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the Scoop Today

VOL. 91 • NO. 15 YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025

Warhawks hold off Pecatonica in softball thriller

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Warren-Stockton Warhawks played a couple of nerve-racking games early in the 2025 softball season. After opening the year with a 9-8 win over Jefferson, the Warhawks dropped their next two games by scores of 7-14

and 4-14. Warren-Stockton finally bounced back on March 26 when they found themselves in another thrilling matchup with the Pecatonica Indians.

Warren-Stockton came into the matchup with an overall record of 1-2. Pecatonica came in with that ex-

act same record, having the same start to their season. The Indians won their season opener before getting blown out in their next two matchups. Both teams were eager to bounce back into the win column when they faced off last week.

The Warhawks had the ad-

vantage of playing on their home field. Pecatonica appeared to be getting off to a quick start when they led off the game with a single up the middle. The Warhawk defense quickly responded by turning a double play in the next at bat, however.

Payton Goswick got the

bottom half started with a bang. In a 2-2 count, Goswick crushed a home run to center field. That wound up being the lone run of the inning as a pair of strikeouts followed the long ball. Still, Goswick gave the Warhawks an early 1-0 advantage.

It didn't take long for

Pecatonica to get that run back. With two outs in the top of the second, a base hit to left would allow the Indians' first run to score. Madalynn Perry got out of the inning by striking out the next batter, leaving the game tied.

Some aggressive baserunning would allow the Warhawks to quickly regain their lead in the second. Sadie Johnson led the inning off with a double to the center field gap. After a wild pitch and a passed ball, Johnson reached home safely, putting the Warhawks up 2-1.

A bit of a two-out rally would allow Warren-Stockton to extend their lead in the bottom of the fourth. After a walk and a single by Ireland Mensendike to lead off the inning, the Warhawks followed that up with a strikeout and a fly out. Pitch control would continue to be an issue for Pecatonica. Another passed ball would allow Adrienne Baker to reach home safely, putting Warren-Stockton up 3-1.

Pecatonica cut into the lead with a run in the top of the fifth. It seemed like every time the Indians scored, the Warhawks had an answer. As soon as the Indians made it a one-run game in the top half, Warren-Stockton responded by getting that run back in the bottom. It was another defensive mishap as an error by Pecatonica's pitcher allowed Meridith Hesselbacher to score. Hesselbacher had led the inning off with a double.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Kids Heart Challenge

Stockton Elementary students participated in the Kids Heart Challenge (KHC). The fundraiser event supports kids with heart conditions and encourages participants to keep their own body and heart healthy. Students received a KHC t-shirt for raising \$50 and a cape for completing hands-only CPR. Thank you to everyone that donated to the Kids Heart Challenge and Ms. Alt for running the program.

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Obituary

MARCEL BOURQUIN

Marcel Bourquin, son of Charles and Bernieta Bourquin of Apple River, IL, passed away on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the age of 66 after a courageous battle with cancer. Farming was not just his livelihood but his passion. He dedicated himself to caring for his family, land, and cows, and his hands were a testament to his hard work and kindness. The farm was a community, and in his final months, neighbors rallied to support him, reflecting the bonds he had built over the years.

His wife, Karen, stood by his side through every challenge, demonstrating a love that only grew stronger with time. Together, they raised a family grounded in love and resilience.

Despite his illness, Marcel found joy in simple pleasures—hayfields, tinkering in the shop, and the love of his John Deere tractors. His legacy is one of perseverance and unwavering love.

The family wishes to extend their heartfelt thanks to the local EMTs, hospital



staff, and all who provided care and support during Marcel's illness. A special thanks to Dr. Cleary, who never hesitated to answer a call or visit during his time of need, and to Marcel's loyal farmworker, Roger, for his unwavering support.

Marcel is survived by his wife, Karen; children, Cory (Sara) Bourquin and Kristy Bourquin; grandchildren, Emma and Hayden Bourquin, sister Lynnsey (Mike) Armoska, in-laws and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Bernieta and Charles Bourquin.

Visitation was held at Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren, IL, Sunday, March 30, 2025. The funeral service was on Monday, March 31 at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren, IL followed by a short burial ceremony at West Ella cemetery and luncheon at the Apple River Event Center.

Though he is gone, we take comfort in knowing he's tending to heaven's pastures, free of pain, watching over us with love. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

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Democrats argue Republicans waited too long to file latest redistricting lawsuit

Republicans say legislative districts illegally gerrymandered

By Ben Szalinski, Bridgette Fox and UIS Public Affairs Reporting

Two elections have come and gone since the Illinois General Assembly passed new legislative maps, and Democrats' attorneys argue in a new court filing that Illinois Republicans have lost their opportunity to challenge the maps in court.

A case brought to the Illinois Supreme Court by House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, asked the court to reject the current legislative map for its partisan bias and have a special master redraw the districts. But it is not yet known whether the court will take the case.

McCombie, along with four voters, alleged the voting district maps are not "compact," a requirement of the state constitution, which has led to allegations of gerrymandering in favor of Democrats.

While the court hasn't yet said whether it will hear the case, it did ask both parties to explain whether McCombie and the other plaintiffs filed the lawsuit in a timely manner, a factor to be considered in deciding whether to take the case.

The Senate Republican caucus is not involved in the case.

A lawsuit from multiple parties challenging the map was rejected in 2021 by a federal three-judge panel, which rejected arguments that the map diluted the voting strength of racial minorities. However, Republicans' lawyers argue new data from the 2022 and 2024 elections

prove the map is the product of partisan gerrymandering.

The Illinois Attorney General's Office on behalf of the State Board of Elections said in a filing it isn't taking a position on the complaint's timeliness. However, the court allowed House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, and Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, to intervene as defendants.

Leading the case for General Assembly Democrats are three well-connected attorneys in Democratic circles, including Mike Kasper. Kasper is a long-time elections lawyer who previously worked as a top attorney for the Democratic Party of Illinois and was former House Speaker Mike Madigan's go-to lawyer for political issues.

Kasper, who was described by Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, at a Statehouse news conference last week as "Darth Vader himself, Madigan's henchman, the prince of darkness," has successfully defended previous legislative maps against lawsuits.

"To allow plaintiffs to proceed now, mid-decade, with their proposed redistricting challenge would invite political parties to wait until they have a wave election and use their best election results to justify a partisan challenge to the legislative map," the Democrats' lawyers said in their filing.

The current state House and Senate maps were passed in 2021 and implemented in 2022 following the 2020 census. Republicans have not gained any seats in the General Assembly since then, keep-

ing them as the minority.

Republicans and supporters of redistricting reform in Illinois haven't had much success in court in recent decades. The Illinois Supreme Court blocked a 2016 citizen-driven referendum attempting to create an independent redistricting commission. The lead plaintiff in that case was John Hooker, a now-convicted conspirator in the "ComEd Four" case.

Other Republican efforts to throw out the 2011 legislative maps were also rejected by the courts.

Lawyers for Welch and Harmon said in a March 19 filing Republicans should have filed their lawsuit with the Illinois Supreme Court after the maps were enacted in 2021 instead of filing it more than three years later.

"These arguments could have, and should have, been raised years ago. Plaintiffs cannot claim they did not know about the map," Democrats' lawyers argued in a written brief.

They cited claims Republican lawmakers made during House debate on the maps in 2021 based on data Republicans shared showing the maps were not compact and drawn for Democrats' benefit.

McCombie's lawyers responded that they were following their interpretation of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that would require data from two election cycles to show any discriminatory effect caused by gerrymandering.

Her lawyers said Democrats were putting them in a "catch-22" situation, comparing it to a "heads I win, tails you lose" game.

"If a plaintiff brings a gerrymandering challenge right after a map is passed, then intervenors would argue that the claim should fail on the merits because of insufficient evidence of the map's effects," McCombie's lawyers wrote. "And if a plaintiff waits to collect evidence of the map's effects, intervenors would argue that the claim should fail procedurally."

Republicans' lawyers argued that the 2024 election was the last time the district map was used, meaning there's a recent "injury" to voters and Republicans, which could also satisfy timeliness requirements. They also cite a common law doctrine which says the government generally isn't subject to statutes of limitations.

Democrats also argued any redistricting the court might order would interfere with the Senate's staggered terms. Illinois senators have terms of either two or four years so the entire body is not up for reelection at the same time.

Democrats' lawyers argued senators elected in 2024 could have the four-year term they were elected to wrongfully reduced.

McCombie's lawyers rejected that idea citing case law in which redistricting still allowed representatives to finish out the term for which they were elected, and that a mapmaker could separately be directed to not unseat any senators when redrawing districts.

McCombie has requested oral arguments for the suit, but the court has yet to say what the next steps will be in the case.

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News briefs

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.

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.

The Village of Lena
will be flushing hydrants
from April 7-18.

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Senior Resource Center hosts monthly outreach in Jo Daviess County communities in April

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

April 3 – Warren Community Building – 110 W. Main St., Warren, IL

April 10 – Hanover Township Park District – 500 Fillmore Street, Hanover, IL

April 17 – Stockton Township Library – 140 W. Benton Ave., Stockton, IL

April 24 – West Galena Township Building – 607 Gear Street, Galena, IL

The outreach is designed to provide personalized assistance to seniors and their families in navigating aging and disability resources.

Services offered include aging and disability benefits information, Medicaid questions, prescription coverage, benefit access applications, general aging questions. Appointments are required to ensure personalized assistance. Call 815-235-9777 to secure your spot.

The Senior Resource Center is committed to serving and empowering older adults, caregivers, and adults with disabilities throughout Stephenson and Jo Daviess counties. Join us April 3, 10, 17 or 24 to take advantage of this valuable service.

For more information about the Senior Resource Center and its services, visit our website at www.senior-resourcecenter.net.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Little Blackhawks

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

Raoul joins motion to block dismantling of U.S. Education Department

Motion seeks to halt mass layoffs, block transfer of agency functions to other federal departments

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and 20 other state attorneys general are asking a federal judge to immediately halt President Donald Trump's efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education.

In a motion filed last week in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts, the coalition of Democratic attorneys general are seeking a preliminary injunction to block the mass firing of half the agency's employees, which Trump ordered March 11, as well as the transfer of student loan management and special education services to other federal agencies.

