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VOL. 91 • NO. 29

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025



JO DAVIESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Sgt. Furlong and K9 Sam deliver presentation to local 4-H group

The community was recently treated to an insightful presentation by Sgt. Furlong and his K9 partner, Sam, who were invited to speak with the local 4-H group. The duo shared details about their specialized training, offered demonstrations, and emphasized the critical role K9 units play in public safety. K9 Sam is a highly

trained working dog, assisting in a wide range of operations including search and rescue, narcotics detection, and more. Sgt. Furlong and Sam are passionate about educating the public and highlighting the dedication and discipline required of K9 teams. The department extends its thanks to the 4-H group for the invitation.

## Jo Daviess County 4-H Fair begins July 14

The entries are in, the judges are ready, and excitement is building for the 2025 Jo Daviess County 4-H Fair! Taking place July 14 through July 16 at the Elizabeth Community Fairgrounds, this year's fair will showcase a wide variety of projects created by local 4-H members. Exhibits span numerous categories, includ-

ing livestock, horses, dogs, woodworking, food and nutrition, visual arts, photography, animal science, floriculture, and more.

The fair kicks off on Monday, July 14, at 9 a.m. with the 4-H Horse Show. The Dog Show begins at 2 p.m., followed by the Poultry Show at 4 p.m. The day wraps up with the Rabbit

Show at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 15, begins with General Projects judging at 10 a.m., followed by Cloverbud judging at 3 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., the 4-H Federation Cloverbud Round will start, open to all youth ages 5-8. Activities include panning for gold, cornhole, face painting, chuck-a-duck, the boot-loop toss, and more.

Postal Customer \*\*ecrws

Don't miss the free hot dog feed—no pre-registration required.

Wednesday, July 16, is all about livestock. The Swine Show starts bright and early at 7 a.m., followed by the Beef Show at 9 a.m. The

Sheep Show begins at 12:30 p.m., with the Goat Show to follow. The day concludes with the annual 4-H Livestock Auction at 7 p.m. Projects will be displayed in the Community Building and throughout the fairgrounds

until Wednesday evening.

For a complete list of fair activities or to learn more about 4-H programs, contact the University of Illinois Extension Office at 815-858-2273 or visit [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw).



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# Obituaries

## GARY FRANK

Gary Elmer Frank, age 87, passed away Monday, June 30, 2025, at Lena Living Center surrounded by his family. He was born on May 28, 1938, in Iowa City to the late Albert and Hilda (Becker) Frank. Gary married Mary Lou Eversoll on Dec. 27, 1958. Mary Lou passed away Feb. 4, 2005.

Gary farmed his whole life and hauled livestock. He enjoyed his work, especially running skid loaders. Gary was always willing to lend a helping hand to his neighbors in the Willow Valley area. He could fix anything and everything.

He is survived by his



daughters, Becky (Jeff) Thomas of Pearl City and Sue (Rick) Reed of Pearl City; his son, Greg (Laura Eaton) Frank of Pearl City; his grandchildren, Ben (Kim) Thomas, Sarah Thomas, Tyler (Jaclyn) Thomas, Kaitlin (Zach) Kersten, Alexandra Frank, Dustan (Cassi) Reed and Aaron (Taylor) Reed; his great grandchildren, Brooklyn, Casen, Palmer, Sophia, Maddie Jo, Deacon, Callee, Daxton, Dezmund and Zeke; his sisters, Phyllis Wienen, Ruth Bush

and Elsie Frank; his brothers, Marvin Frank and Kenny Frank; and his dog, Brownie. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; his brother, Lloyd Frank; and his sisters, Arlene Frank and Betty Guner. The family would like to thank the staff at Lena Living Center and Unity Hospice for their wonderful care.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at Pearl City United Methodist Church with a visitation beginning at 11:30 a.m. Burial will take place at Clay Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).

## RONALD JAMES MCDONALD

Ronald James McDonald, age 92 of Gratiot, WI passed away peacefully on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at Vista West Care Facility in Madison, WI. He was born on Nov. 26, 1932, to John and Hazel McDonald of Gratiot. He married Sonja Jean Gille on Dec. 9, 1957, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Gratiot. Ron first met Sonja while she was working at the movie theater concession stand in Darlington.

Ron grew up on the family farm in Gratiot where he helped his dad milk cows and drive the horse while planting and harvesting crops. His love of animals came from his years on the farm. "Ronnie" as his sisters called him, was the oldest of 5 children. He and his 4 sisters enjoyed playing Rummy, Checkers, and walking to their Brannan country school together.

In his earlier years, Ron had a milk route for Carnation Milk Company where he picked up milk from local farmers and hauled it to the milk plant in Gratiot. He then



worked at John Deere in Dubuque, IA for 30 years. In retirement, he worked at Swiss Colony in Monroe, WI for several more years.

Ron's most enjoyable hobby was playing cards with friends and family. He loved to play Euchre and Poker the most. Ron was a "card shark" who remained at the "top of his game" up until his passing.

