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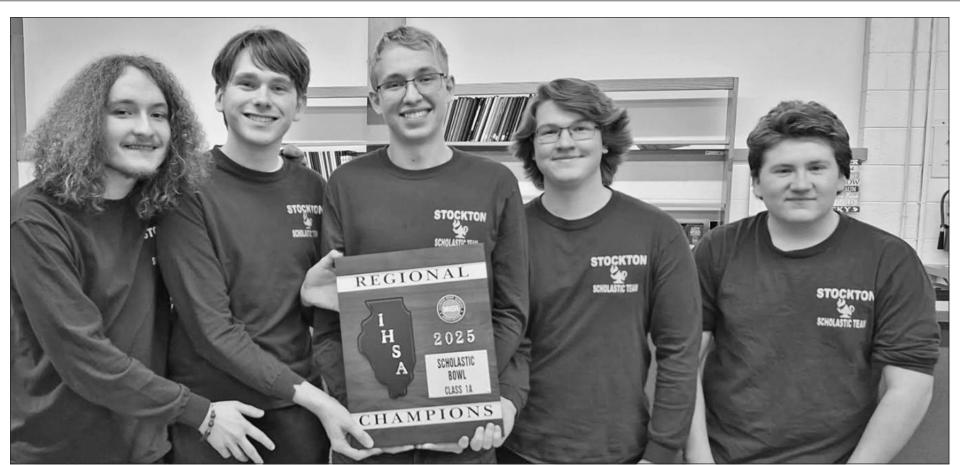
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VOL. 91 • NO. 13

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Stockton Quiz Bowl

School on Monday, March 10, 2025. Team members are (left to right) Sam Hille,

The Stockton Quiz Bowl won the regional championship hosted at AFC High Kyle Haas, Landon Warner, Ethan Steien, James Wickler. Congratulations!

County Scholarship Program accepting applicants

The Wills' Family, long time residents and philanthropic members of the area, have established a scholarship program for Jo Daviess County residents through the family trust. In honor of Goldie Wills Family, namely Eldon Wills, Gordon Wills and Wilbur Wills, have established the "Wills Family Scholarship Fund." The goal of this special fund is to assist this year's Jo Daviess County high school

graduate and current full-time college or vocational students with their education.

The Scales Mound School District Board of Education will administer the Scholarship program. Scholarships will be available to support attendance at vocational two and four year institutions. Recent or past high school graduates are eligible to apply.

Please send a letter of application to the Scales Mound

School at 210 Main St., Scales Mound, by April 30, for the coming school year. Please note the Wills Family Scholarship Program on the envelope.

Basic requirements

1. Any senior student or high school graduate student who is intent upon pursuing either a two year or four year, vocational or academic post-secondary education.

2. Good academic standing

Postal Customer **ecrwss

grade point average.

3. A resident of Jo Daviess County.

Selection procedure

1. Qualifying applicants will submit a written letter of application including a list of all school activities, commuof the post-secondary coursework to be pursued, and career intentions.

2. The letter of application must be submitted by April

Selection committee

Three Scales Mound board

with at least a "C" cumulative nity activities, a description members, Principal and Superintendent.

Claim procedure

Proof of registration at either a two year or four year post-secondary education program. Such proof will be presented to the Administration at Scales Mound High School.

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THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE

ALETA MAE LAWFER

Aleta Mae Lawfer finished doing God's work on earth on March 9, 2025, at the age of 90. Born on Oct. 7, 1934, to Albert and Martha (Kennedy) Fehrle, she grew up and attended rural schools in Massbach before graduating from Stockton High School. She often spoke of her time on her childhood farm full of friends, family, music and barn dances,

a lot of love, and a good deal

of work. She married her love and partner in life I. Donald Lawfer on June 26, 1955. Together they traveled as his duty in the U.S. Air Force required and eventually moved home to the family farm in Kent, IL. There they raised their family while building a dairy farm that taught many life lessons and the importance of agriculture. The farm was always the backdrop for escapades with cousins and friends with Aleta making meals, keeping everyone in line, and tending to each scraped knee. She taught kids and grandkids how to feed calves, sew, play piano, bake, and become the best version of themselves.

Aleta Mae was an involved member of Christ Lutheran Church participating in choir, altar guild, women's circle, WELCA, quilting club, and hosting special events. She was active in the University of Illinois Extension, Farm Bureau Women, 4-H Clubs, and community choirs. She also spent many fun-filled days playing euchre and Rummikub with family and friends.

She showed her family how to serve others, work hard, put family first, trust in the Lord. and give praise for the blessings we have every day. She led by example with joy in each act of service showing that living in this manner was not only a choice, but a priv-

who are suffering!



way of life. Her greatest accomplishment was building loving family that spans generations, distance, and

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

interests. Large holiday gatherings were a highlight and always entertaining.

Those who preceded her in entering God's promised kingdom were her mother and father, husband Don, two brothers Raymond and Charles, sister-in-law Sally Fehrle, brother-in-law I. Ronald Lawfer, son-in-law Mark Anderson, and granddaughter LaRena Anderson.

Aleta is survived by her sons Curt (Penny) Lawfer and Karl (Lori) Lawfer, and daughters Luralee Anderson and Peggy (Greg) Harmston; grandchildren Nicole (Cory) Haas, Jenna (Michael) Piche, Takara (Jonathan) Speagle, Kelsey (Seth) Rooker, Alayna Anderson, Jaclyn (Ben) Deig, Ty (Miranda) Harmston, Jacob Lawfer, Jill (Wyatt Hill) Harmston, and Case Harmston; great grandchildren Elijah and Weston Haas, Owen and Callen Piche, Layla, Miley and Jett Rooker, Lurayna and Anderlee Speagle, Leo Deig, and Ila Mae Harmston; and sister-in-law Pat Lawfer. She also played an important maternal role to nieces, nephews, and many friends.

Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 22 at the Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton, Illinois. The funeral service will be held on Sunday, March 23 at 1 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton. Interment will take place at Ladies Union Cemetery in Stockton. Condolences may be shared at www. hermannfuneralhome.com.

ilege and a ESTHER WAND

Esther Clarene Wand, age 90, of Elizabeth, IL, passed away March 9, 2025, at Winn Prairie Retirement Home, in Freeport, IL. A funeral service was held at 11 a.m., Monday, March 17, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, in Elizabeth. Visitation took place from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., prior to the service. Memorials may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Esther was born Aug. 14, 1934, in Mound City, SD, the daughter of August and Sophia (Wandmacher) Kuehl. She spent much of her childhood in South Dakota, before moving with her family to Stockton, prior to her sophomore year of high school. She graduated from Stockton High School, with the class of 1952

On March 25, 1956, Esther married John Schlichting. They would go on to have six children and celebrate 42 years of marriage before John's passing in 1998. Esther was a loving mother and devoted wife. For more than 20 years, she worked as a District Sales Manager for Avon Products and built many strong relationships that carried on for years afterwards. One of her most memorable qualities is that of a fiercely competitive card player. Any family get-together included lots of food, laughter, and card-playing.

Esther was a longtime member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. There she participated in the choir, as well as the worship committee. Music was always a love of hers from the time she was young; from singing with her siblings, on to performing at weddings and other events, and throughout her life - including as a senior, becoming a member of the "Joy Singers", performing at local ball games, churches, and banquets.

Esther enjoyed cooking



especially trying new recipes. She was known to spend a whole day working to put on a feast. As she

was blessed with grandchildren and later, great-grandchildren, they became the beneficiaries of much of her love. She attended games, graduations, concerts, and other events as often as she could, and was immensely proud of all of them.

On Nov. 29, 2008, Esther married Wayne Wand. They built a strong and loving later-in-life marriage and greatly enjoyed each other's company and family gatherings.

Esther is survived by her husband, Wayne; son, Todd (Annette) Schlichting, of Pearl City, IL; four daughters, Susan (Dan) Leitzen, of Stockton, Joan (Alan) Feeser, of Groveland, FL, Amy (Jerry) Brunner, of Stockton, and Carol (Mike) Lense, of Union, KY; 16 grandchildren, Matt Leitzen, Amanda (Shawn) Stitch, Dawn Gardner, Jody (Tim) Pauley, Tony (Rachel) Schlichting, Justin Feeser, Alan (Betsy) Feeser, Joanna (Aaron) Clay, Russell Brunner, Erin (Steve) Jordan, Samantha (Steve) Yoder, Jessie (Aaron) Byers, John Lense, Christina Lense, Danielle Lense, and Amber Lense; 26 great-grandchildren; brother, Dean Kuehl, of Stockton; and 7 step-children. Esther is preceded in death by her parents, August and Sophia; first husband, John; daughter Marcy; and eight siblings: Dietrich "Dick", Mina "Dips" Gotham, Elsie Kunz, Walter Kuehl, Dorothy Kolasch, Otto Kuehl, Adela Burk, and Shirley Sin-

and baking, TANA HERMAN

Tana Lee Herman, age 80, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Sunday March 9, 2025, at the Lena Living Center in Lena, IL. She was born on July 13, 1944, in Freeport, IL to Francis and Betty (Schulz) Raders. Tana married Bob Herman on Oct. 20, 1963, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, where they were members for many years. She graduated as Valedictorian of her class from Lena Winslow High School and managed JoAnn's Fabrics in Freeport, IL for many years until her re-

Tana enjoyed their fishing trips to Castle Rock Lake in Wisconsin. She loved crafting, sewing, painting and reading. She loved listening to Elvis, enjoyed her lunches with her "GGW" (Grand-ma's Gone Wild) Group and Thirsty Thursdays with her family at her mother's house.

She is survived by her Daughters; Dawn (Curt Garrison) Hastings of New Lisbon, WI. Deanna (Rich) Drve of Ormond Beach, FL and Stacy (Dan) Knoup of Urbandale,

Lane (Sonia) Herman of Dodgeville, WI. Grandchildren; Brandon and Ryan Hastings, Dustin

and Andrew Drye, Morgan and Mackenzie Knoup, Ean Herman and Breanna Busker. Four Great Grandchildren. Sisters; Sharon (Bob) Schlachter of Lena, IL and Jill Lance of Lena, IL. Brother; Mark (Lora) Raders of Belleview. Sister-in-law; Evelyn Herman of Lena, IL. Several nieces and nephews.

