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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025



HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE SERVANT LEADERSHIP FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Highland Community College Servant Leadership

The Highland Community College Servant Leadership participated in the United Way of Northwest Illinois Day of Action held on Thursday, June 26. The annual Day of Action brings together local workplaces and volunteers to support community-building projects across Stephenson, Jo Daviess, and Carroll counties. During the event, volunteers take part in hands-on service projects that directly benefit local nonprofits and address key community needs in the areas of health, education, and financial stability. Servant Leaders volunteered for non-profits in Galena, Hanover, Elizabeth,

Stockton, Lena, and Freeport. Projects included everything from beautification efforts and facility improvements to program support, all aimed at strengthening local services and resources.

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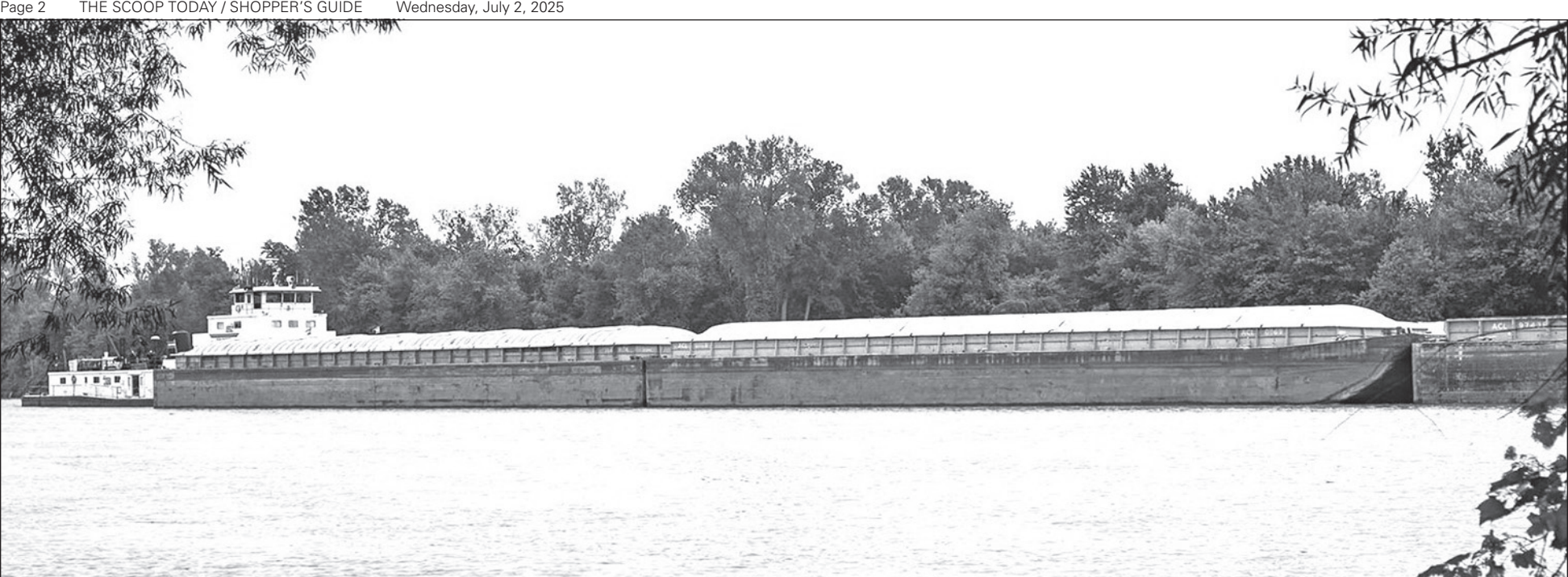
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About 2,000 barges are coming to the end of their useful life in the U.S., according to an industry expert.

Thousands of barges face retirement cliff

By Tammie Sloup
FARMWEEK
The U.S. barge market is facing a retirement cliff, which could impact ag transportation logistics, one analyst warned.

Ken Eriksen, managing member and strategic adviser at Polaris Analytics & Consulting, provided an overview of the evolving landscape of agriculture and barge transport during a recent Freight-WeekSTL panel session hosted by the St. Louis Regional Freightway.

The analyst talked with RFD Radio Network's De-Loss Jahnke about the outlook for commodities and the

takeaways from the conversation:

1. Barge retirement cliff

"Where we are today with the barge market is rather fascinating, and we're facing a retirement cliff in the dry, covered barge market. They average roughly 25- to 30-some years, and there's a huge spike of barges ... within that 25-to-30-year age right now. Out of a 13,200-barge fleet, we're seeing about 2,000 barges that are coming to the end of their useful life, and there could be some tightness, and we only have a couple major builders in the United States anymore.

in how we prepare for that retirement cliff if people retire them en masse."

2. Infrastructure needs

The lock and dam system has not aged gracefully, but the infrastructure has lasted well beyond its designed and engineered lifespan.

"There's a lot of work to be done. And now within the Waterways Resources Development Act, there's been a lot of positive reinforcement of revenues to come in, and the industry's done well working with Congress to see this shift in the amount of fuel tax revenue that is paid for projects; the cost share is now 75 percent by the federal government, 25 percent from the industry. Except that when you have problems elsewhere in the system, and we've seen this on the Tennessee River and a few other places where projects that have major cost overruns, or there's a major impediment or something failed, they've got to siphon

someplace else.

"So now you just get further behind, and you're still trying to play catchup. So being able to have full funding for projects like locks and dams is important if we want to maintain our resiliency with our infrastructure."

3. Future of coal river shipments

On the open barge side, coal production has dropped by more than half since 2015, from 1.2 billion tons to below 600 million tons, with a corresponding drop in barge loadings. As a result, there isn't as much coal in the St. Louis region's river system. This could change given the new administration's support of the use of coal, creating both challenges and opportunities as it relates to multimodal options and multi-commodity services.

"So if you do get a bit more of a push on or at least stable coal movements, now you're going to find a stability with

need, and the same time with grain exports and grain production from one year to next, we could see massive shifts, because at the end of the day, unlike any other commodity, grain has one chance to be planted, one chance to be harvested. And none of that's guaranteed.

"If we lose some volume, like we did through 2023 and we had low water, we saw a diversion of cargo go off through other port ranges. And that's the reliability and resilience of the U.S. ag system. There are still market outlets for us, or ways to get out of the country with our grain, but the same time, you bring back another 15 million tons of grain to the river, which is wholly possible, and if we have decent water in the Mississippi River system, we could really see some good shift back to the river, and that could put some tightness in the system that's out there. So, we could see some excitement,

here."

4. 'Hub of America'

"Indiana likes to be called the 'Crossroads of America,' but maybe Illinois is the 'Hub of America.' You look at the ability to hit the three major rivers ... and the great one that is the Great Lakes, and that gives you multiple avenues. And that's part of that reliability. You get multiple outlets to the world market. Secondly, you've got a strong crush industry, strong grind industry and perhaps a growing feeding industry within Illinois that's very attractive, but you got all the modes with rail, barge, truck, container, that's very attractive. So there's a positive opportunity there.

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

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Pritzker launches third-term reelection bid

GOP criticizes campaign as 'stepping stone' for a presidential run

By Ben Szalinski and Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

In a hot gymnasium on Chicago's South Side, Gov. JB Pritzker announced last week he's running for a potentially historic third term as governor.

In his announcement speech, Pritzker said he is running to "protect" the story he's been telling about Illinois—one that has been built largely in opposition to the politics of President Donald Trump.

Pritzker said his third term would focus on grappling with artificial intelligence, addressing the rising cost of living, continued spending on infrastructure and growing the state's economy.

The field house at Grand Crossing Park where Pritzker launched his first campaign hosted a crowd of Pritzker's invited supporters, including Democratic party officials, campaign operatives and long-time Pritzker supporters.

Pritzker's message has often focused on what Democrats need to do to win and push back on Trump, including addressing economic issues for the middle class and being outspoken against Trump's policies.

"While it is certainly tempting to lay all of this at the feet of the megalomaniac narcissist in the White House and his malignant clown car in Congress, the hard truth is, we all share some of the blame," Pritzker said.

The governor said "we must reckon with the fact that everything is too damned expensive," but taking a shot at Republicans, said enacting budget cuts to key government programs like Medicaid that make life more affordable for people shouldn't be the solution.

