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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 2021

Library offers crafts, new books, curbside service

The staff at Lena Community District Library is reminding community members that the library is open with COVID-19 precautions in place.

Library hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. net. to 7 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Masks are required in the library for patrons 2 and older and seating is limited to encourage social distanc-

Curbside services also are available. To request materials for curbside pickup, call 815-369-3180 or send an email to lenalibrary@le-win.

Valentine's take-and-make family craft packs are available for pick up in the library or curbside.

A new book drop will be installed soon. After the installation, the library's new south entrance will be

Several new books are available: 'Before She Disappeared" by Lisa Gardner, "The Russian" by James Patterson, "Active Defense" by Lynette Eason, "All the Colors of the Night" by Jayne Ann Krentz, "The Lost Boys" by Faye Kellerman, 'Neighbors" by Danielle Steel, "Shakeup" by Stuart Woods (large print) and "The Book of Two Ways" by Jodi Picoult (large print).

Governor, legislators spar over vaccine rollout

By Jerry Nowicki CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The state on Jan. 29 reported 58,357 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered over the previous 24 hours, setting a one-day high mark for the third straight day.

Still, only 26.4 percent of the 496,100 doses distributed to the federal Pharmacy Partnership program have been administered to residents of long-term care facilities through nationwide pharmacy chains CVS and Walgreens.

Gov. JB Pritzker has faced criticism for the slow rollout of the vaccine to long-term care residents. Pritzker said Jan. 28 that he had spoken to leaders from Walgreens and CVS, and said the companies plan to have the first round of vaccinations at assisted living and long-term care facilities complete by Feb. 15.

Last week Senate Republicans sent a letter to the governor requesting a "clear explanation" as to why Illinois ranked near the bottom of states as of Jan. 29 it was 47th of 50 — in percentage of population that has received at least one dose of the vaccine. That was according to the New York Times, which showed only 5.1 percent of Illinoisans had received one dose of the vaccine as of Jan. 29.

Pritzker responded to the lawmakers in a letter, noting his administration made \$25 million in grants



PHOTO COURTESY MONROE CLINIC

COVID-19 vaccinations continue across the state, even as debate over vaccine supply and administration continue.

available to beef up staff, training and rental space at the state's 97 local health departments through which it is coordinating the vaccination plan.

"In fact, as we have helped local health departments overcome their challenges, the state of Illinois is administering more doses a week than it is receiving from the federal government," Pritzker wrote in his response letter.

Pritzker said the New York Times

showed Illinois was seventh in the nation for total number of doses distributed, which was right beside California, Texas, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania — states cited in

'All but one of those states has received more vaccine on a per capita basis than Illinois has at the CDC's last count — and yet, we have kept up with them despite having less to work with," he said.

While the Republican lawmakers criticized Pritzker for "blaming the previous president, the federal government and CVS/Walgreens," Pritzker said "having a partner" in the Biden administration will ensure a quicker rollout.

He pointed to a Jan. 28 announcement that the Federal Emergency Management Agency will provide Illinois with an additional \$43 million to "expand our mobile vaccination operations and offer more easy-access locations for our residents as the national vaccine supply increases.' He also cited President Joe Biden's

See VACCINE, Page 15

Indoor dining restrictions ease, but COVID continues to eat away at restaurant business

By Margaret Plevak CORRESPONDENT

A rollback of restrictions in the state's COVID-19 mitigation plan for several regions of Illinois earlier this month has freed up a little more dining space for area establishments, but many restaurant owners say business is still a struggle.

On Jan. 25, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced that Region 1, which includes Stephenson County, has moved to Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan. This means restaurants can now open indoor dining and drinking for parties of up to 10 people, and tables must allow for 6 feet between parties.

"As of now, I can open up my dining room again. I have a lot of customers happy about that," said Joe Hallstrom, owner of Saporito's Pizzeria in Lena.

To meet the capacity requirements, two tables in the restaurant's dining room were removed, leaving seating for 15 patrons.

Earlier this month, the restaurant began a 30-day tryout of an online ordering service for customers.

Hallstrom, who has owned Saporito's for 10 years, but said he's been in restaurant work his whole life, finds, for the most part, business has been good.

"I'm different because the majority of my business is pickup and delivery. This hasn't affected me as much," he said. "If my dining room was my main source of income, though, 25 percent capacity is nowhere near enough to support

Hallstrom said local customers have been generous in their support of the restaurant.

He thinks federal loans like the Paycheck Protection Program can aid struggling businesses, but he's hearing more stories of communities helping each other, like businesses in Rockford where Hallstrom calls home who have donated a percentage of their sales to the Winnebago County Restaurant Relief Fund.

"Honestly, I feel other restaurants are helping each other more now than what the state is actually doing," he said.

Ryan Buss, who heads the Lena Business & Professional Association, said in talking with some of the restaurant owners in the Lena area, he found most are optimistic and welcomed the lifting of at least some restrictions.

"All are very grateful of the support they have received during these times we are in. Without the support of the to-go orders, things would have been much different, Buss said in an email.

Still, a frequent comment he heard from owners was being in a 'survival mode."

"I believe that sums it up for a lot of small businesses these days,' he said.

According to a National Restaurant Association report, the state lost 31,000 dining-related jobs in November alone, easily the highest among 36 states that registered such employment declines, which included Michigan, with a loss of 9,900 jobs,

See RESTRICTIONS, Page 10

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Illinois National Guard members will head to D.C. for security assignment

State vaccination mission continues

At the request of the U.S. Department of Defense, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker has activated about 500 Illinois National Guard members in support of the continued security mission in Washington, D.C.

According to a news release, the mission in Washington, D.C., will not impact the Illinois National Guard's ability to perform its vaccination distribution mission, with 325 members already activated to carry out that mission and hundreds more to come online in the coming weeks.

"The U.S. Department of Defense has asked Illinois to assist federal and local agencies in this continued effort, and Major General Neely and I are ready to ensure that the state of Illinois continues its proud legacy of protecting our democracy," Pritzker said in the release. "Ultimately, we must root out the dark forces of racism, white supremacy and disinformation that have created this moment, but until we do that, our extraordinary troops will deploy with honor."

The Illinois Army National Guard soldiers, along with a small contingent of Illinois Air National Guard airmen, are expected to remain on duty in the nation's capital until mid-March. While Illinois National Guard members who deployed for the presidential Inauguration have since returned to Illinois, about 50 members of that mission have volunteered to return for this new mission.

The Illinois Army National Guard's Chicago-based 108th Sustainment Brigade and its subordinate battalion, the North Riverside-based 198th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, will provide the bulk of the Illinois National Guard force for the Washington, D.C., mission.

"We are deploying these forces in support of civilian law enforcement based on threat levels against the U.S. Capitol. These threats were assessed by the FBI and other federal agencies," said Maj. Gen. Rich Neely, the adjutant general of Illinois and commander of the Illinois National Guard, "Our soldiers and airmen are committed to the defense of both our nation and our state. We have asked a lot of them in the last year and each time these men and women have answered the call and upheld their oath to defend and support the U.S. Constitution. I could not be more proud of these Soldiers and Airmen.

