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VOL. 87 • NO. 22

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021

Mark your calendar for the Stephenson County Fair

Plans are in the works for the 2021 Stephenson County Fair, set for July 27 through July 31 in Freeport, and organizers are highlighting some of the upcoming attractions:

- More than 20 carnival rides provided by C.D.A.C. Amusements
- Grandstand entertainment including truck and tractor pulls Tuesday and Wednesday, a demo derby on Friday and lawn mower races and the tough truck challenge on Saturday
- Daily livestock shows
- The queen pageant at 6 p.m. Tuesday
- On-grounds entertainment including a daily lumberjack show, ax throwing, an escape room, face painting, Hoo Haven Rehab and more
- Exhibits in the HomeEc Building, along with cake-walks Tuesday through Friday evenings
- Stephenson County 4-H exhibits in the Foresight Commercial Building
- A beer tent featuring music by local bands on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights



PHOTO COURTESY STEPHENSON COUNTY FAIR *Shopper's Guide*

After being canceled by the pandemic in 2020, the Stephenson County Fair will be back this year with five days of fun from July 27 through July 31. For details, go online to Stephensoncountyfair.org.

- A demonstration by Star Ambulance and the Freeport Rural Fire Department on Saturday afternoon
- Food and commercial vendors on the grounds and in

the Liberty Power Commercial Building
Potential exhibitors may register at faireentry.com and the complete fair book and list of events is available by

going online to stephensoncountyfair.org.

For more information, call the fair office at 815-235-2918 or send an email to info@stephensoncountyfair.org.

State calls for in-person learning next school year

By Raymon Troncoso
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois State Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution May 19 calling on all public schools

to return to in-person learning during the upcoming school year.

The resolution doesn't institute any mandates or requirements for Illinois

schools to follow, but shows unified support from ISBE for an upcoming decision by State Superintendent Carmen Ayala.

In a weekly blog posted to

the ISBE website, Ayala said she plans to make the mandate official "at the conclusion of the current academic year," meaning the change will not take effect until next school year.

Once Ayala issues an official declaration, all public schools will be required to return to in-person learning for the 2021-'22 academic year with no exceptions. Only students who are both unvaccinated and under a quarantine order from the Illinois Department of Health will be eligible to continue remote learning.

A spokeswoman for ISBE said they expect the bulk of the population eligible for remote learning at the start of the school year to be under 12 years old.

"We encourage families to use the summer months to



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Broncos softball stampedes through spring schedule

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Orangeville Broncos' varsity softball team has been on a tear through the 2021 spring season. After starting the season 2-1, the Broncos went on a 13-game winning streak that propelled them to the top of the NUIC-East standings with a 6-2 record in league play.

On May 11, the Broncos kicked off their week by playing the first of four consecutive games set to take place during that week. Having games scheduled for four days in a row can take a toll on a roster, but the Broncos rolled through the stretch without a scratch.

The Lena-Winslow Panthers were the first to fall victim to the Orangeville bats that week. The Panthers nabbed an early lead with a single run in the top of the first inning, but that was the only run they would score as Orangeville took control for the remainder of the game.

Tessa Janecke led the Broncos by going 3-3 with a pair of doubles. Tori Plowman excelled from the pitcher's circle and the batter's box, pitching seven innings with nine strikeouts, while allowing just two hits and one run. Plowman also had a double at the plate.

Kansas White led the Panthers, going 1-1 with a run scored.

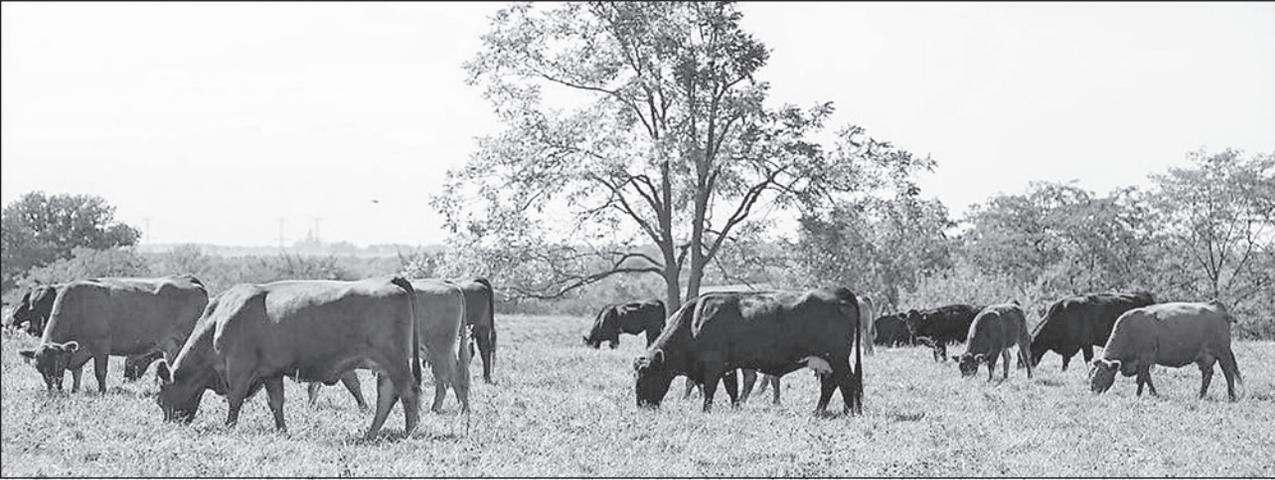
The next day, the Broncos were set to face off with what was possibly their toughest opponent of the week in the Hiawatha Hawks. Orangeville was trailing 3-1 entering the fifth inning, but they were able to spark some offensive momentum in the final innings to pull off the comeback. Tori Corp led off the fifth inning with a double and was brought in to score by a triple from Janecke. With two outs, Janecke was brought in to score as Payton Meier hit a single to tie the game at 3-3.

The Broncos were able to take the lead in the bottom of the sixth when Ella Doyle led off the inning with a double and her pinch runner, Laney Holland, was driven in by a Kirsten Frautschy single. The Broncos were able to hold off Hawks scoring following the second inning, thanks in part to an impressive pitching performance by Plowman, who came in to strike out five of the final six outs of the game.

Meier led the team offensively, going 3-3 with two RBIs. Doyle finished the game 2-3 with two doubles herself. The Broncos were able to pull the comeback off and earned their 11th win of the season by a score of 4-3.

On May 13, the Broncos faced off with the Panthers for the second time in three days as they wrapped up the season series. Orangeville did their damage early on, scoring two runs in the first inning and three more in the top of the third when Doyle and Meghan Carlisle hit back-to-back doubles. The Broncos tacked on insurance runs late, as Frautschy singled to drive in the game's final run. The Broncos won the game by a score of 8-1, the same score they beat the Panthers by just two days earlier.

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ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU FILE PHOTO *The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide*

When managed correctly, cows help restore healthy soils, conserve sensitive species, enhance ecological functions and can help mitigate climate change, according to the University of California-Davis.

Livestock industry makes strides toward smaller carbon footprint

By Daniel Grant
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU

The U.S. livestock industry continues to meet growing demand for its products around the world while reducing its carbon footprint.

This despite an onslaught of claims to the contrary, including a recent academic study from North Carolina that attempts to link ag emissions with health issues and fatalities around the country.

"Science does tell a different story than what this academic study claims," Jennifer Tirey, executive director of the Illinois Pork Producers Association, told the RFD Radio Network.

What has the livestock industry done to become greener at a time it also faces increased demand? Tirey described monumental progress in the hog industry the past 50 years.

"We've doubled production from 12 billion to 24 billion pounds, yet we've been able to reduce our land use by 76 percent, water usage by 25 percent and our overall carbon footprint by more than 7 percent," she said.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the U.S. pork industry currently account for about 0.4 percent of all GHG emissions nationwide, compared to 29 percent from the transportation sector and about 25 percent from electricity usage, Tirey noted.

"I think there are a lot of stories not being explained clearly. It's almost like they're trying to put fear into consumers," the IPPA leader noted of anti-livestock claims, such as the North Carolina-based ag emissions study. "That study also encourages consumers to choose a plant-based diet. So, you wonder about the motivation of the study to begin with."

It's a similar story in the cattle industry where, despite major environmental strides, farmers remain the target of negative campaigns.

Yet, better breeding, genetics and nutrition increased efficiency as it takes 93 million head of cattle to meet higher demand now than it did in the

1970s, when it required 140 million head of cattle. The beef industry currently accounts for about 2 percent of all GHG emissions, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

In fact, when managed correctly, cows help restore healthy soils, conserve sensitive species, enhance ecological functions and can help mitigate climate change, according to the University of California-Davis.

"Farmers who raise any species of livestock implement various tools and technologies to improve not only their respective farms, but also to improve sustainability by including cover crops, improved genetics and nutrient management on their farming operations," said Tasha Bunting, Illinois Farm Bureau assistant director of commodities and livestock programs. "This has allowed today's farmers to produce more, using fewer resources."

Shifting to milk production, the Journal of Animal Sciences reported the U.S. dairy industry

considerably reduced its environmental impact the past 75 years.

It currently accounts for about 1 percent of GHG emissions.

"Industrywide, we've definitely shifted to look more at sustainability, with a goal of being carbon-neutral by 2050," said Bill Deutsch, chairman of the Illinois Division of Midwest Dairy and DeKalb County Farm Bureau member who farms with his brother, Pat, near Sycamore. "In general, a lot of people don't realize in dairy production we're just a fraction over 1 percent of the carbon footprint (nationwide)."