The governor also said a third term would continue his past efforts to protect abortion rights, diversity programming in the private sector and teachers' ability to teach "uncensored history."

Pritzker's progressive stances on hot-button national issues are part of what has grown his national profile since President Donald Trump took office in January.

The governor has been one of the president's most vocal Democratic critics and his schedule has been loaded with national media interviews and campaign speeches around the country.

From reelection to presidential election?

A successful reelection could set the stage for a big-

ger one: Pritzker's speculated 2028 presidential campaign.

Pritzker on June 26 downplayed the possibility when speaking to reporters but didn't explicitly rule it out.

"Everything that I do, truly everything that I do, in my job and every day when I wake up is about improving the lot of the people who live in the state of Illinois, lifting up the working families of Illinois," Pritzker said. "Whatever I do going forward is going to be about that."

He had a small taste of presidential campaigning last year when he was considered as a running mate for former Vice President Kamala Harris, then served as a surrogate.

"You don't get on that list unless they think you actually could be president of the United States and do the job if you had to," Pritzker told reporters last year.

As some Democrats have tried finding a centrist message, Pritzker has stayed in the left lane. He condemned politicians, without mentioning specific names, who abandon their core beliefs for political gain.

"Of all the unbecoming qualities that Americans hate in their politicians—they hate cowardice the most," Pritzker said. "I'd rather lose standing up for what I believe in than win by selling out those who believed in me."

As Pritzker rattled off a list of accomplishments in his more than six years as governor, his message remained the same as it has since he launched his first campaign in 2017 to unseat an unpopular Republican incumbent: fight.

"Let me be clear: There is no Mission Accomplished banner to stand under today," Pritzker said alluding to a premature victory declaration former President George W. Bush made in a 2003 speech regarding military action in Iraq. "Yes, we have addressed so many of our old problems—but new ones always arise. History is an endless relay race. Our job is not to look for the finish line but to protect the baton as we run our assigned leg. But we have work to do. I have work to do."

Pritzker argued his success has come through embracing his role as a cheerleader for the state, recalling the negative perceptions of Illinois, such as the prevalence of corruption and unbalanced budgets, that had consumed state politics.

"When I was first elected, I told you I was prepared to be a happy warrior on behalf of our state, even if it meant go-

ing it alone," Pritzker said. "I suited up to face the carnival barkers and misery spelunkers and doom grifters. I handed out optimism like a shot of Malört—as a swift jolt to the heart."

First three-term Democrat?

The 60-year-old Democrat enters the race as the favorite, having received more than 54% of the vote in the 2018 and 2022 elections.

An heir to a fortune built on the Hyatt Hotel chain, Pritzker's net worth sits at \$3.7 billion as of June 26, according to Forbes. His vast personal wealth makes him one of the richest politicians in American history and gives him a significant leg up on competitors. Pritzker dumped \$350 million into his first two campaigns and has never taken outside contributions.

Separately, Pritzker has used an undisclosed amount of his personal fortune to fund a political action committee, Think Big America, to support abortion rights in other states.

Pritzker is also entering uncharted territory for Illinois governors. If he completes his current term, he would be the first Democrat to serve two

full terms in modern state history. If he wins reelection, he would be the only governor to serve more than two terms since Republican Gov. Jim Thompson served four terms from 1977 until 1991.

Pritzker will need a new running mate first, however, as Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton is running for U.S. Senate. Pritzker did not announce a running mate June 26.

Pritzker's governing record

The governor's top priority for his second term was to eliminate child care deserts and make preschool more accessible. Since he was sworn in in January 2023, the state has implemented Pritzker's Smart Start initiative to expand preschool offerings around the state and has begun to phase in a new Department of Early Childhood.

When asked about those goals after his speech June 26, Pritzker said there were an "awful lot of things" that his administration still needed to accomplish.

"We still need to get to universal preschool. We're on our way. It'll happen probably in 2027," Pritzker said.

But Pritzker pointed to several of his progressive policy

wins June 26, in his speech and when speaking to reporters.

He has signed legislation raising the minimum wage to \$15, legalizing recreational cannabis, banning assault weapons and numerous new protections of abortion rights since Roe v. Wade was overturned three years ago. Pritzker also passed landmark legislation to phase out fossil fuels in the electricity sector.

Pritzker repeatedly brought up cleaning up Illinois' fiscal house. The state has recorded budget surpluses in recent years and has received nine credit upgrades since he took office.

But challenges are also growing. The budget has gotten tighter, and lawmakers have resorted to more than \$1 billion in targeted tax increases over the last two years to balance the budget. The fiscal year 26 budget Pritzker

signed this month increased discretionary spending by less than 1 percent.

There's also been headaches over legislative priorities. Labor unions are frustrated Pritzker didn't embrace their proposal for pension reform this spring. And many parts of the governor's legislative agenda hit roadblocks with concerned lawmakers. There's also ongoing discussions about achieving Pritzker's bold clean energy goals as prices rise and energy supply is strained.

The governor has taken pride in growing state agencies decimated by the two-year budget impasse that began a decade ago. But problems at those agencies have caused trouble for Pritzker.

An audit revealed the Department of Public Health failed to intervene to stop

See BID, Page 8

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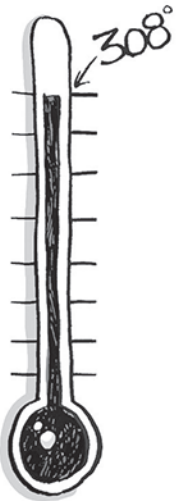


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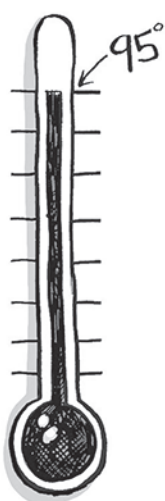
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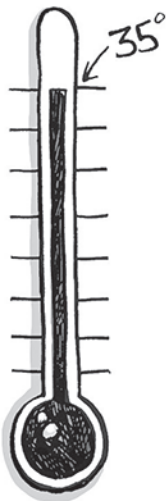
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In my opinion

Illinois: A powerhouse for innovation and America's digital future

By Harvey Henson

Illinois has long been a hub for innovation. Our strategic location in the heart of the Midwest amidst a robust network of top-tier universities, and a rich legacy of collaboration among private, public, and academic sectors are just a few reasons innovation continues to thrive here.

Since 2014, the STEM Education Research Center



Harvey Henson

at Southern Illinois University Carbondale has played a vital role in this innovation ecosystem—building, sustaining, and advancing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education

across local, regional, and national levels.

At the heart of our mission is preparing the next generation of STEM educators and professionals and promoting STEM literacy through research, education, and service.

We believe Illinois is a powerful engine for American leadership in innovation. But that leadership can no longer be

taken for granted.

A recent report from the Lexington Institute warns that America's technological edge is facing serious threats from global competitors—chief among them, China. The Chinese government has made its ambitions clear: to lead the digital economy. To that end, China has already invested more than

See POWERHOUSE, Page 5

Slices of life

Harnessing a wanderer

Over the last four-plus years, I've given a lot of time thinking about emotions – joy, bliss, sorrow, anger and everything in-between. I've struggled. I've failed. I've crawled out of the rubble. I've found glimmers of sunlight. I've had moments of success, amidst the storm clouds looming overhead.

Along the way, I believe I've made some discoveries and I'd like to try to share them here. They've provided insight for me and perhaps they can do the same for you. I hope so.

First – and this is important – each of us has a say in how and what we feel. We impact our own emotions, by our thoughts and our actions.

For me, thoughts are much harder to control than actions, so we'll address them first.

Our minds are beautiful, complex and scattered entities. I find it extremely difficult to control mine; it's like it has a mind of its own.

I start out thinking about relaxing my thoughts and that morphs into ideas about a kitchen remodel, car repairs, possible birthday gifts for grandchildren, supper ideas, whether the toilets need cleaning, grocery lists, a need to go to the bathroom, and my husband's death. Not necessarily in that order.

Our thoughts are going to wander. That is a given. So we can't (or at least we shouldn't) beat ourselves up for something that is inevitable. What we can do is recognize the wandering. Be aware of it. Make a note of it and move on. It's as easy as that. Don't judge. Don't condemn. Simply accept, let go and advance to the next moment and the next thought.

