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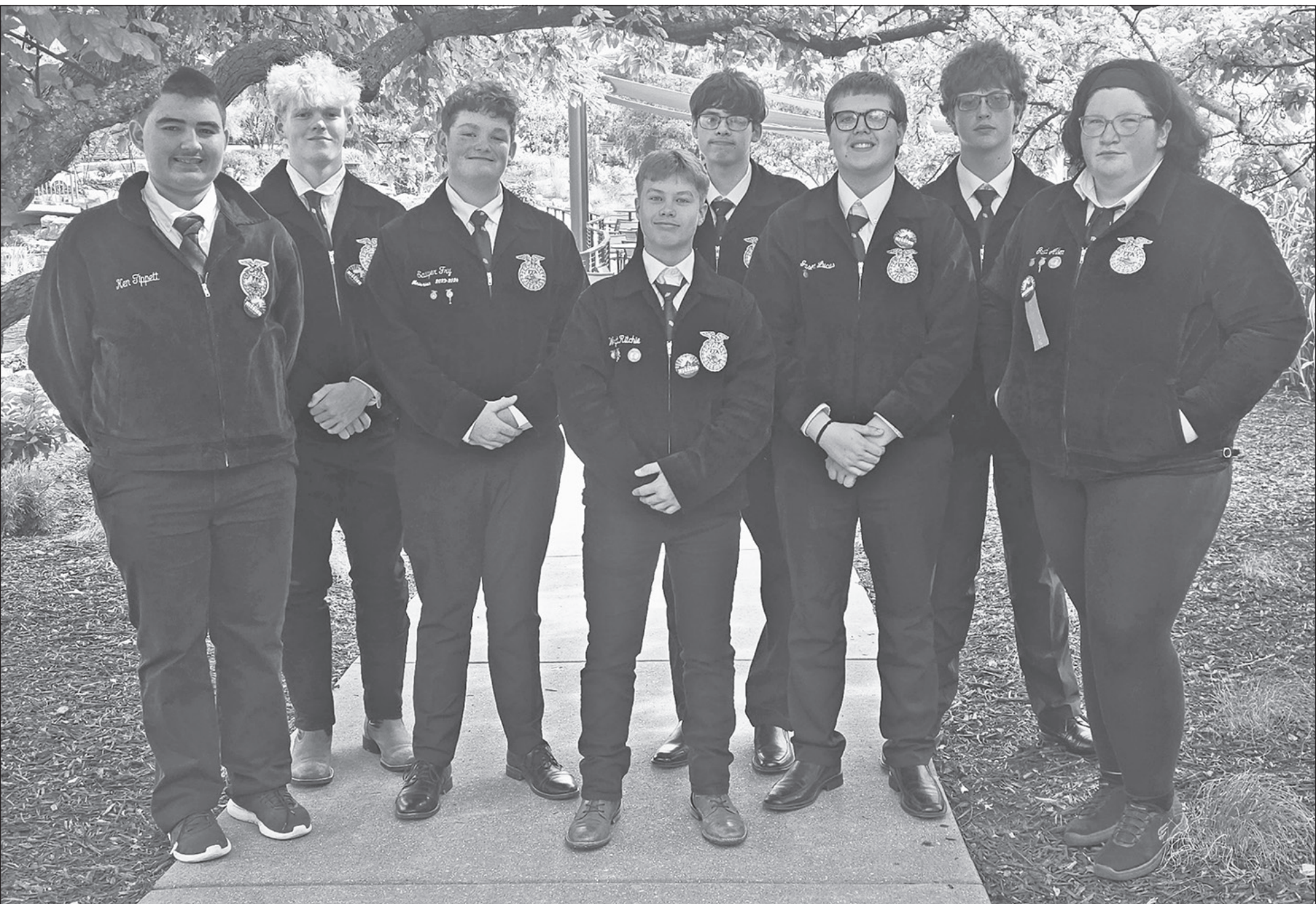
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VOL. 91 • NO. 27

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing


## River Ridge FFA clinch back-to-back championships

The River Ridge FFA team took first place at the State Convention for the second year in a row. Pictured are State Convention attendees Bronx Gonzalez, Wyatt Lehman, Section One President Sawyer Fry, Chapter Sentinel Wyatt Ritchie, Carson Dodd, Jason Lucas, Chapter Historian Hayden Diehl, and Chapter Secretary Gracie

Allen.

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# ISP Troop 1 enforcement results for May

**Monthly activity for May**  
Illinois State Police (ISP) Troop 1 has announced the enforcement figures and activity for May.

ISP Troop 1 troopers issued 1,472 citations, 1,385 written warnings, and made 20 criminal arrests during the month of May. Troopers issued 622 citations for speeding, 92 citations for distracted driving violations and 93 citations for occupant restraint violations.

Troopers investigated 91 traffic crashes including 1 fatal crash, assisted 278 motorists, and conducted 628 commercial motor vehicle inspections, of which 49 were placed out of service for safety reasons. There were 22 arrests for driving under the influence.

Troop 1 encompasses Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago counties.

## Alcohol Countermeasure Enforcement patrols

ISP Troop 1 has announced the results of Alcohol Countermeasure Enforcement (ACE) patrols in Whiteside and Winnebago counties during May.

These ACE patrols allowed the ISP to focus on preventing, detecting, and taking enforcement action in response to violations associated with impaired driving and illegal transportation or consumption of alcohol or drugs.

- Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Citations: 0
- Other Alcohol/Drug Citations: 2
- Occupant Restraint Offenses: 9
- Registration Offenses: 15
- Driver's License Offenses: 7
- Insurance Violations: 6
- Total Citations: 92
- Total Arrests: 5

- Total Written Warnings: 45

Alcohol and drug impairment are estimated to be a factor in more than 47% of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Illinois. There is one alcohol-related traffic fatality every 39 minutes in the United States. The ACE program allows officers to work even harder at removing dangerous DUI offenders from the road.

## Distracted Driving Enforcement

ISP Troop 1 has announced the results of Distracted Driving Enforcement Program patrols held in Whiteside and Stephenson counties during May.

This program provided extra patrol coverage for ISP officers to focus on saving lives and reducing serious crashes by enforcing distracted driving laws.

- Hand-held phone/device citations: 24

- Texting while driving citations: 7
- Other types of distracted driving citations: 0
- Total distracted driving citations: 31
- Total distracted driving written warnings: 1
- Total of all citations: 57
- Total of all written warnings: 3

## Nighttime Enforcement Patrols

ISP Troop 1 has announced the results of Nighttime Enforcement (NITE) patrols in Lee, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties during May.

