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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

Pearl City Elevator program tries to grow potential employees

Recognizing the importance of investing in the region's graduating seniors' talents and skill sets, Pearl City Elevator Inc. has partnered with Highland Community College to offer its commercial applicator Earn & Learn program.

This partnership will help in getting students active in the agriculture industry while building a career.

"Agriculture is a great industry to invest your career in," company CEO and General Manager Phil Ramsel said in a news release. "Agriculture is very diverse in terms of the knowledge needed; mechanics, engineering, business, science, genetics, pathology, physiology, operations and finance are just a few of the topics that we use every day in our industry."

"We get to work in an area of the world where we are working at

a world-class level," Ramsel added. "The food production system that we have is the best in the world and what we do every day helps lives throughout our world. The new PCE Earn & Learn commercial applicator program is a great opportunity for those who have a passion for agriculture, being outdoors, operating heavy equipment and a strong attention to detail."

Vice president of human resources and communications Pennie Groezinger said that PCE has a strong heritage of investing in the region and this program provides and opportunity to invest in the development of potential future employees.

"We believe there is a great deal of local talent and we want to invest in their education while assisting them in building long-term careers," Groezinger said in the release. "The

program's outcomes will provide successful employee skills that include utilizing soil test reports, crop yield goals and responsible nutrient management. These employees also will build on knowledge of precision technology in crop production, maintaining and calibrating common agricultural equipment along with securing an Illinois commercial applicators license all while working and building their PCE career."

This is an application process and PCE will select from the applicant pool. Selected student(s) will earn the Highland Community College commercial applicator program certificate at no cost, provided the commitment of two years of employment with Pearl City Elevator is met.

To learn more or to apply online, visit www.pce-coops.com/learn or call 800-851-8584.

Conservation district offering scholarships

The Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District established a scholarship to help outstanding students complete their education at any accredited college or university.

The SWCD scholarship is awarded in the fall semester of each academic year. The amount of the scholarship will be \$500. Funds will be paid directly to the bursar of the school upon written instructions from the student.

Applicants must be a resident of Stephenson County, at least a junior in college, attending an accredited college or university, majoring in soil and/or water conservation or a related natural resource field and a full-time student who is carrying at least 12 credit hours.

Applicants should be maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 point scale). Under certain circumstances other qualifications may serve to offset a somewhat lower G.P.A.

The successful applicant will be chosen for a balance of several important factors, among them demonstrated academic ability and financial need. Students must submit a copy of his/her latest transcript.

If a student drops out of school or changes to a non-ag/non-conservation major, the full amount of the scholarship must be refunded to the SWCD.

A committee selected by the SWCD Board will screen all applications. A personal interview may be required.

For more information or to get an application form, contact Lorna Chezem at 815-235-2141, ext. 3, or email to lorna.chezem@stephenson-swcd.org.

Transcripts and applications should be sent to: Scholarship Committee, Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District, 1620 S. Gale-na Ave., Freeport, IL 61032.

Highland board moves forward in transition for new president

At its meeting May 7, the Highland Community College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to direct the chairman to enter into contract negotiations with Chris Kuberski, current executive vice president, for the president/executive officer role at the institution.

Current President Tim Hood is retiring June 30.

Trustees have reviewed options for determining Hood's successor at open board meetings since February. The trustees reviewed letters from faculty and staff, organizational structure, Highland's strategic plan and national search options.

Ultimately, the board determined to start the search process with Kuberski because she met the qualifications and has demonstrated her ability to help HCC progress toward meeting its strategic plan.

"Highland has had success with internal promotions for the last two presidents," Board of Trustees Chairman Jim Endress said in a news release. "Chris is a solid leader and continues to display Highland's mission and values. We know she can handle the challenges ahead as we move forward from the pandemic."

The Board of Trustees has used the same critical review process as with any external candidate, including an interview committee with members representing the faculty, staff, HCC Foundation, student body and community.

"Chris is the best candidate for the job with her background in instruction and administration," Endress said. "We have seen first-hand her solid leadership with the college since she joined in 2015."

Endress intends to complete contract negotiations for board approval at the regular board meeting on May 21, which was originally scheduled for May 26.



Chris Kuberski

United Way awarded federal funds for emergency food, shelter

Stephenson County has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency under the emergency food and shelter national board program Phase 37 and phase CARES allocations.

Phase 37 will provide \$18,724 and CARES is \$26,695.

The monies are used to supplement existing services.

The selection was made by a na-

tional board that is chaired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and consists of representatives from the Salvation Army, American Red Cross, United Jewish Communities, Catholic Charities, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and United Way Worldwide.

The local board is seeking applications from qualified service organizations serving Stephenson County.

Those interested in applying can visit United Way of Northwest Illinois'

website or contact the office to receive an application.

Stephenson County has distributed funds to Freeport Area Church Cooperative, Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Senior Citizen Services, Hearts That Care and VOICES.

Areas that are eligible to receive funds include served meals, other food, mass shelter (on-site), other shelter, supplies/equipment and building code repairs/accessibility improvements.

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S.T.A.R. initiative reaches 83,000 acres

Agricultural conservation program ready for more growth in 2020 season

More and more farmers and landowners are using the free S.T.A.R. tool to improve their operations and better protect their land and our environment for the long term.

The S.T.A.R. initiative, short for Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources, is an innovative conservation program in Illinois and several other states that helps farmers and landowners track how well they are caring for our soil and water while producing their crops, via the free, handy S.T.A.R. field evaluation tool.

S.T.A.R. was created by the Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2017 to meet the agricultural goals in the state's nutrient loss reduction strategy plan.

That plan, developed by the state's Department of Agriculture and Environmental Protection Agency, lays out a comprehensive suite of best management practices for reducing nutrient loads from wastewater treatment plants and urban and agricultural run-off. Similar strategies have been developed by 11 other states in the Mississippi River Basin since 2015.

- In 2019, 214 participants used S.T.A.R. on 1,175 fields for a total of 83,592 acres in Illinois.

- About 90 percent of 5-star fields were planted under no-till or strip till management and planted a winter hardy cover crop.

- And farmers and landowners in 70 Illinois counties and four other states are now using S.T.A.R.

Eric Rademacher, who farms in Gifford, Ill., has used the S.T.A.R. tool since 2017.

"S.T.A.R.'s a way to confirm some of the practices we are implementing and see the other options out there. It's great to have a standardized ranking of where you line up," Rademacher said in a news release.

S.T.A.R. participants complete a field form that is scored by a local reviewer, usually the SWCD office, which then assigns points for everything from the cover crops used on acreage, to the kinds of fertilizer used for nutrient management at different points before and during the growing season, to various possible conservation practices used on that field to prevent run-off into nearby water sources.

S.T.A.R. uses a science committee of university researchers and other experts to ensure the field forms accurately represent nutrient loss reduction and how those affect the natural resources of the state. Fields are then ranked on the 5-star scale, and participants can receive a sign for their fields to identify their S.T.A.R. designation.

The program touts several key benefits for more participation: decreasing nutrient loss from the soil, improving water quality, helping farmers show their stewardship, increasing farm resilience and positioning farms for future market opportunities.

"Our experience with S.T.A.R. farmers is they never realized how easy it can be to prevent runoff and protect our water supplies, and how important it is to take the extra time to plan for and execute a sustainable farming strategy on their acreage," said Bruce Henrikson, S.T.A.R. program coordinator through CCSWCD.

"We hope to show more farmers that conservation practices are not a luxury for farms with economic means, but a natural, necessary investment in the health of our soil, our water and our state," Henrikson said.

