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VOL. 87 • NO. 21

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025



PEARL CITY SCHOOLS #200 FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Pearl City Junior High Track and Field

The Pearl City Junior High Track and Field team competed in the IESA 1A Sectional Meet on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Many athletes set personal records, and several are headed to the IESA State Meet next weekend. Advancing to the state

meet are the seventh-grade boys 4x200 relay team of Dylan Lower, Carter McColley, Eli Pickard, and Rylen Hofmaster, Aubri Mefford in the 1600, and Jayvion Wool in the long jump, 100m, and 200m. Congratulations, Pearl City athletes

## Stephenson County celebrates International Museum Day

In celebration of International Museum Day on May 18, the Greater Freeport Partnership invites residents and visitors to explore the rich heritage, art, and playfulness of Stephenson County through its distinctive local museums. This year's celebration offers a chance to discover hidden gems and honor the institutions preserving the region's stories and culture.

### Participating museums

**Cedarville Area Historical Society** (450 2nd Street, Cedarville) will be open 1 - 4 p.m. highlighting Jane Addams exhibits as well as hosting a representative from the Stephenson County Genealogical Society.

**German Valley Historical Society Museum** (805 Church Street, German Valley) will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. and feature the former Beuth home along

with a representative from the Stephenson County Genealogical Society.

**Lena Area Historical Society** (427 West Grove Street, Lena) will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. with to view current displays as well as a new exhibit, Lena Photo Postcard Display.

**McConnell Area Historical Society** (202 W. Main Street, McConnell) will open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and feature local advertising memorabilia.

**Pearl City Historical Organization** will soon open in their new location at 126 South Main Street, Pearl City. Stop by in August to check out their great space.

**Rock Run Country Historical Society Museum** (201 N. Main, Rock City) will be open 1 to 4 p.m. highlighting Main Street businesses through the

years in Davis, Dakota, Rock Grove and Rock City.

**Silver Creek Museum** (2954 S. Walnut Rd, Freeport) will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. with 28 rooms of history.

**Stephenson County Historical Society** (1400 S. Carroll Avenue, Freeport) will open noon to 4 p.m. for tours of the many buildings and

grounds and the gift shop will be open as well.

**Winslow Historical Society and Museum** (606 Bridge Street, Winslow) will open 1 to 4 p.m. with an array of local memorabilia including photos of local historic buildings.

For more information, visit [greaterfreeport.com/intlmuseumday](http://greaterfreeport.com/intlmuseumday).

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# Church news

## Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. Join on Sunday, May 18, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. The Gospel will be from Gospel John 13:31-35.

On Wednesday, May 21 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 of Easter on Sunday, May 18 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, May 22 at 1 p.m. and dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, June 3 at 9 a.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, June 4 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport.

The May Grace Meal will be on Sunday, May 18. The menu will be barbeque, chips, three-bean salad, and Rice Krispy treat. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, May 15. Meals can be picked up at the church on May 18 between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. If you are interested in donating to this ministry, reach out to the church office

for more information.

The social ministry committee will be having a collection for the ELCA Good Gifts project through June 1. If you would like to donate to this project, please contact the church office.

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

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

## Salem United Church of Christ

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

The Breakfast Bunch meets every Wednesday at 8 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join, please check the newsletter, Sunday bulletin or Facebook page for location information.

Craftersnoon is held every third Wednesday from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the lower level of the church. This space is handicap accessible, and all are welcome to join. During this event, enjoy snacks, crafting and good company. There is plenty of space to spread out a large project or to work on something small.

For more information on any Salem related items, you can contact 815-369-4511 or [ruth.dake@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.dake@gmail.com).

# Longtime Chicago friend describes first American pope as 'very dedicated'

*The Rev. Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, hails from Chicago's South Side*

By Beth Hundsdofer  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

As the red velvet curtains at the Vatican parted, a priest realized that his college pal from the South Side of Chicago that he knows as "Bob" had been elected the first American pope.

"Oh, dear God," the Very Rev. Anthony Benedetto Pizzo, the prior provincial of the Augustinian Order in Chicago, said as he heard the news.

Pizzo knew Robert Prevost could be named Pope, but it was an outside chance. Prevost was just named

cardinal in 2023. Pope Francis named Prevost the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, whose job it is to vet potential bishops. His name had come up a few times to succeed Pope Francis, Pizzo said, but he wasn't a named favorite.

"We were waiting with bated breath to see what would happen," Pizzo said, speaking from Southern Italy, in an interview with Capitol News Illinois.

Pizzo watched as his friend was introduced to the world as Pope Leo XIV. It was the same man he knew in

college, seminary and throughout his career—a man dedicated to his faith and his friends.

Pizzo planned to travel to Rome on May 9, but was unsure whether he would see his old friend. He had known Prevost since the men were undergraduates studying at Villanova University in Philadelphia.

Prevost was one of three brothers living in Dolton on the far South Side. One brother remains in Chicago.

**See POPE, Page 9**

## Obituaries

### JENNIFER HUNEKE

Jennifer A. Huneke, age 57, of Kent, IL passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 6, at the Allure Nursing Home in Stockton, IL. The daughter of Larry and Sher'e "Tootie" (Brown) Huneke she was born on Sept. 15, 1967, in Freeport, IL.

Jennifer graduated from Pearl City High School in 1986. She enjoyed playing bingo, doing crossword puzzles, and helping at the Stephenson County Fair, where



she was a Baked Goods Superintendent for many years. She always looked forward to spending time with her family and going to various family events. Jennifer was a long-time member at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena, IL.

Jennifer is survived by her two brothers- John Huneke and Jason (Kori) Huneke, both of Lena, IL; Niece and Nephews- Chase (Cassi) Huneke and daughter Willow, Jade (Mariah Katzenberger) Huneke, Reid (Jessica Kaiser) Huneke and their son who is on the way, and Sage (C.J. Wilson) Huneke. She is preceded in death by her parents.

The family would like to give a special thank you to the staff at Allure Nursing

Home in Stockton, IL for the wonderful care they have given Jennifer throughout her stay there.

Funeral Service took place on Saturday, May 10, at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena, IL. Pastor Thomas Mosbo officiated the services. Burial took place at the Lena Burial Park in Lena, IL. A memorial has been established in her memory. Condolence may be sent to the family at [www.lemmaonfh.com](http://www.lemmaonfh.com).

### LAVERNE MAE KAMPMEIER

LaVerne Mae Kampmeier, 94 of Lena, passed away on Saturday, May 3, at Manor Court in Freeport, IL. She was born on Jan. 30, 1931, in Rockford, IL. to Clinton and Marie (Bier) Royster. LaVerne attended school in Freeport, growing up on High Street. In her younger years, she worked as a carhop at Millers Drive Inn, before it was A & W, and met the love of her life, Eugene Kampmeier. They married on Jan. 2, 1949. Following a month-long honeymoon to Miami, they settled in Freeport and she found employment at S.S. Kresge Five & Dime Store. They moved to Pearl City and started a family, later moving



to Lena. To this union, three children were born: Connie, Cindy, and Steven. In addition to raising her family, after the children were older, she went to work at Heine Plastics, and later at Newell Manufacturing, where she retired after over 30 years as a clerk in the shipping department. Together, they traveled many consecutive years to the same resort near Siren, Wisconsin, and several trips to Florida, but always driving there. Garage Sales were a favorite thing for them to do.

After her husband passed

away, she took several trips, including Hawaii, Switzerland, England and Australia, since he never wanted to fly. She loved going to Tama and Green Bay on the gambling buses but also would try her luck at some local establishments. She took time to visit many people in nursing homes, enjoyed making afghans, doing word search puzzles, playing Bingo and card games.

She was a member of St John's Lutheran Church, first in Pearl City and then in Lena. She enjoyed helping with the annual beef noodle dinner at the Lena St. John's Lutheran Church. Also, she was a member of the Eagles Auxiliary in Freeport.