These NITE patrols allowed the ISP to focus on preventing, detecting, and taking enforcement action in response to impaired driving and occupant restraint violations especially between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

- Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Citations: 2
- Other Alcohol/Drug Citations: 3
- Occupant Restraint Offenses: 4
- Registration Offenses: 6
- Driver's License Offenses: 6
- Insurance Violations: 9
- Total Citations: 70
- Total Arrests: 6
- Total Written Warnings: 10

Alcohol and drug impair-

ment are estimated to be a factor in more than 47 % of all fatal motor vehicle crashes in Illinois. There is one alcohol-related traffic fatality every 39 minutes in the United States. Over half of all fatal crashes in Illinois occur at night. The NITE program allows officers to work even harder at removing dangerous impaired drivers from the road and making sure everyone is buckled up.

## Occupant Restraint Enforcement Patrols

ISP Troop 1 has announced the results of Occupant Restraint Enforcement Patrols (OREP) held in Lee, Stephenson, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties during May.

These OREPs provided extra patrol coverage for the ISP so officers could focus on saving lives by making sure all vehicle occupants were buckled up.

- Safety Belt Citations: 35
- Child Restraint Citations: 1
- Total Citations: 105
- Total Written Warnings: 28

Most motorists know safety belts save lives, but some ignore their safety and that of their families by neglecting to use safety belts and child restraint devices. These pa-

trols reinforce the occupant protection message by focusing on those who ignore the law. Lives can be saved if people simply "buckle up!"

## Special Traffic Enforcement Patrols

ISP Troop 1 has announced the results of Special Traffic Enforcement Patrols (STEP) in Lee, Whiteside, and Winnebago counties during May.

These STEPs allowed the ISP to provide increased enforcement for impaired driving, occupant restraint, speeding, and distracted driving violations during the National "Click It or Ticket" Campaign.

- Occupant Restraint Violations: 11
- Driving Under the Influence and Drug/Alcohol-Related Citations: 10
- Speeding Citations and Warnings: 161
- Distracted Driving Citations and Warnings: 9
- Total Citations: 241
- Total Written Warnings: 57

Driving the posted speed limit, sober, not distracted, and buckled up will save your life and the lives of many others.

All enforcement projects listed in this article are funded through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

*A Great Big*

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**The River Ridge FFA team are recognized on stage during the State Convention. Pictured are Bronx Gonzalez, Carson Dodd, Hayden Diehl, Jason Lucas and Wyatt Ritchie with State FFA Officer Owen Torrence.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing



**The River Ridge FFA Quiz Bowl team includes Hayden Diehl, Jason Lucas, Ella Dittmar, Wyatt Ritchie and Carson Dodd.**

SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## River Ridge FFA wins State Quiz Bowl

Five freshmen FFA members from the River Ridge FFA Chapter traveled to Springfield to compete in the State Quiz Bowl contest as a part of the State FFA Convention during the second week of June. These first-year high school members, otherwise known as Greenhands, competed against 24 other teams from across the state. It was a high-stakes contest as it was run as a single elimination contest with five fierce teams all competing for one spot each round.

The Wildcat team members Carson Dodd, Wyatt Ritchie,

Ella Dittmar, Hayden Diehl and Jason Lucas, along with team alternate Bronx Gonzalez, did a fantastic job representing their school and Section One FFA. The team had a number one seed and breezed through the first round, but the second round was much closer as they came out on top by only one point. In the championship round they dug deep with their FFA knowledge and came out on top as the new State Champions. This is the second year in a row that River Ridge FFA has won the State Championship. Way to go, Wildcats!

# Around the Northern Hills

Thanks to everyone that came out to our member appreciation picnic that we sponsor with COUNTRY Financial and Stephenson Service Company. We had a great night with steak sandwiches and the fixings. It's always great to talk to our members.

### Peach orders

Peach orders are due by Wednesday, July 23 with payment and order form. Checks should be made payable to the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau. Price is \$43/box for members and \$48/box for non-farm bureau members. Pick-up will be



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in the farm bureau basement with an anticipated delivery August 6, depending on weather. Peaches must be picked up the day of delivery to ensure freshness. Order forms are available at our office or on our website.

### Local member benefits

Don't forget to take advantage of member-

only benefits for Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members. We have businesses around the County who have partnered with us to offer these discounts. Make sure to have your farm bureau membership card handy when asking for those discounts. For a full listing of the local benefits, go to our website [www.jodavinesscfb.com](http://www.jodavinesscfb.com) and click on membership, then local discounts.

### Farm Fun Fact

The average dairy cow consumes 300 pounds of water each day.

## Stockton Heritage Museum to host 'Pleasant Valley Township Tales' by Randy Stadel

The Stockton Heritage Museum proudly invites the community to the first event in its new *Township Tales* presentation series. Local resident Randy Stadel will share fascinating stories highlighting the history, people, and events of early

Pleasant Valley Township. The presentation, titled *Pleasant Valley Township Tales*, will be held on Sunday, June 29, 2025, at 2 p.m., at the Stockton Heritage Museum, 107 West Front Street, Stockton, IL.

Pleasant Valley Township is

one of nine eastern townships in Jo Daviess County and lies directly south of Stockton Township. Come discover the people, businesses, churches, schools, and community events that helped shape its rich legacy.



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### Fourth of July Fireworks

**Grab 'N Go Meal**  
Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton  
6-8 p.m.

Ham/Cheese Sandwich, Chips, Fruit  
Snack, Water

**\$6 Suggested Donation**  
Proceeds go towards needed improvements on our 75-year old church where many events are held including the free "Community Table Meal"

