

PRESS PACKET: MARCH 1 – 31, 2024

Warren's suffocating defense dominates McHenry; Daily Herald; 3/1/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240301/prep-sports/warrens-suffocating-defense-dominates-mchenry/>

Warren set the tone right away against McHenry in Friday's sectional championship game at Rock Valley College.

The Blue Devils showed up playing rock-solid, man-to-man pressure defense and it took a toll from the jump ball. Warren started the game with 2 steals, a blocked shot, forced a traveling violation and pulled away early on the way to a 70-38 victory.

Warren (31-4) moves on to face Palatine in Tuesday's supersectional at NIU. The Blue Devils last trip to the supersectional was in 2012, when they lost to Rockford Auburn with current NBA guard Fred VanVleet. Warren was state runner-up in 2011 and 1999.

"We try to keep it simple, we play half-court man, try to get up and down fast and run motion," Warren coach Zack Ryan said. "We're not doing anything fancy, but our guys buy into it and it's fun to watch."

The pressure never let up. Even when the Warriors got decent looks, they seemed to rush too many of them. By halftime, Warren had forced 12 turnovers.

"I know McHenry, they haven't seen hard man-to-man in like three weeks," Blue Devils senior Alex Daniels said. "They've only seen zones and I just don't think they were ready for our physicality and our pressure on the perimeter."

Freshman Jaxson Davis led a balanced offense with an efficient 18 points, going 7-for-12 from the field. Daniels finished with 13 points and Jack Wolf added 12.

Daniels, one of two senior starters, believed this was possible even while the Blue Devils went through a drought of 12 years between regional titles.

"I remember actually freshman year, me and Jacquari (Nabb) were talking about it like, 'What if we go down to state? What if, what if?' And it's all happening," he said. "All the hard work, the open gyms in the morning, the lifting, the summer work, it feels like it's all paying off. It's really rewarding."

Wolf, who plays quarterback on the football team, has embraced his sixth man role. Just as he did in last week's regional final win over Waukegan, Wolf knocked down a pair of 3-pointers in the opening quarter. Warren led 23-7 after one and the game never got any closer.

"I've grown into the role and I've accepted it," Wolf said. "I'm perfectly fine with the way I'm playing, the way coach plays it and if I'm knocking (3-pointers) down in practice, I can knock them down in a game. Why not?"

Junior Caleb Jett led the Warriors with 14 points, while senior Marko Visnjevac had a rough shooting night and scored 7.

"No. 1 (Visnjevac) had been really lighting it up the last few games, so we put our best defender Braylon (Walker) on him," Ryan said. "He's been our best defender all year. Just making it hard for them. Not giving them clean looks, making sure we're active on the ball, and our guys did a great job with that."

“When we defend like that and move the ball, we're tough to beat. We've got a lot of unselfish guys who don't care who scores and when you have that, it makes it pretty fun to coach.”

McHenry last won a sectional title in 1976 and finishes the season with a 26-9 record.

“We got beat by a good team tonight,” McHenry coach Corky Card said. “They played well, they took it to us. We had, I thought, some times where we could have just slowed ourselves down a little bit, maybe got to the rim, had some more patience. But they sped us up and they played well, so good luck to them.”

Career and Technical Education programs at MCC offer hands-on training, real-world experience; 3/3/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240303/submitted-content/career-and-technical-education-programs-at-mcc-offer-hands-on-training-real-world-experience/>

McHenry County College joined community colleges across the state in celebrating Career and Technical Education Month this February. CTE programs provide students with hands-on training and real-world experience in a variety of industries, playing a valuable role in preparing the workforce for in-demand jobs.

“CTE programs ensure that the workforce needs of our local economy are being met,” said Dr. Arlene Santos-George, vice president of Academic Affairs and Workforce Development at MCC. “These programs continue to be relevant by preparing students with the required skills and competencies in various high-demand, high-wage, or high-skilled occupational fields.”

According to the National Skills Coalition, nearly two-thirds of jobs in the U.S. economy require education beyond high school but not necessarily a four-year college degree. Many of these jobs are in CTE fields such as health care, advanced manufacturing, and IT, which are among the fastest-growing occupations projected through 2029 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“Illinois community colleges are a leading workforce developer in the state and are continuing to expand access and opportunities to dozens of good paying careers,” said Brian Durham, executive director of the Illinois Community College Board. “CTE programs at community colleges are an essential part of our state's workforce development strategy, and we are proud to be a part of preparing the next generation of workers.”

MCC is furthering its commitment to quality CTE offerings by opening its Foglia Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation this fall. The Foglia CATI will offer programs in architecture and engineering design technology; automation, robotics, and mechatronics; construction management; engineering technology; HVAC; precision machining; and welding and fabrication.

“We're excited about the expanded training opportunities the Foglia CATI building will bring our community,” said Tom McGee, dean of Manufacturing and Advanced Technology at MCC. “We worked with many local employers to understand what they needed from their workforce and incorporated that feedback into our curriculum. Our students will receive hands-on training from experts in the field and get experience using some of the most state-of-the-art, industry standard equipment. They'll graduate

ready to excel in a variety of roles and meet the need for skilled workers in some of our community's largest employment sectors, such as manufacturing and technology."

In addition to programs at in the Foglia CATI, MCC recently added and redesigned several CTE programs to ensure students receive cutting-edge training and a seamless education experience. The college enhanced its programs in accounting, administrative office technologies, baking and culinary, horticulture, network security, software application design and development, and more.

CTE programs at Illinois community colleges offer a cost-effective way for individuals to pursue their career goals by costing a fraction of the tuition at four-year institutions, making it a more accessible option for many students.

Statewide, nearly 37,500 students graduated from the more than 4,600 approved CTE certificate and degree programs offered by Illinois Community Colleges in 2023.

For information about CTE programs offered at MCC, visit www.mchenry.edu/programs.

Dr. Brock L. Fisher Named Walters State Vice President; WGRV.com; 3/3/24

<https://wgrv.com/2024/03/03/dr-brock-l-fisher-named-walters-state-vice-president/>

Dr. Brock L. Fisher has been named vice president for academic affairs at Walters State Community College.

Fisher previously served as vice president for academic affairs at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey. He holds a doctorate degree in theatre and a master's degree in theatre from the University of Missouri, Columbia. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in theatre and psychology from the University of Central Missouri.

"Dr. Fisher brings 20 years of higher education teaching and leadership experience to his new position," said Dr. Tony Miksa, president of Walters State. "Throughout his career, he has been an advocate for student success and a strong supporter of faculty members at all levels. We are excited to welcome Dr. Fisher into the Walters State family."

While at Bergen Community College, Fisher completed an academic master plan to guide the division through 2025, implemented a new learning management system to ensure student success, and worked with stakeholders to create a new online college with fully articulated virtual services and programs. He also oversaw the creation of numerous new academic programs and external partnerships.

"I am excited to join the Walters State family," said Fisher. "As the two-time winner of the best community college in the state of Tennessee, Walters State already does so much right in terms of student success. I'm eager to pitch in and work with the faculty, staff and administration to empower students to meet their personal and academic goals."

Fisher served as associate vice president for arts and sciences from 2016-2019 and as executive dean of humanities and social sciences from 2014-2016 at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois.

His resume also includes time as the chair of fine arts at Stillman College. Institutions where his primary role was teaching include the Georgia College and State University, Ball State University, Anderson University, Clark University and Bethel College.

Fisher's primary role at Walters State is providing support for administration and faculty members within the college's eight academic divisions. He will promote the scholarship of teaching and learning across all campuses.

Fisher began his new job on February 1.

MCHEMRY HIGH SCHOOL, MCHEMRY AREA ROTARY TEAM UP TO OFFER DUAL CREDIT DISCOUNT FOR STUDENTS; Dist156.org; 3/4/24

<https://www.dist156.org/article/1489694>

McHenry Community High School District 156 students who take a dual credit class to earn college credit may notice an even greater cost savings next year thanks to a new partnership between the high school district and McHenry Area Rotary.

The Rotary club is pledging \$20,000 for the 2024-25 school year to offset fees for students taking dual credit courses offered at the high school through a partnership with McHenry County College. Club members plan to continue the program each year, though the amount may change depending on fundraising success.

Dual credit allows students to earn college credit while completing high school diploma requirements in high school. For the 2024-25 school year, McHenry High School has expanded dual credit offerings to 19 courses, which equals 24 college courses since several, such as U.S. History, French and German, equal two college level-courses.

There is a \$25 fee per dual credit course, so the gift from McHenry Area Rotary may eliminate or drastically reduce that fee for students. How much savings families see will depend on how many students take dual credit courses and annual Rotary fundraising.

"We're very proud to offer this to our students and families," said Dr. Ryan McTague, District 156 superintendent. "Dual credit is a wonderful opportunity for our students to get a head start on their postsecondary education and training."

Jeff Batt, youth services chair for the McHenry Area Rotary, said this program allows the club to continue its mission of supporting youth. In the past, the club has funded scholarships and donated money to offset Advanced Placement (AP) testing fees.

Now, with the increasing popularity and variety of dual credit programs, this financial donation has the potential to help a wider range of students and families since there is such an extensive variety of dual credit programs available, including metals, computer science, manufacturing, business INCubator, accounting and more.

"I think this is the best idea yet as far as how to help kids and make an impact," Batt said. "It's a natural progression from where we started."

