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VOL. 91 • NO. 6

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29, 2025



WARREN FFA FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Warren FFA attends BUILD Conference

Senior and junior Warren FFA members recently attend the BUILD (Being United in Leadership Development) Conference. The BUILD Conference offers FFA students a chance to foster personal growth and enhance their leadership abilities. This two-day event is attended by hundreds of high school students in order to assist in the

development of personal and leadership skills.

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Obituaries

CRAIG FUCHS

Craig Eugene Fuchs, age 60 of Lena, IL passed away surrounded by his family on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at UW Swedish American Hospital in Rockford. He was born on June 4, 1964, in Freeport, IL, the son of Ron and Pat (Buchenau) Fuchs. Craig was a graduate of Lena Winslow High School Class of 1982. He worked at Bay Valley Foods for 23 years.

Craig is survived by his mother Pat Fuchs of Lena; sons- Andrew Fuchs of Lena, Brandon (Veronica) Fuchs of Lena, Adam Fuchs of Pearl City; sister Anita (Mike) Parkinson of Lena; nieces- Lauren (Mitchell) Ganzer of Platteville, Lindsey (Kyler) Calow of Warren, Lana Parkinson of Lena; great nieces- Josefine, Elizabeth and Charlotte Ganzer, and Chloe Calow; God children- Christopher Green, Marie Runkle, and Lucas Lawson; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and a host of friends.

He was preceded in death by his father Ron Fuchs; maternal grandparents Melvin and LaVonja Buchenau; pater-



nal grandparents Albert and Mabel Fuchs; Aunt Marcia Lobdell and Uncle Ron Buchenau.

Craig was Le-Win Football's biggest fan. He loved spending time with his sons including golfing, fishing, going to races, and tractor pulls. The family would like to extend a thank you to his Bay Valley family for their love and support.

Funeral Services were held on Jan. 11, 2025, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, Illinois. A visitation was held on Friday, Jan. 10, 2025 at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Lena, IL. Reverend Rick Bader will be officiated the services. Interment will take place at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

JANET LINDENMAN

Janet S. Lindenman, age 61 of Lena, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024, at Javon Bea Hospital in Rockford. She was born on June 1, 1963, to Earl and Bev (Moyer) Lindenman in Waddams Grove Township. Janet was a 1981 Graduate of Lena-Winslow High School. She spent her career in finance and banking and worked for Citizens State Bank of Freeport for the past 16 years. Janet also spent her time as the Treasurer/Secretary of the PepperPlace Condo Association. She loved watching Wisconsin Badger games, camping, Nascar, annual trips to Florida and spending time with her nieces and nephews. Janet was proud to be an organ donor and gave the gift of life to others.

Janet is survived by her fiancé Kevin Pax of Lena; 3 sisters- Laura (Tony Celletti) Hartney of Freeport, Deb-

bie Harder of Evansville, WI, and Susan Woods Snyder of Freeport and nephews- Nicky Betthausser, Brandon Harder, Bradley Harder, Tegan Woods, Cassi Kriebs, Damon Pax, Devin Pax, Austin Pax, and Madysen Pax; Fiancé Kevin's brothers- Douglas (Theresa) Pax, LaVerne (Marcia) Pax, Steven (Jen) Pax; great nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, niece Hailey, and nephew A.J.

Visitation was held on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. Funeral Service was held on Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025, at Lena United Methodist Church in Lena. Pastor Melwyn Alagodi officiated the service. Interment took place at the Lena Burial Park.

Luncheon to follow at the church. A memorial has been established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

MARJORIE BARKER

Marjorie "Marj" E. Barker, 96, formerly of Orangeville, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025, at Manor Court of Liberty Village in Freeport, IL. She was born on Jan. 17, 1929, in Oneco Township, rural Winslow, to Leland and Ruth (Bennehoff) Kilian. She attended Mt. Pleasant Grade School #7 and graduated from Winslow High School, Class of 1946.

Marjorie married her life-mate, Donald L. Barker, on November 23, 1946, at the Winslow Methodist Church. They were married for over 65 years. Marj and Don farmed together in the Orangeville area all of their lives, until retirement brought them

"into town" in 1995.

Marj enjoyed TV game shows, reading, and card games, but she especially loved baking and finding new recipes. Providing hospitality was her gift. Marj was a member of the Orangeville United Methodist Church, the Orangeville United Methodist Women (UMW), and the Isabel Chapter #322 of the Order of the Eastern Star for over 70 years. In 2017, Marj became the proud holder of the Silver Spoon Award, bestowed upon her as the oldest woman born in Oneco Township and still living there her entire life.

Marj is survived by her three children: Larilyn (Greg) Carpenter of Waukesha

WI, Donald Jr. (Bonnie) of Monroe WI, and Creighton (Judy) Barker of Orangeville; Grandchildren, Heath Barker (Monroe), Kristin (Noah) Totzke of Waukesha WI, Phil (Rachel) Barker of Orangeville, Ross (Danielle) Barker of Jacksonville, IL, and Judy Gaus of Milwaukee; Step-grandchildren: Josh (Carrie) Ickes of Paw Paw IL, Rebekah (Mark) Kennay of Paw Paw, and Erin (Tim) Brower of Paw Paw. She is further survived by great grandchildren: Tyler, Vaughn and Haden Barker, Naomi Jacobsen, Josie Barker, Amelia and Wyatt Barker, as well as step-great grandchildren: Jesse and Parker Marsh, Dawson and Addison Brooks, Lilliane

Brower, and Raegan Ickes. A brother-in-law Al (Barbara) Goodman of Lake Bluff IL also survives her.

Marj was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 2012, sisters Helen Goodman, Carol Dickerson, and Patricia Miller, and an infant brother Kieth Kilian.

Visitation was held at the Orangeville United Methodist Church on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025. Burial was in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Oneco Township, Winslow IL near her childhood home. Pastor Roger Bronkema officiated the services. A memorial fund has been established in her memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

ROBERT L. YEAGLE

Robert "Bob" L. Yeagle age 80 of Winslow, IL passed away at his home on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025. He was born on Jan. 13, 1945, in Freeport, IL to Theron and Mabel (Lawver) Yeagle. Bob married Pamela Campbell on Oct. 22, 2000, on the family farm officiated by Reverend Dwight Bennett.

Bob was a graduate of Orangeville High School Class of 1963. He served his country in the US Army and Army Reserves from 1966-1972. Bob's passion, which he fulfilled, was being a lifelong farmer. He held many other jobs through the years including hauling milk, carpentry, and working as a U.S. Postal Service mail carrier for the surrounding towns. He volunteered his time with the Freeport VA driving Veterans to Dr.'s appointments. Bob was a member of Ewert-Kline American Legion Post 720 in Orangeville, where he held several different offices through the years. He was also a long-standing member of the Oneco Township Board. He was a good line dancer and it's also how he met Pamela in 1993.

Bob is survived by his wife Pamela of Winslow; two sons- Christopher (Sue) Yea-



gle and Robert (Wendy) Yeagle both of Orangeville; grandchildren- Bobby (Torri) Yeagle and Makena Yeagle; great grandson Hudson Wilder; ; extended children- Eric Schrader, Eryn (Michael) Rubino, Thad (Kat) Schrader; extended grandchildren- Kaitlyn (Cody) Beck, Robert and Nathan Rubino, Ethern, Vivian, and Olivander Schrader, Morgan Wells, Grant Anderson; extended great grandchildren- Oktober Beck and Hazelyn Beck; sister Kay (Larry) Miller and brother Dean (Carla) Yeagle; nieces Colleen and Danica; aunt Jean Winkler. He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Henry Yeagle, and an infant sister.