**More information:**  
[ChristLutheranStockton.com](http://ChristLutheranStockton.com)  
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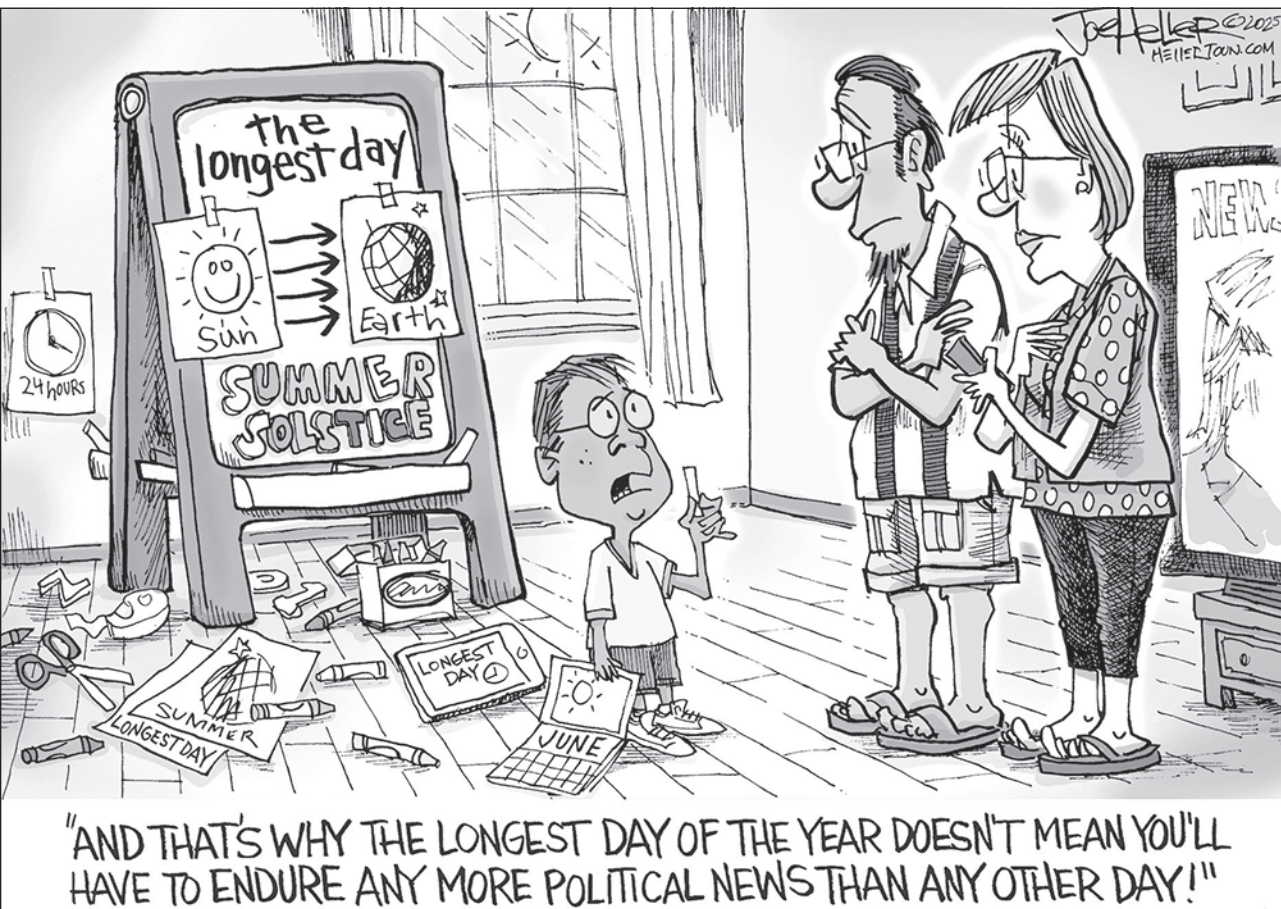
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# OPINION



"AND THAT'S WHY THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR DOESN'T MEAN YOU'LL HAVE TO ENDURE ANY MORE POLITICAL NEWS THAN ANY OTHER DAY!"

## The path to responsible hemp regulation in Illinois

By Justin Ward

Imagine if a single law could wipe out years of progress in a federally legal industry. That's the threat facing Illinois' hemp producers and retailers today.

Hemp isn't a loophole—it's a lifeline for small businesses and communities. Policies must support innovation and safety, not criminalization. The people turning to hemp are people looking for a healthy alternative to pain management and a life free of the fear of addiction. We must protect kids, but we also

must protect the people who have come to depend on these healthy alternatives.

There certainly are bad actors in this industry, which is why the Illinois Healthy Alternatives Association (ILHAA) is stepping up to propose a balanced and responsible approach to regulation that prioritizes consumer safety, especially for our children.

We remain committed to working hand-in-hand with lawmakers to create a framework that safeguards children without stifling the growing hemp industry. Our proposed

policy recommendations are designed to ensure responsible practices while promoting consumer confidence in these products.

One of the cornerstones of our proposals is the establishment of a minimum age requirement of 21 for the purchase of hemp-derived products, except for non-active-duty veterans ages 18 and older. This measure is crucial in preventing underage access to these products, ensuring they are available to only responsible adults who understand their use.

In addition to age restrictions, we are advocating comprehensive product testing through independent, credentialed laboratories. This full-panel testing will confirm the purity and potency of hemp products, assuring consumers that what they are purchasing meets rigorous safety standards. In an industry that has seen rapid growth and innovation, it is essential for consumers to trust the products they are using, particularly when it comes to their health and well-being.

Standardized and accurate labeling is another critical recommendation. By requiring all hemp products to include clear, consistent labels that align with testing results, we can prevent confusion and ensure that consumers are fully informed about what they are consuming. Furthermore, prohibiting look-alike packaging that mimics popular

snacks and candy brands will help to shield children from inadvertently accessing these products. ILHAA stands out as a distinct voice for balanced hemp reform in Illinois.

Our broad representation across the state—from urban retailers in Chicago to family-run farms in rural areas—allows us to understand the diverse impacts of hemp policy on various communities and businesses. While we acknowledge the importance of safety and regulation, we also believe in preserving consumer access to beneficial hemp products, such as CBD and full-spectrum extracts. Adults should have access to safe, well-labeled alternatives for health support without the threat of prohibition.

ILHAA is dedicated to fostering a hemp industry that thrives alongside the marijuana sector under fair regulations. We stand ready to collaborate with lawmakers to create a regulatory environment that is both sensible and equitable. Ideally, we would like to get an agreement this spring, but if it cannot happen now, we will continue to work with legislators to create a regulatory framework to protect kids and make Illinois a leader in this emerging industry. Together, we can achieve a future where hemp products are safe, accessible, and beneficial for all Illinoisans.

Justin Ward is president of Illinois Healthy Alternatives Association

## Slices of life

# Pearl of great price

As a kid, I loved collecting shells on the beach - still do. There is something calming about walking on the sand, listening to the waves and looking for small treasures the tide washes up.

I never found a pearl—not many of us do on the beach. You usually have to take a deep dive to find a pearl, but I was always enamored of them.

Pearls come from humble beginnings—from a errant grain of sand or some other irritant that finds its way inside the shell of a clam (or mollusk or other shelled ocean creature.) The clam detects the pearl, which at this point can probably be described as a thorn in its side. It hurts, probably intensely so, but the clam has no way expelling the irritant. It has to learn to live with it.

So the clam produces a product to soften the hard edges of the sand grain. Gradually the clam surrounds the irritant sand with a substance that rounds out the edges and lessens the pain caused by the unwanted and uninvited guest.

Over time, the unwelcome irritant becomes almost a part of the clam. Still felt, still present, but no longer painful. For the clam, it is a presence that is infinite and never-ending.

In many ways, grief is like a pearl.

It enters, unwanted and uninvited but once inside the shell, there is no going back. There is no expelling grief once it has entered your life.

At first, grief is excruciating, akin to being poked with a thousand sharp



By JILL PERTLER  
Columnist

needles. But you have no choice but to endure its wrath—no way to expel its presence. So you find work-arounds. You learn new habits that lessen the intensity of the sorrow and regrets and goodbyes you never got the chance to say.

You find means to soften the edges of grief and create a sort of buffer around it to shield you from its intensity. You learn to live with grief. It becomes a part of you - infinite and never-ending, yet defining in ways you never could have imagined.

