vikings to advance to the championship round. Both teams hit the floor ready to play in the opening quarter. Things went back-and-forth, but spreading the ball around helped the Wildcats take an early lead. Kenley, Halle Wiegel, Haas, Mensendike, and Winter all scored in the first quarter as RR-SM jumped out to a 14-11 lead.

The offensive theme continued throughout the game. Eventually, the Wildcats had three players in double figures as they ran away with it at the end. Haas led the team with 18 points, but Kenley and Winter each finished with 10 points. Mensendike added six as the Wildcats won by a score of 46-33.

The Wildcats ran into their first real test of the season when they played the Byron Tigers in the championship round. Byron entered the game with a zero in their loss column and that is exactly how they would leave it. RR-SM claimed second place as they fell to the Tigers 52-26.

The Wildcats are back in action on Dec. 7 when they play host to the Eastland Cougars at 1:30 p.m.

Salvation Army of Freeport Christmas Campaign

The Local Salvation Army of Freeport is hosting their Annual Christmas Campaign. There is a need for Red Kettle Bell Ringers. If available to ring the bell for one hour or more, please visit registertoring.com. If in need assistance in signing up, please contact Sue Groner, Red Kettle Coordinator, at 815-541-1949 or email sgron112@gmail.com. The Salvation Army Toy Giveaway will give toys to over 500 Children. There will be a Festival of Giving Toy Drive at Cub Foods on Dec. 7 from 6:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Toys for all ages are needed. Unwrapped toys can be dropped at the drive. Monetary donations are also accepted.

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Around the Northern Hills

According to the Census of Agriculture, roughly 108,000 Illinoisans farm, which is just a small portion of the population. Yes, farming and an organization that supports farmers probably doesn't matter to you in the way that they mattered to your great grandparents, but they do matter, just in a different way. Farming may not be your job, but for many of us, it's the economic foundation we're standing on. With almost 1 million agriculture-related jobs in Illinois, more than 13% of Illinois jobs are supported by agriculture. It's the source of your food (Jo Daviess County is #1 in the state for beef production and the total number of cattle, the #1 alfalfa producer, and the #3 dairy county), and it's still one of the top economic drivers of your small town. Agriculture is not only



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

dependent on those in production agriculture, it includes the driver that takes the products to market, the mechanic that keeps the machinery running, the factory worker that makes tires for the equipment, those that work in processing that convert the farm commodities into foods that consumers enjoy, the chef that prepares the food at your favorite restaurant, and the mom who picks out the food to feed her family just to name a few. On a different note, Farm Bureau is continually investing in member programs, educational efforts

(such as Ag in the Classroom activities) and investing in our future leaders (through scholarships and leadership programs). So, do farming and Farm Bureau matter to you, as much as they mattered to your ancestors? Maybe not. But if you take time to study your roots and look around at the people, industries, and institutions that are helping enrich your community and everyday life, you might find out that they matter even more.

Jo Daviess County Plat Books

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

See **EGGERS**, Page 16

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

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

toms, 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.

Highway 64 Consignment Auction

December 6th - Live & Online & December 8th - Timed Online Only
Auction Starts @ 8:00 AM - Auction Location: 5498 Hwy 64 Baldwin, IA 52207

OVER 1500+ ITEMS FOR AUCTION!!!

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Hwy 64 Office: 563-673-6400
Scott Franzen: 319-480-3604
Sheri Dosland: 563-212-0453



St. Joseph Equipment Liquidation & Johnson Tractor Inventory Reduction
Tuesday, December 10th - 9:00 AM - Live & Online Auction
Auction Location: N1751 Co Rd M, La Crosse, WI 54601
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Large Selection Of Late Model Farm and Construction Equipment
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Primary Contact: Patrick Johnson 815-355-1988 - Eric Johnson 608-751-1956 - Mike Powers 608-214-5761



464011

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LIVE & ONLINE
SATURDAY, DEC. 7 • 10 A.M.
8284 RIDGE ROAD, ROCK FALLS, IL 61071
(IN-PERSON VIEWING WILL BE 8 A.M. DAY OF AUCTION)

ITEMS: 474 Lots of vintage farm toys, diecast cars, peddle tractors, Ertl John Deere, Minneapolis Moline, Massey Ferguson, Allis Chalmers, Caterpillar, Case IH, Ford, Oliver, American Muscle, Tonka, Road & Truck, Washington Mint, Franklin Series & Much More.

Visit Youngsauctionil.com scroll down click on Proxibid to get registered for this suction or come in person & bid live!
View all items with photos at Youngsauctionil.com, then click on Proxibid.
Please call if you need any help or have any questions!

Collections of Dino Dean Stephenitch & Gail Dancy

TERMS: Cash, checks, or credit cards. Have positive ID.
AUCTIONEERS: Rob Young, IL #441000593, 815-632-8000; Kevin Conklen, Sale Manager, 815-590-8027.

VERY LARGE PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY, DEC. 14 - 9 A.M. START
4036 EAST 2351 RD. (HOXSEY RD.), SERENA, IL 60549

ITEMS: Guns, Tools, Shop Equipment, Collectibles, Household, Blacksmith Tools, Forge, Trucks, Plows, Tractor, Motorcycles, Mowers, Comic Book Collection, Sports Cards, & Much More!

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No Late Consignments will be accepted.

