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VOL. 86 • NO. 50

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9, 2020



SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Scoop Today*

Packed with love

Volunteers unload donation boxes for Operation Christmas Child at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton. More than 1,250 boxes were collected from area churches, including those in Lena, Galena, Lanark, Scales Mound, Elizabeth, Mount Carroll, Stockton and Warren. From the Stockton church, the boxes were hauled to Davis to be loaded on a semi and taken to a distribution center in Chicago. The gift boxes are distributed to children around the world by Samaritan's Purse.

State expects vaccine soon; governor warns of long process

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Health officials gave an update on the state's COVID-19 vaccine plan Dec. 4 with potential federal approval anticipated as early as this week.

Gov. JB Pritzker said the state still expects to get 109,000 doses to be initially distributed in the 50 counties with the highest per capita death rates, but it will be several months until there is an adequate number of vaccine doses available for the general population. Jo Daviess County sits at 47th among the 50 counties.

That means it's just as important as ever to maintain social distance, wear face coverings, avoid large gatherings and get a flu shot, according to Pritzker and Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike.

The first vaccine that could be approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration by Dec. 10 is manufactured by the drug company Pfizer. It requires an initial dose, then another three to four weeks later. Pritzker said the first shipment could arrive in two weeks. Another vaccine from

See **VACCINE**, Page 7

Real busy: Area grower sees overwhelming demand for Christmas trees

By Katelyn Black
CORRESPONDENT

For one area Christmas tree grower, the 2020 season was so successful that it was over almost as soon as it began.

Just days after its traditional opening on the Friday after Thanksgiving, the Ochs Christmas Tree Farm in Galena closed Dec. 1.

"Due to the overwhelming support this past weekend and in order to preserve our inventory for the next year, we have decided to close our gate for the remainder of the season," a Dec. 1 Facebook post said. "Thank you to all of our past customers and the new customers that came out this year.

"In the world of COVID-19 when everything was in turmoil, we cannot thank you enough for your support!"

Founded by Dave Ochs in 1978, the Ochs Christmas Tree Farm is a cut-

your-own tree shop located on North Blackjack Road.

Today, Dave Ochs' three sons — Steve, Tom and Rick — run the 12-acre farm, working to keep the family tradition alive in honor of their late father.

After such a strong season, it's safe to say business at the tree farm is still going strong. According to Tom Ochs, they will usually sell between 400 and 500 trees a year, on top of the wreaths they make onsite.

Beyond their success, the brothers truly enjoy the work they do.

"The reason we keep doing the farm is working with my brothers Steve and Rick, and also during the Christmas seasons we get to watch families grow up," Tom Ochs said. "Families come every year, not only to get a tree, but to see our family as well."

Making great memories helps to

balance out the hard work that goes into maintaining a tree farm.

They have to prepare year-round to make sure their tree varieties — which span from Frasier firs to white pines — are ready to be adopted come November.

With so many varieties of trees available, it can be hard for customers to know which one to pick.

According to the Illinois Christmas Tree Association's website, a good tree has a straight handle that is 6 inches to 8 inches long.

Finding your perfect tree depends on your family, the experts say, keeping in mind your available space and personal preference on fragrance, needle retention and needle softness.

A guide to tree varieties can be found on the ICTA's website, ilchristmastrees.com, under the "comparing varieties" tab.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Scoop Today*

The family-owned Ochs Christmas Tree Farm saw such an overwhelming response in its opening days that it closed last week for the season. Pictured above, from left, are Deb, Tom, Steve, Chris and Rick Ochs.

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"Do not be dismayed at good-byes. A goodbye must happen before you can meet again. And meeting again, whether it's after days or lifetimes is certain for those who are friends."

— Richard Bach



By **JILL PERTLER**
Contributor

My husband and I were one of "those" couples. We were joined at the hip and preferred to do most things together. I knew what he was thinking and vice versa. We went to bed together at night and made the bed together each morning. Growing together over the years with a person like that is nothing short of a miracle. It's a gift.

He was a gift.

I said a sorrowful goodbye to him recently, but I prefer to think of it as an, "Until I see you again." We even expressed this sentiment in our wedding vows. Instead of the traditional, "Until death do us part," we opted for the phrase, "All the days of our lives." Even back then, I didn't believe death on earth would separate us. We would live on, and eventually live on together. He is still with me now. I don't feel his presence (yet), but he is here. He lives on in my heart. He always will. I am so thankful for the bond that we had and that we have still.

If I had to describe him in three words they would include: kind, loyal and loving. He was the smartest person I knew, but that trait couldn't compare to the three I just listed. I know if it were up to him, he'd pick kind over smarts, and loyalty over power any day. He was a good man.

We raised a family of one daughter and three boys. We were busy, but it was a good busy. The best of

busy.

He and our boys were football fans and they tuned in during the NFL season on Monday nights. During the game, I typically spent some alone time upstairs with some other show. As an introvert, this was just fine with me. Often, when it wasn't an exciting football game he'd come up at halftime and want to watch with me. I sometimes saw this as an interruption to my alone time and I'd be a little bit (silently) annoyed.

I'd give anything to have him annoy me like that again.

While dating and over the course of our years together, we wrote each other love notes. Corny, I know.

Today (most randomly) I stumbled across a book I made for him shortly before we were married. I'd forgotten about it, but there it was 30-plus years later, not a week after he passed away. There are no mistakes in the cosmos.

I read the pages, reverently, remembering. The words and ideas and love were young, philosophic and precious.

Some of his thoughts were so very tender and eloquent. At one point he contemplated love. He wrote:

"About love. Love is one of the only things in this world that isn't

See SLICES, Page 3



Illinois needs new leaders and courageous followers

By Jim Nowlan

Politically, Illinois House Speaker and state Democratic Party Chairman Mike Madigan is a dead man walking. The recent ComEd admissions of a decade of bribery killed him.



Jim Nowlan

And so, the struggle for new leadership is underway, mostly

behind the scenes for the moment.

Madigan has more or less ruled the Legislature for four decades, so others are unpracticed at seeking and providing leadership.

Madigan was a master at the care and feeding of his members, yet his personal objectives seemed to be those of simply amassing and holding power, staying at the helm. This, rather than spending that power in behalf of important policy objectives, such as creating a stable, balanced fiscal system.

Indeed, he was scrupulous about

protecting his members from having to make tough votes, which is one reason Illinois is now in a world of hurt, after decades of deficit spending. For Madigan, the needs of politics always trumped those of policy.

