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VOL. 82 • NO. 43

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21, 2020

New CTE instructor shares passion, knowledge

Professional photographer attended academy while in high school

By Tony Carton
CORRESPONDENT

Sometimes we are given the chance to not only recognize good, but also repay the good received.

Nicole Koester, the new graphic communications instructor at the Jo Daviess Carroll Career Technical Education Academy in Elizabeth, was given just that opportunity and she jumped at the chance.

"I was subbing at the CTE for about two years before the job opened up and I kind of fell in love with it," Koester said. "I had attended the CTE when I was a junior and senior at Stockton High School and I always thought if there would ever be an opportunity to give back to the community, the CTE would be the first place I would look."

Koester is the photographer/owner of Orange Anchor Photography of Galena and she holds a bachelor's degree in graphic design and interactive media from the University of Dubuque.

"While I was growing up I always had an interest in the arts, but there were always naysayers telling me I couldn't make a career as an artist or a photographer or anything in the creative field, so now my priority is pushing my students to understand they can absolutely succeed at doing what they love," Koester said. "As a result, my curriculum is kind of all over the board. Obviously, we work in the area of digital photography and that is definitely where my heart is as I do photography professionally."

"We also touch on the different Adobe programs, including Photoshop, InDesign and Illustrator. We do web design and typography and even enter the fine arts area with acrylics and watercolors."

She said her course is focused on



COURTESY PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Nicole Koester, right, has returned to the CTE Academy in Elizabeth to share her skills as the new graphic communications instructor. Koester attended the academy while she was a student at Stockton High School and now owns her own photography business.

what her students are interested in and what they want to pursue as a career.

"I try not to stifle them by telling them this is what we're doing and this is all that we're doing," Koester said. "I prefer to allow them the creative freedom to really express themselves while preparing them for their future."

"I definitely try to prepare them for real-world situations. Whether they choose working freelance or if they decide to work for a firm, I try to push them to understand they

really can do this as a career; they just have to try."

Koester said she shares her personal experiences and how those experiences helped shape her as a photographer.

"I've traveled all over the world doing photography and graphic

design," she said. "I want them to know the world is their oyster when it comes to working creatively. I think it's important for the students to see someone right in front of them who has been through it and

See INSTRUCTOR, Page 8

Drug collection event set

FHN Family Counseling Center, the Freeport Police Department and Stateline Area Crime Stoppers are partnering with the state of Illinois and local and national law enforcement agencies to give the public a chance to help prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

Bring pills for disposal between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, to the Freeport Police Department, 320 W. Exchange St., Freeport. This will be a drive-thru collection event and proper COVID-19 precautions will be taken.

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked. Only pills or patches will be accepted — no liquids or needles/sharps.

"Unused prescription medications thrown in the trash can be retrieved and abused or illegally sold," according to an FHN news release. "Dumping or flushing unused medications down the drain or toilet can contaminate the groundwater supply."

"The best way to dispose of old medications is to bring them to a take-back event."

Information about drug use and abuse and other health-related topics will be available at the event.

For more information, go online to fhn.org.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We had the big freeze last weekend, so basically most of the flowers and gardens are done. If you were like me, you had most of it cleared away before the weather turned. What was nice about the way the frost came was that we had a few days to prepare for it.

The trees are losing leaves at a fast rate, but they were beautiful before the wind. I had a chance to go for a drive in Wisconsin two weeks ago, and the colors were beautiful. This fall weather was a nice thing considering all the other challenges we have faced and will continue to face. Recipes this week will continue to feature some of the fall vegetables and fruits.

Tomato Juice Cocktail

Ilene Lamm sent this great tomato cocktail that is easy to make and great to drink. I like to sprinkle celery seed on my tomato juice as well as a little pepper. If you have some of the not-so-nice looking tomatoes left, this would be a great way to use them up. Enjoy this tomato juice cocktail with a stalk of celery or a dill spear.

Thanks, Ilene, for sharing this great drink recipe.

- 12 medium tomatoes
- ½ C. water
- 1 slice onion
- 3 sprigs fresh parsley
- 1 t. salt
- ¼ t. paprika
- ¼ t. sugar

In a pan over medium-high heat, bring the tomatoes and water to a

boil. Add onion, lettuce and parsley and simmer for one half hour. Strain mixture into a bowl. Add salt, paprika and sugar and stir to combine. Chill for at least two hours. Serve over ice or just plain. Garnish with celery stalk, dill spear or parsley.

Buttermilk Herb Corn Muffins

I made some chili last weekend, and I love to eat it with corn bread. These corn muffins are really moist and make a great addition to any meal.

- 5 T. oil, divided
- 1 C. plain yellow cornmeal
- 1 C. flour
- 1 T. sugar
- 1 T. chopped fresh sage or 1 t. dried sage
- 1 T. chopped fresh chives
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1 t. kosher salt
- 1/8 t. red pepper flakes
- 1 C. buttermilk
- 1 egg

Preheat oven to 425. Spoon ½ t. oil into each cup of a 12-cup muffin pan. Place pan in oven until oil is very hot, about five minutes. In a medium bowl, whisk together cornmeal, flour, sugar, sage, chives, baking powder, salt and red pepper. In a small bowl, whisk together buttermilk, egg and remaining 3 T. oil. Stir buttermilk mixture into cornmeal mixture until moistened. Spoon batter into hot muffin cups, filling about two-thirds full. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, about 13 minutes; serve warm with butter

Bacon and Cider Brussels Sprouts

Since Brussels sprouts continue to be the "in" vegetable, this recipe is a good one for people who have never had this vegetable or for those who tried them and were not impressed. These Brussels sprouts are tender and flavorful. Try these, and you might like them.

- 5 slices good bacon, chopped
- 4 T. unsalted butter, cut into pieces and divided
- 3 T. olive oil
- 2½ lbs. Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved
- 2 t. kosher salt, divided
- 2 t. pepper, divided
- ½ C. chicken broth
- ¼ C. apple cider vinegar
- ½ C. chopped toasted pecans

In a 12-inch cast-iron skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp, about 10 minutes. Remove bacon and let drain on paper towels; pour off drippings.

In the same skillet, melt 2 T. butter with oil over medium-high heat. Add half of Brussels sprouts, cut side down; cook, without stirring for two minutes. Stir in 1 t. salt and 1 t. pepper; cook for two minutes. Remove from skillet. Repeat procedure with remaining 2 T. butter, remaining Brussels sprouts, remaining 1 t. salt and remaining teaspoon of pepper. Return all Brussels sprouts to skillet. Add broth and vinegar, partially cover and cook until tender, about three minutes. Top with bacon and pecans and serve immediately.

Chicken and Dressing Casserole

The weather is getting colder, and our food is getting heartier. This casserole fills the bill for a great week night's supper. It has meat, vegetables and starch in one dish. I think you could substitute turkey for the chicken if you wanted to.

- 2 T. unsalted butter
- 1½ C. frozen vegetable seasoning blend, thawed
- ½ C. thinly sliced onion, chopped
- ¼ C. flour
- 2½ C. chicken broth
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. poultry seasoning
- 1 t. chopped fresh thyme
- ½ t. pepper
- 6 C. 2-inch-cubed cornbread
- 3 C., shredded cooked chicken
- 1 lb. fresh asparagus, blanched and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 375. Spray a 2½ qt. baking dish with cooking spray. In a large deep skillet, melt butter over medium-high heat. Add seasoning blend and onion; cook, stirring occasionally, until most of the liquid is

evaporated and vegetables are lightly browned, about five minutes. Sprinkle with flour; whisk in broth, salt, poultry seasoning, thyme and pepper. Bring to a boil, whisking frequently. Reduce heat to medium-low; simmer, whisking frequently, until thickened, about two minutes. Remove from heat; let cool for 10 minutes.

In a large bowl, stir together cornbread, chicken, asparagus, eggs and vegetable mixture until well combined. Spoon mixture into prepared pan, and cover with foil. Bake for 25 minutes. Uncover and bake until center is set and casserole is heated through, about 15 minutes more. Garnish with fresh chopped parsley.

Cheesy Turkey Sausage Stuffed Peppers

I have had a great response from people about the stuffed pepper recipes in the column. I hope you are ready for one more. This one uses ground turkey sausage. I think you can substitute regular sausage if you wanted to. This one also has barley instead of rice for an interesting taste. If you don't have ricotta, you can substitute cottage cheese because both are creamy.

- 4 large bell peppers, halved lengthwise and seeded
- 3 T. olive oil, divided
- 1/3 t. kosher salt
- 1 lb. ground turkey sausage
- 2 C. marinara sauce
- 2 C. pearl barley, cooked according to pkg. directions
- 2/3 C. ricotta cheese or cottage cheese
- 2 T. chopped fresh basil
- 1 C. finely shredded mozzarella cheese

Preheat oven to 400. In a 9-by-13 casserole dish sprayed with cooking spray, place bell pepper halves cut side up. Drizzle with 1 T. oil and sprinkle with salt. Bake for 12 minutes.

In a large skillet, heat remaining 2 T. oil over medium-high heat. Add sausage and cook until lightly browned, five to six minutes. Stir in marinara sauce; remove from heat. Fold in barley, ricotta and basil. Divide mixture among peppers. Top with mozzarella. Bake until peppers are tender, about 15 minutes. Let stand for five minutes before serving. Garnish with chopped fresh parsley.

