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VOL. 88 • NO. 12

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

Hornets capture third place in 2022 IHSA State Basketball Tournament

Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

The 2021-2022 basketball season was a campaign that belongs in the Scales Mound history books. Head Coach Erik Kudronowicz and the Scales Mound hornets boys' basketball team made a deep postseason run, leaving them as one of the last teams to be playing across Illinois. From beating East Dubuque four times, to setting the school win record, to making it all the way to state, the Hornets will have plenty to look back on when reminiscing this season.

After finishing the regular season with a record of 29-2, Scales Mound opened the postseason with a pair of impressive wins over Warren and Lena-Winslow. On Feb. 25, the Hornets picked up their fourth and final victory over East Dubuque in a 47-39 overtime win over the Warriors. It was their closest game in nearly two weeks, which would prepare them well for their next playoff game.

On Tuesday, Mar. 1, the Hornets tipped off the new month with a postseason

matchup against the Pecatonica Indians. It was the first time these teams had met up this season, as the Indians came into the matchup with a record of 27-7. On Pecatonica's home floor the Hornets would have to steal a win in enemy territory to keep their season alive.

The first quarter was as even as could be. Both teams went back and forth getting settled in as they went into the second quarter tied at 10-10. Pecatonica found some momentum ahead of the halftime break. They outscored the Hornets 17-12 in the quarter, giving the Indians a 27-22 lead going into halftime. Despite trailing by just five, Scales Mound knew they would have to be nearly perfect to pull off a second half comeback.

It was time for the seniors to step up big if they wanted to continue playing and step up big they did. Four players reached double digits for the Hornets, all of which were seniors, in Ben Werner, Zayden Ellsworth, Sam Cocagne, and Benjamin Vandigo. Werner and Ellsworth led the way for the Hornets with

14 points each. Cocagne and Vandigo were close behind with 10 points each. Together, the group managed to help Scales Mound pull off the second half comeback as the Hornets went on to win 57-60.

Just three days later, the Hornets were back in the thick of it as they faced off with Newman Central Catholic in the sectional championship. NCC came into the game with an overall record of 25-9. With the sectionals taking place in Pecatonica, both teams would be on a neutral site for the finals.

Both offenses wasted little time getting settled in as 35 total points were scored in the opening quarter. Scales Mound held a slight advantage after it all, however, as they took an 18-17 lead into the second. That is when the Hornets made a resounding statement in this game. Scales Mound outscored NCC 14-4 in the second quarter. It was a turning point in the game as it allowed the Hornets to take a double-digit lead into the halftime break.

NCC would bounce back in the third quarter, however,

The Hornets were outscored 16-10 in the third quarter, allowing NCC to cut the eleven-point Hornet lead in half. Just like in the first half, Scales Mound had their best performance in the closing quarter. The same could be said about the second half, where the Hornets had a breakout performance in the fourth quarter. The Hornets combined for 20 points in the quarter, helping them to hold on for a 62-49 victory. Werner led the team in scoring with 19 points, while Ellsworth was next up with 14.

It was a big win for the Hornets as it made them the winningest team in Jo Daviess County history. Head Coach, Erik Kudronowicz, spoke about the team's accomplishment, saying "Continuing to add to the win total and being the winningest team in Jo Daviess County history is proof that hard work pays off and it also shows why this group is one of the best teams to play basketball in northern Illinois." The championship itself had a little added meaning for Kudronowicz and the Hornets, as the head coach

said, "Winning the Sectional Championship is a special accomplishment for this group, breaking through getting our first wins at the Sectional level. The Championship is validation for all the work put in by the coaches and the players." Kudronowicz says it begins long before the varsity level, as he added, "In addition, the work done by our youth program, our youth coaches, and our parent groups." When giving Credit, following the championship.

See HORNETS, Page 9



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Public speaking? No problem!

River Ridge FFA members (from left to right) Katie Cobine, Laiken Haas, Brynn Fry recently participated in the annual FFA contest where they were judged on their ability to recite the FFA Creed. Cobine took first place, Haas finished eighth, and Fry was the understudy. With a first-place finish, Cobine will move on to compete at the district level in April.

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Cover crops protect soil between growing seasons



By Joanie Stiers
ILLINOIS FARM BUREAU
PARTNERS CONTRIBUTOR

After farmer Lucas Roney spends the fall season gathering crops, he likes seeing his fields greening with new growth as he parks harvesting equipment in the shed.

"As farmers, we always like to see things growing," said Roney, who grows corn and soybeans with his family in Moultrie County. "Whenever you can look out there in the winter and see there are plants growing in the field, it makes you feel good about what you are doing. You feel like you're keeping the soil alive."

They've got it covered

Throughout the Illinois landscape, more and more farmers have adopted the use of cover crops, a ground cover planted but not harvested in the traditional sense. Instead, a cover crop's job is to hold soil in place, keep the soil active, store nutrients, retain moisture and improve the soil structure. (Some cover crops are harvested for forage, such as oats and turnips used for feeding cattle.)

Environmental benefits abound, including reduction of both soil erosion and nutrient loss into rivers and streams. By spring, farmers terminate the cover crop and plant corn and soybeans directly into the residual blanket that naturally gives yield-robbing weeds less space to grow.

An unharvested benefit

An early adopter of cover crops, Livingston County farmer Matt Boucher remembers neighbors asking if he was growing hay or planned to harvest a field of rye before planting it to soybeans.

Instead, he planted right into the green cover on his field, contrary to the most popular practice of planting into a field considered "clean," or free of growth. Today, his farm primarily uses a drill to sow cover crops on about 70% of the family's farmland. He also has hired aerial application, which involves showering cover crop seed above standing corn or soybeans just before fall harvest to grow by late fall. Sometimes, fertilizer-spreading trucks have broadcasted cover crop seed across a harvested field.

Boucher's most common cover crop choices include annual rye, cereal rye, buckwheat or radish (not the type for eating, rather a deep-rooted variety that breaks up compacted soil).

"We've gone from a straight single product to 12- to 15-way mixes of cov-

er crop varieties, and we've seen good results in both their various situations," said Boucher, who grows corn, soybeans and wheat with his family.

Boucher doesn't measure the results of cover crops in bushels or the boost to his corn and soybean production. Instead, his family sets environmental goals for the cover crops to accomplish, such as reduced erosion, weed control, nitrogen naturally produced from a legume cover crop or even "tillage." He finds that cover crops and their various root systems loosen the soil and produce a suitable seedbed without relying solely on means of mechanical tillage.

Barriers to adoption

Cover crop adopters recognize the investment in management, time and expense creates the largest barrier to wider adoption.

Namely, cover crops do not generate income for farmers. Cash crops like corn and soybeans do, and farmers fear risking the profitability that puts food on their tables.

"We are putting something out in the field that isn't going to be harvested, that we are not necessarily going to get a direct financial result from year one," Boucher said. "It can be a challenge for some farmers to see the return on their investment."

After about seven years of cover crops, his family now sees improvements in the soil structure. Boucher shares these results and cover crop tips on the farm's Facebook page and through the family's seed company, Potential Ag. In addition to corn and soybean seed, Boucher also sells seed for cover crops and works with farmer customers who want to learn more about this trending conservation practice.

Roney's cover crop practices are enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program, a U.S. Department of Agriculture initiative that helps with its costs. He also provides updates on his cover crops in reports for the Illinois Farm Bureau Crop-Watchers® 2.0 program on FarmWeekNow.com, which provides farmers statewide with internet-based regional crop updates during the growing season.

"I really think there is going to be increased adoption in cover crops," Roney said.