And over time, over days and weeks and years, you begin to create your pearl.

Another reference to pearls I've always loved was from the book "The Scarlet Letter." In it, the protagonist, Hester Prynne, who is emblazoned with the scarlet "A" for her transgressions as an "adulteress" (and refusing to name the father) names her only child Pearl.

"Pearl of great price—purchased with all she had - her mother's only treasure!"

Here, pearl provides another analogy to grief. Pearl of great price—purchased with all that she had: I love thinking about grief that way.

We pay a great price for a grief that seems uninvited,

See PEARL, Page 11

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Rock Valley Publishing encourages readers to reach out to the community by writing a letter to the editor.

**Letters are limited to 500 words.** Authors must include their first and last name, the city or village in which they reside, and a phone number and email address where they can be reached in case of questions.

Send letters to: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com  
**Letter-writers will be limited to one letter per month** except for locally elected officials, or individuals specifically associated with local village governments or entities such as school districts, park districts or library districts.

No letters directed to a third party will be accepted for publication.

**We reserve the right to edit a letter for reasons of clarity, space restrictions and libel.**



# 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 29, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. The Gospel will be from Gospel Luke: 9:51-62. This will be our fifth Sunday for the month of June, we plan to celebrate with a "Sing to the Lord a New Song" folk/rock band playing during our service.

On Wednesday, July 2 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to join and no quilting experience necessary.

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

## St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate time after Pentecost on Sunday, June 29 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, June 26 at 1 p.m. and to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, July 1 at 9 a.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, July 2 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport. The Sit N Sew group will meet on Tuesday, June 17 at 10 a.m. Experience is not needed.

Pastor Len will be hosting a bible study on Wednesday, June 25 at 6:30 p.m. The topic will be the Book of Revelation.

The July Grace Meal will be on Sunday, July 20. The menu will be a brat with bun, chips, baked beans, fruit cup (diced peaches), and pudding. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, July 17. Meals can be picked up at the church on July 20 between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. This meal is partially funded by donations from the Foundation of Northwest Illinois. 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](mailto:ruth.dake@gmail.com).

## Water Baptism by Calvary Church

Calvary Church of Stockton will have a water baptism for teens and adults on Saturday, June 28 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the Stockton Park Pool. If interested, please contact Pastor Scott Hess at 815-291-6239. Par-

ticipants will be fully immersed in water, symbolizing a new life in Jesus Christ.

Please come prepared with a change of clothing and a towel. This is a joyful celebration, and friends and family are welcome to attend to witness this meaningful moment.

## The Fourth of July fireworks Grab 'N Go Meal

Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton will be serving a Grab 'N Go Meal from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. right before the town's popular 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks. You can walk up in front of the church located at 600 N. Main St. to quickly grab it and go. The handy sack lunch will include a delicious ham and cheese sandwich, bag of chips, a fruit snack bag and a bottle of water. You are welcome to sit with your chairs or blanket on their large grassy lot to watch the fireworks right across the street. The \$6 suggested donation will be used for the improvements needed on their 75-year-old building where church services, funerals, weddings, confirmations and now the free Community Table Meal. For more information visit [ChristLutheranStockton.com](http://ChristLutheranStockton.com).

## Stockton Wesley UMC

Stockton Wesley UMC will have a hymn sing worship service Sunday June 29 at 11 a.m. Judy Campbell will play the piano and Pastor Melwyn Alagodi will officiate. Please feel free to join for an old fashion sing along. Church is handicap accessible and is located at the corner of Benton and Hudson St.

## Soul Purpose Free Community Lunch, Fellowship & Entertainment

Hosted by Elizabeth United Methodist Church Congregation

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

*All are welcome*

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Join the Lena Lions Club on Saturday, July 19 for LuAnn Jordan Memorial Pet and Bike Parade.

# LuAnn Jordan Memorial Pet and Bike Parade

The Lena Lions Club announces the LuAnn Jordan Memorial Pet and Bike Parade to be held on Saturday, July 19 in Downtown Lena. Activities will begin at 10 a.m. with a lineup of dogs, cats, any pet on a leash or caged in the Citizen's Bank

parking lot. The parade will step off and travel up Mason Street to the Lena Water Tower and back to the village parking lot, where the Farmer's Market is set up.

The parade and activities are a fun day and stresses exercise when it comes to

Diabetes Control/Awareness. Hot dogs and water will be available, as well other displays. Lion LuAnn Jordan was the founder of this event, and we wish to remember the contributions she made to the Lena Lions Club and to the Lena Community.

## CONSIGNMENTS WANTED

**STATELINE CONSIGNMENT AUCTION**  
ACCEPTING UNTIL WEDNESDAY JULY 16TH

AUCTION DATES: JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> 26<sup>TH</sup> & 27<sup>TH</sup>  
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SATURDAY JULY 26TH: SUPPORT EQUIPMENT, ATTACHMENTS, RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT, MINI EXCAVATORS, LAWN AND GARDEN, & MORE!

SUNDAY JULY 27TH: SHOP TOOLS, TOYS, ANTIQUES, & MISC.

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473254



By Victoria Hansen

As we continue to celebrate June Dairy month it seems only fitting for me to highlight another of America's favorite dairy treat, cheese. I'm sure we can all agree we have a favorite cheese and that may change depending on the mood or situation you are in. A few of my favorites are Havarti, Cheddar and pepperjack.

According to the Dairy AgMag the average Ameri-

can eats 37 pounds of cheese each year! Mozzarella and Cheddar are two of the most popular cheeses in the United States. Each year U.S. Dairy farmers provide milk to make more than 7 billion pounds of cheese. Don't forget to say yes, please to extra cheese this June!

#### Disaster preparedness class

The Stephenson County Farm Bureau has partnered

with the Stephenson County Health Department to hold a Disaster Preparedness presentation. This presentation will take place at the Farm Bureau office 210 W Spring Street Freeport, IL. This class will take place on Tuesday, July 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30p.m. a light dinner will be provided. Each household will receive started items for the Disaster Preparedness kit. Space is limited, don't delay on re-

serving your spot today at 815-232-3186. This program is free and open to the public, families and individuals encouraged to attend.

#### Bremmer elected Illinois State FFA Reporter:

Ethan Bremmer of Pearly City was elected to the position of Illinois FFA State Report last week during the Illinois FFA State Convention. He is the son of Chad and Deb Bremmer of Pearl City. We are excited to see where this opportunity takes him.

#### Stephenson County Farm Bureau welcomes Grace Bok:

A brief intro from Grace. My name is Grace Bok, and

I am the intern at Stephenson County Farm Bureau this summer! I am currently preparing to start my senior year of college at Iowa State University this fall. While at Iowa State I am pursuing a degree in Agricultural Studies, with a plan to receive my master's degree in agriculture education. I am beyond excited to be with SCFB this summer! I cannot wait to learn more about Farm Bureau and all it has to offer.