Ron is survived by his wife Sonja McDonald; three daughters Susan (Jim) Bendik-Wolf, Cyndee Stiefel, and Sherry (Steve) Maina; three grandchildren Michelle (Drew) Glowacki, Collin Krmpotich, and Brady Krmpotich; and three great-grandchildren Clayton, Ellie, and Chase Glowacki. Ron is also survived by his sister Mary Javor; his brother-in-law George Ring; and many nieces and nephews.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents John and Hazel

McDonald; sisters Shirley, Lucille, and Patty; brothers-in-law Jerry Bourquin, Ronnie Javor, and David Griffiths; nephews Michael Javor, Jon Bourquin, and Todd Griffiths; and great nephew Blake Ronald Griffiths.

Services for Ron were held at Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Darlington, WI on Friday, June 27 with a visitation beginning at 10:30 a.m., funeral service at 11:30 a.m., and a luncheon immediately following at the church. Burial took place at Union Grove Cemetery after the luncheon.

Our family would like to give a special thank you to Vista West and Agrace Hospice for their care of Ron. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Agrace Hospice at the Agrace Foundation, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, Madison, WI 53711.

Ron will be remembered for his warm smile, kindness, and the way he connected with everyone through friendly conversation. He will be deeply missed by all those who knew and loved him!



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Several people testified during a Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing titled "The Aging Farm Workforce: America's Vanishing Family Farms," which highlighted farm succession challenges.

# Farming has an 'acute succession challenge'

By Tammie Sloup

FARMWEEK

The 1980s farm crisis didn't just impact balance sheets, it changed people's interest in being involved in agriculture.

"The farm prices didn't just hurt those in production, the ripple effect was across the industry," said Aaron Locker, who has spent his career helping agricultural businesses find talent and leadership.

Locker, who serves as managing director at Delaware-based Kincannon & Reed, an executive search firm focused on the food and agriculture industry, testified during a Senate Special Committee on Aging hearing Wednesday, June 4. He joined several others including American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall in the hearing titled "The Aging Farm Workforce: America's Vanishing Family Farms."

From his perspective,

Locker said the agriculture industry has an "acute succession challenge."

Between 1980 and 1990 while college enrollment went up 7 percent nationwide, enrollment in land grant university colleges of agriculture dropped by nearly 37 percent, he said.

"That gap is being realized today in board rooms, field offices and agronomy teams. Meanwhile, the complexity of agriculture is growing—precision and decision ag technologies, automation, AI on the farm and sustainability initiatives. They're moving fast, but fewer than one-third of ag companies that we work with have formal succession plans. That's not just a statistic; that's a systemic risk."

Job growth in agriculture is steady, around 3 percent, but tech and finance are growing three times faster, he said.

"So, we're not just competing for talent. We are competing for leadership, and that

matters, because ... food security is national security," he said. "Attracting and retaining the next generation also depends on profitability and predictability. When farmers and agribusinesses face constant regulatory uncertainty or rising compliance costs, it discourages investment and makes leadership succession harder. To keep agriculture strong, we must reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens and ensure producers and those across the industry see a future worth building toward."

Locker pointed to Congress as having a vital role in securing the industry's future, adding investment in people is key.

"The food and agriculture industries are evolving fast, but our leadership pipeline is not keeping up," he said. "This is not just a workforce issue, it's a threat to our most essential system—our food supply."

Discussion at the hearing also highlighted the aging of American farmers, with one-third over the age of 65. Since 2007, the U.S. has lost more than 200,000 farms, equating to 40 million acres. Increased costs, regulatory burdens and natural disasters are deterring new farmers. Those testifying reiterated the need for a five-year farm bill and support for young and beginning farmers.

"Farmers will plant the most expensive crop ever planted this year, and many have faced a tough decision of whether or not to even plant that crop," Duvall said, adding farm debt is expected to increase in 2025 to more than \$560 billion.

He also cautioned a farmer mental health crisis could be on the horizon as farmers become overleveraged with credit.

See FARMING, Page 16

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# Around the Northern Hills

Make sure to come out to the Elizabeth Community Fair the weekend of July 18 through July 20. The Young Leaders will be at the Fair on Saturday holding the Kiddie Tractor Pull at 1 p.m.



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

## 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 weather. Peaches must be picked up the day of delivery to ensure freshness. Order forms are available at our office or on our website.

the first field entrance south of 4629 IL Route 78 on the east side of 78 (south of Stockton).

Come see the updates on the multi-year cover crop project. Speakers will include Greg Thoren, owner and host; Bena Pegg, Illinois Farm Bureau; Bob Melcher, retired veterinarian; Bob Recker, Cedar Valley Innovation; Miranda Peters, Shepherd and Rick Bieber, Fields of Sinsinawa.

## 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.

## Cover Crop Field Day

We will again be holding a field day at Greg Thoren's farm on Friday, Aug. 1 at 11:30 a.m. It will be held at



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Yard of the Month

The Lena Beautification Committee and Lena Business and Professional Association are proud to announce the June Yard of the Month. Congratulations to Lois Bollman and Jeff Olds for their beautifully maintained yard at 108 W. Palm Dr. Their vibrant flowers and creative yard art create a warm, welcoming scene for all who pass by. Great job, Lois and Jeff!