Son;

IA.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Bob, grandson Colton Drye, brother Terry Raders, and brotherin-law Tom Lance.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena. Interment was at the Lena Burial Park. Gary Groezinger officiated the services. A memorial has been established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.

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.

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 Exdo vou use?". Raffle items

will be furnished by Joyce Bonnet and Ruth Ann Jordan. All are welcome to come and ioin us.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Lena Park District will host two Easter Egg Hunts on April 12 at Lions Park. Ages 2 to 10 are welcome to attend the event at 5 p.m. Ages 11 to 23 are welcome to attend for flashlight hunt at 7:30 p.m. Both events are free.

McConnell Area Historical Society

Join the McConnell Area Historical Society for a presentation based on the recent publication written by Ken Bartelt on the events which occurred in the early 1900's just north of McConnell at Basswood.

"The Basswood Affair, A True Story of the Destruction of the Basswood Schoolhouse in 1905" will be held on Sunday, March 23 at 1 p.m. The event is free and sponsored by McConnell Area Historical Society located at 211 N. Hulbert Rd in McConnell, IL. Free-will donations are welcome to benefit the museum.

Green County Amateur Radio

Green County Amateur Radio meeting will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at 9 a.m. at Fire Station Number 1, 601 West 17th Street, Monroe, WI. Please use the side door. la Gerke will give the lesson on Licensed amateurs and all interested are welcome. Please be "How many types of flour call 608-558-0629 with any questions.

The Basswood Affair

The True story of the destruction of the Basswood school house in 1905

PRESENTED BY KEN BARTELT

Sunday, March 23 at 1 p.m. **McConnell Community Hall**

211 N. Hulbert Road, McConnell, IL 61050



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In Spike's own words:

"This past year was a year of great challenges for me at times. As I celebrate a year (Feb. 4^{th}) of healing since I was first treated for cancer, the doctors, nurses and medical technicians certainly deserve applause for their work. I will never forget the healing that came from family, friends and

Remember yourselves as a "healing force", family and especially brother, John, handshakes, words of encouragement, smiles, well wishes and PRAYERS! These are all clear signs

of God working within us to show love and support for those

NOW: Spike's family would also like to extend a THANK YOU

to everyone who attended his service, Pastor Cernek, ladies

of the parish who furnished a delicious meal, those that sent cards (over IOO), food, flowers, plants, donations and OSF Hospice. We are overwhelmed at how many lives he had touched! Spike was truly a blessing to many and will be dearly

tension will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. Pau-"Types of Flour". Roll call will

Partisan politics infiltrating non-partisan local Illinois elections

Bridgette Fox CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

It's been just four months since the last election concluded, but another election is on the horizon in Illinois: the April 1 elections for school boards and municipal offices.

Though municipal and school board races in Illinois are nonpartisan, voters may see many of the same political themes that were hallmarks of races during the 2024 presidential election cycle. The Democratic Party of Illinois is applying many of the same tactics it uses in partisan elections to this year's local races.

"We as the Democratic Party of Illinois should be defending Democratic values in every single election in nonpartisan and partisan elections alike, because all of these local offices have jurisdiction over super critical controls and we think our party has the best platform for governance," Democratic Party of Illinois Executive Director Ben Hardin said.

The 2025 local elections are the second time that Illinois Democrats are getting involved in nonpartisan races. After recruiting more than 1,000 prospective candidates last year, the state party is supporting 270 candidates for a variety of local offices in all areas of the state.

The party trained the candidates and attached them to "coaches" experienced in run-

Candidates will also be supported by a six-figure advertising campaign by DPI in the Hardin said that's made Irvin coming weeks.

"I think our voters welcome the information," Hardin said. "They want to know, and they need to know, who the aligned candidates are."

It's also part of the party's strategy to be more active year-

"This is how the party operates now," Hardin said. "We are not going back to closing up shop after an even-vear midterm or presidential election, lying dormant for 18 months and then coming alive again for the next even-year general election.'

Hardin acknowledged there could be some voter fatigue after November's presidential election, but he stressed that's why the party wants to make Democratic voters aware an election is approaching.

"These local offices, if we allow them to be uncontested, especially with the Trump administration in office, you know with our lack of control of the wheels of power in D.C., we could allow our state to start slipping to the right at the local level," Hardin said.

For example, DPI is getting involved in the mayoral race in Aurora, Illinois' second-largest city, where incumbent Mayor Richard Irvin and Aurora Ald. John Laesch face off. The elec-

ning Democratic campaigns. tion is the first since Irvin's unsuccessful campaign for governor as a Republican in 2022. an easy target for a partisan campaign.

"We're treating Aurora like the rest of our program across the state," Hardin said. "In Aurora, you've got an executive of the city who is a Republican."

As a candidate for governor, Irvin faced numerous questions about his Republican credentials. He often avoided answering any questions about President Donald Trump or his position on abortion as he faced accusations from opponents that he wasn't conservative enough. Irvin later co-hosted a Black Republicans event at the Republican National Convention last year.

DPI is running a direct mail program this month targeting Irvin. It also plans to reach Democratic voters in Aurora through other mail and digital outreach advertising to let voters know which candidates in the city the party supports.

Irvin's campaign did not respond to a request for com-

Illinois State Board of Elections records show DPI also used its resources to support Peoria Mayor Rita Ali and Calumet City Mayor Thaddeus Jones, who is also a Democratic state representative, during primary elections in February.

A full accounting of the

party's spending on municipal elections won't be available until mid-April when reports are due to the state election au-

Conservative influence

Jim Rule, chairman of the Tazewell County Republican Central Committee, said his group doesn't normally get involved in "consolidated-type elections" like the Morton School Board, which has five candidates running for election—but this year is different.

Four of those candidates are affiliated with Republican groups despite school board elections being nonpartisan.

In Illinois, political parties and individuals can still support and endorse any candidates they wish.

Rule said his committee vetted and backs the four Republican-aligned candidates.

"It's important to get the right people in office," Rule said. "Look, we've all heard the phrase 'all good government starts locally,' and this is a classic example of that. School boards are so, so vitally critical to have the right people on them for our kids.

The four GOP candidates are backed by the Citizens for Morton Schools political action committee, which did not reply to a request for comment.

Rep. Bill Hauter, R-Morton, is also involved in the race. He has donated \$1,000 to the

group as of March 5, according to the State Board of Elections, while his campaign has provided \$2,000 worth of consulting.

"I am supportive of four great candidates for Morton School Board in my hometown," Hauter said in a statement. "They are great candidates who each have their own unique qualifications that can help Morton students, parents, teachers and taxpayers. This will be a statement election for our community."

Rule said one of the main goals of Tazewell Republicans this election cycle is defeating Dr. Ashley Fischer, a pediatrician running for the Morton School Board whom Hauter called "too radical for the people and schools of Morton.

Fischer said she's an anti-bullying advocate, which includes respecting all aspects of students' identities like race, gender and sexuality.

"We want to send a message, not only to the residents of Morton, but to the community around us," Rule said. "That this is something that-this woke agenda—is something that we need to rid ourselves of, and it has no place in the school system, especially with young

Fischer said Republicans are trying to scare voters.

"They're basically stoking hot button topics to get a fear response out of parents, to try to get them to vote against me out of fear," Fischer said. "I have never once brought up any policy to do with transgender children, except that I think no child should be bullied in the school, regardless of their race, orientation, medical conditions, anything. They are in that group. I don't think any child should be bullied. That is my stance.'

Fischer also criticized Republicans for their online rhetoric, which she said promotes

Fischer's advocacy has also been scrutinized by Moms for Liberty, a right-wing group that advocates for conservative curricula in schools, such as by opposing LGBTQ lessons.

Virg Cihla, chair of the Tazewell County chapter of Moms for Liberty, said his group does not endorse any candidates.

The Illinois Republican Party did not reply to request for comment about their involvement in any April 1 elections.

In loving Memory of ORA Lyons

We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds. The days we do not think of you are very hard to find. Each morning when we awake we know that you are gone. And no one knows the heartache as we try to carry on. Our hearts still ache with sadness and secret tears still flow. What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Our thoughts are always with you, your place no one can fill. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. There will always be a heartache, and often silent tears. But always a precious memory of the days you were here. If tears would make a staircase and heartache make a lane, we'd walk the path to heaven and bring you home again. We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain, to walk with us throughout our lives, until

we meet again.

Love, Her Children & Grandchildren

32 years ago on March 14, 1993, a great woman died. That woman was my grandmother

ORA LYON&

It's amazing how special people can make their way into your heart and memory. I was only 5 years old, but Grandma Lyons shares some of my warmest. memories. She left a huge impression on me. Her love & compassion amazed me and set a standard for me. Now at the age of 37 I still think of her and miss her greatly. Her Grandson. Chad Quandt

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation upcoming events Return and the Recovery

of the Eastern Bluebird Bring the entire family and join the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) to celebrate a huge conservation victory. In the mid-1990s, the eastern bluebird population plummeted by nearly 90% in this region and may have vanished all together if not for a group of volunteers who decided to take-action. Call-

ing themselves the Bluebird Recovery Project, their efforts successfully brought the species back from the brink of extinction thirty years ago to one that thrives today. This spring, as bluebirds come back from their annual migration south, we will celebrate both their return to Jo Daviess

County and the recovery of

their population.

The event will take place at the Elizabeth Community Building on March 29 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Throughout the event will be a silent auction featuring bluebird-themed art and memorabilia, with proceeds going to support JDCF outreach and education. There will also be bluebird boxes for sale for \$35 and several being given

away as door prizes. This

event is free to attend and

RSVPs are not needed. Visit JDCF.org for more informa-

JDCF annual meeting

The public is cordially invited to attend the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation's ent the 2025 Nancy Hamill (JDCF) Annual Meeting on Winter Conservation Lead-

p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Woodbine Bend Golf Course and Restaurant. There will be a social hour with heavy appetizers before a short business meeting to elect new Board members and pres-Thursday, April 3 from 4 ership Award to the Illinois

Clean Energy Community Foundation. The keynote will be delivered by Cody Considine, former deputy director of The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Nachusa Grasslands and now head of TNC's Buffalo Restoration Program. Cost is \$40/person. RSVP to info@jdcf.org by March 27.



