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Small businesses may be eligible for loans due to drought

U.S. Small Business Administration officials announced last week that economic injury disaster loans are available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations as a result of drought that began on June 1.

The declaration covers the counties of Boone, DeKalb, Ogle, Stephenson and Winnebago in Illinois; and Green and Rock in Wisconsin.

"When the Secretary of Agriculture issues a disaster declaration to help farmers recover from damages and losses to crops, the Small Business Administration issues a declaration to eligible entities affected by the same disaster," Kem Fleming, director of SBA's Field Operations Center East, said in a news release.

Under this declaration, the SBA's economic injury disaster loan program is available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of this disaster. With the exception of aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers and ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by drought conditions.

The loan amount can be up to \$2 million with interest rates of 2.88 percent for small businesses and 2 percent for private nonprofit organizations of all sizes, with terms up to 30 years.

The SBA determines eligibility based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.

Applicants may apply online using the electronic loan application via SBA's secure website at DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s and should

See LOANS, Page 6

Extension offers expert instruction in food preservation

Officials at the University of Illinois Extension are reminding residents that the extension offers multiple resources to help people with food preservation.

People should go online to go.illinois.edu/jsw to access the Fill Your Pantry home webinar series. The series includes recorded webinars and handouts "covering almost every type of food preservation," according to a news release.

"The Fill Your Pantry webinar series has eight sessions addressing the most common methods of home food preservation," Diane Reinhold, nutrition and wellness educator, said in the release. "Each session will help consumers safely preserve their fruits and vegetables."

The informational sessions include:

- Canning basics: Learn the difference between pressure canning and water bath canning, as well as some tips and tricks to increase the shelf-life of food and the importance of having your pressure canner dial-gauge tested yearly. If you need to have your pressure canner dial-gauge tested, contact the extension office to schedule an appointment.
- Freezing the summer harvest: Freezing can be a quick and easy way to put up vegetables. Learn which foods freeze well and why blanch-

ing before freezing improves the quality of frozen vegetables.

- Fermentation: Probiotic properties in foods and drinks continue to be a popular way to help develop a healthy gut. Learn the fundamentals and benefits of lacto-fermentation and gain confidence to ferment veggies at home safely.

- Drying: Dehydrating foods is another way to extend the life of produce safely. Learn about different drying methods, the equipment needed and the best way to use dehydrated foods in recipes.

- Jams and Jellies: Learn how to troubleshoot challenges in making jams and jellies.

- Pickles: Learn basic pickling methods to extend the shelf life of your food with anaerobic fermentation in brine or immersion in vinegar.

- Apples: Learn about juicing, freezing, canning and dehydrating apples so you can enjoy them year-round.

- Tomatoes: Learn all about processing tomatoes. Whether you're canning, freezing or



STOCK PHOTO Shopper's Guide

The University of Illinois Extension offers a series of webinars to help people learn techniques for food preservation.

drying your tomatoes, you'll learn the most up-to-date methods.

"It's important to always use a scientifically tested recipe when preserving foods," Reinhold said in the release. "Scientifically tested recipes used in canning ensure the combination of high temperature, prolonged processing time and acid level destroys the bacteria and toxic bacterial spores produced by clostridium botulinum spores."

In addition to using scientifically tested recipes, it is also important to process low-acid foods using a pressure canner. Low-acid foods such as asparagus, beans, beets, carrots, corn, potatoes, meat and poultry all lack the acidity needed to prevent spoilage, she said.

For more information about food preservation, contact the local extension office at 815-858-2273 in Jo Daviess County or at 815-235-4125 in Stephenson County.

School mask mandate set as COVID cases rise among young people

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Masks will be required at all Illinois long-term care facilities, day cares and pre-K-12 schools, Gov. JB Pritzker announced last week amid a nationwide surge of COVID-19.

"Every time we think we know where this virus is headed, it changes and it shifts," Pritzker said at a COVID-19 briefing in Chicago. "For example, unlike before, people 29 years old and younger accounted for 12 percent of hospitalizations. All across the nation, we are seeing young people with no underlying conditions now on ventilators. I want to say specifically to young adults: Please do not think that the worst-case scenario can't happen to you. It can happen. It is happening. Get vaccinated."

Illinois Department of Pub-

lic Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said youth hospitalizations and infections have been rising.

About 5.5 percent of COVID-19 cases were among those who are younger than 10 years of age in January, Ezike said, but that number increased to 15 percent last month. Approximately 13 percent of cases in January were among those 10-19 years old, increasing to 23 percent in July. Hospitalizations for those 20 years old and younger have tripled from 2.5 percent to 7.8 percent in that time span.

"And yes, while most children who get COVID have fewer symptoms than adults, they absolutely can still get COVID-19 and they can absolutely spread it to others," Ezike said, noting many cases of the virus have spread at

youth camps this summer.

The masking requirement extends to indoor but not outdoor activities and sports.

While Pritzker said masks are important in schools, especially for students who are not yet eligible for the vaccine, the best approach to limiting the spread of COVID-19 is getting vaccinated. It's also the best way to limit severe illness and death.

In Illinois, 6.5 million people are fully vaccinated, or 51.2 percent of the population, while 73 percent of the population that is older than 12 years of age has received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Of the millions of fully vaccinated individuals, just 714 have spent time in the hospital with COVID-19, according to IDPH. Since January, 180

See MANDATE, Page 9

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Freeport native takes over as Highland college volleyball coach

Stodden teaches in Le-Win district



Lindsay Stodden

Lindsay Stodden of Freeport will take over Highland Community College's women's volleyball program as head coach.

Stodden replaces Beth Groshans, who is now a student adviser at the College. Groshans was Highland's volleyball coach for 19 years.

"We are excited to welcome Coach Stodden to Cougar Nation as our new women's volleyball coach," Pete Norman, Highland athletics and physical education direc-

tor, said in a news release. "We are very fortunate to have Lindsay take over our volleyball program and continue building a high-quality program."

"Lindsay has the passion for volleyball that you love to see in a coach but even more importantly, she is the type of high-character person that we want to lead our student-athletes. Her ability to relate to her players is outstanding and another tremendous strength of Lindsay's."

Norman also expressed

gratitude to Groshans for her contribution to the volleyball program.

"Beth dedicated so much time and energy and love to not only Highland volleyball, but all of Highland athletics and our student-athletes," he said.

Stodden is a graduate of Freeport High School, where she played volleyball and softball. She also has coached club volleyball for 14- to 18-year-olds and has served as the freshman coach and assistant varsity coach at Freeport High School.

She is a special education teacher at Lena-Winslow Jr. High School.

"I am thrilled to become a Highland Cougar," Stodden

said in the release. "I have always enjoyed following the Highland teams. Coaching at the collegiate level has always been a dream of mine, and now I get to do it in my hometown."

"The game is constantly changing and evolving, so as a younger coach, I am very familiar with the current fast pace of the game. I hope to motivate the girls and foster a competitive edge while maintaining a love for the game," she said.

The Highland volleyball season will begin with a tournament in Rockford on Aug. 21 and Aug. 22.

For more about Highland athletics, go online to highland.edu/athletics.



STOCK PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

The Illinois State Fair opens Thursday, Aug. 12, for its 10-day run in Springfield. Masks will be required at indoor venues and COVID-19 vaccinations will be offered at multiple sites on the fairgrounds.

State Fair to reopen with new attractions

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

After a one-year interruption last year due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Illinois State Fair in Springfield is set to reopen Thursday, Aug. 12, with some new attractions and new safety requirements.

