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Nick, Annie & Kris

VOL. 88 • NO. 1

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29, 2021

Rural, urban farmers find common ground in passion for food

By Katie Zelechowski

ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU

Increasing access to fresh, locally sourced food and connecting families with how it's grown are priorities for Chicago-based companies Sugar Beet Food Co-op and Herban Produce. During a recent farm-to-fork tour, 25 farmers from rural Illinois learned about the unique challenges both businesses face in the city.

The Taste of Illinois on Location event took place earlier this month as part of Illinois Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting, and highlighted similarities between different types of food production and shared values within agriculture across the state.

Sugar Beet Food Co-op, located in Oak Park, is a food hub created by area residents who needed a source of local, sustainable and healthy foods in their neighborhood. After four years of planning, the grocery opened in 2016.

"Generally, grocery stores are owned by corporations and those are people that are not in the community. Our store is actually owned by consumers, community members, people in the immediate area and producers," said Regina Milkovich, education and community outreach coordinator for the co-op.

As a cooperative, the store is specifically designed to meet the needs and interests of its more than 2,400 owner members. Cost sharing efforts between produce, meat and prepackaged food departments, as well as the café, absorb premiums on expensive products to lower the overall cost to shoppers.

"We have a lot of people to feed and only so many grocery stores that are owned by a few corporations," Milkovich said. "There's a great chance to set a standard of what peo-



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Farmers from rural Illinois recently toured Oak Park's Sugar Beet Food Co-op to learn how the food hub creates food access opportunities for community members.

ple really want in a grocery store and (show them) that they can be involved in the process."

An extensive bulk aisle also helps consumers save, while providing new opportunities for local farmers and producers to sell products.

"It's really beneficial to shopping because a lot of pricing is contained in the packaging—the hidden cost of food," she said. "If you remove that out of the situation, we're able

to price things specifically for the retail price of food."

Individual packaging can account for as much as 20 percent of the end product, Milkovich said.

Phil Wright raises cattle in Paris, Illinois, and worked as a grain buyer for 35 years. After retiring five years ago, he started a bread making business and sells his creations locally. Visiting the urban market reminded Wright of food insecurity in his home-

town, where a fire recently destroyed the town's only grocery.

"This experience to me proves that we all need to work together to create a sustainable food supply," he said.

"I don't care if I'm from a small town in the middle of a cornfield in central Illinois, or in the middle of Chicago; we've got to work together."

Alicia Nesbary-Moore, co-owner of Herban Produce

on Chicago's West Side, knows the value agriculture brings to a community.

Before the farm's greenhouse was built in 2016,

See PASSION, Page 4

HAPPY NEW YEAR



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Obituaries

CAROL LYNNE ELLIOTT

Carol Lynne Elliott, age 85 of Lena, IL passed away at home on Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021. She was born on Aug. 20, 1936, in Freeport, IL, the daughter of Stanley and Genevieve (Lyons) Souders. Carol married Jack Elliott on May 1, 1992, in Galena, IL. She worked at Crum Forster briefly, Ben Franklin in Lena, Illinois Department of Employment Security, and The Village of Lena. Carol was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton. She and her first husband raised 7 children and fostered many children over the course of 20 years.

She is survived by her husband Jack Elliott of Lena; 5



children - Sandra (Rick) Bennett of Waterloo, SC, Deb (Wally) Gitz of Freeport, IL, Kelly (David) Bohl of Apache Junction, AZ, Ann (Fred) Linker of Shannon, IL, and Chris Miller of Pocahontas, AR; 12 grandchildren - Eric, Sarah, Jennifer, Rachael, Shelli, Lyndsey, Lizzie, Brandon, Blake, Abbey, Spencer, and Tessa; 15 great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her mother and father, sons Timothy Miller and Daniel Christiano, brother Keith,

and daughter-in-law Michelle Miller.

A special thank you to Diane Schlamp her Caregiver for 8 years, and special friends Barb Daul and Deb Heim

Visitation was held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday Dec. 27 at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena. The funeral took place at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton, IL.

Officiating was Father Mike Morrissey. Luncheon to follow at Holy Cross Catholic Church. A memorial fund has been established in her name for the Alzheimer's Association. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com

DONALD A. PHILLIPS

Donald A. Phillips, age 97 of Monroe, WI formerly of Lena, IL, passed away in Monroe on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. He was born on July 10, 1924, in Oneco Township the son of Arthur and Golda (Dahms) Phillips. He attended schools in Monroe, Juda, and graduated from Orangeville High School. Donald married Lela (Barker) on January 7, 1945. They farmed in Orangeville for 31 years before retiring to Lena where they lived for 38 years.

