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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## A Major Diaper Donation

Three first-year nursing students at Highland Community College proved a dose of teamwork and a lot of heart can make a big difference as they joined forces on a community service project for their Family Nursing course. By reaching out to their friends and family, (pictured left to right) Colleen Stone of German Valley, Kendal Asay of Mt. Carroll, and Abbey Skiles of Savanna raised \$1,500 in diapers and wipes for Voices and the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart Madonna Renewal Center.

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# Pritzker wants Illinois to be latest state to ban cellphones in classroom

*Limits already are in place in some Illinois school districts*

By Ben Szalinski  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Are cellphones a useful tool or a distraction in the classroom? According to Gov. JB Pritzker, they're a distraction, and he has proposed banning them during classroom instruction.

Pritzker proposed legislation during his State of the State speech in February that would call for banning cellphones during classroom learning time. However, his proposal would not ban cellphones in school entirely, meaning students may still be allowed to use their devices between classes. Private schools would not be included in the ban.

"In conversations with educators from around the state, there is one thing most commonly cited as an impediment to classroom learning: cellphones," Pritzker said at a news conference last week in Champaign.

Some of Illinois' largest school districts already have adopted their own limits on cellphones in their class-

rooms, including Springfield, Peoria and Champaign.

"We want our students' phones turned off so their minds can be fully engaged in learning," Champaign Unit 4 School District Superintendent Sheila Boozer said.

The Champaign district implemented cellphone limits beginning last fall and said the response from parents and teachers has been positive.

"Since every student is provided with a Chromebook for schoolwork, a cellphone is not really necessary for their learning," Boozer said.

Schools would be required to come up with their own guidelines for securely storing the phones during instructional time. Pritzker's plan would also prohibit students from being fined or punished by a law enforcement officer for violating a no-cellphone policy.

"Study after study has demonstrated the benefits of a ban in classroom use of cellphones, not just on student performance but on overall health and well-being," Pritzker said. "Bullying goes down

while grade point averages and Advanced Placement test scores goes up."

Pritzker's proposal would include several exemptions to such a ban, including in the event of an emergency, when a teacher allows students to use wireless devices for educational purposes or when a doctor requires a student to have or use their phone for medical reasons.

At some recent school shootings, such as in Uvalde, Texas, students made critical 911 calls. Rep. Patrick Sheehan, R-Lockport, who is a Plainfield police officer, told Capitol News Illinois its important students can access a cellphone in emergencies.

"The kids having these devices to be able to call 911 dispatch so that they can get to the police officers, it cuts down on the response time and completely saves lives," Sheehan said.

Sheehan said it's important students have a distraction-free environment, but he cautioned against schools enacting a policy that could lock

phones away from students.

"Taking away the cellphones and putting them in some sort of lock or away from the student, as a parent I don't like it," Sheehan said. "And as a police officer, I definitely don't like it."

Eight states enacted some type of limit on cellphones in schools last year, Stateline reported last month. This year, Illinois is one of 13 states where legislation has been proposed to limit cellphones in schools.

A 2023 Pew Research poll of public school teachers found 72 percent of high school educators believe cellphone distractions are a "major problem" in their classroom. But 60 percent of high schools teachers said it is also difficult to enforce cellphone policies.

Bans on cellphones during class time are generally popular among U.S. adults. While 53 percent do not support banning phones in schools for the entire day, 68 percent support banning them during class, according to a 2024 Pew poll.

## Obituaries

**DONALD VINCENT CONWAY AND MARIAN FRANCIS TIETZ CONWAY**

Donald Vincent Conway and Marian Francis Tietz Conway of Middleton, WI passed away peacefully in their home, just days apart. Don passed on Jan. 7, 2025, his 98<sup>th</sup> birthday. And Marian passed on Feb. 4, 2025, a few days after her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Don was born to Vincent and Anne (Nawa) Conway on Jan. 7, 1927, in Madison, WI. Marian was born to Thomas and Katherine (Putzier) Tietz on Jan. 30, 1929 in Oshkosh, WI. Don and Marian both attended the University of Wisconsin. Don graduated in 1949 (after his service in the Army Air Force from 1944 to 1945), and Marian graduated in 1950. The college sweethearts were married on December 15, 1951, in Oshkosh, WI.

Don had a long, distinguished career with Ray-O-Vac Batteries which started in 1949. He was the Executive Vice-President of Marketing in the International division. He oversaw the building and running of battery factories in 22 countries. He retired in 1981 from Ray-O-Vac. He then became CEO of the Columbia Vehicle Company that makes Columbia Golf Carts, combining his passion for golf and business. In 1985, he retired, and they moved to Tucson, AZ.

Don was very passionate about golf. He started playing golf before he was 10 years old. He was on the University of Wisconsin Varsity team for three years. He was a proud member of several prestigious golf clubs, namely, Maple Bluff (Wisconsin), Sunningdale (England), Aronimink (in Pennsylvania), Ventana and The Gallery (Arizona). Don enjoyed a single digit handicap throughout his life and shot his age at 82.

Marian, who majored in Business and Economics, was an intellectual who loved to learn and grow in all ways. She enjoyed challenging her



mind, whether it was from playing bridge, mahjong, solving jig-saw puzzles, NY Times crossword puzzles, Wordle or just learning new things. She took pottery classes, art classes and even golf lessons. Marian excelled in everything she did. In 2011 she achieved the Bronze Life Master in Bridge, and she had a couple of "hole-in-ones" in golf.

Marian loved to entertain and hosted many parties for Don's business associates and their spouses. She was an excellent cook. At 96, she was still managing her own finances, and she maintained her mental acuity right to the end of her life.

Don and Marian had a beautiful and adventurous life together. They travelled the world, journeying to Hong Kong, China, Japan, to Egypt, Iran, Morocco, South Africa, Scotland, Hungary, Ireland, England and even Malaysia. From their world travels, Marian learned to appreciate oriental arts and developed a taste for international cuisines.

Don and Marian celebrated their 73<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary in December of 2024. They lived a wonderful life together and through it all, they had fun!

They are survived by their sons, David (Lucy) of Kailua, HI, and Peter (Mari) of Lena, IL, grandchildren, Elise (Tim) Rittenhouse, Steven (fiance' Rene Firsing) Conway, and David Conway. They are also survived by sister-in-law, Ella Tietz, of Burnet, TX. Don's sister and brother-in-law, Eileen and John Tennant, predeceased him. Marian's brother, Tom Tietz, predeceased her. Cremation rites were accorded. At their request, no services will be held.

## 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.

### McConnell American Legion Auxiliary

The McConnell American Legion Auxiliary meeting will be held at the McConnell Legion on March 19, 2025, at 3 p.m. Anyone who is interested in the Auxiliary is welcome to attend.

### Stephenson County VA Pantry current needs

Cans of vegetables  
Cans of fruits  
Soup  
Dish soap  
Kleenex

Donations can be brought to the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. at 316 W. Main St., Lena, IL. Donations are greatly appreciated. This list includes immediate needs, however other items will always be accepted.

Please call 815-369-4684 with any questions.

### Orangeville High School fundraiser

On April 5, 2025, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Orangeville students will host a soup and sandwich fundraiser to raise money to attend the Royal Highland Show in Europe. Donations will offer financial support to Ashlynn Shultz, Amery Dinderman, and Alaina Dinderman.

### Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension

The March meeting of the Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. Paula Gerke will give the lesson on "Types of Flour". Roll call will be "How many types of flour do you use?". Raffle items will be furnished by Joyce Bonnet and Ruth Ann Jordan. All are welcome to come and join us.



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# Market Outlook from Ashley Chambers with Citizens Investment Services

As we move through the first quarter of 2025, financial markets are contending with a blend of persistent economic challenges and emerging opportunities. Investors are closely monitoring key developments such as inflation rates, central bank policies, and geopolitical tensions that could impact global growth.

## Economic Growth Prospects

Global economic growth has shown signs of resilience, with emerging markets, particularly in Asia and Latin America, continuing to drive expansion. However, advanced economies like the U.S. and the European Union are grappling with slower growth due to the aftereffects of high inflation, rising inter-

est rates, and potential labor market challenges. While some sectors are poised for growth, others are expected to face continued headwinds.