Survivors include two daughters, Connie Loberg, Cindy (Gary) Cross; a daughter-in-law, Shirley Kampmeier; a brother, Duain Royster; and a sister-in-law, Janis Kampmeier. Her grandchildren are David (Andrea)

Loberg, Scott (Angela) Loberg, and Lori (Darrel) Stukenberg, Thomas and Karl Kampmeier. Great-grandchildren are Jenna and Dylan Stukenberg; Cassidy, Ceanna, Mia, and Melody Loberg. She has two great-great-grandsons, Aiden and Braylon. She has many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Preceding her in death were her parents, husband in 1999, a son, Steven, and a son-in-law Richard Loberg.

Visitation and funeral was held on Tuesday, May 13, at Burke Tubbs Funeral Home in Freeport. Pastor Jason Shaw officiated the services, with David Offerman assisting. Burial will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport. The family would like to thank the entire staff at Liberty Village for their compassionate care during her time there and also, the caring FHN Hospice team. A memorial fund has been established.

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## Thank You

A special thank you to everyone who reached out to our family after the loss of Jack. We especially appreciate the visits, prayers, and support these past years, as well as now. Your thoughtfulness has brought comfort during this difficult time.

The family of Jack Reel  
Jeannie, Tina, Jen, and Tim

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## ***Around the Northern Hills***

May is National Beef Month. This is especially important in Jo Daviess County. Did you know that our county is the largest producer of beef cattle in the state? From the farmers to the processors, thousands of Americans plan an integral part in the journey of beef from field to market, and we celebrate all those involved in the process throughout May with National Beef Month. Doesn't it seem like the perfect excuse to fire up the grill with a steak or a burger? While you're at it, thank your friendly Jo Daviess County beef producers for their part in making that possible.

## Pop tabs collection

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau is asking families, school groups, churches, and other organizations to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House of Iowa City. In turn the farm bureau will deliver the collected tabs to the Iowa City facility for its fundraising campaign.



House Charities provide a home-away-from-home for families whose children are hospitalized and seriously ill. We think the pull tab collection is wonderful cause and know that many people from this area doctor at Iowa City.

Please drop off collected tabs in any kind of container to the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

This recycling program is beneficial for everyone involved. It does not interfere with other can recycling programs and recycles a resource that might otherwise go to waste. More importantly, children and their families are being helped during their time of need.

## Policy development

The Illinois Farm Bureau grassroots policy development process provides every voting member the opportunity to make known their concerns about issues important to them. When properly supported through the grassroots policy development process, these concerns are considered and may be adopted by the voting delegates at the organization's annual meeting each December.

organization the following year.

If you have any issues or concerns that you think need to be addressed in Illinois Farm Bureau's policy, you are always welcome to address any of our board members or myself. We are always interested in what our members' concerns are.

## Young Leaders Committee

The Young Leaders are holding their annual "June Dairy Month" coloring contest. This is for kids up to second grade. If you would like a copy of the sheet, they are available at our office. Entries are due to our office by May 23.

### Farm Fun Fact

On any given day, one in eight Americans will eat pizza.

# American Legion Auxiliary news

The May meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary will meet on Wednesday, May 14 at the Lena American Legion Home at 6 p.m. The meeting will include the crowning of Miss Poppy, discussion of the Memorial Day breakfast, making tray favors for the hospitalized veterans, and planning poppy distribution. Dues will be collected. New members are always welcome. Rose Marie Bruegger is in charge of the social hour.

The Sons of the American Legion in Lena will hold their July Calendar Raffle to support the American Legion baseball teams. Tickets will be sold up to July 1 and are \$10 each. No more that 800 tickets will be sold, and each ticket is eligible to win in every drawing. Tickets are available by calling 815-369-4684 or can be purchased at the American Legion Home on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



# Little Blackhawks

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# Wildcats sweep West Carroll

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

It has been a rough second-half of the 2025 baseball season for the River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats. After getting off to a 7-5 start, the Wildcats lost nine consecutive matchups. They didn't bounce back into the win column until their record had already fallen to 7-14 on the year.

Those wins came last week, when the Wildcats faced off with the West Carroll Thunder in a pair of games. It was just the matchup the Wildcats needed. If there was any team struggling more than them, it was the Thunder. West Carroll came into the week with a record of just 1-16.

You still have to play the game and get the job done, and the Wildcats did just that. On Tuesday, May 6 the Wildcats played host to the Thunder for their first matchup. IT was a game that was dominated by the RR-SM bats. They scored in all five of their appearances at the plate as they made quick work of the Thunder.

The Wildcats' big inning came in the fourth when they put up four runs. Garrett Leonard and Mason Smith both hit singles to get the inning going. Later on, Sam Rife singled to center, keeping them in business. Camden Flack drove in Joe Winter on a ground out to second, putting RR-SM up 10-1.

Smith put the game away in the bottom

of the fifth. His single through the left side allowed Leonard to come into score, putting the Wildcats up by 10, and ending the game by mercy rule. RR-SM picked up the 11-1 win. It was their first victory in 24 days.

Rife led the way at the plate as he went three for three in the game. Smith was next up, going two for four with one run scored and two runs batted in. Winter also had two RBI as he went one for three in the game. Flack was one for three with one run scored and three RBI.

Damon Dittmar pitched all five innings for the Wildcats. In those innings, Dittmar allowed zero earned runs off five hits and one walk. He struck out seven as he collected the win from the mound.

Two days later, RR-SM was on the road as they went to face off with West Carroll for a second time. No matter the location, the Wildcats proved to be the better team on the field once again. They picked up another 10-run-rule victory as they beat the Thunder 13-3 in another blowout.

Winter was on the mound for this one. He collected the victory in another short day's work, throwing just five innings. Winter allowed just two earned runs off five hits and two walks in his start. He also picked up seven strikeouts in the win.

See WILDCATS, Page 10

# Hornets win third straight

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Scales Mound-River Ridge Hornets found themselves on the right side of a few softball games last week. SM-RR had a busy schedule with three games in four days, but that didn't slow them down. After two matchups with West Carroll and a road game in Wisconsin, the Hornets were buzzing as they came out as winners of three straight.

The Hornets came into the week with an overall record of 9-14. They hit a bit of a slump as they lost five consecutive games, including a brutal 4-5 loss to Galena. After getting their season off to a 9-9 start, SM-RR saw their record take a tumble.

The Hornets finally jumped back into the win column when they played host to the West Carroll Thunder on Tuesday, May 6. The Thunder brought a record of just 5-19 with them when they traveled to take on the Hornets.

In what turned out to be a low-scoring affair, the Hornets and Thunder put on an exciting matchup. SM-RR wasted little time in getting the scoreboard going when they took a lead in the first inning. Sarah Winter absolutely crushed a home run over the left field fence, putting the Hornets up 1-0.

Not only did the Hornet bats get off to a hot start, but Elizabeth Rife was dealing from the pitcher's circle. Rife allowed just one hit throughout the first three innings of the game. Despite taking the early lead, the Hornets would end up needing Rife's dominant pitching performance.

SM-RR added to their lead in the bottom of the second. After Amber Schlarmann

reached on a single, Rife laid down a bunt. What ensued was pure chaos as an error by the West Carroll catcher allowed Schlarmann to round the bases, putting the Hornets up 2-0.

After two innings of play, it looked like SM-RR was going to run away with a victory. They were unable to keep the bats hot, however. The Hornets didn't register a single hit for three straight innings as West Carroll clawed their way back into the game.

At the end of the fifth, West Carroll tied the game 2-2. It wasn't until the bottom of the sixth that the Hornets finally came back to life. Once again, it was Schlarmann making things happen. Her line drive to right allowed Alice McGovern to score what would eventually be the game's winning run.

Rife shut things down the rest of the way as SM-RR held on to win by a score of 3-2. Rife pitched a complete game with just one earned run allowed off four hits. Rife struck out seven and walked zero in the win.

At the plate, Schlarmann led the way. She had two of the Hornet's three hits as she finished the day going two for three with one run scored and one run batted in. Winter was next up going one for

three with one RBI as well.