He is survived by his 4 children - Christine (David) Metzger, Steve, Leona (Dave)



Wake, and Donette (Terry) Simonson; 8 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Lela on August 25, 2019, 2 grandchildren Brenda and Jeremy, and 2 brothers Irvin and Robert. He will be remembered and beloved by many people whose lives he touched with his kindness and goodness during his lifetime.

Visitation will be held from 10:30 a.m. until time of service on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at St. John Lutheran Church in Lena, IL.

Funeral Service will take place at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lena, IL.

Officiating will be Rev. Bader.

Luncheon to follow at St. John's Church Lutheran Church.

A memorial fund has been established in his name.

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

CLIFFORD "TIP" F. REUBER

Clifford "Tip" F. Reuber age 100, of rural Winslow, IL passed away on Friday, December 17, 2021, at the Aster Retirement Community of Monroe, WI. He was born at his parent's home in Dakota, IL on March 17, 1921, the son of Charlie and Helen (Bartelt) Reuber. He married Corabelle J. Ellis on October 28, 1942, at the home of her parents, which was part of the J. Lincoln Homestead established in 1844. A lifelong resident of Stephenson County he farmed with his wife since 1951. Clifford retired from farming in 1992. He attended the Buena Vista country school in Stephenson County, and Dakota rural school and 1 year at Dakota High School. He attended the American Aircraft Institute in Chicago, IL, for aircraft mechanic and assembly. Clifford was handy with many things, and he built their own home. He gave



many hours of volunteer work for the Christian Hollow Cemetery at Winslow, IL. Clifford's hobbies included antique restoration, metal, woodworking and repairing antique engines. Clifford was a member of the United Methodist Church of Winslow, IL., the Model A Ford Yesteryear Antique Club of Monroe, WI, the Maytag Collectors Club, Stephenson County Antique Engines Club, and the Pecatonica Valley Antique Club.

He is survived by his 2 daughters: Doris (Arthur) Butler Jr. of Roscoe, IL and Rita (Sam) Vitale of Brookings, OR. Grandchildren: Sherri (Rob) Zimmerman of Pecatonica, IL, Sheila (Rick) Amborn of Seward, IL, Clifford "Cliff" (Lisa) Vitale of Sacramento, Ca, Salvatore

"Sal" (Katie) Vitale of Shingles Spring, CA. Great grandchildren: Zachary (Stephanie) Amborn, TJ (Amanda) Amborn, and Merisa (Tim) Ritschard, and Kaitlin (Sam) Jackson and Kyle Zimmerman, Kaylee and Evangeline "Eva" Vitale, Sydney and Parker Vitale; 5 great great grandchildren; sister-in-law Dorothy Ditzler; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Corabelle in 2008. 1 brother; Warren (Ruth) Reuber, 2 sisters; Marilyn Auvinen, and Norma (Francis) Lotta.

A graveside service was held at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 23, at Christian Hollow Cemetery in Winslow, IL.

Officiating was Pastor Doug Carroll.

Burial was in Christian Hollow Cemetery in Winslow, IL. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

A memorial fund has been established in his memory.

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

LONA I. KUHLMEYER

Lona I. Kuhlmeier, 100, of Pearl City, IL, passed away on Dec. 19, at her home. Lona was born on June 4, 1921, to Fred and Mabel (Busekros) Offenheiser. In 1939, she graduated from Pearl City High School. Leo Kuhlmeier and Lona were married on April 18, 1946, in Chadwick. She worked for the Pearl City Post Office and Micro Switch. She was a member of the Eastern Star and Pearl City Zion Community Church. She enjoyed antiques, playing cards, gardening and flowers. She had fond memories of helping her father at the furni-

ture store/funeral home.

Surviving is one son, Jeffrey (Sherry Brinker) Kuhlmeier of Pearl City; twin daughters: Cathy (Clarence Ellis) Kuhlmeier of Freeport, and Connie Kerkhoff of Pearl City. Grandchildren include Shauna (Kerkhoff) Yeagle of Kaukauna, WI, Tara (Dan) Allind of Holmen, WI, Todd (Tiffany) Kuhlmeier of Lena, and Jarrod (Andrea) Kerkhoff of Rockford; step-grandchildren: Lori (Dave) Lou of Janesville, WI, and Kathy (Kerry) Nyen of Roscoe; great-grandchildren include Nick, Oliver and Jack Allind, Brogan, Brynn and Brea

Kuhlmeier.