Visitation will be held 10 a.m. until time of service on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, at the Orangeville United Methodist Church. Funeral services will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday Feb. 1, 2025, at the Orangeville United Methodist Church. Officiating will be Pastor Roger Bronkema. Luncheon to follow the funeral services at Orangeville United Methodist Church. Interment will take place at Sunset Acres in Orangeville. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

WILLAMETTE WILSON

Willamette (Mette) Wilson (Wybourn) 73 of Lena, IL passed away on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, in Monroe, WI. She was born on July 13, 1951, in Freeport, IL to Norman and Janice (Ferguson) Wybourn. Mette graduated from Lena Winslow High School class of 1969. She married Jack Wilson in November of 1969 and divorced in 2002.

She worked as a CNA at Lena Continental Manor Nursing Home for about 10 years, Christian Connection Daycare, and Shift Supervisor at CVS Pharmacy for 17 years before retiring in 2021. Mette enjoyed researching genealogy and watching a variety of game shows. She adored spending time with family and friends for the Lena Fall Festival. She also loved planning all the family reunions.

She is survived by two sons: Jamie (Heather) Wilson of Orangeville, IL and Jayson (Lisa Bauer) Wilson of Lena, IL. Six grandchildren;



Kayla Wilson (Kyle K n e s s) , Kalli Wilson (Jessie Van-Loo), Ian Wilson, Abigail Lawson, Ashleigh Wilson and Alizabeth Wilson; three great grandchildren; Lennox Lawson, Laikyn Lawson and Carlisle White. Brother; Terry (Rhonda) Wybourn of Dekalb, IL, two sisters; Nordeen Steinmann of Monroe, WI and Leigh Ann (Norman) Knoll of Lena, IL. Many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, grandparents, brother-in-law, Larry Steinmann.

A memorial service was held on Friday Jan. 17, 2025, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena. A memorial has been established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leadmonfh.com.

News briefs

Northwest Illinois Bird and Nature Alliance program

Presenter Vic Berardi, founder of the all-volunteer Illinois Beach State Park Hawkwatch and well-known raptor photographer, will discuss wintering raptors of Illinois and Wisconsin on Feb. 4, 2025, at 7 p.m. The event will be held at St. John United Church of Christ, Freeport, IL. Emphasis will be raptor descriptions and possible locations to find these birds in the winter months.

Lena-Winslow Annual Spelling Bee

The Lena-Winslow Annual Spelling Bee will take place on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025. The Spelling Bee competition will take place at 9 a.m. in the Lena-Winslow Elementary cafeteria for students in grades four through eight with a snow date set for Jan. 31. The top two

winners of this event will advance to the Regional Spelling Bee on Feb. 11, 2025.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army will host a Clothing and Coat Give-away. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 28, Jan. 30, and Feb. 1. The Salvation Army is located at 106 W. Exchange, Freeport, IL (across from the courthouse). Please contact 815-235-7639 with any questions.

Elizabeth Blood Drive

The Red Cross will host a blood drive on Thursday, Feb. 6 from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. It will be held at the Community Building located at 402 North West Street in Elizabeth, IL. Appointments are encouraged and can be made calling 1-800-733-2767 or by visiting redcrossblood.org. Use sponsor code ElizabethIL.

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Local students named to Fall 2024 Dean's List

Central College Jason Hermann Hunter Hoffman Kayla Lindquist	Elmhurst University Zaiden Smith	Southern New Hampshire University Brandy Synowiec	University of Minnesota Crookston Amanda Lidberg
Clarke University Sarah Pratt Braden Jacobs Addison Roberts Sierra Schubert Mitchel Coffey	Marquette University Isaac Rife Ethan Fye	University of Dubuque Riley Finn Tayden Patterson Bryton Engle Ashtyn Brinker Kamryn Cain Kaytelynn Gable Brynn Haas Erin Vanderheyde Emma Kempel Madison Young	University of Wisconsin-Madison Alexander Staver
Coe College Zach Linder Collin Malin Shan Shrader	Rockford University Steven Druien Gianna Fuca Reese Raisbeck	University of Evansville Micaela Miller	University of Wisconsin-Superior Jessie Oostenryk
Columbia College Alicia Kepner	Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College Aubrey Boyer		University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Anthony Bilich Macie Kaney Simon Rillie Kylie Wirth

Machajewski selected to join YWCA Retirement Fund Board of Trustees



Kris Machajewski

YWCA Northwestern Illinois, the region's leading organization dedicated to empowering women and eliminating racism, is pleased to announce that Kris Machajewski, President and CEO of YWCA Northwestern Illinois, has been selected to join the prestigious Board of Trustees of the YWCA Retirement Fund.

Founded in 1925, the YWCA Retirement Fund was established to provide YWCA employees – 90% of whom are women – with secure, comfortable retirement options for their dedicated careers in service to the YWCA mission. Though the structure of the fund has evolved over the years, its mission remains steadfast in supporting the women who have worked tirelessly to further the YWCA's vision. Today, the YWCA Retirement Fund serves over 11,000 past and present employees from approximately 200 YWCAs across the United States.

Machajewski has led YWCA Northwestern Illinois for over 18 years, addressing the pressing challenges of empowering women and eliminating racism throughout northern Illinois. As the YWCA Retirement Fund celebrates its centennial this year, Machajewski's appointment to the board marks a critical opportunity to deepen the Fund's impact and further integrate the YWCA's values of equity and service into the broader network.

"I am deeply honored to join the YWCA Retirement Fund Board of Trustees during this significant year, marking the 100th anniversary," said Machajewski. "This opportunity allows me to continue advocating for the women who have given so much of themselves to our mission. It's an exciting moment to help strengthen the financial foundation that supports our dedicated staff throughout the United States and ensures we can keep building a more equitable future for generations to come."

About YWCA Northwestern Illinois

YWCA Northwestern Illinois has provided women's empowerment programming and advocacies since 1891. The organization now serves more than 13,500 women, children, and families each month, through child care subsidy, quality child care access and improvement resources, YWCA La Voz Latina's Hispanic and Latino community support and resources, the YWCA Literacy Council literacy instruction and programming for adult learners, and community racial justice work that promotes a clear commitment to equality. YWCA Northwestern Illinois delivers its mission, "eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all," to women and families in the six-county area of Boone, Jo Daviess, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago, Illinois.

Senior Resource Center offers free tax preparation for older adults

Starting Feb. 5, the Senior Resource Center will offer free federal and state 1040 tax counseling, preparation and filing services for low and middle-income senior taxpayers residing in Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties as well as adults with disabilities. This service is provided through the AARP Tax-Aide program by trained and IRS-certified volunteers and will run through April 15, 2025.

"Thanks to the dedication of our trained and certified volunteers, we are able to offer this service at no cost to low and middle income tax-

payers who need assistance filing their 2024 taxes," explains Amanda Faivre, executive director of the Senior Resource Center. "Last year, we served 435 residents through this program, resulting in total tax savings of more than \$180,000 with an average refund of \$538.41," Faivre added.

Call 815-235-9777 starting Jan. 22 to schedule an appointment. Spots are limited and fill quickly. Please bring a photo ID, social security card for each person on the return, proof of all income (including social security benefits), proof of medical

insurance coverage for each person on the return, and your previous year's tax return to the appointment. For joint returns, both persons must be present. Appointments will be held at Senior Resource Center, 206 E. Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL.

Unfortunately, not every person or every return qualifies for the Tax-Aide program. Senior Resource Center tax aides are limited to specific types of tax forms which the aides are allowed to prepare by both the IRS and by the AARP Foundation, which sponsors the program. If a person's return

falls outside the scope of the aides' training, then they will need to go to a professional tax preparer. Examples of returns aids CANNOT prepare include farm income (unless only land rental), military returns, ministerial income, and cancellation of mortgage debt, business income that involves depreciation, rental income, and K-1 forms with ANY other entries than interest, dividends, or royalties.

For more information about the free tax preparation services or other programs offered by the Senior Resource Center, visit www.srctr.org or call 815-235-9777.