## Inflation and Interest Rates

Inflation remains a central focus for central banks worldwide, though there are indications that price pressures are beginning to moderate. In response, the U.S. Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank have signaled a potential pause in their aggressive rate-hiking cycles, shifting their focus to maintaining stability rather than further tightening. These policies are expected to influence bond and equity markets, offering potential opportunities for investors

seeking to capitalize on price corrections.

## Equity Market Sentiment

Stock markets have experienced volatility in recent months, with investor sentiment swinging between optimism and caution. On one hand, corporate earnings have remained relatively strong, particularly in technology and energy sectors, which continue to benefit from long-term trends in digital transformation and energy transition. On the other hand, the risk of a potential economic slowdown could dampen investor enthusiasm in certain areas, especially in cyclical industries.

## Sector Focus

Technology and renew-

able energy are expected to be key drivers of growth in the coming years, supported by strong governmental and corporate commitments to innovation and sustainability. Consumer staples and healthcare are also likely to remain steady performers, providing defensive plays during periods of market uncertainty.

## Geopolitical Risks

Geopolitical tensions, particularly in Eastern Europe and Asia, could continue to weigh on investor confidence and influence commodity prices, especially oil and natural gas. Trade policies and supply chain disruptions may also remain a concern for global markets in the short-to-medium term.

## Looking Ahead

As we progress through 2025, market participants should stay nimble, focusing on sectors with strong growth potential while also considering the risks tied to macroeconomic shifts. With a moderate global economic outlook, diversification remains key, and investors may want to strike a

balance between growth and defensive positions to weather potential volatility.

In conclusion, while the road ahead may be fraught with challenges, those who remain patient and strategic are well-positioned to capitalize on the opportunities that arise in an ever-changing market landscape.

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# OPINION

**MENTAL HEALTH TIP**  
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## Weekly connection

### A busy Sunday and a very special birthday

Sundays are busy days for my wife and me. The day starts out early as I usually get up before five o'clock to run over my sermon and make any final touch ups that need to be made. I head outside to feed my eleven beef cows, nine feeder calves, thirty-two head of sheep, four pigs, my goat, two ponies, six cats, two dogs, and twelve chickens. I've always loved the idea of being a diversified livestock farmer and for years I prayed that God would help make it happen and now that



By  
**SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

I'm over sixty years old, the time has arrived. It usually only takes me about thirty-fourty minutes to feed hay and grain to all my animals and take care of any other needs they may have. So on Sunday mornings I am

back in the house by seven forty-five and hopping in the shower to get ready to head off to church for music rehearsal and then to teach our adult Sunday Bible class. I wrap up the class about fifteen minutes before our worship service begins which usually runs about an hour and fifteen minutes or so. When our worship service is over, we always meet in the narthex for lots of great food and fellowship. It's always a joyous four hours or so by the time the church activities are

complete, and we are heading back home full of blessings.

Last Sunday we added a couple more activities that made the day all the more special. First, we traveled down to the church where our son pastors at McConnell Community Church in McConnell, Illinois for a soup and chili luncheon. The food was fantastic, and the fellowship was sweet as many of his people introduced themselves to us

**See CONNECTION, Page 15**

## Slices of life

### Signs and the things we can't see

One of the most bittersweet moments in life is when you have good news and no one to call.

I have lots of people to call about lots of things. But certain pieces of good news, require certain people.

And, for me, those people are no longer here.

I can talk to them. I can tell them my news, but I can't call them on the phone because they no longer require physical entities like phones, or bodies.

Today was one of those days.

I had some good news. But it was a certain sort of good news. Not the kind you share with just anyone.

It was the kind you share with your mom, or your husband.

Neither was available for conversation, unfortunately.

So I contemplated my favorable situation and wished they were here to share my excitement.

And then I smelled cigarette smoke. (My mom was a smoker). I whispered, "Hi, mom."

All day long birds kept flying in weird patterns above my head and in front of me—uncannily close. I smiled and acknowledged my husband, "I see what you're doing."

And I took both for what they were: signs.

Some of you reading this may not believe in signs. I lived much of my life not knowing for sure, but certainly not being on the receiving end of them.

And then, here I am.

Watching birds do weird things. Smelling cigarette smoke when no one's been smoking around me.

If you don't believe, if you haven't cause to believe, consider yourself fortunate.

I only know what I know. Believe what I believe (unapologetically).

I also, consider myself fortunate. Maybe even more so



By  
**JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

than many others. Here's why:

I have been put into a place in this life where I have to believe—to have faith—in things I can't necessarily see.

And faith is a wondrous thing.

It provides peace amongst discord. It provides love amongst hate. It provides light amongst darkness. It provides joy amongst sadness. It provides healing amongst hurt. It provides trust amongst uncertainty. It provides hope amongst despair.

It provides a platform bigger than oneself. It provides a knowledge that none of us is in this alone.

Because we aren't. And that is a beautiful thought.

We all feel alone sometimes. I know I do and I have great faith that I am not alone. Still, despite that faith, sometimes aloneness creeps in and I feel separated from the world. Most often this occurs when I am struggling or when I have something especially good to share (and no one to share it with).

Like today.

And then the birds put on a show for me. And I smell cigarette smoke.

And I know—I believe—without a doubt that there are things we don't see with our eyes that nonetheless are as real as everything we do see.

For me, that is faith.

And I am very, very glad and grateful for it – and for the love that's helped me know 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.

## THE SCOOP TODAY

The Scoop Today (USPS #25-737) is published weekly by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy., Ste. 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.

Periodical Postage Paid at Rockford, IL.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to

The Scoop Today, 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy., Ste. 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.

Address for payment, correspondence and any other inquiries:  
1102 ANN STREET, DELAVAN, WI 53115

EDITOR: Kathleen Cruger

Advertising Sales: Cyndee Stiefel • lenaads@rvpublishing.com

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# Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation honored with JDCF Conservation Award

Each year, the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) recognizes an individual or organization that has made outstanding achievements in land preservation, land stewardship, or of the understanding of natural habitats and or cultural heritage sites in our region. This year, JDCF is pleased to announce that the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation has received the 2025 *Nancy Hamill Winter Conservation Leadership Award*. The award will be at JDCF's annual meeting on April 3, 2025.

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICECF) was created in 1999 as an independent nonprofit supporting projects that improved energy efficiency and preserved or enhanced natural habitats and wildlife areas throughout the State of Illinois. Funding for the Foundation was provided through an endowment from Commonwealth Edison. Without ICECF support, the natural landscape in northwest Illinois might look very different since it has been the number one source of private funding for conservation in Illinois for the last 25 years. Although other grant-making foundations have also made significant investments in conservation over this same time period, none of them have made an investment as significant as ICECF.

Since 2006, ICECF has made 33 separate grant awards to JDCF totaling nearly \$5.8 million. This includes 17 grants

for land protection and 16 grants for the ecological restoration, public amenities, and organizational capacity necessary to manage these protected lands. Over 1,672 acres were protected by JDCF using ICECF funds, including Casper Bluff, Horseshoe Mound, Gateway Park, Rutherford Refuge, and Wapello Reserve. In addition, ICECF has made numerous grants to other organizations in the region, including the City of Galena for a new solar-powered sewage treatment plan and Natural Land Institute for various land preservation projects.

ICECF has created an enduring legacy of protected public open space in northwest Illinois for generations to come, making it a very worthy recipient of this award. Although the Foundation closed its doors as planned last year, it made a final grant to the Prairie State Conservation Coalition, which will begin making grants for land and easement acquisition, ecological restoration, and organizational capacity building in 2025.

The *Nancy Hamill Winter Conservation Leadership Award* is named after JDCF's long-time board member and past Board President and Vice President, Nancy Hamill Winter. Formerly a Stockton resident, Nancy dedicated much of her adult life to the preservation and care of natural habitats and the Native American cultural heritage of northern Illinois.

# Around the Northern Hills

We are excited to announce the debut of a new craft beer, Roots Lager, at Small Town Saloon in Elizabeth, Illinois. This one-of-a-kind brew is a collaboration between the Illinois Farm Bureau and Destihl Brewery, based out of Normal, IL. What makes Roots Lager particularly special is its use of locally sourced corn from a Knox County Farm Bureau member, bringing a true taste of the region to every sip.

Roots Lager will be rolled out at Small Town Saloon in Elizabeth starting Saturday,



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

March 22 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. A limited amount of the brew is available, so don't miss out on this rare opportunity to enjoy this farmer inspired beer.

**Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program**  
Attention Illinois registered nurses! If you

are enrolled in a University Nurse Practitioner Program, you could qualify for a \$4,000 scholarship to support your education. This opportunity requires a commitment to serve as a primary care nurse practitioner in an approved rural Illinois community for two years. For more details and to apply, visit RIMSAP.com.

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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, March 16, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week will be the Second Sunday during Lent. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Luke 13:31-35.

On Wednesday, March 19 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 office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

### St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate the second Sunday in Lent on Sunday, March 16 at 9 a.m. The Chancel Choir will sing at the service.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on

Thursday, March 13 at 1 p.m. and to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, April 1 at 9 a.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport.

Saturday, March 15 is our Family Fun Night. We will eat around 5:30 p.m. and play games in Luther Hall until 8 p.m. All are welcome to come. Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy the fun.

On Sunday, April 6 St. John's members and friends can go out for lunch at Lake Carroll (Candlelight Inn) at 11:30 a.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Also on this date, we will be showing the DVD "Jesus", a Branson Sight and Sound Production, at 1:30 p.m. upstairs at St. John's. Members and friends are welcome to attend.

The Healthy Wolves group will be packing backpacks on

Thursday, March 12 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.

### Evangelical Free Church of Lena

Join each Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Evangelical Free Church of Lena to celebrate the Lenten season with music.

The schedule includes:  
March 12: Tyger Johnson  
March 19: Deb Leininger  
March 26: Freeport Sacred Youth Choir  
April 2: Will Mueller  
April 9: Gone Fishin'  
April 16: DELTA II



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Financial Advisor

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## Lena Town Garage Sales

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# NUIC-West announces boys basketball All-Conference teams

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The 2024-2025 Illinois High School boys basketball season will be over after this weekend. In the blink of an eye, another season has come and gone. With that, the NUIC-West has released this year's boys basketball All-Conference winners.

To no surprise, East Dubuque leads the way on this year's All-Conference list. East Dubuque won this year's conference title, going a perfect 12-0 in league play. They also had the West's Most Valuable Player in senior, Brody Culbertson. Culbertson was a unanimous First Team All-Conference selection, along with fellow East Dubuque senior, Aidan Colin. There are only three unanimous selections, and East Dubuque had two of them. Senior Bradin Lee earned a Second Team All-Conference selection for East Dubuque as well.

The Scales Mound Hornets finished in second place in this year's West standings.

After getting off to an abysmal 3-6 start, the Hornets finished the year by going 14-9. They were led by a pair of First Team All-Conference selections in senior Derrick Distler, and junior Kaden Deurr. Fellow junior Aidan Soppe earned himself a Second Team All-Conference selection for his play.

The Warren Warriors finished in third place in this year's West standings. Largely due to the fact they lost two regular season games against Scales Mound. Warren got the last laugh when they beat the Hornets in postseason play, however. Warren senior Treyton Pafford played a big role in the team's success as they went 24-9 this year. Pafford was the only other unanimous First Team All-Conference selection. Joining him on the First Team was Warren junior, Bryce VanRaalte.

The River Ridge Wildcats finished in the middle of the pack in head coach Jacob Green's first year at the helm. The Wildcats finished the

year 15-17 overall, and they had three All-Conference winners. Senior Joe Winter earned a First Team All-Conference selection. Fellow senior Damon Dittmar was a Second Team selection. Finally, senior Mason Smith was an Honorable Mention for 2025.

The Stockton Blackhawks finished the year going just 7-21 overall. One bright spot on their team was sophomore Carter Blair. Blair stood out as one of the youngest members of the varsity team, and he earned a Second Team All-Conference selection for his play. Stockton senior Jacob Harbach was an Honorable Mention. Stockton also won this year's Sportsmanship award.

Galena had three All-Conference players in Second Team guys Myles Schumacher and Drew Koenigs, and Honorable Mention Owen Hefel. West Carroll's Chance Schnitzler was an Honorable Mention as well, to round out this year's All-Conference teams.

## Wildcats hopeful deep pitching staff leads to success in 2025 baseball season

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats are coming off a baseball season in which they finished 13-12 overall. A heartbreaking 5-4 loss in regional play to East Dubuque brought an end to that campaign. Additionally, the Wildcats graduated five long-time players in George Winter, Ethan Walters, Ben Richmond, Ty Spahn, and Evan Cogan.

Despite losing that group, the Wildcats return with a vast amount of varsity experience in one of the most important positions on the field. The Wildcats will return almost 90 percent of their innings pitched from last season. Damon Dittmar, Derrick Distler, Joe Winter, and Sam Rife are all expected to lead the way on the mound again this year.

As a senior, Dittmar is back after earning a Second Team All-Conference selection last year. Fellow senior Winter was also a Second Team All-Conference pick last year. With Distler out there, the Wildcats will have a trio of seniors they can count on on the mound. Sam Rife is back for his junior campaign, and he offers another strong arm to the staff.

The Wildcats also return some other All-Conference talent in junior Kaden Deurr

and senior Mason Smith. Deurr was a First Team All-Conference selection last season. Smith as a Second Team All-Conference pick himself. Senior Camden Flack is also back, giving the Wildcats a nucleus of seven experienced players to build around.

While the pitching staff is undoubtedly RR-SM's strong suit, their 13-year head coach, Jeremy Knauer, still says they are going to have to step things up a notch. "The other big question mark for us will be who pitches in our win-or-go-home games. We have several candidates, but no one has taken over the Ace role, yet," Knauer explained, after discussing his initial concern with the team.

Going 13-12 is good enough to compete in Midwest high school baseball, but that doesn't tell the whole story of the 2024 season. The Wildcats opened the year with a five-game winning streak. They appeared poised for a very successful season. They would go just 8-12 over their final 20 games. Five of those losses were by three runs, or less, including their postseason loss to ED.

Knauer spoke about some of the struggles that cost them in those games, and how it is a focus for improvement in 2025. "Our biggest

hurdle is definitely mental toughness. We have a pattern of losing focus for short periods of time, especially in key moments. We lost severable winnable games last season because of the snowball effect. It's almost impossible to play that perfect game, but one mistake in an inning can't lead to three. We are hoping our experience will help us clear that final hurdle," Knauer explained.

The Wildcats will have some help in getting over that hurdle this season. Joining the roster are newcomers junior Aidan Soppe, junior Bode Dittmar, senior Jerry Longmore, and sophomore Hamish Boden.

Knauer expects the 2025 season to be heavily competitive. He still predicts East Dubuque and Forreston to be the top teams in the area, which many would agree. Behind them are several capable teams hoping to knock them off. Lena-Winslow, Galena, Dakota, and Warren-Stockton were programs mentioned by Knauer.

The Wildcats won't have to wait long for the 2025 season to get underway. Weather permitting, RR-SM will open the season on March 24, when they travel to take on Milledgeville. Then, on March 26, things quickly heat up as they play host to Lena-Winslow.



# NUIC North 2025 boys basketball All-Conference teams released

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

With the 2024-2025 boys basketball season rapidly approaching its end, the NUIC-North conference released its All-Conference teams for the season. To no one's surprise, Pecatonica's Cooper Hoffman was named the NUIC-North Player of the Year. Hoffman helped Pecatonica win more than 30 games, reach the Sectional Championship game and became the school's all-time leading scorer this year.

Pecatonica also had the most All-Conference selections overall. Of the 18 award winners, six of them played for Pecatonica. Joining Hoffman on First Team was Pecatonica's all-time leading re-

bounder, Jaxon Diedrich. On Second-Team, the Indians had Zion Braimah, Brody Black, and Jordan Gassman. Joshua Jennings was an Honorable Mention for Pecatonica.

The Lena-Winslow Panthers were next up with four All-Conference players, which tied Dakota. The Panthers finished the year with over 20 wins and a pair of postseason victories. The Panthers' only First Team All-Conference selection was a very deserving player in Jaylen Rakowska. As the team's clutch player, Rakowska provided many exciting moments for the Panther faithful, including a game-winner to extend their postseason. Rakowska was a unanimous

selection to the First Team for his play this season.

The Panthers then had juniors Aiden Wild and Miles Mahon on the Second Team All-Conference list. Finally, senior Michael Mowery was an honorable mention pick for the Panthers. Together, the trio of Wild, Mahon, and Mowery provided the Panthers with a versatile, physical attack that defenses found hard to match. You had to pick your poison when strategizing defense against the 2024-2025 Panthers. Wild and Mahon both return for next season.