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463575

Our Area Churches Welcome You

APPLE RIVER UMC

102 E. Baldwin St., P.O. Box 188,
Apple River, IL 61001

Pastor Libby Rutherford (815) 990-1428
Church (815) 594-2223

- **Sunday Worship – 9 a.m.**
- Bible Study - Every Monday 9 a.m.
- Friendly Folks - Casual Attire - Join Us!*

CALVARY CHURCH OF STOCKTON

315 W. Maple St., Stockton, IL 61085
815-947-2414

Pastor Scott Hess

E-Mail: calvarychurchofstockton@yahoo.com

- **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 8:45 a.m.**
- Communion and Potluck every 1st Sunday (except no potlucks during summer)
- Monday Group Prayer - 6 p.m.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
- Every other Sat. Youth Group - 6 - 8 p.m.
- You may find our facebook page and weekly messages by searching for "Calvary Church of Stockton on facebook.com"

You are welcome! Please visit us!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON

600 N. Main St., Stockton

Pastor Chrissy Salser (815) 988-9450

E-Mail: cle600@mediacombb.net

Find us on Facebook at [ChristOnMainSt](https://www.facebook.com/ChristOnMainSt)

- **Worship times:** Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 10 a.m.
- **Sunday School: Sunday, 9 a.m.**

EBENEZER – SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 102, Pearl City, IL 61062

Pastor Randy Nicholas

See Facebook or call 815-291-1965

- **Sunday Worship: Currently 8:30 a.m.**
- Dec. worship is at Ebenezer-UCC Church
5421 S. Stone Church Road

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

720 N. Freedom Street, Lena, IL 61048
815-369-5591

Pastor Casey Dwyer, Pastor

- Adult bible study and Children's Sunday School - 8:45 a.m.
- **Sunday Morning Worship Service and Children's Church/Nursery – 10:00 a.m.**
- Awana Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (Sept. - April)
- Pastor's weekly sermons at www.lenafreechurch.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028

email: firstumcfoelizabeth@gmail.com

Pastor Donna Hoffman 608-293-0163

email: dhoffman8@gmail.com

- **Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.**
- Women's Faith Group -
1st Tuesday monthly - 9:30 a.m.

We are handicapped accessible

Find us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/fumcelizabeth

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 East Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048

Pastor Thomas Mosbo (815) 369-5552

- **Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 10:45 a.m. (Sept. - May)**
- Piece Corps Quilters –
Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

1904 S. Vel Tera Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028

Pastor Michael Burdett (815) 858-3843

- **Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.**
- Prayer meeting – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday services broadcasted at 11:30 a.m. on
Radio WCCI 100.3 FM

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

223 E. Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085

Father Mike Morrissey (815) 947-2545

- **Saturday Evening Mass – 4:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.**
and 5:00 p.m.
- Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

118 West Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048

Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 369-5291

- **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.**
- **Daily Dial-A-Devotion 815-369-4411**

MARTINTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

W8996 Lena St., Martintown, WI 53522

(1 mile north of Winslow, IL)

Pastor Kevin Cernek • 608-558-0974

- **Sunday Worship – 8 & 10:30 a.m.**
Worship inside or watch from the parking lot on the jumbotron
- **Sunday School for all ages – 9:30 a.m.**
- **Sunday Youth - 6 p.m.**
- **Tuesday Bible Study - 10:30 a.m.**
- **Thursday Prayer & Bible Study - 6 p.m.**

MCCONNELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

211 Hulbert Rd. P.O. Box 97,
McConnell, IL 61050

815-868-2324

Email: mcconnellcmtychurch@yahoo.com

Pastor Jordan Cernek

- **Sunday Worship – 8:45 a.m.**
Fellowship hour after every service
- Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/mcconnellcommunitychurch.com
- * *We are handicapped accessible*

NEW VINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

621 W. Lena St., Lena, IL 61048

(Coach's Gymnasium)

Pastor Doug Carroll 815-541-4112

- **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
with fellowship following
- **Communion first Sunday of each month**
- Bible Study Groups available
newvinelena.com
- Facebook: New Vine Community Church of Lena, IL
- * *We are handicapped accessible*

PROVIDENCE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

15010 W. Howardsville Road

Lena, IL 61048

217-357-3723

Pastors Robert Webb & Rob Webb

- **Sunday Worship**
- each 3rd Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
- Potluck lunch following service

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL 61048

(Turn on Salem Road at Eleroy Rest Stop)

Pastor Christopher Ham (815) 369-4511

- **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
- **Adult Sunday School - 9 a.m.**
(before service)
- **Children's Sunday School - 10 a.m.**
(during service)
- * *We are handicapped accessible*
- Watch our services or see our upcoming events on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/OldStoneChurchWithTheLightedCross/>

SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

635 East Schapville Road,

Elizabeth, IL 61028

Pastor Dottie Morizzo

(815) 845-2272

Cell (815) 238-0670

www.schapvillezion.org

- **Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.**
- Bible Study Classes Available

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

536 E. Schapville Road,

Scales Mound, IL 61054

Church number (815) 845-2061

Rev. James Mehlretter

Website: www.shepherdofhill.com

- **Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School (Sept. – May) – 8:45 a.m.**
- Holy Communion is celebrated weekly.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

608 East Railroad, Warren, IL 61087

Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312

- **Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m.**
- Reconciliation Sunday – 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

625 Country Lane Drive, Lena, IL 61048

Rev. Jason Shaw (815) 369-4035

- **Saturday Evening Worship – 5:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**
- Blast Program at 9:00 a.m.
- High School & Adult Sunday School
at 9:15 a.m.