The U.S. dairy industry produced about 186 billion pounds of milk from 9.2 million cows in 2007 compared to 117 billion pounds of milk from 25.6 million cows in 1944. Over that time, the carbon footprint from a gallon of milk produced in 2007 was just 37 percent of that produced in 1944, according to a Cornell University study.

Pritzker announces road and bridge improvement plan

By Grace Barbic
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker announced May 19 the release of a six-year, \$20.7 billion construction plan to improve roads and bridges throughout the state, an annual process that the Illinois Department of Transportation oversees to target infrastructure spending.

The Highway Improvement Program, funded through the Rebuild Illinois capital infrastructure plan passed in 2019, will reconstruct nearly 2,779 miles more miles of roads and 7.9 million square feet of bridge deck between fiscal year 2022 and 2027, according to the governor's office.

The projects in the plan will create and support thousands of jobs, "bolstering our pandemic recovery in one more way," Pritzker said at a news conference.

"This past year truly has brought home how important transportation systems are in connecting the lives of our residents and our communities, delivering food products to grocery stores, getting essential workers to their jobs and transporting patients to the hospital," Pritzker said.

The Highway Improvement Program is a part of the larger \$45 billion Rebuild Illinois infrastructure plan, which was a bipartisan effort to revitalize local economies that passed in the governor's first year. The plan invests in roads, bridges, railroads, universities, early childhood centers and state facilities.

The projects outlined in the new multi-year plan will continue to create and support hundreds of thousands of jobs, Pritzker said.

Overall, the Rebuild Illinois capital plan is expected to support around 540,000 jobs over its lifespan. But there are currently no estimates available on how many jobs the specific projects through the Highway Improvement Program will create.

About \$33.2 billion was earmarked in the initial release of the capital plan for the transportation sector, with \$25.3 billion specifically for roads and bridges. Most of

that funding came from an increase to the state's motor fuel tax, which was indexed for inflation each year, and increases to state licensing fees.

The Illinois Department of Transportation said the plan includes \$5.79 billion for highway reconstruction and preservation, \$4.82 billion for bridge improvements, \$2.59 billion for strategic expansion, \$1.43 billion for system support such as engineering and land acquisition and \$1.21 billion for safety and system modernizations.

Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman said the projects outlined in this plan are more than just projects.

"They will be the means for us to ensure our transportation system in Illinois is reliable, safe and provides economic opportunity for everyone in Illinois — our guiding principle," Osman said. "We will do so in a way that provides equity, and with a workforce that reflects the diversity in our greatest state, it remains the blueprint for how we rebuild Illinois."

For the upcoming fiscal year 2022, approximately \$3.32 billion has been identified to fund highway improvement projects.

Currently, some of the projects through Rebuild Illinois include a \$173 million multi-year investment in Interstate 57 which will continue next year and run in segments through 2027, over \$90 million worth of improvements to Interstate 55, and \$40 million into Interstate 80 in northeastern Illinois, "making the road smoother and safer amidst the region's exploding intermodal logistical growth," Pritzker said.

A full list of the projects can be found on IDOT's website.

Pritzker said the multi-year plan will build on progress made over the past two years, noting Rebuild Illinois has already improved over 2,700 miles of state and local roadways and 290 bridges since its 2019 passage.

College plans 'Our Town' and 'Sweat' live on stage

The Highland Community College theater department has announced that it will produce two Pulitzer Prize-winning plays in the 2021-'22 season.

"Our Town" is slated for Oct. 7 through Oct. 9 and

"Sweat" is slated for March 10 through March 12.

Both productions will be performed by Highland students on the Fine Arts Theatre stage in the Ferguson Fine Arts Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport.

"Our Town" by Thornton Wilder begins with the simple aspects of the lives of the residents of the mythical small town of Grover's Corners and ends asking profound questions. "Our

Town" examines with humor and sadness the joys and losses experienced in life.

"Our Town" won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1938.

"Our Town" is a powerful statement of our shared humanity," Laura Early, theater arts instructor, said in a news release. "The play is especially relevant to today and our desire for human interaction and closeness."

"Sweat" by Lynn Nottage

is filled with humor, truth and heart. The play examines the relationships of a group of friends who spent their lives sharing drinks, secrets and stories working together on the factory floor. When layoffs and picket lines chip away at trust, the friends find themselves pitted against each other to stay afloat.

"Sweat" won the Pulitzer

See PLAYS, Page 8

McConnell American Legion drive-thru Pork Chop dinner
Saturday, June 5, 2021
5 p.m. until sold out
\$8
Dinner includes: Sandwich, chips, applesauce & cookie



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Area gardeners are encouraged to share fresh seasonal produce with local food pantries through the Plant a Row for the Hungry program.

Gardeners can help feed their communities through Plant a Row program

Plant a Row for the Hungry, a nationwide initiative, gives gardeners the opportunity to share their garden bounty with local food pantries to help feed the hungry. "The COVID pandemic has had a direct impact on families and individuals who have limited income," Carol Erickson, University of Illinois Extension SNAP-Ed educator, said in a news release. "Roughly one in five individuals in northern Illinois worry about having enough money to feed their family for the next seven days. Local food pantries and pop-up food pantries have been a life-support for thousands of families in our region."

"Plant a Row is a great way to give back to your community," said Barb Curry, University of Illinois Extension SNAP-Ed community worker for Stephenson County. Popular vegetables to plant for donation include tomato, zucchini, winter squash, potato, onion, peppers, cucumbers, melon, broccoli, cabbage, sweet potato, carrots and beans. "Tomatoes are number one," Erickson said. "But sweet corn is another vegetable that is well-liked with food pantries."

Both Erickson and Curry advise gardeners to get in contact with a local food pantry to find out about needs, cooler space, delivery preferences and more. "Create a relationship with the food pantry volunteers and respect that they can only handle so much produce at one time," Curry said. "Keep in mind that often pantries don't have a lot of cooler or refrigerator space to keep vegetables from over-ripening throughout the week while they are not open," Erickson said. "Food pantries and their

patrons appreciate when fresh produce is donated and available to choose from," Erickson said. "Fresh vegetables can be expensive to purchase; donating your surplus is a great way to help others in your community enjoy them."

"If more people donate, it accumulates — it doesn't have to be a bushel — sometimes five cucumbers is plenty."

For more information about the Plant A Row program, contact Curry at 815-235-4125 or Erickson at 779-423-0982.

Applications due soon for professional theater apprenticeship

For the fifth year in a row, the Illinois Arts Council has awarded Timber Lake Playhouse in Mount Carroll a grant to create a paid apprentice program for area teens interested in pursuing careers in the theater arts.

Playhouse officials are accepting applications for the apprenticeship program through Tuesday, June 1.

Timber Lake Playhouse, operating in its 60th season, hires performers, directors and designers from around the country each year. The apprentice program is designed to immerse pre-college teens

from Northwest Illinois in all aspects of professional theater production. The grant provides an hourly pay rate comparable to other summer work.

"It is important for TLP to offer programming to area teens," TLP Executive Director Dan Danielowski said in a news release. "We expect some very talented high school students to apply for these positions."

The teens will be chosen based on an artistic statement, letter of recommendation and interview. Priority will be given to this year's high school juniors and graduates, those

already accepted to university programs and those who've demonstrated a clear commitment to pursuing a career in theater.

The apprentice program lasts 10 weeks and provides experience in all aspects of running a theater.

Interested youth should send a letter of application with an artistic statement and a letter of recommendation from someone familiar with their work to admin@timberlakeplayhouse.org.

"It's a remarkable investment in the cultural life of the region," Artistic Director Paul

Stancato said in the release. "To go into a university program with existing professional credits gives these artists a huge advantage."

"Combining that with a salary says that we believe in the value of the theater arts and in you, as the next generation of artists from Northwest Illinois."

For information about upcoming concerts and productions at the playhouse, go online to timberlakeplayhouse.org or call the box office at 815-244-2035 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Sports roundup

A roundup of high school sports scores and notes received by The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide. All scores are for varsity games unless noted.

Softball
 • May 17: Stockton-Warren defeated Pecatonica, 6-4
 Cameron Kent was the winning pitcher for Stockton-Warren. She also went 2-3 at the plate.

Other leading Warhawk hitters were Lauren Kehl, 2-4; Elaina Martin, 3-4; Kiersten Winters, 2-2; Megan Hynek,

2-3; and Elise Adleman, 1-4.

Baseball
 • May 19: Pearl City defeated Le-Win, 1-0

Both pitchers threw all seven innings, with Le-Win's Max Amendt tallying 13 strikeouts and Pearl City's Nathan Brinkmeier chalking up nine.

Tanner Perdue had two hits for Pearl City, while Drew Streckwald of Le-Win and Brinkmeier of Pearl City each had one hit.

• May 20: Le-Win defeated Pearl City 18-0 in five innings

Le-Win's Ethan Fye pitched a complete game and tallied six strikeouts. Losing pitcher Tommy Perdue had four strikeouts in 4.1 innings.

Offensively, Le-Win's Max Amendt had four hits and four RBIs, Fye had three hits and three RBIs and Brett Lane had three hits and two RBIs.

• May 21: Warren/Stockton defeated Le-Win, 11-5

Caleb Mammoser had four hits and five RBIs for Warren/Stockton.

Matthew Riedl had six strikeouts for Warren/Stockton and Drew Streckwald had six K's for Le-Win as well.

• May 22: Forreston defeat-

ed Le-Win, 10-4
 On the mound, Jake Zeal had five strikeouts for Le-Win.

Track and field
 • May 17: The Le-Win girls won their home meet with 66 points, topping Milledgeville (62), Dakota (56) and Amboy (45).

Le-Win won several events: Sarah Edler, first in 800 meters; Leah Goebel, Sidney Weegens, Grace Groezinger and Taylor Amill, first in 4x100 relay; and Ava Fiedler, Goebel, Groezinger and Ava Randecker, first in 4x200 relay.