The Hornets had a much more comfortable performance when they faced off with the Thunder, just two days later. This time, the Hornets were on the road. Despite that, they nearly tripled their offensive production with nine hits and eight runs. A Stadel had a big day at the plate, going two for four with one run scored and two RBI. Schlarmann had another two-hit game. Rife went two for three with two runs scored. K Bilderb was one for three with a walk and one RBI as the Hornets won 8-2.

On Friday, May 9 the Hornets traveled to take on Benton-Shullsburg. It was another low-scoring affair, but once again, the Hornets found a way to come out on top. It took quite some time as the game went into extra innings. Thirteen innings it wound up taking to decide a winner, but the Hornets managed to bring in two runs in the top of the inning. It was another big hit from Winter as her two-run double wound up giving the Hornets the 3-1 victory.

Rife put some serious work in last week. After two complete games against

See HORNETS, Page 11

# Stockton athletes look to compete at the next level

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

Three Stockton athletes recently signed their letters of intent to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Bryce Grube, Madalyn Mammoser, and Kacy Wright all plan to compete at the next level.

Grube, an offensive and defensive lineman for the Blackhawks, plans to continue his football career at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Grube helped revive Blackhawks' football over the last two seasons. After the Blackhawks went 4-5 during his junior year, Grube returned to help lead Stockton to a much better 7-4 record as a senior. A five-game winning streak, including a postseason victory over Princeville, was the highlight of the Blackhawks' 2024 season. Grube joins a Loras program that is hoping for a revival of their own. In 2024, Loras went just 2-8 on the season.

Madalyn Mammoser will be continuing her volleyball career at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Mammoser earned All-Conference honors in three consecutive seasons.

As a sophomore, Mammoser was an NUIC All-Conference Honorable Mention. As a junior, Mammoser made Second Team All-Conference. After being named a team captain in 2024, Mammoser proved herself once again by earning a First Team All-Conference selection.

Kacy Wright is set to continue her volleyball career at the University of Dubuque. Wright was another key piece of the puzzle to what Stockton Volleyball has become in recent years. In the same class as Mammoser, Wright was another four-year starter who dominated from the start. As a sophomore, Wright earned a Second Team All-Conference selection. She followed that up with another Second Team selection as a junior. Then, as a senior, Wright got a much-deserved First Team All-Conference selection. She was also a captain of the 2024 runner ups squad that set new heights for the Stockton Blackhawks.

Congratulations and good luck to Bryce, Madalyn, and Kacy as they look to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level.



Did you know the Village of Stockton offers two programs to jump start your spring To-Do list?

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EDITOR: Kathleen Cruger  
Advertising Sales: Cyndee Stiefel • lenaads@rvpublishing.com  
Telephone: 815-369-4112  
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# Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

May is Mental Health Awareness month. Farmers across our country, state and nation take such great care of the land and their livestock, but sometimes they forget to take care of themselves. During May and Mental Health awareness month, we want to remind farmers to put yourself first. A healthy farm needs a healthy you. If you or someone you know is struggling with stress, anxiety, depression, addiction, or other mental health challenges, you are not alone. Reach out and ask for help. For signs and symptoms, as well as helpful tools, resources, and hotlines, go to <https://www.ilfb.org/resources/farmer-rural-resources/mental-health-wellness/>.

In recent years, mental health has become a prevalent topic in our daily lives. The constant change and stress, compounded by the pandemic, have left many people feeling depressed or anxious, and farmers are no exception.

Fortunately, help is available through SIU Medicine's program designed to assist farmers and their families. The Farm Family Resource Initiative (FFRI) provides a network of support and resources, including a confidential 24/7 helpline (1-833-FARM-SOS) connecting you to health professionals who specialize in ag-related stress. These medical professionals live in Illinois and can relate to the local economy, weather, and other daily stressors specific to our region. In addition to text, email, and website services, telehealth counseling sessions are available for those in need of additional support. Up to six individual, couple, or group sessions are available, all at no cost to the farmer or farm family member thanks to grant funding.

FFRI also offers opportunities for healthcare professionals to learn more about farming-related issues and earn CME credits through its Rural Community Mental

Health program. The virtual training illuminates how mental and physical health issues can impact those working in farming and agriculture. To learn more, visit [siumed.edu/farm/events-and-webinars](http://siumed.edu/farm/events-and-webinars). The AgriSafe Nurse Scholar Program is also available to rural nurses through on-demand webinars, increasing their knowledge in the prevention, identification, and assessment of diseases related to agricultural work exposures. Find more details by visiting [learning.agrisafe.org/nurse-scholar-program](http://learning.agrisafe.org/nurse-scholar-program). Find more information about the FFRI at [siumed.org/farm](http://siumed.org/farm).

## Helping Hands: Community rallies for Food and Cleaning Supply Drives

As economic challenges persist, many families in our community struggle to afford essential household items, from nutritious food to basic cleaning supplies. Two vital community-driven

initiatives are launching to address this pressing need: The Nourish Your Neighbor Food Drive and the Sparkle and Shine Cleaning Supply Drive. Together, these efforts will provide families with the nourishment and cleaning essentials they need to maintain a healthy and dignified life.

Healthy food is a crucial part of a balanced diet, yet many food-insecure families struggle to access nutritious foods. The Nourish Your Neighbor Food Drive aims to bridge this gap by collecting non-perishable food items for distribution.

A clean home is vital for health and well-being, but for many struggling families,

cleaning supplies fall low on the priority list. The Sparkle and Shine Cleaning Supply Drive seeks to change that by collecting essential household cleaning items. By donating cleaning supplies, community members can help create healthier living environments for struggling families.

Both drives will continue until May 31. Community members can support the initiatives by dropping off food or cleaning supplies at the following locations: Dixon Park District, Dixon YMCA, Lee County Health Department, Mount Carroll Farm Bureau, Save-A-Lot in Rock Falls, and the Dixon City Market (only on May 28 from 4 p.m.

to 8 p.m., in front of the Discover Dixon office).

For more information, contact:

Marcia Cruse – SNAP-Ed Program Coordinator at University of Illinois Extension; email [marcruse@illinois.edu](mailto:marcruse@illinois.edu), phone 815-632-3611

Lupita Serrano – Emergency Response and Community Health Plan Coordinator, Lee County Health Department; email [lserrano@lchd.com](mailto:lserrano@lchd.com), phone 815-284-3371, ext. 2105

Jane Shaw, Carroll County 4-H Program Coordinator at University of Illinois Extension; email [janeshaw@illinois.edu](mailto:janeshaw@illinois.edu), phone 815-244-9444

# Pearl City Upperclassman Scholarship announcement

Pearl City Education Foundation (PCEF) is offering \$24,000 in Upperclassman Scholarships for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year. This program is for those Pearl City graduates who have successfully completed their first year of college, vocational, or trade school, and will be going into their second, third, or fourth year as a full-time stu-

dent. Current maximum to be awarded per student is \$1500.

Upperclassman Scholarship application forms are available in the State Bank of Pearl City lobby, in the Pearl City Public Library, on PCEF's Facebook page, or via the link on the Pearl City School's website home page at [www.pcwolves.net](http://www.pcwolves.net).

The deadline for receipt of

completed applications, with their required short essay, and most recent transcript(s) is July 1. Mail to Pearl City Education Foundation, Upperclassman Scholarships, P.O. Box 278, Pearl City, IL 61062. Complete, timely submissions are necessary for Upperclassman Scholarship consideration. PCEF has a 501(c)(3) tax status.

## HWY 64 AUCTIONS - ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS!

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ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS STARTING MONDAY MAY 12TH

MONDAY – FRIDAY 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM - SATURDAYS 8:00 AM UNTIL NOON

LAST DAY TO CONSIGN SATURDAY MAY 31<sup>ST</sup> AT NOON

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Orders must be turned in by Saturday, May 31

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or call Gary Meyers at 815-821-2400


Roses and carnations purchased through DeVoe Floral of Lena.