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

29 years ago on March 14, 1993, a great woman died. That woman was my grandmother
ORA LYONS
It's amazing how special people can make their way into your heart and memory. I was only 5 years old, but Grandma Lyons shares some of my warmest memories. She left a huge impression on me. Her love & compassion amazed me and set a standard for me.
Now at the age of 34 I still think of her and miss her greatly.
Her Grandson,
Chad Quandt

In loving Memory of ORA Lyons

We do not need a special day to bring you to our minds. The days we do not think of you are very hard to find. Each morning when we awake we know that you are gone. And no one knows the heartache as we try to carry on. Our hearts still ache with sadness and secret tears still flow. What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Our thoughts are always with you, your place no one can fill. In life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. There will always be a heartache, and often silent tears.
But always a precious memory of the days you were here. If tears would make a staircase and heartache make a lane, we'd walk the path to heaven and bring you home again. We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain, to walk with us throughout our lives, until we meet again.

Love, Her Children & Grandchildren

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred heart of Jesus, pray for us,

St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us;

St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day, by the 8th day your prayers will be answered. It has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised.

Thank you, St. Jude.

SUBMITTED PHOTO
Rock Valley Publishing

Cereal rye cover crops grow over recently harvested corn.

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'The Madigan Enterprise:' Inside the federal indictment of the state's former speaker

Madigan says government is 'attempting to criminalize' job recommendations

By Beth Hundsdoerfer
and Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

In a 106-page, 22-count indictment, federal prosecutors painted a picture of former House Speaker Michael Madigan as the leader, along with a longtime confidante, of a sweeping criminal enterprise that influenced legislation for personal power and financial gain.

"The Madigan Enterprise," as prosecutors called it in the document filed March 2, benefitted from Madigan's position as a Democratic ward committeeman, speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois and law partner at Madigan & Getzendanner.

In those capacities, Madigan, either personally or through confidante Michael McClain, is accused of guiding the enterprise's illegal activities to punish opponents and reward loyalists, all while generating money for him and other members of the criminal enterprise, according to the indictment and comments from U.S. Attorney John Lausch Jr. of the Northern District of Illinois.

The feds accused Madigan of using intermediaries, falsifying documents, meeting in-person and using third-party phones to avoid detection by federal agents, as well as speaking in coded language to protect the conspiracy.

But the former speaker still vehemently denied wrongdoing in a statement distributed by his lawyers, Sheldon Zennner and Gil Soffer of the Katzen law firm.

"I was never involved in any criminal activity," Madigan said in a statement distributed by the law firm. "The government is attempting to criminalize a routine constitu-

ent service: job recommendations. That is not illegal, and these other charges are equally unfounded."

The statement directly contradicted claims made publicly in the indictment and by Lausch at a news conference announcing the charges March 2.

Madigan and the enterprise are accused of receiving bribes and "unlawful personal financial advantage(s)" from parties that had business with the state and city of Chicago. Madigan's power to pass or kill legislation in the General Assembly, along with his control over resources through his various positions of power, were used to entice financial rewards from third parties, according to the allegations.

In that effort, the enterprise used "threats, intimidation, and extortion to solicit benefits from private parties," and used facilities of interstate commerce to further the goals of the enterprise, another federal crime, according to the indictment.

Madigan: 'I adamantly deny these accusations'

Madigan, 79, and McClain, 74, both face charges of racketeering, conspiracy, bribery and wire fraud. Madigan faces additional charges for attempted extortion.

While the sprawling indictment outlines wire taps and email conversations and even directly quotes the former speaker, Madigan's lawyers said in a statement, "neither the law nor the facts support these baseless charges, and the evidence will prove it."

"Throughout my 50 years as a public servant, I worked to address the needs of my constituents, always keeping in mind the high standards required and the trust the public placed in me," Madigan said,

according to the statement. "I adamantly deny these accusations and look back proudly on my time as an elected official, serving the people of Illinois."

The indictment detailed several schemes attributed to the Madigan Enterprise.

The first involved Chicago-based electric company Commonwealth Edison, or ComEd. Many of those details had already been made public in a deferred prosecution agreement the company entered into in July 2020.

The indictment alleges that Madigan shepherded the passage of legislation that helped ComEd, specifically the Energy Infrastructure and Modernization Act in 2011 and the Future Energy Jobs Act in 2016. In 2018, legislation adverse to ComEd was killed, per the indictment.

In exchange for his support of legislation favorable to ComEd, the indictment stated that Madigan placed political pals into ComEd's intern program, even though they may not have been qualified.

He also allegedly named his choice for an appointment to ComEd's board, received "vendor" jobs for his friends on ComEd's payroll that required little or no work, and received contracts from ComEd for his political allies.

The indictment includes forfeiture actions against McClain and Madigan for \$2.8 million for proceeds they allegedly obtained, directly or indirectly, from racketeering activity.

Alderman A

A central player in another scheme is identified as Alderman A, who "cooperated in an undercover capacity" with the FBI. Alderman A has been identified as Danny Solis, who served as the city's

zoning committee chair on the timeline identified in the indictment.

According to the indictment, in 2018 Madigan solicited Solis to usher work toward his law firm in exchange for getting Solis a state board appointment at about \$100,000 a year. Madigan said he would arrange for the appointment of Solis to the Illinois Commerce Commission or the Illinois Labor Relations Board and tried to get a state job for Solis' relative, according to the indictment.

Such an appointment would have to come from the state's governor, a position that, at the time, was slated to be filled by Gov. JB Pritzker within months of the alleged misconduct.

The indictment does not allege any misconduct by Pritzker, and Solis did not receive an appointment to a state board.

Pritzker, however, did meet with federal investigators as a witness in the Madigan investigation, and he was "pleased to cooperate," according to his office. He spoke with federal investigators in a virtual meeting for more than an hour in late February, according to Pritzker's spokesperson Jordan Abudayyeh.

Pritzker condemns Madigan

Pritzker condemned Madigan in harsh terms and answered questions on the indictment at an unrelated news conference. He said it was not immediately clear to him at the time of the questioning

that an indictment would be forthcoming, and he did not suspect any misconduct from Madigan in their interactions pertaining to state government.

"Remember, I was governor. He was speaker of the House. There was a Senate president, there were leaders across the General Assembly," he said. "I needed to work with all of them and so none of the interactions that I had were anything other than about, you know, things to do with doing the right thing in government for the people."

In another scheme detailed in the indictment, Madigan sought an introduction from Solis to a multi-unit apartment developer that was seeking a favorable zoning decision from Solis' committee. Madigan was allegedly seeking business for his private law firm from the developer identified only as Company C.

The feds alleged that on June 23, 2017, Solis told Madigan, "I think they understand how this works, you know, the quid pro quo, the quid pro quo," in reference to the apartment developer. Madigan allegedly responded, "OK ... Very good."

On July 18, 2017, Madigan allegedly told Solis privately not to use the term "quid pro quo."

"You're just recommending ... because if they don't get a good result on their real estate taxes, the whole project will be in trouble... Which is not good for your ward. So you want high quality repre-

sentation," Madigan is quoted as saying in the indictment.

Then there was the parking lot in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood.

In 2017, a group of real estate developers, identified only as Group A in the indictment, was involved in the development of a large commercial development that would include a hotel in Chicago's Chinatown neighborhood. But the development group needed a parking lot that was owned by the state.

Madigan agreed to use his position as speaker of the House to assist with the transfer of the Chinatown parcel, according to the indictment. In exchange, legal work would be steered to his private law firm, Madigan & Getzendanner, which would generate legal fees that personally benefitted Madigan.

