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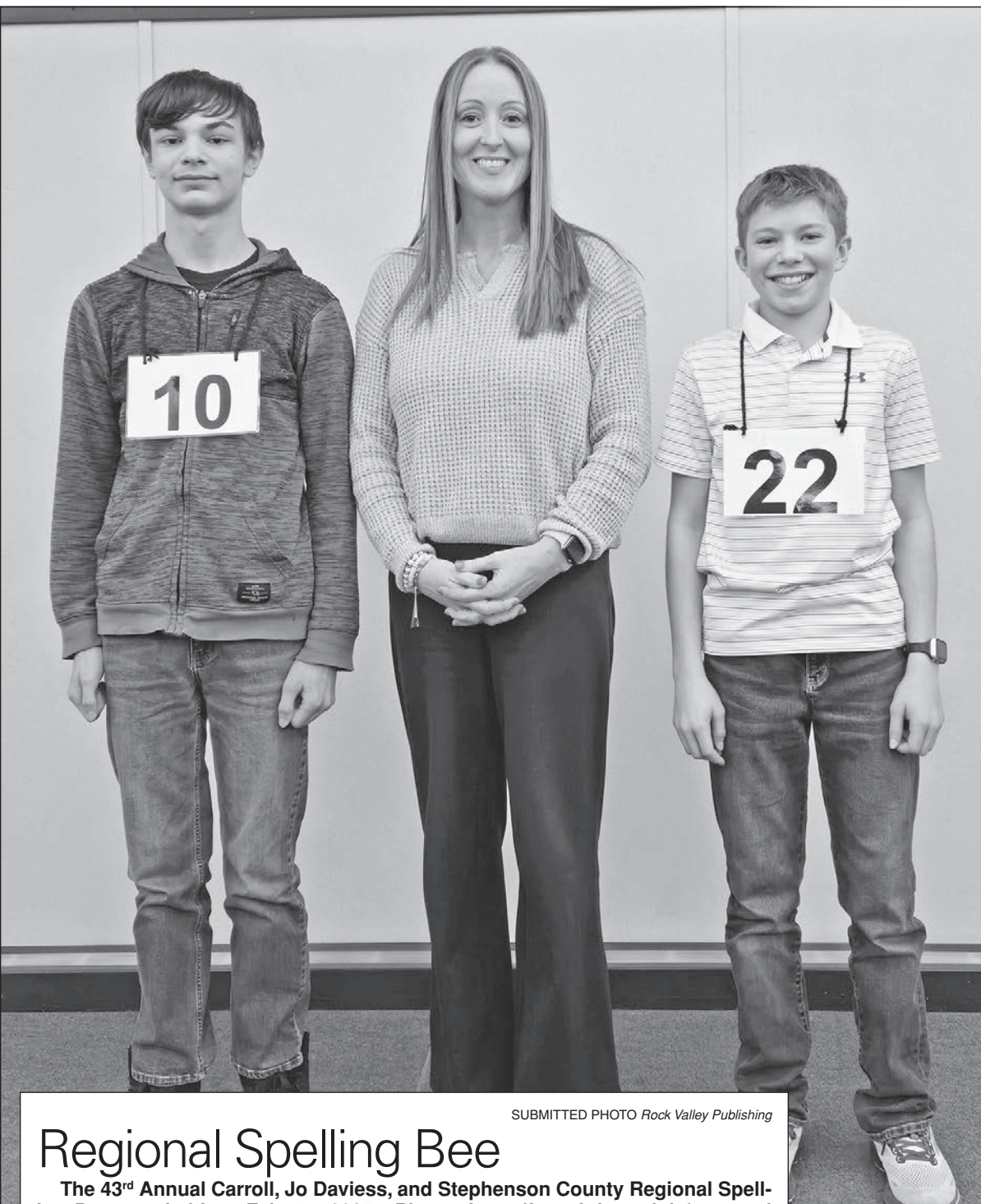
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VOL. 87 • NO. 9

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19, 2025



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## Regional Spelling Bee

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Stephenson County Regional Spelling Bee was held on Feb. 11, 2025. Pictured are (from left to right) second place winner Hendrix Feld, Regional Office of Education Representative Sarah Meador, and first place winner Mason Coulthard.

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## Illinois gives tax credit act provides benefit for state taxpayers, nonprofits, communities

Illinois taxpayers have a new way to decrease tax liability while increasing their charitable impact, thanks to the newly enacted Illinois Gives Tax Credit Act (Illinois Gives). Approved by the State of Illinois in 2024 and in effect as of Jan. 1, 2025, Illinois Gives provides a 25% state income tax credit for gifts made to eligible endowments at Qualified Community Foundations (QCF).

Illinois Gives provides three-fold benefit:

- For taxpayers: individuals and businesses alike can reduce their personal state income tax liability, while maximizing the impact of their generosity. Additional federal tax savings may apply for individuals who itemize on their federal return!
- For nonprofits: endowed funds provide a stable, reliable, and growing source of support, whether via direct designation or competitive grant processes at QCFs.
- For communities: contributions must be made to funds that support programs and projects that directly impact Illinois residents and improve local communities.

The Illinois Gives program was designed to inspire generosity in every corner of the state and promote equitable distribution of the credits to donors of many levels. Up to \$100,000 in credit can be issued per taxpayer per calendar year. Of the \$5,000,000 in credits available annually, 25% are reserved for contributions of \$25,000 or less. No single QCF can receive more than 15% of

the total credits. The Illinois Gives Tax Credit Act will sunset after five years if not renewed or extended.

Credits are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis to taxpayers who create an account with the Illinois Department of Revenue. Donors are encouraged to talk with their local Qualified Community Foundation and discuss ways to maximize the benefits of Illinois Gives. "We are thrilled to have achieved Qualified Community Foundation status and stand ready to partner with donors in our mutual goal of benefiting the people and places of Northern Illinois," said Dan Ross, CFNIL President. "Illinois Gives is truly a win-win-win for taxpayers, nonprofits, and the communities of Illinois; it's wonderful to have a new tool to inspire and promote philanthropy in our region."

Learn more about how to take advantage of Illinois Gives and connect with your local Qualified Community Foundation, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, at [cfnil.org/illinoisgives](http://cfnil.org/illinoisgives).

### About the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL)

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois has served Northern Illinois since 1953. CFNIL works to inspire endowment and promote philanthropy for the current and future needs of the people of Northern Illinois. Learn more about their work and commitment to philanthropy and effective grant-making at [cfnil.org](http://cfnil.org).

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# Obituaries

## DENNIS MAGEE

Dennis "Spike" Magee, 73 of Stockton, IL passed away on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025. He was born to Vernon and Neola (Gates) Magee on Dec. 15, 1951, in Freeport, IL. Spike grew up in Stockton, IL and attended primary school at Holy Cross and Graduated from Stockton High School in 1970. Shortly after high school he joined the United States Army where he was stationed in Korea as a Military Police Officer from June of 1971 to December of 1972. When he returned home, he started working at Schramm Plastering in Freeport, IL. In 1978, he started his own business, Magee Plastering. He was always known for his attention to detail and passion for his work, he was a true artist.

After he retired from plastering, Spike would salvage old barn wood and resell it. He was very passionate about



not seeing those barns go to waste. During his younger years, he would volunteer with the Stockton Girls Basketball programs. Singing was another passion of Spikes. For many years he was a member of the Peace Seekers Choir out of Stockton, IL, which they performed different Christian songs. Spike was a devoted Christian and was active in the Martintown Community Church, Willow Church and the Morrisville Church. He was a part of various bible study groups at those churches.

Dennis is Survived by his Daughter Vanessa (Magee) Squires of Grimes, Iowa; 9 siblings- Gary (Rose) Magee of Janesville, WI, Carol Ann

(Joe) Staver of Stockton, IL, Jim Magee of South Wayne, WI, John (Charmaine) Magee of Lena, IL, Janet Behrens of Stockton, IL, Steven Magee of Stockton, IL, June (Dave) Bergemann of Lena, IL, Gene Magee of Stockton, IL and Trisha (Boyd) Cox of Galena, IL; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, 3 brothers- Ron, Tom and Patrick Magee; and sister Mary Raab.

A service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, at the Martintown Community Church in Martintown, WI. Immediately following the service there will be a luncheon and time of visiting with the family at the Church. Cremation rites have been accorded. Burial will be held at a later date. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leamonfh.com](http://www.leamonfh.com)

## PETER KORTH

Peter William Korth, age 68, of Stockton, IL passed away Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2025, at University of Illinois Chicago Hospital from a short battle with leukemia. He was born in Freeport, IL on Nov. 12, 1956, to the late Raymond and Lola (Bonjour) Korth. Pete married Terry Molitor on Dec. 31, 1977.

Pete was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton. He owned and operated Pete's Carpentry for many years. He had a passion for wood working, hand turned bowl making and loved building custom cabinets. He



ended his career working in sales and estimates at Hoskins Building Center in Elizabeth. Pete loved to golf and was part of the Coach's golf league. He also enjoyed reading, crosswords, and cooking. Most of all, Pete loved his family, especially his grandchildren. Family was very important to him, and he enjoyed every minute he got to spend with them.

