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VOL. 83 • NO. 11

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021

FHN takes over vaccine waiting list in Stephenson County

The Stephenson County Health Department and FHN have announced consolidation of the online appointment request process for COVID-19 vaccinations. Everyone interested in being put on the list for vaccination appointments should add their names to the list being maintained by FHN at www.fhn.org.

"We are glad to turn over the process of maintaining and implementing the process for the vaccination waiting list to FHN," Craig Beintema, Stephenson County health administrator, said in a news release. "As the availability of vaccines expands and ever more people need to be scheduled, our limited staff will be fully engaged in requesting the vaccine from the Illinois Department of Public Health and distributing it for use throughout the county, as well as participating in many upcoming vaccination events. This will allow us to concentrate on those important tasks."

"FHN has a sound process in place for setting up vaccination appointments," said FHN Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer/Chief Nursing Officer Kathy Martinez. "Once people input their information into the online form, we call to schedule their vaccinations as soon as appointments are available, provided that vaccine is also available."

"We are currently hosting vaccination events three days a week at our primary COVID-19 vaccination location at 1763 S. Dirck Drive in Freeport, and are also vaccinating at community events throughout northwest Illinois."

People who don't have access to the internet or who need help completing the registration form may call FHN at 815-599-6412 for assistance.

Farmers ask for 'right to repair'

Public interest groups say equipment should come with software needed for repairs

By Raymon Troncoso
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Legislation backed by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group would require farming equipment manufacturers to make software required for repairs available to consumers for purchase.

House Bill 3061, introduced as the "Digital Right to Repair Act" in February by Democratic Rep. Michelle Mussman of Schaumburg, would mandate that manufacturers, by 2022, provide farmers with the same diagnostic materials available to official repair providers. It would also require the manufacturers to make parts necessary for repair, including software, available for purchase.

The legislation comes after the

release of a report by the U.S. PIRG that alleges farmers are unable to sufficiently repair tractors purchased from John Deere and other manufacturers because they withhold the software necessary to do so.

"The Association of Equipment Manufacturers, of which John Deere is a prominent member, promised that by 2021, they would give farmers the necessary tools to fix their machinery. However, Deere has fallen short of that commitment, so farmers — and all Americans, who rely on them to produce food — are worse off," U.S. PIRG Education Fund Right to Repair advocate Kevin O'Reilly said in a release announcing the report.

The report says for countless generations farmers have been able to independently repair equipment once purchased from manufacturers, but new developments in technology

See FARMERS, Page 7

Water line replacement set to begin at fairgrounds

Members of the Stephenson County Fair Association Board voted recently to begin the first phase of upgrading the water lines on the fairgrounds.

"I have been with the fair for many years, and the current water lines have been in place for longer than I can remember," board President Gary Mielke said in a news release. "It is time to replace the old lines and put in new instead of just putting on a Band-Aid year after year."

The SCFA, a nonprofit organization, was hesitant to take on a large financial burden, but continued wa-

ter line breaks in several locations on the grounds made replacement inevitable, the release said.

"This project will not only fix the leaks, but it will also help better serve fair exhibitors, vendors and the many other events held throughout the year," the release said.

A crew from Fischer Excavating will begin digging trenches this month to lay the new lines. Phase 1 of the project will involve the area between the FHN Grandstand and the Liberty Power commercial building, as well as running a new line from the city water supply on Fairgrounds Road to the well house.

"These two areas are where we have had the most issues, so we thought it would be best to start there," Mielke said.

Other phases of the project will include new water lines to the livestock buildings, bathrooms, track and pit, camper row and food vendor buildings. A timeline for Phase 2 has not yet been decided.

For more information about the fair association and events on the grounds, go online to stephenson-countyfair.org, find them on Facebook or call 815-235-2918.

The 2021 Stephenson County Fair is set for July 27 through July 31.



PHOTO COURTESY STEPHENSON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS *Shopper's Guide*

Crews are expected to start work this month to replace water lines at the Stephenson County Fairgrounds in Freeport.

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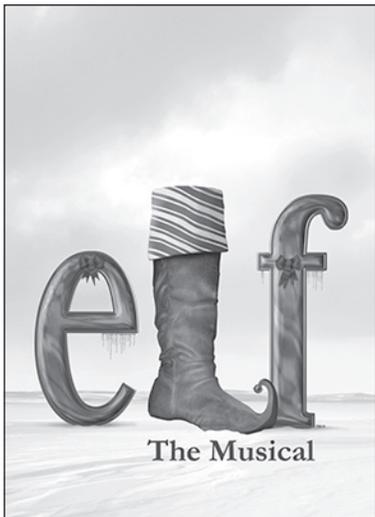
Stay home and let students entertain you with 'Elf the Musical'

A cast of local students will transport families from their homes to the North Pole when Lena-Winslow High School's production of "Elf the Musical" makes its stage-to-screen debut April 10 and April 11.

"Teachers and students are working diligently to offer the spring musical on a streaming platform, so students can showcase their talents and entertain the community while complying with Illinois COVID guidelines," according to a news release.

Here's how to watch the LWSHS production:

- Visit <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/20136> to buy a ticket between Monday, March 29, and Sunday, April 11. The link also will be posted at Le-Win.net when the sale begins.
- The video will be available to watch at ShowTix4U from 12:01 a.m. Saturday, April 10, through midnight Sunday, April 11.
- Patrons will be able to buy a "ticket" for a 48-hour video rental for online streaming.



- The \$12 rental fee will be processed through the streaming service, with profits going back to the school.
- Businesses who wish to have a poster for display can contact Tabitha Engel, Le-Win Music Boosters vice president, at 815-369-9235 or Tabitha.Engel@hotmail.com.

Basketball roundup

A roundup of high school basketball scores and notes received by The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide (all scores are from varsity games unless noted):

Boys

- March 1, Le-Win 66, Durand 31
Alex Daughenbaugh led the Panthers with 18 points.
- March 2, East Dubuque 54, Orangeville 46
Nathan Anderson and Brayden Cahoon led scoring for Orangeville with 14 and 10 points, respectively.
- March 2, junior varsity, East Dubuque 44, Orangeville 33
- March 4, Warren 65, West Carroll 32
Three players were in double digits for Warren: Brayden Bohnsack with 19, Matthew Riedel with 14 and Hunter Kopp with 10.
- March 4, East Dubuque 47, Orangeville 44
Brayden Cahoon led scoring for Orangeville with 14, followed by Zach Baker with 12.
- March 4, junior varsity, East Dubuque 36, Orangeville 36
- March 4, Stockton 56, River Ridge 22
Mitchel Coffey and Ian Broshous both hit double digits for the Black-

hawks, with 17 points and 16 points, respectively. In addition, Coffey had eight rebounds and Broshous had six assists.

- March 6, Aquin 69, Warren 44
Matthew Riedl led scoring for Warren with 14 points.
- March 6, Milledgeville 60, Orangeville 59
Zach Baker led scoring for Orangeville with 20 points, followed by Brayden Cahoon and Gunar Lobdell with 12 each.
- March 6, junior varsity, Milledgeville 54, Orangeville 32
- March 6, Le-Win 59, Eastland 46
Le-Win had three players in double digits: Evan England, 18; Alex Daughenbaugh, 12; and Caleb Matz, 10.

Girls

- Feb. 26, Stockton 51, Le-Win 49
Tiana Timpe scored 26 for the

Blackhawks, followed by Brynn Haas with 11. Haas also had 10 rebounds.

- For Le-Win, Cheyenne Mapes had 14 points and Ashlyn Almasy and Grace Groezinger each had 11 points.
- March 3, River Ridge Scales Mound 63, Warren 38
Sydni Sigafus had 12 points for Warren.
- March 3, Le-Win 37, Pecatonica 36
Sadie Mowery scored the last four points for Le-Win in the last 34 seconds for the win; Mowery had 11 points on the night. Mowery and Cheyenne Mapes (10 points) both had steals in the last 40 seconds. Kallie Humphrey had seven rebounds.
- March 5, Warren 41, River Ridge Scales Mound 27
Sydni Sigafus scored 19 points for Warren and Addy Bohnsack added 17 in the win.

Area college receives ag scholarships, applies for grant

The Highland Community College Foundation is part of \$1.9 million in grants and scholarships over the next five years from Compeer Financial through the Agriculture and Rural Initiative to 30 post-secondary colleges.

The college will receive two, \$1,500 scholarships for the next five years for students in agriculture. Highland is also among the colleges selected to apply for a larger contribution between \$25,000 and \$50,000 for the agriculture department.

"Compeer Financial has been a strong partner with the Highland Community College Foundation for many years," Jeff Reinke, foundation executive director, said in a news release. "This new initiative will provide a very meaningful increase to our scholarship support for students focused on local agriculture vocation

training and education.

"We are thrilled to be selected as a partner college to apply for a larger contribution focused on growing our agriculture program in Northwest Illinois. This financial support, partnered with our leading-edge faculty and facilities, creates a lasting legacy for agriculture education in our region."

The total grant and scholarship money is earmarked for educational training for students pursuing a future in agricultural-related careers.

"Supporting students through scholarship awards is one of the most direct ways that our community can impact students," said Monica Pierce, an agriculture instructor at the college.

For more information about Highland's agriculture program and available scholarships, go online to highland.edu.

Ag cooperatives announce merger

Two Wisconsin-based cooperatives, Landmark Services Cooperative and Countryside Cooperative, officially merged as of March 1.

Members of both boards determined that joining the resources of two long-standing cooperatives will increase their competitive advantage in ever-changing local and global agriculture markets and drive increased value to members and employees.

Local cooperative locations include one in Warren.

The cooperative will continue to maintain operations and staff at multiple locations, with an expand-

ed footprint covering Southern and West-Central Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Eastern Iowa and Eastern Minnesota. The new co-op will offer benefits including logistics opportunities, sharing of agronomy assets and backup feed mill options.