"States, including Illinois, are already feeling the impact of the Trump administration's attempts to dismantle the Department of Education," Raoul said in a statement. "Enrollment deadlines for Illinois public community colleges and universities approach in just a

few short weeks, and the turmoil caused by the administration's actions jeopardizes the futures of tens of thousands of Illinois students."

The lawsuit was originally filed March 13, two days after the administration announced plans to eliminate half the agency's workforce.

The motion for a preliminary injunction, however, was prompted by Trump's March 20 executive order calling for the eventual closure of the department as well as his announcement the following day directing the Small Business Adminis-

tration to take over processing of student loans while the Department of Health and Human Services would take over responsibility for administering special education programs.

"Ultimately, the Department of Education's main functions can, and should, be returned to the states," Trump said in the executive order.

But the attorneys general argue Trump is overstepping the power of the executive branch by dismantling a department established by Congress.

"No constitutional or statutory authority allows the President or the head of an agency to take actions that incapacitate core statutory functions of an agency that Congress created, or to transfer statutory duties to other agencies," the states argued in their motion.

Raoul and the other attorneys general argue that states are already feeling the effects of Trump's efforts to dismantle the agency.

In a statement attached as an exhibit in the original lawsuit, Illinois Superintendent of Education Tony Sanders

said that since the March 13 announcement of mass layoffs, Illinois has been unable to access certain categories of federal funds "because no staff remain in the Department's Office of State and Grantee Relations."

Sanders noted in his statement that Illinois expects to receive about \$794 million in federal Title I funds this year, money targeted to the state's lowest-performing schools. It also expects to receive another \$625 million in federal funds that help pay for services for students with disabilities.

The Department of Education also administers the federal Pell Grant program, which provides need-based financial aid for college students. In the 2023-24 academic year, according to state data, more than 225,000 students in Illinois received a total of more than \$1 billion in Pell Grant assistance.

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EDITOR: Kathleen Cruger
Advertising Sales: Cyndee Stiefel • lenaads@rvpublishing.com
Telephone: 815-369-4112
Email: News/Letters to the Editor and Classifieds: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com
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OPINION

Slices of life

Just do good in this life

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."—John Wesley



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

There you have it. The recipe for a good life. On the surface it sounds pretty simple and straightforward, and it should be. But not always – in this world of ours that seems to make the simple complex.

But whether simple or complex, this recipe—sentence—is one thing for sure... It is beautiful. Perhaps the most beautiful (albeit long) sentence ever composed.

While it is long (42 words for those who are counting) and complex, it doesn't have to be.

Doing good should be simple. It is simple, and often involves so little.

It's easy. If you allow it to be.

But let's break it all down. Do all the good that you can. How does a person do good?

The original sentence gives us this very answer: You do good using all your resources and creativity. You do it everywhere, all the time, to everyone. And you do it forever. You never stop.

When you think about it, and let it sink in, it's pretty profound – beyond profound.

And it's as simple as that famous tennis shoe company: Just. Do. Good.

Except it isn't always that

simple, because life gets in the way.

Except for the hardships. Except for commitments. Except for responsibilities. Except for everything.

Except for sleepless nights when you have to go to work the next day and face the boss you greatly dislike and after that you also have to go to the grocery store and wade your way through the aisles alongside all the other after-work people who are tired and cranky and hungry.

Somewhere in amongst all that you are supposed to smile and wink and above and beyond all that do good?

Give me a break.

Life is hard. Some days it's difficult just to face yourself in the mirror—much less do good for others.

And then, there's the big conundrum that I haven't even mentioned.

What about me?

Because that's pretty important. It's hard to be kind to others if you aren't kind to yourself.

Our own happiness, our own peace, our own well-being is important.

It truly is. But maybe perhaps not in the conventional line of thinking. Maybe we are assessing our own happiness from the wrong angle. Maybe our own happiness doesn't depend on any angle at all.

Here's the truth as I see it. Happiness, peace and all the other positive descriptors for our lives don't depend on the world around us.

All those things come from within.

You can't find peace on a mountaintop or from a sunset or an incoming tide. It has you find you, or more importantly you have to understand it has been with you—simply there for the

finding—all along.

Peace is yours for the taking. You can find it at work – even during an unending meeting with your boss. You can find it at the grocery store—even when your cart is creaky and everyone around you is cranky and crabby. Even in the most dire of situations you can have peace. It's always yours for the taking. It's always yours for the having.

But before you, me—any of us—can understand this, we have to come to terms with one thing: None of this is about us.

We tend to think it is about us. It's practically in our DNA. And we certainly have the power to isolate and find our own peace and joy and all the good-feels that go along with that. But here's the kicker:

We aren't really supposed

to seek out our own happiness. We are supposed to support that in others.

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

You see how that sentence doesn't say anything (anything!) about satisfying your own desires?

It isn't about you (or me). It's about us. And when we finally embrace that thought—truly madly, deeply—we achieve not only personal happiness, but something one step above it: peace.

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

Weekly connection

Life lessons from the farm

The older I get the more grateful I am for the childhood that God allowed me to experience. As I have written this column over the years so many of you have commented to me about how similar your lives were to my own as far as growing up or raising your children on the family farm is concerned. When I was a senior in high school in 1980, I wrote a research paper on the changes that were taking place in



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

agriculture at that time. I wrote about how the family farm, sadly, would soon be passing out of existence, and so would a wonderful way of life that had helped to teach

a great work ethic to young people for centuries. I wrote that larger corporate farms would be replacing smaller family units all across the country. The truth of the matter is that we have indeed seen that day come to pass. Today the big boys have taken over the landscape and all the old dairy barns sit empty as their boards weather and fall to the ground. With the passing of the smaller family farms so also goes

a way of life, a life rich in character.

When I was growing up on the dairy farm all of the neighbors and their kids could be seen doing the same things that we were doing each day. We could look across the fields and see barn lights coming on each morning at about 5:30 the same time we were getting started. After the milking, the cows were let out to eat, the gutters were cleaned

and the manure hauled. It wasn't unusual to see five or six farmers at the same time out in their fields spreading the manure at about 8 or 8:30 each morning. All the young stock were fed before breakfast and then the rest of the daily morning chores were completed in the barn.

All of the neighbors were pretty much on the same schedule. Then it was off to the fields with our little tractors and implements. If

it was in the spring, we all had fences to mend, soil to prepare and crops to plant. If it was the summer, we had hay to make, crops to cultivate, machinery to fix and buildings to maintain. In the fall, the harvest brought a sense of urgency up and down the road from farm to farm each day. We surely didn't want to waste the hard work of the spring and summer by neglecting to get the crop in. Finally, in the winter there was usually the daily battle with keeping drinkers thawed and animals bedded down and cared for to protect from the weather. No matter the season, each and every day there was the evening milking plus the nightly feeding of all the cattle and livestock.

In his first letter to the church in Thessalonica chapter 4 and verse 11, the apostle Paul tells us; "to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody"

Keeping up with all the work of the day built a sense of strong character and steady perseverance

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Opinion

Build Illinois Homes Tax Credit is the right call for the state

By Ed Hightower

In high-pressure moments, when everything is on the line, leaders must be able to make the right call. As March Madness takes hold this spring, Illinois lawmakers are encouraged to make the tough call regarding affordable housing.

Growing up in a family of eight children in Southeast Missouri, I knew what it meant to struggle. We didn't have indoor plumbing until 1966, when my mother moved us to Alton, Ill., in search of a better life. That experience shaped my understanding of the critical need for safe, affordable housing—something too many families in our state still lack today.

Throughout my career in education, including decades as a school superintendent in the Metro East, I have advocated for families from all backgrounds. I often made tough decisions to ensure children had access to stable housing and health care—essentials for academic success. I've seen firsthand how a safe and affordable home can change a child's future.

Many may also know me from my time on the basketball court, where I refereed 12 NCAA Final Fours and high-profile international games. Officiating taught me that leadership requires making the right call, even when it's unpopular.

The same principle applies to public policy. I urge Illinois lawmakers to support the Build Illinois Homes Tax Credit—a bright, innovative solution to our state's affordable housing crisis.

I believe this legislation



Ed Hightower

could be a game-changer. It bridges financing gaps, providing the final push developers need to move projects forward. This tax credit is a low-risk investment for taxpayers. Private investors supply the funds upfront, and the state issues credits only after developments are completed and families move in. It's a fiscally responsible way to create much-needed housing while spurring economic growth.

I recognize the profound impact affordable housing has on communities and the complex challenges in securing financing for these developments. This spring, the Sunnybrook Community in Alton will open its doors, offering 40 affordable homes to help sustain Madison County's growing workforce near St. Louis. Beyond providing much-needed housing, this project has driven millions of dollars in local investment, created high-quality jobs in construction, and strengthened local businesses with up to \$4 million in material purchases from area suppliers.

Sunnybrook became a reality thanks to a one-time grant from the state that leveraged existing private investment and was bolstered by federal housing tax credits. However, many other promising affordable housing developments across Illinois remain stalled due to financing gaps. Without renewed investment from Springfield, these shovel-ready affordable housing developments might never

break ground, leaving communities without desperately needed housing.

The Build Illinois Homes Tax Credit will close those financing gaps by making the critical commitment for developers and investors to give these developments the green light. More than half of the states nationally have adopted credits like Build Illinois Homes to drive affordable housing investment. During these trying times, people need safe, affordable housing and education, health care, and social service support. All work together to lift people and their communities.

I want to commend Gov. JB Pritzker and Illinois legislators for prioritizing affordable housing and encourage them to support the Build Illinois Homes Tax Credit. This is the right call for working families, communities, and the future of our state. Let's make the right call and give Illinois families the homes they deserve.

Ed Hightower is a retired educator and college basketball referee who lives in Edwardsville.

• Lessons

(Continued from page 4) into each and every member of all the families in the farm neighborhoods. When the family farms began to disappear across the landscape, our communities began to feel the brunt. Now we must teach our kids the importance of work and family unity in different ways.

Until next week, God bless.

Around the Northern Hills

Cover Crop Field Day

We will be hosting his annual spring field day on Friday, April 4 at 1 p.m. It will be held at the first field entrance south of 4629 IL Route 78 on the east side of 78 (south of Stockton). Come get a recap of the 2024 growing season and hear about what is working and what is not. Learn about the newest developments with the project.



By ANNETTE EGGERS
Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

com.