But it's tough to put policy ahead of politics. Arguably the three most courageous governors in our state's history were Thomas Ford (1842-1846), John Peter Altgeld (1893-1897) and Richard Ogilvie

See LEADERS, Page 3

Let's focus on gratitude this holiday season

By state Rep. Andrew Chesney

The holiday season reminds us of all the blessings for which we are thankful and filled with gratitude. If there is one group of people who stand tallest in deserving our gratitude in 2020, it is frontline health care workers. The first responders, nurses,



Andrew Chesney

doctors, mental health professionals, public health administrators and many others deserve our sincere thanks and praise. They report to work every day, understanding the risks to themselves and their families, to help us and our families.

We are obliged to all essential workers. Educators, pharmacy employees, grocery store employees, truckers, prison guards, utility professionals and many others show up to work to keep us all safe, enriched and as comfortable as possible while we watch out for

our families and neighbors and try our best to fight through this global pandemic.

Vaccines are being developed at an incredible pace and beginning to be staged for distribution thanks to our pharmaceutical developers, manufacturers and epidemiologists, as well as the federal government, which has unfettered their potential through Operation Warp Speed. President Trump led a "send a man to the moon" type of effort here and it has been

See GRATITUDE, Page 3

I would like to thank those individuals, businesses and surrounding communities who have contributed financially, physically and emotionally to my son, Patrick. As his father, I am sincerely humbled and grateful for all of the generosity, love and support that Patrick and the family has received.

Brad and Patrick Hatfield

386494

The family of Benjamin Albrecht wishes to thank Dr. Grogen and the girls at the Madison VA Infusion Clinic for the caring and compassionate care the past 2+ years, also, Heartland Hospice the past 2 months, and the many, many friends and family for the prayers, cards, visits and telephone calls during his courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. The support was so uplifting. God bless each and every one of you.

386445



Our family would like to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, calls, food, flowers and kind words we have received during the loss of our mother. We are so fortunate to have such good family, friends, and neighbors to help us get through this difficult time. Every one of you have touched our hearts and we will forever remember you for doing this. Special thanks to all of her doctors, caretakers, Hospice, and her sister for the loving care that was given to her. We are so very thankful for all of you. From the Family of Shirley Oppold

386557

Thank you

to my family, friends and neighbors for the cards, food and prayers since my accident. God bless you all.

Evelyn Herman

386702

• Leaders (Continued from page 2)

(1969-1972) — each lasted but one term. (See Robert Howard's "Mostly Good and Competent Men: Illinois Governors," for the detail.)

Winston Churchill didn't stop Hitler by himself in 1940. Churchill and the English people did. Leaders

require, obviously, courageous followers. Yet, for his leadership, the English turned Churchill out of office as World War II ended. They respected their leader, but they didn't have to like the sacrifices he asked of them.

• Gratitude (Continued from page 2)

rewarding to see market competitors released to do what they do best — solve problems to make the world a better place. It is not lost on most that the capitalist economic system is the driving force in this worldwide progress toward a restoration of "normalcy." It is amazing what can happen when government paves paths of progress instead of erecting roadblocks.

The hope of these vaccines also has fueled a record high stock market. The booming market does not just help millionaires and billionaires, as progressives would have you believe. Millions of working families' pensions, 401(k)s and mutual funds are directly tied to the overall success of the stock market. It is not just a game for the rich and powerful. Rather, it is the collective ambitions of hundreds of millions of Americans who work hard every day and do their best to protect their families from the extreme costs of long-term care and wish to not be a financial burden on others in their older years.

Speaking of our loved ones in long-term care facilities, we miss them and are thankful for them. We are especially thankful to staff members of long-term care

facilities who are attempting every accommodation they can safely make to keep loved ones from anguishing from loneliness while also protecting them from the virus. Whether it is window visits, drive-by parades, facilitating video calls and phone calls or going the extra mile for the residents under their care, thank you.

It is so easy for us all to languish in despair as we approach this second COVID winter. We miss our families, and the holidays feel so much lonelier apart. Because of our gratitude and faith, we must continue to find ways to prop up one another. As we express our thanks, may we continue to find ways to be "secret Santas" to our neighbors and bestow the kindness of the holiday season in every way within our charge.

We cannot allow our faith in God Almighty to be shaken. For it is in this most sacred of seasons that God sent his only son to be the atonement for all our sins. Those of faith know it is darkest before the dawn. It is right to give thanks to God for both the darkness and the dawn.

State Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freeport, represents the 89th District, which includes all of Jo Daviess and Stephenson counties.

• Slices (Continued from page 2)

relative. Everything else I can think of is always relative when compared to circumstances. But not love. Love is joyous. Love is kind. And love is always constant in my eyes. Love is uncompromising and everlasting when it's right. Love is not relative to me. It is beautiful and enduring. That is why my life is so meaningful right now. Because I love you."

Back then, he went on a nine-week trip to Europe (without me). I couldn't imagine that expanse of time without him (sigh). Now the words I wrote as he left mean even more today than they did then:

"As you are leaving, do not be dismayed by our distance apart. Distance is relative. Realize that in our short time together we will learn to appreciate things some people

never learn to recognize. As you are leaving, do not worry about the future. We have no way of knowing the direction our travels will take us. As you are leaving, trust in what is yet to be. Believe the best is ahead of you. Laughter is just around the corner. Believe in that."

Until we meet again, Thom. Watch over me. Until then, I will always love you — all the days of our lives.

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.

The next leader of the Illinois House will require two or more terms, if successful, to build anything close to power. In the meantime, she or he will need courageous followers.

Illinois offers its leaders incredible strengths. Our combined transportation networks of interstates, railroads, air and water conveyance are the envy of the nation. Our top universities in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Evanston are world powerhouses of science and engineering. We have a high percentage of our population with college degrees. And as the commercial and financial hub of the Midwest, our location in the middle of the nation puts us in a sweet spot for economic activity.

Yet, Illinois is today, you might say, the "sick man" in the room, which others seek to move away from, literally, or avoid. This is largely because on taxes and spending, Illinois has been kicking the can down the road for decades. As a result, we now have huge debts

and unfunded pension costs that stifle our capacity to fix problems. We are at a "T" in the road. Add to that our reputation for corruption, which dampens interest in setting up shop in our state.

Illinois desperately needs transformative leadership — and followership. That's a tall order. After all, a new speaker will be scrambling to learn the ropes, groping her or his way toward influence with colleagues.

If Illinois turns one direction in the road at the T, we simply continue kicking the deficit-spending can down the highway, to further decline. If lawmakers turn the opposite way, we balance our budget, cut pension costs (for pension discussion, search the topic at jimnowlan.com), and recast our struggling post-high school education system into the best in the nation, as it was so considered as recently as 2000 by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

I found Gov. JB Pritzker's "fair

tax" lacking for several reasons, and not because it raised taxes, but because it did not raise enough revenue, necessary at least in the short term.

