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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 2020

Limited vaccine supply arrives this week

Local health departments in Region 1 are expecting a limited amount of COVID-19 vaccine to be delivered to the region this week.

"While all adults should be able to get vaccinated in 2021, a limited amount of vaccine will be available in Region 1 in 2020," according to a news release from the health departments.

Health care workers who treat COVID-19 patients and older adults living in long-term care facilities will receive the vaccine first. As ad-

ditional vaccine becomes available, local health officials "will allocate vaccine based on risk of serious illness and prevention of the spread of COVID-19 in the community," the release said.

Currently, a waiting list or appointment list has not been established to receive the vaccine. Residents are advised to check their local health department's social media and website for updated information on the changing situation.

Illinois on track to meet deadline for spending CARES Act funds

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The head of Gov. JB Pritzker's budget office said last week that the state of Illinois is on track to spend all of the money it received through the federal CARES Act by the Dec. 30 deadline.

That means it is unlikely the state will have to repay any of the funds to the federal government, but whether or not Congress approves any additional funding remains an open question.

Alexis Sturm, director of the Governor's Office of Management and Budget, told a legislative oversight panel that of the \$3.5 billion the state received in April, a little less than \$1.5 billion remains unspent. But she said state agencies have spent money out of their own budgets for COVID-19-related expenses that can be reimbursed with the federal funds.

"And that should be enough to ... expend the balance of those funds," Sturm told the Restore Illinois Collaborative Commission, a legislative group that has been meeting monthly since July to monitor the state's COVID-19 response.

Congress passed the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act in late March. It included financial aid to state and

local governments to help cover their costs for responding to the pandemic.

In addition to the funds that went into state coffers, the city of Chicago along with Cook, Kane, Lake and Will counties, which all have populations over 500,000, received direct aid of their own, for a total of roughly \$4.9 billion that came to Illinois.

Congress stipulated, however, that the money could only be used for expenses directly related to COVID-19 response efforts and not to make up for revenue shortfalls due to the pandemic. The law also requires that all of the money be spent on costs that are incurred on or before Dec. 30.

During the first several weeks, Sturm said, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency spent about \$375 million for things like personal protective equipment, setting up alternate care sites and testing sites, contact tracing and reimbursing state agencies for their increased operational costs.

When lawmakers came back for their abbreviated session in May, they established a framework for spending the remaining funds in the fiscal year that began July 1. By that time, about \$3.1 billion of the CARES Act money remained.

See FUNDS, Page 8



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HAMMAN Shopper's Guide

Stockton High School senior Mitchel Coffey signs his letter of intent as his family looks on during a ceremony at the school. Coffey will play golf and basketball at Clarke University in Dubuque.

Stockton's Coffey commits to college golf and basketball

By Trenten Scheidegger
CORRESPONDENT

Stockton High School senior Mitchel Coffey appears to enjoy the best of both worlds when it comes to sports.

On one hand, he excels at golf, a game of focus, individual performance and silence. On the other hand, he also excels at basketball, a game of teamwork and speed often played in a noisy gym.

Coffey's dual skill set is paying off, as he recently signed a letter of intent to play golf and basketball at Clarke University in Dubuque.

Coffey has been a multi-sport athlete for most of his life, being drawn to basketball at a young age.

"I do not know how to put it, it always has kind of appealed to me. It's popular, it's flashy and you can do a lot," he said. "When you are 4 foot 2 watching all these big guys go up and dunk, and even in high school games, watching the speed of it, it is entertaining."

"Getting into it young, you find everything fun."

Returning to basketball season year in and year out is what is tough, Coffey said,

"Sticking with it is the strong thing, and I'm lucky I did," he said.

When it comes to golf, Coffey started playing with family members for fun.

"I would occasionally go with my

dad and my grandma and I always thought that it was a little fun," he said.

It wasn't until high school that his love for the game really developed, however. "It wasn't until my freshman year when I started playing on the high school team when we moved to Stockton," Coffey said. "Mr. Kenna and Coach Doug helped me improve at it, starting with scores in the 60s my freshman year and then jumping to three rounds in the 30s this year."

Coffey's dad, Nick Coffey, said Stockton golf coach Casey Kenna deserves a lot of the credit for helping his son improve on the links.

See COFFEY, Page 9

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Obituaries

DAVID N. CHAMBERS

David N. Chambers, 78, of Lena, Illinois, passed away Sunday, Dec. 6, 2020, at the Monroe Clinic Hospital in Monroe, Wisconsin. David was born March 16, 1942, to Don and Doris (Strohacker) Chambers in Freeport, Illinois. He attended Pearl City High School, graduating in 1960. He married his high school sweetheart, Margaret "Margie" Katzenberger, on May 24, 1961. They were blessed with five children, Peg, Greg (Kim), Regan, Karmen, and Mark (deceased).

Dave worked for Civil Constructors for 47 years and enjoyed restor-



ventures.

He is survived by his wife, and best friend for 60 years, Margaret; his children; 11 grandchildren, three of whom he was like a Daddy

ing and riding Allis Chalmers tractors. He loved his little farm and helping others. Dave loved his grandchildren so much; Papa never missed their sports or their life's ad-

to — Chantel Sellers, Tevin (Kayla) Sellers and Isaiah Bruce; several great-grandchildren, with one to be born in March; and many wonderful friends.

Dave loved the Lord, and was a member of Park Hills Evangelical Free Church in Freeport. His Park Hills family was so important to him.

Per David's request, cremation rites will be accorded and a private family service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established in his name.

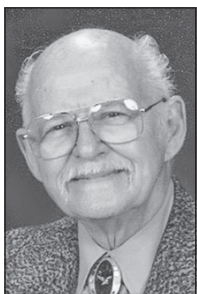
Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

ERNEST O. STEINMANN

Ernest O. Steinmann, age 94, of Argyle, passed away to his heavenly home on Saturday, Nov. 21, 2020, with his wife, Joyce, of 72 years at his side, at Pleasant View Nursing Home. Ernest was born to Ernst and Elise (Dubach) Steinmann on Aug. 24, 1926, at the Bleiler Cheese Factory in Argyle. He attended Dry Goods Box School and he fell in love with the art of making Swiss cheese at the age of 14. At the age of 18, he entered the U.S. Army during World War II and served in the Philippines. In 1947, upon his return from service, he met the love of his life at Turner Hall, Joyce Marie Pehl. They married in June 1948 at St. John's United Church of Christ. From 1947 to 1985, he made cheese at the Pleasant Valley Cheese Co-Op in Winslow, Illinois.

They have five children, Anita (Michael) Wampole of Middleton, Mark (Mellody Haug) of Monroe, Brian (Lydia) of Argyle, and two sons who are deceased, Larry (Noreen) and Randy.

During his many years of cheesemaking he was an active member



among many other talents and interests. And he loved to dance and listen to old-time music. He and Joyce went dancing whenever the opportunity arose and even traveled as far as Nebraska.

After making cheese for over 40 years, Ernie and Joyce built a chalet home near Argyle. During their years there they traveled extensively, enjoying Europe, Alaska, Hawaii and several ocean cruises. He also enjoyed restoring many antique cars and tractors during this time. He loved working in his yard and it seemed to get bigger with each passing year.

Ernie is survived by his wife, Joyce, of Argyle; three children; 11

of the VFW (lifetime), the Cooties, American Legion, St. John's UCC and Antique Wheelers. He enjoyed motorcycling, old cars, trucks and tractors, and woodworking,

grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Robert and Peter (Roxanne); and many nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; sons, Randy and Larry; brother, Hans; and sister, Lillian; and many relatives and friends.

Ernest's pride and passion was not only his family but his love for making Swiss cheese. We have lost a wonderful and loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. We will miss his infectious laugh and the twinkle in his eyes when he flashed his beautiful smile.

Dad had a strong faith and knew he'd move onto a better place when his time came. And he did live his life his way. Amen.

"I will cherish all the friendship I was fortunate to find, all the love and all the laughter in the place I left behind. All these good things will go with me. They will make my spirit glow. And that light will shine forever in the next place that I go."

The family would like to express their deep appreciation to the nurses and staff at Pleasant View Nursing Home and the Monroe Clinic Hospice for their compassionate care given to Dad.

A private family service will be held at Shriner Hager Gohlke Funeral Home with the Rev. Christie Mandas officiating. A celebration of Ernie's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Friends of Pleasant View, P.O. Box 733, Monroe, WI 53566, Monroe Clinic Hospice or Argyle EMS.

Condolences may be sent to the family at shriner111.com.

ROBERT 'BOB' HERMAN

Robert "Bob" Herman, age 78, of Lena, Illinois, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, at his home surrounded by his family. He was born Sept. 25, 1942, in Freeport, Illinois, the son of Allen and Esther (Wingert) Herman.