He is survived by his wife,

Terry Korth of Stockton; his son, Kyle (Marcie) Korth of Dubuque; his daughters, Rachel (Bill) Curnyn of Geneseo and Emily (Jordan) Haarsma of Madison; his mother-in-law, Pat Molitor of Stockton; his brother, Dan (Peggy) Korth of Stockton; his sister, Beverly (Dennis) Broege of Stockton; his grandchildren, Carter, Calvin, Owen, Leah, Eliza, Jaldyn, Madelyn, Jack, and one on the way; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother, Norm (Cheryl) Korth.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, Feb. 24, 2025, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton at 11 a.m. There will be a visitation on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m. also at Holy Cross. Interment will take place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established with donations going to Gigi's Playhouse and Cure Sanfilippo Foundation. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).

# Land Leasing Basics Webinar offered

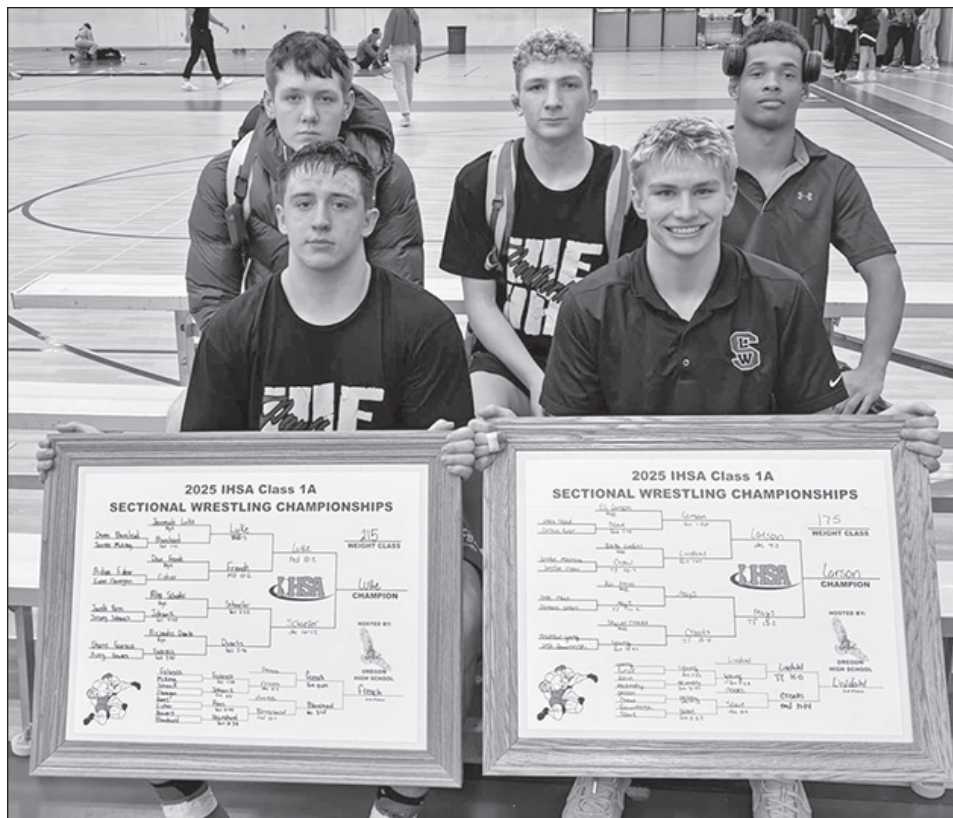
Leasing farmland is so commonplace that landowners, farmers, and ranchers may not think twice about the lease itself... until things go wrong. Prevent problems with a strong lease while building a path to a resilient future. Learn more at the **Land Leasing Basics Webinar**, led by staff from Farm Commons in partnership with the University of Illinois Extension

This online workshop will help you understand what a lease should include and how to put it in writing. Get started with the tools, knowledge, and skills you need to create a strong document that works for your needs, whether you are a landowner, rancher, or farmer.

**Land Leasing Basics Webinar** will be offered via Zoom on Monday, March 17, at 7 p.m. This webinar is part of the Legal Training for Illinois Small Farms Webinar Series. Future webinars in the series include **Farm Property Insurance** on June 23, 2025.

Registration is required to attend; register online at [go.illinois.edu/jsf](http://go.illinois.edu/jsf) or call University of Illinois Extension at 815-235-4125.

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please call 815-235-4125.



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Back row: Oliver McPeek, Arrison Bauer, Mauricio Glass. Front row: Jeremiah Luke, Eli Larson.

# PantherHawk wrestling qualifies five for Illinois State High School Tournament

By Trenten Scheidegger  
 CORRESPONDENT  
 The Lena-Winslow-Stockton PantherHawks are headed to the Illinois State High School Wrestling Tournament this weekend. Five PantherHawk wrestlers are competing in this year's tournament in Jeremiah Luke, Eli Larson, Arrison Bauer, Oliver McPeek, and Mauricio Glass. The five wrestlers punched their ticket to state after putting on impressive performances at this year's Section-

al meet in Oregon. Luke and Larson both had exceptional performances, claiming first place in their respective weight classes. Luke [215] and Larson [175] each received byes in the first round of the 2025 Sectionals. Luke dominated the quarterfinals round, defeating Devon Blanchard of Sandwich by technical fall with a score of 18-3. In the semifinals, Luke beat Dan French of Marian by a score of 10-2. Luke eventually punched his ticket to state and claimed first place with a 16-7 victory over Alex Schaefer of Marquette.

Larson had some close matches throughout sectionals, but he was the one who came out on top in the end. After the bye, Larson earned a victory by pinfall over Noah Stout of Morrison. In the semifinals, Larson beat Blake Livdahl of Richmond-Burton in a 4-2 decision. Larson then dominated the first-place

match, beating Duke Mays of Johnsburg by technical fall, winning 17-0.

Arrison Bauer [144] claimed second-place at this year's Oregon sectional. He also opened up sectionals with a bye, before picking up a 17-0 technical fall over Paul Coco of St Francis. Bauer then went into a thriller of a match, as he upset Cooper Corder of Sandwich 3-2 in overtime. Bauer then fell to Emmett Nelson of Richmond-Burton in the first-place match.

Oliver McPeek [190] also brought home a second-place finish. In the quarterfinals, McPeek defeated Logan Crowell of Alden-Hebron by pinfall. In the semifinals, he picked up another pinfall victory, beating Breckin Campbell of Richmond-Burton. McPeek eventually fell to Jimmy Mastny of Marian in the first-place match.

See **WRESTLING**, Page 8

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## Carol Borchardt



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 to  
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 Jen and families

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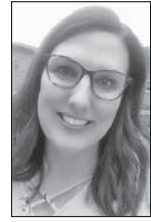
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# Around the Northern Hills



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

I'm sure all of you are sick and tired of this winter weather. At the farm bureau, this time of year is spent planning for all the spring and summer events. We have had quite a few planning meetings with more to come. Planning these events helps me not dwell on the nasty, cold, snowy days and I look forward to all the programs that will be here before I know it.

We just sent out the invitations to our farming members to the Young Leaders Farmer Appreciation Picnic and are making plans for other events such as our member appreciation picnic, farm fun days, fair activities, and so much more. We have an exciting and busy summer ahead!

involved in contests, being a chapter officer, keeping record books or traveling to Australia through the Work Experience Abroad program, FFA has provided me many incredible experiences. The Farm Bureau is proud to support our local FFA'ers!

### Farm Bureau Foundation's Scholarship

Time is running out to apply for the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation's scholarship program. The farm bureau awards scholarship(s) to students who are majoring in agriculture, agribusiness, vocational or an agriculture related course of study. The scholarship(s) are awarded on the basis of exceptional scholastic ability.

A copy of the application can be found at [www.jodavinesscfb.com](http://www.jodavinesscfb.com). Click on the foundation tab.

### Farm Fun Fact

Illinois ranks #4 in the production of pork.

### National FFA Week

It's National FFA Week! Our FFA Chapters help develop that next generation of leaders by encouraging members to develop their own unique talents and explore career pathways. FFA members are our future leaders, good suppliers, and innovators. I'm proud to be an FFA alumni and I would not have had some of the great experiences that I have had without my involvement. From being



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## Little Blackhawks

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

# Wildcats route Blackhawks, Warriors upset Fulton in girls basketball matchups

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound (RR-SM) Wildcats won 25 games in the 2024-2025 Illinois High School girls basketball regular season. That includes a pair of big victories over the Stockton Blackhawks and the Warren Warriors last week.

It was the final week of the regular season as the 2025 playoffs quickly approached. With just three regular season games left on the schedule, the RR-SM Wildcats were looking to fine tune their game.

It is safe to say they did that and more, as the Wildcats beat Stockton and Warren by a combined score of 118-63. It was a good week for the Wildcats as they appeared well-prepared for postseason play.