S.T.A.R. is encouraging interested farmers to prepare to enroll their acreage in the 2020 program as planting time arrives. Participating is free and as simple as completing a field form at www.starfreetool.com.

Paper field forms also are available for download from the site; 2020 field forms will be available starting July 1 through next February.

In our opinion

How will we heal agri-food system?

State must find a way to overcome ingrained barriers, self-interests to accelerate its future

By Bob Easter, Richard Guebert Jr. and Theresa E. Mintle

ILLINOIS AGRI-FOOD ALLIANCE

In the midst of a global health crisis, the agri-food sector is pressing forward determined to do what it does best — feed the world. After all, empty grocery store shelves don't simply restock themselves.

COVID-19, however, is rapidly exposing our food system's susceptibilities and disconnects. Could this pandemic catalyze a rethinking and transformation of the current centralized model? With an outsized stake in the outcome, Illinois would be wise to consider.

Under normal circumstances, the modern-day food system operates with efficiency via a "just enough, just in time" lean inventory model supported by a global trade system. By design, it provides a diverse array of abundant, low-cost food and agriculture-derived products sourced around the world and catered to consumer demands.

Illinois plays an influential role in this globally integrated system. Our fertile farmland and geographic location have transformed the state into a critical production, logistics and transshipment point of food, feed, fuel and fiber.

We rank in the top 5 nationally in the production of soy, corn and hogs and are a leader in agricultural and processed food exports.

Chicago and its environs are home to leading businesses driving global commodity trading, food processing and manufacturing, food distribution and retail and supporting services.

Accolades aside, COVID-19 quickly has illustrated our reliance on a centralized supply chain. When one segment breaks, disastrous feedbacks occur. Illinois' top commodities are seeing a rapid tailspin in market prices. Our dairy producers are being forced to dump thousands of gallons of milk a day. For beef and pork, where meat processing is heavily consolidated, the shuttering of facilities amid

virus outbreaks present farmers throughout the state with limited options.

Meanwhile, as unemployment and hunger rise, food banks cite scarcities and inadequate capacity.

Apart from the pandemic, other systemic challenges have long infected Illinois' agri-food sector. The state imports 96 percent of its fresh fruit and vegetables. Sector-facing businesses continually face an uphill battle in securing a robust workforce. Degraded and underinvested infrastructure is crippling capacity to store and transport products. Rural communities lack broadband in an era dependent on digital connectivity.

When COVID-19 subsides, the challenges and inequities it caused and revealed will not simply disappear.

The pressure to return to business as usual must be abandoned in pursuit of a different kind of approach that emphasizes resilience, sustainability and equitability across the value chain.

In the era of COVID-19, Illinois must avoid "business as usual," form unconventional partnerships and accelerate efforts to develop a more resilient, sustainable and equitable food system.

The world is quickly evolving to a new norm, and the complexity of problems it faces will continue to emerge with ever-increasing intensity. Sustaining the future of Illinois' vibrant agri-food economy is contingent upon adapting our food system to meet modern needs.

To achieve this, transformative collaboration will be required. Individuals and businesses will need to form unconventional partnerships to iteratively generate new ideas, innovations and processes that address the most pressing challenges of our time.


We already have seen some notable examples. The Chicago Park District teamed up with the Illinois Soybean Association and Indigenous Energy to produce

hand sanitizer. The Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois is doing the same for Chicago-area hospitals. Illinois Farm Bureau and its county affiliates are securing donations to support food pantries across the state. A coalition of Chicago-based corporations supported by The Chicago Community Trust is working to identify food distribution challenges and meet them with local solutions. Regional food system champions, including the Chicago Food Policy Action Council, Fresh Taste and the Illinois Stewardship Alliance, are working together to mitigate local market disruptions.

These types of novel collaborations need to be sustained and enhanced going forward. In the near-term, efforts must continue to concentrate on ensuring health safety, food supply and continuity across the supply chain. In the long-term, we need cross-sector engagement to re-imagine our food system with focus on reducing supply chain complexities, inefficiencies and inequalities inherent in its current design.

No one individual or entity is equipped with the resources to navigate these turbulent times. Given the scale of its agri-food sector, Illinois must find the fortitude to overcome ingrained barriers and self-interests to accelerate its future. Healing the fissures COVID-19 is amplifying will require radical collaboration. Only in a meaningful partnership will Illinois foster the capacity to create the resilient food system needed in today's disruptive landscape.

Bob Easter is chair of the Illinois Agri-Food Alliance and president emeritus of the University of Illinois. Rich Guebert Jr. is vice-chair of the Illinois Agri-Food Alliance and president of the Illinois Farm Bureau. Theresa E. Mintle is vice-chair of the Illinois Agri-Food Alliance and interim vice chancellor for public and government affairs at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Thank You

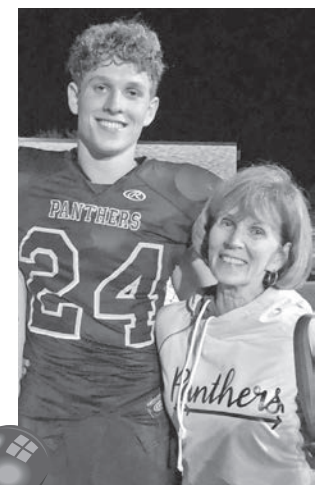
I wish to give a heartfelt thank you for all the cards, plants, flowers, phone calls and mostly all the prayers since returning home from OSF St. Anthony's after my car accident.

After 2 months everything is coming along fine and I'm feeling good again.

The Lena, Pearl City Area is a wonderful place to live with many thoughtful and kind people.

Trudie Schuler

373564



This Grandma and Grandson share the same birthday on **May 15th.**

Happy 18th Kade Chrisman and 77th Kristie Flynn!!

We love you!

373350

THANK YOU to our family and friends for everything that made our 60th anniversary so special. So many cards, calls, texts, money, gift cards, cookies, cinnamon rolls and such beautiful floral and plant arrangements.

You are truly a blessing. God Bless.

Luane and Marce

373346

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

I guess we are in Week 7 if you started with the first week in April. Mother's Day has come and gone, and we are racing toward the middle of the month. This week's recipes are again a medley of things for spring cooking. If you are looking for some unique rhubarb dishes, I have some this week.

The first recipe in this salute to spring is a pasta salad made with peas. You can substitute small shells for the macaroni if you want a different pasta shape. Enjoy this pasta and pea mix.

Spring Pea Pasta

- 2 T. olive oil
- 4 cloves, garlic minced
- ¼ t. crushed red pepper
- 1½ C. fresh or thawed frozen peas
- 1 C. whipping cream
- 1 C. shredded Parmesan cheese, plus more for garnish
- 2 T. unsalted butter
- ½ lb. elbow macaroni, cooked according to package directions
- 1 lemon, zested and juiced
- ¼ t. salt

In a large skillet, heat oil, garlic and red pepper over medium heat; cook until fragrant, 2 to 3 minutes. Stir in peas, cream cheese and butter and bring to a low boil. Cook until peas are tender and sauce is slightly thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in pasta, lemon zest and juice and salt. Garnish with Parmesan.

Rhubarb Chutney

Chutney is used mostly as a condiment to pork, chicken or turkey. It is also a good side. If you are using frozen rhubarb, measure the amount you need and then let it thaw in a colander to get rid of excess moisture. If you have never had chutney, you might want to give it a try.