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

229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062

www.stjohnspearlcity.org

815-443-2215

- **Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
- Christian Education for all Ages - 10:15 a.m.
- Handicapped Accessible

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028

Pastor David Russell

Church: 815-589-3367

- **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
"Celebrating 165 Years of Faith"

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001

Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312

- **Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.**
- Reconciliation Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

410 West Lena Street, Lena, IL 61048

Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 369-2810

- **Saturday Mass – 4:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday Mass – 10:00 a.m.**
- Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 – 3:50 p.m.

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

411 W. Catlin St., P.O. Box 506

Elizabeth, IL 61028

Pastor Mike Nesbit - Cell: 815-858-5621

Church: 815-858-3334

www.stpauelizabeth.org

All services are available to watch online@

Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Elizabeth, IL

YouTube channel: Pastor Mike Nesbit

- **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
- **Adult Bible Study - Sunday 10:30 a.m.**
- Super Sunday on the first Sunday of the month, with Sunday School from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
- Worship services will be held outside during the summer. Please bring a lawn chair.
- ALL ARE WELCOME.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENT

The Little Church with a Big Heart

1334 Sunnyside Road, Kent, IL 61044

1/2 mile north on Kent Road

- **Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.**
- **Holy Communion every Sunday**
- Women Meet at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday
- Chair Lift to Sanctuary

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Hudson & Benton St.,

Stockton, IL 61085

Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 947-2541

- **Sunday Worship – 11 a.m.**
- Adult Bible Studies Available
- Communion Every 1st Sunday
- Find us on website StocktonWUMC.org
or Facebook-Stockton Wesley United
Methodist Church
- * *Handicapped Accessible*

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

197 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089

Pastor Robert Patin (815) 230-1862

- 608-669-5770**
- **Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.**

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

10100 W. Sabin Church Rd.,

Pearl City, IL 61062

Pastor Wayne Fischer • 815-266-6260

Pastor Chip Sohl • 815-541-1425

- **Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.**
- **Children's Church - during church service**
- **Prayer Shawl Knitting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**



Come worship with us!

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. 8 for the Second Sunday of Advent. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Luke 3:1-6.

On Wednesday, Dec. 11 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. On Thursday Dec. 12 Friendship Club will meet at 12:30 p.m. for a Potluck, Fun and Fellowship, entertainment with "Mississippi Man".

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 Second Sunday of Advent at worship on Sunday, Dec. 8 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.

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, Dec. 4 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Dec. 5 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.

Calvary Church of Stockton

On Sunday, Dec. 8 the annual Christmas Cantata will be held at 6 p.m. under the direction of Lana Crandall. This year the title is "This is Christmas" composed by Mary MacDonald. Singers from the area churches have been practicing since October for this excellent program open to the public. Food and fellowship will follow in the Fellowship Hall of Calvary Church.

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.

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

Dec. 7 is the Christmas Parade in downtown Lena. Come to the Evangelical Free Church of Lena at 720 N. Freedom St. following the parade to warm up with friends, family and neighbors. Enjoy the refreshments, food, cookies and just a good time of visiting.

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.

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will be meeting Dec. 4 at 8 a.m. at Big Apple Family Restaurant, 1427 West Galena Ave, Freeport, Illinois.

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.



Help us make the holidays brighter for some very deserving children in our area that otherwise may not see Santa.

Make a monetary donation at any of our bank offices by December 10th. Apple River State Bank will also make a donation and then prepare Visa gift cards for the families. The gift cards will be delivered in time for Christmas.

Thank you for joining us in making our community a better place to live. Best wishes for a joyous holiday season!



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Elizabeth, IL • Hanover, IL
Hazel Green, WI • Darlington, WI
Galena, IL – First Community Bank

AppleRiverStateBank.com



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Lena's Hometown Christmas Parade

The Lena Business & Professional Association (LBPA) will host the 11th annual Lena's Hometown Christmas Parade on Saturday, Dec. 7 in downtown Lena. The parade will feature a variety of activities including a bounce house, hay wagon rides, the tree lighting and a visit from Santa. All activities are free to the community.

Many Lena Area Businesses will be open with special hours. There will be a Giving Tree for area families in need, a craft/vendor show at 406 S Schuyler (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.), free popcorn, a photobooth, and a mailbox for letters to Santa. The Lena Boy Scouts will also be selling wreaths.

Event schedule:

- Inflatables and Bounce Houses 4 - 6 p.m.
- Hay Wagon Rides 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
- Christmas Parade 6 p.m.
- Lighting of the Community Tree (following parade)
- Visit with Santa (following the parade)
- Hay Wagon Rides to resume after the parade



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Making a list

The Saturday, Dec. 7 Lena Christmas Parade will feature a mailbox for mailing letters to Santa.



Brandon's Hardware
Rental & Lumber

Enjoy Lena's
Hometown
Christmas Walk!

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

429324

Holiday fun

Head to downtown Lena on Saturday, Dec. 7 to play inflatable games, jump in the bounce house, and go for a hay wagon ride. These activities will held from 4 p.m. until the start of the parade at 6 p.m.

Lena's Hometown
Christmas
"Lena's Gingerbread Lane"

Join DeVoe Floral
in bringing in
the Holidays.
Open Saturday,
Dec. 7
until 8:00 p.m.
Refreshments and
Treats
In-Store Specials.

216 W. Main St. • Lena, IL
815-369-5549

HOURS: Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 8:30 a.m. - Noon
Devoefloral@yahoo.com

465137

MY FRIEND'S CLOSET

Christmas Items

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Wednesday extended hours till 8 p.m.