January's 2025 Daily Drawing winners announced

The Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing, a cooperative fundraiser, is a drawing for 365 daily cash prizes from Oct. 1, 2024, to Sept. 30, 2025, to those donating for a ticket. Over \$22,500 is paid out to ticket holders during the drawing year. Cash prizes vary between \$50 and \$500. A ticket may win multiple times as each ticket remains in the drawing each day for the entire year, no matter how often it may be drawn.

Sponsoring organizations from Jo Daviess, Carroll & Stephenson County include: Caring Community of Elizabeth, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music Boosters, Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, Galena Key Club, Hanover Alumni Association, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Hope Wins, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, Philanthropic Educational Organization-Chapter OH, River Ridge Drama Club, Scales Mound Travelers, Stewards

of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Stockton Girls Basketball, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

The January 2025 winners are:

- \$150 – Connie Kempel, Lena
- \$50 – Brandon Busch, Scales Mound
- \$50 – Erin Timmerman, East Dubuque
- \$50 – Alecia Randecker, Stockton
- \$50 – Gary Sterk, Clinton, IA
- \$50 – Denise Hayunga, Freeport
- \$50 – Chad Bremmer, Pearl City
- \$50 – Robyn Jackson, East Dubuque
- \$50 – Joe Blair, Winslow
- \$50 – Adam Welch, Wheatland, IA
- \$50 – Jack Hilby, East Dubuque
- \$50 – Erin Murphy, Hanover
- \$50 – Carlene Haring, Elizabeth
- \$50 – David Niccum, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Barbara Gullone,

- Galena
- \$50 – Kathy Wiene, Galena
- \$50 – Melissa Soppe, Scales Mound
- \$50 – Tammy Miller-schone, Stockton
- \$50 – Kerry Oberbroeckling, East Dubuque
- \$150 – Nick Thomas, Hanover
- \$50 – Verda Gochee, Sycamore
- \$50 – Shirley Jacobs, Freeport
- \$50 – Julie Helman, Elizabeth

- abeth
- \$50 – Lana Crandall, Apple River
- \$50 – Kathy Filipiak, Galena
- \$50 – Jack Miller, East Dubuque
- \$50 – Emily Bressler, Mt Carroll
- \$50 – Mike & Deb Eickman, Rockton
- \$50 – Kim Solimini, Larnark
- \$50 – Austin Ertmer, Elizabeth
- \$50 – Jim Cox, Lena

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OPINION

BOB UECKER
1934-2025



MARRS Valentine Concert at Stella's

Grab a friend, partner, or come by yourself to a Valentine Concert sponsored by The Music, Arts and Recreational Society of Stockton (MARRS) on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, at 6 p.m. Stella's Restaurant will host the concert, and Stella's BYOB policy allows people to bring a beverage of their choice including beer, wine, spirits or pop. Hors d'oeuvres will be available provided by the

restaurant. Musician Garrett Hillary will perform. Hillary is a re-actor by day and musician by night, a hot air balloon pilot, an avid traveler and a wedding officiate. He has previously performed in Stockton at Fall into Stockton 2024 and as the bass player with the Fever River Band at last summer's Music in the Park. A talented musician with the ability to play several differ-

ent instruments, Hillary will include Valentine's Day appropriate music. The cost of this concert is \$10 per person to cover the cost of the food. Please bring cash. To reserve a spot email marssmusic24@gmail.com. Because this is a winter concert there is always a chance of weath-

er cancelling this concert. Please check the MARSS Facebook page or call 815-262-6134 to stay updated on weather cancellations. In addition to the Valentine's Day concert, MARSS will also host two other concerts this spring at the American Legion Hall on March 21 and April 25.

Adkins Energy LLC 2025 scholarship available

Adkins Energy LLC is proud to once again offer its annual scholarship. The application is available on the Adkins website at www.adkinsenergy.com. The application deadline is Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

Adkins Energy LLC will award three \$1000 scholarships to qualifying students. Anyone pursuing higher education at a trade school, college or university in 2025 may apply. Entries will be judged on previous academic achievement, current financial impact, and an essay.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must complete an application, including the most recent transcript of grades, with class ranking, if available, and submit a typed essay, no longer than three pages double-spaced, on the following: What is E15, should it be available year-round and what are the pros and cons of E15? Submit a description of how this scholarship will affect the applicant's educational goals or special financial circumstances.

Submissions must be post-marked by Tuesday, April 1, 2025. The three winning recipients will be awarded the \$1000 scholarship after providing proof of enrollment.

For more information contact Adkins Energy 1-888-ETHANOL or visit www.adkinsenergy.com.

American Legion Auxiliary Pie Baking Contest

The American Legion Auxiliary will be holding both the annual Pie Baking Contest and Soup Tasting in February. On Saturday, Feb. 1 the American Legion Auxiliary Units of the Thirteenth District will host the pie baking contest. Fruit pies should be delivered to the American Legion Home in Lena by 10 a.m. and judging will be at 11 a.m. Pies will be judged, and cash prizes will be awarded. On Sunday, Feb. 2 the

Units will once again sponsor the Annual Soup Tasting from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Annual Soup Tasting will feature over 15 different soups and dessert for \$9 for adults and \$3 for children under 10.

Come join for a weekend of fun. The American Legion Home is located 316 West Main Street in Lena, across from the historical water tower. Please call 233-9078 or 369-4684 with any questions.

Slices of life

I have a confession: I am a hick

I am a hick. There, I said it out loud. I am a hick from a small, rural town in a northern state that gets a lot of snow in the winter (but has many lovely lakes).

Not everyone wants to live there, but the people who do enjoy it. Embrace it. Love it.

Much like I hope you love the neighborhood, the town, the city, the state where you live.

Our hometown gives us all a place of belonging. An identity. A nest.

A place where you can simply be yourself. As for me, the self I choose to embrace is one of a hick.

And there are a lot of (a ton) of good things to say about that.

I am a hick.

I've never really enjoyed a choice of restaurants, unless you consider fast food, Mexican or bar fare a choice. (Which it is, but just not a lot of choice.)

I meet people who differentiate between a mediocre, good and great Mexican restaurant (or Italian or Chinese or... take your pick.) I've never known choices in restaurants and I've managed to survive. Plus, I believe it's snuffed out my picky-eating gene. I consume what they serve me and I don't know enough to think of doing anything else, much less complaining to the manager.

I am a hick.

For most of my adult life, I didn't have access to real shopping or a mall. So I learned to purchase everything online. When my kids needed tennis shoes, I learned to measure their feet and order the desired logoed brands. The same goes for back-to-school clothes and birthday presents. Think of all the money I saved by not going to the food court.

I am a hick.

I know my neighbors and they know me. If I have a problem, I have their numbers and they have mine. If I call them, they will answer. If I have a problem they will help. If I am hurting or sick or in trouble they will know and vice versa. I like it that way.



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

I am a hick.

I have never had a pedicure. I can't imagine someone poking at my toes.

My bestie has regularly scheduled pedicures and I'm absolutely certain she'd also describe herself as a hick, so I guess a pedicure (or lack thereof) does nothing to define a hick.

And therein lies the whole point to this column.

I am a hick. But what does that mean, really? If you get a pedicure – or not. If you make reservations at the elite restaurant – or not. If you hold your pinky finger up while drinking tea – or not. If you sit in first class – or not. If you shop at the finest department stores – or not.

None of it matters. Unless it brings you joy. Unless it matters to you.

The niceties in life are nice and if they bring you joy they are wondrous. If they are simply a way for you to compare yourself to others, then they are doing you no good. I think we spend (at least I've spent) too much of our lives comparing ourselves to others and thinking we need what they have versus simply paying attention to ourselves and the things that bring us personal joy.

For me, that's simple things. Small town roads. Neighbors who wave as you drive by. A general lack of shopping, restaurants and the amenities known to people living in urban areas.

I am a hick, and after decades of wondering if that is okay, I've decided it is.

But I'm not ruling out a pedicure at some point. Hicks can have pretty toes. Just ask my bestie.