- ¼ C. sugar
- 1/3 C. cider vinegar
- 1 T. minced garlic
- ¾ t. ground ginger
- ½ t. ground cumin
- ½ t. cinnamon
- ¼ t. red pepper flakes
- 1/8 t. cloves
- 4 C. coarsely chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb, thawed
- ½ C. chopped red onion
- ½ C. golden raisins
- 1 t. red food coloring (optional)

In a large saucepan, combine the sugar, vinegar, garlic, ginger, cumin, cinnamon, red pepper flakes and cloves. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer, uncovered until sugar is dissolved, about 2 minutes.

Add the rhubarb, onion and raisins. Cook and stir over medium heat until the rhubarb is tender and mixture is slightly thickened, 5 to 10 minutes. Stir in red food coloring if desired. Cool completely. Store in the refrigerator.

Chunky Rhubarb Applesauce

Adding rhubarb to applesauce is a good way to make rhubarb into something other than a sweet/tart dessert. You can keep it in the refrigerator for a couple of weeks.

- 1 lb. rhubarb, trimmed and cut into ½ inch chunks
- 2 lbs. tart apples, peeled and cut into ½ inch chunks
- ½ to 1 C. sugar
- ¼ t. cinnamon
- 1/8 t. nutmeg

Place rhubarb, apples and sugar to taste in a large saucepan. Cover and simmer until fruit is tender, about 40 minutes. Stir in cinnamon and nut-

meg. Serve warm or cold.

Zesty Beef Fajitas

These fajitas are a great weeknight dinner. They do require a little planning ahead because of marinating the steak. You can make the marinated steak the night before, refrigerate and then put everything together pretty quickly.

- ½ t. lime zest
- 1/3 C. fresh lime juice
- ¼ C. pineapple juice
- 4 T. olive oil, divided
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 T. minced garlic
- 3 t. salt, divided
- 2 t. ground cumin
- 2 t. paprika
- ¼ t. crushed red pepper
- 1 flank steak (2 to 3 lb.)
- 1 pkg. small fajita flour tortillas
- 1 medium white onion, sliced
- 1 medium red onion, sliced
- 1 large green pepper, sliced
- 1 large red pepper sliced
- 3 limes, halves

In a large, shallow dish, whisk together lime zest and juice, pineapple juice, 3 T. oil, Worcestershire, garlic, 2 t. salt, cumin, paprika and crushed red pepper. Add the steak, turning to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight.

Remove steak from dish, discard marinade. Pat the steak dry. Refrigerate for 30 minutes. Heat a 10-inch cast iron skillet over high heat. Add tortillas to skillet one at a time and cook, turning occasionally, until lightly browned.

Wrap tortillas in foil to keep warm. Add steak to skillet; cook for 3 minutes per side for medium-rare or until your degree of doneness. Remove from heat. Cover with foil and let stand for 5 minutes. Thinly slice steak against the grain.

In a large bowl, toss together onions, bell peppers, remaining tablespoon of oil and remaining teaspoon of salt. Cook in the same skillet over medium heat until caramelized, 2 to 3 minutes. Place lime halves, cut side down in skillet; cook until browned, 1 to 2 minutes.

Serve steak and vegetables with warm tortillas and charred limes. Top with your choice of any of these: guacamole, sour cream, salsa, fresh cilantro leaves and shredded Cheddar cheese.

Cheesy Chicken and Rice Casserole

This casserole is an easy one to put together because you can cook the rice ahead of time and shred the chicken the night before. Serve this with a salad and some bread or muffins and you have a great meal in no time at all.

- ¼ C. unsalted butter
- 1½ C. chopped sweet onion
- 1 C. chopped red pepper
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 T. flour
- 1 C. chicken stock
- ½ C. dry white wine
- ¼ C. whipping cream
- 1½ C. grated fresh Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1 t. salt
- ½ t. poultry seasoning
- ½ t. black pepper
- 3 C. shredded rotisserie chicken
- 2 C. cooked long-grain rice
- 1 ½ C. frozen peas
- ¼ C. chopped fresh parsley

Preheat the oven to 450. In a large skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Add onion, bell pepper and garlic. Cook until vegetables are tender, about 3 minutes.

Whisk in flour; cook, whisking constantly, for 1 minute. Gradually whisk in stock, wine and cream; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and stir in 1 cup of cheese, salt, poultry seasoning and pepper until cheese is melted and sauce is thickened, about 5 minutes.

Stir in chicken, rice, peas, and parsley. Spoon mixture into an 11-by-7-inch baking dish that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Sprinkle with remaining ½ cup of cheese. Bake until bubbly and lightly browned, about 25 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Rhubarb Tarts

This time of year you do need to have a dessert recipe made of rhubarb. This one is easy because you use refrigerated piecrusts. It is a great one to serve at a dinner party for several people. Enjoy these unique "little" pies.

- 1 C. chopped rhubarb
- ¾ C. powdered sugar, divided
- 1 pkg. (2.25 oz.) sliced almonds
- 2 T. butter, cubed
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 refrigerated piecrust
- 2 oz. cream cheese, softened

Preheat oven to 350. Microwave rhubarb and 2 T. sugar in a microwaveable bowl on high for 2 minutes and stir. Drain, reserving liquid. Cool.

Use the pulsing action of the food processor to process nuts and ½ cup of the remaining sugar until the nuts are finely ground. Add butter and egg yolk and process until blended.

Unroll piecrust onto a lightly floured surface. Cut 16 rounds with a 2½-inch cookie cutter, re-rolling scraps as necessary. Use to line 16 mini muffin pan cups sprayed with cooking spray. Spoon drained rhubarb into pastry cups. Top with nut mixture. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool 5 minutes before removing cups from pan. Cool slightly.

Whisk cream cheese and remaining sugar until blended. Stir in 1 T. of the reserved rhubarb liquid. Spoon over filled pastry cups.

Closing thoughts

So another week is coming to an end. My mind is racing in many directions, so I hope that you don't get dizzy with my final thoughts.

If you are lucky enough to have your mom, I hope you were able to talk to her this past weekend. I know that it was very different having to use social media, send cards (a lost art) and send candy and flowers.

We can mark another holiday that was totally different than most of us have ever seen. I see more people going by when I am sitting in my driveway, so people are taking advantage of the loosening of the rules. I got my deck washed, so hopefully I can get the furniture out. It is not supposed to be nice enough to sit out there. I am counting on the fact that these nasty days will give way to some warmer weather.

We will have Memorial Day in another two weeks. I see that parades already are being canceled. I know several friends who have planted their gardens. I am hoping that they will have an abundant crop and will share.

Several of my former students are doing residencies and internships in the health field. When I feel sorry for myself, I start to pray for their safety. I have stopped watching the news because I need to stay positive. And so we will have another week of enforced stay-at-home.

I know I will be cooking again, and I hope you will, too. Stay safe and keep your heart and mind strong. And if you have found any spring recipes you think we would like, contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide, 213 S. Center St., or email to scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

THE SCOOP TODAY SHOPPER'S GUIDE

"Committed to the communities we serve"

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Sending a giant "thank you"
to our local heroes!



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ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

CECIL CREIGHTON

Cecil L. Creighton, 87, of Lena, IL, passed away with family by his side at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport.

He was born on Sept. 6, 1932, to Walter and Mary Ellen (O'Halloran) Creighton. He graduated from Stockton High School in 1951 and served his country in the United State Navy, Naval Air Squadron VP-4.

He married Margaret Collins, of Sydney, Australia, on Aug. 3, 1957, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton. Cecil was a lifelong area farmer. Cecil was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lena, the Knights of Columbus, the Lena Lions Club and a very active VFW member.



He was a past Nora Township and Jo Daviess County board member. Cecil was also a private pilot. He enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family.