When my mind wanders toward negativity, as it is known to do, I attempt to replace it with something more positive – like how squirrels are inherently cute and put in our backyards for a



By JILL PERTLER
Columnist

reason. (Oh, never mind you naysayers!)

Actions are as important as thoughts, and can serve to impact them.

I've found that my environment affects my affect. Listening to sad songs makes me sad. The news makes me worry. Watching a TV series (or YouTube video) that makes me laugh out loud makes me happy out loud. It's all so obvious, I know. But when you become aware of the obvious the fix becomes, well... obvious.

Certain places tend to serve as negative reminders of less happy times. I'd avoid them if I could, but that that isn't always possible. Recognizing certain locations may serve as triggers can help one prepare for possible emotional overload.

There are numerous actions that one can put in her arsenal to positively impact emotions. Some are even steeped in scientific support.

Exercise. Nature. Exercise in nature. Conversation and contact with people who support us in positive ways. Pets. Puppy and kitty videos (cheesy but true). Holding a baby (most especially a grand-baby). Focusing on life, even when death seems to fill the room or the world. Turning off the news. Treating yourself to a manicure or facial or maybe both. Work. Helping others. Volunteering. Meditation. Journaling. Making plans for a trip or something you look forward to. Being silly. Cracking a joke. Making a gratitude list.

See SLICES, Page 5

THE SCOOP TODAY

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Around the Northern Hills

Happy 4th of July! Did you know that if it wasn't for corn producers the fireworks would be much more unsafe? Fireworks need binders to burn properly. Corn is used in one of the most common binders for fireworks, called dextrin.

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 in the farm bureau basement with an anticipated delivery August 6, depending on



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Farm Fun Fact

July is National Ice Cream Month. Americans are the number one consumers of ice cream, eating 48 pints of ice cream every year.

SOS+ to host guitarist/singer Les Wilson

A very talented musician and song writer, Les Wilson of Prophetstown, will be in Stockton on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 2 p.m. to entertain our seniors of Senior Outreach of Stockton + Surrounding Areas (SOS+). The event will be held at Calvary Church of Stockton in the Fellowship Hall. All seniors are invited.

The Stockton SOS+ is made up of volunteers working to-

gether to provide interesting programs and fellowship to our seniors. The SOS+ will continue to provide fellowship and interesting programs for all seniors of our surrounding areas. There is no cost, and all area seniors and residents are most welcome. A free will offering is taken at each meeting which helps in providing interesting and educational programs throughout the year. Volunteers are much

needed. If you would like to volunteer to help or volunteer to entertain or have a story of interest to share, please let us know.

For more information on SOS+ or this special event, please feel free to call Mary Feltmeyer 815-297-5425, Nancy Rice 815-947-3683 or Shirley Toepfer 815-947-3639. Please call if in need of a ride to the church.

• Slices (Continued from page 4)

It sounds pretty simple, because it is. Until you are in one of life's holes and can't quite see it that way. In those moments, which we all have, go back to the basics.

Breathe in and then out and remember that you and

you alone are in control of your thoughts. Seek out a trusted friend to share time with. Find something you enjoy and then try to smile, or even laugh. If you cry instead, that's okay.

What's important is that

you keep trying. You've got this.

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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•Powerhouse (Continued from page 4)

\$2.8 trillion in strategic technologies like artificial intelligence, while also engaging in aggressive efforts to steal American intellectual property and trade secrets.

Perhaps most alarming is China's projected advantage in workforce development. Over the next decade, it is expected to outproduce the U.S. by 27.5 million STEM graduates. Meanwhile, unfilled STEM positions in the U.S. continue to rise, creating critical gaps in our high-tech workforce.

This moment demands serious reflection. Are we prepared to cede leadership in digital innovation to an authoritarian regime—one that promotes AI tools rooted in censorship and revisionist history? The answer must be no. We envision a digital future built on democratic values, grounded in facts, and supported by an open and accessible internet—where freedom of expression is a cornerstone, not a casualty.

Securing America's tech leadership starts here in Illinois.

Our state has already made significant strides. We're leading in emerging technologies like quantum computing, electric vehicle manufacturing, and agricultural innovation. Illinois has been recognized as a national tech hub, attracting millions in federal grants and spurring continued investment from the private sector.

But we can't let up. What's needed now is bold and sustained commitment from policymakers at every level—local, state, and federal—to strengthen and expand America's innovation ecosystem.

We must accelerate investments in critical technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced computing, and quantum science. At the same time, we must resist the urge to overregulate. While it's important to address risks, excessive regulation can stifle the very innovation we're trying to foster—particularly for startups and entrepreneurs, many of whom call Illinois home. A thoughtful,

measured approach to policy will ensure innovation continues to thrive here.

Equally vital is a renewed national focus on STEM education. Technology is reshaping every sector of our economy, and we must prepare students—beginning in early childhood and continuing through higher education—to be fluent in the language of the digital age. Every student deserves access to high-quality STEM learning opportunities so they can help build and lead our future.

In recent years, STEM has evolved into STEAM—adding Art to acknowledge the creativity and design thinking essential to innovation. I like to think the "A" also stands for All of Us. Because this future belongs to all of us. Building it will take all of us. And protecting it demands strong leadership and smart policy that empowers all of us.

Harvey Henson is director of STEM Education Research Center at Southern Illinois University.

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102 E. Baldwin St., P.O. Box 188,
Apple River, IL 61001

Pastor Libby Rutherford (815) 990-1428
Church (815) 594-2223

- **Sunday Worship – 9 a.m.**
- Bible Study - Every Monday 9 a.m.
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CALVARY CHURCH OF STOCKTON

315 W. Maple St., Stockton, IL 61085
815-947-2414

Pastor Scott Hess
E-Mail: calvarychurchofstockton@yahoo.com

- **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 8:45 a.m.**
- Communion and Potluck every 1st Sunday (except no potlucks during summer)
- Monday Group Prayer - 6 p.m.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.
- Every other Sat. Youth Group - 6 - 8 p.m.
- You may find our facebook page and weekly messages by searching for "Calvary Church of Stockton on facebook.com"
- You are welcome! Please visit us!

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON

600 N. Main St., Stockton

Pastor Chrissy Salser (815) 988-9450

E-Mail: cle600@mediacombb.net

Find us on Facebook at ChristOnMainSt

- **Worship times: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.**
Sunday, 10 a.m.
- **Sunday School: Sunday, 9 a.m.**

EBENEZER – SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 102, Pearl City, IL 61062

See Facebook or call 815-291-1965

- **Sunday Worship: Currently 8:30 a.m.**
- July services are at Salem UCC Church
Corner of Loran & Kent Roads

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

720 N. Freedom Street, Lena, IL 61048
815-369-5591

Pastor Casey Dwyer, Senior Pastor
Pastor Jeff DeLay, Pastor of Worship & Pastoral Care

- Adult bible study and Children's Sunday School - 8:45 a.m.
- **Sunday Morning Worship Service and Children's Church/Nursery – 10:00 a.m.**
- Awana Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (Sept. - April)
- Pastor's weekly sermons at
www.lenafreechurch.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028

email: firstumc@elizabetaeth@gmail.com

Pastor Donna Hoffman 608-293-0163

email: dchoffman8@gmail.com

- **Sunday Worship - 8:30 a.m.**
- Women's Faith Group -
1st Tuesday monthly - 9:30 a.m.