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New items put out daily!

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465140

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429325

Enjoy The Lena
Christmas Walk!

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465139

Conservative group asks U.S. Supreme Court to review Bost's challenge to how mail-in votes are counted in Illinois

By Ben Szalinski
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The conservative group Judicial Watch is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review a case filed by U.S. Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphysboro, challenging Illinois' law allowing mail-in ballots to be counted 14 days after the election.

Under Illinois law, ballots postmarked by Election Day can be counted as late as 14 days after the election as they arrive at local election authorities.

Bost's case argued that Illinois' law violates the federal law establishing Election Day by allowing votes to arrive and be counted for two weeks after the polls close. Two Illinois delegates at the Republican National Convention for President-elect Donald Trump, Laura Pollastrini and Susan Sweeney, are also part of Bost's lawsuit.

Two lower courts have already ruled against Bost's 2022 case against the Illinois State Board of Elections. The U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago ruled in August Bost lacked standing to sue in the case.

But the legal fight is not over for Judicial Watch, which filed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court on Nov. 19 asking the court to take up the case in hopes justices might strike down Illinois' law.

"Specific holdings in this case will tend to make the next electoral cycle as fraught as 2020," the group argues.

The filing cited numerous cases from 2020 challenging election laws and outcomes, some of which Judicial Watch was a part of, in efforts to block the counting of mail-in ballots.

Many other states also allow late-arriving mail-in ballots to be counted in the days after the election. Federal law regulates counting military ballots.

Judicial Watch's central argument to the U.S. Supreme Court is that the court of appeals in Chicago erred in its ruling that Bost lacked

standing. The court ruled it was Bost's "choice" to spend campaign resources to monitor post-election counting while on his way to a large victory. Bost argued he suffered damages by extending his campaign's operation for two weeks beyond the election to monitor counting.

The appeals court made a "major error by treating candidates' likely electoral prospects as relevant to the standing analysis, where a challenged statute inflicted real costs on their campaigns," Judicial Watch argued.

"Apparently, judges in pre-election cases must now try to predict electoral outcomes," the group said.

A State Board of Elections spokesperson declined to comment on pending litigation.

Bost, who has represented the 12th Congressional District in southern Illinois since 2015, was reelected this month with nearly 75 percent of the vote, according to preliminary results. Judicial Watch said it worried "illegal votes could diminish his margin of victory" and make it appear that he is growing more unpopular with his constituents. Bost himself argued his races have seen more mail-in ballots in recent campaigns.

Judicial Watch also argued Bost filed this case to preemptively correct perceived issues with the vote by mail law, which they believe gives him standing in federal court cases and is something the nation's high court should be interested in addressing.

The group called Bost's challenge "an ideal vehicle" for the court to rule on vote by mail. "The need to have that issue resolved, and outside of emergency litigation, is great," the group said.

Judicial Watch also pointed to largely unfounded concerns about the reliability of elections because of late counting of mail in ballots as another reason the U.S. Supreme Court needs to get involved.

"It is important that courts hear and resolve well-pleaded challenges by federal candidates to state time, place and manner regulations affecting their elections," the group said. "Aside from the

interests of the litigants, it is important that the public conclude that elections are run in an orderly, not arbitrary, fashion."

Republicans in Illinois and at the national level embraced

mail-in voting in the 2024 election cycle after pushing back against it in recent years. The Illinois Republican Party joined the Republican National Committee's "bank your vote" initiative, which

encouraged reliable Republican voters to vote early or by mail so campaign resources could be focused on turning out people on the fence about voting or who were undecided.



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Santa Clause is coming to town

Community members are invited to visit with Santa following the Christmas parade at the pavilion in downtown Lena on Saturday, Dec. 7.

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Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

It's hard to believe that 13 years ago I served as the McHenry County Farm Bureau intern. I served as their intern the summer between my Freshmen and Sophomore year in college. I learned so much during that summer, not only about agriculture, but also about the Farm Bureau. It is an experience I credit a lot to where I

am today. It was my first taste of Farm Bureau and the more I learned the more passionate I became.

One of my favorite parts of summer is that Stephenson County Farm Bureau offers a summer internship. We allow college students to come in and explore many aspects of agriculture. Interns experience Ag in The Classroom, day-to-day operations of

our office, and they are also able to explore other areas that they are specifically interested in. I am excited to announce we are now accepting applications for our 2025 Summer Intern. We are accepting applications through Jan. 8, 2025. For more information visit our Facebook or website www.stephensoncfb.org or email manager@stephensoncfb.org.

Travel preview meeting

County Farm Bureaus in Northwest Illinois partner with Tri-State travel to host multi-day trips. We will be hosting a travel preview for these trips at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Office on Jan. 15 at 5p.m. Upcoming trips include Mackinac Island in 2025 and Australia/New Zealand in 2026. Reservations are not required but appreciated. To RSVP, please call 815-232-3186 (Stephenson)

and 815-244-3001 (Carroll). These programs and trips are open to the public.

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 questions, please call our office at

815-244-3001.

Save on holiday travel

Illinois Farm Bureau members save on hotels including Choice Hotels, Wyndham Hotels and Resorts, Drury Hotels, Great Wolf Lodges and Sonesta International Hotels. To learn more about these discounts visit www.ilfb.org or call your county Farm Bureau Carroll 815-244-3001 and Stephenson 815-232-3186.