Bob married Tana Raders on Oct. 20, 1963, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena. He worked for 19 years at the Ralston Purina Co. before retiring for health reasons. He was a member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Bob also served his community for many years as a member of the Lena Fire Department. He was an avid fan of the Bears, Cubs and Rockford Icehogs. Bob and his family spent over 40 years fishing up at Castle Rock Lake in Wisconsin.

Bob is survived by Tana, his wife of 57 years; three daughters, Dawn (Curt Garrison) Hastings of New Lisbon, Wisconsin, Deanna (Rich) Drye of Lena and Stacy (Dan) Knoup of Urbandale, Iowa; a son, Lane (Sonia) Herman of Dodgeville, Wisconsin; eight grandchildren, Brandon and Ryan Hastings, Dustin and Andrew Drye, Morgan and Mackenzie Knoup, Ean Herman and Beranna Busker; four great-grandchildren; mother-in-law, Betty Raders, of Lena; sisters-in-law, Evelyn Herman of Lena, Sharon (Bob) Schlachter of Lena, Jill Lance of Anaheim, Cali-



years, his dog, Abbey.

He was preceded in death by his parents; grandson, Colton Drye; sisters, Alberta (Charles) Spittler, Betty (Gerald) Dole and Leah (George) Erner; brother, Bill Herman; brothers-in-law, Terry Raders and Tom Lance; and father-in-law, Francis Raders.

Per Bob's request, cremation rites will be accorded.

A private family service will be held at Leamon Funeral Home in Lena.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

The family wishes to extend a special thank you to FHN Hospice for the excellent care they gave Bob, and to Duane and Sharyn Babcock, Denny Luke and Denny Nolan for all the help they have given the past years.

A memorial has been established in his name.

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

BETTY M. (KREBS) HEER

Betty M. (Krebs) Heer passed away Dec. 12, 2020, at Monroe Clinic Hospital in Monroe, Wisconsin. She was born Jan. 29, 1928, in rural Browntown to Robert Sr. and Merle (Gage) Krebs. She attended Rush and Martintown schools and graduated from Winslow High School in 1945, and later received her bachelor's degree in elementary education at Platteville State Teacher's College (known today as the University of Wisconsin Platteville). She met the love of her life, David A. Heer, and they were married at Martintown Community Church by Rev. Roy Berg on June 11, 1949.

Betty enjoyed her 11 years teaching in Wisconsin rural schools, including Watson, Blaisdell, Wayne Center and Rush School. She then taught second grade at Lena-Winslow Schools for 24 years before retiring in 1988.

She and David moved to Monroe in 1990 where they were active volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. Betty volunteered at the Monroe Clinic Hospital, St. Vincent de Paul and Pleasant View Nursing Home; and was also a member of Monroe United Methodist Church, American Legion Auxiliary, Retired Teachers Association of Illinois, Green County Historical Society, Winslow Historical Society, Monroe Senior Center and Monroe Arts Center.

She is survived by two sons, Dennis David (Debra) of Lena, Illinois, and Christian Robert (Colleen) of Lawrenceville, Georgia; two grandsons, Collin David (Jennifer) Heer of Coralville, Iowa, and Evan James (Kaley Long) Heer of Billings, Montana; and one stepgranddaughter, Christina Newman of Lawrenceville,



Georgia. She was proud of all three. Betty is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Robert Krebs; mother, Merle (Gage) Krebs;

parents-in-law, Christian and Ella Heer; husband, David A. Heer; three brothers and spouses, Robert Jr. (Marie), Frank (Viola) and Arthur (Donna); sister and spouse Ann (Thomas Miler); brothers-in-law, James (Charlotte) Heer, Ralph Heer; John Heer and Robert Knutson; and sisters-in-law Ruth (LaVerne) Nodolf, Genevieve (Kenneth) Olson and Marie (James) Hahn.

Surviving in-laws include Mari-

anne Knutson of Platteville, Elizabeth Davies of Lancaster and Arlene Heer of Fennimore.

Also missed are her favorite cousin, Iola "Dolly" Gage Boehm (David) and best friend, Joyce Abbott (William).

Her favorite Bible verse is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Private family services will be held at Saucerman Cemetery with the Rev. Dr. Don Kim officiating. A celebration of life service will be held at a later date. Shriner Hager Gohlke Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at shriner111.com. A memorial fund is being established in Betty's name.

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Words can never express our heartfelt thanks to the wonderful team of doctors and nurses at FHN-ICU for their incredible care and sincerity. Thank you to St. John's Lutheran church, Leamon's Funeral Home, Chapel Hill, and to everyone who prayed, called, made food, sent cards, flowers, remembrance gifts and contributions to Ron's memorial.

Thank you to the farmers willing to lend their time and equipment to see Ron's harvest through. We are eternally grateful for each and every one of you. You have all shown such kindness, compassion and generosity during this difficult time.

From the bottom of our hearts, Thank You!

Pat Fuchs

Craig Fuchs & family

Mike and Anita Parkinson & family

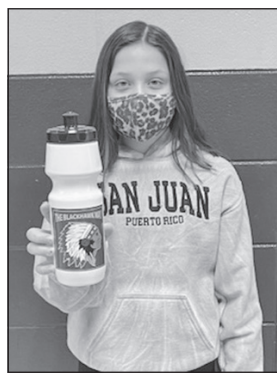
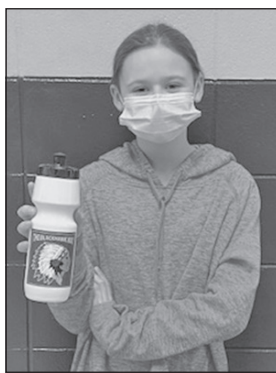
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Card Shower

Join us in celebrating the 90th birthday of Dorothy Montgomery on December 31!

Dorothy Montgomery
P. O. Box 231
Winslow, IL 61089

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SUBMITTED PHOTOS The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Students display the Blackhawk Way

Each month Stockton Middle School students are recognized for going above and beyond to display the Blackhawk Way expectations. These students have been nominated for special acts of being respectful, responsible and safe. Pictured above from left to right are, eighth-grader Dillon McIntosh, seventh-grader Ally Haas, sixth-grader Dionne McIntosh and fifth-grader Roni Drane.

December donations benefit food pantries, local farmers

Jo Daviess Local Foods, an online farmers' market, is offering a "Farm to Food Pantry" program this month. Customers may donate money on the website, and that money will pay local farmers for fresh vegetables which will go to food pantries in Jo Daviess County.

"All donations will benefit both local farmers and local families in need," a news release said.

If you have not used the JDLF website before, you will first need to register for a free account at <https://jd.luluslocalfood.com>. Then to donate, go to the "Shop" page and use the Producer drop-down menu to search for "Farm to Food Pantry."

JDLF currently has 27 producers selling a variety of products all locally grown or made in the area: pasture-raised meat, free-range chicken eggs, heirloom grains, organic vegetables and herbs, local honey, healthy snacks, canned goods, natural skin-care products, baked goods, flowers, gifts and more. Customers order online, and they can choose home delivery or one of the eight pickup locations.

For more information, contact Erin Keyser at jdlocalfoods@gmail.com or 815-990-5374.

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Farmers choose two for county committee

Dean Groezinger of Elizabeth was elected recently to represent local administrative area #3 on the Farm Service Agency County Committee.

Dennis Steffes of Stockton will be the first alternate with Benjamin Lehman of Hanover serving as the second alternate.

"County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA," Cory Cassens, FSA county executive director, said in a news release. "They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers."

The new committee members will take office in January, joining existing members Ann Heller of Galena and Rod Rogers of Stockton. Every FSA office is required to have a County Committee, and they are made up of local farmers who are elected by local farmers.

Nearly 7,800 FSA County Committee members serve FSA offices nationwide. Committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

For more information, go online to fsa.usda.gov/elections or contact the Jo Daviess County FSA office at 815-858-3418, extension 102.

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency PY21 LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) for the LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Assistance Program for income eligible households of Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties who are homeowners and whose existing heating systems are not functioning or have been red-tagged by their utility.

The purpose of the LIHEAP Furnace program is to restore heat to the household and is available from July 27th, 2020 through April 30, 2021 or until funds are exhausted.

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

To qualify for the LIHEAP Emergency Furnace Program, the household must first apply and be approved for LIHEAP or PIPP assistance. Please call the office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to receive an application packet. All applications will be taken by mail, email, phone or fax in response to COVID-19.

Family Size	Income Guidelines:	
	DVP 30 Day Income	PIPP 30 Day Income
1	\$2,127	\$1,595
2	\$2,873	\$2,155
3	\$3,620	\$2,715
4	\$4,367	\$3,275
5	\$5,113	\$3,835
For each additional person add \$747		For each additional person add \$560

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

- Social Security Cards for all members of the household. **No other document is accepted as proof of social security number.**
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days which includes the application date such as pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD current benefit letters, pension/retirement statements, child support, unemployment reports, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance notices, self employment reports, and proof of zero income
- Complete current heat and electric bills
- Medical Card from Illinois Department of Human Services
- Copy of real estate tax bill
- Copy of warranty deed, contract for deed, or quit claim deed (all of these must be stamped and registered with the county clerk); or Copy of current mortgage statement; or Copy of the original title if your home is a mobile home.

