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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2025

# **Wildcats claim** fifth regional title

By Trenten Scheidegger CORRESPONDENT

The River Ridge-Scales Mound Wildcats won their first regional baseball championship since 2019 when they beat the East Dubuque Warriors last weekend. RR-SM got hot at the right time. After getting off to a 9-16 start to the 2025 season, things weren't too promising for the Wildcats, but you can't count any of Jeremy Knauer's teams out. Seven consecutive wins and a Regional Championship later, and the Wildcats have proven they have what it takes to win.

The rally began on May 12 when the Wildcats had a comeback victory to beat Polo 5-4. Since then, RR-SM has found ways to win in any type of situation. After ending the regular season on a four-game winning streak, the Wildcats entered the postseason at the right time.

On Monday, May 19, RR-SM began their playoff run with a familiar opponent in the Orangeville Broncos. Back in April, the Wildcats beat the Broncos 10-0. The postseason proved the regular season matchup was no fluke as RR-SM went on to end Orangeville's season with an 11-1 victory.

The RR-SM pitching staff helped lead the way to victory in the postseason opener. Joe Winter collected the win on the mound. In two innings, Winter allowed one earned run off three hits, while striking out three. Damon Dittmar pitched two innings of shutout

Rife also tossed two shutout innings, striking out four batters along the way.

The Wildcats were expected to get that win over Orangeville, but that wasn't the case when they took on the Galena Pirates in the semifinal round. Galena was the one seed in their bracket. They brought a record of 18-7 into their matchup with the Wild-

The semifinal matchup had a little bit of everything. RR-SM scored in four separate innings, including a four-spot in the third. When Kaden Deurr tripled to center in the top of the fourth, an error allowed him to round the bases and reach home safely. At the time, that gave RR-SM a big 8-1 lead over Galena.

The Pirates would respond with five runs in the bottom of the fourth. By the end of the fifth, the Pirates had tied the game 8-8. In the end, Galena's defense came back to bite them. The Pirates had seven errors in the game, including a passed ball in the top of the sixth, which ultimately cost them the game. Bode Dittmar scored the game's winning

Rife picked up the win from the mound. Galena put some pressure on with a pair of hits in the seventh, but Rife earned a fly out to get out of trouble. With that, RR-SM advanced to the championship round with a 9-8 victory.

See TITLE, Page 6



SONYA WILLIAMSON PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Congratulations, graduates!

Stockton High School's class of 2025 celebrate their high school graduation on Sunday, May 18, 2025.

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#### Wednesday, May 28, 2025

Mary Lou Pierce, age 87, of Stockton, IL passed away Saturday, May 17, 2025. She was born on June 19, 1937, in Freeport, IL to the late Lyle and Daisie (Hardacre) Rife. Lyle passed away when Mary was young and her mother later married Wilbur Wright. Mary married her high school sweetheart, Max Pierce, on August 20, 1955, at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Stockton.

She was a 1955 graduate of Stockton High School. Mary was an active member of the UU Church in Stockton. She loved bowling with the Motorettes, dancing with her husband, playing cards, gardening, cooking and wintering with her husband in Donna TX. Mary was exceptionally kind, a caretaker to the core. She was always thinking of others and everyone was welcomed in her home.

She is survived by her husband, Max Pierce; her children, Vicki (Olivier Andreini) Selover, Crystal Pierce, Brian (Patti) Pierce, Rick Pierce and Diane (Dale) Heath; her grandchildren, Jefferson

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Reiland, Tony Pierce, Karly (Larry) Gleeson, Jing Jing (Sitai Qin) He, Maria (Ragnar Stefánsson) Heath, Carissa (James) Armstrong, Vince (Chaz) Heath and Alyssa Adams; her 15 great grandchildren; and her sisters, Phyllis Gothard, Pat Phillips and Sharon (Stan) Cox. She was preceded in death by her parents; her son-in-law, Eugene Selover; her daughter-in-law, Jiao He: and her sister. Shirley Heller and brothers-in-law, Dalvin Heller, Gene Gothard and Don Phillips.

A memorial fund will be established in lieu of flowers.

A celebration of life potluck will be held at 1 p.m. on Sunday, July 6, 2025, at the Brian and Patti Pierce farm for friends and family. Condolences may be shared at www. hermannfuneralhome.com

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#### (Amanda) MYRA KRUG, 103

Myra Krug, age 103, of Stockton passed away on May 22, 2025 at Liberty Village.

Myra was born on November 28, 1921 in rural Lanark the daughter of Jesse and Mabel (Sturtz) Gerbick.

She married Donald Krug on March 4, 1942. Together they enjoyed 76 years of marriage. Donald passed away in 2018 at 98 years of age. Together they had two daughters, Sandra (John) Stoehr and Nancy (David) Brockman; two granddaughters, Lori (Brian) Bowman and Cheri (Scott) Presley; five great granddaughters, Emma (John) Askren, Hannah, Isabelle, Ashlyn, Leighton and great great granddaughter, Mabel Mae.

Myra and Donald farmed their entire career in Massbach before they retired to a home in Stockton for 25 vears. For the last seven years Myra has resided at Liberty Village in Freeport.

Myra was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church of Massbach where she was active and supportive of the church in so many ways.

Myra was a great cook



and hosted many family and holiday gatherings with an abundance of delicious food. She was a kind and loving

grandmother and great grandmother who loved her family. She was always interested and supportive of the activities of every family member.

Myra was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and brothers Allen, Robert and Royal Gerbick.

The family would like to express their thanks to the staff at Liberty Village for their care to our mother over the past 7 years.

The funeral service will be held on Monday, June 2, 2025 at St. John's Lutheran Church of Massbach at 11:00 a.m. with a visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. Interment will take place at St. John Lutheran Cemetery in Massbach. A memorial fund has been established for St. John's Lutheran Church of Massbach, Condolences may be shared at www. hermannfuneralhome.com.

# **Around the Northern Hills**

of life and the economy in Jo Daviess County. Here are the top 5 reasons why it's especially important in this region:

1. Economic Backbone Agriculture is one of the leading economic drivers in Jo Daviess County. It provides employment through farming, agribusiness, and supporting industries, and revenue from crops like corn and sovbeans. and livestock including cattle and dairy.

2. Preservation of Rural Character and Land Use

Farming helps maintain the scenic rural landscape that defines the county. It prevents urban sprawl by preserving open space. It also supports tourism (especially agritourism) due to the county's natural beauty and rolling hills.

3. Food Security and Local Food Systems

Local agriculture ensures access to fresh, locally grown food. Farmers markets and farm-to-table operations support community health and local economies. It also reduces dependence on long supply chains.