Don Tonyan, McHenry Area Rotary president, said he's mentioned the dual credit program to officials with other Rotary clubs who may be looking for educational programs to support. In addition to youth programs and education, Rotary also helps fund disaster relief and international causes.

"You're going to see this popping up with other Rotary clubs," Tonyan said. "That's the beauty of Rotary – we've got clubs everywhere."

Dual credit courses already offer a cost savings for families since each course costs \$25 but taking the equivalent course in college could cost significantly more. A similar three-credit hour course could cost as much as \$1,000 for an in-state college or university to \$2,500 for a private institution.

Dual credit is becoming more popular in high schools given the significant cost savings and the variety of dual credit offerings.

McHenry Area Rotary has a long-standing partnership with McHenry Community High School with students volunteering to help with Rotary giving and fundraising events such as Secret Santa and Bands, Brews and BBQ. Rotary also sponsors the Rotary Youth Leadership Award to fund a three-day camp for a selected student interested in growing leadership skills.

"We are grateful for the McHenry Rotary Club's incredible investment in our students' future and service to our school and local community," Dr. McTague said.

Central Committee Meeting; Democratic Party of McHenry County, Illinois; 3/4/24

https://www.mchenrydems.org/central_committee_meeting_20240313

Join us in the Conference Center at McHenry County College

Agenda

7:00 p.m. — Doors open

7:15 p.m. — Meeting begins

Chair's Message

- Self Care - Manage Your Stress
- Women's History Month
- 2024 will be the Field Election

Candidate - Rester Dogboe

Reports - Officers/Districts

- VChair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Events
- District Reports
- Veteran's Committee

- Parades Committee
- Facebook Instagram

Announcements -

- The purpose is to announce events, presentations, and actions of interest to Democrats – not for discussion items or opinions nor candidate statements (candidates should contact the chair before the meeting if they wish to address the membership and will be included on the agenda). If you have an idea for a speaker or broader discussion, you must request an addition to the agenda a week before the scheduled meeting. Please limit your announcements to 2 minutes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=gBELjUW9qZUV4zMj&v=cCfLpuLdF8Q&feature=youtu.be>

8:30 p.m. — Adjourn

Invite a friend to attend the meeting! Introduce a friend or neighbor to grassroots politics and help us grow the Party.

[Click here for a map of MCC.](#)

When

March 13, 2024 at 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Where

Conference Center - McHenry County College

8900 US-14

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

United States

State Expands Access To Dual Credit Program As Enrollment Grows Exponentially With High School Students; Effingham Radio; 3/4/24

<https://www.effinghamradio.com/2024/03/04/state-expands-access-to-dual-credit-program-as-enrollment-grows-exponentially-with-high-school-students/>

Springfield, IL-(Effingham Radio)- Community Colleges receive \$3 million to expand dual credit courses as program sees 65% enrollment increase over last decade

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) today announced \$3 million in state grants to community colleges to expand access to its Dual Credit Program that allows students the ability to earn college-level credits while still in high school.

The Dual Credit Program has become a progressively popular option for Illinois high school students with enrollment in the program increasing by 29% cumulatively over the last five years and 65% cumulatively over the last decade.

Comparison of Annual Dual Credit Enrollments in Illinois Public Community Colleges

Fiscal Years 2019-2023

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Headcount	64,106	69,299	66,788	75,507	82,602
% Change	8.60%	8.10%	-3.60%	13.10%	9.40%

SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Centralized Data System – Annual Enrollment Completion (A1) Data

“We know students who take dual credit courses are significantly more likely to earn a college degree than those that don’t. This is especially true for students from underserved communities. This grant funding will increase access to dual credit and help more students earn college credit before graduating from high school thus savings students time and money in college,” said ICCB Executive Director Brian Durham.

A new report released by the ICCB found that High school students who took dual credit courses have substantially higher community college graduation rates and advancement rates than those students who did not enroll in dual credit coursework.

Other Dual Credit report findings:

In fiscal year 2023, Illinois community colleges offered a total of 14,638 dual credit courses, which was an increase of 8.1 percent from the previous year.

In Illinois, during fiscal year 2023, a total of 82,602 individual (i.e., “unduplicated”) high school students enrolled in one or more community college dual credit courses.

One in five students (20.1 percent) taking one or more Illinois community college credit courses was a high school dual credit student.

Overall, in fiscal year 2023, dual credit duplicated (seat count) enrollment increased 11.5 percent compared to one year ago.

Enrollment data shows enrollment growth across all student populations, especially among Hispanic/Latino and African American students.

Comparison of Annual Dual Credit Enrollments in Illinois Public Community Colleges by Race/Ethnicity in Fiscal Year 2019 and 2023

Race/Ethnicity	2019	2023	% Change
African American	6,071	7,672	26.40%
Hispanic/Latino	11,451	15,953	39.30%
White	38,287	46,484	21.40%
Other	8,297	12,493	50.6%
Total	64,106	82,602	28.90%

SOURCE OF DATA: ICCB Centralized Data System – Annual Enrollment

Access and Equity Dual Credit Grant dollars have been awarded to 24 community colleges throughout the state to expand access to dual credit classes.

FY24 Access and Equity in Dual Credit Grant Recipients Grant Amount

College of Lake County	\$127,446.00
Harold Washington College	\$150,000.00
Harper College	\$149,385.00
Harry S. Truman College	\$133,675.00
Highland College	\$150,000.00
Illinois Central College	\$149,958.00
Illinois Eastern Community Colleges	\$117,764.00
John Wood Community College	\$101,300.00
Kaskaskia College	\$17,328.00
Kennedy King College	\$150,000.00
Kishwaukee College	\$34,344.00
Lake Land College	\$127,500.00
Lincoln Land Community College	\$105,000.00
Malcolm X College	\$150,000.00
McHenry County College	\$150,00.00
Olive-Harvey College	\$149,999.00
Parkland College	\$149,234.03
Prarie State College	\$150,000.00
Rend Lake College	\$145,369.00
Richard J. Daley College	\$148,563.00
Shawnee Community College	\$150,000.00
South Suburban College	\$150,000.00
Triton College	\$150,000.00
Wilbur Wright College	\$146,819.00
Total	\$3,003,684.03

For more information about the Dual credit programs administered through the Illinois College Board, click here.

About the Illinois Community College Board

The Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) is the state coordinating organization for the Illinois Community College System – the third largest in the country and the leading public workforce development trainer in the state. The ICCB has statutory responsibility for administering state and federal grants to community college districts and adult education providers and managing high school equivalency testing for Illinois. Illinois community colleges serve over 600,000 residents each year in credit, noncredit, and continuing education courses. Illinois is home to 48 colleges in 39 community college districts which provide high quality, accessible, cost-effective educational opportunities to the entire state.

Things to do March 8-14: World of Wheels, the Eagles, St. Patrick's Day Parades and more; Daily Herald; 3/5/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240305/entertainment/things-to-do-march-8-14-world-of-wheels-the-eagles-st-patricks-day-parades-and-more/>

Sessions Jazz Concert: 3 p.m. Sunday, March 10, at McHenry County College, 8900 Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake. Pianist Al Skaronea returns with his sons and friends for an afternoon of jazz. Free. mchenry.edu.

St. Patrick's Day Concert: 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at McHenry County College, 8900 Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake. A musical trio will present a program of traditional Irish ballads, pub songs and Irish dance tunes. The McNulty Irish Dancers will perform traditional Irish dances. Free. mchenry.edu.

Rankins Joins Old Second National Bank; Accesswire; 3/7/24

<https://www.accesswire.com/839902/rankins-joins-old-second-national-bank>

AURORA, IL / ACCESSWIRE / March 7, 2024 / Old Second National Bank (NASDAQ:OSBC) welcomes the addition of Steve Rankins as a Senior Vice President/Senior Managing Director in our Commercial Banking Group. Having over 30 years in commercial banking as a relationship banker, manager and leader, Steve has led banking teams serving and advising privately owned businesses in and around Chicagoland, most recently with Fifth Third Bank and First Midwest Bank.

Actively involved in business and community organizations, Steve currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors for the McHenry County College Foundation, which works to provide scholarships to students in need, and the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, which helps bring new businesses into the area and helps existing businesses to expand in the area. Steve previously served as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Centegra Health System Foundation (nka the Northwestern Memorial Foundation).

About Old Second Bancorp, Inc.: Old Second Bancorp, Inc., headquartered in Aurora, Illinois, is the bank holding company for Old Second National Bank, which celebrated 150 years of operation in 2021. Old

Second's common stock trades on The NASDAQ Stock Market under the symbol "OSBC". More information about Old Second is available by visiting the "Investor Relations" section of its website www.oldsecond.com.

As of December 31, 2023, Old Second has approximately \$5.7 billion in assets, \$4.6 billion in deposits and \$4.0 billion in loans.

County News; McHenry County Gov; 3/6/24

<https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/Home/Components/News/News/17781/17>

WOODSTOCK, Ill. – The McHenry County Regional Office of Education is looking for sponsors to help send the winner of the McHenry County Regional Spelling Bee to the 2024 Scripps National Spelling Bee.

The county Regional Spelling Bee will take place at 1 p.m Wednesday, March 20 at McHenry County College, and the champion of the local competition will represent McHenry County in the Scripps National Spelling Bee, which takes place in National Harbor, Md., from May 26 to June 1.