The office is closed to the public and outreach appointments are suspended until further notice.

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

387136



SUBMITTED PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

A new chapter for reading night

A Stockton Elementary School student reads with his dad as part of the school's first-ever Stay at Home Family Reading Night recently. Students and families were encouraged to make reading time unique and fun by doing things such as dressing up as book characters or reading in a blanket fort.

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency PY21 LIHEAP, PIPP, and Weatherization Assistance Programs

Assistance available for gas, propane, and electric bills

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to assist residents of Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties with home heating utility costs (gas, propane, electric) through the Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) and Weatherization Programs.

The LIHEAP and PIPP programs for Program year 2021 began on July 27, 2020 and will end on June 30, 2021. **All income eligible households are eligible to apply beginning July 27, 2020.** Households affected by loss of income due to COVID-19 are encouraged to apply.

Applicants may apply for a DVP payment or the PIPP program. The Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) is a one time payment to gas or propane and electric utilities. Applicants with ComEd and/or Nicor Gas as utility providers may have the option of choosing the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) instead of the DVP. The PIPP program is a bill payment program that assists eligible customers by paying a monthly state benefit while the customer pays a percentage of their household income. PIPP applications will be taken on a first-come first served basis until March 31, 2021 or until funding is exhausted.

Please call the office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to receive an application packet. **All applications will be taken by mail, email, phone or fax in response to COVID-19.**

Family Size	Income Guidelines:	
	DVP 30 Day Income	PIPP 30 Day Income
1	\$2,127	\$1,595
2	\$2,873	\$2,155
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5	\$5,113	\$3,835
For each additional person add \$747		For each additional person add \$560

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

- Social Security Cards for all members of the household. **No other document is accepted as proof of social security number.**
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days which includes the application date such as pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD current benefit letters, pension/retirement statements, child support, unemployment reports, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance notices, self employment reports, and proof of zero income
- Complete current heat and electric bills and disconnect notices you may have received.
- Medical Card from Illinois Department of Human Services
- Copy of current lease or rent receipt
- Proof of Homeownership (Title for Mobile Homes) and tax bill are required for weatherization assistance.

The office is closed to the public and outreach appointments are suspended until further notice.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

I am writing this early and sending it in to my publisher. It is the last day of nice weather before some kind of precipitation and cold weather sets in. When you walk with a cane or walker, snow, ice and even rain is a challenge. I plan on having everything I need, so I can stay home, look at my Christmas decorations and listen to Christmas music. I plan on doing some baking this week. Later in the column there are several cookie recipes. I hope you enjoy the recipes this week. There is a nice winter salad, good sides, a main dish and some Christmas "goodies."

Perfect Winter Salad

You can serve this salad with your holiday meal or have it for lunch the next day with cubed turkey, ham or chicken on top. The recipe serves a lot of people, so use enough salad greens for one serving and along with half the apples, dried fruit, nuts and onions, use one-half of the dressing. With the saved greens for lunch the next day, add the apples, dried fruit, nuts and onions for the next salad. Hint: To keep apples from turning brown, put them in a bowl and cover them with lemon-lime soda. For diabetics, use diet lemon lime soda.

- 1/4 C. mayonnaise
- 1/4 C. maple syrup
- 3 T. white wine vinegar
- 2 T. minced onion
- 2 t. sugar

- 1/2 C. canola oil
 - 2 pkg. (5 oz. each) spring mix salad greens
 - 2 medium tart apples, thinly sliced
 - 1 C. dried cranberries or cherries
 - 1 C. pecan halves
 - 1/4 C. thinly sliced red onion
- In a small bowl, mix the first five ingredients; gradually whisk in oil until blended. Refrigerate, covered, until serving. To serve, place remaining ingredients in a large glass bowl; toss with dressing.

Creamy Mac 'N Cheese with Corn

If you are looking for a different side for Christmas dinner or New Year's Day, this macaroni and cheese will be a change from mashed potatoes. It also has corn in it, so you do have a vegetable most kids will love.

- 1 lb. elbow macaroni
- 3 C. frozen corn
- 4 T. unsalted butter
- 1/4 C. minced green onions
- 2 T. minced fresh garlic
- 1/4 C. flour
- 5 C. whole milk, warmed
- 8 oz. sharp yellow cheddar shredded
- 8 oz. American cheese, shredded
- 1 T. Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook macaroni and corn in a pot of boiling salted water according to macaroni's package directions; drain. In a saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Add onions and garlic; cook until onions soften (about three minutes). Increase heat to medium high; whisk in flour and cook one minute. Whisk in milk until smooth; bring to a boil, then reduce heat to medium and simmer sauce until thickened, three to four minutes. Reduce heat to low. Add cheeses by the handful, whisking after each addition until melted. Stir in Dijon; season sauce with salt, pepper and cayenne. Stir in macaroni and corn.

Kale and Wild Rice Casserole

If you are up for a more traditional side for the holidays, this casserole will go great with turkey or ham. You can substitute button mushrooms if you can't find creminis. You can also substitute mozzarella for the Gruyere cheese. It will have a different flavor, but it is good if you don't have the Gruyere.

- 3 T. olive oil
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cremini mushrooms, sliced
- 1 C. chopped yellow onion
- 1 T. minced fresh garlic
- 2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. crushed red pepper
- 8 C. chopped and stemmed kale (about 1 large bunch)
- 1/4 C. flour
- 2 C. chicken broth
- 1 1/2 C. half-and-half
- 2 1/2 C. cooked wild rice
- 1 C. shredded Gruyere cheese

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a 2-quart baking dish with cooking spray. In a large nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add mushrooms, garlic, onion, salt and red pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is softened, about 10 minutes. Add kale in batches, stirring until wilted after each addition. Stir in flour, cook for one minute. Gradually add broth and half-and-half, and cook, about five minutes. Stir in rice and half of cheese. Spoon mixture in prepared pan. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake until bubbly and cheese is melted, about 25 minutes. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Roast Beef Pasta Skillet

Some people serve beef for holiday dinners. If you have leftover beef and don't want to make hot beef sandwiches, this dinner is perfect. You dress it up with Parmesan cheese and tomatoes. This recipe is for two people; you can easily double it for four.

- 1 C. uncooked spiral pasta
- 1/2 C. chopped onion
- 1 t. olive oil
- 1 t. butter
- 1 C. cubed cooked roast beef

- 1 t. pepper
- 1/2 C. chopped tomato
- 1/2 C. grated Parmesan cheese

Cook pasta according to package directions. As pasta is cooking, in a skillet, sauté onion in oil and butter until tender. Add roast beef and pepper; heat through. Drain pasta; add to beef. Stir in tomato and cheese.

Orange-Date Bread

Many people this year are giving food as presents. If you are looking for a great bread that you can give as a gift, this tasty bread is one that you can make ahead and freeze. Be sure you wrap it up securely after it has cooled. I double wrap my breads.

- 1 egg
- 2 T. butter, softened
- 1 C. sugar
- 2 large oranges, zested and juiced
- 1/3 C. boiling water
- 1 t. vanilla
- 2 C. flour
- 1 t. baking powder
- 1 t. baking soda
- 3/4 t. salt
- 1 C. dates, pitted and chopped
- 1/2 C. chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350. Grease and flour a 5-by-9-inch loaf pan. Beat egg lightly, then beat in butter and sugar until smooth. Stir in 1 T. orange zest, 2/3 C. orange juice, the boiling water and vanilla. Stir together the flour, baking powder, soda and salt in another bowl. Stir in dates and walnuts. Add flour mixture to egg mixture; stir to moisten. Spoon into prepared loaf pan.

Bake until a toothpick inserted near the center comes out clean, about one hour. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Transfer bread to a wire rack to cool completely.

Spicy Pretzels

My friend from Tulsa sent this recipe to me. You can use it as an appetizer or snack. Her family loves these, and her son, Carl, who lives in Winnetka, serves these at an open house in his high-end neighborhood. They love them.

- 1 lb. bag small pretzel knots
- 1 dry Hidden Valley Ranch mix (3 T.)
- 1/2 t. lemon pepper

- 1/2 t. cayenne pepper
- 1/2 t. garlic powder
- 3/4 C. Wesson oil

Mix oil and all spices in a gallon Ziploc bag; add the pretzels and shake in the Ziploc until oil is gone and mix is used up. (My friend just keeps turning the bag over every time she walks through the kitchen.)

Toffee Chip Thins

If you take the best features from a lot of your favorite recipes, you will create this sweet, crisp cookie. It makes a great change from the traditional Christmas cookies.