Cecil is survived by his children, Pauline Creighton of Elgin, IL, Carolyn Creighton of Clinton, IA, John (Denise) Creighton of Lena, IL, and Denise (Guy) Starbuck of Waunakee, WI; five grandchildren, Paul, Faith and Mark

Creighton, Creighton and Elizabeth Starbuck; a sister, Marita Moore of Freeport, IL; special friend Alita Lawler; and good neighbors, Larry and Glenda Lott.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Margaret in 2007, a son Kevin in infancy, brothers Regis and Norman Creighton and sister Wilma Groom.

In light of recent events, the funeral Mass will be private. Burial will take place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Stockton. The Rev. Michael Morrissey will officiate. A memorial has been established in his memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at leamonfh.com.

LOIS SWALVE

Lois Louise Swalve, 92, of Shannon, IL, passed away Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at Manor Court of Freeport. She was born in Shannon on Sept. 29, 1927, to the late Peter and Carrie Mohlenkamp.

Lois married Reynald L. Swalve on Feb. 22, 1948, in Shannon. Reynald passed away on Dec. 14, 2005.

She was a lifetime member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Shannon. She was a 1946 graduate of Shannon High School. Lois farmed with her husband, was a cook at the Shannon Nursing Home and had worked at Micro Switch. She enjoyed



traveling with her husband on seed corn trips, cooking, baking and spending time with her family.

Lois is survived by her daughters Cindy (Bob) Ditzler of Pearl

City and Jan (Pat) Miller of Shannon; her son Dennis (Kathy) Swalve of Florence Station; her grandchildren Becky (Ryan) Guentner, Angie Dieterman, Wendy (Shawn) Bean,

Troy (Jamie) Miller, Shannon (Tony) Dick and Daniel Swalve; and her great-grandchildren Olivia Guentner, Drew Dieterman, Payton Bean, Jack Guentner, Kylie Dieterman, Kayla Bean and Carson Miller.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, sisters Dorothy Groen and Helen Swalve and her brother Lamoine Mohlenkamp.

A committal service was held on May 9 at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport. A memorial fund has been established for the Shannon Ambulance and Bethel United Methodist Church. Condolences may be shared at hermannfuneralhome.com.

United Way receives donation from Sentry

The Sentry Insurance Foundation announced Friday it is donating \$50,000 to United Way of Northwest Illinois in Freeport, Ill., as part of a \$1.07 million commitment to organizations across the country for coronavirus relief support.

The mutual insurer's efforts are focused on making a direct impact at the community level, with donations to local United Way organizations across the country, as well as making contributions in honor of customers who have adjusted their operations in response to the changing needs of the country.

"At Sentry, we're committed to helping those we serve get through this very difficult time," said Pete McPartland, chairman of the board, president, and CEO of Sentry and chairman of the Sentry Foundation. "We also understand help is needed at the heart of our communities. By partnering with local organizations—

from United Way to other community groups—we hope to lift up our communities and work together to overcome the obstacles we face."

The donation to United Way of Northwest Illinois is one of 15 to local organizations across the country where Sentry employees live and work, as well as Maui, the home of the Sentry Tournament of Champions.

An additional matching program encourages employees to join the company in supporting their communities.

In the last few weeks, United Way of Northwest Illinois has responded to increased needs in the community due to COVID-19. There has been a dramatic increase in need for services that include answering calls from those in crisis, including the

See UNITED WAY, Page 10

Births

Emily Grace Bartell

Emily Grace Bartell is the new daughter of Ryan and Montana Bartell of Stockton, Ill., born on May 5, 2020 at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Ill. Emily joins brothers, Devin, 8 and Gabriel, 5. Grandparents are Tom and Dawn Leamon, Lena, Ill., Scott and Cindy Bartell of Benton, WI, Sandy and Roger Groezinger of Stockton, Ill. Great Grandparents are Mary Leamon of Lena, Ill, and Richard and Linda Lyons of Stockton, Ill.

Lydia Alysse Goeke

Lydia Alysse Goeke was born to Kelsey and Curtis Goeke of Lena, Ill on April 24, 2020 at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Ill. Lydia has a sister, Audra, 5 years old. Grandparents are Randy and Tam Kryder of Lena, IL. David and Valerie Goeke of Dakota, IL. Great Grandparents are Audrey Adleman of Stockton, Ill, Arlene Kryder of Lena, Ill, and Gary and Jeane Wells of Dakota, Ill.

DONALD SHERE

Donald H. Shere, 84 of Lena, IL, passed away on Saturday, May 2, 2020, at the VA Hospital in Madison, WI.

He was born on Jan. 25, 1936, in Tampico, IL, the son of Charles and Helen (Kellner) Shere. Donald served his country in the United States Navy from 1955 to 1959. He married Margaret Oberle on Dec. 30, 1972, in Dubuque, IA.

Donald was a devoted member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lena and the Knights of Columbus. His family meant the world to him. He enjoyed gardening, baking (especially cookies and pies), helping his family and watching sports, specifically football and the Green Bay Packers.

His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren thought he was the best Papa in the world. Wife Margaret says he was the best thing that ever happened to her and her family. Don was an easy-going, lovable guy always willing to give a helping hand.

Donald is survived by his wife Margaret; seven children, Richard (Natalia) Oberle, Louise Workinger, Ronald (Laurie) Oberle, Kathleen Barber, Shirley Workinger, Susan Werkheiser and Robert (Maxine) Oberle; 20 grandchildren, Melissa Bezyazychnyk, Joseph (Venessa) Workinger, Christina (Erik)



Workinger, Erica (Jason) Kornfeind, Kaitlin (Ryan) Wybourn, Dylan and Cole Oberle, James (Kylie) Barber, Danielle Barber, Matthew Barber, Amber (Jon) Riley,

Andrew Workinger, Sara and Sandra Werkheiser, Robert W. (Kayla) Oberle, Joseph (Abigail) Oberle, Margaret, Jacob, Jesse Anne and Emma Oberle; 13 great grandchildren, Leilah, Landon, Sawyer, Eli and Brynleigh Kornfeind, Haven Wybourn, Jayden Jones, Zevlynn Riley, Johnathan and David Boland, Lilith and Ivy Oberle, Reagan Oberle, and baby boy Riley on the way; three sisters, Lorraine Dorsey, LaVetta Griffiths and Beverly Graf; five brothers, Merle (Mila), Marlo, LeRoy, Jerome (Betty) and Blaine (Deborah) Shere; and numerous nieces and nephews.

His parents, sister LaVonne Dewey, Darlene Witt, and three siblings preceded him in death in infancy.

A private family service will take place. Officiating will be the Rev. Andrew Skrobitt. In lieu of flowers a memorial has been established in his name. Condolences may be sent to the family at leamonfh.com.

Justin Timothy Myers

Justin Timothy Myers is the new son of Sierra McPhillips and Zachary Myers in Stockton, Ill. He was born on May 2, 2020 at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Ill. Grand-

parents are Alicia and Ashley Jones of Stockton, Ill. Jamey Swanson of Galena, Ill. Great Grandparents are Brett and Bonnie Jones of Stockton, Ill, Debbie Arrasmith and Joyce Irwin of Kentucky.