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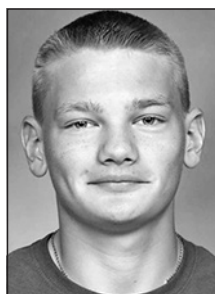
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# CONGRATS LE-WIN 2025 GRADUATES



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Albright**



**Jackson  
Barrett**



**Alexis  
Brookman**



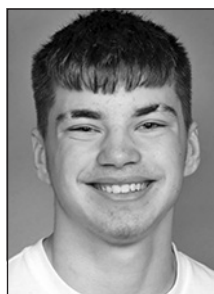
**Kale  
Buss**



**Maverick  
Cass**



**Madeline  
Chiles**



**Brody  
Crossno**



**Alyssa  
Daughenbaugh**



**Kegan  
DeZell**



**Jack  
Dickerson**



**Eden  
Dietz**



**Devon  
Dorsey**



**Benjamin  
Elber**



**Rhianna  
England**



**James  
Goebel**



**Jillian  
Goebel**



**Landon  
Grindey**



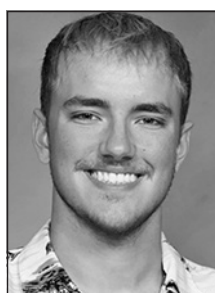
**Paige  
Hancock**



**Keegan  
Havens**



**Emily  
Kempel**



**Lucas  
Kempel**



**Cheyanna  
Kerr**



**Cienna  
Kerr**



**Ella  
Kerr**



**Kailea  
Knight**



**Alaina  
Knoll**



**Michael  
Kowalke**



**Jadden  
Lawrence**



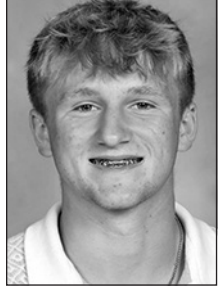
**Brittney  
Lawson**



**McKenna  
Leverton**



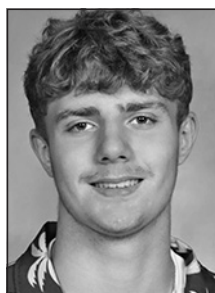
**Jaiden  
Loomis**



**Cobryn  
Lynch**



**Layla  
Mattson**



**Michael  
Mowery**



**Allie  
Oxley**



**Hannah  
Pecoraro**



**Reyana  
Pettinger**



**Ryan  
Pieper**



**Jaylen  
Rakowska**



**Lacie  
Reed**



**Adam  
Rochon**



**Madalyn  
Schierloh**



**Mika  
Schoger**



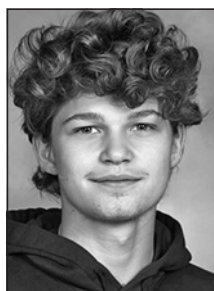
**Raymond-John  
Schulz**



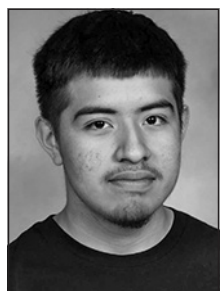
**Rachael  
Setterstrom**



**Jaxson  
Swift**



**Peighton  
Taft**



**David  
Vasquez**



# Pieper breaks Lena-Winslow boys track record

By Trenten Scheidegger  
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow boys track and field team had a big week last week. After hosting the Lena-Winslow Boys Gates Jamboree on Monday, May 5, the Panthers went on to compete in the Mike Mowen Invite on Friday, May 9.

The Le-Win boys track team has been on quite a run as of late. No pun intended, as the Panthers have climbed the

Illinois Running News (IRN) rankings. As of week 12, IRN had the Panthers ranked as the fourth best Class 1A boys track and field team. They sat just behind Bloomington CC, Morrison, and Tuscola.

One big reason for the excitement around the Panthers is their new record holder, Ryan Pieper. At the jamboree on Monday, Pieper ran the 1600 meter run with a time of 4:32.86. That was mere mil-

liseconds short of the Le-Win record, held by Kevin Hoffman.

The jamboree had some excellent competition. Out of 10 teams competing, the Panthers took second place with 161.5 team points. They fell just two points shy of the first-place team in the Galena Pirates.

Along with Pieper, the Panthers were boosted by some great performances. Jackson Barrett took third in the

400-meter run with a time of 54.77. RJ Schulz took third in the 3200-meter run with a time of 12:25.20. The Panthers 4x100 relay team, consisting of Alec Schlichting, Jaylen Rakowska, Tyree Davis, and Bryson Fransen, took home first place. Additionally, their team of Duncan Nevel, Gannon Dunker, Preston Schultz, and Luke Kempel won the throwers 4x100 relay. Dunker took home first place in the

shotput with a 15.34-meter throw.

After coming so close to breaking the record on Monday, it was no surprise that Pieper set his sights on that same record on Friday. It wasn't in front of the home crowd, but Pieper turned on the jets in Winnebago. He took home second-place in the 1600 meter run with a record-setting time of 4:32.21, just barely beating his Mon-

day performance. As the track postseason nears, Pieper has etched his name in the school record books with the fastest men's one-mile time.

Le-Win ran into some fierce competition in Winnebago. They wound up taking home third place with a team score of 74. Winnebago defended their home track with a first-place score of 146. Byron placed second with a score of 128.

## CONGRATS LE-WIN 2025 GRADUATES



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Vlasin



Cohen  
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Chloe  
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# Ag and Natural Resources scholarship available

Individuals who are or will be studying agriculture, natural resources, or related programs with an emphasis in conservation are encouraged to apply for the R. C. Miller Scholarship. The Stephenson County 4-H and Extension Foundation is seeking

individuals interested in applying for the scholarship for the 2025-2026 academic year. The chosen recipient will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

To be eligible to apply, individuals must be residents of Stephenson County and

enrolled in an agriculture, natural resources or related degree program. Applicants must be accepted at their chosen college or university and be a full-time student carrying a minimum of 12 hours per semester.

The scholarship was es-

tablished by R. C. Miller, a lifetime Stephenson County resident and ardent supporter of agriculture, natural resources and conservation. Miller, who died in 2007, left a legacy in the community to support a variety of programs and efforts, especially youth

and conservation causes.

To receive an application, please call the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson County Office at 815-235-4125. Completed applications are due by June 1, 2025, to the University of IL Extension, 2998 W. Pearl

City Rd, Freeport. The application can be emailed to applicants. The Stephenson County 4-H and Extension Foundation Board is responsible for selection of the scholarship winners. Past recipients may re-apply for consideration.

## CONGRATS ORANGEVILLE 2025 GRADUATES



**Ayden  
Attewell**



**Paxton  
Bastian**



**Britta  
Bissell**



**Lilyana  
Blakely**



**Alyse  
Cahoon**



**Delaney  
Cahoon**



**Mason  
Conrow**



**Alaina  
Dinderman**



**Jordan  
Doescher**



**Kaitlyn  
Farmer**



**Emma  
Frautschy**



**Katie  
Fryer**



**Boden  
Gustafson**



**Brittany  
Huerta**



**Bailly  
Jordan**



**Blake  
Jordan**



**Ella  
Kraft**



**Alexandar  
McDearmon**



**Wyatt  
Miller**



**Aydan  
Myers**



**Kaylynn  
O'Haver**



**Mason  
Raab**



**Alexandra  
Schmidt**



**Olivia  
Schroeder**



**Sophia  
Statfield**



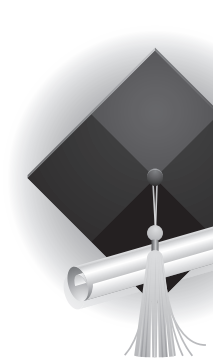
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# •Pope

(Continued from page 2)

The other lives in Florida. His father, a World War II veteran, was a teacher and school administrator, Pizzo said. His mother was a librarian.

Young Robert Prevost attended St. Mary of the Assumption Church, located on the Chicago-Dolton border, serving as an altar boy and attending the parish school.