Join FB ACT text messaging

The Illinois Farm Bureau Agricultural Contact Team (FB ACT) is comprised of Farm Bureau members who are ready to respond to IFB action requests. When IFB issues an action request, it signals your voice is needed on a major action request, or on a major legislative or regulatory issue facing Illinois farmers. By signing up for FB ACT text messages, you will be notified the instant your voice is needed in Washington D.C., or Springfield.

To sign up or renew your FB ACT text message subscription, please text the keyword "FARM" to this number - 52886, and you will be ready to act for ag!

Family Farm Signs

It's that time of year that we are all thinking of planting and sprucing things up around the farm. Why not add a "This is a Family Farm" sign to your landscape? The signs are 17.5" x 23" and cost \$30.

Farm Fun Fact

April is National Garden Month.

A Great Big
THANK YOU TO OUR READERS

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:

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THIS IS AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMITTED PHOTOS TO BE USED IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

▼ Community events, car washes, festivals, lemonade stands, school projects - people at work and at play.

We are interested!

▼ Show the community what your group has been doing!

▼ **NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!**

▼ Just shoot and e-mail!

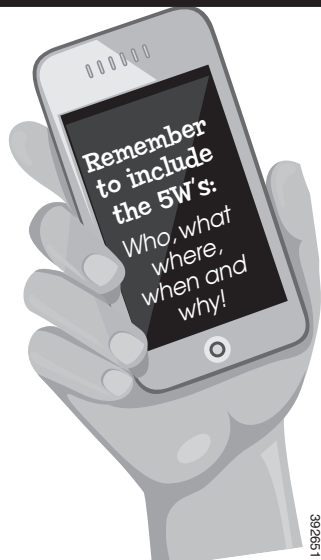
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▼ Tell us what's happening in the photo

▼ **Please do NOT crop your photos.**

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

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



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, rvpnews.com

Our Area Churches Welcome You

APPLE RIVER UMC

102 E. Baldwin St., P.O. Box 188,
Apple River, IL 61001
Pastor Libby Rutherford (815) 990-1428
Church (815) 594-2223
• *Sunday Worship – 9 a.m.*
• Bible Study - Every Monday 9 a.m.
Friendly Folks - Casual Attire - Join Us!

CALVARY CHURCH OF STOCKTON

315 W. Maple St., Stockton, IL 61085
815-947-2414
Pastor Scott Hess
E-Mail: calvarychurchofstockton@yahoo.com
• *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 8:45 a.m.*
• Communion and Potluck every 1st Sunday (except no potlucks during summer)
• Monday Group Prayer - 6 p.m.
• Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
• Every other Sat. Youth Group - 6 - 8 p.m.
You may find our facebook page and weekly messages by searching for "Calvary Church of Stockton on facebook.com"
You are welcome! Please visit us!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON

600 N. Main St., Stockton
Pastor Chrissy Salser (815) 988-9450
E-Mail: cle600@mediacombb.net
Find us on Facebook at ChristOnMainSt
• *Worship times: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.*
Sunday, 10 a.m.
• *Sunday School: Sunday, 9 a.m.*

EBENEZER – SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 102, Pearl City, IL 61062
See Facebook or call 815-291-1965
• *Sunday Worship: Currently 8:30 a.m.*
• April worship is at Ebenezer-UCC Church
5421 S. Stone Church Road

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

720 N. Freedom Street, Lena, IL 61048
815-369-5591
Pastor Casey Dwyer, Senior Pastor
Pastor Jeff DeLay, Pastor of Worship & Pastoral Care
• Adult bible study and Children's Sunday School - 8:45 a.m.
• *Sunday Morning Worship Service and Children's Church/Nursery – 10:00 a.m.*
• Awana Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (Sept. - April)
• Pastor's weekly sermons at
www.lenafreechurch.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028
email: firstumcofelizabeth@gmail.com
Pastor Donna Hoffman 608-293-0163
email: dchoffman8@gmail.com
• *Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.*
• Women's Faith Group -
1st Tuesday monthly - 9:30 a.m.
We are handicapped accessible
Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fumcelizabeth

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 East Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048
Pastor Thomas Mosbo (815) 369-5552
• *Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 10:45 a.m. (Sept. - May)*
• Piece Corps Quilters -
Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

1904 S. Vel Tera Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Michael Burdett (815) 858-3843
• *Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.*
• *Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*
• Prayer meeting – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday services broadcasted at 11:30 a.m. on
Radio WCCI 100.3 FM

GRACE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

205 Main St., McConnell, IL 61050
Pastor Tim Wauchope • 815-262-5942
Email: wauchope30@yahoo.com
• *Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.*
• Prayer & Praise - Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
website: www.gracefmc.org

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

223 E. Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085
Father Mike Morrissey (815) 947-2545
• *Saturday Evening Mass – 4:30 p.m.*
• *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.*
• Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

118 West Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048
Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 369-5291
• *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.*
• *Daily Dial-A-Devotion 815-369-4411*

MARTINTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

W8996 Lena St., Martintown, WI 53522
(1 mile north of Winslow, IL)
Pastor Kevin Cernek • 608-558-0974
• *Sunday Worship – 8 & 10:30 a.m.*
Worship inside or watch from the parking lot on the jumbotron
• *Sunday School for all ages – 9:30 a.m.*
• *Sunday Youth - 6 p.m.*
• *Tuesday Bible Study - 10:30 a.m.*
• *Thursday Prayer & Bible Study - 6 p.m.*

MCCONNELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

211 Hulbert Rd. P.O. Box 97,
McConnell, IL 61050
815-868-2324
Email: mcconnellcmtychurch@yahoo.com
Pastor Jordan Cernek
• *Sunday Worship – 8:45 a.m.*
Fellowship hour after every service
Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/
mcconnellcommunitychurch.com
* We are handicapped accessible

NEW VINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

621 W. Lena St., Lena, IL 61048
(Coach's Gymnasium)
Pastor Doug Carroll 815-541-4112
• *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
with fellowship following
• *Communion first Sunday of each month*
Bible Study Groups available
newvinelena.com
Facebook: New Vine Community Church of Lena, IL
* We are handicapped accessible

PROVIDENCE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

15010 W. Howardsville Road
Lena, IL 61048
217-357-3723
Pastors Robert Webb & Rob Webb
• *Sunday Worship*
- each 3rd Sunday - 10:30 a.m.
Potluck lunch following service

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL 61048
(Turn on Salem Road at Eleroy Rest Stop)
Pastor Christopher Ham (815) 369-4511
• *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
• *Adult Sunday School - 9 a.m. (before service)*
• *Children's Sunday School - 10 a.m. (during service)*
*We are handicapped accessible
Watch our services or see our upcoming events on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/OldStoneChurchWithTheLightedCross/>

SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

635 East Schapville Road,
Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Dottie Morizzo
(815) 845-2272
Cell (815) 238-0670
www.schapvillezion.org
• *Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*
• Bible Study Classes Available

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

536 E. Schapville Road,
Scales Mound, IL 61054
Church number (815) 845-2061
Rev. James Mehlretter
Website: www.shepherdofhill.com
• *Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*
• *Sunday School (Sept. – May) – 8:45 a.m.*
• Holy Communion is celebrated weekly.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

608 East Railroad, Warren, IL 61087
Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312
• *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m.*
• Reconciliation Sunday – 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
625 Country Lane Drive, Lena, IL 61048
Rev. Jason Shaw (815) 369-4035
• *Saturday Evening Worship – 5:30 p.m.*
• *Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*
• Blast Program at 9:00 a.m.
• High School & Adult Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

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

229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062
www.stjohnspearlcity.org
815-443-2215
• *Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
• Christian Education for all Ages - 10:15 a.m.
Handicapped Accessible

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor David Russell
Church: 815-589-3367
• *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
"Celebrating 165 Years of Faith"

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001
Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312
• *Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.*
• Reconciliation Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

410 West Lena Street, Lena, IL 61048
Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 369-2810
• *Saturday Mass – 4:00 p.m.*
• *Sunday Mass – 10:00 a.m.*
• Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 – 3:50 p.m.

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

411 W. Catlin St., P.O. Box 506
Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Mike Nesbit - Cell: 815-858-5621
Church: 815-858-3334
www.stpaulielizabeth.org
All services are available to watch online@
Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Elizabeth, IL
YouTube channel: Pastor Mike Nesbit
• *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
• *Adult Bible Study - Sunday 10:30 a.m.*
Super Sunday on the first Sunday of the month, with Sunday School from 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Worship services will be held outside during the summer. Please bring a lawn chair.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENT

The Little Church with a Big Heart
1334 Sunnyside Road, Kent, IL 61044
1/2 mile north on Kent Road
• *Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.*
• *Holy Communion every Sunday*
• Women Meet at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday
• Chair Lift to Sanctuary

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Hudson & Benton St.,
Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 947-2541
• *Sunday Worship – 11 a.m.*
• Adult Bible Studies Available
• Communion Every 1st Sunday
Find us on website StocktonWUMC.org
or Facebook-Stockton Wesley United
Methodist Church
* *Handicapped Accessible*

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

197 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089
Pastor Robert Patin (815) 230-1862
608-669-5770
• *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*
• *Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.*

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

10100 W. Sabin Church Rd.,
Pearl City, IL 61062
Pastor Wayne Fischer • 815-266-6260
Pastor Chip Sohl • 815-541-1425
• *Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.*
• *Children's Church - during church service*
• *Prayer Shawl Knitting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.*
• *Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.*

Come worship with us!

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. Join on Sunday, April 6, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week will be the Fifth Sunday during Lent. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel John 12:1-8.

On Wednesday, April 9 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join and no quilting experience necessary.

All the services will be recorded and be available on church's Facebook page and website. Please visit our website and (<http://goodshepherdlena.org/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL>) for information. Please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate the fifth Sunday in Lent on Sunday, April 6 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play dominos in Luther Hall on Tuesday, April 10 at 1 p.m.

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

All kids in grades K-5 are welcome to come to St. John's in Pearl City on Wednesday, April 16 from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. and be a part of the Kids Klub. Kids Klub is a monthly adventure supported by the Pearl City area churches and offers a safe and supportive environment where children can hear bible stories, do crafts, play games, and enjoy delicious snacks. All children in the Pearl City community are welcome to come. For more information or to register a child, please contact Pastor Roger Bronkema at rbronkema18@gmail.com or call 815-291-6261.

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, April 3 at 3:15 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office for more information.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is an ELCA parish and is located at 229 First St. in Pearl City. We are handicapped accessible. If you need to contact the pastor or church, you may call 815-443-2215 for information.