“Participating in the McHenry County Regional Spelling Bee helps young people develop public speaking skills, confidence, and other important attributes that will serve them well in adolescence and adulthood,” Regional Superintendent Diana Hartmann said. “And for the winner comes the once-in-a-lifetime experience of traveling to represent McHenry County schools at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Whatever help he can receive to cover the costs to make sure McHenry County’s winner gets this unforgettable chance to compete would be greatly appreciated.”

Sponsors who are interested can contact Hartmann at 815-334-4055, or at DKHartmann@mchenrycountyil.gov.

McHenry County Living Event Listing; 3/7/24

<https://www.mchenrycountyliving.com/calendar/meet-mcc-3-20-24>

Meet MCC

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

MCC Gym, A 107

8900 U.S. 14 Crystal Lake, IL, 60012 United States ([map](#))

[Google Calendar](#) [ICS](#)

Prepare for your next step...and find out how MCC can help you get there by attending our in-person open house!

Free to attend. All ages and family members are welcome.

- Meet all MCC academic areas and our faculty – from Accounting to Welding and everything in between!
- Explore the MCC campus
- Learn about our new and expanded programs like HVAC, welding, robotics and automation, software development, and more
- Meet the University Center at MCC where students can complete bachelor's degrees locally: Live here, learn here.

McHenry County Living Event Listing; 3/7/24

<https://www.mchenrycountyliving.com/calendar/mcc-university-center-information-sessions-3-19-24>

MCC University Center Information Sessions

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

MCC Scott Room (B178)

8900 U.S. 14 Crystal Lake, IL, 60012 United States ([map](#))

University Center Information Sessions

University Center at MCC | McHenry County College

UC at MCC – Partner University Information Session

MCC Scott Room (B178) Breakouts: Rooms C104, C105, C106

Steve Rankins Joins Old Second National Bank as SVP, Bolstering Commercial Banking Leadership; BNN Breaking; 3/7/24

<https://bnnbreaking.com/finance-nav/steve-rankins-joins-old-second-national-bank-as-svp-bolstering-commercial-banking-leadership>

In a significant addition to its leadership team, Old Second National Bank announced the welcoming of Steve Rankins as Senior Vice President/Senior Managing Director in the Commercial Banking Group. With a storied career spanning over three decades in commercial banking, Rankins brings a wealth of experience from his previous roles at notable institutions like Fifth Third Bank and First Midwest Bank.

Strategic Hire for Growth and Community Engagement

Rankins' appointment comes at a pivotal time for Old Second National Bank as it seeks to expand its commercial banking operations and strengthen ties within the Chicagoland business community. His extensive background as a relationship banker, manager, and leader is poised to drive significant growth and innovation within the bank. Furthermore, Rankins' active involvement in community and business

organizations underscores a commitment to not only advancing the bank's objectives but also contributing to the broader economic development and welfare of the communities it serves.

Deep Roots in Community Development

Throughout his career, Rankins has demonstrated a profound dedication to community service and development. Currently serving as the President of the Board of Directors for the McHenry County College Foundation and the Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation, his efforts have been instrumental in providing educational opportunities and fostering economic growth. This blend of banking acumen and community engagement aligns with Old Second National Bank's ethos, further enhancing its mission to serve as a cornerstone of financial and communal prosperity.

About Old Second Bancorp, Inc.

As the bank holding company for Old Second National Bank, Old Second Bancorp, Inc. stands as a testament to enduring success and resilience, having celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2021. Headquartered in Aurora, Illinois, the company boasts significant assets, deposits, and loans, reflecting its robust financial health and commitment to serving its customers' diverse needs. The addition of Rankins to its leadership team marks a new chapter in its storied history, promising to invigorate its commercial banking division with fresh perspectives and strategic direction.

With Steve Rankins' rich history in commercial banking and community involvement, his joining Old Second National Bank signals a forward-looking strategy aimed at fostering growth, enhancing customer relationships, and contributing to the economic vitality of the communities it serves. As the bank continues to navigate the complexities of the financial landscape, Rankins' leadership and expertise are expected to be invaluable assets in achieving its ambitious goals.

McHenry County College offers 'Molecular Mixology' March 15; 3/8/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240308/submitted-content/mchenry-county-college-offers-molecular-mixology-march-15/>

Interested in learning the science of making the perfect mixed drink?

Join the Liebman Institute for Science Innovation at McHenry County College for "Molecular Mixology: Dilution 101" on Friday, March 15, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the college, 8900 Route 14 in Crystal Lake.

Chicago's own Machine: Engineered Dining & Drink is bringing its expertise to MCC for the workshop, led by expert mixologist and beverage director Aneka Saxon. Attendees will learn how to dilute mixed drinks to obtain maximum flavor and enjoyment.

The class begins by making the perfect Old Fashioned, considering surface area, proof, and ice melt rate. Next, attendees will delve into sweetness perception and ice size to create the most flavorful Mai Tai, and later will use flavored ice and progressive dilution to achieve the peak flavor of a Red Sun. Finally, participants will have the chance to create their own innovative original using their new knowledge and techniques.

Registration is required and costs \$65 per person or \$120 for a couple. Each session is limited to 32 participants for maximum immersion, so early registration is encouraged.

The event is the first in LISI's "The Science Behind It" series, which offers observation, discovery, and immersion into some of the most cutting-edge science topics.

As part of the series, participants will have an opportunity to hear from widely acclaimed experts in their fields, across a variety of topics.

Upcoming events include "Winetasting: Flavors and Red Blends" on April 5 and "Winetasting: Chards and Charcuterie" May 17.

All registration information and more information about LISI can be found at www.mchenry.edu/lisi.

Crystal Lake Chamber Foundation announces GEM Leadership Award recipients; Northwest Herald; 3/9/24

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/2024/03/09/crystal-lake-chamber-foundation-announces-gem-leadership-award-recipients/>

The Crystal Lake Chamber Foundation announced the recipients of the 11th Annual GEM Leadership Awards for 2024.

This year's honorees include Elizabeth Wakeman of Wakeman Law Group, PC., General Kinematics Corporation Vice President Randy Smith and Shaw Media/The Northwest Herald.

Family law attorney Wakeman received the Shaw Media Woman of Distinction award in 2018. Smith has been with General Kinematics for over 40 years, a Crystal Lake business that engineers machinery to help other companies retrieve raw mining products like gold, aluminum and lithium for batteries around the world.

The GEM awards – its name stands for "generous, enthusiastic and motivated" – honor local individuals and organizations for their "exceptional contributions and leadership," according to a Crystal Lake Chamber news release. This year's recipients will be honored at the GEM Leadership Celebration at 11:30 a.m. April 18 at the Boulder Ridge Country Club in Lake in the Hills.

The event will also celebrate the foundation's college-bound scholarship recipients. Over \$3,000 in scholarships are given out every year by the foundation to high school seniors or college students attending District 155 schools, Marian Central Catholic High School or McHenry County College.

"The GEM Leadership Celebration not only serves to acknowledge outstanding community leaders but also as a critical fundraiser for the Crystal Lake Chamber Foundation," board member Kathleen Caldwell said.

Last year's winners were Sue Dobbe-Leahy of Dobbe Marketing & PR; Ryan Farrell of Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle law firm; and the Friends of McHenry County College Foundation.

The Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Foundation is an organization that aims to foster the growth and development of future and present business leaders by providing financial and educational resources.

For more information about the GEM Leadership Celebration, sponsorship opportunities or the Crystal Lake Chamber Foundation, please visit clchamber.com/cl-chamber-foundation or contact Kathryn Sinde at ksinde@clchamber.com.

'Present Laughter' charms on McHenry County College stage in Crystal Lake; Northwest Herald; 3/12/24

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/2024/03/12/present-laughter-charms-on-mchenry-county-college-stage-in-crystal-lake/>

Noel Coward's "Present Laughter" has been labeled the playwright's most autobiographical comedy. Written in 1939 in just six days, "Present Laughter" wasn't produced until 1942 because of World War II; while in rehearsal, all the London theaters closed. The title is drawn from a song in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" that urges people to seize the day ("present mirth hath present laughter"). Since 1942, the comedy has starred such notables as Coward himself, Peter O'Toole, Albert Finney, Ian McKellen, Frank Langella and Kevin Kline in the lead role.

McHenry County College's Black Box Theatre production of "Present Laughter" is a lengthy, three-act play with two intermissions (the first act alone runs a little over an hour), but director Angie Kells has cast well and maintains Coward's sparkle and wit. She keeps the old flames and stalkers engagingly paced and physical.

Kells' direction is complemented by the costume design of Carol Foreman – era-appropriate and Coward true from the women's evening wear to Garry's dressing gowns. Eric Luchen's set design is an elegant version of a 1930s studio, with Alison Thomas Hage's lavish props and set dressing and Holly Adkins' scenic painting. Deb Holmen's lighting is effective and admirable for the time passage shown, especially the reflective sun patterns through the front doorway. Kells is also fortunate to have the talents of dialect coach Marisa Snook.

Based on Coward's legendary wit and larger-than-life personality, "Present Laughter" unfolds the tale of Garry Essendine, star of the London theater scene. He is adored by legions of fans; he is charming, successful, self-obsessed and charismatic. But it's two weeks before he is to embark on a theatrical repertory tour of Africa. Garry is dealing with complications (get your scorecard ready): an infatuated young woman, an unhinged young playwright, his seductive friend's wife, his own ex-wife, his secretary, manager, producer and, oh yes, the midlife crisis of his 40th birthday.