Green Tomato Crisp

If you cleaned off the garden and saved some of the green tomatoes, you could make this recipe that is quite different than regular green tomatoes. This is a dessert crisp using

green tomatoes. Enjoy this different way of using us those green tomatoes.

- 1 C. sugar, divided
- ½ C. flour
- ½ C. firmly packed light brown sugar
- ½ C. old-fashioned oats
- 2½ t. apple pie spice, divided
- 1 t. kosher salt
- 6 T. cold unsalted butter, cubed
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 2½ lbs. green tomatoes, cut into 1-inch pieces, seeded
- 2 T. fresh orange juice

In a small bowl, stir together ½ C. sugar, flour, brown sugar, oats, ½ t. pie spice and salt. Using a fork, cut in cold butter until mixture is crumbly. Squeeze mixture into clumps; refrigerate.

In a small bowl, whisk together cornstarch, remaining ½ C. sugar and remaining 2 t. pie spice. In a 9-by-13 baking dish, stir together tomatoes, orange juice and sugar mixture until well combined. Let stand at room temperature, stirring occasionally, for one hour.

Preheat oven to 350. Sprinkle oat mixture onto tomato mixture. Bake until top is golden brown and filling is bubbly, 35 to 40 minutes. Let cool on wire rack for at least 30 minutes. Serve with ice cream.

Fresh Pumpkin Pie

When I mentioned my pumpkin predicament, Barb Wire was one of the first to contact me and talk about making pumpkin pie filling from pie pumpkins. She shared her experience which is all good and gave us all a great way to use the bountiful pie pumpkins that are around this year. Remember, using pie pumpkins works best. Barb also sent a way to make a calorie-friendly pumpkin pie. Thanks, Barb, for your contributions to cooking in northwestern Illinois.

Pumpkin Puree

Wash the pumpkin, cut it in half, scoop out the seeds (you can toast the seeds and eat them) and slice the pumpkin into wedges. Cut off the rind. Place all pieces (cut up wedges into 1 inch pieces) into a pan with a small amount of water. Bring to a boil and let it cook for about 15 minutes. Turn down the heat unit and continue to cook for about 10 to 15 minutes. Check the pumpkin to see if it is soft and then using a meat tenderizer stomp the pumpkin into mush or you can use a whisk to smooth out the lumps. Let cool and store. This is homemade Libby's pumpkin puree.

See KITCHEN, Page 15

Trick Or Treat Hours for the Village of Stockton are Saturday, Oct. 31, 2020 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Remember children should only go to houses with porch lights on.

383586

Village of Stockton

Fall 2020 Open Burn Dates

The Fall open burn dates for landscape waste will run from Nov. 6 through Nov. 15, 2020.

All burning of landscape waste shall be carried out in compliance with Ordinance No. 674 which is posted on the Village's website at www.villageofstockton.com

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OPINION

Slices of life

The right direction? Siri takes command of road trips

When it comes to driving, I've always allowed my husband to take control of the wheel. Sitting in the passenger seat is so much easier than differentiating the brake from the gas pedal or driving between the lines, so I figure I've gotten the better end of that deal. But with driving comes the other "D" word: directions.

When you are driving, you are the person in charge of directions. You must know where you are going and when to exit Interstate 10 and head north.

I have always been fine with that. Directions meant effort and thinking and reading a map and knowing east from west. I thankfully relinquished directions decades ago. I consult the map when requested to do so, but my husband has always had the better head for geography.

In the past, when we've traveled across the country, we utilized the cutting-edge tool known as the atlas. It was huge and large and mappy, mapish or maplike — take your pick.

Each page spread contained one state. As we traveled from north to south (and vice versa) I'd turn the page from Wisconsin to Illinois to Kentucky and (quickly) to Tennessee. I'd count the numbers on the page to see how many miles it was from Madison to Springfield, adding the mile markers in my head. I'd tell him I thought the best route looked to be Highway 55. He'd disagree, saying there was a quicker way, which he'd mapped out the previous night. I'd ask, "Highway 47 or 62?" He'd pick which one and away we'd go.

He was the driver. I was his shotgun-sitting sort-of navigator. It took some effort, but we always got from point A to point B. Mostly on time. We were a semi-well-oiled machine, or at least a married couple traveling in a semi-well-oiled machine.

We still travel, but things have changed. First off, I'm still sitting shotgun, but I'm not longer chief navigation co-pilot. My husband has a new woman for that.

Her name is Siri, and holy heck, she is boss. Siri will not take anything other than her own opinion into consideration when mapping out a route. If she says Highway 65 and my husband believes it should be Highway 35, Siri is relentless. She is boss and is 100 percent sure she knows the



By **JILL PERTLER**
Contributor

quickest route. Because she does.

It drives my husband crazy.

She'll say, "In 13 miles, take a slight left onto Roadway Boulevard."

He'll answer (to a machine), "That isn't the best way. I'm sure we should stay on 45."

He should know better than to argue with a woman over directions. But he doesn't. He insists on taking Highway 45; but I'm on Siri's side. We gals need to stick together.

"You've got to listen to her," I say. "She's mapped out the quickest route."

He sighs, not having the energy to argue with two women simultaneously. We continue on the route — his or hers, I'm often not sure.

"High traffic ahead," she'll announce. "But you are still on the quickest route."

Today, mid-route, she offered us an alternative that was one minute quicker. It involved taking a road my husband wasn't familiar with.

"Might as well try it," he said. "The quickest route is the best, even if it is only by a minute."

I silently applauded for him this new outlook.

I guess I've officially been replaced as chief atlas navigator. As long as I can still sit shotgun, while Siri is the brains of the business, I'm OK with that.

I dare say all three of us are OK with that.

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



Continuing protective measures is key to slowing virus spread

Dear community members of Green, Stephenson and surrounding counties,

COVID-19 has brought forth its fair share of challenges in 2020, both professionally and personally for everyone in our community. While COVID-19 may not be as widely spread in our local area, cases do continue to increase, and the risks remain very real.

As one of the largest area employers, Monroe Clinic, a member of SSM Health, feels it is incredibly important for all of us to remain diligent in doing what we can to protect ourselves and others from unnecessary exposure to the virus. We need to continue to be cautious, take the impact of our actions seriously and assume personal responsibility to be role models in our community.

As COVID-19 cases reach a critical point, we must continue to focus on the importance of wearing masks while in public settings along with practicing social distancing. COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms and do not know they are infected. Attending large public gatherings

continues to elevate the risk of exposure for each of us. While we all miss a certain level of normalcy, attending events that include large numbers of guests isn't worth the risk. By avoiding or limiting attendees for large gatherings or activities, we can reduce the risk of exposure and possible transmission of COVID-19 in the community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, in general, the more closely you interact with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. If you decide to engage in public activities, please continue to protect yourself by practicing everyday preventative actions, including:

- Wash your hands often
- Avoid close contact (stay at least 6 feet from other people)
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when in public and when around people who don't live in your household
- Cover coughs and sneezes

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily
- Monitor your health daily and be alert for COVID-19 symptoms
- Stay home if sick

Additionally, it's likely that flu viruses and the virus that causes COVID-19 will both spread this fall and winter. Healthcare systems could be overwhelmed treating both patients with flu and patients with COVID-19. This means getting a flu vaccine during 2020-'21 is more important than ever and we encourage all community members to get a flu vaccine if able. For more information about flu vaccine events, visit MonroeClinic.org/Flu2020.

On behalf of Monroe Clinic, we'd like to thank each of you for continuing to do your part to help prevent further spread of COVID-19.

*Jane Curran-Meuli, president
Darren Pipp, chief medical officer
Monroe Clinic*

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The Village of Lena

will be flushing hydrants from October 19-30, 2020.

Watch clothes.

There may be some discoloration of the water... therefore, test water prior to using for washing machines.

Obituaries

LINZY MARIE FRIEDLEIN

Linzy Marie Friedlein, age 19, of Stockton, Illinois, passed away on Friday, Oct. 16, 2020. She was born May 30, 2001, to Damon and Aimee (Wise) Friedlein.

She graduated from Stockton High School with the class of 2019, where she was captain of the speech team, sang in the choir and was a cheerleader. She was currently attending Highland Community College. Linzy worked at the front desk at the Country Inn & Suites in Stockton. She enjoyed photography, going to waterparks and spending time with her best friend, Pearl.

She is survived by her parents, Damon and Aimee; boyfriend, Tanner Reagan; grandmother, Pam (Colin) Summers; great-grandmother, Dorothy Dittman; godfather, Louie Loef-



felholz; aunt, Angie Adams; cousin, Tyler Adams; and many aunts and uncles. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Lona and Gordon Friedlein; uncle, George William Wise; and cousin, Halie Adams.

A visitation will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23, at the Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton with a service starting at 5 p.m.

A memorial fund has been established in her name. Condolences may be shared at hermannfuneralhome.com.

ROSE M. STEUART

Rose M. Steuart, age 78, of Warren, Illinois, passed away on Monday Oct. 12, 2020, at OSF St. Anthony Hospital in Rockford, Illinois, surrounded by her family. She was born Feb. 10, 1942, to Dale and Dorothy (Schultz) Hess. She married Henry "Hank" Steuart on Dec. 21, 1974, in Gurnee, Illinois.