Among the new requirements, Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello II said during a media briefing, will be a mask mandate at all indoor venues.

"It's important for fairgoers to know that we will be following (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines," Costello said. "So what that means is masks will be required indoors. This includes the following buildings: the Coliseum, Expo Building, the Illinois Building, the Dairy Building, the Livestock Center, Artesian Building, Emerson Building, and the Orr Building. Again, masks will be required when indoors."

For those who arrive without masks but who plan to attend indoor events, free masks will be available at all entry gates, he said.

And while it won't be required, officials also are strongly encouraging fairgoers to wear masks in large gatherings, including the Twilight Parade, which is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Other safety measures being taken include extra hand washing stations throughout the fairgrounds, cleaning of

high-touch areas, and foggers on carnival rides and grandstand seating. There will also be free vaccinations available at six locations on the fairgrounds.

State officials were forced to cancel the fair last year amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the first time the fair had been called off since World War II.

But with vaccines now widely available, and with nearly 60 percent of the state's population over age 12 now fully vaccinated as of late last week, according to IDPH, officials said they feel comfortable the fair can go off safely this year.

"I think people are just done," Illinois State Fair manager Kevin Gordon said. "I mean, they're tired of sitting around for a year and they're wanting to get out. Again, we emphasize and we encourage that everyone get vaccinated to come out. But we'll make certain that everyone out here, when they do show up, will have a safe and have a fun time."

The first major event of the fair actually happens Wednesday, Aug. 11, with the unveiling of this year's butter cow. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the butter cow, a life-size display sculpted out of real butter that is typically fashioned around a timely theme. Masks will be required in the Dairy Building where the cow is housed.

See FAIR, Page 5

Pritzker signs gun law overhaul

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Within five miles of the scene of a 2019 workplace mass shooting that left six people dead and five law enforcement officers injured, Gov. JB Pritzker signed a wide-ranging bill reforming the state's gun laws Aug. 2 at the Aurora Police Department.

Advocates for the new law — including Illinois State Police Director Brendan Kelly — hailed it as a measure that would provide the statutory backing and funding necessary to retrieve guns from those with revoked Firearm Owners Identification cards, while also streamlining the application and renewal process for law-abiding gun owners.

"I will never forget those images, nor will I ever forget the look in the eyes of the officers of the Aurora PD. I will forever live with the scars of that day," Kelly said during the bill signing Monday, speaking of the Aurora shooting. "Nor can any of us forget

the weaknesses in the firearm safety system that were exposed."

Kristen Ziman, police chief in Aurora, recalled how the community was "ripped apart" by the shooting at Henry Pratt Co., calling it the "defining moment" in her career ahead of her scheduled retirement at the end of the week.

"What has kept me up at night since that horrific day is that the shooter used a gun he never should have had. He used that gun to steal these precious lives," she said. "He had a revoked FOID card, which should have rendered him unable to continue owning a firearm, but a broken system caused the revocation to fall through the cracks."

Her officers "immediately began working with lawmakers" to try to fix the system, she said.

Following the shooting, Kelly began a push to seek what he called "modernization" of the FOID system, while ISP also began serving more firearms enforcement details — more than 450 since

the shooting, "with over 1,300 prohibited persons placed directly in compliance," according to Kelly.

Kelly said those actions were made possible by stable state government budgets, and the pace of revocations could be accelerated with the new law's dedicated revenue streams for those actions.

The new law, which was supported by gun reform advocates while the Illinois State Rifle Association remained neutral, creates a number of changes to gun statutes, including:

- Within 90 days of the bill's Jan. 1, 2022, effective date, State Police must create a "prohibited persons portal" to track people who have had their cards revoked or suspended. Law enforcement agencies, state's attorneys and the attorney general would have access to that portal.

- The bill also requires ISP to establish the Violent Crime Intelligence Task Force to aid in enforcement of FOID card revocation or suspension enforcement. The task force

would "conduct enforcement operations" for those with suspended or revoked licenses, with a priority on individuals "presenting a clear and present danger to themselves or to others," according to the bill.

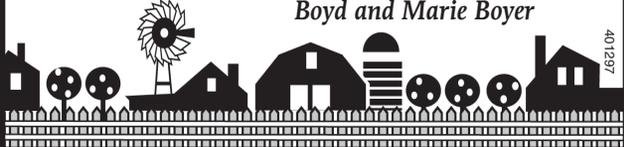
- The \$10 renewal fee for FOID cards will remain the same under the law, but beginning in 2022 half of it will go to the State Police Firearm Services Fund which oversees applications and renewals, and half to the State Police Revocation Enforcement Fund. Previously, \$6 of that fee went to the state Fish and Wildlife fund while \$3 went to the Firearms Services Fund and another \$1 went to the State Police Services Fund.

- FOID card applicants would not be required to submit fingerprints, but if they do, or they share with the Illinois State Police the fingerprints they filed to receive their Concealed Carry License, they would be eligible for automatic renewal without

See GUN LAW, Page 3

Thank you to all our wonderful family and friends for all the concern and love given to us since Boyd's fall and hip surgery. A special thank you for all the cards, phone calls, visits and especially the prayers for both of us. All the prayers helped us take one day at a time, and trusting God for doing what was best for us. A special thank you to Dr. Dammann for the great job he did on hip surgery for Boyd. Also, a big thank you to all the staff and workers at Manor Court for their great care, as well as their kindness and encouragement shown to our family. We are truly blessed to be back home again.

Boyd and Marie Boyer



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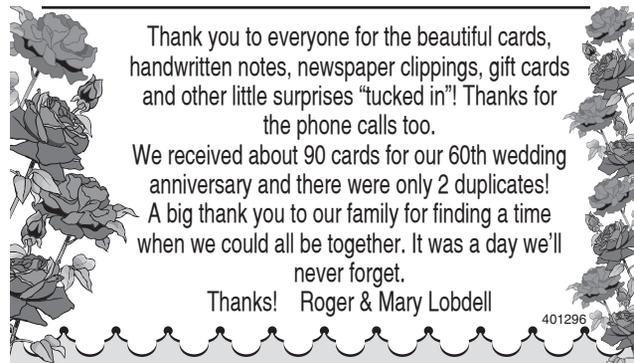
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Thank You!

I would like to thank everyone who sent me a card for my 80th birthday. Your personal comments in the cards were much appreciated by me. I also would like to thank the many people who personally wished me birthday wishes. Thank you all very much.

Larry Maaske

401298



Thank you to everyone for the beautiful cards, handwritten notes, newspaper clippings, gift cards and other little surprises "tucked in"! Thanks for the phone calls too.

We received about 90 cards for our 60th wedding anniversary and there were only 2 duplicates! A big thank you to our family for finding a time when we could all be together. It was a day we'll never forget.

Thanks! Roger & Mary Lobdell

401296

U.S., U.K. trade agreement could unlock 'unlimited potential' for agricultural producers

By Tammie Sloup
FARMWEEK

Illinois Farm Bureau is looking forward to more trade opportunities with the United Kingdom — a trade partner already “integral” to the state’s ag community.

“We see great opportunity and are motivated to help get these talks on the front burner,” said IFB President Richard Guebert Jr. “Trade has always been important to farmers across not only Illinois, but across the Midwest.”

Free trade agreement negotiations have stalled under the Biden administration, but U.K. officials indicated to a group of Illinois agriculture leaders recently the nation is “ready to go.”

