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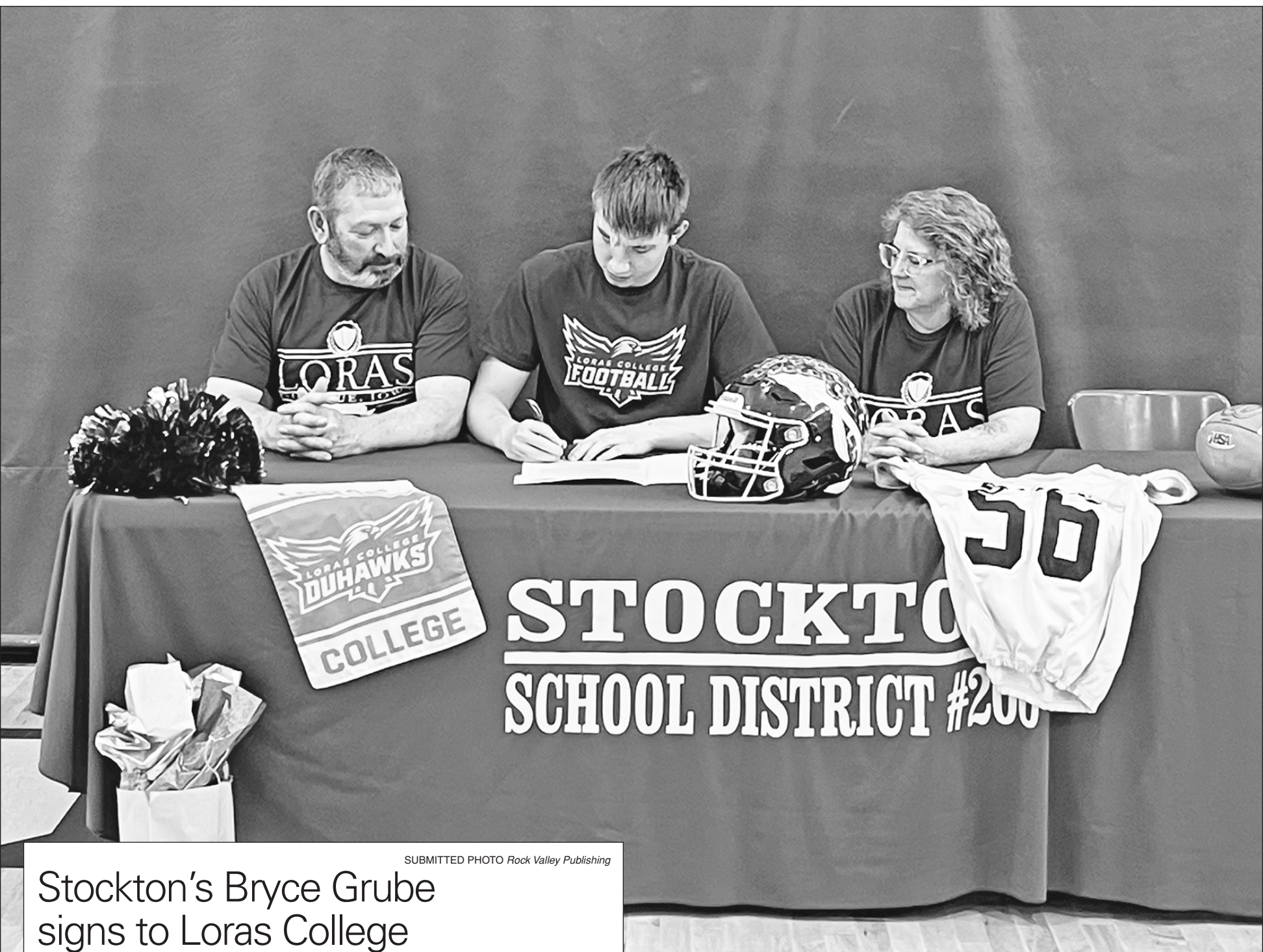


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VOL. 91 • NO. 20

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2025



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Stockton's Bryce Grube signs to Loras College

Stockton High School senior, Bryce Grube, signs his letter of intent to play football at Loras College next school year. Pictured (left to right) are Dave Grube (grandfather), Bryce Grube, Peggy Grube (grandmother).

Postal Customer **ecrws



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Obituaries

ADRIANNE SUZANNE (SUE) FANGMAN

Adrienne Suzanne (Sue) Fangman passed away peacefully on April 22, 2025, at the University of Iowa Hospital.

Sue was born on August 15, 1952, in Freeport, IL. She was the daughter of Curtis and Janice (Stocks) Smith.

She graduated from Lena-Winslow High School in 1970. She then attended the University of Iowa. While in college, Sue met the love of her life, Jerry Fangman. They were married June 2, 1973, and enjoyed 52 memorable years together.

Sue worked at the University of Iowa Information Technology Services for over



40 years before retiring. Sue and Jerry loved to travel, traveling numerous times to Europe and British Columbia.

They especially enjoyed touring Ireland and Germany.

Sue was survived by her husband, Jerry, brother, Jeffrey (Cindy) Smith, Lena, sister, Nadeane (Frank) Reed, Lena, brother-in-law Phil (Mary) Fangman, Fort Collins, Colorado. She is also survived by nieces and nephews, Melissa (Ryan)

Goebel, Beth Smith, all of Lena, Ben Smith of Monroe, and Andy (Krissy) Fangman of Muscatine, Iowa, and several great nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her very special friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her in-laws, Walther (Deloris) Fangman, and her nephew, Nathan Fangman.

Honoring her wishes, cremation rites were accorded. A private family Celebration of Life will be held in the future.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established in her name to Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Iowa.

RONDA HEILER

Ronda Kay Heiler passed away peacefully at her Lena Home on Sunday, April 27, 2025, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. She was born March 19, 1964, in Freeport, IL to Ronald and Judith (Squires) Pfeiffer. Ronda Adored spending time with family, motorcycling, and live music. She loved gardening, bird watching and always enjoyed a trip into Chicago for a Cubs game. She especially enjoyed the NFL season, watching her favorite teams... Steelers, Cowboys, Chiefs but her favorite was the Minnesota Vikings.

She had a sunny personality that lit up a room wherever



she was, she had a heart of gold. She always put the needs of others before her own. Her lifelong credo was "little things

mean a lot."

She is survived by her husband Steve Heiler of 42 years, son Michael and daughter Jamie (Patrick) Reed. Grandson Camden Reed all of Lena. She is also survived by her

sister Lori Castle of Freeport, IL and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents, brother Rick Squires and sister Robin Pfeiffer and several aunts and uncles.

A celebration of her life will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025, from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena, IL. A memorial has been established in her name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.



News briefs

Elizabeth Blood Drive

A Blood Drive will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025, from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Community Room, 402 North West Street, Elizabeth, IL. This event is co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus #10212 and St. Paul Lutheran Church-Elizabeth. Appointments are encouraged and can be made by calling 1-800-RED-CROSS. Please use sponsor code: ElizabethIL. Anyone donating blood between May 1 and May 8 will receive a \$20 e-gift card to a merchant of their choice.

Senior Resource Center to offer Medicare Basics class

The Senior Resource Center invites individuals aged 60 and older, as well as their caregivers, to attend a Medicare Basics Class on Tuesday, May 13 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Resource Center Activity Room.

To secure a spot, please register by calling 815-235-9777. Walk-ins are welcome. The Senior Resource Center is located at 206 E. Stephenson Street in Freeport.

Stephenson County VA Pantry

Below is a list of current needs for the Stephenson County VA Pantry.

Paper Towels
Toilet Paper
Kleenex
Laundry Soap
Dish Soap

Any pantry items

Donations can be brought to the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 316 W. Main St., Lena, IL. Donations are greatly appreciated. This list is immediate needs, however other items will always be accepted. Please call 815-369-4684 with any questions.

Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education

Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education will be manning AJ's Cookout on Friday, May 16. The stand will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and offering rib-eye steak, hamburgers, pork chops, brats and hot dogs. The stand is located in the parking lot of AJ's Lena Maid Meats, 500 W. Main Street, Lena, IL.

Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension

The May meeting of Blackhawk Unit of Home Extension will be held Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the Pearl City Library. The lesson on "Declutter your home and Finances" will be given by Kim Planz. Roll call will be answered by "What is the Hardest Thing to Declutter?". Raffle items will be given by Ruth Keltner and Janet Ferguson. All are invited to attend.