- 1/2 C. butter, softened
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 2 C. graham cracker crumbs (about 12 squares)
- 3/4 C. flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 2 C. semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 C. toffee or almond brickle chips
- 1 1/2 C. flaked coconut

Preheat oven to 375. In a mixing bowl, combine butter and condensed milk; mix well. In a separate bowl, combine cracker crumbs, flour and baking powder, gradually add to the butter mixture. Stir in chocolate chips, toffee bits and coconut. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart onto greased baking sheets. Bake at 375 for 10 to 12 minutes or until edges are lightly browned. Cool for two minutes before removing from wire racks.

Chocolate Thumbprints

For a change of pace, these chocolate thumbprints taste just as good as the regular thumbprints. You can use chopped walnuts instead of pecans if you wish.

- 1/2 C. butter, softened
 - 2/3 C. sugar
 - 1 egg, separated
 - 2 T. milk
 - 1 t. vanilla
 - 1 C. flour
 - 1/3 C. baking cocoa
 - 1/4 t. salt
 - 1 C. finely chopped pecans
- Filling:
1/2 C. powdered sugar

See KITCHEN, Page 13

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Slices of life

Harboring hope for a future filled with hugs and handshakes

Imagine if you would: Without warning, and quite against your free-will, you find yourself traveling to another dimension. It is a dimension of sight and sound and mind. It lies between the pit of our fears and the summit of our knowledge. It came quietly and is invisible, yet deadly. It knows nothing of the norms of regular society but creates its own rules. It is both ruthless and relentless; no one is safe. You are moving into a land of shadows and substance, of life and death.

This happens quickly. Before you realize where you are, you are someplace never before imagined. You look for a way back, but there seems to be no exit.

The only way forward is the signpost up ahead. Your next stop: the COVID Zone.

You look around and see things have changed. Everyone has changed. Every aspect of life has changed.

It's hard to tell friends from foes. People have most of their faces covered. Smiling with your eyes has taken on new meaning. Seeing someone's mouth move as they speak is impossible. Lipstick sales have plummeted and everyone's hair is at least 2 inches longer than you remember it being — before.

We've learned, the hard way, Q-tips aren't just for ears anymore. Our noses know this firsthand. Ouch.

Reality includes a new term — “social distancing.” You find yourself longing for hugs, handshakes and high-fives, but they no longer exist. Things you never used to give a second thought — sanitizing gel, bleach and toilet paper — are sought-after commodities.

Some stores no longer accept cash. How did COVID create a national coin shortage? A penny for your thoughts on that.

In many places, at-home gatherings are limited to small numbers.



By
**JILL
PERTLER**
Contributor

Large families were forced to spend Thanksgiving apart. No one needed a 25-pound turkey this year. Birthday parties no longer require candles. Blowing them out is out of the question and a memory from the past.

Most large public gatherings are deemed forbidden and unsafe. Weddings and funerals have been canceled, postponed or never planned at all. These life events used to mean reconnecting with loved ones, sharing joy and sorrow and finding closure in a loss. That's no longer possible in many cases, and it hurts.

Churches, restaurants, beauty salons and more have often paid the price in this new COVID Zone.

The home is the new hub. Children attend school there. Parents work there, often wearing too many hats to mention. Tensions can run high. Teachers are feeling themselves pulled in directions never before known. They struggle to make distance learning effective, successful and fun. (God bless our teachers!)

Hospitals overflow with patients and are running out of room. Medical staff — other true heroes of this surreal COVID Zone — engage in literal combat every day and have seen the reality of this disease like no others. (God bless the medical community!)

People are suffering, and not just from the disease. They are lonely. They are depressed. They are ill with other ailments and have to

See **HOPE**, Page 6



Next ag secretary has a lot on his plate

By Anna Johnson
CENTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS

For almost 50 years, the Center for Rural Affairs has been a leading force in standing up for the family farmer and rancher, small business owner and rural communities.

We look forward to working with former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack; President-Elect Joe Biden; and the new USDA leadership as they listen to and work with rural Americans. On Dec. 10, Vilsack was officially nominated for the next secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All Cabinet appointees, including secretary of agriculture, must be confirmed by the Senate. He served in the position under President Obama.

We urge the new administration to take strong stances in support of rural America. First, strong financial and administrative support is needed for the Conservation Stewardship Program, USDA's leading working lands conservation program. We also urge the new administration to support rural entrepreneurship and rural microenterprises, and enact policies that level the playing field for beginning, small and mid-sized farmers. Finally, we urge the new administration to engage with small meat processors, and work to address the significant processing bottlenecks that are preventing many small livestock producers from being able to sell their meat.

Through USDA's wide diversity of programs that can impact rural communities, we hope to see increased support for communities that are struggling economically.

We believe the Center for Rural Affairs and the new administration have the same goal in mind: establish genuine opportunity for all in rural communities, leading to a bright and vibrant future.

Anna Johnson is the policy manager at the Center for Rural Affairs, a private, non-profit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches and rural communities through action-oriented programs addressing social, economic and environmental issues.



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SUPPLEMENTS

Dental care is safe and essential during COVID-19

By Eric Larson
ILLINOIS STATE DENTAL SOCIETY
The patients calling into our dental offices are understandably nervous. They ask important questions: What will my visit be like during COVID-19? Will I be safe?
Fortunately, we have been ready for these challenging times for many years.

All across Illinois, dental offices are welcoming patients back for care they put off this spring when coronavirus forced them to shutter to all but emergency treatment. As cases surge again this fall and government officials put in necessary restrictions, our message is clear: Dental care is safe, essential and must continue because it is a valuable part of our individual and collective public health.

In the early 1980s, the emergence of HIV and AIDS forced all health care providers to take extra precautions — especially in dental offices, where potential exposure from the nature of the oral care we provide is highest. Detailed infection prevention strategies were developed, our staffs and dentists went through comprehensive training and education and we embraced safety

standards by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Today, the protective masks, gloves and gowns we have been wearing all this time and the strict attention to cleaning and disinfecting has become commonplace in health care facilities as we all fight this insidious disease.

While our dental offices closed for a few weeks initially, both our industry experts and government officials agree it's not only misguided to consider seeing the dentist a safety or health care risk as the pandemic continues, it does more harm to skip such care.

Put simply, our mouths are a window to our entire body's health. When our mouths and gums are healthy, we see the benefits. But when we let our oral health suffer, even if we do not notice any obvious signs of problems, they are sure to



Eric Larson

develop. Chipped or cracked teeth, cavities and sore or bleeding gums can lead to many larger issues. If oral infection spreads throughout the body, research has shown it can contribute to dementia, heart disease and other life-threatening health challenges.

Not only can minor dental issues become major ones over time, they also are sure to be more costly to fix.

In implementing infection prevention and control guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we have stepped up during the pandemic to show patients we are serious about their safety and health. When you call to set up an appointment, you're asked detailed health questions and again when you arrive. We have you call before you come in the office for your appointment, wear your mask and take your temperature. Patients wait in their vehicles or in our socially distanced waiting rooms that no longer have toys or magazines but plenty of hand sanitizer — all to put safety first.

Even in the dental chair you notice the difference. Our dentists and assistants have even more masks, gloves and other coverings to reduce

exposure. We thoroughly scrub down chairs, utensils and other equipment before and after each visit. We have developed a purchasing program through the Illinois State Dental Society to ensure our members have adequate supplies of personal protective equipment to keep everyone safe and healthy.

A summer survey of dentists nationally by the American Dental Association found our efforts are working, as fewer than 1 percent of

dentists had contracted the virus. A recent ADA article noted the CDC reports there have been no documented cases of COVID-19 transmission in a clinical dental setting.

Dental care is safe. Dental care is essential. And dental care should be here to stay throughout the pandemic. Our public health depends on it.

Eric Larson is executive director of the Illinois State Dental Society in Springfield.

• Hope (Continued from page 5)

choose between treatment and isolation or ignoring their symptoms in order to stay with family. I know this truth firsthand. Some are dying alone. The only thing worse than dying, is dying alone.

Not everything about the COVID Zone has been negative.

We've reconnected as families. We've rediscovered meals together and cooking from scratch. Many of us have mastered yeast, and not the infectious kind. In some cases we

can no longer go to restaurants, but food delivery has become easier and more accessible.

Curbside pick-up for groceries is the new catchall, end-all. We stay at home and do more than ever before. Shopping? Online. Seeing a doctor or therapist? Telemedicine is the new black. Worship? That's online, too. We've become a culture that doesn't need human contact to survive; yet I believe we are a culture that requires human contact to

survive.

I'm rooting for a future that includes hugs, handshakes, high-fives and the human race. Game on, COVID Zone. I'm searching the horizon for an exit ramp and plan to take the first one I see.