“And of course, agriculture is a huge, huge part of any FTA,” Alan Gogbashian, consul general, British Consulate Chicago, said during an agriculture roundtable. “And sitting here in the Midwest, where agriculture plays such a significant part of the economy, it’s important for us that agricultural voices in the Midwest are heard, and your questions, your concerns or interests are fed in and they help shape the negotiation.”

The virtual meeting, organized by U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis, R-Taylorville, included state leaders from IFB, Illinois



Richard Guebert Jr.

Department of Agriculture, agribusiness and county Farm Bureau organizations, as well as officials from the British Consulate and Embassy. Topics ranged from the status of the trade negotiations to new market potential and domestic ag issues in the U.K.

“It’s an interesting time in the U.K. with Brexit being finalized not too long ago, and what implications that could have positively and possibly negatively with the EU and U.S. trade agreements,” Davis said.

IDOA Director Jerry Costello touted the state’s transportation options, as well as the state’s ag stats: No. 1 producer of soybeans, No. 2 for corn and No. 4 for pork production. Illinois also leads the country in processed food production.

One in four jobs in the state are in some way ag related, and the economic impact of the industry to the state totals about \$19 billion.

“So, there are so many things that we have to offer. But having great trade partners like the U.K. is so integral to everything that we do in agriculture,” Costello said. “We’re

strong advocates for free trade. ... We’re always trying to find ways to help our farmers and our manufacturers, but that also means helping and working with our trading partners.”

In 2020, about \$73 million worth of food and agriculture was exported to the U.K. And the U.K. is Illinois’ 17th largest food and agriculture market.

“There’s unlimited potential as far as what we can all do working together,” Costello said.

Trade negotiations between the two nations began in May 2020, extending to the presidential election, at which time talks stalled.

“We are keen to get back to the negotiating table and not abandon the really good progress that we’ve made,” said Jennifer Groover, senior policy adviser for trade and agriculture for the U.K.

Since leaving the European Union, Groover said the number of trade agreements negotiated by the U.K. has been “very robust,” noting the most recent agreement with Australia marked its 64th.

When the U.K. left the European Union, the nation also left the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Roughly one-third of the EU budget goes to CAP and much of that is in support of direct payments.

“Many U.K. producers have

become reliant on those payments, and about nearly half of all U.K. farms would not survive if they did not have that payment system,” Groover said. “But of course, now the U.K. is establishing its own agricultural policies and it’s mind blowing in a sense. ... You’re not working from a farm bill from cycle to cycle, but instead actually standing up new policies that will work best for U.K. producers and consumers.”

Opportunity was a running theme throughout the discussion.

“Between the U.S. and U.K., from agricultural colleges and land grant institutions ... to companies who are doing amazing, innovative work, there’s room here for innovation, particularly in the agritech space,” Groover said. “You don’t necessarily think of the U.K. as an agricultural powerhouse, but when it comes to agritech, and when it comes to leading in some of these really innovative things, the U.K. very much is in that space.”

The U.K. also recently announced it will expand ethanol blends in the country from E5 to E10 starting later this year.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.



PHOTO SUBMITTED The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Jim Endress receives the Ray Harstein Trustee Achievement Award from Highland Community College President Chris Kuberski after a recent meeting of the Highland Board of Trustees. Endress has served on the board for 14 years.

College trustee receives state honor

Highland Community College Trustee Jim Endress of Shannon recently received the 2021 Ray Harstein Trustee Achievement Award from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. The award recognizes exemplary service by a currently serving community college board member.

Endress also serves as chair of the Highland Board of Trustees.

Endress said in a news release that he is proud of the work he has done serving on the board for the past 14 years, adding, “I feel like as a board member I helped make a difference, and Highland is a huge asset to northwest Illinois.”

Endress followed in the footsteps of his father, Dennis Endress, when he joined the board in 2007.

“He has solidified his reputation as an outstanding communicator, financial steward, problem solver and advocate,” the release said. “Endress has provided invaluable leadership as the board chair and has offered vital insight at the state level as Highland’s representative to the ICCTA Board of Representatives.”

In 2017-18, he was elected by his peers to serve as presi-

dent of the ICCTA board. On the national level, Endress has served as an ambassador for the Association of Community College Trustees’ annual conference.

“I didn’t know much in the beginning but then I served as regional chair, got actively involved, and gained so much from other individuals,” Endress said. “I am standing on the shoulders of previous winners and the leadership they brought to their community colleges. It’s an honor to be part of that group.”

Endress was nominated in February by the Highland Board of Trustees.

“I have found Jim’s commitment to the community college system and the students it serves is tireless,” said Douglas Block, senior trustee on the Highland Board of Trustees. “This award reflects the passion Jim has for education, not only for the Highland district, but at the state level.”

Endress also volunteers in the community, including service to the Shannon Fire Protection District, Stephenson County Fair Association, Shannon Youth Baseball Association and Stephenson County Extension Council. He is also a member of the Bethel UMC.

• Gun law (Continued from page 2)

a renewal fee, provided they purchased a gun sometime within the 10-year period between renewals and passed the ISP background check in the process. That process is to be established by 2023.

• Starting in 2024, private sellers will either have to work with federal licensees, paying a fee not to exceed \$25, or with ISP to “determine the validity” of the purchaser’s Firearm Owners Identification card “under state and federal law including the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.” Buyers would have to submit a record of the transfer to a federal firearm license dealer within 10 days of receiving the gun.

• Beginning in January 2022, State Police must develop a stolen gun database through which potential buyers may search the serial number of a gun to determine whether it is stolen.

• The measure also requires the State Police to monitor state and federal databases for residents charged with firearm-related crimes and to cor-

relate the records with FOID and Concealed Carry Licenses to identify individuals who should not be allowed to own a gun.

• The bill also creates a FOID Card Review Board to consider appeals on denied or revoked cards.

• The bill also authorizes ISP to produce an electronic FOID and Concealed Carry License, allows the agency to

provide a single card for FOID and CCL, and would update FOID and CCL renewal dates to be the same for one cardholder.

• The state’s concealed carry law directs funding to a state Mental Health Reporting Fund, and the new law stipulates that if there is a surplus in the fund, half will go to community-based mental health programs aimed at reducing

gun violence, and half will go to award grants that use and promote the National School Mental Health Curriculum model for school-based mental health support, integration, and services.

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In my opinion

Mask mandate reeks of hypocrisy



Rep. Andrew Chesney

By state Rep. Andrew Chesney
Gov. JB Pritzker announced new COVID mitigations last week, due in part to the spread of the "delta variant." New mitigations will include masking in schools. Without a doubt, the COVID-19 virus continues to infect Illinoisans while policies aimed at addressing the spread continue to divide Illinoisans like few other issues in our modern era.

The coronavirus is serious, especially for the unvaccinated, and common-sense steps should be taken by those at the increased risk of

transmission or infection. Operation Warp Speed, under President Trump, allowed the development of COVID vaccines at a rate we have never seen in world history. These remarkable medical breakthroughs are helping allow Americans to get back to work and are protecting those who are medically able and willing to receive the vaccine.

To be clear, I encourage

everyone who wants to get a COVID vaccine to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Where we may part ways is when vaccine advocates start saying individuals shouldn't have a choice in getting vaccinated. When you start talking about destroying rights, well, you know that you can count me out!

Governor Pritzker is once again taking a "go it alone" approach to managing this situation after 17 months. By not allowing local control over these decisions; by not involving the co-equal legislative branch in his decision-making, Pritzker owns this mess wholesale. As a reminder, Pritzker's

Slices of life

Make your perspective one that's hopeful

The older I get, the more I realize life isn't always easy. Quite often it is far from easy. It is hard.