Salvation Army news

The local Salvation Army is hosting several events during the month of May. The Stamp Out Hunger food drive will be held on Saturday, May 10. Visit the Cubs Food Stand on May 16 and May 17 from 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Join for Family Night on Saturday, May 4 at 5 p.m. for dinner and games.

The Salvation Army is also in need of non-expired meat donations of beef, chicken, pork, venison, and turkey.

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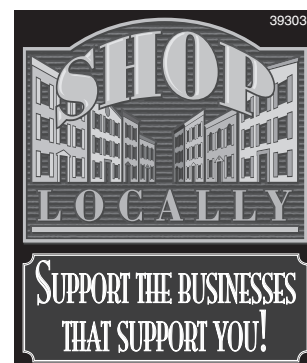


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Little Blackhawks

Stockton Elementary students are recognized for following the Blackhawk Way. Great job, everyone!

Around the Northern Hills

This spring's quest for Jo Daviess County's best burger is entering a new phase this week. Three eateries have a seat at the table and can claim the top spot in the contest via voting that's currently underway. Participants have until May 14 to vote for their favorite burger. The top three nominees include: Chubz Pub & Grub, JJ & Freddie's, and Thumser's 19th Hole.

The winning restaurant will be announced on May 12 on the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Facebook page as well as other media sources and will win a plaque and a one-year Farm Bureau membership. All participants who nominated or voted for a top restaurant will automatically be entered for a random drawing for a \$50 Lena Maid Meats gift card.

People may go to www.jodaviesscfb.com or the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau Facebook page to enter or receive more information



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

about the contest.

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.

That delegate action dictates the direction the organization follows in carrying out its programs each

year. It is from this grassroots input and direction that Farm Bureau realizes its strength as an organization serving the needs of our members. These policies become the position for the 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

May is National Hamburger Month. Did you vote for your favorite burger in Jo Daviess County?

Thank You

Whether you kept us in your thoughts and prayers, sent a lovely arrangement, gave a memorial donation or helped out in any way - your love and kindness brought us great comfort and will always be remembered after the loss of a wonderful son, father and brother - Brett Musser.

Brad, Kim, Tony and Logan Musser

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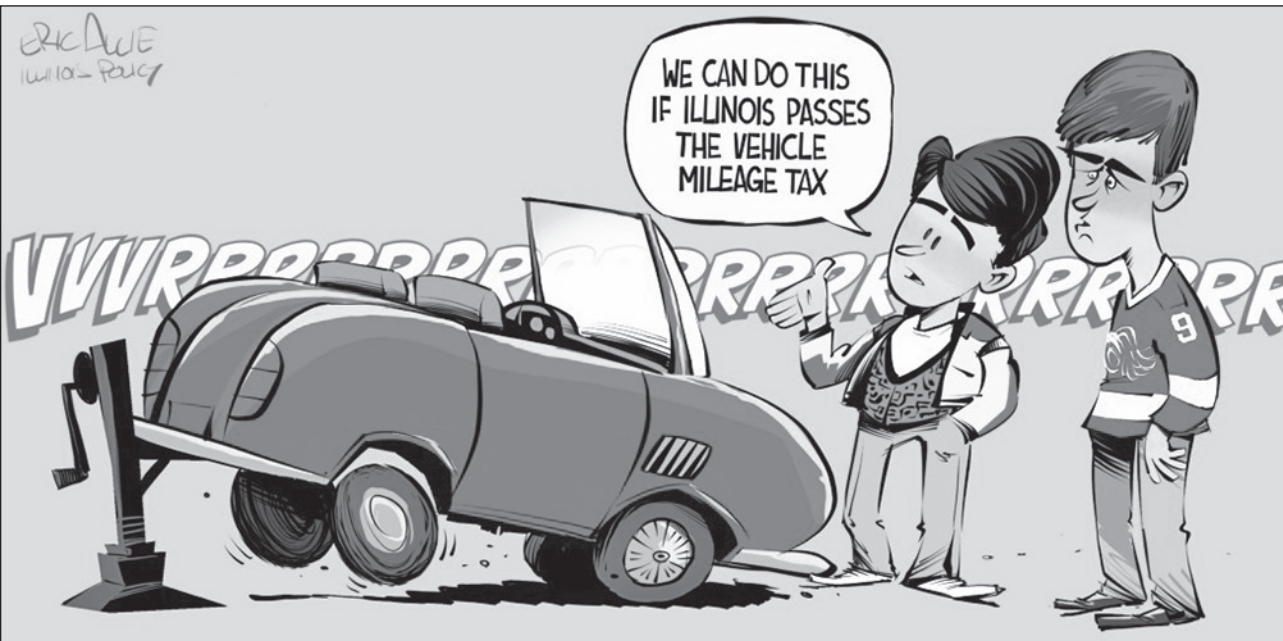
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OPINION



Weekly connection

An orphan calf is adopted

This past week my first beef cow to calve this spring gave birth out in the pasture. I was anxious to see what she had and tag the calf, so I hopped on my ATV and headed out their way. As I got closer and closer I could see that something wasn't quite right. The cow was standing over her calf in a protective posture, but the calf wasn't moving at all. I cautiously approached and soon could see that the calf hadn't made it. Moving in closer, it was clear that the calf was very small about a month premature, and she was dead. I was able to lift the lifeless animal onto the back of my ATV and drive back to the farm. The frantic mother followed me most of the way and then in confusion turned and ran back to where she had given birth. Her motherly instincts were running very high, and it was important for me to act quickly if I was going to make any use of her as a mother cow for the year. I quickly got on the phone to my nephew to see if he



By
SCOTT CERNEK
Columnist

had any orphan calves that I could try and hook up with my calf-less cow. He told me that he had one I could try, but he wasn't so sure how the cow would take to it. A few minutes later I had picked up the calf and was driving back through my pasture to where the cow was still standing near to where she had calved a few hours earlier. I set the new calf down on the ground and watched in horror as the mama cow kicked and butted her away from her and in the process scaring the calf half to death.

This was not how this was supposed to work, I thought to myself. I continued to try and herd the calf closer to the cow in hopes that she would suddenly adopt the new calf as her own. After

quite a while I soon realized that this was never going to happen without a better plan. I decided to ask my brother who raises quite a few beef cows if they ever ran into a situation like this. He told me to load up the cow and bring her and the calf over to their cattle shoot where I could put the cow in a stallion and then get the calf nursing. He told me that if the cow's milk went through the calf's digestive system and out the backside that the cow would pick up her own scent from the milk and go ahead and adopt the calf. I thought it was worth a try so I did it.

The first time I tried to put the calf on the teat of the cow she kicked like crazy, but with a lot of persistence she finally let the calf suck. I did this for four feedings and then on the third day when I drove over to put the calf on the cow, I noticed that they were calmly standing next to each other and the mama cow's udder was completely milked out. It sure looked like she had

adopted the baby, and I was excited to take them home and see if this was the case or not. Much to my happiness when I let them out of the trailer, they both walked off together across the field as a true mother and daughter would. As I watched them throughout the day, I noticed the calf sucking on the cow several times and it made me feel real good to know that a bond between both animals had finally kicked in and it would now be unbreakable.

I love how when we repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Savior, we become His adopted children, and we can never be snatched out of His hand. John 10:27-29 Jesus tells us, I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. Ephesians 1:5 also reads, God decided in advance to adopt us into

See CALF, Page 5

Slices of life

Love to pack, hate to pack

I have a love-hate relationship with packing. Not packing as in peanuts. Not packing as in crates. Not packing as in boxes or tape. Not packing as in a wound. Not packing as in heat.

Packing – as in suitcases. I love it.

And then again, I hate it. I wish I could say I love to hate it, but that just isn't true.

It's the dichotomy that is true.

Loving something and hating it at the same time, it almost feels like a lie. But in this case, the thing that feels like a lie is the truth, as oxymoronic as that sounds.

How can you love something and then hate it all within the same minute?

Here's the deal, I love packing because I love planning and, for me, packing involves a whole lot of planning – and organization – which I love as well. I also love anticipation.

Who amongst us doesn't?

And isn't packing the epitome of anticipation – typically of something fun, like a trip to the beach?