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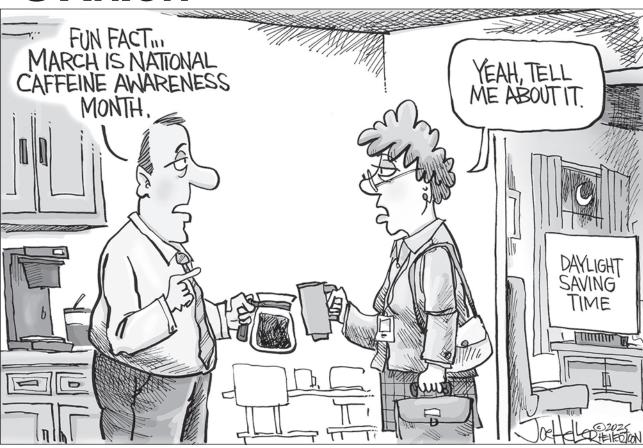
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PINION



Weekly connection

A happy 90th birthday

I have to say a big thank you to all who wished my mom a happy 90th birthday this week. She was delighted to get so many cards from so many of you. She is quite the sweet lady who has touched so many lives over her years on this earth. I remember as a little boy playing with my toy trucks on the kitchen floor while she worked at making meals which included the daily routine of making rolls and pies. I was the youngest of her first six boys and I was with her a great deal of the time. She did a lot of singing



SCOTT CERNEK

while she worked around the house cleaning, folding or ironing and I would kind of follow her around from room to room with my toys soaking it all in. She loved singing the old hymns the best and I would hum along as I played. I'm sure that's the reason that I love the old hymns so much

Mom grew up with eight siblings of her own in a small Indiana town. She was number seven in the family of six boys and three girls. She still has two brothers who are alive today. One is ninety-two and the other one is eighty-eight. They were a very poor family, but my grandpa did all he could to keep them in clothes, shoes and food on the table. He worked in the steel mills near Gary, Indiana, and it took a toll on him. He and grandma

both died very young. I think all of my uncles ended up working there too. The steel mills were the main industry in northwest Indiana where they lived. My mom was a tomboy who did everything her brothers did from riding horses and motorcycles to playing baseball and football with the boys. Her brothers adored her, and they loved our family too. We loved all of her brothers and sisters. I remember my uncles and aunts as being extremely

See BIRTHDAY, Page 5

Slices of life

A berry by any other name ... lots of names

Well apparently a lot. Or, apparently nothing. When it comes to berries, it depends on which berry to which you

Recently I unexpectedly dove down a rabbit hole—a berry, berry big rabbit hole. I was researching topics for another column and somehow berries crept into my periphery. A cavernous hole opened up and like a seed ready to be planted, down I went.

And during my descent, my berry reality, as I knew it, changed in an instant.

Here's a simple request for you: Name a berry.

I played this game myself. My first choice was the very obvious strawberry.

Strawberries are berries. It's in their name, isn't that right? Well no, and ves. Strawberries are called berries, but apparently they are only masquerading as such. They are actually aggregate fruits-which in simple terms means a lot of little fruits grouped together to form one large entity.

A fruit-yes, but a berry-

A strawberry, by definition, is not a berry.

Wipe me up from the floor right now.

It makes one wonder: what else in this world isn't what it seems?



JILL PERTLER Columnist

But I digress from the much more important topic of

As with too many things in this life, it all comes down to reproductive organs. In this case, the organs in question are ovaries.

Berries, by definition, come from one ovary on the plant; aggregate fruits come from multiple ovaries on a single flower. Strawberry plants contain an overly ambitious number of ovaries, making them decidedly aggregate.

Now you know. Don't worry if you're not

a botanist. I don't think many

Along with strawberries, other berry imposters include raspberries and blackberries. I like to think of them as cluster-fruits. I'm not sure anyone will get that joke, but I know my late husband would, so I have to include it.

It's not known how all these non-berries ever became berries (in name only) but at this point I

See BERRY, Page 5

FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS **NEEDED**

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

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Regional Transportation Committee meeting notice

The next Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Regional Transportation Committee meeting for Region 1 (Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties) will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Jo Daviess County Transit - 710 S West St., Galena, IL 61036. Human service organizations with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as anyone interested in public

For further information, please contact

hstp@ncicg.org or call 815-433-5830. Reserved time slots are available for public comment via Zoom for anyone not able to attend the meeting in person between 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

HSTP identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans. For more information about NCICG, HSTP, or if special accommodations are needed, please contact Connor Schwinn at 815-433-5830.

• Birthday (Continued from page 4)

loving and joyful people. They all had wonderful laughs and to great joy in teasing all of us cousins.

Just before I hit my teen years my mom had a couple more kids and I got to see her in action trying to manage six teenage boys and two babies at the same time. She had her hands full but still managed us all with a firm yet tender touch. Not only did she take good care of her family, but mom also taught Sunday School, led neighborhood Bible

studies and was active in the Christian Women's Clubs in the area. Whenever fall rolled around the neighborhood farmers worked together to pick the Dekalb seed corn that they all grew. The wives all got together and prepared a feast for the working men. Mom always made the pies, and they were amazing and still are. A couple days ago I dropped in on her and sure enough there was a big apple pie cooling by the window. It

didn't get a piece.

Mom has a desk in the kitchen with a glass top on it and under that glass are pictures of all her great grand kids. I think there are over seventy with a bunch more on the way this year. I think it's safe to say that her greatest legacy is how much she loves Jesus and how she and dad passed that on to each one of us kids. I'm so thankful for the 90 years I have known and loved her. God is good! Until next week, God bless.

HWY 64 CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

was going to the lady's Bible

study that afternoon, so I

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APRIL 25th & 26th - 8:00 AM - 101 E Murray St Browntown WI 53522

Running 2 Auction Rings Both Days - Online Bidding Available Office: 608-439-5761 - Mike Powers: 608-214-5761 - Dan Powers SR: 608-214-3765

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• **Berry** (Continued from page 4)

wouldn't feel comfortable calling them something more botanically correct like strawfruit, raspfruit or blackfruit. Despite the wrongevity in terms, they'll always be berries to me.

To further confuse the already confused (like me) despite the straw, blue and rasp imposters, other fruits with berries in their names are actual berries. Blueberries and cranberries fall into this category. They are what they claim to be, and I appreciate that.

I haven't even touched on the weirdest of the weird in this berry fiasco. Buckle up because here we go.

Blueberries fit nicely in your curled palm. They are an anomaly. Some berries you can't even hold in one hand.

Take melons, for example - water, musk and honeydew. All berries! And exceedingly difficult to lose

after purchase at the grocery

Let's take this fruity circus one step further. Pumpkins. Squash. Cucumbers.

Berries. Bell peppers. Poblano papers. Jalapeños-berries.

Tomatoes--berries. Bananas—also berries.

Oranges, grapes, pineapple and kiwi - all berries.

It almost makes you wonder which fruits (and even some fruits also known as vegetables) aren't berries. Well, besides strawberries.

And it almost makes you wonder if it matters whether strawberries call themselves berries, but don't qualify, by definition.

I'm sure it matters on some level—in botany terms or something like that.

But in the bigger picture, it doesn't really matter what we call something, or label

someone, or name it.

All my life, I've loved strawberries. And in that time, I've believed and thought them to be berries. Now I know the truth.

Strawberries (damned liars) are not berries. But you know what? They aren't made of straw, either. In that they are double liars. which in essence is a double negative, which in essence makes a positive.

So maybe they are strawberries after all.

Or maybe not. Or maybe it doesn't matter what we call them.

They are still sweet. They are still good. And I still like to eat them.

I think I'll leave it at that. Jill Pertler is an awardwinning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. Don't miss a slice; follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

2nd Annual Spring Classics Auction

Date: April 11, 2025 - Time: 9:00 AM - LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION

Location: 110 E Murray Street Browntown, WI 53522

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FARM AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 • 10 A.M.

CHARLES LAUBE ESTATE

LOCATION: 12083 Fritz Road, Durand, Illinois. Watch for Filer Auction arrows.

LUNCH STAND: By Eric White

TRACTORS: 1982 IH 3688 with cab; IH 826 no cab, diesel.

COMBINE & HEADS: 1983 Case-IH 1644 Axial Flow; Case-IH 2206 6 row corn head; Case-IH 1020

FARM EQUIPMENT: Kinze #3000 planter with interplant, 6/11 row, SHARP!; Case-IH 8450 round baler; Case-IH 5300 grain drill; (2) New Holland 411 discbines; H&S SR420/11H rotary rake; Gehl FC72C flail chopper; Mayrath/Hutchinson 8"x60' pto grain auger; (2) DMI 400 gravity wagons; (2) DMI 280 gravity wagons; Gehl 120 grinder/mixer; Gehl MX 100 grinder/mixer; Gehl CB760 forage chopper; Gehl CB860 forage chopper; Gehl 3038 corn head for chopper; International 183 cultivator; International 300 rotary hoe; International 475 disc; International 730 mold board plow; Kewanee pto auger; Krause 1070 chisel plow; Parker gravity box with gear; Parker gravity box no gear; Winpower pto 20/12 PT2 generator; Bradford 6 place round bale mover; 3 pt. bale mover;

CATTLE EQUIPMENT: (2) Apache CFA8150 creep feeders; Gruett's cattle feeder; calf building; (6) new, heavy duty cattle gates, from 10'-16'; lots of used heavy duty cattle gates; round bale feeder – new.

PICKUP TRUCK & MOWERS: Chevrolet 1994 K1500 4x4 pickup truck; (2) Cub Cadet lawn mowers.

