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the Scoop Today

Pritzker signs revised state legislative maps

Challenges likely in both state and federal courts

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Despite opposition from Republicans as well as reform groups, Gov. JB Pritzker on Sept. 24 signed into law the revised state legislative district maps that lawmakers passed in August, opening the door to almost certain court challenges.

"These legislative maps align with the landmark Voting Rights Act and will help ensure Illinois' diversity is reflected in the halls of government," Pritzker said in a statement.

But not everyone agrees that the maps do reflect the state's diversity. The political action arm of the reform group CHANGE Illinois issued a statement arguing that they actually dilute minority voting power.

"Many major groups agree the new maps reduce the numbers of majority Black voting age population districts and majority Latino voting age population districts," the group said in a statement. "The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund's lawyers have said they believe the state representative and Senate maps dilute Latino voting power. The Latino Policy Forum asked Pritzker to veto the maps for the same reason. Illinois African Americans for Equitable Redistricting also said the maps do not create enough Black majority voting age districts."

Lawmakers initially adopted maps during the spring legislative session in order to meet the state constitution's June 30 deadline, despite the fact that they didn't yet have the official, detailed U.S. Census data needed to draw districts with nearly equal population.

See MAPS, Page 8



SONYA WILLIAMSON The Scoop Today

School board upholds mask mandate as issue draws protest

At top, parents, grandparents and concerned citizens turned out Sept. 23 to voice their opinions about the school mask mandate in advance of the Stockton School Board meeting. Some of those gathered said they were concerned about the effectiveness of masks and the effect of the requirement on children's mental health. Above, Gary Underwood, a retired science teacher from Stockton, and state Rep. Andrew Chesney, on the right, were among those in attendance at the meeting. The school board voted 5-2 to follow the governor's mandate, Superintendent James Bunting said in an email.

"I would like the community to know that we care about our students and we want to provide them with a great education. We want our students to be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities and we want to be good stewards of district funds," Bunting said in an email. "We don't like the mask mandate, and hope that Governor Pritzker lifts the mandate and allows each district to make its own decision in the future."

Experienced players, freshmen contribute to Stockton volleyball success

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The Stockton Blackhawks volleyball squad has been red hot ever since dropping consecutive games against Eastland and Galena. The Blackhawks quickly bounced back with a pair of 2-0 wins over East Dubuque and Warren.

They appear to have gained some momentum since then as they expanded the two-game win streak to five last week.

After defeating West Carroll 2-0 on Sept. 15, the Blackhawks kept their momentum rolling into the next week. On Sept. 21, Stockton traveled to

Hanover to face off with the River Ridge Wildcats. With just a 2-8 record at the time, the Wildcats came into the game as underdogs.

River Ridge appeared to catch the Blackhawks off guard, however, as each set

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 8

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Warren among winning schools in exercise challenge

Eight area schools will receive checks from FHN this fall, thanks to those who counted their exercise minutes through the summer with FHN's Miles And Minutes program.

The miles per school system winners are:

- Tri-County Christian, 105,330 miles (\$2,000)
- Aquin Catholic Schools, 51,245 miles (\$1,000)
- Immanuel Lutheran School, 23,990 miles (\$500)

The average miles per participant winners are:

- Dakota, 227.3 miles (\$2,000)
- West Carroll, 200.5 miles (\$1,000)
- Tri-County Christian, 196.87 miles (\$500)

Schools that did not win a prize in the two main categories are eligible for sweepstakes prizes. Miles And Minutes participants took part in contests throughout the summer to win points for their school

The sweepstakes winners are:

- Warren School District, \$500
- Eastland School District, \$400
- Freeport School District, \$300

The free Miles and Minutes program had 454 participants who logged a total of 2,072,550 minutes of exercise from June 3 through Aug. 30, the release said.

Together, exercisers logged enough activity to equate to 66,545 miles — a little over two times around the world, according to an FHN news release.

FHN's Miles And Minutes encouraged participants to be active and log various types of physical activity to win prize money for the school of their choice.

Miles And Minutes winners were chosen in two main

Blood center offers donor link to research studies

Rock River Valley Blood Center has announced a new partnership with Bio-Linked, a database system that helps facilitate medical research.

"Bio-Linked matches generous donors with the nation's most promising research studies," according to blood center news release. "Donors could be the link to a cure for life-threatening diseases."

Donors can sign up for Bio-Linked through the Rock River Valley Blood Center when they stop by to give blood or by going online to RRVBC.Bio-Linked.org. The program is completely voluntary.

While each research project is different, some have

budgets for paying individuals for their participation.

"By implementing this lifesaving initiative at our center, we are not only a part of saving lives on a daily basis, but we are also a part of something much bigger — finding cures for diseases," Lisa Entrikin, CEO of the Rock River Valley Blood Center, said in the release.

An estimated 16,000 clinical studies are underway at any given time in the United States. The biggest delay in bringing new drugs and treatments to market is caused by the time required to find willing individuals to participate in research and development.

All information provided to Bio-Linked is kept entire-

ly confidential. Bio-Linked representatives will contact potential participants if they're a match for a study, which may involve blood samples or voluntary participation.

Individuals feeling healthy and well are encouraged to schedule a blood donation appointment at rrvbc.org, on the myRRVBC app, or by calling 815-965-8751. Walk-ins also are welcome at any of the Rock River Valley Blood Center donor centers in Freeport, Rockford or Belvidere, or at a mobile blood drive.

The Rock River Valley Blood Center supplies blood products and services to FHN, among multiple other area medical facilities.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED The Scoop Today/Shoppers Guide

Happy birthday, Opal
Opal Weick of Lena celebrated her 100th birthday recently with cake and plenty of well wishes from the community. She is pictured with her daughter, Jill, and son-in-law, Greg.

Daily Drawing names monthly winners

Organizers of the Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing have announced the September winners.

The Daily Drawing is a drawing for 365 daily cash prizes from Oct. 1, 2020, through Sept. 30, 2021, to those donating for a ticket. More than \$21,000 is paid out to ticket-holders during the year, with cash prizes varying between \$50 and \$250.

A ticket may win multiple times as each ticket remains in the drawing each day for the entire year, no matter how often it is drawn.

Sixteen organizations from Jo Daviess, Carroll and Stephenson counties work together on the Daily Drawing:

Caring Community of Elizabeth, Dakota Athletic Boosters, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music

Boosters, Galena Elks Scholarship, Galena Key Club, Galena Travelers, Hanover Alumni Association, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary Foundation, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, Scales Mound Travelers, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Warren Athletic Boosters and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

The September winners are: Jackie O'Brien of Warwick, Rhode Island, Emily Winders of Elizabeth, Meghan Randecker of Galena, Nancy Backenkeller of Elizabeth, Nick Thomas of Hanover, Al Vandigo of Apple River, Lea Ann Michels of Savanna, Christopher Farber of East Dubuque, Kyle Blaser of East Dubuque, Joseph Heller of Galena, Anne Horbach of Galena, Bart Stubblefield of Bend, Oregon, Sarah Heller of Apple River, Shannon Driscoll of Scales Mound, Nicole Sheffey of Pearl City, Janice Wasmund of Galena, Jennifer Birchen of Pearl City, Dawn Jones of Davis, Paultette Wiley of Elizabeth, Penny Fink of Lanark, Kim Miller of Galena, Lucy Heller of Galena, Donna D'Amico of Galena, Cindy Saxer of Pearl City, Pat Widolff of Orangeville, Mikayla Knautz of Galena, Kristie Alvarado of East Dubuque, Maranda Volling of Stockton, Jennifer Travis of Scales Mound and Suzie Koch of Elizabeth.

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Exploring program offers students experience in health care

FHN is part of the national Exploring program for students interested in examining a career in health care and interested students can learn more at an upcoming meeting.

The free event will be held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 6, at FHN Memorial Hospital, 1045 W. Stephenson St. in Freeport. Each meeting is held in a different location, depending on what the group is shadowing.

For more information and meeting locations, contact the Center of Innovative Learning at coil@fhn.org. No registration is necessary.

Masks must be worn and social distancing measures will be in place during the meetings.

Exploring is a worksite-based career exploration program for young men and women ages 14 to 20. The program provides students with an opportunity to learn about a variety of career fields in health care and network with professionals already working in those professions.

"Explorers get hands-on experience to determine whether or not a particular career is right for them," according to a

news release. "Explorers benefit from unique real-world career experiences, leadership skills training, networking and adding Exploring to college, job and scholarship applications." There is no charge to attend the introductory meeting, but there is a \$33 annual fee to become an Explorer Post member.