The cast of 10 is delightful. Addie Keller begins the show with giggles and poses, and is the perfect, wide-eyed, blissful, obsessive fan and hopeful actress Daphne. (Garry says: "She's a darling. I'm mad about her. What did you say her name was?") Keller also provides much of the comic relief in addition to the wonderful Skye Schoen as Roland Maule, the unhinged young playwright who is obsessed with Garry and just won't go away. The talented Schoen is adorable and annoying at the same time.

After a 20-year hiatus and making her debut at The Black Box Theatre, Emily Kunash is Liz, Garry's ex-wife. Kunash has the gift of understanding her character well; her Liz is chic, classy, and still adores Garry. She counsels him as a quiet governess would: "Your scampering about is undignified." Kunash is a veritable talent that I hope we see more of.

Bobby Roberts is a stalwart Monica, Garry's secretary of 17 years, who has unproclaimed feelings for him. She is an efficient and crisp actress, playing Monica with superbly down-to-earth authority.

Gianah Tomczak's Joanna is to quote Garry: "100% female, a permanent pleasure to the eye." Tomczak plays Joanna as a siren, intelligently and dangerously. She's had an affair with Morris, is married to Hugo, and is in love with Garry.

The supporting cast is composed of impressive actors. Stephen Pickering as Morris, Garry's manager, is tall, elegant, and possesses a mustached maturity and mournful expression. You do wish he was onstage more. Karen Peterson portrays both the Scandinavian spiritualist/housekeeper and Lady Saltburn. Her ability to go from cigarette-snatching frumpy to high class is very entertaining. Brian Fleming is Fred the valet; he is nimble on foot as a dancer, and can do a great cockney accent, but he is another actor you wish had more lines and time onstage. Paul Lockwood is Hugo, the philandering financier of Garry's plays, projecting the right amount of business acumen and despair over Joanna. I wish Coward had developed Hugo more, too.

But the show truly belongs to Joel Bennett as Garry Essendine. Bennett is an Olympian actor; he is rarely offstage, and the amount of dialogue he flawlessly delivers is incredible. He carries the show on his shoulders. Devastatingly charming and funny, he is expressive physically as well as vocally. Bennett can be suave and pompous and childish, whether jumping the couch or checking his appearance in the mirror. He gives Coward's language all the full zest needed for the perfect cad. Quite simply, Bennett is a masterpiece in human form.

Artistic director and producer of MCC's Black Box Theatre, Jay Geller, said that when he hired Kells, he asked her what comedy she would like to direct. "Present Laughter" was on the list, and since The Black Box had not done a British comedy or a Noel Coward play, Geller chose "Present Laughter." It was a smashing choice!

- Regina Belt-Daniels most recently directed "Love Letters" for Steel Beam Theatre, and has directed over 40 shows for RCLPC, TownSquare Players, Woodstock Musical Theatre Company, Independent Players, Elgin Theatre Company, The Black Box Theatre and Raue Center For The Arts. When not onstage or backstage, she can be found writing theater reviews for Shaw Local News Network, and traveling with her husband.

IF YOU GO

- WHAT: "Present Laughter"
- WHERE: McHenry County College, The Black Box Theatre, Building E, 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake
- WHEN: 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, March 15, 16, 22, 23; 2 p.m. Sundays, March 17 and 24
- COST: \$15; \$10 for students, MCC employees and alumni, seniors and veterans
- INFORMATION: To reserve seats, call 815-455-8746 or email jgeller@mchenry.edu

McHenry High School, McHenry Area Rotary team up to offer dual credit discount for students; Daily Herald; 3/14/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240314/submitted-content/mchenry-high-school-mchenry-area-rotary-team-up-to-offer-dual-credit-discount-for-students/>

McHenry Community High School District 156 students who take a dual credit class to earn college credit may notice an even greater cost savings next year thanks to a new partnership between the high school district and McHenry Area Rotary.

The Rotary club is pledging \$20,000 for the 2024-25 school year to offset fees for students taking dual credit courses offered at the high school through a partnership with McHenry County College.

Club members plan to continue the program each year, though the amount may change depending on fundraising success.

Dual credit allows students to earn college credit while completing high school diploma requirements in high school.

For the 2024-25 school year, McHenry High School has expanded dual credit offerings to 19 courses, which equals 24 college courses since several, such as U.S. History, French and German, translate to two college level-courses.

There is a \$25 fee per dual credit course, so the gift from McHenry Area Rotary may eliminate or drastically reduce that fee for students. How much savings families see will depend on how many students take dual credit courses and annual Rotary fundraising.

“We’re very proud to offer this to our students and families,” said Ryan McTague, District 156 superintendent. “Dual credit is a wonderful opportunity for our students to get a head start on their postsecondary education and training.”

Jeff Batt, youth services chair for the McHenry Area Rotary, said this program allows the club to continue its mission of supporting youth. In the past, the club has funded scholarships and donated money to offset Advanced Placement (AP) testing fees.

Now, with the increasing popularity and variety of dual credit programs, this financial donation has the potential to help a wider range of students and families since there is such an extensive variety of dual credit programs available, including metals, computer science, manufacturing, business INCubator, accounting and more.

“I think this is the best idea yet as far as how to help kids and make an impact,” Batt said.

“It’s a natural progression from where we started.”

Don Tonyan, McHenry Area Rotary president, said he’s mentioned the dual credit program to officials with other Rotary clubs who may be looking for educational programs to support. In addition to youth programs and education, Rotary also helps fund disaster relief and international causes.

“You’re going to see this popping up with other Rotary clubs,” Tonyan said. “That’s the beauty of Rotary — we’ve got clubs everywhere.”

Dual credit courses already offer a cost savings for families since each course costs \$25 but taking the equivalent course in college could cost significantly more. A similar three-credit hour course could cost as much as \$1,000 for an in-state college or university to \$2,500 for a private institution.

Dual credit is becoming more popular in high schools given the significant cost savings and the variety of dual credit offerings.

McHenry Area Rotary has a long-standing partnership with McHenry Community High School with students volunteering to help with Rotary giving and fundraising events such as Secret Santa and Bands, Brews and BBQ. Rotary also sponsors the Rotary Youth Leadership Award to fund a three-day camp for a selected student interested in growing leadership skills.

“We are grateful for the McHenry Rotary Club’s incredible investment in our students’ future and service to our school and local community,” McTague said.

The Local Scene: Plenty of St. Patrick’s Day festivities in McHenry County; Northwest Herald; 3/14/24

<https://www.shawlocal.com/thescene/2024/03/14/the-local-scene-plenty-of-st-patricks-day-festivities-in-mchenry-county/>

Here are five things to do this weekend:

ShamROCK the Fox: Join in on the ultimate St. Patrick’s Day celebration from Friday through Sunday during the McHenry ShamRocks the Fox. Festivities kick off at 5 p.m. Friday at Miller Point Park in McHenry with green beer and live music by cover bands Realtime Noise and Sunblind. Saturday’s events include a Shamrock Shuffle 5K and a parade at noon through downtown McHenry. Don’t miss the green dyeing of the Fox River at 10 a.m. from the Pearl Street bridge. The Riverwalk Shoppes will have pop-up markets all weekend, too. Close out the weekend Sunday with fireworks and a festival at Miller Point Park that includes live music, kids activities and food trucks. For details, visit naturallymchenrycounty.com/shamrocks-the-fox.

Art show: A free art show displaying the work of Creative Arts studio students and instructors will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Dole Mansion in Crystal Lake. Kid-friendly activities will be at the event, including an art scavenger hunt, a coloring table and balloon art. Adults can enjoy a cash bar and hear about upcoming art classes and camps with the studio. Visit creativeartsinc.org for information.

Shamrocked festival: Rock out for St. Patrick’s Day from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday at Benton Street in Woodstock. A heated tent located next to the Woodstock train station will house hours of live music and cold beer. Live performances include Bella Cain, Interstate 90 and Wildfire. Holders of the first 100 tickets sold receive a free T-shirt. Tickets are \$10 online or \$15 at the door. For information, visit bit.ly/shamrocked2024.

St. Patrick’s Eve stroll: The Marengo-Union Chamber of Commerce is hosting the St. Patrick’s Eve Shamrock Stroll from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday in Marengo. The bar crawl features seven locations including Cafe 20, Pointer’s, Sam’s Tavern, The Spot, Trio Grille and Tryst Lounge. Start and end the night at Miss Kitty’s for swag, drink specials and prizes. Tickets are \$25. For details, call 815-568-6680.

Get behind the science of mixology: Learn a scientific way to mix the perfect cocktail during an expert-led workshop from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake. Mixologist Aneka Saxon will teach attendees how to dilute mixed drinks to obtain maximum flavor of old-fashioned, Red Sun and mai tai cocktails by considering surface area, proof and ice melt rate. Tickets are \$65 or \$120 per couple. For details and to register, visit mchenry.edu/events/index.html.

Would you like your event highlighted in this weekly feature? The first step is submitting your events to the Northwest Herald's community calendar at shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/local-events.

Meet Tina @ "Meet MCC" Event at McHenry County College; Star 105.com; 3/16/24

<https://www.star105.com/event/meet-tina-meet-mcc-event-at-mchenry-county-college/>

MARCH 20 @ 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

Meet MCC

Join Tina From The Morning Show On Campus On Wednesday, March 20th From 5:30 – 6:30 P.M. For "Meet MCC," Their Biggest Event Of The Year It Goes On Till 7:30!