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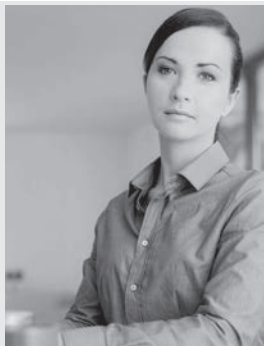
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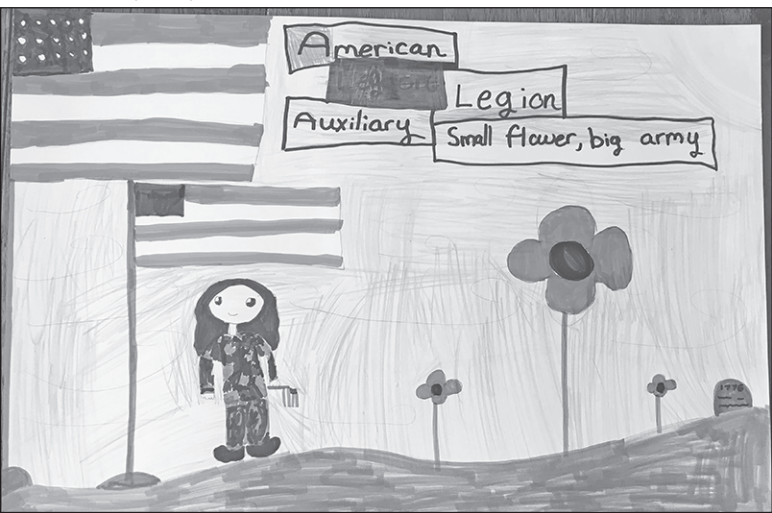
If You Aren't at Your Last Job ... Why Is Your 401(k)?

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353274



Addison Tiesman (fourth grade-first place)



Annabel Bishop-Carlson (seventh grade-first place)

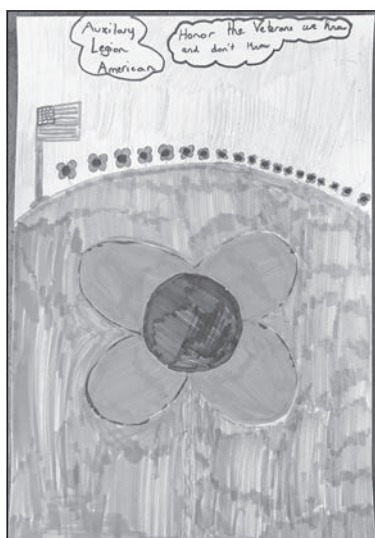
COURTESY PHOTOS The Shopper's Guide

Power of posters

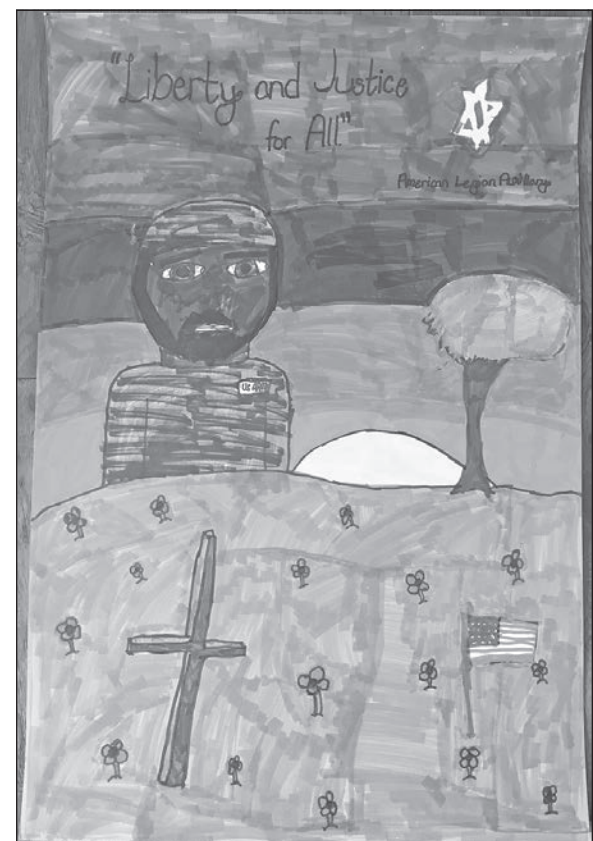
The Lena American Legion Auxiliary held the annual Poppy poster contest earlier this year. Students in fourth through 12th grades were eligible to participate for a chance to compete at the state level; no ninth or 10th graders submitted entries. Lena-Winslow junior and high school art teacher Linda Voreis and elementary school art teacher Sue Amendt instructed students. A total of 143 posters were submitted. Each winner will receive a gift from the Legion Auxiliary at a later date. Poster winners were sent to the state headquarters to be judged and awarded cash prizes. For more information, contact Julia Moore at 815-369-4684.



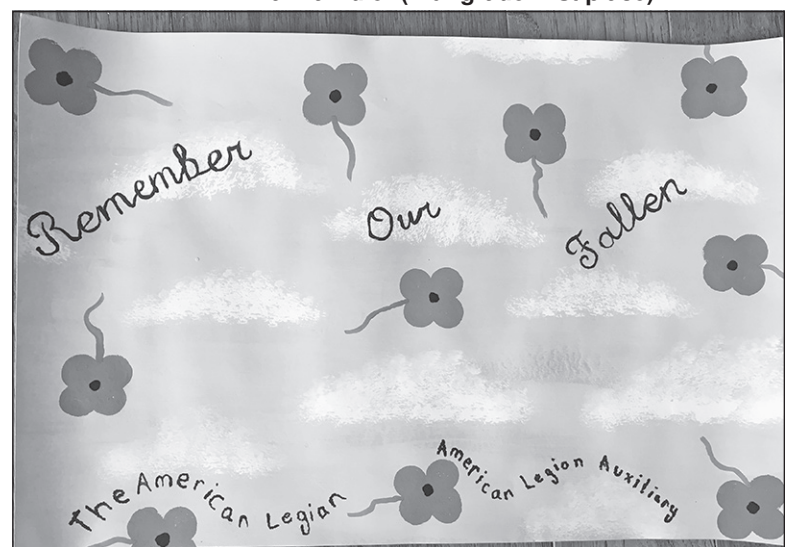
Mackenzie Kepner (sixth grade-second place)



Mckenzie Schap (fourth grade-second place)



Brianna Edler (fifth grade-first place)



Faith Offermann (eighth grade-first place)

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If you are cautious about being out in public, please know that we've taken every possible precaution to keep both you and our staff safe. From wearing masks and social distancing to vigilant cleaning and reorganizing our locations for appropriate separation and isolation, you can find details of the many steps we've taken at our coronavirus update page at www.fhn.org/coronavirus.

Our providers and staff are ready to welcome you, and we're asking you to start visiting us again now to help us continue to be a strong and viable part of your community. If you already have an FHN provider, just call their office – if you need help, call us at **1-877-600-0346 ext. 965**.