HAY: 108 - 4'x5' round bales hay, stored inside.

MISC.: Engine hoist; gas post hole digger; skid loader cage; 100 gallon transfer tank; misc. tools; old farm literature; tractor parts; 21' grain bin to be taken down, stairs, fan, heater; plus more.

TERMS: Cash or good check with ID. Visit online at www.filerauction.com.

AUCTIONEERS: Mike Zettle, 815-238-4955; Randy Filer, 815-871-7936

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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 23, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week will be the Third Sunday during Lent. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Luke 13:1-9.

On Wednesday, March 26 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 the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

St. John's Lutheran Church

John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate the third Sunday in Lent on Sunday, March 23 at 9 a.m. The No Worries Band will be providing special music at this service.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, April 1 at 9 a.m. and to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, March 27 at 1

The Women's Gathering group will be meeting for refreshments and a bible study on Tuesday, March 18 at 9:45 a.m. The Sit and Sew group will be working on quilts at

11 a.m. Chili and cornbread will be served after the bible study. All are invited to atinformation. Please contact tend. The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Free-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 April Grace Meal will

be on Sunday, April 27 instead of April 20. It will be a community meal served by St. John's, Faith United Methodist Church, and Zion Church. The menu will be ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, applesauce, and cherry cobbler. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, April 24. Meals can be picked up at the church on April 27 between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m., or you can choose to dine in Luther Hall at St. John's between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information. The Healthy Wolves group

will be packing backpacks on Thursday, March 20 at 3:15 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

Lutheran St. John's 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 infor-

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 19: Deb Leininger March 26: Freeport Sacred Youth Choir April 2: Will Mueller

April 9: Gone Fishin' April 16: DELTA II

Upcoming Lent services

Three local churches are hosting food and music services in the anticipation of Easter morning. These events are free, fun and everyone is welcome.

Sunday, March 30

Bolton Community Church 3582 S Bolton Rd, Freeport 5:30 p.m. Refreshments 6 p.m. Service (Hymn Sing) Sunday, April 6

Willow Valley Church 6522 S Willow Rd, Stock-

5pm Soup & Sandwich Dinner

6 p.m. Music by Christ's Country Choir

Sunday, April 13

Calvary Church of Stock-

315 W Maple Ave 6pm Music (Finding Grace

7 p.m. Snacks

Praise Band)

Christ Lutheran Church

On Monday, March 24 Christ Lutheran Church will host a Soup Supper from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. The meal will include a choice of chili, potato soup, or beef and noodles. Each is served with a sandwich, vegetable cup, and dessert. Carry outs are available. Proceeds will benefit the Church Elevator Fund. Christ Lutheran Church is located at 600 S. Main St., Stockton, IL and is handicapped accessi-



Little Blackhawks

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

> SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Around the Northern Hills

Thank you to everyone that came out on Saturday to our Farmer Appreciation Breakfast! As usual, the Young Leaders did a great job putting this event together. Thanks to everyone that came out to join us for breakfast!



ANNETTE **EGGERS** Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

Roots Lager

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, 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.

Farm Fun Fact

For every \$100 of output created by livestock in Illinois, an additional \$80 of economic activity is created outside the industry.

Affordable health screenings coming to Stockton

Residents living in and around Stockton, can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Calvary Church of Stockton will host this community event on April 8, 2025. The site is located at 315 W Maple Ave in Stockton.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in your arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease,

stroke and overall vascular health, HDL and LDL Cholesterol levels, diabetes risk, kidney and thyroid function, and more. Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also avail-

Special package pricing starts at \$159, but consultants will work to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.





Listings and map to run in Shopper's Guide **Scoop Today's May 7th Issue**

70 Be Held Friday, May 9 & Saturday, May 10



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3) Mail form and payment to: Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 1102 Ann Street, Delavan, WI 53115 by Monday, April 21

One word per block for up to 40 words

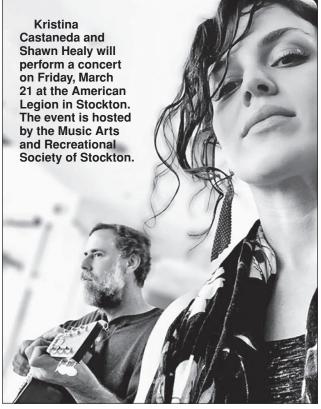
Deadline to sign up is Monday, April 21! Please Sign Up EARLY. Early Registration is Appreciated!! 488874 THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Springtime concert in Stockton

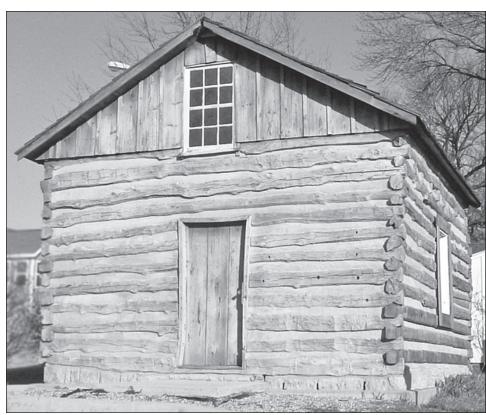
The Music Arts and Recreational Society of Stockton (MARSS) invites all to attend a spring concert on Friday, March 21 at the American Legion, 128 E. Front Ave., in Stockton, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. MARRS welcomes Castaneda and Kristina Shawn Healy, who dole out tight harmonies through jazz, folk, blues, Motown, rock and contemporary pop

Castaneda and Healy tease out new textures, layers, and interpretations of some fan favorite music that spans over the last 100 years. They have performed for nearly three decades with an array of other musicians and have shared the stage together for 10 years.

Donations will happily be accepted that evening to continue providing music for the Stockton area community. If interested in learning more, www.marss-stockton. org. Find more events on Facebook.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lena Historical Museum will host a program on Lena's first log school Sunday, March 30, 2025.

Lena Historical Society events

will present a program about Lena's first log school on Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m. The school was dismantled and moved to the museum site and reconstructed in 1987 by volunteers. It is furnished as it probably was when it was built by Samuel F. Dodd in his orchard. The pro-

and Karen Dammann, will tell the history of the schoolhouse and how it is used today to teach local history. The Lena Historical Museum is located at 427 Grove Street, Lena, Illinois

On April 24 the Historical Society will host their annual dinner fundraiser at the Lena will feature a catered dinner, silent auction and 50/50 raffle. A program will be given on the early history of Lake Le- Aqua-Na. Alan Wenzel, a well-known local speaker, will present the

See EVENTS, Page 20

A Great Big

who have sent a donation to help underwrite the Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide. For those of you who haven't done so in the past year, but enjoy this newspaper and would like to help us pay for its operation, please send a donation in any amount to:

Scoop Today Shopper's Guide

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E-mail your photos at the highest possible resolution to: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com BY NOON ON FRIDAY

PHOTOS MAY ALSO APPEAR ON OUR WEB SITE, **IVPNEWS.COM**



Northwest Illinois Economic Development announces new Genz Fund Award for Main Street Laundry

Northwest Illinois Eco-Development (NWILED) has announced the presentation of the organization's eighth Genz Fund Award to Main Street Laundry in Stockton, Illinois. The check for \$5,000 from the Genz Small Business Development Fund was issued to Owner Colton Broshous the afternoon of March 6, 2025.

According to Broshous, the money will be used to purchase a new water softener system and to upgrade his payment system to include card readers. Currently the laundry takes only quarters and dollar bills. "Starting a business in my hometown has always been a dream of mine," said Broshous. "And to do so in a building that has been in my family for decades makes it that much more special. Stockton has been in need of a laundromat for years and we hope to be a staple in the community for years to come. '

On hand to congratulate Broshous was his sister, Brittney Shockey, who owns Studio B Salon located next door to the laundry; mem-

Stockton Chamber of Commerce Vice President, Cynthia Petersen; and the Village of Stockton's President, Dan Kunz, and Trustee, Linda Gonnerman.

"Main Street Laundry was once Broshous's grandfather's mechanic shop. Seeing it transformed and made into such a great community asset wasn't an easy task," said David Schmit, NWILED Regional Director. "It took all new plumbing and electrical, not to mention a lot of paint, for him to open last September. Plus, it's not your normal laundry. You can have a beer and play slots while you wait for your dryer. And don't forget Main Street Fitness, Broshous's other business, is accessed through the laundromat."

Main Street Laundry is open every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is located at 202 South Main Street in downtown Stockton, IL 61085. Interested people with questions can email Colton at cobro46@gmail.com or call 815-541-1926. Their website is www.TheMainStreetLaundry.com. They also have an bers of the NWILED Board; active Facebook page.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

right) Mike JCE Co-op (Left to Casper of and NWILED Board, Cynthia Petersen of Stockton Chamber of Commerce, Schoenhaar of Amiee Riverport Railroad and NWILED Board with a "Riverport Little", Linda Gonnerman of Village of Stockton, Diane Gallagher of Jo Daviess County Board and NWILED Board, Colton Broshous of Main Street Laundry, David Schmit of NWILED, Amy Baker of Citizens State Bank and NWILED Board, Joe Mattingley of Arrow Group and NWILED Board, Patrick Powaser of Gradient Coaching & Consulting and NWILED Board, and Dan Kunz of Village of Stockton.

Stephenson County teacher indicted for sexual exploitation of children

A Stephenson teacher was indicted on Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Rockford for sexual exploitation of children. Collin T. Zier, 39, of Lena, IL, was charged with one count of producing child pornography, one count of transporting child pornography, one count of receiving child pornography, and one count of possessing child pornography.

Zier was employed at Orangeville High School when he sexually exploited a minor in 2024, the charges allege. Zier has been on administrative leave since September 2024. The count of producing child pornography carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years and a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. The counts of transporting child pornography and receiving child pornography carry a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years and a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. The count of possessing child pornography carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. Each count carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. If convicted, the court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal sentencing statutes and the advisory United

States Sentencing Guidelines. The indictment was announced by Morris Pasqual, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Douglas S. DePodesta, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago2 Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Stephenson County Sheriff's Office assisted in the investigation. The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan S. Kim.