"Bob is such a good friend. He was there throughout my life," Pizzo

said. "He was there when I made my vows, the death of my parents and my installation as a pastor."

The man who would become pope likes to drive and enjoyed long treks, driving back and forth to college with Pizzo, who described him as very open and an excellent companion.

Pizzo said his friend is down to earth, outgoing and well-rounded.

"He was very dedicated and applied himself in all

that he did," Pizzo said. The two men attended the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago in 1977. The new pope obtained a Master of Divinity degree.

Prevost began doing missionary work in Peru in 1985, serving in various roles including parish pastor, diocesan official, seminary teacher and administrator. He led an Augustinian seminary for a decade.

From 2001-2013, he served as prior general of the

Order of Saint Augustine. He was succeeded by his friend, Pizzo, who continues to serve in the role. In 2014, the young man who grew up in Chicago was appointed Bishop of Chiclayo, Peru.

He became a Peruvian citizen in 2015.

Prevost selected his name after Pope Leo XII, who was famous for his 1891 treatise that outlined rights of workers to a fair wage, safe working conditions and the formation of trade unions.

When Prevost became a cardinal in 2023, Sister Barbara Reid, president of the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, was in attendance. On Thursday, after the announcement, things got hectic at CTU.

Patrick Bittorf, vice president for development at CTU, was fielding calls and requests for media interviews.

"Well, we graduated a pope!" he said.

Pizzo said he hopes

his friend receives all the support he needs in his new role and that he continues to be as attentive as he has been, relying on God's grace.

And does the new pope have a favorite Chicago baseball team?

Pizzo said his friend is from the South Side and was likely a White Sox fan, but then demurred.

"I mean, we never went to a game or anything, but I would assume ..."

## CONGRATS RIVER RIDGE 2025 GRADUATES



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Bailey Boop



Hannah Bourrette



Jayleigh Bourrette



David Buck



Kelly Chapman



Kathryn Cobine



Kayla Diehl



Damon Dittmar



Zoe Eisenberg



Camden Flack



Brynn Fry



Aizlynn Griffiths



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## Juvenile arrest

On May 2, 2025, Officers of the Freeport Police Department received information that a 16-year-old male juvenile, who had an active warrant, made threats to shoot another juvenile at Freeport High School. Officers responded to the area around the high school and located the juvenile two blocks away near his residence. The juvenile fled on foot and entered a residence in the 600 Block

of W American. Officers on scene were able to convince the juvenile to exit the residence. As the juvenile exited the residence, officers attempted to place the juvenile into handcuffs, at which time the juvenile reached towards his waistband. He was then taken to the ground for handcuffing. A crowd who had formed began interfering in the arrest. Additionally, officers arrived, and two adult subjects were arrested during

the altercation. Alonzo Green was charged with Felony Aggravated Resisting Arrest and Kamaria Rhyne Rucker was charged with Obstructing and Resisting a Peace Officer. The male juvenile arrestee was taken to the Kane County Jail for detention.

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

doubt.

## Shots fired incident

On May 3, 2025, at 11:07 p.m., Freeport Police Officers responded to a Sound Thinking alert of two gunshots fired in the 1200 block of S. Oak Avenue. During the course of the investigation, Officers discovered that two individuals were standing near the street and it is believed one of the individuals shot at a dark colored SUV as it drove north on Oak Avenue. The two individuals then ran west behind a house in the 1200 block of S. Oak Avenue.

On May 4, 2025, at 12:49 a.m., an Officer on foot patrol in the area of Oak Avenue and Empire Street heard two gun shots just west of his location in the 200 block of W. Empire

Street. This was followed up with a Sound Thinking alert in the 200 block of W. Empire Street. During the course of the investigation, Officers were able to determine the gun shots were fired by an individual who was standing with a group of other individuals in the front yard of a residence. The group then ran to the backyard after the shots were fired. Officers conducted a search of the area and recovered a high capacity drum magazine, 9mm ammunition, and a firearm believed to have been used during the commission of the offense.

It is believed that both of these incidents are related and the investigation into these incidents is ongoing at this time. There were no reported injuries or property damage.

The Freeport Police Department is asking anyone who may have information about these incidents to contact either the Freeport Police Department at 815-235-8222, Stateline Area Crime Stoppers at 866-TIPSNOW, Stephenson County Crime Stop, or through texting at Tip411.

## • Wildcats

(Continued from page 4)

Offensively, the Wildcats combined for 11 hits. Rife continued to be a tough out as he went three for four with one run scored and two RBI. Bode Dittmarr had an electric day, going three for three with two runs scored and five RBI. Kaden Duerr went one for two with two runs scored, one RBI, and two walks in the win.

The Wildcats didn't get to celebrate yet. On Friday, May 9 they returned home to play host to Belmond. RR-SM went on to lose that game by a score of 2-13. They went on to lose to Ashton-Franklin Center 4-9 over the weekend. Following those losses, their record dropped to 9-16 on the year. On Thursday, May 15 the Wildcats play host to Benton-Shullsburg. That game is scheduled to begin at 4:30 p.m.



Nick Raab

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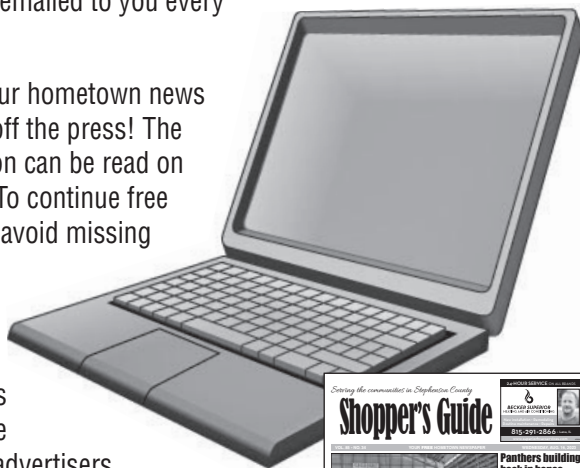
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\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 05/06/25. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

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# State revenue projections improve as economic uncertainty grows

*But legislature's revenue estimate remains below Pritzker's February proposal*

By Ben Szalinski  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The General Assembly's independent forecasting commission has improved revenue projections for the upcoming fiscal year despite growing economic volatility.

That's good news for state lawmakers who are in the final weeks of crafting the fiscal year 2026 budget set to take effect July 1. But the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability's upward revision to its revenue forecast remains significantly more conservative than what Gov. JB Pritzker's office projected when he proposed a budget in February.

COGFA's latest update now projects \$54.5 billion in revenue in FY26 — \$266 million more than the commission's March projection, but still \$471 million below the governor's February projection for baseline revenues.

Pritzker has also proposed changes to raise an additional \$492 million in revenue in FY26, although that number is not factored into the baseline revenue comparison.

COGFA is also projecting state revenue will increase by \$317 million in the current fiscal year 2025 compared to its March projection. That means the state would finish the fiscal year at the end of June with \$53.9 billion of revenue—above the \$53.3 billion lawmakers budgeted for and \$31 million more than the governor's office's February forecast.

The projected revenue growth was driven by strong April income tax receipts. April revenue was up \$593 million compared to April 2024 and was driven by 20 percent growth in income tax receipts, thanks to higher capital gains and interest earnings last year. Corporate income

taxes also grew by 6.6 percent for the month, even though the revenue source remains down 8.2 percent for the fiscal year.

But there are warning signs in several areas, according to COGFA. The commission lowered expectations for federal receipts for FY25 by 8.5 percent and 6.3 percent in FY26 because the state has been using a fund outside the typical General Revenue Fund for Medicaid-related expenses. That means reimbursements from the federal government to the state are not reflected in the state's General Revenue Fund total.

The commission also warned that the federal government could, at any time, decrease financial aid to states, creating more uncertainty.

"Those capital gains revenue increases are not sustainable so as we look at fiscal year 26, we should not expect that as we go into fiscal year 27, I think it's going to be an even worse look," COGFA Co-Chair Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, R-Murrayville, said at a news conference last week.