Or it can be. So much is about perspective, yet sometimes we are so immersed in the chaos and disparity of life that we don't give perspective to the whole much consideration. We feel like crap; how could that possibly change? How can it be any different from what it obviously is?

Many times, most times, it can change. The crap of life can become the caviar, or nearly so, depending on perspective.

How do we see ourselves, our circumstances and our lives? Therein lies the key.

This morning I had a heart-to-heart with myself. (I don't often admit to talking to myself, but it's key my existence right now. Hey, at least I can count on myself to listen!)

Anyway, me, myself and I were engaged in a deep discussion. Those who read this column know I experienced a devastating loss less than a year ago. A loss so significant affects every aspect of your life. I wish it didn't, but it does. Losing the half to your whole makes you question the very significance of everything.

What does anything mean or matter if the rug can be pulled out from under you at any time without any notice? Why care? Why try?

All legitimate questions. And here's what I've come to



By JILL PERTLER
Columnist

believe:

Throwing in the towel, giving up, screaming that life isn't fair is tempting. Because life isn't fair. Not for any of us. We all struggle. That isn't important.

What is important is what we do with our own personal struggles. Do we succumb? Do we let the struggles (in essence) win? Or do we take the road less traveled and persevere? Do we continue to put one foot in front of the other?

Do we choose to see what we still have versus what we have lost? This, my friends, I believe is a key to the future of nearly anyone who is struggling.

And believe me, I'm living it out in real time. Being sad, seeing what I've lost is the reality I live every day. Often it's the first thing I think about each morning when I awaken. I don't deny that. But I have decided not to let it conquer my entire being and my entire mindset. I can't shut the pain out completely, but I can realize what it doesn't accomplish in my life and I can strive for different. I can strive for more. I can strive for better.

To illustrate, I'll return to perspective. How do I see the world? Do I see:

What I lost, or what I still have?

What might go wrong, or what could be?

The disparity in the world, or the kindness in people?

The falsehoods of life, or the truths I embrace?

You get the gist. Every scenario has more than one possible perspective. Here's the key: I get to choose my vantage point.

Am I looking at the situation as a victim or a survivor? Do I want to merely exist or do I want to thrive? Is the future something to endure or relish? Do I approach life with sadness or with joy? Do I focus on the love that died or the love that still lives inside me?

I get to choose. Moment by moment.

It isn't always easy. You can't smother sadness, put him in a corner and pretend he doesn't exist. That's not what I'm proposing.

But you can choose not to let him sit front and center at the head of the class. You can acknowledge him and then ask him to take a seat in the back, while you encourage joy and peace to join you up front. Even if just for a moment.

Deep, devastating grief has taught me that I don't have the luxury of focusing on next year or next month or even next week. But that's OK. It's eye-opening, actually.

How I will feel then is inconsequential in comparison to how I feel today, right now, in this moment.

Because it's the moments that matter. In our busy, chaotic world, we forget that.

Cherish the moments. They are all we have, but that's a lot, if we see it as such.

See it as such. It's your choice.

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

See **HYPOCRISY**, Page 8

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AUGUST 28TH

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- 9 AM: Baseball Bash,
Contact Ryne Plager 815-291-9822
- 10 AM: Beer Garden Opens (open until 11:30 pm)
- 11 AM: Parade (Registration at 10 am)
Contact Nathan Pickard 815-821-2403
- 11 AM: Hog Roast Lunch/Dinner
- 11 AM: Kids Activities
- 11:30 AM: LIVE BAND Spotted Dog
- 12:30 PM: Kiddie Tractor Pull,
Sponsored by Stephenson County Farm Bureau, School parking lot
- 2 PM: Kiddie Water Fights, Sponsored by PC Fire Department, School parking lot
- 2 PM: Alumni Baseball Game,
Contact Ryne Plager 815-291-9822
- 4:30 PM: LIVE BAND Better Late Than Never
- 6 PM: PC Pitmaster BBQ
Samples available (while supplies last!)
- 6:30 PM: Gail "Johnny" Johnson Service Award
- 6:45 PM: Class of 1971 Presentation
- 7 PM: Check Presentation
- 7:15 PM: PC Pitmaster Champions Awarded
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Obituaries

GORDON E. SHEFFEY
Gordon Eugene Sheffey of Pearl City, Illinois, passed away on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, at Lena Living Center following a short illness. He was born May 5, 1936, in Freeport, Illinois, the son of Harry and Ruth (Dresser) Sheffey.



py to see the work they began will be continued into the next generations.

Gordon married Judy Henze on Aug. 13, 1961, at Second Presbyterian Church in Freeport.

Gordon was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City. Gordon served on the Loran Township Mutual Board for 40 years. Gordon enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren's sporting events, especially watching them play basketball. Gordon and Darrell pursued a hobby as racecar owners and had a successful run at the Freeport Racetrack with the help of Joe Finn, their driver. Gordon enjoyed spending time with friends playing euchre, windshield farming with Jim Brinkmeier and Carl Keltner and eating out. Gordon was a

great storyteller and had many sayings he was known for.

Gordon is survived by his daughter, Wendy (Mike) Jensen of Lena, Illinois, and son, Scott (Nicole) Sheffey of Pearl City; five grandchildren, Dr. Katie (Eric) Lutz of Portland, Oregon, Kyle Jensen of Davenport, Iowa and Jase, Levi and Wade Sheffey all of Pearl City; sister-in-law, Reita Sheffey of Pearl City; and several nieces and nephews.

Gordon was preceded in death by his spouse, Judy, in 2013; his parents; his brother, Darrell Sheffey; his twin sister, Norma Hoffman; and his nephew, Jason Strohecker.

A visitation was held Aug. 6, 2021, at St. John's Lutheran church in Pearl City. Funeral services were held Aug. 7, 2021, at the church with the Rev. Shellie Knight officiating. Burial is at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport. A memorial fund has been established in his name.

BRENDA K. KOHLER

Brenda K. Kohler, 58, of Pearl City, Illinois, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Monday, Aug. 2, 2021.



She was born to Gale and Rosalie (Raders) Pittsley on Oct. 10, 1962, in Freeport, Illinois. She was a graduate of Pearl City High School. She was employed by Savencia Cheese in Lena, Illinois.

Brenda liked to have fun, was always there to help people, was thoughtful and was an avid animal lover. Her closest companion was her beloved dog, Chloe.

She is survived by her son, Brandon Miller, of Indiana; grandchildren, Wyatt, Scarlett and Emelie; mother, Rosalie Yeager of Pearl City; sister, Dawn (Jeff) Brandt of Renton, Washington; and nieces and nephews, Jessie Jacobs, Casey Anthony, Geddy Bond and Jamie Brandt.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gale; brother, Todd Pittsley; and her mater-

nal and paternal grandparents. Visitation will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena with a brief memorial service immediately following the visitation.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

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

•Fair (Continued from page 2)

Gates to the fair officially open at 7 a.m. Thursday. Gov. JB Pritzker will join Costello and other state and local dignitaries for a ribbon cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. That will be followed by the Twilight parade at 5 p.m.

Among the new attractions this year is a tribute to Route 66, which stretched nearly 2,500 miles from Chicago to Santa Monica, California, winding its way through Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and southern California. This year marks the 95th anniversary of the establishment of that highway, one of the original roadways of the U.S. highway system.

The "Route 66 Experience" at the fairgrounds will allow

visitors to walk through exhibits commemorating the Illinois portion of the highway from Chicago to the Chain of Rocks Bridge and learn about communities and attractions along the route.