#### Illinois Farm Bureau launches Farm Bill Working Group

Illinois Farm Bureau will solicit members to be part of a new Farm Bill Working Group charged with examin-

ing all the titles in the legislation to consider areas for improvement. As reauthorization of the next farm bill could happen within the next year, the group will focus on the following farm bill. "The Farm Bill Working Group will be a great opportunity for our grassroots process to succeed, with a diverse group of farmers delivering for Illinois agriculture," IFB President Brian Duncan said. "It will allow Illinois Farm Bureau members to identify what is working and what is not working in the farm bill."

The goal is to be prepared with recommendations when the next farm bill is up for re-authorization." The working group may provide policy submittals through IFB's resolutions process. Applications for the group will open June 16, and members who are interested can apply through their county Farm Bureaus. Duncan will appoint the members, with the group tentatively having its first meeting by late summer. The number of participants will be chosen based on issue and area expertise. The goal is to represent Illinois' diverse agricultural industry. As work by the group gets underway, subcommittees will be developed, and participants will be able to incorporate outside experts in their discussions and analysis. The members will determine how often they meet, with no pre-determined completion date.

The Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors approved the establishment of the working group at its May meeting. Those who wish to apply must be an active Farm Bureau member and should contact their local county Farm Bureau for additional details.

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458573

## Sons of the American Legion July raffle

Once again it is time for the Sons of the American Legion in Lena to hold their July Calendar Raffle. The proceeds from this raffle help support The American Legion Baseball teams.

Tickets will be sold up to July 1 and are \$10 each. No

more than 800 tickets will be sold and tickets are eligible for each drawing. Tickets are available by calling 815-369-4684 and can be purchased at the American Legion Home on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Thank you in advance for your support.

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# New Fishing Spin Club launches for youth in Elizabeth, IL

The University of Illinois Extension is excited to announce the launch of a brand-new Fishing Spin Club for youth entering grades 6 through 12. This engaging and educational program is designed to introduce young

anglers to the fundamentals of fishing while encouraging outdoor exploration and environmental awareness. Led by local fishing enthusiast Mike Iacomini, the club will cover a wide range of topics including knot

tying, casting techniques, catch-and-release practices, tackle box assembly, fishing safety, aquatic ecosystems, and more. The program is ideal for beginners or those with limited fishing experience.

In addition to hands-on learning, participants will enjoy field trips and real fishing experiences, providing a fun and memorable way to build confidence and connect with nature. "This club is a great opportunity for youth

to unplug, get outside, and learn a lifelong skill," said Angela Miller, Jo Daviess County 4-H Program Coordinator. "We are excited to have Mike and his expertise. I hope kids take advantage of this club- because we plan to have a lot of fun."

An informational meet-

ing will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 6 p.m. at the Elizabeth Community Building, located at 402 West St., Elizabeth, IL 61028. Registration is required by July 6 and can be completed online at <https://go.illinois.edu/JDC4-HFishingClub> or by calling 815-858-2273.

## The Freeport Police Department begins Fourth of July traffic safety campaign

The Freeport Police Department announced plans for July Fourth traffic enforcement with a focus on impaired and unbuckled drivers. The safety campaign will run from June 20 through July 7 to encompass three summer weekends leading up to and after Independence Day.

"We're asking all of our residents and visitors to celebrate Independence Day safely," said Chief Chris Shenberger. "It's simple: If you're driving, don't drink or use cannabis or other impairing substances. Our officers will be working diligently to keep impaired drivers off the road and ensure everyone is buckled up."

The Freeport Police Department will join the Illinois State Police and more than 200 local police and sheriff's departments for the statewide effort. To celebrate safely, designate a sober driver and don't let friends or family members drive impaired. Other important tips include:

Give your designated driver your keys before you go out. If you are impaired by alcohol, cannabis, or any other drug, call a taxi, take mass transit, use a ride-sharing service, or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely.

Promptly report impaired drivers to law enforcement by pulling over and

dialing 911.

Make sure everyone in your vehicle wears their seat belt. Not only is it the law, but it's also your best defense against an impaired driver.

The "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over," "Drive High Get a DUI" and "Click It or Ticket" campaigns are made possible by federal traffic safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. The enforcement efforts are complemented by IDOT's "It's Not a Game" media campaign, which emphasizes the serious consequences of impaired driving and other unsafe driving behaviors.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS  
U.S. Bank National Association  
Plaintiff  
vs.  
Evan C. Diaz; et. al.  
Defendant

24 FC 52  
CALENDAR  
NOTICE OF SALE  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on July 16, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
LOT NINE (9) IN BLOCK ONE (1) IN PARK HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION OF BLOCK FIVE (5) OF COATES' ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FREEPORT; SITUATED

IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.  
P.I.N. 18-19-06-256-019.  
Commonly known as 1662 S. Chicago Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032.  
The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.  
For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road. Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527.

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INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
intercountyjudicialsales.com  
I3267566  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide June 11, 18 & 25, 2025)  
473021

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,  
PLAINTIFF,  
VS.  
LINN PERKINS,  
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF L BRUCE MCCONNELL, DECEASED;  
MEDALLION BANK; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; KELLY MALOUF; LANE MCCONNELL;

COLLEEN KLICH;  
PATRICK MCCONNELL;  
UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF L BRUCE MCCONNELL,  
DEFENDANTS.  
NO. 2024FC50  
1317 WEST STEPHENSON STREET FREEPORT, IL 61032  
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Unknown Heirs and Legatees of L Bruce McConnell defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:  
LOTS THREE (3) AND FOUR (4) OF ELM PARK SUBDIVISION OF WEST FREEPORT (NOW CITY OF FREEPORT); SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF IL-

LINOIS.  
Commonly known as: 1317 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032 and which said Mortgage was made by, L Bruce McConnell a/k/a Bruce McConnell and Marie K McConnell a/k/a Marie K Krauser Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 202100182368; and for other relief.  
UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before July 18, 2025, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.  
You have been sued. To participate in the case, you MUST file an official document with the court within the time stated on this Notice called an "Appearance" and a document called an "Answer/Response". The Answer/Response is not required in small claims or eviction cases unless ordered by the court. If you do not file an Appearance and Answer/Response on time, the court may decide the case without hearing from you, and you could be held in default and lose the case. After you fill out the necessary documents, you need to electronically file (e-file) them with the court. To e-file, you must create an account with an e-filing service provider. For more information, go to ilcourts.info/efiling. If you cannot e-file, you can get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. You may be charged filing fees, but if you cannot pay them, you can file an Application for Waiver of Court Fees. It is possible that the court will allow you to attend the first court date in this case in-person or remotely by video or phone. Contact the Circuit Court Clerk's office or visit the Court's website to find out whether this is possible and, if so, how to do this. Need help? Call or text Illinois Court Help at 833-411-1121 or go to il-

courthelp.gov for information about going to court, including how to fill out and file documents. You can also get free legal information and legal referrals at illinoislegalsaid.org. All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at ilcourts.info/forms. Other documents may be available from your local Circuit Court Clerk's office or website. ¿Necesita ayuda? Llame o envíe un mensaje de texto a Illinois Court Help al 833-411- 1121, o visite ilcourthelp.gov para obtener información sobre los casos de la corte y cómo completar y presentar formularios.  
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.  
McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLP  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
1 N. Dearborn St.  
Suite 1200  
Chicago, IL 60602  
Ph. (312) 346-9088  
File No. 24-19563IL-1133757  
I3268253  
(Published in The Shopper's Guide June 18 & 25, July 2, 2025)  
473358

## ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT WEST POINT TOWNSHIP & ROAD DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2025

**TOWN FUNDS:**  
**Revenues:** Property Taxes - \$190,411.61; Replacement Tax - \$10,292.79; Interest - \$13,081.73; Dividends - \$648.00; Refund (withholding) - \$468.00; Transfer from Rd & Bridge(audit) \$500.00. **TOTAL REVENUES: \$215,402.13.**  
**Disbursements:** Salaries: Under \$5,000 - W. Staton, W. Bohnsack, J. Smeck, J. Goebel, Joe Green, D. Brinkmier, K. Gerbick, P Kempel and C. Fahr. Under \$10,000 - B. Kempel. Under \$20,000 - K. Peight. Under \$60,000 - B. Daws. Total Salaries: \$96,856.00. Social Security taxes - \$6,005.07. FICA Taxes - \$1,404.43. IL Unemployment Tax - \$438.92. Stephenson County Assessor - \$8,505.20. Transferred to Cemetery Account for mowing - \$8,950.00. Lucas Group(audit) - \$3,600.00. TOIRMA Insurance - \$4,559.00. Com Ed - \$1,940.34; QuickBooks - \$1,679.47; Donations - \$7,750.00. Misc expenses under \$1,500 - \$4,854.25. **TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$146,542.68.**

**CEMETERY FUNDS**  
**Revenues:** Transfer from Town Fund: \$8,950.00. **TOTAL REVENUES - \$8,950.00.**  
**Disbursements:** True Vine Landscaping - \$8,944.95 **TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$8,944.95**

**GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND**  
**Revenues:** Property Tax - \$3,977.99; Interest - \$1,485.01. **TOTAL REVENUES: \$5,463.00**  
**Disbursements:** Allied Benefit Insurance - \$1,460.00; Home Relief - \$1,768.30. **TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$3,228.30.**

**ROAD DISTRICT FUNDS**  
**Revenues:** Property Taxes - \$288,665.35; Replacement Taxes - \$24,714.19; Interest Income - \$14,110.03; Dividend Income - \$1,439.00; Insurance payments - \$9,060.72; Sale of 2 old mowers - \$3,400.00; Transfer from Bldg. and Equipment Fund - \$27,537.00. **TOTAL**

**REVENUES: \$368,926.29.**  
**Disbursements:** A C McCartney - \$3,185.15; Bonnell Ind- \$5,317.31; Doc's Excavating Inc - \$9,833.96; Helm's - \$325,641.04; John Deere Fin. - \$21,600.00; Bruce Daws - \$5,205.00; Prairie State Tractor - \$5,541.02; Robieson Heating - \$5,187.00; Stephenson Service Co - \$19,029.81; Toirma (Insurance) - \$5,671.00. All other disbursements less than \$2,000 - total of \$27,052.46. **TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$433,263.75.**

**BUILDING & EQUIPMENT FUND:**  
**Revenues:** Property Tax - \$20,814.34; Interest - \$3,068.49; Tractor Trade in - \$90,000.00 **TOTAL REVENUES: \$113,882.83.**  
**Disbursements:** New Furnace - \$5,187.00; Leases for tractors - \$22,350.00. **TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$27,537.00**

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION			
	Town		
Gen'l	Road Dist	Bldg &	
	Funds	Cemetery	
Assist	Funds	Equip	
Beginning Bal	\$363,527.53	\$ 46.25	
\$53,299.85	\$564,728.46	\$79,991.35	
Revenue	215,402.13	8,950.00	
5,463.00	368,926.29	113,882.83	
Disbursements	146,542.68	8,944.95	
3,228.30	433,263.75	27,537.00	
Ending Balance	\$432,386.98	\$ 51.30	
\$55,534.55	\$500,391.00	\$166,337.18	

*Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April 2025. Karen Peight, West Point Township Supervisor and Treasurer of West Point Township Road District. William Staton, Clerk of the West Point Township, Stephenson County, State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2025.*

(Published in The Shopper's Guide June 25, 2025)  
473490

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLC as Agent for Owner #4409, 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on July 17, 2025 at approx. 1:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com Cube 1078 Cami McElroy; Cube 1102 Vitella Allen; Cube 1113 Edward Bracken II; Cube 1155 Sheena Sykes; Cube 1297 Sherman Dean; Cube 1356 Julia Vaught; Cube 1447 Deborah Horton

(Published in The Shopper's Guide June 25 & July 2, 2025)  
473378

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# IN\*CI\*DENTAL\*LY

## Saving seniors' smiles

Maintaining oral health is crucial to maintaining overall health and quality of life. However, aging presents circumstances that leave us vulnerable to oral disease. Preventative care can be more challenging for older patients, depending on how early (or if) they had access to fluoridated water and routine dental exams, and how consistent their daily oral care has been. Challenges also include medical, cognitive, and neurological issues associated with aging that prevent or significantly diminish our ability to perform daily oral hygiene activities (brushing and flossing).

Although dry mouth (xerostomia) is not a result of the natural aging process, many older adults experience a decrease in saliva production, secondary to medications, systemic disease, dehydration,



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

radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and nerve damage. Whatever the cause, failure to produce enough saliva, with its antibacterial and remineralization capabilities, leaves older adults at an increased risk for tooth decay, periodontal disease, and fungal infections of the oral tissues. Lack of saliva also makes it difficult to speak, eat, swallow, or maintain fresh breath.

Years of overaggressive or inconsistent tooth brushing, grinding your teeth, chewing on ice, using your teeth as tools, nail-biting, and not flossing are just some of the factors that can lead to

weakened enamel and gum recession as you age. As the gums pull away from the teeth, more of your tooth and roots are exposed to plaque. This increases your risk for tooth decay, periodontal disease, destruction of the bone and connective tissues that hold teeth in place, and tooth loss. Untreated periodontal disease is also associated with an increased risk of developing or exacerbating respiratory disease, heart disease, stroke, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, MS, and diabetes.