Preceding her in death were her parents, husband and son-in-law, Steven Kerkhoff.

Visitation was from 9 AM until time of service at 11 AM, on Wednesday Dec. 22, at Pearl City Zion Community Church, with Wayne Fischer and Chip Sohl officiating. Burial was at Highland Cemetery in Pearl City. A memorial has been established in her name. A special thank you to the Freeport Hospice team including Dr. Pedersen, RN's and CNA's.

Arrangements are being handled by the Offenheiser-Schwarz Funeral Home.

Affordable health screenings coming to Lena

Area residents can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes, and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. St John's Lutheran Church will host this

community event on January 25. The site is located at 625 Country Lane in Lena.

Screenings can check for:

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Special package pricing starts at \$149, but consultants will work with you to create a package that is right for you based on your age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

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Master Gardener program offers hybrid training

The University of Illinois Extension is pleased to announce that Master Gardener Training will be held in Stephenson County starting in February. Interested people can apply now for the training. Applications can be obtained by calling the office at (815) 235-4125 or on the web

at go.illinois.edu/jsw.

The training includes videos, a Master Gardener manual, reading materials, and quizzes. Participants will complete videos and reading assignments on their own and then meet in-person on Tuesday mornings at the University of Illinois Extension-Stephenson County for discussion, review, and follow-up. Training consists of 11 sessions conducted on Tuesdays, starting on February 15, and concluding April 26, from 9 a.m. to Noon.

Coursework covers botany, soils and fertility, plant disease, entomology, integrated

pest management, annuals and perennials, tree, shrubs and woody vines, lawns, small and tree fruits, vegetables, U of I resources, and more! Once training is complete, participants join the existing

Master Gardener volunteers in service to our community, fulfilling the Master Gardener mission.

Pre-registration is required to attend Master Gardener Training. An orientation inter-

view will be conducted with participants in advance of the class. Registration for the training is \$175. For more information about Master Gardener Training contact Nikki Keltner at (815) 235-4125.

New club offering youth from area opportunity to explore local forests

What better way is there for youth to enjoy the outdoors than to do so with others their age while learning all about forests in Illinois? "The 4-H Forestry Club is the perfect opportunity to have local youth learn about the woodlands in Stephenson County," explains University of Illinois 4-H and Youth Program Coordinator Brenda Heimann.

In the Forestry Club, youth will learn tree identification, tree measurement, compass and pacing, topo maps, plot measurements, and silviculture or the art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of local forests and woodlands. Participants will get to hike through various woodlands throughout Stephenson County as well as plant an oak tree savannah

and visit a local sawmill.

The Forestry Club is open to all youth currently in fifth through twelfth grades. A 4-H membership is not required. Youth will meet six times between March and August at various locations around Stephenson County. To register for the Forestry Club, visit go.illinois.edu/forestryclub or call 815-235-4125. There is no fee to join.

News briefs

The Clothes Closet

The Clothes closet will be open the first Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for free shopping. It is located at Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren 12602 W. Dublin Rd. Pearl City, IL. Call Pastor Boughton for more information 815-238-1137.

"Believers Basic"

Bible study

This Bible study offering covers the basic truths of Biblical Christianity in order to build believers into the Church of God.

It will be held at the Community Center, LL at 497 Lions Dr. on Sunday, Jan. 2 at 5 p.m. Call Pastor Cliff 716-229-9281 for information.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS DUPACO COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION Plaintiff,

-v.-
HANNAH GIVLER et al Defendant

2021CH34

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 10, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on January 18, 2022, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

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The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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(24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Plaintiff's Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876

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You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales.