Run event benefits heart patients

FHN's Healthy Heart Hustle is back, offering a 5K run and an 0.8-mile Victory Lap for families helped by the FHN Cardiology team.

The event is slated for Saturday, July 17, at the FHN Family Healthcare Center - Burchard Hills, 1010 W. Fairway Drive in Freeport. Day-of-race registration will be held from 7 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and the distanced, rolling start 5K run begins at 8 a.m. The Victory Lap will be held immediately following the 5K start.

Proceeds from the race will benefit heart patients in northwest Illinois through the FHN Cardiology Department. Advance

online registration is \$25 for adults and \$10 for ages 17 and under through July 2. (Register by July 2 to guarantee a T-shirt.) After July 2, registration is \$35 for adults.

The event will follow CDC and Illinois Department of Public Health guidelines in effect at the time of the race.

A virtual 5K option also is available at registration. Participants may complete the run/walk anywhere and any-time between Friday, July 9, and Saturday, July 17, and post results or share them with the FHN Foundation.

For more details or to sign up, go online to www.fhn.org/5k.

Thank you
 everyone who made my 95th birthday so special, I was overwhelmed!
 God bless you.
 Mary Ilene Lamm
 396732

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Gianna Willson says . . .
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Slices of life

There's always a reason for gratitude

My husband left this world in November. I miss him every day, in every way. Of course I do. I had someone tell me it would be weird if I wasn't sad right now. She was right.

It's hard to understand why it has to be this way. Why my future has changed suddenly and inexplicably. Why he is there and I am here, when all we ever knew was us together.

Grief is very lonely. You want to be part of this world, but the person you long for most is part of another and no one really understands, although they want to and try.

Despite the grief, I am becoming grateful. I am leaning into it more and more every day. Or at least I am trying. I am filled with gratitude for the love we shared. For the love we share. Present tense.

Gratitude is a gift. It fills your heart and feeds your soul at the deepest of levels. It enhances life.

I am filled with gratitude for so many things. I guess it's the whole glass half-full or half-empty concept. Which do I choose? Because it is my choice. We all have the choice, and we all know the answer. Hard as it is, sometimes, it's obvious.

At first I lamented, in the true sense of the word. We had 33 years together. I lamented we didn't get 50. I still do, sometimes, but mostly I try to give thanks for the 33.

We may have missed out on the 17 years between 33 and 50, but we could have had less.



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

Much less. He got to see our children grow from babies to adulthood. We got to do this together. It was our life project. I'm grateful for that.

We grew together, for each other, with each other over the years. Many couples don't get this chance, others grow apart instead of together. I'm grateful for our growth — together. It was fabulous.

We had a lasting and enduring love for one another. Still do. Not everyone can say that. How can I not be filled to the brim with gratitude for a love so pure and strong and absolutely life-changing? I am filled.

I've always been a proponent of gratitude, but lately I've come to believe it is life-changing. Finding gratitude in whatever circumstance you are in is key to growth and joy. And there is always something to be grateful for. Always. If you are still alive and breathing, then each breath is cause for gratitude.

Gratitude is a blessing. My husband is a blessing. And the bigger the blessing — the more blessings you have — the more there is to lose. That's

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In my opinion

Cover crops deliver big bang for the buck

By Kris Reynolds

AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

Illinois is blessed with the black gold that feeds America: rich, deep soils that make it one of the highest producing regions in the world.

Agriculture is the largest economic sector in the state, and Illinois is among the top producers of corn and soybeans in the nation. My family has been part of this proud farming tradition for five generations.

Unfortunately, despite the stewardship of dedicated farmers, erosion is steadily taking its toll on this irreplaceable resource. We've lost about half of the organic matter that we had when we started

plowing.

But there's a proven way to prevent erosion, improve water quality, boost productivity and help farmers stay on the land—a practice that has gained widespread attention lately for its ability to draw carbon from the atmosphere and sequester it in the soil.

You might be expecting something high tech, but this winning strategy is the age-old farming practice of planting cover crops.

Farmers use cover crops between growing seasons to hold the soil in place and prevent excess nutrients from entering waterways. The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy estimates that planting cover crops

can reduce nutrient losses from croplands by at least 30 percent, which would go a long way to preventing toxic algae blooms in local lakes and the Gulf of Mexico.

Plus, cover crops save farmers time and money on fertilizers and herbicides. Healthier soils are also more resistant to disturbances like pest outbreaks, disease or extreme weather events.

There are climate benefits as well. Planting cover crops, along with other conservation agriculture practices, has the potential to reduce emissions and sequester millions of metric tons of harmful greenhouse gases in soils. These practices can dramatically cut the agricultural sector's

greenhouse gas footprint.

But as of 2019, cover crops were grown on less than 6 percent of Illinois cropland.

So why don't more farmers do it? Farming is a business with a lot of overhead and small margins. It's risky to change the way you operate, and it takes a few years to see the payoff. Farmers think of cover crops just like any other farm input. At the end of the day, I make management decisions to improve the profitability of my farming operation. If I don't, there won't be any sixth- or seventh-generation Reynolds farming in Montgomery County.

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THE SCOOP TODAY SHOPPER'S GUIDE

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Letter to the editor

Citizens urged to check into park development proposal

Citizens of Jo Daviess County: Are you aware of what the Jo Daviess County Board is planning for the future of Jo Daviess County?

The county board is in the planning stages to develop a county park working with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. They are stating that it will not be a tax liability for the taxpayers. The funds will come from outside sources.

About every municipality in Jo Daviess County has a park that is on the tax rolls.

We also have three state parks in our local area. When you have control of a park, there are expenses that are needed, such as insurance, rest rooms, water and labor for daily management and maintenance, plus several more expenses when you are maintaining a public entity. Where is the money going to come from? The county board message is it will be funded from outside sources, not taxpayers.

The Stockton Park District Board working with the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation went through the same situation (within) the last few years. They were gifted some land to enlarge

their park and the expenses would come from outside sources. The Stockton Park District Board felt this would be good for the community.

Stockton Park District Board found out that all funds from the outside did not cover all the expenses for the park. The park district board then had to levy funds from taxes to make the expenses. Stockton Park District Board then decided it was a detriment to the community and had to use legal procedures to free itself from the gift of land.

I just wanted to make the citizens aware of what is in the planning stages for Jo Daviess County. My

main concern is why is our Jo Daviess County Board involved in this project? Do we spend tax dollars for a park while the infrastructure of Jo Daviess County is deteriorating?

Read the Ad-Hoc County Park Committee minutes on the Jo Daviess County web site. Please let your county board representative know your thoughts on this project. Your representative needs to know your thoughts because it is their job to represent you.

I have learned through life that nothing is free. As a taxpayer, I don't need more taxes added to my tax bill.

Ron Mapes
Stockton

Obituaries

JEAN O. LOGEMANN

Jean O. Logemann, 95, of Monroe, Wisconsin, formerly of Stockton, Illinois, passed away on May 19, 2021, at Pleasant View Nursing Home in Monroe. Jean was born in Stephenson County, Illinois, on Feb. 4, 1926, to Eli and Clara (LaDue) Chapin.

Jean attended her early school years in Lena, Illinois. After the deaths of her parents, 16-year-old Jean lived with Lois and Hans Bingert in Freeport, Illinois, to serve as a nanny to their daughters, Barbara and Jacqueline. The Bingerts quickly became Jean's "adopted" family and remained lifelong friends.

She was a graduate of Freeport High School in 1943 during World War II and St. Francis School of Nursing in 1947. One of her first professional experiences was working as a nurse for a year in a New York City hospital.

She married Stanley E. Logemann on July 15, 1951, and the couple farmed in the rural Stockton, Illinois, area. They had five children: William, Lynne, Elaine, Carl and Clark.

Jean relocated to Monroe in the early 1970s, where she was employed at St. Clare Hospital as a surgical nurse until her retirement in the 1980s. She was a member of St. Francis Hospital Alumni Association, Lafayette County Genealogy Society, Stockton Unitarian-Universalist Church and the Albion Community Club.



An avid reader and gardener, Jean enjoyed playing bridge with friends and besting her grandchildren at

euchre. She was an excellent cook and loved sharing culinary creations at family meals, especially her sourdough bread. Her children and grandchildren have carried on the sourdough tradition, still using her starter from 1994. Her grandchildren brought light to her life and her time with them was cherished by all.

Jean was predeceased by her son, Carl Chapin Logemann, in 2008; daughter-in-law, Martha Pulido Logemann, in 2019; her parents; her brother, Wendell Chapin; and sisters, Geraldine Winters, Roberta Fager and June Rakowska.

Her survivors include William Logemann, Monroe; Lynne (Kerry) George, Ankeny, Iowa; Elaine Enriquez, Freeport; Mary Kay Klarer Logemann, Platteville, Wisconsin; and Clark Logemann, Rockford, Illinois. Jean had seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be sent to the Stockton Unitarian Universalist Church or Wisconsin Public Radio. Condolences may be sent to Leamon's Funeral Home in Lena at www.leamonfh.com.

Services will be held at a later date.

ARLO D. PAXTON

Arlo D. Paxton, 94, of Stockton, passed away Saturday, May 15, 2021, at his home. He was born May 7, 1927, in Prophetstown, Illinois, the son of Charles and Sylvia (Egert) Paxton. He married the love of his life, Pauline Lashbrook, on July 19, 1947, in Atkinson, Illinois. They began their life together farming in Sandwich, Illinois.