Missing, decayed, and loose teeth, accompanied by oral pain make it hard to eat. Diets that do not provide adequate nutrition are a major contributor to the downward spiral of becoming frail or weak. Having less stamina makes you more vulnerable to falls, breaks, chronic systemic illness, inability to perform

activities of daily living, and loss of independence. Missing teeth prematurely age your face and can make it difficult or painful to talk. Being ashamed to smile, eat, or talk leads to social isolation, which accelerates this downward spiral.

Fortunately, many seniors are able to maintain their oral health and active lifestyle for much longer than in the past. Periodontal disease does not have to be part of growing older. However, keeping your mouth young does require work and a commitment to preventative care.

Daily oral hygiene and regular check-ups will continue to be the most significant way to avoid the oral health challenges associated with aging. The incidence of oral cancer increases with age. Early detection and treatment significantly increase your odds of survival.

Preventing disease rather than treating it is always the gold standard. Alert your dental team if you are experiencing any medical or physical difficulties with brushing or flossing. There are a number of products and adaptive techniques to assist you in maintaining your teeth. Report dry mouth to your dentist. Knowing when it started can offer clues to its underlying cause and early intervention limits damage. Report any sores, swelling, or lesions on your lips or in your mouth. If multiple health issues are threatening your ability to maintain oral health, your dentist may prescribe shorter intervals between appointments. At each appointment be prepared to update your medical history and list current medications. Maintain and provide an updated list of contact information for all your

medical providers as well.

Your dentist may also prescribe fluoride treatments. As fluoride is drawn into the enamel, it boosts the natural remineralization process in your teeth, making them more resistant to decay. Depending on your specific needs, this may include any of the following: fluoride varnish, creating a custom fluoride tray, daily fluoride prescription, or high fluoride low abrasive toothpaste. Your dentist will carefully monitor your fluoride exposure for optimal protection. Some patients may also benefit from an antimicrobial mouth rinse and other interventions.

For people who remain physically and socially active, age can be just a number on the calendar. Maintaining oral health throughout your senior years will help you maintain the general health necessary to achieve this.

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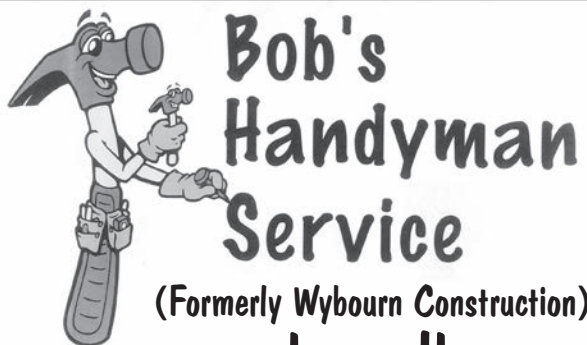
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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

It is hard to believe that this column is number 1000 for me. Last year I celebrated writing the column for 25 years, so it is no wonder I have written this many columns. I have been blessed with lots of help from a lot of people. This column will feature some of the "oldies but goodies" and a couple of new ones too. Have a good week cooking.

## Favorite Cheese Dip

This vegetable and cracker dip is my very favorite. I have made it for over 50 years, and it was given to me at a teacher Christmas party by Marilyn Holmes. Marilyn was a great cook and often shared recipes with me for the column. It is very simple and is a staple for our family as well as friends. Make it ahead and keep it for a week, and it is just as good.

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened  
1 jar Old English Cheese spread  
Garlic powder to taste  
Chopped pecans

With a hand mixer, cream the cream cheese until smooth. Add the cheese spread and garlic powder. Mix well. Add the pecans to the cheese mixture or place in a bowl or on a plate and sprinkle nuts. You can roll the ball or just serve it in a bowl. Serve it with vegetables or butter crackers.

## Berry Mandarin Tossed Salad

This great summer salad is a favorite of mine and my friends. I shared the recipe with someone, and she put it in her church cookbook as her own. I seldom get upset about people claiming my recipes for theirs, but this one really bothered me. She is no longer with us, so I can tell this story. I laugh at myself now because it really shouldn't be that big a deal. I know you will like this recipe; it is great for a cookout or potluck.

### Dressing:

¼ C. sugar  
2 T. cider vinegar  
2 T. honey  
1¼ t. lemon juice  
½ t. paprika  
½ t. ground mustard  
½ t. grated onion  
¼ t. celery seed  
Dash of salt  
1/3 C. vegetable oil

### Salad:

8 C. salad greens

2 C. sliced strawberries  
1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges, drained  
1 medium sweet or Spanish onion sliced into thin rings  
1/3 C. sliced or slivered almonds  
4 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled

In a 2-cup microwave-safe bowl, combine the first 9 ingredients. Microwave, uncovered on High for 1½ to 2 minutes. Stir until sugar is dissolved; whisk in oil. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Place greens, strawberries, oranges, and onions in a large salad bowl. Before serving let dressing come to room temperature or microwave for 30 seconds. Drizzle over the salad. Sprinkle with bacon and almonds before serving.

## Picnic Potato Salad

Each year someone asks me to reprint this potato salad recipe. It is a favorite of my friends that is a hit at every picnic. You do have to plan ahead because it needs to be refrigerated for at least 6 hours or overnight. By shredding the potatoes and eggs, you ensure that everything is coated with the delicious dressing. I also use this dressing on macaroni salad and deviled eggs.

8 medium red potatoes, shredded and peeled after cooking  
4 hard cooked eggs, shredded  
1 hard cooked egg, sliced  
1½ C. salad dressing  
2/3 C. sour cream  
2 T. sugar or Equal  
3 T. white distilled or cider vinegar  
2 t. prepared (yellow) mustard

1 small onion, chopped small  
½ C. chopped celery  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Paprika for garnish

In a large bowl, mix the potatoes, eggs, onion, and celery together. In a separate bowl, mix the salad dressing, sour cream, sugar, vinegar, and mustard together until smooth. Add the dressing to the potato mixture and toss to coat. Refrigerate at least 6 hours or overnight. Garnish with sliced hard cooked eggs. Sprinkle with paprika. I have also used parsley and radishes for garnish.

## Barbeque

This barbeque recipe is one of my family's favorites as well as my friends. It is also used a lot in our church. Dorothy Eden had it in my first church cookbook, and my mother swore by it. It has ingredients in your kitchen and is the most economical Sloppy Joe recipe around. It is great for picnics, tailgating, and parties. Make it and put it in the crock pot. It is great to freeze also.

½ C. chopped onion  
¼ C. chopped celery  
Can of tomato soup  
¼ C. catsup  
1 T. vinegar  
1 T. sugar  
1 t. salt  
1½ t. pepper

Brown meat in pan and add the vegetables. Cook until vegetables are tender. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well and simmer for 20 minutes. (I put it in the crock pot for several hours.)

## Hawaiian Beef Dish

We have a little Hawaiian theme going in this column, so this dish is a new one to try. You can make it the day before and warm it while cooking the rice. You can substitute rice vinegar for the white wine vinegar. You can also substitute yellow pepper for the green pepper.