The public does not understand this, nor will it ever accept that we must impose some tax pain on all of us, at least in the short term, to straighten things out.

So, any leaders and followers who take this budget-balancing turn at the T will run the very real risk of falling on their swords, as John Peter Altgeld did when he pardoned the innocent Haymarket protesters in the 1890s, and as Dick Ogilvie did when he pushed through the state income tax in 1969.

Leadership and followership in tough times ain't easy.

Jim Nowlan voted for the new Illinois income tax in 1969, as a freshman House member. A former senior fellow at the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Nowlan has worked for three Illinois governors.

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Obituaries

DIANA L. 'DIANEE' O'MALLEY

Diana L. "Dianee" (Paisley) O'Malley, age 63, of Stockton, Illinois, passed away on Nov. 30, 2020, at Lena Living Center. She was born April 15, 1957, in Sacramento, California. Dianee married Bruce Drane on April 2, 1977. She married her soul mate, Terry O'Malley, on Oct. 19, 1996.

Dianee was a 1975 graduate of Stockton High School. She became a registered nurse through Highland Community College in 1995. Dianee's passion was nursing and caring for others. She was a director of nursing at multiple facilities in both Illinois and Iowa. She especially enjoyed working with the elderly. She finished her nursing career at Genesis Health in Davenport, Iowa, helping patients in their psychiatric unit.

Dianee enjoyed life to the fullest. She was always having fun and she had the most infectious laugh that will never be forgotten. She loved



her family and her grandbabies like no other. Her puppies were also so special to her. She loved to travel, especially cruises. She also enjoyed listening to her husband, Terry, play bluegrass. She loved getting her hair and nails done. She also liked muscle cars and classic rock. Dianee had a heart of gold. She loved people and people loved her too.

Dianee is survived by her husband, Terry O'Malley, of Stockton; her mother, Beverly Paisley, of Stockton; her stepmother, Marcy Paisley, of Cobb, California; her mother-in-law, Marilyn O'Malley of Eldridge, Iowa; her children, Greg Drane of Stockton, Tara (Steve) Burris of Stockton and Doug (Nicolette) Drane of

Stockton; her stepchildren, Jeremy (Andrea) O'Malley, Patrick (Genevieve) O'Malley, Brian (Ali Cress) O'Malley and Erin (John) Shay; her grandchildren, Wesley Drane, Veronika Drane, Vanessa Drane, Hailee Burris, Huntlee Burris, Daxton Drane and Brycen Drane; her siblings, Denny (Erika) Paisley of Stockton, David (Patty) Paisley of Osage Beach, Missouri, and Deb (Dave) Parker of Stockton; her step-sister, Tonya (Ernie) Rochester of Cobb, California; her sister-in-law, Deb O'Malley of Davenport, Iowa; and many nieces, nephews and step-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father, Donald Paisley; a family friend, Bill Wild; her father-in-law, Francis O'Malley; and a nephew, Mathew Paisley.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring. Date to be announced.

A memorial fund has been established.

Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

MARIAN LAVONNE REILING

Marian Lavonne (Newendyke) Reiling passed away on Nov. 26, 2020, at Liberty Village in Freeport, Illinois. Marian was born Oct. 26, 1931, in Erie, Illinois, to Louis and Gertie (Buikema) Newendyke. She was the second of seven children. Marian was always proud of her Dutch heritage. She graduated from Milledgeville (Illinois) High School and briefly attended Central College in Pella, Iowa.

Marian met her future spouse, William "Bill" Reiling, at a roller-skating rink in Sterling, Illinois. Bill knew there were two pretty Newendyke girls that he had seen at the roller rink. He knew their brother and asked him if they were dating anyone and found out Marian was not. Bill called Marian for a date and she said yes but he wasn't sure which girl was Marian until their first date. He knew Marian was the one for him. Three months later, they were engaged. It might have helped that Bill had new 1953 Chevy Bel Air. Bill was then drafted into the Army and sent to Japan. They were married almost three years later on Aug. 1, 1956, at the Reformed Church in Sterling.

Marian enjoyed flower arranging and worked many years at Floral Feather Fin in Pearl City. Marian also worked for many years as a postmaster relief at the Eleroy Post Office. Marian loved collecting and selling antiques with her part-time business, The Wooden Shoe. Marian was a member of the Lena Home Extension and Lena Women's Club. She was currently a member of Harmony United Methodist Church in Freeport. In later years, Marian loved



to attend her three grandchildren's sporting events and plays. Marian also loved her cats, Garfield and Miss Kitty. Marian and Bill enjoyed many trips to Florida in the winter.

Marian is survived by her loving husband of over 64 years, William "Bill"; her daughters, Laurie (Butch) Broughton of Freeport and Lynne (Dennis) Lake of Lena; grandchildren, Andrew "Andy" Lake and his little family, Felicia and Skylar of Lexington, Kentucky, Angela "Angie" Lake of Madison, Wisconsin, and Asa Lake of Madison. Marian is also survived by her brother, Vernon (Mary) Newendyke of Lanark, Illinois; sister, Carol (Ernie) Eads of Fulton, Illinois, and brother, Melvin (Barbara) Newendyke of Litchfield, Maine.

Marian was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Harold Newendyke; and two sisters, Joyce Newendyke and Dorothy Walvoord.

A private family service with the Rev. Eddie Eddy of Harmony UMC will be held at Leamon Funeral Home.

A celebration of Marian's life and her sister Dorothy's life will be held next year at a time to be announced.

Special thanks to FHN Hospice, Dr. Miller and the staff at Liberty Village. A memorial has been established for FHN Hospice and Harmony United Methodist Church. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

We have had a few December-like days, but we have had some beautiful ones also. I think that people were able to put up Christmas lights without too much trouble. Since we can't go a lot of places, driving around town and looking at lights is a treat! This week's recipes are made for the holidays. I won't give you the standard, "There are only so many days until Christmas."

I apologize for the error I made in last week's column. I have said before that I have COVID brain, and I did it again. Did anyone notice there was no turkey in the Creamy Turkey Casserole? Well this week there is because I reprinted it. If you still have any turkey left, you can make it. If you would rather have chicken, you could use a rotisserie chicken. I won't say that this won't happen again, because it probably will. Enjoy this good casserole.

Creamy Turkey Casserole

If you are looking for some way to use that leftover turkey, this creamy casserole has your name on it. It is quick to make, because you use cubed turkey leftover from Thanksgiving.