For more information about the Exploring program, go online to www.exploring.org. To find out more about the FHN Exploring Healthcare meeting, call FHN's Center of Innovative Learning office at 815-599-6707.



PHOTO SUBMITTED *The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide*

Dr. Shokry Tawfik was recognized recently with the Rural Physician Lifetime of Service Award from the Illinois Rural Health Association. Pictured at the celebration are Tawfik, seated right, and his wife, Amal. Standing from left to right are state Rep. Andrew Chesney, IRHA Executive Director Margaret Vaughn, FHN President and CEO Mark Gridley and state Sen. Brian Stewart.

Famous radio play comes alive on college stage

The Highland Community College Theatre Arts program will present "The War of the Worlds: The 1938 Radio Script" with live, in-person performances at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, through Saturday, Oct. 9, in the Ferguson Fine Arts Center, 2998 W. Pearl City Road, Freeport.

"Broadcast from New York's Mercury Theatre in 1938, the infamous radio play, based on the novel by H. G. Wells, had many terrified listeners convinced an actual alien invasion of earth was taking place," a news release said. "Adapted by Howard E. Koch, co-writer of the movie 'Casablanca,'

and directed and narrated by Orson Welles, the original script details the frightening tale of an extraterrestrial."

"The novel, 'War of the Worlds,' by H.G. Wells has inspired radio broadcasts, movies and a television series," Laura Early, director and Highland theater arts instructor, said in the release. "The 1938 radio broadcast by Howard Koch remains thrilling. We are producing a live in-person theater production of the radio play. We invite audience members in the theater to use their imagination and go with us on that journey of an alien invasion."

To place a ticket order, call 815-599-3718 or visit the

box office web page by going online to highland.edu/box-office. Phone and online tickets sales will end at 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2.

In-person tickets sales are open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at the box office, located in Ferguson Fine Arts Center (Building F). The box office will not be open for ticket sales on the evening of performances.

Highland Community College follows safety recommendations set by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the CDC and state and federal guidelines. Masks and social distancing are required during performances.

Sports roundup

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

Golf

• Sept. 20, Aquin and Rockford Christian at Stockton

Team scores: Rockford Christian, 170; Stockton, 192; Aquin, 209

Rockford Christian had both the medalist and runner-up, with scores of 40 and 41.

Stockton scores were: Austin Chumbler, 46; Jared Dvorak, 47; Trace Williamson, 49; and Andrew Mensendike, 50.

• Sept. 23, Stockton at Eastland

Team scores: Stockton, 189, Eastland 194

Andy Anderson of Eastland was the medalist at 42, but Stockton's Austin Chumbler was right behind him with a 43 as runner-up.

Other Stockton scores were: Alexi Haas, 47; Trace Williamson, 47; and Jared Dvorak, 52.

Volleyball

• Sept. 21, Aquin defeated Pearl City, 18-25, 25-15 and

25-19.

• Sept. 21, Durand defeated Le-Win, 21-25, 25-23 and 25-18.

• Sept. 21, West Carroll defeated Warren, 21-25, 25-19 and 28-26.

Claire Riedl notched 17 digs, eight kills, two aces and four blocks for the Lady Warriors. Addy Bohnsack had 17 digs and four aces for Warren.

• Sept. 23, Eastland defeated Le-Win, 25-22, 21-25 and 25-15.

Grace Groezinger had nine kills and Izzy Flaminio had 20 digs for Le-Win.

• Sept. 23, East Dubuque defeated Warren, 16-25, 25-19 and 25-23.

Claire Riedl had 14 kills, three blocks and five digs for Warren. Addy Bohnsack and Lauren Williams also had five kills and five digs each.

• Sept. 23, Aquin defeated Orangeville, 25-19 and 25-13.

See ROUNDUP, Page 10

A Big THANK YOU

to FHN Hospice for the exceptional care of our father, GERALD HASTINGS

The whole team gave wonderful support and hugs to our family. Special thanks to Candace, Jeff, Mark, Becky, Dalys, Yolanda and Madison

The Hastings Family

Help us celebrate Vivian Hesselbacher's 80th Birthday with a card shower on Oct. 5!

Please send your cards to:
Vivian Hesselbacher
8878 N. Flansburg Rd
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A BIG thank you to my family and friends for making my 100th birthday special for me.....so many cards (106), flowers, visits, prayers and parties!!! I am very blessed and may God bless you.

Opal Weick

In my opinion

Put high school players 'back in the game' of football

Whenever I go to a high school or college football game, I cringe at the sight of players on the field, standing as if witless (which they aren't), looking to the sidelines for instructions from the coaches for the play to call and defense to mount.

I fear that coaches have taken the game away from the kids. Let's give it back to them.

When I played high school football (badly) 60 years ago, we called our own plays in the huddle. And it was a good learning experience.

In addition to using our own wits, we learned how to work together and make our own way on the field.

Quarterback Dan Carrington was the final word on play calling, yet players often chimed in with such as: "Go off left tackle, Dan. I know I can handle this guy."

Then we went off tackle, and "this guy" reared up, pushed our left tackle

aside, and smote down our halfback for a loss. Thus, Dan learned how to measure his teammates and whom he could trust. Dan later became president of Western Union.

According to coaches and veteran football officials I talked with, those days are long gone.

Digital technology now gives coaches the capacity to learn instantaneously during



By **JIM NOWLAN**

the game, from assistants up in the press box, about opponents' defenses and of stuff players on the field can't know. And the team playbook is an order of magnitude more complex than it was in my day, when we passed the pigskin maybe three or four times all game.

And winning is apparently even more important to parents than it was in my day. A losing coach won't be around for long, as he might have been back when. So, coaches are under pressure to take advantage of every tool available, including calling the plays and defenses.

And though they wouldn't admit it, the coaches probably love being a greater part, maybe the dominant part, of the action.

In effect, the high school players have become pawns under the Friday night lights.

At the big-time college football level, the top five conferences, such as the SEC and the Big Ten, are really professional businesses.

See **OPINION**, Page 10



Slices of life

Is all this busyness really necessary?

"If you don't have time for things that matter, stop doing things that don't."

— Courtney Carver



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

This column is dedicated to busy, and those of us who might describe ourselves as such.

We've all been there. Most of us are probably there right now.

As far as busy goes, those of us in the club are members of two different factions.

The first: People who are really too busy.

I feel for us. We are overextended and scrambling because gosh darn it, we have

to! We might work multiple jobs, not because it brings us joy, but because how else are the mortgage and new car payments going to get paid?

In addition, there are the kids. They've got to learn busy at an early age, so there's taxiing them to private oboe lessons (It's important to learn individual strengths

and skills.) and soccer practice (Teamwork teaches life lessons.)

And that's just the start. We haven't slept more than five or six hours a night in the last 10 years because when else will the laundry get done? And then there's cleaning the house on the day before the housekeeper comes. Exhausting.

Busy is a full-time job; heck, it's a full-time life. The days buzz by without us hardly noticing because it's all become a whirl. It's the business of busyness and many of us are like blind mice running in perpetuity on that proverbial wheel.

If only we could find a way to step off and quit running in place!

Be careful what you might wish for. Because then we might find ourselves

as members of the second group: People who merely think they are too busy.

It's hard to distinguish those of us truly in the first group (too busy) from those of us in the second (want to be too busy). Neither group has harnessed calm or tranquility. How could you when you are so busy you can't think straight enough to know if you are actually busy or just hallucinating the state?

Neither brings balance or harmony into our lives, yet we continue to live it out, day after day, week after week, year after year. Running on that darn wheel, never getting anywhere.

The only perk about the illusion of being busy, versus busy in the true sense, is that with the illusion you have

See **SLICES**, Page 15

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Obituary

EUGENE L. BROGE



Eugene L. Broge, age 94, of Freeport, Illinois, passed away peacefully into the arms of Jesus on Sept.