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

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Stockton High School First Semester Honor Roll

All A's

Grade 12: Emily Broshous, Masyn Cahill, Jacob Harbach, Kendra Robledo, Landon Warner, Kacy Wright

Grade 11: Adrienne Baker, Mark Detwiler, Jake Marek, Oliver McPeck, Sadie Vanderheyden

Grade 10: Arianna Arand, Alexis Bennett, Payton Goswick, Caitlynn Robledo

Grade 9: Sophia Compton,

Daxton Drane, Mason Henderson, Sadie Johnson, Hagen Schubert

3.0 Semester Standard GPA & No D's

Grade 12: Kyla Arnold, Dylann Broshous, Margaret Carter, Jackson Coffey, Shirley Cook, Amber Haas, Elijah Haas, Kyle Haas, William Hart, Ava Hess, Samuel Hille, Madalyn Mammoser,

Dillon McIntosh, Javier Montalvo, Marley Morgan, Lillian Sikora, Ethan Steien, Keagan Westphal, Katelyn Winters, Shea Witz

Grade 11: Tegan Arnold, Emma Aurand, Arrison Bauer, Anna Blair, Hailey Broshous, Piper Brown, Kaylynn Brunner, Paige Chumbler, Reece Demeter, Wesley Drane, Maurico Glass, Asher Haas, Ayden Hullinger, Zachary

Jackson, Kiegan Jones, Aiden Kurek, Eli Larson, Noah Larson, Jeremiah Luke, Jack Mensendike, Hunter Mulholland, Chelsea Olson, Rileigh Peterson, Cyler Pieper, Marjerie Pilapil, Robert Rillie, Gynelle Rowe, Ari Zink, Blake Zink, Isabella Zuck

Grade 10: Vanessa Baez-Ramirez, Arden Bauer, Carter Blair, Dannyn Broshous, Isaiah Carter, Jazmine Curtiss,

Raiyn Dauphin, Logan Dreyer, Isaha Glass, Morgan Haas, Taylor Haas, Delaney Julius, Isabella Kilburg, Hailey Leitzen, Hanna Leitzen, Jackson Martin, Dionne McIntosh, Ireland Mensendike, Walker Olson, Madalynn Perry, Lola Rose, Owen Stich, Addison Thornton, Kaydra Wright

Grade 9: Asher Acevedo, Delanee Adleman, Kellen Breed, Evelyn Craft, Veronika

Drane, Emma Eisfeller, Wesley Gile, Emma Haas, Weston Haas, Jarrett Johnson, Aiden Larson, Madelyn Libberton, Sawyer McPeck, Payne Mercer, Bencho Montalvo, Cooper Raab, Payton Raisbeck, Andi Randecker, Wyatt Record, Alyssa Reed, Maxwell Schuldt, Samuel Sikora, Emelia Steien, Natalee Sullivan, Chance VenHuizen, Deacon Zink



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Little Blackhawks

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

Freeport Police Department

Shots fired incident

Officers of the Freeport Police Department are investigating a shots fired incident that was reported to have occurred in the 1000 block of W. Smith Street. On Jan. 20, 2025, at 2:44 p.m., Freeport Police Officers were dispatched to the FHN Hospital regarding an 18-year-old male who was walk-in gunshot victim.

The victim advised he was walking in the 1000 block of W. Smith Street when he was encountered by two other males in their teens. The

males asked the victim to empty his pockets. The victim struck one of the suspects and began to run away when he was shot in the arm. The victim was treated at FHN Hospital and released.

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, Staline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW, or through texting at Tip411.



Around the Northern Hills

The Young Leaders Committee will have their next meeting on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. here at the farm bureau office in Elizabeth. Anyone between the ages of 18 and 35 and has an interest in agriculture is welcome to attend.

Farm Bureau Foundation's scholarship

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation has its scholarship applications available. We again have two different scholarships for those students majoring in an agricultural related field. The first scholarship is geared specifically to Highland Community College



By ANNETTE EGGERS Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

Ag students. High School Seniors or those already enrolled at HCC can apply. The second scholarship is a general scholarship for any post-secondary school. For this scholarship, the student needs to be currently in their first year of college. This scholarship is only available to Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members and their

children. You can find the application on our website.

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 would encourage anyone interested to not miss this great opportunity. The link is on the IAA Foundation website.

Farm Fun Fact

Farmers and ranchers provide food and habitat for 75 percent of the nation's wildlife.

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Wildcats hold off Stockton's comeback effort

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats and the Stockton Blackhawks faced off in an NUIC-West girls basketball battle on Friday, Jan. 24. It was a highly anticipated matchup as Stockton came into the game with a record of 16-6, while the Wildcats were 18-5 themselves. More than 30 combined wins were on the floor when two experienced teams faced off last Friday night.

Despite being on their home court, Stockton suf-

fered from an extremely slow start. The shots weren't falling for the Blackhawks, who put up just seven points in the first quarter. On the other end, RR-SM couldn't have asked for a much better start to the game. While Stockton struggled to find a shot, the Wildcats had no trouble in racking up the points. By the end of the first quarter, RR-SM already held a 21-7 advantage.

The Wildcats have struggled to put a complete game together, especially against some of the better compe-

tion. This wasn't the first time the 2024-2025 Wildcats had jumped out to an early lead, just to watch it disappear over the course of the game.

That doesn't take anything away from Stockton and their ability to keep fighting after a slow start, however. The Blackhawks have approached 20 wins for a reason, and they put their dexterity on display on Jan. 24.

Stockton didn't solve their offensive problems in the second quarter, but they needed to slow down the RR-SM offense if they wanted any chance at a comeback. Stockton's defensive changes paid off as they held the Wildcats to just seven points in the second, just one third of the points allowed in the first. Still, the RR-SM defense was hard at work. By the break, the Wildcats held a 31-14 lead.

Coming out of the break, it looked like the momentum had completely flipped sides.

Not only did Stockton score 14 points in the third quarter alone, which tied their entire total from the first half, but they held the Wildcats to just seven points themselves. After an excellent third quarter performance, the comeback was on. Heading into the fourth, Stockton trailed just 38-28.

The hot start from RR-SM proved to be too much in the end. Specifically, Campbell Hereau and her three-point shooting ability helped to secure a Wildcat victory. Hereau sank a trio of three-pointers as she finished with thirteen points on the evening, which led RR-SM. Berkeley Mensendike and Laiken Haas each finished with seven points as the Wildcats picked up a slim 42-40 victory.

Stockton gave it everything they had in the second half. Just like RR-SM has struggled to play four quarters of dominant basketball, Stockton learned that they can't afford the slow starts. The Blackhawks outscored the Wildcats 26-11 in the second half, just to lose by two.

Madie Mammoser led all scorers with 21 points, most of which came in the second half. Stockton's production fell off mightily behind her. Their next leading scorer was Emma Eisfeller with six points. Dylann Broshous, Kaydra Wright, and Ireland Mensendike each finished with three points in the loss.

With the win, RR-SM improved to 19-5, while Stockton fell to 16-7 on the year. The Blackhawks hit the road on Thursday, Jan. 30 to take on the Warren Warriors. That game is set to tipoff at 6 p.m. The Wildcats will also be in action as they play host to the East Dubuque Warriors, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Warriors defeat West Carroll in home matchup

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Warren Warriors earned their fifth victory of the 2024-2025 Illinois High School girls basketball season when they played host to the West Carroll Thunder on Friday, Jan. 24. It was a matchup of two teams that were eager for a win. West Carroll came into the Friday night matchup with an overall record of 6-15. They were riding a four-game losing streak and were fresh off a brutal 55-18 loss to Stockton.

Warren was in a similar position. Not only did the Warriors come into the game with an overall record of just 4-11, they were in the midst of a four-game losing streak of their own. The most recent loss was a blowout 61-35 defeat to the East Dubuque Warriors.