We are handicapped accessible

Find us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/fumcelizabeth

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 East Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048

Pastor Thomas Mosbo (815) 369-5552

- **Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 10:45 a.m. (Sept. - May)**
- Piece Corps Quilters –
Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

1904 S. Vel Tera Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028

Pastor Michael Burdett (815) 858-3843

- **Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.**
- Prayer meeting – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday services broadcasted at 11:30 a.m. on
Radio WCCI 100.3 FM

GRACE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

205 Main St., McConnell, IL 61050

Pastor Tim Wauchope • 815-262-5942

Email: wauchope30@yahoo.com

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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

223 E. Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085

Father Mike Morrissey (815) 947-2545

- **Saturday Evening Mass – 4:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.**
and 5:00 p.m.
- Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

118 West Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048

Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 369-5291

- **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.**
- **Daily Dial-A-Devotion 815-369-4411**

MARTINTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH

W8996 Lena St., Martintown, WI 53522

(1 mile north of Winslow, IL)

Pastor Kevin Cernek • 608-558-0974

- **Sunday Worship – 8 & 10:30 a.m.**
*Worship inside or watch from the
parking lot on the jumbotron*
- **Sunday School for all ages – 9:30 a.m.**
- **Sunday Youth - 6 p.m.**
- **Tuesday Bible Study - 10:30 a.m.**
- **Thursday Prayer & Bible Study - 6 p.m.**

MCCONNELL COMMUNITY CHURCH

211 Hulbert Rd. P.O. Box 97,

McConnell, IL 61050

815-868-2324

Email: mconnellcmtychurch@yahoo.com

Pastor Jordan Cernek

- **Sunday Worship – 8:45 a.m.**

Fellowship hour after every service

Find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/mcconnellcommunitychurch.com)

mcconnellcommunitychurch.com

*** We are handicapped accessible**

NEW VINE COMMUNITY CHURCH

621 W. Lena St., Lena, IL 61048

(Coach's Gymnasium)

Pastor Doug Carroll 815-541-4112

- **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
with fellowship following
- **Communion first Sunday of each month**
- Bible Study Groups available
newvinelena.com
- Facebook: New Vine Community Church of
Lena, IL
- * We are handicapped accessible**

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL 61048

(Turn on Salem Road at Eleroy Rest Stop)

Pastor Christopher Ham (815) 369-4511

- **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
- **Adult Sunday School - 9 a.m.**
(before service)
- **Children's Sunday School - 10 a.m.**
(during service)

***We are handicapped accessible**

Watch our services or see our upcoming
events on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/OldStoneChurchWithTheLightedCross/>

SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

635 East Schapville Road,

Elizabeth, IL 61028

Pastor Dottie Morizzo

(815) 845-2272

Cell (815) 238-0670

www.schapvillezion.org

- **Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.**
- Bible Study Classes Available

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

536 E. Schapville Road,

Scales Mound, IL 61054

Church number (815) 845-2061

Rev. James Mehlretter

Website: www.shepherdofhill.com

- **Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**
- **Sunday School (Sept. – May) – 8:45 a.m.**
- Holy Communion is celebrated weekly.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

608 East Railroad, Warren, IL 61087

Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312

- **Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m.**
- Reconciliation Sunday – 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

625 Country Lane Drive, Lena, IL 61048

Rev. Jason Shaw (815) 369-4035

- **Saturday Evening Worship – 5:30 p.m.**
- **Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**
- Blast Program at 9:00 a.m.
- High School & Adult Sunday School
at 9:15 a.m.

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

229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062

www.stjohnspearlcity.org

815-443-2215

- **Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
- Christian Education for all Ages - 10:15 a.m.
- Handicapped Accessible

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028

Pastor David Russell

Church: 815-589-3367

- **Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.**
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ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001

Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 745-2312

- **Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.**
- Reconciliation Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

410 West Lena Street, Lena, IL 61048

Father Andrew Hernandez (815) 369-2810

- **Saturday Mass – 4:00 p.m.**
- **Sunday Mass – 10:00 a.m.**
- Reconciliation Saturday – 3:30 – 3:50 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

(Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod)

411 W. Catlin St., P.O. Box 506

Elizabeth, IL 61028

Pastor Mike Nesbit - Cell: 815-858-5621

Church: 815-858-3334

www.stpaulselizabeth.org

All services are available to watch online@

Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Elizabeth, IL

YouTube channel: Pastor Mike Nesbit

- **Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.**
- **Adult Bible Study - Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

Super Sunday on the first Sunday of the
month, with Sunday School from 10 - 11:30
a.m.

**Worship services will be held outside during
the summer. Please bring a lawn chair.**
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ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENT

The Little Church with a Big Heart

1334 Sunnyside Road, Kent, IL 61044

1/2 mile north on Kent Road

- **Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.**
- **Holy Communion every Sunday**
- Women Meet at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday
- Chair Lift to Sanctuary

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Hudson & Benton St.,

Stockton, IL 61085

Pastor Melwyn Alagodi (815) 947-2541

- **Sunday Worship – 11 a.m.**
- Adult Bible Studies Available
- Communion Every 1st Sunday
- Find us on website StocktonWUMC.org
or Facebook-Stockton Wesley United
Methodist Church
- * Handicapped Accessible**

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

197 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089

Pastor Robert Patin (815) 230-1862

608-669-5770

- **Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.**
- **Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.**

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

10100 W. Sabin Church Rd.,

Pearl City, IL 61062

Pastor Wayne Fischer • 815-266-6260

Pastor Chip Sohl • 815-541-1425

- **Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.**
- **Children's Church - during church service**
- **Prayer Shawl Knitting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**



Come worship with us!

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. Join on Sunday, July 6, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Communion will be served during service. The Gospel will be from Gospel Luke 9:51-62.

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

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City will celebrate time after Pentecost on Sunday, July 6 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, July 10 at 1 p.m.

The next Men's Breakfast

will be on Wednesday, July 2 at 7:30 a.m. at the Beltline Restaurant in Freeport.

The Summer Gathering of the St. John's Ladies will be on Wednesday, July 16 at 9 a.m. at Karen Bremmer's house. Sign up in the lobby of the church or call the office for more information. Breakfast will be provided by the Women's Gathering Board.

The Ladies Night Out and Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. at St. John's. The theme of the night is "Baskets of Sunshine" and will feature a program by Deb Mather sharing her basket weaving talents. The cost is \$10 and includes a menu of chicken or ham salad croissants, chips, fruit, strawberry, Key Lime, or Lemon Meringue pie, coffee and water. Sign up in the church lobby or contact the office for more information by Aug. 3.

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.

Calvary Church of Stockton

On July 4, Calvary Church of Stockton will be handing out water from 11 a.m. on until supplies run out. Please stop by the church lot, either on Rush Street or by the church entrance.

Also, Calvary Church will be handling the Brat Sale at Sullivan Foods on Saturday, July 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please stop by for a delicious lunch.

The 5 Day Club will be on Monday thru Friday, July 14 through July 18 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Children 5 thru 12 are invited to come for story time, games, songs and fun. Calvary Church is offering this program with the help of Child Evangelism Fellowship out of Rockford. Please bring your children early on Monday for registration.

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 4th 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.

Lena Evangelical Free Church

The Kids Day Bible Adventure Event will be on Saturday, July 12 at the Evangelical Free Church of Lena from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with lunch provided. This event is full of play and interaction for kids ages 3-5th grade, focusing on the adventures of David and Goliath. Register online at lenafreechurch.org or contact the office 815-369-5591.

Backyard Bible Club will be held July 14 to July 18 at the Lena Lions Park 3:30 p.m. for kids ages 3 - 12 years old. For more information contact Barb Wire at 815-757-4267.

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
RSVP by Friday, July 3 for lunch attendance and transportation by calling 1-815-858-2224



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Stockton welcomes back foreign exchange student from 1969

In the fall of 1969, a young man named Juan Jose Pereyra joined the Stockton community as a foreign exchange student through American Field Service (AFS) program. He stayed with the Williams family, Delbert and Jeanne along with their sons David and Bob. Juan, or Juano, as his classmates called him, was

immediately welcomed into the school and the community. He spent the school year learning the English language as well as much of the American culture.

In the year 2000 he returned to Stockton as a guest of his SHS Class of 1970 classmates. Now, the class is preparing for the reunion of their 55th year after graduation.

tion. Once again, they have invited Juano to return for this special event. He and his 20-year-old grandson, Ismael, will be staying with Jack and Mary Stayner. An open house is planned for the community to visit and welcome Juano "home". Please join at Stockton Bowling Lanes on Sunday, July 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

• Bid (Continued from page 3)

deaths from COVID-19 at the LaSalle Veterans' Home in 2020, though Pritzker blamed and fired leaders at the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Billions of pandemic relief dollars at the Department of Employment Security went to fraudsters, while the Department of Children and Family Services faced years of scrutiny over deaths and the its failure to properly house children in its care while Pritzker maintained support for the de-

partment's director.

GOP criticizes 'stepping stone' approach

As problems have mounted at the Statehouse, Senate Republicans have encouraged Pritzker to "think Illinois." As he announced his campaign June 26, Illinois Republicans continue to believe his focus is elsewhere.

"These last nearly eight years under his governance merits firing not rehiring," Il-

linois GOP Chair Kathy Salvi said in a statement. "While businesses and families flee, Pritzker sees Illinois as nothing more than a stepping stone for the White House."