"Landmark and Countryside are committed to proactively facing the challenges in the marketplace and helping our members and employees thrive," said Jim Dell, Landmark CEO and president and CEO and president of the new cooperative. "The board and employees of the new cooperative will live the mission of 'advancing our customers

through innovative and responsible solutions' while focusing on our vision — 'customer success powered by engaged employees' — and all while adhering to our values of safety, integrity, passion, accountability and financial responsibility."

The newly formed cooperative is in the process of rebranding, working on a new trademark name, logo development and more with an external marketing agency. A name and branding announcement will come later in 2021. In the interim, the new cooperative will be co-branding digital platforms and documents such as statements.

Thanks to many friends for remembering us with cards, gifts, flowers, poems, letters, prayers, comforting words, phone calls and tears during this nightmare. We have a memorial in Sandy's honor at Stockton Fire Dept.

Ron, Pam and Brad Walters

391213

The family of Duane Kupersmith is requesting a card shower in honor of his 90th Birthday on March 15th

CHEERS TO 90 YEARS

PLEASE SEND CARDS TO:
Presence St Joseph Center
Room #123 Duane Kupersmith
659 East Jefferson St
Freeport, IL 61032

391216

The family of Fred Domberger want to thank everyone for their prayers and calls while Fred was sick and since his passing. Words cannot express how much your kindness means to all of us. A special thanks to hospice and to Tri-State for all their support.

Donna Domberger
Roger and Vicki Kloeping and family
Fred and Earlene Domberger and family

391289

Slices of life

Stepping forward means living, not just existing

I'm still struggling, but I know I have to step forward on a path I wouldn't have considered six months ago. Because it didn't exist six months ago.

The rest of the world is business as usual. People all around me are walking on the paths of their choosing. I feel like half the time I'm desperately searching for mine. The other half I'm desperately afraid I'll actually find it.

I would give anything, anything to have my dear, sweet, loving husband back, but that isn't possible, and that leaves me with a choice: to step forward or to stay stuck in the past.

I can stay in this cycle of grief; I can give up and only look backwards. Or I can decide that grief 24/7 — forever — isn't for me or for anyone. I can decide to take tiny steps forward. For myself. For our kids. For our grandkids.

I choose the latter.

I will never (not ever) forget the years we had together. I will always (as in the infinite always) love you. I will see you and be with you again. You will be there to greet me. I have no doubt about that. You are watching over me now. I trust you are. I talk to you daily. Our love continues to grow. I feel your presence and I know you are near.

But I can't live in the past. It hurts too much, for myself and those here who still love me.

We had a great run, you and I. (I take delight now knowing that you understand I why chose I over me in the previous sentence. Grammar gurus we both were. I loved that about you.)

I'd live my life with you a second time in a heartbeat, even if I knew the outcome. You were my everything. You still are. You always will be.

But now I have to step forward, into the unknown. The path we'd chosen, the path we'd planned on, the path I thought was cemented in stone no longer exists. It is gone.

I have to create a new path, even a new me. I have to forge new relationships and do the things you



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

always used to do for me. I have to push myself and challenge my comfort zone.

You were the second half of my whole; that will never, ever change, but there is room for more living. And I have to pursue a life that goes forward.

Oh my goodness do I wish it included you. With my whole heart, I wish that. But wishes are for the foolish. Faith is for the goodhearted.

I have faith. I have faith in the future. In my future. I have faith in us. We will be there forever, for the long haul. Forever and always. I believe that to the core of my being.

But there is a reason why I am here and you are there —there are probably many reasons. And, if I am to fulfill my own destiny and purpose, I have to continue living here on this earth. Fully living, not just existing, which is what grief wants me to do. I have to step forward, sometimes inches at a time and find my new path.

I know I have your support. I know you will walk alongside me, every step of the way. I know you visit me at night when I sleep. I know you will hold my hand when I am afraid and that you will send me songs and birds and squirrels to touch my heart and buoy my spirit. I know you are rooting for me. I know you want me to do this, to succeed. I know you love me, now and forever. And you know on my end that's a ditto. A big fat unequivocal ditto.

Here we go. Let's do this.

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



In my opinion

What's ahead for the GOP and what does it mean?

The coffee klatch at Julie's Café Market asks: What's going to happen in American politics over the next few years, now that Donald Trump has declared he plans to be the leader of the Republican Party? Here is my take.

In sum, the Republican Party will survive, if at all, as a distinct minority party, so long as Trump continues being Trump. That is, Trump refracts every action, absolutely every one, through the prism of how it affects the world's view of him, not of how actions affect a political party's fortunes. Not a way to run a party.

Trump has a base of about 30 percent to 35 percent of the electorate, largely outside urban areas. His backers are passionately committed to him as an individual, not to him as a party leader. Unfortunately for him, a similar slice of the electorate, or maybe a bit larger, is opposed to him with



By **JIM NOWLAN**

comparable intensity. And many of the rest, who are neither for or against Trump, find him and his actions distasteful.

For the coming election cycle, I expect Trumplers to win both primaries and general election races in rural and small-town America. In the vote-rich suburbs, however, Trumplers and anti-Trump candidates will square off in many GOP primaries.

Should a Trumper win a suburban primary, he or she will often lose the general election, as many women there find The Donald objectionable. Should the

anti-Trumper win the primary, the Trumplers will often not vote for him or her in the general, ceding the election to the Dem.

This will thus result in a reduction in legislative seats for the GOP at both the state and national levels.

Looking ahead to 2024, Trump will likely win the GOP nod for the presidency, yet once again his base will be insufficient to win the Oval Office.

On the Democrat side, Joe Biden will be 82 in November of 2024. I think he will step aside for Vice President Kamala Harris, who votes liberal yet comes across as a suburban professional.

All the above assumes for my analysis that the Democrats will not shoot themselves in their collective Big Toe along the way. Take inflation, for example.

An enduring weakness of

See **OPINION**, Page 10

**Happy 80th Birthday
Marlin Eden
on March 14**

**Send a card to:
14252 Rt. 20 E.
Lena, IL 61048**



390733

28 years ago on March 14, 1993, a great woman died. That woman was my grandmother
ORA LYONS

It's amazing how special people can make their way into your heart and memory. I was only 5 years old, but Grandma Lyons shares some of my warmest memories. She left a huge impression on me. Her love & compassion amazed me and set a standard for me. Now at the age of 33

I still think of her and miss her greatly.
Her Grandson,
Chad Quandt 391161

In loving Memory of ORA Lyons

We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds. The days we do not think of you are very hard to find. Each morning when we awake we know that you are gone. And no one knows the heartache as we try to carry on. Our hearts still ache with sadness and secret tears still flow. What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Our thoughts are always with you, your place no one can fill. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. There will always be a heartache, and often silent tears.

But always a precious memory of the days you were here. If tears would make a staircase and heartache make a lane, we'd walk the path to heaven and bring you home again. We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain, to walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again.
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Obituaries

DARLENE M. LIVINGSTON

Darlene M. Livingston, age 71, of Lena, Illinois, passed away on Friday, March 5, 2021, at her home in Lena. She was born May 16, 1949, in Chicago, the daughter of George and Marion (Ellison) Livingston.

Darlene worked as a secretary for the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department until retirement. She enjoyed taking walks, playing bingo, going to casinos and spending time with her family.

Darlene is survived by her daughter, Leah Melendy; brothers,

George (Mary Ann) Livingston, Jack (Marlene) Livingston and Tom (Gail) Livingston; sisters, Pattie Gallo and Carol (Robert) Desmond; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother, Norm Powell.

Per Darlene's request, no services will be held at this time.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

HELGA J. REVENAUGH

Helga J. Revenaugh passed away peacefully, after a brief illness, at her home on Jan. 29, 2021. She was with her family and animals. She is dearly missed by all.

She met life with perseverance, determination, contagious enthusiasm, compassion and optimism. Perhaps growing up in post-war Germany taught lifelong attitudes that could be used to build rather than harm. It is fair to say, Helga (among many others) survived difficult and dangerous years.

She was born March 7, 1935, in Bundheim, Germany. The family operated a large and successful

sanatorium in the Harz Mountains. Surrounded by forests, rivers and fields, the sanatorium was dedicated to healing using natural medical treatments. Her family went through tremendous losses and real hardships as a result of the war.

Following the war, Helga's family was divided and Helga found employment as a translator in her new home in the south of Germany, Berchtesgaden. Helga met her future husband, Robert Revenaugh, a young American in the U.S. military.

Helga and Robert returned to Illinois and married in the mid 1950s. Helga and Bob had three children, Barbara, James and Mark. The grandchildren are Dana, Elli, Miles and Taye. Bob and Helga raised their family on a small farm.

Helga lived her dream of training, caring for and competing on horses until late in her life. "Horses are great teachers," she would say. Helga also generously shared her wisdom with many students. As much passion as Helga had for horses and all animals, Helga's true devotion was to her family. She as always eager to support and be part of the lives of her children and grandchildren.

Helga was a unique soul in the world. She will be dearly missed by many humans and animals alike, especially the horses, dogs, goats, pig and Hippo the cat.

DAVID C. MCGIVERON

David C. McGiveron, 83, of Lena, Illinois, passed away on Monday, March 1, 2021, at Monroe Clinic Hospital in Monroe, Wisconsin. David was born April 3, 1937, to Paul and Lorma (Eddy) McGiveron in Orchard Park, New York. David served his country in the U.S. Army from 1960 to 1962, when he was stationed in Germany. He married Suzanne Smith in May of 1964 in Dubuque, Iowa. David attended Cornell University, where he majored in animal husbandry and played football. He worked for Oscar Mayer in Madison, Wisconsin, and then in Philadelphia. David returned to Marshfield, Wisconsin, and worked for Weyerhaeuser Manufacturing. While in Marshfield, David and his family raised and showed registered Angus cattle. He later worked at Hurd Millwork before purchasing Lena Maid Meats and moving to Lena, Illinois, in



1993.