All four of Warren's losses in the recent skid came on the road. They had almost 20 days between their last home game and the Jan. 24 home game against West Carroll. When the Warriors finally did return home, they also returned to the win column.

On paper, both teams matched up well with each other. The opening quarter only proved how tight this matchup was as both teams went back and forth. Lizzy Hartzell had the hot hand early, as five first quarter points helped her Warriors keep pace. After eight minutes of play, the game was tied 12-12.

Hartzell continued to fuel Warren's offense in the second quarter. Hartzell scored a couple of field goals and went two-for-two in her lone trip to the line in the quarter. The freshman nearly outscored all of West Carroll as the Thunder put up just seven second quarter points. By the break, Hartzell had 11 points, which helped Warren take a 20-19 lead into halftime.

Hartzell and the Warriors would separate themselves from the Thunder in the second half. The freshman's dominance took over as she doubled up West Carroll's third quarter total all on her own. With four field goals, Hartzell put up eight third quarter points. On the other end, Warren's defense held West Carroll to just four points.

In the second half, Warren combined for 18 points as a team. Fifteen of those points came from Hartzell, who was unstoppable against the Thunder. Hartzell finished the game with 26 points which led all scorers. Warren's next leading scorer was Emily VanRaalte, who finished with five points. The Warriors won by a final score of 38-30.

Warren faces another tough battle on Thursday, Jan. 30 when they play host to the Stockton Blackhawks. These teams recently faced off on Jan. 14, with Stockton winning by a final score of 52-39. This Thursday's matchup is set to tipoff at 6 p.m.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

It finally looks like winter. We had some snow to go after our frigid temperatures. The cold last week was the worst I have remembered in a long time. Time literally stood still for three days. I hope that no one had damage from the cold in their homes, businesses, or bodies. I always feel for any animals that have to find a way to weather the cold. Warmer weather is on the way as I write this column. This week we are featuring several recipes for the Super Bowl. Have a good week cooking!

range pecans on a baking sheet. Bake pecans for 8 to 10 minutes. Remove from oven and set aside. Place salad ingredients of Arugula, apples, onion and cranberries in a large bowl. Prepare dressing in a mason jar. Add pecans to salad and top with dressing. Toss to combine and serve immediately store leftover dressing for 2 to 3 days.

Chicken Royal

This elegant chicken dish is rich in flavor. The recipe uses chicken breast halves with the bone in. They have more flavor than boneless skinless chicken breasts. Save this recipe for a special occasion. You can prep the chicken breasts ahead of time for an easy way to get this meal going.

- 2 C. seasoned breadcrumbs
- 1/2 C. hot water
- 10 T. butter, melted, divided
- 2 T. finely chopped onion
- 1 T. minced fresh parsley
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. poultry seasoning
- 1/8 t. pepper
- 4 bone-in chicken breast halves
- 1/2 C. flour
- 1/2 t. paprika

Sauce

- 2 T. butter
 - 1/2 lb. sliced fresh mushrooms
 - 1/4 C. chopped onions
 - 2 T. flour
 - 1/2 t. salt
 - 1/2 t. pepper
 - 1/2 C. heavy whipping cream
 - 1/2 C. sour cream
- Preheat oven to 325. For stuffing, combine the breadcrumbs, water, 2 T. butter, onion, parsley, salt, poultry seasoning and pepper; place about 1/3 C. stuffing under the skin of each chicken breast. Secure with toothpicks. In a

shallow bowl, combine flour and paprika, coat chicken. Place in a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Drizzle with remaining butter. Bake, uncovered, until a thermometer reads 170, 1 to 1 1/4 hours.

Meanwhile, for sauce, heat butter in large skillet over medium heat. Add mushrooms and onion; cook and stir until tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in flour, salt and pepper. Whisk in cream until blended; bring to a boil. Cook and stir until thickened, about 1 minute. Reduce heat and add sour cream. Stir just until heated through. Do not boil. Serve with chicken. Be sure to remove toothpicks!

Touchdown Brat Sliders

If you are looking for a good Super Bowl sandwich, this tasty slider is easy to make ahead and serve the day of the big game. It goes great with appetizers and snacks.

- 5 thick sliced bacon strips, chopped
- 1 lb. uncooked bratwurst links, casings, removed
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, cubed
- 1. dark beer
- 1 T. Dijon mustard
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 16 dinner rolls, split and toasted
- 2 C. cheddar and sour cream potato chips, crushed

In a large cast iron or heavy skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Remove bacon to a paper towel with a slotted spoon; drain and crumble. Reserve the drippings. Cook bratwurst and onion in drippings over medium heat until meat is no longer pink, breaking up crumbles. Add garlic. Cook 1 minute longer. Drain well. Stir in the cream cheese, beer,

mustard and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, until thickened, 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in bacon. Spoon 1/4 C. onto bottom of toasted roll; sprinkle with chips. Replace tops.

Earthquake Cake

If you want a decadent and fairly easy dessert, this cake will fill the bill. It has basically three layers of goodness. Enjoy this rich chocolate delight for a special occasion or for a Super Bowl party.

Cream cheese filling:

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 C. butter, softened
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1/4 t. salt
- 4 C. powdered sugar
- Bottom layer
- 1 C. sweetened coconut
- 1 C. chopped pecans
- 2 C. semisweet chocolate chips

Cake

- 1 German Chocolate cake mix
- 3 eggs, room temperature
- 1/2 C. canola oil
- 1 C. water
- Vanilla ice cream for serving

Preheat oven to 350. Cream cheese filling: Place softened cream cheese, softened butter, vanilla, and salt in a large mixing bowl. Using a hand mixer, beat at medium speed until smooth, 3 to 4 minutes. Add powdered sugar, one cup at a time, beating at low speed until blended and smooth.

Bottom layer: Grease a 9 x 13 baking dish. Layer coconut, pecans and chocolate chips in the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Set aside.

Cake: In a large bowl, combine cake mix, eggs, oil and water. Beat at medium speed 2 to 3 minutes or un-

til smooth. Pour batter into the baking dish to cover the chocolate chips, pecans, and coconut. Spoon large dollops of cream cheese filling on top of the cake batter. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until the cake is slightly wobbly in the center and edges are set. Remove to a wire rack to completely cool. Slice and serve with ice cream.

Salted Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookies

These cookies use store bought cookie dough and make up into great caramel cookies. I love sea salt with caramel and chocolate. You will enjoy making these with your kiddos, and they can unwrap caramels.

- 1 roll refrigerated Pillsbury Chocolate Chip Cookie dough (16.5 oz.)
- 1/3 C. flour

- 1/2 C. finely chopped pecans
- 24 caramels, unwrapped
- 2 T. half-and-half
- 1/3 C. semisweet chocolate chips melted
- 1 t. coarse sea salt

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, break up cookie dough. Stir or knead in flour until well blended. Shape tablespoonfuls of dough into balls; roll in pecans, pressing into dough. Place 1 inch apart on an ungreased cookie sheet (you may need more than one). Bake 12 to 16 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Using handle of wooden spoon make indentation in center of each cookie. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheet to cooling racks. Cool completely, about 20 minutes.

In microwavable bowl, microwave caramels and half-and-half uncovered on high 1 to 2 minutes, stirring once, until caramels are melted.

Place 1/2 C. of the caramel mixture on top of each cookie. Bake 1 to 2 minutes or until edges are light golden brown. Cool 1 minute; remove from cookie sheet to cooling racks. Cool completely, about 20 minutes.

ed. Spoon about 1 teaspoon of caramel into indentation of each cookie. Cool 15 minutes. Drizzle with melted chocolate; sprinkle with salt. Let stand about 15 minutes or until chocolate is set.

Final Thoughts

By the time this column comes out, we are looking at February; you know February is the shortest month in days, but often the longest month in time. There are a lot of celebrations in February that usually revolve around red.