A field of Republican challengers is still taking shape. So far, DuPage County Sheriff James Mendrick, Posen Park District Commissioner Phil Perez and Lake Forest businessman Joe Severino have announced they will run in the Republican primary.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing

Juan Jose Pereyra and his grandson Ismael will return to Stockton to celebrate Pereyra's 55th high school reunion. Pereyra attended Stockton High School as a foreign exchange student in 1969. In addition to the reunion, an open house will be held at Stockton Bowling Lanes on Sunday, July 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to welcome Pereyra back to Stockton.

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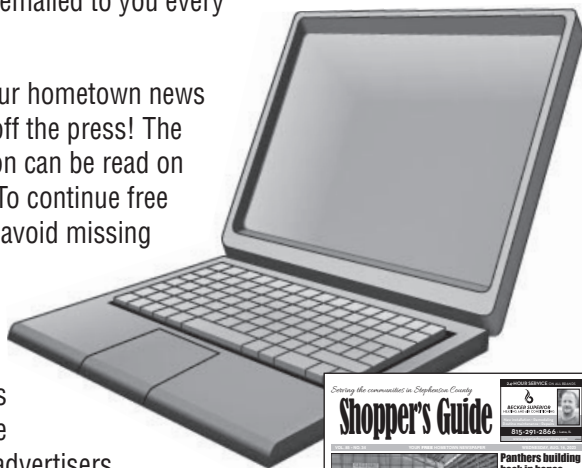
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Stephenson and Carroll County Farm Bureau news

By Victoria Hansen

With July underway, that means Stephenson and Carroll County Fairs will be here before we know it. The Stephenson County Fair takes place July 22 through July 26 and Carroll County Fair to follow Aug. 5 through Aug. 9. I encourage you to check each fair's individual page for event schedule and details. Below I will highlight some County Farm Bureau program specifics that will be happening at each county fair. We hope to see you there!

Stephenson County Farm Bureau Seeks Feed bags/sacks:

Do you have a feed bag or two that you are willing to spare? If you answer yes, please drop them off at the Stephenson County Farm Bureau during normal office hours Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. prior to July 11.

Stephenson County Farm Bureau Ag Olympics registration due Friday, July 11

The Stephenson County Farm Bureau Young Leaders will be hosting Youth Ag Olympics on Thursday, July 24 at 6 p.m. at the Stephenson County Fair. A maximum of 10 teams will be accepted with a total of 5-7 members on each team, ages 8-16 (must have at least 5 members). Each team must include at least one female team member and one member age 10 or under.

Teams will compete in six events.

Cash prizes for the winning teams of \$150 (1st), \$125 (2nd), and \$100 (3rd). All other participating teams will receive coupons to the Hog House and Beef Corral. Teams are encouraged to wear team shirts/matching outfits. Special awards will be given for team name creativity, team outfit creativity and best team spirit. Registration deadline is Friday, July 11, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. to the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Office, 210 West Spring Street, Freeport, IL or by email to manager@stephensoncfb.org.

Registration forms can be found at our office 210 West Spring Street Freeport, IL or on our website www.stephensoncfb.org under the "news" tab. Questions can be directed to our office at 815-232-3186.

Carroll County Farm Bureau Young Leaders host Ninja Farmer Contest

Plan to participate in this year's Ninja Farmer Event on Saturday, Aug. 9 at 11 a.m. The Ninja Farmer is a course set up by our Young Leaders. Each kid will get the opportunity to race through the course in order to win a prize. The course can be messy, so dress accordingly.

The age divisions to compete are 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, and 13-14. All participants get ice cream, and the top 3 in each division will get an additional

prize. This event is completely free, and no pre-registration is required. Registration begins in front of the grandstand on Saturday, Aug. 9 at 10:30 a.m. Please direct questions to our office at 815-244-3001 or by email at carrollcfb@gmail.com

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 6:30 p.m. A light dinner will be provided. Each household will receive starter items for the Disaster Preparedness kit. Space is limited, don't delay on reserving your spot today at 815-232-3186. This program is free and open to the public, families and individuals encouraged to attend.

IFB Talks farm bill, MAHA in D.C.

During a recent visit to the nation's capital, a delegation of Illinois Farm Bureau leaders and staff spent equal time staying up to date on budget reconciliation negotiations and advocating for the organization's priority issues. Even with Senate marathon hearings on the reconciliation bill, IFB leaders were able to sit down with Illi-

nois' congressional delegation and staff to punctuate their support for the ag provisions included in the proposed reconciliation legislation, as well as extension of the tax provisions that benefit farmers. "But we also wanted to reiterate this doesn't finish the job on a full five-year farm bill," IFB President Brian Duncan said. "As this bill makes its way through the process, we were also playing defense a little bit, defending things like the research lab at the University of Illinois and defending some of the conservation program payments and technical assistance." USDA continues to announce cuts, including funding for the Soybean Innovation Lab at the U of I and conservation and climate-smart programs, which directly impact farmers' bottom lines and essential crop research.

Considering the divide between Democrats and Republicans on proposed USDA funding, including nutrition funding, it's difficult to predict whether a comprehensive farm bill could be passed this year after being extended the past two years, Duncan noted. "I came away with a mixed level of optimism," Duncan said. "I think we've got to work on what's right in front of us right now, and that's why we really honed in on the ag portion of tax provisions of the bill and the (Make America Healthy Again) MAHA report." Duncan was joined by IFB District 1 Director Mark Tuttle and IFB Young Leader Chair Stephen Riskedal, along with IFB staff as part of the American Farm Bureau Federation Fly-In event. Top of ag leaders' minds was the MAHA report.

"Our message was production agriculture needed a seat at that table," Duncan said. "The science perhaps wasn't as sound as it could have been,

and that's putting it kindly. We want to be part of that next discussion." The IFB group also touched on the need for legal, affordable and reliable labor for farms and processors as well as immigration reform for ag labor, with biofuels and trade rounding out some of the meetings with U.S. Reps. Eric Sorensen, D-Moline; Delia Ramirez, D-Chicago; Sean Casten, D-Downers Grove; Mary Miller, R-Oakland; Darin LaHood, R-Dunlap; Lauren Underwood, D-Naperville; Jonathan Jackson, D-Chicago; as well as Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield; and Tammy Duckworth, D-Hoffman Estates. Riskedal, who made his first trip to Washington, D.C. since he was in the Boy Scouts, advocated for policies to support young and beginning farmers, specifically with the FSA loan program and the lack of pre-approval processes, which hampers young farmers' competitiveness. "It was an excellent experience," the LaSalle County farmer said, noting the FSA young farmer loan program issues are personal for him as his county Farm Bureau proposed what is now a state resolution in support of a pre-approval process for young farmer loan programs.

"For someone like me to go to, let's say, a land auction, I don't know if I'm going to have the financing to be at the lower rate, which would help

me be more competitive at an auction," Riskedal said. "They won't do a pre-approval as of now, until you have a contract for sale, and then I've been told it'll be six months to a year to get it through. So we're trying to talk to legislators about how we can fix this problem because we have a great program they put together. But it's got this huge stumbling block, so really make it usable for everybody." The "whirlwind" visit, as Duncan dubbed it, was another opportunity to build on relationships with legislators and drive home IFB's priority issues. In separate press releases, both Durbin and Duckworth said they appreciated the opportunity to meet with IFB and pledged to continue to work with farmers across Illinois. IFB's work in Washington, D.C. will continue this summer with members of the IFB Resolutions Committee heading to the capital in a couple weeks and Duncan returning in July. "We are upping our presence in Washington, D.C. as these very important issues move forward," Duncan said. "We'll continue to talk about a trade agenda and what that looks like and means for agriculture and we found some common ground on perhaps some interest in doing some true immigration reform, as far as meeting the labor needs for agriculture."

CFNIL Community Grants Program application now open

Over \$1.7 million to be awarded to nonprofits serving Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, Winnebago counties

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) is excited to announce the opening of the Community Grants Program application for the 2025 cycle. Nonprofits providing services in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties are invited to apply via CFNIL's online application portal until 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14.