The Illinois National Guard forces will join a force of about 7,000 National Guard members from throughout the United States in assisting federal and local agencies with safety and security throughout Washington, D.C. In February that force will draw down to 5,000.

The Illinois National Guard members were activated under the provisions of U.S. Title 32, which leaves them under the authority of the governor with all costs paid by the federal government. The Illinois National Guard members supporting the COVID-19 vaccine distribution mission in Illinois were also activated under the same provision of U.S.

From Lena's Kitchen



The not so skinny cook

I have received numerous inquiries through my Facebook page asking if I am still writing a column. If you missed the last one published. I mentioned I was having eye surgery. Everything went well, but the recovery is long and not pleasant. I can't see very well to read and typing is a

I appreciate all you cooks out there who miss the column. I also appreciate all the well wishes and the many friends who have called and stopped by with food. (I might actually get a recipe out of this recuperation.)

Since Super Bowl Sunday is coming up, I do have some tried and true appetizers that I can easily access from my computer. So, have a good Super Bowl celebration.

Betty's Crab Triangles

6 ½ oz. crab

1 T. mayonnaise

1 stick butter, softened

1/4 t. garlic powder

5 oz. Old English cheese spread

6 English muffins

Mix all the ingredients together. Split the muffins. Spread mixture on muffin halves. Cut into quarters. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and broil until bubbly. You can freeze them on a cookie sheet until they are

hard and then place them in a Ziploc

These appetizers are great for a party. You can make them ahead of time and freeze them. They will stay good in the freezer about a month.

Taco Dip

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

2 C. sour cream

1 jar salsa (mild)

Mix the cream cheese and sour cream together with a mixer until smooth. Carefully add the salsa and blend. Refrigerate at least two hours before serving. Serve with Tostitos. I love the whole-grain Scoops with

Dill Sandwiches and **Shrimp Dip**

Base

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened

1 pkg. Ranch dip mix, dry

½ C. sour cream

½ C. salad dressing

½ t. dill weed

¹/₄ t. garlic powder

Dill sandwich ingredients

1 cucumber, sliced thinly Cocktail rye bread Dill weed

Shrimp dip ingredients

10-12 cooked, peeled and deveined frozen shrimp, thawed

Cocktail sauce

Mix the first six ingredients together until smooth. You may refrigerate until you are ready to use this base.

For the dill sandwiches: Spread the rye slices with the cream cheese mixture. Place the rve slices on a cookie sheet and place the cucumber slices on top. Sprinkle with the dill weed. Refrigerate for at least two hours. Place on a serving tray.

For the shrimp dip: Spread the base on a pie plate or long shallow glass tray. Cut up the shrimp (remove the tails and be sure they are dry) into bite-size pieces. Sprinkle the shrimp on top of the base. Drizzle red cocktail sauce over the shrimp.

You may also use this base for vegetable pizza. Spread Crescent Roll dough out on a pizza pan sprayed with cooking spray. Seal all the perforations. Bake according to directions and cool. Spread the base over the dough. Add finely chopped onions, celery, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower and cucumbers, or any combination of these. Sprinkle with dill weed. Spread shredded cheddar cheese on the top. Cut into pieces. Refrigerate until serving. (I like to refrigerate for at least two hours and then cut it.)

My Mom's **Easy Appetizer**

1 lb. ground beef, browned and drained

1 can Hormel no-bean chili

1/4 lb. Velveeta cheese, cubed

After browning ground beef and draining excess liquid, add the chili and combine. Heat mixture and then add the cheese. Place on low heat until the cheese is melted. Refrigerate until serving. (I put mine in a small greased crock pot - you can leave it for at least four hours.)

Final thoughts

Keep safe and healthy. Hopefully I can be back to writing a regular column in a couple of weeks. If you have any appetizers you would like to share, 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.

Lena-Winslow School District

Birth to 3 sign-up/Preschool Screening sign-up Junior Kindergarten Screening/Kindergarten sign-up (For the 2021-2022 school year)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 12. 2021

- What does preschool screening look like for 2021?

 ☐ Free service if you reside within the Lena-Winslow School District.
 ☐ For your child to qualify for the preschool programs he/she must be screened.
 - Submitted paperwork will be reviewed and if there are parental concerns or any screener questions, a team member will contact parents.

- Who is eligible to sign-up?

 □ Any child who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2021.(Kindergarten)

 □ Any child who will be 3 years old by September 1, 2021. (Preschool)

 □ Any child who is birth to 2 ½ years old. (0-3 age)

Why do I have to register my child for Kindergarten?

- To help in the transition of the child from the home to the school.

 To open the lines of communication between the home and the school.
- To help prepare our Kindergarten classrooms and team.

Where do I sign-up?

lindena@le-win.net

What information do I need to sign up?

- Child's name & birthdate.
- Parent's name(s), phone number(s), and email(s)

Sign-up deadline:

February 12th, 2021

What happens after I sign my child up?

An email will be sent with the required paperwork to be completed.

What if I have questions?



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Legion Auxiliary sponsors poster contest

Area students in grades four through 12, including home-schoolers, are invited to participate in the Lena American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Poster Contest.

Anyone interested in participating may pick up a poster and a copy of the rules at the Lena American Legion home, 316 W. Main St., from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb.

Completed posters should be re- Auxiliary on Facebook.

turned to the Legion home between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 13.

Masks are required in the Legion

Students at Le-Win Elementary School will be participating in the contest through school.

For more information, call or text Andrea Karnatz at 815-541-9598 or find the Lena American Legion





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Slices of life

No one wants to get good at grieving

I've written about grief before (recently). I know that. Thing is, there are infinite facets of grief to talk and write about. Just like the infinity of grief.

No one wants to go through grief.
And for sure no one wants to go
through it alone. But grief is a lonely
process. You can be in a roomful of
people and feel alone, because grief is
a beast that isolates — in the cruelest
of ways.

I've recently become somewhat of an expert at grief. I'm practically a grief M.D., although it's a title I never would have chosen. I wish I could give it back. But there aren't any doovers with grief. I'm living that out the hard way.

I suck at grief. I'm terrible at it. I never know what to expect from myself from one moment to the



By
JILL
PERTLER
Contributor

next. I wake up and think I might be having an OK day and then, whoosh! That good thought flies out the window and the tears fall down like rain.

At first I couldn't breathe. Literally. I was living breath to breath. Then, minute to minute, and task to task. Hours were too much to take on — still are sometimes. Evening seems incredibly distant at 10 a.m. How am I going to make it that far?

I don't know the answer, so I

breathe. Calm in. Fear out. Peace in. Anxiety out. Happiness in. Sadness

The days are long and the nights sometimes longer. Sleep is elusive, especially when everyone else who is normal is sleeping. There's no one to call at 3:26 a.m.