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

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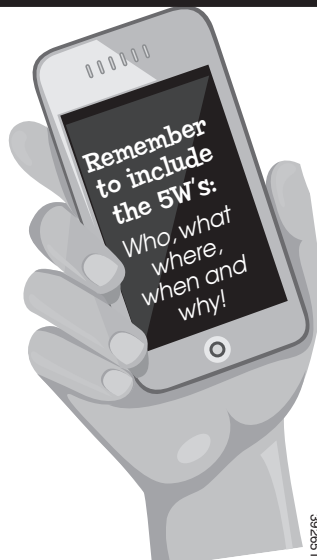
The Scoop and Shopper's Guide

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# OPINION



## In my opinion

# Looking beyond the numbers on teacher shortages

By Meg Bates and Stephanie Werner

In March, the Illinois State Board of Education provided some happy news: the number of teacher shortages went down this year, showing slight easing of this problem for our K-12 schools. While some chronic shortages remain in specific content and geographic areas, these numbers are certainly cause for celebration.

But statewide concerns about the teacher workforce do not end with a filled position. The qualifications and experience of the person at the front of the room are equally as important.

Take, for instance, the case of Computer Science (CS) education. The Illinois legislature

has made CS education a priority in Illinois, recognizing the centrality of technology skills to employment. We now have state CS standards, alongside a mandate that all districts offer high school students the opportunity to take CS coursework, with a potential CS graduation requirement currently on the House floor. The available data show few unfilled technology-related teaching positions across the state.

But our recent research suggests that the CS teacher workforce may not provide the high-quality CS education our students deserve. Three facts from our research point to this conclusion:

As the population of CS

students has grown to about 45,000 each year, the number of CS teachers has also grown—from 1,660 in 2018 to 1,894 in 2022.

Only about half of those CS teachers hold a CS endorsement as part of their professional educator license.

For some CS courses, only about a third hold the appropriate, aligned endorsement.

These CS positions are filled. But are they best serving our students? While increasing access to CS in Illinois is vital, it should be done with qualified educators at the forefront. Having experience and training in CS education is a necessary baseline for the teacher workforce (although, one might argue, even the most qualified teachers need to continually update their skills and knowledge through professional learning and reflection on their practice). The current CS teacher workforce is almost certainly doing their best, but have they been put in the best position for their skills and talents? It's true that people often compare learning CS to learning a new language. But we wouldn't expect a teacher to effectively teach French after minimal

training. And yet, for some CS teachers, minimal training is their reality.

One solution to this problem is to produce more CS-endorsed teachers. Another is to mine the "untapped" CS-endorsed workforce: Our research shows that there are almost enough teachers with CS endorsements in the state to fully meet the need, but many of those teachers are not teaching CS right now.

Whatever the solution, this issue with the CS workforce points to a broader concern: Teacher shortages extend beyond the numbers of filled and unfilled positions. A school may fill a position but still have a "shortage" in terms of a qualified, effective educator for a specific course. While we celebrate the reduction in teacher vacancies, it's important to keep the north star in mind: highly qualified, effective teachers for all students, in all subjects.

Meg Bates is the director of the Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC) at University of Illinois. Stephanie Werner is a senior research specialist at IWERC.

## Slices of life

# Why is it?

We live in a quirky, weird, sideways, upside-down world where some things just don't make sense – or they make too much sense to be sensible. As humans we often perpetuate the nonsense. We accept things for what they are and go about our business without question. But sometimes I wonder. About small things. Big things. Random things, like:

Why do cats have to race you up the stairs? They can come out of nowhere just to get one step ahead of you. Sometimes my cats pause to let me nearly catch up before bounding upwards to beat me. Again.

When shopping online why are we required to put certain items in our cart in order to see their price while other items have their prices posted prominently?

If it's a seedless watermelon, what did it grow from?

Why do we call them red cabbage and red onions when it's obvious they are purple? Red grapes are more burgundy than red. Purple potatoes are actually purple – score one for the spuds.

When the batteries on the TV remote go dead why do we continue to press the power button over and over hoping they will suddenly come to life? The same phenomenon occurs when our cell phone loses its charge.

Have you ever noticed that abbreviated is an awfully long word?

And big is not?

Other words are worth contemplating – phonetically speaking. Gynecologist is a doctor for women. Hysterectomy is a procedure performed solely on women. Hershey is word made up of two female pronouns coming together to make chocolate. I guess that last one makes perfect sense.

In the same vein, if words like "he" and "she" are pronouns, does that also make them anti-verbs?

Why do we call it the funny bone when bumping it is certainly no laughing matter?



By JILL PERTLER  
Columnist

When I am driving somewhere and get lost why do I turn the radio off, thinking it will help me find my destination?

Why do people drive around in convertibles with the top down, but the windows up?

Do they call it falling asleep because of the falling dream that sometimes accompanies the going to sleep process? Is it true you would die if you landed (in your dream) or is that just one of those urban myths?

Who makes up all the urban myths and why aren't they ever rural truths?

Is it possible to eat charred chard? Or chilly chili? Shrimpy shrimp?

If words made sense, hamburger would be made of ham and a hot dog would be made of... Never mind.

Shouldn't a pair of pants be two of something?