Evangelical Free Church of Lena

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

The schedule includes:
 April 2: Steve Sheffey
 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, April 6

Willow Valley Church
 6522 S Willow Rd, Stockton
 5pm Soup & Sandwich Dinner
 6 p.m. Music by Christ's Country Choir

Sunday, April 13

Calvary Church of Stockton
 315 W Maple Ave
 6pm Music (Finding Grace Praise Band)
 7 p.m. Snacks

Calvary Church

A service will be held on Sunday, April 6 at the Willow Valley Church, 6522 S Willow Rd. There will be a soup and

sandwich luncheon starting at 5 p.m. followed by Christ's Country Choir at 6 p.m.

The last Joint Lenten Service will be on Palm Sunday evening, April 13. The Calvary Praise Team, "Finding Grace" will be giving a program at 6 p.m. Refreshments will follow at 7 p.m. on Fellowship Hall.

Calvary will have its monthly potluck on April 6. A special Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 17 and a Good Friday Service on April 18. All are invited to any of these services.

Lena United Methodist Church

The Lena United Methodist Church is having a Rumage Sale April 10, 11, 12. The hours are Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday (\$2 bag day) from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The sale will be held in Fellowship Hall.

River Ridge Quarter 3 Honor Roll

River Ridge Middle School

4.00+ Samuel Cobine, Travis Craft, Brogan Grube, Sophia Martinez, Lily Engle, Matthew Butcher, Layna Kretschmer, Dixi Palas, Emmett Patterson
3.50 - 3.999 Violet Golden, Natalie Haas, Luke Holcomb, Frances Howard, Christian Morhardt, Brock Turner, Lucas Wurster, Chloe Cross, Aniah Havens-Hudson, Ava Huett, Skye McLane, Brogann Peugh, Leighton Wurster, Anna Dittmar, Julia Gerlich, Brigson Grube, Piper Havens, Franyelis Perez Silva, Lila Ritchie, Landen Sether

3.00 - 3.499 Frida Carriaga, Morgan Kloss, Johnathan White, Jr., Lemma Bird, Abigail Dersham, Averie Karberg, Justice Murray, Alaina Parisi, Mesa Whitmer, Jazmine Zito, Megan Bradt, Ayden Chambers, Rylee Hendrickson

River Ridge High School

4.00+ Kathryn Cobine, Aizlynn Griffiths, Laiken Haas, Nathan Haas,

Lucius Mendenhall, Elaina Doms, Sawyer Fry, Jaime Miller, Harmony Packard, Kaci Patterson, Samuel Rife, Gracie Schnitzler, Sarah Winter, Nicholas Cobine, Ella Dittmar, Elizabeth Rife, Amber Schlarman
3.50 - 3.999 Kayla Diehl, Brynn Fry, Isabella Haring, Iisa Malmberg, Graci Vanderheyden, Joseph Winter, Leah Spahn, Ian Spangler, Kaden Bauer, Piper Golden, Jackson Goldsmith, Genevieve Kidwell, Kenley Patterson, Alejandra Velazquez, Carson Dodd, Bronx Gonzalez, Lane Groezinger, Wesley Haas, Ashlynn Wasmund

3.00 - 3.499 Hannah Bourrette, David Buck, Camden Flack, Mason Smith, Ian Wachter, Wendy Weimerskirk, Brook Bradbury, Zoey Chapman, Ava Ketelsen, Matthew Ransom, Seth Ries, Averi Rolwes, Hamish Boden, Madilynn Clarkson, Aubree Niccum, Isabella Wasmund, Bria Andrade, Clara Gerlich, Russell Howard, Jason Lucas, Alice McGovern, Wyatt Ritchie, Breck Roche, Alexa Rolwes

your source for on-line news: RVPNEWS.COM

Stockton Town Garage Sales

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

To Be Held **Friday, June 13 & Saturday, June 14**



Sign Up Now To Register

- 1) Email filled out form to lenaads@rvpublishing.com Include phone number for contacting for pre-payment or
- 2) Call Cyndee Stiefel directly at 815-745-3730 with information and pre-payment or
- 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, May 26!
 Please Sign Up EARLY. Early Registration is Appreciated!!

Soul Purpose Free Community Lunch, Fellowship & Entertainment
 Hosted by Elizabeth United Methodist Church Congregation

Wednesday, April 9
from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Elizabeth Community Building



All are welcome

RSVP by Friday, April 4 for lunch attendance and transportation by calling 1-815-858-2224

Stockton Quiz Bowl takes second at state



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Senior Outreach of Stockton and Surrounding Areas to host live music event

The SOS+ is excited to have singer, songwriter, multi-talented Will Mueller from Fulton, IL back again to start off the 21st season of Senior Outreach of Stockton & Surrounding Areas (SOS+) program. The event will be held at 2 pm, April 10, 2025, at Calvary Church of Stockton Church's Fellowship Hall in Stockton, IL. All seniors from near and far are invited to come and enjoy his music and an afternoon of fellowship.

The SOS+ group meets in the Fellowship Hall of Calvary Church of Stockton during the months of April through December.

Volunteers from area churches are devoted in keeping this program going and bring a variety of afternoon enjoyment to all seniors.

SOS+ is always looking for volunteers to help reach out to local seniors. If interested in joining the planning committee team of volunteers, sharing a talent, or offering suggestions for upcoming programs, please call Mary Feltmeyer 815-297-5425, Nancy Rice 815-275-0303, Al and Carolyn Mysliwiec 815-947-3761, or Shirley Toepfer 815-947-3639. If in need of a ride to the programs, please call as well.

The Stockton Quiz bowl team finished second at the WCCI radio tournament on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Pictured are team members (left to right) James Wickler, Ethan Steien, Landon Warner, Kyle Haas, Sam Hille.



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FRIDAY FISH FRY
served 11 am - 1 pm, 4 pm - 5:30 pm
while supplies last

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815-369-1210

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BE SURE TO ORDER
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111 NORTH MAIN ST.
ELIZABETH, IL

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Cyndee Stiefel
815-369-4112 or
815-947-3353

Little John's Tap

2 Piece Alaskan Pollock Dinner
(hand battered or baked)
Served with fries or baked potato, coleslaw, and dinner roll
Fridays starting at 5 p.m.

147 South Main
Pearl City
815-443-2818

Scales Mound-River Ridge Hornets battle through busy softball week

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Scales Mound-River Ridge (SM-RR) Hornets got their first win after dropping their first two games of the 2025 softball season. The Hornets opened the new campaign with a 3-8 loss to Pecatonica and a 0-6 loss to Oregon. SM-RR turned a new page when they entered last week with an away game against the Forreston Cardinals.

Not only did the Hornets draw some tough competition early in the season, but they had a heavy road schedule. Four of their first six games of the year were on the road. The same was true when they traveled to take on Forreston on Monday, March 24.

It took a comeback effort to get the job done against Forreston. The Cardinals jumped out to a 2-0 run in the first and held a 3-0 lead after two innings of play. The key for the Hornets was to simply keep putting the ball in play.

Early on, it didn't result in much. However, Forreston's defense eventually collapsed. The Hornets scored five runs in the fifth inning, thanks to three errors and a dropped third strike. Forreston's de-

fense wound up having eight errors in the game, which allowed the Hornets to take a significant lead.

SM-RR went on to win the game by a score of 8-4. Five of those eight runs were unearned as Forreston's defensive woes cost them the game.

Elizabeth Rife got the win for the Hornets. In four innings, Rife allowed zero hits while striking out eight. Laiken Haas pitched three innings, allowing two earned runs off two hits and six walks. Rife also had a big day at the plate, going two for four with two runs scored and two runs batted in. Sarah Winter led the way offensively, going two for four with two runs scored and three RBI.

The Hornets were back on the road the very next day as they took on Southwestern on March 25. It was another close game that came down to the wire, but the Hornets came out on top, thanks to an excellent pitching performance.

Early on, it looked like it would be an offensive shootout. The Hornets quickly took a 1-0 lead when Haas was hit to lead off the game and Rife followed up

with a triple to right. Before the end of the inning, Anna Weis drove in Rife to put SM-RR up 2-0. Southwestern responded by getting a run back in the bottom half. Still, the Hornets took a 2-1 lead into the second.

The Hornets would add to their lead in the top of the third. Following a single by Haas, Winter roped a two-out line drive to center for a double. Weis then followed that with a double of her own as she drove in Winter, putting SM-RR up 4-1. Once again, the Hornets' production produced a response from Southwestern, who put up two runs in the bottom half.

After three innings of play,

both teams had already combined for seven runs. The game had all the makings of a high-scoring matchup, but that wasn't the final outcome. A big reason for that was the pitching effort of Rife, who entered the game in the fourth inning. Rife wound up pitching the final four innings, allowing just two hits and striking out eight. She shut out Southwestern for the last four innings, and that is exactly what the Hornets needed. The SM-RR offense was also halted, as they didn't score another run for the remainder of the game. Despite that, they won by a final score of 4-3, led by Rife's pitching performance.

The Hornets got the chance to play at home on March 26, but they played host to a developing Lena-Winslow squad. Rife still managed an impressive pitching performance as she racked up fifteen strikeouts. Both Haas and Rife struggled with control, as they combined to have 15 walks in the game. Rife had nine walks in five innings, while Haas had six in two. The Hornets fell by a score of 7-15.

The Hornets didn't have to wait long to bounce back. On March 27, they made the trip to take on the Durand Bulldogs. It was another road game for SM-RR, but after six games played, they

were 0-2 at home and 3-1 on the road. That includes a 3-2 victory over Durand.

Rife pitched a complete game for the Hornets. In seven innings, Rife allowed just four hits, while striking out nine and walking one. Rife allowed just one earned run in the game. Winter led the way offensively, going one for four with one run scored and one RBI.

The Hornets are back at home for an April 3 match-up against the Pearl City Wolves. That game is set to begin at 4:30 p.m. Then, they have another road game on April 5, as they travel to take on South Beloit. That game starts at 10 a.m.



SONYA WILLIAMSON PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Stockton High school Servant Leaders

The Stockton High School Servant Leaders visited fourth grade classes on Friday, March 28, 2025, to teach about leadership and service in their community. Servant Leaders had fourth graders create skits and activities to drive home the important lessons taught in the Highland Community College Servant Leadership program. High School Servant Leaders who participated include Masyn Cahill, Kyla Arnold, Ava Hess, Hailey Weipert, Sadie Vanderheyden, MJ Pilapil & Mauricio Glass.