COGFA Revenue Manager Eric Noggle wrote broader economic uncertainty necessitates a "more cautious approach" projecting next year's revenue numbers.

"The unknown implications of tariffs create many questions related to the duration of the tariffs, their impact on prices, and if these changes could lead to a recession," Noggle wrote. "These complicating factors and their potential impact on tax revenues make the revenue estimate for FY 2026 very challenging."

Recent national economic reports have indicated the U.S. added more jobs than

**See PROJECTIONS, Page 18**

## •Hornets (Continued from page 4)

West Carroll, Rife went on to pitch all thirteen innings against Benton-Shullsburg. With 27 innings pitched in three games, Rife collected three victories. Against Benton-Shullsburg, she allowed zero earned runs off three hits and 18 strikeouts. Rife had one of the best weekly pitching performances in all of Illi-

nois.

Winter had a big day at the plate. Not only did she drive in the game-winning run, but she went five for seven on the day. She had almost half the team's hits as SM-RR combined for 12 in the victory. Anna Weis was the only other Hornet with a multi-hit day as she went two for seven in the win.

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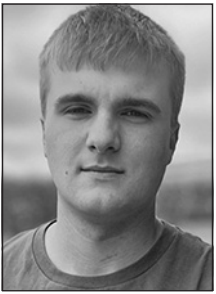
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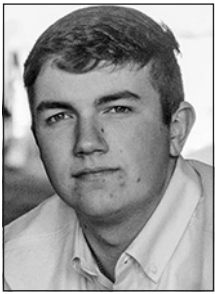
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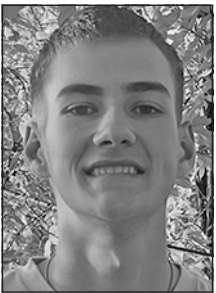
Alina  
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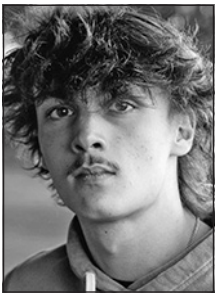
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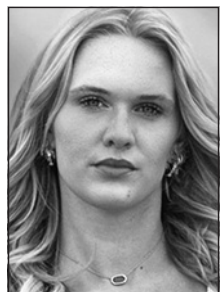
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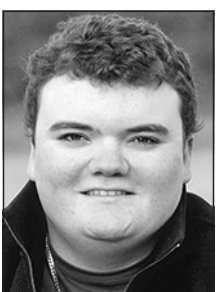
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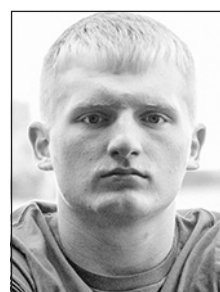
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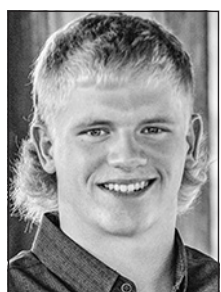
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Madison  
Roach



Jacob  
Runkle



Jared  
Runkle





# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We have had some beautiful warm weather but are still waiting for more rain. I sound like a broken record. I am waiting for the lilac bushes outside my kitchen window to bloom. The deck has been power washed, so the lawn furniture can come out. I need to now get the windows washed. Spring chores are in full swing. The recipes this week feature the fruits and vegetables of the season. Have a great week cooking!

## Strawberry Poppy Seed Salad

There are several things added to this plain green salad that make it special. The caramelized almonds make for

a great crunch. The dressing also adds great flavor. You can substitute kale, arugula, or butter lettuce for the romaine. You can also substitute mandarin oranges, drained, for the strawberries.

- ¼ C. sugar
- 1/3 C. slivered almonds
- 8 C. Romaine lettuce
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- 2 C. halved fresh strawberries

### Dressing:

- ¼ C. mayonnaise
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 T. sour cream
- 1 T. 2% milk
- 2¼ t. cider vinegar
- 1½ t. poppy seeds

Place sugar in a small heavy skillet; cook and stir over medium-low heat until melted and caramel-colored, about 10 minutes. Stir in almonds until coated; spread on foil to cool. Place Romaine, onion and strawberries in a large bowl. Whisk together the dressing ingredients; toss with salad. Break candied almonds into pieces and sprinkle over salad. Serve immediately.

## Broccoli Cheddar Pasta

If you are looking for a great side or a vegetation meal, this pasta will fill the bill for either or both.

- 16 oz. fusilli or rotini pasta
- 3 C. fresh broccoli florets
- ¼ C. butter
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 T. flour
- 1 C. chicken broth
- 1 t. salt
- ½ t. onion powder
- ¼ t. paprika
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1 C. half-and-half cream,

warmed  
1½ C. shredded cheddar cheese  
½ C. grated Parmesan cheese

Bring a large pot of water to boil. Add pasta and cook according to package directions. One minute before pasta is fully cooked add broccoli florets. Boil with the pasta for the last minute of cooking time. Scoop 1 C. pasta water; set aside. Drain pasta and broccoli and set aside.

In the same pot, melt the

butter over medium heat; stir in the garlic and cook 30 to 60 seconds. Stir in flour; cook 1 to 2 minutes or until a thick paste forms, stirring constantly. Add chicken broth, salt, onion powder, paprika and pepper. Slowly stir in warmed half-and-half cream; bring to a low simmer. Cook until the sauce has thickened, about 3 to 4 minutes, stirring frequently. Remove from heat. Stir in cheeses until melted. Stir in cooked pasta and broccoli until combined. Add pasta water to smooth out the sauce. Serve immediately.

## Asparagus Ham Dinner

Because we are ushering in the asparagus season, I always get requests for using asparagus in something different than just steaming or creaming it. This dish has the asparagus paired with ham, pasta and tomatoes.

2 C. uncooked corkscrew or spiral pasta

¾ lb. fresh asparagus, cut into 1-inch pieces

- 1 medium yellow pepper, julienned
- 2 T. olive oil
- 6 medium tomatoes, diced or 1 lb. cherry tomatoes halved
- 6 oz. cooked ham, cubed
- ¼ C. minced fresh parsley
- ½ t. salt
- ½ t. dried oregano
- ½ t. dried basil
- 1/8 t. cayenne pepper
- ¼ C. shredded Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions. In a large skillet, sauté asparagus and yellow pepper in oil until crisp-tender. Add tomatoes and ham; heat through. Drain pasta; add to mixture. Stir in parsley, salt, oregano, basil, and cayenne pepper. Sprinkle with cheese.

## Olive Garden Chicken Marsala

This breaded chicken breast with a creamy dressing tastes a lot like the one served at the Olive Garden restaurant. Try it and see if it tastes like the famous dish from the

restaurant. Serve it with pasta, rice pilaf, or a simple salad.

- ¼ C. canola oil
- 1½ lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut in half and pounded to 1½ inch thick
- ½ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- ½ C. flour
- 2 T. olive oil
- 8 oz. thinly sliced fresh mushrooms
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1½ C. Marsala wine
- ½ C. chicken broth
- 1½ T. brown sugar
- 1 T. Dijon mustard
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 T. butter

Fresh parsley and grated Parmesan cheese for serving  
Heat canola oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Season both sides of chicken breasts with salt and pepper; dredge with flour to coat. Dust off excess flour. Add chicken to the skillet; cook 3 to 4 minutes. Remove and set aside on a paper towel-lined plate.

See KITCHEN, Page 20

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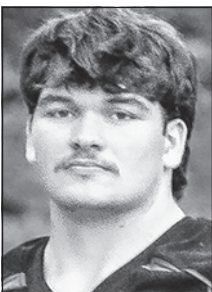
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# Etiology and treatment of gum recession, swollen gums, and gummy smiles

Excessive gingival exposure when smiling is commonly known as a "high gingival" or "gummy smile." Whether you consider your smile "too gummy" is largely a matter of personal opinion, but clinically, excessive gingival display of 2-4 mm is considered mild, 4-8 mm moderate, and >8 mm severe.