Sometimes, on the best of days, my heart is calm and I feel like I can make it through the day. But not tomorrow. I can't commit to tomorrow quite yet. It's too far away. Too optimistic.

Some days are better than others. Some days start out good and turn bad. Some start bad and then turn good. There is no f***ing (flipping) rhyme or reason to grief.

I consider it a win if I shower. So far I haven't missed a one. Winner, winner chicken dinner. How great for me. Exclamation point.

I also pat myself on the back each morning for making half the bed. The other half doesn't get messed up anymore so there's only half of that job to do. Sigh.

Mascara is a thing of the past — an implement for optimists who don't worry about tears washing it away before breakfast. Sunglasses, however, are a wardrobe staple, no matter the number of clouds in the sky.

Between my sunglasses and COVID mask, I figure hardly anyone will recognize me when I go out in public. Because of grief, this is a good thing.

I think most people have difficulties with grief. I'm not the only one who sucks at it. No one wants to win an Olympic medal for grief. No one. We'd give up the gold to have one last day, one last discussion, one last warm hand to hold from the precious person who is

no longer here to give us any of those things.

Grief is, in a word, sadness. It is an overpowering, all-encompassing, horrific and terrible sadness. I want to make it through. I am trying, for myself and my kids. They still need me. But it is overwhelmingly difficult.

Even though I know my dear, sweet husband is now free and in a place where love is perfect and no one needs to experience pain, I miss him. He wanted us to remember the happy times, so I attempt that. We had many.

And when I miss him terribly, so much so that my heart hurts, I take one breath at a time: Love in. Pain out. Right now it's what I've got.

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



Thank you Pearl City and neighboring communities for supporting the Lions' 12 Days of Christmas Raffle. The Pearl City Lions Club was able to provide holiday hams and food to the Pearl City Food Bank with the \$1,800 netted from this raffle.

Thank you for your generosity.

Pearl City Lions Club





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Kathleen MaryJane (Goethe) Baldauf, 74, of Lena, passed away unexpectedly on Monday Jan. 25, 2021, at her home in Lena. Kathy was the daughter of Lester Goethe and Mildred (Koppein). She was born Feb. 16, 1946, in Freeport, Illinois.

Kathy began her education at the Rees rural one-room schoolhouse. She progressed to Lena schools and graduated from Lena-Winslow High School in 1964. She attended North Central College in Naperville, but starting a family paused her original plan. Eugene Baldauf and Kathy were married Sept. 4, 1965. A short time later, with 1-year old Scott in tow, a stay in West Germany was in store. Kathy would be joining Eugene, who had been stationed there with the Army. When Kathy and Eugene returned to the states, they enjoyed the births of two more sons, Richard and Dan. She enjoyed her role as a stay-at-home mom, but after the boys had grown a bit, she attended night school at Rockford College to fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher. At Rockford College, she



obtained teacher certification and began teaching at Lena Grade School in 1980. She eventually earned her master's degree in reading from Northern Illinois Uni-

versity in Dekalb. She retired from Lena-Winslow Elementary School

Kathy and Eugene were members of the Gold Wing Riders Association. Kathy was a fan of Roy, Dale, Trigger and Bullet, an avid reader and active scrapbooker. She enjoyed laughing with her fellow Red Hatters, chewing the fat with high school classmates at ladies luncheons, the thrill of drum and bugle corps shows and she loved supporting any of her grandchildren's endeavors. Most recently she found joy in testing herself against "Jeopardy" and "Wheel of Fortune" and watching Animal Planet, HGTV and

her ice-skating events.

Kathy is survived by three sons, Scott (Brenda Albertson) Baldauf of Cedarville, Richard Baldauf of Lena and Dan (Brooke) Baldauf of Lena; four grandchildren, Tailor (Ashlev) Mills of Denton, Texas, and Bailey, Braden and Avery Baldauf of Lena; a brother, Don (Sharon) Goethe of Freeport, Illinois; and a sister-in-law, Marge Goethe of Maryland. Kathy was preceded in death by her husband; two brothers, Gene and Jerry; her parents; and her beloved canine family members, Heidi, Brandy and Maggie.

Kathy was a lifelong member of Salem United Church of Christ and recently also enjoyed worshiping at Lena United Methodist Church.

A private service will be held for the family. A visitation is planned for 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Schwarz Funeral Home Chapel, 608 S. Park Blvd., Freeport. Please follow social distancing and mask-wearing guidelines. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in Kathy's name to Friends Forever Humane Society in Freeport.

LaVERLE D. EISEMAN

LaVerle D. "Bud" Eiseman, 84, of Freeport, Illinois, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021, at the Monroe Clinic Hospital in Monroe, Wisconsin. He was born June 21, 1936, to Walter and Viola (Koch) Eiseman in Freeport. On May 27, 1961, Bud married Patricia Clarno in Orangeville, Illinois. He served his country in the United States Army from 1955 to 1958. Bud farmed in the rural Freeport area in his younger years, became a licensed plumber and sold Scorpion snowmobiles. Bud and Patricia owned and operated E&H Plumbing and Heating/Ace Hardware in Lena, Illinois. Bud enjoyed fishing, hunting and snowmobiling, He enjoyed going to Hayward, Wisconsin, to the cabin and the lake, and loved being outdoors. He was a volunteer firefighter for more than 30 years. Bud would do anything for anyone, especially his family. His grandchildren and great-grandchildren meant the world to him.

Bud is survived by his wife of 59 years, Patricia, of Freeport; children, Vicki (Brad) Diemer of Orangeville, Duane Eiseman of Freeport and LaVaughn

(Elaine) Eiseman of Monroe; grandchildren, Derik (Elizabeth) Diemer. Tasha (Jordan Echols) Di-Amanemer, Eiseman, April Martin, Erik Eiseman,

Kelsey Eiseman, Adam Eiseman and Elizabeth Eiseman; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his

parents; his son, Roger; two sisters; and a brother. Private family funeral services

will be held at the Cramer-Leamon Funeral Home in Orangeville. Burial will be at Grandview Cem-

etery in Freeport. Shirley Kelter will officiate the

services. A celebration of life will be held at

a later date.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

PHYLLIS A. KLECKLER

Phyllis A. Kleckler, 86, of Freeport, Illinois, formerly of Orangeville, Illinois, passed away on Monday, January 25, 2021, at FHN Memorial Hospital in Freeport. Phyllis was born Jan. 17, 1935, to Joseph and Mabel (Peterson) Lawler in Poplar Grove, Illinois. She married Jerald Kleckler on June 23, 1957, at the Church of the Brethren in Rockford, Illinois.

Phyllis and Jerald enjoyed traveling and spending their winters in Mesa, Arizona, prior to Jerald's passing. She was an active member of the Orangeville United Methodist Church for 60 years, member of the United Methodist Women and the Orangeville Firemen's Ladies Auxiliary. She enjoyed square dancing

almost every Saturday night, and traveling around the U.S. with Jerald and family. In later years, she traveled to Ireland, Germany and Switzerland, as well as several trips to Bran-

son, Missouri, and other destinations. Phyllis was also a secretary for her husband Jerald's veterinary business in Orangeville.