Every outfit, every pair of shoes brings with it possibilities. A swimsuit, cover-up and flip-flops promise a sunny day at the beach. Something fancy hints at a night out at an upscale restaurant. Good walking shoes illustrate hopes of a hike in the mountains or maybe a trip to the zoo. Even a comfy sweatshirt and slippers give a nod to relaxed mornings sitting on the deck with a cup of coffee.

In a nutshell, packing is putting into motion the positive anticipation of vacation. Let's go!

So there's the love part.



By
JILL PERTLER
Columnist

You might be wondering where the hate comes in.

But then again, it's probably pretty obvious: I hate that I am not better at packing.

First, I pack too much. Too many socks. Too much underwear. Too much of any sort of clothing, jewelry, shoes, hair products, and beachwear that I'm not going to need, but think I might need and you never know so you might as well stuff it into the suitcase until nothing else will fit and then you just hope for the best in weather, activities and everything else that might or could come up in the next seven days.

I hate the uncertainty of seven days (also known worldwide as a week). What if the temperature is colder than expected? Or warmer? What if it rains? Or snows?

Second, I pack too little. How does one possibly prepare for an entire week away from one's closet – with only one suitcase? I've yet to answer that question – philosophical or not. But the conundrum does thwart me.

A memory of a trip to the happiest theme park on the planet still haunts me. My kids were young. It was March. The happiest place on earth was supposed to be warm. It was not. And I had failed to pack sweatshirts for anyone in the family.

See PACKING, Page 5

Come to Lena This Weekend

Don't Miss the Town
Wide Garage Sales
Friday, May 9 &
Saturday, May 10

Map and Listings in this Issue



469015

THANK YOU

The Lena Lions Club would like to thank area residents who supported the Lena Lions Tootsie Pop Days!

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Sincerely,
The Lena Lions Club



45481

Shining a light on the harmful impact of Trump's tariffs on Illinois

By U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi

Recently, I completed a three-stop "Trump Tariff Tour" across our state to hear directly from small business owners, farmers, and workers whose lives are being upended by Donald Trump's reckless tariff policies.

From Chicago to Bloomington to Urbana, one message was clear: these tariffs are hurting Illinois families and threatening the small businesses that drive our economy.

At every stop—from Testa Produce in Chicago to Kindred Farms in Atlanta to Cloud Mountain Kombucha in Urbana—I listened as business and agricultural leaders described how surging costs and supply chain disruptions are making it harder to survive, let alone thrive. For Illi-

nois' \$200 billion agriculture sector and our family-owned businesses, the consequences of Trump's trade war are real and rising.

These tariffs amount to a hidden tax that raises costs for small businesses, seniors, and every Illinois family on everything from groceries to farm equipment.

If fully implemented, Trump's proposed tariffs could cost the average Illinois household over \$4,400 per year. And with nearly half of all small businesses already bracing for revenue losses, this approach puts our state's economic future at risk. Now more than ever, we need trade policies that work for Illinois families—not against them.

That's why I'll keep fighting to end these blanket tariffs and stand up for the workers, farmers, and entrepreneurs

who make our state strong.

Celebrating Durbin's exemplary career of public service

I joined many across Illinois in celebrating Sen. Dick Durbin's extraordinary career of public service. From expanding access to health care and defending Dreamers to tackling gun violence and confirming a historic number of federal judges, Senator Durbin has delivered real results for working families. His tireless work on behalf of Illinoisans sets the standard for what public service should be.

As he continues his service over the next two years, I look forward to fighting alongside him to deliver even more for our state. From one son of downstate to another: Thank you, Senator.

Cracking down on Congressional stock trading amid tariff turmoil

As market volatility surges in the wake of new Trump Administration tariff announcements, I've called on House leadership to immediately bring our Restoring Faith in Government Act to a vote.

Reports suggest members of Congress may have used non-public information to make timely stock trades, raising serious concerns about conflicts of interest and abuse of power.

One alarming example: on April 9, President Trump wrote on social media, "IT'S A GREAT TIME TO BUY!!!" just hours before announcing a major tariff decision that sent markets soaring. This kind of behavior opens the door for those with advanced knowledge to profit while everyday Americans are left in the dark.

That's why I joined a bipartisan group—including Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and Cory Mills—to introduce legislation that would ban members of Congress and their families from owning

or trading individual stocks while in office.

We need to restore the American people's trust in their government, and that starts with ensuring elected officials are serving the public—not their portfolios.

Strengthening career and technical education for our students, workers and economy

I recently convened a roundtable at Harry S. Truman College with educators, students, and leaders from eight Chicagoland community colleges to discuss how we can strengthen career and technical education (CTE) programs that prepare Illinoisans for good-paying, in-demand jobs.

Our conversation focused on meeting urgent workforce needs in sectors like health care, childcare, and skilled trades—all vital to Illinois' economic growth.

As the author of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, I've worked to expand federal support for CTE programs by \$1.3 billion annually. These programs ensure students can access

strong career pathways without needing a four-year degree while also giving employers the trained workers they need to thrive.

The participants at my roundtable emphasized the need for stable funding, robust apprenticeships, and wraparound support services to help students succeed. I'm committed to advancing these priorities in Congress to ensure our workforce is ready for the future.

Raja Krishnamoorthi represents the 8th Congressional District of Illinois.

• Calf

(Continued from page 4)

his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

Adoption is a beautiful picture of God's bringing us as believers into His family and pouring out His blessing to us each step of the way. I'm looking forward to watching this calf grow all summer and knowing the whole story of her adoption. Until next week, God bless.

• Packing

(Continued from page 4)

Of course we could buy sweatshirts, but that does not negate the ineptitude involved in not packing sweatshirts for your family in March just because the average temperature is non-sweatshirt-worthy, and sweatshirts take up a fairly significant amount

of valuable real estate in the average carry-on suitcase – not to mention the conundrum of where and how to pack those newly-acquired sweatshirts upon returning home.

I love vacation, and I love packing.

I love vacation, and I hate

packing.

Much like I love vacation, and I hate vacation.

When it ends.

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

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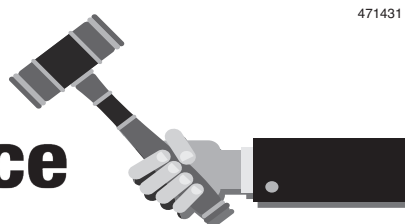
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- *Sunday Morning Worship Service and
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- Pastor's weekly sermons at
www.lenafreechurch.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028

email: firstumcofelizabeth@gmail.com

Pastor Donna Hoffman 608-293-0163

email: dchoffman8@gmail.com

- *Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.*
- Women's Faith Group -
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Pastor Thomas Mosbo (815) 369-5552

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- Piece Corps Quilters –
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- Prayer meeting – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
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205 Main St., McConnell, IL 61050

Pastor Tim Wauchope • 815-262-5942

Email: wauchope30@yahoo.com

- *Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.*
- Prayer & Praise - Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
- website: www.gracefmc.org

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- *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.
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- Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

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Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 369-5291

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- *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*
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- *Sunday School (Sept. – May) – 8:45 a.m.*
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- Reconciliation Sunday – 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

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Rev. Jason Shaw (815) 369-4035

- *Saturday Evening Worship – 5:30 p.m.*
- *Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*
- Blast Program at 9:00 a.m.
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Church: 815-858-3334

www.stpaulelizbeth.org

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- *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*

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- *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*

- *Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.*

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

10100 W. Sabin Church Rd.,

Pearl City, IL 61062

Pastor Wayne Fischer • 815-266-6260

Pastor Chip Sohl • 815-541-1425

- *Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.*

- *Children's Church - during church service*

- *Prayer Shawl Knitting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.*

- *Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.*

Come worship with us!

Highland Nursing celebrates a perfect milestone

Highland's Nursing and Allied Health program has more than one perfect reason to celebrate this spring. The National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), the nationwide examination for the licensing of nurses, reported a "first attempt" pass rate of 100 percent for the Highland Community College nursing program graduating class of 2024. To put things in perspective, the national average is 91 percent and the average Illinois pass rate was 85 percent for 2024.

The path to 100 percent hasn't been easy, but it is rewarding. After COVID ushered in a dramatic drop in pass rates both locally and nationally, Dr. Eymann and her team got to work. From implementing remediation support for students with "at risk" grades to providing all students with free, specialized tutoring, their efforts are paying off. Additionally, the department has elevated hands-on learning. In 2022, Highland cut the ribbon on a new simulation hospital, and last fall, they unveiled a mobile medical unit.