Community Grants proposals will be accepted in eight focus areas: Arts and Humanities, Basic Needs and Compassionate Support, Career Pathways, Complementary Education, Dignity and Respect, Health, Sustainable Communities, and Youth and Families. Applications will be accepted from 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, religious institutions, units of government, and public universities/colleges. The proposals must describe charitable activities provided for the benefit of

residents in Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, or Winnebago counties.

The Community Grants Program application is open until 5 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 14. All applications must be submitted through CFNIL's online grants application portal. To access the portal and learn more about the Community Grants program, visit cfnil.org/community.

To provide more information about the Community Grants Program and answer questions about the application process, CFNIL staff will host two Grantseekers meetings. Each session will include identical content. Attendance is not mandatory but encouraged for organizations completing their first CFNIL Community Grants application.

• Grantseekers session 1: Thursday, July 10, 3:30 p.m., in person, Midway Village,

6788 Guilford Road, Rockford

• Grantseekers session 2: Friday, July 11, 11 a.m., virtual only via Zoom

Learn more and register to attend one or more of the sessions at cfnil.org/community.

A recording of the virtual session will be posted to CFNIL's website following the meeting.

About the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois

The mission of the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois is to inspire endowment and promote philanthropy for the current and future needs of Northern Illinois. Since its founding in 1953 CFNIL has granted more than \$85 million for charitable purposes.

Learn more about CFNIL's grantmaking and commitment to endowment at cfnil.org.



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Police reports

Rockford man sentenced to over six years in prison for drug-trafficking and firearm charges

A Rockford man has been sentenced to over 6 years in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute cocaine and methamphetamine and possessing a loaded firearm in furtherance of his drug trafficking activities. JOVINO RAMIREZ, 35, pleaded guilty earlier this year to knowingly and intentionally possessing cocaine and methamphetamine with the intent to distribute, and possessing a loaded handgun in furtherance of his drug trafficking crime. On Monday, U.S. Dis-

trict Judge Iain D.

Johnston sentenced Ramirez to 78 months in federal prison. Ramirez admitted in a plea agreement that following a traffic stop in May 2024 he was in possession of a bag containing 19.1 grams of cocaine and 1.9 grams of methamphetamine, which he tried to conceal during his encounter with the police. He also possessed a loaded handgun beneath the driver's seat of his vehicle. Ramirez admitted he intended to sell the cocaine that he possessed.

The sentence was announced by Andrew S. Boutros, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; and Christopher C. Amon, Special Agent-in-Charge of the Chicago Field Division of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives. The Illinois State Police provided critical assistance in the investigation. The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Andrew M. Rosati and Lisa R. Munch.

Holding illegal firearm possessors accountable through federal prosecution is a centerpiece of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). In the Northern District of Illinois, the U.S. Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners have deployed the PSN program to attack a broad range of violent crime issues facing the district, particularly firearm offenses.

Illinois State Police arrests Stephenson Country man for possession and dissemination of child sexual abuse material

Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 2 arrested 66-year-old Steven M. Busiere of Freeport, IL for Possession and Dissemination of Child Pornography (Class X Felony).

On June 26, 2025, ISP agents executed a search warrant at Busiere's residence in the 1700 block of East Shawnee Street in Freeport and

collected electronic evidence. The evidence was analyzed and revealed child sexual abuse materials. ISP agents arrested Busiere and he was transported to the Stephenson County Jail. Busiere was charged with nine counts of Possession of Child Pornography and one count of Dissemination of Child Pornography. There is no additional information.

The Illinois State Police provides resources for parents, for the public to report crimes against children, and survivors to start their path towards healing and recovery. Anonymous tips of child pornography can also be reported through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's (NCMEC) cyber tip line at www.cybertipline.com. To keep kids safe online, learn more at: <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/online-safe/>; www.cybertipline.org; For resources for survivors of sexual abuse visit: <https://www.missingkids.org/gethelpon/csam-resources>.

June Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing Winners

The Northwest Illinois Daily (a cooperative fundraiser) announces its April winners. The Daily Drawing is a drawing for 365 daily cash prizes from Oct. 1, 2022, to Sept. 30, 2023, to those donating for a ticket. Over \$21,000 is paid out to ticket holders during the drawing year. Cash prizes vary between \$50 and \$250. A ticket may win multiple times as each ticket remains in the drawing each day for the entire year, no matter how often it may be drawn.

Sponsoring organizations from Jo Daviess, Carroll & Stephenson County include: Caring Community of Elizabeth, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music Boosters, Galena After Prom, Galena Key Club, Hanover Alumni Association, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, Philanthropic Educational

Organization-Chapter OH, Scales Mound Travelers, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Stockton Girls Sports, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

\$50 – Nicole Sheffey, Pearl City
\$50 – Melody Hammer, Stockton
\$50 – Tiffani Smith, Thomson
\$50 – Dean Roberts, Elizabeth
\$50 – Pat Roberts, Galena
\$50 – Tasha Dyson, Pearl City
\$50 – Dina Kleckner, Freeport
\$50 – Anna Hoffman, Lena
\$50 – Mike Jackson, Springfield
\$50 – Toni Wakeford, Malverne, NY
\$50 – Peggy Tell, Winnebago
\$50 – Nancy Leitzinger, Galena

See WINNERS, Page 15

SULLIVANS FOODS

Prices Effective:
Wednesday, July 2 thru Tuesday, July 8, 2025

BONELESS THIN, THICK OR REGULAR CUT RIBEYE STEAK
15.99 lb

WHOLE SEEDLESS WATERMELON
4.88 ea

Sullivan's Signature POTATO OR MACARONI SALAD
3.99 lb

Frito-Lay LAY'S OR KETTLE POTATO CHIPS, GOLD GOLD PRETZELS
3/\$6
When You Buy 3 or \$3.99 Each

Bakery Fresh HAMBURGER OR HOT DOG BUNS
8 ct
2.99

Fresh BI-COLOR SWEET CORN
12/\$4.99

Kraft MAYONNAISE
22-30 oz
3.99

A.1., Heinz 57 STEAK SAUCE or Lea & Perrins WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE
Select Varieties, 10 oz
4.49

80% LEAN GROUND BEEF PATTIES Family Pack
4.99 lb

Oscar Mayer HOT DOGS
Select Varieties 14 - 16 oz
2/\$3

Bush's Best BAKED BEANS
Select Varieties 21.7-28 oz
2/\$4

Dean's ICE CREAM
Select Varieties 48 oz
2/\$5

US Grade A CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS Family Pack
88¢ lb

Sullivan's Signature BRATS AND SAUSAGES Family Pack
Assorted Varieties
4.99 lb

Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ SAUCE OR DIPPING SAUCE
14 - 18 oz
2/\$3

Dean's DIPS
Select Varieties 12-16 oz
2/\$4

Cake of the Week
PATRIOTIC LAYER CAKE
White or Chocolate 8 inch
7.99

Kingsford CHARCOAL
Select Varieties 12-16 lb
9.99

NATIONAL FRIED CHICKEN DAY

DELI FRESH

5 LEGS 5 THIGHS FRIED CHICKEN & 1 LB OF POTATO SALAD 6.99

5 LEGS 5 THIGHS FRIED CHICKEN 1 LB POTATO SALAD & 1 LB OF MACARONI SALAD 8.99

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CORNBREAD, 6 Ct. 3.99

FRESH MEAT

Sullivan's Signature LEAN GROUND BEEF
3 lbs Or More
4.88 lb

USDA Choice BEEF WHOLE BRISKET
5.49 lb

US Gov't Insp CENTER CUT BONELESS PORK CHOPS
3 ct
10/\$10

Sullivan's Signature SMOKEHOUSE BBQ PORK BURGERS
3.99 lb

US Gov't Insp PORK BUTT ROAST
Twin Pack
1.77 lb

Sullivan's Signature FRESH GROUND BEEF BRISKET
5.99 lb

BONELESS CHUCK ROAST
6.49 lb

BONELESS SHOULDER GRILL STEAKS
Family Pack
5.99 lb

Sullivan's Signature BAKERY COOKIES
Assorted Varieties 12 ct
5.99

Sullivan's Signature POTATO OR MACARONI SALAD
3.99 lb

Blue Ribbon COLESLAW
3.99 lb

TUNA & SEASHELL PASTA SALAD
4.99 lb

Delish 8 PIECE FRIED CHICKEN
Two Each: Breast, Thighs, Legs & Wings
10.99

PRODUCE

HOT HOUSE TOMATOES
1.69 lb

FRESH BI-COLOR SWEET CORN
12/\$4.99

YELLOW ONIONS
1 lb bag
1.99

FRESH STRAWBERRIES
1 lb
3.49

WHOLE CARROTS
1 lb bag
79¢

www.sullivanfoods.net

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LEGAL NOTICES

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 cer-

tain 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 ILLINOIS.