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Case Number: 2021CH34 TJSC#: 41-3229

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2021CH34 I3183887

(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 22 & 29, 2021 and Jan. 5, 2022)

410021

Illinois continues to lose population

Census estimates show state lost more than 113,000 in one year

By Peter Hancock
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
 New estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau suggest Illinois is continuing to lose population. The latest estimates, released Dec. 21, pegged the state's population at 12,671,469 as of July 1, 2021, down by 113,776, or 0.9 percent, from the official 2020 census. Several factors contributed

to the change, but the single largest was domestic outmigration. According to the data, 122,460 people moved from Illinois to other states during the period from April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021, while only 5,766 people moved into the state, a net loss of 116,694. Those losses were offset by a net gain of 5,766 people through international migration as well as a "natural" increase of 2,778 people—the

difference between in-state births and deaths during the period. The Census Bureau routinely estimates national, state and county populations each year following a decennial census using a variety of data sources. But those estimates have been off in the past. In 2019, for example, the Census Bureau estimated that Illinois had lost more than 51,000 people since the 2010 census while the official 2020 census showed the state had lost about only 18,000.

Still, the latest estimates for Illinois reflect broader national trends of decreased international migration, lower birth rates and increased mortality, due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, the Census Bureau said, the U.S. population grew by 444,464, since the 2020 census, or 0.13 percent, the lowest growth rate since the nation's founding. "Population growth has been slowing for years be-

cause of lower birth rates and decreasing net international migration, all while mortality rates are rising due to the aging of the nation's population," Census Bureau demographer Kristie Wilder said in a news release. "Now, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, this combination has resulted in a historically slow pace of growth." The estimates showed that both the Midwest and Northeast regions saw net population declines over the year while the South and West regions both gained population. Over the past year, the Census Bureau said, the nation's population growth was due to a natural increase of 148,043, and net international migration of 244,622, marking the first time that net international migration exceeded natural growth.

Between 2020 and 2021, 33 states saw population increases and 17 states and the District of Columbia lost population. 11 of which had losses of more than 10,000

people. This is a historically large number of states to lose population in a year.

On a percentage basis, Illinois had the third largest population decline, behind the District of Columbia, at 2.9 percent, and New York, at 1.6 percent. Idaho, Utah and

Montana had the largest percentage increases. On a numeric basis, Illinois also had the third largest population decline, behind New York and California. Texas, Florida and Arizona had the largest numeric population increases.

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL. On Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. we will hold worship of Christmas carols and stories, the service will be filled with carols and memories of Christmas. You may join service in-person or via Facebook Live.

The state and CDC guidelines will be followed for gathering. For the safety of everyone it is encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing inside the

building. On Tuesday, Jan. 4, Bible Study group will meet at 10 a.m. On Wednesday, Jan. 5, Piece Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. New members are always welcome.

If you are looking for Christmas music, visit the Good Shepherd website and Facebook page for 12 Days of Christmas Carols videos by our members.

All the services will be recorded and be available on church's Facebook page and website. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 815-369-5552.

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• Passion (Continued from front page)

the land had been used as a dumping ground for trash and vacant cars since riots in the 1960s. As development progressed, area residents began asking questions about how food is grown on site and how it ends up on their tables.

"We're in East Garfield Park, so it's traditionally a Black neighborhood," Nesbary-Moore said. "(The farm) really started to create this narrative and conversation (about food) within the community."

The farm originally started as a nonprofit and transitioned

to a for-profit business on two acres (or 15 city blocks) in 2020. The business grows 50 types of vegetables and fruits in a hydroponic greenhouse and 100 raised, outdoor garden beds. Produce is sold to area restaurants and consumers.

A community supported agriculture (CSA) program offers subscriptions to community members who want to purchase fresh produce grown on the farm. Unlike traditional CSA models, where customers pay monthly or seasonal fees to finance the farm for a sea-

son upfront, Herban Produce subscriptions are made weekly.

The budget-friendly approach makes food boxes more affordable and accessible to residents.

An on-site event space also offers a place for people to take urban gardening classes focused on growing plants in small spaces like windowsills and patios. The farm also partners with other organizations to teach kids and young adults about farming.

"It's an eye-opening experience for a lot of the youth because they're exposed to agriculture right in their city," Nesbary-Moore said. "They're amazed that they're able to farm right in the middle of the city."

Educational opportunities create advocates for urban ag and empower others to join in finding solutions that work. Milkovich said big change can happen when people work together.

"Consumers can make better choices for themselves, and they don't have to wait for a development to come into their community," Milkovich said. "They can start fundraising and pursuing a co-op in their town that's custom to what they need."

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.

Season's Greetings

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.

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Slices of life

What is your default?