The Wildcats took on the Stockton Blackhawks on Tuesday, Feb. 11. Earlier this season, these two teams faced

off in an electrifying matchup that came down to the wire. RR-SM eventually came out on top of that game with a 42-40 victory. That was after Stockton had nearly pulled off an epic comeback, as the Wildcats held a 31-14 lead at the halftime break.

Their second meeting played out in similar fashion, only this time the Wildcats weren't going to let their big first half lead disappear. After jumping out to a 17-6 lead over Stockton, the Wildcats continued to pile it on in the second half.

In the end, RR-SM picked up a 56-29 victory over Stockton. Kenley Patterson and Laiken Haas combined for 28 points as they both finished with 14 points, which led the team. Berekely Mensendike added nine points in the win. Campbell Hereau and Ellie Rife each finished with eight points.

The very next day, the Wildcats were back in ac-

tion as they played host to the Warren Warriors. Warren came into the matchup with an overall record of 7-16. One of those losses was a 56-41 loss to RR-SM back in January.

Not only did the Wildcats continue to prove that they have gotten better as the season progressed, but they got to do some celebrating along the way. In last week's game against Warren, RR-SM senior Laiken Haas scored career point 1000 at the varsity level. She needed just 17 points to do so, but Haas wound up posting 29 in what was a career-high performance.

The Wildcats would win the game 62-34 over Warren. The Warriors were led

in scoring by Lizzy Hartzell, who finished the game with 12 points. After the loss, Warren bounced back with a 31-30 victory over Fulton in the first round of postseason play. Mayci Mullen's three-point shooting helped keep their season alive as she led the way with 10 points in the victory.

RR-SM wrapped up their regular season with a 57-19 victory over West Carroll. It was the last official game to be played in the Savana, IL gymnasium. All West Carroll games in the future will take place at West Carroll High School, in Mt Carroll. The Wildcats began postseason play on Feb. 18, when they took on the Pearl City Wolves.

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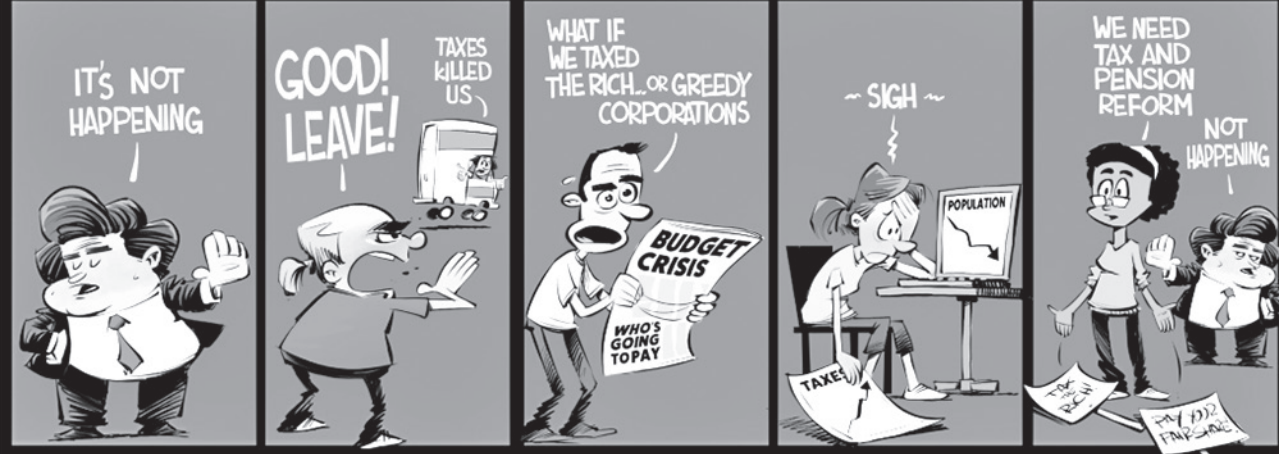
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# ILLINOIS POPULATION DECLINE THE STAGES OF GRIEF

1. DENIAL 2. ANGER 3. BARGAINING 4. DEPRESSION 5. ACCEPTANCE



## Weekly connection

# Deer deer everywhere

I got home tonight from a wonderful weekend out in Ames, Iowa where my wife and I traveled for a family wedding. The drive out was great as we basically put the truck on auto pilot and cruised west on highway 20. It felt like it does when we take one of our trips out to Colorado or Montana only after about three and a half hours, we cut things short and turned south and rolling into Ames. I always enjoy driving across the farmland of our midwestern states because it just feels like home. When I look across the fields of harvested crops, I feel great appreciation for all the hard work that went into the planting and harvesting.



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

The people of Iowa seem like they are very laid back and kind people as well. Anyway, the wedding was beautiful and since there were a bunch of us family there, we all stayed at the same hotel. In the morning, we ate breakfast together at the hotel and then made our way back to the church for a wonderful time of worship. Since I'm preaching every Sunday, I really enjoy the chance to just

sit out in the congregation and soak everything in. This time I also had the privilege of sitting with about six or seven of our grandkids who took turns climbing on and off of grandma and grandpa's lap.

After church got over, we were able to spend some time just visiting with friends who we had just met at the wedding the day before. When we were all "visited-out" we decided to head back across Iowa for home. I always enjoy taking a different route back home when we travel, so we decided to hop on highway 30 instead of 20 and drive back east to Wisconsin. Instead of driving up to

Dubuque, we decided to cross the Mississippi at Clinton, Iowa and drive up highway 78. I discovered this road a couple of springs ago when we were taking a trip to Branson, Missouri. I enjoyed the beef farms and rolling hills so much that year that I try to get back on that road as often as I can. The one thing I wasn't expecting was what we encountered Sunday evening. There were probably seventy or eighty deer all together that we saw in the fields alongside that highway as we made our way slowly up through the rolling hills. With deer running every which way, it was rather nerve racking to say the least. Since it was just getting dark and kind of hard to see, we were on high alert. They were

See DEER, Page 5

## Slices of life

# Victim or victor



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

This life provides challenges for all of us. They can be beyond difficult. And unexpected. And unfair.

Your marriage ends unexpectedly. Your spouse dies. You lose your job. You lose a parent or a sibling. Your best friend finds a new best friend. An accident upends your life. You struggle with infertility. You have chronic pain. You struggle with your health. Your doctor diagnoses you with the 'C' word.

And so on and so on and on and on.

It can be disheartening. Especially if you see it that way.

Life often sets us up to be the victim.

Circumstances go against what we'd hoped. Luck isn't on our side. We lose more than we win. The rules seem to change. People who should be loyal are not. Others who should be kind are cruel.

The world is cruel.

At face value, it is disheartening.

Oh heck, at any level it is disheartening.

Life can be a bully sometimes – often times. Life will beat you up and spit you out, without remorse. Without caring about how you feel or how crushed your spirit might be.

To heck with you.

What does any of it matter, anyway?

When you are the most downtrodden, when people and the world have cut you to your quick, when it seems

everyone who should be supporting you has turned their back against you, when you want to stay in bed, under the covers all day long because facing the world seems like facing razor blades, remember one thing:

The world may see you as a victim. You may feel like the victim. But:

You do not have to be the victim. You are not the victim.

Although the role of victim feels like it should be the default for much of life's foibles, it is not. And perhaps the most telling word in that last sentence is "role."

You do not have to play the role of victim – despite what your circumstances might imply.

You do not have to accept the role of victim, and if you can sort of grasp this, you can change the whole mentality.

From victim to victor. It is yours for the taking.

Make lemonade out of lemons – we've all heard the phrase, and sometimes it's a benefit to incorporate such colloquialisms into real life.

Much like making lemonade, this process is pretty simple. I've already alluded to the fact the default is that of victim.

But you are not the default! You are unique and one in a million. One in a billion!

What makes you think you are the default? Don't sell yourself short.

You can take a loss and make it a win. You take a liability and make it an asset. You take lemons and make limonchello. (Bypassing lemonade, because you are way beyond that!)

Life is hard. I understand that. I know it firsthand.

But I also know that hard can be overcome and the only way to overcome it is through your own mindset. Other people can define you as the victim, they will see you as the victim. But it is up to you – and only you – as to how you decide to see yourself.

See SLICES, Page 5



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# IN\*CI\*DENTAL\*LY

## How oral health impacts your cardiovascular health

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the U.S. As we celebrate American Heart Month this February, the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Dental Association (ADA) wish to get the word out about an often-overlooked connection: the one between your heart health and your oral health. It is their hope that understanding this connection will inspire more active participation in your daily oral hygiene routine, which in turn will play a significant role in protecting your heart.



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

powerful reminder of how interconnected our bodies systems are. Oral disease and heart disease are connected by the spread of germs from your mouth to other parts of your body through the bloodstream. This can trigger an inflammatory response throughout the body, including in the arteries. Inflammation in the blood

vessels promotes plaque formation (atherosclerosis) that narrows the flow of blood. This reduces oxygen to tissues and organs in the body. Inflammation can also loosen or burst the plaque, leading to a blood clot. Oral bacteria can increase your risk for infective endocarditis (an infection of the inner lining of the heart or heart valves), cardiovascular disease, heart attack and stroke.