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 ilcourthelp.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 illinoislegalaid.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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS GUILD MORTGAGE COMPANY LLC, PLAINTIFF, VS. MICHAEL A HARNISH; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS. NO. 2025FC16

1526 WEST STOVER STREET FREEPORT, IL 61032 JUDGE PRESIDING JUDGE NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO YOU, Michael A Harnish Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants 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:

THE EASTERLY 22 1/2 FEET OF LOT TWO HUNDRED-NINETEEN (219) AND ALL THAT PART OF THE VACATED ALLEY LYING NORTH OF AND ADJACENT TO AFORESAID LOT AS VACATED BY ORDINANCE RECORDED MARCH 9, 1976 IN BOOK P-222, PAGE 1044, AS DOCUMENT NO. 91-948 AND RECORDED MARCH 29, 1976, IN BOOK P-222, PAGE 1429, AS DOCUMENT NO. 91-1196, ALL IN SAXBY HEIGHTS ADDITION; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

ALSO, ALL OF LOT TWO HUNDRED-TWENTY (220) AND THE WESTERLY 22 1/2 FEET OF LOT TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE (221), IN SAXBY HEIGHTS ADDITION; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 1526 West Stover Street Freeport, IL 61032 and which said Mortgage was made by, Michael A Harnish Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Guild Mortgage Company LLC Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 202300197098; and for other relief.

UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before August 1, 2025, A JUDGMENT

Continued on next page

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 Funds	Cemetery	Gen'l Assist	Road Dist Funds	Bldg & 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 July 2, 2025)

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

June is over, and we are celebrating the Fourth of July. Many people believe that this holiday begins the downslide of summer. We certainly have been having the summer weather. We have had a lot of days over ninety and heat warnings nearly every day. Thank God for air conditioning! This week's recipes are geared toward the Fourth of July holiday. There are a lot of red, white, and blue recipes as well as some great picnic ideas. Have a great week cooking for the holiday!

Star Spangled Layered Dip

This festive Fourth of July appetizer makes a great start to any picnic or gathering. If

you like guacamole and salsa, you will love this great starter to your picnic.

2 cans (15 oz. each) refried beans

2 C. guacamole

1 container (16 oz.) sour cream

4 green onions thinly sliced white and light green parts only

2 C. shredded Mexican blend cheese

¼ C. chopped black olives

1 C. crumbled feta cheese

1½ C. salsa

Frito or Tostitos scoop chips

Evenly spread the refried beans on the bottom of a 9 x 9 glass baking dish. Spread the guacamole over the beans and then spread the sour cream over the guacamole. Sprinkle with green onions and then the shredded cheese. To make the shape of a flag, sprinkle the olives in the top left corner of the dish. Spoon the salsa in stripe formation on the rest of the dish. Sprinkle with a dusting of feta cheese between the salsa to create the white stripes. Refrigerate un-

til ready to serve. Serve with scoops.

Red, White, and Blue Summer Salad

This green salad has an interesting combination of fruits in it. The dressing is a light one for a great summer salad. Again, if you don't have white balsamic vinegar and don't want to buy it, you can substitute white wine vinegar or rice vinegar.

2/3 C. extra virgin olive oil

½ C. julienned fresh basil

1/3 C. white balsamic vinegar

¼ C. Julienned fresh mint leaves

2 garlic cloves, minced

1 t. salt

1 t. sugar

1 t. pepper

2 C. cherry tomatoes

8 C. Arugula

1 C. Gruyere cheese, crumbled

2 medium peaches, sliced

2 C. fresh blueberries

6 strips of bacon, fried and crumbled

In a bowl whisk the oil, basil, vinegar, mint, garlic,

salt, pepper, and sugar together. Add the tomatoes and let stand while preparing the salad. In a large salad bowl, combine the Arugula, Gruyere, peaches, blueberries and bacon. Pour tomato mixture over the top; toss to coat. Garnish with fresh basil and mint.

Macaroni Salad

This macaroni salad is different than most macaroni salad. For one thing it doesn't have eggs in it. When I catered in one of my previous lives, this macaroni salad was always one that was picked because it didn't use eggs. This is also the perfect salad for anyone with an egg allergy. I first had it at a church function, and it is known at my church as Mae's Macaroni Salad. Mae Glenn was a really good cook in Pearl City. Although she didn't go to my church, her friend put it in our church cookbook, and it is often served at our funeral luncheons. It has a slightly sweeter taste because of using Eagle Brand condensed milk. There are other condensed milks out there, but Eagle Brand is still the best. You have to make it ahead because it needs to sit overnight in the refrigerator. It also makes a lot to feed a crowd. Try this recipe for your next picnic.

1 lb. macaroni (4 C.) cooked and drained

1 large sweet onion, chopped

1 large green pepper, diced

2 large carrots, shredded

¾ C. sugar

1 C. vinegar

1 C. mayonnaise

1 can Eagle Brand Condensed Milk

Cook macaroni according to package directions until well done. Drain; while still hot add the onion, pepper and carrots. Mix together in another bowl the sugar, vinegar, mayonnaise, and Eagle Brand Condensed Milk. Add to vegetables. Stir in completely. Refrigerate overnight. Makes a very large bowl.

Pull Apart Patty Melt Sliders

I have had a lot of recipes for slider sandwiches, but this one is the first to use ground beef. You can use either sweet or dill pickle relish. It is a great meat dish for a crowd.

¼ C. mayonnaise

2 T. ketchup

2 T. pickle relish

¾ t. garlic powder, divided

¾ t. onion powder, divided

½ C. salted butter, divided

2 t. caraway seeds

1 pkg. (16 oz.) dinner rolls (12 rolls)

3 T. olive oil, divided

3 onions, 2½ sliced and ½ finely chopped

1½ t. salt, divided

1¼ lb. ground beef

2 T. Worcestershire sauce

¼ t. pepper

2 C. grated Swiss cheese (8 oz.)

Preheat the oven to 400. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil. In a small bowl, mix the mayo, ketchup, relish, and ¼ t. of garlic powder and ¼ t. onion powder. Set aside. In a large skillet, melt, 6 T. butter over low heat. Add the caraway seeds and cook, stirring, until lightly toasted and fragrant, about 1 minute. Scrap the seeds and butter into another small bowl. Using a serrated knife, cut the whole pack of rolls in half horizontally, keeping the rolls attached. Place the top and bottom halves cut side up on the baking sheet. Brush with about 4 T. of the caraway butter including some of the seeds. Toast in the oven until crisp and light golden, about 5 minutes. Set aside; leave the oven on.

Heat the remaining 2 T. butter and 1 T. olive oil in the skillet over medium-low heat. Add the sliced onion and ½ t. salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until caramelized and golden brown, about 15 minutes. If the pan becomes too dry, add ½ C. water and stir to deglaze, then continue cooking. Keep warm. In another large skillet over medium heat, heat the remaining 2 T. of olive oil. Add the beef and season with the remaining teaspoon of salt. Cook, breaking up the meat with a

wooden spoon, until no longer pink, 4 to 5 minutes. Add the Worcestershire sauce, pepper, chopped onion, and remaining ½ t. each of the garlic powder and onion powder; cook until the onion is cooked through, about 4 minutes more. Spoon the beef mixture over the bottom half of the rolls, spreading it to the edges. Press the meat down lightly to keep it in place. Top with the caramelized onions, then sprinkle with the Swiss cheese. Spread the cut sides of the roll tops with the mayonnaise mixture; flip it over on to the sliders. Brush the roll tops with the remaining caraway butter and seeds. Bake until the cheese is melted and the rolls are crisp and lightly browned on top, about 10 minutes.

Red, White and Blue Crispy Rice Treats

Rice Krispy bars are a great favorite for kids (and adults too). These are great for a Fourth of July party. You use the gel food coloring because it is way easier to control. If you haven't tried it, it is a good investment. One of the best places to buy sprinkles is the Sullivan's store in Lena. They have separate colors, and then they blend them for holidays too.