David enjoyed hunting and raising his Angus cattle. In his retirement, he continued his love for the farm by spending many hours on his daughter's

family farm. He was a member of the Lena Lions Club, Illinois Association of Meat Processors (board member) and the Wisconsin, Northern Illinois and American Angus associations. He also taught tractor safety and was a 4-H leader and Central Wisconsin State Fair Board member.

David is survived by his wife, Suzanne "Sue" McGiveron; children, Ray McGiveron, Leanne McGiveron, Dan (Kelly) McGiveron and Dianne (Paul) Handsaker; grand-

children, Ryleigh, Max and Jake McGiveron, Garrett and Cheyenne Handsaker and Paul and Josh McGiveron; brother, Paul (Ann) McGiveron; and sister-in-law, Blanche McGiveron.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Paul and Lorma; brother, Carl McGiveron; and a son in infancy, Joey McGiveron.

No services will be held per David's request.

A memorial has been established in David's name and may be sent to the 4-H Foundation of Stephenson County at 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport, IL 61032; St. John's Lutheran Church at P.O. Box 234, Pearl City, IL 61062; Columbia Catholic Schools at 710 S. Columbia Ave., Marshfield, WI 54449; or the Northern Illinois Angus Association Scholarship Fund at P.O. Box 25, Pearl City, IL 61062.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

Birth announcements

Olivia Raelynn Visel

Olivia Raelynn Visel is the new daughter of Isaac and Brianne Visel of Pearl City, Illinois, born on Feb. 19, 2021, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Illinois. Olivia joins a sister, Sophia. Grandparents are Don and Amy Visel of Lena and Brent and Colleen Myers of Freeport. Great-grandparents are Mary Kay Baumann of German Valley, Jeanette Fernstaedt of Cedarville and Randall (Arlene) Kuhlemeier of Lena.

Colt John Miller

Colt John Miller is the new son of Zach and Lindsey Miller of Pearl City born on Feb. 27, 2021, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Illinois. Colt joins sisters, Kaydence, 14, and Mya, 12, and brothers, Channing, 11, in heaven and Oakley, 5. Grandparents are John (Deb) Blair of Stockton, Marcia Blair of Pearl City and Tom and Tam Miller

of Lanark. Great-grandparents are Richard Fiene of Davis and Russ Miller of Rock City.

Nova Lee Austin

Nova Lee Austin is the new daughter of Dwight Austin and Alyssa Havens of Hanover, Illinois, born on March 2, 2021, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Illinois. Nova joins a sister, Aniah, 9, and a brother, Khalil, 1. Grandparents are Jenny and Terry Havens of Hanover, Dwight Austin Sr. of Broadview, Illinois, and Kimberly Austin of Las Vegas. Great-grandparent is Irene Havens of Elizabeth, Illinois.

Weston Hunter Wallus

Weston Hunter Wallus is the new son to Glen Wallus and Cassandra Swift of Apple River, Illinois, born on March 4, 2021, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Illinois. Weston joins brothers, Aiden, Pay-

ton and Cash. Grandparents are Christine and Bill Blair of Apple River, Terry Foeckling of Clinton, Iowa, and Michael Wallus and Jennifer Graham, both of Phoenix.

Owen Michael Wagner

Owen Michael Wagner is the new son to Jeff and Heather Wagner of Freeport, Illinois, born on March 3, 2021, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport. Grandparents are Neal and Kris Wagner of Lena and Bob and Cindy Wilcox of Leaf River. Great-grandparents are Dick and Connie Knetsinger of Leaf River, Dorothy Reed of Elgin, Texas, and Ralph Wilcox of Unionville, Missouri.

Lena professional earns association membership

COUNTRY Financial representative Steven L. Rothschadl of Lena recently earned membership in the Million Dollar Round Table.

MDRT is an international association of more than 72,000 sales professionals in life insurance and financial services businesses, according to a news release.

"MDRT members demonstrate exceptional product knowledge, strict ethical conduct and outstanding customer service," the release said. "The Round Table's membership represents the top life insurance and financial service professionals worldwide."

Rothschadl has been with COUNTRY Financial since 1985 and he holds the life underwriter training council fellow and retirement income certified professional designations.

His office is located at 202 S. Schuyler St. in Lena.

The COUNTRY Financial group offers insurance, retirement planning services, investment management and more.

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Think twice about what you put in your mouth

Common practices can cause damage, infection



By **DR. STEPHEN PETRAS**
Illinois licensed
general dentist

“Get that thing out of your mouth!” Parents around the world probably have been saying this since the dawn of time. But it is not just children who put things in their mouths that can cause damage and disease. These are some unhealthy oral habits that you would be wise to drop as soon as possible.

- **Chewing ice cubes:** Ice is hard and brittle. This in itself is enough to chip or crack teeth. Chewing on ice also wears down the enamel and can lead to injuries to the gums. Fillings and teeth are further adversely affected by the expansion and contraction that occurs with the sudden temperature change.

- **Nail biting:** Although more prevalent in men, this way of dealing with stress is an equal opportunity

troublemaker. Persistent nail biting causes excessive wear on teeth, possible loss of the tooth root through resorption, lacerated gums, microfractures in teeth and in severe cases, misalignment of teeth. Biting your nails puts your jaw in a protruding position, which can lead to dysfunction of the joint.

Germs transferred from your nails can lead to infections in your mouth. If a piece of nail cuts your gums, the infection can get in your blood. Warts on your hands can be transferred to your mouth as well.

- **Holding or chewing on objects:** Whether it's sticking your keys in your mouth as you juggle packages, your receipt as you put your credit card back in your wallet or chewing

on your pen or pencil, all of these habits put you at risk for infection as they are covered in germs. Chewing on these objects also puts you at risk of chipping or cracking a tooth. Receipts pose an additional risk because most of them are printed on thermal paper that is coated with a chemical called BPA. BPA can be absorbed through your fingers just by touching a receipt. If you touch it after using hand sanitizer (which we are all doing a lot lately) absorption of this chemical increases dramatically. Sticking a receipt in your mouth or eating food with your hands after touching a receipt means that you are actually ingesting this harmful chemical.

- **Using anything but floss to remove objects stuck between your teeth:** The only thing you should use to remove anything caught between your teeth is floss. Do not poke with a toothpick, fingernail or a sharp tool. While toothpicks may be effective to remove food particles, they often cause food to be wedged deeper between your teeth and can lead to

injuries to the gums or lips. Bacteria from these objects can get into your bloodstream and cause damage to your heart. If you can't get it out with floss, call your dentist.

- **Using your teeth as tools:** Purchased items are often wrapped in ways that make you believe the manufacturer never meant for them to be opened. Instead of going to get a pair of scissors or package cutter, many people opt to open these packages with their teeth. Not surprisingly, this often results in damaged teeth or oral tissues. The same thing hap-

pens when you bite fishing line when tying a knot for a lure or using your teeth in lieu of a bottle opener. In a word: don't!

- **Sucking on lemons:** Although that little piece at the bottom of the glass looks inviting, resist the temptation. The citric acid can remove important minerals from the teeth, which can erode enamel and make them prone to chipping.

Dr. Stephen Petras is an Illinois-licensed general dentist at the Stockton Dental Center.

Credit union announces scholarship opportunities

Cornerstone Credit Union is accepting applications for its 2021 Founders' Scholarship program through March 31. Cornerstone will be awarding four one-time scholarships of \$1,250 to deserving high school seniors.

The Founders Scholarship awards students who have exemplified leadership and dedication throughout their high school scholastic career and who plan to attend an accredited college, university, community college or technical/trade school.

“Education is a key element of the credit union's mission and is vital to the success of our community and economy,” Gail Clore, Cornerstone

Credit Union president, said in a news release.

For an application and full details, go online to cornerstonecu.org. Applicants must be a current Cornerstone Credit Union member (as of Feb. 28). Membership is open to people who live or work in Boone, Bureau, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside or Winnebago counties in Illinois, or Green and Rock counties in Wisconsin.

Established in 1939, Cornerstone Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial cooperative with \$130 million in assets, serving nearly 13,000 members.

Extended federal benefits end for some jobless residents

By Sarah Mansur
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Benefits for some unemployed state residents provided under an aid program targeting mostly self-employed and gig workers will be capped at 50 weeks instead of 57, the state announced March 3.

The shortened period for benefits under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program was triggered by a decline in the state's unemployment rate.

The PUA program, which was first established by Congress last March, offers benefits to independent contractors, self-employed individuals, gig workers and others not covered by traditional state unemployment insurance.

After Congress renewed the program in December, eligible individuals could receive up to 57 weeks of PUA benefits. The law passed in December, the Continued Assistance Act, also extended regular state unemployment insurance benefits by seven weeks.

Both those seven-week benefit extensions have ended, according to a state news release. This means

individuals eligible for PUA will receive up to 50 weeks of benefits, and those eligible for extended regular state unemployment insurance benefits will receive up to 13 weeks of benefits.

Roughly 40,000 individuals have been notified that they have exhausted their 50 weeks of PUA, according to Rebecca Cisco, a spokesperson for the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

“IDES will continue to notify PUA claimants as they approach the 50-week limit. And, of course, the department is closely monitoring activity at the federal level in the event new legislation includes extensions or changes to the PUA program,” Cisco wrote in an email.

Individuals who qualify for PUA but have not yet received some of their benefits will only be eligible for benefits through April 10, Acting IDES Director Kristin Richards said in response to a question during a recent virtual joint committee hearing.

Richards said the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics determined that the aver-

age unemployment rate for October, November and December fell below 8 percent.

“The federal government made a determination based on unemployment data from the state of Illinois, over a three-month average,” Richards said. “They evaluate all this data and arrive at a conclusion. And that conclusion was that we were triggering off this high unemployment period.”

Under federal law, states are only able to access two seven-week extensions if the state is in a so-called “high unemployment period.” An IDES spokesperson did not immediately respond to an email seeking clarification on what constituted a high unemployment period.