Chronic oral and systemic inflammation from oral disease negatively impacts your immune system as well. When your immune system is constantly working to

fight off bacteria it not only weakens your ability to fight infections, but it can also make you more susceptible to the development or worsening of other systemic diseases.

Research shows an association between periodontal disease and the development of hypertension (high blood pressure). A study published by the AHA in 2018 also found that periodontal disease can make medications to treat hypertension less effective. This is significant because in 2025 hypertension is the leading risk factor for heart disease. High blood pressure

forces the heart to work harder to pump blood to the rest of the body. This causes the lower left heart chamber, called the left ventricle, to thicken and to enlarge, raising your risk of heart attack and heart failure.

As with any disease, prevention of heart disease is the goal. Being proactive in maintaining your oral health is an important way to protect your heart health. When you floss and brush twice a day, you lower germ levels that might lead to infections, such as tooth decay and periodontal disease. This lowers the risk of bacteria spreading

from your mouth into your bloodstream. Regular checkups and professional cleanings also contribute to prevention and early detection of oral disease. Treating oral disease in its earliest stages further decreases the risk of systemic inflammation.

Given the interconnection between oral health and heart health, it should come as no surprise that lifestyle choices that contribute to oral disease are also risk factors for heart disease. These include diets that are high in sugar, carbonated beverages, processed foods and alcohol and tobacco use.

### • Deer (Continued from page 4)

literally everywhere. The closest we came to hitting one was when two good sized twin fawns were standing right on the side of the road when we came around a curve. Thankfully they bolted back into the woods instead of across the road. We managed to make it home without hitting one of them. It did take us at least an extra hour on account of taking the scenic route and dodging all those deer at a reduced speed. In all, it was a great little

mini get away.

One of my favorite verses that is good for all marriages is found in Ephesians 4 and verse 2. It reads, Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. I wrote that verse in the wedding card with a note to make this their goal. I also wrote that my wife and I have been married some thirty-eight years and we are still working on it. Until next week, God bless!

### • Slices (Continued from page 4)

What is a victor? A conqueror. A winner. Someone who ends up on top. Someone who deserves a word of congratulations.

Someone who does not let the world define them, but chooses to define themselves.

I also believe any victor has overcome adversaries and difficulties – battles even, because you can't be a victor without conflict and struggles. It is those very struggles – and overcoming them, one breath at a time – that allow you to redefine yourself: from victim to

victor.

It isn't easy. But I will tell you one thing for certain.

It is most definitely worth it.

*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.*



### Church news

#### Good Shepherd Lutheran

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. Join on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week will be the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Luke 6:27-38.

On Wednesday, Feb. 25, 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 web-

site 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

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the seventh Sunday after Epiphany at worship on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. There will be a Children's Message during the service and the Chancel Choir will be singing.

Everyone is welcome to come play cards and dominoes on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 1 p.m.

and to play dominoes on Tuesday, March 4 at 9 a.m.

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

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on Thursday, Feb. 20 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.

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

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### Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner

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**at 815-947-2476 or**  
**email [citw@citwretreat.com](mailto:citw@citwretreat.com)**

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Bread & Dessert*

# Historic moment for Illinois: New nature preserve protects important Native American heritage

In January and for the first time in its 62-year history, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), a division of the Illinois DNR, was addressed by a federally recognized tribe, the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin. A proposal co-authored by staff from the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) and Bill Quackenbush, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Ho-Chunk Nation, was heard and approved by

INPC Commissioners. The result is the dedication of JDCF's Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve as an Illinois Nature Preserve.

"This Nature Preserve dedication is important because it grants the highest level of legal protection to the land," said former JDCF Director of Land Conservation Jim Johannsen. Dedicating the property as a state Nature Preserve is our way of doubling down on our prom-

ise to protect this place forever."

Perched on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River backwaters, JDCF purchased Casper Bluff in 2007 to protect both natural features and historic cultural lands that have been used extensively by the ancestors of the Ho-Chunk and other Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Since then, JDCF has restored the land to its original native prairie and oak

savanna ecosystems.

Under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, the INPC is a governmental body that is charged with identifying and protecting the highest quality remaining natural areas in Illinois. INPC works across the state with public and private landowners to voluntarily dedicate their lands as Nature Preserves, ensuring the land's natural and cultural resources will endure for future generations

to enjoy.

According to oral history, the land that is now known as northwest Illinois was home to the Ho-Chunk and other Native American peoples for thousands of years before being settled by Euro-American peoples in the nineteenth century. During this time, the Ho-Chunk and other tribal nations were forcibly removed from the region. Today, the Ho-Chunk people

are organized as two separate federally recognized tribes: the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

Casper Bluff is located at 870 S Pilot Knob Rd, Galena, IL. It is open daily dawn to dusk and free of charge. Visitors are asked to remain on trails and be respectful of the extensive and sensitive cultural heritage spread across the Preserve.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

From left: Jim Johannsen, former JDCF Director of Land Conservation, Bill Quackenbush, THPO/Ho-Chunk Nation, Clayton Winneshiek, Director of Heritage Preservation and Traditional Chief/Ho-Chunk Nation, Chloris Lowe Jr, twice past-President/Ho-Chunk Nation, and Adam Kessel, INPC Commissioner.

## News briefs

### Lena American Legion Auxiliary

The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will honor female veterans with a brunch on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 316 W. Main St., Lena. There will be no charge for this brunch. Please join for fellowship and entertainment. Please call 815-369-4684 or email jamcps54@yahoo.com to make reservation or with any questions. Reservations are due by March 20.

### McCannell American Legion Auxiliary meeting

The McCannell American Legion Auxiliary Meeting will be held at the McCannell Legion on Feb. 19, 2025. Social time will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting starting at 6 p.m. Anyone who is interested in the Auxiliary is welcome to attend.

### Blackhawk Unit of the SCAHCE meeting

The February meeting of the Blackhawk Unit of the SCAHCE will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. Roll call will be, "How do you waste food?" Janet Ferguson will give a lesson on food waste. Marsha Erwin and Paula Gerke will bring items for the raffle. All are invited to join to share ideas on reducing food waste.

### Stephenson County VA Pantry

Current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry include:

- Paper Towels
- Kleenex
- Cans of fruit
- Cans of Soup
- Chewy Granola Bars
- Jello and Pudding
- Cans of Tuna/Chicken
- Hamburger Helper
- Crackers

Donations are always appreciated and 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, IL. This list includes immediate needs, however other items will always be accepted. Please call 815-369-4684 with any questions.

### Free wellness event for seniors

The Senior Resource Center, in partnership with Fitness Lifestyles, is excited to host a Senior Wellness Event on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 1 p.m. at the Senior Resource Center. This special event is designed to help older adults improve their stability, flexibility, and overall health through expert guidance, assessments, and interactive demonstrations. Space is limited. Call 815-235-9777 to reserve a spot.



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*— FFA Creed by E. M. Tiffany,*

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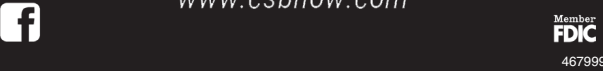


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# Lady Broncos claim fourth consecutive NUIC North girls basketball title

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The NUIC North has been a hot spot for Illinois High School girls basketball for years now. Lena-Winslow, Pecatonica, and Orangeville have especially stood out as some of the top teams in northern Illinois over the last half decade. Despite the fierce competition, the Orangeville Broncos have continuously claimed a spot atop the conference standings.

Coming into the 2024-2025 season, the Broncos had won three consecutive NUIC North championships. This year, their chances of claiming the title for a fourth consecutive time looked grim after suffering a blowout loss to Pecatonica earlier this year.

In mid-January, Pecatonica beat Orangeville by a score of 40-24. Additionally, they did so in Orangeville's gymnasium, making the loss hurt just a

little bit more. Despite that, Jay Doyle's Broncos remained focused on their long-term goals.

Last week, the Broncos finally got another crack at the Pecatonica Indians. It was arguably the biggest game of the year for Orangeville, up to that point. Not only were they hoping to avenge their home loss from earlier in the year, but they were looking to keep their conference championship hopes alive.

Pecatonica was without one of their top players due to illness. With the Indians missing their starting point guard in Kiana Degner, it was a completely different matchup than the first time around. Pecatonica's head coach, Daniel Rosentstiel, credited Orangeville's staff for coming in with an excellent game plan.

It was Orangeville's defense that impressed in the first half. Going against Pecatonica, the



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

The Orangeville girls basketball team are co-conference champions after winning 49-37 against Dakota on Feb. 13. Pictured are (back row, left to right) Jay Doyle, Julie Cahoon-Jackson, Kylie Blakely, Oliva Schroeder, Bailey Jordan, Alaina Dinderman, Lily Rodebaugh, John Lewis, Chris Cahoon, (front row, left to right) Addy Wheeler, Kaylynn O'Haver, Nadalee Doyle, Laney Cahoon, Lily Blakely, Abigail Hazzard, Alyse Cahoon.