Phyllis is survived by her five children, Bruce (Elizabeth) Kleckler of Naperville, Illinois, Beth (Steve) Flynn of Normal Illinois. Brad (Marlene) Kleckler of Dakota

(Lake Summerset), Barbara (Jim) Hancock of Sycamore and Barry (Jasmine) Kleckler of Redmond, Oregon; 18 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sisters, Joyce Land, Bonnie Speers and Dixie (Mike) Magee; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jerald, in 2003; two brothers, Milton Lawler and his wife, Fern, and Merrill Lawler; two sisters, Beverly Anderson and her husband, Allen, and Shirley Peters and her husband, Robert; brothers-in-law, Richard Land and Sheldon Speers: and twin grandchildren (children of Brad and Marlene)

A public visitation was held Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, at the Orangeville United Methodist Church in Orangeville.

Private family services will be held at the church, with the Rev. Siegfried Schwirblat officiating.

Burial will be at Sunset Acres in Orangeville.

A memorial has been established in her name.

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

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BYRON J. SMITH

Byron J. Smith, 81, of McConnell, Illinois, passed away Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, at UW Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin, in the COVID-19 Unit. He was born Aug. 22, 1939, in Monroe, Wisconsin, to Byron and Mary (Devlin) Smith. Byron married Rosemary Lolling on April 22, 1957, in Monroe. Byron worked for the Illinois Department of Transportation as a foreman, retiring after 31 years.

Byron enjoyed hunting, fishing, going on fishing trips to Canada and trapping. He enjoyed the outdoors and wildlife, making his own maple syrup and raising chickens. Family meant everything to Byron; he was always attending his grandchildren and great-grandchildren's sporting events.

Byron is survived by his wife of 63 years, Rosemary, of McConnell; two children, Brian (Connie) Smith of Winnebago, Illinois, and Brenda "Tootie" (Michael) Fox of Lena, Illinois; grandchildren, Troy (April) Smith, Nicole (Jarod) Olson, Clay Smith, Erica (Justin Perry) Arnold, Courtney (Adam) Coutlhard and Jena

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(Cole) Patrick; step-grandchildren, Ethan (Morgan) Bunger and Gras-Elayna ley; and 14 great-grandchildren. He was pre-

ceded in death by his parents; his brother, Ralph; and a sister in in-

A public visitation was held Sat-

urday, Jan. 30, 2021, at the Leamon Funeral Home in Lena.

A private family service will be held with the Rev. Roger Bronkema officiating. Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

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

TERRY L. KOEHN

Terry L. Koehn, age 72, passed away Tuesday Jan. 26, 2021, at his home in Freeport. He was born March 31, 1948, in Freeport to Harlan and Edith (Bourquin) Koehn. He worked at Swiss Colony for many years. He was an avid pool player and especially enjoyed playing in tournaments.

He is survived by his daughter, Staci (Brian) Dunlavey of Lena; two grandchildren, Alex (Tori) Dunlavey of Monroe Center, Illinois, and Ben Dunlavey of Lena; sister, Mary Koehn, of Freeport; two brothers, Steve Koehn of Scales Mound and Roy Koehn of Apple River; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Private family graveside services will be held.

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

THE SCOOP TODAY SHOPPER'S GUIDE

"Committed to the communities we serve"

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Email: News/Letters to the Editor: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com Ads: ads@rvpublishing.com

Classifieds: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com Billing Office: businessoffice@rvpublishing.com Available online at: rvpnews.com

Mailing Address: The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide 240 W. Main Street, Suite B, Lena, IL 61048

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Conservation group honors longtime contributor, biologist

Officials at the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation have announced that biologist Randy Nyboer has received the 2021 Nancy Hamill Winter Conservation Leadership Award. The award will be presented to Nyboer at JDCF's virtual annual meeting on April 8.

Nyboer is a retired natural heritage biologist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

In the 1970s when he was fresh out of college, Nyboer was selected as one of a handful of biologists to survey the state, finding the best remaining examples of native Illinois habitat and those places that support threatened and endangered plant and animal species.

This survey became known as the Illinois Natural Areas Survey and was one of the first of its kind in the United States. Nyboer has assisted with an update of the survey twice since then.

The survey has guided many JDCF land preservation projects by identifying high quality natural areas. Nyboer also is an adviser for the organization's land management plans with his historical understanding of its properties.

"His keen botany, herp and bird identification skills have helped the

Obituary

WILLIAM J. HENNING

William J.
Henning, 73,
of Freeport,
Illinois, died
Thursday, Jan.
21, 2021, at
Javon Bea Hospital in Rockford, Illinois.
He was born
Dec. 15, 1947,
in Freeport, the



in Freeport, the soon of Wilhelm and Fern (Eggemeier) Henning. William married Mary Ann Barcellona on March 15, 1969, in Freeport; she died Jan. 11, 2006. William worked as a millwright for Micro Switch/Honeywell for 42 years. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army from 1967 to 1969 during the Vietnam War, where he earned multiple prestigious awards and medals. He loved golfing at Park Hills Golf Course, watching game shows, casino trips and following all the local sports teams.

William is survived by his son, Andrew (Tonia) Henning of Dallas; sisters, Carol Lynch of Forreston, Illinois, and Judy (Dale) Rupnow of Browntown, Wisconsin; and his companion in life for the last 13 years, Rhonda Scheider of McConnell, Illinois.

William was preceded in death by his parents, Wilhelm and Fern Henning; wife, Mary Ann Henning; two sisters, Geraldine and Hannah; and brother Roger

A memorial service will be held this spring. A memorial has been established in his memory for both Park Hills Golf Course and Lena-Winslow

athletics.
Please sign Mr. Henning's guestbook and share a memory at www. burketubbs.com. JDCF with numerous biological inventories. Randy has generously led tours, wildflower walks and been a featured guest at many JDCF speaker events over the past 10 years," according to a news release from the foundation. "He never says no when asked to help. His folksy demeanor and sense of humor attract followers and learners from the knowledgeable to the novice.

"The scope of Randy's work on behalf of the natural world make him a worthy recipient of this award."

The Nancy Hamill Winter Conser-

vation Leadership Award is named after JDCF's long-time board member and past board President and Vice President, former Stockton resident Nancy Hamill Winter. JDCF's Executive Committee seeks nominations for the award beginning in October each year. Nominations are due by Dec. 31. Current staff and board members of JDCF are not eligible.

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.



SUBMITTED PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Biologist Randy Nyboer searches out natural treasures throughout Illinois and the driftless region. Nyboer is the winner of the Nancy Hamill Winter Conservation Leadership Award from the Jo Davies Conservation Foundation.



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Zoom presentation highlights civil rights activist

In honor of Black History Month, Highland Community College is hosting a free Zoom presentation at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Treasure Shields Redmond will deliver the interactive presentation "None of Us Are Free Until All of Us Are Free: The Life and Activism of Fannie Lou Hamer."