Nonstick baking spray

3 T. unsalted butter

1 bag (10 oz.) mini marshmallows

5¼ C. Rice Krispies

½ t. blue gel coloring

½ t. red gel coloring

¼ C. mixed, red, white and blue sprinkles

Line a 9 x 9 baking dish with aluminum foil, leaving a 2-inch overhang on two opposite sides. Spray the foil with cooking spray.

Divide the butter and marshmallows among 3 medium microwave-safe bowls, 1 T. of butter and 2 C. marshmallows, per bowl. Microwave one bowl at a time until butter has melted and the marshmallows have puffed, about 60 seconds. In the first bowl, stir in the blue gel food coloring until the mixture is smooth and no streaks of food coloring remain. Working quickly, add 1¾ C. of the rice cereal. Spray your hands with a little cooking spray to keep them from sticking when pressing the cereal mixture into the pan. Set aside.

Microwave the butter and marshmallows. Stir together until smooth. This will be the white layer. Stir in another 1¾ C. of rice cereal and stir until evenly coated. Place on top of the blue cereal layer, pressing until even and compact.

See KITCHEN, Page 15

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page
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 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 ilcourthelp.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 illinoislegalaid.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.

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TION 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
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(Published in

The Shopper's Guide
July 2, 9 & 16, 2025)

473961

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.storagetreasures.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

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Support temporomandibular joint health

The temporomandibular joint (TMJ) is the joint on each side of your head that connects your lower jaw (mandible) to the temporal bone of the skull. These two critical joints, aided by their supporting structures (jaw muscles and ligaments) enable you to open wide, glide your mouth forward, backward, and side to side, bite, chew, swallow, and speak. When a medical or dental condition interferes with the function of the TMJs and/or their supporting structures, this is referred to as a temporomandibular disorder (TMD).



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

TMDs can have multiple physical and medical contributing causes which all must be addressed to provide relief from symptoms and joint support. For instance, arthritis can wear away the bones in the joint causing a change in tooth alignment. Conversely, tooth misalignment can cause damage to the disc and wear away bones in the joint.

As your TMJ is the most-used joint in the body, TMDs significantly impact your daily life, causing jaw pain, difficulty biting, chewing, speaking, swallowing, headaches, jaw clicking, popping, and locking, and dizziness or vertigo. Since it is far better to prevent oral health problems than treat them, this column hopes to bring awareness to the activities that can contribute to TMDs, as well as the many ways you can support your TMJ health.

Your posture plays an important role in supporting your TMJ. In an upright position the weight of your head (10-12 pounds) is balanced on the spine. Poor posture, particularly when sitting for long periods, increases the pressure on your cervical spine, strains the muscles in your neck and jaw and affects their alignment. Simple changes in posture can make a world of difference in how your jaw feels. If your job requires sitting at a computer all day, be aware of your posture, work to improve it (back straight, shoulders relaxed, and head aligned with your spine), make sure that your chair supports your lower

back, your computer monitor is at eye level and take short, frequent breaks to stretch and loosen up your neck and back muscles. These guidelines apply to your children and video games.

How and what you eat can help support overall TMJ health. Our American diet often includes over-sized sandwiches, hamburgers, and desserts that require overextending (opening too wide) or straining the joint at uncomfortable angles to bite. Cut these or any large items into smaller pieces to minimize jaw strain. Limit hard or chewy foods (tough steaks, beef jerky, peanut brittle, caramels, etc.) that put excessive strain on your jaw. Eating a well-rounded diet, chewing slowly, taking frequent breaks throughout your meals, and eating smaller meals are effective ways to decrease jaw strain and support TMJ health.

Staying well-hydrated is a simple yet effective way to support your TMJ. When your body is dehydrated, it can make your muscles less flexible and more prone to strain. Drinking fluoridated tap water throughout the day supports overall muscle function, including the

muscles that support your TMJ. Limit caffeinated beverages and avoid alcohol. Caffeine is a stimulant that can increase muscle tension, while alcohol can dehydrate your body, including the muscles in your face and jaw.

Maintaining proper oral hygiene and regular dental check-ups are vital for TMJ support. Poor dental health can lead to misalignment or other issues with the jaw. Early detection and treatment of dental issues help reduce the strain on your TMJ and prevent further damage.

Stop smoking, chewing, or vaping. The chemicals in tobacco products can increase muscle tension, impede blood flow to the jaw, and negatively impact the body's healing process, which can contribute to the development and severity of TMDs.

Sleep is key to good overall health and lack of sleep can lead to increased

stress, tension, and jaw pain. Make adequate sleep a priority, use a pillow that properly supports your neck and head to maintain proper alignment while sleeping and eliminate screen time and/or stressful activities for at least an hour before retiring. Your dentist may prescribe a nighttime mouthguard to protect your teeth from grinding.

Using your teeth as tools, chewing on ice, pens, or gum, biting your nails, leaning your hand on your jaw too often, clenching, and grinding your teeth are habits that lead to TMDs. Becoming aware of these behaviors and their negative impact on your oral and overall health is the first step in managing them. Avoiding the actions that strain your TMJ and damage its supporting ligaments and muscles can significantly lower your chances of developing a TMD.

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, July 15 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Senior Resource Center Activity Room.

This informative session will cover essential Medicare information and provide an opportunity for attendees to get their Medicare questions answered in a straight-

forward, supportive setting. The Medicare Basics Class is designed to help participants better understand Medicare coverage options, enrollment periods, and other key details, ensuring they are equipped to make informed healthcare decisions.

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.



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**IT'S GARAGE SALE
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•Kitchen (Continued from page 12)

Repeat with the remaining bowl of butter and marshmallows in the same manner. Stir together until smooth and combined, and this will be the red layer as you add the red gel coloring. Combine until smooth. Add the last of the

rice cereal and stir until evenly coated. Place on top of the white layer. Press down until compact. While still warm, sprinkle with mixed red, white and blue sprinkles. Let sit at room temperature until firm, about 30 minutes. Cut

into 16 squares. Store cereal treats at room temperature in an airtight container up to 3 days.

Red-White-and-Blue Berry Delight

This molded dessert is great for the Fourth of July holiday dinner or picnic. It looks great on a cake stand or a fancy serving plate. I think you could also put it in a fancy glass bowl. It is lighter than cake or pie at the end of a meal during a hot summer day.

1/2 C. sugar
2 envelopes unflavored gelatin
4 C. white cranberry peach juice drink, divided
1 T. lemon juice
2 C. fresh strawberries, halved
2 C. fresh blueberries
Cream
1/2 C. heavy whipping cream
1 T. sugar

1/4 t. vanilla

In a large saucepan, combine the sugar and gelatin. Add 1 C. cranberry-peach juice; cook on low heat until gelatin is completely dissolved, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and stir in lemon juice; add remaining cranberry-peach juice.

Place strawberries in an 8-cup ring mold coated with cooking spray. Add 2 C. of the gelatin mixture to the mold. Refrigerate until set but not firm, about 30 minutes. Set aside remaining gelatin mixture. Stir blueberries in remaining gelatin mixture. Spoon over the strawberry mixture. Refrigerate overnight. Unmold onto a serving platter. In a small bowl, beat cream until it begins to thicken. Add sugar and vanilla and beat until soft peaks form. Top the cream mixture onto the molded salad either on the top or serve it on the side.

Final Thoughts

I hope you enjoy your Fourth of July. There are a lot of fireworks displays in our area as well as lots of festivals. The Stockton one is probably one of the biggest in our area. I am hoping that we can still have fireworks with all of our dry weather.

Music in the Parks continue on Saturday at the lake and Sundays at Krape Park in Freeport and the Lena Community Park. I have enjoyed going to the theater the last two weeks. I attended a musical at Timberlake and a wonderful production of Cinderella at the Summerset Theater at Highland Community College. I loved seeing Cinderella because we did that two times on the Le-Win stage. It is always interesting to see how other people decide how it should be done. We are so fortunate to have live theater in the summer at such reasonable prices.

I hope that everyone will enjoy the day that we have to celebrate what makes our country great. John Adams wrote that the day should be full of celebration with fireworks and music. We are so lucky to live where we do, and it is wonderful we can have this celebration! Have a great week.

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.



•Winners (Continued from page 10)

\$50 - Sue Gallagher, Freeport
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