Broncos had to face one of Illinois' premier scorers in Elaina Rager. Orangeville held Rager to just six points in all of the

first half. Without Degner on the floor, that left Pecatonica's offense feeling one-dimensional.

Although Orangeville's offense wasn't exactly spreading it around, they were able to rely on their two leading scorers in Nadalee Doyle and Laney Cahoon. In the first half, Doyle and Cahoon combined for 17 points. Doyle hit a three-pointer as she had nine points in the half.

Coming out of halftime, Orangeville held a 21-16 lead over the Indians. Orangeville would maintain their lead with some solid free throw shooting in the second half. Doyle went seven for nine from the free throw line in the second. Cahoon went three for six in the half.

In the end, the duo combined for 35 of Orangeville's 42 total points. The Broncos picked up a 42-38 victory, keeping their conference hopes alive. Doyle

led the team in scoring with 18, while Cahoon was right behind her with 17.

Orangeville went on to claim a co-conference championship in their win over Dakota on Feb. 13. The Broncos separated themselves from Dakota by outscoring them 14-6 in the third quarter. They went on to win the game 49-37.

Following an exceptional week to keep their streak alive, Orangeville's head coach discussed their epic battles with Pecatonica. "Any time you play Pecatonica they do everything well. They know what they are doing, they are well coached. You are going to play them multiple times, you got to sneak one of them in. The first time we played them, we had some shots we didn't make. We had eight points in the first half, that's not a common thing for our team, and if the roles were reversed, I would say the same thing about them. You're

not going to hold them down. When we played over there, we tried to make it hard on them to get the things that they wanted. It was just a well-played game that we have been battling them with the last four years. We were fortunate enough to come out on top of that one, and it helped us share co-conference champs with them. A team that is well deserving, too," Jay explained in depth.

Orangeville finished their regular season with an overall record of 27-4. Postseason play began on Feb. 18, when the Broncos took on the South Beloit Sobos in regionals.

## • Wrestling

(Continued from page 2)

Mauricio Glass [138] brought home a fourth-place finish, making him the fifth PantherHawk to qualify for the 2025 IHSA Wrestling Tournament. Glass had to battle to make it there. After losing in the quarterfinals, Glass had to win back-to-back consolation matches in order to get another opportunity. An 8-6 victory over Logan Williamson of Rock Falls helped keep Glass's season alive. After making it to the third-place match, Glass fell to Andrew Alvarado of Marian.

This year's Tournament takes place in Champaign, Illinois, at the State Farm Center. The individual tournament runs from Thursday, Feb. 20, through Saturday, Feb. 22.

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# Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

An often-asked question this week is, "What are you doing for Valentine's Day?" Since college my husband and I have celebrated the holiday by making dinner at home and testing our limited culinary skills with an elaborate dessert. This year we will be traveling, so we are going to let the culinary experts do what they do best.

Everyone celebrates this day differently, but most means of celebration have a relation to agriculture. Maybe you plan to treat yourself with a themed specialty coffee at the local shop on your way to work. The milk used to prepare that beverage comes from our dairy farmers. The

beans for that morning pick me up came from coffee farmers. Does your significant other send a dozen roses to your office? Those roses come from rose gardens and farmers who raise flowers. It is estimated that this year over 100 million roses valued at over 18 million dollars will be sold for Valentine's Day. Imagine that number if it included all the other flowers that will also be given on that day! Will you join the 92% of Americans that plan to celebrate with chocolate and candy? That is a lot of cocoa. I hope you will remember a farmer in your Valentines Day wishes.

## Rules for the Road meeting

Save the for a March 11 Rules for the Road meeting hosted by Whiteside County Farm Bureau. This meeting will begin at 8 a.m. at the Sauk Valley Community College Riverview Conference Center, Dixon IL. Learn more about CDL and Trucking Regulations to help you stay legal and safe when you hit the road. Registration opens on Feb. 1 and can be completed by reaching out to your county Farm Bureau Carroll, 815-244-3001 and Stephenson 815-232-3186.

## Freeze Meal Fundraiser

Orders are now being accepted for Spring Freezer meals. Those who order will get 10 meals each serving four people. The menu in-

cludes Hickory Smoked Pulled Pork, Hickory Smoked Pulled Chicken, Pulled Pork, Mac N Cheese, Chicken and Biscuits, Smoked Meatloaf, Chicken Fajitas w/ Peppers and Onions, Cheesy Ham and Potatoes, Cowboy Baked Beans, Beef Mostaccioli, and Soup (flavor to be determined).

Each set costs \$190 if pay-

ing with cash or check and \$195 if paying with credit card. Orders are due before Feb. 26 at 12 p.m. with pickups taking place Monday, April 7 in Carroll County from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and in Ogle County from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. To place an order online visit [www.carrollcfb.org/events/](http://www.carrollcfb.org/events/)

## Carroll County Scholarship applications due soon

Scholarships for Carroll County Farm Bureau members and their dependents are due on or before Monday, March 3 at 1 p.m. Scholarship applications can be found at <https://form.jotform.com/243473949501159> or at [www.carrollcfb.org/events/](http://www.carrollcfb.org/events/)

# Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education Scholarship

Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education (SCAHCE) is offering a \$300 scholarship to a student seeking higher education. This scholarship is open to a student of any age, sex, or race, who has a high school diploma or GED certificate. The recipient of a SCAHCE Scholarship must be a current resident of Illinois, regardless of whether they attend a school in Illinois. The applicant must attend a vocational institution or institution of higher learning working toward a vocational

certification, undergraduate degree, or graduate degree.

The applicant must be a full-time student, majoring in a family related program, such as food management, textiles, diet, nutrition, childcare, marketing, agriculture communications, business management, nursing or social service, or a person returning to the work force or needs to be retrained in another field. If not a full-time student, scholarship will be prorated and shared with another part-time student.

The scholarship recipi-

ent must be an HCE member themselves or a family member, child, grandchild, niece, or nephew of a Stephenson County HCE member. Applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2025.

For more information and an application, contact the University of Illinois Extension Office at 815-235-4125. They will email the rules and application, or you can pick up a copy at the office located on the Highland Community College campus at 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Bldg. R. Freeport, IL.

## Lena-Winslow student wins Regional Spelling Bee

The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carroll, Jo Daviess, and Stephenson County Regional Spelling Bee was held on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at Highland Community College. The event showcased the spelling talents of 24 students from grades four through eight. Coordinated by Regional Office of Education #8, this prestigious competition featured top spellers who had placed first and second in their respective local school district spelling bees.

After an intense and highly competitive event, Mason Coulthard, an eighth-grade student from Lena-Winslow School District, emerged victorious as the 2025 Regional Spelling Bee Champion. Hendrix Feld, an eighth-grade student from Pearl City School District, secured an impressive second place. The final rounds saw an exciting back-and-forth between the two

competitors. Mason correctly spelled "squeamish" to end the round. In the championship round, he secured his title by correctly spelling "olympiad."

As the Regional Champion, Mason will advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee, set to take place May 25 through May 31, 2025, in Washington, D.C. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scripps National Spelling Bee, a milestone in this historic competition that has inspired generations of young scholars.

Mason's journey to Washington, D.C., along with that of one parent or guardian, is made possible through the generous support of individuals and businesses across the region. Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and dedication, and best of luck to Mason as he competes in this historic centennial event.

# First Semester 2024-2025 Pearl City High School Honor Roll Awards

## Highest Honor Roll

**Seniors:** Anna Dampman, Natalie Greene, Brinkley Knoup

**Juniors:** Tana Gravert

**Sophomores:** Mackenzie Lotz, Scarlett Snyder

**Freshmen:** Cassidy Dorty, Dustin Martens, Sandra Martens, Camdyn Smith

mer, Nathan Buss, Morgan Campbell, Brianna Christiansen, Brodie Dahl, Hannah Dinderman, Conner Gentz, Colton Gronewold, Deaken Hofmaster, Brogan Keltner, Porter Krolow, Marlee McPeek, Nola Milam, Maliani Munoz, Isaac Pickard, Jayelle Spahr, Elley Voss

ham, Brianna Boettner, Miles Corbin, Bridget Hoffman, Samuel Howe, Colt Kempel, Spencer Manthei, Charlotte Musser, Gemma Musser, Alexander Reed, Wade Sheffey, Kennedy Solt, Easton Turrell, Ariana Ugalde-Sanchez

## Honor Roll

### High Honor Roll

**Seniors:** Ethan Bremmer, Kylie Campbell, Jackson Corbin, Elizabeth Dinderman, Fallyn Endress, Myles Freedlund, Edgar Hidalgo, Paige Hille, Jaxsyn Kempel, Kendra Kuhlemeier, Zinnia Larson, Kaydence Miller, Alonna Posey, Jacob Runkle, Jared Runkle, Sylvia Schnoor, Adeline Smith, Isabella Smith, Talia Stewart, Lucas Tichler