4. Environmental Stewardship

Many Jo Daviess County farmers are leaders in conservation by implementing soil health practices, cover cropping, and rotational grazing, and protecting water quality in our watersheds.

5. Cultural and Historical Significance

Farming is deeply tied to the identity and heritage of the county. Many farms have been passed down for generations. Local traditions, fairs, and community events often revolve around agriculture.

#### Check us out on social media

A big thank you to everyone who already follows us on Facebook and Instagram - we truly appreciate your support! While we are proud of our growing community, we are always looking to reach even more people. If you are on social media and haven't followed us yet, now's a great time. Stay up to date on



out our latest posts.

upcoming events and check

## **Appreciation picnic**

All Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members should have received their personal invitation to the Farm Bureau/ COUNTRY Financial/ Stephenson Service Company appreciation picnic. Please make sure that you RSVP by May 30 to our office at 815.858.2235 or jdcfboffice@ gmail.com so we can make sure to have plenty of food for evervone.

#### Foundation scholarships

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation provides scholarships for college students studying agriculture and funds our Agriculture in the Classroom program, which promotes agricultural and environmental education in all of Jo Daviess County's K-12 classrooms. Each year, our Agriculture in the Classroom program teaches children the importance of our food and fiber industry. Anyone can contribute to the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Foundation since it has a 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt status. The Foundation may accept charitable contributions of money, property, securities, and special memorials and endowments. The Foundation Board of Directors and the Farm Bureau staff administer the Foundation. The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Board of Directors appoints the Foundation directors. There are two ways to make a contribution. You can send a check to our office at PO Box 501 in Elizabeth or call with a credit or debit card to contribute.

#### Farm Fun Fact

96% of Illinois farms are family owned.

## **News** briefs

#### **Manny Cemetery**

Join on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Manny Cemetery for a brief meeting. Contact Kevin Robieson at 815-266-1441 or Connie Robieson at 815-238-8786 with questions. comments, or concerns.

#### Flag Retirement Ceremony

Orangeville American Legion Post 720 will be hosting the annual Stephenson County Flag Retirement Ceremony on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Orangeville Village Hall, 301 S. East Street, Orangeville, IL. At this time, faded, frayed and unserviceable U. S. flags are properly, and respectfully, retired and destroyed. Unusable flags can be given to Legion members, Legion posts in Stephenson Country, or Orangeville village officials.

#### Lena Business and **Professional Association** Sullivan's Cookout

The Lena Business and Professional Association (LBPA) is scheduled to host the cookout at Sullivan's on Friday, June 20 and Saturday, June 21 to help raise money for the Christmas Parade. The cookout times are from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This event can raise anywhere from \$500 to \$1000 to help cover some of the costs for the Christmas Parade. The association will need three people to work on each day of the cookout. Please contact the LBPA if interested in working the event.

## OPEN HOUSE Sunday, June 1 • 1 - 3 p.m.

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## Stockton's Katelyn Winters signs letter of intent

Katelyn Winters signed her letter of intent to further her college education and play basketball at Judson University. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Lindy Winters, Kinsley Winters, Kately Winters, Patrick Winters, and Kiersten Winters.

## 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, June 1, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Communion will be served during service. The Gospel will be from Gospel John 17:20-26.

On Sunday June 1 Hannah Circle will meet after Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall. Sheila Keene is the Bible Study leader.

On Wednesday, June 4 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.

Friendship Club will meet on Thursday, June 12. A potluck will be held at 12:30 p.m. with entertainment to follow.

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 informaoffice at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

## St. John's Lutheran Church

John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate the seventh Sunday of Easter on Sunday, June 1 at 9 a.m. The Pleasant Hope band will be providing special music this day during worship.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, June 3 at 9 a.m. and to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, June 12 at 1p.m.

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

The June Grace Meal will be on Sunday, June 15. The menu will be grilled pork chop, baked potato, green beans, applesauce, and chocolate cake. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, June 12. Meals can be picked up at the church on June 15 between 11 a.m. and

tion. Please contact the church 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

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

every Wednesday at 8 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join, please check the newsletter,

Crafternoon 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 on something small.

or ruth.dake@gmail.com.

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.

Carroll College

The Breakfast Bunch meets Sunday bulletin or Facebook page for location information.

out a large project or to work For more information on any Salem related items, you can contact 815-369-4511

Come sail away June 8 - 9 - 10 6-8 p.m. Ages 3 - 6th grade

## Joseph Catholic Church WBERRY SOCIAL



When: Wednesday, June 4 Where: 410 W. Lena St., Parish Hall Time: 4:30 - 7 p.m.

Dine in or carry out . Tickets available at the door

Adults \$13 • Kids 12 & under \$8 Extra Sandwich \$4 • Whole Pies \$15
Price includes full meal • Desserts only w/beverage \$5

Meal: BBQ or ham sandwich, baked beans, chips, lemonade or coffee Dessert: Strawberry pie, strawberry shortcake or strawberry sundae

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## Track Coach Heather Larson, Mike Scanlan, and Lynn Scanlan. **Scholarship** winners announced

The Jo Daviess County Extension and 4-H Foundation is pleased to announce the winners of the Ralph and Katherine Norris college scholarship program for the 2025-26 school year. For information about the Jo Daviess County Extension and 4-H Foundation, please contact the University of Illinois Extension office at 815-858-2273.

STOCKTON

SCHOOL DISTRICT #206

Maggie Carter signs her letter of intent to further her education and run track at Carroll College. Maggie also advanced to the state track meet this coming weekend in

the 100 meters, long jump, and triple jump. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Katie

Scanlan-Carter, Maggie Carter, (back row, left to right) Stockton/Warren Head Girls

Stockton's Maggie Carter signs to

Ralph and Katherine Norris established funds in 1986 to provide scholarships for Jo Daviess County residents

pursuing a college degree in agriculture or related fields. Scholarships are awarded to individuals pursuing a two- or four-year degree program as a full-time student. The Foundation is pleased to announce six winners who will receive scholarships of \$1,500 each. They are Aly Anderson, Galena; Avery Engle, Hanover; Cora Dittmar, Elizabeth; Ashley Carroll, Elizabeth; Joseph Brudi, Stockton and Jordan Heimann, Warren.

See WINNERS, Page 6

## THE SCOOP TODAY

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## PINION



## **Slices of life**

# Aging and technology don't always mix

address a topic most of us

Growing old.

Or more specifically, the people living around us who are senior citizens – aging professionals, if you will.