21, 2021. He was born March 10, 1927, in Waddams Grove to Clifford and Bessie (Tie-man) Broge. He married Ursie Price on May 9, 1954, in Nora, Illinois at Nora Community Church. He was a lifetime farmer, starting in Winslow, Illinois, at his family farm until he purchased land outside of Nora to start his own. He enjoyed carpentry, spending time with family, playing euchre, fishing and reading and was an avid sports fan after retirement.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Ursie, of Freeport; four children, RoseMarie (David "Nick") Leiendoecker of Warren, Christine (Brad) Ellis of Snohomish, Washington, Eugenia (Lee) Steffens of Shoreview, Minnesota, and John (Karoline) Broge of Winslow; grandchildren, Jerad (Michelle) Bennett, Carrie (Mike) Harris, Jeanette (Mike) Dorsey, Nickolas (Alex) Bennett, Ben (Maranda) Ellis, Joe (Annaly) Ellis, Jim (Meghan) Ellis, Katelyn (Daniel) Washburn, Jonathon (Laura) Steffens, Jessica (Dirk) Brinkmeier, Travis Broge, Amber (Brady) Hanson and Mike Broge; 22 great grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Straight; brothers, Allen (Phyllis) Broge, LaVerne (Linda) Broge and Norman "Bill" (Mary Ann) Broge; many nieces and nephews and his loving cat, Character.

He was preceded in death by his parents; child, Gale Broge; grandchildren, Jacob Ellis and Shantell Winslow; and sisters, Virginia Mann and Nelda Straight.

A visitation and funeral service were held Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, at St. John's Lutheran Church. The Rev. Rick Bader officiated.

A private family burial will be at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport.

A memorial has been established in his name.

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

Brushing and flossing could be good for your brain



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

pact of known risk factors and identify preventative actions that promote brain health.

The list of things that you can do to help to keep your brain stay healthy throughout your lifetime currently includes avoiding tobacco products, eating a nutritious diet, getting regular exercise, staying active both mentally and socially, maintaining good heart health and avoiding or keeping strict control of your diabetes. Current research now points to the need to add

maintaining your oral health throughout your lifetime to that list.

There is increasing evidence that periodontal disease might be a contributing risk factor for Alzheimer's disease. While scientists do not as yet fully understand the link between periodontal disease and Alzheimer's, studies have found a key bacteria in gum disease in the brains of people who had Alzheimer's disease. Another recent study showed that people who have a higher percentage of unhealthy gum bacteria were more likely to have a protein marker for Alzheimer's disease in their cere-

brospinal fluid.

Here is what we already know. Previous research has already confirmed the relationship between periodontal disease and cardiovascular disease, strokes, rheumatoid arthritis, pregnancy complications, chronic respiratory disease, diabetes, obesity and kidney disease. We know that cardiovascular disease and diabetes are known risk factors for dementia.

We know that bacteria from periodontal disease can enter the bloodstream and cause inflammation and infection. We know that untreated periodontal disease can lead to tooth

loss and affect your ability to maintain the healthy diet needed to maintain both physical health and brain health.

While further research will help us to fully understand the direct or indirect causal relationship between periodontal disease and dementia, we already know that daily dental hygiene and regular dental visits keep your teeth and gums healthy.

Good oral health promotes overall health. Don't floss and brush for your dentist, do it for your brain.

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

Concerto competition open to young musicians

The Community School of the Arts at Northern Illinois University invites musicians 18 years old and younger to audition in the annual CSA Sinfonia Concerto Competition. Applications must be received by Wednesday, Oct. 20.

Auditions are scheduled in the Recital Hall of the NIU Music Building on Sunday, Nov. 7 beginning at 2 p.m.

One winner receives a \$200 cash prize and performs the winning concerto with the youth orchestra as a special guest at the Sinfonia concert on May 11, 2022. Linc Smelser directs the CSA Sinfonia, a full youth orchestra that has performed varied repertoire in NIU's Boutell Memorial Concert Hall every year since 1999.

Musicians who wish to compete must live within a 75-miles radius of DeKalb. Each musician will perform from memory one movement of a standard solo concerto or an appropriate one-movement composition. Auditions are limited to eight minutes, and musicians are expected to bring their own accompanist.

Since the Sinfonia Concerto Competition began in

2001, the list of winners has grown to include: Andrew Parsons, Shawn Moore, Jonathan Richards, Hellen Weberpal, Jaime Sachay, Katelyn Kozinski, Autumn Chodorowski, David Petersons, Katie Schulz, Rachel Stenzel, Genevieve Smelser, Hanna Bingham, Serena Harnack, Karisa Chiu, Katherine Gallagher, Steven Song, Thompson Wang, Margaret O'Malley, Manou Magdalena Chakravorty, and Nicholas Boettcher.

The NIU Community School of the Arts is a not-for-profit arts organization sponsored by the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Northern Illinois University. More than 60 teachers conduct music ensembles, classes and private lessons, providing opportunities for community members to study and enjoy music and art. CSA teachers include NIU faculty and students, as well as artists and musicians from DeKalb, Sycamore and the surrounding community.

More information and application forms are available by going online to www.csa.niu.edu or by calling the CSA office at 815-753-1450.



JO DAVIESS CONSERVATION FOUNDATION PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Guided hikes to wrap up in October

The dates are set for the final three guided tours of the season at the Casper Bluff Reserve near Galena. Hikes are scheduled for 9 a.m. Saturdays, Oct. 2 and Oct. 16, and for 6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 19. Trained volunteers lead the hour-long hikes, with highlights including the Mississippi River overlook, an effigy mound and restored prairie and oak savanna habitat. The cost is \$10 per person and an RSVP is required by going online to www.jdcpf.org/events. Casper Bluff Reserve is located at 870 S. Pilot Knob Road, Galena.



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4-H youth display their skills in the show ring



Sage Huneke of the Pearl City Hornets 4-H club won the title of Stephenson County master showman in this summer's competition at the Stephenson County Fair. Jase Sheffey of the Pearl Valley Rangers 4-H club was the reserve champion.

4-H youth ages 14 to 18 demonstrated their showmanship skills with beef, sheep and swine livestock. Participants either showed their own animals or borrowed one from another member.

Youth were judged on their ability to "present the animals

in their most eye-appealing form per species standards to the judge," according to a 4-H news release.

Master showmanship participants included Ben Bremmer, Daemyn Heslop, Sage Huneke, Brynn Lamm, Brea Musser, Jase Sheffey, Levi Sheffey, Cole Weber, Daila Weber and Faith Weber.

"It was nice to see families and 4-H clubs come together and support the youth who participated," Brenda Heimann, Stephenson County 4-H and youth development program coordinator, said in the release. "I loved seeing 4-Hers work with each other and teach each other how to handle the different species."

Huneke and Sheffey won cash prizes and a feed scoop and bucket for their efforts, thanks to the Stephenson County Farm Bureau.

The contest is organized by the Stephenson County Farm Bureau Young Leaders and University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County 4-H.

PHOTO SUBMITTED *The Scoop Today/ Shopper's Guide*

Sage Huneke won the champion title and Jase Sheffey won the reserve champion title in the master showman competition at the Stephenson County Fair.



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Junior auxiliary donates books

Junior members of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary presented four books to the Lena-Winslow Elementary School library recently: "The Saluting Marine," "The Poppy Lady," "F is for Flag" and "A Flag For Our Country." "The Saluting Marine" was signed by the author and dedicated to Lena-Winslow elementary students. Shown at the book presentation, in the front row from left, are Kairi Schulz, Jocelyn Youtzy, Janessa Avila, Keighlyn Schulz and Kinzley Schulz. In the back row from left are librarian Lorna Hastings, Principal Ann DeZell and librarian Heather Benson.

A BIG "THANK YOU"

to those readers who have sent a donation to help underwrite *The Scoop Today* and *Shopper's Guide*. For those of you who haven't done so in the past year, but enjoy this newspaper and would like to help us pay for its operation, please send a donation in any amount to:

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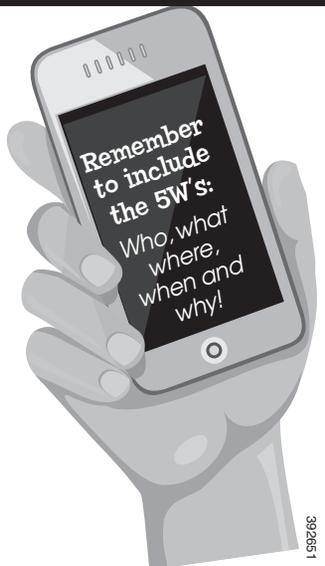
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Urban farm aims to reduce food insecurity

By Kay Shipman
FARMWEEK

A unique, mission-driven urban farm feeds many people from a few Urbana acres in Champaign County.

Sola Gratia Farm, a ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, grows up to 150 varieties of 50 types of vegetables and cover crops on 15 acres and in two high tunnels. Visit solagratiaca.com or follow the farm on Facebook and Instagram.