The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in Illinois for October, November, and December were 7.5 per-cent, 7.6 percent and 7.9 per-cent, respectively, according to Department of Labor data.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for October, November and December were 8.1 percent, 8.1 percent and 8 percent, respectively.

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Saturday, March 13
5:00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.
at the Pearl City High School parking lot

The dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, chips, cookie and applesauce for **\$7.00**

Tickets can be purchased at the event!

The Pearl City FFA & FFA Alumni host this dinner annually to raise funds to benefit the Pearl City FFA. The funds will be used to help students attend leadership trainings, camps, state and national conventions as well as judging competitions and contests. Please join us in supporting the Pearl City FFA!

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Northwest Illinois school districts struggle with teacher, substitute shortages

By Tim Kirsininkas

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Like the rest of the state, schools in northwest Illinois are facing an educator shortage that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new survey.

The 2020 Illinois Educator Shortage Study, released last week by the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools, indicates a majority of school districts that responded to its survey believe the problem is getting worse.

"Locally, our school data is very similar to what was found state-wide in the IARSS survey. Districts reported that the teacher shortage is getting worse," said Chris Dvorak, superintendent of the La Salle, Marshall and Putnam County Regional Office of Education.

"Our latest IARSS survey finds that Illinois continues to struggle with a teacher shortage. The shortage has been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic," Dvorak said.

Each of the 853 school districts in the Illinois public school system has its own superintendent. In total, 591 responded to the survey.

The 38 regional superintendents of the IARSS, who act as intermediary between the Illinois State Board of Education and local school districts, developed and conducted the survey using Goshen Education Consulting.

More than half of the state's school districts said the location of their schools negatively impacted their ability to recruit new teachers, the most common reason cited in the survey. Many superintendents attributed a reluctance among prospective teachers from other areas to move to the rural parts of the state for work.

The northwest region, which includes counties from Jo Daviess to La Salle to Rock Island, reported the third highest levels of shortages out of the survey's seven regions. About 81 percent of school districts in the region responded to the 2020 survey, and 72 percent of those districts reported a problem with the number of available teachers.

"It is a very real problem, and one that I do not foresee getting any better in the near future," said Steven Wroblewski, superintendent of La Salle-Peru Township High School. "There are significant shortages of teachers in math, science and special education."

More than 60 percent of district superintendents in the region say the problems are getting much worse. Only 2 percent of districts in the northwest say their situation is improving.

"I worry for the small towns and rural communities that really make up the vast geography of Illinois," Wroblewski added. "There are too many districts with unfilled positions and folks teaching that do not have the proper qualifications."

Nick Reineck, assistant superintendent for human resources and educational programs for the Sycamore school district in DeKalb County, said the area was already facing a teacher shortage before COVID-19. Some districts have now had to adjust resources and staffing levels to meet the needs of students.

"We already had openings we had struggled to fill before the pandemic hit," Reineck said. "We've been able to make things work. Everybody's stepping up and helping out where they can in each building."

Of the 97 responding school dis-



STOCK PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

School officials in northwest Illinois, like much of the rest of the state, report that finding enough teachers and substitute teachers can be a struggle.

tricts in the region, 12 had to cancel a class or a program due to not having a qualified teacher to manage it within the past year, and 13 had to move a class online for the same reason. In total, 34 classes were canceled and 46 were moved online.

The region has also reported a struggle to maintain a pool of substitute teachers to manage classes during an instructor's sick or off days.

Brent O'Daniell, superintendent for the Genoa-Kingston district in DeKalb County, said the number of applications the district is receiving for full-time teaching positions is reflective of a continuing downward trend.

"They've been cut in half to two-thirds of what they've been 10 years ago," O'Daniell said.

With four of five of its responding districts calling it a serious problem, DeKalb County reported the most difficulty in substitute staffing out of all counties in the northwest region.

Stephenson County reported the most severe shortage of full-time teachers, with all of its responding districts calling it a serious problem.

About 89 percent of northwest districts said they had some kind of shortage in substitute teachers, with 73 percent of districts saying it was a serious or major problem. Nearly half of all districts in the region say the availability of substitutes is significantly worse than 5 years ago, while a slim majority of all rural school districts in the state say the same.

"The substitute teacher shortage is dangerously high," Dvorak said.

Regional superintendents attributed the substitute shortage to a number of factors, primarily concerns among teachers over COVID-19.

"COVID-19 has had the greatest impact on our substitute teacher shortage," Wroblewski said. "Since our sub pool tends to be an older crowd, COVID-19 has kept many subs out of the schools for fear of catching the virus."

Every school district in the northwest region that responded to the survey anticipates some level of problems with substitute shortages

in 2022 and 2023.

"I do worry as we start bringing more students back to school, whether we will see a return of our former subs that have taken a hiatus," Wroblewski added.

The IARSS study includes policy recommendations for education and state agencies such as the Illinois State Board of Education, the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the governor's office.

To deal with the current lack of qualified teachers, hybrid and remote learning will be pursued to grant students more access even when a teacher is not available, along with a credit recovery system for students that miss out on integral classes as a result of COVID-19 and teacher shortages.

Dvorak said that moving forward, the organization will propose resources and ways for teachers to adapt to the "new normal" of teaching, push for new standards, establish teacher training pipelines, and explore ways to share the burden of teaching and support substitutes across school districts.

O'Daniell said that policy changes will be a key to keeping qualified teachers working in the state and to attract new teachers to join the field in the future.

"It's a challenge right now on top of a pandemic," O'Daniell said. "We have to find a way to make teaching a profession that people want to get involved in."

Editor's note: Shaw Media Local News Network reporters Kelli Duncan, Cassie Buchman, Tom Collins, Kathleen Schultz and Katie Finlon contributed to this report.

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•Farmers (Continued from front page)

have shifted the status quo to disadvantage farmers. Unable to make repairs themselves, farmers are required to take equipment back to the dealership or associated repair facilities, "leading to delays of hours to weeks."

"Without the software tools needed to diagnose problems, install replacement parts and authorize repairs, the engagement or failure of any sensor or control system forces a farmer to either haul their machine into the nearest dealership or wait for a field technician to arrive to complete the repair," the report reads.

The report also claims that sen-

sors and controller networks, which have become necessary for tractors and combine harvesters to function, are the highest points of failure on farming machinery as opposed to hardware damage that can be fixed by the farmer.

According to U.S. PIRG, this is intentional to give manufacturers a repair monopoly. Their evidence is the lucrative nature of the repair industry. From 2013 to 2019, John Deere's annual sales of parts rose to \$6.7 billion, a 22 percent increase, while its annual sales of equipment fell by 19 percent to \$23.7 billion.

Manufacturers have opposed

providing the software on several grounds. They say it could jeopardize proprietary information and lead to the theft of trade secrets tied to programming. Giving farmers access to repair software could also allow them to make illegal modifications to their equipment, potentially leading to some farmers overriding safety and environmental controls placed in the vehicle software.

The Digital Right to Repair Act, which awaits assignment to a substantial committee in the House, includes a provision that prevents the legislation from being made "to require an original equipment man-

ufacturer to divulge a trade secret... except as necessary to provide documentation, parts, and tools on fair and reasonable terms."

Farming groups have increased their pressure on manufacturers to concede the right to repair, using the threat of legislation to reach an agreement.

According to the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the American Farm Bureau Federation voted in 2020 to throw its weight behind right-to-repair legislation if manufacturers didn't reach an agreement with farmers and independent repair contractors by 2021.

Alongside Illinois and HB 3061,

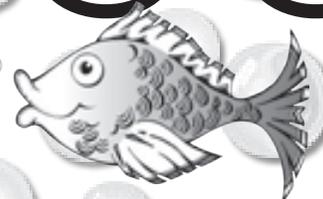
20 other states are considering bills mandating the right to repair in their legislatures for a total of 32 bills.

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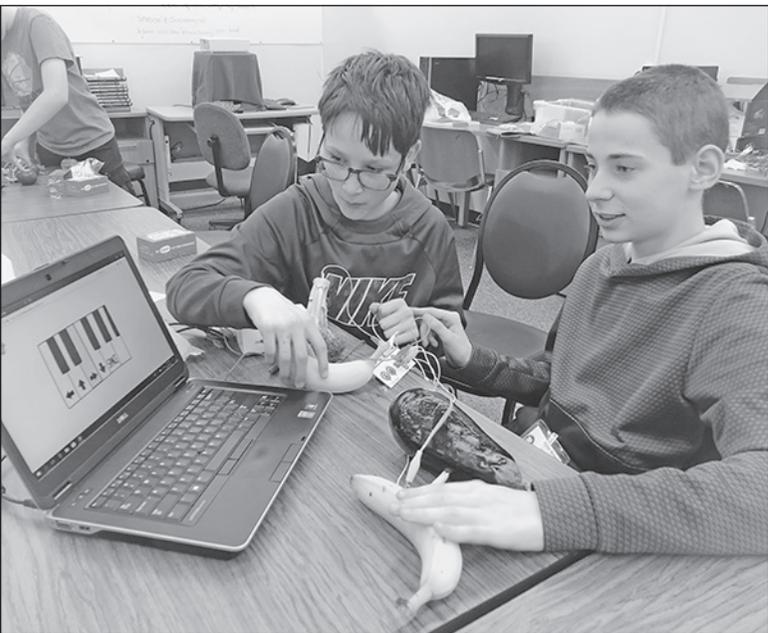
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4-H Fun Day is all about exploring new skills, like these two participants did in a past session, where they used Makey, Makey technology to create a piano out of materials that conduct electricity like bananas.



SUBMITTED FILE PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Fun Day participants built and tested their own solar-powered cars at a previous 4-H Fun Day event.

Foundation offers scholarships for Pearl City college students

Organizers at the Pearl City Education Foundation will make available \$20,000 to fund Pearl City upperclassman scholarships for full-time college or trade school students in the 2021-'22 school year.