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Softball (Continued from front page)

Things were only just starting to heat up at that point. With a 4-2 lead heading into the final inning, the game was already set up for an exciting finish. Pecatonica needed a walk, a double, a fielder's choice, and two singles to get the job done, but they managed to force extra innings with two runs in the seventh. The Warhawks were unable to answer in the bottom half, sending the game into extra innings.

Just when it seemed the Indians may have taken the momentum, the Warhawks stood tall in the eighth. Perry made quick work of Pecatonica in the top half, getting a strikeout, a ground out, and a pop out. The Warhawk bats didn't have to wait long to get back in the dugout.

Baker put the Warhawks in a fantastic position to win when she led off the bottom of the eighth with a triple to cen-

ter field. With Baker just sixty feet away from scoring the game-winning run, Mensendike did just what she had to do. Mensendike hit a grounder to the left side, but it was plenty to get Baker home as the Warhawks walked off Pecatonica for a 5-4 victory.

Perry pitched all eight innings for Warren-Stockton. In those eight innings, she allowed just three earned runs off ten hits, while striking out six and walking two. Baker led the way at the plate, going two for three with two runs scored. Mensendike went two for four with one run batted in.

The Warhawks are back in action on April 3 as they play host to the Polo Marcos. On April 4 they make the trip to take on the Lena-Winslow Panthers. The Warhawks return home on April 7 to host the Durand Bulldogs. All games are scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.

Panther baseball pitches back-to-back shutouts

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow baseball team has gotten off to a hot start in the 2025 season. After winning the first two games of the season, the Panthers went on to shut out their next two opponents, beating them by a combined score of 22-0.

The Panthers went on the road to shut out their first opponent of the week in the Morrison Mustangs on Monday, March 24. It was Morrison's home opener, but they didn't have much to celebrate. Le-Win took the lead before the Morrison defense could even register an out. It took just five innings for the Panthers to beat the Mustangs 12-0, sending the Morrison crowd home early.

After Koby Kearns took a walk to lead off the game, Luke Madigan and Miles Mahon followed up with back-to-back singles. Mahon drove

in both Kearns and Madigan with his single to left, putting the Panthers up 2-0 in the first.

It was Madigan who got the start on the mound for Le-Win. He made quick work of the Mustangs. In four innings, Madigan collected 12 strikeouts. It was a boring day for the Panther defense, as Madigan registered every out in his four innings. He allowed just three hits and zero walks on the day. Maverick Cass closed the day out with one inning pitched and a pair of strikeouts.

Mahon had a monstrous day at the plate. He reached safely in all five of his plate appearances as he collected four hits and a walk on the day. Mahon also drove in six of the Panthers' 12 runs. Madigan was next up, going three for four with three runs scored and two runs batted in. Kearns had a rather impressive stat line, scoring three runs without collecting a hit. Kearns walked four times in the game.

Two days later, the Panthers returned home to play host to a well-known River Ridge-Scales Mound (RR-SM) Wildcats squad. RR-SM has gotten off to a bit of a slow start to the season. Between poor weather and

some tough competition, the Wildcats were just 1-3 after their first four games. That includes a 10-0 shutout loss to the Panthers last week.

It was another quick start for Le-Win. Cass was on the mound to start the game, and he opened the game with a four-pitch strikeout. Some nice defensive work brought an end to the top half, and the Panther bats quickly went to work in the bottom half.

Kearns has been an electric leadoff hitter and that remained true against the Wildcats. Kearns ripped a line drive up the middle to get the game started for the Panthers. Kearns' hard-hit ball set the stage for Madigan, who followed up with a big shot. Madigan crushed the first pitch he saw over the left center fence. Once again, the Panthers had a 2-0 lead before an out was registered.

That told the story of the day for Le-Win. A few big innings allowed them to collect another mercy rule victory, beating the Wildcats 10-0 after just five innings. The Panthers were held scoreless in the second and fourth innings, but they put up big runs in the first, third, and fifth.

The fifth inning was the biggest of the day for Le-Win. The Panthers scored five runs

in the inning, and they all came with two outs. It was Jaden Schubert who singled through the right side, driving in Ryder Schulz for the first run of the inning. Shortly after, Madigan hit another extra base hit as he doubled to center, driving in a pair. With that, Madigan brought an end to the game as the Panthers went up 10-0 in the bottom of the fifth.

Madigan finished the day with three hits, two runs scored, and three RBI. Cass also had three hits on the day, going three for three with one RBI. Landon Grindey was the third Panther to rack up three hits in the game as he went three for three with two runs scored. Cass pitched all five innings, allowing just four hits and one walk, while striking out four.

After getting off to the 4-0 start, the Panthers finally suffered their first loss of the season when they took on the Alleman Pioneers on March 27. Alleman went just 8-29 last year, but they are off to a 6-2 start to this season.

Le-Win returns home on April 5 to play host to the Ashton-Franklin Center Raiders. The Raiders are off to a 4-2 start to the season themselves. That game is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

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Freeport police

Felony arrest for possession of child pornography

On March 25, 2025, Michael Arbuckle, a 47-year-old resident of Freeport, was served with a felony warrant and complaint for 11-counts of Possession of Child Pornography

stemming from an investigation that was launched on Jan. 16, 2025, after it was discovered that Arbuckle had child pornography images stored in his cellular phone.

Michael Arbuckle was served copies of the arrest warrant and complaint at the

Stephenson County Jail where he has been custody since Jan. 16, 2025, on an unrelated matter. Arbuckle was released to the custody of the Stephenson County Sheriff's Office pursuant to an order by the court.

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

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Le-Win's Maverick Cass signs to the University of Dubuque

Lena-Winslow senior Maverick Cass recently announced his commitment to playing collegiate baseball at The University of Dubuque. When asked about this accomplishment Cass stated, "I want to thank my family for helping me to get to this point in my career and taking me to all the travel baseball tournaments, showcases, and making me a better person each and every day. I also want to thank my coaches and teammates for helping me develop all the way through this point in my career and helping me achieve this dream of mine. I also want to thank Coach Spain and the University of Dubuque Baseball coaching staff for giving me this opportunity to play at the next level." Congratulations, Maverick!



LENA-WINSLOW BASEBALL PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

EPC Drama Department presents Disney's The Little Mermaid

The EPC Drama Department is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of Disney's The Little Mermaid, with performances on Friday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, April 5 at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. This highly anticipated musical will take audiences on a magical journey under the sea and onto land with Ariel, played by Caylie Schubert, and Prince Eric, played by Dylan Rominski. They will be joined by Emma Lagos as the villainous Ursula, Shelby Groezinger as the lovable Flounder, Etana Yang as the quirky Scuttle, and Callie Blevins as the ever-charismatic Sebastian. This is just the top of the list for all the talented performers in this production! Based on the beloved Disney animated film and Hans Christian Andersen's

classic tale, The Little Mermaid tells the story of Ariel, a young mermaid who dreams of life on land. Defying her father, King Triton, she makes a dangerous deal with the sea witch Ursula to trade her voice for human legs. With the help of her friends, including the ever-loyal Flounder and the comedic Scuttle, Ariel embarks on a thrilling adventure to win Prince Eric's heart before time runs out. Featuring iconic songs like Part of Your World, Under the Sea, and Kiss the Girl, this production is a must-see for all ages. Join us for three spectacular performances at the Pearl City Big Gym.

Doors will open 30 minutes before each performance. Tickets are priced at \$12 for adults and \$10 for students, with free admission for children under 3. Tickets will be available for

purchase starting March 21 from cast and crew members or at the door on the day of the performance. This production showcases an incredible array of talent from both Eastland and Pearl City junior high and high schools. With a talented supporting cast, dazzling costumes, and beloved songs, this production promises to be a fantastic experience for audiences of all ages. Come be part of the adventure as we bring Disney's The Little Mermaid to life! For more information, please contact Mrs. Jamie Graf at jgraf@pcwolves.net.

Licensed from Music Theatre International from a book by Doug Wright. The music is by Alan Menken with lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater of Eastland and Pearl City, IL.

Country Crossroads Quilt Guild quilt show April 11-12

The Country Crossroads Quilt Guild (CCQG) will present their annual quilt show, "Garden of Quilts," on Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12. The show will be held at the Jane Addams Community Center, located at 430 W. Washington St. in Cedarville. Hours for the

show are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 11 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 12. Admission is \$5 per person.

CCQG meetings are held at the Forreston Grove Church on the third Monday of each month, except December, at 7 p.m., with ample time to meet and greet

members before the meeting. Visitors are always welcome; for visitors there is a fee of \$5 at the door. Membership dues are \$20.

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

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Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

Have you heard of Illinois Farm Bureau's Allies in Agriculture program? This program is a partnership effort between county Farm Bureaus® and local government officials across Illinois. It is designed to improve communication, help these officials better understand the significance of agriculture to their county, and encourage farmers to better understand local government duties and structure.

To facilitate that effort, county Farm Bureaus are working with county officials to adopt a Pro-Agriculture Resolution. These proclamations signify that government officials in that county understand agriculture's importance. Counties that pass these resolutions are given plaques that they can proudly display to demonstrate their status as one of our Allies in Agriculture.

During the month of

March both the Carroll County and Stephenson County boards adopted Pro Agriculture Resolutions. We appreciate their support of agriculture within our counties and northwest Illinois. To learn more about this program or to see what other counties have received the Allies in Agriculture designation visit www.ilfb.org/ifb-in-action/allies-in-agriculture/

Twenty-Five graduate from Illinois Farm Bureau Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow Program

Twenty-five Illinois Farm Bureau members recently graduated from the Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow (ALOT), an extensive leadership development program designed to help participants develop leadership and advocacy skills and to become a voice for Illinois agriculture. ALOT provides selected IFB members an oppor-

tunity to learn a broad range of process and content skills to enrich their leadership abilities and enhance agriculture's voice in Illinois. Started in 1979,

The 2025 ALOT graduating class represented 15 Illinois counties and included nine full-time farmers, 10 part-time farmers, and participants from other agriculture-related industries. Local Graduate: Alyssa Nelson, of Carroll County, joined her family's farming operation near Chadwick. After graduating from the University of Illinois with her bachelor's in animal science, she continues a legacy of strong focus on cattle health and nutrition, as well as soil health and conservation practices. When she's not farming, she enjoys flying, hiking and playing the harp. Nelson is also involved in her county's Farm Bureau Young Leaders and a local flying club.