Discover More Than You Think At Mchenry County College! Join Us On Campus on Wednesday, March 20th From 5:30 To 7:30 P.M.

To Learn Everything You Need To Become A Student At Mcc. During Our "Meet Mcc" Event, Prospective Students Can Meet With Faculty And Staff To Learn More About The Career Paths And Programs Available At Mcc.

This Is Your Chance To Explore Mcc's Campus, Learn About Our New Foglia Center For Advanced Technology And Innovation, And Hear More About The University Center At Mcc.

Representatives From Across The College Will Be Onsite To Talk About Resources To Help You Succeed, Including Financial Aid, Scholarships, Student Wellness, Access And Disability Services, And More.

Attendees Can Complete A Free Application, Tour The Campus, Check Out Our Planetarium, And Sample Food From Our Culinary Students! Don't Miss Our "Meet Mcc" Event, on Wednesday, March 20th From 5:30 To 7:30 P.M.

Visit Mchenry Dot E-D-U Slash Meet Mcc To Learn More.

That's Mchenry Dot E-D-U Slash Meet Mcc.

Boys basketball: Marian Central hires Rick Peterson as head coach; Northwest Herald; 3/16/24

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/2024/03/16/boys-basketball-marian-central-hires-rick-peterson-as-head-coach/>

The process for Marian Central athletic director Cody O'Neill finding a new boys basketball coach felt familiar to that of a year ago.

This time, last year's runner-up got the job.

Rick Peterson, who has coached the last five seasons with Woodstock's girls and Alden-Hebron's boys, was announced Tuesday as the Hurricanes' new boss.

Peterson, 66, retired from his position in Northwest Herald advertising sales in December 2022. He coached Woodstock's girls in 2020 and 2021, then A-H's boys the past three seasons.

"I'm very excited and honored at this time in my life to be a varsity coach at a great institution like Marian Central," Peterson said. "I had some great experiences and met some great people at Hebron, but it was time for me to grab this opportunity.

"I learned a lot about coaching in the last five years, it's much different than coaching in junior college. This is Year 6 back at the high school level. One thing I learned is – show me a good high school coach and I'll show you a good junior high program."

Peterson is excited about the 25 seventh and eighth graders in Marian's feeder program. He takes over for Sean Stochl, who took the Hurricanes to a 9-24 record. They were 2-6 in their first season in the Chicagoland Christian Conference.

"The biggest thing is his experience," O'Neill said of Peterson. "He's been a few places locally, he played Division II basketball and has a great background and knowledge of the game. Last year, Rick and I interviewed for the job and I told Sean he was going to be our coach. It was nothing against Rick, it happened that I have a good relationship with Sean and we are friends. I trust Sean. I still trust Sean."

Peterson got his coaching start back in 1988 at McHenry County College with two powerhouse seasons when the Scots were 46-10. He returned to coaching with Woodstock's girls and took the Blue Streaks from last in the Kishwaukee River Conference to a tie for third and an 11-18 record.

In his second season at A-H in 2023, the Giants were 11-18, 4-2 in the Northeastern Athletic Conference, their best conference mark since 2007.

"I don't know everything, but I know what not to do now," said Peterson, reflecting on his five high school coaching seasons. "As you go along, you learn. I met a lot of great people and made a lot of friends at my last two schools. All of that is helping me now. I feel pretty confident that it won't be that long and we'll be competitive there.

"I hate to use the word rebuild in high school. I don't want the kids to think we're in a rebuild year and it gives us an excuse not to set goals and things like that. I told the kids we can turn this around a lot quicker than you think. I've been in these situations twice now where we turned it around in a short amount of time."

Marian is graduating Christian Bentancur, who passed 2,000 career points, and Cale McThenia, who scored more than 1,000 points. Both were four-year varsity players.

"Rick brings some stability to the program," O'Neill said. "Everything he talked about was building the program from the ground up, starting with the feeder through the freshman level and JV.

“Rick has a great understanding of the game, the way he develops his team from the defensive side and going from there. I’m excited to see what the future looks like over these next five or six years moving forward.”

Peterson did not play in high school, but went on to become a star at McHenry County College, where he averaged 30 points a game his sophomore year. He is in the MCC Hall of Fame as both a player and as the Scots’ women’s coach.

Peterson now wants to spend time with his new players and get to know them.

“It’s a matter of floor time with the kids,” Peterson said. “How much are we going to get with these kids between now and November? A lot of our kids just need experience and floor time. The main thing is we’re going to reinstate confidence, support each other and have fun.

“I want the kids to know basketball’s a fun game. You have to work first. That’s going to be the goal. This is a blast to me, I love coaching, and I want the kids to love to play.”

Baseball: Five players to watch in 2024 in the Northwest Herald area; Northwest Herald; 3/15/24

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/2024/03/15/baseball-five-players-to-watch-in-2024-in-the-northwest-herald-area/>

Ethan Dorchies, Cary-Grove, P, sr.

Dorchies was practically an automatic win when he stepped on the mound for the Trojans last season. He finished with a 9-0 record and seven earned runs in 62 2/3 innings, with an ERA of 0.78, a WHIP of 0.89 and 71 strikeouts. The Northwest Herald All-Area first-team pitcher struck out 12 and allowed two hits in the Trojans’ 1-0 victory over Prairie Ridge for the Class 3A Cary-Grove Regional championship. The 6-foot-5 right-hander will pitch at NCAA Division I Illinois-Chicago.

Crystal Lake South's Dayton Murphy

Murphy will be a four-year starter for the Gators and was their leadoff hitter and shortstop on their 2022 Class 3A State Tournament fourth-place team. He is one of the fastest players in the area and silck with the glove. He hit .455, with a .541 OBP, a 1.264 OPS, 14 doubles, five triples, two homers and 33 RBIs as South’s leadoff hitter. The Michigan State signee scored 50 runs, was 34 of 37 on stolen bases and committed only seven errors at shortstop. He was an All-Area first-team selection.

Crystal Lake Central's Jaden Obaldo

Obaldo hit .475 with a .570 OBP and a 1.333 OPS last season for the Tigers, hitting out of the No. 3 hole. He had 44 hits, nine doubles, four homers and 31 RBIs. He will be a third-year starter for Central and is committed to McHenry County College next season. Obaldo was an All-Area first-team selection.

Burlington Central's Michael Person

The Rockets' right-hander is a two-time All-Area first-team selection and returns as the ace on a loaded Central team. Person was 5-1 with a 2.86 ERA in 51 1/3 innings, striking out 66, walking 22 and allowing 52 hits. He also helped the Rockets in the lineup, hitting .357 with four homers and 18 RBIs.

Huntley's AJ Putty

Putty was a key part in Huntley's productive lineup last season for the Fox Valley Conference champion Red Raiders, who finished 29-8 overall. Putty (6-foot-4, 210 pounds) committed to Illinois in the fall. He will be a third-year starter as a junior this season. Putty hit .390, with a .476 OBP, a 1.116 OPS, six homers and 36 RBIs and received All-Area honorable mention.

Baseball: Scouting DuPage County; Daily Herald; 3/15/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240315/prep-baseball/baseball-scouting-dupage-county-4/>

Last year's record: 15-12-1 overall, 8-7 in the DuPage Valley (third place)

Top returning players: Jackson Prentice, sr., P/1B; Zak Sumser, sr., P; Scott Walker, sr., OF; Zach Bava, jr., C; Yash Desai, jr., P; Max Steele, soph., OF/P.

Key newcomers: Will Richards, sr., 1B; Brady Marino, frosh., IF.

Worth noting: The Huskies' strength to start the season figures to be on the mound, led by Sumser (4-3, 3.50 ERA, 44 IP, 29 Ks), Steele (2-1, 3.06 ERA, 30 IP, 29 Ks), Prentice (2-1, 2.62 ERA, 16 IP, 23 Ks), and Desai (1-1, 1 save, 1.82 ERA, 15 IP, 13 Ks). "We return a lot of experience on the mound – over 100 innings in total," said Chiappetta. "We will need to replace a good chunk of our offensive production from last season but also have some strong returners looking to build off of solid seasons last spring, led by Bava (.408, 40 hits, 3 HR, 27 RBI), Prentice (.345, 30 hits, 22 RBI, 14 runs scored), Steele (.301, 25 hits, 1 HR, 7 doubles, 17 RBI), and Walker (.345)." Bava, a 2-time all-DVC selection, is committed to play at Illinois State in 2025-2026, while Prentice and Richards are headed to McHenry County College and Benedictine, respectively. Additional support will be provided by senior outfielder Matt Randal (.318 in 23 games) and junior infielder Matt Sonnenschein (.243 in 26 games as a sophomore).