The maximum amount awarded per recipient has been increased to \$1,500 this year.

"This program is available for those Pearl City graduates who have already successfully completed their first year of college or trade school on a full-time basis, and are continuing on into their second, third, or fourth year on a full-time basis," according to a news release.

Upperclassman scholarship application forms will be available by mid-March at the State Bank of Pearl City, the Pearl City Public Library or on the Pearl City schools website by going online to www.pcwolves.net.

Completed applications must be received by June 30 by mailing to: Pearl City Education Foundation, Upperclassman Scholarships, P.O. Box 278, Pearl City, IL 61062.

Since its 2010 inception, the Pearl City upperclassman program has awarded more than 125 scholarships worth more than \$60,000 to Pearl City graduates. The program is designed to be perpetual.

The Pearl City Education Foundation welcomes donations for its scholarship programs, as well as its program for classroom/teacher grants. The donations are tax deductible, as PCEF has a 501(c) (3) tax status.

For more information about making a donation, contact the foundation treasurer by sending an email to msmith@pearlcitybk.com.

4-H Fun Day is free for local children

April 2 event set for Elizabeth

through 12th grades at no cost to families.

Participants do not need to be 4-H members.

Participants may choose one of the following workshops to attend:

- Interior design: Recycle a vintage folding chair by upcycling it into usable art.
- Sign making: Create your own 8-by-8-inch wooden sign using paint and a vinyl image or phrase.
- Cake decorating: Learn new decorating techniques and improve

skills. All skill levels are welcome.

"Extension staff, local community leaders and the Jo Daviess County 4-H Federation will offer this event with safety in mind," according to an Extension news release.

Participants will be asked to wear a mask at all times. In addition, spots will be limited for each workshop and participants will be socially distanced, with hand sanitizing stations available throughout the building.

"Our annual 4-H Fun Day is one of my favorite events of the year and we are thrilled to be able to offer this to youth once again,"

Angela Miller, 4-H youth development program coordinator, said in the release. "Participants will leave their workshop with a new skill and something to take home that they can be proud of."

Check-in will begin at 9 a.m. April 2, with the workshops beginning at 9:35 a.m. The workshops will end about 11:05 a.m.

To get more details and register, go online to go.illinois.edu/jsjw or call the extension office at 815-858-2273. Pre-registration is required and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration closes March 25.

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Briefs

FFA hosts drive-thru pork chop dinner

The Pearl City FFA and FFA alumni will host their annual Pork Chop Dinner from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at Pearl City High School.

The dinner will be held as a drive-thru, offering pickup meals in the high school parking lot. Tickets may be purchased at the event.

The dinner will include a pork chop sandwich, chips, a cookie and applesauce for \$7.

Money raised at the dinner will be used to help students attend leadership training, camps, state and national conventions and judging competitions and contests.

Lenten projects include devotion, donation drive

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena and Lena United Methodist Church are offering an at-home Lenten devotion with a weekly theme, videos and a booklet.

Also, during Lent, Good Shepherd is collecting soaps, toothbrushes, combs and nail clippers for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits. Donations may be dropped off at the church, 118 E. Mason St. Go online to <http://goodshepherdlena.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/GSL-CLenaIL> for more information or

4-H report

The Lena Lucky Clovers 4-H group met on March 2, 2021, at the Winslow Community Building.

When you first walked in, there was a candy guess for anyone who wanted to participate. The candy jars were Smarties, Tootsie Rolls, Laffy Taffy and Jolly Ranchers. The candy guess winners were Addison Tiesman, Lily Schoger, Jonathan Schoger and Sydney Duncan.

Bryson Shultz led both of the pledges to start the meeting.

The members made St. Patrick's Day cards for the Lena Living Center using stickers and green cards with a little sentence inside. The Cloverbuds met separately and made a St. Patrick's Day shamrock craft.

The next meeting will be held on April 6, 2021.

Submitted by Addison Tiesman, 4-H reporter

call the church at 815-369-5552.

UCC church welcomes guest minister

Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 W. Salem Road, Lena will welcome a guest minister, the Rev. Lauri Allen, at the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, March 14.

Allen has served as a UCC pastor at in Genoa, Illinois. She now does pulpit supply, leads Vacation Bible School programs and serves where needed. Everyone is welcome to attend the service.

County notes hours for early voting

Stephenson County early voting for the April 6 election will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays) March 12 through April 5.

The voting location is the Stewart Centre, 50 W. Douglas St., Freeport.

Local student ranks in top 2% at Iowa State

Isabella Kostallari of Pearl City is among the students ranked in the top 2% in their college at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Kostallari is a freshman in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.



PHOTO SUBMITTED Shopper's Guide

Music fundraiser

Le-Win junior high music students show their enthusiasm for the Le-Win Music Boosters butter braid and cookie dough fundraiser. Six flavors of the butter braid pastry and six flavors of pre-portioned cookie dough are for sale to benefit the music program. Order forms are due back to music teachers March 12. To connect with a music student for an order, email Le-Win band instructor Renee Schultz at schultzr@le-win.net. For more details, visit the Le-Win Music Boosters page on Facebook.

Bank shows support for FFA



PHOTO SUBMITTED Shopper's Guide

In honor of National FFA Week and #GiveFFADay, Lena State Bank recently made a donation to the Lena-Winslow FFA Chapter. The chapter has been around for more than 60 years and averages between 40 and 60 members annually. Lena State Bank President Curtis Derrer presented the donation to the chapter officers and Section I FFA president. Pictured from the left in the back row are Conor DeZell, Braden Baldauf, Ross Stabenow, Tyler Croatt and Curtis Derrer. In the front row from the left are Isabella Forbes, Madison Young, Brady Eilders and Owen Gilbertson.



PHOTO SUBMITTED Shopper's Guide

Hayden Fryer, Hallie Fryer, Addison Tiesman and Lydia Tiesman, members of the Lena Lucky Clovers 4-H Club, work on St. Patrick's Day cards at a recent meeting.



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Opinion (Continued from page 3)

democracies has always been the tendency of politicians to promise to do for voters (spend money) and not do to them (tax voters to pay for the spending). This results in budget deficits.

To wit: The present spending riot by Dems in D.C. comes on top of the GOP's \$2 trillion tax cut in 2017, which itself was painted over wholly with red ink. I was taught in college that if the money supply goes up sharply without a comparable increase in the supply of goods, there will be inflation, possibly of the runaway sort. Think Argentina, the Weimar Republic in post-World War I Germany, and in undisciplined democracies around the world. Many economists here say, tsk-tsk, not to worry in the U.S.; some others say: worry.

After a Trump loss in 2024, the GOP would be shattered. Without Trump and his base, the Grand Old Party would represent 20 percent to 25 percent of the electorate.

In the interim between now and post-election 2024, anti-Trump Republicans will be rallied by the likes of U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Illinois, and his Country First political committee. Adam has a positive, uplifting, but unspecific message. Can the likes of the 42-year-old Kinzinger arouse passion? I am hopeful.

Kinzinger appears to have burned his bridges with the GOP in Illinois, with some dismissive remarks he made about local GOP

leaders. So, will he transform fledgling Country First into a new party? I have written elsewhere that there is space for a new party, but the challenge of getting one up and running is daunting, and would take two or more election cycles.

The nation may be in for a decade or more of one-party Democratic Party rule, much like the Democratic-Republicans' lopsided majorities in Congress from 1800 to 1824.

What our nation needs, in my humble opinion, is a secular Great Awakening. In the 18th century, emotional preachers brought people to their feet and onto their knees across our new nation.

The disconnect is that the 18th century phenomenon didn't require pain and sacrifice, indeed revivalists offered a pathway to salvation through faith alone. In contrast, a 21st Century "Awakening" will require broad pain and sacrifice to straighten out our country, its finances and competitiveness. A tall order for Americans, used to the good life, where political parties find spending more successful than challenging us.

For many years, Jim Nowlan was a senior fellow and political science professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He has worked for three governors and published a weekly newspaper in central Illinois.

Bipartisan group asks governor to loosen attendance restrictions at school events



By **ANDREW CHESNEY**
Illinois State Rep.

Joining a bipartisan coalition of legislators and educators, I signed on to a letter to Gov. JB Pritzker this past week requesting a loosening of COVID-19 restrictions at K-12 extracurricular events to allow for increasing audience capacity to 25%. While I favor much higher capacity thresholds, it was the art of compromise that allowed us to receive this sweeping bipartisan support and to communicate such unity to the governor.

The Illinois High School Association, the Illinois Association of School Boards, the Illinois Association of School Administrators, Illinois Association of Athletic Directors and Illinois Principal's Association also signed on to the letter and support allowing 25% fan and audience capacity at extracurricular events. The letter, which contains the signature of both Republican and Democrat legislators from all corners of the state, reads in part:

"We have learned from conversations with school officials involved with the planning and execution of hosting extracurricular activities that

there have in fact not been major viral outbreaks resulting from allowing previously prohibited extracurricular activities. We believe this is due to the unprecedented effort of local school officials and athletes to take the steps necessary to keep everyone safe.

"Seniors in high school have now had their final two years in school interrupted by the pandemic. Parents and siblings have missed out on memories too many to count, and too precious to ignore," the letter continues.

In my assessment, this is yet another example of Pritzker not following the science. More than the two-week incubation period has passed since sports were allowed with no major outbreaks. Perfectly healthy people who are physically distanced from one another or who live within the same household should certainly be allowed to watch their loved ones play in-person.

Operation Warp Speed under President Trump allowed the development of COVID vaccines at a rate we have never seen in world history. Distribution of said vaccines has been slower. Just this week, emails became public of Illinois Democrat congressional staffers urging Pritzker's chief of staff to find a way to blame "Trump hangover" instead of

President Biden and Pritzker for the inefficiencies in vaccine distribution and the fact Illinois is now among the 10 worst states in vaccine distribution.