Farm Progress Show Bus Trip

Join the Carroll and Stephenson County Farm Bureaus as we travel to Decatur for this year's Farm Progress show on August 26.

Trip Details:
 6 a.m.: Depart Freeport Walmart
 6:30 a.m.: Depart Lanark location TBD
 9:45 a.m.: Arrive at the Show
 4:00 p.m.: Depart for Home
 5:30 p.m./6 p.m.: Dinner on the way home
 7:45 p.m.: Arrive at Lanark Drop off
 8:15 p.m.: Arrive at Freeport Walmart
 Trip Cost includes transportation, gratuities and water. Meals and show entry are not included. To reserve your spot please call the county where you plan to be picked up at Carroll, 815-244-3001 and Stephenson 815-232-3186.

Illinois Farm Bureau announces new partnership

Illinois Farm Bureau is excited to announce a new partnership with Start Hearing. Start Hearing is owned by Starkey, the only American owned and operated hearing aid manufacturer. With savings up to 60% off, Start Hearing's products feature numerous hearing aid models, many of which are virtually invisible.

Features include Bluetooth compatibility with streaming capabilities, fall detection and GPS locator, rechargeable 51-hour battery, and language translation features. Start Hearing has a national network of more than 3,000 providers to serve our members throughout their hearing journey from hearing protection to hearing aids and services. SoundGear is Starkey's line of advanced hearing protection products, offering both active and passive options

tailored for various work and recreational environments. To learn more, please call 1-888-304-8536 or visit www.starhearing.com/partners/ilfb

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 noon, with an estimated delivery of May 7 just in time for Mother's Day. To make this Mother's Day 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 815-232-3186.

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March Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing winners

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

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Wins, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, Philanthropic Educational Organization-Chapter OH, River Ridge Drama Club, Scales Mound Travelers, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Stockton Girls Basketball, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

March winners:

\$50 – Kevin Cahill, Apple River
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 \$50 – Chris Thornton, Stockton
 \$50 – Lorie Wright, Stockton

\$50 – Gene Magee, Stockton
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 \$50 – Martha Lyvers, Lena
 \$50 – Sharon Kaspar, Mt Carroll
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 \$50 – Joni Dauphin, Mt Carroll
 \$50 – Mary Suddie, Galena
 \$50 – Ruth Pettengill, Colorado Springs, CO
 \$150 – Sally Mead, East Dubuque
 \$50 – Kim Thorsen, Elizabeth
 \$50 – Levi Foote, East Dubuque
 \$150 – Kinsley Winters, Stockton
 \$50 – Brooke Birchen, Pearl

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 \$50 – Susan Haas, Elizabeth
 \$50 – Karlene Saunders, Warren
 \$50 – Julie Lotz, Lena
 \$50 – Rhonda Harstad, Benton, WI
 \$50 – Lynn Haas, Elizabeth
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 \$50 – Kelly Campbell, Pearl City
 \$50 – Rick Nieland, Dubuque, IA
 \$50 – Aaron & Jennifer Wand, West Richland, WA
 \$50 – Al Cinto Jr, Galena
 \$50 – Alec D'Amico, New Braunfels, TX
 \$50 – Brittany Glidden, Rockford
 \$50 – Patricia Muschamp, Falls Church, VA



DANIEL CHAMNESS PHOTOS ROCK VALLEY PUBLISHING

Schlichting finishes Top Times Meet in seventh place

Lena-Winslow junior Alec Schlichting rounds the curve and dashes to the finish line in the 200-meter dash on Friday night. The Panther junior finished seventh in the one-lap race at Illinois Wesleyan University, the host site of the Top Times Meet, basically the indoor state championship. He finished the race in 23.18 seconds.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

March certainly had a lot of lion characteristics like the song says. April is now with us, and it starts out cool. April Fools Day is a tradition in a lot of places. I forget and often get "fooled." This week we continue with spring recipes and a couple of meatless recipes too. Have a great week cooking.

Macaroni Coleslaw
 1 pkg. (7 oz.) macaroni
 1 pkg. (14 oz.) coleslaw mix
 2 medium onions, finely

chopped
 2 celery ribs, finely chopped
 1 medium cucumber, finely chopped
 1 medium green pepper, finely chopped
 1 can (8 oz.) whole water chestnuts, drained and chopped

Dressing

1½ C. Miracle Whip
 1/3 C. sugar
 ¼ C. cider vinegar
 ½ t. salt
 ¼ t. pepper

Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain and rinse in cold water. Transfer to a large bowl. Add coleslaw mix, onions, celery, cucumber, green pepper and water chestnuts. Mix thoroughly. In a small bowl, mix the dressing ingredients. Pour over salad; toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate at least one hour.

Horseradish Mashed Potatoes

One of my friend's family makes homemade horseradish in the spring and fall. It is treasured by a lot of people. It is a great addition to a dips and sauces. One of the ways it is used this week is in mashed potatoes. It gives them a lot of zing.

6 medium potatoes, peeled and cubed
 ¼ C. butter, melted
 ¾ t. salt
 ½ t. pepper
 ½ C. sour cream
 1 T. horseradish

Place potatoes in a large saucepan and cover with water; bring to a boil and reduce heat and cook for 10 minutes or until tender; drain. Add butter, salt and pepper. Mash potatoes. Beat in sour cream and horseradish. Top with a pat of butter to serve.

Asparagus Beef Teriyaki

This main dish is an easy weeknight meal and great for spring. Asparagus should be coming down in price, and Sullivan's often has steak on sale on the weekend. You can substitute the teriyaki marinade by mixing equal parts of soy sauce and honey. A substitute for sesame oil is peanut or olive oil,

½ C. teriyaki marinade
 2 T. water
 1 T. cornstarch
 ¼ t. pepper
 3 T. sesame oil, divided
 1 beef sirloin tip steak, thinly sliced (1 lb.)
 2 medium green peppers, thinly sliced
 2 medium red peppers, thinly sliced
 ½ lb. fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
 1 garlic clove, minced

4 C. cooked rice
 Soy sauce
 Sesame seeds
 In a small bowl, mix teriyaki marinade, water, cornstarch and pepper until smooth. In a large skillet, heat 1 T. oil over medium heat. Add beef, stir fry until no longer pink, 6 to 8 minutes. Add garlic and cook 1 minute longer. Remove from pan and set aside.

Add onion, green peppers, red peppers, and asparagus in remaining 1 T. oil until vegetables are crisp tender, 4 to 5 minutes longer. Stir in cornstarch mixture and add to pan. Bring to a boil; cook and stir 1 to 2 minutes or until sauce is thickened. Return beef to pan; heat through. Serve with rice and add soy sauce and sesame seeds for taste.

Spinach Parmesan Casserole

This Lenten casserole will be easy to make and tasty. Put it with a green salad and crusty bread, and you will have an easy meal.

2 lbs. baby spinach
 5 T. butter
 3 T. olive oil
 3 garlic cloves minced
 1 T. Italian seasoning
 ¾ t. salt
 1 C. grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 400. In a stockpot, bring 5 C. water to a boil. Add spinach; cook covered 1 minute or just until wilted. Drain well. In a small skillet, heat butter and oil over medium heat. Add garlic, Italian seasoning, and salt; stir until garlic is tender, 1 to 2 minutes. Spread spinach in a greased 8-inch square pan which has been sprayed with cooking spray. Drizzle with butter mixed with cheese. Bake, uncovered, until cheese is lightly browned, 10 to 15 minutes.

Cream of Crab Soup

If you would rather have a heartier meal for Lent, this rich soup will help fill everyone up. It is a tasty way to give up a meat meal. You can use mock crab if you want, it just won't be as rich. You can also add half-and half for some of the milk to make it richer.

½ C. butter
 ½ C. flour
 1 T. Old Bay seasoning
 1 t. salt
 ½ t. curry powder
 4 C. milk
 1 lb. fresh crab or 3 cans crab meat, drained, flaked and cartilage removed
 2 T. minced fresh parsley
 Melt butter in a 3 qt. saucepan; stir in flour, Old Bay, salt and curry powder. Cook until thickened and bubbly. Gradually add milk; cook and stir

until mixture is hot, but do not boil. Remove cartilage from crab and add crab and parsley to soup; cook and stir just until crab is heated through. Garnish with parsley. If soup is too thick, thin with milk.

Green Velvet Cupcakes

If you are looking for a festive Easter dessert, these cupcakes would make a great addition to a brunch table. There is a lot of green food coloring. The coffee gives the chocolate a deeper taste. They are pretty and elegant on a cake stand.

¼ C. brewed coffee, cooled
 2 T. baking cocoa
 1½ C. flour
 1 t. baking powder
 ½ t. baking soda
 ½ t. salt
 1 C. sugar
 ¼ C. unsalted butter, softened
 ¼ C. canola oil
 1 egg
 ½ C. buttermilk
 2 T. green food coloring
 1 t. vanilla

Frosting:
 ½ C. unsalted butter, softened
 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
 1 t. vanilla
 ½ t. salt
 3½ C. powdered sugar
 Green sugar for decorating

Preheat oven to 350. Line a 12-cup muffin pan with paper liners. In a small glass measuring cup, whisk together coffee and cocoa powder until combined; set aside. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt; set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer, cream sugar and butter for 3 to 4 minutes until smooth and pale in color. Add the egg, buttermilk, food coloring and vanilla; beat another 2 minutes until evenly combined. Gradually add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture, stirring after each addition until no dry patches remain. Stir in coffee/cocoa mixture until smooth. Fill each muffin cup about 2/3 full with batter. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Remove from muffin tin and transfer to a wire rack to cool.

In a stand mixer, beat butter and cream cheese for 3 to 4 minutes or until smooth and fluffy. Add vanilla and salt; beat another 30 seconds. On low speed, gradually add powdered sugar and continue to mix until completely combined. Fill a pastry bag fitted with a large star or round tip with frosting. Pipe a generous swirl of frosting on top of each cooled cupcake. Decorate with green sugar.

Lena Town Garage Sales

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

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Deadline to sign up is Monday, April 21!
 Please Sign Up EARLY. Early Registration is Appreciated!!