**Juniors:** Kameron Downs, Makenzie Ihus, Oscar Ugalde-Sanchez

**Sophomores:** Eli Baker, Eli Bremmer, Clayton Downs, Tristan Ertmer, Tanner Hiester, Brynlee McPeek, Leo Petta, Nataleigh Todd

**Freshmen:** Baylee Boeke, Jayden Bremmer, Lucas Brem-

**Seniors:** Brady Boyer, Ayden Bratley, Kaitlyn Christensen, Tyler Clark, Jorja Johnson, Marley Joseph, Natalie Lotz, Sydney Lower, Paige McClaran, Emma Otte, Ryan Potter, Madison Roach, Alex Spahr

**Juniors:** William Birchen, Maya Boyer, Morgann Britton, Gracie Ditsworth, Daniel Garcia, Brandon Hille, Lane Kempel, Kip Martens, Nakiya Pickard, Kenadee Schreck, Kyri Strope

**Sophomores:** Parker Allen, Donna Baker, Keira Ellis, Brissia Garcia, Lila Gerber, Braxton Kubatzke, Braylon Liebenstein, Camden Miller, Danica Stager, Nevaeh Stultz, Brycen Voegeli, Lincoln Voss, Sawyer Williams

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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We finally got all the snow that was predicted. It seemed as if it would not quit, but I guess we aren't used to it. The bitter cold has set back in, and February is nearly over. This week's recipes are a combination of some good main meals, some yummy desserts, and a couple of surprises. Have a good week cooking.

## Philly Cheesecake Dip

This is a hearty and interesting appetizer. I have never made an appetizer with steak before, so this one is a first. You can use flank steak if

you don't want to use rib eye. You just have to slice it really thin. Put it in the freezer before slicing it, and it will slice beautifully.

- 1 pkg (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
  - 1/2 C. sour cream
  - 1/4 C. mayonnaise
  - 1 t. Worcestershire sauce
  - 1/2 t. garlic powder
  - 1 t. dried parsley flakes,
  - 1 t. salt, divided
  - 1/2 t. pepper
  - 12 slices provolone cheese, divided
  - 1 t. olive oil
  - 1 lb. shaved (thinly sliced) rib eye steak
  - 1 medium onion, finely chopped
  - 1 medium green pepper, finely chopped
  - Sliced baguette, tortilla chips, corn chips, pita chips for serving
- Preheat the oven to 375. Grease a large 9-inch pie plate and set aside. In a large bowl, combine the cream cheese, sour cream and mayo. Stir in Worcestershire

sauce, garlic powder, parsley, 1/2 t. salt and pepper. Chop 7 slices of provolone cheese into bite-sized pieces. Stir into cream cheese mixture; set aside.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add shaved steak; cook 2 to 3 minutes. Add onion, green pepper and remaining 1/2 teaspoon of salt. Cook, stirring frequently, another 3 to 4 minutes or until meat is browned and vegetables are tender. Drain grease from skillet. Stir meat and vegetable mixture into the cream cheese mixture until combined. Transfer to prepared pie plate; use a spatula to smooth into an even layer. Top with remaining slices of provolone cheese. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and edges start to brown. Set oven to broil; cook another 2 minutes until center is browned. Remove from oven and let cool 10 minutes. Serve with various dippers.

## Apple Salad

This green salad has all the crunch that anyone would want. The candied pecans add just the right sweetness. You can use Honey Crisp or Granny Smith apples or a combination of the two. You can also substitute feta cheese for the blue cheese. Also, you can substitute green onions for the shallots.

## Candied Pecans

- 1/2 C. packed brown sugar
- 1/4 t. cinnamon
- 1/4 t. salt
- 2 T. water
- 1 C. pecans

## Salad

- 6 C. mixed greens
- 2 Braeburn apples, thinly sliced
- 1/2 C. crumbled blue cheese
- 1/2 C. cranberries

## Dressing

- 2 T. apple cider vinegar
- 1/2 shallot, finely chopped
- 1/3 C. extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 T. Dijon mustard

Pecans: In a medium pan, combine the brown sugar, cinnamon, salt and water. Stir. Add pecans and simmer for 5 minutes; remove from pan to a baking sheet in a single layer and let cool.

In a large bowl, combine greens, apples, cheese, and cranberries; refrigerate until ready to serve.

Dressing: In a clear glass jar, whisk the vinegar, onions, oil, and Dijon; season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle pecans on salad and toss with dressing.

## Chicken Hashbrown Casserole

This hearty casserole is great for a main dish. I like the Mr. Dee's Hash Browns; if you use rotisserie chicken it is easy to put together. You can also use canned chicken for a

quick addition.

- 1 pkg. (32 oz.) frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 t. salt
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 4 C. diced cooked chicken
- 1 can (4 oz.) mushroom stems and pieces, drained
- 1 C. sour cream
- 2 C. chicken broth
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 t. chicken bouillon granules
- 2 T. finely chopped red pepper
- 2 T. finely chopped onion
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- Paprika
- 1/4 C. sliced almonds

Preheat the oven to 350. Spread potatoes in an ungreased 9x13 baking dish. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Sprinkle chicken and mushrooms over the top. Combine the sour cream, chicken broth, bouillon, chicken soup, onion, red pepper and garlic powder in a bowl. Pour over the mushrooms. Sprinkle with paprika and almonds. Bake, uncovered, until heated through, 50 to 60 minutes.

## Beef Chimichangas

I rarely put in recipes that need to be deep fried, but I had a request for a Mexican chimichanga recipe. This one was easy and doesn't require too much in the fryer department. Enjoy this southwestern entrée.

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 can (16 oz.) refried beans
- 1/2 C. finely chopped onion
- 4 cans (8 oz. each) tomato sauce, divided
- 2 t. chili powder
- 1 t. minced garlic
- 1/2 t. cumin
- 12 flour tortillas (10 inches), warmed
- 1 can (4 oz.) green chilies
- 1 can (4 oz.) chopped, jalapeño peppers

Oil for frying

1 1/2 C. shredded cheddar cheese

In a large skillet, cook beef over medium heat, crumbling beef, until no longer pink. Drain off excess fat. Stir in beans, onion, 1/2 C. tomato sauce, chili powder, garlic and cumin. Spoon about 1/3 C. of beef mixture off-center on each tortilla. Fold edge nearest filling up and over to cover. Fold in both sides and roll up. Fasten with toothpicks. In a large saucepan, come the chiles, peppers and remaining tomato sauce; heat through. In an electric skillet or deep fat fryer, heat 1 inch of oil to 375. Fry the chimichangas for 1 1/2 minutes on each side or until browned. Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with cheese and serve with sauce.

## Chocolate Chip Cookie Delight

This easy dessert uses refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough. The dough makes a great base for this tasty cream cheese dessert that is not really hard to put together.

- 1 tube (16 1/2 oz.) refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 C. powdered sugar
- 1 carton (12 oz.) Cool Whip, thawed, divided
- 3 C. 2% milk
- 1 pkg. (3.4 oz.) instant vanilla pudding mix

Chopped pecans, miniature semisweet chocolate chips

Let cookie dough stand at room temperature for 10 minutes to soften. Press into an ungreased 9x13 baking dish. Bake at 350 for 14 to 16 minutes or until golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

See KITCHEN, Page 13

A Great Big  
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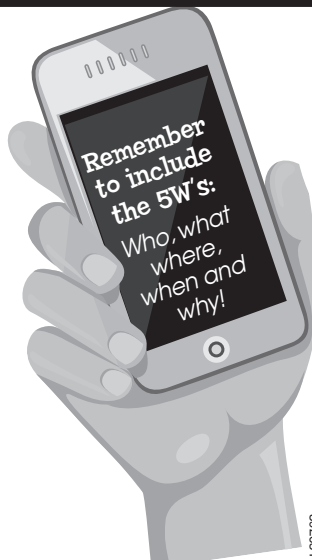
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# •Kitchen (Continued from page 12)

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and powdered sugar until smooth. Fold in 1 3/4 C. Cool Whip. Spread over crust. In another large bowl, whisk milk and pudding for 2 minutes. Spread over cream cheese layer. Top with remaining Cool Whip. Sprinkle with pecans and chocolate chips. Cover and refrigerate until firm, 8 hours or overnight.

light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vinegar and vanilla. In another bowl, whisk the flour and baking soda; add to creamed mixture alternately with the buttermilk, beating well after each addition. Transfer the batter to another bowl. Stir in cocoa and food coloring until blended. Alternately drop main and cocoa batter by 1/4 cupful into prepared pans, dividing batter evenly between pans to make batter level in pans; bang cake pans several times on counter. Bake 30 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

In a large bowl, beat butter, powdered sugar, vanilla and enough milk to reach a spreadable consistency. Place bottom layer on serving plate or cake stand. Spread frosting over first layer; place second layer on top. Finish frosting top and sides of cake.