In school extracurricular activities, we have another example of the politics trumping the science at the hands of this Democrat administration. This letter attracted bipartisan support because more legislators understand this administration is not following the science as closely as those legislators would like to begin a safe return to normalcy.

While the "hangover" of the past year is beginning to fade, the public is beginning to understand that different approaches to governing this crisis yielded vastly different results. In some cases, what was hailed as a heroic response (think New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo) instead cost lives, while the "incompetence of yesterday" is now seen as "light-speed" reaction when compared to slow vaccine distribution and returns to normalcy once promised as "10 days to slow the curve" approaches one year and counting.

The letter to the governor concludes, "By taking this action immediately, you can help families make memories that would otherwise be lost and ease public pressure on school districts and local officials."

In other words: Let the public watch our loved ones play ball in-person safely.

State Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freepport, represents the 89th District, which includes all of Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties.

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Democrats push resolution 'condemning' GOP lawmaker for attendance at Jan. 6 rally

By Sarah Mansur
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
Nearly three dozen Democratic members of the Illinois House of Representatives signed onto a resolution last week to "condemn" a southern Illinois Republican lawmaker for attending a Jan. 6 rally in Washington, D.C. that preceded the violent riot at the U.S. Capitol.

House Resolution 132 also references a complaint filed March 1 with Illinois Legislative Inspector General Carol Pope to investigate the actions of Rep. Chris Miller, of Oakland, on Jan. 6.

The Legislative Inspector General is responsible for investigating complaints of violations of any law, rule, or abuse of authority or other forms of misconduct by members of the General Assembly.

"Supporting and participating in insurrection against the government is way beyond the pale and violates our oath of office," Rep. Bob Morgan, D-Deerfield, wrote in an email to Capitol News Illinois. "The State of Illinois

deserves to know what role Rep. Miller had in the riot of January 6 in Washington, D.C., and that is why I referred this matter to the Legislative Inspector General for proper investigation."

Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association President Kristina Zahorik also submitted a complaint late last month to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General to investigate Miller's actions on Jan. 6.

The resolution also criticizes Miller for allegedly adorning his truck with decal for an anti-government militia group, known as "The Three Percenters."

The resolution and calls to investigate Miller are in response to the GOP lawmaker's publicized attendance at the Jan. 6 rally where former President Donald Trump spoke before the crowd stormed the Capitol, resulting in five deaths.

In a video taken that day and posted on Facebook, Miller appears with the Washington Monument in the background and says he's at the "Save America Rally" in Washington, D.C.

"I think it's important to know we are engaged in a great cultural war to see which worldview will survive, whether we will remain a free people under free market capitalism or whether they will put us under the tyranny of socialism, communism and the dangerous Democrat terrorists that are trying to destroy our country," Miller said in the video.

The video was preserved online, although Miller deleted his social media posts from that day.

Miller, 66, did not respond to requests for comment on last week.

The House resolution claims that Miller violated his oaths to the U.S. and Illinois constitutions by "actively and publicly promoting the actions of an internationally recognized para-military hate group," for having a decal representing The Three Percenters.

Miller has denied being a member of The Three Percenters, and stated he removed the sticker from his truck, according to news reports.

The resolution also claims Miller "through his continued actions and in-

stigations, has created an environment that potentially threatens not only the sanctity of the Illinois General Assembly but also the safety of the members and their staff."

Miller, who was first elected to the General Assembly in November 2018, serves House District 110, which covers a swath of southeastern Illinois and borders Indiana.

The third-generation farmer who raises cattle was re-elected in November 2020.

His wife, Republican U.S. Rep. Mary Miller, also came under scrutiny when a video began circulating of the congresswoman stating: "Hitler was right about one thing. He said, 'Whoever has the youth has the future.' Our children are being propagandized."

Mary Miller later walked those comments back.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonpartisan, nonpartisan news service covering state government.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON WILSON EDWARDS, Plaintiff,

vs. KATELYN STURTEVANT a/k/a KATELYN M. STURTEVANT, JOSHUA STURTEVANT, CITY OF FREEPORT, a Municipal Corporation, and UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 2020 CH 31 NOTICE OF SALE PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to a Judgment entered on the 30th day of December, 2020, David Snyders, Sheriff of Stephenson County or such other Deputy as may be sitting in his stead, will conduct a sale of the premises involved in this case as follows:

A. The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Kim M. Casey HolmstromKennedyPC 800 North Church Street Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 962-7071

The North 61 feet of the South 120 feet of Lots Nine (9) and Ten (10) in Block Eight (8) of Guiteau's Addition to the Town of Freeport, EXCEPT the West 100 feet thereof; situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Common Address: 1236-1242 South Float Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-483-020

Part of Lots Two (2) and Three (3) in Block Thirty-three (33) of Knowlton's Second Addition to the Town (now City) of Freeport, described as follows: Beginning at a point on the North line of said Lot 2, said point being 49 feet Westerly from the Northeast corner of said Lot 2; thence Westerly on and along the Northerly line of said Lots to a point 18 feet Westerly from the Northeast corner of said Lot 3; thence Southwesterly to a point on the South line of said Lot 3 which point is 25 feet Westerly from the Southeast corner of said Lot 3; thence Easterly on and along the Southerly lot lines to a point 56 feet Westerly from the Southeast corner of said Lot 2; thence Northeasterly to the Place of Beginning; situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Common Address: 11 West Dexter Street

Freeport, IL 61032 P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-406-009 The South 30 feet of Lot One (1) in Block Twenty-four (24) in Knowlton's Second Addition to the Town (now City) of Freeport; situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Common Address: 1110 South Cherry Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-380-008

Part of Lots One (1) and Two (2) in Block Six (6) in Guiteau's Addition to the Town (now City) of Freeport, described as follows, to wit Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Block 6 and running thence South 81 feet thence East 100 feet thence North to the Southerly line of South Galena Avenue, thence Northwesterly on and along the line of said Block 6 and the Southerly line of said South Galena Avenue to the place of beginning; situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, EXCEPT: A part of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 6 in Guiteau's Addition in the Original Town (now City) of Freeport, situated in the Southeast Quarter of Section 31, Township 27 North, Range 8 East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Stephenson County, Illinois, described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin in the Northwest corner of said Lot 1; thence South 52 degrees 51 minutes 12 seconds East, 19.27 feet (Bearings assumed for description purposes only) on the Northeast line of said Lot 1, thence South 67 degrees 23 minutes 08 seconds West 16.20 feet to the West line of said Lot 1; thence North 1 degree 17 minutes 24 seconds West, 17.87 feet on said West line to the Point of Beginning; situated in the County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Common Address: 1111 South High Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-483-001

The East 20 feet of Lot Eight (8) AND the West 20 feet of Lots Seven (7) and Nine (9) in Block Twelve (12) in Knowlton's Addition to the Town (now City) of Freeport, EXCEPT, that part thereof conveyed by Warranty Deed dated June 30, 1922, executed by Mary S. Barber, unmarried, to Nellie C.B. Wolfe, said Deed recorded in the Recorder's Office of Stephenson County, Illinois, in Book 138 of Deeds, Page 149. Situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State

of Illinois.

Common Address: 260 West Broadway Street, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-403-012

Lot Number Eight (8) in Block Number Seventeen (17) of Wright and Purinton's Addition to the Town (now City) of Freeport, EXCEPTING the South 7 feet of Lot Seven (7) in Block Seventeen (17) of Wright and Purinton's Addition to the Town (now City) of Freeport; situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Common Address: 482 South Float, Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-293-016

Part of Lot Twelve (12) in Block Thirty-two (32) in Knowlton's Second Addition to the Town, (now City) of Freeport, described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the West line of South Chicago Avenue (formerly Union Street) with the North line of said Lot and running thence West on and along the North line of said Lot, 130 feet thence South parallel with the West line of said South Chicago Avenue, 63 feet, thence East parallel with the North line of said Lot, 130 feet to the West line of said South Chicago Avenue, thence North on and along the West line of said South Chicago Avenue, 63 feet to the place of beginning; situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Common Address: 914 South Chicago Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-453-036

A part of Lots Six (6) and Seven (7) in Block Thirty-One (31) in the Original Town (now City) of Freeport, described as follows, to-wit: Commencing on the North line of Lot 6, 34 feet Westerly from the Northeast corner of said Lot 6; and running thence Westerly on the North line of Lots 6 and 7, 46 feet thence Southerly parallel with the East line of Lot 7, 120 feet to the alley; thence Easterly on and along the North line of the alley, 18 feet; thence Northerly parallel with the Easterly line of Lot 7, 40 feet; thence Easterly parallel with the North line of Lots 6 and 7, 28 feet; thence Northerly parallel with the East line of Lot 6, 80 feet to the Place of Beginning; situated in the City of Freeport, County of Stephenson and State of Illinois.

Common Address: 307 West Spring Street,

Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-188-008

D. A description of the improvements on the real estate is: Residences, single family and multi-family as designated on Exhibit A attached hereto.

This information is considered reliable but not warranted.

E. The time and place of the sale: April 1, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. on the 1st floor of the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

F. The terms of the sale are: to the highest and best bidder with Twenty-five (25%) percent cash or certified funds down and balance within 24-hours by cash or certified funds. Property is conveyed in an "AS IS" condition. Sale subject to Court approval. Ordinarily, buyer will not be entitled to possession of the property until thirty (30) days after confirmation of sale by the Court. SALE SUBJECT TO RIGHTS OF PARTIES IN POSSESSION.

G. No warranty is made as to the state of title. Title will be conveyed subject to any liens or encumbrances, as well as all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, but have not yet become due and payable, and special assessments, if any, and easements and restrictions of record.

The property is not open for inspection.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4).