Why is it always just one shoe (or boot) lying in the middle of the road, but we never see the person who is walking around with the other one?

Every few years we are required to renew our driver's license. Anyone besides me keep the old ones around lying in the junk drawer – just because? Every so often I glance through them to see how much I used to weigh.

Why is it? I wish I could tell you. Some things deny explanation. It's at the core of the human paradigm; we assume logic in an illogical world.

Sort of like my cat. Who won't come when she's called but will race me up the stairs every time. Go figure.

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.

## THE SCOOP TODAY

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47. Consort of Poseidon  
48. A way to lessen  
49. Brooklyn hoops team  
52. Female of a horse  
53. Do as one is told  
54. A way to prepare meat  
55. Unit of measurement







# 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 13, 2025, for Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. The Gospel will be from Gospel Luke 10:25-37.

On Wednesday, July 16 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 13 at 9 a.m. We will enjoy special music by Kayla Morgan.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, July 10 at 1 p.m. and to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 9 a.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, Aug. 6 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.

We are encouraging all

children ages 2-12 to attend the Vacation Bible School at Zion Community Church from Sunday, July 13 through Thursday, July 17. Each night a meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. and the program will go through 8 p.m. each night. There is no cost, but children are asked to register ahead of time. Parent volunteers are also needed each night. Contact St. John's or Debbie Schau 603-674-3458 with questions or registration forms.

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

## Salem United Church of Christ

All are welcome to join service led by Pastor Christopher Ham at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL, every Sunday

at 10 a.m. Sunday School for children five years and older is held during church service, and nursery is available for children under five years.

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

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

For more information on any Salem related items, you can contact 815-369-4511 or ruth.dake@gmail.com.

## Calvary Church of Stockton

The 5 Day Club will be held on Monday through Friday, July 14 through July 18

from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Children 5 through 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.

## 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 in 3-5 grade, focusing on the adventures of David and Goliath. Register online at [lenafreechurch.org](http://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.



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## July 18, 19, 20 2025

### Friday July 18th

7:00 am Steer Weigh-in  
9:00 am Dairy and Sheep Show  
10:00 am Crafts and Gardening Judging  
1:00 pm Dairy Goat Show  
7:00 pm Fantasy Truck Pullers  
(weigh-in beginning at 5:00 pm)

### Parade Information

Parade Theme "There's No Time Like Fairtime"  
Saturday July 19th  
Grand Marshalls: Elizabeth Fire Department  
Line up at 9:30am  
Parade Steps off at 11:00am  
Categories include; Floats, Kids, Antique Cars & Tractors  
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For information contact Jason Thomasson @ 815-930-4425

### Saturday July 19th

8:00 am Beef Show~ heifers & steers to follow  
11:00 am Parade Sponsored by the Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and Apple River State Bank.  
Noon- Free Lunch for first 500 people  
Prepared by The Jo Daviess County Beef Association and sponsored by Citizens State Bank  
Noon- 2:00 pm Music by Bruce Kort & David Czech  
Noon to 5:00 pm- Bingo ~ Cash Prizes and More!  
1:00 pm Kiddie Tractor Pull by the Jo Daviess County Young Leaders. Sign up at 12:30  
1:00 pm Ag Games by River Ridge FFA  
2:00-5:00 Music by the Holy Crowe  
3:00 pm Elizabeth's Best BBQ Competition & Public Tasting  
6:00 pm The Elizabeth Community Fair Queen, Teen Miss, Junior Miss & Little Miss/Mister Pageant  
7:00pm-Pie and Cake Auction after the Pageant  
8:30 pm- Midnight Music by the Zac Matthews Band

**Throughout the weekend Great Food, Vendors, Carnival Rides, Antique Tractor and Farm Demonstrations, Music, Beer Tent and More!**

### Sunday July 20th

9:00 am Community Church Service-St. Paul Lutheran Church  
10:00 am Bean Bag Tournament Sponsored by G.E.A.R  
11:00am-1:00pm Bingo ~ Cash Prizes and More!  
Noon- Fantasy Truck Pullers (weigh-in beginning at 10:00 am)  
4:00 pm Ice cream Eating Contest by Three Sisters Sweet Shoppe  
4:30 pm Homegrown Wrestling

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# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Heat has set in again. We celebrated the Fourth of July with lots of heat and humidity, but unlike a lot of other Fourth of July days, it didn't rain. This week we move further into summer with some good recipes. Salads are great in hot weather as well as slow cooker recipes. Enjoy cooking some new and different things this week.

## Slow Cooker Crab Dip

This easy hot appetizer is one that can be served any time of the year. I like it with butter crackers, but you could serve it on Hawaiian bread too.

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened  
 ½ C. finely chopped sweet onion  
 ¼ C. grated Parmesan cheese  
 ¼ C. mayonnaise  
 2 garlic cloves, minced  
 2 t. sugar  
 8 oz. imitation crab meat chopped finely  
 2 green onions, chopped both white and green  
 Butter crackers  
 In a 1½ qt. slow cooker, combine the cream cheese, onion, Parmesan cheese, mayo, garlic, and sugar; stir in crab. Cover and cook on low for 2 to 3 hours or until heated through. Sprinkle with green onions

## Four Berry Spinach Salad

Try this refreshing green salad that has the fruit to make it beautiful and tasty. You could use red raspberries instead of the blackberries if you can find them easier.