"We are sending a clear message to prospective students in our district: you will

find an exceptional healthcare education right here in your community," said Eymann. Eymann explained a large part of their students' success is because their faculty never view "good enough" as good enough. Up-to-date research and effective tools guide curriculum development. This approach isn't limited to their registered nurse pathway. Just last month, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) conducted a compliance review of Highland's Basic Nursing Assistant Program and reported a perfect score. Cassie Mekeel, BSN, RN, serves as Highland's Basic Nursing Assistant Coordinator. She explained why the IDPH's latest review was a major affirmation.

The IDPH stated the perfect score as "truly rare" and expressed their appreciation for Highland's investment in the program and excellent state exam scores, adding that their Basic Nursing Assistant Program "stands out in the best way possible!"

To learn more about Highland's healthcare career pathways, contact Dr. Eymann at 815-599-3439 or e-mail her at stephanie.eymann@highland.edu.



Highland's Nursing and Allied Health faculty and students celebrate a "first attempt" pass rate of 100 percent for (NCLEX), the nationwide examination for the licensing of nurses.

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

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 11, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. The Gospel will be from Gospel John 10:22-30.

On Wednesday, May 14 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 informa-

tion. 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 Fourth Sunday of Easter on Sunday, May 11 at 9 a.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, May 7 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 8 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.

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 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.



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Warhawk softball bounces back from three-game skid

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Entering last week, the Warren-Stockton Warhawks carried a record of 8-7. At one point, the Warhawks were 8-5, but back-to-back losses to East Dubuque quickly brought them down near the 500 line.

The Warhawks eventually fell to exactly 500 when they traveled to take on Morrison on Monday, April 28. Morrison came into the game riding a three-game winning streak, which had their overall record up to 8-4. Morrison would go on to improve to 11-4, which includes a 4-3 victory over Warren-Stockton.

It's one that got away from the Warhawks. After Ireland Mensendike and Sadie Johnson drove in runs in the top of the first inning, the Warhawks remained in control for almost the entire game. Everything fell apart in the bottom of the

sixth, when Morrison combined for four hits, including two extra-base hits. The four-run inning wound up costing Warren-Stockton the game.

The Warhawks didn't have to wait long for another opportunity to bounce back. On Tuesday, April 29 they had another road game as they traveled to take on the Fulton Steamers. Fulton also came in on a bit of a hot streak as they were riding a three-game winning streak at the time.

It appeared Fulton was going to extend their winning streak to four against the Warhawks. After five innings of play, Fulton held a small 4-1 advantage over Warren-Stockton. Even when Adrienne Baker hit a sixth inning sacrifice fly to cut into the lead, Fulton responded by getting that run back in the bottom half.

Heading into the final inning, Warren-Stockton trailed

by a score of 5-2. With just three outs remaining, the Warhawks finally made something happen. Johnson and Madalynn Perry hit back-to-back singles to lead off the seventh. Eventually, Raiyn Dauphin tied the game when she hit a two-run single to right field. Baker and Mensendike would go on to drive in two more runs before the end of the inning.

Perry went on to shut things down in the bottom of the seventh, securing a 7-5 victory for the Warhawks. Perry pitched another complete game, allowing five earned runs off 10 hits. She struck out six and walked four in the victory.

Mensendike led the way at the plate. With three hits, Mensendike finished with two RBI in the victory. Payton Goswick went one for three with a walk and two runs scored. Baker finished with two RBI despite not recording a hit. Dauphin

went one for three with one run scored and two RBI in the win.

The Warhawks picked up another comeback victory when they faced off with the Eastland Cougars on Friday, May 2. It wasn't the best start for Warren-Stockton who found themselves trailing 2-0 after the first inning. That two-run deficit remained after four innings of play, as the game went scoreless after that.

It wasn't until the top of the fifth inning that the Warhawks finally cracked the scoreboard. Baker had the big hit of the inning as her double to center allowed Maizy Fonseca to come into score. Eventually Johnson brought Baker in as well, putting Warren-Stockton up 3-2.

Once the Warhawks got the goose egg off the scoreboard, they had no trouble bringing in runs. They went on to score in the final three innings of the game, allowing them to

run away with this one. Baker crushed a two-run homer in the top of the sixth. Then, Emam Janecke hit a two-run shot of her own as she put the Warhawks up 7-2. Baker brought another run in when she hit her third sacrifice fly in the top of the seventh.

Baker was perfect at the plate in this one. She finished the day going four for four with two runs scored and four RBI as she led the way in an 8-2 victory. Janecke was next

up, going two for four with one run scored and two RBI. Goswick went two for five with two runs scored in the leadoff spot. Perry was the winning pitcher, throwing another complete game with just two earned runs allowed.

The Warhawks return home on Thursday, May 8 to play host to the Galena Pirates. On Friday, May 9 they are back at home to face off with the West Carroll Thunder. Both games have start times of 4:30 p.m.

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Warren-Stockton improves to 11-9 in 2025 baseball season

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

If there was ever a streaky team, it's the 2025 Warren-Stockton Warhawks. After 20 games played, the Warhawks held an overall record of 11-9. They have had winning streaks stretch as far as five games. They have also suffered two separate three-game losing streaks.

When the Warhawks are playing well, they have proven they can compete with most teams. So far, their biggest hurdle has been how they respond to the losses. When the Warhawks lose, they struggle to bounce back. As of May 5, Warren-Stock-

ton still hadn't bounced back from an initial loss after just one game. Three separate clusters of consecutive losses have plagued the Warhawks throughout the start of 2025.

Despite all of that, the Warhawks still found themselves two games above five hundred in early May. Largely due to a stretch of five games where the Warhawks combined to defeat their opponents 74-22. After dropping back-to-back games against River Ridge-Scales Mound, the Warhawks rattled off another four-game winning streak. This time, beating their opponents 62-25.

The Warhawks went on to

end the month of April with a three-game losing streak. In those games, they scored just eight runs. As they entered the month of May with a record of 10-8, the Warhawks opened the new month on a high note. On Thursday, May 1 they played host to the Fulton Steamers.

Fulton had just beat Warren-Stockton 1-0 in the last game of April. After that low-scoring affair, the Warhawks were looking to get right when they returned home for the first game of May.

This late season victory wasn't going to come easy for the Warhawks. Fulton got

off to a great start by scoring two runs in the top of the first inning. Both runs were unearned, but the Cardinals still doubled their production from the last game.

Warren-Stockton also got off to a much better start than the last game. Although they didn't manage to even the score, the Warhawks still got on the board with one run in the bottom of the first.

Will Stietz settled in nicely on the mound for Warren-Stockton. In what was another low-scoring matchup, the Warhawks needed an excellent pitching performance from their starter. Will gave them just that. With Brady

Stietz catching him behind home plate, Will locked in for seven complete innings of one-hit baseball. The Warhawk starter racked up twelve strikeouts, while walking just two in the game.

Will's pitching gave the Warhawk bats plenty of time to get going. In the fourth inning, Will took a walk to set the Warhawks up for business. That's when Treyton Pafford sent a two-run shot over the fence, putting Warren-Stockton up 3-2. That was the final lead change of the day. The Warhawks tacked on an insurance run in the sixth as they held on to win by a final score of 4-2.

Pafford led the way offensively. In a game that saw just six total hits from both teams combined, Pafford went two for three with a home run, a double, and three runs batted in. Brady also tallied one RBI in the victory.

The Warhawks were unable to get a winning streak going this time. On May 2, they faced a great matchup in the Eastland Cougars. The game took extra innings to decide a winner, but Warren-Stockton fell by a final score of 3-4.

This Thursday, May 8 Warren-Stockton returns home to play host to the Galena Pirates. That game is set to begin at 4:30 p.m.

Lena-Winslow, Pearl City battle in NUIC baseball showdowns

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers and the Pearl City Wolves faced off in a couple of NUIC baseball matchups last week. Both teams entered the week with double-digit win totals, making things that much more exciting.

After two games against each other, it's still hard to separate these teams from one another. Pearl City had the privilege of playing host to the Panthers in their first matchup on Tuesday, April 29. After closing out the month of April, these teams faced off in the first game of May with the Panthers hosting the Wolves on Thursday, May 1.