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Dated at Rockford, Illinois, this 22nd day of February, 2021. Wilson Edwards, Plaintiff, BY: HolmstromKennedyPC His Attorneys,

/s/Kim M. Casey Kim M. Casey ARDC #6181726 HolmstromKennedyPC 800 North Church Street Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 962-7071 kcasey@hkrockford.com I3164771

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 3, 10 & 17, 2021)



Easton Timothy Biehl

First birthday

Easton Timothy Biehl will be 1 year old on April 6, 2021. Easton is the son of Erik and Nikki Biehl of Brighton, Michigan. He has three sisters, Adelynne, Kennedy and Savannah. Grandparents are Rick and Deborah Hawk of Michigan. Great-grandmother is LaVonne Schrader of Stockton, Illinois.

Fundraising continues for aerial combat memorial

Restoration work on an F-4 Phantom jet continues in Lena, as does fundraising to establish a memorial park display for the aircraft.

Volunteers with the Northwest Illinois F-4 Jet Memorial Project have been working on engineering the display pylon for the jet and getting the jet ready for display, according to a news release.

Future steps will include painting the jet, constructing the display pylon, moving the jet to its permanent site on Main Street and placing the jet on the display. The final step will be completing work at the memorial park.

To help fund the effort, people may purchase an engraved paver brick to be displayed at the memorial park. Paver bricks vary in donation levels from \$150 to \$10,000.

More than 100 bricks already have been purchased.

For more information, search for Northwest Illinois F-4 Jet Memorial Project on Facebook.

Little Learners Academy adds summer child care

Members of the CTE Academy Board of Control recently approved a motion to begin a child care program this summer at the Jo Daviess Carroll CTE Academy in Elizabeth (formerly the Area Vocational Center).

Starting in early June, the program will offer child care for children ages 3 (potty trained) through 10 from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The cost is \$25 per day per child,

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Boy, did I enjoy the warmer weather this past week. It was great to see the sun and my driveway! They are predicting that a lot of snow will melt in the next week. March comes in like a lion as the old song goes. It is also the time for the "wearing" of the green. I have a lot of Irish friends who are looking forward to "their" holiday. We have some recipes that can help them.

I had a reader from Warren who wrote me about the broccoli soup I had in two weeks ago. I didn't tell you when to put the milk in. I am reprinting the corrected recipe. It will make a great Lenten lunch or supper with toasted cheese sandwiches.

Broccoli Cheddar Soup

Enjoy this cheese and veggie soup without having to make a big pot. It makes two servings; if you wanted it for four people, double the recipe.

- ¼ C. chopped onion
- ¼ C. butter, cubed
- ¼ C. flour
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. pepper
- 1½ C. 2% milk
- ¾ C. chicken broth
- 1 C. cooked, chopped fresh or frozen broccoli
- ½ C. shredded cheddar cheese

In a small saucepan, sauté onion in butter until tender. Stir in flour, salt and pepper until blended; gradually add milk and chicken broth. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about two minutes. Add broccoli. Cook and stir until heated through. Remove from the heat; stir in cheese until melted.

Cheesy Artichoke Blossoms

Artichoke hearts make a great appetizer. This one is creamy because of the mayo and the yogurt. The cheese is just a tasty addition.

- 1 jar (12 oz.) marinated artichoke hearts
 - ¼ C. grated Parmesan
 - 1 clove garlic, minced
 - ¼ C. red bell pepper, finely chopped
 - ¼ C. mayonnaise
 - ¼ C. plain Greek Yogurt
 - 24 Wonton wrappers
- Preheat oven to 350. Drain and chop the artichoke hearts. In a large

bowl, stir together the artichoke hearts, Parmesan, garlic, bell pepper, mayo and yogurt until thoroughly mixed. Set aside.

Coat a mini muffin pan with non-stick spray. Gently press a wonton wrapper into each cup. Fill each cup with about a teaspoon of the artichoke mixture.

Bake for 10 minutes or until the wonton wrappers are slightly browned and the artichoke mixture is bubbly. Serve warm.

Warm Green Bean Salad

Since we are still staying in the green, this vegetable is great for an Irish supper. You can get the Haricots verts at Aldi or Wal-Mart has the frozen ones. They are very tender, and you will become a convert once you try them.

- 14 oz. of fresh long green beans (Haricots verts)
- 3 T. olive oil
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 3 t. white wine vinegar

- 2 t. grain mustard
- Pepper
- 2 T. fresh dill

Bring a pot of water to boil; salt the water and blanch green beans until tender, about three minutes. Drain.

Put pot back on medium-low heat, and once the pot is dry, add the oil. Add the onions and sauté, stirring often, until just soft and fragrant, but not golden, about four minutes. Add the vinegar, mustard and black pepper. Stir to incorporate all the ingredients. Add the beans back to the pan and toss with the warm vinaigrette. Plate the beans and top with the dill.

Corned Beef and Roasted Cabbage

If you missed last week's corned beef recipes, I have one more. This one has you starting with a grocery store corned beef. This recipe has you sear the cabbage instead of boiling to get a caramelized surface. It brings out the sweetness in it. Enjoy

an easier way to make what is a lot of people's favorite meal.

1 3 lb. piece corned beef with spice packet

- 1 bottle (12 oz.) pale ale
- 1 medium onion, quartered
- 2 cloves garlic
- 2 dried bay leaves
- 1 small head green cabbage (about 1¼ lbs.) cut into wedges
- Salt and pepper
- 2 T. olive oil

Place corned beef in a large pot. Add ale, onions, garlic, bay leaves, ½ C. water and spice packet. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, until tender and easily pierced with fork, about 2½ to three hours.

A half an hour before the corned beef is finished, heat oven to 425. Heat a large cast iron skillet on medium high. Season cabbage with ½ t. salt and ½ t. pepper. In batches, add 1 T. oil and four pieces cabbage and

See KITCHEN, Page 15

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Please send a letter of interest and credentials to the Superintendent, James Bunting at Stockton School District, 540 N Rush St, Stockton, IL 61085. Applications accepted until position is filled. Stockton CUSD #206 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Lena-Winslow School District has immediate openings for Route Bus Drivers (AM, PM, or Both Shifts) for the 2020-2021 school year. Position is IMRF pension eligible. If interested, please contact Duane Reed, Transportation Director, at 815-668-0805 or email him at reedd@le-win.net. Applications accepted until positions are filled. Lena-Winslow CUSD #202 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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391029

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•Kitchen (Continued from page 13)

cook until golden brown, about three minutes per side. Transfer to rimmed baking sheet and repeat. Transfer beef to foil-lined rimmed baking sheet. Transfer both beef and cabbage baking sheets to oven and roast until cabbage is just tender and beef has browned, about 12 to 18 minutes. Transfer beef to a cutting board and thinly slice. Serve with roasted cabbage.

Mediterranean Tuna Salad

Lent means meatless dishes. This easy tuna salad recipe is great for a quick lunch. The recipe is for one person, but you can easily double it for two.

1 can (3 oz.) solid white tuna in water, drained
 1 t. lemon juice
 1 t. extra virgin olive oil
 ¼ C. cucumber, chopped
 ¼ C. cherry tomatoes, halved
 4 Kalamata olives, pitted and chopped
 Bibb or Boston lettuce to serve in
 Place tuna in a medium bowl. Flake into bite-size pieces. Add remaining ingredients to bowl and gently stir to combine. Place tuna salad in a leaf of Bibb lettuce to serve. This salad is for one. Double the salad for two.

Key Lime Greek Yogurt Pie

½ C. graham cracker crumbs (about 12 full sheets)
 1/3 C. sugar
 6 T. unsalted butter, melted
 Filling:
 1 envelope (1½ t.) unflavored gelatin
 ½ C. Key lime juice, divided
 6 oz. cream cheese, softened
 1 C. plain Greek yogurt
 ½ C. sugar

2 T. lime zest
 Whipped cream and slices of lime
 Crust: Preheat oven to 350. In a small bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs, sugar and melted butter. Pour crumb mixture into a 9-inch pie plate; spread evenly and press firmly over the bottom and slightly up the sides. Bake the crust for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and set aside to cool.

Filling: In a small microwave-safe bowl, stir together the gelatin and 2 T. of Key lime juice until moist. Add remaining lime juice and warm everything in the microwave for 30 seconds, being careful not to let it boil. Remove and stir until the gelatin is dissolved.

In the bowl of a mixer, combine the cream cheese, yogurt, sugar and lime zest; beat until smooth. Add the gelatin mixture and mix well, about one to two minutes. Pour the filling into the cooled crust and chill in the refrigerator for at least an hour before serving. Spread whipped cream on chilled pie. Garnish with lime slices.

Irish Apple Cake

The Irish for hundreds of years have had very simple desserts. "Crumb cakes" were staples for tea. This simple cake will help your St. Pat's dinner end with just the right amount of sweet.

Streusel Topping

6 T. salted butter, plus more for the pan
 ¾ C. flour
 ¼ C. rolled oats
 ½ C. sugar
 Pinch of salt

Cake
 1 C. salted butter at room temperature
 ½ C. sugar
 2 t. vanilla
 2 eggs

1¼ C. flour
 1 t. baking powder
 1 t. cinnamon
 1/8 t. salt
 3 T. milk
 3 Granny Smith apples, peeled and thinly sliced

Powdered sugar for garnish
 Preheat oven to 350. Butter a 9-inch round cake pan and line the bottom with parchment paper.

Topping: In a medium bowl, combine the flour, oats, granulated sugar and salt. Rub in the cold butter until fully incorporated and you have reached the texture of coarse breadcrumbs. Set aside in the fridge while you make the cake.

Cake: Cream the butter and sugar in a large bowl with a mixer on medium-high speed until light and fluffy. Add the vanilla and beat in eggs one at a time. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Fold the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients with a rubber spatula along with the milk. Once the batter has formed, transfer it to the prepared pan and lay on the sliced apples, making sure they are arranged in one even layer. Cover the apples with the streusel topping.

Bake the cake until the top is golden brown and crisp, 60 to 70 minutes. Remove from the oven and let cool slightly before turning out of the pan and onto a rack. Peel off the parchment and place on serving plate. Serve with a dusting of powdered sugar.