1 T. canola oil  
 1 T. orange juice  
 1 T. red wine vinegar  
 2 T. balsamic vinegar  
 2 T. water  
 2 t. lemon juice  
 ½ t. sugar  
 ½ t. poppy seeds  
 Dash of cinnamon  
 4 C. baby spinach  
 ½ C. each fresh raspberries, blueberries, blackberries, and sliced strawberries  
 2 t. chopped nuts, toasted  
 In a small bowl, whisk the oil, orange juice, vinegars, water, lemon juice, sugar, poppy seeds, and cinnamon together until blended. In a salad bowl, combine the spinach and berries. Drizzle with dressing and sprinkle with nuts. Toss to coat.

## Tri-Color Pasta Salad

Pasta salad is always a great summer side for any picnic. You can add some tuna to make it into a great luncheon entrée. The dressing is great in hot weather because it stands up to heat well.

1 pkg. (12 oz.) tricolor spiral pasta  
 4 C. broccoli florets  
 1 pint grape tomatoes  
 1 can (6 oz.) pitted ripe olives, drained  
 1/8 t. salt  
 1/8 t. pepper  
 1½ C. Italian Salad Dressing  
**Dressing:**  
 6 T. extra virgin olive oil

3 T. white wine vinegar  
 3 T. lemon juice  
 1½ T. finely chopped fresh parsley  
 1½ t. honey  
 1½ t. dried oregano  
 1 garlic clove, grated  
 ¾ t. Dijon mustard  
 ¼ t. dried thyme  
 ¼ t. sea salt  
 Black pepper to taste  
 3 T. Parmesan cheese

In a large pot, cook pasta according to package directions, adding the broccoli during the last 2 minutes of cooking. Drain and rinse in cold water. Transfer to a large bowl. Add the tomatoes, olives, salt and pepper. Drizzle with dressing; toss to coat. Chill for an hour before serving.

**Dressing:** Place the oil, vinegar, lemon juice, and parsley in a jar with a lid. Shake well. Add the parsley, honey, oregano, garlic, Dijon, and thyme. Shake again to mix the ingredients. Add the sea salt and pepper to taste. Add the Parmesan to the salad and then the dressing.

## Bacon Wrapped Hot Dogs

If you want a summer picnic sandwich or a fast supper meal, these hot dogs will help you get a meal on the table quickly. You can buy cheese hotdogs at A.J.'s Lena Maid Meats. I like to buy the sauerkraut in the bag. You can keep it in the refrigerator in a zip lock bag for several months. Just be sure to wash it as you use it. You can also substitute yellow mustard for the Dijon.

12 bacon strips  
 8 cheese beef hot dogs

8 hot dog buns, split and toasted  
 ¼ C. onion, chopped  
 2 C. sauerkraut, rinsed and well drained

Condiments: mayo, ketchup or Dijon mustard

In a large skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until partially cooked but not crisp. Remove to paper towels to drain; cool slightly. Wrap 1½ strips of bacon around each hot dog, securing with toothpicks as needed (do not wrap tightly or bacon may tear during cooking). Broil 4 inches from the heat, turning frequently from 6 to 8 minutes or until bacon is crisp and hot dogs are heated through, turning frequently. Discard toothpicks. Serve hot dogs in buns with onion and sauerkraut. Top with condiments.

## Chicken Bacon Ranch Sliders

This week we feature yet another slider. This one uses shredded chicken, so the rotisserie chicken would work great in this recipe. Enjoy a different kind of slider for any party or picnic.

1 pkg. (12 oz.) Hawaiian sweet rolls  
 3 C. shredded cooked chicken  
 12 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled  
 ½ C. ranch salad dressing  
 9 slices Colby-Monterey Jack cheese  
 ¼ C. butter, melted  
 1 t. minced chives  
 ½ t. garlic powder  
 2 T. grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat oven to 350. Without separating rolls, cut horizontally in half with a serrated knife. Arrange roll bottoms in a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. In a large bowl, combine chicken, bacon and ranch. Spoon over roll bottoms. Top with cheese, overlapping as needed. Replace top halves of rolls. In a small bowl, combine the butter, chives and garlic powder; brush over the tops of the rolls. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil. Bake until cheese is melted, 25 to 27 minutes. Remove foil; bake until tops are golden brown, 5 to 7 minutes.

## Raspberry Coffee Cake

Raspberries are coming in season, and this coffee cake is great for a brunch or breakfast, but it also is great for a dessert.

3½ C. unsweetened raspberries  
 1 C. water  
 2 T. lemon juice  
 1¼ C. sugar  
 1/3 C. cornstarch  
**Batter:**  
 3 C. flour  
 1 C. sugar

1 t. baking powder  
 1 t. baking soda  
 1 C. cold butter, cubed  
 2 eggs, lightly beaten  
 1 C. sour cream  
 1 t. vanilla

## Topping:

½ C. flour  
 ½ C. sugar  
 ¼ C. butter, softened  
 ½ C. pecans  
 Glaze  
 ½ C. powdered sugar  
 2 t. milk  
 ½ t. vanilla

In a large saucepan, cook raspberries and water over medium heat for 5 minutes. Add lemon juice. Combine sugar and cornstarch; stir into fruit mixture. Bring to a boil and stir 2 minutes or until thickened. Cool.