Arlo was a man of determination and never gave up on the things he wanted to accomplish in his many years. He began as a young man serving in the Army, then came back home to farm, the true thing in his life he loved to do; it was in his heart and blood to be a great farmer. He farmed in many places: Sand-



wich, Prophetstown, Mount Carroll, Lanark and his final homestead in Stockton. At one point, he semi-retired, moved to Lanark and became chief of police. That was not enough to keep him busy. With his loving wife, he opened and operated Gold Nugget Foods and Dairy King Ice Cream Shoppe. His love for farming brought them back to Stockton to farm again, and together they brought joy to many with the fantastic Christmas light display that they shared with everyone. While living in Stockton, he was Pleasant Valley Township road com-

JOSEPH F. DAUBE SR.

Joseph F. Daube Sr. of Warren, Illinois, (Chicago) passed away on Saturday, May 15, 2021, surrounded by his children.

Joseph is survived by sisters, Marie and Rita; seven children, Joseph Jr., Jeanne (Vic) Larson, Janine (Patrick) Curtin, Jeffrey, Jackie (Bob) Vilches, Jay (Sue) Daube and Julie Lyn Daube; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Joseph lived in Chicago and



served as a Chicago police officer for 27 years until his retirement in 1989. He was also a carpenter, working on his homes and projects for others. He lived in Kendall, Wisconsin, for a time and then settled in Warren, where he enjoyed gardening, his many collections and hobbies such as feeding the birds, oil paint-

missioner and belonged to American Legion and Holy Cross Church. Through the years he enjoyed collecting antique tractors, not just a few, 100 or more. He had a passion for his yard and beautiful flowers, but most of all, he had a love for his family — lots of love. Little ones put a sparkle in his eyes.

He is survived by his loving wife; a son, James Paxton, of Jacksonville, North Carolina; a daughter, Corine (Lee) Charles, of Mount Carroll; four grandchildren, Terry (Christy) Charles of Mount Carroll, Trisha (Jerry) Oppold of Stockton, Lacey (Jim) Mason of Manchester, Michigan and James Paxton of Jacksonville; seven great-grandchildren, Brooke (Grant) Pierce, David (Mor-

gan Smith) Craig, Olivia Charles, Aubrey Charles, Caroline Mason, Eleanor Mason and Kayla Paxton; three great-great grandsons, Carter Dunfee, Marshall Pierce and Jordan Pierce; and his sister, Bernadette Siefken, of Prophetstown.

He was proceeded in death by his parents; and brothers, Clifford, Darrell, Warren, Larry, Norman and Lester.

A visitation was held Thursday, May 20, at Law Jones Funeral Home in Mount Carroll and on Friday, May 21, before the services at Holy Cross Church in Stockton. His final resting place is at Oakhill Cemetery in Mount Carroll. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established for the Mount Carroll and Stockton FFA chapters.

you from us — we will love you always.

Visitation and a memorial Mass were held Saturday, May 22, at St. Ann's Church in Warren.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to the Chicago Police Memorial Fund at <https://give.cpd-memorial.org> or the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, 1407 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607.

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

TODD HOWE

Todd Howe, 59, formerly of Orangeville, Illinois, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 14, 2021. He was born Feb. 14, 1962, to Marguerite (Goetz) Howe and Max Troxell in Freeport, Illinois. Todd met his best friend, Jennifer Fedorev, in 2012, and they were united in marriage in 2019.

Todd was a cheesemaker all of his life. He started Stateline Dairy Products in 2002, in Red Oak, Illinois, which he owned and operated. He was a member of the Wisconsin Cheesemakers Association.

Todd is survived by his wife, Jennifer, of Winnebago, Illinois; two sons, John Howe of Monroe, Wisconsin, and Tom (Morgan) Howe of Lena, Illinois; two step-sons, Evan Fedorev of Dekalb, Illinois, and Connor Fedorev of Rockford, Illinois; three grandchildren, Blake, Evelyn and Lydia; brothers, David (Yvonne) Howe of Freeport and Jon Howe of Portage, Wisconsin; sisters, Dawn Jacobs of McConnell, Illinois, Nancy (Kent) Seuring of Lena and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents.



A visitation and funeral services were held Saturday, May 22, 2021, at the Cramer-Leamon Funeral Home in Orangeville. Chaplain Sean Huguenin officiated the services.

Burial will be at Sunset Acres in Orangeville.

A memorial has been established in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

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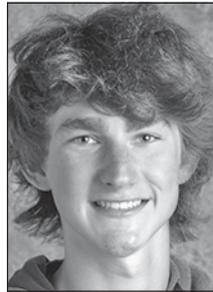
Kaylee Allen



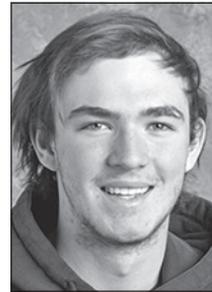
Dawson Bauer



Taylor Broshous



Mitchel Coffey



Wesley Cox



Lucas Crome



Madelynn Ertmer



Andrew Haas



Case Harmston



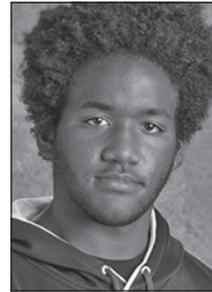
Jason Hermann



Hunter Hille



James Hille



Camren Hofman



Hayley Johnson



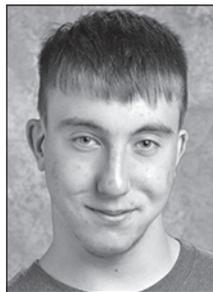
Ivannie Jones



Evan Kazijan



Gavin Keeffer



Konnor Laity



Madison Lara



Kaylee Luke



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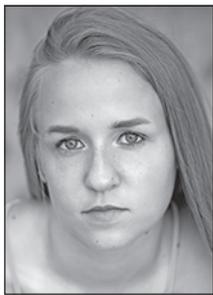
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• Slices (Continued from page 4)

How I saw it at first, when I found myself in the eye of the hurricane of grief.

Seeing the loss is not the best way to perceive it, though. Not really. We can't or shouldn't live life afraid of loss. We can't deny blessings because losing them will be hard. We can't live life cautiously or safely. Or at least we shouldn't.

Life is meant to be lived fully and deeply. It is meant to be filled with gifts and gratitude. It's also filled with hard times, sometimes.

But the hard times can and will pass — if you are willing to see the gifts in front of you right now, in the present moment. All that takes is opening your eyes, your heart and your mind to

the possibilities. Accept your gifts. Pull off the bows.

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.

• Plays (Continued from page 2)

Prize for drama in 2017 and is the second Pulitzer for Nottage. Her play "Ruined" won the Pulitzer in 2009. Nottage is the first and only woman to have won the Pulitzer Prize for drama twice.

"I am a huge Lynn Nottage fan, and I am thrilled to direct 'Sweat,'" Early said. "Lynn Nottage is one of the greatest living American

playwrights and this play is relevant, moving, and timely."

"Sweat" contains strong language and mature content. Parental guidance is suggested for audience members under age 17 and no attendees under age 12 will be allowed.

Auditions for "Our Town" and "Sweat" are open to students, faculty, staff and com-

munity members. Highland actively seeks a diverse cast. Look for announcements for virtual or in-person auditions for "Our Town" in August.

Tickets for "Our Town" and "Sweat" will go on sale through the box office 30 days before opening night by phone at 815-599-3718 or online at highland.edu/box-office.

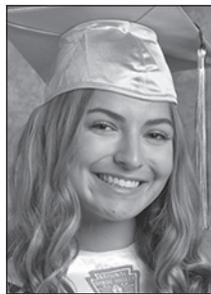
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Greta Dittmar



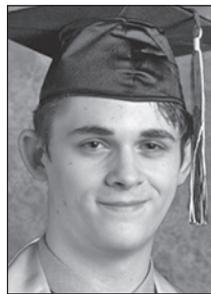
Bryton Engle



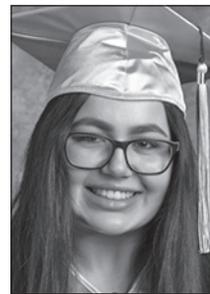
Julia Finazzo



Riley Finn



Eric Goldsmith, Jr.



Madelyn Greenwald



Trevor Grube



Livia Haas



Kylie Hiher



Adam Holcomb



Johnathan James



Abbigail Johnson



Kaitlin Kilgore



Danae Kloss



Emma Kloss



Ethan Koch



Liam Ortmeier



Hampton Petsche



Andrew Pratt



Sarah Pratt



Caleb Rhodes



Mauricio Sanchez



Charlie Schnitzler



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Plan (Continued from page 2)

"In every project we've made hundreds of safety improvements along the way, enhancing right of way accessibility, funding railroad crossing safety improvements and targeting locations tied to crashes, to keep everyone as safe as possible along their travels," Pritzker said.

While the state's gas tax is a major contributor to road and bridge projects, it has seen a "significant" reduction in revenue because of decreased consumption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to IDOT.

IDOT said in its Highway Improvement Program report

that the decrease was somewhat offset by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, one of the federal COVID relief packages passed in 2021, which allocated \$353 million to IDOT.

Of the federal COVID-19 relief funds that went to IDOT,

\$227 million is included in the state highway program, the IDOT report stated. The remaining COVID relief funds will go toward the multi-year program for additional road and bridge projects.

IDOT officials said that while the past year has been a challenge, projects stayed

on schedule and they did not have to make any pandemic-related cuts.

Pritzker also announced that Amtrak will resume full passenger rail service starting July 19.

The Chicago-Milwaukee partnership with Wisconsin was to resume this week,

while the routes connecting Chicago to Quincy, Carbonale and St. Louis will operate at full capacity by the mid-July date.