Pearl City had just one All-Conference player this season, but it was a big one. Junior Lane Kempel helped

the Wolves finish over 500 for the first time in over five seasons. The last time the Wolves finished over 500 was when they went 18-9 back in the 2018-2019 season. This year, Kempel helped the Wolves finish 16-16 overall. Two of the Wolves highlights for 2024-2025 were an overtime win over a 21-13 Forreston squad, and a conference victory over Lena-Winslow.

Dakota rounded out the All-Conference teams with four selections of their own. Senior Micah Schrader and junior Austin Stuckey were both First Team Selections. Senior Braxton Niedermeier, and junior Cason Mayer were Honorable Mentions for Dakota.

## Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau and Small Town Saloon debut 'Roots Lager'

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau is excited to announce the debut of a new craft beer, Roots Lager, at Small Town Saloon in Elizabeth, IL. This one-of-a-kind brew is a collaboration between the Illinois Farm Bureau and Destihl Brewery, based out of Normal, IL. What makes Roots Lager particularly special is its use of locally sourced corn from a Knox County Farm Bureau member, bringing a true taste of the region to every sip.

Roots Lager will be rolled out at Small Town Saloon in Elizabeth starting Saturday, March 22, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. A limited amount of the brew is available, so don't miss out on this rare opportunity to enjoy this farmer inspired beer. If sales are successful, there's hope of making Roots Lager a regular offering at Small Town Saloon. Also adding to the local flare will be a special on slider sandwiches made from locally grown Jo Daviess County beef.

"We're thrilled to see this event showcasing the rich agricultural roots of our community while supporting local farms," said Annette Eggers, manager at the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau. "It's a fun, meaningful way to connect people to the farmers who help feed America." Celebrate local farming, craft brewing, and the community's agricultural legacy. Join for an evening of great beer, delicious local food, and a toast to the hardworking farmers who make it all possible.

## Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

With the warm weather, my desire to spend more and more time outside grows. I often joke that one day I may just put a chair and table out in the parking lot at the office so I can work in the sunshine. I don't think the weather is there yet, but warmer days are ahead.

If you are looking for something fun to do outside, the Young Leader Committee is hosting the Annual Bruce Johnson Memorial Farm to Farm 5K/10K Run on April 5. This is one of my favorite events. There are a few important dates to remember if you are planning on participating. On March 19, early registration discount ends. Prices will increase on March 20. March 19 is the final day to register and guarantee a shirt and finisher medal. April 5 is Run Day. Registration be-

gins at 7:30 a.m., the 10K run begins at 8:50 a.m., the 5k run begins at 9 a.m., and the Fun 5k Run/Walk begins at 9:05 a.m.

Funds raised by this event will be donated to the Agriculture in the Classroom program. Registration and additional information can be found by visiting [www.runsignup.com](http://www.runsignup.com) and searching Bruce Johnson Memorial Farm to Farm or by stopping by the Farm Bureau office at 210 W Spring Street Freeport, IL 61032 or calling 815-232-3186 and asking to speak with Victoria.

### Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship application available

We are pleased to announce that the Illinois Farm Bureau® Rural Nurse Practitioner Scholarship Program is now open for applica-

tions. This program offers 15 scholarships, each valued at \$4,000, to support nurse practitioners committed to serving rural communities in Illinois. For over 33 years, this scholarship initiative has been instrumental in fostering a robust network of rural health practitioners, addressing the primary healthcare needs in Illinois' rural areas.

Scholarship recipients are expected to practice in an approved rural area within the state for a minimum of two years. Eligibility criteria include being a resident of Illinois and either accepted into or currently enrolled in an accredited Nurse Practitioner Program as a Registered Nurse.

The Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP) proudly funds this initiative. Interested applicants can obtain application

forms from county Farm Bureaus® throughout the state, the RIMSAP website at [RIMSAP.com](http://RIMSAP.com), or by reaching out to Donna Gallivan, Program Manager, at the Illinois Farm Bureau, 1701 Towanda Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61701. Please note that the application deadline is May 1. For additional information or inquiries, please contact Donna Gallivan at 309-557-2350 or via email at [dgallivan@ilfb.org](mailto:dgallivan@ilfb.org).

### Illinois Farm Bureau comments on new tariffs on the United States' top agricultural trading partners

Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan commented today on new tariffs imposed on the United States' top three agricultural trading

**See NEWS, Page 15**

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## Salvation Army of Freeport news

The Local Salvation Army of Freeport is able to continue to give individuals and families pantry, clothing, social services, utilities assistance, emergency disaster services, shelter, and more thanks to the contributions of community members. Several events and programs are in place to support those in need.

Family Night is held on the fourth Saturday of each month, where families and individuals can join for a movie, food, games, and fellowship. This month's Family Night will be held on March 22 at 5 p.m. at 106 W. Exchange St.

The Daily Lunch Program has grown substantially, with lunches given out for every-day Monday through Friday. Food items needed to support

this program include chips, snacks, lunch meat, and fruit cups. Monetary donations are also accepted. The pantry programs have expanded as well. Volunteers are needed to deliver pantries and to box up items for the drive through pickups. Contact the Salvation Army by calling 815-235-7639 to volunteer or donate.

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# Trump administration ends reimbursements for Illinois food programs

By Ben Szalinski

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Trump administration has stopped reimbursing Illinois for a program designed to help farmers and supply fresh food to Illinois food banks.

The Illinois Department of Agriculture announced last week that changes to federal funding mean Illinois is missing reimbursements for costs for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Program, or LFPA, and can no longer run the Resil-

ient Food Systems Infrastructure Program, or RFSI.

The state agency said the federal U.S. Department of Agriculture has told states it will not reimburse them for any costs for the programs dating back to when Trump took office on Jan. 20.

LFPA, which funds the Illinois-EATS program, uses federal funding to buy fresh products from farmers at a fair market value, then distributes the food to communities via

food pantries and other similar programs designed to help people in need for no additional cost. All the food produced as part of Illinois' program comes from socially disadvantaged farmers, including those the federal government defines as "new farmers."

More than 170 farmers have supplied food to 883 locations in Illinois through Illinois-EATS.

Brenda Stewart, a farm owner in Pembroke Township in

Kankakee County, received grant funding through the state. She told Capitol News Illinois she is most worried about the people who depend on her farm and the grant program to eat healthy.

"We're still going to grow our food, we're still going to provide what we can to our community, but not on the scale if they were able to receive," Stewart said.

Pembroke Township has no grocery store and many residents are on food stamps, Stewart said. She said IL-EATS and her farm provide many of the residents one of their only avenues for fresh and healthy food.

The USDA approved \$43 million for Illinois to carry out the program for several years, but the state is still missing \$17.8 million, according to the Illinois Department of Agriculture. The state and USDA

announced a partnership for the program in 2022.

The state has also not received \$6.5 million for the RFSI grant program. The program is designed to improve capacity for food processors and distributors and improve access to better distribution markets. The state has established a grant program based on funding from the federal government and was in the process of selecting winners.

There was no explanation for why reimbursements submitted after Jan. 19 were stopped, according to the state, and reimbursement claims have been returned.

USDA did not return a request for comment.

"That program made the difference, and I would say to Elon Musk and President Trump, this is saving lives. This is teaching our babies how to

eat fresh vegetables and how it helps their medical conditions," Stewart said.

News that the two programs are on an indefinite hold comes a week after Gov. JB Pritzker and Illinois' Democratic members of Congress sent a letter to the White House Office of Management and Budget asking why the Trump administration was withholding \$1.9 billion from Illinois state agencies, nonprofits and businesses.

"These are federal funds that were passed by Congress, signed into law, and promised to Illinois," the letter stated. "State agencies, small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and everyday citizens across Illinois—including in rural communities—are still having trouble accessing allocated federal funding."

See REIMBURSEMENTS, Page 11

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## Freeport police

**Arrest for aggravated driving under the influence of drugs resulting in death of another**

On March 5, 2025, Sheila Anderson, a 66-year-old resident of Freeport, was served with a felony Grand Jury indictment for one count of Ag-

gravated Driving Under the Influence of Drugs Resulting in Death of Another stemming from a traffic accident that occurred on Aug. 23, 2024.