She had numerous jobs in the health care industry in northern Illinois, retiring from the JoDaviess County Health Department in 2007. Hank and Rose volunteered for local emergency medical services agencies. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Warren Chamber of Commerce Board, Warren Auxiliary Post 464, library board, N.I.C.C.A. Board and the Elmwood Cemetery Association Board. She was an avid crafter and enjoyed golfing and bowling. Hank and Rose owned H&R Crafts.

She is survived by her children, Steve (Sandy) Steuart of Beaumont, Texas, Susan Monak, Patti Dole, Craig (Barb) Steuart and Cathy (Mike Skorowski) Steuart, all of Rockford; James (Esperanza) Steuart of Seattle; Tana



(Brian) Baginski of Brookfield, Illinois; and Cindi (Steve Harrington) Lira of Gurnee; 10 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; a brother, David Hess, of Galena, Illinois; a sister-in-law, Rose Hess of Warren; numerous nieces and nephews; and a special little boy, Ayden.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Hank; a brother, Jim Hess; and a sister-in-law, Rose Hess of Galena.

A visitation and memorial service was held Oct. 17, 2020, at the Bartell-Leamon Funeral Home in Warren. Vicar Michelle Knight officiated.

Burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery in Warren.

A memorial has been established in her name for the Wickler-Copland Post 464.

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

ROBERT 'BOB' GERBICK

Robert "Bob" Gerbick, 93, of Lena, passed away at Manor Court in Freeport on Oct. 12, 2020. His family was able to be with him.

Bob was born at home on a farm near Lanark, Illinois, on April 9, 1927, to Jesse and Mabel (Sturtz) Gerbick. He attended school in Stockton and Warren and then joined the U.S. Navy, where his job was fueling airplanes on an aircraft carrier at sea. Upon discharge he came back home and worked for a short time for the Illinois Central Railroad maintaining tracks and also for the Bausman Cheese plant in Warren, Illinois. All the while he worked on his family farm, eventually purchasing and taking over from his father.

Bob married RoseAnn McGinnis on Oct. 28, 1952, at St. Ann's Cath-



olic church in Warren and she joined him on the farm four miles west of Lena. Together they spent the next 50 years farming and raising four daughters.

Bob was a member of the Farm Bureau and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lena. He loved his family and enjoyed family gatherings and Sunday dinners. He also enjoyed playing euchre and horseshoes, and especially sledding with his grandchildren and taking them fishing.

He is survived by his wife of almost 68 years, RoseAnn, of Lena;

children, Linda (Rick) Posey of German Valley, Theresa (Bill) Thompson of Warren, Dianne (Eric) Johnson of Blanchardville, Wisconsin, and Debbie (Todd) Vietmeier of Forreston; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; a sister, Myra Krug of Freeport; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Allen and Royal Gerbick.

Visitation was held Oct. 17, 2020, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena.

A private family service will be held at St. Joseph Catholic Church with the Rev. Andrew Skrobott officiating. Burial will be at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

EDWARD LEE KEECH

Edward Lee Keech, age 78, of Stockton, Illinois, passed away June 24, 2020, at Vista Medical Center in Waukegan, Illinois. He was born June 15, 1942, in Freeport, Illinois, to the late Lyle and Ruth (Brubaker) Keech. Edward married Glenda Mae Endress on April 14, 1963.

He was a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton. Edward had worked as a truck driver for many years. He enjoyed flying planes with Freeport RC Modelers, kites, trains and tractors. He was a member of the Stephenson County Antique Engine Club, where he was the king in 2006. He was a Chicago Bears and Chicago Cubs fan and he loved to ride his motorcycle and scooter around town. Edward enjoyed laughing and joking around with his family and friends, plus he

was always there to help others out.

He is survived by his wife, Glenda Mae Keech, of Stockton; his daughters, Blenda Mae (Donnie) Gallup of Thomson, Illinois, Cindy Sue Keech of Mesa, Arizona, and Tina Marie (Ryan) Schuster of Freeport; his granddaughter, Stephanie (Aaron) Lohberg-Huizenga; his great-grandkids, Madison Dau and Nathen and Taylor Lohberg; his step-grandkids, Abby and Brooke Huizenga; his grandson, Timothy Lee (Crystal) Keech; his step-great-grandson, Nicholas (Hannah) Aqrabawi; step great-great-granddaughter, Amaya Aqrabawi; step great-granddaughter, Sierra Hemm (Devin), step great-grandson, Bryce Hemm; and his granddaughter, Kayla Marie Gallup. Edward is also survived by his brothers, Gary and Donald Keech; his sisters, Glory

Keech, JoAnn (Ralph) Boatwright, Marlene Ahrens and Donna Keech; his stepbrother, David Alleman; his sisters-in-law, Barb (Jerry) Bazala-Schuelke, Betty (Ed) Eagan, Nancy (Jim) Marsh, and Bonnie Endress; his brother-in-law, Kenny Endress; and many nieces and nephews.

Edward was predeceased by his parents; his brother, Harry; his brother-in-law, Ronald Ahrens; his sisters-in-law, Becky Keech and Phyllis Keech, as well as his step-sisters, Sylvia Kauffman and Linda Geiseman; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Glen and Clarabelle Endress.

A graveside service will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, 2020, at Ladies Union Cemetery. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

CLAIRE E. WICHMANN

Claire E. Wichmann, 89, of Cedarville, Illinois, passed away on Monday, Oct. 12, 2020, at his home, surrounded by family, after a courageous battle with cancer. Claire was born April 19, 1931, to Charles and Ethal (Solace) Wichmann. He was a 1949 graduate of Orangeville High School. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. On Dec. 27, 1952, he married Lois Schulz in Freeport. He was employed by Fairbanks-Morse before retiring from Mattison Machine Works in Rockford as a machinist.



He delivered flowers back to Freeport and the surrounding areas on his way home from Rockford for Broadway Florist. Claire loved to see the people's expressions when

delivering flowers to their door. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed feeding and watering the various birds in his back yard. Claire was a

member of the Cedarville Emmanuel Church and on the board of trustees. He enjoyed stopping in every day to see what needed to be done at the church; it kept him occupied.

Claire is survived by his daughter, Diane (Terry) Kerchner; his grandsons, Joe (Megan) Kerchner and their daughters Hailey and Lily; Kevin (Jennifer) Kerchner and their son, Tucker, all of Dakota; Brad Kerchner of Platteville, Wisconsin; brother-in-law, Delmar (Belva) Schulz; several nieces and nephews; his church family; and his favorite grand-puppies, Diesel, Bella and Rigs.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Lois; brother, Dalen; and sister, Louise Denin.

Memorial services were held Oct. 16, 2020, at Emmanuel Church in Cedarville. A visitation was held until the time of services at the church.

The Rev. Craig Connors officiated. Burial was at Grandview Cemetery in Freeport, Illinois.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

THE SCOOP TODAY SHOPPER'S GUIDE

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Available online at: rvpnnews.com

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

The endangered rusty-patched bumblebee used to be prolific throughout our region. Bumblebees are almost the only pollinators of tomatoes.

Conservation group hosts documentary screening

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation invites the public to a webinar screening of the documentary film "Racing Extinction" at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 7.

"Racing Extinction" includes rarely seen images of endangered species and presents evidence that humans, by action and inaction, are causing species to go extinct at a greater rate than ever recorded, except in previous extinction events, according to a news release.

"It's like we're living in the world of the dinosaurs," Louis Psihoyos says in the film, "but we can do something about it."

Psihoyos is the film's producer and a National Geographic photographer. "Racing Extinction" also showcases the work of the famed "Photo Ark" photographer, Joel Sartore.

"This may be the only national coverage these animals will get before they go extinct," Sartore said in the news release.

After the screening, Kraig McPeck, endangered species expert

with the Iowa and Illinois field office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will take questions and also talk about endangered species close to home, and some of the ways we can help them survive.

To attend the webinar, you will need to be a member of the conservation foundation's email list of members. To join the list, send your name and email address to info@jdcf.org, and state your interest in attending the webinar.

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation is a local, member-supported nonprofit whose mission is to preserve land for the lasting well-being of people and wildlife. JDCF owns several preserves that are open to the public for hiking, wildlife viewing and picnicking, such as community favorites Casper Bluff and Horseshoe Mound. No tax dollars are used for the acquisition, restoration or maintenance of JDCF properties.

For more information, go online to www.jdcf.org.

FHN issues new visitor restrictions due to COVID-19

Due to a recent surge in COVID-19 cases in northwest Illinois, FHN has issued stricter visitor policies for all FHN locations, including FHN Memorial Hospital, to help slow the spread of the disease.

No visitors will be allowed in the hospital for patients hospitalized for general treatment/procedures except for emergencies or end-of-life situations. In the emergency room and birthing center, patients will be allowed one visitor per day. Throughout the hospital, no visitors under age 18 are permitted.

FHN office practices, including family healthcare centers and specialty care clinics, request that patients attend

their appointments alone if possible; if needed, one significant other will be allowed. For patients under the age of 18, one parent or guardian will be allowed.

Throughout FHN, all patients and any accompanying individuals must wear masks.

"These heightened restrictions reflect the surge in cases of COVID-19 throughout FHN's service area and are being implemented for the health and safety of FHN's patients, staff and providers as well as the public at large," Kathryn J. Martinez, FHN's executive vice president and chief operating officer/chief nursing officer, said in a news release. "As we move into colder

weather where we'll all be spending more time indoors, we know that people are experiencing pandemic fatigue in following the safety procedures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"However, we know that we are going to be impacted by COVID-19 for quite some time to come. Please continue to protect yourself and others by washing your hands frequently, maintaining social distance, and wearing a mask and contact your provider if you think you may be ill."