Women Empowering Women in McHenry County – Mixer; Daily Herald; 3/16/24

https://www.dailyherald.com/calendar/?_escaped_fragment_=/show/?start=2023-11-05#!/details/Women-Empowering-Women-in-McHenry-County-Mixer/13167651/2024-03-22T17

Friday, March 22, 2024 , 5:30pm-7:30pm

McHenry County College

8900 Us Highway 14

Crystal Lake, IL

(815) 455-3700

Price

Free—Tickets are FREE

Description

March is Women's History Month, so it's only fitting that McHenry County NOW & McHenry County College Sustainability Center are co-hosting this empowering event! This in-person mixer is a fantastic opportunity for women of all ages in McHenry County to come together, build bonds & friendships, collaborate and support one another, and celebrate our personal accomplishments together. It's time we end the toxic rivalry between women, and band together & lift one another up! Network with like-minded women, share life experiences, and gain valuable insights from other women in McHenry County. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED Whether you're a business owner, professional, veteran, homemaker, retiree, student, or simply looking for motivation and camaraderie, this event is for you! Don't miss out on this chance to be part of a community of women here in McHenry county that supports, uplifts and empowers other women! ** If you are a local business looking to sponsor this event please email Dee Darling at: mchenryconow.pres@gmail.com

Baseball: 2024 Northwest Herald preview capsules; Northwest Herald; 3/25/14

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/2024/03/15/baseball-2024-northwest-herald-preview-capsules/>

McHenry

Coach: Brian Rockweiler (17th season)

Last year's record: 21-15-1, 10-8 FVC (fifth place)

Top returning players: Payton Sensabaugh, sr., OF; Owen Micklinghoff, sr., 1B-P; Jack Stecker, sr., OF; Ryan Nagel, sr., IF-P; Kadin Borck, sr., P-OF; Brandon Shannon, jr., P; Kyle Maness, jr., SS

Top new players: Jeffry Schwab, so., P-3B; Bryson Elbrecht, jr., P; Zach Readdy, jr., P-IF

Worth noting: The Warriors will miss catcher Cooper Cohn (Northern Illinois) and lefty ace Lleyton Grubich (McHenry County College), who graduated and played on their 2022 team that was fourth in the Class 4A state tournament. ... But McHenry has a lot of its lineup returning, led by Sensabaugh, Nagel, Micklinghoff and Stecker. ... Shannon was one of the Warriors' best pitchers and should be their ace. ... "This could be the deepest pitching staff that we have ever had," Rockweiler said. "We have a really hardworking bunch that we think can contend for a conference title." ... Rockweiler is 361-213-1 in his 16 seasons at McHenry. ... The Warriors will play home games on a new field west of McHenry's West Campus building, with an artificial turf infield and grass outfield.

Marengo

Coach: Nick Naranjo (fifth season)

Last year's record: 22-8, 13-2 KRC (champion)

Top returning players: Andrew Johnson, sr., P-1B; Cody Stallings, sr., P-OF; Aaron Schroeder, sr., P-IF; Quinn Lechner, jr., SS-P; David Lopez, jr., OF-P; Drew Litchfield, jr., C; Alten Bergbreiter, jr., OF-1B

Top new players: Ryan Heuser, jr., P-IF; Robert Heuser, jr., P-IF; Michael Kirchoff, jr., P-IF; Brady Kentgen, so., 1B-C

Worth noting: Marengo won the KRC championship by virtue of its series win against Woodstock North, as the team teams both finished 13-2 in league play, but the Indians beat the Thunder in their series, 2-1. ... Marengo went on to win the Class 2A Johnsbury Regional, its first since 2004, on Bergbreiter's RBI single. ... All-Area first-teamer Caden Vogt graduated and is at McHenry County College. He posted a 1.03 ERA and struck out 123 batters in 61 1/3 innings. But most of the rest of the rotation returns, led by Johnson (2.67 ERA), Schroeder (3.37) and Stallings (3.07). ... Johnson has been a big-time run producer in the last two seasons. ... Lechner, a junior, starts his third season as the Indians' shortstop and will hit at the top of the lineup.

McHenry County College offers local opportunities to expand professional skills; Daily Herald; 3/17/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240317/business/mchenry-county-college-offers-local-opportunities-to-expand-professional-skills/>

The fast pace of today's modern workforce requires professionals to evolve their skills quicker than ever before.

Whether you're in manufacturing, education, health care, an office environment or another industry, continuing your education is the key to keeping up with the latest technology, making improvements in efficiency, and learning new tools that can give you an edge in the job market.

No matter the stage of your career, McHenry County College has local, convenient, and affordable programs to help you expand your skills and elevate your potential.

MBA programs

One of the most popular programs for executives and those aspiring to enhance their career is a Master of Business Administration. But between work and family commitments, working professionals often find it difficult to go back to school.

The University Center at MCC offers an MBA program through a partnership with Roosevelt University in downtown Woodstock. Students directly can pursue a Master of Business Administration or begin by earning one of several undergraduate degrees — a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in finance, human resources management or marketing — with the option to earn an accelerated MBA after completion.

“An MBA diversifies your options in the workplace, enhances management and marketing skills, can prepare you for the next level in your career, and helps with networking,” said Kailley Harmon, executive director of the University Center at MCC. “This program is designed for working individuals to attend classes close to home or online. The University Center at MCC is also centrally located in McHenry County, making it easy to commute from home, work, and activities.”

Evening hybrid and online course options are available, and the program also offers internship opportunities and other connections to the community and local businesses.

All Bachelor of Science in Business Administration programs can be completed in two years, and the MBA can be completed in as quickly as one year.

For more information, visit mchenry.edu/ucenter.

Career and professional training

MCC also offers a variety of noncredit courses for those looking to enhance their skills in existing careers, complete professional training to enter a new career, or for employers looking to provide specialized training for their employees.

The college’s engaging workforce training classes cover a broad range of technical, employability and managerial skills, including health care, safety, and wellness; leadership and talent management; manufacturing; technology; and workplace skills.

Those looking to start a new career can train to become an electrocardiogram technician, medical assistant, pharmacy technician, phlebotomy technician, veterinary assistant, real estate agent, and other specialties.

One of MCC’s latest and most unique career training programs is for motorcycle technicians. The program, offered in partnership with the Windy City Motorcycle Academy in Woodstock, teaches students how to service and repair motorcycles through hands-on training, classroom instruction, and job shadow opportunities.

MCC also partners with local businesses to develop customized training for specific goals, including employee job performance, priority business challenges, and reinforcing processes, procedures, and best practices.

Programs can be provided virtually or in person at the business location or at one of MCC’s facilities.

For more information, visit mchenry.edu/workforce.

Small Business Development Center

Those looking to start or expand their business can take advantage of no-cost, confidential business advising, one-on-one counseling, monthly workshops, and entrepreneurial resources through the Small Business Development Center at MCC.

MCC’s diverse team of subject matter experts can help individuals at all phases of the business life cycle create a business plan, attract more customers, improve operations, increase sales, and obtain financing.

The center also offers monthly women-owned business round-table discussions — one for established entrepreneurs and one for emerging business owners.

To become a client, view upcoming workshops, or submit an inquiry about opportunities, visit mchenry.edu/isbdc.

Early registration for McHenry County Gardenfest closes March 29; Daily Herald; 3/20/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240320/submitted-content/early-registration-for-mchenry-county-gardenfest-closes-march-29/>

Explore the latest gardening trends, techniques, and tools at McHenry County Gardenfest, a daylong series of seminars and workshops for gardeners of every skill level. The event will take place from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at McHenry County College, 8900 Route 14 in Crystal Lake.

Attendees can choose from more than 20 breakout sessions presented by industry experts covering natural lawn care practices, garden insects and diseases, tool care, composting, vertical and container gardening, shrub selection, and more.

Daniel Gerdes will present the morning keynote, “Gardening for Nature.” In the session, attendees will learn about the meaningful steps that anyone can take to support pollinator populations, birdlife, soil ecosystems, and wildlife—all while reducing their carbon footprint, providing healthy habitats, and enhancing genetic diversity.

Held annually, Gardenfest is sponsored by McHenry County College and the University of Illinois Extension McHenry County Master Gardeners.

Registration costs \$49 and is now open at mchenry.edu/gardenfest. The fee includes lunch. Space is limited, so those interested are encouraged to register early. The registration deadline is March 29; no refunds will be issued after this date. Tickets can also be bought on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the event for an extra \$5 (as long as seats are available). MCC Horticulture students can attend for \$29.

For more information, visit mchenry.edu/gardenfest, email conferencecenter@mchenry.edu, or call (815) 479-7570. If you need an accommodation or a sign language interpreter, contact MCC’s Office of Access and Disability Services at (815) 455-8766 or disabilityservices@mchenry.edu.

Crystal Lake is the Clear Leader; Restaurant Business Magazine; 3/21/24

<https://www.restaurantbusinessonline.com/marketing/crystal-lake-clear-leader>

Sponsored content from our partner City Of Crystal Lake on Mar. 21, 2024

When you are looking for new locations for your restaurant, finding the right location is all about the strong demographics, high visibility and a track record of success. In the Chicagoland area, Crystal Lake is the clear leader.

A thriving community in Chicago's Northwest suburbs, Crystal Lake sits 35 miles away from O'Hare International Airport with a population of 40,000, the largest community in McHenry County.

Crystal Lake continues to catch the attention of developers and businesses. Year over year, the market in Crystal Lake expands, as the city welcomes new investment, and reinvestment, in multiple shopping centers, commercial corridors, and new sites with retail, restaurant, healthcare and housing. In 2024, there are two new key development opportunities for restaurants and retail looking to enter the Crystal Lake market. The new Water's Edge mixed-use development offers restaurant operators a high impact opportunity at 4419 US Route 14, a 3.6-acre property located at the crossroads of key commercial corridors with significant visibility on both Route 31 and Route 14.

Last year, residents and visitors spent more than \$147 million at restaurants in Crystal Lake, and according to the Department of Revenue, Crystal Lake had more than \$1.4 billion in retail sales placing it as a top 20 community for Chicagoland metropolitan area retail sales. A strong mix of regional and national chains recently opened in Crystal Lake, including Raising Canes, Guzman y Gomez, Crumbl Cookies, McAllisters Deli, Summer Moon Coffee and Rookies All American Pub and Grill, alongside regional and national retailers such as Boot Barn, Banfield Pet Hospital, Hallmark and Ollie's Bargain Outlet.