The fair will also feature 13 stages with free entertainment ranging from live music to pig races, a water circus in which acrobats perform 40 feet above the top of an Olympic-sized swimming pool, and an assortment of sword swallowers, fire breathers and escape artists.

Grandstand shows this year include country music performers Toby Keith, Kane Brown and Sammy Hagar; comedian Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias; a Neil Diamond tribute band called the Trav-

eling Salvation Show; a night of '90s music with Vanilla Ice and other artists; George Thorogood and others.

Masks will be required for all grandstand concerts, and those in the grandstand track standing-room only section will be required to provide a print or digital copy of vaccination records or a negative COVID-19 test result within three days prior to the event.

A complete list of events and entertainment lineups is available on the Illinois State Fair website, www2.illinois.gov/statefair.

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Village of Lena Sewer Department
Sanitary Sewer Cleaning
The Village of Lena will be cleaning sanitary sewer mains Aug. 24 through Sept. 10. The area of the Village affected will be West Main St. south to Dodds Dr. from Leet St. and Meadow Ridge Lane east to Schuyler.
It is recommended when sanitary sewer cleaning is being conducted to keep all of your toilet lids closed.

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Lena library offers free books, new titles

Brittany Gaulrapp, director of the Lena Community District Library, offered a roundup of library happenings in a recent news release:

- The Summer Reading program wrapped up a successful run with 5,660 books read over the summer. All children who finished the program were able to shop for prizes using the tickets they earned.

To see photos from the program, check the library's Facebook page.

- Patrons are reminded that they are able to search the library catalog anytime by going online to www.prairiecat.info. Patrons are able to request materials, renew items, pay fines and more.

For more information about how to access the online catalog, stop at the library, call 815-369-3180, send a message on Facebook or email requests to lenalibrary@le-win.net.

- The library has a room full of used books, which are available for free. Patrons are encouraged to bring a bag or box to fill with free books.

- The library has several new fiction titles: "Nine Lives" by Danielle Steel, "The Last Thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave, "Golden Girl" by Elin Hilderbrand, "Sooley" by John Grisham, "Legacy" by Nora Roberts and "The President's Daughter" by James Patterson.

New nonfiction titles include: "Live Free or Die" by Sean Hannity, "Modern Warriors" by Pete Hegseth, "The Eagle's Claw" by Jeff Sahaara and "The Hardest Job In the World" by John Dickerson.

Set your sights on the skies

Conservation group hosts viewing of meteor shower

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation and the Friends of Horseshoe Mound invite everyone to Meteors on the Mound for a glimpse of the Perseid meteor shower from atop Horseshoe Mound Preserve from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 14.

"Horseshoe Mound is the eighth-highest point in Jo Daviess County and offers spectacular views of the tri-state area from three different vantage points," according to a foundation news release. "This is the only time of the year that the preserve is open to the public after dark, so it is a special occasion."

The event is free for supporter level members of JDCF and \$10 per person for non-members. RSVPs are not required.

The evening will include family-friendly activities and a presentation by astronomy expert Walter Trentadue.



PHOTO SUBMITTED Shopper's Guide
Meteors on the Mound is set for the evening of Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Horseshoe Mound Preserve in Galena. Anyone who has a telescope is encouraged to bring it along for viewing the meteor shower.

Amateur astronomers will have telescopes onsite so that participants can view various heavenly bodies. Attendees are also encouraged to bring a

telescope.

Horseshoe Mound Preserve is located at 1679 N. Black-jack Road, Galena.

The program is weather de-

pendent. In the case of rain, potential attendees should check the JDCF website at jdcf.org or the JDCF Facebook page for updates.

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Governor signs immigrant-protection measures

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker signed four bills into law Aug. 2 aimed at protecting the state's immigrant and refugee populations, saying they will help make Illinois "the most welcoming state in the United States" for immigrants.

Among those are a requirement for local governments to end partnerships with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a law making a person's citizenship or immigration status a potential motivation for a hate crime and pro-

tections from workplace discrimination based on a person's work authorization status.

Senate Bill 667, dubbed the Illinois Way Forward Act, prohibits both the state and local governments from signing or renewing contracts with the federal government to detain immigrants. It also prohibits law enforcement from asking about or investigating the immigration or citizenship status of a person being held in custody.

Senate Bill 1596 enhances penalties for certain crimes by classifying them as hate crimes if they were motivated, even in part, by the victim's actual or

perceived immigration or citizenship status. Other categories protected under the state's hate crime law include race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability and national origin. It takes effect Jan. 1.

House Bill 121 is aimed at protecting people covered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival program, or DACA. It prohibits work employment discrimination based on a person's work authorization status, defined as "the status of a person born outside the United States, and not a U.S. citizen, who is authorized by

the federal government to work in the United States."

And finally, Pritzker signed Senate Bill 2665 establishing an Illinois Immigration Impact Task Force to examine issues involving immigrant communities in the state and to report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by May 31, 2022.

In addition to those bills, Pritzker also signed an executive order establishing a Welcoming Illinois Office within the governor's office to develop and coordinate policies to make Illinois a more welcoming and equitable state for immigrants and refugees.

• Loans (Continued from front page)

apply under SBA declaration #17071, not for the COVID-19 incident.

Disaster loan information and application forms may also be obtained by calling the SBA's customer service center at 800-659-2955

(800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or by sending an email to DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can be downloaded from sba.gov/disaster.

Completed applications

should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155. Applications must be submitted by March 28.

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Freeport Mayor Jodi Miller reads from the proclamation designating Aug. 3 as FHN Day in the city.

FHN celebrates its team; city celebrates health care provider

FHN is celebrating its team members last week with a series of "thank you" events held at FHN locations throughout the region.

Freeport Mayor Jodi Miller officially proclaimed Tuesday, Aug. 3, as FHN Day in the city of Freeport as local team members were treated to a lunch featuring treats from several local food trucks. Team members working on different shifts or at locations other than Freeport enjoyed

lunch and special treats as well.

In a message to FHN employees, President and CEO Mark Gridley said, "I believe that you all deserve so much more than a day or two to celebrate the difference that you make throughout our community every day.

"So many of our staff work all hours and days of the week throughout a large geographic area. No matter what change and challenge we face with

the passage of time, it is the skill and compassion of our FHN family that always gets us through by working together and caring for one another."

FHN is the largest employer in Freeport and Stephenson County, and its team of nearly 1,200 people care for patients throughout northwest Illinois and southwest Wisconsin.

For more information about FHN, go online to www.fhn.org/docs/2020FHNQuickFacts.pdf.

College athletes receive academic honor

Several local student athletes were among the 17 Highland Community College students honored as National Junior College Athletic Association All-Academic Team recipients.

To qualify, student athletes must have completed a minimum of 24 semester hours in the 2020-'21 academic year with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Kierra Schulz of Lena was named to the All-Academic First Team with a 4.0 GPA.

Tia Clark of Pearl City was named to the All-Academic Second Team with a GPA be-

tween 3.80 and 3.99.

Madilyn Schultz of Lena was named to the All-Academic Third Team with a GPA between 3.60 and 3.79.

In addition, four Highland teams were named NJCCA Academic Teams of the Year with a minimum 3.0 GPA for the academic year:

- Volleyball, 3.68
- Golf, 3.29
- Softball, 3.13
- Women's basketball, 3.02

For more information, go online to highland.edu/athletics.

County offers opportunity to test well water

The Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District is sponsoring a well water testing program next month.

The program offers testing of drinking and well water for nitrates and 22 different heavy metals.