For more details about visitor restrictions and general pandemic information, go online to fhn.org, where a free online screening tool for COVID-19 also can be found.

Application period open for dairy producer program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will accept applications for the dairy margin dairy decision tool through Dec. 11.

DMC is a voluntary risk management program that offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

DMC payments triggered for seven months in 2019 and three months so far in 2020.

To determine the appropriate level

of coverage for a specific dairy operation, producers can utilize the recently updated online dairy decision tool by going online to fsa.usda.gov and searching for "dairy margin coverage."

In addition to DMC, USDA offers a variety of programs that have helped dairy producers, including insurance, disaster assistance and conservation programs.

For more information, go online to farmers.gov or contact your local USDA Service Center. To locate a local office, go online to farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

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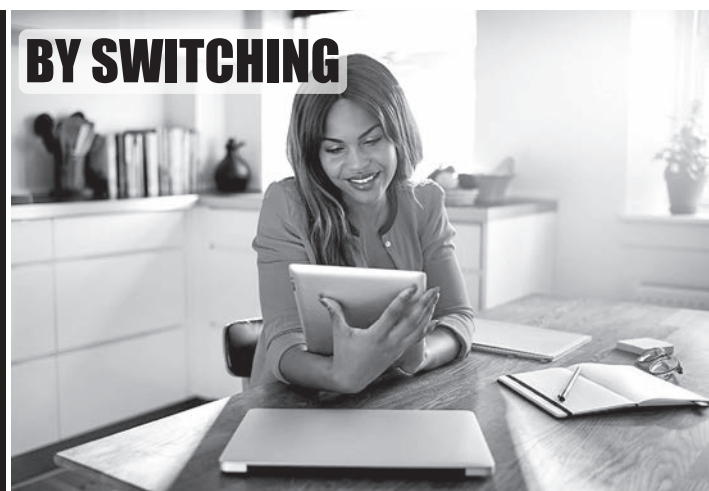
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FHN experts talk about vaccine development

FHN President and CEO Mark Gridley and medical staff President Robert Geller talk about vaccine development and efficacy in the latest FHN COVID-19 update video. The video is available online at fhn.org/coronavirus.

illnesses like colds and flu can help to keep the immune system strong and better prepared to fight off viruses like COVID-19, according to an FHN news release.

"If you can't be 100 percent sure that an illness you may get won't be serious, it's better to get a vaccine that might make you feel tired for a few days," Geller said.

Following the now-familiar precautions against the spread of COVID-19 are still important, and will remain so until a vaccine is widely available, Gridley said. "Keep washing your hands, wearing masks and staying away from large gatherings, and keeping high-touch surfaces wiped down to help keep your family safe," Gridley said.

Both Geller and Gridley said they are certain that a COVID-19 vaccine will be available next year.

FHN is a regional health care system with 19 locations in five counties in northwest Illinois. Go online to fhn.org for more information.

In the meantime, the doctors urge people to protect themselves and their loved ones from influenza by getting a flu shot. Taking care of one's general health and avoiding

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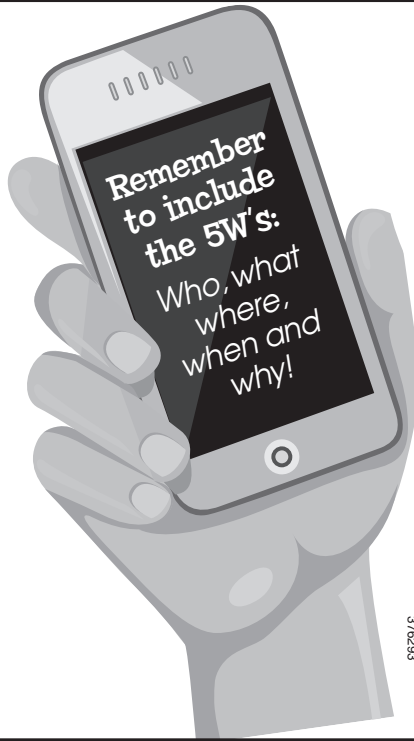
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Let's practice civility before, during and after Election Day

By Johnathan Hladik
CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS



Johnathan Hladik

Discussion and debate has always been a part of rural America. From coffee shops to the local co-op, rural residents aren't afraid to show their loyalty for one candidate or another, share their thoughts on the issues of the day and voice their distrust of the government. Sometimes opinions can spur disagreement and raise tensions. But, in the end, most of us will agree to disagree, shake hands and go about our day. Lately, this seems to have changed. The divisive politics of Washington have made their way to our Main Streets. This "us versus them" mentality has damaged relationships, harmed businesses and affected our children.

While technological advances have brought the world together in ways our forefathers never imagined, those same changes also have torn us apart. Showing support for a candidate or issue on social media is often met with personal attacks. This will only accelerate as the Nov. 3 general election draws near.

Rural America is better than this. Here neighbors help neighbors in good times and bad, band together for school and civic events and have lively discussions about the news of the day that always end with plans to meet again tomorrow. This sense of community is what rural America is all about.

Healthy debates and differing opinions aren't wrong. But it is time to rise above the heated discourse. This is our chance to show the rest of America how to set aside differences and work together toward a strong and vibrant community.

Johnathan Hladik is the policy director at the Center for Rural Affairs.

What to know about the graduated tax amendment

A look at the amendment language, proposed rates, and arguments for and against

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

One of the major questions Illinois voters will answer on Nov. 3 will be on the ballot statewide — whether to amend the state's constitution to allow for a graduated rate income tax.

Strictly speaking, the amendment removes a provision from the Illinois Constitution that requires any income tax to be levied at a flat rate on any level of income — the current rate is 4.95 percent. Passage of the amendment would allow lawmakers to apply different tax rates on varying levels of income. Of the 42 states that have an income tax, 32 and Washington, D.C., have a graduated rate structure, while Illinois is one of nine that impose a flat tax.

While the amendment itself does not set any tax rates, legislation already passed by lawmakers and signed by the governor would take effect in January if the amendment passes. The rates created by that legislation would apply to six tax brackets, ranging from 4.75 percent on income up to \$10,000 to 7.99 percent on all income for individual filers making more than \$750,000.

Here's a look the amendment, the accompanying rate legislation, some of the arguments being made and who is funding the advertising campaigns for and against it.

The amendment

Specifically, Article 9, Section 3 of the Illinois Constitution would be amended if the ballot question passes. The new language would read:

"The General Assembly shall provide by law for the rate or rates of any tax on or measured by income imposed by the State. In any such tax imposed upon corporations the highest rate shall not exceed the highest rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5."

That would replace the current language, which states:

"A tax on or measured by income shall be at a non-graduated rate. At any one time there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the State for State purposes on individuals and one such tax so imposed on corporations. In any such tax imposed upon corporations the rate shall not exceed the rate imposed on individuals by more than a ratio of 8 to 5."

On the ballot, voters will see the question worded as follows:

"The proposed amendment grants the State authority to impose higher income tax rates on higher income levels, which is how the federal government and a majority of other states do it. The amendment would remove the portion of the Revenue Article of the Illinois Constitution that is sometimes referred to as the 'flat tax,' that requires all taxes on income to be at the same rate. The amendment does not itself change tax rates. It gives the State the ability to impose higher tax rates on those with higher income levels and lower income tax rates on those with middle or lower income levels. You are

See AMENDMENT, Page 12

Births



Henry George Preston Bonnet

Jeff and Stephanie Bonnet of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, are the parents of a son, Henry George Preston Bonnet, born Oct. 5, 2020.

Maternal grandparents are Rocio Ramirez of Denver and Larry Blanco Sr. of Orlando, Florida. Late great-grandparents are Edith and Ralph Ramirez and Juanita and Adam Blanco.

Paternal grandparents are Dan and Cindy Bonnet of Lena, Illinois. Great-grandparents are June and the late Dalvin Dittmar, of Lena and the

late Robert and Dorothy Bonnet.

Clayton Arnold Thomas Havens

Clayton Arnold Thomas Havens is the new son to Ashley Foley and Anthony Havens of Hanover, Illinois, born on Oct. 14, 2020, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Illinois. Clayton joins three brothers, Jordan, 15; Dayan, 13; and Kyler, 10. Grandparents are Harold and Kelly Foley of Savanna, Illinois, and Terry and Jenny Havens of Elizabeth, Illinois. Great-grandparents are Dee Bull of Savanna, Irene Havens of Elizabeth

and Leonard and Erna Hall of Cicero, Indiana.

Alma Shirley Fluegel

Alma Shirley Fluegel is the new daughter to Riley and Ashley Fluegel of Lena, Illinois, born on Oct. 16, 2020, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Illinois. Alma joins a sister, Evelyn, 7, and a brother, Dustin, 2. Grandparents are Jim and Kim Goebel and Ron Fluegel, all of Lena, and Deb and Fred Mathes of Owatonna, Minnesota. Great-grandparents are Richard and Janet Ferguson of Pearl City, Illinois.

USDA extends free school meals

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials announced recently that they are extending flexibilities to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-'21 school year.

The move is aimed at making sure that all American children have access to nutritious food.