The farm's produce graces the tables of market customers along with those eating at local soup kitchens and receiving food from area food pantries.

Sola Gratia markets fresh produce through a 200-member community supported agriculture (CSA) operation sold in three seasonal subscriptions, according to Traci Barkley, the farm director. CSA 2022 shares will be offered for sale starting in October.

The farm also sells its products at three farmers markets: Champaign Farmers Market, Tuesday afternoons through October; Urbana's Market at the Square, Saturday mornings through October; and a winter market at Lincoln Square Mall, Saturdays from November through April.

The farm uses organic practices, but its produce is not certified organic, Barkley said.

Soon, Barkley and her staff will plant a variety of cool-season crops, including beets, turnips, carrots and other root vegetables along with different greens, in the two high tunnels for winter production.

Feeding others is the core of the farm's existence.

By late August, Sola Gratia had donated more than 8,000 pounds of fresh produce and that total will continue to grow, Barkley said. By the end of 2021, she estimated, the farm will have donated more than 100,000 pounds of produce during its 10 years of existence.

"Our mission is reducing food insecurity," Barkley said. Barkley outlined different

avenues for the farm's donations.

On Mondays, Sola Gratia donates produce to a soup kitchen serving meals to between 100 and 200 people and on Tuesdays to a different soup kitchen serving food to 200 people daily. On

Wednesdays, Sola Gratia donates fresh vegetables to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank that serves food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters in 18 eastern Illinois counties. On Fridays from June through October, the farm opens for a neighborhood market in its

low-income neighborhood in conjunction with the local health department. Sola Gratia also donates produce for a mobile market operated from a converted mass transit bus and participates in special events, such as a program for seniors.

Education and outreach are also part of the farm. For several years, the Champaign County Farm Bureau has partnered with Sola Gratia for a summer camp where kids learn about food production and nutrition. The county Farm Bureau has also worked

with the farm on other projects.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.



Team members with Sola Gratia Farm, a ministry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Urbana, show a few of their specialty crops. The farm helps provide food for food pantries, soup kitchens and local residents.

PHOTO COURTESY SOLA GRATIA *The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide*

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Stockton museum hosts suffrage speaker

Jeanne Schultz Angel will present "Casting an Historic Vote: Suffrage for Women in Illinois" at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10 at the Stockton Heritage Museum. The presentation is free and open to all audiences.



Jeanne Schultz Angel

frage has been a battle hard fought by a diverse group of activists in Illinois."

Angel is currently the director of learning experiences and

historic resources at Naper Settlement, a 13-acre outdoor history museum. Her Stockton presentation will last about an hour, with time for questions and answers.

The Stockton Heritage Museum is located at 107 W. Front St. in Stockton and is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays May through October or by appointment.

For more information, go online to stocktonheritagemuseum.org, find them on Facebook, send an email to info@stocktonheritagemuseum.org or leave a message at 815-947-2220.



PHOTO SUBMITTED *The Scoop Today*

This 1913 photo shows the signing of the women's suffrage bill in Illinois. Although full women's suffrage was not realized until 1920, women had the right to vote for some Illinois offices after the June 1913 signing.

• Maps (Continued from front page)

Republican leaders, as well as the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, or MALDEF, quickly filed a federal lawsuit in Chicago arguing that they were unconstitutional because they were based on population estimates from survey data rather than official census numbers.

When the official numbers finally came out in mid-August, they did in fact show that population variances between districts were far outside what is allowed under U.S. constitutional law, prompting Democratic leaders to call a special session to adjust the new maps.

Republicans argue, however, that those maps were passed well after the state constitu-

tion's June 30 deadline and, therefore, the task should be given to a bipartisan commission, a process in which Republicans would have a 50-50 chance of gaining a partisan advantage.

That decision will ultimately be up to the courts.

There have been efforts in the past in Illinois to establish

a permanent nonpartisan commission to redraw maps every 10 years, an idea that Pritzker and many Democratic lawmakers have said they support. But no such plan has gotten through the General Assembly.

"Governor Pritzker's signing of the legislative maps sends a clear picture of the severity of his 'retrograde amnesia'

and efforts to deceive Illinois citizens," House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said in a statement. "The governor now joins the multitude of Democratic legislators who lied to voters by campaigning for and promising 'fair maps.'"

"Rarely do politicians get the chance to break a campaign

promise twice," said Senate Minority Leader Dan McCornchie, of Hawthorn Woods. "I am deeply disappointed that Gov. Pritzker has turned his back on the many minority organizations that have asked him to protect their voting rights outlined in the constitution and Voting Rights Act by vetoing this gerrymandered map."

• Volleyball (Continued from front page)

was an exciting contest from start to finish. The Wildcats came in with a lot of energy, which gave them the advantage in the first set. After dropping the first set 25-21, the Blackhawks would have to pull off a comeback if they wanted to come out victorious.

Stockton fought back in the second set with a 25-23 win. With things even at 1-1, they were set up for an electrifying finish in Hanover. It was a back-and-forth race, but the Blackhawks managed to put River Ridge away with another 25-23 win. After capturing the second and third sets, Stockton managed to pull off the comeback and avoid being upset by the hungry Wildcats.

Senior Kenze Haas and freshman Madalyn Mammoser led the Blackhawks, as the duo combined for 26 kills in three sets played. Kenze Haas also had 12 digs, nine assists and two aces. Brynn Haas had an all-around night as she led the team with six blocks, to go along with seven digs and five kills. Senior Vanessa Ernst led the team in

digs with 20. After earning their 11th victory of the season, the Blackhawks were prepared to make it 12 when they traveled to Milledgeville for a crossover Northwest Upstate Illini Conference matchup between south and west. On Sept. 22, it was an intriguing matchup as both teams came into the game with winning percentages above five hundred. At 7-5, the Milledgeville Missiles were hopeful to prove themselves to

the 11-6 Lady Blackhawks. Stockton jumped out to the early lead when they took the first set 25-22. There was a major momentum shift in the second set, however, as Milledgeville quickly pulled away to an extended lead. The Missiles would go on to take the second set 25-15, as the Blackhawks could not get anything going. The Stockton girls stood up in the face of adversity, though, and earned themselves a 25-17 win to take

the series 2-1. It was another impressive offensive performance from Kenze Haas, as she led the team with 15 kills and a pair of aces. She also added six digs and five assists to her stat line as she contributed to the win in many different factors. A pair of freshmen were next up as Emily Broshous and Mammoser both tallied four kills on the night. Broshous also had 10 digs, which was second on the team behind only Ernst, who had 15. Junior Whitney Sullivan contributed eight digs, while Brynn Haas led the team in blocks with five. Freshman Kacy Wright was the main facilitator, as she led the team with 12 assists. Although the Blackhawks have just four seniors in Kenze Haas, Brynn Haas, Ernst and Kassadie Sullivan, Stockton head coach Allie McCallips has found success by getting production from the entire squad. Although this year's senior class is a talented group, including all-conference

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Blackhawks earn second win of the football season

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

After beginning the 2021 football season with a 1-3 record, the Stockton Blackhawks were in need of a win. After picking up their first victory in week two, Stockton head coach Matt Leitzen's squad went on to suffer back-to-back conference losses.

In week three, the Blackhawks lost by just one score as the Dakota Indians won 14-6. A week later, they found themselves in another tough spot as they faced off with the Galena Pirates on Sept. 17. Both teams came into the Week Four matchup with records of 1-2. Despite playing on their own territory, the Blackhawks would not be the ones getting their second win that evening.

Stockton was first on the scoreboard, however, as they jumped out to an early lead in the first quarter. Caleb Mammoser plunged into the end zone from one yard out, and the Blackhawks took a 6-0 lead that would hold until the second quarter.

They nearly took the lead into halftime until a late turnover proved costly for Stockton. The Pirates managed to

score 14 points in the last two minutes of the first half. The quick scores gave Galena a 14-6 lead they took into halftime.

The third quarter was a defensive battle as both teams went scoreless coming out of the break. With the 14-6 score heading into the fourth quarter, they were set up for an exciting finish in Stockton.

Despite the low-scoring affair through three quarters, the fourth quarter was a thrilling shootout. Both teams combined for 22 points in the final 12 minutes, outscoring their total points from the first 36 minutes played.

Parker Luke got the scoring frenzy started when he ran into the end zone on a four-yard touchdown run. Mammoser connected with Drew Mensendike for the two-point conversion, as Stockton tied the game at 14-14.