As we all begin to return to a "new normal," some things will certainly be different. What won't change is our commitment to providing the best healthcare we can offer. We've been here since 1902 and with you as our partner, we look forward to being here for the rest of our second century too. Please call today and make that appointment you've been putting off – **we're still here, for you!**



www.fhn.org



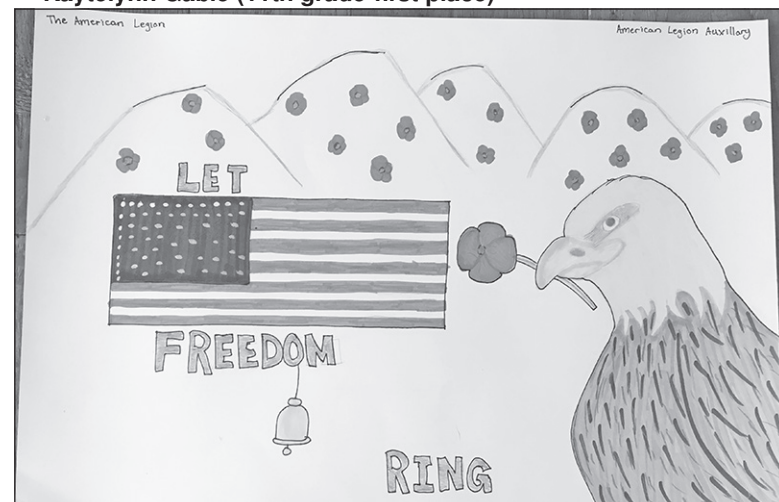
Kierra Lynn Schulz (12th grade-first place)



Bri Taylor (eighth grade-special need student)

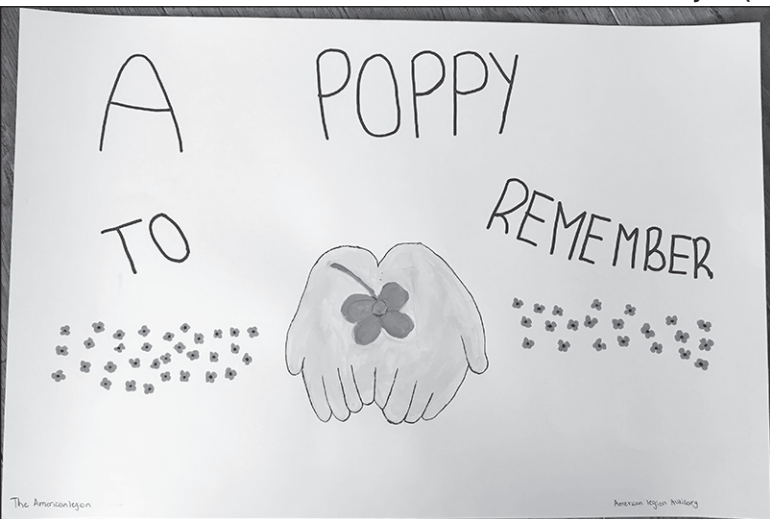


Kaytelynn Gable (11th grade-first place)

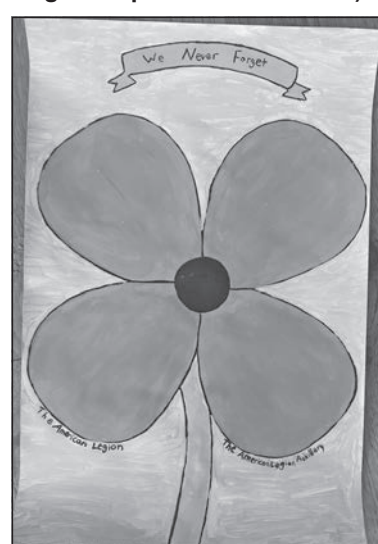


Macayla Miller (sixth grade-first place)

COURTESY PHOTOS The Shopper's Guide



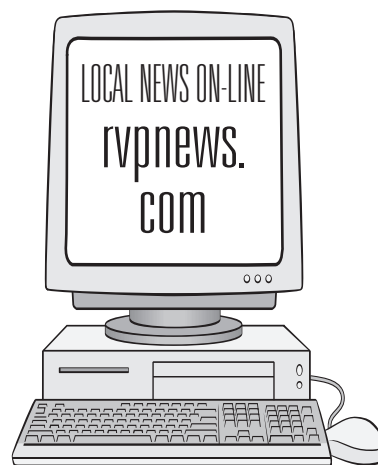
Rebecca Wise (seventh grade-second place)



Daely Kluck (eighth grade-second place)



Ella Hauch (fifth grade-second place)



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LEGALS

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FIFTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY
IN THE MATTER
OF THE ESTATE OF
ETHEL L. LOBDELL,
DECEASED.

IN PROBATE
NO. 2019 P 41

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION - CLAIMS**
Notice is given of the death of
ETHEL L. LOBDELL. Letters
of Office were issued on April
29, 2019, to Debra Brown, as
Independent Executor, whose
address is 1494 N. Bolton Road,
Freeport, Illinois, and whose at-
torney is William E. Sisler, 10
N. Galena Avenue, Suite 210,
Freeport, Illinois 61032.

Claims against the estate may
be filed in the Office of the
Clerk of this Court at 15 N. Ga-
lena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois,
61032 or with the Administra-
tor of the Estate, or both, on
or before October 29, 2020,
that date being at least six (6)
months from the date of first
publication, or within three (3)
months from date of notice to
known claimants and any claim
not filed on or before that date is
barred. Copies of a claim filed
with the Clerk must be mailed
or delivered to the Administra-
tor of the Estate and to the attor-
ney within ten (10) days after it
has been filed.

Nate Luy
Clerk of the Circuit Court
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
April 29, May 6 & 13, 2020)

372476

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FIFTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY
IN THE MATTER
OF THE ESTATE OF
JEFFREY J. KLEVER
DECEASED.

IN PROBATE
NO. 2020 P 20

**NOTICE FOR
PUBLICATION - CLAIMS**
Notice is given of the death of
JEFFREY J. KLEVER. Letters
of Office were issued on Febru-
ary 24, 2020, to LuAnn Klever,
as Administrator of the Estate,
whose address is 232 E. Palm
Drive, Lena, Illinois, and whose
attorney is William E. Sisler, 10
N. Galena Avenue, Suite 210,
Freeport, Illinois 61032.

Claims against the estate may
be filed in the Office of the
Clerk of this Court at 15 N. Ga-
lena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois,
61032 or with the Administra-

tor of the Estate, or both, on
or before October 29, 2020,
that date being at least six (6)
months from the date of first
publication, or within three (3)
months from date of notice to
known claimants and any claim
not filed on or before that date is
barred. Copies of a claim filed
with the Clerk must be mailed
or delivered to the Administra-
tor of the Estate and to the attor-
ney within ten (10) days after it
has been filed.

Nate Luy
Clerk of the Circuit Court
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
April 29, May 6 & 13, 2020)

372477

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

On May 19, 2020 at 10:00 am,
a meeting conducted by the Le-
na-Winslow School District will
take place in the Junior High Li-
brary at 517 Fremont St, Lena,
IL. The purpose of the meeting
will be to discuss the District's
plans for providing special edu-
cation services to students with
disabilities who attend private
schools and home schools with-
in the district for the 2020-2021
school year. If you are a par-
ent of a home-schooled student
who has been or may be iden-
tified with a disability and you
reside within the boundaries of
Lena-Winslow School District,
you are urged to attend. If you
have further questions pertain-
ing to this meeting, please con-
tact Superintendent Dr. Tom
Chiles at 815-369-3100.

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
May 13, 2020)

373245

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV-
EN that a Tentative Budget and
Appropriation Ordinance for
the Town of Apple River, in the
County of JoDaviess, State of
Illinois, for the fiscal year be-
ginning April 1, 2020 & ending
March 31, 2021, will be on file
and conveniently available to
public inspection at the Town-
ship Building, at 303 Hickory
St., Apple River, Illinois from
and after May 9th, 2020 by ap-
pointment.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIV-
EN HEREBY that a public
hearing on said Budget and
Appropriation Ordinance will
be held at 7:15 o'clock PM, on
the 10th day of June, 2020, at
the Township Building, at 303
Hickory Street, Apple River, Il-

linois and that final hearing and
action on this ordinance will be
taken at this time.

Dated this 5th day of May
2020.