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

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Mari Brenner



Tamara Broege



Carter Brudi



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Skyler Dirksen



Ali Fischer



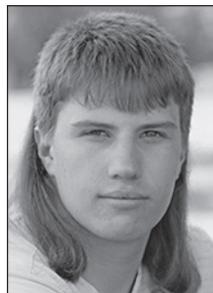
Dylan Hoyer



Macie Kaney



Logan Krell



Caden Kuberski



Maddie Lesko



Miranda Mellentine



Fenixx Menefee



Makayla Milam



Caitlin Niesman



Dean Polizzi



Joey Roman



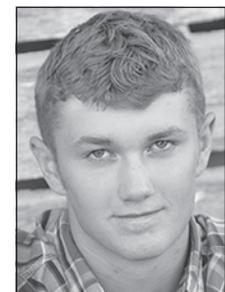
Makayla Ruttman



Montana Sargent



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Students present 'School House Rock'

The EPC Drama Department will present "School House Rock Live!" next month at Pearl City High School and streaming online.

"School House Rock Live!" follows Tom, a schoolteacher who is nervous about his first day of teaching. He tries to relax by watching TV, when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music through such songs as "Just a Bill," "Lolly, Lolly, Lolly" and "Conjunction Junction." Performances will be at 7 p.m. Friday

and Saturday, June 4 and June 5, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 6, at the Pearl City big gym. Seating is limited (currently 112 tickets per in-person performance) and will follow Stephenson County guidelines for social distancing and masking (currently masking is required for all in attendance, including the cast and crew).

Tickets will be available online through ShowTix4U and are \$8 per person. The production also will be livestreamed on performance dates at <https://www.showtix4u.com/#streaming> with a \$12 viewing ticket available on the site.

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Lena • \$300,000

5.22 acre Farmette with wonderful potential with a little updating to be a great equestrian property. The large barn feature 2 boarding areas with 12 stalls, attached 60' x 120" indoor riding arena, storage in attached additional barn, Bar area for entertainment, and open loft area. Several additional outbuildings in need of work. The house features main floor bedroom, open kitchen dining room with double sided fireplace to the living room with large main floor bathroom with shower and jacuzzi tub. Upstairs you will find the master bedroom with large on suite and another bedroom with large hall closet.



Freeport/Cedarville Area • \$184,900

Spacious 4 bedroom, 3 bath ranch home with country views. Living room with double sided fireplace and abundance of natural light. Dining room with double sided fireplace and door to 3 seasons porch. Kitchen has cupboards galore and new stove, refrigerator and dishwasher. There is also a wall oven and microwave. Breakfast nook adjoins the kitchen. Large master bedroom has sitting area, double closets and full bathroom. Laundry room conveniently located near bedrooms. Lower level has family room currently used as home gym and craft room, 3rd bathroom, open area, work shop and plenty of storage. There is a front porch, 3 seasons room or back patio for outdoor enjoyment and watching the wildlife



Dixon • \$30,000

One lot not enough for your dream home? Then take a look at these 3 lots being sold together. In total this is 3.55 acres in the Wolverine Estates Subdivision.



Lena • \$158,900

Great location in Parkside Subdivision. Ranch home with 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, spacious living room, kitchen has pantry w/rollouts, 2 lazy susans, snack bar and wine rack, main floor laundry, lower level family room and lots of storage space. Deep 2 stall garage with side and back service doors. Sit outside on your covered front porch or out back in your 3 seasons room.

Pearl City and Le-Win double it up on the diamond

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Lena-Winslow Panthers have struggled throughout the 2021 softball season, but they had the opportunity to get back on track when they faced off with the Pearl City Wolves in a doubleheader on May 20. Originally, the teams were set to face off with the first game of their season series on May 18, but a cancellation due to rain forced them to schedule a doubleheader for May 20.

Pearl City came into the game as heavy favorites with an 8-4 record while the Panthers sat at just 2-7. Despite the records, the Panthers were able to give the Wolves a run for their money.

In game one, the Wolves took an early lead when Brian Stager hit a triple to lead off

the second inning. Moments later, Brynn Solt hit a ground ball that allowed Stager to score on a fielder's choice, leading to a 1-0 lead.

The slim lead would hold until the top of the fourth inning, when Stager doubled to bring in Madysen Stephan for their second run of the game.

The Wolves would tack on two insurance runs in the top of the sixth thanks to some "small ball" execution. A sacrifice bunt by Jordan Johnson put runners in scoring position at second and third with two outs. Emma Boyer then came through with a line drive to the short stop that brought in Cheyenne Handsaker and Solt. Up 4-0, the Wolves were able to hold on to the shutout as they took the win in the first game of the doubleheader.

Handsaker pitched a gem

from the circle, throwing all seven innings with 10 strikeouts and just three hits allowed. Boyer led the team offensively, going 2-3 with two RBIs. Stager was impressive as well, going 2-3 with one RBI and one run scored.

Maya Curtis pitched well for the Panthers, throwing seven innings with just six hits allowed and three strikeouts. The Panthers offensive support is what ultimately cost them.

In game two, the Panthers would put up much more of a fight. Lena-Winslow grabbed an early lead by scoring three runs in the top of the first inning. Back-to-back singles by Kansas White and Kamryn Cain set them up with runners in scoring position and no outs. Moments later, they took advantage of a defensive error by Pearl City that allowed all three runs to come in.

No worries for the Wolves, however, as they quickly took the lead back with four runs in the bottom half. Three straight singles by Solt, Handsaker and Stager had the momentum in their favor, and the Wolves took advantage. Once again, they did it by playing small ball and putting the ball in play. A walk by Johnson, a pair of fielder's choices, and a single by Kenzee Evans quickly returned the lead to Pearl City as they went up 4-3.

Pearl City would extend their lead in the bottom of the second when Stager singled to load the bases and Johnson followed up with a single of her own to drive in a run. Boyer was walked in the following at bat, which drove in a run with the bases loaded.

Trailing 6-3, the Panthers tried to claw their way back in the top of the third when Ally Milder singled to left field, bringing in Curtis to score.

With the score at 6-4, both teams would struggle to find offensive support for the remainder of the game. Pearl City was able to hold onto their lead as they went on to win, completing the season sweep over Lena-Winslow.

Both Johnson and Boyer had two RBIs for the Wolves, while Solt finished the game going 2-4 with two runs scored. Musser pitched four innings, allowing six hits and one earned run with four strikeouts. Handsaker came in to close things out, pitching three shutout innings and striking out five to end the game.

White and Cain led the way for the Panthers as they both went 2-4 with one run scored.

The Panthers, now 2-9, will be back in action on Thursday, May 27, when they travel to Pecatonica. The Wolves, at 10-4, will hope to continue winning when they host Durand on May 27.



PHOTO COURTESY STEPHENSON COUNTY FAIR *Shopper's Guide*

Getting ready to show

Exhibition registration is open now for the Stephenson County Fair, set for July 27 through July 31 in Freeport. Go online to fairentury.com for more information, or see the complete fair book at stephensoncountyfair.org.

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Conservation scholarship open to Stephenson County residents

Individuals who are or will be studying agriculture, natural resources or related programs with an emphasis in conservation may apply for the R. C. Miller Scholarship for the 2021-'22 academic year.

Two recipients will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships through the Stephenson County 4-H and Extension Foundation.

"The foundation board decided to award two scholarships as none were awarded in 2020 due to the pandemic," foundation President Curt Miller said in a news release.

To be eligible to apply, individuals must be residents of

Stephenson County and enrolled in an agriculture, natural resources or related degree program with an emphasis in conservation. Applicants must be accepted at their chosen college or university and be a full-time student carrying a minimum of 12 hours per semester.

The scholarship was established by R. C. Miller, a lifetime Stephenson County resident and ardent supporter of agriculture, natural resources and conservation. "Miller, who died in 2007, left a legacy in the community for his support of a variety of programs and efforts, especially youth

and conservation causes," the release said.

To receive an application, call the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson County office at 815-235-4125. Completed applications are due by June 1, to the University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport, IL 61032.

If requested, the application can be emailed to applicants for completion.

Members of the Stephenson County 4-H and Extension Foundation Board are responsible for selecting scholarship winners. Past recipients may re-apply for consideration.



PHOTO SUBMITTED Shopper's Guide

Well-spoken 4-H members advance to state contest

Stephenson County 4-H youth participated in a public speaking contest this spring. Pictured from the left are Rowan Stache, Nathaniel Stache and Michelle Marck with their awards. The three were nominated to compete in the Illinois 4-H State Public Speaking Contest in June. Marck is a member of the Freeport Fantastics 4-H Club, while the Staches are members of the Davis Rockets 4-H Club.

Briefs

McConnell, Lena note Memorial Day events

Memorial Day observances are planned in two local communities next weekend.

In McConnell, the American Legion will host a Memorial Day parade at 1 p.m. Sunday, May 30.

In Lena, a service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, May 31, at Lena Burial Park. The Lena event will be canceled in case of rain.

Women's softball league seeks players

The women's slow-pitch softball league in Lena is seeking players for this season. The league plays on Thursday nights in Lena beginning May 27.

Players 18 and older are welcome from Lena and all the surrounding areas. For more information, call Louise at 815-369-4823.

Veteran will speak about faith, military experiences

Salem United Church of Christ member and veteran David Gerbode will speak during the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, May 30.

Gerbode will talk about his experiences in the military — particularly Desert Storm — "and how his faith helped him get through, and how getting through strengthened his faith," according to a news release.

The church is located at 8491 W. Salem Road in Lena.

Local students make spring dean's list

Sophia Bayer of Lena was among the students named to the spring semester dean's list at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina.

The list recognizes students who earn a 3.00 to 3.74 GPA during the semester. Bayer is a freshman visual studies major.