½ lb. ground beef  
1 medium onion, halved and sliced  
1/3 C. sliced celery  
1/3 C. chopped green pepper  
1 garlic clove, minced  
2 t. butter  
1 can (8 oz.) unsweetened pineapple chunks  
¼ C. packed brown sugar  
1 T. flour  
1 T. white wine vinegar  
¼ t. salt  
1 C. uncooked rice

In a small skillet, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; crumble beef. Drain beef and set aside; discard drippings. In the same skillet, sauté the onion, celery, green pepper and garlic in butter until vegetables are crisp tender, about 5 minutes. Drain pineapple, reserving juice; set pineapple aside. Add enough water to the juice to measure ½ C. In a bowl, combine the brown sugar, flour, vinegar, salt and pineapple juice mixture until smooth. Add to skillet. Bring to a boil. Cook and stir over medium heat for 2 minutes. Stir in beef and pineapple; heat through. Serve with rice.

## Hawaiian Cake

Keeping with the Hawaiian theme, this cake has had many names attached to it. It is a great summer cake that I was introduced to when I was in college. My college roommate's mother served this delicious cake at lots of functions. They used to have a big picnic in August. Mabel made six cakes for it, but this one was always the first one to sell out. Enjoy this refreshing summer cake even though you will want to have it all year long.

1 pkg. yellow cake mix  
2 C. milk  
2 small pkgs. instant vanilla pudding mix  
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese softened  
1 carton (8 oz.) Cool Whip,

thawed

1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple, drained  
½ C. sweetened shredded coconut  
½ C. chopped pecans

Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Pour into a greased 9 x 13 pan and bake at 350 for 30 to 35 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool completely.

Spread a thin coating of the Cool Whip on cake. Spread the pineapple over Cool Whip. In a large bowl, combine milk and pudding mixes; beat in cream cheese until smooth. Fold in Cool Whip. Spread over pineapple. Top with coconut and pecans. Refrigerate for at least 3 hours or overnight. Do not use a yellow cake mix with pudding in the cake.

## Aloha Brittle

We are still in the Hawaiian theme mode with this great snack. I know it also contains coconut which is not a lot of people's favorite; however it has the national Hawaiian nut, macadamia, to give it the truly Hawaiian experience. Try this interesting brittle for a crunchy snack.

2 t. butter, divided  
½ C. sweetened shredded coconut  
1 C. sugar  
½ C. light corn syrup  
1 jar (3 oz.) macadamia nuts  
½ C. chopped pecans  
1 t. baking soda  
1 t. water  
1 t. vanilla

Butter a large baking sheet with 1 t. butter. Sprinkle coconut in a 12-inch circle on the prepared pan. In a large heavy saucepan, combine sugar and corn syrup. Cook over medium heat until a candy thermometer reads 240 (soft-boil stage), stirring constantly. Stir in the macadamia nuts, pecans and remaining butter; cook and stir until the mixture reads 300 (hard-crack stage). Combine the baking soda, water and vanilla in a separate bowl. Remove saucepan from the heat; stir in the baking soda mixture. Quickly pour over the coconut.

## • Pearl

(Continued from page 4)

unlivable and devastating, but when we make it through, when we pay our own great price and create our own pearl, we do truly come upon a treasure.

It's a treasure of understanding and perspective—all built on love.

Always, always infinite love. Purchased with all that we had—quite literally.

In that, I claim pride in my grief. Much like a clam, and much like Hester Prynne can claim pride for their own pearls.

Cool before breaking into pieces. Store in an airtight container with waxed paper between layers.

## Jeri's Party Mix

I have made this party mix for 40 years. People actually ask for it. It was always a hit at school, and it is a favorite at the flower shop on the big days of delivery. My friend Lisa told me to substitute Crispix for Corn Chex, and it was a hit. I am not a big pretzel fan in mixes, so I substitute Bugles for pretzels. You can do whatever you want. I had a good friend who couldn't eat the corn or rice, so I just used wheat for her. Some of the cereals are gluten free, so that is something that you can control also. Enjoy this great snack anytime.

1 regular size box Rice Chex cereal (12 oz.)

1 regular size box Wheat Chex cereal (14 oz.)

1 box Crispix cereal (18 oz.)

1 small bag regular Bugles corn chips (7 oz.)

1 C. mixed nuts with no peanuts

1 C. whole cashews

1 C. salted almonds

1 C. pecan halves

1 stick unsalted butter

1 T. lemon juice

2 t. Worcestershire sauce

½ to 1 t. garlic powder

Place the cereals in a large aluminum roasting pan or roaster sprayed with cooking spray. Mix the cereals together. Add the nuts and Bugles and mix carefully. In a 2 C. microwave safe glass measuring cup, place butter, lemon juice, and Worcestershire sauce and garlic powder. Cover with a paper towel. Microwave on melted butter setting until butter is melted. Stir butter mixture and then pour on the cereal mixture with a wooden spoon. Place in a 250 oven for 15 minutes. Stir and bake another 15 minutes and repeat one more time. Remove from oven and let cool. Store in ice cream buckets or zip lock bags. It freezes well.

## Final Thoughts

I hope you have enjoyed

All started out completely unwanted. All caused unforeseen growth and the overcoming of the insurmountable by the creation of our own pearls.

Which for me have become the ultimate definition of beauty—not to mention survival.

*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.*

going down Memory Lane with me. I can't believe we have been together for so many years and so many good cooking recipes. Remember to take advantage to all the summer activities that we have in our area. It is time to get ready for the Fourth of July. Have a great time cooking this week. Thank you, loyal readers, for making this fun for so many years of recipes.

We are looking for some summer recipes with fruits and vegetables of the 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 Kitchen, *The Shopper's Guide* at Rock Valley Publishing, 1102 Ann St. Delavan, WI 56115.

## REAL ESTATE NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF Stephenson - Freeport, ILLINOIS  
U.S. Bank National Association Plaintiff  
vs.  
Evan C. Diaz; et al. Defendant

24 FC 52  
CALENDAR

### NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on July 16, 2025, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.I.N. 18-19-06-256-019.  
Commonly known as 1662 S. Chicago Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. (630) 794-5300, 14-24-06857 INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com 13267566

(Published in The Shopper's Guide  
June 11, 18 & 25, 2025)  
473022



# STOCKTON'S INDEPENDENCE Day Celebration

**Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**9 a.m. - 10 p.m.**

Located at  
Stockton Memorial Park  
on Hwy. 20

## SCHEDULE

**Car Show 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**3 on 3 Basketball Tournament 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Food/Craft Booths and Mobile Bingo - Open at 9 a.m.**

**Kiddie Tractor Pull - 11 a.m.**

**Bounce Houses - 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Chicken Dinner - 11 a.m. until Sold Out**

**Presentation of the Colors at 8 p.m.**

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