The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. 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.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by U.S. Attorneys' Offices and CEOS, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as to identify

See TEACHER, Page 10

Listings and map to run in Shopper's Guide **Scoop Today's June 11th Issue**

70 Be Held Friday, June 13 & Saturday, June 14

\$15.00 FOR UP TO 40 WORDS including address, dates & times. MUST BE PREPAID! Include

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One word per block for up to 40 words

	 •	

Deadline to sign up is Monday, May 26! Please Sign Up EARLY. Early Registration is Appreciated!! 469365

Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

If you stop by the office on a Friday, especially in March, you will often find me sporting my favorite Big Ten Men's Basketball team gear. If there is a game on you may also hear it planning in the background of my office. March is my favorite months for sports and the reason is simple "March Madness". It all begins with the Big Ten tournament and then just rolls into the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

Did you know that the Tournament isn't just fun in games? It's actually a way for the Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader Committee to raise money for the Harvest for All program. Each year they host a bracket contest, Hoops for Hunger. If you would like to participate and help raise money for reduce food insecurity across Illinois,

Bureau Young Leader's Facebook page.

Spring Rawleigh product order

Kick off spring by ordering Rawleigh Products. The Stephenson County Farm Bureau is now accepting orders for Rawleigh products. Orders will be accepted until Monday, April 21 at 12 p.m. with an estimated delivery of May 7 just in time for Mother's Day. To make this program even sweeter, all proceeds from his order will be donated to the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation to fund Agriculture in the Classroom and scholarships. Order forms are available on our website www.stephensoncfb. org or by calling 815-232-

Trip Feature Fair Oaks Farm

The Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureaus are excited to announce we will be traveling to Fair Oaks, IN to explore their Dairy, Pig and Crop Adventure. We will enjoy a guided tour then have time for you to explore on your own. This trip will take place on Friday, June 20.

Days agenda: 6:30 a.m.: Depart Carroll County Farm Bureau

7 a.m.: Depart Freeport Walmart

10:30 a.m.: Arrive at Fair Oaks Dairy Farm

4 p.m.: Depart for Home 6 p.m. Dinner on the way

8 p.m.: Tentatively arrive at

Freeport Walmart

8:30 p.m.: Tentatively arrive at Carroll County Farm

Trip cost includes tour admissions, transportation, all tips and gratuities, water on the bus. Dinner and lunch are at your own expense. Farm Bureau member price is \$85 and non-member price \$105. To register please call the Farm Bureau where you would like to be picked up at Carroll 815-244-3001 and Stephenson 815-232-3186.

Farm Bureau members save on facility rentals

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

Apple River State Bank continues leading support since 2016

Illinois proudly serves as the official affiliate for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a transformative early childhood literacy program that provides free books to children from birth to age five. With steadfast financial support from Apple River State Bank and First Community Bank of Galena since 2016, the program continues to make a significant impact on young readers across the re-

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library mails a high quality, age-appropriate book each month to registered children, fostering a love of reading and preparing them for success in school. United Way of Northwest Illinois has helped thousands of local children build home libraries and develop essential literacy skills.

"Early childhood literacy

United Way of Northwest is the foundation for lifelong learning, and we are proud to bring the Imagination Library to families in Northwest Illinois," said Connie Kraft, Executive Director of United Way of Northwest Illinois. "We are especially grateful to Apple River State Bank and First Community Bank of Galena for their unwavering support, which has allowed us to sustain and grow this vital program for nearly a decade."

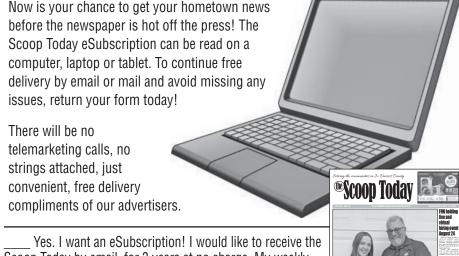
Since the partnership began, Apple River State Bank has played the leading role in funding book distribution, ensuring that children in Darlington, Hazel Green, and Jo Daviess County have access to this life-changing program.

Families in Northwest Illinois are encouraged to enroll their children in the Imagination Library and experience the joy of reading together. For more information or to register, visit uwni.org.

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AIR CONDITIONING

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Teacher

(Continued from page 9) and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit http://www.justice.gov/psc.

If you believe you are a victim of sexual exploitation, you are encouraged to contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children by logging on to https://www. missingkids.org/ or calling 1-800-843-5678. The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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Stephenson County 4-H youth showcase public speaking skills On Wednesday, March 12, 26, at Parkland College in National Petite Miss Agri- Gorman. Her performance donated by the Stephenson website at: go.illinois.edu/jsw

Stephenson County 4-H families gathered on the Highland Community College campus for the annual Stephenson County 4-H Public Speaking and Demonstrations Contest. This event gave 4-H youth, ages 8 to 18, the opportunity to showcase their communication skills and compete for a chance to advance to the State 4-H Public Speaking Contest, scheduled for Saturday, April

Champaign, IL.

tured presentations by Lilliana Smith, a member of the Pearl test on April 26. Shelby was Valley Rangers 4-H Club, and Shelby Stone, a member of the Snappy Snazzers 4-H Club. Both youth participated in the Formal Speech event for ages 8-13. Lilliana delivered a compelling speech on pet adoption, while Shelby shared her experience as the

culture USA. Both received This year's contest fea- blue ribbons and earned spots to compete at the State conalso awarded the Champion trophy for Public Speaking, sponsored by Pat and Denny Dietmeier.

In addition to her speech, Lilliana also participated in the Oral Interpretation division, where she read "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda

the Reserve Champion ribbon for Public Speaking.

The judge for the event, Sarah Harbach of Warren, IL, provided necessary feedback to the participants, offering valuable insights to help them refine their public speaking skills and further develop their presentation abilities. Lilliana will also be presented with a portfolio, generously

earned her a blue ribbon and County Farm Bureau, in rec- or call the Stephenson County ognition of her participation Extension office at 815-235in a Public Speaking Workshop held in Rockford on Feb.

We congratulate all the participants and look forward to seeing these talented youth represent Stephenson County at the State 4-H Public Speaking Contest. For more information about 4-H and upcoming events, visit our

4125.





Public Presentations Judge Sarah Harbach provides valuable feedback to 4-H participants, helping them refine their public speaking skills during the Stephenson County 4-H Public Speaking and Demonstrations Con-



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The Shopper's Guide







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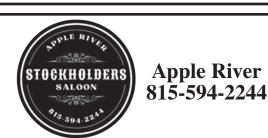
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Community

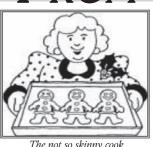
Apple River, IL . Scales Mound, IL . Warren, IL . Elizabeth, IL Hanover, IL · Hazel Green, WI - Darlington, WI Galena, IL - First Community Bank

Elizabeth

Apple River



From Lena's Kitchen



The not so skinny cook

If you are Irish, you are probably celebrating this week. You may have eaten the traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage by either making it yourself or going out to any of our great restaurants. This week we are using some of those leftovers from St. Patrick's Day. Have a great week cooking.

Caramelized Onion Dip

- 2 large onions, finely chopped
- 2 T. olive oil
- ³/₄ C. sour cream
- 34 C. plain yogurt 3 t. onion powder
- ½ t. salt

In a large skillet, sauté onions in oil until softened. Reduce heat to medium and cook, stirring for 30 minutes or until deep golden brown. Cool completely. In a small bowl, combine the sour cream, yogurt, onion powder and salt; stir in two-thirds of the onions. Transfer to a serving bowl; top with remaining onions. Serve with chips and vegetables.

Green Flop Jell-O

This salad is great for the spring. It Is easy to make and looks great in a trifle bowl. It would be a great salad for Easter too.

- 2 C. lemon-lime soda
- 2 pkg. (3 oz. each) lime Jell-Ô
- 6 oz. cream cheese, soft-
- 2 C. lemon-lime soda, chilled
- 1 carton (12 oz.) Cool Whip, thawed

Microwave 2 C. soda on high until hot. Place hot soda in a blender along with lime Jell-O; cover and process Jell-O until it is dissolved. Add cream cheese; process until blended. Transfer to a large bowl; stir in chilled soda. Whisk in Cool whip. Pour into a trifle bowl. Refrigerate, covered until firm, about 4 hours.

Irish Beef Stew

For the luck of the Irish, this stew will be a great weeknight meal. It takes a little time and can be made on the weekend to use during the week. It has the vegetables, meat, and great broth. If you want to add Stout beer for a cup of the beef broth, you will get a lot of flavor.

8 slices bacon, diced 1/3 C. flour

½ t. pepper

- 3 lbs. beef stew meat, cut into 1-inch cubs
- 1 lb. whole mushrooms, quartered
- 3 medium green onions, white portion only, chopped
- 2 medium carrots, chopped ¹/₄ C. chopped celery
- 1 T. canola oil
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 T. tomato paste
- 5 C. beef broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 t. dried thyme
- 1 t. dried parsley flakes
- 1 t. dried rosemary, crushed
- 2 lbs. Yukon gold potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes
 - 2 T. cornstarch
 - 2 T. water
 - 1 C. frozen peas

In a stockpot, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Remove to a paper towel to drain. In a large shallow dish, combine flour, salt and pepper. Add beef and turn to coat. Brown beef in bacon drippings. Remove and set aside. In the same pot, sauté the mushrooms, onions, carrots, and celery in oil until tender. Add garlic; cook for 1 minute longer. Stir in tomato paste until blended. Add the broth, bay leaves, thyme, parsley, and rosemary. Add beef and bacon to pot. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until beef is tender, about 2 hours. Add potatoes. Return to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until potatoes are tender, about 1 hour longer. Combine the cornstarch and water until smooth; stir into stew. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 1 minute. Add peas; heat through. Discard bay leaves.

Corned Beef Casserole

The next two recipes are for Corned Beef casseroles are using that leftover corned beef. One is really simple, the other more has more of the traditional flavors of corned beef and cabbage dinners. Choose which one fits your family better.