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

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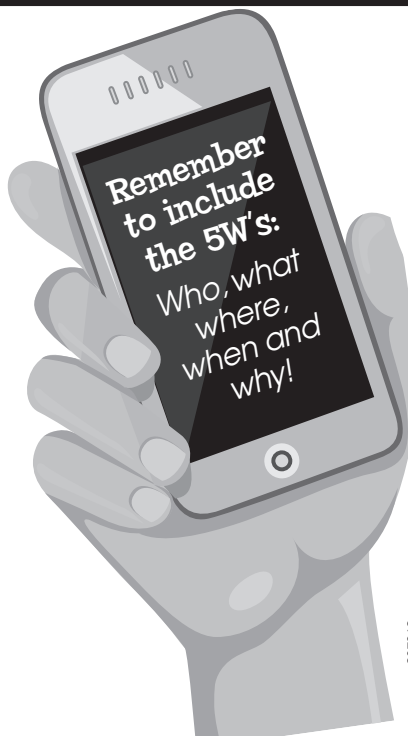
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Brush correctly to avoid tooth sensitivity

By Dr. Stephen Petras

Many people experience sharp, temporary pain in their teeth when they eat or drink cold or hot foods and beverages. This may also occur when consuming acidic beverages, very spicy or sweet foods and when they brush their teeth.

There are many reasons why teeth become sensitive. As with any health issue, healing requires diagnosis and treatment of the cause rather than the symptoms. Some of the many causes of tooth hypersensitivity include worn or damaged enamel, decay, fractured or chipped teeth, damaged fillings, loose crowns, exposed roots and gum disease. If you have sensitive teeth, the first step to recovery is to visit your dentist.

Underneath the outer protective layer of the crown of your tooth, called the enamel, and the outer protective layer of the tooth root, called the cementum, is a porous layer called the dentin. When the enamel and/or cementum is worn away or damaged, the tiny pores in the now exposed dentin transport heat, cold, changes in air pressure and other negative stimuli to the nerves, causing sudden and acute pain.

Some of the ways enamel can be worn away is by regular consumption of sugary and/or acidic beverages and foods, grinding and clenching your teeth, not brushing and flossing regularly, exposed roots, decay, gum disease and bleaching your teeth. While brushing your teeth is a prerequisite for healthy teeth, it may surprise you to know that overly aggressive brushing is a common cause of tooth hypersensitivity. Many people mistakenly believe that you have to brush extremely hard to remove plaque and only a hard-bristled brush will do it effectively. Plaque is soft. It only becomes hard when it is not removed regularly and mixes with minerals to form calculus. Brushing too hard can actually wear away your enamel.

The formula for thorough plaque removal is proper technique plus time (two minutes, twice a day). Use a soft bristled brush, place it at a 45-degree angle to the gumline and use soft, short strokes, applying just enough pressure to feel the bristles against the gums. If you are using enough pressure to squish the bristles or aggressively sawing them back and forth, you are going to hurt your enamel and/or gums. Your

dentist and hygienist can assist you by evaluating your brushing and flossing technique. Do not use a toothbrush with worn bristles as these can damage your enamel. Do not brush immediately after eating as some foods and beverages, especially carbonated/acidic beverages, can weaken your enamel. Rinse well with fluoridated tap water and wait at least 20 minutes before you brush. Always brush twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste. The second time should be right before you go to bed. This is crucial, as you make less saliva at night. If brushing with cold water hurts use warm water, but do not stop brushing your teeth because they are sensitive. Without that protective layer of enamel, decay will spread aggressively.

Depending on the cause, location and extent of damage, you may require desensitizing toothpaste, fluoride treatments, a mouthguard, sealants, bonding or other restorations, periodontal therapy, root canal therapy or even extractions. In short, prevention and early intervention can help you to avoid a lot of pain.

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



SUBMITTED PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Digging into agronomy knowledge

River Ridge FFA member Charlie Schnitzler participates in the recent virtual agronomy career development event hosted by Warren High School. River Ridge placed second among the 10 participating schools. In addition, several River Ridge students placed in the top 10: Conner Tippet, fourth; Schnitzler, sixth; Trevor Grube, seventh; Avery Engle, ninth; and Arthur Horn, 10th. The competition sections of the CDE included a written test on soils, identifying crop seeds, identifying weeds that grow in Illinois and identifying 55 different types of agriculture machines and tools.

Clinic, hospital adjust visitor policy

Officials at Monroe Clinic and Hospital put new visiting policies in effect Dec. 9.

"We will continue to adjust our policies and make decisions rooted in safeguarding and caring for our patients, visitors, caregivers and the community at large," a news release said.

Hospital visitor policy

Hospital visits are suspended at Monroe Clinic. Visitors over 18 years of age may still be allowed in some circumstances:

- Compassionate care exceptions may be made in end-of-life situations or when a visitor is essential for the patient's emotional well-being and care.
- Family Birth/Women's Center patients will be allowed one support person for the duration of their stay, with permission of the administrative supervisor.
- Pediatric patients will be allowed one visitor per stay, with permission of the administrative supervisor.

If a visitor is allowed, then the following must be followed:

- Visitors must bring their own food, beverages and comfort items, as move-

ment throughout the building is not allowed.

- Visitors may only enter the building one time per day. Once a visitor leaves, they will not be permitted to return until the following day.
- Visitors will be asked to complete a health screening, including a temperature check, before entering Monroe Clinic facilities.
- Visitors are always required to maintain social distancing and cover their nose and mouth with a face covering while on-site. This is without exception.
- Anyone with a positive exposure to COVID-19 or elevated temperature will not be allowed entry without approval by the administrative supervisor.

Clinic visitor policy

The clinic visitor policy remains the same as it has been since Nov. 4: Patients are not allowed to have a visitor accompany them for in-clinic appointments.

One accompanying visitor may still be allowed for pediatric patients and for patients whose cognitive, physical

or emotional abilities make a visitor an essential part of caring for the patient. If either criteria are met, then the visitor will be screened before being allowed to proceed to the visit with the patient.

For continued Monroe Clinic updates, go online to monroeclinic.org/coronavirus.



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Order period opens for annual tree sale

The Stephenson County Soil and Water Conservation District annual tree sale is underway. Each year the district sells bare root tree, evergreen and shrub seedlings to increase efforts to provide energy conservation and/or habitat cover for wildlife.

The deadline to order is March 10. Several new species have been added to the sale this year, including Douglas fir, persimmon, Chinkapin oak, black maple and black elderberry.

Evergreens available include Douglas fir, white pine, Norway spruce, white spruce, Colorado blue spruce and American arborvitae (white cedar).

Deciduous trees available include persimmon, black walnut, quaking aspen, shagbark hickory, white oak, burr oak, Chinkapin oak, swamp white oak and black maple.

Shrubs available include black

elderberry, red osier dogwood and highbush cranberry.

Additional items for sale include marking flags, Plantskydd Animal Repellent, tree mats, tree tubes, tree stakes, bat houses, blue bird houses and wood duck houses.

Tree order pickup is scheduled for Thursday, April 15, at Stephenson County Fairgrounds in Freeport. Those who order trees will receive a reminded postcard to confirm the pickup date, time and location.

Order forms are available in the entryway at the district office or can be printed from the SWCD website by going online to www.stephenson-swcd.org.

Order and payment must be mailed or dropped off in the box marked "NRCS/SWCD located in the entryway at the Stephenson SWCD office, 1620 S. Galena Ave., Freeport IL 61032.

Briefs

Edler graduates with medical laboratory science degree

Rachel Edler of Lena is one of more than 1,700 fall graduates of Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Edler earned a bachelor of science degree in medical laboratory science and graduated with magna cum laude honors.

Commencement videos and "commencement in a box" packages delivered to each graduate took the place of the traditional Dec. 12 graduation ceremonies, which were canceled because of COVID-19.

Freeport group: Small business needs support

Members of the Downtown Freeport Events Group are urging area residents to shop small for the holidays.

"During these very difficult and troubling times, so many small businesses are struggling with sales and operating expenses," a news release said. "Now is the time to support these small businesses. They are your friends, neighbors and leaders in your communities. They are the ones that give back to the nonprofits, churches, schools and fundraisers."

As the largest shopping area in Stephenson County, downtown Freeport is home to more than 200 businesses, the release said.

Red Cross blood drive set for Jan. 4

The American Red Cross is hosting a blood drive in Freeport from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4. The event will be held at the Harmony United Methodist Church, 2600 W. Pearl City Road.

To make an appointment to donate, go online to red-crossblood.org, call 800-733-2767 or enable the blood donor skill on any Alexa Echo device.

Make orders now for Christmas dinner pickup

St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City will be providing a Community Christmas Day Dinner with ham, turkey, the trimmings and homemade pie. All meals will be curbside pickup only on Christmas Day, with no inside dining.

For reservations, call 815-443-2215 or email prshadmin@gmail.com.

com by Monday, Dec. 21.