When two legislators opposed the transfer of the Chinatown parcel, Madigan suggested sending a delegation from Chinatown to visit two state senators to persuade them to remove their opposition, according to the indictment.

In November, Secretary of State Jesse White's Office received letters from business owners in Chinatown, opposing the transfer.

Madigan advised that the bill to transfer the land would not go forward during the veto session, but he would attempt to try to get it through the legislature in May 2019.

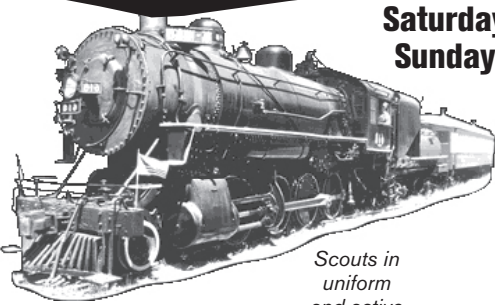
Madigan's arraignment was scheduled to have taken place on Wednesday.

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State revenues \$4.6 billion higher for current fiscal year than initially projected

Consumer habits, federal unemployment increases helped drive tax revenues upward

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A House revenue committee on Feb. 24 heard projections of an Illinois economy that is steadily moving back toward a level of pre-pandemic normalcy, which means revenue spikes realized due to temporary changes in consumer spending habits and federal stimulus packages are expected to subside.

Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris characterized the COVID-19 pandemic as a "black swan event" which sent state revenues

tumbling by \$400 million in 2020.

"A black swan is very rare, and rare events can happen and upset the financial apple cart," Harris told the House Revenue and Finance Committee.

But in response to that so-called black swan event, consumers nationwide shifted to purchasing more goods than services, and the federal government provided direct financial payments to Americans and expanded unemployment insurance benefits.

That sparked a near two-

year period of substantial state revenue growth, partially because Illinois taxes goods, but not most services, so the redistribution of spending correlated directly to a rise in sales tax revenue. As well, unemployment benefits are taxable by the state, and many individuals who collected enhanced federal benefits saw greater income levels than before the pandemic.

Corporations have made out OK as well, according to Harris.

"To give you an example, in December alone, just in December, we received \$961 million in corporate income tax receipts," he said. "That's in one month. In a given year, a normal year would be \$3.5 billion or thereabouts in corporate income tax receipts for the entire year."

The windfalls in the big three revenue sources—individual and corporate income

tax and sales tax—created unprecedented, at least in modern times, flexibility for Gov. JB Pritzker to craft a budget for the upcoming year that dedicates surpluses to paying down old debts. Negotiations on a final budget continue in the General Assembly.

Specifically, revenues for the fiscal year ending on June 30 are expected to be about \$4.6 billion greater than were projected when the governor signed the budget into law last year, according to a presentation by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

COGFA expects state coffers will have taken in \$48.5 billion by the end of the fiscal year, up from a \$44.4 billion projection in the budget that lawmakers approved in May.

The base state revenue sources actually grew by \$4.6 billion, however, because the governor's office amended its

planned use of federal funds to offset General Revenue Fund spending downward by \$500 million due to the surplus.

The updated FY 22 estimates include a \$1.6 billion increase in personal income tax from initial expected levels, a \$1.2 billion increase in corporate income tax, and a \$926 million increase in sales tax revenue.

The revenues for January alone were \$1.2 billion greater than the prior year, according to COGFA.

Upcoming budget year

Harris and other fiscal prognosticators projected that Fiscal Year 2023, which begins July 1, will continue to see a solid revenue performance, but it will also begin a period of leveling, where the last two years of fiscal breathing room trend back to normal.

COGFA's FY 23 revenue

estimate is \$671 million lower than its updated FY 22 estimate, not including federal funding. Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding accounts for \$1.5 billion of the FY 22 budget but no such expenditures are anticipated for FY 23 in terms of GRF replacement funding.

But representatives of IDOR, COGFA and the Governor's Office of Management and Budget noted the picture for the upcoming fiscal year could change quickly as tensions continue amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which was escalating quickly at the time of the Thursday morning hearing.

"Will Russia's invasion of Ukraine be a black swan event that causes disruptions that ripple across revenue streams? We do not know," IDOR director Harris said. "But again, the trends so far are positive. And the forecasts presented today for FY 23 are positive ones."

Republican lawmakers also inquired about inflation, and the budgeters said projections generally anticipated "several months" of continued upward inflation before the trend reverses, and their current projections anticipate the inflation rate to be 7.9 percent.

Sustained Russian sanctions could impact anything from energy prices to the cost of wheat, so projections will be updated as needed, according to IDOR.

As the projections stand now, according to House Majority Leader Greg Harris, who is a chief budgeteer in the chamber, the governor and the General Assembly will have the flexibility to pay down old debt and prepare the state for future fiscal downturns.

See **REVENUES**, Page 5

Façade improvement grants now available

A new round of grant funding is available for the City of Freeport's Façade Improvement Program. With this new application period, a Façade Improvement Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, at 7:30 a.m. at City Hall.

The Façade Improvement Grant Program is designed to provide owners of properties financial incentives to preserve, restore, and rehabilitate

the exterior features of buildings located within the Downtown Tax Increment Redevelopment (TIF) Area.

The City has proposed a budget of \$20,000 for 2022, funded by the Downtown TIF. The funds will be payable as a reimbursement of up to 50% of the project costs, which cannot exceed \$15,000 total.

The grants are provided by the City of Freeport in recognition of the positive impact

that individual façade rehabilitation can have on the overall appearance and quality of storefronts.

Applications will be accepted through April 12.

For more information, visit <https://cityoffreeport.org/documents/facade-improvement-grant-program-application-packet/> or contact the Community and Economic Development Department at 815-235-8202.

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• Revenues (Continued from page 4)

Rep. Harris, who is not related to the IDOR director, said the preferred course is to use the major windfalls for one-time expenditures.

Included in the governor's plan is an infusion of \$600 million to the "rainy day" fund from the surplus in the current fiscal year, as well as \$279 million from the upcoming fiscal year. That fund had been spent down to almost nothing during the budget impasse of 2015 to 2017.

The governor also proposed dedicating \$898 million to pay down overdue health insurance bills. His proposal also includes spending \$300 million of the surplus to pay down pension debt, with \$200 million added to the statutory payment in the upcoming budget.

ARPA funding

The House committee, and Harris at the news conference, also discussed the state's plan

for the remaining American Rescue Plan Act funding. Illinois directly received \$8.1 billion from President Joe Biden's stimulus plan, and about \$3.5 billion remains, Rep. Harris said.

He added that a working group made up of both parties as well as business and labor interests is currently discussing the plan for retiring \$4.5 billion in debt to the federal government that the state incurred to keep its unemployment system running at the height of the pandemic. That borrowing has accrued \$36 million of interest due by Sept. 30, according to the U.S. Treasury.

Republicans at the Feb. 24 hearing suggested the governor reapportion his planned \$1.5 billion in ARPA spending for FY 22, using it to pay down trust fund debt instead of replenishing state coffers for COVID-19-related spending.

Rep. Harris said the work-

ing group is coming up with a "menu of options" for paying down the backlog which could include ARPA funds. Generally, such a solution includes some combination of decreases to benefits, increases to employer premiums or some infusion of state, federal or private funding.

While Pritzker's proposed FY 23 budget is largely not reliant on ARPA funds, one major proposed expenditure — \$250 million for violence intervention funding — would be funded primarily by a \$235 million lump sum from ARPA.

Rep. Harris said the intervention funding is often "short-term," but the state will monitor the violence prevention program's efficacy over the next few years as ARPA funding remains available and consider future expenditures in future budget years.