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder and soda. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in eggs, sour cream and vanilla (batter will be stiff). Spread half into a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Spread raspberry filling over batter; spoon remaining batter over filling. Combine topping ingredients. Sprinkle over the top. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until golden brown. Combine glaze ingredients; drizzle over warm cake.

## Raspberry Cake Cookies

These easy cookies use a strawberry cake mix to make a batch of cookies that are easy to assemble. You do have to refrigerate the dough for 30 minutes before baking. As my little cousin used to say, "Easy peasy!"

1 pkg. (15 ¼ oz.) strawberry cake mix  
 1/3 C. vegetable oil  
 2 eggs  
 Red sprinkling sugar

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, stir the cake mix, oil and eggs until combined. Refrigerate until chilled, about 30 minutes. Drop dough by tablespoonfuls 2-inches apart onto parchment lined baking sheets. Flatten slightly with a greased juice glass; top with sprinkling sugar. Bake until edges are set, 10 to 12 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely. Store in an airtight container.

## Final Thoughts

I hope everyone enjoyed their Fourth of July activities. You certainly could have gone to fireworks all weekend long. My street loves to send off some kind of noise during the Fourth celebration. I feel sorry for the pets because it is very hard on them.

Speaking of pets, mark your calendars for the Lena Lions Bicycle and Pet Parade on July 19. It will start on Mason Street and go to the water tower and end up on Main Street. I saw on Facebook that there will be prizes, games, and food. It isn't as big as the Fall Festival Parade, but it is pretty darn cute! It goes past my house, so I get to see the many pets and cycles from my front porch.

Remember to support the Music in the Parks on Saturday at the lake and on Sundays at the Splashland parking lot in Lena as well as Krape Park in Freeport. Farmer's Markets continue to offer lots of great things to celebrate the season. Have a great week cooking.

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.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Northwest Illinois F-4 Aerial Combat Memorial

Progress continues on the Northwest Illinois F-4 Aerial Combat Memorial in Lena, IL, as the name wall is laid in place—another important step in the project's development. Stop by the memorial site to see ongoing changes and updates to this tribute.

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# IN\*CI\*DENTAL\*LY

## Stem cell research offers hope for future therapies

Headlines in the news and on social media platforms proclaiming that soon we will be growing new teeth are effective at grabbing your attention. However, while many regenerative therapies are showing promising results in preclinical studies and clinical trials, it's crucial to understand that some applications are still in the beginning stages of development. This includes whole tooth regeneration, when informing the public



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

about advances in regenerative oral healthcare, it is imperative to provide accurate information with realistic time expectations.

Many of the recent advances in regenerative dentistry

have come about because of stem cell research. Why stem cells? Stem cells are a special type of cells that have two important properties. The first is that they are able to self-renew or make more cell like themselves. Second, they are able to become other cells that do different things in a process known as differentiation.

Over the years, stem cell research has given us a better understanding of how diseases occur, how to use some types of stem cells to evaluate drugs

for safety and quality, and techniques to guide stem cells into becoming specific cells to regenerate and repair tissues that have been damaged or affected by disease.

Doctors have performed stem cell transplants, also known as bone marrow transplants, for many decades. Stem cells replace cells damaged by chemotherapy or disease or assist the immune system to fight some types of cancer and blood-related diseases. Leukemia,

lymphoma, neuroblastoma, and multiple myeloma are often treated this way.

Because of their unique regenerative abilities and wide range of applications, stem cells became a key focus area in biotechnology. In dentistry, researchers focus primarily on the pulp of wisdom teeth, which contain a rich source of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), that have the potential to regenerate various tissues, including bone, dental tissue, and nerve tissue. They also harvest periodontal ligament stem cells, a type of MSC in the perivascular space of the periodontal ligament. These play a crucial role in the regeneration and maintenance of periodontal tissues, alveolar bone, and cementum.

As reported in previous columns, knowledge gained in regenerative research has already been incorporated into modern oral healthcare. This includes bioactive restorative materials, platelet-rich plasma, platelet-rich fibrin, guided bone regeneration, and endodontic revascularization.

Besides whole tooth regeneration, clinical studies are focusing on repairing or regenerating nerve tissues in the oral cavity, restoring function to damaged salivary glands, regenerating bone tissue in the jaw, and transplanting dental pulp stem cells into disinfected necrotic teeth to restore tooth vitality and vertical and horizontal root growth in immature teeth with incomplete root formation and medications to halt degenerative changes in the TMJ and other joints.

Many of these studies are being assisted and accelerated by the advances in data collection and international research sharing practices developed during the human genome project. Advances in regenerative healthcare rely on the collaboration of experts from veterinary, oral and general medicine with physicists and bioengineers.

This also require time, lots of time. From concept to research to machine modeling to clinical trials to human trials...because patient care and safety is not negotiable.

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Ella Elizabeth Wolfrom





SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Flag burning

Members of the various Stephenson County American Legion Posts along with the over 1500 flags that were retired.