Residents may purchase a testing kit from the district between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, through Friday, Sept. 24, at the SWCD office, 1620 S. Galena Ave., Freeport. People should call the office at 815-235-2141 ex-

tension 3 when they arrive to purchase kits. (Customers are not currently allowed in the building.)

If possible, payment for test kits should be in the form of personal check.

Participants are asked to take water samples either Monday, Sept. 27, or the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 28, and return the kits to the district office by 3 p.m. Sept. 28. Water samples for all tests will be immediately shipped to the laboratory.

Testing prices will vary, depending on the type of test ordered.

A confidential report of the results will be mailed directly to the home or farm owner within six to eight weeks.

A PurTest Bacteria self-testing kit also is available from the district for \$20. This is not part of the September testing program.

For more information, call the SWCD office at 815-235-2141, extension 3, or go online to www.stephensonswcd.org.

Briefs

Extension, 4-H help families get cooking

The University of Illinois Extension and 4-H are offering interactive, educational cooking kits for area families.

The September kit will feature educational information and activities to help young people learn about the importance of whole grains in their diets.

To register for a \$5 kit, which includes a booklet, activity guides, recipes, locally sourced popcorn and old-fashioned oats, call 815-235-4125 or go online to go.illinois.edu/jswIMadeThat by Aug. 30. Kits will be available for pickup at the Stephenson and Jo Daviess county Extension offices beginning Sept. 7.

Federal employees group sets meeting

Palisades Chapter 604 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet at noon Thursday, Aug. 26, at Man-

ny's Pizza in Savanna.

Attendees will discuss the future of the NARFE chapter and the need for members to serve as officers.

For more information, call chapter President Jorene Willis Lieb at 815-541-4105.

FHN offers diabetes education program

"Small Steps. Big Rewards," a free diabetes education program, will begin at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 24, in the lower level conference room at FHN Family Healthcare Center-Burchard Hills, 1010 W. Fairway Drive, Freeport.

The workshop, presented by FHN and Aramark, will focus on the importance of regular exercise and a healthy diet.

Masks are required and registration is limited, as the program will adhere to state public health guidelines at the

time of the event. Registration is required by going online to www.fhn.org/smallsteps or calling 877-600-0346, extension 901.

For more information about "Small Steps. Big Rewards" and other diabetes education programs at FHN, go online to www.fhn.org.

Church notes guest pastor, breakfast event

Guest pastor the Rev. Lauri Allen will share the message at the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Aug. 15, at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 W. Salem Road, Lena.

In other church news, the Breakfast Bunch will meet for breakfast and conversation at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 18, at the Beltline Café, 325 W. South St., Freeport.

For more information, contact the church at 815-369-4511.

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• Hypocrisy (Continued from front page)

party has supermajority partisan control over both the Illinois House and Senate. They wouldn't need a single Republican vote to enact these same mandates through the legislature. They could do it on their own, with legitimacy, but legislative Democrats are content to let Pritzker own this mess. They likely know these executive actions will be unpopular with moms and dads in their district as much as it is with moms and dads in Republican districts.

Republicans have filed numerous bills throughout the spring and summer to attempt to restore local control over these decisions. Republicans trust the superintendents, local health administrators, parents and teachers to make the best decision for students based on their 17 months of experience dealing with these issues in their local communities. If there is data indicating continued outbreaks are because of spread between unvaccinated children under 12, then it certainly has not been shared with

the legislature. If that data exists, why isn't the CDC laser-focused on clearing vaccinations for children under 12?

Unfortunately, it seems the only "science" at play here is "political science." Accompanying this new mask mandate was also a bevy of threats against private schools or public schools who disagree with this latest edict. According to Pritzker, resistance will be futile and will further be met with funding cuts in the midst of a pandemic.

Hmmm ... this is Democrat Governor Pritzker putting kids at top of mind? I guess the "don't punish the kids because of the parents" tripe we hear from Democrats when it comes to illegal immigration doesn't apply to the latest lever-of-control they plan to exercise to get you to comply. Shameful.

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

Governor urges lawmakers to act on energy bill

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

With talks between labor and environmental groups at an impasse, and with the clock ticking on the impending closure of two nuclear plants in Illinois, Gov. JB Pritzker last week urged lawmakers to quickly take up the "compromise" package he put forth in June.

"This is not something that's left to interest groups to decide. This is a decision that gets made by the legislature and by the governor," Pritzker said. "And here we are. This bill has been put together after much negotiation over many, many months. And we now have a piece of legislation that is ready to go and it needs to be called in the legislature and voted on."

The bill that Pritzker is pushing would put Illinois on a path to 100 percent emission-free power production by 2050. It includes nearly \$700 million over five years in subsidies to keep Exelon's fleet of nuclear power plants open, incentives for the development of more wind and solar generation and a sched-

uled phase-out of most coal-fired plants by 2035 and natural gas plants by 2045.

As part of a compromise, Pritzker also proposed allowing Springfield's City Water Light and Power facility and Metro East's Prairie State Energy Campus to remain open through 2045, provided they could find a way to capture at least 90 percent of their carbon emissions.

That legislation stalled during the spring session, in part because some lawmakers did not want to be portrayed as doing a favor for Exelon and its scandal-ridden subsidiary Commonwealth Edison. But there were also substantive disagreements between labor and environmental groups over the phase-out of fossil fuel plants, especially two large coal-fired plants in Springfield and the Metro East area near St. Louis.

Exelon, meanwhile, has announced plans to close its Byron Generating Station in September and its Dresden Generating Station by November, arguing they are too unprofitable to keep online. Together, those plants employ

about 1,500 workers.

The company made similar announcements in 2016 just before lawmakers passed the Future Energy Jobs Act, which included financial support for two other Exelon nuclear power plants.

And on July 28, the company filed paperwork with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission detailing its long-term plans for clean-up of the sites and disposal of their radioactive nuclear waste.

"With no sign of a breakthrough on clean energy legislation in Springfield, we have no choice but to take these final steps in preparation for shutting down the plants," Exelon Generation chief nuclear officer Dave Rhodes said in a statement.

Lawmakers have been trying to negotiate what's known in the Capitol as an "agreed bill" — one in which all of the stakeholders have come to an agreement. But, as Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, said after a special one-day session in June when lawmakers had hoped to reach an agreement,

that task proved to be difficult when working with two of the Democrats' key constituencies, organized labor and the environmental lobby.

On Aug. 2, The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, which is made up of several environmental groups, and the labor-backed Climate Jobs Illinois both notified Pritzker's office that their negotiations had reached an impasse, with labor groups insisting that fossil fuel plants be allowed to stay in operation at some level in perpetuity.

That was something labor leaders alluded to in a July 1 news conference at the Statehouse when they joined a number of business groups in announcing opposition to Pritzker's proposal.

"These plants supply thousands of jobs for local men and women through extensive maintenance performed on them each year," said Chad Goldschmidt, vice president of Southwestern Illinois Building Trades Council. "This would transfer Illinois into a net importer of generated power and a net exporter of jobs."

However, neither the environmental coalition nor Pritzker have been willing to accept that position.

"CJI's insistence on allowing all coal and gas plants to stay open and pollute forever is something our communities and climate cannot afford or survive," ICJC wrote in a letter to Pritzker.

Pritzker responded later in the day with a letter to CJI, essentially saying he had negotiated as much as he could and warning that time was running out because state officials need time to set up a financial support system for the Byron and Dresden plants before they are forced to close. He also rejected any notion that fossil fuel plants should stay open indefinitely.