"As our nation recovers and reopens, we want to ensure that chil-

dren continue to receive the nutritious breakfasts and lunches they count on during the school year wherever they are, and however they are learning," USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a news release. "We are grateful for the heroic efforts by our school food service professionals who are consistently serving healthy meals to kids during these trying times ..."

A BIG "THANK YOU"

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

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Regular hours, new books greet fall patrons at Lena library

By Brittany Gaulrapp
LIBRARY DIRECTOR

It has been so great seeing all of you at the Lena library these last few weeks. We are so thankful that you have all been so patient with us throughout all of the craziness here. It is great to be back.

Just a reminder for those of you who we haven't seen yet: We are now open with our regular hours, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

All patrons over 2 years old are required to wear a mask for their entire visit. We are taking extra steps to ensure the safety of our staff and patrons, including sanitizing multiple times a day, quarantining returned items and offering hand-sanitizing stations. Stop in and grab a book safely.

We will be offering family craft packs for Halloween in the upcoming weeks. We will let you know as soon they are ready for pickup here at the library. Be sure to check our Facebook page or

give us a call at 815-369-3182 with questions.

During the construction process quite a few books were purged from our collection. They are mostly nonfiction books, but there are a handful of fiction books as well. These books are free! They are located in our children's area; stop in and ask a librarian for more details.

New fiction books include: "1st Case" and "The 20th Victim" by James Patterson, "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman, "The Brightest Star" by Fern Michaels, "Chance of a Lifetime" by Jude Deveraux, "Christmas Cupcake Murder" by Joanne Fluke, "Holiday Lights" by Debbie Macomber, "The Institute" by Stephen King, "The Return" by Nicholas Sparks, "Shadows in Death" by JD Robb, "Walk the Wire" by David Baldacci and "The Heart of a Hero" and "The Way of the Brave" by Susan May Warren.

New nonfiction books include: "Didn't See That Coming" by Rachel Hollis, "Killing Crazy Horse" by Bill O'Reilly and "Everything Beautiful in Its Time" by Jenna Bush Hager.

•Instructor (Continued from front page)

found some success. I think that can be a huge motivation for a student."

She said other photographers have influenced her career choices.

"If we're going to talk locally I have to say Bill Delp," Koester said. "He was 'The Man' for photography back in the day when I was in high school. I was always interested in heading down to Manny's and seeing the photo displays he had there in the restaurant."

"I was also influenced by colleagues that I met along the way. I lived in Seattle for three years and did a mentorship under Jordan Zoph, who is a pretty significant photographer in the Northwest. He is younger than me, but he is a phenomenal artist. A lot of the people that have influenced me are folks I worked with along the way that inspired me with their artwork and the way they chose to run their businesses."

Koester spoke briefly about the tools she feels are necessary for students to succeed.

"In my curriculum the Adobe programs are a must-have and all of my students actually have their own Adobe IDs, so they are able to utilize those programs not only in the classroom, but at home as well," Koester said. "A DSL camera is another thing that is definitely important for my classroom. I have run into a little bit of a problem with those students that are fully remote and don't ever come into our actual classroom, so I have to kind of tweak things to do cell phone photography, which is not optimum, but these are difficult times and we do what we have to do."

She said she is keeping an eye to the future.

"I would hope to keep on keeping on as I am right now and also continue teaching my craft to the students at the CTE," Koester said. "This is my first year there, but it is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done in my life. I feel at home at the CTE and I love being able to give back to the community."

"Community over competition is one of my mottos. Obviously, the market is oversaturated with photographers, but when people come to me with questions I share immediately to help them out. I would love to see my students pursue photography if that's what they want to do. I'm always an open book and I feel like knowledge should be universal. I'm totally OK with sharing with the world."

CTE Director Kris Hall said the academy is glad to welcome back a former student.

"Well, since she is a former student and has stayed in touch with several of our teachers, when the opening for a graphics communications instructor happened, she was anxious to apply," Hall said.

Koester is bringing everything the academy expected and more to the table, Hall said.

"We are capitalizing on her different experiences, especially in the area of photography," Hall said. "The first quarter has just gotten underway, but we are seeing a lot of her students in the corridors taking photographs and we will be putting those on our website, our Facebook page and on our Instagram."

"Those students will be getting some immediate gratification with their photographs being published."

Music boosters seek support through fundraisers

The Le-Win Music Boosters have launched two fall fundraisers while partnering with local businesses in support of Le-Win music programs.

Offered through Head2Toe Design, an online apparel and merchandise sale features T-shirts, hoodies, koozies, masks, phone cases, tumblers and more.

"Music students and their teachers have encountered so many challenges and cancellations this year, so it's more important than ever to show support for these vital programs," Jody Schumacher, Le-Win Music Boosters president, said in a news release. "We're hearing wonderful feedback from families and teachers about the merchandise options."

"They make great Christmas gifts for music students and their fans."

The deadline for online apparel orders is Friday, Oct. 30. Orders will be ready Dec. 7.

To order, go online to Le-Win.net and look under "News and Announcements" for a link to the online sale or go to head2toedesign.com and click on "school stores."

Le-Win Junior High and High School music students will be taking orders for fresh greenery from



SUBMITTED PHOTO Shopper's Guide

The Le-Win Music Boosters group is offering apparel and merchandise options for their online fundraiser, with orders due by Oct. 30.

DeVoe Floral through Nov. 5.

This year's options include wreaths, swag and roping.

For more information about ordering, including showing support for a certain music student, send an email to musicboosters@le-win.net.

Orders will be ready by Nov. 23.

Briefs

Lena student earns academic recognition

Rachel Edler of Lena has been named to the President's List for the summer 2020 semester at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa.

To qualify for this academic recognition, students must attain a GPA of at least 3.75 in their most recent semester, for a minimum of six credit hours.

Church invites attendees for Reformation Sunday

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena will mark Reformation Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Oct. 25.

Attendees are encouraged to wear red for the service "to remember the Holy Spirit which led the Reformation movement in 1517," according to a church news release.

There will be multiple ways to worship at Good Shepherd: by parking near the church and tuning into 90.5 FM, by attending in the fellowship hall or by attending in the sanctuary. Social distancing and other safety standards will be in place, and in-person attendees must wear masks.

Sunday worship will be recorded and posted online at goodshepherdlena.org. Weekly devotions, readings, prayers and more are available on the church Facebook page at facebook.com/GSL-CLenaIL.

For more information, call 815-369-5552. The church is located at 118 E. Mason St. in Lena.

Service held in person or via car radio

Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 W. Salem Road, Lena, will meet for worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, in the sanctuary and, for those who prefer, broadcasting at FM 97.0 on car radios.

The Rev. Randal Nicholas will preach the sermon, "The Greatest Tweet," from the Gospel of Matthew 22:34-46.

School district hosts virtual finance presentation

Pearl City school district Superintendent Mike Schiffman will host a virtual presentation on district finances at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, through Google Meets.

To attend the meeting virtually, go online to meet.google.com/dmz-vuazv-tv or call 347-201-7557 and use the PIN 916 661 010.

Extension offers fall gardening presentation

The University of Illinois Extension will offer "Falling into the Autumn Vegetable Garden" via Zoom at noon Friday, Nov. 6.

During the session, extension educator Grant McCarty will discuss topics including seed saving, season extension, crop storage and fall soil management.

Registration is required by going online to go.illinois.edu/jsw. There is a \$5 fee.

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Farmers stressed as virus outbreak drags on

Technology troubles, mental health issues complicate operations

By Mary Hookham
CORRESPONDENT

Many farmers believe in being eternal optimists. Technology woes, mental health issues and fluctuating commodity prices have optimists feeling saddened this year. But farmers are looking to the future for hope, better prices and fewer sources of stress.

"We have to remember that farmers and agribusinesses are no different than any other business with people and families concerned over the virus itself," said Ben Huber, certified crop adviser with Insight FS of Monroe, Wisconsin.

Technological difficulties have been central to the struggles of farmers during this year's coronavirus outbreak. Even though the lack of high-speed internet service is an ongoing issue for farmers, it has been highlighted this year.

"Many farms do not have access to the internet speed or the technology to effectively communicate electronically through services like Teams or Zoom," Huber said.

Mental health concerns also have been heightened by the virus outbreak. Jeff Ditzenberger of Argyle, Wisconsin, operates a mental health non-profit called TUGS (Talking, Understanding, Growing, Supporting). He said the virus is in farmers' faces every day all day and it's beginning to wear on them.

"There's no escape from the virus and its effects," he said. "It's what consumes everything that's going on these days and it's a lot to handle."

Farmers always have had to deal with pressure from consumers to do better on their farms, treat their animals well, produce products that are safe and healthy to eat and help educate the public. That pressure results in anger, hatred and animosity.

"Then you compound all that with the debate over wearing a mask, and how you're a jerk if you don't wear a mask and you're a hero if you do," Ditzenberger said. "I remind people that we're all humans at the end of the day. Nobody wants to die or give somebody else a disease or be called a murderer."

He said it's important to be available to family, friends and neighbors when those people are going through a crisis or simply need a listening ear. Most people just want to hear that everything will be all right, and that's what the agricultural world wants to hear most right now he said.

"Hope is a pretty important, pow-



Mike Wenger unloads the hopper of his combine into a waiting grain truck late last week. The ongoing pandemic only adds another layer of stress for farmers who already deal with the uncertainties of weather, markets and more.

MARY HOOKHAM PHOTO Shopper's Guide

erful thing, and man ... we need a lot of it right now," he said.