## News briefs

### Stephenson County VA Pantry

The Stephenson County VA Pantry is currently in need of deodorant, hand soap, dish soap, razors, toilet paper, mouthwash, cans of fruits and vegetables, all pantry items. Donations can be brought to the Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 316 W. Main St., Lena, IL. Donations are greatly appreciated.

### Lena American Legion Auxiliary Cookout

The Lena American Legion Auxiliary will be cooking the delicious sandwiches at Sullivan's Grill on Friday, July 18 and Saturday, July 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Salvation Army of Freeport July events

The Salvation Army of Freeport will host several events this month. Women's Ministry Crafting will be held on July 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Christmas in July is on July 18 and July 19. Battle of the Badges will be held on July 18 at the Walmart in Freeport. Family Game Night will be held on July 26 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

In addition to these events, the Salvation Army is collecting bottled water donations which can be dropped off at 106 W Exchange St., in Freeport.

### NOTICE

Bids are being accepted for providing bread and dairy products for the Lena-Winslow School District for the 2025-2026 school year. Bid specifications may be picked up at the Superintendent's Office at 401 Fremont St., Lena, IL. from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or you may call 815-668-0800 to request the forms. Bids are due at the Superintendent's Office no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2025. Lena-Winslow School District reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

(Published in  
The Shopper's Guide  
July 9, 2025)

474001

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 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](http://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 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](http://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 [illinoislegallaid.org](http://illinoislegallaid.org). All documents referred to in this Notice can be found at [ilcourts.info/forms](http://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](http://ilcourthelp.gov) para obtener infor-

mación 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. 25-20595IL-1194048 I3269087

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

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# Getting Started with Cover Crops program slated for August 5

Join University of Illinois Extension for a program on "Getting Started with Cover Crops". This program is taking place from 8 to 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at the Stockton Public Library, 140 W. Benton Avenue, Stockton, IL. Doors will open at 7:50 a.m. This program is being offered free of charge, but pre-registration is requested. To register or for more information call the Extension Office at 815-858-2273 or visit us online at [go.illinois.edu/jsw](http://go.illinois.edu/jsw).

The benefits of cover crops are widely known, but information on getting started with cover cropping isn't as extensively covered. This program is designed to equip you with the knowledge you need to determine if cover cropping is right for you and how best to get started.

During this program, participants will learn about the benefits of cover crops in addition to how to select and manage them via presentations from Illinois Extension Commercial Agriculture Educator, Kathryn Seebuck, who serves Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago counties. Natural Resource and Conservation Service (NRCS) soil conservationist, Abby Mielke, will provide information on cost-share programs that can help alleviate the economic burden of taking on this new practice, and Nicole Haverback, a Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy outreach associate with Illinois Extension, will inform participants of the effects of cover cropping on nutrient loss reduction. The program will also feature a panel of local farmers who use cover crops, enabling participants to learn from their experiences and ask questions.

If in need of a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program please contact the Extension Office at 815-858-2273. Early requests are strongly encouraged.

# Illinois State Police investigating non-fatal officer-involved shooting

The Illinois State Police (ISP) Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 2 continues its investigation into a non-fatal shooting in Savanna at the request of the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. Today, the suspect involved in the non-fatal shooting, 59-year-old Mark Feltmeyer of Freeport, IL was taken into custody. Feltmeyer was charged with Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle (Class 2 Felony), three counts of Criminal Damage to Government Supported Property (Class 3 Felony), Criminal Damage to Property (Class 3 Felony), Aggravated Fleeing and Attempt-

ing to Elude a Peace Officer (Class 4 Felony), two counts of Aggravated Assault - Peace Officer (Class 4 Felony), Driving While License Suspended (Class A Misdemeanor) and two counts of Resisting or Obstructing a Police Officer (Class A Misdemeanor) by the Carroll County State's Attorney.

On June 25, 2025, around 10:19 p.m., Freeport Police Department officers responded to a report of a suspected stolen vehicle. Officers located the vehicle and attempted a traffic stop, but the vehicle fled. Later that evening, Jo Daviess County Sher-

iff's Office deputies located the vehicle in Hanover and officers engaged in a short pursuit, but the vehicle fled a second time. The vehicle was located again near Savanna around 3:40 a.m. on June 26, 2026, and officers and deputies from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, Mount Carroll Police Department, and the Savanna Police Department engaged in a pursuit. Feltmeyer came to a stop near the intersection of Webster and Main Street where officers on scene attempted to place Feltmeyer in custody. Feltmeyer resisted arrest, which resulted in squad

car damage, officers discharging their weapons, and Feltmeyer being struck by gunfire. The pursuit continued but later ended near the intersection of Chicago Avenue and Gilbert Street. Feltmeyer was transported to an area hospital, but has since been released and is now in custody at the Stephenson County jail.

This investigation into the shooting is open and ongoing. When complete, ISP will submit all evidence and facts for review to the Carroll County State's Attorney's Office. No additional information is available at this time.