Illinois State Police targets human trafficking

ISP Director to testify at Senate Criminal Law Committee on SB 2323

The Illinois State Police (ISP) continues to combat trafficking, including human trafficking. ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly, along with key stakeholders representing human trafficking survivors, law enforcement, and support service providers, will appear before the Senate Criminal Law Committee today to speak to Senate Bill 2323. The proposed legislation includes development of a strategic plan to improve the victim-centered, trauma-informed law enforcement response to individuals who have been trafficked, as well as developing training standards for detection, investigation, and response to human trafficking.

"Human trafficking can come in many forms, from

commercial sex acts to forced labor," said Director Kelly. "Because human trafficking has many faces and can happen almost anywhere, it is important to have a comprehensive, statewide trauma-informed response that encompasses those who may come in contact with individuals who are being trafficked, such as law enforcement, child services, case workers, treatment providers, and others."

To combat human trafficking, one of the most underreported and under-identified crimes, the ISP Trafficking Enforcement Bureau (TEB) conducted seven human trafficking demand suppression operations in 2024, resulting in 31 arrests and 90 criminal charges.

2024 human trafficking details

- Bloomington – Number of arrests: 1; Number of charges: 2
- Carbondale – Number of arrests: 6; Number of charges: 18
- Columbia – Number of arrests: 5; Number of charges: 22
- Danville – Number of arrests: 5; Number of charges: 16
- Effingham – Number of arrests: 5; Number of charges: 7
- Rockford – Number of arrests: 6; Number of charges: 18
- Yorkville – Number of arrests: 3; Number of charges: 7

Charges filed during the seven operations include Indecent Solicitation of a Child, Traveling to Meet a Child, Grooming, Solicitation to Meet a Child, Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Armed Violence – all of which are felonies. In addition to the demand suppression operations, ISP obtained charges in three more cases, including charges of Involuntary Servitude and Promoting Prostitution.

Since TEB's creation in 2022, more than 1,200 ISP officers have received human trafficking awareness training, and more than 130

officers have been trained in advanced investigative techniques related to human trafficking investigations. In 2024, ISP partnered with the Texas Department of Public Safety to provide Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) training for front-line officers to recognize signs a child may be a victim, at-risk of victimization, or missing.

See TRAFFICKING, Page 20

•Kitchen

(Continued from page 14)

Chocolate Angel food Cake

If you have ever been to a Lena Methodist event, you probably had a chocolate angel food cake. It was an old standby of Flo Chapin. It is generally a favorite because it is so different from an ordinary angel food cake. It is a great cake for spring. Enjoy this wonderful variation of angel food cake. It is beautiful on a cake stand!

- 1½ C. egg whites (about 10)
- ¾ C. cake flour
- 1½ C. plus 2 T. sugar, divided
- ¼ C. baking cocoa
- 1½ t. cream of tartar
- ½ t. vanilla
- ¼ t. salt

Frosting

2 C. heavy whipping cream
1 C. powdered sugar
½ C. baking cocoa
Dash of salt
Preheat oven to 350. Place egg whites in a large bowl and let stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Sift the flour ¾ C. sugar plus 2 T and cocoa three times. Set aside.

Add cream of tartar, vanilla and salt to egg whites. Beat on medium speed until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar, about 2 T. at a time, beating on high until glossy peaks form and sugar is dissolved. Gradually fold in flour mixture about ¼ C. at a time. Mixture will be thick. Gently spoon in an ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Cut through the batter with a knife to remove air pockets. Bake on the lowest oven rack at 350 for 40 to 45 minutes and top is lightly browned, and entire top is completely dry. Immediately invert pan; cool completely about an hour. Run

knife around side and center tube of pan. Remove cake to a serving plate or cake stand.

Frosting: In a large mixing bowl, beat cream until it begins to thicken. Add the sugar, cocoa, and salt. Beat until soft peaks form. Frost top and sides of cake.

Final Thoughts

Congratulations to the cast and crew of the Le-Win musical on their successful production. We are so lucky to have live theater in our area; it is truly due to the dedication of the students and directors who make these productions possible.

Remember that there is Lenten music on Wednesdays at the Lena Evangelical Free Church and Lenten luncheons and devotions at the Pearl City Methodist Church. We continue to have baseball and softball games along with track meets. These athletes deserve a lot of credit for working so hard in not very good conditions.

Don't forget the Lena Area Historical Society's Annual Dinner and Raffle. It is April 24 at the Lena Community Center. The speaker is Alan Wenzel, and he will present the history of The Lena State Park and how it came to be. The price of the dinner is \$40.00; the tickets can be purchased at Engels, the Lena Mercantile, or Cindy's Beauty Shop.

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.

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

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Oral Cancer Awareness Month

As April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month, I want to share that there is a concerning rise in oral cancer rates, particularly among younger adults. The American Cancer Society estimates that 59,660 United States' citizens will be diagnosed with oral and oropharyngeal cancers this year. They also project 12,770 deaths from these cancers. The increase in cancers of young adults primarily involves cancers of the tongue, tonsils, and oropharynx, which are often associated with the human papilloma virus (HPV). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 70% of oropharyngeal cancers are associated with HPV. Oral cancers can occur on



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

the lips, tongue, floor of the mouth, cheeks, gums, roof of the mouth, tonsils, salivary glands, pharynx, larynx, paranasal sinuses, and nasal cavity. As with all cancers, early diagnosis contributes to improved prognosis and survival rates. Every patient should be screened for oral and oropharyngeal cancer and precursor lesions during their dental exam. During an oral cancer screening, your dentist

will examine the oral cavity, the oropharynx (which includes the soft palate, the base of the tongue, the tonsils, and lateral and posterior pharyngeal walls), and the lymph nodes of the neck. Warning signs of cancer or precancerous lesions include, but are not limited to, frequent bleeding in the mouth, a lump or dense tissue in the cheek or neck, a mouth ulcer or sore that does not heal, patches of red or white irregular spots, persistent pain or numbness in the mouth or lips, difficulty chewing, swallowing or moving the tongue or jaw, a lesion on the tonsil and/or one tonsil significantly larger than the other and enlarged lymph nodes. If oral cancer has spread to nearby tissues, you may also

experience a persistent sore throat, the sensation that you have a constant lump in your throat, persistent hoarseness, difficult and/or painful swallowing, swollen lymph nodes in your neck, ear pain, and unexplained weight loss.

It is important for the public to know that in its' early stages, oral cancers rarely cause any pain. If you have any of these warning signs, do not wait until your next dental exam to contact your dentist. Do not assume that a lack of pain means you can put off an exam or recommended biopsy and diagnostic tests. A biopsy and diagnostic tests will provide a definitive diagnosis and guide treatment going forward. Often, oral cancer

is only discovered when it has metastasized to another location. The prognosis at this stage of discovery is significantly worse than when it is caught in a localized intraoral area.

Known risk factors include any form of tobacco use and alcohol consumption, with a 30-fold increased risk for individuals who both smoke and drink heavily. As mentioned above, HPV infection of the mouth and throat, believed to be transmitted through sexual contact, is conclusively implicated in the increasing incidence of young, non-smoking oropharyngeal cancer patients. Unfortunately, oropharynx cancers caused by

HPV do not produce visible lesions or discolorations that have historically been the early warning signs of the disease process in the anterior (front) of the mouth. The public should be aware that the HPV vaccination could prevent more than 90% of these cancers from ever developing.

In addition to the oral cancer exam that your dentist performs, you are encouraged to do a monthly self-exam of your mouth, looking for anything new, abnormal, or persisting. Keep in mind that while people with oropharyngeal cancer often do not have oral symptoms, they may develop/notice a lump on their neck. A dedicated website, www.checkyourmouth.org has been established to show you how to perform a self-exam. This simple how-to-video is user friendly and extremely easy to follow. The idea of self-exams is not new and has already proven to be quite effective in helping to detect breast and skin cancers.

Prevention, education, and early detection are critical in the fight against oral cancer. Stop smoking, minimize alcohol consumption, get vaccinated against HPV, eat a balanced diet, practice good oral hygiene, have regular dental exams, perform regular oral cancer self-exams, and contact your dentist if you have any questions or concerns.

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LIVE AUCTION

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SATURDAY, APRIL 19 • 9:30 A.M.

5999 N. COX RD., STILLMAN VALLEY, IL

PREVIEW: FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.

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This will be a great auction with something for everyone. Mostly all SnapOn or Matco tools.

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: There will be a very small online bidding catalog. Check www.KitsonAuctions.com for more information.

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Friday, April 4 - Wednesday, April 9, 6 p.m. (Soft Close)

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Pick up only: Friday, April 11 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

and Saturday, April 12 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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4-H Fun Day: Doing, thinking, and creating

Jo Daviess County 4-H Fun Day will be held on Monday, April 21, 2025, at the Elizabeth Community Building in Elizabeth, IL. Sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension, this event will include hands-on learning activities that will have kids DOING,

THINKING, and CREATING! This event will be offered at no cost to families.

Everyone in Kindergarten through 12th grade is welcome, so grab a friend. Participants do not need to be 4-H members to participate.

Participants in the 3rd-12th grade will have fun in the following workshops. The "Tie-Dye Your Way" will allow participants to express their creativity and learn tying techniques to create unique patterns while having fun. In the "Omelet Mastery" workshop, participants will learn to make an omelet, choose the best ingredients, and find fun ways to present. Our "Chain Reaction Fun" workshop will have participants creating intricate chain reactions using dominoes! Finally, participants will enjoy the "Pressed Flowers" workshop and learn to press flowers and other types of preservation. Participants will make a one-of-a-kind project to take home and enjoy flowers from the garden all year round.

Kindergarten-2nd graders will have an experience created just for them during our Cloverbud session. Participants will explore the world of art, play games, make snacks, and enjoy some hands-on activities that are fun and engaging related to STEM. They will spend their time jumping from one activity to the next.

All participants will enjoy our "Animal Encounter" as they get up close and personal with our 4-H members' animal projects, rabbits? Register and see.