Despite being on the road, it was Lena-Winslow who dominated the first matchup. Pearl City did just as much to

lose the game as the Panthers did to win it, however. Brandon Hille, the Wolves' starting pitcher, didn't get much help from the defense behind him. In four and two third innings, Hille allowed just six hits and two walks. That amounted to two earned runs coming in. The Pearl City defense combined for five errors, which allowed seven unearned runs to score.

It was a recipe for disaster for the Wolves. On the other side, Le-Win's defense was perfect. They had zero errors in a game where Luke Madigan allowed just one hit from the mound. Madigan struck out nine and walked just one as he became the winning pitcher that day.

Madigan also had the big hit at the plate. In the top of the fourth, Madigan crushed

a two-run homer to left field. That brought Miles Mahon into score after hitting an RBI single of his own. The Panthers scored six runs in the inning, all of which came with two outs. Pearl City's three errors in the inning proved to be fatal in the end.

Le-Win had just six hits as a team, but they won the game by a score of 10-0 in just five innings. Madigan finished the day going two for three with one run scored and two RBI. Aiden Wild was two for three

with a run scored. Koby Kearns finished the day one for three with two runs scored and one RBI. Brycen Voegeli had the lone hit of the game for Pearl City.

The Wolves had to wait just 48 hours before they got a shot at revenge over the Panthers. After getting blanked at home, the Wolves hit the reset button before making the trip to face off with Lena-Winslow. What transpired was one of the best games of the 2025 season.

Both teams had the bats

working from the start. Pearl City immediately made sure they wouldn't get shutout again when they scored in the very first inning. After Kip Martens took a leadoff walk, Parker Allen and Myles Freedlund followed up with back-to-back singles. Eventually, Hille hit into a fielder's choice that allowed Martens to score the first run of the game.

Le-Win responded in a big way. In the bottom half, both Mahon and Wild hit doubles. Maverick Cass followed up

with an RBI single and very quickly, the Panthers had jumped out to a 3-1 advantage.

Pearl City then scored three runs of their own in the top of the second. Jacob Runkle hit a double of his own to get the rally started. Freedlund got a unique RBI when he was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded. Clayton Downs then hit into a sacrifice fly, which put the Wolves up 4-3.

See SHOWDOWNS, Page 13



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Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

As the weather is warming up and people are spending more time outside it is important to follow sun safety practices. May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month. Agricultural workers are at the top of the list of candidates for the most at-risk groups for skin cancer due to their daily exposure to the sun while working outdoors. It's crucial for farmers and agricultural community members to prioritize sun safety. Use the social media graphics provided below to spread awareness and remind everyone to take necessary precautions under the sun!

Fair books available

Stephenson County Farm Bureau has Fair Books for the 2025 fair at our office. Books are available for pickup Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Save the Date for this year's fair July 22 through July 26, 2025. New this year, daily admission now includes grandstand access! To learn more visit www.stephensoncountyfair.org.

Roots and Shoots Grants

The Stephenson County Farm Bureau Foundation is now accepting applications for our "Roots and Shoots Apprentice/Internship

Grants". While Bruce Johnson was the Manager of the Stephenson County Farm Bureau, he established the Roots and Shoots Program. The goal of Roots and Shoots is to encourage Stephenson County youth to explore job opportunities within our community and the agriculture industry. As part of this we are offering a matching grant for Agriculture-related businesses who employ high school students or college students.

More information along with an application is available at www.stephensoncfb.org under "news" tab or by emailing manager@stephensoncfb.org. Funding can be

used for intern/apprentice salaries, mileage, employee materials, etc. Applications are due on or before the end of day on June 13, 2025.

Trip Feature Fair Oaks Farm

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

6:30 a.m.: Depart Carroll County Farm Bureau
7 a.m.: Depart Freeport Walmart

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

4 p.m.: Depart for Home

6 p.m. Dinner on the way home

8 p.m.: Tentatively arrive at Freeport Walmart

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

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'd like to be picked up at: Carroll 815-244-3001 and Stephenson 815-232-3186.



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Lady Broncos extend winning streak to nine

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville Broncos have started to heat up on the softball diamond. After getting off to a 10-4 start to the 2025 season, the Broncos rattled off nine consecutive victories. That includes four victories that came during a very busy week for Orangeville. With four games in as many days, the Broncos were put to the test last week.

Orangeville entered the week with a record of 15-4. They were coming off an excellent 6-4 road victory over the Lena-Winslow Panthers the

week prior. On Monday, April 28 they played host to the Galena Pirates. Coming in at 12-3, Galena made for an exciting matchup for the red-hot Broncos.

Orangeville took control of the Monday matchup early on. They scored the game's first run when Abigail Hazzard singled up the middle, driving in Addyson Wheeler to score. Hazzard would round the bases thanks to some wild pitching. Eventually, a passed ball allowed Hazzard to reach home safely, giving the Broncos a 2-0 lead in the first.

Galena struggled to get much

of anything going. Wheeler was on the mound for the Broncos, and she nearly pitched a complete game shutout. After throwing six scoreless innings, Wheeler was unable to put the Pirates away in the seventh. A home run, two walks, and a single had the Pirates threatening in the final inning. Galena brought four runs across, but Rylie Scheuerell managed to close out the game for a 6-4 victory for Orangeville.

Wheeler got the win from the circle. In six innings pitched, Wheeler allowed four earned runs, three hits, and five walks. She struck out four in the game. At the plate, Orangeville had just six hits. Anicka Kraft had two of those hits as she finished with one run scored in the win.

The very next day, the Broncos were back at home to play against the Forreaston Cardinals. Coming in at just 3-18, Forres-

ton has struggled throughout most of the 2025 season. Those struggles continued when they lost 11-1 to Orangeville on April 29.

The Broncos racked up 10 hits in the win, led by Hazzard's two-hit performance. Hazzard wound up going two for three with one run scored and two RBI. Jillian Carlisle was equally impressive, going two for three with two runs scored and one RBI. Jada Reed was one for two with a walk, two runs scored, and one RBI in the victory.

There was no time for rest for the Broncos. They closed out the month of April with a road game against the Eastland Cougars. Thanks to some late offensive production, the Broncos managed to run away with this one.

After three innings of play, the Broncos and Cougars were tied 1-1. That's when

the Bronco bats came to life as they opened the inning with three consecutive singles from Carlisle, Reed, and Lily Rodebaugh. Carlisle scored on Rodebaugh's single through the left side, putting the Broncos up by one. Some savvy baserunning then allowed another run to come across as Reed and Rodebaugh advanced on a double steal. Later on, with two outs, Wheeler singled up the middle, driving in a run and putting Orangeville up 4-1.

Heading into the top of the sixth, Orangeville's lead was just 4-2. The Broncos would score two runs in both the sixth and seventh innings, which helped them pull away for an 8-2 victory. Reed and Carlisle led the way offensively as the duo combined for six hits in the game. Rodebaugh was productive, going two for four with one run scored and three RBI. Kylie Wolve also had two hits

as Orangeville combined for 15 as a team.

The Broncos wrapped up their four-games in four-days stretch with another road game. On Thursday, May 1 they opened the new month with their second matchup against the Forreaston Cardinals. They proved that the first game was no fluke, beating the Cardinals 11-2 in Forreaston.

Scheuerell had an excellent pitching performance against Forreaston. Scheuerell tossed a complete game with just one earned run allowed. Scheuerell managed to pitch her way out of trouble more than once. In her seven innings, she allowed 10 hits. Despite that, Scheuerell racked up 10 strikeouts, which kept Forreaston off the board.

On Thursday, May 8 the Broncos are at home as they play against South Beloit. That game is scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m.

• Showdowns

(Continued from page 11)

The lead didn't last. Le-Win responded with another two runs in the second inning. After just two innings of play, there had already been four lead changes, and the Panthers were up 5-4.

It was back and forth from start to finish. The score remained 5-4 after five innings of play. Pearl City finally evened things up with a run in the top of the sixth, but once again, Le-Win responded by regaining the lead in the bottom half.

It wasn't until the top of the seventh that the Wolves finally managed to separate themselves from the Panthers. Le-Win had just about everything go wrong in the late stages of the game. With Kearns on the mound, he had two walks and hit another batter. That helped set the Wolves up for business. Downs had the big hit of the game as his two-run double to left tied the game 7-7 in the final inning. Hille followed up with an RBI single.