I want to talk about this greatest demographic of all

We expect a lot of them. After all they've given us. Think about it. People in their 70s, 80s, and so on gave us the best years of their lives. They parented and nurtured us. They endured the hippy era, Vietnam, avocado-colored kitchen appliances (sans microwave ovens, because they weren't mainstream yet), shag carpet, shag haircuts. and black and white TV programming that ended at midnight with



By JILL PERTLER

the playing of the national anthem.

They shared bathrooms and bedrooms with multiple siblings, dialed rotary phones, learned to drive on a stick shift, and know firsthand how an eight track tape system works. They remember when The Beatles premiered on The Ed Sullivan Show, The Rolling Stones were a new band, and Patsy Cline sang 'Crazy."

They have lived. After all they've experienced, we continue to

Isn't that just like us? I, for one, think it might be too much.

Last year, I heard a news story about an, 82-year-old woman in Washington state who was in the locker room of the local YMCA. While there, a transgender woman entered with two girls. The octogenarian saw the scene and did not understand what was happening in the context of 2024. The transgender woman had a male voice and this young 82-year-old heard it and failed to see the person with the male voice as the woman she clearly saw herself to be.

The 82-year-old called for help, thinking the two girls were in danger. In response to her inability to correctly assess the situation, the

YMCA banned her for life. This morning, I was making coffee and a 90-something neighbor literally called out to me through my front window. She'd inadvertently called 911 on her watch during the early morning hour of 2 a.m. and couldn't stop the notifications going to her emergency contacts every 20 minutes. She was mortified and embarrassed and was desperate to find someone who could reprogram her

These are two examples, but I think they might stand for a larger crowd.

Aging is a privilege and a gift and I believe we should treat it as such.

We are living in an age where technology will very soon surpass most of us, but it may have already surpassed some of the people we should value the most.

and pushing them.

I am not saying this is inherently wrong. Technology can be a good thing. But enough is enough.

Let's give those we call seniors a break and understand the journeys they've lived through and all the changes they've witnessed throughout their

We think we are helping them when we gift them a smartwatch or smartphone or smartcar, but I think maybe, just maybe, they might be smart enough – in their own way. They have lived. They have navigated life.

If they want to embrace technology, I say hurrah! But if they are kicking and screaming, or maybe just confused, give them a break. Realize what they've experienced in life and value that very experience.

I think it's safe to say that we all hope to grow into the golden years. And, I think it's safe to say that we hope to do it surrounded by kindness, compassion and understanding - but not necessarily things we don't really need and can't really understand.

For some, that includes the latest, greatest technology.

For others, not so much. I say we let both groups

age with grace, without any unintended demands from us. However smart that sounds at the time.

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

## **Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news**

By Victoria Hansen

Have you ever heard of the concert series "Tailgates and Tallboys"? This year the lineup includes Koe Wetzel, Hardy, Cody Johnson and Bailey Zimmerman just to name a few. It will be held in Bloomington, IL June 12 through June 15, 2025, and this year Farm Bureau members can purchase discounted tickets. Illinois Farm Bureau members will receive a 20% discount on general admission tickets for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and 50% off VIP tickets for Supporting Agriculture night on Sunday. To receive the ticket link please call or email your county Farm Bureau, Carroll County Farm Bureau, call 815-244-3001, email carrollcfb@gmail.com and Stephenson County Farm Bureau, call 815-232-3186 and email manager@stephensoncfb.org. This is another exciting way to make the most of your Farm Bureau membership.

#### Ag Coffee Talk Livestock Integration:

On June 4, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Illinois Extension and Illinois Farm Bureau will be hosting a Livestock Integration Ag Coffee Talk. This free program will focus on livestock integration exploring practical ways to incorporate livestock into cropping systems that can enhance soil health, reduce nutrient runoff, and increase overall farm resilience. Light refreshments provided. Please register at go.illinois.edu/Ag-CoffeeTalkCarroll

#### **Travel Preview New** Zealand and Australia Adventure

This exciting trip is scheduled for Feb. 23 through March 12, 2026. This trip will allow attendees to experience the countries down under, like nothing you have ever done before! Hold a Koala Bear, enjoy a home stay with a farm family, float through the world-renowned Waitomo glow worm cave, submerge yourself in the Great Barrier Reef and cruise the spectacular Milord Sound. To learn more about this trip join The Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureaus for a travel preview on June 24 at 5 p.m. at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau at 210 W Spring Street, Freeport, IL. Let us know you are coming by calling Carroll at 815-244-3001 and Stephenson at 815-232-3186.

#### **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 scholar-

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 established 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.

#### Deadline to register extended

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

Days agenda:

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

7 a.m.: Depart Freeport

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

4 p.m.: Depart for Home

6 p.m. Dinner on the way

8 p.m.: Tentatively arrive at Freeport Walmart

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

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

232-3186.

## FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED Rock Valley Publishing is seeking freelance

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

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# Seven consecutive Regional Championships for the Orangeville Broncos

CORRESPONDENT

Regional Winning a Championship has become a tradition for the Orangeville Broncos' softball program. After beating Durand 5-2 in last Saturday's Regional Championship game, the Broncos claimed their seventh consecutive regional

The Broncos are another team that got hot at the right time. Lon Scheuerell's teams have been known to do that, and their seven-year regional championship streak is proof of that. Scheuerell's hall of fame record is filled with excellent late season runs, and the 2025 Broncos are no different.

In early May, Orangeville suffered a three-game losing streak, including back-toback losses to Dakota. It was only the second time they had lost multiple games in a row this season. The skid dropped their overall record to 22-8. It's also the

which the Broncos have won helped them out with seven at least 20 games.

Orangeville cleaned up their play after the losing streak. A weekend trip to Wisconsin helped get things going in the right direction. On Saturday, May 17, the Broncos took on Juda-Albany and Evansville, two solid squads out of Wisconsin. The Broncos went 2-0 on the day, winning their games 5-3 and 5-1.

It was just what the Broncos needed before the 2025 playoffs began. After a few days of rest, the Broncos got into postseason action with a Wednesday, May 21 matchup against Ashton-Franklin Center Raiders. AFC came into the game with a record of just 4-30. They did beat Hiawatha in the first round of regional play.

Orangeville made quick work of AFC. The Broncos beat the Raiders 15-0 in just four innings. They combined for 10 hits at the

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**ROBERT AND JOYCE** 

errors. The Broncos also took four walks as a team.

Jillian Carlisle led the way at the plate. With two hits in three at bats, Carlisle had two runs scored and three runs batted in. Kylie Wolfe was equally impressive. Wolfe proved to be a tough out, going two for two with a walk, one run scored, and three RBI. Abigail Hazzard, Jada Reed, Addy Wheeler, Annicka Kraft, Aubrey Fryer, and Kelsey Gordon each tallied one RBI in the win.