Orders may be picked up between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Christmas Day at St. John's Lutheran Church, 229 S. First St.

The meal is sponsored by the Pearl City community and St. John's Lutheran Church.

Lena students qualify for fall dean's list honors

Kara Kalkbrenner of Lena was named to the fall semester dean's list at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must have been enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student and must have attained a semester GPA of 3.50 or higher on a 4.00 grading scale. Olivet Nazarene University is a Christian liberal arts university.

Ethan Kleckler has been named to the fall semester dean's list at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin.

A minimum 3.5 GPA is required for academic eligibility. St. Norbert is a four-year, Catholic liberal arts college.

• Funds (Continued from front page)

Since then, the Pritzker administration has set up a number of grant programs that have been funded with CARES Act money. Those have included the Business Interruption Grant, or BIG, program for businesses that were forced to close or reduce operations during the initial stay-at-home order, a separate BIG program for child care facilities, financial aid for homeowners and renters, and a reimbursement program for local governments to cover their COVID-19 expenses.

The BIG program received \$270 million, of which \$168 million has been paid out to more than 6,300 small businesses across the state, according to the governor. The grant application process closed Dec. 15.

The program for local governments, known as the Local Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency, or Local CURE program, is one area where the state has had difficulty finding applicants. During his daily COVID-19 briefing Thursday, Pritzker noted that only \$147 million of the \$250 million available had been paid out so far. He said that money went to 688 cities, towns, counties and local health departments.

"However, hundreds of local governments have yet to take steps they need to register for this program and we encourage them to do so soon so that together we can ensure that no

federal dollars are left on the table and every community has access to economic support," he said.

In addition, Sturm said, agencies throughout state government have incurred costs for additional cleaning and sanitizing of facilities, overtime costs, workspace hazard mitigations such as setting up plastic shields, purchasing PPE for employees and buying equipment so employees could work remotely.

Sturm said the federal government is not requiring that all of the funds be "out the door" by Dec. 30, but all of the goods purchased with the money and all of the services the state contracts for have to be delivered by that time.

Meanwhile, however, the COVID-19 pandemic has not abated, and in fact the entire country is going through another surge of the disease that has been more severe than the initial wave in the spring, but Congress so far has been unable to agree on another relief package.

One bipartisan group in Congress recently unveiled a compromise plan that included some financial aid for state and local governments, a top priority for Democrats, as well as a limited liability shield to protect businesses from lawsuits by employees who contract the disease, a top priority for Republicans.

Continuing talks over that proposal, however, so far have not produced a deal, opening the possibility that no additional federal aid will be forthcoming at least until President-elect Joe Biden's administration takes office in January.

Asked whether such a delay would hamper the state's response efforts, Pritzker said Illinois probably has enough PPE stockpiled to last about 60 days while local health departments have enough for about 30 days.

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• Coffey (Continued from front page)

Coffey moved up from being a Second Team All-Conference selection in 2019 to being selected First Team All-Conference this fall and qualifying to play at the sectional competition.

"Each year, he (Coffey) improved by spending more time at the course," said Kenna, who also teaches English at the high school. "The key was he wanted to be better."

Kenna said golf can test the mind and Coffey exemplifies the characteristics it takes to be successful at the game.

"Golf is at first a skills game, but it quickly becomes mental," Kenna said. "If you can get on top of the mental challenges, the game gets easier, but never easy."

"Mitchel has improved significantly in the past two years, but the most exciting part of his game is his potential to keep improving."

He explained that Coffey can reach his full potential if he stays on track, saying, "With the right coaching from here and the commitment to improvement, he could become quite skilled."

Coffey knows that improvement is ongoing.

"I think that my short game is decent but there can always be improvements," he said. "Personally, I think I can hit a ball pretty far, but the key is to hit it straight."

Although basketball is a much different game, Coffey exemplifies the same characteristics on the court as he does on the course. John Hamman, Stockton's athletic director and varsity boys' head coach, shared many of the same compliments as Kenna when discussing Coffey's desire to improve.

"Mitchel's work ethic has definitely helped him improve his game over the years," Hamman said. "He is constantly in the gym working on his shot and his overall game."

"Mitchel has also really bought into the weight room to help him gain strength to compete in the post."

It was important for Coffey to develop that strength, as his growth spurt took him from being a 5-foot-9-inch guard to being a 6-foot-4-inch player down in the post.

"I think the area he has improved the most on is his versatility," Hamman said. "When he came to our program, he was strictly a shooter. Over the years, he has worked on his ball handling, and most importantly, his



Stockton High School senior Mitchel Coffey, center, signed a letter of intent recently to play college golf and basketball. Those pictured include Stockton golf coach Casey Kenna, left, and Stockton basketball coach John Hamman, right.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HAMMAN *Shopper's Guide*

post skills.

"For a guard to be able to go into the post is a big advantage, and Mitchel has worked hard to be a diverse player."

"Freshman year I was a better three-point shooter than I am now, only because I had that consistency for so long," Coffey said. "I got moved into some posts last year and being able to work on the inside, I would think, is a lot harder to do than it is to shoot threes. It really helps make some diversity in my game."

Hamman explained that it is Coffey's diversity that makes him so tough to guard.

"Mitchel's best attribute on the basketball court is his ability to shoot. He is a terrific shooter, especially from outside," Hamman said. "Mitchel's length is also a good benefit to his game. He is a tough matchup for whoever is guarding him."

"If a guard is on Mitch, he can take him to the post. If a big man is guarding him, Mitch can step outside."

Coffey's ability to be cohesive and create mismatches on the court allowed Hamman to be creative with his system and to attack opponents' weaknesses.

Ready for challenge

Coffey visited Clarke University several times, in addition to visiting other schools, before deciding to commit to the university, Nick Coffey said.

"I really liked talking to the golf coach, Adam. He is a really nice guy, and he is really straight forward," the younger Coffey said. "The bigger thing is that not having a senior year for the basketball side of things, I'm getting an opportunity for that too."

"They were able to see me for golf and give me a shot for that, but the

fact that I can get a shot for basketball without having my senior year, it's a thriller."

Coffey knows there are some who might doubt his abilities, but he's ready to take on challenges at the college level, both as a computer science major and as an athlete.

"Even going back to middle school, there was always adults, and even kids, that were like, 'You can't do that.' There are just people in front of you telling you that you can't do it, and playing two sports, it's more people saying you can't."

"It's all motivation and drive at that point."

New treasurer joins economic development group

Amiee (Martelle) Schoenhaar has joined the board of Northwest Illinois Economic Development. A Savanna resident, Schoenhaar is the CEO, CFO and COO of Riverport Railroad and also serves as treasurer of the Savanna Chamber of Commerce.



Amiee Schoenhaar

Schoenhaar will serve as treasurer of NWLED, replacing Patrick Winders of East Dubuque, who has taken the role of secretary.

"We are looking toward to Amiee's joining the board and executive committee," NWLED Board Chairman William Jahnke said in a news release. "We look forward to her extensive business experience and accounting background towards shaping the organization as we move into 2021 and beyond."

Outgoing executive committee member Kathy Gable of Jo Daviess County Transit will continue to serve on the board.

Schoenhaar joins Jahnke of Lake Carroll, Vice Chairman Joseph Mattingley of Illinois Bank and Trust and Winders of East Dubuque, who were recently re-elected to the executive committee.

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378206

Illinois, D.C., others file anti-trust lawsuit against Facebook

By Raymon Troncoso
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul filed a lawsuit against Facebook Inc. on Dec. 9 as part of a coalition of 48 state attorneys general and top lawyers from U.S. territories.

In the 123-page complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the 48 states listed as plaintiffs allege that Facebook used illegal tactics to undercut competition "in the personal social networking market in the United States."

The states are asking the federal court to ban Facebook from continuing certain financial practices, restrain their ability to purchase other companies valued at \$10 million or more without notifying the plaintiff states and potentially restructure Facebook by removing assets the court determines were illegally obtained.

The Federal Trade Commission also has filed its own lawsuit against Facebook to "undo and prevent its anticompetitive conduct and unfair methods of competition in or affecting commerce."

"For nearly a decade, Facebook has profited tremendously by monetizing the personal information and online habits of users. Key to

its strategy has been impeding and eliminating any perceived competition, ensuring that users have no alternative to Facebook's platform," Raoul said in a news release.

"Facebook's ruthless anticompetitive practices have stifled innovation, harmed small businesses, and most importantly, reduced privacy protections and alternatives so that it could continue to earn billions of dollars at users' expense. I am joining my colleagues around the country to ask the court to end Facebook's monopoly and give consumers the choice and protections they deserve."

Key to both lawsuits filed against Facebook is its 2012 acquisition of the photo-sharing platform Instagram and its 2014 acquisition of the mobile messaging application WhatsApp. The FTC and states that are suing Facebook allege that the company tracked the metrics of start-ups in industries Facebook was interested in and offered to buy out the companies with offers far above their actual value, inflating the worth of those companies during acquisition and eliminating future competition that could hinder Facebook's growth.