The governor's plan to pay down debt with the one-time

surplus this year could free up funds in the future, he said.

"Tens and tens of millions or hundreds of millions of dollars have been going out to repay debt that could otherwise be going to fund programs like that in future years," he said of recently enacted budgets. "So being fiscally responsible now, it's going to pay us a lot of dividends in the coming years."

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STOCKTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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815-947-3321

PRESCHOOL SCREENING FOR THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR DATES: APRIL 11 & 12

- The Preschool Screening is for all students **NOT** currently enrolled in Early Learning Academy (formerly known as Family Ties) or Learning Ties programs.
- All children **MUST** be screened through Stockton School District to enroll in Stockton Preschool.
- Screening is required for all children turning **3 on or before 9/1/22**. The screening takes approximately **60 minutes** and includes checks/discussion of progress in the areas of language, motor skills and general development.
- Please provide your child's **certified birth certificate from the courthouse, physical, and a copy of your child's immunizations record**.
- All preschool age children residing in the Stockton School District are eligible.

414300

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Pearl City United Methodist Church 2ND ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF Sunday, March 20 • 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Think you have the
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Bring in a batch for
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Entry fee is \$5 and \$5 a cup to try the different chilies.

Awards will be given out for:

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Registration deadline is March 16.

Contact Jason Barklow

for more information, 815-275-3397



414613


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Sunday School for all ages • 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Youth • 6 p.m.

Tuesday Bible Study • 10:30 a.m.

Thursday Prayer & Bible Study • 6 p.m.

412229

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency PY22 LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for the LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Assistance Program for income eligible households of Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties who are homeowners and whose existing heating system is not operational (fails to operate, fails to produce adequate heat, operates in an unsafe manner) or has been red-tagged by their utility.

The purpose of the LIHEAP Furnace program is to restore heat to the household and is available from September 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 or until funds are exhausted.

All income eligible homeowners may apply for emergency furnace assistance. The household must have active service with both primary and secondary heating utilities. Households with disconnected utilities are not eligible for this assistance.

To qualify for the LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program, the household must first apply and be approved for LIHEAP or PIPP assistance. Please call the office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to receive an application packet. All completed application packets and documents must be submitted by mail, email, drop-box, or fax. Limited appointments may be made for special needs, depending on current conditions.

Income Guidelines:

Family Size	30 Day Income	Family Size	30 Day Income
1	\$2,147	6	\$5,930
2	\$2,903	7	\$6,590
3	\$3,660	8	\$6,737
4	\$4,417	9	\$6,883
5	\$5,173	10	\$7,029
		11	\$7,285

For each additional person add \$568

**** The following documents will be required to apply for assistance. ****

- Social Security Cards for all members of the household.
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days prior and including the application date such as pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD income, pension/retirement statements, child support, unemployment reports, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance notices, self employment reports, and proof of zero income.
- Complete current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days.
- Copy of real estate tax bill
- Copy of warranty deed, contract for deed, or quit claim deed (all of these must be stamped and registered with the county clerk); or Copy of current mortgage statement; or Copy of the original title if your home is a mobile home.

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency
27 S. State Ave., Suite 102, Freeport, IL 61032
815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 • www.nicaa.org

414293

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency PY22 LIHEAP/PIPP/LIHWAP/ WEATHERIZATION

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency, as administrator of the Home Energy Assistance Program in Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties, is pleased to announce that funds are available to assist income-eligible households with their natural gas, propane, and electric heating bills, furnace assistance for homeowners, and emergency water bill assistance.

The LIHEAP program began Sept. 1, 2021 for all income-eligible households. Applications will be taken on a first-come first-served basis through May 31. All income-eligible households are encouraged to apply.

Applicants may apply for a DVP payment or the PIPP program. The Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) provides a one-time benefit payment for income eligible households to gas or propane and electric utilities and for reconnection assistance.

Applicants with ComEd and/or Nicor Gas as utility providers may have the option of choosing the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) instead of the DVP. The PIPP program is a bill payment program that assists eligible customers by paying a monthly state benefit while the customer pays a monthly payment based on a percentage of their household income. PIPP applications will be taken on a first-come first served basis until March 31, or until NICAA has reached maximum capacity of households for the program.

LIHWAP assistance with a one-time payment on their water/sewer bills is available for approved LIHEAP/PIPP applicants with one of the following conditions: water service disconnected or imminent disconnection, or past due water/sewer bills of \$250 or more.

Please call the office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to receive an application packet. Completed application packets and documents must be submitted by mail, email, drop box, or fax. Limited appointments for special needs may be made, depending on current conditions.

Income Guidelines:

Family Size	30 Day Income	Family Size	30 Day Income
1	\$2,147	6	\$5,930
2	\$2,903	7	\$6,590
3	\$3,660	8	\$6,737
4	\$4,417	9	\$6,883
5	\$5,173	10	\$7,029
		11	\$7,285

For more than 11 household members, add \$568 for each one.

**** To submit an application, you MUST submit ALL of the required documents. ****

- Proof of Social Security numbers or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for all household members. Individuals without an SSN or ITIN can still apply and NICAA will advise
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days prior and including the application date such as pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD income, pension/retirement statements, unemployment reports, child support, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance, self-employment reports and proof of zero income.
- Complete current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days.
- Complete current water/sewer bill for emergency water bill assistance.
- Copy of current lease if any utilities are included in the rent payment

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Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Housing Stability/ Homeless Prevention Program/Rental/Mortgage Assistance

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding through DCEO CSBG Program and DHS Homeless Prevention Program to assist families in Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties who are past due on their rent or mortgage, payments and are in danger of becoming homeless or are homeless due to a recent financial crisis affecting their ability to pay housing costs including COVID-19 related conditions.

Have you experienced one of the following crisis conditions:

- COVID-19 related loss of employment or reduction in work hours
- Loss of Employment or substantial reduction in work hours
- Current Medical Disability or Emergency
- Loss or Delay of some form of Public Benefit
- Natural Disaster
- Change in Household Composition
- Illegal Action by a Landlord
- Displacement by a Government or Private Action
- Some other condition beyond your control which creates a financial hardship (such as a large car repair bill)

You may be eligible for assistance if you:

- Can provide third-party documentation of your financial crisis condition

Documents that are required to apply:

- Proof of Social Security numbers for all members of the household
- Proof of all income for all members of the household for the 30 days prior to the application date
- 2020 income tax return
- Current Benefit letter for household members receiving SSA, SSI or SSD income
- Copies of your current utility bills (electric, gas/propane, water)
- Current Lease or Mortgage with contact information
- Eviction Notice or Past Due Letter from landlord, mortgage, and/or water company
- Third Party Documentation of financial hardship condition

We are in the office and taking applications for NICAA program assistance by phone, mail, email and fax. Please call our office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for information on how to apply.

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414223

Around the Northern Hills

By Annette Eggers



Annette Eggers

Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau offering \$250 towards R.O.P.S. purchase

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau

would like to offer funds to reimburse farmers for purchasing Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS). Fifty-five percent of farm tractors in Illinois do not have a cab or ROPS. Only one in five victims will survive a tractor rollover accident. The leading cause of farm related deaths in Illinois is tractor rollover accidents. They account for more than 30% of farm related deaths. ROPS help protect farmers and family members from being crushed in the event of a tractor turnover or rollover.

Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members who purchase a ROPS could receive a reimbursement of \$250 towards the purchase of a ROPS. To receive the \$250, members would need to bring in their paid invoice to the Farm Bureau office in Elizabeth. Customers would be responsible for the

cost, freight, and installation which are available through the dealer.