The stakes were raised on Saturday, May 24, when Orangeville faced off with the Durand Bulldogs in the Regional Championship. Durand came into the game with a record of 14-12, but that includes an 11-1 victory over Orangeville back on April 15.

Orangeville proved to be the better team with the season on the line. For at least

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third consecutive year in plate, while the AFC defense five innings, it didn't appear that way. After Durand jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the third inning, the Broncos were running out of opportunities. When Durand took their two-run lead into the sixth, they were just six outs away from ending Orangeville's streak.

Six outs are a lot to ask for against this Orangeville lineup. Kylie Blakely led the bottom of the sixth off with an infield single. Following an error and a single by Reed, the Broncos had the bases loaded with no outs.

Wheeler, Kraft, and Carlisle hit three consecutive run-scoring singles. Carlisle's single to left drove in a pair of runs, putting the Broncos up 5-2. Despite Carlisle advancing to third on a sacrifice bunt, the Broncos were unable to bring her in. The rally ended there, and they took their three-run lead into the final inning.

Durand hit a leadoff single, giving them hope in the top of the seventh. R Scheuerell managed to pitch her way out of any danger.

The Broncos rallied, as Two fly outs and a strikeout helped Scheuerell escape unfazed as the Broncos picked up a 5-2 victory. Scheuerell pitched four innings of twohit softball with zero runs

> Orangeville had just seven hits at the plate. Two of those came from Wheeler, who went two for three with one run scored and one RBI. Carlisle was the only other Bronco to have a multi-hit day, going two for three with one RBI. Kraft went one for three with two RBI in the

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REAL ESTATE: 92.15 total surveyed acres of vacant land located in Sec. 26 of Clarno Township, Green County, Wisconsin, to be offered individually or together as such: Lot #1 - 20.04 acres with \$25,000 earnest money Lot #3 - 8.23 acres with \$20,000 earnest money & Lot #4 - 63.88 acres with \$50,000 earnest money; OR Lot 1, 3 & 4 all together including 92.15 acres with \$50,000 earnest money.

TERMS: 5% buyer's premium to be paid at closing on or before July 31, 2025, at Green County Title & Abstract in Monroe. Buyers will be required to sign a WI Vacant Land Offer to purchase with no contingencies. Non-refundable earnest money as down payment as described above payable to Bidlingmaier Realty, LLC day of auction. New buyers will assume the existing land cash rental lease that expires on Dec. 31, 2027. Terms & condition of lease will be furnished day of auction. This is a great opportunity to buy a smaller piece of land that is nearly all tillable with easy access. No inside fences makes for very manageable crop farming. Comes with built-in tenant. This property has been in the Schuetz Family for many, many years.

AUCTIONEERS: Tom Bidlingmaier, Browntown, WI 608-328-4878 and Cory Bidlingmaier, AuctionTime Rep., Monroe, WI 608-558-4924. WRAL #740 & 1283.

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## Pearl City Wolves claim Regional Softball Championship

CORRESPONDENT

The Pearl City Wolves got hot at the right time. After a three-game losing streak to end the month of April, the Wolves entered May with hopes of righting the ship. They did just that by opening the month with a four-game winning streak.

The Wolves wound up going 7-1 over their first eight games of May, which includes a dominant run to a 2025 Regional Championship. The Wolves drew an interesting matchup in their first postseason game as they were set to face off with the Lena-Winslow Panthers. Pearl City and Le-Win faced off in two regular season games just a week before postseason play

While the regular season matchups between Le-Win and Pearl City were as close as possible, the regional

that. Pearl City got their postseason off to a red-hot start when they rattled off six runs in the top of the first inning against the Panthers. Le-Win trailed the entire game.

The Wolves' postseason started with a big bang. In just their second at bat of the game, Isabella Smith crushed a solo shot to right-center field. From there, the Wolves were off and running. Anna Dampman and Kylie Campbell both singled to put runners in scoring position. Kendra Kuhlemeier then stepped to the plate and blew the game wide open with a three-run homer to right field. The Wolves weren't done

there. Natalie Lotz and Elizabeth Dinderman went on to hit a pair of doubles, pushing the Wolves' lead up to six runs. Pearl City scored four runs with two outs in the first, and Le-Win found themselves

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matchup was anything but trailing big before they even came to the plate.

The Panthers managed to hang around. With three runs in the bottom of the fourth, they managed to make it a two-run game as they trailed the Wolves 5-7. That was as close as they would get, however. Pearl City scored four runs in the final two innings as they beat the Panthers 11-6.

Dampman led the way offensively for Pearl City. She went five for five with one run scored and one run batted in. Lotz was also perfect, going four for four with one RBI. Dinderman was two for four with three RBI. Smith finished the day going two for five with two runs scored and one RBI. Jorja Johnson added two RBI in the victory.

Rachael Setterstrom was the lone bright spot in the Le-Win Panthers' lineup. combined for just seven hits, three of which came from Setterstrom. She finished the day going three for three with a walk, four runs scored, and one RBI. Eden Dietz was also two for four with one RBI in

Pearl City continued their run when they faced off with the East Dubuque Warriors in the Regional Championship on Friday, May 23. East Dubuque had just beaten Warren-Stockton 6-2 in the Regional Semifinal game.

It wasn't exactly a quick start like the day before, but the Wolves still jumped out to an early lead when they exploded for four runs in the top of the third inning. They did so with another long ball as Dampman homered on a three-run shot to center. That put the Wolves up 4-0, and they held the lead the rest of

Everything was working for the Wolves in the championship round. Their starting pitcher, Mackenzie Lotz, threw a complete game with zero earned runs allowed. The Pearl City defense had a mostly clean game with just one error on the day. Although it allowed East Dubuque to score a run, that didn't matter as the Pearl City bats had all the firepower. They wound up combining for ten hits in yet another dominant performance.

Pearl City matched their third inning output with four more runs in the top of the fourth. Kuhlemeier and Natalie got the inning started with back-to-back singles. S Snyder eventually drove Kuhlemeier in with a sacrifice

zie who had the big hit of the inning as her double to left allowed another run to score. putting the Wolves up 6-0.

After four innings of play, Pearl City held an 8-0 lead over the Warriors. That was plenty of insurance with Mackenzie in the pitcher's circle. She wound up collecting the win with eight strikeouts, three walks, and seven hits allowed over seven innings of work.