"Redmond infuses poetry with Southern dialect, spirituals and Gospel to tell the story of the civil rights leader, Fannie Lou Hamer," according to a news release from the college.

Hamer, a native of rural Mississippi and grassroots civil rights activist, helped to organize the 1964 Freedom Summer for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and served as the vice-chairperson of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

"Hamer's legacy resonates with the experiences of many Illinoisans who traveled south to participate in Freedom Summer or were involved in the pursuit of Civil Rights in Cairo, East St. Louis, Chicago and many other communities throughout the state," the release said. ". Redmond believes that the example of Hamer, who prioritized mutual respect and the pursuit of justice, is highly relevant to young people who seek to respond constructively to issues of race relations for the Black Lives Matter movement."

Redmond, a Mississippi native, is a published poet, master educator, community arts organizer, successful entrepreneur and the author of "Chop: A Collection of Kwansabas for Fannie Lou Hamer." She was recently named a post-doctoral fellow of literary executorship for the estate of Dr. Eugene B. Redmond and the late Henry Dumas. She was raised in federal housing projects and was signed to a record label by M.C. Hammer as a hip-hop artist.

The event is free and open to the public. To access the Zoom link, go to highland.edu/event-calendar and click on the event. For more information, contact Laura Watson at 815-599-3456 or laura.watson@highland.edu.

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Church (815) 594-2223

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• Bible Study - Every Monday 9 a.m. Friendly Folks - Casual Attire - Join Us!

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Pastor Jonathan Singleton (815) 947-2414 E-Mail: calvaryum@yahoo.com

- Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday School 8:45 a.m.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON 600 N. Main St., Stockton

Pastor Paul Gebo (815) 858-0941 E-Mail: clc600@frontier.com

https://www.facebook.com/pages/ Christ-Lutheran-Church-Stockton-IL

- Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m.
- Education for all ages

Sun. 9:00 a.m. September - May • Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

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Wednesdays 3:05 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

• Healing Services on 5th Weekends

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- Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday School follows worship
- Feb. worship is at Ebenezer-UCC Church 5421 S. Stone Church Road

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Dr. Jim Erb, Pastor (815) 369-5591 Rev. Scott Wilson Associate Pastor of Youth

- Sunday Morning Worship - 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- Awana Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
- · Listen to Pastor's weekly sermon at www.lenafreechurch.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

411 S. Main Street, PO Box 236, Pearl City, IL 61062 email: pearlcityumc@gmail.com Website: pearlcityumc.org Find us on facebook at www.facebook.com/pcumcil

Pastor Donna Hoffman (815) 443-2177

- Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.
 Sunday School during worship after the children's message

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028 email: firstumcofelizabeth@gmail.com Pastor Roger Bronkema 815-291-6261 email: rbronkema18@gmail.com

- Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m. Women's Faith Group -

1st Tuesday monthly - 9:30 a.m. We are handicapped accessible

Find us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/fumcelizabeth

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH 118 East Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048

Pastor Miho Yasukawa

- ** (815) 369-5552

 * Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

 * Sunday School 10:45 a.m. (Sept. May)
- Piece Corps Quilters -

Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

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Pastor Michael Burdett (815) 858-3843

- Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- Prayer meeting Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Sunday services broadcasted at 11:30 a.m. on Radio WCCI 100.3 FM

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- Sunday Morning Service 10:00 a.m.
- (Church luncheon following morning service)
- Sunday Afternoon Service 12:30 p.m.
- Bible Study & Prayer Wednesday Evening

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

223 E. Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085 Father Mike Morrissey (815) 947-2545

- Saturday Evening Mass 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
 Reconciliation Saturday 3:30 4:15 p.m.
 Parish Hall for Rent Seats 200

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

118 West Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048 Pastor Keri Rainsberger (815) 369-5291

- Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
- Daily Dial-A-Devotion 815-369-4411

McCONNELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 211 Hulbert Rd. P.O. Box 97, McConnell, IL 61050

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Pastor Donna Hoffman (608) 293-0194

- Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
 KidZone: 5:30 7:30 p.m.
- 1st & 3rd Thursday monthly * We are handicapped accessible

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Rev. Randy Nicholas (815) 369-4511

- Adult & Children's
- Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Bookworms Reading Group 7:00 p.m.,
- 2nd Monday of the month

SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

635 East Schapville Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028 **Pastor Dottie Morizzo** (815) 845-2272 Cell (815) 238-0670

- www.schapvillezion.org
- Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
- Bible Študy Classes Available

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

536 E. Schapville Road,

Scales Mound, IL 61054 Church number (815) 845-2061 Rev. James Mehltretter

- Website: www.shepherdofhill.com
- Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. Sunday School (Sept. May) 8:45 a.m.
- Holy Communion is celebrated weekly.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

608 East Railroad, Warren, IL 61087 **Father Skrobutt (815) 745-2312**

- Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m.
- Reconciliation Sunday 7:30 7:50 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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- Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- Blast Program at 9:00 a.m.
- High School & Adult Sunday School at 9:15

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062 www.stjohnspearlcity.org 815-443-2215 • Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.

- Christian Education for all Ages 10:15 a.m. Handicapped Accessible

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Pastor Susan Davenport Church: 815-589-3367

• Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m. 'Celebrating 164 Years of Faith'

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001 Father Skrobutt (815) 745-2312

- Saturday Mass 6:00 p.m.
- Reconciliation Saturday 5:30 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

- 410 West Lena Street, Lena, IL 61048 Father Skrobutt (815) 369-2810
- Saturday Mass 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.
- Reconciliation Saturday 3:30 3:50 p.m.

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The Little Church with a Big Heart 1334 Sunnyside Road, Kent, IL 61044 1/2 mile north on Kent Road

- Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
- Holy Communion every Sunday
- Women Meet at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday
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209 Clinton St., P.O. Box 445, Warren, IL 61087

Vicar Michelle Knight (815)745-3444

- www.stpaulswarren.org
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 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

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- Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.
 Adult Sunday School before Worship
- Children Sunday School During the service Communion Every First Sunday
- * Handicapped Accessible

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Corner of Hudson & Benton St., Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Chuck Wolbers (262) 308-2379

- Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
- Adult Bible Studies Available
 Communion Every 1st Sunday
- First Sunday potluck following church services.
- Open Sanctuary for meditation time from 4 6 p.m. every Wednesday
 * Handicapped Accessible

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

197 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089 Pastor Robert Patin (815) 230-1862 608-669-5770

- Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
- Prayer and Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Home

YELLOW CREEK CHURCH OF THE

BRETHREN 12602 W. Dublin Road, Pearl City, IL Pastor Ellis Boughton • 815-864-2049

- Email: ellis.boughton@live.com
- Sunday Services 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (when available)

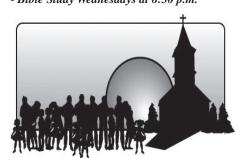
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10100 W. Sabin Church Rd., Pearl City, IL 61062

Pastor Wayne Fischer • 815-266-6260 Pastor Chip Sohl • 815-541-1425

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.
Children's Church - during church service

• Prayer Shawl Knitting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. • Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.