In concert with the city's commercial success, its housing industry is also expanding with over 1,000 housing units approved for construction. Crystal Lake offers a variety of housing types ranging from single family homes to apartments and townhomes. Recent developments include the Enclave, a 99-unit development with townhomes and apartments, Redwood a 304-unit ranch-style townhome community, Clover Communities a 121-unit age-restricted independent living apartment complex, and Woodlore Townes a new 47-unit townhome community.

Water's Edge, a 30-acre mixed-use redevelopment project with construction underway is drawing the attention of major developers and businesses. Developed by Heartland Real Estate Partners, Water's Edge will transform an old shopping center into a new and vibrant community comprised of 240 apartments, 20 rental townhomes, and a hotel. The area offers 52,000-square feet of commercial space for restaurants and entertainment to meet the demand Crystal Lake sees for commercial property along Northwest Highway. Water's Edge is located right off Route 14 and is next to Three Oaks Recreation Area and making it the perfect new project in the community.

Crystal Lake continues to grow because it remains full of energy and opportunities. The city is home to two of the best public school systems in the region, Elementary School District 47 and Community High School District 155. Crystal Lake has become a go-to destination for healthcare represented by three major brands: Advocate Health Care, Northwestern Medicine, and Mercyhealth's new hospital that opened last year. For continuing education, McHenry County College located in Crystal Lake, is known for its culinary and food-service programs.

Crystal Lake is one of McHenry County's fastest-growing and largest communities, and it's no secret that it will continue to flourish with new developments, housing, and commercial opportunities. Mayor of Crystal Lake and local business owner, Haig Haleblian says "Crystal Lake is known as a leader in the Northwest suburbs and the city's pro-business approach makes it easy to move your business here".

Crystal Lake is the Clear Leader. The City is always looking to attract new restaurants and retailers. If you are interested in learning more about available opportunities including Water's Edge, visit ClearlyCrystalLake.com or contact the City of Crystal Lake at (815) 356-3737 or via email at economicdevelopment@crystallake.org.

This post is sponsored by City Of Crystal Lake

Suspected overdose deaths still on the rise in McHenry County; Northwest Herald; 3/22/24

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/2024/03/22/suspected-overdose-deaths-still-on-the-rise-in-mchenry-county/>

Suspected overdose deaths in McHenry County are about twice as high so far this year than the median number from 2020 to 2023 over the same time frame, the McHenry County Department of Health reported Tuesday.

There also has been an increase in emergency medical services encounters where naloxone, known by the brand name Narcan, was used to treat an opioid overdose, according to a news release.

Nine suspected overdoses have occurred so far this year, including 14-year-old Trent Ullrich, McHenry County Coroner Michael Rein said.

The deaths currently are not confirmed as opioid-related, but "the majority of McHenry County's overdose fatalities involve opioids, often with fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid, as reported by the McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition," McHenry County Department of Health Community Information Coordinator Nick Kubiak said in the release.

Fentanyl, a highly lethal substance, is discovered in counterfeit pills that are sold as "legitimate prescription medications," but obtained unlawfully, Kubiak said in the release.

Narcan nasal spray can help reverse an opioid overdose. Narcan nasal sprays and fentanyl test strips are available for free at the following locations in McHenry County: McHenry County Department of Health locations in Crystal Lake and Woodstock, local deliveries provided by Live4Lali, Warp Corps in Woodstock and The Break Crystal Lake Teen Center. Free Narcan vending machines are available at The Other Side Cafe and Sober Bar in Crystal Lake, McHenry County College's cafeteria, Community Health Partnership in Harvard and the Youth and Family Center of McHenry County in McHenry.

The McHenry County Department of Health has online learning resources including how to use Narcan, how to identify an opioid emergency and how to use fentanyl test strips.

A Way Out – McHenry County offers substance use assessment on a daily basis from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. to anyone in McHenry County that wishes to seek recovery. If you are unable to pay for treatment because of lack of insurance or financial resources, you will not be turned away. A Way Out works with providers that accept several different insurance plans and accommodate those without insurance, according to the McHenry County Department of Health.

Cary 7th grader keeps his word, wins McHenry County spelling bee; 3/23/24

<https://www.shawlocal.com/northwest-herald/2024/03/23/cary-7th-grader-keeps-his-word-wins-mchenry-county-spelling-bee/>

Seventh-grader Evan Cochrane was determined to head for the Scripps National Spelling Bee this year after placing sixth in the McHenry County regional contest last year.

“He said, ‘You got to be ready because we’re going to D.C. this year,’” his mom Portia Cochrane said.

Evan, whose family lives in Cary, was proven right. He will compete for the national title from May 26 to 31 in National Harbor, Maryland, after winning first place in the McHenry County Regional Spelling Bee Wednesday.

Evan, 12, a student at Immanuel Lutheran School in Crystal Lake, secured first place after correctly spelling “cornea” in the 21st round. David Koll of Crystal Lake’s Hannah Beardsley Middle School won second place, and Lucas Fiedorowicz of Crystal Lake’s Bernotas Middle School came in third.

Evan has participated in his school spelling bee since fourth grade and has won each year, mother Portia Cochrane said. He was able to correctly spell words he wasn’t familiar with by asking questions like language origin, definitions and other ways to pronounce the words, Mac Cochrane said of his son’s winning ways this year. “He was in the zone,” Cochrane said. “He was able to figure out the spelling of a couple words I have never even heard of before. I was completely impressed.”

McHenry Community High School District 156 English teacher Heidie Dunn pronounced the words to the 24 contestants ranging from third to eighth grade at the competition held at McHenry County College. The sponsors of the spelling bee were the Northwest Herald, the Urbanski family and State Rep. Steve Reick.

Through the help of sponsors, the McHenry County Regional Office of Education is able to fund travel and lodging for the family to the national competition. Evan Cochrane also won the Samuel Louis Sugarman award, a one-year subscription to the Merriam-Webster Unabridged online dictionary and a premium one-year subscription to Britannica online.

“Participating in the McHenry County Regional Spelling Bee helps young people develop public speaking skills, confidence, and other important attributes that will serve them well in adolescence and adulthood,” Regional Superintendent Diana Hartmann said in a news release.

Going to nationals also means having a week of fun, Hartmann said. Contestants go to museums and go on different outings with each other throughout Bee Week. “He’s going to have a really great week, and hopefully he’ll get to make connections with other students which I’m sure will be achieving wonderful things in life, too,” Hartmann said.

Any student from kindergarten through 8th grade who goes to a public, private or is homeschooled in McHenry County can participate in the regional spelling bee, Hartmann said. The maximum age a student can be is 15.

The final round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee will be on May 30 and will be streamed online and on the Ion TV channel. The grand prize of the national contest is \$50,000, according to the contest’s website. Those placing below first will also have a chance at a number of awards.

Last year, seventh-grader from Cary Junior High School Vishrut Kinikar won the regional spelling bee.

Hartmann said the spelling bee is a great way to encourage “lifelong curiosity” while celebrating academic achievement and enriching the local community. “It helps them with public speaking and dealing with nervousness and being put on the spot,” Hartmann said. “It’s just good practice for them and it’s just really fun.”

Evan’s younger sister Maeva, 10, is also a spelling bee champion in her grade at Immanuel Lutheran School. She hopes to one day make it to the national stage, too.

“I’m very proud of my brother and I know that he will do great at nationals,” she said.

Photos: 2024 Spelling Bee hosted by McHenry County Regional Office of Education; Northwest Herald; 3/25/24

<https://www.shawlocal.com/gallery/2024/03/23/photos-2024-spelling-bee-hosted-by-mchenry-county-regional-office-of-education/>

Foster Secures Over \$13 Million for 11th District in Community Project Funding; Foster.House.Gov; 3/25/24

<https://foster.house.gov/media/press-releases/foster-secures-over-13-million-11th-district-community-project-funding>

Press Release

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) announced that all 14 of the Community Project Funding (CPF) requests he made on behalf of the 11th Congressional District of Illinois have been funded for a total of \$13,361,356. Project funding was included in the appropriations packages that were signed into law by President Biden.

Under guidelines issued by the Appropriations Committee, each Representative could request funding for up to 15 projects in their community for Fiscal Year 2024. Projects are restricted to a limited number of federal funding streams, and only state and local governments and eligible non-profit entities are permitted to receive funding. Additional information and guidelines on Community Project Funding is available here.

In compliance with House Rules and Committee requirements, Congressman Foster has certified that he and his immediate family have no financial interest in any of the projects selected. Links to these certification forms are available here.

“Since I was elected to Congress, I’ve remained committed to ensuring communities in Illinois and my district receive their fair share of federal resources,” said Foster. “That’s why I’m proud I secured over \$13 million this year for 14 worthwhile projects back home. These initiatives will help strengthen infrastructure throughout the district, provide law enforcement with cutting-edge tools, and equip our youth with the resources they need to succeed. I’ll continue working to ensure the Illinois communities that I represent receive their fair share of federal resources.”

The 14 projects that received funding are:

(Listed in no particular order)

McHenry County College Foglia Center Workforce Training Equipment

McHenry County College

Amount funded: \$1,060,000

Project description: McHenry County College will use this funding to buy workforce training equipment for its new Foglia Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation. This project will support workforce training in robotics, engineering, and manufacturing, expanding opportunities for students and strengthening the local workforce.