1½ C. diced cooked corned

- 1 can cream of chicken
- 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese, cubed
- 1 pkg. (7 oz.) small shell pasta, cooked and drained
 - 1 C. milk
 - ½ C. chopped onion
 - 2 slices rye bread, cubed
- 2 T. butter melted

In a large bowl, combine the corned beef, soup, cheese, pasta, milk and onion in a 2 qt. greased baking dish. Toss bread cubes with butter; sprinkle over top. Bake, uncovered at 350 for 30 minutes. Cover and bake 15 minutes longer or until golden brown. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Rueben Casserole

6 slices rye bread, cubed 1 can (16 oz.) sauerkraut,

drained and rinsed 2 C. corned beef cut into

pieces 34 C. Russian salad dress-

C. shredded Swiss cheese Preheat the oven to 400, spray a 9 x 13 pan with cooking spray. Spray one sheet of aluminum foil with cooking spray. Spread bread cubes in the bottom of the baking dish. Layer bread cubes with sauerkraut and corned beef: pour dressing over top. Cov-

er with the aluminum foil, sprayed side down. Bake for 20 minutes. Remove and discard foil; sprinkle Swiss cheese over casserole. Continue baking until cheese is melted and bubbly, about 10

Tuna Noodle Casserole

Our Lenten recipe this week is for the traditional tuna noodle casserole. It may not be the only one during Lent because people are always looking for making tuna and noodles. This one is creamy and easy.

5 C. uncooked egg noodles Cook noodles according to 1 C. frozen peas 1 can cream of mushroom

1 C. sour cream

2/3 C. grated Parmesan cheese

1/2 C. 2% milk

¼ t. salt

2 cans (5 oz. each) tuna in water, drained and flaked

¹/₄ C. finely chopped onion ¹/₄ C. finely chopped green

Topping

½ C. breadcrumbs 1 T. butter melted Preheat the oven to 350.

package directions for al dente, adding peas at the last minute of cooking; drain. In a large bowl, combine the soup, sour cream, cheese, milk and salt. Stir in tuna, onion and green pepper. Add noodles and peas and toss to combine. Transfer to a 3 qt. baking dish coated with cooking spray. In a small bowl, combine breadcrumbs and melted butter. Spread the breadcrumbs over the top. Bake uncovered 25 to 30 minutes or until bubbly.

See KITCHEN, Page 17

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

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THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE Wednesday, March 19, 2025

IN THE CIRCUIT

COURT OF THE 15TH

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

- Freeport, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL

ASSOCIATION

JACK D. BREIT;

LERISA D. LEIF;

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;

CLAIMANTS

Defendant

ILLINOIS HOUSING

UNKNOWN OWNERS

CALENDAR

NOTICE OF SALE

sure entered in the above

entitled cause Intercounty

Judicial Sales Corporation

will on April 16, 2025, at

the hour 1:30 p.m., Securi-

ty First Title Company, 205

West Stephenson Street,

Freeport, IL 61032, sell to

the highest bidder for cash,

the following described

(39) AS DESIGNATED

UPON PLAT NO. 2 VAL-

LEY MEADOW SUB-

DIVISION, OF A PART

OF THE NORTHEAST

QUARTER (1/4) OF THE

TER (1/4) OF SECTION

subject mortgaged real es-

tate is a unit of a common

must have 10% down by

certified funds, balance

within 24 hours, by certi-

fied funds. No refunds. The

TOWNSHIP

NORTHWEST

32M

THIRTY-NINE

OUAR-

mortgaged real estate:

AND NON-RECORD

Plaintiff

LEGAL NOTICES

property will NOT be open residence. for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to COUNTY OF Stephenson 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. 24 FC 30 com I3262068 (Published in PUBLIC NOTICE is The Shopper's Guide March 12, 19, 26, 2025) hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclo-

> IN THE CIRCUIT **COURT OF THE 15TH** JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., **PLAINTIFF** CAROLYN S. GRAHAM; VILLAGE OF CEDARVILLE; **DEFENDANTS**

Address: 140 E. Walnut

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S

Cedarville, IL 61013

Judge Olson

NO. 2024FC46

NORTH, RANGE 9 EAST SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF THE FOURTH PRIN-PUBLIC NOTICE CIPAL MERIDIAN, THE HEREBY **GIVEN** that PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIpursuant to a Judgment of VISION IS RECORDED Foreclosure and Sale en-IN BOOK H OF PLATS tered in the above cause on ON PAGE 73 IN THE RE-January 14, 2025, I, Sheriff CORDER'S OFFICE OF of Stephenson County, Illi-STEPHENSON COUNnois, will on April 17, 2025 TY, ILLINOIS; SITUATat the hour of 9:30 AM at ED IN THE COUNTY Stephenson County OF STEPHENSON AND Courthouse, 15 North Ga-STATE OF ILLINOIS. lena, Freeport, IL 61032, P.I.N. 05-20-32-127-010. or in a place otherwise Commonly known as 20 designated at the time of ACADEMY STREET, sale, County of Stephen-GERMAN VALLEY, IL son, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the high-The real estate is: single est bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following family residence. If the

LAGE OF CEDARVILLE, interest community, the SITUATED IN THE VILpurchaser of the unit other LAGE OF CEDARVILLE. than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required COUNTY OF STEPHENby subsection (g-1) of Sec-SON AND STATE OF ILtion 18.5 of the Condo-LINOIS. minium Property Act. Sale COMMON ADDRESS: terms: At sale, the bidder

described real estate:

LOT 316 IN THE VIL-

140 E. Walnut, Cedarville, IL 61013 P.I.N.: 07-14-06-102-014 The real estate is improved with a single family

JUDGMENT THE WAS: **AMOUNT** \$59,087.64 Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds,

is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to 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

purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which 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 representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information. Pursuant to 735 ILCS

any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice.

5/15-1512, the amounts of

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

YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOME-OWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-SESSION, IN ACCOR-DANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE IL-**MORTGAGE** LINOIS FORECLOSURE LAW. For information: Exam-

ine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago,

541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 24 1073. Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC 30 N. LaSalle St., **Suite 3650** Chicago, Illinois 60602 Email: ilpleadings@j ohnsonblumberg.com Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 24 1073 I3262545 (Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 26, April 2, 2025) IN THE CIRCUIT **COURT OF THE 15TH** of the amount bid, the

JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson Freeport, ILLINOIS SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC Plaintiff GLORIA MENDOZA; U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ND; **UNKNOWN OWNERS** AND NON-RECORD **CLAIMANTS** Defendant 24 FC 1 **CALENDAR** NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE

hereby given that pursuant

is

to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 23, 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: PART OF THE SOUTH-WEST QUARTER OF

SECTION 12, TOWN-SHIP 27 NORTH. RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOL-LOWS: BEGINNING AT POINT 521.75 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTH-EAST CORNER OF THE **SOUTHWEST** QUAR-TER OF SECTION 12 ON THE SOUTH SECTION LINE, AND RUNNING THENCE 544.15 FEET WEST ON SOUTH SEC-TION LINE; THENCE NORTH 1476.42 FEET PARALLEL WITH THE HALF SECTION LINE;

THENCE EAST 544.15

FEET, PARALLEL WITH

SOUTH SECTION LINE:

THENCE SOUTH 1476.42

BEGINNING. EXCEPT THE SOUTH 66 FEET THEREOF. SITUATED IN HARLEM TOWN-**STEPHENSON** COUNTY. ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 08-13-12-300-004. Commonly known as WINNESH-W. IEK RD., FREEPORT, IL 61032. The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by

certified funds, balance

within 24 hours, by certi-

fied funds. No refunds. The

property will NOT be open

IL 60602, telephone 312- FEET TO THE PLACE OF

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. 23-157822 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES

I3262535 (Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 26, April 2, 2025)

intercountyjudicialsales.

CORPORATION

LORAN TOWNSHIP

NOTICE FOR BID

Public Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of Loran Township, Stephenson County, Illinois will receive bids for mowing and trimming at Babbs Grove Cemetery, Grace ME Cemetery, Lieboldt Union Cemetery, and our Township buildings. All bids are to be received on or before April 1, 2025. Requirements consist of mowing, trimming, and cleaning all monuments only on an as needed basis, and before holidays like Memorial Day. Each bid should include the amount for the 3 cemeteries and the amount for the Township Building grounds sep-

arately. Use of chemicals is

prohibited. Proof of insur-

8, 2025 meeting. Notice will only be given to the accepted bidder. Payment will be monthly and only when an invoice is provided to the Loran Township office at 215 E. South St., Pearl City, IL 61062 or calling (815) 443-2880. Loran Township reserves the right to reject any or all (Published in The Shopper's Guide

ance will need to be includ-

ed. The Board of Trustees

will open bids at the April

March 19, 2025) NOTICE OF PUBLIC

HEARING ON TOWN AND ROAD AND

BRIDGE BUDGETS Notice is hereby given

that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Township of Loran in the County of Stephenson,

State of Illinois, for the fis-

cal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026. It will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 215 E.

South Street, Pearl City. It is available from and after May 12, 2025. Please call ahead at 815-443-2880. Notice is further given

hereby that a public hearing on said budgets and appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 9, 2025 at 215 E. South Street, Pearl City

and final action will be taken by the Board of Trustees at this meeting. Deb Sweeney Loran Township Clerk

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

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LORAN TOWNSHIP **OF STEPHENSON**

COUNTY For the Fiscal year of

2025 - 2026 Loran Township's regular board meetings will be held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the following location: Loran Township

Building, 215 E. South Street, Pearl City, IL. Deviations from this schedule will be posted per Township requirements. Deb Sweeney

Township Clerk (Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 2025)

Leprechaun Bait

Last year someone sent this recipe to me, and I managed to keep it in the files until this year. I think it would be great for March or could easily be used at Easter too.