On that date at 1:58 p.m., Officers of the Freeport Police Department responded to a traffic accident involving a vehicle and a motorcycle at the

intersection of Adams Avenue and Spring Street. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that Sheila Anderson operated a 2007 Dodge Nitro while having an amount of drug in her blood resulting from the unlawful use of cocaine and causing an accident which later led to the death of another person.

Sheila Anderson was arrested and served copies of the Grand Jury indictment at the Freeport Police Department. Anderson was processed at the Police Department and released pursuant to an order by the court under the provisions set forth in the Pre-Trial Fairness Act.

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.

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# University of Illinois Extension hosts 4-H Super Saturday event for local youth

The University of Illinois Extension's 4-H Program hosted its highly anticipated annual Super Saturday event on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the Stephenson Farm Bureau Office. This hands-on, three-hour event brought together over 60 youth, ages 5 to 18, for a day of exploration and creativity. Open to all area youth, regardless of 4-H membership, Super Saturday provided an exciting opportunity for kids to experience a wide range of 4-H project areas.

To kick off the morning, the event welcomed a special guest, Shelby Stone, the reigning National Petite Miss Agriculture USA. Shelby, a Stephenson County 4-H member, shared her inspiring story with attendees. Not only is Shelby royalty, but her roots in 4-H made her presentation even more meaningful. The youth were captivated as she spoke about her journey and her passion for agriculture.

Youth ages 8 to 18 par-

ticipated in three interactive workshops, where they could select from a variety of activities. This year's workshops included Cooking, Scrapbooking, Leathercraft, Shooting Sports, Floral Arrangements, Building Peep Houses, Playing with Clay, and Painting Mini Barn Board Quilts.

Meanwhile, younger participants, ages 5 to 7, enjoyed a special 4-H Cloverbud Super Saturday event. These budding gardeners had the chance to learn about gardening while creating "People Flowerpots" by painting flowerpots and adding straw hats, making Window Gardens with bean seeds, and starting their own plants in peat pots. In a few weeks, these young gardeners will be able to watch their seeds grow and take pride in their very own garden.

In addition to the support of 4-H volunteers and the 4-H Ambassadors (Stephenson County's youth leadership team), several local organizations and businesses played a

key role in making the event a success. Volunteers from the Stephenson County Association for Home & Community Education guided youth in building houses from cookies and candy to house Peep marshmallow treats. Stephenson County Master Gardeners led floral arrangement sessions, with flowers generously donated by Deininger Floral Shop in Freeport. Sunny Hill Craft Company provided materials and instruction for painting mini wooden barn board quilts.

For more information about 4-H and upcoming events, visit our website at: [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw) or call the Stephenson County Extension office at 815-235-4125.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing

**Serenity Hunt works on creating her scrapbook page using photos of her dog at the Super Saturday event held this past weekend.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

**The Cloverbuds got down and dirty planting seeds in peat pots as part of their gardening morning.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing

**Colette Brinkmeier focuses on her leathercraft coaster she made.**



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Rock Valley Publishing

**Lane Atwater displays his floral arrangement he made with the help of the Stephenson County Master Gardeners.**

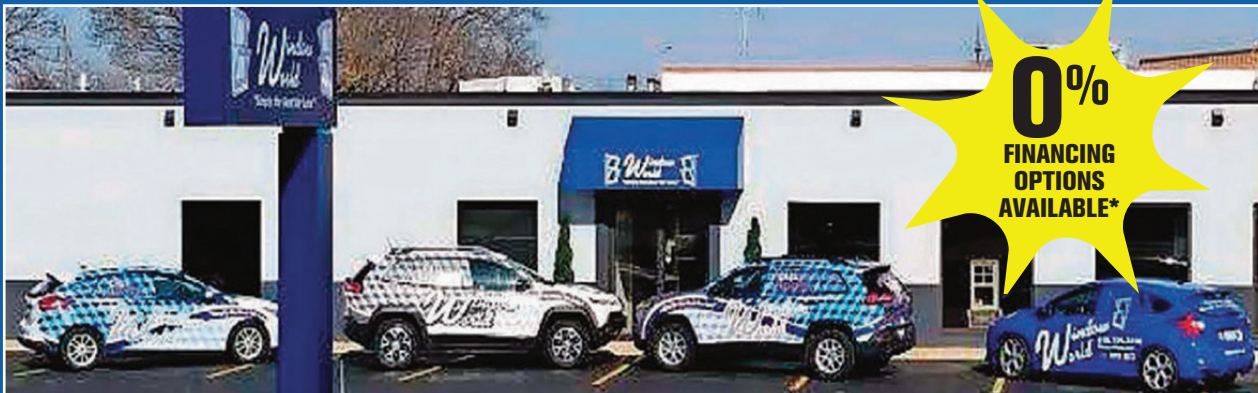


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**Paige McPeck shows her Peep House she built in the session with the Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education volunteers.**

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# Root resection to save a multirooted tooth

A root resection or root amputation is a surgical procedure that is performed on a multirooted tooth when just one of the roots is seriously damaged, fractured, or infected. This procedure allows your dentist to save an otherwise sound tooth.

While modern crowns, bridges and dental implants provide improved esthetics and durability, they are never going to function as well as



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

your natural teeth. Natural teeth are designed to bite and chew optimally and maintain alignment. It is always best to retain your natural teeth

whenever possible.

When you experience trauma (fractured or perforated root), root resorption, or loss of attachment to the tooth socket from periodontal disease in a single rooted tooth, extraction may be your only option. However, for those teeth with multiple roots, root resection offers the opportunity to preserve the tooth, as the remaining

roots continue to provide support and stability to the tooth in its socket.

During the procedure, the tooth will first undergo a root canal to remove the blood vessels, nerves, and any infected tissues in the pulp. The root canals will then be filled to prepare the root for resection. During the root resection, a small incision in the gum will be performed to visualize the roots of the

affected tooth. The diseased or fractured root is then removed, as well as any infected or damaged tissue surrounding the tooth.

Depending on the reason for the resection (trauma, decay, periodontal disease), the location of the involved tooth, the anatomic position of the root to be respected, and the amount of tissue damage/bone recession involved, a bone graft may

be placed at the surgical site to promote healing, bone growth, and esthetics.

Since molars and premolars undergo a great deal of force when chewing, a permanent crown will be placed to provide protection, structural integrity, and stability to the tooth. To keep your tooth functional and disease-free, effective daily preventative care is essential.

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# Illinois bill aims to add more oversight of homeschooling

By Molly Parker and Beth Hundsdorfer

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A new Illinois bill aims to add some oversight of families who homeschool their children, a response to concerns that the state does little to ensure these students receive an education and are protected from harm.

The measure, known as the Homeschool Act, comes after an investigation by Capitol News Illinois and ProPublica last year found that Illinois is among a small number of states that place virtually no rules on parents who homeschool their children. Parents don't have to register with any state agency or school district, and authorities cannot compel them to track attendance, demonstrate their teaching methods or show student progress.

Under the new bill, families would be required to tell their school districts when they decide to homeschool their children, and the parents or guardians would need to have a high school diploma or equivalent. If education authorities have concerns that children are receiving inadequate schooling, they could require parents to share evidence of teaching materials and student work.

State Rep. Terra Costa Howard, D Glen Ellyn, who is sponsoring the legislation, said she began meeting with education and child welfare officials in response to the news organizations' investigation, which detailed how some parents claimed to be removing their children from school to homeschool but then failed to educate them.

The investigation documented the case of L.J., a 9-year-old whose parents decided to homeschool him after he missed so much school that he faced the prospect of repeating third grade. He told child welfare authorities that he was beaten and denied food for several years while out of public school and that he received almost no education. In December 2022, on L.J.'s 11th birthday, the state took custody of him and his younger siblings; soon after, he

was enrolled in public school.

"We need to know that children exist," said Costa Howard, vice chair of the Illinois House's child welfare committee. The legislation is more urgent because the number of homeschooled children has grown since the pandemic began, she said. "Illinois has zero regulations regarding homeschooling—we are not the norm at all."

The most recent numbers available at the time of the news organizations' investigation showed nearly 4,500 children were recorded as withdrawn from public school for homeschooling in 2022—a number that had doubled over a decade. But there is no way to determine the precise number of students who are homeschooled in Illinois, because the state doesn't require parents to register.

The bill would require the state to collect data on homeschooling families. Regional Offices of Education would gather the information, and the state board would compile an annual report with details on the number, grade level and gender of homeschooled students within each region.