Village of Lena happenings

The Giving Tree will be available starting Nov. 30 at the Lena Mercantile. Stop by to grab an ornament to help make Christmas extra special for a local family. All wrapped gifts will need to be returned to the Lena Mercantile by Dec. 15 to be distributed to our local families.

The 11th annual Hometown Christmas Parade will be Saturday, Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. Enjoy the other festivities happening downtown starting at 3pm.

During times when there

is an accumulation of at least two inches of snow between Nov. 1 and April 30 of each year, all vehicles parked on the street must park on odd-numbered sides of the street on odd days of the month and on the even-numbered sides of the street on the even days of the month from 1:30 a.m. to 6 a.m. on that day. Overnight parking in the downtown district is prohibited from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. To review the full ordinance, please visit our website at www.villageoflena.com.

Garbage pick-up will be delayed to Saturday for the week of Christmas, and the week of New Years.

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

Senior Outreach + news

SOS+ welcomes back the talented Mai family teens, known as "Pleasant Hope" to the Dec. 12, 2024, Christmas Celebration at Senior Outreach (SOS+). The day will begin with a potluck dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 12 p.m. at Calvary Church of Stockton. The music will begin at 1 p.m.

Following the music program, the seniors will gather in the Fellowship Hall to play a fun filled game of "Tis the Night Before Christmas". This is a white elephant gift exchange. We ask each senior

to bring a white elephant gift, a treasure they have in their home verses one that is bought (remember, someone's junk is another's treasure!). A free will offering will go directly to the Mai family that day.

SOS+ will not meet during January, February and March due to the cold unpredictable winter weather but will convene again in April 2025. If interested in volunteering or if in need of assistance to attend the program, please call Mary Feltmeyer 815-297-5425, Nancy Rice 815-275-0303 or Shirley Toepfer 815-947-3639.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

The turkey and sides have all been made, and everyone has been stuffed to the max. We are now full steam into December. This week's cooking will begin to feature some Christmas cookie recipes. There are some new ones and some old favorites. Have a good week cooking.

traditional Christmas cookies. These cutouts are the best. They are soft and tender and make beautiful cutout cookies. You can also drop them and frost them. I have had this recipe forever from my teaching days when Dorothy Maaske used to send a cookie tray for the faculty. She always had her husband Larry's mother's cookies on it. They were always the first ones off the plate. You can make them and freeze them ahead of time.

- 2 C. sugar
- 1 C. unsalted butter
- 1 t. salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 C. sour milk (sour cream)
- 1 T. soda
- 1 T. cream of tartar
- 1 1/4 t. vanilla
- 3 1/2 to 4 C. flour

Mix the butter and sugar together. Add the eggs and beat. In a small bowl, combine the salt, soda, cream of tartar and 3/2 C. of flour. Alternate the sour milk (sour cream) and the flour mixture. Add the vanilla. Mix well and refrigerate for at least two hours. Add more flour if necessary if you are rolling them into cut out cookies. Use flour if you are dropping them. Bake on parchment lined cookie sheets.

Bake at 375 until brown—8-10 minutes. Remove to cooling racks or waxed paper. Frost with the frosting recipe featured below. Use clean parchment for every batch you make.

Frosting

- 1 stick of unsalted butter, softened
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 3 1/2 C. powdered sugar
- 1 t. vanilla

A few drops of food coloring
Cream the butter and cream cheese together; carefully add the powdered sugar and mix together. Add the vanilla and food coloring. Frost cooled cookies.

Pecan Pie Bars

These bars are a perfect hostess gift; they also look great on a cookie tray. You will enjoy their taste because it is just like having a little piece of pie.

- 2 C. flour
 - 1/3 C. sugar
 - 1/4 t. salt
 - 3/4 C. cold butter, cubed
- Filling:
- 4 eggs
 - 1 1/2 C. corn syrup
 - 1/2 C. sugar
 - 3 T. butter, melted
 - 1 1/2 t. vanilla
 - 2 1/2 C. chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, mix flour, sugar and salt; cut in cold butter until mixture resembles coarse

crumbs. Press into a greased 15 x 10 x 1 inch pan. Bake 20 minutes.

Filling: In a large bowl, whisk eggs, corn syrup, sugar, melted butter and vanilla. Stir in pecans. Spread evenly over hot crust. Bake at 350 for 25 to 30 minutes longer or until filling is set. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack. Cut into bars.

Triple Chocolate Peppermint Cookies

- 1 C. butter, softened
- 1 C. packed brown sugar
- 1/2 C. sugar
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 2 t. vanilla
- 3/2 C. flour
- 3/4 C. baking cocoa
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 C. semisweet chocolate chips

1/2 C. 60% bittersweet chocolate baking chips

Frosting:

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 C. white baking chips

- 3 C. powdered sugar
- 2 to 3 T. 2% milk
- 1/2 C. crushed peppermint candies

Preheat oven to 375. Cream together butter and sugars until light and fluffy, 5 to 7 minutes. Beat in eggs and vanilla. In a separate bowl, whisk flour, cocoa, salt and baking soda; gradually beat in cream cheese mixture. Stir in semisweet and bittersweet chocolate chips. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake until set, 10 minutes. Cool 2 minutes before removing to wire racks to cool completely.

Frosting: Melt white baking chips in a microwave; stir until smooth. In another bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Beat in melted chips. Add enough milk to reach desired consistency to spread. Frost cookies; sprinkle with peppermint candies.

Jeweled Coconut Drops

These are great cookies for a cookie exchange or a cookie tray. They have raspberries and coconuts to give you a little different take on traditional cookies.