Federal funding boosts state vaccination efforts

Management Agency and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency recently announced that \$43,361,000 in expedited federal funding has been made available to IEMA for costs related to the state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan.

This funding is an advance payment to IEMA for eligible reimbursable costs to provide contract health care staffing for rapid distribution and administration of available COVID-19

also includes the establishment and operation of temporary facilities and vaccination assistance teams throughout Illinois, including mobile vaccination assistance teams staffed by National Guard members and contract temporary health care providers.

FEMA is committed to expanding COVID-19 vaccination efforts across the country" Kevin M. Sligh, FEMA Region 5 acting administrator, said in a news release. "This expedited grant

vaccines across the state. The grant funding ensures the availability of crit- IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. ical health care resources to vaccinate Illinoisans and is just one part of our support to the state in their fight against this pandemic."

> FEMA provides funding at a 100 percent federal share of eligible reimbursable expenses for this project.

This federal funding will help the state of Illinois build vaccination teams that will be utilized throughout the state to help vaccinate Illinoisans eli"These additional resources will allow our state to augment the efforts of local health departments to accelerate vaccination efforts with a keen focus on equitability and accessibility.'

"Just two days after announcing an increase in weekly vaccine allocations to states and a deal to secure an additional 200 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine by the end of the summer, I'm incredibly grateful to see another action gible for the COVID-19 vaccine," said from the federal government to speed

best tool for putting this pandemic behind us," said Gov. JB Pritzker said in the release. "With this \$43 million in additional funding for vaccine distribution here in Illinois, we'll be able to further expand our vaccination operations and offer more easy-access locations for our residents as the national vaccine supply increases."

To learn more, go online to www. fema.gov/public-assistance-localstate-tribal-and-non-profit.

Bill aims to reshape health care delivery

'Hospital transformation' plan targets service gaps, disparities

By Peter Hancock CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

During the early hours of the morning on one of the last days of the lame duck session, Illinois lawmakers passed a sweeping piece of legislation that seeks to re-vamp the way hospital services and health care generally are delivered in communities throughout the state.

The so-called "Hospital Transformation" bill, Senate Bill 1510, House Floor Amendment 3, was not part of the Legislative Black Caucus' agenda, which was the focus of much of the activity during that session. But it did pass unanimously out of both chambers and will soon head to Gov. JB Pritzker for his signature.

In short, the bill makes about \$150 million a year available to local communities to form partnerships that will develop and implement plans

that improve medical access, with a focus on the uninsured and Medicaid users. The funds are meant for "integrated" health care, such as community-based services, preventive care, obstetric care, chronic disease management and specialists.

The program specifically targets what are known as "safety net hospitals," which serve large numbers of Medicaid and uninsured patients, as well as "critical access" hospitals," which are small hospitals in sparsely-populated rural areas that offer acute care and emergency medical services.

Funding for the grants will come from a statewide hospital assessment to earn federal dollars, which lawmakers renewed during the abbreviated regular session in May, combined with federal matching funds for Medicaid.

The bill was the result of a yearslong effort by a group called the Medicaid Working Group, made up of lawmakers from both parties and both chambers as well as officials

See BILL, Page 8

Make heart health a priority, experts advise Monroe Clinic doctors offer suggestions during Heart Month

health care focus on COVID-19, officials at Monroe Clinic are reminding people of the importance of heart health during Heart Month.

"In addition to staying vigilant in all ways of protecting ourselves from COVID-19, I would

like to use the occasion of Heart Month to remind everyone how critical heart health is, especially during a pandemic," Monroe Clinic cardiologist Arif Ahmad said in a news release.

Patients with existing risk factors for heart disease, such as high blood pressure, face greater risks if they contract COVID-19, Ahmad said.

These patients may be reluctant to leave home for cardiology visits in an effort to avoid the virus," he said. "However, maintaining your regular health care visits has become more important than ever so you can remain healthy. And our clinic has instituted numerous safety precautions to keep everyone, patients and staff, safe.'

Ahmad advised that it's crucial for cardiology patients to stick to their cardiac care plan and maintain relationships with their cardiology team.

In addition, Dr. Sunil Penesetti, also a Monroe Clinic cardiologist, said Hearth Month is a great time for



Dr. Sam Cook



Dr. Sunil Penesetti

everyone to become familiar with the risk factors for heart disease and how to lower or eliminate them, even those with no previous cardiac issues.

"The most recognized risk factors for heart disease include high blood pressure, high cholesterol and smoking," Penesetti

said. "Other risk factors include diabetes and obesity. Many patients discover they are living with one or more of these risk factors during a routine physical, so again, it is important to keep those appointments.'

To keep potential risk factors at bay, Penesetti recommends getting about 150 minutes of exercise per week, making healthy food choices that include lots of fruits and vegetables and lean meats and limiting alcohol

If you know you are living with one or more of the risk factors for heart disease, talk with your doctor about how you can lower or eliminate them to improve your health, such as increasing physical activity and improving diet choices.

The pandemic is not the time to let healthy choices slide," said cardiology nurse practitioner Sam Cook. "In fact, this time in our lives, more than any, is the time to stay vigilant with our healthy choices.'

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\$119 FHN'S CALCIUM SCORING CT HEART SCAN uses 64-slice CT scanner technology to detect calcified plaque in arteries, an indication of potential heart issues. This noninvasive x-ray takes only a few minutes and does not require any physical activity.

\$119 STANDARD WALKING TREADMILL STRESS TEST helps determine artery condition and may be right for you if you have risk factors for heart disease such as high cholesterol, existing or borderline high blood pressure, a history of smoking, diabetes, or family history of heart disease. You must be able to walk for this test and not have a history of heart

Call by Friday, February 26 to schedule tests at the special \$119 price.

The tests must be performed by Friday, May 28, 2021.

For more information or to schedule an appointment today, call 1-877-6000-FHN (1-877-600-0346) ext. 944 or visit www.fhn.org. During American Heart Month – and every day – your heart is in good hands at FHN.

These tests should not replace consultations with your healthcare provider. If you do not have a primary care provider, we will work with you to determine how to handle your test results when we communicate them to you. Payment (cash, checks, credit card) due at time of service.





PHOTO COURTESY MONROE ARTS CENTER The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

The artwork of contemporary American painter Gabe Pionkowski is on exhibit in the Monroe Arts Center's Wellington and Muranyi galleries through April 9. For information, call 608-325-5700 or go online to monroeartscenter.com.

Arts center features contemporary painter

American painter Gabe Pionkowski is featured in an exhibit at the Monroe Arts Center through April 6. The exhibit is free and open to the pub-

Pionkowski is a visual artist based in Madison who earned a master of fine arts degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a bachelor of arts degree in art education from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, after studying in Italy at the Florence University of the Arts.

Pionkowski has been awarded residencies at Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in Maine and the Millay Colony of the Arts

Milton and Sally Avery Endowed Fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and was awarded a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 2016.