For more information about this program, or to become a member of our organization, contact the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau office at 815-858-2235 or email jdcfbmgr@gmail.com

Truck driving scholarships available

New this year, the IAA Foundation is pleased to offer the Driving Agriculture Forward Scholarships totaling \$20,000 in support for applicants pursuing commercial truck driver training. Application link and eligibility guidelines can be found at www.iaafoundation.org.

Awards will be made based on the Illinois Farm Bureau region in which the applicant resides, with an additional at-large award each cycle.

The first application window will open March 1 through March 31, and for applicants enrolling in driver training at an Illinois Community College, the window is April 1 through June 30, 2022. Proof of enrollment is required, and payments are made directly to the Community College where the applicant is enrolled.

These scholarships are intended to offset the cost of commercial truck driver training to ensure more well-trained, safe drivers are available to drive agriculture forward.

Livestock processing meeting

The JDC Farm Bureau and JDC Beef Association are hosting an informational meeting to discuss livestock processing in the County. The meeting will be held on March 16 at 7 p.m. in the Farm Bureau basement. Topics being discussed include grants, state/federal regulations, marketing and input from locker owners. If this topic is of interest to you, please attend and share your thoughts.

Did you miss out on the transportation meeting?

If you are a farm bureau member, we can share a recording of one of the meetings as well as an electronic copy of the booklet with all the information. Call our office or email me at jdcfbmgr@gmail.com and we will send the information your way.

Farm Fun Fact

It takes 10 pounds of milk to make a pound of cheese.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

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This week's little Blackhawks

Pictured here are the Little Blackhawks for the week at Stockton Elementary and Middle Schools. These students were recognized for continuing to follow the Blackhawk Way. Congratulations everyone!

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Happy St. Patty's
Serving 3/14-3/18
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Jo Daviess Animal Control pet registrations

The Jo Daviess Animal Control would like to remind residence to register their dogs. In addition to the ordinance that requires dog registration, it is one way in which Animal Control can contact pet owners when needed. If an Animal Control Officer finds a pet, and the pet is wearing a current license tag on its collar, Animal Control will contact the owner. If another citizen finds a pet with its license tag, they will be able to contact the Jo Daviess County Animal Control Department by calling the phone number on the license tag. Animal Control will then in turn contact the owner. If a pet has been lost, Animal Control recommends that owners contact them immediately.

Every owner of a dog four months or more of age who is a resident of the County is required to have the dog inoculated against rabies as denoted in the Animal Control Act. Every dog owner shall pay a rabies tag fee. An unaltered dog is \$30 per year or \$85 for a 3-year registration.

A spayed or neutered (altered) dog is \$18 per year or \$50 for a 3-year registration. A 3-year license will only be issued when a 3-year vaccination was given within 6 months of the purchase of the license. Licenses will not be valid beyond the expiration of the rabies vaccination.

The money from dog licensing fees is all directed towards Jo Daviess County Animal Control. These funds are an important part of helping animals and owners in Jo Daviess County. The funding

allows Animal Control to be dispatched for rescues and provides shelter and care for lost and abandoned pets. The information received from a registration goes into a database that allows pets to be reunited with their owners as well as track vaccination records.

Please contact the Jo Daviess County Animal Control Department at 815-776-0326 or email animalcontrol@jodaviess.org with any questions. To register a dog, go to www.petdata.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Cora Dittmar recently placed second after participating in the Extemporaneous category of speech, where she had to write and share a speech on a specific topic with only 30 minutes to prepare.

River Ridge FFA speakers qualify for Districts

The River Ridge FFA Public Speaking competitors had no problem in doing something that many adults dread doing. Public Speaking is one of the most-feared things for adults to do, and high schoolers usually do not relish this life skill either. Members of FFA Chapters from across the section braved the judges in the annual contest hosted by Pearl City FFA. The first category is The FFA Creed where Greenhand (freshmen) members recite the five paragraph Creed written by E. M. Tiffany. They are judged on their ability to recite it word for word as well as the quality of their speaking voice. In addition, they have to answer a series of questions at the

conclusion of the recital. River Ridge was proud to have Katie Cobine place first out of 11 students. By placing first, she qualified to compete in the district level of competition in April. Laiken Haas represented the chapter well by placing eighth and Brynn Fry was the understudy.

In the Extemporaneous category of speech students draw a topic and then have 30 minutes to write a speech on that topic. Topics range from forestry and vet science to ag mechanics and community gardens. Senior and FFA President Ashley Carroll came home with the first-place prize and Cora Dittmar, also the chapter treasurer, placed second.

Farmers invested in efforts to improve nutrient uses, reduce losses

By Kay Shipman
FARMWEEK

Illinois farmers are invested in tackling one of agriculture's biggest challenges—nutrient management.

Mercer County farmer Jeff Kirwan, chairman of the Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council (NREC), discussed the importance of farmers' dollars funding research and education ahead of a recent NREC meeting on research updates.

Farmers fund NREC by paying 75 cents per ton on bulk fertilizer bought in the state. Since 2012 when it was formed, NREC has invested \$31 million into research and education.

"We are unique in the United States," Kirwan told FarmWeek. "Our state has a source of funding coming from farmers for nutrient research. Other states legislate dollars toward that."

Not only do farmers invest in the work, but a broad spectrum also plays a role in directing research, according to Kirwan.

Farmers representing farm

organizations and commodity groups from different parts of the state along with representatives of the fertilizer industry, environmental community and state agencies determine research priorities. When research proposals are submitted, NREC members evaluate those and determine funding.

The search for answers remains fluid, Kirwan noted.

"It's living research," he said. "It seems like we're always learning new things from every project. We continue coming up with new things to study and questions we hadn't anticipated."

Those research questions are added to needs along with potential issues that surface during growing seasons.

As NREC work produces results, that information is evaluated for possible inclusion in the statewide Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRs). "We find new information and keep that goal of addressing accurate assumptions" of nutrient losses, Kirwan said.

In the most recent NLRs biennial report, two new conservation practices

were added to options available to reduce losses. Those were saturated buffers and terraces.

Not only is NREC funded by farmers across Illinois, but "all this (NREC) information is available to everybody," Kirwan said. "It's presented for everyone to use." Farmers may apply NREC research information to their farming operations, he added.

Any solutions to improve fertilizer use are timely given the high costs of inputs.

"We're providing research practices to help you (farmers) with nutrient efficiency," Kirwan said. "We have the research backing up these strategies and helping you make decisions. In these economic times, we (NREC) have the research to provide farmers with support in these times we are dealing with."

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.

•Hornets (Continued from front page)

The Hornets weren't done yet, however. On Monday, Mar. 7, Scales Mound faced off with Chicago Marshall in the Super-Sectional, at Northern Illinois University. The Hornets were boosted by one of Werner's best performances of the postseason as he led the team with 20 points. Vandigo finished the game with 14 points, and Ellsworth was third with 11. Scales Mound held control of the game for most of the time as 19 of Chicago Marshall's points didn't come until the closing minutes. Scales Mound held on to win by a score of 55-41, allowing them to move on in the state tournament.

Although the Hornets would go on to fall to Liberty 75-41 in their next game, they would bounce back by defeating Steeleville 55-34 in the third place game. The Hornets pushed their win record to 36 in what will surely go down as one of the best Scales Mound seasons for years and years to come.