Quite often, each morning before getting dressed I check my weather app to get the prediction for the upcoming day. Yesterday I caught myself hoping the sun would be shining and the skies blue.

Then it dawned on me. There wasn't a question whether the sun would be shining. Likewise for the blueness of the skies. Both were an undeniable "yes."

In that moment, I realized something obvious and important: the sun always shines. The sky is always blue. Every day, without a doubt, 365 days a year. Each day of my life—since the beginning of Mother Earth actually—the sun has shone and the skies have been blue. They don't change. They haven't changed. Not ever. They are steadfast and true. I guarantee it. The universe guarantees it.

Thing is, though, I haven't always looked up to blue skies and sunshine, even though they were both there.

I'm guessing you might feel the same way.

Here's the truth that's been right in front of our eyes the whole time: the sun and the sky don't change.

Our perception does. Our awareness does.

The sky is the sky. The sun is the sun. There is no changing either one of them. When we look up, they are the default. Thing is, sometimes clouds get in the way, or at least we allow clouds to get in the way.

I look up at the sky and see clouds and think the sun and the blue sky have disappeared, but they haven't. They are still there, in the same spot they were a day ago, a hundred years ago and a millennium ago.

I deem them gone because of the clouds, but the clouds aren't real. They are but vapors. If I reached my hand out it would go right through the clouds. They block my view, but they provide no physical barrier. In that regard, they are an illusion.

Yet I look up and believe the sun and the blue sky are gone. I am unaware of the default. I forget it.

How about that as a metaphor for life?

Life is filled with obstacles. With worries. With car repairs and mortgage payments (if we are lucky). It's easy to see the clouds because they are ominous. They are lurking. They threaten lightning and thunder. They want to rain on our parade.

And, in our preoccupation with the clouds, we forget one critical factor. We forget the default.

If sunshine and blue skies



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

are the default for Mother Earth, why wouldn't that be the same every day in all of our lives? What if goodness, not hardship, is the default? What if our own hardships, however difficult they seem, are nothing more than clouds, immaterial, insubstantial experiences in our lives set there to challenge us and make us better? What if we could blow them away with a breath of wind, or simply a breath?

I don't mean to make light of anyone's life hardships. I'm living my own out right now and trying desperately to find my own blue sky, but it is there. Even on the bleakest, darkest, cloudiest days – the sun is shining behind the clouds. The sky is blue.

Sometimes I just can't see it.

But it is the default. I believe the same can be said for this big blue planet we live on. Goodness, peace, compassion and serenity are the defaults. It doesn't seem that way sometimes, especially right now, but goodness exists. It may be in the background, but it hasn't left us. It hasn't disappeared. It is the default, no matter how many clouds darken the sky.

Infinite and unconditional love, peace and harmony are still here. Unyielding. Unchanged.

The default is waiting for us to see beyond the clouds. Waiting for us to see what really is. Waiting for us to see the infinite reservoir of goodness that is ours for the taking. Go ahead, dig in. Ladle yourself a healthy helping.

Jill Pertler is an award-winning syndicated columnist, published playwright and author. She invites readers to follow the Slices of Life page on Facebook.

In my opinion

As we usher in 2022, Illinoisans yearn for promised new beginning

By Andrew Chesney
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

As we usher in 2022, many Illinoisans turn our thoughts to accomplishments and challenges of the past year and look forward to the hope delivered by a new year. Like many, the end of the year found me reflecting on the past year.

Let's hope 2022 is not reflective of 2021. Just under one year ago, the Illinois General Assembly entered what proved to be one of the most eventful lame-duck Sessions in decades. The Illinois House met for the Lame-Duck Session in the Bank of Springfield Center after nearly a year of abdicating the legislature's constitutional charge to provide checks and balances on the Executive Branch of State Government. This Lame-Duck Session, not under the Capitol dome, would see the hurried passage of legislation to punish the police in Illinois, killing cash bail and raising the specter of further attacks on qualified immunity for the law enforcement who protect our families every day.

Hours after adjourning the Lame-Duck Session of the 101st General Assembly, the 102nd General Assembly was sworn into office. The Illinois House elected its first new Speaker in decades with the election of Chris Welch to succeed his mentor, Michael Madigan. The stain of Democrat machine politics may have taken down the reputation of Madigan-funded Supreme Court Justice Tom Kilbride and Madigan himself after the 2020 election cycle, but rest assured the torch was passed. This change was no change at all.