- 3 C. uncooked penne pasta
- 3 T. butter
- 1 small onion finely diced

- 8 oz. mushrooms, sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 1/3 C. milk
- 1/2 t. onion powder
- 1/2 t. garlic powder
- 1/2 t. paprika
- 1/2 t. dried basil
- 1 C. Swiss cheese, shredded
- 3 C. cooked turkey
- Topping
- 1/4 C. seasoned breadcrumbs
- 2 T. melted butter

Preheat oven to 375. Combine topping ingredients and set aside. Cook pasta al dente according to package directions. In a skillet, cook onions, mushrooms, garlic and butter until tender, about five minutes. In a large bowl, combine soup, mushroom mixture, milk, seasonings and one-half of the cheese. Fold in pasta and turkey. Spread into a 9-by-13 baking dish; top with remaining cheese and sprinkle with topping. Bake 30 to 35 minutes and casserole is hot and bubbly.

Pork Stroganoff

I have made beef stroganoff many times, but this pork one is much lower in calories if you use lean pork. It is a complete meal because it has vegetables in it. If you use whole grain pasta, it even lowers the calories.

- 6 oz. penne pasta
- 1 1/2 C. low sodium beef or chicken broth
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 1/4 C. flour
- 1 t. Dijon mustard
- 3/4 t. salt
- 1/4 t. dried thyme
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 2 T. oil
- 1 lb. pork tenderloin, cut into 1-inch chunks
- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) sliced mushrooms

- 8 oz. fresh broccoli florets, cut into bite-size pieces
 - 1 C. sliced onion
 - Fresh parsley
- Cook pasta according to package directions, omitting salt or oil. Drain and keep warm.

Whisk together 1/2 C. broth, sour cream, flour, mustard, salt, thyme and pepper in a small bowl. Heat 1 T. oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork; cook until browned on all sides, about five minutes. Transfer to a bowl. Heat remaining oil in skillet over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, broccoli and onion. Cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are lightly browned and crisp tender, about five to seven minutes. Return pork to skillet. Add remaining 1 cup broth. Bring mixture to a simmer.

Reduce heat to medium. Stir sour cream mixture into skillet. Cook, stirring frequently, until thickened and bubbly. Gently simmer until pork is cooked through, about two minutes more. Serve pork mixture over pasta and sprinkle with parsley.

Holiday Apple Salad

This is an apple salad that is a green salad. It has lots of "crunchies" in it including the apples. The candied pecans are delicious with the cinnamon. If you don't use all the pecans, store them in an airtight container.

- 1/2 C. brown sugar
- 1/4 t. cinnamon
- 1/4 t. salt
- 2 T. water
- 1 C. pecans
- 6 C. mixed greens
- 2 apples, thinly sliced
- 1/2 C. crumbled blue cheese
- 1/2 C. dried cranberries

Dressing

- 2 t. apple cider vinegar

- 4 green onions finely sliced
- 1/2 T. Dijon mustard
- 1/3 C. extra-virgin olive oil

Candy the pecans: In a skillet over medium heat, combine the brown sugar, cinnamon, salt, and water. Stir, letting sugar dissolve; add pecans and toss until totally coated. Let simmer five minutes until sticky, then remove from heat and let cool on a parchment-lined baking sheet in a single layer.

Salad: In a large bowl, combine greens, apples, candied pecans, blue cheese and dried cranberries. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Dressing: In a bowl or glass jar, whisk together apple cider vinegar, onions, Dijon and olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Drizzle salad

with dressing and toss to combine. Serve immediately.

Mississippi Mud Fudge

Ever hear of making fudge in the Crock-Pot? This recipe comes from a Southern cookbook. It really is a slick fudge recipe that has all kinds of goodies in it. It is pretty easy if you follow the directions.

- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 2 C. semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 C. unsalted butter
- 1/2 C. heavy whipping cream
- 1/3 C. light corn syrup
- 1 t. vanilla extract

See KITCHEN, Page 8

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR LENA-WINSLOW COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 202

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax increase for the Lena-Winslow Community Unit School District No. 202 for 2020 will be held on December 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the junior high school library, 517 Fremont St. Lena, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Dr. Tom Chiles, Supt. (815-668-0800).

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for the year 2019 were \$4,996,747.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$5,246,174. This represents a 4.99% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2019 were \$344,201.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2020 are \$342,475. This represents a 0.2% decrease over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2019 were \$5,340,947. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$5,558,649. This represents a 4.07% increase over the previous year.

Pete Conway, Secretary
Lena-Winslow School Board
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Dec. 9, 2020)



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SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Scoop Today*

Sharing a warm and fuzzy donation

Warren Middle School family and consumer science students recently created tie blankets to donate to the Galena Riverview Center. Students are currently creating another batch of blankets to be donated for the holidays. The eighth-grade students displaying their blankets, from left, are: Jazz Stafford-Haynes, Camila Moncada, Maizy Fonseca, Kinzie Bruketta, Addison Martins-Hill, Adem Kaiser, Braxten Kent, Will Stietz and Brayden Saunders.

Beef cattle conference goes online

The upcoming virtual Driftless Region Beef Conference will feature two virtual presenters each evening from Jan. 26 through Jan. 28. All three sessions will run from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Presenters include Frank Mitloehner, a professor and air quality specialist at the University of California-Davis, who will discuss greenhouse gases and the sustainability of beef cattle production.

The conference is sponsored by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, University of Illinois Extension and University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension.

For more information and required preregistration, go online to www.aep.iastate.edu/beef/. To receive a brochure, call Denise Schwab, beef specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, at 319-472-4739.

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Christmas Bird Count set for Dec. 15

The Eagle Nature Foundation and the Jo Daviess County Conservation Foundation are sponsoring the National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count on Tuesday, Dec. 15. The one-day count is designed to count all the birds that can be seen in a 15-mile-diameter circle that is centered at Schapville, Illinois.

Six or more teams will be driving around within this circle counting the birds on Dec. 15. Many times the volunteers will stop to get an accurate identification or count of the birds that are seen.

In the past, as many as 42 different species of birds have been tallied with 3,000 to 5,000 individual birds counted.

This Jo Daviess County Count was originally started in 1966 with Terrence Ingram and Dale Carlson working as one team in one car for a

period of nine hours counting 1,374 birds of 18 species. Last year 25 individuals in six teams, plus some backyard bird feeders, counted 2,325 birds of 39 species in 25.25 hours.

Ingram has been the compiler for this count every year since 1966.

During normal years several volunteers are asked to ride in the cars as bird spotters. However, due to COVID-19, anyone living within 7.5 miles of Schapville may count the birds at their feeders or near them and send the results to Ingram, so they can be included in the total.

Any such counts need to be sent before Jan. 1 to Terrence Ingram, 8384 N. Broadway, Apple River, IL 61001. Anyone who is interested in joining this Jo Daviess County count can call 815-594-2592 for more information.