It was a special way to go out for a great group of se-

niors who made this all possible for the Hornets. Vandigo led the team in scoring and rebounds for the season with just over 17 points and seven rebounds per game. Fosler led the team in assists with just over four per game, as well as steals with two per game. Werner led the team in blocks per game, as well as averaging just over 11 points per game on the offensive end. In total, the Hornets will lose eight seniors in Vandigo, Werner, Fosler, Ellsworth,

Cocagne, Thomas Winter, PJ Schuster, and Evan Graves. Vandigo went out on top as he was named to the Class 1A AP All-State First Team. He received the third most votes of all Class 1A players. Werner and Fosler were both Honorable Mentions for All-State awards, as well.

Although this group of Hornets will be a challenge to replace as they leave some big shoes to fill, they also left plenty to be remembered by. The next challenge for Kud-

ronowicz and the Hornets will be to replicate the work ethic that this year's class will leave behind.



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Incidentally, Digital Dentistry

Technology has changed our world in astounding ways. There is more computer power in one of today's cell phones than NASA had in a room full of computers when they brought Apollo 13 safely back to Earth. Over the last few decades, the continually accelerated rate at which modern technology has developed finds us firmly in the era of digital dentistry. The role of technology in healthcare is to provide the highest level of care to our patients through technical advances in diagnostics procedures, communication between healthcare providers, and prevention and treatment of disease. Digital dentistry involves the use of dental technologies or devices that incorporate computer-controlled components to better serve our patients and the efficiency of the office. For instance, years ago we installed computers in every operatory, switched



By
DR. STEPHEN PETRAS
Illinois Licensed
General Dentist

to digital x-rays, and began keeping digital records. This not only means less radiation exposure for our patients but more enhanced diagnostic imagery. It also allows for more efficient communication between dental team members and the patient's other healthcare providers. It facilitates insurance reimbursement as we are able to file claims with x-rays electronically, rather than through the mail. From an environmental view, it takes up less storage, wastes less material, creates less environmental waste, and frees up the front office from pulling and refiling charts. Through time we have added cone beam computed

tomography (3D imaging) and advanced lasers.

Our latest technological advance is a 3D intraoral scanner. This allows us to take digital impressions. A traditional impression is a cast of your teeth and soft tissues that your dentist uses to evaluate how your teeth, jaw and bite are currently functioning together. This information is required to design a treatment plan to return you to proper function. It is created by putting dental impression materials on a tray, then placing the impression tray in your mouth until it is set. A digital impression is not only more accurate and more comfortable for the patient, but it also allows us to email it directly to the lab. Rather than waiting for the impression to arrive by mail or courier before the dentist and the technician can discuss the case, any issues or concerns can be immediately addressed. The

ability to take digital dental impressions also benefits patients with a strong gag reflex and those that are sensitive to cold. Digital impressions eliminate the need for plaster models; therefore, it keeps disposable impression trays and materials out of our landfills and significantly reduces office storage space. It also eliminates the need for staff to retrieve and return stored models, freeing them up to spend more quality time with you.

Being able to visualize their teeth, dental x-rays and impressions on the computer monitor also greatly

enhances the patient's ability to understand both their treatment plan and ways to prevent any further damage or disease.

Dr. Pullara and I engage in lifelong continuing education to keep abreast of the ever-evolving healthcare technology. We also vet technological advances

and do not introduce them into our practice until they have a proven performance record of providing real and measurable benefits to our patients. When we do decide to introduce innovative technology, we set aside time to provide both education and training for the entire dental team.



— PUBLIC NOTICE — NOTICE - ACCEPTING MOWING BIDS

We are now accepting bids for mowing the Elizabeth Cemetery & Old Log Church.

Bids should be per mowing.

Deadline to submit bids is April 1, 2022.

Any questions call Jeff Spoerl - (815) 858-4045.

Submit bids to: Candis Albrecht,
313 Orange St., Elizabeth, IL 61028
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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We keep dodging spring weather with our little snowstorms. I think no one wants us to get too comfortable. We are still thinking about some different recipes this week. There is a little green theme going with spinach and broccoli. Enjoy cooking and keep thoughts of warmer weather.

Hot Spinach Spread

If you like spinach artichoke dip you will like this spread that doesn't use artichokes but combines spinach, tomatoes and cheese for a great appetizer. I think you could spread it on cocktail rye if you wanted a different taste.

2 C. shredded Monterey Jack cheese
1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, cubed
2 plum tomatoes, seeded

and chopped
¾ C. chopped onion
1/3 C. half-and-half
1 T. finely chopped seeded jalapeno pepper
6 pita breads
½ C. butter, melted
2 t. lemon-pepper seasoning
2 t. ground cumin
¼ t. garlic salt

In a large bowl, combine the first seven ingredients. Transfer to a greased 1 ½ baking dish sprayed with cooking spray. Bake, uncovered, at 375 for 20 to 25 minutes or until bubbly. Cut each pita bread into eight wedges. Place in two 15 x 10-inch baking pans. Combine the butter, lemon pepper, cumin and garlic salt, brush over pita wedges. Bake for seven to nine minutes or until crisp. Serve with spinach spread.

Spinach Salad

This spinach salad uses an apple and onion to make it different. I have had spinach salads with mandarin oranges, strawberries, and watermelon, but the crisp taste of the apple and the zip of onion makes this spinach salad different.

5 oz. fresh spinach
1 apple, thinly sliced (Honey Crisp is good)

1/3 C. crumbled feta
¼ C. red onion, thinly sliced
¼ C. sliced almonds, toasted

Dressing:
1/3 C. olive oil
3 T. red wine vinegar
1 clove garlic
2 t. Dijon Mustard
Salt and pepper to taste.

In a medium bowl, whisk together all the dressing ingredients until completely incorporated. Season with salt and pepper. In a large salad bowl, place the spinach, apple, and onion. Toss and then drizzle dressing over spinach. Garnish with crumbled feta and sliced almonds.

Slow Cook Ranch Chicken

If you want something that you can start ahead that will be a great weeknight meal, this slow cook chicken recipe is easy and good. Include a vegetable or salad and you have a great meal.

2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breast halves
¾ C. chicken broth
1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix
1 can cream of chicken soup, undiluted

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened and cubed
Hot cooked rice or noodles
Garnish ideas: shredded cheddar cheese, crumbled cooked bacon, chopped green onions.

In a four to five qt. cooker, combine broth and dressing mix; add chicken. Cover and cook on low for six hours. Remove chicken to cutting board; shred with two forks and return to slow cooker. Stir in soup and cream cheese. Cover and cook on low until cream cheese is melted, about 30 minutes. Serve over cooked rice or noodles. Garnish as desired.

Broccoli Tuna Casserole

This week's meatless recipe is a take on the traditional tuna and noodle casserole. You can use regular egg noodles if you don't have the whole wheat ones. I always use the low sodium broth whether it is chicken or beef in a recipe.

5 cups uncooked whole wheat egg noodles
1 t. butter
¼ C. chopped onion
¼ C. cornstarch
2 C. milk

1 t. dried basil
1 t. dried thyme
¾ t. salt
½ t. pepper
1 C. chicken broth
1 C. shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
4 C. frozen broccoli florets, thawed
2 pouches (6.4 oz. each) albacore white tuna in water
1/3 C. panko breadcrumbs
1 T. butter, melted

Preheat the oven to 350. Cook noodles according to package direction; drain. Transfer to a 9 x 13 baking dish coated with cooking spray. In a large nonstick skillet, heat butter over medium-high heat. Add onion; cook and stir until tender. In a small bowl, whisk cornstarch, milk and seasonings until smooth; stir into pan. Stir in broth and bring to a boil; cook and stir until thickened, about 2 minutes. Stir in ¾ C. cheese until melted; stir in broccoli and tuna. Spoon over noodles; mix well. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Toss bread crumbs with melted butter; sprinkle over casserole. Bake, covered, for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake until cheese is melted, about 15 to 20 minutes longer.