Owen D. Peight and Ra-

chael M. Wybourn of Lena were among the students named to the spring dean's list at Western Illinois University in Macomb.

To be named to the list, students must earn at least a 3.6 GPA, which equals an "A" in a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded courses.

Peight and Wybourn are seniors at the university.

Kara Kalkbrenner of Lena is included on the spring dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

Students must be enrolled full time and attain a 3.5 or higher GPA to qualify for the list.

FHN offers registration for drive-thru vaccination

FHN has opened online self-scheduling for a June 5 drive-through COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

Registration is requested for the clinic, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, June 5, at the FHN Family Healthcare Center — Burchard Hills, 1010 W. Fairway Drive, Freeport.

Each participant's second vaccination will be scheduled automatically at the same time, 28 days from the first vaccination. Participants must be available for both vaccination dates and times.

For an appointment, go on-

line to www.fhn.org/drive-thru-vaccination. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Those unable to use the on-line scheduling page may call 815-599-6412 for assistance between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Free workshop offers arthritis education

University of Illinois Extension Nutrition and Wellness Educator Diane Reinhold will host a virtual educational workshop, "Living with Arthritis," from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, June 3.

During this workshop, participants will learn about the most common forms of arthritis and how diet, physical activity and maintaining a healthy body weight can help manage symptoms.

This workshop is free but preregistration is required in order to receive the link. To register, call 815-235-4215 or go online to go.illinois.edu/jsw.

Lena woman earns forensic biology degree

Lillian Schierloh of Lena recently received a bachelor of science degree in forensic biology from the University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio.

Schierloh graduated with the academic designation of cum laude. Commencement was held May 8.



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Master Gardener volunteers ready to answer your questions

It's that time of year again when the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardener volunteers offer the Master Gardener Helpline. If you have a home gardening question, the Master Gardener volunteers aim to help with research-based information.

Questions may be submitted to the Master Gardener Helpline by going online to

go.illinois.edu/MGHelpline or by calling the University of Illinois Extension Stephenson County Extension office at 815-235-4125.

"Each year the master gardeners field a variety of questions from across the region," according to a news release. "These calls are logged to identify trends in disease issues or pest populations. Mas-

ter gardeners answer homeowners' questions regarding trees, shrubs, perennials, insects, lawns and more — answering the questions with research-based information from the University of Illinois."

For more gardening resources, including upcoming webinars and fact pages, go online to go.illinois.edu/jsw.

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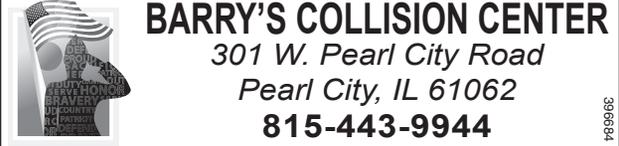
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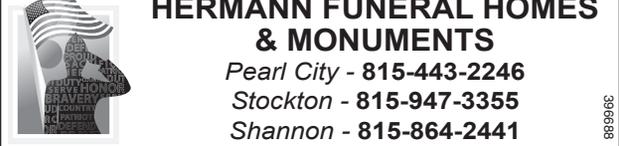
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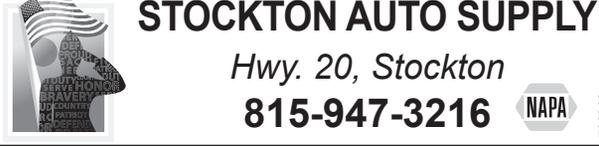
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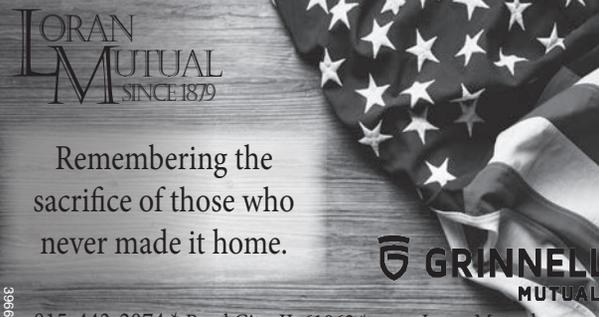
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Pandemic, lack of investment leave Illinois' state of mental care 'in crisis'

By Grace Barbic
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
RIPOTED IN ILLINOIS
growing amid economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, Illinois is facing a statewide mental health crisis due to workforce shortages and accessibility.

"It's been recognized that we are no longer in an emergency, we're in a crisis," said Marvin Lindsey, CEO of the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois, which is a statewide association of mental health, substance abuse and youth service providers.

Lindsey was also the chairman of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education Center Task Force that reported their findings to the General Assembly in 2019.

Among that report's findings was that Illinois residents and mental and behavioral health care providers alike face barriers to quality care due to lack of state funding over the years and exceptionally "low" Medicaid rates for behavioral health care, which has led to workforce

shortages. "The reality of it is 38 percent, or 4.9 million people in Illinois, live in designated mental health shortage areas," Lindsey added.

Problems with the system
Marie Krynoski, of Monroe County, was diagnosed as bipolar in 1995 and has been impacted directly by workforce shortages. She considers herself "self-taught" when it comes to navigating the mental health system.

Learning how to navigate the complex system alone led her to her current position as an administrative assistant with the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Illinois. Krynoski left her corporate job to work with NAMI's help line, assisting Illinois residents in getting the mental health services they need.

While the shortages have impacted nearly all demographics, the lack of access to resources and services is especially relevant in rural areas and among low-income and underinsured individuals and families, which

has created "mental health deserts," according to lawmakers and mental health providers.

In fact, the task force's report found 30.3 percent of Illinois' rural hospitals are in designated primary care shortage areas and 93.7 percent are in designated mental health shortage areas.

In some cases, Illinois lawmakers note, residents are expected to travel over 250 miles from their home to access necessary resources, some even turning to out-of-state care. While demand for quality mental and behavioral health care increases, the workforce is dwindling, Lindsey said.

Krynoski said she is lucky to have good insurance that allows her to rely on out-of-state care. Living in the Metro East area near the Missouri border, she travels to St. Louis for mental health care services after learning the hard way that she was unable to get adequate care in the state.

"Getting an appointment on a regular interval was extremely hard," Krynoski said. "If (the doctor) would say come back in a month, I was lucky to get back in a month and a half, and that's just because there was so much demand."

While they are similar in terms of services, mental health deals primarily with an individual's state of being and behavioral health refers to how behaviors impact an individual's well-being.

The task force's research shows the workforce shortages can be seen in every type of health care and social service setting, from residential facilities and hospitals to community-based organizations and primary care clinics.

Without adequate funding from the state, services and staff have been reduced. The task force report found that Illinois has a 480-1 ratio of population to mental health professionals, ranking 29th in the country in mental health workforce availability, according to Mental Health America.

The report also noted only 23.3 percent of Illinoisans' mental health needs can be met with its current workforce, according to Kaiser Family Foundation estimates. This means long wait times for appointments with psychiatrists, up to 4-6 months in more extreme cases.

On top of wait times, affordability is another significant

barrier to adequate care. The Senate and House mental health committees have heard a number of testimonies from Illinois residents that have gone to extremes to afford the care they or their loved ones need.

In one instance, Illinois resident Marcia Festen testified before the House Mental Health and Addiction Committee in support of House Bill 2595, sponsored by the chair of the committee, Rep. Deb-Conroy, D-Villa Park. The bill is focused on insurance coverage of medically necessary mental, emotional, nervous or substance abuse disorders and how that is defined.

Festen's daughter Ruby was diagnosed with a number of mental illnesses at once and required intensive daily care. They went back and forth with the insurance company about coverage for this care.

The family ended up paying \$250,000 out of pocket over two years because the insurance company denied coverage, claiming the care was not medically necessary. The family refinanced their home, spent their retirement account, drained their daughter's college savings and had relatives lend them money to afford the bills. "How can a family with

such privilege afford this... they don't," Festen said in her testimony. "So I'm asking you to please do something to hold insurance companies accountable. Without this level of treatment, my daughter was headed to the streets or jail, and it shouldn't be this way."

While residents without insurance face more barriers, Medicaid recipients also face challenges to getting proper care.

"If I was on Medicaid and locked into Illinois and having a mental illness, it would be extremely difficult," Krynoski said. "My sister is on Medicaid...her doctor's offices would just send people in crisis to the ER, which creates higher expenditures for the state."

A study conducted by the University of Southern California Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics noted that Medicaid provides a safety net for people with low income or qualifying disabilities, and a large percentage of people with Medicaid coverage experience behavioral health issues.

The report, The Cost of Mental Illness: Illinois Facts and Figures, found that "it is often a financial burden for physicians to accept Medicaid patients since reimbursement rates are generally lower than for other patients. This can lead to access barriers for patients with Medicaid coverage that prevent them from receiving the behavioral health care they need."

Krynoski said the alternative to being sent to the emergency room in a mental health crisis would be to call out a crisis team, but a lot of times the psychiatric beds are all full.

"When you are in a crisis, you need to go (get help) now, but they're on a waitlist, it could be today, it could be in a few days, months, we don't

See CARE, Page 17



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- July 3 Nevin Heimann, 1st Baptist Freeport
- July 10 Rugged...Beloved Church...Lena
- July 17 Steve Sheffey & Family...Pearl City
- July 24 The Assemblymen...Rockford
- July 31 Grace Free Methodist Church Praise Team...McConnell
- August 7 Professions of Faith...Rockford
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Poor oral health may trigger, worsen rheumatoid arthritis

In many of my columns, I have stressed how oral health supports overall health. The connection between periodontal disease and rheumatoid arthritis is just one example of this. Recent strides in ongoing research indicate that the same bacteria found to cause the oral disease may trigger the systemic disease. This is not surprising, as other autoimmune diseases have been linked to bacteria. This occurs when the inflammatory response to a bacterial infection spreads throughout the body and attacks healthy tissues.