Briefs

Stockton grad garners two scholarships

Taylor Timpe of Stockton is among the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater students receiving scholarships for the 2020-'21 academic year.

Timpe, who is studying biology, was awarded the Joseph & Madeline Chopp scholarship and the Metcalf Family Endowment scholarship.

"Our scholarship winners represent the very best in academic, co-curricular and service excellence across all of our colleges and departments," Greg Rutzen, UW-Whitewater Foundation president, said in a news release.

The UW-Whitewater Foundation awarded nearly \$2.2 million in scholarships to students for 2020-'21.

IDOT notes project in Jo Daviess County

The Illinois Department of Transportation has closed Glen Hollow Road and has lane closures in place along U.S. Highway 20 in order to perform bridge deck repairs this week.

The work zone is about three miles east of Galena. The U.S. 20 eastbound lane closure will be through Friday, Dec. 11, while the westbound lane closure will be Dec. 11 through Monday, Dec. 14. Glen Hollow Road will be closed during the entire project.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow them on Twitter @IDOTDistrict2 or view area construction details on IDOT's traveler information map online at GettingAroundIllinois.com.



SUBMITTED PHOTO *The Scoop Today*

Dog demonstrates psychology concepts

Stockton High School psychology teacher Amy Hawley used her dog, Penny, to demonstrate to students classical and operant conditioning recently. According to Hawley, "Classical conditioning and operant conditioning are both different forms of learning that are used in training animals. Classical conditioning uses stimulus and response, which is similar to teaching a dog tricks such as sit, down, roll over, etc. Operant conditioning uses reinforcement to encourage the behavior. Telling Penny she is a 'good girl' after she preforms the trick increases the likelihood that Penny will repeat the behavior."

• Vaccine (Continued from front page)

the drug company Moderna could get approval one week following the Pfizer vaccine.

The initial recipients will be health care workers and long-term care residents. Pritzker said 655,000 people in Illinois qualify as frontline health care workers —162,000 in Chicago and 493,000 outside of Chicago. Approximately 110,000 adults statewide live in congregate care settings, he said.

After that group will be “other essential workers and persons at higher risks of severe COVID-19 illness, including persons 65 years of age and older,” according to the state’s vaccine plan. Then it will be “critical populations” as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, or ACIP. Then the general population can receive the vaccine.

“In other words, this will not be a quick process. With the two-dose timeline, no single person will be fully vaccinated even by Christmas, and it will likely be months before people with low risk factors for COVID-19 see their first dose,” Pritzker said. “But the very fact that we have this timeline is the result of incredible private sector innovation and long standing public investment in scientific research.”

Pritzker said the first shipment, if indeed it includes 109,000 doses, would be divided into 23,000 doses directly to Chicago and 86,000 to be distributed to the rest of the state.

It also must be kept at 70 degrees below zero Celsius, so the state has purchased 20 ultra-cold freezers, according to Ezike. She said IDPH will receive the initial shipment directly from the CDC and will store it at the strategic national stockpile site.

IDPH has identified 10 hospitals to serve as regional distribution sites to local health departments in the first 50 counties to receive the vaccine. Those hospitals will work with local hospitals to identify and vaccinate the first recipients.

Ezike also noted there is a federal partnership between Walgreens and CVS pharmacies to vaccinate long-term care residents, and all but five of the state’s long-term care facilities have signed up to be part of the program thus far. The state will work to register the final five, she said.

The Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange is the web-based immunization

record sharing application that will log the vaccination records, Ezike said.

“(The system) allows both public and private health care providers to share immunization records of Illinois residents with other physicians and public health officials statewide,” she said.

Pritzker said ACIP is considering how to best distribute the vaccine in at-risk communities, and he noted, “we also know that for many reasons, Black and brown Americans have disproportionately suffered deaths from COVID-19 in their communities.”

“ACIP is currently considering specific allocations of the vaccine before expanding to the remainder of the population, and Illinois will account for their expert recommendation in the next tiers of distribution with a focused eye on equity,” he said.

The news came as hospitalizations for COVID-19 continued to trend downward, decreasing for the fifth straight day as 5,453 people with COVID-19 were hospitalized. That put about 16.7 percent of all hospital beds in use by COVID-19 patients and left 24.4 percent available statewide.

There were 1,152 intensive care beds in use by COVID-19 patients at the end of Dec. 3, a decrease of 17 from the day before. That meant approximately 34.7 percent of the state’s ICU beds were in use by COVID-19 patients with 19.5 percent available.

Approximately 69.6 percent of ventilators were available, with 703 in use by COVID-19 patients, an increase of 10 from the day prior.

The number of available ICU beds per region ranged from 17 in southern Illinois’ Region 5 and 20 in the Springfield area’s Region 3 on the low end to 187 in Region 11, which includes only Chicago.

The state reported another 148 COVID-19-related deaths, bringing the death toll since the pandemic began to 12,974 among 770,088 confirmed or probable cases. More than 10.9 million test results have been reported.

Regional positivity rates ranged from 11.8 percent in Region 3 to 16.8 percent in Region 7, which includes Will and Kankakee counties. The statewide seven-day average case positivity rate was 10.3 percent Dec. 4, the 12th straight day it has hovered between 10.1 and 10.9 percent.

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

Conservation group receives grant to explore Native American discovery center

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation has received a grant from the Freeport Community Foundation for a feasibility study into the next steps needed to build a discovery center at the Wapello Land and Water Reserve in Hanover.

A vision of the Friends of Wapello volunteer group since its founding in 2008, the discovery center will tell the story of the Native American peoples who trace their ancestry to this region through their own stories and oral histories, not through interpretations by outside cultures.

Indoor exhibits and experiences out on the land also will focus on the vibrancy of present-day Native American communities, the struggles they face, and how the natural world remains so deeply intertwined with their cultures, according to a news release.

“There is widespread community support for this project with its potential for a positive economic impact on the region, most notably in Hanover, as well as support from five tribal partners who are working with JDCF on developing content for the museum,” the release said.

The Wapello Land and Water Reserve tells the story of human habitation along the bluffs and terraces of the Apple River near present-day Hanover going back 11,000 years. Home to an ancient Native American village site, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places due to the significance of the cultural heritage found there.

The reserve also is home to an 80-acre restored short grass prairie.