Dampman continued her offensive tear, going two for four with one run scored and four RBI. Smith went two for three with a walk, one run scored, and one RBI. Dinderman also went two for three with two runs scored and one RBI in the Regional Champi-

## • **Title** (Continued from front page)

The Wildcats flirted with the final score looked like a even more danger in the championship game. On Saturday, May 24, RR-SM found themselves trailing the East Dubuque Warriors 1-6 after four innings of play. RR-SM still has plenty of fight in them. The Wildcats went on to score 14 runs over the final three innings of the game. In the end,

blowout as the Cats claimed a regional title with a 15-7 victo-

Rife led the way at the plate. He went three for three with two walks, three runs scored and three runs batted in. Winter was extremely productive, going four for five with two runs scored and five RBI. Damon

Dittmar and Mason Smith both had two RBI in the victory.

RR-SM advanced to the next round, where they face off with Eastland on Wednesday, May 28, in Lena, IL.

## Winners

(Continued from page 3)

In addition, the Jo Daviess County Home and Community Education Association is pleased to announce two winners of the HCE scholarship for 2025-26. The selected winners are Will Anderson, Galena and Brynn Fry, Elizabeth. Scholarship winners are Jo Daviess County High School Seniors who will be attending an accredited two year or four-year college. For more information about Jo Daviess County HCE and its scholarship program, please contact Judy Scott, President,





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# Lena-Winslow breaks ground on stadium on May 28

On Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 6 p.m., the Lena-Winslow community is invited to witness a historic moment as organizers break ground on the new stadium at the Ric Arand Football Field. This milestone marks the beginning of a transformational journey to create a state-of-the-art outdoor sports and community complex that will serve generations of Panthers to come.

In a moment of celebration on their last day of high school, the Class of 2025 football seniors, alongside Head Coach Ric Arand, gathered on the field they proudly called home for four unforgettable seasons. These young men represent the final team to play on the original grass field, and their legacy is etched into the foundation of what's to come.

"It has been an honor and a pleasure to coach this group of gentlemen the past four years," said Coach Arand. "It is only fitting that on their last day of high school they get one last memory on this field before construction starts on the new stadium. This group did things together that almost no one else in IHSA history can say they have done on a high school football field. They amassed a record of 52-4 over the past four seasons and played in four consecutive state championship games, taking two first and two second place finishes. Not only were they great on the football field, but they represented the district of Lena-Winslow as well as anyone or any group ever has, and I am absolutely certain that these young men will go on to be great employees, and great husbands and fathers.

The May 28 groundbreak-

ing ceremony will feature Stadium Project committee members, school leaders, and major sponsors, all of whom have played a critical role in making this dream a reality. The Lena-Winslow community is encouraged to attend and show their Panther pride as the next chapter in the school's athletic history begins.

Thanks to an overwhelming outpouring of community support, the Stadium Project has exceeded its ambitious \$1,250,000 fundraising goal, announced just last fall, with \$1,254,146 raised to date. The total project cost of \$3.4 million will be funded through a combined investment of \$2.15 million from the Lena-Winslow School District and the successful community-led campaign.

Lena-Winslow The School District, in collaboration with staff, coaches, families, and dedicated volunteers, has developed a comprehensive vision for a versatile complex designed to host year-round sporting events, school activities, and community gatherings.

#### The upgrades include: School District Investment:

- Track and field improvements
- · New bleachers with 1,000-person capacity
- Improved drainage and facility access
  - Hard-surface pathways
- · Relocation of existing bleachers to the field events

### **Fundraiser Investment:**

- · Installation of artificial turf and supporting field infrastructure
- · Addition of a digital display scoreboard



On their last day of high school, senior members of the Panther Football team joined Coach Ric Arand on the historic field to mark a record-making football career before the May 28 groundbreaking on the new stadium. Pictured L-R: Maverick Cass, Landon Grindey, Jimmy Goebel, Coach Ric Arand, Cobryn Lynch, Jaylen Rakowska and Luke Kempel.

## May Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing Winners

The Northwest Illinois Daily (a cooperative fundraiser) announces its April winners. The Daily Drawing is a drawing for 365 daily cash prizes from Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023, to those donating for a ticket. Over \$21,000 is paid out to ticket holders during the drawing year. Cash prizes vary between \$50 and \$250. 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.

Sponsoring organizations from Jo Daviess, Carroll & Stephenson County include: Caring Community of Elizabeth, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music Boosters, Galena After Prom, Galena Key Club, Hanover Alumni Association, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, Philanthropic Educational Organization-Chapter OH, Scales Mound Travelers, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Stockton Girls Sports, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

#### May 2025 Winners

\$50 - Leo Petta, Pearl City \$50 - Myron Koester, Eliz-

\$50 – Brian Pettera, Hanover \$50 – Bonnie Harris, Warren

\$50 – Suzie Koch, Elizabeth

\$50 - Judy Skupien, Oregon, WI

\$50 - Amanda Haas, Stock-\$50 - Susan McMahon, Ga-

\$50 – Joe Heller, Apple Riv-

\$50 - Marianne Hillard, Galena

\$150 - Justin Davis, Darlington, WI

\$50 – Josh Miller, East Dubuque \$50 – Karen Travis, Scales

Mound

\$50 - Lindsy Vincent, Galena

\$50 – Susan McIntyre, Sa-

50 - Diane Hamilton, Ha-

\$50 - Ty Cocagne, Apple River

\$50 - Garrett Miller, Lena

\$50 – Don Kautz, Hanover

\$50 - Mark Manns, Bakersfield, CA \$50 - Dana Haynes, Savan-

\$50 – Tim Timpe, Stockton

\$50 – Caprina Abt, Galena

\$50 - Nancy Walker, Elizabeth

\$50 – Ken Lyons, Galena \$150 – Kristy Allen, Scales Mound

\$50 – Scott Gitz, Freeport

\$50 – Fred Vick, Warren \$50 - LeeSa Marcure,

Stockton \$50 - Angie Koehn, Galena \$50 - Brenda Allen, Eliza-



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**Community Garage Sales** Sat., June 7 • 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Some sales start earlier and end later Please check listings for details.

Listings/maps available in the Clubhouse, 14A157 Canyon Club Dr. on Wed., June 4 or at www.applecanyonlake.org



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THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE Wednesday, May 28, 2025



## River Ridge third graders raise funds for playground

River Ridge third grade students have shown what big hearts they have during the Pennies for Our Playground Fundraiser. During the week of May 19 through May 23, students collected coins to help raise funds to upgrade the school playground with the goal of making it accessible and inclusive for everyone. Thanks to their hard work and the incredible support from families and the school community, students raised \$843.75. Every penny will go toward helping all students enjoy a playground where everyone can play, laugh, and belong.