Overdose Deaths Continue To Rise In McHenry Co.; Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Patch; 3/26/24

<https://patch.com/illinois/algonquin/overdose-deaths-continue-rise-mchenry-co>

MCHENRY COUNTY, IL — The McHenry County Department of Health is informing McHenry County residents of a continued increase in suspected overdose deaths. The current number of suspected overdose deaths to date in 2024 is about twice as high as the median number from 2020 to 2023 during the same timeframe, health officials said Tuesday.

There has also been an increase in emergency calls where naloxone was used to treat an opioid overdose, according to the news release.

While these deaths are currently suspected and not confirmed as opioid-related, the majority of McHenry County's overdose fatalities involve opioids, often with fentanyl, which is a potent synthetic opioid, as reported by the McHenry County Substance Abuse Coalition, according to health officials.

Fentanyl, a highly lethal substance, is still being discovered in different illicit drugs across the county. This includes counterfeit pills that are sold as 'legitimate prescription medications' but are obtained unlawfully, according to the news release.

The MCDH and its partners want residents to remain safe and ensure they have the supplies they need. Narcan nasal spray can be used to reverse an overdose and fentanyl test strips can be used to detect fentanyl in all types of drugs to help prevent overdoses, according to health officials.

Fentanyl test strips and Narcan are available for free at the following locations in McHenry County:

McHenry County Department of Health

Supplies are available for walk-ins from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday through Friday. For more information, call (815) 334-4500.

Woodstock: 2200 N. Seminary Avenue, Building A

Crystal Lake: 100 N. Virginia Street

Supplies are also available for free at MCDH Narcan vending machines throughout McHenry County:

- The Other Side Café and Sober Bar , 135 Beardsley Street, Crystal Lake

- Cafeteria at McHenry County College, 8900 Northwest Highway #14, Crystal Lake
- Community Health Partnership, 62 N. Ayer Street, Harvard
- Youth and Family Center of McHenry County, 1011 N. Green Street, McHenry

Live4Lali's McHenry County Outreach Program includes free community (in-person and virtual) naloxone trainings, confidential harm reduction supply delivery, and SMART Recovery® meetings. For more information, visit live4lali.org/mchenrycounty.

Supplies for local delivery are available by visiting bit.ly/l4lsupplies or by calling or texting (224) 297-4393.

Supplies are also available at various events across McHenry County on a regular basis:

- Community Resource Days at Willow Creek Church in Crystal Lake: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday
- Harvard Food Pantry: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. on the third and fourth Tuesdays of every month
- Hebron Food Pantry: from 2 to 4 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of every month
- Marengo Food Pantry : from 4 to 6 p.m. on the last Thursday of every month
- Warp Corps in Woodstock: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Tuesday

Warp Corps

Supplies are available daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 114 N. Benton Street in Woodstock. For more information, call (815) 985-6256.

Supplies are also available at various events across McHenry County on a weekly basis:

Woodstock Public Library: from 12 to 3 p.m. on every Monday

Community Resource Days at Willow Creek Church in Crystal Lake: from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Friday

The Break Crystal Lake Teen Center

Please call 815-575-9358 to inquire about available supplies.

**Window improvements at Illini West High School to be completed by the end of the school year;
Hancock County Journal-Pilot; 3/27/24**

https://www.mississippivalleypublishing.com/journalpilot/window-improvements-at-illini-west-high-school-to-be-completed-by-the-end-of-the/article_f7ab1f4a-e7c5-11ee-91ee-3fa2d2863286.html

Window improvements at Illini West High School will begin in early April and are hoped to be completed by the end of the school year in May.

Superintendent Jay Harnack reported at the board's meeting March 20 that work should begin April 8.

In his report, Harnack said: "Work will be done on the second shift, to limit instructional impact. The estimate is for a three-week project. The amount of time needed to abate asbestos on individual windows is unknown."

He said that the staff is beginning to compile a list of summer work items which will include painting, parking lot repair and new padding for the west end of the gym.

Harnack said the final school calendar will be presented in April. If there are no more emergency days used, May 23 will be the last day for students, and May 24 the last day for teachers.

A board working session will be held before the May 15 board meeting to discuss building options following possible loss of the county sales tax increase vote on March 19. There are still up to 500 early and mail-in votes to be counted before the final result is determined.

The board approved three overnight student trips.

The Robotics team will attend the Science Olympiad, a state competition at **McHenry County College** in Crystal Lake, on April 19 and 20.

The girls basketball team was approved to attend the summer shootout at Lindenwood University, St. Charles, Mo., on June 17 and 18.

District winner, Miranda Klingler, will attend the FFA Proficiency State Awards Day to compete in interviews for a state proficiency award in beef placement at Mt. Zion High School, March 22 and 23.

Director of Student Services, Grant Surprenant, told the board that attendance at the high school has been higher than previously reported.

A change in the Power School program had not taken into account students who were off campus for part of a day, attending college classes, or for other reasons. This has been corrected.

Attendance for February averaged 92 percent, with freshmen at 91.7 percent, sophomores at 92 percent, juniors at 93.2 percent and seniors at 90.2 percent.

The board approved a memorandum of understanding with the Illini West High School Education Association related to tuition costs for a teacher to obtain an endorsement in driver's education.

Following closed session, the board approved the following actions:- Hired Renato Sturlic as an extracurricular bus driver, effective upon state approval.

- Approved stipends for coaches for the 2024-2025 school year, including head cheerleading coach, Ashtyn St. Clair-Miller; dance team head coach, Ashley Burling; girls basketball head coach, Grant Surprenant; wrestling head coach, Lyle Klein; and boys basketball head coach, Blaize Kimmell.

- Accepted the resignation of Brianna Grotts as girls assistant basketball coach.

The district approved IHSA membership renewal for 2024-2025 school year.

First reading of the student handbook for 2024-2025 was approved.

MCC students, alum team up to create, sell pale ale from hops grown on MCC farm; Daily Herald; 3/29/24

<https://www.dailyherald.com/20240329/submitted-content/mcc-students-alum-team-up-to-create-sell-pale-ale-from-hops-grown-on-mcc-farm/>

The Center for Agrarian Learning at McHenry County College and Holzlager Brewery in Woodstock have teamed up to create the “Agrarian Pale Ale,” a refreshing brew featuring a blend of earthy and citrus notes. The beer, which is now being sold at Holzlager for a limited time, uses hops grown and harvested by horticulture and agriculture students on MCC’s Student Farm.

“The partnership was born out of a connection between MCC’s Center for Agrarian Learning staff and the owner of Holzlager Brewing, Travis Slepceвич, who is also an MCC alum,” said Sheri Doyel, director of the Center for Agrarian Learning at MCC. “We collaborated with him throughout the process, and reached out to him for advice on how to tell when the hops were ready to harvest.”

The hops were planted on the MCC Student Farm the week of May 15, 2023. A trellis system was also installed, demonstrating best practices for commercial-scale hops production. The varieties planted included Cascade, Chinook, Centennial, and Willamette.

After an unseasonably hot and dry June, which required the hops to be watered weekly, Slepceвич met CAL staff on the farm to talk about his impressions of the first year of growth. It was determined that there was enough to do a small batch, even with the young one-year-old bines. Together, a decision was made to make one wet-hopped beer and one dry-hopped beer.

On Sept. 6, 2023, the hops were harvested.

“We spent the day under the tent, cutting the bines down and laying them out on long tables,” Doyel said. “Two horticulture classes came out to help and the Garden Club met on the farm to harvest as well. We tracked all four varieties and weighed the harvest.”

Half the freshly harvested hops were delivered to Holzlager Brewing the day of harvest, equaling over five pounds. The wet hops were brewed to make the MCC Wet-Hopped American Light Lager, which was served on draft and from an English Cask, and debuted at the Woodstock Ale Fest on Oct. 7. The hops made 217 gallons, or seven beer barrels of lager.

The remaining hops were dried inside the MCC Student Farm pack shed. It took over one week for them to dry. The dried hops were bagged and stored until delivery.

The dry-hopped beer, Agrarian American Pale Ale, was brewed on Jan. 18 and packaged in kegs and cans on March 4. This supply of hops also made 217 gallons, or seven beer barrels of ale.

The project involved collaboration with other departments at the College as well. Students in MCC’s Advanced Graphic Design courses, led by instructor Violet Luczak, were given the beer label design project as a graded assignment. The students were given three weeks to complete their submissions, and a panel of judges were invited to vote on their favorite. In early February, MCC student Declan Beahan (Woodstock) was awarded the winning design and the label went to print.

The Agrarian American Pale Ale is currently available for purchase at Holzlager Brewing for a limited time. It will also be available at MCC’s student-run restaurant, Tartan Bistro, when it reopens on April 10.

“We hope to rekindle the hops industry in the area, and this partnership is an example of what is possible in specialty crop production,” Doyel added.

The Center for Agrarian Learning, which includes the MCC Student Farm, has a focus on specialty crops, including vegetables, cut flowers, wine grapes, small fruit, tree fruit, elderberries, and hops. CAL programming supports farm business viability, which often requires farmers to extend their season of sales by creating "value-added" products. These products include things like jams and dried fruit, chopped and frozen carrots, fruit juice, and other beverages.

For information on the Center for Agrarian Learning at MCC, visit www.mchenry.edu/cal.