Research indicates that bacteria from periodontal disease increase the severity of RA, leads to an earlier onset of the disease and causes symptoms to progress at an increased rate. These findings inspired scientists at Case Western University to perform a controlled case study that demonstrated that when patients with RA underwent



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

successful treatment for their periodontal disease, their pain and other RA symptoms improved or were alleviated.

The goal in treating RA is to control the disease so it does not progress. Periodontal treatment and daily oral hygiene remove bacteria, which reduces immune system overactivity and is critical to controlling the disease.

Unfortunately, RA creates many challenges to maintain oral health. Immunosuppressive medications used to control the disease put patients at an increased risk for oral infections. Many people with RA also suffer with Sjogren's syndrome. This inflammatory autoimmune disease reduces saliva, which also makes them more susceptible to oral disease.

Oral care to prevent disease becomes more difficult when RA causes damage to the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), making it painful to open and close your mouth. The following tips may help you to maintain consistent and effective oral hygiene:

- People with RA tend to be stiff in the morning and may experience periods of weakness throughout the day. Split tasks into small steps and schedule oral care, dental appointments and other critical tasks for the time of day you are strongest.

- You need to brush your

teeth for two minutes twice a day with a soft-bristled toothbrush. If you are having difficulty holding the toothbrush, try using an electric toothbrush. Use a fluoride toothpaste made for dry mouth. Do not use whitening or abrasive toothpaste.

Patients with RA report that toothpaste in a pump is easier to dispense than from a tube and a floss holder or floss pick makes flossing less challenging. Your dentist may prescribe fluoride rinses, fluoride trays or dry mouth rinses. He or she may also prescribe a mouth guard to protect your TMJ.

Share any concerns or difficulties that you have about your oral health routine with your dentist and hygienist. They want to assist you in controlling this disease.

- Keep yourself hydrated and your mouth moist throughout the day. Remove your dentures at night. Clean and store them overnight as directed by your dentist.

- Report any mouth swelling, oral sores, swollen nodes around your jaw or any other signs of an oral infection to your dentist immediately.

- Have regular dental visits and periodontal cleanings as prescribed by your dentist. Always update your medical history, including any new medications or therapies prescribed by your rheumatologist.

- Do not smoke, vape, chew or use tobacco in any form, as this not only causes gum disease, but also may interfere with your RA medications.

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

•Kitchen (Continued from page 15)

knife around edges of pan to loosen cake; then invert onto edges of pan to loosen cake, then invert onto serving platter. Let cool for about 10 minutes. Microwave jelly in small bowl until fluid, about 20 seconds. Using pastry brush, gently dab jelly over rhubarb topping. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Final thoughts

Graduations are happening all over the place. It is so great to have them taking place at their usual time. Last year's classes didn't have them until summer. This year they even get to have some people in attendance. Congratulations

and good luck to all our area graduates.

We will be having Memorial Day celebrations this year also. I need to get my cemetery pots bought and delivered. For some reason I have been dragging my feet to get this job done. They are power washing my deck and my addition, so I can get some lawn furniture out. I want to be able to sit outside before the bugs set in.

If you have any early summer 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.

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That's why the Illinois Department of Agriculture launched the Fall Covers for Spring Savings Cover Crop Premium Discount Program in 2019. The idea was simple: Offer a \$5 crop insurance discount for every acre planted in cover crops. It's working. The Illinois farmland using cover crops has doubled since 2018, to around 1.4 million acres. Now the problem is that we can't keep up. We are turning away almost four times the number of acres as the program has capacity to enroll.

If we want to meet the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy's water quality and soil health goals, now is the time to scale up the Fall Covers program. As lawmakers sit down to make budget decisions over the next few weeks, they should consider increasing the Fall Covers for Spring Savings program to be available for at least 200,000 acres in Illinois. Other states are excited about the idea of a good stewardship incentive. Iowa started a similar cover crop program before Illinois, and a number of other states, like Wisconsin and Indiana, have plans in the works. We could even see this in the next federal Farm Bill. Farming practices that benefit the soil, water, climate and taxpayer dollars enjoy rare bipartisan support in Washington.

With Federal Farm Bill support, a crop insurance incentive program can become a driver of an exponential increase of conservation practices on farms nationally, helping the Biden administration achieve its goal for a net-zero economy by 2050. Illinois' success can be everyone's opportunity.

Kris Reynolds is American Farmland Trust's Midwest regional director and leads and oversees key projects and programs, including the Upper Macoupin Creek Watershed Partnership and the Vermilion Headwaters Watershed Partnership in Illinois.

Care

(Continued from page 14)

know," she said. "It's devastating. It's helpless, you feel helpless," she added. "There's nowhere to turn. Sometimes you have family or loved ones. Other times you're completely alone. And you just wait."

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

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, In Probate

IN THE ESTATE OF: MARJORIE ANN AXELSON, deceased

Case No. 2021 P 20 CLAIM NOTICE TO: CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS

1. Notice is hereby given of the death of MARJORIE ANN AXELSON who died January 1, 2021, a resident of Davis, Illinois.

2. Letters of Office were issued on February 25, 2021 to CYNTHIA G. MADIGAN, Independent

Administrator for the estate.

3. The attorney for the estate is Paul J. Huber, 226 Lake Summerset Rd., Davis, IL 61019

4. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at 15 N. Galena, Freeport, IL 61032 or with the Executors, or both, on or before November 26, 2021, which date is not less than 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative and to the attorney with 10

days after it has been filed.

Paul J. Huber, attorney for the Administrator Paul J. Huber, No. 6192970 Attorney for the Executors 226 Lake Summerset Rd. Davis, IL 61019 (815) 248-4000

(Published in The Shopper's Guide May 26, June 2 & 9, 2021) 396359

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Stockton Fire Protection and Ambulance District, Jo Daviess County, IL has set the following schedule of dates for its remaining meetings

- in FY 2021/2022: June 28, 2021 July 26, 2021 August 23, 2021 September 27, 2021 October 25, 2021 November 22, 2021 December 27, 2021 January 24, 2022 February 28, 2022 March 28, 2022 April 25, 2022

All meetings of the Board are held at the District's Fire Station Building at 127 E. Front Ave., Stockton, IL commencing at 7:00 PM. DATED: May 20, 2021.

RONALD PAJA Attorney - Board of Trustees of the Stockton Fire Protection & Ambulance Dist. (Published in The Scoop Today May 26, 2021) 396634

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JO DAVIESS COUNTY IN RE: THE ESTATE OF ROGER R. BEHRENS, Deceased.

2021P23 NOTICE OF PUBLICATION - UNKNOWN HEIRS & CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Roger R. Behrens. Letters of Office were issued to Carol Ann Staver, of 127 W. Prairie Ave., Stockton, IL 61085, as Executor, whose attorney of record is Ronald Paja, 116 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 124, Stockton, IL 61085.

Notice is given to unknown persons who are heirs or legatees in the above proceeding to probate a Will and whose name(s) or address(es) is/are not stated in the Petition to admit the Will to probate that the Decedent's Will was admitted to probate by court order dated May 17, 2021. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open Court or other evidence, as provided in §5/6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21). You also have the right under §5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the Court within 6

months after admission of the Will to probate.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Jo Daviess County Courthouse, 330 N. Bench St., Galena, IL 61036, or with the representative, or both, on or before December 1, 2021 or if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by §5/18-3 of the Probate Act, (755 ILCS 5/18-3), the date stated in that Notice. Any claim not timely filed will be barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit: efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp or talk with the Circuit Clerk's office, 815-777-0037.

DATED: May 20, 2021. CAROL ANN STAVER, Executor

By: RONALD PAJA Attorney at Law 116 S. Main St. P.O. Box 124 Stockton, IL 61085 (815) 947-3396 (815) 947-3397 [Fax] pajalaw@mchsi.com (Published in The Scoop Today May 26, June 2 & 9, 2021) 396635

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ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT WEST POINT TOWNSHIP & ROAD DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2021

TOWN FUNDS:

Revenues: Property Taxes - \$160,974.45; Replacement Tax - \$6,824.60; Interest - \$1,380.39; Dividends - \$1,269.00; Misc Income - \$7,706.53. TOTAL REVENUES: \$178,154.97

Disbursements: Salaries: Under \$5,000 - Z. Mau, W. Staton, W. Bohnsack, R. Daws, M. Kempel, J. Smeck, J. Goebel, D. Erickson, D. Brinkmier and C. Fahr. Under \$10,000 - P. Kempel, C. Gerbick, K. Peight and D. Langy. Under \$50,000 - B. Daws. Under \$60,000 - J. Daws. Total Salaries: \$112,158.00. FICA taxes - \$8,580.08; State Tax - \$478.78. Com Ed - \$1,627.97. Stephenson County Assessor - \$13,524.00. Transferred to Cemetery Account for mowing - \$6,450.00. WIPFL1(audit) - \$8,050.00. TOIRMA Insurance - \$4,381.00. Donations - \$6,750.00. Misc expenses under \$1,500 - \$6,424.99. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$168,424.82.

CEMETERY FUNDS:

Revenues: Bank Interest from CD - \$2.02; Lots - \$300.00; Transfer from Town Fund: \$6,450.00. TOTAL REVENUES - \$6,752.02.