The first weekend in February is the annual Pie Baking Contest at the Lena American Legion Hall on Saturday, Feb. 1. I know there are some really good pie people in our area, so I hope they will participate. On Sunday the same group will sponsor a Soup Tasting event. It starts at 11 a.m. and features over 15 different soups. It costs \$9.00 for adults and under 3 are free. The tasting goes until 2:30 p.m. Dessert is also included. Remember it is a tasting and not lunch. Support this wonderful group who does so many things for our veterans and community.

Remember to check out all our local businesses for your Valentine presents. We have gifts, candies, clothes, jewelry, crafts, antiques, gift certificates, flowers, and of course, food! Have a great week.

We are searching for recipes for February (and February means red), so send me favorites our way. We would love to feature some soup recipes. If you find some recipes to share, you can contact us by email 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.

Apple Pecan Arugula Salad

Before Christmas I had a green salad very much like this one. The reason I like this one is I like Arugula. It has a bite to it. You can substitute baby spinach or spring mix if you are not an Arugula fan. I also like the use of both green and red apples. The dried cranberries add flavor to the sweet and sour dressing.

Salad

- 1/2 C. pecans
- 4 oz. Arugula
- 2 small apples (1 Granny Smith and 1 Honey Crisp), peeled, quartered, cored and thinly sliced
- 1/4 red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 T. dried cranberries

Dressing

- 1 large lemon, juiced (3 T.)
 - 1 T. maple syrup
 - 1 pinch salt
 - 1 pinch black pepper
- Preheat oven to 350. Ar-



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Recognition of 4-H Leaders

At the November 4-H Awards and Recognition gathering in Elizabeth, The Jo Daviess County Home and Community (HCE) recognized the 4-H leaders in Jo Daviess County. Each leader received a gift from HCE presented by HCE board member Eloise Pierce, as well as a thank you for the time and energy leaders share with the members of 4-H. Left to right: (standing) Brittny Redfearn, Alex Burbach, Amanda Vondran, Terry Haas, Becky Morhardt, Peter Morhardt, Leisa Hubb, Lisa Bourquin, Val Brudi, Audrey Geisz, Codie Koester, (seated) HCE member Eloise Pierce and Betty Messmer.

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Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. Join on Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week will be the Presentation of Our Lord. Holy Communion will be celebrated in worship. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Luke 2:22-40. Hannah Circle will meet after Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. Sheila Keene is the Bible

Study leader.

On Wednesday, Feb. 5, The Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join and no quilting experience necessary.

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 of-

rice at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the fourth Sunday after Epiphany at worship on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 9 a.m. There will be a Children's Message during the service and our Annual Congregational Meeting after the service.

Everyone is welcome to come play dominoes on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 9 a.m. at Luther

Hall.

All kids in grades K-5 are welcome to come to St. John's in Pearl City on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. to be a part of the Kids Klub. All children in the Pearl City community are welcome to come. For more information or to register your child, please contact Pastor Roger Bronkema at rbronkema18@gmail.com or call 815-291-6261.

The February Grace Meal will be on Sunday, Feb. 16. The menu is chili, ham salad sandwich, potato chips, and chocolate pudding. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, Feb. 13. Meals can be picked up at the church on Feb. 16 between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 3:15 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is an ELCA parish and is located at 229 First St. in Pearl City. We are handicapped accessible. If you need

to contact the pastor or church, you may call 815-443-2215 for information.

Salem United Church of Christ

All are welcome to join for a service led by Pastor Christopher Ham at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL, every Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday School for children five years and older is held during church service, and nursery is available for children under five years.

On Feb. 9 we will be hosting a noisy bucket collection to benefit the Lena Food Pantry with a SOUPer Bowl lunch immediately after services. There will be several soups and sides to enjoy. Make sure to bring your spare change and a big appetite.

Craftroom will be held on Feb. 9 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.

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

Calvary Church of Stockton

Calvary Church of Stockton will have its monthly Potluck on Sunday, Feb. 2. Please bring a dish and join us. The Worship Service with Communion starts at 10 a.m. Calvary observes open communion which means that the only requirement is a confession of Christ, rather than membership. Our Pastor Scott Hess always brings a Bible-based message. This Sunday, the message is "Sanctification: From Fear to Faith" and based on Hebrews 2:10-18. Potluck usually starts between 11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

On Saturday, Feb. 1 at 10 a.m., an All-Church Planning Meeting will be held. Members and attenders are invited to attend and help make plans for the future of Calvary, especially for 2025.

Pearl City FFA to host Pork Chop Dinner

The Annual Pearl City FFA Pork Chop Dinner is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 14, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The dinner will be held at the Pearl City school cafeteria. Tickets can be purchased from Pearl City FFA members or at the door. The dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, chips, cookie, and drink for \$8. Carry-outs are available.

The Pearl City FFA and FFA Alumni host this dinner and a silent auction to raise funds to benefit the Pearl City FFA Chapter. Illinois Pork Producers and Stephenson County Pork Producers support this event with grant funds. After dinner, cheer on our Pearl City Wolves boys basketball team as they play the Le-Win Panthers. Join for an evening of fun and help support the Pearl City FFA.

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Cahoon, Doyle make Orangeville history as Broncos improve to 21-4

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville Broncos picked up a couple of victories over the Dakota Indians and the Rockford Christian Royal Lions last week. While the Broncos improved to 21-4 as a team, there were some individual accomplishments that made it an unforgettable week for the Orangeville faithful. Senior Laney Cahoon came into the week with 1,967 career varsity points. With the year Cahoon has been on, many expected her to hit the 2,000-point mark in either of last week's games.

There was another career milestone on the horizon, however. One that was kept a secret, even from Orangeville junior, Nadalee Doyle, who was approaching her own piece of Orangeville history. Doyle came into the week with 963 career varsity points.

After a couple of big scoring nights, Cahoon and Doyle managed to eclipse their recent milestones on the same night.

On Jan. 22, the Broncos went on the road to take on the Dakota Indians. Dakota came into the game with 12 wins on their record, but the Broncos would prove to be too much for them in the end. The duo of Cahoon and Doyle combined for 41 points in what was a 52-39 victory over Dakota. Cahoon led all scorers with 24 points on the evening. Ten of those points came from the free throw line as Cahoon went 10-for-14 from the stripe.

Doyle also had success from the line. The junior sunk five of her eight free throw attempts as she finished with 17 points in the win. Doyle also had a pair of three-pointers on the night. With Cahoon dropping 21 points, that left her well-within reach to surpass 2,000 career points. Her next opportunity to do so came on Jan. 24, when the Broncos hit the road to take on Rockford Christian. Perhaps that was meant to be, as according to NUIC All-Access, Cahoon would end up scoring career point 2000 exactly 39 years

to the day after former Orangeville Bronco, Jodi Moyer, did.

While Cahoon was almost guaranteed to reach 2000 points against Rockford Christian, Doyle would need a big night in order to reach 1000 points. Although she didn't know the milestone was approaching, Doyle did just that. A 21-point performance not only put the junior over 1000 career points, but also helped the Broncos pick up a 56-49 victory over Rockford Christian. Doyle joined her father and head coach, Jay Doyle, as a new member of the 1000-point club.

The Broncos got to celebrate some big moments and pick up a couple of wins along the way. Perhaps most importantly, they passed a couple of late-season tests. Dakota and Rockford Christian have combined for over 20 wins this season. Both were double digit win teams before hosting the Broncos.