A gummy smile can be caused by the way your teeth grow (the height and shape of your teeth and/or abnormal or partial eruption that leaves teeth covered by gum tissue), the length of your upper lip or the way your lips move when you smile (a short or overactive upper lip muscle that raises your lip too high), when the bones of your upper jaw grow longer than their typical length, gingival hypertrophy (gums that are overly long or enlarged) or a combination of these factors.

Treating a gummy smile for cosmetic reasons is dependent on what caused it and may require one or more surgical procedures. Gum contouring, also known as gingival sculpting or gingivoplasty, is one of the options that can help reshape your gumline. The process of gum contouring involves cutting away or removing excess gum tissue around your teeth. It may be performed as a cosmetic procedure or as a prescribed treatment for periodontal disease. During the procedure, the doctor will use a soft tissue laser or scalpel to remove excess gum tissue and resculpt the gumline to expose more of the tooth.

Crown lengthening removes gum and bone tissue to expose more of the tooth, especially in cases where excess gum tissue covers the teeth.

Lip repositioning surgery is a procedure that aims to reduce the amount of gum tissue exposed when smiling. It's typically performed by an oral-maxillofacial surgeon and involves removing a small amount of soft tissue from the underside of the upper lip. This helps to restrict the muscles that lift the upper lip, preventing it from lifting too high and exposing excess gum tissue. Orthognathic Surgery involves complex surgical procedures that address severe jaw development



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

issues contributing to a gummy smile.

Swollen gums are often caused by gingivitis, but may result from other factors like nutrient deficiencies, hormone changes (pregnancy), infections, or systemic disease (leukemia). In addition, some medications can cause your gums to overgrow or even completely cover your teeth.

While treatment for a gummy smile can be considered a cosmetic option, gums that are swollen should be evaluated by a dentist for their cause, including underlying systemic disease. Medication-induced gingival hyperplasia must be addressed to avoid and/or treat periodontal disease.

Gum Recession is the opposite of a gummy smile. Gum recession leaves too much of your teeth exposed, putting your teeth at risk of sensitivity, cavities, and loss of both teeth and bone. This form of gum disease involves gingival tissues that have pulled away from a tooth, leaving its more vulnerable root exposed. Many things can cause receding gums, including poor dental hygiene. Even with good oral hygiene habits, smoking, misaligned teeth, lip and tongue piercings, aging, and genetics can still cause gum loss. Your gum tissue doesn't regenerate the way other types of tissue do. Even though receding gums do not grow back, there are still several things you can do to prevent further recession.

Your treatment plan will depend on the extent of the disease, the amount of

recession, and your overall health. Surprisingly, one of the biggest culprits behind receding gums is actually overzealous brushing. Using too much force or brushing with a hard-bristled toothbrush can gradually wear away gum tissue. Electric toothbrushes can help by reducing pressure, especially the newer models that light up when you brush too hard. That is why I repeatedly stress the importance of learning proper brushing technique. You should always aim to remove plaque effectively while using gentle, consistent pressure. Your dental team can help you to develop an individualized, effective oral hygiene routine of flossing and brushing that does not involve damaging your gums.

If you have periodontal disease your dentist will initially try to treat the disease with nonsurgical options. Scaling and root planing involve scraping away tartar from your teeth and under your gum line. It's done with either a hand-held dental instrument or an ultrasonic device that uses vibrations to loosen and remove plaque. In some cases, your dentist might apply a slow-release antibacterial gel under your gum line, prescribe an antibiotic mouthwash, and/or prescribe antibiotics to kill the bacteria and infection. If these efforts don't work, surgical options may be required. Pocket reduction or flap surgery, which involves making a small incision in your gum tissue to lift it up and remove any plaque that the scaling and root planing procedure could not reach, may be necessary to restore the health of your gingival tissues. It may also be necessary to perform a gingival graft to lengthen

See PETRAS, Page 18

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

On May 21, 2025 at 2:00 pm a meeting conducted by Stockton Community Unit School District #206 will take place in the District Office at Stockton High School. The purpose will be to discuss the district's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private schools and home schools within the district for the 2025-2026 school year. If you are parents of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside in/within the boundaries of Stockton CUSD #206, you are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting please contact James Bunting, Superintendent at 815-947-3391.

(Published in  
The Scoop Today  
May 14, 2025)

471641

## STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY IN PROBATE

In Re the Matter  
of the Estate of:  
Veronica Lock Mowatt,  
Deceased.

No. 25-PR-11

## NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Veronica Lock Mowatt, of the town of Lockerbie in Scotland. Letters of Office were issued on April 28, 2025, to:

**Anthony V. Coon  
Attorney At Law  
10 N. Galena Ave.,  
Ste. 210**

**Freeport, Illinois 61032**  
as independent Adminis-

trator of the Estate of Veronica Lock Mowatt, and who is also acting as the attorney for the estate.

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 Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 10, 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: April 29, 2025.

/s/ Anthony V. Coon  
Anthony V. Coon,  
Administrator

Anthony V. Coon,  
#6269568  
Attorney at Law  
10 N. Galena Ave.,  
Ste. 210  
Freeport, IL 61032  
815-235-2212  
Fax 815-232-5500  
toneycoonlaw@aol.com

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
May 7, 14 & 21, 2025)  
471271

## STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON

Sandra M. Rahorn  
Plaintiffs,  
vs.

Trisha L. Miller, and  
Cody A. Kirschbaum,  
a/k/a Cody A. Firschbaum  
Defendants. )

No. 2025EV59

## NOTICE OF COMPLAINT FOR JUDICIAL DEED

Notice is given to Defendants, Trisha L. Miller, and Cody A. Kirschbaum, a/k/a Cody A. Firschbaum that a Complaint was filed in the Circuit Court of Stephenson County, Illinois, for a Judicial Deed :

1. The owner is: Sandra M. Rahorn  
2. The buyers pursuant to an Agreement for Deed is: Trisha L. Miller, and Cody

A. Kirschbaum, a/k/a Cody A. Firschbaum. (Recorded Memorandum Doc. No. 202000177943).

3. The location is: 134 W. Conaty St., McConnell, IL 61050, PIN: 12-08-07-427-010

Now therefore, unless you and all whom it may concern, appear or otherwise file your answer to the Complaint in the action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court of Stephenson County, in the City of Freeport, Illinois, on or before May 28, 2025, at 9:00 A.M., a default judgment may be entered against you at any time after that hearing in accordance with the prayer for relief of said Complaint.

Dated: April 30, 2025.

Sandra M. Rahorn

By: Anthony V. Coon,  
Attorney for Plaintiff

Anthony V. Coon,  
#6269568

Attorney at Law  
10 N. Galena Ave.,  
Ste. 210

Freeport, IL 61032  
815-235-2212

Fax 815-232-5500  
tonycoonlaw@aol.com

(Published in

The Shopper's Guide  
May 7, 14 & 21, 2025)

471413

## NOTICE

Stockton CUSD #206 Board of Education in Jo Daviess County announces the availability of the amended budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. The budget will be available for public inspection online at stocktonschools.com or at the District Office, 540 North Rush Street, Stockton, Illinois during normal school hours beginning on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

The Board of Education will hold a public hearing regarding the Budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:20 pm in the Stockton High School Library at 540 North Rush Street, Stockton, Illinois.

Sarah Leif  
Secretary, Board  
of Education

(Published in The Scoop  
Today May 14, 2025)

471639

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425124



# Spring rain helping some Illinois livestock pastures



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Cattle enjoy improving pasture conditions in the state.

By Rhiannon Branch  
FARMWEEK

With warmer temperatures and April showers, Illinois' livestock are welcoming greener pastures in many areas.

But recent rains have helped some and hurt others, according to University of Illinois Extension Beef Specialist Travis Meteer, who noted southern Illinois is too wet while portions of northern and central Illinois are still highlighted on the U.S. Drought Monitor.

"Those areas that were dry

and now received moisture are growing grass and likely pastures are improving," Meteer told FarmWeek. "Areas that are too wet likely have pastures that are drowned in some areas and tracked up if grazing has started."