“The preserve’s proximity to the larger Hanover Bluff Complex of conserved lands is ideal for a landscape scale experience that will include foot, bike and water trails

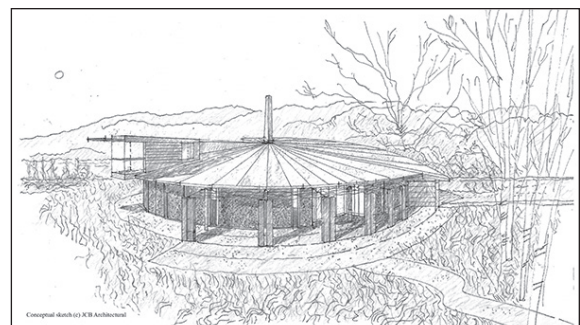


IMAGE COURTESY JCB ARCHITECTURAL *The Scoop Today*

A conceptual sketch shows a vision of the proposed discovery center at the Wapello Land and Water Reserve in Hanover. The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation recently received grant funding to study the steps needed to build the center.

across 1,700 acres of protected lands all leading to the Mississippi River,” the release said. “There is nothing like this in the Midwest region.

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 money is used for the acquisition, restoration or maintenance of JDCF properties. For more information, go online to www.jdcf.org.

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376293

Happy Holidays

All of us at Citizens State Bank wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

May your holidays be filled with peace, joy, and prosperity!

140 Years

Citizens State Bank

386126

Kitchen (Continued from page 5)

¼ t. salt
2 C. miniature marshmallows
1 C. chopped pecans, toasted
Spray insert of a 4-quart slow cooker with cooking spray. In cooker, stir together condensed milk, chocolate chips, butter, cream, corn syrup, vanilla and salt. Cover and cook on low for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes.

Spray an 8-inch square baking pan with cooking spray. Line pan with parchment paper, letting excess extend over sides of pan. Spread chocolate mixture into prepared pan. Sprinkle with marshmallows and pecans; press gently to adhere. Let cool completely, about two hours. Using parchment as handles, remove fudge from pan; cut into 2-inch squares. Store in an airtight container for up to three days.

Apricot Egnog Bars

Not everyone is an eggnog fan. I am one of those everyone who is not an eggnog fan, but I love different kinds

of bars. I also love apricots. Save this for your cookie tray for something different.

1½ C. crushed gingersnap cookies (about 30)
¾ C. sliced almonds
2/3 C. butter, melted
9 oz. white baking chocolate, divided

¾ C. chopped dried apricots
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1 t. apricot brandy, optional or 1 t. apricot preserves
2 C. eggnog
1 large egg, room temperature and lightly beaten

In a small bowl, combine the crushed cookie crumbs, almonds and butter. Press on the bottom of ungreased 11-by-7 baking dish. Bake at 350 until golden brown, eight to 10 minutes. Cool on a wire rack.

Chop 8 oz. white chocolate. In a small saucepan, melt chopped chocolate; cool. Sprinkle apricots over cooled crust. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Beat in melted chocolate and if desired brandy

or preserves. Gradually beat in eggnog. Add egg; beat on low speed just until combined. Pour over crust.

Place baking dish in a larger baking pan; add 1 inch boiling water to the larger pan. Bake, uncovered, at 350 until center is just set (mixture will jiggle), 55 to 60 minutes. Remove baking dish from water bath; cool on a wire rack. Cover and refrigerate until firm, about two hours. Chop and melt remaining chocolate; drizzle over top. Cut into bars. Refrigerate leftovers.

Irish Cream Drink

You might like this drink for a liquid dessert. It has a lot of good things — ice cream, chocolate and vanilla and almond flavorings. It is made with vodka, but you could leave it out for those who prefer nonalcoholic drinks or for children. I thought I would include this recipe so you could use up the extra eggnog.

3½ C. vanilla ice cream, softened
¾ C. vodka
½ C. eggnog

1/3 C. sweetened condensed milk
1 T. chocolate syrup
1 t. instant coffee granules
½ t. vanilla
¼ t. almond

In a large bowl, combine the first eight ingredients; beat until smooth. Set aside

Grate a chocolate bar. Place grated chocolate and 1 teaspoon of chocolate syrup in a small bowl. Hold a glass mug or drinking glass upside down and dip in grated chocolate. Pour drink mixture into prepared glasses. Serve immediately. Note: Use eggnog from the store (it is pasteurized) and do not refreeze any melted ice cream (you have to eat it!) Recipe makes eight to 10 servings depending on glass size.

Final thoughts

Hopefully everyone took some time to visit our small businesses and check out their great gift ideas. I have to mail two cheese boxes to my college roommates. They love our cheese up here. I bought them from the Lena Area Historical Society. It is one of their annual fundraisers; they have had to cancel almost everything else. If you bought some of these great boxes featuring our local products, thank you.

There is also a Giving Tree with paper tree tags available for gifts for people who are having a really hard time this year. I took one of the adult ones, and all they want are gift cards at places they can buy groceries. We need to remember the places in our community who take care of those who need things to eat.

The Lena Area Ministerium is also collecting money to replenish their fund; they gave gift certificates to families that ordinarily get turkeys at Thanksgiving. They, along with the food pantry, are being hit hard this Christmas season. We are all hoping and praying that this Christmas will bring us a lot of intangible things — time with our families (hugging), going out and about without fear, school children learning in a more traditional fashion and less sickness and death.

Have a good week; hope you can find time to cook some comfort food and call a friend. Stay safe and healthy.

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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FHN experts discuss deterring virus spread

FHN President and CEO Mark Gridley and Infection Preventionist Margie Kochsmier talk about the best ways to keep your family healthy over the holidays in the latest FHN COVID-19 update video.

Viruses like COVID-19 and influenza thrive in dry, indoor air, Kochsmier said, so the spread of respiratory droplets is very easy, and very likely, as people move indoors for gatherings.

"Keep wearing a mask, staying at home if possible or socially distant if you have to go out, washing your hands thoroughly and often, and wiping down surfaces to remove germs," Kochsmier suggested.

Keeping "high-touch" surfaces like doorknobs, light switches and counters wiped down — even if it's

just with soap and water — removes germs that can be picked up by your family's hands and transferred to the eyes or nose with just a touch.

Gridley reinforces the importance of the "three W" — wash your hands often, watch your distance from others and wear a mask.

"It's possible to slow the spread of COVID-19, but only with a very focused approach from the entire community," he said, noting that as of the end of November, COVID-19 officially moved up to the third-leading cause of death in Illinois, after heart disease and cancer. "We need to double down on our safety precautions."

The video, along with all of the previous weeks' videos, is available on FHN's COVID-19 information site, www.fhn.org/coronavirus.