Heading into the bottom of the seventh, Pearl City held a slim 9-7 lead over the

Panthers. Up to that point, Le-Win had scored in the bottom half of every inning that Pearl City scored in the top half. If the Wolves' four-run seventh was any indication, the Panther offense was about to rally once again.

Le-Win was in a position to do just that. With Wild and Jaden Schubert hitting singles and Cass taking a walk, the Panthers had the bases loaded and no outs. They say pressure creates diamonds, and Freedlund shined under pressure. With no outs and the bases loaded, Freedlund struck out three consecutive Panthers to secure the 9-7 win for the Wolves.

With the win, the Wolves improved to 12-8 on the season. Le-Win went on to beat West Carroll in their next matchup, which improved their record to 15-6-1 on the year. On Thursday, May 9 the Panthers travel to take on the Du-Pec Rivermen. Pearl City is also in action that night as they play host to Forreaston. Both games have a start time of 4:30 p.m.

Stockton Town Garage Sales

Listings and map to run in Shopper's Guide
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Lena Townwide Garage Sales

215 E. Palm
May 9 • 8 - 5
May 10 • 8 - 1

Keyboard, tools, tool boxes, electric sawzall, reclining shampoo chair, HP printer, men's, women's, girl's 10-14 clothes, kid's Halloween costumes, toys, misc. household items, much more.

470973

714 S. Schuyler St.
May 8 - 10
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Moving attic cleaning sale. All types holiday decorations, furniture, dishes, toys, bedding, clothes, old coloring books, kid's books, hamster cages, dog cages, ceramics, slot machine, hand made baby cradle, bathroom cabinet and much miscellaneous items.

470974

326 E. Lena St.
May 9 & 10
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Canning jars in different sizes, indoor and outdoor decor, women's clothing, knick knacks, women's leather coats for motorcycle riding, women's leather chaps, items for dogs, outdoor lights, flower beds, decor.

470975

215 W. Lena St.
Friday & Saturday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

New kitchen appliances, Oster, grinder, waffle maker, griddle, electric double burner, Kitchen Aid stand mixer, New tools, scroll saw, Rockwell Bladerunner, air compressor, garden seeder, rain barrel, office supplies, folders, paper, music cd's, LP's, TV tables, tripod, suitcases, landscape lights.

470976

307 S. Freedom St.
May 8, 9 & 10
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Baby clean out! Highchair, strollers, glider, swing, girl clothes, women's maternity, toys, housewares. So much good stuff. Come check it out!

470977

518 W. Fairway
Thursday, Friday & Saturday 8 a.m. - ??

Huge multiple family. Vintage toys, dishes, Barbies, toy box, jewelry, purses, stereoscope, housewares, end tables, Beanies, puzzles, games, afghans, crafts, Fisher Price Western Town, Jim Shore, dolls, pack and play. Too much to mention!

470401

212 East Railroad St.
Thursday 8:30 - 5
Friday 8:30 - 5
Saturday 8:30 - 3

MULTI FAMILY SALE!
Clothes - girls, boys and adults - ALL SIZES. Toys, Bikes, Household and decor. MUCH, MUCH MORE!

471052

6318 N. Lake Road
Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-3

So many items. 1980's toys and games, dishes, linens, household items, clothes, vintage tablecloths, furniture, daybed, crafts, holiday decorations, office supplies, glassware. Something for everyone!

470981

403 S. Schuyler St.
Thursday, May 8
8 a.m. - ????

Downsizing! Cleaning out deep cupboards and corners. LOTS of treasures and antiques. Many gift possibilities! New handmade kitchen linens, sets of hand embroidered heirloom-worthy floursack towels, engraved garden rocks by the Peace Plaza Artisan. Starts Thursday May 8!!!

470980

M.O.M. Group
720 N. Freedom St.
May 9 & 10
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Large multi family garage sale. Proceeds support M.O.M. Group.



470121

303 S. Freedom St.
Friday 8 - 6
Saturday 8 - 3

Couch, newer small kitchen table with 4 chairs, end tables, boys and girls clothes size 6 and up, women's small-XL, men's small-XL, glassware of all kinds, old light fixtures, Red Wing, Hull, Haegar, much, much more.

470970

501 Maple
May 8 • 8 - 3
May 9 • 8 - 4
May 10 • 8 - 12

Multi-family; clothes: mens, womens, children; toys; household items; tools; crafts; other miscellaneous.

470967

207 William St.
Friday 7:30 - 4:30
Saturday 7:30 - noon

Stainless steel refrigerator, matching dishwasher, small upright freezer, outdoor grill, Star Wars trilogy, Die Hard trilogy, Little Mermaid, Bambi, Aladdin, Lion King VHS tapes, 1959 original Barbie with accessories, Farmall collectible tractors in original cases, antiques, dishes, clothes, and much, much more.

470965

223 E. Palm Dr.
May 9 • 8 - 5
May 10 • 8 - 2

This sale is a crafter's dream. Selling a basement full of DIY crafting supplies. If you are a crafter - you need to stop here! Also some household items.

470963

728 S. Schuyler St.
Friday 8 - 5
Saturday 8 - 4

LARGE MULTI-FAMILY SALE! Maternity, infant, children and adult clothing; infant accessories; toys, games; movies; rookie baseball cards; books; household; collectibles; truck cabinet and hubcaps; farm primitives; vintage items; bike rack; shop supplies; much misc.

470961

514 W. Fairway Dr.
Thursday 8-5
Friday 8-5
Saturday 8-noon

Girl's clothing 2T - 14, instant pot, cookbooks, back booster seat, high chair, exer-saucer, stroller, baby swing, baby bath tub, 2 girl's scooters, 2 bikes, misc. items.

470959

8707 W. Dameier Rd.
May 9 and May 10
9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

HUGE Garage Sale! Household items, old items, shoes, purses, DVD's, toys, desk, lamps, bar stools, wood shelves, small rocking chairs, something for everyone. REASONABLE.

470958

403 Grove St.
May 9 and May 10
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Baby clothes, toys, swings and bouncers, women's clothes, baskets, glassware, plants, books, movies, shoes, kitchenware, crochet items, furniture and more.

470957

107 W. Townline Rd.
May 8 to May 10
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Clothes (Junior, XL and Plus sizes), movies, books, collectibles, men's clothes, women's shoes, housewares, sheets and linens.

470956

715 Maple St.
Friday, May 9
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Home decor, bedding, books, kid's bicycles, boy's clothing (size 4-6), girl's clothing (size 8-10), boy's husky (12-16), winter coats, housewares, and much, much more.

470955

212 Palm Drive
Friday and Saturday
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Full size comforter set, mattress pad covers, large women's scrub sets, prom and homecoming dresses, sandals, men's and ladies clothes, Le-Win apparel, graduation party supplies.

470954

Garage Sale Shoppers Are On The Move



470123

Friday, May 9 • 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 10 • 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Saturday, May 10
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We have had some beautiful warm weather but are still waiting for more rain. I heard on the weather report that our little corner of the world is classified as a drought area. Even if we get several inches of rain, we will be classified as a drought area. Hopefully we will get some rain and not storms. I know that the seeds in the ground need some moisture to grow. We are getting ready to celebrate Mother's Day. This week we have some recipes that are great for spring cooking. Have a great week trying them out.

Lasagna Dip

This unusual dip is not hard, but it does take a little planning. The noodles are deep fried and add a little crunch to the dip. The dip is served with unusual chips.

6 uncooked lasagna noodles
2 T. grated Parmesan cheese
2 T. Italian seasoning
½ t. garlic powder

Oil for deep fat frying
Dip:
½ lb. bulk Italian sausage
2 C. whole milk ricotta cheese
1 C. spaghetti sauce
2 garlic cloves, minced
1 t. dried basil
1 t. dried oregano
½ t. salt
½ t. pepper
½ C. shredded Italian blend cheese

Cook lasagna noodles according to package directions; drain. Cut noodles into 2-inch pieces and prick each piece several times with a fork. Mix Parmesan cheese, Italian seasoning and garlic powder. In a deep fryer or electric skillet, heat oil to 375. Fry noodles in batches 1 to 2 minutes or until golden brown, turning once. Drain on paper towels. Immediately sprinkle with cheese mixture.