# A Great Big

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## **U.S. Department of Justice reports**

**Rockford woman pleads** guilty to preparing and filing false income tax returns

A Rockford, Ill. woman pleaded guilty Tuesday in federal court before U.S. District Judge Iain D. Johnston to preparing and filing false income tax returns for others. Gretchen Alvarez, 49, admitted in a plea agreement that in 2019 and 2020 she operated a tax preparation business named Sick Credit Repair Tax and Legal Services. Alvarez represented herself as an income tax preparer and held herself out to clients as a person trained in and knowledgeable about the preparation and filing of federal income tax returns. Alvarez did not have an IRS-issued Preparer Tax Identification Number to prepare federal income tax returns.

Alvarez admitted to misrepresenting taxpayers' eligibility for education tax credits and to deducting from their taxable income certain expenses, including certain fictitious business expenses. Alvarez fraudulently reduced the taxpayers' tax liabilities and improperly qualified taxpayers for refunds that were greater than those to which taxpayers were entitled. The total tax loss was \$356,881.00.

Alvarez faces a maximum sentence of three years' imprisonment. This offense also carries a maximum fine of \$100,000. The actual sentence will be determined by the U.S. District Court, guided by the Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing is set for September 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. The guilty plea was announced by Andrew S. Boutros, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Ramsey E. Covington, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Field Office of IRS Criminal Investigation. The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan S. Kim.

#### **Federal indictment** charges Rockford man with arson

A Rockford man has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Rockford for allegedly maliciously destroying - by means of fire and explosive materials - a building at 201 15th Avenue in Rockford. James Purifoy, , 50, committed the arson on January 22, 2023, according to an indictment returned today in U.S. District Court in Rockford. scheduled.

The indictment was announced by Andrew S. Boutros, United States Attorney for the Northern District

of Illinois; Christopher Amon, Special Agent-in-Charge for ATF's Chicago Field Division, and Douglas S. DePodesta, Special Agentin-Charge of the Chicago Field Office of the FBI. The Rockford Fire Department and the Rockford Police Department assisted in this investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica S. Maveus. The public is reminded that an indictment contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and entitled to a fair trial at which the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The minimum sentence for the count in the indictment is 5 years in federal prison, while the maximum sentence is 20 years in federal prison. If convicted, the Court must impose a reasonable sentence under federal sentencing statutes and the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines.

## **Discovery Center Museum receives** \$2.5 million Lilly Endowment Grant

Inc. invited select children's museums from across the nation to apply for grants through an initiative titled Fostering Character Through Children's Museums. This national initiative is designed to help children's museums develop new or expand existing efforts that explore character traits such as curiosity, empathy, compassion, honesty, kindness and communi-

Discovery Center Museum received a \$2.5 million award and is among 23 museums es and invest in programming nationwide receiving support that will be of most benefit through the initiative.

The grant will enable Discovery Center to redevelop exhibit galleries, develop and support early

childhood initiatives, and support in-museum programming – all through the lens of enhancing character devel-

In 2023, Lilly Endowment ty awareness, among others. opment. "We are so excited to have the ability to create completely new exhibit spacto families in our community by focusing on the character qualities that each child inherently has inside them", said Lana Paris, Executive Director at the Discovery Center Museum. "This grant

See GRANT, Page 9

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# Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

Hand, Foot, and Mouth disease (HFMD) is a viral infection generally seen in children under the age of 5. While outbreaks can occur year-round, the virus is most active and prevalent during the warmer seasons. It is most commonly spread in childcare settings because of frequent diaper changes, toilet training, sharing toys/playground equipment and children putting their hands and other objects in their mouth. Children often get a fever and other flu-like symptoms (sore throat, eating or drinking less, drooling, and general malaise) anywhere from three to six days following exposure to the virus. One to two days after the fever starts, your child may develop sores in their mouth. These start as small red spots in the back of their mouth, that blister and may become quite painful. A similar rash usually develops on their hands and the soles of their feet, but may involve the knees, elbows, and genital

signs of HFMD, your child will be sent to their pediatrician for further evaluation. HFMD can be mistaken for several other illnesses due to similar symptoms. For example, early symptoms of herpangina mimic HFMD, as they include fever, sore throat, difficulty swallowing, and the development of tiny blisters at the back of the mouth. The doctor may take a throat swab or stool sample to confirm the diagnosis. Accurate diagnosis is important for appropriate treatment and management, including education to both avoid and recognize signs of complications and how to prevent further spread of this highly infectious viral disease.

If a dental exam reveals

To help prevent the spread of HFMD, it's important for both you and your child to stay home from school or work and away from anyone outside your immediate family. ĤFMD is highly

positive impact on families by

getting children ready to suc-

• Grant (Continued from page 8)



DR. STEPHEN **PETRAS** General Dentist

contagious, and not just limited to children. Not only can adults contract this virus they can pass the virus on without showing any signs or symptoms of the disease themselves. Notify your healthcare professional if you develop HFMD while pregnant so they can monitor the situation closely.

While your child is most contagious during the first week of the illness, the virus can stay in the body and be shed for weeks after the signs and symptoms are gone. Be sure to notify your child's day care, summer camp, vacation Bible school, or babysitter as soon as possible if they receive a diagnosis of HFMD.

The virus spreads through contact with saliva, sneezing, coughing, stool, and fluid from the blisters. Keep blisters and scabs clean and uncovered and avoid touching them. Disinfect toys and common areas (doorknobs. etc.) as the virus can live on these surfaces for days. Isolate contagious family members and make sure all family members practice frequent handwashing. Do not share cups, silverware, towels, or other personal items.

Mothers do not need to stop breastfeeding to prevent transmission of disease. Breastmilk does not transmit the virus and can offer your infant some protection against HFMD if you are caring for another child/ children with HFMD. If you are breastfeeding your infected infant, you are susceptible to HFMD from handling your sick child, not from the breastmilk. When caring for or comforting your sick child, parents should wash their hands frequently and try not to rub their eyes or mouth, as

on the development of the gal-

lery, and staff is training with

The Virtues Project, a global

through body fluids.

There is no specific treatment for HFMD. Your pediatrician may prescribe Tylenol to ease the pain, a cream for painful, extensive blisters or iv fluids if severe dehydration is present. It's not recommended that children under the age of 18 use aspirin as it can cause a rare but serious illness called Reye syndrome. Since dehydration is the most common

complication, due to the pain of the oral blisters, offer sips of cold fluids and ice pops. Offer cold, soft foods that do not require chewing. Avoid acidic fluids such as citrus fruit juice and soda, and all salty, acidic, or spicy food.

You can help your child keep up with their oral care routine by twice-daily gently brushing their teeth with a toothbrush made of extra soft bristles. Make sure to dispose of this toothbrush upon

recovery, so it's not a source of reinfection.