See BILL, Page 11



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Oral thrush can be traced to a variety of causes

The function of your immune system is to protect you from invading bacteria, fungi, viruses and toxins while preserving a balance between the "good" and "bad" microbes that normally live in your body.



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

Oral thrush is a condition in which the immune system fails to keep Candida, a fungus that normally lives in your mouth, in balance. The overgrowth or fungal infection causes slightly raised, white lesions, with a cottage cheese-like appearance to form in the oral cavity. In

patients with compromised immunity (organ transplants, cancer and HIV/AIDS), it may spread to the esophagus.

Oral thrush is more likely to occur in those with reduced or weakened immunity, such as infants and

the elderly. In fact, if thrush is found in a healthy child, teenager or adult, you may be referred to your physician to rule out any underlying medical condition.

Since thrush is a fungal infection, it is contagious, and breastfeeding babies can pass it on to their moms, who can then re-infect their infant. If you or your infant develop white lesions in your mouth, see your dentist or doctor.

In untreated or poorly controlled diabetes, the high sugar content of the saliva can lead to oral thrush. Certain medications, including

but not limited to oral and inhaled steroids and antibiotics, increase your risk for oral thrush. Poorly disinfected and/or ill-fitting dentures, not taking your dentures out at night and dry mouth (xerostomia) also are risk factors.

Treatment for oral thrush will vary depending on the patient's age, the underlying cause(s), the extent of disease progression and recurrence and immune status.

You can help prevent oral thrush by rinsing your mouth after using a corticosteroid inhaler, practicing daily oral hygiene, controlling diabetes

and reducing sugar intake. If you wear dentures, remove them at night, disinfect them according to your dentist's instructions and report any sore spots promptly. Follow your dentist's guidelines for

addressing xerostomia and adhere to your individually prescribed recall schedule.

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

•Mandate (Continued from front page)

vaccinated individuals have died of COVID-19 symptoms, accounting for just 2.58 percent of the COVID-19-related deaths this calendar year. That number increased by 11 from the state's reporting of the numbers last week.

That's about 0.01 percent of vaccinated individuals who have been hospitalized for the virus and 0.003 percent who have died of complications.

"The overwhelming majority of cases, the hospitalizations, the deaths are among those who are not vaccinated," Ezike said. "And the majority of transmission is also among the unvaccinated. ...But the key is that we actually have the tools to turn the tide on the next wave. And that next wave wants to threaten us if we don't avail ourselves of these tools."

Pritzker said there are two routes to enforcing the mask mandate, including civil liability for schools not enforcing the mandate and the removal of recognition status by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Illinois Department of Public Health also announced Aug. 4 it is making free COVID-19 testing available to K-12 schools across the state through the SHIELD Illinois saliva-based test developed by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The test can detect the virus and its variants

in those with or without symptoms.

The testing would allow close contacts of a COVID-19-positive individual to stay in the classroom as long as they test negative. Funding comes from federal COVID-19 relief packages.

By Oct. 4, all Illinois state employees working in congregate facilities will be required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

The order covers certain employees at the Departments of Human Services, Veterans' Affairs, Corrections and Juvenile Justice working in congregate facilities, and Pritzker said the state has reached out to the unions representing those employees to work out the details.

Illinois is also requiring universal masking in private long-term care facilities and "strongly encourages owners of private facilities to join the state in adopting vaccination requirements," according to the governor's office.

Pritzker said the state is "evaluating every day" the trajectory of the virus and other potential mitigations that may be needed.

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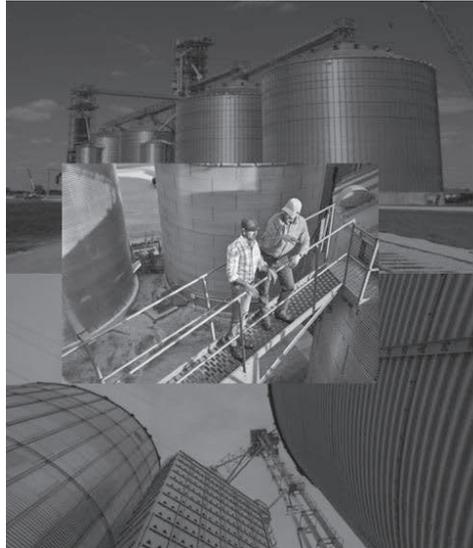
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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Last week we had some beautiful days. The windows were open, and our electric bill got a reprieve. Not so for the weekend and this week. School is starting up and football and volleyball practice is starting, so we must have scorching temperatures.

The gardens are really producing lots of good things. Enjoy using the harvest in this week's recipes.

with cold water. Let stand two hours; rinse and drain.

In a large saucepan, bring the remaining ingredients to a boil. Pour over the zucchini and onions; cover and let stand two hours. Transfer to a large saucepan. Bring to boil; reduce heat and simmer for five minutes. Carefully ladle hot mixture into four hot half-pint jars, leaving 1/2 inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust the headspace, if necessary, by adding the hot mixture. Wipe rims. Center lids on jars; screw on the bands until fingertip tight. Place jars in canner with simmering water, ensuring that they are completely covered with water. Bring to a boil; process for 15 minutes. Remove jars and cool.

Cheese and Pimiento Spread

This spread has been around a long time, but this recipe has a little kick to it. Serve it with celery or crackers. It can be used as a sandwich spread or a bagel spread.

12 oz. sharp white cheddar cheese

8 oz. softened cream cheese

2 t. Worcestershire sauce

2 t. white vinegar

1/4 t. white pepper

1/4 t. garlic powder

1/4 t. cayenne pepper

1 jar (4 oz.) diced pimientos, undrained

Assorted crackers and vegetables

Shred the cheese; transfer to a bowl. Add cream cheese, Worcestershire sauce, vinegar, pepper, garlic powder, and cayenne; beat on low speed until blended. Drain pimientos, reserving 2 T. juice. Stir in pimientos and reserved juice. Serve with crackers and vegetables.

Zucchini Pickles

We are always looking for different ways to use zucchini. These pickles would be a great way to use some of those small zucchinis.

2 lbs. fresh zucchini, cut into 1/4-inch slices

2 small onions, sliced

1/4 C. canning salt

3 C. white vinegar

1 C. sugar

2 t. mustard seed

1 t. celery seed

1 t. turmeric

Combine zucchini and onions in a large bowl; sprinkle with canning salt and cover

Antipasto Pasta Salad

Artichoke hearts, sun-dried tomatoes and kalamata olives give this salad a Mediterranean flair. You can get the artichoke hearts and sun-dried tomatoes in most grocery stores. If you are in a large grocery store, they have an olive bar. You can use jarred or canned olives if you can't find the olive bar. This salad is easy to put together and easy to eat!

8 oz. penne pasta

1 lemon

1/4 C. olive oil

2 T. Dijon mustard

1/2 t. salt

1/4 t. pepper

6 C. mixed salad greens

1 can (14 oz.) artichoke hearts, drained, quartered

2 medium tomatoes, cut into 1-inch chunks

3/4 C. drained sun-dried tomatoes in oil, chopped

1/2 C. pitted kalamata olives, sliced

1/2 C. shaved Parmesan cheese

In a large pot, cook pasta in boiling salted water according to package directions; drain. Rinse under cold water until cool; drain well. Reserve.

Grate 1 t. lemon zest and squeeze 2 T. juice from lemon into large bowl; whisk in oil, mustard, salt and pepper. Add pasta, greens, artichoke hearts, fresh tomatoes and sun-dried tomatoes and olives; toss until coated in dressing. Transfer to serving bowl. Top with Parmesan shaving. (If you want to make it a meal with meat, add sliced grilled chicken.) This will feed six people.