**Cherry Crunch Dessert**  
In honor of President's Day and George Washington and his cherry tree, this simple dessert recipe is one you can use all year long. You can use any pie filling for the base. I buy

the pie filling with the extra fruit because it has more fruit and a better flavor. Enjoy this easy dessert when you are in a hurry.

2 cans (21 oz. each) cherry pie filling  
1 box white cake mix, dry  
1/2 C. butter, melted  
1 C. pecans or walnuts, toasted and chopped  
Whipped cream or ice cream  
Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease a 9x13 baking dish. Spread the cherry filling in the pan. In a bowl, mix the dry cake mix, softened butter, and nuts. Sprinkle over the

cherries. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes or until brown on top. Serve warm with ice cream or whipped cream.

**Final Thoughts**  
We are almost through the month of February, and we have had only one big storm. Hopefully, we will not see big storms in March. Maybe our moisture will come in rain. Girls regional basketball begins, wrestling is almost over, and March Madness will be setting in. Time flies when you think about it.

I learned something about cooking the other day that I

thought I should share. A 9x13 glass baking dish is the same as a 3-quart glass casserole dish. I guess I always assumed it was something like that, but it was nice to hear it was true. I also noticed in a lot of cooking shows, parchment or foil is being used to line the inside of baking pans for bars and even some cakes. The parchment or foil is put on top of the greased pan and then sprayed again. You can lift out the bars or cake easily. I have always done this foil trick when making fudge at Christmas and now will try to remember to use it for my bar cookies too.

Have a great week cooling. There are only a few weeks left in February, so we will turn our attention to March. We are searching for recipes for St. Patrick's Day (and that means green), so send some favorites our way. We would love to feature some St. Patty's Day favorites with corned beef, cabbage, and green dessert 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.

## Red Velvet Marble Cake

I have seen lots of red velvet cake recipes, but never a marble one. This one is a stunner on a cake stand and will be a great dessert for a special occasion.

3/4 C. butter, softened  
2 1/4 C. sugar  
3 eggs  
4 1/2 t. white vinegar  
1 1/2 t. vanilla  
3 3/4 C. cake flour  
1 1/2 t. baking soda  
1 1/2 C. buttermilk  
3 T. baking cocoa  
3 1/2 t. red food coloring  
Frosting  
1 C. butter, softened  
3 C. powdered sugar  
3 t. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350. Line bottom of 2 greased 9-inch round cake pans with parchment paper; grease paper. In a large bowl, with a mixer, cream butter and sugar until

## ISP Troop 1 announces monthly activity for January

Illinois State Police Troop 1 Captain Joseph Blanchette has announced enforcement figures and activity for January.

ISP Troop 1 troopers issued 729 citations, 913 written warnings, and made 11 criminal arrests during the month of January. Troopers issued 254 citations for speeding, 19 citations for distracted driving violations and 26 citations for occupant restraint violations.

Troopers investigated 86

traffic crashes, assisted 388 motorists, and conducted 361 commercial motor vehicle inspections, of which 51 were placed out of service for safety reasons. There were 21 arrests for driving under the influence.

Troop 1, which encompasses Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, White-side, and Winnebago counties, investigated no fatal crashes in January.

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## Rep. McCombie to host February office hours

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie is launching the upcoming round of mobile office hours in the 89th District. She is continuing her efforts to increase access to the services her district office offers outside of her District office in Savanna.

"It is essential to ensure every constituent across northwest Illinois can reach the services my district office offers," said Rep. McCombie. "Holding routine office hours events is a priority, and I look forward to continuing these mobile office hours events throughout the year."

The upcoming events will take place on

Friday, Feb. 28:  
 • 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Pecatonica Public Library, 400 W. 11th Street  
 • 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the German Valley Fire Department, 600 Church Street  
 McCombie's office has hosted these events throughout her tenure to help accommodate constituents in her district, which includes all of Carroll and Jo Daviess counties, as well as parts of Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, and DeKalb counties.

With questions about the office hours, please contact Rep. McCombie's office at 815-291-8989.

# Highland Fall 2024 Dean's List

Community College proudly announces the dean's list for the fall 2024 semester. Students who have completed 12 credit hours or more during the semester and have a minimum 3.25 grade point average (GPA), based on a 4.0 scale, are included on the dean's list. The Highest Honors are awarded to students with a perfect 4.0 GPA. High Honors are given to students with a 3.50 to 3.99 GPA, and Honors students have earned a GPA between 3.25 and 3.49.

Koch, Pacey Martin, Natalie McNutt, Mallory Sheppard, Lincoln Stouffer, Rebekah Visel, Maggie Wiederholt  
 Mount Carroll: Emma Herrell, Bethany Hunter  
 Orangeville: Gabriel Blum  
 Pearl City: Blane Foulker,  
 Stockton: Emma Cahill, Veyah Luke, Jackson Massie, Sadie Vanderheyden, Kacy Wright  
 Warren: Arik Kaiser  
 Florissant, MO: Isaac Fernandez

McInnis, Sarah Plapp, Zaviera Sheppard, Trenton Swedlund, Nicole Wilson, Alayna Yoder  
 Lindenwood: Jessica Pasek  
 McConnell: Madelyn Statfield  
 Orangeville: Thomas Creuzer, Laney Holland  
 Pearl City: Troy Baker, Emily Janssen, Taytum Mullen  
 Stockton: Erica Gallagher, Morgan McPeck  
 Warren: Lindsey Brinkmeier  
 Winnebago: Kailey Sanders  
 Winslow: Corbin Servantez  
 Mesa, AZ: Ezekiel Alcalá  
 Immokalee, FL: Kevin Meralus

### Highest Honors

Apple River: Blake Heller, Jason Niemann  
 Freeport: Eric Armstrong, Nathaniel Bicksler, Morgan Cox, Cameron Dolieslager, Amanda Evon, Kyleigh Gentz, James Giuffre, Andrea Guevara, Alyssa Hunziker, Naomi Jackson, Kenton Johnson, Lily Johnson, Michael Johnson, Colin Kuhn, Arazara Lassandro, Maya Logronio McDougal, Taryn Mathews, Anne Mihm, Tim Pangonas, Misty Pommerening, Michael Roberson, Rachel Salazar, Olivia Schroeder, Alexandria Shepard, Evie Stingley, Jesse Suter, Alexa Tran, Antoinette Turner, Amelia Wenzel, Sharqusha Wright, Natalie Yeoman  
 Lena: Aleeyah Erving, Janessa Esser, Evelyn Karnatz, Casey Klever, Charmae

### High Honors

Apple River: Blake LaDow, Janel Radaszewski, Abigail Winters  
 Elizabeth: Tyson Heidenreich, Amber Hupperich  
 Forreton: Brenna Hofmaster, Hans Howald, Grant Johnson, Owen Miller,  
 Freeport: Khalia Adams, Makayla Aeling, Ali Al-zirj, Damien Bell, Xavier Blakney, Noah Brashaw, Sophie Buzzell, Meghan Carlisle, Brant Carlson, Emerson Coon, Francisca Crawford, Nelima Crawford, Harley Deal, Andrew Dmitriev, Jane Elliott, Caden Gowin, Taylor Griffin, Katarina Hatelak, Jason Kimbrough, Kristin Lamm, Mackenzie Lei, Nino Munjishvili, Nicholas Polizzi, Carson Price, Migna Sanchez, Caitlyn Simpson, Zayvion Thomas, Colton Veruchi, Isaac Wilcox  
 Lena: Morgan Gerber, Cierra Hatelak, Charlotte

### Honors

Freeport: Gabriel Carter, Patrick Fowler, Goncalves Chagas, Sabree Hull, Keran Malik, Isaac Manthei, Elijah Michael, Khyel Montoya, Maria Ortiz, Kaitlyn Row, Carl Seward, Noah Summers, Jace Urish, Daeshon Verner  
 Lanark: Cody Cole, Allyn Geerts, Kaleb LaRue, Carter Piquette  
 Lena: Cohen Goeke, Kaidynce Lynch, Aspen Roberts  
 Orangeville: Jesalyn Straight  
 Pearl City: Ava Bremmer, Jonathan Dinderman, Rayce Mullen, Hunter Vick  
 Stockton: Kyleigh Reusch, Colby Tucker  
 Warren: Hadley Hess, Kayden Sperry

## LEGAL NOTICES

### ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

(all trades).  
**1.2 BID SUBMITTAL AND OPENING**

A. Owner will receive sealed bids until the bid time and date at the location indicated below. Owner will consider bids prepared in compliance with the Instructions to Bidders issued by Owner, and delivered as follows:

1. Bid Date: February 27, 2025.
2. Bid Time: 10:30 a.m., local time.
3. Location: Administration Office, with social distancing in place, 401 Fremont Street, Lena, IL 61048
4. Address bid package as follows:  
 Lena-Winslow School District #202  
 Attn: Dr. Tom Chiles - Superintendent  
 "Bid for Jr. High Roof Restoration".