- 1/3 C. butter, softened
- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1 egg yolk, room temperature
- 2 t. orange juice
- 1 t. almond extract
- 1 1/4 C. flour
- 1 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/4 t. salt
- 3 3/4 C. sweetened shredded coconut, divided

1 C. seedless raspberry preserves, warmed

Cream butter, cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg yolk, orange juice, and almond extract. In a separate bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, and salt. Gradually beat into creamed mixture. Stir in 3 C. coconut. Refrigerate until easy to handle, about 30 min-

utes. Preheat the oven to 350. Shape rounded tablespoons of dough into balls; roll in remaining coconut. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Press a deep indentation in the center of each with the end of a wooden spoon handle. Bake until edges are light brown, 8 to 10 minutes. Cool 1 minute. Using the wooden spoon, enlarge any indentations that may have narrowed or closed. Remove cookies from pans to wire racks. Fill with preserves; cool completely.

Butter Pecan Fudge

We have had cookie recipes, so it if only fitting we include a candy one. Since we started with pecan pie cookies, we will end with pecan fudge.

- 1 t. plus 1/2 C. butter, cubed
- 1/2 C. sugar
- 1/2 C. packed brown sugar
- 1/2 C. heavy whipped cream

See KITCHEN, Page 16

Crock Pot Chicken and Dumplings

Since it is getting cold out, and I didn't want you to overdose on cookies, I am including a soup that will taste great on these cold nights or week-ends.

- 6 boneless, skinless chicken thighs, chopped
- 1/2 t. salt, divided
- 1/2 t. pepper, divided
- 1 T. canola oil
- 3 celery ribs, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 T. tomato paste
- 1/3 C. flour
- 4 C. chicken broth, divided
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 t. dried thyme

Dumplings

- 2 C. flour
- 3 t. baking powder
- 1 t. salt
- 1 C. whole milk
- 4 T. melted butter

Sprinkle chicken with 1/4 t. salt and 1/4 t. pepper. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken; cook and stir until no longer pink, 6 to 8 minutes. Transfer to a 6 qt. slow cooker. In the same skillet, cook celery, carrots and onion until tender, 6 to 8 minutes. Add garlic, tomato paste and remaining salt and pepper; cook 1 minute. Stir in flour; cook 1 minute longer. Whisk in 2 C. chicken broth; cook and stir until thickened. Transfer to slow cooker. Stir in bay leaves, thyme and remaining broth.

For dumplings: Whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and pepper in a large bowl. Stir in milk and butter to form a thick batter. Drop by 1/4 cupful over chicken mixture. Cook, covered, on low until bubbly and dumplings are set, 6 to 8 hours. Discard bay leaves. Remove insert and let stand, uncovered, for 15 minutes

Thelma Maaske's Sugar Cookies

Every year I have someone request that I republish some

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Lena-Winslow starting quarterback Kasch Lessman has a conversation with one of his coaches during the Illinois High School Association Class 1A State Title Game with Belleville Althoff Catholic. Lena-Winslow posted a 13-1 mark as they finished second in the state of Illinois to the downstate team.

Panthers take second in 1A State Championship

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

"We'll be back," Lena-Winslow Panthers head coach, Ric Arand, said after his squad fell to the Althoff Crusaders in this year's 1A State Championship game. The Panthers lost by a final score of 57-14 as Althoff had a record setting day in the title game. Dierre Hill, a division 1 commit to play for the Oregon Ducks, ran for 438

yards and seven touchdowns on the day. He also caught one pass for 80 yards.

Despite taking such a loss in the title game, the future remains bright for the Panthers. They lose just six seniors from this year's team. NUIC defensive MVP and All-State player, Jaylen Rakowska will be missed heavily next season. The Panthers also lose Jimmy Goebel, Cobryn Lynch, Landon

Grindey, Lukas Kempel, and Maverick Cass as they all graduated from the program with the end of the title game.

Albeit a small senior class, they are one of the most impressive bunches to come through Lena-Winslow. They have played more football than anyone, with all four years of their high school careers reaching the title game. As freshman

and sophomores, their group brought home back-to-back state titles. Then back-to-back second place finishes as juniors and seniors.

Many people had written the Panthers off with this small senior class and a number of new faces joining the squad this year. The 2025 Panther seniors set the standard once again to ensure continued success for the program.



DANIEL L CHAMNESS PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lena-Winslow quarterback Kasch Lessman (#10) hands off the ball to Aiden Wild (#85) during the state title game in Bloomington. The Panthers only lost one game this year, that being the state championship game against Althoff Catholic. Running the play and providing protection/blocking for Wild's run are Lucas Kempel (#58) and Alec Schlichting (#43).



DANIEL L CHAMNESS PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Alex Schlichting turns upfield and runs the ball during the state title game. Schlichting entered the state title game, which was held at Illinois State University, rushing for over 1,800 yards.

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Stadium (Continued from page 3)



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community names, such as Robert “Bing” Wells, beloved longtime Panther football announcer.

A Team effort to cross the finish line

Building on the momentum of Community Bank and other early donors, the Stadium Committee is not taking any contribution for granted. There’s a reason the “Friends

(Left) The Le-Win Stadium Project will install a long list of improvements to expand its capacity to safely and efficiently serve more students, programs and fans through all seasons.

of the Panthers” donor tier, listed on the website, starts at one dollar. “The impact of Community Bank’s donation is tremendous! They have a long history of supporting our students and community across the board,” said Christin Keeffer, Stadium Committee member and Le-Win Athletic Boosters Vice President.