Alert your doctor if your child's fever lasts longer than three days, they develop neck or chest pain, decreased or dark urine, if their symptoms worsen, or last longer than ten days.

More than 200, 000 cases of HFMD are diagnosed annually. The body typically builds up an immunity to most viruses that cause HFMD after having it. However,

since a number of different enteroviruses are responsible for HFMD, it is possible to get it again from one of these other viral strains. As always, preventing disease is always better then treating it. Teach your children to routinely wash their hands after using the restroom, before eating, and after being out in public. Help them to understand why they should not share food or put their hands, toys, or other objects in their mouths.

The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide

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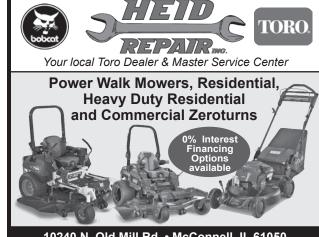




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mission. Their commitment to children's museums across the country will shape a generation of children in amazing

Discovery Center team members are currently working with Roto, a premier exhibit design and production firm,

cessfully navigate our world, initiative based on the beliefs and we are so grateful to Lilly valued by diverse cultures and Endowment for supporting our backgrounds, on creating programming content rooted in character development. Early childhood initiatives will be developed in partnership with Alignment Rockford. The new exhibit gallery, which will be home to a three-story climber, is scheduled to be installed in summer 2026.

THE SCOOP TODAY / SHOPPER'S GUIDE

# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We finally got our much needed rain. It could have rained several more days, but we were grateful for the rain we did get. The weather was unseasonably cool, but it is warming up a little bit at a time. Gardens are growing, crops are sprouting out of the fields, and summer activities have begun. We have some summer recipes as well as some interesting recipes you can use all year long. Have a

great week cooking!

#### **Dill Pickle Dip**

If you are looking for an easy appetizer, this dill dip is great for snacking. You can add some half-and-half to it to make a great salad dressing or use it to dress up baked potatoes. It is a dip for every season of the year.

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

1 C. sour cream 1/4 C. dill pickle juice 1 C. chopped dill pickles 1 t. garlic pepper

Chips or pretzels

In a small bowl, beat the cream cheese, sour cream and pickle juice until smooth. Stir in pickles and pepper blend. Refrigerate at least one hour. Serve with potato chips or pretzels.

## **LEGAL NOTICES**

#### NOTICE OF **PUBLIC HEARING** ON ROAD & BRIDGE **BUDGET AND** TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given

that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Town of West Point and Ordinance for Road Purposes of the West Point Township, in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the home of the Town Clerk, Bill Staton, from and after 8 o'clock a.m., on May 19, 2025.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinances will be held at 7 o'clock p.m., on June 10, 2025, in the West Point Township Building, 6890 N. Five Corners Rd., Lena, IL. Final hearing and action on this ordinance will be taken at this meeting.

Karen Peight, Supervisor Bill Staton, Clerk (Published in The Shopper's Guide May 28, 2025)

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC **SALE**

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Man-

agement, LLC as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on June 19,2025 at approx. 1:00 PM at www.storagetreasures.com Cube 1023 Willie Glover: Cube 1179 Patricia Mcintyre; Cube 1301 Ashley Neckrosh; Cube 1507 Marcia Green

(Published in The Shopper's Guide May 28 & June 4, 2025)

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Stockton Community Unit School District #206 has vacant seats on its Board of Education. The seat must be filled by a resident of the District.

Procedure to fill vacancy:

1. Send letter of interest and any relevant credentials to: Superintendent James Bunting, Stockton CUSD #206, 540 North Rush Street, Stockton, Illinois 61085 by Friday, June

2. The Board will interview prospective candidates on the evenings of Tuesday, June 10, 2025. The Board will then install the new members at its regular meeting on Monday, June 16, 2025.

Prospective candidates can call James Bunting at 815-947-3391 or email james.bunting@ <u>stocktonschools.com</u> with questions.

(Published in May 28, 2025)

The Scoop Today

### Red, White, and Blue Salad

This salad is great for a picnic. You can save it for the Fourth of July or enjoy it in June. You can substitute endive for the romaine and butter lettuce for the Arugula. The champagne vinegar is easy to find.

#### Pickling mixture:

1/4 C. champagne vinegar

1/4 C. water 1 T. sugar

1 t. Kosher salt

English cucumber, peeled and sliced about (about 1 C.)

#### Salad:

3 T. extra virgin olive oil

1 T. champagne vinegar 1 t. whole-grain mustard

½ t. Kosher salt

11/2 C. red grapes, halved 1 C. blueberries

heads of romaine,

chopped

1 C. Arugula, chopped ½ C. crumbled blue cheese

½ C. chopped roasted

In a small saucepan over medium heat, combine the vinegar, water, sugar and salt and bring to a simmer. Remove from heat and allow to cool for 5 minutes. In a small bowl, pour the brine over the cucumbers and allow to sit at room temperature for 30 minutes.

In a large salad bowl, whisk together the oil, vinegar, mustard and salt. Add the grapes, blueberries, romaine and Arugula; toss well to coat. Drain the cucumbers and add them to the bowl along with the blue cheese crumbles and almonds. Toss one last time

### Cauliflower Tacos

This different taco is a great one for outdoor meals and for those who are not into eating meat. The avocado sauce cools down some of the spice of the cauliflower. Enjoy this different kind of taco. **Avocado Crème:** 

½ C. plain Greek yogurt

1 medium ripe avocado, peeled and mashed

1 T. fresh lime juice

1 T. fresh minced cilantro ½ t. sea salt

#### Tacos:

1 t. sea salt

1 t. cumin

1 t. garlic powder ½ t. chili powder

½ t. dried oregano

6 C. fresh cauliflower

1/4 C. canola oil 12 flour tortillas (6 inches)

1½ C. coleslaw mix

Sliced radishes, red onions, sliced jalapeños

Sauce: In a small bowl, combine all the ingredients until smooth; refrigerate for at least 30 minutes until serving. 472314 For the tacos: Preheat the oven to 450. In a large bowl, combine the salt, cumin, garlic powder, and oregano. Add the cauliflower and oil; toss to coat. Transfer to a foil-lined baking sheet. Bake cauliflower until it is tender and browned, about 20 minutes, stirring hallway through the baking time. Serve in tortillas with coleslaw mix and avocado cream. Add radishes, onions, and jalapeños to taste.

### Poor Man's Casserole

It seems that in many cooking shows and magazines of late, there is always a recipe for a "poor man's casserole." This one caught my eye because it is creamy with noodles and cheese. It is made with ground beef and not a more expensive beef. It has a lot of flavor for an affordable casserole.