Mentioned in the FTC lawsuit is Facebook's failed attempts to purchase Snapchat and Twitter, two

other now-large competitors, early in their development cycle in 2013 and 2008 respectively.

By purchasing competitors, collecting vast amounts of private information on their customers and freezing out third parties from accessing that data after they became reliant on Facebook, the company was able to establish an advertising monopoly in the social media-sphere, according to the two lawsuits.

While separate from the states' lawsuit against Facebook, the FTC's filing also calls for assets, such as Instagram and WhatsApp, to be removed from Facebook's holdings under existing anti-trust laws.

"Personal social networking is central to the lives of millions of Americans," FTC Bureau of Competition Director Ian Conner said in a release.

"Facebook's actions to entrench and maintain its monopoly denies consumers the benefits of competition. Our aim is to roll back Facebook's anticompetitive conduct and restore competition so that innovation and free competition can thrive."

Capitol News Illinois is a non-profit, nonpartisan news service covering state government.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 15TH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS -
GALENA, ILLINOIS
CAMA PLAN SDIRA LLC
FBO T130717-04;
Plaintiff,
vs.

KEITH KOUZMANOFF AKA
KEITH J. KOUZMANOFF;
VICKIE KOUZMANOFF;
UNKNOWN OWNERS AND
NON RECORD CLAIMANTS;
Defendants,

20 CH 40
NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby
given that pursuant to a Judg-
ment of Foreclosure entered
in the above entitled cause In-
tercounty Judicial Sales Cor-
poration will on Wednesday,
January 6, 2021, at the hour of
10:00 a.m. in the office of James
J. Nack, 106 North Main Street,
Galena, Illinois 61036, sell to
the highest bidder for cash, the
following described mortgaged
real estate:

LOT 9 AND 10 IN COURSE-
N'S LANDING FIRST
NORTH SUBDIVISION AS
LOCATED IN THE SOUTH-
EAST QUARTER OF SEC-
TION 9, TOWNSHIP 28
NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST
OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL
MERIDIAN, JO DAVIESS
COUNTY, ILLINOIS;
ACCORDING TO THE PLAT
THEREOF RECORDED NO-
VEMBER 15, 1978 AS DOCU-
MENT NO. 149517 IN PLAN
HOLD 2 OF PLATS, NO.
125-B. SITUATED IN THE
COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS
AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. 43-10-000-239-33 (old)
and 10-000-239-33 (new); 43-
10-000-239-36 (old) and 10-
000-239-36 (new).

Commonly known as 13447
Clipper Lane, Galena, IL 61036.

The improvement on the prop-
erty consists of a single family
residence. If the subject mortg-
gaged real estate is a unit of a
common interest community,
the purchaser of the unit other
than a mortgagee shall pay the
assessments required by sub-
section (g-1) of Section 18.5 of
the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by cer-
tified funds, balance within 24
hours, by certified funds. No
refunds.

The property will NOT be
open for inspection.

For information call Ms. Mary
E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney,
Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530
Lucerne Drive, Middleburg
Heights, OH 44130. (440) 572-

1512.
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SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
I3160552
(Published in The Scoop Today
Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 2020)
386003

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY -
GALENA, ILLINOIS
Illinois Bank and Trust
PLAINTIFF
Vs.

Rebecca Reitz; Penny Bailey;
Jami Lopp; Steven Stadel, as
Independent Executor of the
Estate of Bonnie K. Lopp;
Unknown Heirs and Legatees
of Bonnie K. Lopp; Unknown
Owners and Nonrecord
Claimants
DEFENDANTS

2020CH68

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
NOTICE IS GIVEN TO YOU:
Unknown Heirs and Legatees
of Bonnie K. Lopp
Unknown Owners and
Nonrecord Claimants

That this case has been com-
menced in this Court against
you and other defendants, pray-
ing for the foreclosure of a cer-
tain Mortgage conveying the
premises described as follows,
to-wit:

COMMONLY KNOWN AS:
418 Provost Ave Scales Mound,
IL 61075

and which said Mortgage was
made by:

Jerry R. Lopp
Bonnie K. Lopp
the Mortgagor(s), to Gale-
na State Bank & Trust Co., as
Mortgagee, and recorded in the
Office of the Recorder of Deeds
of Jo Daviess County, Illinois,
as Document No. 375885; and
for other relief; that summons
was duly issued out of said
Court against you as provided
by law and that the said suit is
now pending.

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

Kathy Phillips
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Jo Daviess County Courthouse
330 N. Bench Street
Galena, IL 61036

on or before January 8, 2021,
A DEFAULT MAY BE EN-
TERED AGAINST YOU AT
ANY TIME AFTER THAT
DAY AND A JUDGMENT
MAY BE ENTERED IN AC-
CORDANCE WITH THE

PRAYER OF SAID COM-
PLAINT.
CODILIS &
ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
15W030 North Frontage Road,
Suite 100
Burr Ridge, IL 60527
(630) 794-5300
DuPage # 15170
Winnebago # 531
Our File No. 14-20-05373
NOTE: This law firm is a debt
collector.
I3160741
(Published in The Scoop Today
Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2020)
386389

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE 15TH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT
STEPHENSON COUNTY -
FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
U.S. Bank Trust National
Association, not in its
individual capacity but solely
as owner trustee for REO Trust
2017-RPL1
PLAINTIFF
Vs.
Patti L. Pflaume; et. al.
DEFENDANTS

2020CH21

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S
SALE OF REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HERE-
BY GIVEN that pursuant to a
Judgment of Foreclosure and
Sale entered in the above cause
on 11/24/2020, the Sheriff of
Stephenson County, Illinois
will on January 21, 2021 at the
hour of 9:30 AM at Stephenson
County Courthouse 15 North
Galena Avenue 1st Floor, West
door of courthouse Freeport, IL
61032, or in a place otherwise
designated at the time of sale,
County of Stephenson and State
of Illinois, sell at public auction
to the highest bidder for cash, as
set forth below, the following
described real estate:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PROP-
ERTY SITUATED IN THE
CITY OF FREEPORT IN THE
COUNTY OF STEPHENSON,
AND STATE OF ILLINOIS
AND BEING DESCRIBED
IN A DEED DATED 07/26/79
AND RECORDED 08/02/79,
AMONG THE LAND RE-
CORDS OF THE COUNTY
AND STATE SET FORTH
ABOVE, AND REFERENCED
AS FOLLOWS:

BOOK 247 PAGE 1449.
THE FOLLOWING DE-
SCRIBED REAL ESTATE,
TO-WIT:

PART OF LOT 7 OF A SUB-
DIVISION OF THE SOUTH-
EAST FRACTIONAL QUAR-
TER OF FRACTIONAL

SECTION 25, TOWNSHIP 27
NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF
THE 4TH P.M. DESCRIBED
AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING
101.08 FEET WEST OF THE
SOUTHEAST CORNER OF
SAID LOT 7, WHICH COR-
NER IS 572.22 FEET WEST
OF THE SOUTHEAST COR-
NER OF THE SOUTH EAST,
FRACTIONAL QUARTER OF
SAID SECTION, AND RUN-
NING THENCE NORTH 138
FEET, THENCE WEST 63.22
FEET, THENCE SOUTH 138
FEET TO A POINT ON THE
SOUTH LINE OF SAID LOT
7, THENCE EAST 63.22 FEET
TO THE PLACE OF BEGIN-
NING.

EXCEPT FOR THAT POR-
TION CONVEYED TO THE
STATE OF ILLINOIS DE-
PARTMENT OF TRANSPOR-
TATION AS SET FORTH IN
THE WARRANTY DEED
RECORDED 08/23/1999 AS
DOCUMENT 9903182 AND
THE QUIT CLAIM DEED
RECORDED 08/23/1999
AS DOCUMENT NUMBER
9903183 IN THE OFFICE OF
THE STEPHENSON COUN-
TY RECORDER OF DEEDS.

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Relief Fund, which is calcu-
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\$1,000 or fraction thereof of the
amount paid by the purchaser
not to exceed \$300, in certified
funds, is due within twenty-four
(24) hours. 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 confirma-
tion by the court.

If the property is a condomini-
um and the foreclosure takes
place after 1/1/2007, purchasers
other than the mortgagees will
be required to pay any assess-
ment and legal fees due under
The Condominium Property
Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and
(g)(4).

If the property is located in a
common interest community,
purchasers other than mortgag-

ees will be required to pay any
assessment and legal fees due
under the Condominium Prop-
erty Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-
1).

If the sale is set aside for any
reason, the Purchaser at the
sale shall be entitled only to a
return of the deposit paid. The
Purchaser shall have no further
recourse against the Mortgagor,
the Mortgagee or the Mortgag-
ee's attorney.