Interested youth may register and review each workshop's details by visiting our website at <https://go.illinois.edu/JDC4-HFunDay> or by calling the Extension Office at 815-858-2273. Pre-registration is required, and spots are limited. Registration will be on a "first-come, first-serve" basis. Registration closes on April 15.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC Plaintiff vs. GLORIA MENDOZA; U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ND; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant

24 FC 1 CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercountry 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 SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT 521.75 FEET WEST OF THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 12 ON THE SOUTH SECTION LINE, AND RUNNING THENCE 544.15 FEET WEST ON SOUTH SECTION 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 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. EXCEPT THE SOUTH 66 FEET THEREOF. SITUATED IN HARLEM TOWNSHIP. STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. P.I.N. 08-13-12-300-004. Commonly known as 1616 W. WINNESHIEK 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 Sec-

tion 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 I3262535

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 19, 26, April 2, 2025) 469143

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on April 17, 2025 at approx. 1:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com Cube 1078 Cami McElroy; Cube 1100 Keeona Newton; Cube 1297 Sherman Dean; Cube 1321 Ebony Hewitt; Cube 1447 Deborah Horton; Cube 1513 Gary Hunt

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 26, April 2, 2025) 469327

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY-IN PROBATE In Re the Matter of the Estate of: Janet S. Lindenman, Deceased.

No.25-PR-27 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS Notice is given of the death of Janet S.Lindenman of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on March 17, 2025, to:

Laura M. Hartney 1930 W. Church Freeport, IL 61032 as independent Administrator of the Estate of Janet S. Lindenman, whose attorney is Anthony V. Coon Attorney At law

10 N. Galena Ave., Ste.210 Freeport, Illinois 61032 The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 28.4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before September 26, 2025, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Date: March 18, 2025.

Laura M. Hartney, Administrator By: Anthony V. Coon, Attorney At Law Anthony V. Coon, #6269568 Attorney at Law 1078 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210 Freeport, IL 61032 815-235-2212 Fax 815-232-5500 tonycoonlaw@aol.com

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 26, April 2, 9, 2025) 469495

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 vs. CAROLYN S. GRAHAM; VILLAGE 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:

LOT 316 IN THE VILLAGE OF CEDARVILLE, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF CEDARVILLE, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

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.

THE 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 the court.

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 information.

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 con-

firming 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)(4).

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

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@johnsonblumberg.com Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711 JB&A # IL 24 1073 I3262545

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Vicki Vanderwerff, Director of Advertising
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444841

real estate

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, familial/ 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 advertisement for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-900-669-9777. The toll-free tele phone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275. EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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This Institution in an Equal Opportunity Provider.



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business & service

Auctions

April All-Must-Go Auction

Saturday-Sunday, April 12-13

Starts at 10 am CT

Preview noon-5 pm on Friday, April 11

Live in Union, Illinois & Online at

DonleyAuctions.com

Call Randy Donley to Consign at 815-790-9435
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LAWN - GRAVEL CLEAN UP
Will do Gravel Clean up \$60. and
up per lawn/household. Call or
text Isaac at 815-291-2076.

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2001 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE 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 262-496-5739.

2010 CADILLAC DTS Mint condition inside & out. No issues, just turned 140,000 miles. Asking \$6,800. 262-742-4333.

2012 HONDA CIVIC 5 spd manual trans, A/C, Cruise, roof rack, hitch, 125K. \$6,000 OBO No Dealers! Text to inquire 920-723-2148.

2016 VW PASSAT SE Excellent cond, inside & out, no rust, remote start, tinted windows, newer Michelin tires. 2nd owner. Well maintained. Dave @ 262-325-2457.

FIND YOUR NEXT RIDE
IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

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

Boats

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

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

Motorcycles

1994 350 SUZUKI CLIMBER Asking \$1300. Call/text (262) 210-3147

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.

Burial Needs

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

Agriculture

DEER HUNTING LEASE Three deer hunters looking to lease property for Archery deer hunting. Call Bob 630-306-7454.

estate sales

Estate Sale - rain or shine

April 4th - 6th • 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

454 S. Mapes Dr., Stockton, IL

Bedroom furniture, chairs, bar stools, lamps, and outdoor furniture. Kitchen items including glassware, vintage cornflower corning ware, air fryer, electric blender, cooking and baking items. Household decorations, holiday items, bedding and towels. Miscellaneous antique items, tools, and safe. Severe weather date April 11th - 13th

469563

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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.

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ADDRESS _____

46-4287

Auction Deadline is Noon Friday!

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

Venison is game changer for fighting food insecurity

By Hannah Spangler
FARMWEEK

Hunters Feeding Illinois is taking a shot at tackling food insecurity throughout the state by connecting hunters, meat processors and food pantries.

During the 2024-25 deer hunting season, the program provided 24,278 pounds of venison to 54 local food pantries.

Hunters donated 584 deer to 20 local meat processors, increasing access to lean protein across central and southern Illinois.

"All of the venison that is donated stays local, which we're really proud of, and the funding that is raised also stays local," said Kaitlyn Streitmatter, a senior manager of Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education at University of Illinois Extension. "It's hunting that's happening locally, supporting our local families and local meat processors."

The process starts when a hunter donates meat to a local food processor. Streitmatter noted that the program helps address the deer nuisance issue, especially in areas where hunting is popular and venison is relevant to the community. Hunters who have more meat than they need can donate it to families in their communities.

"This is a way that hunters can use their passion of hunting and then also give back to their community by donating the excess deer that they are unable to use at home," said Meredith Probst, U of I Extension SNAP-Education educator.

Following the donation, Feeding Illinois financially supports the food processors who turn harvested deer



Ross Osterday, University of Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program education community worker, is pictured with venison packages.

into ground meat. Probst explained that in past years U of I Extension would reimburse meat processors, but partnering with Feeding Illinois helps the reimbursement process run smoother.

"With our partnership with Feeding Illinois, they can actually reimburse our meat processors on a monthly basis, a weekly basis or however many invoices the meat processors sent to Feeding Illinois, they were able to reimburse on more of a streamlined and faster process than what our process was the past two years," Probst told FarmWeek.

Streitmatter added that the deer donation program included in Illinois Senate Bill 2160 would further streamline the reimbursement process. If passed, the legislation would

establish the Hunter Food Bank Fund to support grants for food banks to pay processors for donated deer.

Hunters Feeding Illinois also helps food processors find food pantries for partnerships. U of I Extension provides education on venison to the food pantries, including recipes, tastings, food safety instructions and handouts to help clients prepare the meat at home.

The goal is to expand the reach of the Hunters Feeding Illinois program. It has already grown from 11 to 44 counties in three years, but Probst and Streitmatter hope to see it become a statewide program.

"If a county is interested, if there's a meat processor, if there is a food pantry, then we're open to expanding to

that county," Probst said, adding that the only stipulation is that deer cannot be accepted from counties facing Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). "If the county does not have CWD, you can donate to a partnering meat processor within the program, in any of the participating counties."

Hunters, meat processors or food pantries interested in getting involved can visit extension.illinois.edu/food/hunters-feeding-illinois for more information. Donations to the Hunters Feeding Illinois program can also be made through the website.

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

REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS
SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING, INC
Plaintiff
vs.
GLORIA MENDOZA; U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ND; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS
Defendant

24 FC 1
CALENDAR
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on April 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. WINNESHIEK 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 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 THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS INC., PLAINTIFF
vs.
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.

THE 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 the court.

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 information.

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)(4).

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

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: ilplendings@johnsonblumberg.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) 469142

Rite-Way's APRIL HOME MAKEOVER SALE

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PLUS! DON'T MISS! BLUE TAG Discounts,
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20 E. Stephenson St., Downtown Freeport
815-235-4911 • ritewayfreeport.com
Mon-Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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<p>BEDROOM SETS 5 piece sets starting as low as \$999⁹⁵</p>	<p>ROCKERS, GLIDERS & OCCASIONAL CHAIRS Over 20 in stock starting as low as \$429⁹⁵</p>
<p>RECLINERS starting as low as \$439⁹⁵ Over 50 to choose from!</p>	<p>DINING ROOM SETS starting as low as \$629⁹⁵ Over 50 other sets in stock!</p>
<p>KITCHEN APPLIANCES All Appliances on Sale</p>	<p>MATTRESSES All Therapeutic & Serta Sets are on Sale!</p>

Ask about 6 or 12 month and Beyond Financing

Trafficking (Continued from 15)

ISP continues to develop and support victim-centered human trafficking investigations and plans to conduct at least one operation each month. ISP works closely with local law enforcement and community organizations to provide essential services to those who have been trafficked, including medical, mental, and substance use treatment, as well as food,

clothing, short and long-term housing, financial aid, and help obtaining legal assistance. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are victims of trafficking worldwide, including in the United States and in Illinois. The signs of human trafficking can be subtle. To learn more, visit Recognizing the Signs on the National Human

Trafficking Hotline website at humantraffickinghotline.org/en/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs.

If you suspect human trafficking, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text *233733. For more information, visit www.humantraffickinghotline.org. You can also email ISP.CrimeTips@illinois.gov.

Illinois Extension upcoming programs

Join the University of Illinois Extension for several upcoming programs on various topics. All of the programs listed below will be held at the Jo Daviess County Extension Office, 204 N. Vine Street, Elizabeth, IL and pre-registration is requested. To register or for more information on any of these programs, visit us online at go.illinois.edu/jsw or call the Extension Office at 815-858-2273.

Rainwater Management in the Home Landscape is being held on April 8 at 1:30 p.m. There is a \$5 fee to attend. Learn about options to put rainwater diverted from the hardscapes in your yard to use instead of lost as runoff. We will discuss how rain

gardens, bioswales, and other structures can be designed into your landscape to retain this valuable resource.

Vermicomposting is being held on April 15 at 1:30 p.m. There is a \$5 fee to attend. This is a cool compost method that utilizes your kitchen scraps to transform into compost that you can then use for your houseplants, vegetables, garden beds, and seed starting. This class will look at the basics of getting started, discuss different bin options, maintaining your bin, troubleshooting, and utilizing your castings.

Ticks in Illinois is being held on April 15 at 6 p.m. There is no fee to attend. Learn about Dr. Steckler's research study on Ticks and have the opportunity to be a part of Citizen Science by volunteering to gather data on ticks.

Spring Centerpieces is be-

ing held on April 17 at 1:30 p.m. There is a \$30 fee to attend. Fresh-cut flowers are a great way to decorate your home or celebrate special occasions. Participants will learn the basics of designing with cut flowers and will then make a fresh spring-themed flower arrangement to take home with them.

Invasive Species is being held on April 29 at 1:30 p.m. There is a \$5 fee to attend. With warmer weather on the horizon, things are starting to green up. But are all of those plants you expected and want? Are there plants taking over your yard and landscape? If you have unwanted plants, now might be the best time to manage them before they become problematic. The primary focus of this spring workshop will be on vegetative plants easily identified and controlled prior to developing seeds.



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