Ditzenberger said he is thankful more people are willing and able to discuss their mental health issues. When so many factors play into mental well-being for farmers, it's tough to work through all those issues while also operating a farm and keeping up with family.

"I think the bright spot in all this is that we are finally getting about 2 percent of the population to talk about mental health," he said. "Previously it was 1 percent, and to me, that's really important."

He suggests people simply be kind to each other. This year, he recommends people be more accepting and understanding of people with different views on hot-button issues such as wearing masks, politics and racial justice issues.

"If you want to make a difference, be the difference," he said. "Sometimes in order to be the difference, all you need to do is be kind."

An eye on prices

Commodity prices have experi-

enced extremes this year as a result of the virus outbreak. Although they're rebounding some over the last few weeks, farmers have struggled with the unknown of what's happening next and how to cope with the fallout of the price swings.

"Markets often fall as fast or faster than they rise," Huber said. "The price uncertainty and volatility is a real challenge in ag in any year, but the pandemic really threw commodities into a tailspin. It's very difficult to run any business when your gross revenue level can fluctuate like that."

Mike Wenger, dairy and crop farmer south of Brodhead, Wisconsin, said late in 2019, farmers were excited for a good year ahead because of higher prices. But when the virus outbreak happened, the good prices fell.

"The bank always wants to know a farm's cash flow for the upcoming year but they won't tell us their best guess on a milk price," he said. "If we estimate too low, the farm doesn't cash flow and if we estimate too high, it looks good but is unrealistic. This happens every year but was certainly more extreme this year."

Like many farmers, Wenger is grateful for the coronavirus relief programs from the federal government but said he does not want to rely on financial aid from the government. He believes each year will be different; perhaps next year, there won't be any aid at all, he said.

Brodhead-area cash crop farmer Roger Markham has been monitoring the Chicago Board of Trade daily since 1973. As a former hog farmer and current crop farmer, he puts stock in knowing and understanding the value of the markets.

"If you're not doing a good job with your marketing plan, you're forced to think about how much that sucks for you," Markham said.

The virus outbreak gave farmers opportunities to make money in the market because when people were

forced to stay home, the markets fell, he said. Farmers could sell sooner than planned and pick up some extra money per bushel on commodities like corn, beans and wheat.

"Back when I started farming in 1958, my dad said in order to be successful, I had to remember two things: family and I sell whatever I raise, and if I do a good job selling, I'll be a successful farmer," he said.

Huber said farmers are always working to be better at managing price risk. But many of those helpful management tools can be expensive or limiting.

"In the future, I see farmers with the ability to manage market risk, being the people able to better withstand the volatility in the market," he said. "How that risk is managed will be different in almost every operation."



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LEGALS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS
 THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET MORTGAGE PRODUCTS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-RP1
 Plaintiff,
 -v.-
 CARLA A. COPPOTELLI, et al
 Defendant

17 CH 00019

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 10, 2017, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on November 10, 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:

LOTS NUMBER ONE (1), TWO (2) AND THREE (3) IN BLOCK NUMBER TEN (10)

IN THE CITY OF GALENA, ON THE EAST SIDE OF GALENA RIVER, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 401 PARK AVENUE, GALENA, IL 61036

Property Index No. 06-500-035-00

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 Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief 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 exceed \$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 prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government 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 identification for sales held at other 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.
 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100
 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527
 630-794-5300
 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com
 Attorney File No. 14-17-06428
 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
 Case Number: 17 CH 00019
 TJSC#: 40-2256

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 # 17 CH 00019
 I3157386

(Published in The Scoop Today Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2020)

382551

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on September 29, 2020, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons, owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

Historic Galena Food Tour, located at **422 S. Main St. #2, Galena, IL 61036.**

Dated: September 29, 2020
 ANGELA KAISER
 County Clerk
 ROBIN BUSS
 Deputy

(Published in The Scoop Today Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2020)

382641

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on September 29, 2020, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Jo Daviess County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons, owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: **Historic Galena,** located at **422 S. Main St. #2, Galena, IL 61036.**

Dated: September 29, 2020
 ANGELA KAISER
 County Clerk
 ROBIN BUSS
 Deputy

(Published in The Scoop Today Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2020)

382642

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
 JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS
 ILLINOIS BANK AND TRUST

Plaintiff,
 -v.-
 DELLA GONZALEZ A/K/A DELLA E. GONZALEZ et al
 Defendant

2020CH3

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 13, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on November 17, 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:

A PART OF LOTS FIVE (5) AND SIX (6) ALL IN BLOCK SIX (6) IN THE ORIGINAL VILLAGE OF STOCKTON, ILLINOIS AS THE SAME ARE NUMBERED ON THE PLAT RECORDED IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF THE COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT FIVE (5)

(AT THE INTERSECTION OF QUEEN AND HUDSON STREETS) AND RUNNING THENCE NORTH EIGHTY (80') FEET; THENCE EAST NINETY-TWO (92') FEET; THENCE SOUTH EIGHTY (80') FEET TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID BLOCK 6; THENCE WEST, ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE, NINETY-TWO (92') FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF STOCKTON, JO DAVIESS COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as 125 S HUDSON ST, STOCKTON, IL 61085

Property Index No. 17-001-046-03

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 Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief 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 exceed \$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 prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale,

Continued on next page

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380928

LEGALS

Continued from previous page

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

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government 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 identification for sales held at other 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

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E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com

Attorney File No. 14-20-00078

Attorney ARDC No. 00468002

Case Number: 2020CH3

TJSC#: 40-2112

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 # 2020CH3
I3157929

(Published in The Scoop Today Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2020)

382928

Annual Treasurer's Report

Village of Stockton

Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2019 and Ending April, 30, 2020

Revenues:

Corporate Replacement Taxes	\$ 16,907
Sales Taxes	523,873
State Income Tax	201,811
Motor Fuel Taxes	67,310
Property Taxes	493,596
Licenses and Permits	20,288
Fines and Forfeitures	10,747
Reimbursements from State of Illinois	6,625
Cable Franchise Fees	12,151
Telecommunications Fee	23,618
Video gaming	65,849
Water, Sewer and Garbage Receipts	1,316,832
Interest Earnings	35,585
Rent	7,000
Miscellaneous	46,939
Total Revenues:	\$2,849,131

Vendors over \$2,500:

Altorfer, Inc.	\$4,355
Apple River State Bank	11,025
B&J Construction	22,684
Barkau Automotive	93,078
Belstar Media	3,620
Blue Cross Blue Shield	69,945
Bradley, Diane	7,950
Brewster Cheese Company	21,830
Cargill, Inc.	25,063
Casey's General Stores, Inc.	6,338
Civil Constructors, Inc.	993,982
Civil Materials	24,540
Com Ed	28,566
Community Funding & Planning Services	49,875
Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.	93,221
Core & Main LP	12,880
Creativeations	3,124
Crystal Image Cleaning, Inc.	5,262
Dick, Kyle & Jackie Cahill	9,489
Frontier	9,371
Gills Freeport Disposal	176,490
Heidenreich, Thomas	43,668
Herrell Electric Service	4,001
Hesse Martone, PC	8,812
Holland & Sons, Inc.	4,853
Illinois Department of Revenue	33,841
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	83,625
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund	156,699
Illinois Public Risk Fund	27,662
Illinois State Disbursement Unit	36,924
Johnston IT Consulting	7,102
Kathleen Field Orr & Associates	5,049
Lyons Lab	3,725
Lyons Well Drilling Company, Inc.	174,345
Manning Environmental, Inc.	4,656
Martelle Water Treatment	7,666
Mobile Electronics, Inc.	11,832
Monroe Truck Equipment, Inc.	7,785
MSA Professional Services, Inc.	811,974
Mullen Tree Care	13,300
Municipal Well & Pump	9,615
National Wash Authority, LLC	5,800
New Generation Auto, Inc.	3,848
Northern Illinois Environmental Applications	18,209
Paja Law Office	15,430

PDC Laboratories, Inc.	13,771
Petty Cash	2,700
Precision Drive & Control, Inc.	2,692
Quick Attach Attachments, LLC	6,579
Quill Corporation	3,498
Red Gates Archaeology, LLC	2,900
Stockton Ace Hardware	15,726
Stockton Auto Supply	3,532
Stockton Chamber of Commerce	5,000
Stockton School District #206	13,075
The Bauer Group	46,662
Tri-State Computers, LLC	19,073
Uniform Den East, Inc.	5,434
United Health Care Insurance	7,589
United States Treasury	179,159
US Bank	262,975
US Cellular	3,028
USA Blue Book	9,649
Utility Service Co., Inc.	30,217
Viking Chemical Company	7,400
VISA - 1533	4,179
VISA - 5434	3,643
Wards Grove Township Road District	2,594
Water Deposit Fund	2,957
WEX Bank	18,200
Willet Hoffman & Associates	5,298
William Charles Electric, LLC	2,943
Wipfli LLP	8,970
All other under \$2,500	115,445
Grand Total	\$ 3,978,007

Salaries:

Salaries under \$25,000: Bourland, Brandt, Deneen, Eden, Eisfeller, Gonnerman, Hatfield, Heidenreich, Julius Kearbey, Krok, Kunz, Lickes, Lingle, Logemann, Luke, Marvin, Mensendike, Perry, Powers, Stewart, Timpe, Vanderheyden, J., Wachter, West.