Homeschool families and advocates said they will fight the measure, which they argue would infringe on parental rights. Past proposals to increase oversight also have met swift resistance. The sponsor of a 2011 bill that would have required homeschool registration withdrew it after hundreds of people protested at the Illinois State Capitol. In 2019, a different lawmaker abandoned her bill after similar opposition to rules that would have required curriculum reviews and inspections by child welfare officials.

The Home School Legal Defense Association, which describes itself as a Christian organization that advocates for homeschool freedom, said it plans to host virtual meetings to educate families on the bill and ways they can lobby against it.

Kathy Wentz of the Illinois Homeschool Association, which is against homeschool

regulations, said she is concerned about the provision that would allow the state to review education materials, called a "portfolio review" in the legislation. She said visits from education officials could be disruptive to teaching.

"There is nothing in this bill to protect a family's time so they can actually homeschool without interruptions," Wentz said. She pointed to a 1950 Illinois Supreme Court ruling establishing that homeschooling qualified as a form of private education and that the schools were not required to register students with the state.

The bill would require all private schools to register with the state.

The Capitol News Illinois and ProPublica investigation found that it's all but impossible for education officials to intervene when parents claim they are homeschooling. The state's child welfare agency,

the Department of Children and Family Services, doesn't investigate schooling matters.

Under the proposed law, if the department has concerns about a family that says it is homeschooling, the agency could request that education officials conduct a more thorough investigation of the child's schooling. The new law would then allow education officials to check whether the family notified its district about its decision to homeschool and

compel parents to turn over homeschool materials for review.

The increased oversight also aims to help reduce truancy and protect homeschooled students who lose daily contact with teachers and others who are mandated to report abuse and neglect, said Costa Howard, whose district includes Lombard. Some truancy officials said that under existing law they have no recourse to compel attendance or review what students are learning at

home when a family says they are homeschooling.

Jonah Stewart, research director for the Coalition for Responsible Home Education, a national organization of homeschool alumni that advocates for homeschooling regulation, said the lack of oversight in Illinois puts children at risk. "This bill is a commonsense measure and is critical not only to address educational neglect but also child safety," Stewart said.

## •Reimbursements (Continued from page 8)

A federal judge issued another ruling last week prohibiting the Trump administration from blocking distribution of federal funding.

The end of funding for the programs comes as Illinois farmers face new tariffs imposed on three of the state's largest trading partners and retaliatory tariffs against

American goods. Illinois farmers exported nearly \$14 billion of agricultural products in 2023, according to the Illinois Farm Bureau.

"Illinois farmers' products—from grains and feed, corn, soybeans, ethanol, beef, pork, and more—rely on access to foreign markets and will undoubtedly be im-

pacted by these new tariffs either through increased prices or decreased market access," Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan said in a statement. "This uncertainty coupled with an already struggling farm economy has farmers worried as we head into planting season."

## Lena Town Garage Sales

Listings and map to run in Shopper's Guide  
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Garage sale times \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Deadline to sign up is Monday, April 21!**  
**Please Sign Up EARLY. Early Registration is Appreciated!!**

## Senior Resource Center hosts monthly outreach in March

The Senior Resource Center is pleased to announce its upcoming free monthly outreach events in Jo Daviess County. The events will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following locations:

**March 13** – Hanover Township Park District, 500 Fillmore Street, Hanover, IL

**March 20** – Stockton Township Library, 140 W. Benton Ave., Stockton, IL

**March 27** – West Galena Township Building, 607 Gear Street, Galena, IL

The outreach is designed to provide personalized assistance to seniors and their families in navigating aging and disability resources. Services offered include aging and disability benefits information, Medicaid questions, Part D (Prescription Coverage) questions, benefit access applications (License Plate Discounts), and general aging questions. Appointments are required to ensure personalized assistance. Call 815-235-9777 to secure your spot.



The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

469049

# Service Corner

**DeVoe License & Title Service**  
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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Lent has officially begun. Mardi Gras Fat Tuesday was celebrated with the usual beads, parades and King Cakes. St. Patrick's Day is coming up. This week our recipes include some carry overs from Mardi Gras and some recipes for St. Patrick's Day. Have a great week cooking.

## French Quarter Cheese Spread

An interesting appetizer that is a favorite in New Orleans. It is easy to make and easy to serve.

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 T. grated sweet onion
- ½ t. grated garlic
- ¼ C. unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- 2 T. light brown sugar
- 1 T. water
- 1½ t. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. spicy brown mustard
- 1/8 t. cayenne pepper
- ½ C. chopped toasted pecans

Butter crackers  
Combine cream cheese, onion, and garlic. Whisk cream cheese in a medium bowl until smooth. Stir in onion and garlic. Spread mixture evenly onto a serving plate. Chill, uncovered in refrigerator until firm, about 1 hour. Remove mixture from refrigerator and let stand until softened slightly, about 15 minutes. In a small saucepan, combine butter, brown sugar, water, Worcestershire sauce, mustard and cayenne pepper. Remove from heat; stir in pecans. Let stand until cooled, about 5 minutes. Spoon over cream cheese mixture. Serve with butter crackers.

## Irish Flag Salad

This salad contains all the colors of the Irish flag; it is perfect for St. Patrick's Day or any spring side.

- 2 oranges, cut into slices
  - 1 pear, thinly sliced
  - ½ C. feta cheese
  - ¼ C. pistachios, roasted and chopped
  - ¼ C. fresh basil, chopped
  - 3 C. spinach, with stems removed
- Dressing**  
3 T. olive oil  
1½ T. orange juice  
1 t. honey  
1 t. apple cider vinegar  
1 T. lime juice  
Salt to taste

In a large salad bowl, layer the oranges, pear, and feta cheese; sprinkle with pistachios, and basil. Dressing: Shake up the dressing in a mason jar with the olive oil, orange juice, honey, vinegar and lime juice. Toss the salad with the dressing or serve it on the side.

## Biscuit Beignets

A Mardi Gras and New Orleans tradition is the beignets. Usually, they are a long and involved recipe, but this one uses canned biscuits to make the popular bread treat.

- 1 can (16.3 oz.) can refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
  - Vegetable oil
  - Powdered sugar
- Separate biscuits into individual rounds and cut into quarters. Pour oil to a depth of 2 inches into a Dutch oven; Heat oil to 350. Fry biscuit quarters in batches 1 to 1 2/3 minute on each side or until golden. Drain on paper towels. Dust generously with powdered sugar and serve immediately.

## Mini Muffuletta Sandwiches

These sandwiches are a New Orleans staple that can be served anywhere and anytime.

- 2 C. Italian olive salad from a jar or giardiniera
- 1 T. chopped fresh basil

- 1 T. red wine vinegar
- ¼ t. crushed red pepper
- 8 sesame seed buns
- 8 oz. shaved corned beef
- 8 oz. sliced provolone cheese
- 8 oz. thinly sliced deli ham
- 8 oz. thinly sliced mozzarella
- 8 oz. thinly sliced dry salami

16 pimiento-stuffed olives, cut in half crosswise.

Place olive salad, basil, vinegar and crushed red pepper in the bowl of a food processor; pulse until chopped, about 5 times. Top the bottom half of each hamburger bun with 2 T. of olive salad mixture; top each bun with 1 oz. corned beef, 1 oz. ham, 1 oz. mozzarella, and 1 oz. salami. Top each with 2 T. of olive salad mixture and bun tops. Cut each sandwich into quarters; secure each quarter with a wooden pick topped with an olive half.

## Ravioli Casserole

Since we are in Lent, we will be featuring a nonmeat entrée each week. Some will contain seafood, some cheese, and some vegetables. Enjoy meatless Fridays.

- 1 pkg. (20 oz.) refrigerated cheese ravioli
  - 2½ C. pasta sauce
  - 2 C. small-curd cottage cheese
  - 4 C. shredded mozzarella cheese
  - ¼ C. Parmesan cheese
  - Parsley for garnish
- Preheat the oven to 350. Prepare ravioli according to package directions; drain. Spread 1 C. pasta sauce in an ungreased 9 x 13 baking dish. Layer with half the ravioli, 1¼ C. sauce, 1 C. cottage cheese, and 2 C. mozzarella cheese. Bake uncovered until bubbly, 30 to 40 minutes before serving. Sprinkle with parsley.