Despite that, Orangeville managed to go on the road



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Orangeville girls basketball team had a lot to celebrate on Jan. 24 when they took on Rockford Christian. In addition to a 56-49 victory in the game, teammates Laney Cahoon and Nadalee Doyle hit personal bests as well. Cahoon hit 2,000 career points in the game, and Doyle scored her 1,000th career point the same night.

and pick up victories both in son. Overall, they improved turn home on Thursday, Jan. and out of the conference. In to 21-4, which has them as 30 to play host to the Durand Bulldogs. That game is set to NUIC-North play, the Broncos one of the top 1A teams in all tipoff at 5:30 p.m. improved to 5-1 on the sea- of Illinois. The Broncos re-

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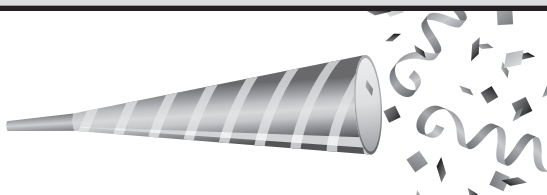
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450408



Stephenson County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

A memory popped up on my Facebook page from 10 years ago. It was short and simple and read "Good morning, Bloomington, what a beautiful day". I don't remember a lot about the weather that day but what I do remember is it was my first day as an Illinois Farm Bureau Manager Trainee. The past 10 years have been marked by several milestones. During this time, I've had the honor of serving in three different county Farm Bureaus, including Lawrence County Farm Bureau, Stephenson County Farm Bureau and Carroll County Farm Bureau. In the past 10 years I have learned a lot and continue to learn. I wanted to share a few takeaways from the decade.

this until you have driven the length of it. Agriculture differs depending on where you are in the state. Keep learning. In the past 10 years I have become a Farm Bureau Certified Manager and received a certificate in Non-profit management from the University of Illinois Chicago. Learn in every opportunity you have. Farm Bureau members are some of the best most caring people and I am so blessed to work with them. Things change; that's how life works but at the end of the day my goal is to serve our members.

I am so looking forward to the next year, five years and 10 years. Thank you to those who have supported me during these first 10 years.

Farm Bureau members save on facility rentals

It might seem early to think about graduations, but they will be here before we know it. Don't wait to book your event at the Carroll or Stephenson County Farm Bureau buildings. Rooms start as low as \$100. Call the Farm Bureau of your choice for availability and to learn more about the rental process. Carroll County Farm Bureau 815-244-3001 or Stephenson County Farm Bureau at 815-232-3186.

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 Harvest for All campaign.

"The IFB Young Leaders continue to demonstrate remarkable commitment to fighting food insecurity in our communities," said Perry Harlow, IFB Young Leader Program Coordinator. "With these great accomplishments, our Young Leaders are making a tangible difference in the lives of Illinois families who struggle with hunger." He added, "These numbers reflect 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 support food banks with innovative 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 are

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 Contributors awards recognized CFBs with outstanding hunger-relief efforts. Each was selected based on a combination of overall pounds of food donated, volunteer hours and dollars raised. Winners in each category were also selected. Award recipients were given a cash prize to further their Harvest for All

efforts.

2024 Harvest for All Top Contributors are 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 winners are 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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~ Lee J. Colan

LEGAL NOTICES

2025 Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption

Qualifications:

- You must be an Illinois resident who has served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty, Illinois National Guard, or U.S. Reserve Forces and not dishonorably discharged;
- You must have at least a 30% service-connected disability certified by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs; OR
- Have been a member of the US Armed Forces during World War II, regardless of any disability rating or the receipt of disability compensation.

AND

- You must own and occupy the property as your primary residence on January 1, of the assessment year (2025), or the exemption granted under this Section shall be prorated on a monthly basis, beginning the first completed month in which the person occupies the qualified residence, and be liable for the payment of the property taxes;
- MUST renew and provide VA disability documentation annually.

A certified DD Form 214 and a current disability certification letter from the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs for the current assessment year must be provided.

Deadline for filing an application is July 1, 2025.

Please contact the Chief County Assessment Office at 815-777-1016 for an application.

Chief County Assessment Officer
Jo Daviess County

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Jan. 29, 2025)
467273

2025 SR. CITIZEN ASSESSMENT FREEZE HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

Qualifications:

- Must be 65 years of age or older in 2025;
- Have used the property as your principal place of residence since Janu-

ary 1, 2024;

- Own the property on January 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025;
- Must be a single-family residence;
- Be liable for the payment of property taxes for 2024 and 2025;
- Have a total household income (includes everyone who lives at the residence) of no more than \$65,000 for 2024.

• Must renew annually
You must submit a complete copy of both your Federal income tax including Schedule 1 with your application. If you DO NOT file income tax, then you must submit a copy of your Statement of Social Security Benefits, Statement of Pension Benefits, W-2's and 1099's or any other household income. You must apply for this exemption every year.

This exemption freezes the assessed value of your property. It does NOT freeze your tax bill. The deadline for filing is July 1, 2025.

If this is the first time you are eligible, please contact the County Assessment Office at (815) 777-1016 for an application.

Chief County Assessment Officer
Jo Daviess County

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Jan. 29, 2025)
467272

2025 Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption

Qualifications:

- You must be disabled or become disabled during the assessment year;
- You must own or have a legal or equitable interest in the property on January 1, 2025;
- You must occupy the property as your principal residence on January 1, 2025;
- You must be liable for the payment of the property taxes;
- Must renew annually.

Proof of disability must be submitted in the form of a Class 2 Illinois Disabled Person Identification Card, Social Security Administration disability benefits, Veterans Administration

disability verification you are receiving a person for non-service connected disability. Railroad or Civil Service disability benefits (100% disability).

Deadline for filing is July 1, 2025.

Please contact the Chief County Assessment Office at 815-777-1016 for an application.

Chief County Assessment Officer
Jo Daviess County

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Jan. 29, 2025)
467274

2025 Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption

Qualifications:

- You must be an Illinois resident who has served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Illinois National Guard or U.S. Reserve Forces;
- You must have recently returned from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the U.S.;
- You must have owned or had a legal or equitable interest on January 1, 2025;
- You must be liable for the payment of property taxes.

A certified DD Form 214 must be provided or if not discharged, then your military orders and travel voucher showing date of return must be provided.

Deadline for filing is December 31, 2025.

Please contact the Chief County Assessment Office at 815-777-1016 for an application.

Chief County Assessment Officer
Jo Daviess County

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Jan. 29, 2025)
467275

2025 SR. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PERSON 65 YEARS OF AGE

Qualifications:

- Must own and occupy home as a full time resident as of January 1, 2025

- Must be liable for paying the real estate taxes on the property
- Must be of the age of 65 or older in 2025

Apply at the Chief County Assessment Office, 219 Kelly Lane, Galena, IL prior to May 31, 2025 or phone 815-777-1016. First time applicants are required to submit a copy of their driver's license. Those currently receiving this exemption do not need to reapply.

Chief County Assessment Officer
Jo Daviess County

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Jan. 29, 2025)
467270

2025 OWNER OCCUPIED EXEMPTION

Qualifications:

- Must own and occupy home as a full time resident as of January 1, 2025;
 - Must be liable for paying the real estate taxes on the property
- Apply at the Chief County Assessment Office, 219 Kelly Lane, Galena, IL prior to May 31, 2025 or phone 815-777-1016. Applicants are required to submit a copy of their driver's license or Federal Income Tax form. Those currently receiving this exemption do not need to reapply.