Dip: In a large skillet, cook sausage over medium heat, 4 to 6 minutes or until no longer pink, breaking into fine crumbles. Stir in ricotta, spaghetti sauce, garlic and seasonings; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 5 minutes or until slightly thickened, stirring occasionally. Transfer to a 1 qt. microwave dish. Sprinkle with Italian cheese. Microwave, covered on high for 45 to 60 seconds or until cheese is melted. Serve with lasagna chips.

Lasagna Chips

6 lasagna noodles
¼ C. finely grated Parmesan cheese
2 T. olive oil
2 cloves, garlic, minced
1 T. Italian seasoning
¼ t. salt
¼ t. pepper

Preheat oven to 375. In a large pot of boiling salted water, cook noodles for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente. Drain and let cool in a single layer on a baking sheet. Cut noodles into bite size pieces; toss with Parmesan, olive oil, garlic, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread noodle pieces in a single layer on sheet and bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until crisp. Let cool before serving with the Lasagna Dip.

Spring Green Vegetable Salad

The dressing on this refreshing green vegetable salad gives it great flavoring. The addition to red onion, grape tomatoes, cukes, and radishes gives it just the right crunch. Many cooking shows are putting onions in ice water or hot water to take the bite out of them and make them sweeter. You can substitute the sunflower seed with pumpkin seeds if you like the taste better.

Dressing:

6 T. balsamic vinegar
4 T. fresh squeezed lemon juice
2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
2 t. salt
1 t. pepper
½ C. extra virgin olive oil

Salad:

1 red onion, thinly sliced
2 pkg. spring mix salad greens (5 oz. each)
2 C. grape tomatoes, cut in half
2 medium cucumbers, peeled and thinly sliced
6 radishes, thinly sliced
1 C. sunflower seeds
1 C. almonds
1 C. Gouda cheese

Mix together all the salad ingredients in a bowl. Place sliced red onion in a bowl with hot tap water and let sit for 5 minutes. Drain and pat dry. In a large salad bowl, place spring mix, grape tomatoes, cucumber slices and red onion slices. Drizzle with the dressing and toss gently coating all ingredients. Sprinkle with sunflower seeds, almonds, and Gouda cheese.

Chicken Salad Baskets

These unique baskets present chicken salad in just the right size for an afternoon tea, a nice appetizer, or a luncheon addition. Use rotisserie

chicken as a shortcut. If you want to substitute dried cranberries and halved red grapes for the mushrooms or apples or add them in, they would make for added flavor. You can use white or wheat bread for the baskets. These are fun and pretty too.

1 C. diced cooked chicken
3 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
1/3 C. chopped mushrooms
2 T. chopped pecans
2 T. diced peeled apple
¼ C. mayonnaise
1/8 t. salt
Dash pepper
20 slices bread
6 T. butter, melted
2 t. minced parsley

In a small bowl, combine the chicken, bacon, mushrooms, pecans, and apples. Combine mayo, salt, and pepper in a larger bowl; add chicken mixture and stir to coat. Refrigerate until serving.

Preheat oven to 350. Cut each slice of bread with a 3-inch round cookie cutter; brush both sides with butter. Press into an ungreased mini muffin cup. Bake until golden brown and crisp, 11 to 13 minutes. Cool 3 minutes before removing from muffin tins. Cool completely on wire racks. Spoon 1 T. chicken mixture into each breadbasket. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours. Just before serving,

garnish with parsley.

Swiss Steak Skillet Style

Round steak is generally a cheaper cut of meat and often on sale. If you brown it and cook it low and slow, it becomes a meat that is so tender it melts in your mouth. The tarragon adds additional flavor, and the sauce becomes a great gravy. Serve it with mashed potatoes or noodles, and it is good enough for company without breaking the bank.

8 bacon strips
2 lbs. round steak, ¾ inch thick
2 C. sliced fresh mushrooms
1 can (14½ oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained
½ C. chopped onion
1 t. dried tarragon
2 T. cornstarch
2 T. water
1 C. heavy whipping cream
Minced parsley

Preheat oven to 325. In a large cast-iron or ovenproof skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Remove and place on a paper towel to drain, reserving ¼ C. drippings. Crumble bacon and set aside.

Trim beef into serving-size pieces. Brown on both sides

See KITCHEN, Page 20

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IN*CI*DENTAL*LY

Artificial intelligence providing bacterial breakthroughs

As bacteria evolve to resist antibiotics, infections that were once easily treatable, such as pneumonia, urinary tract infections, and skin infections can become life-threatening and require more aggressive and costly treatments.

Antibiotic resistance also increases the risks for patients undergoing medical procedures such as surgery, organ transplants and cancer therapies.

Globally, five million deaths are linked to antibiotic resistance every year. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified antibiotic resistance as one of the most crucial challenges in modern medicine. We need to develop new and better ways to prevent bacterial strains from becoming resistant and find or create new antibiotics to treat the resistant strains that are threatening universal health. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is playing a significant role in advancing our ability to do this.

Researchers at such



By
DR. STEPHEN PETRAS
*Illinois Licensed
General Dentist*

prestigious facilities as ADA Forsyth Institute, Stanford Medicine and McMaster University, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, NIH and MIT are using AI-powered learning algorithms to analyze vast datasets of bacterial genomes (the complete set of genes or genetic material present in a cell or organism). The speed at which AI is capable of analyzing and learning from this data is helping researchers to understand the wide variety of ways that bacteria can become resistant. This helps to predict and prevent antibiotic resistance, design new drugs to target specific bacteria, and predict how the body will respond to new antibiotics.

AI technologies are

increasingly being used to improve the delivery and efficacy of antibiotics. These advanced systems can optimize dosing regimens, improve drug targeting, and monitor patient responses in real time. Examples of these include Vancomycin, a key antibiotic for the treatment of serious infections caused by Gram-positive bacteria, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and Amikacin, an aminoglycoside antibiotic, which is commonly used to treat severe Gram-negative infections.

Both of these antibiotics require precise dosing to avoid ototoxicity (damage to the inner ear leading to hearing loss, balance issues,) and nephrotoxicity (damage to the kidneys). Treatment protocols created using AI learning strategies has shown high accuracy and specificity in predicting initial and subsequent doses of these drugs. AI systems have also been developed to

monitor blood levels of these medications in real time and adjust dosing accordingly. They also ensure that optimal drug concentrations are maintained, thereby improving treatment efficacy and safety.

Colistin is an antibiotic of last resort for multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacterial infections. Its use is limited because of the risk of significant nephrotoxicity. To combat this, researchers have used AI to develop targeted colistin delivery systems, such as nanoparticle-based delivery vehicles, which can transport the medication directly to the site of infection, to maximize therapeutic effects and minimize systemic toxicity. In addition, silver nanoparticles linked or paired to colistin have shown enhanced antimicrobial activity and reduced toxicity compared to colistin alone.

As I reported late last year, ADA Forsyth researchers have entered human clinical trials for the narrow-spectrum antibiotic FP100 that they

developed in collaboration with Flightpath Bioscience to successfully eradicate the bacteria *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, which triggers gum disease, without harming the beneficial microbiomes in the oral cavity and stomach. Since *Fusobacterium* can travel throughout the body and cause disease, this has the potential to prevent systemic disease as well.

Sharing data, resources, and knowledge across institutions and countries is helping to improve the effectiveness of AI-based research in fighting antibiotic resistance. In July researchers at the ADA Forsyth Institute perfectly illustrated this when they parodied the movie *Fight Club* by stating "The first rule of Bacteria Fight Club: Always talk about Bacteria Fight Club." In this instance, they wanted to share their research findings about the multidrug-resistant pathogen, *Klebsiella*, with the goal to develop better preventative measures and treatment protocols in hospitals

throughout the world.

To find out why *Klebsiella*, a pathogen that exists in minute quantities in the nasal and oral cavity, was capable of causing so many hospital-acquired, drug-resistant infections, the researchers set up a "Bacterial Fight Club" by placing 200 species of oral bacteria in a glass jar and letting them starve to see which bacteria would survive. *Klebsiella* was consistently one of the winners because of its ability to take the nutrients it needed from the dead and dying bacteria that surrounded it. They also found that *Klebsiella* survive better in the nasal microbiome than in the oral microbiome, because of the decreased micro diversity of the nasal cavity. They brought to light the big role this seemingly minor bacteria plays in drug resistant hospital-acquired infections. Early detection and elimination of *Klebsiella* is critical, especially for people on ventilators, which provide ideal conditions for *Klebsiella* growth.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT
COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT STEPHENSON
COUNTY-IN PROBATE
In Re the Matter of the
Estate of:
MICHELLE A. KAVRAN,
Deceased.