"My paintings are made by deconstructing canvas thread by thread, hand painting each thread, and reconstructing them on a traditional handloom. The majority of the work presented in this exhibition has focused on painting back onto the newly constituted plane," Pionkowski said in explaining his work. "These marks divide the surface laterally and penetrate to mark the backside. In an attempt to bring forward what has (sunk), the canvas is in Austerlitz, New York. He was a cut, each strip folded along a central

axis, and woven into itself.

"Although at times the paintings are very full, I strive for the process to constantly double back on itself, allowing the paintings to declare themselves as an entity whose primary function is engaging in a constant play of hide and seek.

The exhibit is featured in the center's Wellington and Muranyi gal-

The galleries are open by appointment only to groups of six people or fewer between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. To schedule a gallery visit, call 608-325-

Upon entering Monroe Arts Center, guests will be greeted by the gallery director and asked to sanitize their hands and wear a mask. Masks are required to be worn when visiting the arts center.

Temperature and medical screenings will be performed on all guests. Visitors with a temperature of over 100.4 or who are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, along with their group, will be asked to reschedule their visit after 14 days.

Guests will have 30 minutes to tour the exhibit. All other parts of the building will be closed.

All touchpoints will be cleaned thoroughly between appointments.

● **Bill** (Continued from page 7)

from the governor's office and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. The group consults with hospitals, clinics and other stakeholders to design Medicaid policy.

House Majority Leader Greg Harris, D-Chicago, who is part of that working group, said during an interview that for the last several years, it has been focused on trying to design a modern Medicaid system that reflects a very different health care environment than the one that existed

"When our system was designed, most health care was delivered in hospital settings, in medical surgery settings," he said. "Now, you know, huge amounts of that kind of work is being done in outpatient settings, whether it's diagnostic imaging or specialty care, or same day surgery. Hospitals are not the central hub for a lot of services like they used to be.'

The problem being faced in many parts of the state, he said, is that not all communities have access to the full array of medical services, resulting in health care disparities that cut across racial and ethnic lines, income categories, and the divide be-tween urban, suburban and rural communities.

"So, whether you're living in a densely populated urban area with very low automobile ownership, some areas with high concentrations of poverty and environmental factors, how do you plan for the future of good health care deliveries in those communities, in suburban communities where, you know, the environmental factors are totally different," Harris said. "And then in rural communities in central and southern Illinois, where you may be a couple of counties away from a hospital, how do you make sure that quality health care is accessible in all those areas?

The bill calls on local communities to conduct a "community needs assessment" to identify the particular needs of that community and then form collaborations between hospitals, primary care, preventive care and specialty care providers, mental health and substance abuse providers and other local organizations to address those needs.

It also calls on them to submit proposals specifically designed to improve health care outcomes and reduce health care disparities, including specific metrics that can be used to track whether or not the project is meeting its goals.

Beyond that, the bill puts few limitations on the types of proposals that will be considered. Evan Fazio, a spokesman for the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, which will administer the grant program, said that was intentional.

"We want to cast a really wide net and we want this to be about what the community needs and what the community wants," he said. "And since it is a community-first initiative, we want people to kind of come up with the partnerships and collaborations that they think could come together to meet the needs of their communi-

Rep. Tom Demmer, R-Dixon, who also serves on the Medicaid Working Group, said one of the biggest challenges in crafting the bill was getting all the various players to come to a shared understanding of what a health care "transformation" should look like and what kinds of local programs the state was looking for.

"It's been years in the making. These discussions have literally been going on for years, trying to craft some definitions and parameters for just what do we mean by this transformation idea," he said.

The bill is what's known in legislative jargon as an "agreed bill," meaning lawmakers from both parties and both chambers, as well as all of the various interest groups affected by it, came to a general agreement on its provisions.

That's a relatively rare occurrence in the Illinois General Assembly, but both Harris and Demmer said it has become common with Medicaid legislation, primarily because of the bipartisan nature of the Medicaid Working Group.

"Over the years, people have really learned to work together, and people put aside political differences and partisan differences in order to get really good policy outcomes," Harris said. "And I think that has really helped us do good work, and it's really nice to see.

"I think this hospital trans-formation fund is a unique and innovative way to put additional money in communities that are struggling with health care today," Demmer said. "The need has always been there, but it's been high-lighted by the impact we've seen with COVID in a lot of communities."



Call for an appointment today!

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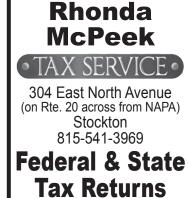
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Payroll Tax Returns

On Trump's final day, HHS launches probe into Illinois abortion law

Complaint was filed by law firm that focuses on religious freedom issues

By Peter Hancock CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has launched an investigation to determine whether Illinois has violated federal law by enacting and enforcing the 2019 Reproductive Health Act which, among other things, requires certain health insurance plans to cover abortion

In a letter dated Jan. 19, which was the last full day of the Trump administration, HHS's Office of Civil Rights notified the Chicago-based Thomas More Society that it had received a complaint the group filed in October 2019 and had agreed to open an investigation to determine if certain portions of the act violate federal law.

Specifically, the letter stated that

HHS's Office of Civil Rights "is investigating whether the state of Illinois, through its Department of Insurance and Department of Central Management Services, is discriminating against health plan issuers and plans that would offer health coverage that limited or excluded abortion coverage but for the Reproductive Health Act," Luis Perez, who was a deputy director at HHS in the Trump administration, wrote in the letter.

But it is unclear how the investigation will play out as the department transitions to the leadership of President Joe Biden.

A spokeswoman for Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul said in an email statement that his office was aware of the pending investigation but that it intends to defend the state's law.

day of the Trump administration of the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights' intention to investigate complaints filed by the Thomas More Society" the spokeswoman said. "In the event that the new administration follows through on this 11th hour attempt to undermine access to reproductive care in Illinois, Attorney General Raoul is committed to defending Illinois' Reproductive Health Act.'

The Illinois Department of Insurance regulates small-group health plans sold in Illinois while the Department of Central Management Services administers the state employee health insurance program, both of which are under the coverage mandate in the Reproductive Health

The coverage mandate does not apply to private, large-group insurance plans that are regulated under the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act, also known as

"We were notified — on the final ERISA. And while the mandate does apply to plans in the state's Medicaid program, abortion services within that program are paid for only with state funds, not federal matching

> The letter specifically referred to a federal law known as the Weldon Amendment, which has been attached to every HHS appropriations bill since 2005. It prohibits any recipient of HHS funds, including state and local governments, from discriminating against "any institutional or individual health care entity," including health insurance plans, "on the basis that the health care entity does not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.'

"This Illinois law requires health insurance policies to cover elective chemical and surgical abortions, Thomas More Society attorney Michael McHale said in a news release. "It compels businesses and individuals to pay for even late term abortion coverage and offers no religious exemptions. This is a violation of the federal Weldon Amendment."