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### PUZZLE 1

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5	6	3	4	8	2	9	7	1
2	3	1	9	7	4	5	8	6
6	8	4	5	1	3	7	2	9
9	7	5	8	2	6	4	1	3

### PUZZLE 2

5	7	4	8	1	6	2	3	9
6	1	3	9	2	5	7	4	8
2	9	8	3	7	4	5	6	1
1	4	9	5	6	7	8	2	3
8	3	5	4	9	2	1	7	6
7	2	6	1	8	3	4	9	5
3	5	7	6	4	8	9	1	2
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THE SCOOP TODAY Wednesday, July 9, 2025

# State ends fiscal year with record revenue

## Attention turns to volatile FY26 forecast as uncertainty continues

By Ben Szalinski  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Despite uncertainty over the economy and federal funding during the second half of fiscal year 2025, the year closed on June 30 with the state setting a new record for annual revenue.

Numbers compiled by the independent Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability show FY25 concluded with \$54 billion in revenue, the most the state has ever received in a fiscal year. The state also brought in \$717 million more in revenue than lawmakers originally budgeted for when they passed a \$53.3 billion budget in May 2024.

All told, the final revenue numbers track closely with projections made in May by

both COGFA and the Governor's Office of Management and Budget that formed the basis of the FY26 budget. In other words, June revenues produced no surprises, and lawmakers aren't sitting on any substantial surplus as the new fiscal year begins.

The record revenues also don't alleviate any uncertainty for the current or future fiscal years as Congress considers drastic reductions to the social safety net and aid to states.

### Causes of revenue growth

Strong personal income tax growth drove the revenue increase in FY25, largely thanks to a "true up" conducted by the Department of Revenue that reallocated business

related income tax revenue into the personal income tax category. Personal income tax revenue was 10 percent higher than in FY24, but corporate income taxes declined by 9.5 percent.

Some other revenue sources also saw minimal growth. Sales tax revenue grew by less than 1 percent, though COGFA noted it increased by nearly 3 percent in the second half of FY25 after a weak start last summer as gas prices dropped and people cut back on large purchases amid growing economic uncertainty.

Federal income was also down 4.6 percent in FY25, even when excluding one-time pandemic relief funds the state received in FY24. But in a bright spot for the state, COGFA found that state

revenue sources grew more than anticipated to offset the \$178 million decline in federal revenue.

Despite solid revenue growth this year, questions remain about how well it will perform in FY26.

"Whether this record will be surpassed in FY 2026 remains to be seen, though the FY 2026 enacted budget assumes revenues of \$55.297 billion—nearly \$1.3 billion above the FY 2025 final total," COGFA Revenue Manager Eric Noggle wrote.

### Bills paid and money left over

The state also ended the fiscal year with \$1.9 billion of cash in the General Revenue Fund after all bills were paid, according to the Comptroller Susana Mendoza's office.

"We work hard each year to pay bills on time, build up the state's emergency reserves and stress fiscal discipline, even in these uncertain times," Mendoza said in a statement. "My office will strive for continued improvement in state finances and credit ratings in the new budget year."

Mendoza's office also put \$256 million into the "rainy

day" fund, growing it to a balance of \$2.5 billion. The fund is expected to grow at a slower rate in FY26, however, as lawmakers suspended a monthly transfer that will free up \$45 million.

With an extra cash balance to start the new fiscal year, Mendoza said she plans to pre-pay monthly pension payments for FY26. Lawmakers gave the comptroller authority last year to make pension payments earlier in the year rather than on a monthly basis when extra money is available.

"This will enable the systems to plan accordingly and keep additional dollars in their investment portfolios into the new budget year," Mendoza said.

### An uncertain future

With good new concluding FY25, attention now turns to FY26, which began July 1, and the vast uncertainty the state faces from budget talks in Congress and the economic fallout of decisions by the Trump administration.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed a \$55.1 billion spending plan in mid-June that relies on \$55.3 billion in revenue. It's the

largest budget in state history despite minimal discretionary spending growth, and it relies on \$1.2 billion of tax increases or one-time revenues.

But state lawmakers have left the door open to the possibility that changes Congress makes to federal funding that requires states to cover greater portions of government programs and ceases funding in certain areas will require lawmakers to change the budget.

"The ability of the state to try to step in and try to mitigate the damage is somewhat limited, although we have the ability to do certain things and may have to in special session or we may have to in veto session," Pritzker told reporters in Peoria on Tuesday. "It's a little hard to tell yet. Some of the provisions of this terrible bill in Washington, D.C. don't go into effect until next year and so we'll have to evaluate what changes to make in order to deal with it."

Work requirements for health care and food assistance programs, cuts to Medicaid reimbursements and the elimination of clean energy tax credits could all require the state to take on more costs.

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## •Farming (Continued from page 2)

Recruiting and retaining workers also continues to be a challenge for farmers.

"Of course, we cannot paint the full picture on this issue without talking about our employees, and many of those employees are like family, and they are aging right alongside

us and that's a problem because most Americans, they aren't interested in working on our farms anymore, and they're not interested in coming back to the farm, despite the big investments that we're making in recruiting people to come back to the farm," Du-

vall said. "Congress needs to recognize the farm workers as essential to feeding and fueling our country. It's time to modernize our outdated system, and only Congress can meaningfully do that."

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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