He said moisture is usually a good thing for pastures, but consistent heavy rains have oversaturated soil in some areas and too much water can cause flooding issues in low-lying pasture areas.

Other inconsistencies early in the season are likely a result of different management.

"Overgrazed, poorly managed pastures from last year are likely struggling to reestablish, while well managed pastures are off to the races now with moisture and warmer temps," Meteer said.

As of April 21, USDA rated Illinois pasture conditions 3 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 40 percent good and 24 percent excellent. The good to excellent rating was up 18 percentage points from the

prior week, but 6 points below the same week last season.

Meteer said the alfalfa hay crop is off to a strong start and growth is ahead of schedule in many central Illinois fields.

"I have heard of some winterkill in northern Illinois, which stayed open and cold whereas central Illinois was snow-covered during the most extreme cold," he said. "There are some early reports of weevil damage in southern Illinois."

And Meteer reminds growers, "While rainfall and weather are a major component of forage production and yield, proper management using rotational grazing and rest periods will allow graziers to maximize grazing days no matter the conditions."

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

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

471880

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## •Projections

(Continued from page 11)

expected in April, but the nation's gross domestic product declined by 0.3 percent in the first quarter of 2025, marking the first quarter of economic regression since 2022. Personal consumption grew by 1.8 percent, showing consumers overall aren't yet cutting back, but it was the slowest growth since spring 2022.

"It's very concerning because Illinois tends to lag the nation in economic growth and economic stability," Davidsmeyer said.

The decline in GDP was driven by an increase in imports, COGFA Chief Economist Ben Varner wrote, because businesses are likely "front-loading" foreign purchases before tariffs imposed by the Trump administration kick in and make overseas goods more expensive. Imports are subtracted from domestic growth to calculate GDP.

National projections are also blaring more warnings. Wells Fargo modeling projects stagflation from tariffs and an

increase in inflation will cause an economic downturn, while Goldman Sachs' early April projection pegs the likelihood of a recession at 45 percent.

"The U.S. economy has entered a precarious phase, with early signs of contraction and rising inflation signaling the potential onset of stagflation," Varner wrote. "While domestic demand and business investment remain relatively strong, they are being overshadowed by external shocks—particularly the surge in imports ahead of tariff implementation. The policy-driven volatility is already weighing on forecasts and investor confidence."

The governor's proposed \$55.2 billion FY26 budget is based on a December S&P Global forecast that projected stable economic growth and considered some of Trump's proposed economic policies, including tariffs and tax cut extensions, Pritzker budget office director Alexis Sturm said, told a legislative committee in February.

## •Petras

(Continued from page 17)

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to avoid future buildups of plaque. This involves gently brushing your teeth twice a day with a soft-bristled brush, flossing in between your teeth twice daily before brushing, and going in for regular dental cleanings every six months, or as prescribed.



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# Kitchen (Continued from page 13)

Add olive oil to the skillet; heat to medium. Add mushrooms; cook until softened, about 3 minutes. Add garlic; cook 30 seconds until fragrant. Deglaze pan with Marsala wine; bring sauce to a boil; reduce heat to a simmer. Cook until wine is reduced by half. Whisk in chicken broth, brown sugar, mustard and Worcestershire, season with salt and pepper. Stir in butter until melted. Return chicken to the skillet; keep warm over low heat until ready to serve. Garnish with parsley and Parmesan cheese.

## Rhubarb Muffins

We welcome the rhubarb season. You can cut rhubarb off at the ground or gently pull it out. It will grow back faster if you pull it. Don't eat the leaves or if the rhubarb is frozen. It is poisonous. There are two general types in our area, red and green. They are both good tasting. The red gives any dish more color and some people think it is sweeter. As long as you keep cutting or pulling, you can use it all summer long. It freezes

great. Cut it up raw in zip lock bags of 2 cups; most recipes use 2 cups. Enjoy the rhubarb all winter long! These muffins are a great way to start the day. Try this easy rhubarb recipe if you have never used rhubarb before. You can make the muffins and freeze them. They are great with strawberry jam!

1/2 C. butter, softened  
1 C. packed brown sugar  
1/2 C. white sugar  
1 egg, room temperature  
2 C. flour  
1 t. baking powder  
1/2 t. baking soda  
1/8 t. salt  
1 C. sour cream  
3 C. fresh or frozen rhubarb, thawed

### Topping:

1/2 C. chopped pecans  
1/4 C. packed brown sugar  
1 t. cinnamon  
1 T. cold butter

Preheat the oven to 350. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy, 5 to 7 minutes. Beat in egg. In a small bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mix-

ture alternately with sour cream, beating well after each addition. Fold in rhubarb. Fill paper-lined or greased muffin cups 3/4 full. For topping, combine the pecans, brown sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl; cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over batter. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 22 to 25 minutes. Cool for 5 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks. Serve warm.

## Strawberry Rhubarb Upside-Down Cake

A great combination used with rhubarb is strawberries. Many people love strawberry rhubarb jam or strawberry rhubarb pie. This is a cake good enough for company that melds the two flavors in a different way—upside down!

### Caramel Topping

1 T. unsalted butter, plus more for the pan  
1/2 C. sugar

1 1/2 C. rhubarb, peeled, halved lengthwise and cut into 1/2 inch pieces about 5 oz.

1 1/2 C. strawberries, hulled and thinly sliced

1 T. cornstarch

2 T. strawberry jam  
Salt

### Cake:

1 1/4 C. flour  
1 t. baking powder  
1/2 t. baking soda  
1/2 t. salt  
3/4 C. milk  
1 stick unsalted butter, softened  
1 C. sugar  
2 eggs  
1 t. vanilla

Topping: Preheat the oven to 350. Butter just the sides of a 9-inch round cake pan. In a medium saucepan, stir the sugar and 1/3 C. water together over medium heat until the sugar dissolves, 6 to 8 minutes. Cook, no longer stirring but gently swirling the saucepan occasionally, until the mixture is amber, 6 to 8 minutes. If you need to get any of the sugar off the sides of the pan, dampen a pastry brush and brush the sides. Remove the saucepan from the heat, and carefully whisk in butter, being careful in case the mixture bubbles up. Pour the caramel into the prepared cake pan, tilting the pan to cover most of the bottom, being careful because the caramel will make the pan very hot.

Toss the rhubarb and straw-

berries in a medium bowl with the cornstarch, strawberry jam and a pinch of salt. Spoon the mixture on top of the caramel sauce and smooth into an even layer; set aside.

Cake: Whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt in a medium bowl. In a small bowl, whisk together the milk and sour cream. Beat the butter and sugar together with a mixer on medium-high speed until light and fluffy, about 4 minutes. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition and scraping down the side of the bowl; beat in the vanilla. Reduce the mixer speed to low and add the flour mixture in 3 batches, alternating with the milk-sour cream mixture; mix until just incorporated.

Pour batter over the rhubarb and strawberries in the cake pan and spread evenly. Bake until the cake is golden brown and bounces back when pressed and a toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the center, 55 to 60 minutes. Run a knife around the edge of the cake to separate from the pan. Let cool in the pan on a rack until cool enough to handle and almost room temperature, about 1 hour. Invert a

serving platter over the cake pan and while holding them together, quickly flip them over so the cake unmolds, fruit-side up. Let cool completely. Cut into wedges.

## Final Thoughts

Mother's Day ushered in a great week of above average temperatures. Grass is growing at a faster rate than usual, and everything is turning green. Flowerpots are blooming, and I know seeds are being planted. There will be a lot of watering going on if the rain stays away. We are fast approaching Memorial Day because May is half over. Graduation parties are everywhere, and all the spring sports are winding down. The pool will be opening soon. Hope you will have a great week of planting, cooking, and eating!

We are looking for some picnic recipes. We will also be looking for some strawberry recipes because it will be that season. If you find some recipes to share, you can contact us by email at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com or by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, *The Shopper's Guide* at Rock Valley Publishing, 1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115.

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