Happy Holidays

All of us at Citizens State Bank wish you and your loved ones a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**
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Our holiday hours will be as listed:

Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve: *Closing at Noon*
Dec. 25th - Christmas Day: *Closed All Day*
Dec. 31st - New Year's Eve: *Closing at Noon*
Jan. 1st - New Year's Day: *Closed All Day*

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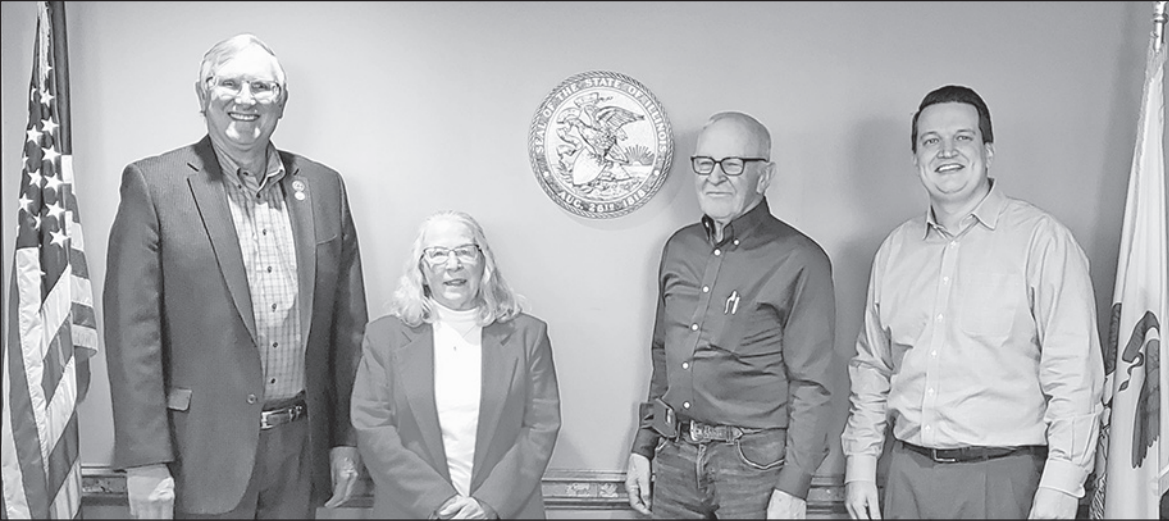
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Officials gather to mark the retirement of 89th District legislative aide Sally Huggins, second from left. From the left are state Sen. Brian Stewart, R-Freepport; Huggins; retired state Rep. Jim Sacia; and state Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freepport.

Legislators laud retiring aide

State Rep. Andrew Chesney, R-Freepport, recently offered his gratitude and congratulations to longtime legislative aide Sally Huggins as she retires. Huggins served northwest Illinois constituents under three state representatives over the past 16 years. "Her dedication to assisting constituents is second to none," Chesney said in a news release. "Our region owes a debt of gratitude to Sally for all she has done to advocate on behalf of the needs of northwest Illinois residents as they have interacted with state agencies and services."

Retired state Rep. Jim Sacia echoed Chesney's sentiments on Huggins, saying, "I hired Sally Huggins to begin her work on behalf of northwest Illinois taxpayers nearly two decades ago. She is top-notch and continued to be a great friend over my service in the Illinois House. Sally has seen it all and has never missed a beat in standing up for our region."

"People do not call up legislative offices to tell them how happy they

are with our state government in Illinois. Callers are usually frustrated to no end by the time they call our offices," said state Sen. Brian Stewart, R-Freepport, who hired Huggins as his legislative aide after the retirement of Sacia and before he successfully won election to the State Senate in 2018. "Sally was always kind and clear in asking all the right questions to get the constituent the help they needed. Her diligence and followup is excellent and is a great benefit to all of the legislators for whom she has worked."

Concurrent to Huggins' service to constituents of the 89th District, she also has served as village clerk for the Village of Winnebago for the past 25 years.

Chesney noted that Stacy Flanagan will serve as his new legislative aide. Flanagan recently retired as administrator of the Driver's Services Facility in Oregon, Illinois.

See AIDE, Page 12

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★ Two - 6 year term Commissioners ★

★ One - 2 year unexpired term Commissioner ★

★ Petition packets can be picked up up by calling Kris Visel at 815-297-3817. ★

★ The Park District Commissioner's petition must be filed with Kris Visel no earlier than *Monday, Dec. 14, 2020* and no later than *Monday, Dec. 21, 2020*. ★

386243

Pearl City Elevator offers ag scholarships

Pearl City Elevator Inc. will award up to three \$500 scholarships to qualifying students furthering their education in an agricultural field through the Agriculture First scholarship.

Any high school senior graduating in 2021 who is pursuing a two or four-year degree in livestock production, crop production or a closely related agricultural field is eligible for the scholarship.

Scholarship applications may be picked up at any of the following locations: Pearl City Elevator in Pearl City, McConnell Co-op, Dakota Co-op, Warren Co-op, Baileyville Co-op, Lena Co-op, Alliance Nutrition or Alliance Commodities in Lena. People also may

call the Pearl City office at 800-851-8584 or go online to www.pce-coops.com.

Applications must be postmarked or submitted by Jan. 11.

Pearl City Elevator has sponsored the Agriculture First scholarships, aimed at improving and supporting the agriculture industry, for more than 15 years.

In addition to the scholarship programs, the company will be offering paid internships for 2021. To learn more about the internship program, go online to <https://pce-coops.com/careers>.

Pearl City Elevator has been serving northwest Illinois and southern Wisconsin for more than 100 years.

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 Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation 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:

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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).

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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.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL 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 commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, praying 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, UNLESS YOU file your answer or

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I3160741 (Published in The Scoop Today

Dec. 9, 16 & 23, 2020)

ComEd defendants plead not guilty in bribery case

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
Four former Commonwealth Edison officials pleaded not guilty Dec. 2 to charges that they engaged in a years-long bribery scheme that federal prosecutors allege was aimed at influencing Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan.

Former executives Anne Pramaggiore and John Hooker, along with lobbyists Michael McClain and Jay Doherty, were arraigned on the charges in U.S. District Court in Chicago during a hearing that was held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a 50-page indictment that was unsealed Nov. 18, federal prosecutors allege the four engaged in a conspiracy to award no-work jobs and lobbying contracts to close associates of Madigan as part of an effort to maintain his support for legislation that benefited the com-

pany. Those included the 2011 Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act, which established a formula-based system of setting utility rates that effectively bypassed the Illinois Commerce Commission, and the 2016 Future Energy Jobs Act, which, among other things, provided ratepayer-funded subsidies to two nuclear power plants owned by ComEd's parent company, Exelon.

During the arraignment, U.S. District Judge Harry D. Leinenweber, also a former state lawmaker, set an initial schedule that gives prosecutors and defense attorneys three months to exchange all the evidence they intend to use at trial and file pretrial motions. A status hearing is tentatively set for Feb. 16 and the defendants remain free on bond.