B. Bids will be thereafter publicly opened and read aloud.

### 1.3 BID SECURITY

A. Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of 10 percent of the bid amount. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days after opening of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities and irregularities.

### 1.4 PREBID CONFERENCE

A. A pre-bid conference for all bidders will be held, with social distancing in place, at 401 Fremont Street, Lena, IL 61048 on February 18, 2025 at 9:00 a.m., local time. Prospective bidders are requested to attend.

tive bidders are requested to attend.

### 1.5 DOCUMENTS

A. Bid Documents: Bidders may obtain access to PDF copies of the Drawings and Project Manual after 3:00 p.m. on February 14, 2025 by contacting Larson & Darby at 815-484-0739. Request them from the front desk personnel.

B. Documents will be provided to prime bidders only.

C. Only complete sets of documents will be issued.

### 1.6 TIME OF COMPLETION

A. Bidders shall begin the Work on receipt of the Notice to Proceed and shall complete the Work within the Contract Time.

### 1.7 BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS

A. Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work. A Performance Bond, a separate Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Insurance in a form acceptable to Owner will be required of the successful Bidder.

1. Bidder shall be in good standing as a vendor for the Lena-Winslow School District 202, including a minimum of five solid references for projects of similar scope and size over the past five years.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Feb. 19, 2025)

467967

### DOCUMENT 001116 - INVITATION TO BID

### 1.1 PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Notice to Bidders: Qualified bidders are invited to submit bids for Project as described in this Document according to the Instructions to Bidders.

B. Project Identification: Jr. High Roof Restoration, Lena-Winslow School District #202, Lena, Illinois

C. Owner: Lena-Winslow School District #202, 401 Fremont Street, Lena, IL 61048

D. Project Description: Project consists of roofing restoration.

E. Construction Contract: Bids will be received for the following Work:

1. Lump Sum Contract

## Extension offers Master Gardener Training

There is still time to register for Master Gardener Training. University of Illinois Extension will offer the training in Stephenson County, starting on February 27. Interested individuals can register now by calling 815-235-4125 or visiting [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw).

Course topics include soils and fertility, woody ornamentals/pruning, organic gardening, vegetables, houseplants, fruits, insect identification and control, weed management, composting, and University of Illinois resources.

The training consists of eight sessions with two optional field trips, scheduled on select Thursday evenings from Feb. 27 to June 5, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., held at the Highland Community College Student Conference Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport.

Pre-registration is required. The registration fee is \$200. Contact Nikki Keltner at 815-235-4125 for more details.

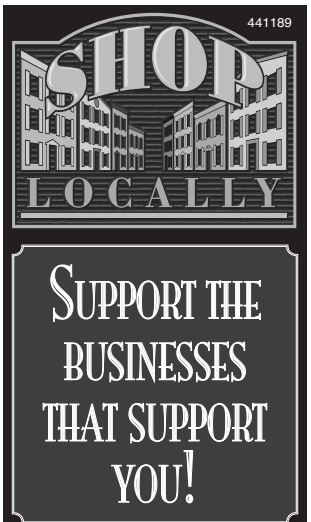
## 4-H Super Saturday

University of Illinois Extension is hosting its annual 4-H Super Saturday on Saturday, March 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring St. Freeport, IL. Super Saturday is a 3-hour event designed to give area youth ages 5 to 18 a chance to explore the many project areas available through the 4-H program. This event is open to all area youth, regardless of 4-H membership.

Youth between the ages of 8-18 are invited to attend and experience three hands-on workshops where they can choose from cooking, scrapbooking, leathercraft, making peep houses, shooting sports, floral arrangements, clay sculpting and painting mini barn quilts. The cost is \$5 per participant, with some activity choices having an additional fee to cover the cost of the project.

Youth between the ages of 5-7 are invited to participate in our 4-H Cloverbud Super Saturday at the same time and location. This workshop is also from 8:30 a.m. to noon, but the younger youth will be exploring "Cloverbuds: Learn to Garden." Youth will paint a flowerpot, plant seeds in the pot to take home and watch grow A garden themed snack is included. The cost for these youth is \$5 per participant.

Registration deadline for Super Saturday 2025 is Feb. 24, 2025. To see a list of workshops available for each age group and to register, visit the University of Illinois Extension website at: [go.illinois.edu/2025supersaturday](http://go.illinois.edu/2025supersaturday). Workshops have size limitations, so don't delay and register soon. Any questions, feel free to call Jen Schultz, Stephenson County 4-H Youth Development Program Coordinator at 815-235-4125.



Rock Valley Publishing

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### River Ridge CUSD - Cafeteria Director

Application Procedure: Send letter of interest and resume to Colleen Fox, Superintendent at 4141 IL Route 84 South; Hanover, IL 61041. Application deadline is February 21, 2025. Email: cfox@riverridge210.org. Phone: (815)858-9005. For further information visit the district website: https://www.riverridge210.org/ 467607

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



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## real estate

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

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### Sports/Classic Cars

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### Trucks & Trailers

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# Freeport police reports

## Shots fired incident

On Feb. 10, 2025, at 4:10 p.m., Freeport Police Officers responded to a Sound Thinking alert in the 800 block of S. Blackhawk Avenue reporting gunshots being fired. The Freeport Police Department Dispatch Center also received a call from a witness who observed the incident. When Officers arrived in the area, they located and collected evidence that showed a firearm had been discharged. No injuries were reported, but there was property damage from a house being struck by projectiles.

Witnesses reported seeing a white Chevrolet Malibu that drove north on S. Blackhawk Avenue and east on W. Avon Street. The suspect who fired the gunshots was a passenger in the Malibu. At this time, the Freeport Police Department has reason to believe this is gang related and is related to a Jan. 17, 2025, shots fired incident that occurred in the 1200 block of S. Oak Avenue.

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, Stateline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW, through texting at Tip411, or Stephenson County Crime Stop at 815-235-7867.

## Felony firearm ammunition and narcotics arrests

On Feb. 13, 2025, at 6:20 a.m., Officers with the Freeport Police Department conducted a search warrant at a residence in Freeport. During a search of the residence, Officers seized firearm ammunition. During a subsequent search of a vehicle parked outside of the residence, Officers recovered suspected cocaine from the passenger compartment.

As a result of the investigation,

Jonah Durns, a 25-year-old Freeport resident, was arrested and charged with felony Possession of Ammunition by a Felon. Jadyen Ramos-Uline, a 21-year-old Freeport resident, was charged with Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Deliver Within 1000 Feet of a School. The felony charges were approved by the Stephenson County State's Attorney. Both Durns and Ramos-Uline are currently being held at the Stephenson County Jail pending the outcome of a detention hearing.

The public is reminded that the defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

## Felony narcotics arrest

On Feb. 14, 2025, at 6:20 a.m., Freeport Police Officers and members of the Illinois

State Police Stateline Area Narcotics Team conducted a search warrant at a residence located in the 200 block of W. Empire Street in Freeport. During a search of the residence, Officers seized 54 grams of suspected cocaine and 184 grams of suspected cannabis.

As a result of the investigation, the resident, 40-year-old Tanya McWethy, was arrested and charged with felony Possession with the Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance and felony Possession with the Intent to Deliver Cannabis. The felony charges were approved by the Stephenson County State's Attorney. McWethy was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where she is being held pending the outcome of a detention hearing.

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial, at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

# Get your certified food protection manager certification

Americans love dining out. Whether we are celebrating a special occasion or simply eating on the go, eating out is very much a part of our lives. With an ever-growing number of individuals eating out, it is more important than ever to ensure consumers have exceptional, high-quality food and safe food.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) developed the Food Code to safeguard food. This code provides uniform procedures addressing food safety at retail food establishments. Illinois requires these businesses have a person-in-charge or manager obtain an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) certification. Those receiving this certification have specialized training regarding the safe handling, preparation, and storage of food to help prevent foodborne-related illnesses. The certificate

is valid for five years from the exam date and must be retaken once a certificate expires.

University of Illinois Extension will hold the CFPM course on Tuesday, March 4, from 9 AM - 3 PM AND Friday, March 7, from 8:30 AM - 4 PM at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, 210 W. Spring St., Freeport, IL. Participants must attend the full two-day training to be eligible for the exam.

There is a \$125 program fee to cover this educational session. This fee covers the purchase of the workbook, educational materials, and examination. Preregistration is required. To register, contact U of I Extension at (815) 235-4125 or online at go.illinois.edu/jsw.

If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Extension Office at 815-235-4125. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

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- MONDAY** 8 PC FRIED CHICKEN **\$8.99**
- TUESDAY** CHICKEN POT PIE **\$4.59**
- WEDNESDAY** 5 LEGS, 5 THICKS FRIED CHICKEN **\$5.55**
- THURSDAY** 1/2 BUCKET SPAGHETTI **\$6.99**
- FRIDAY** 1 PC COD DINNER W/ COLE SLAW & POTATO SALAD **\$5.99**