Final thoughts

These past couple of weeks have been interesting. All of us have been able to get out a little more. My washing machine bit the dust, and it cost less to buy a new one than to fix it. I made a road trip to Scales Mound to Schulz's Appliance. I found a machine, and it will be delivered this week. You don't realize how much you rely on your washing machine until you can't use it.

The bubble in my eye is almost gone. I will be grateful when that happens. After a couple of weeks, I can get glasses, and then I can read again much easier.

I will also have had my first COVID shot by the time this column has been published. I know people have had reactions, and I hope I am not one of them. I, personally, will feel a little easier about going out having been given two shots. I will continue to wear my mask and practice distancing, but I will love going

out to eat in a restaurant! Basketball is winding down, and football practice is starting. In schools it used to be the other way around. I saw a picture of someone plowing the Le-Win football field; there is something a little disconcerting about that picture in your mind.

Have a great St. Patrick's Day. Stay safe and healthy.

If you have found any spring recipes or any Lenten recipes, contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide, 240 W. Main St., Lena, IL 61048 or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.



REAL ESTATE LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON
 WILSON EDWARDS, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 KATELYN STURTEVANT a/k/a KATELYN M. STURTEVANT, JOSHUA STURTEVANT, CITY OF FREEPORT, a Municipal Corporation, and UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

Case No. 2020 CH 31
 NOTICE OF SALE
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to a Judgment entered on the 30th day of December, 2020, David Snyders, Sheriff of Stephenson County or such other Deputy as may be sitting in his stead, will conduct a sale of the premises involved in this case as follows:

A. The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is:

- Kim M. Casey
 HolmstromKennedyPC
 800 North Church Street
 Rockford, IL 61103
 (815) 962-7071
 Common Address:
 1236-1242 South Float Avenue,
 Freeport, IL 61032
 P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-483-020;
 Common Address:
 11 West Dexter Street
 Freeport, IL 61032
 P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-406-009;
 Common Address:
 1110 South Cherry Avenue,
 Freeport, IL 61032
 P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-380-008;
 Common Address:
 1111 South High Avenue,
 Freeport, IL 61032
 P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-483-001;
 Common Address:
 260 West Broadway Street,
 Freeport, IL 61032
 P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-403-012;
 Common Address:
 482 South Float Avenue,
 Freeport, IL 61032
 P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-293-016;
 Common Address:
 914 South Chicago Avenue,
 Freeport, IL 61032
 P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-453-036;
 Common Address:
 307 West Spring Street,
 Freeport, IL 61032

P.I.N. No. 18-14-31-188-008;
 D. A description of the improvements on the real estate is: Residences, single family and multi-family as designated on Exhibit A attached hereto.

This information is considered reliable but not warranted.

E. The time and place of the sale: April 1, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. on the 1st floor of the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL 61032

F. The terms of the sale are: to the highest and best bidder with Twenty-five (25%) percent cash or certified funds down and balance within 24-hours by cash or certified funds. Property is conveyed in an "AS IS" condition. Sale subject to Court approval. Ordinarily, buyer will not be entitled to possession of the property until thirty (30) days after confirmation of sale by the Court. SALE SUBJECT TO RIGHTS OF PARTIES IN POSSESSION.

G. No warranty is made as to the state of title. Title will be conveyed subject to any liens or encumbrances, as well as all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, but have not yet become due and payable, and special assessments, if any, and easements and restrictions of record.

The property is not open for inspection. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by 765 ILCS 605/9 (g)(1) and (g)(4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(c) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

Dated at Rockford, Illinois, this 22nd day of February, 2021.
 Wilson Edwards, Plaintiff,
 BY: HolmstromKennedyPC
 His Attorneys,
 /s/Kim M. Casey
 Kim M. Casey ARDC #6181726
 HolmstromKennedyPC
 800 North Church Street
 Rockford, IL 61103
 (815) 962-7071
 kcasey@hkrckford.com
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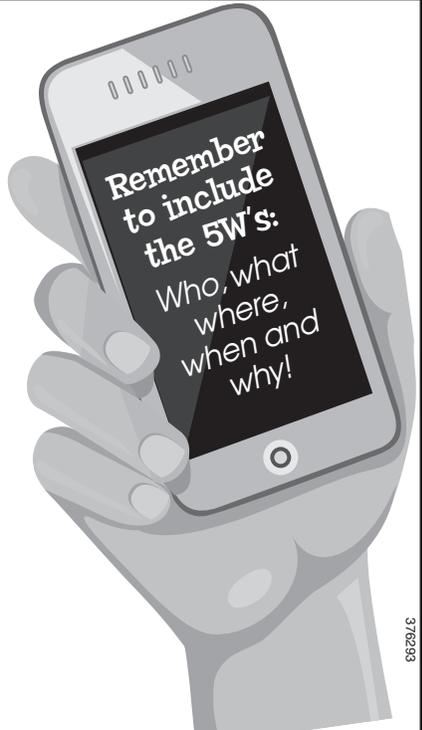
(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 3, 10 & 17, 2021)

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Comptroller hopeful outdoor events on track for summer, indoor events for fall

By Tim Kirsininkas
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

In a Senate Tourism and Hospitality Committee hearing March 4, State Comptroller Susana Mendoza said she is hopeful outdoor events can return as early as this summer with large indoor events such as conventions and trade

shows beginning in the fall.

Mendoza said that the return to holding events would be gradual and based on a number of factors, including COVID-19 transmission and vaccination rates.

"We're on a favorable trajectory in the pandemic," Mendoza told the

committee. "Let's continue to prepare for the worst and plan for the best and optimally position ourselves to reopen with greater capacity sooner rather than later."

The state's COVID-19 seven-day rolling average was near a pandemic-low 2.4 percent for the sixth consec-

utive day March 4, while hospitalizations continued to decrease and about 7.5 percent of the state's population had been fully vaccinated.

Mendoza said she is hopeful the governor's office will be receptive to a wider reopening approach this year.

"Working now in concert with industry shareholders, organized labor, the legislature, of course, and the administration on agreed safety measures is a sensible course," she said.

Mendoza said allowing events and gatherings to resume safely in a quick and efficient manner would be key to jumpstarting an economic turnaround following the COVID-19 pandemic as the state works to return to a full reopening.

"My job, as you know, is to pay the state's bills, which is hard to do when businesses close and people lose their jobs, and neither the businesses nor the employees are in any position to pay taxes," Mendoza said.

Citing numbers from the state's tourism office, Mendoza said COVID-19-related shutdowns and event cancellations cost the state nearly a \$500 million in tax revenue over the past year. Prior to the pandemic, tourism in the state brought in nearly \$2.5 billion in sales tax revenue annually, she said.

Mendoza also said state hotel revenue fell from \$300 million in fiscal year 2019 to \$250 million in fiscal year 2020. In the first six months of the current fiscal year, the state has only brought in \$42.5 million in hotel tax revenue, she said.

"This is economic activity that we need to nurture and sustain to the best of our abilities while we combat the pandemic," Mendoza added.

Mendoza cited recent decisions by the National Restaurant Association and the International Housewares Association to cancel their annual conventions in the state as an example of how the state could lose out on key income if large-scale events do not return in some capacity in 2021.

Some business leaders told the committee that they have been set back by the state's current cap of 50 people for event gatherings under Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois guidelines. Phase 5 of the reopening plan would allow for a return of large-scale events with the necessary safety precautions, pending the widespread availability of a COVID-19 vaccine or treatment.

As a result of the federal government moving up projections that a vaccine could be available to the entire population by the end of May, business leaders asked the committee for a "ramp" approach to reopening under Phase 5 to allow events to resume in some capacity as soon as possible.

"I don't think we need to have capacity limits," Bob Reiter, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor told the committee on Thursday. "We need to have percentages that account for actual spaces."

In the "ramp" approach, Reiter asked that public health guidelines on event gatherings be made more flexible as the state works towards the next

phase of reopening amid vaccinations and a declining positivity rate.

"I think we can move past that benchmark and set other benchmarks that get us closer to full capacity as the vaccines work their way through the system," Reiter said.

Mendoza expressed confidence that the state could exercise flexibility in allowing events to return as early as this summer.

"As more and more of our people are vaccinated and Illinois continues in a positive direction, it's really gratifying for me to hear that outdoor events like the State Fair this summer are a very real possibility," Mendoza said.

"When necessary, we can always adjust and be nimble, recognizing of course that public health and safety are always the prime consideration," she said.

Marilynn Gardner, president and CEO of Navy Pier Inc., told the committee that allowing Illinois' flagship tourist attraction as well as the city's McCormick Place convention center to reopen in at least partial capacity would be "critical" to an economic rebound for the entire state.

Gardner said the closure of the pier's restaurants, theaters and attractions, as well as a shortened 2020 season, led to a 25 percent loss in revenue for Navy Pier last year.

"During this period, with every source of earned revenue diminished or suspended, we now face the harsh reality of potentially being forced to close permanently, and we can't let that happen," Gardner said.

"We need to start ramping up, we need to start hiring, start cleaning, and preparing for the season" Gardner added. "The health and safety of our community remains our top priority, but we also have to focus on the devastating impact on our ability to support the livelihoods and quality of life in our community."

Mendoza said reopening McCormick Place, which was once the site of a temporary field hospital at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, would be symbolic of the state's economic turnaround and reopening following the adversity of 2020.

"All of us, Democrats and Republicans, from Chicago to Galena to Cairo, we all agree we need to do whatever we can within appropriate safety protocols to gradually open this critical segment of our economy again," she said.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government.

Academy

(Continued from page 12)

which includes two snacks and lunch. The application period is open now for 30 openings, which will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. For an application, email Stacy Kloss at skloss@cteademy.net.

Kloss, currently the CTE Academy early childhood education instructor and Little Learners Academy director, will be facilitating the education-based child care program.

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