## Pretzel Shamrocks

These no bake shamrocks are quick and easy as a snack or a party extra.

- 1 bag (8 to 12 oz.) pretzel twists
  - 1 bag (8 to 12 oz.) pretzel sticks
  - White chocolate melting wafers (1 bag)
  - Green food coloring
  - Green sugar sprinkles
- On a flat surface, lay out a piece of parchment paper. In a microwavable bowl, melt the white chocolate wafers for thirty seconds at a time until they are completely melted and smooth. Stir in between each microwaving session. Once the chocolate is completely melted, add a few drops of green food coloring and stir to desired shade of green. Dip ½ to ¾ of pretzel into the melted chocolate and

carefully place on parchment paper. Next, dip one mini pretzel twist at a time into the chocolate. Lay the first one on the parchment paper so the bottoms touch the top of the pretzel stick. If there is any space between the bottoms of the pretzel twists, move the stick with chocolate to make sure that they stay together when the chocolate sets. Sprinkle with green sugar and set for 30 minutes.

## Chocolate Guinness Cake

This Irish cream cake will become a favorite all year long. You can substitute chocolate chips for the chopped chocolate. It is moist and flavorful. Enjoy it for St. Patrick's Day and beyond.

- 6 oz. sweet chocolate chopped
- 11 oz. bottle Guinness Stout
- ¼ C. sugar
- ¼ C. firmly packed light brown sugar
- 11 T. unsalted butter, softened
- 1/3 C. unsweetened cocoa powder
- ¾ C. sour cream, room temperature
- 2 eggs, room temperature
- 1 large egg yolk, room temperature
- 2½ t. vanilla
- 2½ C. flour
- 2½ t. baking soda
- 1 t. salt
- Baking spray with flour
- Icing
- 2 oz. cream cheese softened
- 1 T. unsalted butter, softened
- 1½ C. powdered sugar
- 2 T. Irish Baileys Cream

Preheat the oven to 350. Place the chocolate in a large bowl. In a medium saucepan, whisk together the Guinness, sugar, light brown sugar and butter; bring to a simmer over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the sugar is dissolved and the butter is melted. Whisk in the coco powder. Pour the hot mixture over the chocolate and let stand for 2 minutes. Stir until the chocolate is melted and the mixture is combined. Whisk in the sour cream, eggs, egg yolk and vanilla.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, and salt. Slowly add the flour mixture to the chocolate mixture, whisking just until combined. Spray a 12-cup bundt pan with baking spray with flour. Pour the batter into the pan. Bake until a wooden pick comes out with a few moist crumbs, 45 to 50 minutes. Let cake cool for 5 minutes in the pan before carefully flipping the cake out onto a wire cooling rack; let cool completely.

See KITCHEN, Page 15

**— PUBLIC NOTICE —**  
**NOTICE - ACCEPTING MOWING BIDS**  
We are now accepting bids for mowing the Elizabeth Cemetery & Old Log Church.  
*Bids should be per mowing.*  
**Deadline to submit bids is March 28, 2025.**  
Any questions call Jeff Spoerl - (815) 858-4045.  
Submit bids to: Candis Albrecht,  
313 Orange St., Elizabeth, IL 61028  
(Liability Insurance is required)



# LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE 15TH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
COUNTY OF Stephenson  
- Freeport, ILLINOIS  
U.S. BANK NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION  
Plaintiff

vs.  
JACK D. BREIT;  
LERISA D. LEIF;  
ILLINOIS HOUSING  
DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY;  
UNKNOWN OWNERS  
AND NON-RECORD  
CLAIMANTS  
Defendant

24 FC 30  
CALENDAR  
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 16, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

LOT THIRTY-NINE (39) AS DESIGNATED UPON PLAT NO. 2 VALLEY MEADOW SUBDIVISION, OF A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 32M TOWNSHIP 26 NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED IN BOOK H OF PLATS ON PAGE 73 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. 05-20-32-127-010.  
Commonly known as 20 ACADEMY STREET, GERMAN VALLEY, IL 61039.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The

property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 24-213628 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3262068

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 12, 19, 26, 2025)  
468800

## NOTICE OF A PUBLIC MEETING

On March 14, 2025 at 9:00 AM, a meeting conducted by the Lena-Winslow School District will take place in the District Board Room at 401 Fremont St., Lena, IL. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private schools and home schools within the district for the 2025-26 school year. If you are a parent of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of Lena-Winslow School District, you are encouraged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Dr. Tom Chiles at (815) 668-0800.

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
March 12, 2025)  
468906

IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE 15TH  
JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
JO DAVIESS COUNTY -  
GALENA, ILLINOIS  
U.S. BANK TRUST  
NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION, NOT  
IN ITS INDIVIDUAL  
CAPACITY, BUT  
SOLELY IN ITS  
CAPACITY AS  
TRUSTEE OF  
CITIGROUP  
MORTGAGE LOAN  
TRUST 2024-RP1  
Plaintiff,

-v.-  
DENNIS C. HAYES,  
APPLE CANYON LAKE  
PROPERTY OWNERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
Defendant

2024 FC 66  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 13, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on April 3, 2025, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

LOT 105 IN BLUE GRAY UNIT OF BRANIGAR'S APPLE CANYON LAKE SUBDIVISION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 6A105 APPOMATTOX DRIVE, APPLE RIVER, IL 61001

Property Index No. 18-006-105-00

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$105,617.34.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the

condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 24 1094.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.  
JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC  
30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650  
Chicago IL, 60602  
312-541-9710  
E-Mail: [ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com](mailto:ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com)  
Attorney File No. IL

24 1094  
Case Number: 2024 FC 66  
TJSC#: 45-502

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2024 FC 66  
I3261317  
(Published in  
The Scoop Today  
Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 2025)  
468339

IN THE CIRCUIT  
COURT OF THE 15TH  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
JO DAVIESS COUNTY  
330 NORTH BENCH  
STREET, GALENA,  
ILLINOIS  
ESTATE OF  
Howard Albert Fiedler,  
DECEASED.

25 PR 12  
Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Hollie Fiedler Free, 7524 Centenary Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75225, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Theodore Netzky, Netzky Olswang & Hanlon Law Group, LLC, 8605 West Bryn Mawr, Suite 309, Chicago, Illinois 60631.

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 August 26, 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>.

Theodore Netzky  
Netzky Olswang &  
Hanlon Law Group, LLC  
(2038544)  
8605 West Bryn Mawr,  
Suite 309  
Chicago, Illinois 60631  
(312) 953-4001  
I3261404

(Published in  
The Scoop Today  
Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 2025)  
468398

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Stockton Community Unit School District #206 will be accepting bids for the 2025 Site Improvements Project at Stockton Elementary School, 500 N. Rush Street, Stockton, Illinois. Plans and Specifications are available on or after March 18, 2025, from Cordogan Clark & Associates, Inc. plan room [www.cordoganclarkplanroom.com](http://www.cordoganclarkplanroom.com). Sealed Bids, conspicuously marked, shall be received until 2:00 pm CST on April 8, 2025, at the District Office, 540 N. Rush Street, Stockton, Illinois 61085, at which time they shall be opened and read aloud. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am, March 20, 2025, virtually via Microsoft Teams. Prevailing wage rates shall apply to this Project. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent bidding and contract documents including Contractor qualifications as specified in said documents.

(Published in  
The Scoop Today  
March 12, 2025)  
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## real estate

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# •News (Continued from page 7)

partners Mexico, Canada and China, respectively. "Illinois Farm Bureau urges President Trump to honor the USMCA, which was successfully negotiated during his last term, and to find other methods to combat illegal drugs and secure our border. We remain deeply concerned with the use of tariffs and their potential to spark retaliation on America's farmers. Illinois farmers'

products – from grains and feed, corn, soybeans, ethanol, beef, pork, and more – rely on access to foreign markets and will undoubtedly be impacted by these new tariffs either through increased prices or decreased market access. This uncertainty coupled with an already struggling farm economy has farmers worried as we head into planting season."