2 C. Rice Chex 2 C. Lucky Charms cereal 1½ C. miniature pretzels ½ C. milk chocolate M&Ms ½ C. mini marshmallows 12 oz. white chocolate chips ½ t. green sugar

½ t. gold sugar

In a large bowl, combine the cereals, pretzels, candy and marshmallows. Set aside. Place white chocolate chips in a microwave safe bowl; microwave 1 minute at 50%; stir and microwave in 15 to 30 second intervals, stirring in between until chocolate is completely melted. Add chocolate to dry ingredients; stir to thoroughly combine. Spread mixture into a layer on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Sprinkle with sugars. Break apart to serve.

Poor Man's Cookies

This week both the dessert recipes don't use eggs. I am giving your pocket book a rest. The Irish had to make do with a lot of things because they were poor; they were poor when they came to America too. These cookies use basics of shortening, sugar, flour, and oats. Try them because they are good dunking cookies.

1 C. shortening

1 C. packed brown sugar ½ C. sugar

¹/₄ C. water 1 t. vanilla 1 C. flour

1 t. baking soda ¼ t. salt 2 C. rolled oats

In a large bowl, cream shortening and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in water and vanilla. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking soda, and salt;

and mix well. Fold in oats. Drop dough by tablespoonfuls onto greased baking sheets. Bake at 350 for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to stand 2 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool.

Final Thoughts

The weather once again has been going up and down. Welcome to Spring! The basketball finals are shaping up for March

gradually add to cream mixture Madness. Track baseball and softball have started, so welcome to spring sports. I hope you all had a great "green day" and are looking forward to some spring cooking.

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.

LEGAL NOTICES

Annual Town Meeting Notice is Hereby Given

To the legal voters, residents of the Township of Loran in the County of Stephenson in the State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will take place on:

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at **Loran Township** Building

Located a 215 E. South St. Pearl City IL.

For the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said township; and after a Moderator has been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures, as may, in the pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

- 1. Call to Order Roll Call
- 2. Election of Moderator 3. Comments
- 4. Clerk's Report 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
- 5. Supervisor's Report -2024 - 2025 Financial Re-
- 6. Transfer of Funds -Cemetery, IMRF, and Road and Bridge

— PUBLIC NOTICE —

NOTICE - ACCEPTING MOWING BIDS

We are now accepting bids for mowing the

Bids should be per mowing.

Deadline to submit bids is March 28, 2025.

Any questions call Jeff Spoerl - (815) 858-4045.

313 Orange St., Elizabeth, IL 61028

(Liability Insurance is required)

Submit bids to: Candis Albrecht,

Elizabeth Cemetery & Old Log Church.

7. Financial Requests

- 8. Sale of Surplus Property ListingResolutions Pre-
- 9. 2026 Annual Town Meeting date and time
 - 10. Adjournment (Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 2025)

ANNUAL TOWN **MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY** GIVEN

To the legal voters, residents of the Township of Loran in the County of Stephenson in the State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Township will take place on:

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Loran Township Building Located at 215 E. South St. Pearl City IL.

For the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said township; and after a Moderator has been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures, as may, in the pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and Deviations decide the following:

1. Call to Order - Roll Call

- 2. Election of Moderator 3. Comments
- 4. Clerk's Report 2024 **Annual Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Supervisor's Report -2024 - 2025 Financial Re-
- 6. Transfer of Funds -Cemetery, IMRF, and Road and Bridge
- 7. Financial Requests
- 8 Sale of Surplus Property ListingResolutions Pre-
- 9. 2026 Annual Town Meeting date and time 10. Adjournment

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

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LORAN TOWNSHIP OF STEPHENSON **COUNTY**

For the Fiscal year of 2025 - 2026 Loran Township's regular board meetings will be held the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the following location: Loran Township Building, 215 E. South Street, Pearl City, IL.

from schedule will be posted per Township requirements.

Deb Sweeney Township Clerk

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWN AND ROAD AND BRIDGE BUDGETS

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Township of Loran in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fis-

cal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending March 31, 2026. It will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 215 E. South Street, Pearl City. It is available from and after May 12, 2025. Please call ahead at 815-443-2880.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said budgets and appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:00 p.m. on June 9, 2025 at 215 E. South Street, Pearl City and final action will be taken by the Board of Trustees at this meeting.

Deb Sweeney Loran Township Clerk

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

LORAN TOWNSHIP NOTICE FOR BID

Public Notice is hereby

given that the Board of Trustees of Loran Township, Stephenson County, Illinois will receive bids for mowing and trimming at Babbs Grove Cemetery, Grace ME Cemetery, Lieboldt Union Cemetery, and our Township buildings. All bids are to be received on or before April 1, 2025. Requirements consist of mowing, trimming, and cleaning all monuments only on an as needed basis, and before holidays like Memorial Day. Each bid should include the amount for the 3 cemeteries and the amount for the Township Building grounds separately. Use of chemicals is prohibited. Proof of insurance will need to be included. The Board of Trustees will open bids at the April 8, 2025 meeting. Notice will only be given to the accepted bidder. Payment information. Bids are due

when an invoice is provided to the Loran Township office at 215 E. South St., Pearl City, IL 61062 or Ben Wooden calling (815) 443-2880. Loran Township reserves the right to reject any or all

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

PUBLIC NOTICE Rush Township Fuel Bid

Rush Township is soliciting fuel bids for the period of June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026. Conditions of the

- 1) The bidder will supply diesel fuel and gasoline to Rush Township.
- 2) The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularity in any of the bids received whenever such rejection or waiver is in the best interest of the Township.
- 3) Bid specifications may be obtained by calling Garrett Toay at 515.710.9055.

Bids are due at 3882 N Canyon Park Road, Stockton, IL 61085 by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

Ben Wooden Township Clerk (Published in The Scoop Today March 19, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE Rush Township Mowing

Bid Rush Township is soliciting mowing bids for the 2025 mowing season. Grounds to be mowed include Puckett tery, Townsend Cemetery, Robinson Cemetery, and the Rush Township Hall Please contact location. Supervisor Garrett Toay at 515.710.9055 for more will be monthly and only at 3882 N Canyon Park

by 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Township Clerk (Published in The Scoop Today

Road, Stockton, IL 61085

March 19, 2025)

ANNUAL TOWN **MEETING** RUSH TOWNSHIP, JODAVIESS COUNTY Notice is hereby given to

the legal voters and residents of the Township of Rush in the County of Jo Daviess and the State of Illinois that the ANNU-AL TOWN MEETING of said Township will take place on Tuesday, April 8th, 2025, being the second Tuesday of the month, at the hour of 7:30 pm., at the Rush Town Hall, 2999 North Canyon Park Rd., Stockton IL., for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of said Township. After a moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in the pursuance of the law, come before the meeting, and especially to consider and decide the following;

Agenda

- 1. Elect a moderator
- 2. Set the moderator's salary
- 3. Approve the minutes from the 2024 Annual **Town Meeting**
- 4. Report of Officers- Financial reports & state-
- 5. Authorize transfer of
- 6. Set time for the 2026 **Annual Town Meeting**
- 7. Open forum
- 8. Adjournment
 - Ben Wooden, Rush Township Clerk (Published in The Scoop Today March 19, 2025)

469257

THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE

Rock Valley Publishing

815.369.4112 to place your ad

assite

AD DEADLINE: **Friday** at f 4 pm

SERVING NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

employment



Wednesday, March 19, 2025

rentals & real estate

For details on placing an ad in our

Classified Section

Call 815-369-4112

Scoop Today Shopper's Guide

Find us online: rvpnews.com

automotive

services offered

help wanted

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

Rock Valley Publishing is looking for a Part-Advertising Sales Executive. Approximately 20 hours per week.

We publish newspapers, shoppers, and niche publications throughout the stateline. You have the opportunity to sell into all Rock Valley Publishing. L.L.C. publications, making your paycheck much larger!

For immediate consideration send resume/job history to: Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising Email: vicki@southernlakesnewspapers.com Fax: (262) 725-6844

To place an ad in our **Help Wanted Section...** Call (815) 369-4112



Private Party Only Just fill out the coupon below and mail to: Rock Valley Publishing, FREE Ad,

1102 Amii Gu, Belavan, W Go 110						
Write your ad below, One Word Per Box, be sure to include your price						

write your ad below, One word Per Box, be sure to include your price				

Ads will not be accepted without the following information. Only one free ad per month.

YOUR NAME **ADDRESS**

realestate

Other Real Estate

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

estate sales

BIG APPLE CANYON LAKE ESTATE SALE - ATV'S. Tools. Kitchenware. DVD's (100's), LP's, CD's, Books and Much More! March 28, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., March 29, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., March 30, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. View photos on estatesales.net search zip code 61001. 14A23 Marina View Dr., Apple River.

for sale

Announcements

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

DISCLAIMER NOTICE publication does not knowingly accept fraudulent or deceptive advertising. Readers are cautioned to thoroughly investigate all ads, especially those asking for money in advance.

Burial Needs

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



transportation

Automobiles

2001 FORD MUSTANG CON-VERTIBLE Blk on Brn, 90K miles, new tires, new brakes, mechanically sound throughout, minor scratches on body, leather seats, V-6 engine, premium sound system and ice-cold A/C and hot heat. \$6000. call 262-

Automobiles Wanted

CASH FOR YOUR FULL SIZE JUNK TRUCKS & SUV's. HAUL AWAY 7 DAYS A WEEK! CALL 262-758-1807.

Boats

2003 ALUMACRAFT 175 TRO-PHY W/ Trailer. 90 HP, 9.9HP & equip. 815-389-2480.

Auction Deadline is Noon Friday!

Contact Rhonda at rmarshall@rvpublishing.com for information on advertising.

Campers and RVs

2016 FLEETWOOD TERRA 34B MOTOR HOME 35' 27,000 Miles 3 Slideouts 2 New WI-FI TV's 5.5k Generator. \$79,000 262-206-4164

2021 JAYCO JAYFLIGHT SLX 264 Bunk house. In new condition. Loaded. NO SLIDE. Price to sell \$18,500. Call 815-494-8309

Trucks & Trailers

1955 CHEVY PICK UP Peacock Blue, dry, New Mexico truck. Runs great. Stored in my heated Elkhorn garage. \$19.975. (262) 949-6997.

business

Landscaping/ Lawn/Garden

LAWN - GRAVEL CLEAN UP Will do Gravel Clean up \$60. and up per lawn/household. Call or text Isaac at 815-291-2076

The Wheel Deal

Place your car, truck, motorcycle, boat or RV for one price and it runs for up to 16 weeks.