Unfortunately for the Blackhawks, it was the Pirates who scored the final, and most important, points of the game. Galena took the lead with just over five minutes left on a 28-yard touchdown pass. The Pirates defense would return a late interception for a touchdown, sealing Stockton's fate as

they fell 28-14.

Stockton actually out-gained Galena 268-209 in total yards. Dustin Oppold led the way on the ground with 68 yards on 15 attempts. Connor Vincent was their next leading rusher with 39 yards on 12 carries. Luke was close behind with 36 rushing yards and a score on nine attempts. Mammoser threw for just over 100 yards. Mensendike was his leading receiver as he caught two receptions for 35 yards.

On Sept. 24, the Blackhawks would bounce back from their loss when they traveled to face off with a 1-3 East Dubuque squad.

Once again, Stockton was first on the scoreboard as Oppold trucked into the end zone from two yards out. The score gave the Blackhawks a 7-0 lead with just under eight minutes left in the first quarter.

Ian Broshous broke free for a 16-yard touchdown run early in the second quarter, expanding the Stockton lead to 14-0. East Dubuque would respond with a long touchdown run of their own to cut the lead down to eight.

The Blackhawk offense was rolling, however, as Bro-

shous quickly sprung free for his second score of the quarter. This time it was a 33-yard scamper as Broshous put Stockton up 21-6 going into halftime.

Mammoser and Mensendike got the second quarter off to an exciting start when the duo connected on a 75-yard touchdown pass on their first play of the quarter. Six minutes later, Luke rushed for a 26-yard touchdown to give the Blackhawks a 35-6 lead. The touchdown would put the game out of reach, as Stockton would coast their way to a 35-20 victory.

Leitzen was able to rely on the ground game as Stockton combined for 332 yards on the ground. Oppold led the way with 89 yards and a score, while Jace Phillips was close behind with 72 yards on 11 attempts. Broshous had just seven carries on the night, but they were important as he finished with 69 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Luke was the team's leading defender with five total tackles and an interception on the night.

With their record at 2-3, Stockton will hope to get back to .500 when they host Fulton on Friday, Oct. 1.



PHOTOS SUBMITTED The Scoop Today

Way to go

At top, Little Blackhawk winners from the week of Sept. 13 are all smiles outside Stockton Middle School. Above, the elementary Little Blackhawks also were honored for being leaders and for following the Blackhawk Way of being respectful, responsible and safe.

New Illinois law expands use for antique vehicles

Antique vehicle use is expanded under a new law passed by state Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freepport, that went into effect late last month.

"Northwest Illinois loves a good car or truck show! Expanding use of antique vehicles allows for more opportunities for this form of outdoor recreation that so many in our region enjoy," Chesney said in a news release. "Whenever

there is an opportunity to reduce bureaucracy and red tape, I am always eager to assist."

Gov. JB Pritzker signed into law House Bill 2548 to allow "Antique Expanded Use" vehicles to be driven without limitation for two additional months. Expanded-use antique vehicles are defined as being more than 25 years old or a "bona fide replica" and were previously limited to travel-

ing to and from auto shows, exhibitions, service stations and demonstrations during the colder months (Nov. 1 through March 31) but could be driven without limitation during the warmer months (April 1 through Oct. 31).

The new law expands the months without driving limitations to March 1 through Nov. 30, allowing two additional months of unlimited use of these vehicles.

"Freeport Cruise Nights regularly attract over 1,000 cars cruising through downtown Freeport. The event brings out more than 10,000 attendees," Chesney said. "Expanding the use of these antique vehicles will lead to even more wholesome, family fun for those who enjoy classic cars and trucks in Illinois."

Learn more about this and other legislation at Chesney's website at repchesney.com.

• Volleyball

(Continued from page 8)

players in the Haas sisters, the Blackhawks appear to be primed for success for years to come. The production from the freshman class has taken pressure off the seniors. The underclassmen have the benefit of getting quality playing time at the varsity level, while witnessing the leadership quality of this year's seniors.

The girls will be back on the court Thursday, Sept. 30, when they host the Galena Pirates in what could be the Blackhawks' biggest test of the season.

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• Honor (Continued from page 3)

"We're extremely proud of Dr. Tawfik and his dedication to the health of the people in our communities in northwest Illinois," FHN President and CEO Mark Gridley said in the release. "He is one of the finest physicians I have ever known. He has worked to improve FHN and his patients' health over the years, and he richly deserves this recognition."

• Roundup (Continued from page 3)

Football
 • Sept. 25, Orangeville defeated South Beloit, 57-24. Gunar Lobdell had 298 yards rushing. With the win, the Broncos extend their undefeated record to 5-0.

• Opinion (Continued from page 4)

Recent University of Illinois coach Lovie Smith made \$4 million a year and former Athletic Director Ron Guenther received half a million in annual pension payments —with teams that couldn't beat the Little Sisters of the Poor, adding insult to injury. Current coach Bret Bielema makes even more than Smith did, and the team is 1-3 thus far in his first season.

When I was teaching at the University of Illinois in the 1990s, the political science adviser helped the UI players as much as possible. They had trouble scheduling a fifth course each semester, because from noon

until 8 p.m. or so each day they were at work: weight training, practice, travel, games.

Then, when a player used up his eligibility, his scholarship was yanked, often long before graduation. Sister Marie Golla (PhD, St. Dominic OP), the adviser, would raise holy hell with the athletic department, sometimes getting scholarships reinstated until the student athlete graduated.

I would now and then help Sister Marie, by taking a few players into independent studies, their fifth course in a semester. We met right after the post-practice meal at the training table, then located

under the stadium. Not a good idea. The half-starved players had typically each stabbed from the chow line, and gulped down, at least a T-bone, a half chicken, two baked potatoes and more. Exhausted and stuffed, they were not ready to learn.

The players also lived in separate dorms, secluded from other students; they were rarely a part of campus life.

Now and then a player made it to the pros, but average tenure in the Sunday game is just three years, I am told. Few make really big bucks.

Here is what we can do to protect players from being

pawns in a larger, adult game:

The U.S. Tennis Association prohibits coaching from the sidelines, from the pros down to the juniors. In high school tennis, players even make their own in-or-out line calls, which has to build a sense of integrity.

I say: Let the high school players call their own games, and learn from the experience.

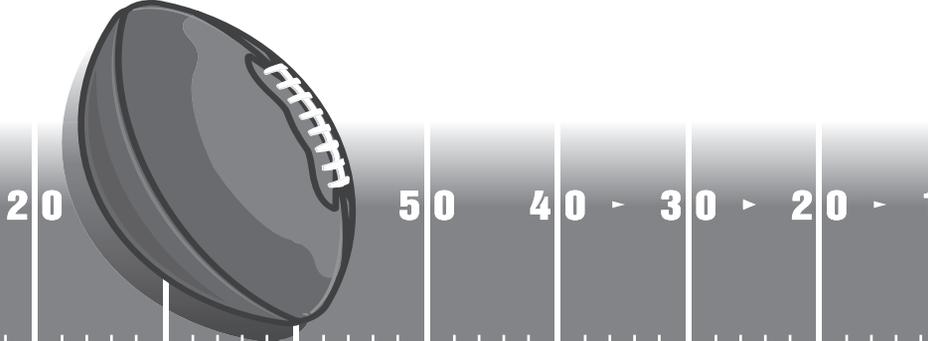
Jim Nowlan is a former state legislator and aide to three unindicted Illinois governors. A retired professor of American politics, he writes a newspaper column on Understanding Illinois.

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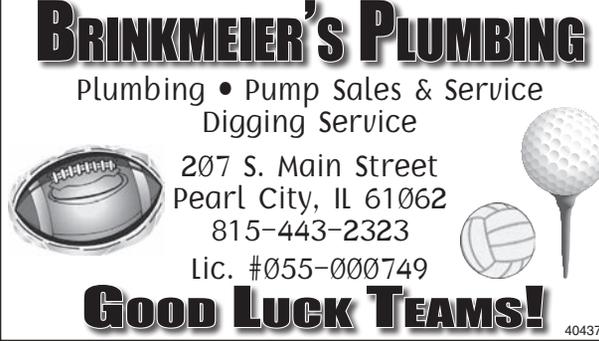
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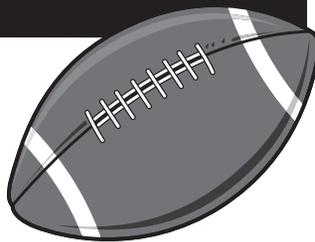
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Illinois' eviction moratorium set to expire Oct. 3

Court-based program aims to distribute \$60 million to renters facing eviction due to COVID-19

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state's moratorium on evictions will expire on Oct. 3, according to Gov. JB Pritzker's latest COVID-19 executive order issued recently.