Upon payment in full of the
amount bid, the purchaser shall
receive a Certificate of Sale,
which will entitle the purchas-
er to a Deed to the real estate
after Confirmation of the sale.
The successful purchaser has
the sole responsibility/expense
of evicting any tenants or other
individuals presently in posses-
sion of the subject premises.

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

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

For information: Examine the
court file or contact Plaintiff's
attorney: Codilis & Associates,
P.C., 15W030 North Frontage
Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL
60527, (630) 794-9876. Please
refer to file number 14-20-
02173.

I3160998

(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
Dec. 16, 23 & 30, 2020)

386746

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal residents of the
Town of Erin in the County of
Stephenson and State of Illinois,
that the ANNUAL MEETING
of said Town will take place
on Wednesday, December 30,
2020, being the fifth Wednesday
of said month.

The Town meeting for the
transaction of miscellaneous
business of said Town will be
held at the hour of 7 o'clock
P.M. on said day at Erin Town-
ship Building, 2699 N. Unity
Road, Lena, IL and a Moderator
having been elected, will pro-

Continued on next page

College looks to help students earn early childhood education degrees

In a joint effort to curb a shortage of early childhood educators in Illinois, Highland Community College and National Louis University in Chicago have finalized an agreement to connect their early childhood education programs.

"Through the articulation agreement, students completing their associate's degree in early childhood at HCC will have the opportunity able to seamlessly transition to the early childhood bachelor of arts programs of their choice at NLU," according to a news release.

NLU offers a variety of courses, including 100 percent online classes.

"I am delighted with this opportunity for our Highland district and community," said Melissa Johnson, coordinator for early childhood education. "It offers opportunities for our students that are working in the field to continue their education toward a bachelor's degree."

"Students will benefit from student-teacher field experiences, a core part of the National College of Education curriculum that will prepare them to positively impact their community upon graduation," the release states.

"We have also developed a 'growth-your-own' pathway for students beginning as juniors and seniors in high school," Johnson said. "Through the CareerTEC program, we have an early childhood program held at Highland for juniors and seniors."

For more information about early childhood education courses at Highland Community College, email Johnson at melissa.johnson@highland.edu.

Madigan floats income tax increase

By Sarah Mansur
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

As the state government attempts to close a multi-billion-dollar budget hole, Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan has said he is prepared to vote for an increase to the state's flat income tax rate should the governor request it — a proposal met with pushback from his Republican counterpart, House Minority Leader Jim Durkin.

The \$3.9 billion budget shortfall, projected by the state budget office, that lawmakers will confront this spring has gained an increasing sense of urgency with the defeat of the graduated income tax constitutional amendment at the ballot on Nov. 3.

Voters rejected the initiative that would have replaced the state's flat income tax with a graduated income tax, which was projected to raise revenues by more than \$3 billion annually.

The state's flat income tax rate is currently 4.95 percent. The rate has been 3.75 percent from 2015 to 2017, and it was 5 percent from 2011 to 2014.

The state budget office has projected budget deficits ranging from \$4.8 billion in 2022 and \$4.2 billion by fiscal year 2026, according to a report last month from the Governor's Office of Management and Budget.

That report attributed the sizable budget deficit largely to the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic that has forced many businesses to shut down and led to skyrocketing levels of unemployment.

Madigan's comments, reported by the Chicago Sun-Times, came during a speaker candidate forum of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus on Dec. 5.

Madigan, 78, has served as speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives every year since 1983, with the exception of 1995 to 1997, making his tenure the longest of any state House speaker in U.S. history.

But Madigan's support from his House Democratic caucus has splintered in recent months, following charges from federal prosecutors that allege high-ranking Commonwealth Edison officials bribed close members of Madigan's inner circle

for years with lucrative no-work jobs and contracts, in exchange for favorable energy legislation.

In making his pitch to House Black caucus members, Madigan said he will provide strong leadership that might be necessary if Gov. JB Pritzker asks the Illinois General Assembly to address the budget shortfall by raising the state income tax rate — a scenario Madigan described as "very possible," according to the Sun-Times' report, which was based on a recording of the closed candidate forum.

"I'm prepared to vote for that, presuming it's the governor's request," said Madigan, D-Chicago, according to the Sun-Times.

Pritzker dodged a question at his daily briefing Dec. 7 about Madigan's statement that he would support a tax hike endorsed by Pritzker.

"I'm focused on the cuts that need to be made in state government, making sure that we're paring back as best we can, making efficiencies in state government, looking to Republican and Democratic leaders as I already have and asking them for their best ideas about what it is that

See MADIGAN, Page 13

Birth

APRIL REED GARRIE

April Reed Garrie is the daughter of Kyle and Samantha Garrie of Forrester, Illinois, born on Dec. 10, 2020, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport, Illinois. April joins a sister, Audrey, 18 months.

Grandparents are Kelly and Roger Garrie of Byron, Illinois, and Dan and Melissa Jones of Winslow, Illinois. Great-grandparents are Bonnie and Larry Reed of Leighton, Alabama, and Joe and Mary Lou of Fish Creek, Wisconsin.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from previous page
ceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following: Roll Call; Consent Agenda; Public Comments; Financial Reports; Old and/or New Business; Miscellaneous & Announcements; Adjournment.

Dated at Erin Township, this 10th day of December, 2020.

Rescheduled from April due to COVID-19. Masks must be worn and social distancing will apply.

Jean M. Amendt
Town Clerk

(Published in
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•Madigan (Continued from page 12)

we need to cut in state government,” Pritzker said. “And I will say that I have not yet heard back from the leaders about what their best proposals are for what cuts need to be made. And so I’m awaiting their responses.”

On Dec. 8, Durkin, of Western Springs, called on Pritzker to release the spending cuts his administration requested from each agency leader last September. Pritzker made that request in an effort to reduce the state’s bill backlog, which was roughly \$7.3 billion, as of June 30, 2019. The bill backlog had reached about \$7.6 billion as of Dec. 8.

The September 2019 request by Pritzker’s administration asked each Cabinet director to submit budget proposals that would reflect a 6.5 percent spending cut.

This September, Pritzker warned state agency directors to prepare for a 5 percent budget reduction this year,

and a possible 10 percent cut in fiscal year 2022, which begins July 1.

When asked about whether Durkin has drafted his own proposed list of agency spending cuts, a spokesperson for Durkin said he has asked “repeatedly to begin by looking at this list of agency cuts.”

In his letter to Pritzker, Durkin said he asked the governor to release the agencies’ budgets reflecting a 6.5 percent cut when they spoke by phone last month.

“As of today, I have not received that document, and I am now asking again for the list of spending reductions by agency,” Durkin wrote. “Speaker Madigan has stated he will work with you on another tax increase, but I hope you will respect the will of the voters and instead look to live within our means.”

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

•Kitchen (Continued from page 4)

1 T. butter, softened

2 T. milk

¼ t. vanilla

26 chocolate kisses, unwrapped

Preheat oven to 350. In a mixing bowl, beat butter, sugar, egg yolk, milk and vanilla until light and fluffy. Combine flour, cocoa and salt in a separate bowl; gradually add to creamed mixture. Cover and chill one hour or until firm enough to roll into balls. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, lightly beat egg white and pour chopped pecans in another bowl. Shape dough into 1-inch balls; dip in egg white, then roll in nuts. Place on greased baking sheets. Make an indentation with your thumb in center of each cookie. Bake at 350 for 10 to 12 minutes or until center is set. Combine the first four filling ingredients in a small bowl and mix until smooth. Spoon ¼ t. into each warm cookie; gently press a chocolate kiss in the center. Carefully remove from

baking sheet to wire racks to cool.

Final thoughts

Have you noticed how few places have live trees this year? Sullivan’s does not have any trees; they have beautiful wreaths, as does DeVoe Floral. I know the Music Boosters sold live roping and wreaths. I saw trees at Barrel and Brie. I don’t think Menard’s or Cub Foods had any. I guess if you want a live tree, you need to find a tree farm or head east on Highway 20 to Eleroy. At my house, Christmas decorations are up, and I am trying to finish my Christmas cards. One night I plan on driving around to look at lights because it puts me in the Christmas spirit. I mailed two cheese boxes from the historical society fundraiser. My two college roommates look forward to them because they think we have the best cheese they have ever eaten. I have some gifts to wrap and some

gift cards to buy. Things are wrapping up (a little pun there) as far as Christmas is concerned. I don’t look forward to Christmas Eve services because I will be in my own home watching on the computer. Things are different this year, and as long as we are healthy and safe, I guess that is what we hope for. I hope you all have a great week; stay safe and bake some cookies!

If you have found any holiday recipes you think we would like, contact us in person, by mail at From Lena’s Kitchens, Shopper’s Guide, 240 W. Main St., Lena, IL 61048 or email us at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com.

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