\$1995

1st three lines Extra lines are \$1.95 each 17 Papers

Starts for 4 weeks and if not sold you call us and we will renew at no additional charge! (Maximum run 16 weeks total)



Something to smile about

Congratulations fellow Illinois residents! For the second year in a row, the research team at WalletHub has ranked our state number one for the best dental health in the U.S.

The methodology to create this annual report consists of collecting data about dental habits and oral health from the U.S. Census Bureau. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Healthy Grid. American Dental Association, Health Resources & Services Administration, United Health Foundation, Free Dental Care, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Association of



DR. STEPHEN PETRAS Illinois Licensed General Dentist

State & Territorial Dental Directors and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The research team then compares these statistics using 25 metrics (performance category measures), with varying points on a 100-point scale. A score of 100 would describe the most ideal conditions for dental health.

Dental Habits & Care, each state can earn up to 50 points. Some examples of the metrics compared in this category included: the number of adults and adolescents who visited a dentist each year, dentists and dental professionals(dental hygienists, laboratory technicians and assistants). presence of school-based dental sealant programs, percentage of tobacco usage, share of people who receive fluoridated water through public water

systems, sugar-sweetened

beverage consumption among

COUNTY OF Stephenson -

Freeport, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK NATIONAL

JACK D. BREIT: LERISA D.

UNKNOWN OWNERS AND

NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;

CALENDAR

NOTICE OF SALE

en 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., Secu-

rity First Title Company, 205 West

Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL

61032, sell to the highest bidder

for cash, the following described

Commonly known as 20 ACAD-

The real estate is: single fami-

ly residence. If the subject mort-

gaged real estate is a unit of a

common interest community, the

purchaser of the unit other than a

mortgagee shall pay the assess-

ments required by subsection (g-

of Section 18.5 of the Condo-

minium Property Act. Sale terms:

At sale, the bidder must have 10%

down by certified funds, balance

within 24 hours, by certified funds.

No refunds. The property will NOT

be open for inspection. Prospec-

For information call Sales De-

(Published in The Shopper's

Guide

EMY STRÉET, GERMAN VAL-

mortgaged real estate:

LEY. IL 61039.

P.I.N. 05-20-32-127-010.

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby giv-

LEIF; ILLINOIS HOUSING

ASSOCIATION

Defendant

Plaintiff

free or low-cost dental clinics and oral health knowledge.

Each state can earn up to 50 points under the second category, Oral Health. Some examples of the metrics compared in this category included: share of elderly population with no natural teeth, reduced life satisfaction due to oral condition, sleeping problems due to oral condition, pain due to oral condition, work absence due to oral condition, reduced social participation due to oral condition, reduced life satisfaction due to oral condition, and

sleeping problems due to oral condition.

The good news is that Illinois ranked number one. But with a top score of 74.93 out of 100 that means that every state still has considerable room for improvement. Dental health is an important part of your overall health and these annual reports help remind the public that brushing and flossing for two minutes twice a day and getting an annual checkup are critical, there are other factors that can impact your oral health. This data provides clear evidence of the positive

impact on oral health that access to fluoridated public water provides. It also tells the negative impact on the oral health of our citizens who do not have access to fluoridated water.

States with school-based dental sealant programs, dental benefits through Medicaid, oral health education, free or low-cost dental clinics and a higher percentage of children who see a dentist annually. demonstrate higher levels of oral health than those who do not. Illinois dentists continue to fight for improvements in all these categories.

Freeport police

Felony narcotics arrest

On March 7, 2025, at 4:35 p.m., Freeport Police Officers conducted a search warrant at a residence located in the 100 block of N. West Avenue in Freeport. During a search of the residence, Officers seized 56 grams of suspected methamphetamine, 98 grams of suspected cannabis, and a loaded semi-automatic pistol.

As a result of the investigation, the resident, 44-year-old Rickie Raisbeck, was arrested and charged with felony Possession with the Intent to Deliver Methamphetamine, felony Possession with the Intent to Deliver Cannabis, and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon. The felony charges were approved by the Stephenson County State's Attorney. Raisbeck was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he 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.

Shots fired incidents March 7, 2025

Officers of the Freeport Police Department are investigating a shots fired incidents that occurred over the weekend. On March 7, 2025, at 5:13 p.m., Officers responded to a Sound Thinking alert of one gunshot fired in the alley north of the 500 block of W. Galena Ave-

Upon arrival, Officers discovered one fired shell casing in the alley where the alert was generated. A witness reported seeing a black male in his teens wearing a light colored jacket with a black hood and gray sweatpants holding a black firearm and then running west through the alley after the gun-

shot was heard. There were no reports of property damage or any victims.

March 9, 2025

On March 9, 2025, at 12:06 a.m., a Freeport Police Officer heard gunshots west of their location at Empire Street and Carroll Avenue. This was followed up by a Sound Thinking alert which showed a location at a driveway of a residence in the 300 block of W. Empire Street. Officers were unable to locate any physical evidence during the course of the investigation. There were no reports of property damage or any victims.

The investigations into texting at Tip411.

March 13, 2025

struck by gunfire.

During the course of the inmultiple individuals in the area one round which travelled into transported to FHN Hospital

See POLICE, Page 20

these incidents are ongoing at this time. The Freeport Police Department is asking anyone who may have information about these incidents to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235-8222, Stateline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW, or through

Officers of the Freeport Police Department are investigating a shots fired incident that occurred in the 1100 block of S. Chicago Avenue. On March 13, 2025, at 9:55 p.m., Freeport Police Officers were dispatched to a residence in the 1100 block of S. Chicago Avenue regarding a 29-year-old male who was

tive bidders are admonished to vestigation, Officers learned check the court file to verify all that a fight occurred between partment at Plaintiff's Attorney, of Frank Street and Chicago Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Avenue. After the fight was Crane & Partners, PLLC, 13010 over, an unknown suspect fired Morris Road, Suite 450, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004. (708) 668the residence and struck the vic-4410 ext. 52109. 24-213628 tim in the leg. The victim was INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION where he was treated and later intercountyjudicialsales.com 13262068

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF March 12, 19, 26, 2025) THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

> IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY -FREEPORT, ILLINOIS ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., **PLAINTIFF**

CAROLYN S. GRAHAM; VIL-LAGE OF CEDARVILLE; **DEFENDANTS**

NO. 2024FC46 Judge Olson Address: 140 E. Walnut Cedarville, IL 61013

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 14, 2025, I, Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois, will on April 17, 2025 at the hour of 9:30 AM at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena, Freeport, IL 61032, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following

described real estate: COMMON ADDRESS: 140 E. Walnut, Cedarville, IL 61013

P.I.N.: 07-14-06-102-014 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$59,087.64

Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to 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

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale. which 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 representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all informa-

REAL ESTATE NOTICES

Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice.

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)

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

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650, Chicago, IL 60602, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 24 1073. Sheriff of Stephenson County, Illinois

Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Email: ilpleadings@ iohnsonblumberg.com , Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 24 1073 13262545

(Published in The Shopper's Guide

March 19, 26, April 2, 2025)

COUNTY OF Stephenson -Freeport, ILLINOIS SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC Plaintiff GLORIA MENDOZA; U.S. BANK

THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ND; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby giv-

en that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 23, 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. 08-13-12-300-004 Commonly known as 1616 W WINNESHIÉK RD., FREEPORT,

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, 23-157822 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13262535

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 26, April 2, 2025)

469144

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF

• **Events** (Continued from page 8)

Stockton Dental Center

120 West Front Ave, Stockton, IL 61085

www.stocktondental.com

may be purchased at Engel's Repair and The Lena Mercantile.

Reservations are required and gram are \$40 a person. Doors at 497 Lions Drive, Lena, IL. will open at 6 p.m. with dinner For more information, please served at 6:30 p.m. The Lena call Cindy Drye at 815-369-Tickets for the dinner and pro- Community Center is located 4030.

815-947-3700



● **Police** (Continued from page 19)

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, Stephenson County Crime Stop, or through texting at Tip411.

Felony firearm and narcotics arrest

On March 13, 2025, at 8:31 p.m., Freeport Police Officers were called to a residence in the 600 block of W. Pleasant Street regarding a male who was hiding in the caller's yard. While Officers were on scene, they spotted the male and attempted to make contact with him. The male then ran from Officers, but was apprehended after a short foot pursuit. The male was identified as 20-year-old Zachary Schaney.

Schaney had multiple warrants for his arrest from pending felony cases in Stephenson County. During a search of Schaney and the immediate area

The investigation into this where he was taken into custody, Officers recovered a loaded pistol and an assortment of prescription medication; suspected codeine and prescription pain medication.

Schaney was arrested for the outstanding warrants. The Stephenson County State's Attorney approved additional felony charges of Armed Violence, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon, and Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance. Schaney was transported to the Stephenson County Jail where he was processed and is currently 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.

Felony burglary arrest

On March 13, 2025, Rickie Raisbeck, a 44-year-old resident of Freeport, was served with a felony warrant and complaint for Burglary, Retail Theft Over \$300.00, Retail Theft with a a reasonable doubt.

Prior Conviction, and Theft Over \$500.00 stemming from an extensive investigation into a burglary that occurred at a liquor store in Freeport on July 28, 2024.

On that date, the Freeport Police Department handled a call for service regarding a burglary to a liquor store in the 600 block of N. West Avenue that occurred at approximately 1:40 A.M. Forced entry was gained into the store by two suspect males and over \$500.00 of merchandise and cash were stolen. During the course of the investigation, Rickie Raisbeck was identified as one of the suspect males.

Rickie Raisbeck was already in custody at the Stephenson County Jail on an unrelated case. Raisbeck was served copies of the warrant and complaint at the jail where he will be 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