12 oz. uncooked extra-wide noodles

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

1 carton (8 oz.) sour cream 11/2 lbs. ground beef

½ C. chopped onion 3 garlic cloves, minced

1 t. Italian seasoning

½ t. pepper

½ t. crushed red pepper

1 can (29 oz.) tomato sauce 11/2 C. shredded Monterey Jack cheese

½ C. grated Parmesan cheese

Chopped fresh parsley for garnish

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9x13 baking dish. Bring a large pot of water to a boil. Add egg noodles; cook according to package directions for al dente. Drain; return to the pot. While the noodles cook, stir together the softened cream cheese and the sour cream in a large bowl. Stir into the pot with the cooked noodles until noodles are completely coated; set aside.

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat; add ground beef and onion. Cook 9 to 11 minutes or until meat is browned, breaking it up with a wooden spoon as it cooks. Drain off excess grease. Stir in garlic, Italian seasoning, salt, pepper, and pepper flakes. Cook 2 -3 minutes; remove from heat. To assemble the casserole, spread 1/3 of the meat sauce in the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Top with 1/2 of the noodle mixture, spreading into an even layer. Sprinkle with 1/2 C. shredded cheese over the top. Repeat layers, then spread the remaining meat sauce on top. Sprinkle with the last ½ C. of shredded cheese; sprinkle the Parmesan on top. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until sauce is bubbling

and the cheese is melted and divided lightly browned. Transfer to a cooling rack. Top with chopped fresh parsley.

## **French Onion Chicken Pasta** Casserole

Enjoy this easy chicken casserole for a weeknight dinner. If you find Vidalia onions, they are really great in this recipe. Using rotisserie chicken makes for an easy assembly.

8 oz. uncooked fettuccine noodles, broken into thirds

½ C. butter

2 large sweet onions, halved and thinly sliced

1 T. chopped fresh thyme leaves

¼ t. salt

1/4 t. pepper

2 T. flour

21/4 C. beef broth

2 C. shredded deli rotisserie chicken

2 C. shredded Swiss cheese Topping

2 T. butter, melted

1 C. Panko breadcrumbs Preheat oven to 350. Spray

a 9x13 glass baking dish with cooking spray; set aside. Cook and drain pasta as disoftened rected on the package, using 1 C. sugar minimum cooking time. In a 12-inch nonstick skillet, heat <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> C. butter over medium-high 1 t. vanilla heat. Add onions, thyme, salt and pepper. Cook 11 to 12 temperature minutes, stirring occasionally, until onions are tender. Reduce heat to medium; cook 10 ½ C. fresh blueberries to 12 minutes, stirring occasionally, until onions are starting to brown. Sprinkle flour over onions in skillet; cook and stir about 1 minute. Stir in broth; heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Simmer 1 to 2 minutes or until slightly thick-

## **Strawberry Pretzel** Salad Dip

ened. Remove from heat; stir

in chicken and cooked pasta,

mixing to combine. Add half

of the mixture to the baking

dish. Sprinkle with half of the

cheese. Top with remaining

pasta mixture, then remaining

cheese. Cover and bake 20

minutes. In a small bowl, mix

topping ingredients. Remove

cover; sprinkle on top of pas-

ta mixture; bake 5 to 10 min-

utes or until topping is golden

brown and mixture is heated

This fruit dip is a great way to end a meal or to have as a light dessert. It is based on the strawberry pretzel salad.

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened ½ C. powdered sugar

¼ t. salt

through.

1 t. vanilla

1 container (8 oz.) Cool Whip, thawed

1 C. strawberry pie filling,

Pretzels for dipping

Using a mixer, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, vanilla, and salt on medium-low heat until smooth, 2 to 3 minutes. Using a rubber spatula, gently fold in the whipped topping until evenly incorporated. Gently stir in 3/4 C. strawberry pie filling until combined. Transfer mixture to a serving bowl; spread into an even layer. Dollop remaining 1/4 C. strawberry pie filling on top of cream cheese. Using the end of a sharp knife, swirl the strawberry pie filling around the top. Cover and refrigerate for 10 minutes before serving with pretzels.

## Red, White, and Blue **Cheesecake Bars**

These are a lighter version of cheesecake because you whip cottage cheese for part of the cream cheese. Because of the strawberry preserves and blueberries, you don't notice that it is a lighter cheese-

1 graham cracker crust (9

<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> C. 2% cottage cheese 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese,

1 t. grated lemon zest

2 T. lemon juice

tom of the pan.

2 large egg whites, room

1 egg, room temperature

1/3 C. strawberry preserves

Preheat the oven to 375. Line an 8-inch square baking pan with foil, letting ends extend up sides, coat foil with cooking spray. Remove pie crust from foil pan; break into fine crumbles into prepared pan. Press crumbs on the bot-

Place cottage cheese in a small food processor; process until smooth. Transfer to a bowl. Add cream cheese, sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice and vanilla; beat until smooth. In a small bowl, lightly beat egg whites and egg; add to cottage cheese mixture. Beat on low speed just until blended. Pour over crust. Drop preserves by teaspoonfuls over filling. Cut through cheesecake with a knife to swirl. Sprinkle with blueberries. Bake 25 to 30 minutes until center of cheesecake is almost set. Cool 1 hour on a wire rack. Refrigerate 2 hours or until cold. Lifting with foil, remove cheesecake from pan; cut into 12 bars.

#### **Final Thoughts**

I hope everyone had a great Memorial Day. Once again, the Lena Legion Auxiliary hosted a breakfast for

See KITCHEN, Page 12

## Rock Valley Publishing

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## transportation

### **Automobiles**

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Wednesday, May 28, 2025

## • Kitchen (Continued from page 10)

veterans. There were parades in many small towns with programs and observances. Cemeteries looked so nice with their tributes to loved

The Lena Community pool is opening when the weather warms up. Park programs in several communities are starting as well as summer ball programs. We are in full swing of the change from spring to summer. The Park Ministry at the Lake has begun to have concerts on Saturday evening. They will run every Saturday until Aug. 30. The Lena Park District concerts will begin June 8 as well as the Freeport's Concerts on Sunday evenings. All of these are free, so come out and enjoy the music. The Lena

Farmer's Market is every Saturday morning with lots of good things from garden produce to baked goods, flowers, crafts, and homemade food items. There is a lot of action going on all around us. Have a great week cooking, going to ball games, swimming, and finding new experiences.

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. Have a great week.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## That's a wrap!

Pearl City Kindergarten students spend their last day of school with Ms. Debbie from Ag in the Classroom. Thank you to Ms. Debbie who provided so much for the students throughout the year.



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