Speaker Welch would go on to deliver critical victories for JB Pritzker and the radical woke in Illinois with repeal of parental notification for a minor child's abortion, institution of new learning standards for sex education in

our schools which included questionable age inappropriate content, jammed through new gerrymandered maps to create both a permanent Democrat majority in Illinois as well as protect Nancy Pelosi's prospects in the US Congress, and continued insidious efforts to defund the police, making our communities less safe.

Illinoisans were promised a new beginning by Speaker Welch, but rather were delivered a first chapter that read a lot like the prologue which got us here. No effort was made to include the voices of 4.8 million Illinoisans represented by duly elected officials who happen to have an R behind their names instead of a D. Speaker Welch, Governor Pritzker and Senate President Don Harmon gave

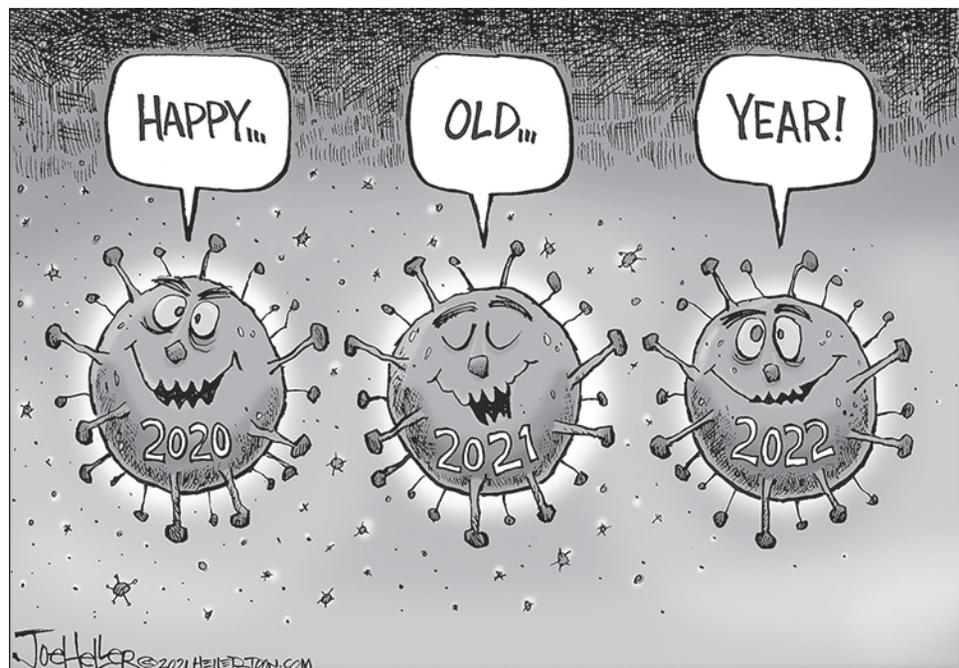
short shrift to these tax-paying citizens, even going so far as to only fund road and bridge construction projects in the FY 22 budget in Democrat districts only. Shameful, yet predictable.

Democrat politicians made clear their aims were purely partisan through the gerrymandered "F-rated" for fairness redistricting maps passed without a single Republican vote. Even Democrat constituencies throughout Illinois were appalled to find their parochial interests were put below the partisan aims of the mapmakers. The NAACP, Mexican American Legal Defense Fund and others are suing Illinois Democrat politicians for their gerrymandered maps

drawn behind closed doors which split communities of interest and divided people of color for partisan advantage. Democrats believed they did such good work, they even gave themselves a pay raise in the State Budget, yet again.

The pendulum swung much further to the left in Illinois over the past year than it has in decades. Does this sound like the new beginning Illinoisans were hoping? Was the problem simply that we didn't have enough West Coast values in play in Illinois?

2022 will be our opportunity to decide, and if you agree with me, resolve to make the changes needed to get back on track. May we all choose wisely and stick to our resolutions throughout the next year.





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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS
 DUPACO COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION
 Plaintiff,
 -v.-
 HANNAH GIVLER et al
 Defendant

2021CH34
 NOTICE OF SALE
 PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 10, 2021, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on January 18, 2022, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
 Commonly known as 11 WEDGEWOOD DRIVE, GALENA, IL 61036
 Property Index No. 08-427-006-00

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.
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(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 22 & 29, 2021 and Jan. 5, 2022)

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