Salaries from \$25,000 to \$49,999: Altfillisch, Cass, Haas, Olson, Sheehan, Sullivan, Young.

Salaries above \$50,000: Rice, Schock, Schubert, Sigafus, Townsend, Venderheyden, C.

Village of Stockton

Summary Statement of Condition

Fiscal Year Beginning May 1, 2019 and Ending April 30, 2020

	<u>General</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Enterprise</u>
Beginning:			
Fund Balance,			
as restated	\$ 566,592	\$ (129,515)	\$5,847,454
Revenues Received	1,030,282	444,633	1,374,216
Expenditures Disbursed	(1,059,247)	(327,182)	(745,190)
Depreciation	--	--	(385,770)
Other Financing:			
Sources	66,526	59,493	1,557,640
Uses	(110,043)	(29,439)	(549,146)
Ending	<u>\$ 494,110</u>	<u>\$ 17,990</u>	<u>\$ 7,099,204</u>

Subscribed and sworn to this 13th day of October, 2020.

/s/ Rena Eden

Rena Eden, Treasurer

I, Susanne Young, Village Clerk of the Village of Stockton, Jo Daviess County, Illinois do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ending April 30, 2020.

/s/ Susanne Young

Susanne Young, Village Clerk

(Published in The Scoop Today Oct. 21, 2020)

383590

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380927

Amendment (Continued from page 7)

asked to decide whether the proposed amendment should become a part of the Illinois Constitution.”

They'll be able to vote “yes” or “no,” and the amendment has two paths to passage. If it receives 60 percent of the vote from those voting on the question, it passes. But if it fails to reach the 60 percent threshold for those voting on the question but still musters “yes” votes from more than half of those voting in the election, it would still pass.

The rate structure

The proposal to put the amendment question on the ballot was approved with support from only Democrats, as was Senate Bill 687, the accompanying legislation to set graduated rates beginning in January 2021, should the amendment pass. Again, the current rate is 4.95 percent on any taxable income.

The new rate structure would create six tax brackets, with rates applying to margins of taxable income instead of every penny of an earner's income, except for those in the top bracket. The rates would be:

- 4.75 percent on single or joint filers' first \$10,000 of taxable income
- 4.9 percent on single or joint filers' income from over \$10,000 to \$100,000
- 4.95 percent on single or joint filers' income from over \$100,000 to \$250,000
- 7.75 percent on a single filer's income from over \$250,000 to \$350,000 and joint filers' from over \$250,000 to \$500,000
- 7.85 percent on a single filer's

income from over \$350,000 to \$750,000 and joint filers' from over \$350,000 to \$1 million

• Once a single filer exceeds \$750,000 or joint filers exceed \$1 million, the top rate of 7.99 percent will apply at a flat rate to every penny of income. For all other earners, the previous brackets apply.

Those rates effectively mean anyone earning \$250,000 or less will pay the same or lower income tax rates under the graduated structure, while those earning above that amount would pay higher rates.

The measure also raises the corporate tax rate to 7.99 percent from 7 percent and does not change the corporate property replacement tax of 1.5 to 2.5 percent which already exists in current law.

It also raises the property tax credit from 5 percent to 6 percent, and creates a \$100 per-child tax credit for joint filers earning less than \$60,000 annually and single filers earning less than \$40,000 annually. The tax credit would decrease by \$5 per child for every \$2,000 of income a filer has above those amounts.

In estimates released before the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor's office said the graduated tax is expected to bring in about \$1.2 billion for the current fiscal year as it would be in place for only part of it, and \$3.4 billion once it is in place for a full year.

Neither the amendment nor the accompanying legislation would change the level of authority lawmakers have to raise tax rates. A simple majority vote from both cham-

bers in the General Assembly and a signature from the governor is all that is needed to raise rates currently, and that would remain the case with the passage of the amendment.

The fiscal picture

For proponents of the measure, the amendment and the rates approved are all about raising more revenue without increasing rates on middle-income earners or making drastic budget cuts to state services, education and public safety.

Pritzker frequently notes he inherited a government “hollowed out” by budget cuts from previous administrations and a two-year state budget impasse during which the state spent roughly \$5 billion more than it took in each year, driving a backlog of unpaid bills up to \$16 billion.

Pritzker has estimated the budget shortfall for the current fiscal year at \$6.2 billion, as the COVID-19 pandemic has blown a hole in state finances. Without the graduated tax, which would be in effect for only half of the fiscal year, the shortfall could reach \$7.4 billion, he said in April.

To fill that gap, the governor has left open the option of borrowing billions from the federal government and has lobbied for greater aid to states in another federal stimulus package.

But even before the pandemic, Pritzker pegged Illinois' structural, year-after-year budget deficit at \$3.2 billion, and he has framed the graduated tax debate as a choice between 15 percent across-the-board cuts to state government, a 20 percent flat tax hike or passage of the graduated rates.

On Sept. 24, Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said lawmakers “will be forced to consider raising income taxes on all Illinois residents by at least 20 percent, regardless of their level of income” if the graduated income tax fails. That would push the current tax rate to about 6 percent, and would

require a simple majority vote in a Legislature dominated by Democrats with or without the passage of the amendment.

But opponents argue that without spending reforms, particularly to unfunded state pension obligations which exceed \$137 billion, voters should not consider sending the state more revenue. They also note both graduated tax measures are devoid of any meaningful immediate property tax reforms. Property taxes are levied and collected locally, not by the state, and they fund such things as schools, local governments, fire departments and libraries.

Those in favor of the amendment argue the added revenue could make it easier to fully fund the evidence-based funding formula for K-12 schools, which — years down the line, they say — could alleviate property tax pressures by shifting funding responsibility from local taxes to the state.

But opponents are skeptical of what the added revenues would be used for, as the amendment and accompanying legislation contain no guarantees and the state's pension burden continues to increase.

Opponents also point out that Illinois' combined total tax burden — including state and local sales taxes, income taxes, property taxes and others — is the highest in the country, according to the personal finance website Wallethub. The graduated tax would only add to that, they say, claiming that it might drive high-earning residents from the state. Pritzker has said it is middle-income earners who have thus far been more likely to leave the state because, he says, the tax burden is “unfairly” distributed.

Proponents of the amendment, including Pritzker, cite a breakdown which shows the bottom 20 percent of Illinois earners pay 14.4 percent of their total income to state and local taxes, while the top 1 percent of earners pay 7.4 percent of their income

in taxes. That's according to a report by the left-leaning Washington D.C.-based Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.

Other arguments

Opposition, led in large part by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, has centered on what the tax would do to businesses and what lawmakers might do in the future if voters give them the opportunity to levy taxes on portions of the electorate at any one time, rather than on every taxpayer at once.

They also point out the added revenues would not cover state budget deficits amid the pandemic and would require further tax hikes in the future, which could mean adjusting the brackets to raise rates on middle-income earners.

The idea, according to much of the advertising against the amendment, is that giving Springfield politicians the authority to raise taxes on just a small group of taxpayers at any one time makes it easier politically to raise taxes, even though the simple majority vote threshold remains unchanged.

Opposition groups also point to June comments from Treasurer Michael Frerichs, a Democrat who has no role in setting tax rates, who said it was “worth a discussion” to consider taxing retirement income on certain brackets.

While the graduated tax would make it possible to implement taxes on high-earning retirees without taxing all retirees, Pritzker has said he and Democrats in the General Assembly oppose taxing any retirement income, and the idea remains widely unpopular in Illinois.

AARP held a news conference earlier this month noting added revenue from the graduated tax could make lawmakers less likely to tax retirement income in order to fill budget gaps. But opponents continue to point to Frerichs' comments, although the treasurer has since said he does not support a retirement tax.

While those against the measure say the increase to the corporate tax rate will hit job creators hard at a time when the pandemic is already making it difficult, proponents note that businesses structured as pass-through entities — such as S corporations, sole proprietors and others who claim business income on personal taxes — will see taxes decrease if they earn less than \$250,000 annually in taxable income.

Opponents also take issue with the amendment's removal of language which states “there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the State for State purposes on individuals and one such tax so imposed on corporations,” claiming the removal of the language allows for tax bills such as “education surcharges” or other such fees on top of the regular income tax.

Those in favor of the bill, however, say the prohibition on levying multiple income taxes was simply a companion to the requirement for a single flat tax rate.

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TAXIDERMY MOUNTS: Caribou & Elk shoulder mounts; Black & Brown bear rug mounts; black bear hide; deer antlers; Turkey feather mounts; IL turkey hunting pins; **HUNTING/FISHING RELATED:** Hobart meat slicer; Gander Mountain hunting clothing; tree stands; ice fishing supplies; (24) Bass fishing poles/reels; rifle/shotgun ammo; Remington 870 12-gauge barrel; 20-gauge reloader; Tasco 4x32 & 6x20 scopes; Bushnell Spacemaster spotting scope; bow hunting supplies; trail cameras; gun & hunting related items; (7) **CHAIN SAWS, TOOLS & SHOP ITEMS:** Echo CS-400 & CS-450P chain saws; Stihl MS180, MS170 & MS390 chain saws; chain saw sharpener (NEW); 26-gallon upright air compressor; DeWalt surface planer (NEW); Eastwood Versa-Cut 60 plasma cutter (NEW); JD electric heater; hand tools; **OUTDOOR:** Yard-Man 33" snow blower; Fimco 25-gallon pull lawn sprayer.