Garden Chicken Cacciatore

This easy chicken recipe can be made the night before and plugged in before work. It will be ready to go when you get home. Chicken thighs are much moister than breasts and hold up during slow cooking. Serve with rice or pasta.

1 medium onion, chopped

2 medium green peppers, chopped

3 garlic cloves, minced

3/4 t. salt

1/4 t. pepper

12 boneless skinless chicken thighs

1 can (14 1/2 oz.) diced tomatoes, undrained

1 can (6 oz.) tomato paste

1/2 C. chicken broth

2 T. cornstarch

2 T. cold water

In a 6-quart slow cooker sprayed with cooking spray, layer the onion, peppers, minced garlic and chicken thighs. Add the tomatoes, tomato paste and broth. Cook on low for eight to 10 hours.

In a bowl, mix cornstarch and water, salt and pepper. Stir into slow cooker. Cook until thickened, about another 30 minutes. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley.

Baked Chicken and Zucchini

The last recipe used chicken thighs; this recipe uses chicken breasts and zucchini. It uses tomatoes also, so it truly is a dish that uses garden vegetables. When something is topped with cheese, it has to be good.

1 egg

1 T. water

3/4 t. salt, divided

1/8 t. pepper

1 C. dry breadcrumbs

See **KITCHEN**, Page 12

LEGAL NOTICES

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on **August 4, 2021**, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Stephenson County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as **Mountain Creek Woodcrafts** located at **6841 N. Flansburg Rd., Lena, Illinois 61048**.

Dated this 4th day of August 2021.

LISA K. BARKALOW,

Deputy Clerk

(Published in

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•Bill (Continued from page 8)

"The decision to draw a line in the sand to prevent potential job loss in 2045 (when fossil fuel plants would be closed) over certain job loss in 2021 is a negotiating position that does a disservice to both workers

and our climate," Pritzker wrote.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide.

Kitchen (Continued from page 11)

4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
4 T. olive oil divided
½ medium zucchini, sliced
4 T. olive oil, divided
5 medium zucchini, sliced
4 medium tomatoes, sliced
1 C. shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

2 t. minced fresh basil
In a shallow bowl, beat egg, water, ½ t. salt and the pepper. Set aside 2 T. bread-crumbs. Place remaining crumbs in large shallow dish. Dip chicken into egg mixture, then place in crumbs and turn to coat. In a large skillet, cook the chicken in 2 T. oil until golden brown, two to three minutes per side; remove and set aside. In the same skillet, sauté zucchini in remaining oil until crisp-tender; drain. Transfer to a greased 9-by-13 baking dish. Sprinkle the reserved breadcrumbs over the zucchini. Top with tomato slices; sprinkle with ½ cup mozzarella cheese, basil and remaining salt. Top with chicken. Cover and bake at 400 until a thermometer reads 170 — about 25 minutes. Uncover; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake until

cheese is melted — about 10 minutes.

Summer's Best Peach Pie

I have been blessed with some wonderful peaches this year from Georgia and Southern Illinois. This pie is a little different than the one I make, but one of my friends made this one and said it was great. You can make your own crust or buy the refrigerated one.

Pastry for double-crust pie
½ to ¾ C. sugar
1½ T. quick-cooking tapioca
½ t. cinnamon
3 T. finely chopped candied ginger (optional)
5 C. thinly sliced, peeled peaches
Milk
Sugar
Ground cinnamon

In a large bowl, combine the sugar (use ½ to ¾ C. to taste), tapioca and ½ t. cinnamon. Mix in ginger if desired. Add peaches. Toss to coat the peaches. On a lightly floured surface, use your hands to flatten one dough ball of pastry or one sheet. Roll dough from center to edge into a

circle about 12 inches in diameter. Transfer pastry into a 9-inch pie plate. Roll remaining dough into a circle 12 inches in diameter. Cut slits in dough to let steam escape. Fill pie with peaches and dot with butter. Brush the bottom crust edge with water. Place top crust on peaches. Crimp edge around the pie and cut off excess dough. Brush top with milk and sprinkle with cinnamon or a combination of cinnamon and sugar. Place pie ring around the edges of the pie. Bake in a preheated oven of 375 for 40 to 45 minutes. (If you do not have a pie ring, place foil around the edges for about 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake for the rest of the time.)

Fresh Southern Peach Cobbler

This cobbler has the spices of cinnamon and nutmeg. The hardest part is peeling the peaches. I always put a pot of water on the stove and bring it to a boil. I carefully place peaches in the water for a few moments. I remove them into a bowl and run cold water on them. (Do not cook

them). They are really easy to peel. This recipe also uses both white and brown sugar for a really different take on cobbler.

8 fresh peaches, peeled, pitted and sliced into thin wedges

¼ C. sugar
¼ C. brown sugar
¼ t. cinnamon
¼ t. nutmeg
1 t. fresh lemon juice
2 t. cornstarch
1 C. flour
¼ C. sugar
¼ C. brown sugar
1 t. baking powder
½ t. salt
5 T. unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small pieces
¼ C. boiling water
Topping: 3 T. sugar
2 t. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 425. In a large bowl, combine peaches, ¼ C. sugar ¼ C. brown sugar, ¼ t. cinnamon, nutmeg, lemon juice and cornstarch. Toss to coat evenly, and pour into a 2-quart baking dish. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes.

In a large bowl, combine flour, ¼ C. sugar, ¼ C. brown sugar, baking powder and salt.

Blend in butter with your fingertips or a pastry blender, until mixture resembles coarse meal. Stir in water until just combined.

Remove peaches from oven and drop spoonfuls of topping over them. Sprinkle entire cobbler with the sugar and cinnamon mixture. Bake until topping is golden, about 30 minutes.

Final thoughts

School starts next week. When I was teaching, the question always was, "Where did the summer go?" I ask myself that question when I look at the calendar.

I had my final appointment with Dr. Tawfik last week. He has been good to my family over the many years he has been here. He was a great addition to our community when he arrived in 1982. He did a lot for his patients, myself included. When this paper comes out, they are having a reception for him at Polhill Park.

Life changes all around us; we should count ourselves lucky to have had the people around us who have cared for

our many needs. I am retired and my doctors are getting to the age that they want retirement also. We may not like change, but as doctor says, we trust in God that the future will be bright. Thank you, Dr. Tawfik, for being such a dedicated doctor and a wonderful human being.

Last week I was blessed with more peaches; I have been eating them on cereal, making cobbler and eating them sliced on ice cream from the drive-in. I also have had more green beans, fresh broccoli, zucchini and tomatoes. I have been eating great; thank you to my friends who have kept me supplied with summer fruits and vegetables.

I guess this will be the last call for summer recipes. September will be here, and we will be looking for fall recipes. So if you have any summer fruit and vegetable recipes you would like to share, 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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Drought declaration includes Stephenson County

The United States Department of Agriculture has designated Winnebago County as a primary natural disaster area because of drought con-



ditions.

Although Winnebago is the primary county eligible for disaster assistance, the contiguous counties of Boone, DeKalb, Ogle and Stephenson in Illinois and Rock and Green in Wisconsin also are eligible for assistance.

The secretarial natural disaster designation allows the USDA Farm Service Agency to extend emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans.

Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs, including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation or the refinance of certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available and repayment ability.

For more information about available programs, contact the Stephenson County FSA office in Freeport at 815-235-2141.



Play it safe, Protect your smile!

Stockton Dental Center

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