Goopy Butter Cookies

St. Louis is famous for its goopy butter cakes. This recipe takes the same idea of the cake and makes it into cookies.

½ C. butter softened
1 pkg (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1½ C. sugar
1 egg
1¼ t. vanilla
2 1/3 C. flour
½ C. nonfat dry milk powder
3 t. baking powder
½ C. powdered sugar

Preheat oven to 350. Beat butter, cream cheese, and sugar until blended. Beat in egg and vanilla. In another bowl, whisk flour, milk powder, and baking powder; gradually beat flour mixture into creamed mixture. Chill dough 30 minutes or until slightly firm. Scoop level tablespoonfuls of dough and roll in powdered sugar. Place one inch apart on parchment lined baking sheets. Bake 11 to 12 minutes or until lightly brown in color. Remove to wire rack to cool.

See KITCHEN, Page 13

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•Kitchen (Continued from page 12)

The Best

Snickerdoodle Bars

A friend said that this was the best recipe because it is easy. These bars taste like snickerdoodle cookies but with a lot less work. It is a one-bowl, no-mixer recipe that is made in minutes. It only makes a small pan, but that will make enough for a dessert.

Batter:

½ C. unsalted butter, melted
1 egg
½ C. white sugar
1/3 C. packed brown sugar
1 t. vanilla
1 C. flour
¼ t. cream of tartar
¼ t. salt

Topping:

¼ C. white sugar
2 t. cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 350. Line an 8 x 8 baking pan with aluminum foil; spray with cooking spray and set aside.

In a microwave-safe bowl, melt the butter, about one minute on High. Set aside to cool. When cooled add the egg, sugars, and vanilla, whisk until smooth.

Mix the flour, cream of tartar, and salt in a small bowl. Add to butter mixture until just combined; don't over mix. Turn batter into prepared pan, smoothing the top lightly with a spatula and set aside. In a bowl, mix the sugar and cinnamon together. Sprinkle the sugar mixture over the prepared batter. It may look like a lot, but it sinks into bars while baking. Bake about 24 to 25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean or with a few moist crumbs. Place pan on

top of a wire rack to cool for at least 15 minutes before lifting the aluminum foil out of the pan. Peel foil and cut into bars.

Final Thoughts

High School Basketball is officially over in Illinois. Congratulations to the Scales Mound team in their great run at the state tournament. Sometimes I think people forget about us up in the "point" of Illinois. Never once did I hear a reference that Scales Mound was near the highest point in Illinois. Most people south of Sterling think that we are part of Chicago! Thanks, Scales Mound, for reminding the rest of the state that we are up here!

If you got to see the LeWin musical, **Beauty and the Beast** this past weekend, you had a real treat. They did a wonderful job presenting this beautiful story. The costuming, sets, and of course the singing was great. Hats off to the directors, cast, and crew for giving us back live theater! On another note, it is hard to believe that we have changed our clocks ahead already. It is nice to have longer days of sunlight, but my body doesn't like the change. It is one more step to spring. We continue to look for recipes for Lent. Remember if you have any good vegetarian or fish recipes, send them our way. We also need some spring and Easter recipes. You can contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, *Shopper's Guide* at 240 W. Main St. or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

•Slices (Continued from page 7)

blower-less, winter-less and without black ice. I am in my glory.

But I have noticed one indisputable carryover from the north. People here may not have snow to blow, but that doesn't keep them from blowing nature around. In the south, without snow, people blow leaves.

They blow their leaves from one side of lawn to the other. From one side of the road to the other. The blowing never stops, because the leaves don't really go anywhere, at least not for long. For a northerner who's never experienced this, it is a most curious thing.

Blowing the leaves must feel powerful. They are light and airy. The noise pollution is not. It can grab you from a slumbering sleep in the morning, leaving you to wonder, what is more of a nuisance: leaves or noise?

My neighbors don't seem concerned about noise pollution—no matter how early in the morning. They all

seem so happy and determined about their leaf blowing.

To give them credit, there is likely more purpose to their efforts than I can initially ascertain. I'm sure that's true. But, for a rookie leaf blowing observer it is confusing. People blow leaves, but the leaves never seem to go away permanently. In my experience to accomplish that requires the intervention of trash bags intersecting with a pickup truck and a landfill or large composting site.

Unless, of course, you leave the leaves under a very large snow bank and they decompose over a six- to eight-month winter. That's always worked for me in the past.

The thought of that right now makes me shiver. And it might just blow my neighbors away.

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 THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS Finance of America Reverse LLC PLAINTIFF

Vs.
Jill C. Cummins as Independent Executor; United States of America - Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jean C. VanHorn; Jill C. Cummins; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

DEFENDANTS

2022FC8

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:

Unknown Heirs and Legatees of Jean C. VanHorn

Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

1323 S Chicago Ave Freeport, IL 61032 and which said Mortgage was made by:

Jean C. VanHorn the Mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Finance of America Reverse LLC, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 202100182839; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, Nathan A. Luy

Clerk of the Circuit Court 15 North Galena Freeport, IL 61032 on or before April 1, 2022, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 DuPage # 15170 Winnebago # 531 Our File No. 14-22-00359 NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. I3188513

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 2, 9 & 16, 2022) 413332

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal residents of the Town of Erin in the County of Stephenson and State of Illinois, that the ANNUAL MEETING of said Town will take place on **TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022** being the second Tuesday of said month.

The Town meeting for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town will be held at the hour of 7:00 o'clock P.M. on said day at Erin Township Building, 2699 N. Unity Rd., Lena and a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following Agenda: 1. Elect a Moderator and Administer Oath of Office; 2. Approve Minutes from 2021 Annual Town Mtg.; 3. Report of officers Financial Reports and Statements; 4. Authorize Funds Transfer; 5. Open Forum;

6. Adjournment.

Dated at Eleroy, this 10 day of March, 2022. Ryan A. Pickard Erin Town Clerk (Published in The Shopper's Guide March 16, 2022) 414318

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

On March 21, 2022 at 10:00 am, a meeting conducted by the Lena-Winslow School District will take place in the District Conference Room at 401 Fremont St, Lena, IL. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the District's plans for providing special education services to students with disabilities who attend private schools and home schools within the district for the 2022-2023 school year. If you are a parent of a home-schooled student who has been or may be identified with a disability and you reside within the boundaries of Lena-Winslow School District, you are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Superintendent Dr. Tom Chil-es at 815-369-2525.

(Published in The Shopper's Guide March 16, 2022) 414314

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS Federal National Mortgage Association PLAINTIFF

Vs. Scott M. Perry a/k/a Scott Perry; Dupaco Community Credit Union; Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

DEFENDANTS

2022FC1 NOTICE BY PUBLICATION NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU: Scott M. Perry a/k/a Scott Perry Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:

190 Beecher Street East Dubuque, IL 61025 and which said Mortgage was made by:

Scott M. Perry a/k/a Scott Perry the Mortgagor(s), to Dupaco Community Credit Union, as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, as Document No. 372556; and for other relief; that summons was duly issued out of said Court against you as provided by law and that the said suit is now pending.

NOW, THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the Office of the Clerk of this Court,

Kathy Phillips Clerk of the Circuit Court Jo Daviess County Courthouse

330 N. Bench Street Galena, IL 61036

on or before April 15, 2022, A DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU AT ANY TIME AFTER THAT DAY AND A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRAYER OF SAID COMPLAINT.

CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Attorneys for Plaintiff 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (630) 794-5300 DuPage # 15170 Winnebago # 531 Our File No. 14-22-00001

NOTE: This law firm is a debt collector. I3189695

(Published in The Scoop Today March 16, 23 & 30, 2022) 414276

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Pearl City Park District Maintenance/Program Director

The ideal candidate should possess a variety of skills related to but not limited to: mechanical aptitude involving lawn mowers, trimmers, motor vehicles, and other equipment; be an all-around handyman with experience in carpentry, electrical, and plumbing skills; have an interest or experience in landscaping, turf management, and grounds keeping. It would be necessary to obtain an herbicide/pesticide application license.

This position also includes overseeing and running current Park District Programs, such as summer baseball/softball, winter basketball, annual 5K, Easter egg hunt, etc. As well as supporting the summer camp/rec program. This would also include working to create new programs for the community.

Basic computer skills and organizational skills are necessary. We are looking for a highly motivated individual with organizational skills, reliability, and the ability to work independently as well as overseeing a small staff.

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City of Freeport announces Fire Chief hire

Scott Miller rejoins the City of Freeport as the Freeport Fire Department's chief with over 35 years in fire service. From 2013 to 2017, Miller served as the Freeport Fire Department's chief before entering retirement. Prior to his employment with the City of Freeport, Miller served the Elk Grove from 1986 to 2013.

"We here at Freeport Fire are truly looking forward to Chief Miller's return

to our department," said Interim Chief Scott Stykel. Stykel was appointed after the sudden passing of Fire Chief Brad Liggett in early January. "During his first tenure here with Freeport, there were many upgrades to both equipment and procedures, so we are hoping he can bring new upgrades to our apparatus needs." Chief Miller will take on the role starting Mar. 14, 2022.



HIGHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE Rock Valley Publishing

A ribbon cutting was held during an open house for The Mildred F. Ferguson Simulation Hospital on Wednesday, Mar. 9, 2022, at Highland Community College in Freeport.

Highland unveils the Mildred F. Ferguson Simulation Hospital

A state-of-the-art simulation hospital was unveiled Wednesday, Mar. 9 at Highland Community College, in Freeport. The hospital offers innovative spaces giving nursing and allied health students the edge they need to excel in their healthcare careers. There are three hospital rooms and learning spaces with high-fidelity manikins. There is a viewing hallway for instructors to observe student performance. Each room is equipped with audio-visual technology to record simulation activities for the group to review and debrief. The recording system also provides students an opportunity to upload videos for instructor feedback.

Funded entirely by a donor through the Highland Foundation, the hospital offers technology in an academic setting featuring authentic patient sounds, rooms for privacy, and the opportunity for students to transfer real-life practices from the classroom to the hospital setting. The hands-on learning simulates a broad range of experiences, helping students to be even more prepared when they graduate from Highland.

Brittanie Bruder, a Highland nursing student, said working in the simulation

hospital offers a realistic setting. She enjoys the advanced technology the hospital offers as she prepares to enter the workforce in the healthcare field. "The technology allows for real-life practice," Bruder said. "It prepares me for clinical and makes me feel more comfortable during patient interactions."

The idea to build the \$500,000 simulation lab was to replicate a hospital emergency room. A donation to help fund the hospital was made by Nancy Seeley of Florida, the daughter of Mildred F. Ferguson, in honor of

her mother.

Mildred F. Ferguson, a former nurse, was a strong believer in higher education and wanted to help students pursue their academic goals and achieve their dreams of working in the healthcare field.

The school of nursing will now be named the Neenah and Carl Fairbairn School of Nursing thanks to a generous gift from Malcolm Fairbairn in honor of his mother, Neenah, who was a nurse, and father, Carl, who served as a Highland Community College trustee from 1972 to 1975.

AUCTION

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414219

Campaign season opens as candidates line up to file

Primary election pushed back to June due to COVID-19, census delays

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The 2022 campaign season got underway in earnest Monday as candidates lined up in front of election offices to turn in petitions to get their names on the June 28 primary election ballot.

Hundreds of candidates and their aides braved cold wind and snow early on March 7 to line up outside the Illinois State Board of Elections office in Springfield to ensure their placement on the ballot.

March 7 was the first day established party candidates could file their petitions. The

deadline for turning in petitions was March 14.

Illinois voters will cast ballots this year for governor and lieutenant governor as well as statewide constitutional officers, all 118 seats in the Illinois House and 59 seats in the state Senate, circuit, appellate court and state Supreme Court judges, congressional seats, and a U.S. Senate seat currently held by Democrat Tammy Duckworth.

Voters in parts of Illinois will also cast ballots for county board members and various other local government offices.

This year's primary was

pushed back from its normal time in early March due to delays in the redistricting process brought about by delays in the release of 2020 census data due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

That revised schedule could have an impact on who turns out to vote in the primary. The late June date means many college students who would normally vote on campus will be home for summer break while many other voters who would normally turn out in March may be away on vacation.

"I don't know. Hard to tell, to be honest," Democratic

Gov. JB Pritzker said when asked how the revised date might affect the primary. "We haven't had that in Illinois, so long as I can remember anyway, so no. I'm excited. I really think we're in great shape."

Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton are waging their first reelection bid this year. They won the 2018 election with 54.5 percent of the vote over former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti.

It is not believed they will face any primary opposition this year but a full slate of Republican candidates are lining up to challenge them. Among

the challengers for governor are Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin; state Sen. Darren Bailey, of Xenia; former state Sen. Paul Schimpf, of Waterloo; Chicago-area businessman Gary Rabine; and venture capitalist Jesse Sullivan, of Petersburg, among others.

Speaking at a campaign kickoff rally at a local union meeting hall in Springfield shortly after submitting his petitions, Pritzker touted his efforts to improve job and economic opportunities for middle class workers and marginalized populations in the state.

"In a world that increasingly feels like us versus them, this campaign is about what we can do together. And our vision for a better Illinois doesn't happen without a fight," Pritzker said.

Republicans, meanwhile, have so far been attacking Pritzker for the state's rising rate of violent crime and the impact that his response to the COVID-19 pandemic had on the state's economy.

"We're killing small business in the state like no other state and we've got to stop that," Rabine said during an interview outside the ISBE office. "We've got to bring businesses and jobs and people back to Illinois instead of chasing them away."

Outside of the governor's race, the most high-profile race in state government this year may be the contest for secretary of state, where incumbent Jesse White is retiring after six terms in office.

On the Democratic side, former State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias has the support of some of the state's largest labor unions and the Cook County Democratic Party, while other high-profile Democrats, including Pritzker and White, have thrown their support behind Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia. Also in the race is Chicago Ald. David Moore.

On the Republican side, the race appears to be between John Milhiser, a former U.S. Attorney for the central district of Illinois, and state Rep. Dan Brady, of Bloomington.

Irvin tops a list of Republican candidates running as a slate for statewide office. The slate includes attorney general candidate Steve Kim, of Deerfield; treasurer candidate Rep. Tom Demmer, of Dixon; and comptroller candidate Shannon Teresi, of Crystal Lake. Milhiser is the secretary of state candidate on the slate.

They will vie to unseat Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Treasurer Michael Frerichs and Comptroller Susana Mendoza, all incumbent Democrats.

According to this year's election calendar, voters can request mail-in ballots starting March 30 by contacting their local election authority. Those applications must be received by the election authority by June 23.

Mail-in ballots must be postmarked or returned in-person to the election authority by Election Day, June 28.

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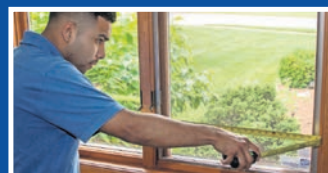


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