Keeffer explained how the far-reaching benefits of the new complex will set the stage for future generations, from young families looking to put down roots to visitors who enjoy robust, local programs, such as flag football which draws over 1,000 people to Lena each week throughout September and October.

“Community Bank’s generosity took us halfway to the finish line. My hope is it inspires individuals, alumni, organizations and businesses to carry the baton forward and recognize our shared stake in this initiative,” Keeffer said.

College Athletes Weigh in

In addition to spreading campaign awareness, addressing turf “facts vs. myths” and connecting with donors on their website, lwstadium-project.com, the committee has shared testimonials from beloved Le-Win alumni who are making a name for themselves on college turf.

North Central Defensive Back Marey Roby, Le-Win Class of ‘22, noted how turf provides “a durable surface that allows me to run and cut without the threat of worn grass conditions.”

An interview with Hawk-eye Gennings Dunker, a 2021 Panther grad, explored the offensive lineman’s endorsement of turf for performance, consistency and injury prevention. “I’d much rather play on turf than grass,” Dunker concluded.

Keeffer is hopeful that donors can soon make those same benefits accessible for all Le-Win students who set foot on the field, whether they’re holding a ball, bat or saxophone—or just following their gym teacher’s instructions. “We wouldn’t be doing this if it didn’t impact all students—all ages, all interests, all backgrounds—who call themselves a Panther. My hope is that when each of us walk into the new stadium, we can experience a shared sense of pride in what we accomplished for our kids.”

For more details or to donate:

Website: lwstadiumproject.com
 Facebook: “Lena-Winslow Stadium Project”
 Email: donate@lwstadium-project.com



DANIEL L CHAMNESS PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Coach Ric Arand stands proudly with his Panther team awaiting the trophy presentation for earning second place in the state of Illinois. From left to right is Arand, Corbyn Lynch (#41), Jimmy Goebel (#32), Maverick Cass (#25), Lucas Kempel (#58), Jaylen Rakowska (#17), Landon Grindey (#57) and Koby Kearnes (#15).

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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.storagetreasures.com. Cube 1029 Chari Thill; Cube 1072 Daniel Pontarelli; Cube 1109 Monica Hayenga; Cube 1162 Daniel Charneski; Cube 1258 Marcus Williams

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Chief County Assessment Officer of Jo Daviess County will be holding the Annual Township Assessor's meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 6:00 PM. It will take place in the County Board Room at the Jo Daviess County Administration Building, located at 219 Kelly Lane. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to distribute guidelines, workbooks, and exemption forms for the 2025 assessment year.

Laura Edmonds, CIAO
Chief County Assessment Officer

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

464646

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Dec. 4, 2024)

464250

ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT PEARL CITY PARK DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING MAY 1, 2023, AND ENDING APRIL 30, 2024

Revenues: Property Taxes, \$135,387; Replacement Taxes, \$14,304. Program Fees, \$21,323; Misc., \$19,546. TOTAL = \$190,560.

Salaries: Nathan Pickard, \$38,755; Christy Youtzy, \$12,222; Cade Monks, \$5,797; Michael Palmer, \$5,546; Kristine Visel, \$4,075; Sidney Wright, \$3,784; Ella Williams, \$3,742; Jared Runkle, \$3,289; Ayden Bratley \$2,996; Hailey Johnson, \$2,961; Mikaela Nieman, \$2,331; TOTAL = \$85,498.

Vendors: Stephan Electric \$25,700; EFTPS, \$22,438; VISA, \$18,906; Menards, \$8,925; The Hartford, \$8,455; I Parks, \$7,231; GT Auto Plaza \$6,335; IL Dept of Revenue, \$5,076; Scott Stichter \$4,309; ComEd \$4,111; Nicor \$3,301 BP \$2,732 Sub Total = \$117,519.

All Disbursements under \$2,500 = \$26,945.
Grand Total = \$144,464

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION

	General
Beginning:	
Fund Balance	\$102,012
Revenue.....	\$190,630
Expenditures	\$229,962
Other Financing	
Transfers In (Out).....	0
Ending:	
Fund Balance	\$ 62,680

I, Kristine Visel, Treasurer of the Pearl City Park District, Stephenson County, Illinois, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2024.

Kristine Visel, Treasurer

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

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IN*CI*DENTAL*LY

Antibiotic against periodontal disease enters human trials

Periodontal disease affects over 47% of adults aged thirty and older. This increases to 60% among those over 65. There is currently no cure for the disease. All we can try to do is control it. Unfortunately, antibiotics prescribed to mitigate the damage attack not only the harmful bacteria that cause it but the beneficial bacteria that the body requires to maintain health as well. Fortunately, it looks like that is about to change.

Working in conjunction with Flightpath Biosciences, scientists at ADA Forsyth, a top-tier NIH-funded research institute focused on exploring the connections between



By
DR. STEPHEN PETRAS
Illinois Licensed
General Dentist

oral health and overall well-being, discovered that a narrow-spectrum antibiotic can eliminate *Fusobacterium nucleatum* — a key pathogen that triggers the onset of periodontitis — without harming the oral or gut microbiomes.