Pritzker had extended the order each month with minor to substantial revisions since March 2020. The extensions have come in 30-day windows, coinciding with his monthly reissuance of a disaster proclamation in response to the pandemic.

While most of the provisions in Pritzker's latest executive order were extended through Oct. 16, the section providing for the eviction moratorium is scheduled to be rescinded just two weeks into the 30-day order which was issued Sept. 17.

The most recent iteration of the moratorium, which will expire Oct. 3, allows for

court proceedings but prevents law enforcement from carrying out an eviction. It also allows for evictions in health and safety circumstances, and for "uncovered persons," which include those who refuse to fill out paperwork for assistance, who can't prove loss of income from COVID-19 or who earn more than \$99,000 individually or \$198,000 as a joint-filing household.

In a statement, Pritzker's office pointed out that Illinois remains one of the top states in distributing emergency rental assistance funding from the federal government. Illinois has distributed almost \$330 million of \$630 million allotted, placing it sixth out of all states, according to a database maintained by the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

"In 2020, more than \$230 million was disbursed to

renters through an inaugural pandemic rental assistance program, and in 2021, an additional \$500 million was made available through the Illinois Rental Payment Program, more than half of which has been already distributed," Alex Hanns, a Pritzker spokesperson, said in an email. "While the eviction moratorium has kept families suffering hardship from losing their homes during the pandemic, these programs and additional resources will ensure families have a roof over their heads while they regain their financial footing into the future."

A state Supreme Court order preventing certain judgments in covered eviction cases expired on Sept. 18 and had not been extended as of last week.

The Supreme Court recently announced a court-based rental relief program

received \$60 million in funding to provide a "safety net for litigants who are on the brink of eviction," according to the court. That program is available outside of Cook County, which is expected to launch its own court-based assistance program sometime in October.

Per the latest Supreme Court order, any summons in an eviction case must be accompanied by a form informing the tenant and landlord of the court-based program. It includes information on the program, what documentation is needed and the web address for the court-based aid, ilrpp.ihda.org. The Illinois Housing Development Authority call center can be reached at 866-454-3571.

Those who have lost income due to COVID-19 may be eligible for up to 12 months of past due rent and three months of future rent to

prevent eviction, per the program. The check would be paid directly to the landlord, who would be required to agree not to evict the tenant for nonpayment of the rent that is repaid.

The funds come from the federal government, which means applicants must be under certain income limits as defined by the U.S. Treasury. Those earning 80 percent of the area median income or less are eligible. That threshold differs based on the county, ranging from \$35,700 in Alexander County to \$52,200 in Cook County. It goes up about \$5,000-\$6,000 for each additional person in the household.

"As we continue with the planned sunset of the eviction moratorium in coordination with the court system, the Illinois Housing Development Authority will continue to review the pipeline

of completed applications, and the Illinois Department of Human Services will continue to accept applications for additional rental assistance until funding runs out," Hanns said in the statement.

Assistance may also still be available in certain areas through the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois Housing Development Authority, the two state agencies overseeing disbursement of federal funding, at <https://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org/providers>.

Free legal assistance may be accessed through Eviction Help Illinois by visiting evictionhelpillinois.org or calling 855-631-0811.

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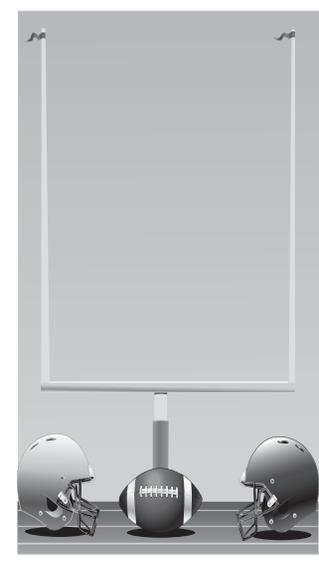
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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We had a small taste of fall last week. It was great to get out the sweatshirts. This week summer has returned. I have leaves in my yard, but they aren't the pretty ones. It will be interesting to see if the warm weather holds on.

I love the harvest season when you see fields gleaned (I don't like harvest season when the big equipment is moving; I am afraid that we will have accidents.) I know that our agriculture people are very careful on the roads; however, we do have some drivers who just have to pass everything in sight. Please safely drive during this time of the year.

Many people are still harvesting from the gardens. I am eating my squash and tomatoes like mad, and they are so good! The recipes this week are featuring the bounty of the season.

Farmer's Market Vegetable Soup

Looking for a good way to use those vegetables? This soup will help you make a delicious lunch or dinner with the many items available to us at this time of the year.

2 C. peeled and chopped rutabagas (you can substitute turnips or potatoes)

1 C. chopped roma tomatoes

1 C. chopped carrots
1 C. chopped red potatoes
2/3 C. onions

6 C. vegetable broth
1 t. caraway or fennel seeds, crushed

1/2 t. dried sage, crushed
1/2 t. pepper

1/2 C. bow tie pasta, uncooked

3 C. torn fresh spinach

In a 3.5- or 4-quart slow cooker, combine the rutabaga, tomatoes, carrots, potato and onion. Add broth, caraway seeds, sage and pepper. Cover and cook on low heat setting for eight to nine hours or on high setting for four to four and a half hours. Before serving, cook pasta according to package directions; drain. Stir cooked pasta and spinach into broth mixture. Ladle soup into bowls. Serve this soup with garlic toast.

Crispy Eggplant and Roasted Tomato Salad

I keep getting requests for

eggplant recipes. This one is eggplant in a salad. The recipe calls for fresh mozzarella balls; however, you can substitute shredded mozzarella for the fresh.

3 T. olive oil, divided, plus more for pan

1 egg
1 egg white

1/3 C. flour
1 C. panko breadcrumbs

1/4 C. grated Parmesan cheese

Salt and pepper
1 medium eggplant

6 plum tomatoes, quartered
4 C. baby spinach

2 T. white wine vinegar
1/2 small red onion, finely chopped

4 oz. fresh mozzarella, quartered or 4 oz. shredded mozzarella

1/2 C. fresh basil, torn

Adjust oven racks to lower and middle positions. Preheat oven to 450. Lightly oil large rimmed baking sheet. In shallow bowl, beat egg and egg white. Place flour in separate bowl; in third bowl, combine panko, Parmesan, 1 T. oil and 1/2 t. each salt and pepper.

Slice eggplant into 1/2 inch thick rounds. Dip rounds in flour, then in egg (letting any excess egg drip off), and finally in Panko mixture, pressing gently to help it adhere. Transfer to prepared baking sheet. Roast on lower oven rack until eggplant is golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes.

On second rimmed baking sheet, toss tomatoes with 1 T. oil and 1/4 t. salt and 1/4 t. pepper; roast on middle oven rack for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and scatter spinach over top, and toss until beginning to wilt.

While vegetables are in the oven, in medium bowl, whisk together vinegar and remaining T. of oil with 1/4 t. salt and 1/4 t. pepper. Add onions, mozzarella, and basil; toss to combine. Serve eggplant with tomatoes and spinach and spoon vinaigrette over the top.

Creamy Penne Pasta Primavera

This dish is also a quick one to make. You can substitute broccoli for the asparagus if you can't find good asparagus or you want a cheaper dish. (You can keep both the broccoli and asparagus if you want!) You can add a cup of sliced fresh mushrooms and sauté them with the other vegetables.

2 C. penne pasta
2 t. olive oil

1 lb. fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces

3 carrots, cut into strips (about 1 1/2 C.)

2 C. cherry tomatoes, halved

1 clove garlic, minced

1 C. shredded Parmesan cheese

1 C. whipping cream
1/2 t. salt

1/2 t. pepper

Cook pasta according to package directions, drain. Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add asparagus and carrots; cook until crisp-tender, about five minutes. Add tomatoes and garlic. Cook until garlic is fragrant, about one minute. Stir in cheese, cream, salt and pepper until cheese melts and sauce is smooth, two to three minutes. Add pasta and toss to coat.