Chief County Assessment Officer
Jo Daviess County

(Published in
The Scoop Today
Jan. 29, 2025)
467271

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association PLAINTIFF

Vs. Angeline Brechlin; United States of America - Administrator of the Small Business Administration; State of Illinois - Department of Public Aid; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Gertrude E. Brechlin; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Channing

Brechlin; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of James Brechlin; Shelia Brechlin; Douglas M. Brechlin; Linda M. Brechlin; Youso; Angeline Brechlin; Channing Brechlin, Jr.; Eve Brechlin-Harker; Fred C. Brechlin; George Brechlin; Kane Brechlin; Nikki Brechlin; Laura Wells a/k/a Laura Brechlin; William O'Malley ; Raymond L. Brechlin; State of Illinois - Department of Revenue; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants; Kipp Meyers, as Special Representative for Channing Brechlin (deceased), James Brechlin (deceased) and Gertrude E. Brechlin (deceased); Timothy Kudlacik

DEFENDANTS
No. 2024FC48
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

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Unknown Heirs and Legatees of James Brechlin
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Fred C. Brechlin
Kane Brechlin
Nikki Brechlin
Raymond L. Brechlin
Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
1922 N Farwell Bridge Rd
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and which said Mortgage was made by:

Channing Brechlin
Angeline Brechlin
James Brechlin
Gertrude E. Brechlin
the Mortgagor(s), to Bank One, Illinois, NA, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 9892930; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Shanelle Bardell Clerk of the Circuit Court 15 North Galena Freeport, IL 61032

on or before February 28, 2025, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 DuPage # 15170 Winnebago # 531 Our File No. 14-24-06006 NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. I3259466

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 2025)
467115

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 February 20, 2025 at approx. 1:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com Cube 1023 Willie Glover; Cube 1028 Bobbie Pusateri; Cube 1076 Latrice Allen; Cube 1101 Kayana Alexander; Cube 1112 Kenya Thomlinson; Cube 1171 Lateesha Watkins; Cube 1174 Celara Chatman

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Jan. 29 & Feb. 5, 2025)
467114

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - 15 NORTH GALENA AVENUE, FREEPORT, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF Mitchell A. Lyp, DECEASED

24 PR 74
Notice is given to creditors of the death of the
Continued on next page

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LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Kathleen Marie Gruszecki, 6614 North Point Road, Rockford, Illinois 61108, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Kathleen Farrell Duhig, Law Offices of Farrell & Farrell, 4550 West 103rd Street, Suite 202, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 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 with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before July 22, 2025, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinois-courts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinois-courts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Kathleen Farrell Duhig
Law Offices of Farrell & Farrell (6296348)
4550 West 103rd Street,
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Familiar faces rally around Le-Win Stadium Project

Committee seeking donations before Feb. 20

Robert "Bing" Wells has already made his mark in Panther history. A 1963 graduate of Lena-Winslow High School, Wells has been the man behind the microphone at school competitions for over 50 years. The press box at the football field bears his name. So perhaps it's no surprise that Wells was one of first donors to the Lena-Winslow Stadium Project. "I was raised here. I helped raise my family here. I am blessed to be able to contribute to what I consider a worthy cause," said Wells.

Building on the momentum of \$625,000 Stadium Sponsorship by Community Bank and a \$25,000 donation from Bob and Martha Lyvers last November, local support is pouring in for the Stadium Project. A total of \$708,700 has been raised toward the \$1.25 million fundraising goal. So far, approximately 30 donors have given to the cause, with more being announced daily on the website, lwstadiumproject.com.

When the project was first announced, the Snyder family didn't hesitate to make a contribution.

"Our family moved to Lena in 1989. My brother Jake, sister Kendra, and myself are proud graduates of Lena-Winslow. Jake and Caitlynn have two little girls, and Holly and I have three boys. All of our kids will have the opportunity to benefit from the stadium project," said Jesse Snyder, a special education teacher and football coach at Lena-Winslow.

The Snyder family feels an investment in school facilities is an investment in area youth.

"It's amazing to think that we will be able to offer our current and future students the best facilities in our area!" said Snyder.

The Stadium Project Com-



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Le-Win Special Education Teacher and Football Coach Jesse Snyder, pictured on the field with wife Holly and their three children, explained the family donated to the stadium project because they saw it as an important investment in local youth.

mittee is asking potential donors to reach out by February 20, before the school board votes on how to move the project forward. The closer they are to the \$1.25 million fundraising goal, the better the case to tackle the project in its full scope.

By installing the new turf field at the same time as the bleachers and track this summer, the total cost—and disruption to student activities—will be less. Area businesses and organizations are also stepping up to support the cause. Most recently, Stephenson Service Company, FS Fast Stop, and Corp Tire made a \$25,000 contribution, which is incredibly timely as each dollar given in the coming weeks could make the difference in a comprehensive summer installation. "How wonderful it would be if we could welcome students back to school this fall with a new stadium and field," said Dr. Tom Chiles, Lena-Winslow

Superintendent.

Last week, Chiles and his wife, Susan, joined the growing list of sponsors with a \$5,000 donation. "Our communities have been great to our family and incredibly supportive of the school district. We feel honored to contribute to this project and hope our contribution encourages others make a commitment as well," said Chiles.

The school set aside \$2,150,000 in its budget to build new bleachers with increased capacity, provide track resurfacing and expansion from six to eight lanes, make drainage repairs and install hard-surface pathways. The goal is for private donations to cover the cost of the turf field and enhancements to the digital scoreboard.

Last fall, the Stadium Committee launched a website and Facebook group to share their progress, and they recently provided details to recognize donors at the new stadium.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Stadium Project Committee hopes through robust fundraising, the new field will be installed this summer at the same time as the bleachers and track.

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Listings



411 Oak Ridge, Lena \$32,000

Build your new home on this lot in Oak View Terrace Subdivision. City water and sewer at lot line. Reach out for a copy of the Copy of Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions.



129 W. Railroad, Lena \$99,900

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



1925 S. Simmons, Stockton \$165,000

Two story at the edge of Stockton offers you on the main floor a spacious living room with decorative fireplace, dining room (currently used as a bedroom), large eat in kitchen, office, laundry room and full bath. Upstairs are the bedrooms (only 1 with a closet) and the second full



511 N. Main, Stockton \$88,000

Covered front porch, large entry, pocket doors, some wood floors, living room, dining room, kitchen with snack bar. Patio door in dining room leads to a back deck as does the door in the kitchen. Upstairs are the 2 bedrooms, full bath and enclosed back porch. The primary bedroom has a second area that could be

used as a nursery, sitting area or home office. The second bathroom is in the unfinished basement. Concrete driveway next to the house. There is a door by the driveway that takes you to a landing that goes to the main floor or basement. The garage is off of the alley. Will not work for government loan types. Property/appliances sold in "as is" condition. House roof 5 +/- years old.

bath. Outside you'll find two decks, garden shed, storage shed, 2 car garage and nice yard. Kitchen, living room and bathroom gutted and updated in the last 3 years, from the flooring to cabinets, countertop, backsplash, sink, pot filler over stove, light/fans, patio door in laundry room, and complete main floor bath remodel. The dining room was redone 8+/- years ago.



Lots Plat, Lena \$32,000 - \$38,000

Several other lots available in Oak View Terrace.



14190 Goldmine Road, Pearl City \$439,000

Nearly 25 acre recreational property, with home, pole building, and 16' swimming pool! 20 acres heavy timber – exceptional hunting, with 2.5 miles of trails throughout. 30' x 30' pole building (8' x 16' overhead door). Steel, single family home, attached 2.5 car garage with shop/work area, water, heat & floor drain.



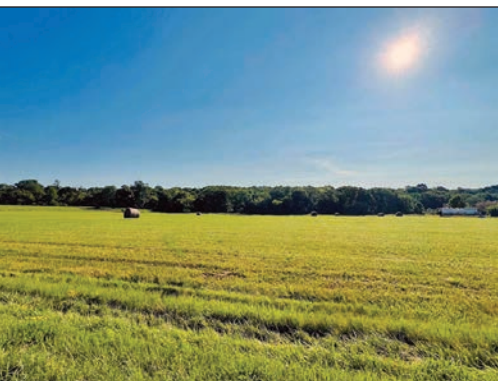
5543 US RTE 20 W, Freeport \$300,000

Take a look at this all brick home. This home features open breezeway with access to the garage, back deck, and kitchen. In the kitchen you will find basement door, access to the hallway, and the dining

room. The living room is just off the dining room with a formal front door to the home. Off the living room is the hallway in which will take you to all 3 bedrooms and full bath. Down in the basement you will find a caning area, 2nd full bathroom, laundry space, and large open room formerly used as a family room. Outside you will find a 40 x 60 shed with power and water, also features 2/3 of the floor with cement and the other part dirt. Estate sold as is.

2818 Southview Drive, Lanark \$9,999

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