Illinois is the third largest exporter of agricultural commodities in the U.S. Total exports from Illinois in 2023 were estimated at \$81 billion, of which \$13.7 billion was attributed to agriculture. According to the USDA Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS) in 2024, Illinois accounted for over \$12.4 billion of agricultural product exports, including \$3.6 billion

worth of products to Mexico (\$2.5 billion) and Canada (\$2.1 billion). Similarly, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce, in 2024 Illinois accounted for over \$784 million in agricultural product imports, including \$542 million worth of products from Canada (\$314 million) and Mexico (\$228 million)

## Stephenson County Freezer Meals

We are excited to announce

that Freezer Meal fundraiser is back by popular demand benefiting the Stephenson County Ag in the Classroom Program. This order is different than in the past so please read the details carefully. Orders will be due on or before 4:30 p.m. on March 21, 2025, with pickup being Wednesday April 9 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, 210 West Spring Street Freeport, IL.

Those who order can pick from meal sets feeding five

people or meal sets feeding two people. Each set includes the following entrees: BBQ Pulled Pork, Honey Mustard Chicken, Ranch Chicken Tacos, Shepherd's Pie, and Chicken and Biscuits. The five-person meal sets will cost \$125 and the two-person meal sets will cost \$60. To order or with questions please call 815-232-3186. Order forms can be printed from our website at [www.stephensoncfb.org](http://www.stephensoncfb.org) under the "news" tab.

# •Connection (Continued from page 4)

and we shared lots of laughs and Christian love. In the gospel of John 13:34-35 Jesus is speaking and He says, A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

As if the day wasn't perfect enough it ended with another event; my father-in-law's ninety-second birthday party at the Culvers restaurant in Monroe. My wife and I arrived there at about four thirty and there were

already about fifteen family members there. By the time everyone arrived by about five there were some fifty of us including about fifteen of his grandchildren and another twenty or so great grandchildren. We pretty much took over the place and a great time was had by all. It was just amazing to feel the appreciation and love he and his wife of almost sixty-nine years had for each and every one of us. They are a very special couple indeed. Over the years I have become pretty close with my father-in-law as we have spent hours on

the ballfield and traveling to games together. We have also spent many days of summer trips traveling across the country with our families. His love for life and people is unmatched and he has brought great joy to a myriad of lives as a teammate, coach, father, grandfather, school bus driver and all-around great guy.

It was great to be able to finish off another blessed Sunday with the biggest blessing of all celebrating the birthday of a man we all love and respect. Here's to many more years on this earth. Until next week, God bless!

# •Kitchen (Continued from page 12)

Icing: In a bowl of a mixer, beat the cream cheese and the butter over medium speed until smooth. Gradually beat in the powdered sugar at low speed until the mixture is smooth, stopping to scrap the sides and bottom of the bowl. Slowly stream the Irish cream, beating until combined and scraping sides of the bowl. Add water 1 teaspoon at a time until desired consistency is reached for spooning the glaze. Place the cooled cake on a serving platter or cake stand. Spoon the icing on top of the cake and allow it to set.

## Final Thoughts

We are almost to the middle of March. St. Patrick's Day is next week. If you are a corned beef and cabbage fan, many of our local restaurants are having specials on that day. Be sure to check them out because they are a great serving and really tasty. You might want to buy a dinner rather than going to the trouble of making your own.

We continue to look for Lenten specials. The Lena Evangelical Free Church is once again offering a Lenten service of music on Wednes-

days at 1 p.m. The Pearl City Churches are having a soup and sandwich luncheon on Wednesdays with a short message during Lent at the Methodist Church. There are plenty of opportunities to go to these events.

Spring break is upon us too! We are looking for some Easter 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.

# Country Crossroads Quilt Guild monthly meeting features guest speaker

The Country Crossroads Quilt Guild will have their next monthly meeting on Monday, March 17, at 7 p.m. at the Forreton Grove Church, located at 7246 Freeport Rd. in Forreton, Ill.

For their program the Guild will present on "Alteration Tips and Tools," given by member Jeannie Brinkmeier.

Also – save the date! CCQG will present their Quilt Show "Garden of Quilts" on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at the Jane Addams Community Center, 430 W. Washington St., Cedarville. Hours for the show are Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$5. The meeting's program

will be followed by a business meeting and "show and tell."

Guild meetings are held at the Forreton Grove Church on the third Monday of each month, except December, at 7 p.m., with ample time to meet and greet members before the meeting. Visitors are always welcome; for visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues are \$20.

For more information, call program committee chair Kay Walker at 815-275-2904, or Guild president Jennifer Newcomer at 708-774-3279.

The purpose of Country Crossroads Quilt Guild is to further the interest of their members and community

(within Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside counties) in the craft; to share ideas and exchange teaching methods of construction of all types of quilted garments, quilts, gifts, etc.; and to promote a community spirit of charity by participating in a community project. They charge an annual fee for members and a per visit fee for visitors; the fees help cover the cost of the monthly program speakers. They have a monthly program, workshops, "secret sister", service projects and a quilt show every three years that features a raffle quilt. The Guild also has a daytime sewing bee and a potluck supper before their meetings.

# REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY IN ITS CAPACITY AS TRUSTEE OF CITIGROUP MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2024-RP1 Plaintiff, -v.- DENNIS C. HAYES, APPLE CANYON LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION Defendant

2024 FC 66

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on February 13, 2025, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on April 3, 2025, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public in-person sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Commonly known as 6A105 APPOMATTOX DRIVE, APPLE RIVER, IL 61001 Property Index No. 18-006-105-00

The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$105,617.34.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds/or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check

the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

For information, contact JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC Plaintiff's Attorneys, 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 24 1094.

THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at [www.tjsc.com](http://www.tjsc.com) for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

JOHNSON, BLUMBERG & ASSOCIATES, LLC 30 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 3650 Chicago IL, 60602 312-541-9710

E-Mail: [ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com](mailto:ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com) Attorney File No. IL 24 1094 Case Number: 2024 FC 66 TJSC#: 45-502

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2024 FC 66 I3261317

(Published in The Scoop Today Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 2025) 468340

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff

vs. JACK D. BREIT; LERISA D. LEIF; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

24 FC 30

CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 16, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 05-20-32-127-010. Commonly known as 20 ACAD-EMY STREET, GERMAN VALLEY, IL 61039.

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

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668-4410 ext. 52109. 24-213628 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION [intercountyjudicialsales.com](http://intercountyjudicialsales.com) I3262068

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 12, 19, 26, 2025)

468803



# Illinois meat processors doing more with less

By Rhiannon Branch  
FARMWEEK

Higher production and equipment costs have meat processors finding ways to do more with less.

Chris Young, executive director of the American Association of Meat Processors, said when the Biden administration shut down the Keystone Pipeline it had ripple effects.

"Most people don't realize, but a lot of things that we do deal with petroleum like the plastics that we vacuum package with, as well as transportation to then get those finished products out to the consumer," Young told DeLoss Jahnke of the RFD Radio Network. "So those are just layers of costs and hopefully we'll see some of that turn around now that we're back to drilling again."

During the Illinois Association of Meat Processors' (IAMP) 50th anniversary convention in Effingham, Young said increased costs

squeeze profit margins for association members.

"Most of our folks are in small towns and they are making products and selling them to their neighbors, and they want to make them as cost effective as possible," Young said. "And that's tough because the profitability lines keep shrinking because of those things."

Meat processors like Dale Pfundstein, owner of The Butcher Shop in Sterling, are thinking outside of the box to utilize and market every piece of the market animal.

Pfundstein said they have had success selling beef bacon, cut from the brisket.

"We're trying to get more into the carnivore diet," he said. "People get tired of eating steak all the time, so then they're looking for something different and beef bacon is a little bit different."

He said the beef bacon is leaner than pork and they often slice more fat off after it is smoked.

"We take the point and cut it right down the center, so it's not as thick and it's more sliceable," Pfundstein said.

He said processors also slow cook large pieces of fat to turn into tallow for cooking.

"If you go gather some essential oils and put that in the tallow then you can make salves and lotions," he said, noting that the once discarded fat has become more valuable.

Newly elected IAMP President Henry "Buddy" Courdt with Raber Packing Co. in Peoria said events like the meat judging contest at the annual convention also help businesses improve products and think outside of the box.

"You get to bring your products that you make every day and compete against other plants in Illinois to see where your shortfalls are and what you're good at," Courdt said, noting that IAMP is a close-knit organization where members can learn



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Illinois meat processors continue to find success with growing interest for products such as beef bacon.

from each other.

"If there's somebody that's making something and you want to know how to make it, if you approach them and ask them, they will probably tell

you," he said. "And then you can take that home and turn that into a product that you could sell to the consumer."

This story was distributed

through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

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