James C. Goken
Supervisor

Valerie J. Stocks
Town Clerk
(Published in The Scoop Today
May 13, 2020)

373206

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV-
EN that a Tentative Budget and
Appropriation Ordinance for
Road Purposes of the Township
of Apple River, in the County of
Jo Daviess, State of Illinois, for
the fiscal year beginning April 1,
2020 & ending March 31, 2021,
will be on file and conveniently
available to public inspection
at the Township Building, at
303 Hickory St., Apple River,
Illinois from and after May 9th,
2020 by appointment.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIV-
EN HEREBY that a public
hearing on said Budget and Ap-
propriation Ordinance will be
held at 7:15 o'clock PM, on the
10th day of June, 2020, at the
Township Building, 303 Hick-
ory Street, Apple River and that
final hearing and action on this
ordinance will be taken at this
time.

Dated this 5th day of May,
2020.

Valerie J. Stocks
Town Clerk
(Published in The Scoop Today
May 13, 2020)

373207

Notice of Public Hearing APPLE RIVER- THOMPSON MULTI- TOWNSHIP ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that a
Tentative Budget and Appropi-
ation Ordinance for the Apple
River - Thompson Multi-Town-
ship Assessment District, in
the county of Jo Daviess, State
of Illinois, for the fiscal year
beginning April 1, 2020, and
ending March 31, 2021, will be
on file and conveniently avail-
able to public inspection by ap-
pointment at the Apple River
Township Building, 303 Hick-
ory Street, Apple River, Illinois
from and after 1:00 P. M., on
May 9th, 2020.

Notice is further given here-
by that a public hearing on
said Budget and Appropriation
Ordinance will be held at 6:30
PM, June 8th, 2020 at the Apple

Canyon Lake Fire Dept. build-
ing, 2085 South Apple Canyon
Road, and that final hearing
and action on this ordinance
will be taken at a meeting to be
held immediately following the
hearing.

Dated this 5th day of May,
2020.

James C. Goken
Chairman

Richard Miranda
Clerk
(Published in The Scoop Today
May 13, 2020)

373209

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY -
GALENA, ILLINOIS
U.S. BANK NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION SUCCESSOR
BY MERGER TO U.S. BANK
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
ND

Plaintiff,

-v.-

TOD M. SACHS et al
Defendant

2019 CH 33

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HERE-
BY GIVEN that pursuant to a
Judgment of Foreclosure and
Sale entered in the above cause
on January 9, 2020, an agent for
The Judicial Sales Corporation,
will at 1:30 PM on June 9, 2020,
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:

THE FOLLOWING DE-
SCRIBED PROPERTY IS
LOCATED IN JO DAVIESS
COUNTY, ILLINOIS:

SITUATED IN LOT 67 IN
SHENANDOAH UNIT NO 8
OF BRANIGAR'S GALENA
TERRITORY ACCORDING
TO THE PLAT THEREOF
RECORDED IN THE RE-
CORDER'S OFFICE OF JO
DAVIESS COUNTY, IL ON
MAY 5, 1976 IN BOOK 14 OF
PLATS, PAGES 55-58.

Commonly known as 5
MALTBY CT, GALENA, IL
61036

Property Index No. 08-108-
067-00

The real estate is improved
with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the
highest bid by certified funds
at the close of the sale payable
to The Judicial Sales Corpo-
ration. No third party checks
will be accepted. The balance,
including the Judicial Sale fee
for the Abandoned Residen-

tial Property Municipality Re-
lief Fund, which is calculated
on residential real estate at the
rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or
fraction thereof of the amount
paid by the purchaser not to ex-
ceed \$300, in certified funds/
or wire transfer, is due within
twenty-four (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 lien-
or acquiring the residential real
estate whose rights in and to the
residential real estate arose pri-
or to the sale. The subject prop-
erty is subject to general real es-
tate 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 confir-
mation 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 con-
firmation of the sale.

The property will NOT be
open for inspection and plain-
tiff makes no representation as
to the condition of the property.
Prospective bidders are admon-
ished to check the court file to
verify all information.

If this property is a condo-
minium unit, the purchaser of
the unit at the foreclosure sale,
other than a mortgagee, shall
pay the assessments and the le-
gal fees required by The Condo-
minium Property Act, 765 ILCS
605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this
property is a condominium unit
which is part of a common in-
terest 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).

IF YOU ARE THE MORT-
GAGOR (HOMEOWNER),
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FOR 30 DAYS AFTER EN-
TRY OF AN ORDER OF POS-
SESSION, IN ACCORDANCE
WITH SECTION 15-1701(C)
OF THE ILLINOIS MORT-
GAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo iden-
tification issued by a govern-
ment agency (driver's license,
passport, etc.) in order to gain
entry into our building and the
foreclosure sale room in Cook
County and the same identifi-
cation for sales held at other

Continued on next page

House Republicans slam Pritzker's reopening plan

Minority leader wants Legislature to return to resolve issues

By Ben Orner
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Republican members of the Illinois House of Representatives on May 6 criticized Gov. JB Pritzker's multi-phase plan to reopen Illinois by region, saying it does not act quickly enough to respond to the economic hardship caused by his stay-at-home order.

“We all know that the stay-at-home order was the right thing to do to stop the spread of the virus and protect our health care,” said Deputy House Minority Leader Rep. Dan Brady, of Bloomington.

“Unfortunately, the governor’s plan fails to recognize that local officials throughout the state want the same thing he does: a safe return from the pandemic,” Brady said. “Instead of offering any semblance of local authority to the people who are on the ground in the community, it continues to be a decree by one person.”

In the “Restore Illinois” plan that Pritzker unveiled May 5, state health officials will look at certain data metrics including hospital capacity and testing availability in four regions of the state in order to move each respective region through phases of reopening.

The regions are based on group-

ings of the state's 11 medical districts: northeast, north central, central and southern. The entire state is in Phase 2, which includes mandatory face coverings and allows non-essential stores open to just delivery and curbside pickup.

Phase 3 includes reopening non-essential stores, barbershops, offices and more with capacity limits. Pritzker said Tuesday the earliest a region will be allowed to advance to Phase 3 would be May 29.

“The science can’t precisely tell us which region should be grouped with another region or how small or how large those regions should be,” argued Deputy Minority Leader Rep. Tom Demmer, of Dixon. “The science can’t definitively tell us when it’s safe to move from one step to another step.”

“And when we have that level of complexity, we need to have input from a wide variety of stakeholders to try to make the best decisions possible,” Demmer added. “We also have to consider the very real impact this is having on economies, on livelihoods and on people’s lives all across the state of Illinois.”

Phase 4 includes allowing up to 50 people in stores and restaurants, but Pritzker said May 5 the earliest that could happen is the end of June.

Phase 5, the final stage, is a full reopening of the state, but it relies on a widely available treatment or a vaccine, which are likely months—or even a year—away. Republicans argue that closed businesses cannot wait that long.

"Quite frankly this will force bankruptcy and the permanent closure of large and small restaurants throughout the state of Illinois," said House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs. "This plan does not work."

Durkin said business owners have been contacting him at a "rapid pace" since the reopening announcement, "all with the same feeling of despair and devastation."

"Our state cannot survive this way. Businesses, the employers, cannot survive this," he said.

During his daily COVID-19 briefing May 6 in Chicago, Pritzker said he considers the opinions of Republican legislators in his decision-mak-

ing.

"I have talked to the leaders on the Republican side, many Republican legislators. I'm frequently reaching out, listening to them. I take a lot of notes, and I've done a lot of the things that they've asked along the way," he said.