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REAL ESTATE

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•Kitchen (Continued from page 2)

Self-Rising Pumpkin Pie

This is a low-calorie, low-fat dessert that is sure to please.

- 2 large egg whites
- 2 C. canned or fresh pumpkin
- 1 C. non-fat dry milk
- 2/3 cup sugar or brown sugar Splenda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 t. nutmeg or 2 t. pumpkin pie spice for the ginger and nutmeg
- 1/4 C flour
- 1 C. water

In a large bowl combine two large egg whites and 2 cups of canned pumpkin. Mix with a whisk until smooth. Add in non-fat dry milk, sugar, spices and flour. Stir to mix well. Slowly add water and stir. Mix well to a smooth, consistent mixture. (It will also work to add all ingredients into a bowl and mix with a whisk.)

Pour mixture into a prepared 9-inch pie plate. You can also can bake in a 9-by-13 baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 55 minutes (pie pan takes less time). Bake until a table knife inserted into the center comes out clean.

Use whipping cream, Cool Whip or ice cream or enjoy it plain for less calories than a piece of pie with the crust. Per serving: Calo-

ries 135; protein 4.9g; fat 3g; fiber 1.3g

Final thoughts

We are now halfway through October. So far it has been a beautiful month, but now the leaves are piling up, the flowers are gone and there are Christmas ads. Time just marches on.

We deal with more of the COVID-19 cases in our area and wonder if we will ever be back to normal. The truth of the matter is that we will have to find a new normal.

I celebrated a birthday — it wasn't a milestone, but it was great to say that I am still alive and kicking. Many friends sent beautiful cards and useful gifts (and not so useful but beautiful!). Guess what I got a lot of? You guessed it — pumpkin. I can now make pumpkin bars and pumpkin pie for the rest of the season. I loved every can.

Thank you to all who wished me well. I want to wish you all a healthy and happy week. Keep safe and keep moving!

If you have found any fall recipes you think we would like, contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, Shopper's Guide, 213 S. Center St., Lena, IL 61048 or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

• REAL ESTATE •

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS
THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION F/K/A THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, N.A. AS SUCCESSOR TO JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET MORTGAGE PRODUCTS, INC., MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-RP1
Plaintiff,
-v.-
CARLA A. COPPOTELLI, et al
Defendant

17 CH 00019
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 10, 2017, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on November 10, 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:
Commonly known as 401 PARK AVENUE, GALENA, IL 61036
Property Index No. 06-500-035-00
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 Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief 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 exceed \$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 lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION

FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government 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 identification for sales held at other 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

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Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 17 CH 00019
TJSC#: 40-2256

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Case # 17 CH 00019
I3157386
(Published in The Scoop Today Oct. 7, 14 & 21, 2020) 382553

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS BANK AND TRUST
Plaintiff,
-v.-
DELLA GONZALEZ A/K/A DELLA E. GONZALEZ et al
Defendant

2020CH3
NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on August 13, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on November 17, 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:
Commonly known as 125 S HUDSON ST, STOCKTON, IL 61085
Property Index No. 17-001-046-03
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 Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief 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 exceed \$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,

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 # 2020CH3
I3157929
(Published in The Scoop Today Oct. 14, 21 & 28, 2020) 382929

or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

You will need a photo identification issued by a government 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 identification for sales held at other 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

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Attorney File No. 14-20-00078
Attorney ARDC No. 00468002
Case Number: 2020CH3
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State Senate committees take on prison reform

Diversion, re-entry programs, subpar conditions discussed

By Raymon Troncoso
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state Senate Criminal Law Committee and Special Committee on Public Safety held a joint hearing last week, calling on experts to provide evidence-based recommendations for enhancing public safety and making prisons more equitable and humane.

"Over 4 million Illinoisans have criminal records that prevent them from accessing jobs, housing, public benefits and other economic opportunities," Victor Dickson, president of the Safer Foundation, said in virtual testimony. "The most severe discrimination experienced by Black and brown people in our state with lifelong negative consequences comes from involvement in our criminal justice system."

The Safer Foundation provides pre-release and post-release services for individuals in the prison system to successfully re-enter society.

Dickson said Black Illinoisans and other minority groups are more likely to be incarcerated than their white counterparts, and individuals who have been incarcerated are more likely to experience negative socioeconomic effects.

Those individuals are more likely to be homeless both before and after incarceration, have substance abuse disorders and higher chances of overdose, have mental health issues stemming from trauma and suffer from chronic health diseases. They are also more likely to suffer poverty, unemployment, crime and violence.

"So as you consider social justice reforms and social equity, please keep

in mind that the inequities that exist in our state are harshest for people with records," he said.

During his testimony, Dickson said reducing recidivism, which refers to formerly incarcerated individuals committing new crimes that land them back in jail, is the best way to promote successful re-entry into society. According to Dickson, reconvicting an individual costs the state more than \$118,000 per reconviction on average.

Dickson gave three policy recommendations, the first of which was creating a permanent early-release program for nonviolent felons based on one that has been enacted during the coronavirus pandemic in some regions to prevent outbreaks in the prison system.

He also called for funding for the creation of more community-based facilities that provide transition services for inmates so that those leaving the justice system have the resources to secure housing and employment. Former inmates with access to those programs are more likely to contribute to society and produce economic benefits, he said.

Finally, he called for increased funding for post-release intervention services for individuals with mental health or substance abuse issues. Dickson said that is the most cost-effective way to address socioeconomic disparities without having to pay for incarcerating individuals.

Pamela Rodriguez, president of Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities, discussed diversion and re-entry programs the state could implement and improve upon.

Her organization currently works with law enforcement throughout the justice system to help find alternatives and diversions from incarceration and provide substance abuse services to individuals in or at risk of being involved with the justice system.

"Neither diversion programs or re-entry programs are new to the state of Illinois... The challenge for us in Illinois is implementation and bringing these things to scale," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez provided five recommendations to the committee. The first is expanding "authorized deflection strategies" throughout the state that provide intervention and substance abuse treatments for at-risk individuals even before there is an arrest, and holding counties and municipalities accountable for implementing such programs.

Another was reducing housing restrictions for formerly incarcerated individuals on registries. According to Rodriguez, housing restrictions have made it virtually impossible for successful re-entry, as individuals on registries are zoned out of adequate housing and areas where they can find employment. Housing restrictions have not been shown to significantly enhance public safety and disproportionately impact Black men from obtaining housing for life once they are on a registry, according to Rodriguez.

Other suggestions include increasing Medicaid enrollment assistance for individuals in the justice system to promote better health care outcomes, thus shifting the financial burden of care from the state to the federal government, making the state's COVID-19-era telephone medical consultations

permanent, and scaling up re-entry services to be statewide rather than regionally available.

Representatives of the John Howard Association and the Shriver Center on Poverty Law testified that the state's parole system and mandatory supervised release program need to be overhauled and reformed to promote better outcomes and fewer negative interactions with the justice system.

Illinois Department of Corrections Director Rob Jeffrey said IDOC was in the process of improving its parole system to be based on the individual rather than the details of their conviction.

The hearing was the fifth Senate joint hearing on criminal justice prompted by the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus agenda to end systemic racism in Illinois. That agenda, which has four pillars related to criminal justice, economics, health care and education, is meant to drive legislation for the veto session that is scheduled for Nov. 17 through Nov. 19 and Dec. 1

through Dec. 3.

Criminal justice reform has been a major topic for the Black Caucus. Black Illinoisans make up 55 percent of the state's prison population despite only being 14 percent of the total population.

"If there were any other circumstance where those types of numbers existed, we would call that a crisis," state Sen. Elgie Sims Jr., a Chicago Democrat and co-chair of the joint committee, said during the hearing.

In a press release after the hearing, Sims addressed other issues raised by witnesses.

"Prison reform is crucial to ensure Illinoisans of all backgrounds are treated fairly. We must stop monitoring individuals who have served their time and are not a threat to society. I also do not subscribe to putting someone in prison as a means to address substance abuse."

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government.

USDA extends free school meals

U.S. Department of Agriculture officials announced recently that they are extending flexibilities to allow free meals to continue to be available to all children throughout the entire 2020-'21 school year.

The move is aimed at making sure that all American children have access to nutritious food.

"As our nation recovers and reopens, we want to ensure that chil-

dren continue to receive the nutritious breakfasts and lunches they count on during the school year wherever they are, and however they are learning," USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue said in a news release. "We are grateful for the heroic efforts by our school food service professionals who are consistently serving healthy meals to kids during these trying times ..."

Community calendar

Friday, Oct. 23

Jo Daviess County Home and Community Education flea market/book fair, Oct. 23, noon to 6 p.m., Elizabeth Community Building, 402 West St., Elizabeth

Saturday, Oct. 24

Jo Daviess County Home and Community Education flea market/book fair, Oct. 24, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Elizabeth Community Building, 402 West St., Elizabeth

Drug take-back event, Oct. 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Freeport Police Department, 320 W. Exchange St.,

Freeport.

Monday, Oct. 26

Warren Village Board meeting, Oct. 26, 7 p.m., Village Hall, 113 Cole St., Warren

Lena Committee of the Whole meeting, Oct. 26, 6 p.m., Village Hall, 122 E. Main St., Lena

Friday, Oct. 30

Red Cross blood drive, Oct. 30, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., community building, 402 N. West St., Elizabeth. Make an appointment at recrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.



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EXCITING ANNOUNCEMENT

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