Beef and Noodle Casserole

This casserole is easy to make because it uses a box for a base. It calls for two packages of vermicelli with garlic and olive oil. Walmart carries

this noodle mix called Pasta Roni Garlic and Olive Oil Vermicelli. It is made by Rice A Roni. (If you can't find the Pasta Roni Garlic and Olive Oil Vermicelli, you can substitute angel hair spaghetti. Just drain and toss in olive oil and add minced garlic). What an easy weeknight recipe.

2 pkg. (4.6 oz. each) garlic and olive oil vermicelli
2 lbs. ground beef

1 C. carrot, shredded

1 tub (6 oz.) cream cheese with chive and onion, softened

1 C. milk
Fresh basil leaves

Preheat the oven to 350. Grease a 9-by-13 baking dish. Set aside. Prepare the vermicelli according to package directions (including the standing time). In a large skillet, cook ground meat on medium heat until brown. Drain off fat. Stir in carrot, cream

cheese, and milk. Stir in cooked vermicelli and a few basil leaves. Transfer mixture to the prepared baking dish. Bake uncovered for 25 to 30 minutes or until heated through, stirring once halfway through baking. Let stand for five minutes before serving.

Chocolate Zucchini Cookies

Since we still have zucchini everywhere, here is an easy cookie recipe. Chocolate certainly makes zucchini easy to eat!

1 C. butter, softened
2 C. sugar

2 eggs, room temperature
4 C. flour

2 t. baking soda
2 t. cinnamon

1 t. salt
1 t. nutmeg

1 t. ground cloves
2 C. finely shredded zucchini

1 C. chopped nuts
1/2 C. semisweet chocolate chips

In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy, five to seven minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg and cloves; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in zucchini, nuts and chips. Drop by tablespoonfuls 3 inches apart onto an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 375 for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Remove to wire racks to cool.

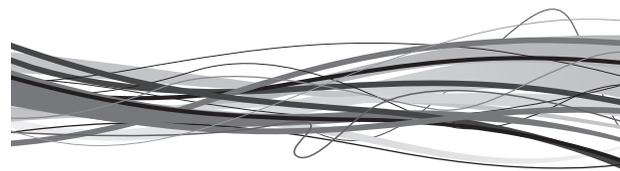
Carrot Zucchini Bread

This bread combines carrots and zucchini to make a moist bread that can be frozen. You will notice it has applesauce for part of the sugar to make it less in calories. You

See KITCHEN, Page 15

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Could cargo port revive declining Illinois city?

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A roundup of state stories making news last week:

River port project

Cairo, Illinois, on the confluence of the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers, is the county seat of Alexander County, which once boasted a population of more than 25,000. It is now down to just 5,240, according to the 2020 U.S. Census. That was a drop of 36.4 percent just in the past 10 years, the biggest population decline of any county in the nation.

Alexander County is not alone among its southern Illinois neighbors in seeing dramatic population declines in recent years. In fact, all five counties that border the Ohio River saw significant declines. Pulaski, Pope and Hardin counties all saw declines of more than 15 percent, while Massac County lost about 8.2 percent of its population.

Throughout America, the 2020 census revealed a sizeable shift from rural counties

•Kitchen

(Continued from page 13)

will also notice that it calls for 1 T. baking powder — that is the correct amount. These loaves of bread would be a great holiday basket treat.

1 C. unsweetened applesauce

¾ C. shredded carrots
¾ C. shredded peeled zucchini

½ C. sugar
2 eggs

1½ t. pumpkin pie spice
1 t. cinnamon

½ t. nutmeg
3 C. flour

1 T. baking powder
½ t. baking soda

½ t. salt
¾ C. orange juice

Preheat the oven to 350.

In a large bowl, combine the applesauce, carrots, zucchini, sugar, eggs, pumpkin pie spice, cinnamon and nutmeg.

•Slices

(Continued from page 4)

more time to complain to others about how busy you are.

This, in many circles, is what is known as a status symbol. The busier you are the more status you accrue. I'm proud to announce that at one point I was a multi-millionaire business professional. My monthly calendar was so full of meetings, activities, commitments and committees I had to color-code it with a rainbow of highlighters. Yeah, I was that cool.

Those were the days.

These days, I suppose I'm not as busy as I was then. (Please don't tell anyone. I don't want to lose rank or

to more urban and suburban areas. But the dramatic drop in Alexander County — and Cairo in particular, which is now down to just more than 1,700 people — is unique.

Larry Klein, a lifelong resident of the area, believes a new development project which is getting a big boost from the state with \$40 million from the Rebuild Illinois capital improvements program will help turn things around. Klein serves as chairman of the Alexander Cairo Port District, which is in charge of the project to develop an enormous river port along the Mississippi River at Cairo.

It's estimated that about 80 percent of all the barge traffic in the United States passes by or through the confluence of the two great rivers. The river port at Cairo is envisioned as a facility where barges, as well as larger "river vessels," would unload cargo containers that come upstream from New Orleans onto rail cars

and semis for distribution throughout North America.

The site where the river port is planned is about five and a half miles upstream from the confluence along the Mississippi. The land is owned by the Cairo Public Utility Company, a nonprofit company that serves the community and, oddly, also operates the town's only hardware store. The plan is that when the port is operational, the revenue would be split between Alexander County, the city of Cairo and the utility.

The hope is that the project will spur hundreds of construction jobs, and then hundreds more permanent jobs for workers at the port — workers who, it is hoped, would buy homes in the area and provide an economic base for the redevelopment of grocery stores, drug stores, gas stations and other basic amenities lacking in the town.

The port district recently signed a project labor agreement, ensuring that an estimated 500 construction jobs will be filled by union labor, a key element in securing state funding from the Rebuild Illinois program.

Still, the project is not a done deal. Klein noted that more than 20 state and federal permits must be obtained, including environmental permits as well as an OK from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has jurisdiction over the rivers.

"They are willing to bend over backwards," Klein said of the Corps of Engineers. "In our conversations we've had with them, they've never told us no."

Assuming the permits all fall into place, Klein said construction could begin in 2022 and the port could be operational in 2024.

Supreme court defamation case
A case before the Illinois Supreme Court centers on whether a former Super Bowl MVP has a right to learn the

identity of a woman who accused him of sexual harassment, allegedly leading to the termination of contracts between his energy services company and a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation.

Richard Dent, a Pro Football Hall-of-Famer and Chicago Bears defensive lineman from 1983 to 1993, is the proprietor of RLD Resources LLC, a business specializing in energy products and services, according to its website. RLD had several energy supply and marketing contracts with Constellation NewEnergy Inc. and related companies, according to court documents. Constellation is a subsidiary of Exelon.

But Dent's lawyers alleged that those contracts were terminated Oct. 1, 2018, after Dent was informed in a Sept. 14, 2018, meeting with two of Constellation's lawyers that he was the subject of a sexual harassment complaint by a female employee of Constellation.

A letter sent from Constellation to Dent's lawyers in December 2018 concluded that "although Mr. Dent denied the allegations, his denials were not credible and the investigation concluded

that the reports accurately described behaviors that were, at a minimum, in violation of Exelon's code of business conduct, completely outside the norms of socially acceptable behavior, and demeaning to Constellation employees."

Now, the court is asked to decide whether the employee — identified in Dent's court petition as Person A — and a witness to separate "drunk and disorderly" conduct by Dent at a different location than where the alleged harassment occurred — identified as Person B — are protected by the court principle of "qualified privilege," allowing for their anonymity in a sexual harassment case.

Dent's lawyers argued that he's entitled to know the identities and locations of Person A and Person B through the pre-suit discovery process because their statements were false and defamatory. The individuals, not Constellation, are the publishers of the defamatory claims, his lawyers argued.

Constellation's lawyers argued the employees should remain anonymous because their statements were made as part of a confidential workplace investigation.

September has come to an end, and October is full of lots of activities. Hopefully you can get out and enjoy them.

As I said last week, if you have started to change your cooking habits and have some recipes with apples and pumpkins, some seasonal side dishes and some soup recipes that use fall veggies, send them our way. 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.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT OF PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP

Pleasant Valley Township hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2021 has been made, and that a report of such audit dated September 22, 2021 performed by Bauer & Fonseca has been filed with the County Clerk of Jo Daviess County, in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The full report of the audit is available for public inspection at 115 W. Front Ave., Stockton, IL., during regular business hours.

(Published in The Scoop Today Sept. 29, 2021)

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week's recipes.