No. 25-PR-34 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Michelle A. Kavrán, of Freeport, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on April 11, 2025, to: Michael A. Kavrán 2336 E. Maize Rd. Freeport, IL 61032 as independent Administrator of the Estate of Michelle A. Kavrán, whose attorney is

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

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

may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before October 23, 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 14, 2025

Michael A. Kavrán,
Administrator
by: Anthony V. Coon
Anthony V. Coon,
Attorney At Law
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
April 23, 20, May 7, 2025)
470585

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 Administrator 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. Gale-

na 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

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(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
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(Published in
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471413

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Cube 1045 Juaneice Watkins; Cube 1076 Latrice Allen; Cube 1117 Megan Holden

(Published in

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Highland announces Bonvillain as Commencement Keynote

Highland Community College is proud to announce that Tamisha Bonvillain, FNP-BC, IBCLC, will deliver the keynote address at its 62nd Annual Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 17 at 10 a.m. on the Highland campus.

One of Highland's "Distinguished Alumni" and a beloved local healthcare provider, Bonvillain brings more than two decades of service, inspiration, and advocacy to this special occasion—made even more special as her son, Daeshon Verner, will graduate as part of Highland's Class of 2025.

Bonvillain, a Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, has dedicated over 22 years to serving the Freeport community. Her passion for health and wellness extends beyond clinical care—she's a familiar face in local initiatives such as FHN's "Walk with a Doc" program, which promotes physical activity and community health education through group walks led by healthcare professionals.

"She has so many outstanding qualities, including that she is inspired to help those around her learn how to better their



Tamisha Bonvillain

health and live life safely and comfortably," said Chrislyn Senneff, DNP, RN, Highland Nursing Instructor.

Bonvillain has been a guest speaker for Highland's Women in Science Club and a steadfast supporter of Highland's Nursing Department, where she has mentored student nurses during clinical rotations. In recognition of her professional excellence and contributions to the college, she was named one of just five recipients of Highland Community College Foundation's Distinguished Alumni Award in Fall 2024—a distinction held by fewer than 200 of the nearly 18,500 students who have earned degrees and certificates at Highland.

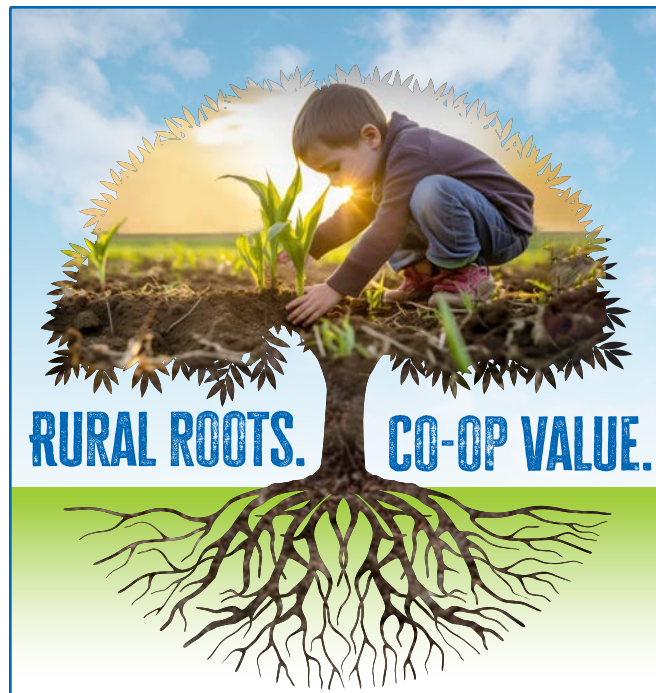
"Community college has been a bridge between my dreams and my reality," said Bonvillain. "All while being affordable and flexible." Adding to the emotion and significance of the day, Bonvillain will deliver her address at the very ceremony where her son,

Daeshon Verner, will cross the stage. Verner, who served as Highland's Student Trustee, plans to continue his education at Loras College, majoring in Biochemistry before going to medical school.

"My mom raised me and my brothers as a single parent while becoming a nurse practitioner. This showed me anything's possible through hard work! Now, I'm following in her footsteps in the medical field to become a trauma surgeon," said Verner.

As Bonvillain prepares her speech for the May 17 ceremony, she does so with the confidence that comes from experience on a big stage. A Chicago Bears superfan, she recently took the national stage during the 2025 NFL Draft in Green Bay. Selected to announce the 233rd overall pick, she proudly proclaimed the Bears' newest running back, Kyle Monangai from Rutgers University, in front of a crowd of over half a million fans.

Highland Community College invites the community to hear from Tamisha Bonvillain and join in celebrating the achievements of its graduates on May 17.



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Kitchen (Continued from page 16)

in the skillet with bacon drippings. Top meat with mushrooms, tomatoes, and onions. Sprinkle with tarragon and bacon. Cover and bake at 325 until meat is tender, 1½ to 1¾ hours, basting twice. Remove meat from skillet; keep warm under tented aluminum foil. Combine cornstarch and water until smooth; add to skillet. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes. Reduce heat; stir in cream. Simmer, uncovered,

until heated through, about 3 minutes. Return meat to skillet and turn to coat with sauce. Place on serving plate with gravy and sprinkle with parsley.

Strawberry-Rhubarb Cobbler

It is time for the start of rhubarb recipes because rhubarb has started to come up. This combination is a traditional one, but you seldom see a two-crust cobbler. Keep this

one for your spring dessert list.

- 1 1/3 C. sugar
- 1/3 C. flour
- 4 C. sliced fresh or frozen rhubarb, thawed and cut into ½-inch pieces
- 2 C. halved fresh strawberries
- 2 T. butter, cubed

Crust

- 2 C. flour
- ½ t. salt
- 2/3 D. canola oil
- 1/3 C. warm water

1 T. 2% milk
1 T. sugar
Vanilla ice cream
Preheat the oven to 425. In a large mixing bowl, mix sugar and flour. Add fruit; toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 11x7 baking dish. Dot with butter.

Crust: In a bowl, mix flour and salt. In another bowl, whisk oil and water; add to flour mixture, stirring with a fork until a dough is formed (dough will be sticky). Roll out dough between 2 pieces of waxed paper into an 11x7 rectangle. Remove top piece of wax paper. Invert rectangle over filling. Gently peel off waxed paper. Brush pastry with milk and sprinkle with sugar. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until crust is golden brown. Serve with vanilla ice cream

Key Lime Bars

These refreshing dessert bars are great on a brunch table or just as a great spring dessert. You can find key lime juice in most grocery stores.

- 1¾ C. graham cracker crumbs
- ½ C. butter, melted
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 4 egg yolks
- 2/3 C. key lime juice
- ½ C. heavy cream
- ½ C. sour cream
- Whipped cream

Preheat oven to 350. Line a 9-inch square baking pan with enough foil to overhang sides by 2 inches; grease the foil. Mix crumbs and butter. Press in bottom of pan. Bake until set, 8 minutes. Let cool.

In a bowl, whisk con-

densed milk, yolks, lime juice, heavy cream and sour cream until smooth. Transfer to pan on top of graham crackers. Bake until set, 20 minutes. Transfer to a rack and cool. Chill at least 2 hours. Using foil, lift bar from pan; transfer to cutting board. Cut into 16 squares. Add a dollop of whipped cream before serving.

Final Thoughts

Mother's Day is fast approaching, and several proms are in the record book. Graduations have begun, and May will be half over soon. They have mowed my lawn for the first time, and my tulips have opened up in the back garden. The leaves on the trees are almost totally out, and the allergies are definitely driving a lot of us nuts. For those of you lucky enough to have your mother, spoil her and have a great day. For those of us whose mother is no longer here, it is a great day to remember all the great things your mother taught you. Many of my column recipes were influenced by my mother and grandmother. I love remembering our great times of celebrating which usually included food. Enjoy your Mother's Day in person or in memories. I hope you can enjoy some really nice weather; it is time to get the lawn furniture out! Have a great week cooking.

We are looking for some May recipes. 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.

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