The charges against the four defendants come on the heels of

a deferred prosecution agreement that prosecutors unveiled in July in which current ComEd officials admitted to the scheme and agreed for the company to pay a \$200 million fine in exchange for cooperating with the investigation and assurances that the company would reform its internal controls.

Beyond the federal charges, though, the cases have resulted in intense scrutiny for Madigan and threatened his hold on power in the House. Although he has not been charged with any crime and has denied any wrongdoing, his support within the House Democratic caucus has gradually eroded since his appearance as "Public Official A" in July's agreement. Madigan appears to no longer have 60 pledged votes in the House to support him, the number required to be re-elected for another term as speaker in January.

Madigan also faces a Special Investigating Committee in the House that is charged with determining whether there is enough evidence to support disciplinary proceedings that could result in his ouster from the General Assembly.

Republicans petitioned to form that committee shortly after the deferred prosecution agreement was released, and they have frequently accused Democrats of dragging their feet on the investigation in an effort to protect Madigan.

However, just before the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, the committee's chairman, Rep. Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, released hundreds of pages of documents that the committee had requested from ComEd, including numerous emails between McClain, a former lawmaker and longtime Madigan confidant, and another former ComEd executive, Fidel Marquez,

who pleaded guilty in the bribery scheme in September.

Those emails strongly suggest that Madigan himself was deeply involved in urging ComEd to award jobs and contracts to his friends and associates.

The committee is scheduled to hold its next meeting on Monday, Dec. 14, in Springfield.

During a virtual news conference Dec. 2, House Minority Leader Jim Durkin, R-Western Springs, said he believes the emails and information from the indictments together provide enough evidence to support the charge that Madigan engaged in "conduct unbecoming to a legislator or which constitutes a breach of public trust," and he called on Madigan to resign.

"For the good of the state and the good of the people of Illinois,

See COMED, Page 12

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Cancer treatments may affect dental health

By Dr. Stephen Petras

People who undergo chemotherapy and radiation to treat cancer often experience oral health complications. There are several reasons for this. Cancer cells divide rapidly, so chemotherapy medications target rapidly dividing cells. The problem is cells in the tissues that line your mouth also divide rapidly and chemotherapy medications cannot differentiate between the two. Therefore, it may damage these cells as well. Cancer treatments can lower both your white and red blood cells, as

well as your platelets. To compound this, radiation treatments, especially in the head and neck region, can also damage your saliva glands. This not only reduces the amount of saliva secreted, but alters it, so that it is thick and sticky. This leads to chronic dry mouth or xerostomia. As stated in previous columns, xerostomia leaves you vulnerable to decay and other oral infections. Radiation in this area also decreases the blood flow to bones and tissues in the head and neck.

Altogether, these factors not only make you more prone to infections, but

it is harder for your body to fight them. If an oral infection is severe enough, it can delay your cancer treatments. For all of these reasons, achieving and maintaining excellent oral health before, during and after cancer treatment is critical to your overall health and healing.

When possible, it is ideal to schedule your pretreatment dental evaluation one month prior to your first cancer treatment. At this appointment you should provide your dentist with an updated health history, including all current medications and your cancer treatment schedule. Your dentist will identify and treat any oral infections or conditions that put you at risk for complications. These include decay, gum disease, loose fillings or crowns, fractured or chipped teeth, sharp edges on removable prostheses or ill-fitting dentures.

Treating oral disease and educating patients about the many ways that can prevent or lessen oral complications prior to cancer treatments has been proven to improve patient comfort and

lessen interruptions in cancer therapy.

To avoid mouth sores and infections during cancer treatment, brush two times a day with a soft toothbrush and fluoride toothpaste. Gently floss once a day (if your platelet counts drop significantly flossing may need to be temporarily suspended but should resume as soon as your counts improve). Use fluoride treatments as prescribed. Rinse every few hours with a solution of water, salt and baking soda. Do not use mouth rinses with alcohol. Keep well hydrated by drinking water or sucking on ice chips. Chewing on sugarless gum or sucking on sugarless candy or popsicles that contains xylitol may help moisten your mouth. A cool mist humidifier may also give you comfort.

Check your mouth routinely and notify your dentist immediately if you develop mouth sores, pain, difficulty eating or swallowing or any sign of oral infection. You may require artificial saliva or medications that increase saliva. If you are having difficulty eating, viscous xylocaine can be swished

and spit prior to your meal or placed directly on mouth sores. Avoid spicy foods or strongly flavored toothpaste, highly acidic beverages, alcohol, tobacco products, caffeine and foods that are crunchy, hard to chew or irritating to your mouth. Tylenol taken an hour before eating may help. Do not use aspirin or non-steroidal pain meds (Motrin, Advil etc.) as these may cause excessive bleeding. Brush your dentures every day, keep them moist throughout the day and if you develop mouth sores, only wear them for meals.

While many of the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation may subside over time, decreased function of your salivary glands and damage to bone, muscle and oral tissues at the site of radiation will dictate the extent of followup dental care. This may include frequent dental visits for the first six months, physical therapy, precautionary patient education and adjustments to your daily oral hygiene.

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

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(Published in The Scoop Today Dec. 2, 9 & 16, 2020)

386004

•ComEd (Continued from page 10)

and also for the good of the House chamber, I am asking for Speaker Madigan's resignation today," Durkin said.

The ComEd emails, however, also show that company officials worked to hire people for its lobbying team who were close to Republican leaders, including Durkin.

One email, dated Sept. 16, 2013, to McClain from Scott Reimers, a lobbyist for the Illinois State Medical Society, urges McClain to consider a woman who had been working in Durkin's office.

"I believe that Jim Durkin is moving forward with someone else as his spokesperson so she is currently looking at other opportunities," Reimers stated in the email. "Even though Durkin is moving on with someone else, she has a strong relationships (sic) with our members."

On Wednesday, Durkin insisted that he was not involved in recommending anyone for a job at ComEd.

"I did not have any involvement or make any phone calls on behalf of anyone for employment, (nor) did ComEd seek to curry favor with me with any type of contract for anyone," Durkin said.

In a separate statement, though, Welch fired back at Durkin, accusing the Republican leader of trying to use the investigating committee for political gain.

"Leader Durkin is clearly seeking a public distraction from ComEd emails showing that the company took the same steps to influence him that he would now portray as unbecoming conduct, but his constant attempts to drag a serious investigative effort into politics will not influence the work of this committee," Welch said.

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

•Aide (Continued from page 9)

Flanagan began working for Chesney on Nov. 2 and may be reached in his Freeport district office at 815-232-0774.

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