Disbursements: Heilman Mowing - \$4,790.00; True Vine - \$2,000.00. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$6,790.00

GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Revenues: Property Tax - \$5,142.47; Interest - \$283.54; Misc - training was canceled - \$150.00. TOTAL REVENUES: \$5,576.01

Disbursements: Allied Benefit Insurance - \$1,060.00; Misc under \$1,000 - \$3,259.36 Transfer back to Town Fund to correct a previous transfer done in error - \$5,000.00. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$9,319.36.

ROAD DISTRICT FUNDS

Revenues: Property Taxes - \$245,982.39; Replacement Taxes - \$16,386.90; Interest Income - \$1,724.93; Dividend Income - \$1,551.00; and Misc Income - \$3,270.27. TOTAL REVENUES: \$268,915.49.

Disbursements: Agco Plus Finance - \$6,451.24; Altorfer \$8,409.94; Baer Ag Solutions - \$3,117.65; Bonnell Industries - \$3,600.34; Cargill - \$10,223.19; Civil Contractors - \$31,517.20; Corp Tires - \$3,602.29; Doc's Excavating Inc - \$73,644.63; Helm Truck & Equipment - \$3,988.95; John Deere Financial - \$5,018.71; Jon Daws - \$6,780.61; Stephenson Service Co - \$35,745.39; Toirma (Insurance) - \$5,355.00; and Washington Implement - \$5,709.23. All other disbursements less than \$2,500 - total of \$30,323.27. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: \$284,018.51

BUILDING & EQUIPMENT FUND:

Revenues: Property Tax - \$17,995.73; Interest - \$109.23. TOTAL REVENUES: \$18,104.96

Disbursements: None. TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS: None

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CONDITION

Table with 6 columns: Item, Town Funds, Cemetery, Gen'l Assist, Road Dist Fund, Bldg & Equip. Rows include Beginning Bal, Revenues, Disbursements, and Ending Balance.

Subscribed and sworn to this 6th day of April 2021. Karen Peight, West Point Township Supervisor and Treasurer of West Point Township Road District. William Staton, Clerk of the West Point Township, Stephenson County, State of Illinois, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide May 26, 2021)

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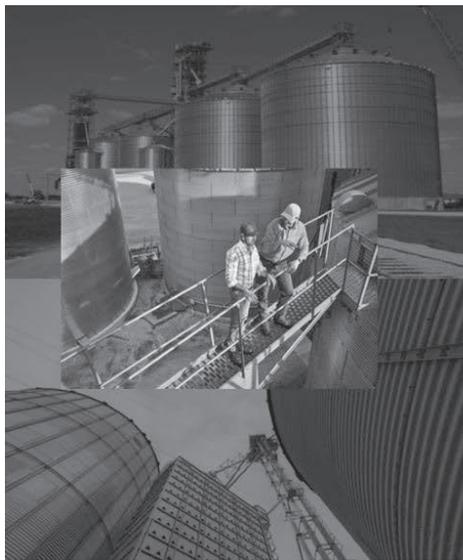
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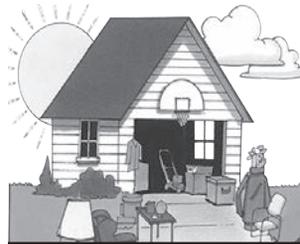
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212 E. Railroad St. Fri. May 28 & Sat. May 29, 8:30-4 Lots of Big&Tall mens clothes, womens, infant boys, household, home and holiday decor.

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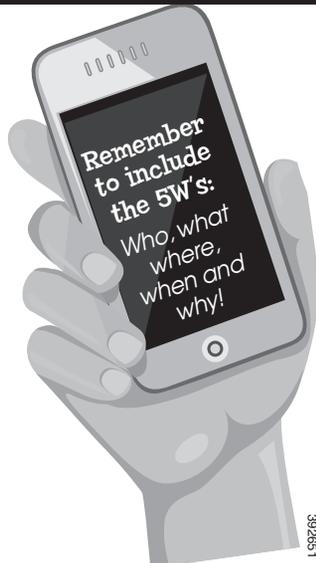
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• Softball (Continued from front page)

Carlisle led Orangeville offensively, going 2-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Plowman pitched another gem, going all seven innings with nine strikeouts and just three hits allowed.

The Broncos would go on to dominate their next

three opponents as they beat Scales Mound-River Ridge 11-0, Milledgeville 21-8 and Durand 8-0.

Orangeville's winning streak came to an end on May 20, when they faced off with Durand for their second meeting of the season. The

Broncos fell victim to their own mistakes, as five total errors allowed the Bulldogs to pull off the comeback after trailing 4-0. Plowman pitched well again, throwing six innings with nine strikeouts and just four hits. All five of Durand's runs were unearned.

The loss shocked many as the Broncos' record fell to 15-2 for the season.

Orangeville will wrap up its season with a two-game series against Dakota. The second game of the series will be played in Orangeville on Thursday, May 27.

• Board (Continued from front page)

ensure that eligible children get vaccinated," she said. "The vaccines are safe, effective and proven to protect you from getting sick."

Students who do not qualify for remote learning may seek home or hospital instruction if a doctor determines they will miss at least

10 days of school due to a medical condition.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine is safe for children 12 and over, while everyone aged 16 and over is eligible to receive any U.S. approved vaccine.

Pfizer may file for emergency use authorization of its vaccine from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in children aged 2 to 11 in September, according to news reports.

"As always, our top priority is our students, and we know that in most cases,

in-person learning is in their best interest," Ayala said in her blog post. "Now that we have every indication that the pandemic will soon be behind us, we can prepare to return fully to the physical spaces that best provide these conditions."

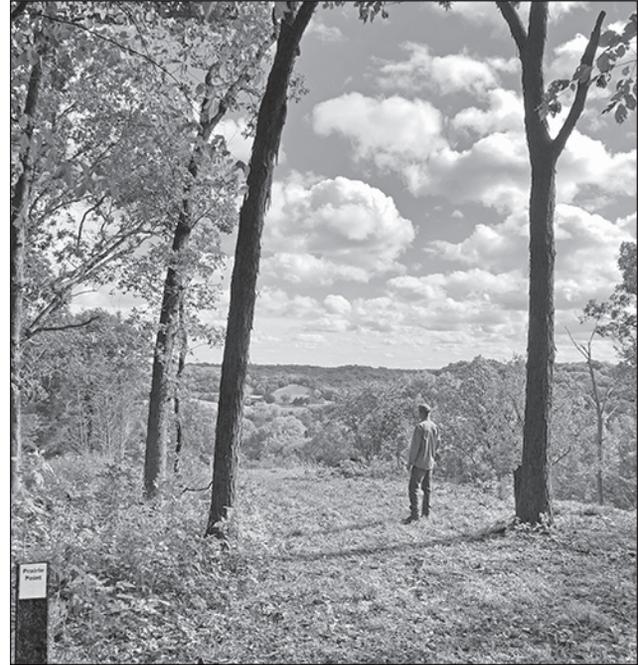


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRAD PETERSBURG *Shopper's Guide*

The 10 miles of new hiking trails at the Witkovsky Wildlife Area near Hanover are the result of a public/private partnership. Above, Friends of Witkovsky founder and volunteer Brad Petersburg is shown at the wildlife area's Prairie Point Lookout.

New hiking trails open at Witkovsky Wildlife Area

Over three decades have passed since Jack and Iris Witkovsky made the decision to donate 400 of their 510-acre farm to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as a leadership gift toward the creation of the Witkovsky State Wildlife Area. The family purchased the farm that included oak and walnut woodlands on Blackjack Road in Hanover in 1965. There, the couple spent many holidays, weekends and summer vacations along with their two daughters, Anne and Kathy.

In 1985, the Witkovskys began negotiations with the Illinois Department of Conservation (now IDNR) on a legal agreement that outlined their proposed land donation and mutually agreed to expectations of how the property would be used. These included that the wildlife area would be permanently preserved with no roads or structures allowed and that access for pedestrians and equestrian use would be permitted.

Today, a public/private partnership among the IDNR, the Witkovsky family, the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and the Friends of Witkovsky Wildlife Area has resulted in 10 miles of new hiking trails that are open to the public at the 1,000-plus-acre natural area.

The opening of the hiking trails is a big step toward fulfilling the Witkovskys' vision after 30 years. JDCF and the Friends of Witkovsky will continue to work with the IDNR on the feasibility of equestrian trails in the wildlife area.

The Witkovsky State Wildlife Area is open daily dawn to dusk. The trails are closed to hikers during firearms hunting seasons. Hunting season dates are posted at the kiosks near the parking areas and also on the IDNR website.

The trails are closed to hikers during firearms hunting seasons. Hunting season dates are posted at the kiosks near the parking areas and also on the IDNR website.

"People will love the diversity to be experienced on the new hiking trails at the Witkovsky Wildlife Area. There are native prairies, dense woodlands, massive rock outcroppings, streams to cross, all types of wildlife, and one remarkably unnatural feature called 'Hanover Earth Station,'" said Friends of Witkovsky founding member, Brad Petersburg. "It was a pleasure working with IDNR staff, at the local, regional and state level, to ensure that the trails would provide visitor access with minimal impact on the environment. Many thanks to JDCF staff and volunteers, and the Witkovsky family, who were instrumental in creating this 10-mile trail system and who continue to support maintenance and improvements."

"The Witkovsky State Wildlife Area has a nice mix of upland forest, crop ground, rock outcroppings and some prairie. Like most hikes in the area, it's a bit rugged, but worth the time and effort," said Jeff Horn, district wildlife biologist with the IDNR. "There are also several hunting seasons allowed on the property and it is an excellent spot for deer, turkey and squirrel hunting."

The Witkovsky State Wildlife Area is open daily dawn to dusk. The trails are closed to hikers during firearms hunting seasons. Hunting season dates are posted at the kiosks near the parking areas and also on the IDNR website.

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