Republicans acknowledged that Pritzker's latest extension of the stay-at-home order included multiple revisions that Republicans had suggested, including opening state parks and garden centers and allowing elective surgeries to resume.

Employment insecurity

Small business owners and employees face an uncertain near future, Republicans said, especially as many are still not able to access unemployment benefits through the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

“These people are facing a tremendous stress and (are) really un-

sure about how they're going to make necessary payments for their rent, their food, their mortgage, their medicine," said Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria.

Rep. Avery Bourne, R-Morrisonville, said one constituent told her she called IDES 157 times before finally getting through.

"This is really a broken, broken system," Bourne said.

Despite frustrations, Durkin stressed that “The executive order right now is the law of Illinois. And I would not encourage anybody to break the law” by reopening their business Spain added, however, “If we’re waiting to open some things until the end of June or the end of July, I think it will continue to be difficult to ask all of our constituents and local communities to continue to comply.”

See PLAN, Page 10

LEGALS

Continued from previous page
county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

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
THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION

One South Wacker Drive, 24th
Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650
(312) 236-SALE

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

**CODILIS &
ASSOCIATES, P.C.**
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BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
630-794-5300

E-Mail:
pleadings@il.cslegal.com
Attorney File No. 14-19-07582
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2019 CH 33
TJSC#: 40-308

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 # 2019 CH 33
I3150665
(Published in The Scoop Today
May 13, 20 & 27, 2020)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Stockton Fire Protection and Ambulance District, Jo Daviess County, IL has set the following schedule of dates for its meetings in FY 2020/2021:

May 26, 2020
June 22, 2020
July 27, 2020
August 24, 2020
September 28, 2020
October 26, 2020
November 23, 2020
December 28, 2020
January 25, 2021
February 22, 2021
March 22, 2021
April 26, 2021

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

DATED: May 8, 2020.

RONALD PAJA

Attorney - Board of
Trustees of the Stockton
Fire Prot. & Amb. Dist.
Published in The Scoop Today
(May 13, 2020)

[illegible]

• Plan (Continued from page 9)

Pritzker on May 6 acknowledged the difficulty that some have had applying for unemployment. He added that he will have a "complete presentation" on the state of unemployment later this week "so people can see what's being done."

Involve the Legislature

Republicans also challenged Pritzker's executive authority during the COVID-19 crisis, saying that executive action during the state of emergency should be temporary and that long-term plans like one to reopen the state should be decided by the Legislature.

"This plan presumes that the governor shall rule the state for the upcoming months, and possibly much longer, if the vaccination is not available," Durkin said, stressing the Legislature is a "coequal" branch of government.

"I did not abdicate nor relinquish my elected responsibilities to the executive branch," he said.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has provided the General Assembly with detailed guidance on how they could go about their duties in the Capitol.

"And we should take the depart-

ment up on that offer," Demmer said, "... and have the legislative process take into account the many, many factors that influence a long-run plan like what the governor proposed."

Durkin called on House Speaker Michael Madigan, a Chicago Democrat who sets the chamber's calendar, to bring lawmakers back into session.

"We must return to Springfield immediately and not for just a few days at the end of the month," Durkin said.

He added that lawmakers do not have to convene at the Capitol, and instead can hold session in Springfield's downtown convention center or a large auditorium in the city where they can be socially distanced.

In a statement May 6, Madigan did not offer any specifics on a potential return.

"While I am eager to see a return to normalcy, we are talking about peo-

ple's lives, and any plan for a return to Springfield must have the health and safety of all those involved as a top priority, including the communities the members represent," he said in part.

Durkin also said he wants the Legislature to work on non-coronavirus issues like ethics reform and property taxes, which "we cannot just do in 48 hours at the end of May that many people have speculated about."

The Legislature has not been in session since March 5. The House canceled this week's session days but has yet to make a decision on next week's days.

The regular legislative session ends at the end of May, and the deadline for passing a budget is June 30. Any legislation passed after May 31, however, needs to pass with a three-fifths majority in order to take effect by the July 1 start of next fiscal year.

• United Way (Continued from page 5)

need for food delivery, pantry orders, financial assistance and emergency child care for first responders.

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SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO U.S.
BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ND
Plaintiff,
-v.-

TOD M. SACHS et al
Defendant

2019 CH 33

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on January 9, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on June 9, 2020, 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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(Published in The Scoop Today
May 13, 20 & 27, 2020)

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COURTESY PHOTO The Shopper's Guide

Most Beloved Church of Lena has appealed a judge's ruling that maintained Gov. JB Pritzker's Stay-at-Home order that bans public worship services of more than 10 people in Illinois churches.

Lena church appeals ruling upholding state's stay-at-home order

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Attorneys for a northwest Illinois church said May 4 that they have appealed a federal judge's ruling that upheld Gov. JB Pritzker's stay-at-home order as it applies to worship services.

The announcement came one day after U.S. District Judge John Z. Lee ruled against a petition by Beloved Church in Lena and its pastor, Stephen Cassell, to block the order, saying the public interest in preventing the spread of COVID-19 outweighed their First Amendment right to hold a public service with large numbers of people.

"Gov. Pritzker's arbitrary 10-person limit applies only to churches but not to the many other businesses open in Illinois today, from liquor stores to lawyers to pet groomers," Peter Breen, vice president and senior counsel for the Thomas More Society, which represents the church, said in a statement late on May 4.

"Our Constitution requires that churches receive at least equal treatment as any secular enterprise," Breen added. "Pritzker's latest threat of jail for people of faith is outrageous, and we will seek immediate relief from the court of appeals to defend our clients."

In his ruling May 3, Lee acknowledged that freedom of religion is a fundamental right, "(b)ut even the foundational rights

secured by the First Amendment are not without limits; they are subject to restriction if necessary to further compelling government interests — and, certainly, the prevention of mass infections and deaths qualifies," Lee wrote. "After all, without life, there can be no liberty or pursuit of happiness."

The judge noted that more than 60,000 Americans had died from COVID-19, "more than the number of people who perished during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Pearl Harbor and the Battle of Gettysburg combined."

The suit was filed on April 30 against Pritzker, Stephenson County Sheriff David Snyders, Lena Police Chief Steve Schaible and Craig Beintema, administrator of the Stephenson County Department of Public Health.

It sought to permanently block enforcement of Pritzker's latest, revised stay-at-home order, which went into effect May 1 and extends through May 30.

Under that revised order, churches may hold public services in groups of 10 or fewer as long as they follow social distancing requirements. Despite that, the church reportedly held its regular service on May 3.

WREX-TV in Rockford reported that a public relations firm representing the church said churchgoers were provided hand sanitizer and family units were spaced 6 feet apart.

As of May 4, according to the state's COVID-19 website, there had been 63 cases of the disease in Stephenson County — it was up to 84 by May 8, but still no reported deaths.

The Beloved Church case was just one legal challenge seeking to overturn the stay-at-home order. Republican Reps. Darren Bailey, of Xenia, and John Cabello, of Machesney Park, are both challenging the order in state courts.

A circuit court judge in Clay County recently ruled in favor of Bailey's complaint that the order violated his civil rights. But while that case was being appealed, Bailey asked that the order be vacated and the case returned to circuit court, where he planned to file an amended complaint.

Cabello's suit challenges the legality of the order as a whole and is seeking to have it overturned statewide. A hearing in that case was scheduled for May 14 in Winnebago County.

Meetings postponed

The Blackhawk unit of Home Extension will not be meeting in May because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The organization is hoping that it can continue meetings and lessons in the near future.

For more information, contact Janet Ferguson in Pearl City at 815-443-2370.

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