A friend took me north of Monroe to a wonderful farm market. I have never seen so many different kinds of squash. There were also beautiful root vegetables, pumpkins galore and the best peaches I have ever tasted. The owner said they were Idaho peaches. I also bought some mum baskets for my front porch. It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon for a ride.

One of my garden "angels" brought me a unique red pepper — a Mexican Hat Pepper. It looks just like a red Mexican hat. It really is too cute to eat. She also brought me some pear tomatoes; they are really sweet, small and shaped like tiny pears. There are so many interesting fruits and vegetables around this year.

the spotlight off busy and into the peace within. It is breathing and focus and finding an inner calm — all at the same time — which, if you think about it, is actually multitasking. Gasp. Consider the enormity of this statement.

I am.

Meditation is the act of being busy by not being busy, which is a win-win if I ever heard one.

You read it here first.

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.

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A letter sent from Constellation to Dent's lawyers in December 2018 concluded that "although Mr. Dent denied the allegations, his denials were not credible and the investigation concluded

that the reports accurately described behaviors that were, at a minimum, in violation of Exelon's code of business conduct, completely outside the norms of socially acceptable behavior, and demeaning to Constellation employees."

Now, the court is asked to decide whether the employee — identified in Dent's court petition as Person A — and a witness to separate "drunk and disorderly" conduct by Dent at a different location than where the alleged harassment occurred — identified as Person B — are protected by the court principle of "qualified privilege," allowing for their anonymity in a sexual harassment case.

Constellation's lawyers argued the employees should remain anonymous because their statements were made as part of a confidential workplace investigation.

September has come to an end, and October is full of lots of activities. Hopefully you can get out and enjoy them.

As I said last week, if you have started to change your cooking habits and have some recipes with apples and pumpkins, some seasonal side dishes and some soup recipes that use fall veggies, send them our way. 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.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT OF PLEASANT VALLEY TOWNSHIP

Pleasant Valley Township hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2021 has been made, and that a report of such audit dated September 22, 2021 performed by Bauer & Fonseca has been filed with the County Clerk of Jo Daviess County, in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The full report of the audit is available for public inspection at 115 W. Front Ave., Stockton, IL., during regular business hours.

(Published in The Scoop Today Sept. 29, 2021)

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Stephenson County, IL
FARMLAND AUCTION

Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Sale to be held at:
Shannon Fire Station
14 S. Hickory St.
Shannon, IL 61078

ONE PARCEL - OPEN TENANCY for 2022
156.35 +/- Acres of Farmland Only
Section 28 in Florence Township, Stephenson County, IL
Selling as platted acres

For complete listing of sale bill, maps, tax info, and terms & conditions, etc. visit www.lennybrysonauctioneer.com

For Information Contact: Lenny Bryson - Auctioneer, 11749 West Judson Road, Polo, IL 61064, Office: 815-946-4120

Owner, Lois L. Swalve Farm Trust, Dennis Swalve, Cynthia Ditzler, Janet Miller, Trustees
Attorney, David Shockey, 815-235-2507

404255

AUCTION
Saturday, Oct. 2 • 9:30 a.m.
Mt. Carroll Farm Bureau
811 S. Clay St., Mt. Carroll
Located just N of JCT 64/78

Maytag washer & gas dryer; Amana 25 cu. ft. upright freezer; dining table w/ 2 leaves and 8 chairs; sofa; living room furniture; curio cabinets; (2) twin beds; dressers; 7 pc. dollhouse style bedroom set; Howard Miller grandfather clock; qu. lawn dec.; fountains; Lladro including clowns; fur coats; Schwinn exercise bike; treadmill; qu. xmas dec.; Roman Nativity set; compound bow machine; STILL SORTING, MANY MORE ITEMS.

FOR FULL LISTING & PICTURES
www.calhounauction.com
Terms: cash or check. Must have photo ID to register
Jim Calhoun, Auctioneer IL Lic.44000333
Mt. Carroll 815-244-9660

404001



The Stockton Education Foundation

thanks

the Many Supporters

Who Supported our Students and Teachers by Pledging at the 2021 Radio-a-thon.

Through your generosity, the Foundation raised over \$17,000.

Money raised will support more technology hardware and software for students and teachers as well as other classroom needs.

If you missed the Radio-a-thon, there is still time to pledge and contribute.

Send your pledge to the following address:

Stockton Education Foundation
540 N. Rush Street,
Stockton, Illinois 61085

Or

Drop your pledge off
at the High School

Illinois to invest over \$40 million in workforce training

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker announced Sept. 23 that the state will award more than \$40 million in workforce training grants, focusing on communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and youth who are particularly at risk of violence.

That includes \$40 million in Workforce Recovery Grants that will go out in two phases over the next year, plus another \$4.4 million in career training grants that have already been awarded to 20 training programs that focus on at-risk youths. Funding for both programs comes from the federal American Rescue Plan Act, or ARPA.

Applications for the first round of Workforce Recovery Grants totaling \$20 million opened Sept. 23. Information about how to apply for those grants is available on the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's website. A second round of applications is expected to open in the spring.

Pritzker made the announcement at a training center on Chicago's west side, Revolution Workshop, which is partnering with one of the youth grant recipients, BUILD Chicago Inc.

"This is yet another step in our efforts to deliver

high-quality opportunities that put all of our young people on a path to a career, with a heightened focus on those that have been historically left behind," Pritzker said.

The Workforce Development Grants will be used to expand access to training, job placement and other services that prevent people from gaining employment, the administration said in a news release. Funding is also available for individuals with emergency costs for basic needs that prevent them from participating in training programs or employment.

The administration expects roughly 1,500 individuals in areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic will receive services.

"We're focusing on getting people back to work in ways that build careers that are meaningful and bring home good-paying jobs for their families," Acting DCEO Director Sylvia Garcia said. "We are also prioritizing equity in this work and making sure everyone has access to opportunity. We're also helping to provide support for our employer partners to make sure we're filling the jobs that they need and thinking about what those jobs of the future are."

The youth training grants are being distributed to orga-

nizations throughout the state that provide education and training in career pathways for youth who may be at risk of dropping out of school or experiencing violence.

The announcement came just days after Pritzker announced that another \$327 million would be made available this year to help low-income individuals pay their utility bills and meet other expenses. That includes the Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, and the Community Services Block Grant Program, which offers expanded services to help residents pay rent, utilities, food and other household expenses, regardless of immigration status.

In addition to those measures, Pritzker also announced the formation of a new Commission on Workforce Equity and Access, which will study ways to diversify existing training programs to promote equity and inclusion across all industries.

Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford and Deputy Gov. Andy Manar will head the commission.

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

Briefs

Oct. 2 show features variety of vendors

The McConnell Area Historical Society is hosting a craft and vendor show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2, at the McConnell United Methodist Church.

Vendors at more than 20 booths will be selling items including farmhouse décor, baked goods, Tupperware, jewelry, handmade soaps and lotions, wreaths and more. Attendees must wear masks, per the current mandate.

The church is located at 211 N. Hulbert Road, McConnell.

For more information, call or text 815-997-2511 or 815-821-2428.

Good Shepherd notes group activities

A Bible study group will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 5, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church In Lena. Everyone is

welcome to attend.

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, the church's Piece Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the church. Anyone is welcome to join; no experience is necessary.

For more information, call the church office at 815-369-5552.

American Legion post hosts vaccine clinic

The state of Illinois and McConnell American Legion are working together to offer a COVID-19 vaccine clinic from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9. The clinic will be held at the American Legion, 203 Main St., McConnell.

Appointments are not required, however, they are available by going online to <https://idph-mychart.pchosted.com/IDPH/signupandschedule/embeddedschedule?vt=24629&dept=900140010817>.

The vaccine is free and available to those 12 and older.

To find an alternate vaccine clinic location, call 833-621-1284 or go online to coronavirus.illinois.gov.

Morseville Church notes Oct. 10 service

Morseville Church will hold its fall service at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10, at the church, 12231 E. Morseville Road, Stockton. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Gospel music will be provided by No Worries. There will be refreshments and fellowship in the basement following the music.

Online session highlights tips to boost immune system

University of Illinois Extension nutrition and wellness educator Diane Reinhold and the Senior Resource Center will host the virtual workshop "Healthy Behaviors for a Healthy Immune System" next month.

The workshop will help people learn steps to build a strong immune system and reduce the risk of illness through diet and physical activity. The session is set for 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21.

Registration is required by Tuesday, Oct. 19, by calling 815-235-4125 or going online to go.illinois.edu/jsw.