The FP-100 antibiotic (Hygromycin A) was rediscovered by researchers at Flightpath Biosciences

who were looking for treatments against *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium that causes Lyme disease. The discovery that FP-100 can also eliminate *Fusobacterium nucleatum* in animals holds great hope for how it will promote both oral and overall health in humans. This is because the *Fusobacterium* can travel from the oral cavity to other parts of the body, where it can colonize and cause systemic diseases, including colorectal cancer, preterm birth, and Alzheimer's disease.

Phase 1 clinical trials is the first step in testing a new treatment in humans.

Researchers will start administering small but increasing doses of FP-100 to assess side effects, best dose, best way to administer the medicine (mouth, injection or IV), timing of doses and how the antibiotic affects the body.

With the increase of antibiotic-resistant pathogens, being able to use a narrow-spectrum or targeted antimicrobial drug, to eliminate a specific disease pathogen while preserving the beneficial microbiome is a critical tool in the prevention and treatment of disease. I will keep you apprised of progress in this promising research.

'Talking Crop' podcast wraps up first season

The first season of the "Talking Crop" podcast has been wrapped up and features 10 episodes with various guest experts. These experts were from University of Illinois Extension, University of Illinois Department of Crop Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension, and Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District.

A variety of topics in-

cluding cover crops, weed and insect control, nutrient loss reduction, digital ag and more were covered during these episodes.

The podcast was led by Kathryn Seebrock, University of Illinois Extension Commercial Agriculture Educator serving Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties. Focused on row crops, the purpose of the podcast was to provide farmers and agribusiness rep-

resentatives with research updates and management considerations.

The "Talking Crop" podcast can be found on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, YouTube, and the Extension website. The links for all of these options can be found at www.go.illinois.edu/jsw/agriculture.

The next season will begin in May 2025. In the meantime, check out the local University of Illinois

Extension website at go.illinois.edu/jsw for upcoming ag programming this winter.

About Extension

Illinois Extension leads public outreach for University of Illinois by translating research into action plans that allow Illinois families, businesses, and community leaders to solve problems, make informed decisions, and adapt to changes and opportunities.

More than 54,000 deer harvested during first weekend of Illinois firearm deer season

Hunters in Illinois harvested a preliminary total of 54,661 deer during the first weekend of the Illinois firearm deer season from Nov.

22-24. Comparatively, hunters took 53,348 and 52,354 deer during the first firearm weekends in 2023 and 2022, respectively.

Illinois' seven-day firearm deer season will conclude Dec. 5-8.

Remaining 2024-25 deer hunting opportunities in Illi-

nois include:

- Muzzleloader-only deer season Dec. 13-15.
- Late-winter antlerless-only and chronic wasting disease deer seasons, in select counties only, Dec. 26-29 and Jan. 17-19.
- Archery deer season continues through Jan. 19. Please note that archery deer hunting is closed Dec. 5-8 in counties open for firearm deer season.

Go online to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' website at dnr.illinois.gov/hunting/deerhunting.html for more information about deer hunting.

Illinois firearm deer harvest totals from some local and nearby counties for the first weekend of the 2024:

- Boone: 80
- Carroll: 387
- DeKalb: 97
- Jo Daviess: 936
- Lee: 424
- McHenry: 152
- Ogle: 418
- Stephenson: 307
- Whiteside: 391
- Winnebago: 174

You ought to be in pictures!

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▼ **Please do NOT crop your photos.**

▼ Tell us who took the photo and we will give them a photo credit

This is your chance to promote your organization or special event!



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scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com
BY NOON ON FRIDAY

PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEB SITE. rvpnews.com

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

CHEVY SILVERADO 2014 1500 4x4 Extended cab, 5.3L V Loaded, 82K, \$20,000/OBO. 6 speed auto. 1988 Chevy 1500 Reg Cab. 2 wheel drive, 150,000 miles, second motor \$1900/OBO. Set of extra tires \$300. 608-558-1258

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for sale

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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@spublishers.com.

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• Kitchen (Continued from page 11)

- 1/8 t. salt
- 1 t. vanilla
- 2 C. powdered sugar
- 1 C. coarsely chopped pecans, toasted

Line an 8-inch square pan with foil; grease foil with 1 t. butter. In a large heavy saucepan, combine remaining butter, both sugars, cream and salt. Bring to a rapid boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Cook, with stirring, until a candy thermometer reads 234 (soft boil stage). Remove from heat. Add vanilla to pan and do not stir. Cool without stirring to 110 about 30 minutes. Beat with a spoon until fudge just begins to thicken. Gradually stir in powdered sugar until smooth; add nuts and continue stirring until fudge becomes very thick and just begins to lose its sheen. Immediately spread into the prepared pan. Cool. Using foil, lift fudge out of pan. Remove foil; cut fudge into 1-inch squares. Store be-

tween layers of waxed paper in an airtight container.

Final Thoughts

This Saturday is Lena's Hometown Christmas. Be sure to take in the activities on Saturday afternoon and evening. There will be a parade at 6 p.m. Santa will come, and the downtown tree will be lighted. Stores will have specials and restaurants will have great food. The Lena United Methodist Church is having a Cookie Walk on that Saturday from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Cookies and candies are sold by the pound, and they have a great assortment to choose from. They also will have a Baked Potato Bar with Mac and Cheese for Kids from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Hopefully you will be able to attend all the great activities to get you in the mood for Christmas.

We are searching for recipes for Christmas cookies and candies, so send some favor-

ites 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.

• Eggers

(Continued from page 5)

\$55 for non-members. Stop in to pick yours up today.

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 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

The value of all Christmas trees harvested was \$399 million. Illinois' crop was worth 7.6 million.

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