The Thomas More Society, a private, nonprofit law firm that focuses on religious freedom issues, acknowledged in its press release that the letter was dated in the final hours of the Trump administration and that it was unclear whether the new Biden administration would pursue the investigation. President Joe Biden has frequently expressed his support for abortion rights.

"The law is the law, regardless of who holds office," McHale said in a separate email statement to Capitol News Illinois. "We would certainly expect the new administration to uphold the rule of law and ensure that all of its agencies are charged with doing the same."

Officials from the Department of Central Management Services and the Department of Insurance did not respond to requests for comment by the time of publication.



SUBMITTED PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

Showing their knowledge

River Ridge FFA members Conner Tippett, foreground, and Kari Conklin participate in the recent section one poultry career development event. In the Jan. 26 contest, students were tested on a variety of criteria about the poultry industry, including grading the internal and external quality of eggs, identifying parts of a poultry carcass and judging processed poultry products. River Ridge FFA took first place out of nine schools participating, with senior Trevor Grube placing first overall. The FFA chapters from Lena-Winslow and Scales Mound took second and third place, respectively. Other high-scoring River Ridge FFA members included senior Conner Tippet (second), junior Ashley Carroll (third), senior Charlie Schnitzler (fifth) and Greenhand member Lucas Holland (sixth).

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• Restrictions (Continued from front page)

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Minnesota, with a loss of 9,100 jobs, and New York, with a loss of 7,200

The report noted November 2020 restaurant employment in Illinois was down 20 percent or more compared to restaurant employment during Febru-

And in his year-end online message, Illinois Restaurant Association President and CEO Sam Toia said, "We expect a minimum of 20 percent of restaurants to never reopen in Illinois."

To meet Phase 4 levels, criteria for

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candy or stuffed bear.

COVID hospitalizations, bed availability and a test positivity rate — in this case of below 6.5 percent for three consecutive days -must be met. So if COVID cases rise again, mitigations could change.

'It's been a struggle one way or another. We're trying to do our best, but it's tough," said Refat Hasankolli, the owner of Route No. 73 Brew & Chew, a burger restaurant in Pearl City.

"Every business is different, but if we're stuck with carryout only, that's detrimental to us," he said. "A lot of my customer base is out of town, and (limiting customers to) Pearl City is not enough to keep the business going.

"People don't drive out of town for take-out only, so I can't afford to do that. It's been working for us. I'm happy for that at least.'



PHOTO COURTESY SAPORITO'S PIZZERIA

Plenty of pizzas have been going out for pickup and delivery throughout the pandemic at Saporito's Pizzeria in Lena. Still, owner Joe Hallstrom said he is happy to be able to reopen the restaurant's dining room as well.

Church offers curbside community meal

St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City will hold the February Community Grace Meal from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. The menu will include chili, sandwiches, applesauce and dessert.

The meal will be curbside pickup only, and all meals must be ordered by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 19, by calling 815-443-2215 or emailing prshadmin@ gmail.com. Thrivent is sponsoring the

In addition, officials at St. John's are reminding area residents that worship services are available online by going to StJohnsPearlCity.org or finding them on Facebook.

Legion auxiliary sets February meeting dates

The February meeting of the Lena American Legion Auxiliary is set for 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Legion post, 316 W. Main St.

Members will select delegates to

American Legion Auxiliary Illini Girls State, make tray favors for hospitalized veterans and collect dues. New members are welcome.

The junior auxiliary members will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at the post. Junior members will work on earning patches and do a service project.

Lena church has room for 100 attendees on Sunday

Per Phase 4 mitigation measures, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Lena is able to welcome 50 people each in its sanctuary and fellowship hall for the Feb. 7 worship service.

Those who attend are asked to wear masks, use hand sanitizer and practice social distancing.

The 9:30 a.m. service also will be available on the church's Facebook page and its website, goodshepherdle-

Pearl City foundation offers scholarships

The application period is open now for \$15,000 in scholarships available this year through the Pearl City Education Foundation. The scholarships are available to full-time, first-year students, according to a news release.

The required PCEF multiuse scholarship application is available online from the guidance counselor's website or as a hard copy from the high school guidance office. Completed applications are due by April 1, with no late submissions accepted. Students are advised to allow additional days for the school to complete the administrative signature portion.

In 2020, eight Pearl City graduates received a total of \$10,750 in scholarships to attend a two- or four-year college or vocational school, thanks to the donations of individuals, organizations and businesses, the release said.

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Le-Win recognizes super spellers

(Left top) Three winners were recognized in the Jan. 27 Le-Win School District spelling bee. Pictured from the left are seventh-grader Max Duncan, third place; eighth-grader Madalyn Schierloh, first place; and eighth-grader Alyssa Daughenbaugh, second place. Schierloh and Daughenbaugh advance to the regional spelling bee.

(Left center) The eighth-grade participants in the Le-Win School District spelling bee, from left, were Madeline Chiles, Mya Ortiz, Madalyn Schierloh and Alyssa Daughenbaugh. Students had to win their grade level spelling bee in order to qualify for the Jan. 27 district competition.

(Left bottom) The enth-grade spelling bee participants, from left, were Sally Monigold, Max Duncan, Nakoah Cornwell and Aubrey Rodebaugh.

(Right bottom) The fifth-grade spelling bee participants were, from left, Alex Parker, Dylan Madigan, Grant Marvin and Jozi



The sixth-grade spelling bee participants, from left, were Shaylen Smith, Kaydan Yount, Gavin Kaiser and Jax Korte.



The fifth-grade spelling bee participants were, from left, Evelyn Gabel, Ashlyn Schubert, Dakota Esser and Kaiya Christensen.



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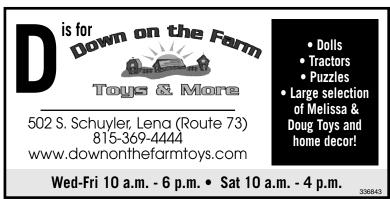
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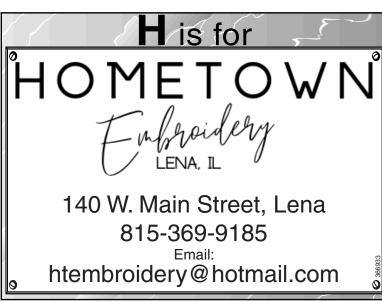
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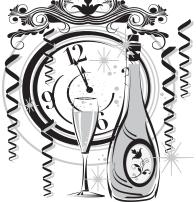




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College scholarship applications open to new and current students

Foundation annually awards about \$350,000 in student assistance

The application period is open now for scholarships through the Highland Community Foundation. The scholarships are open to new and current Highland Community College students.

April 1 is the deadline for the majority of the scholarship applications.

Pat Dunn, director of operations for the Highland Foundation, said scholarships aren't just for academic achieve-

'Highland has more than 200 scholarships based on where you live, fields of study, special interest, part- and full-time, financial need and academic performance, so there is something for almost everyone," Dunn said in a news release. "The foundation is always happy to help students find the specific opportunities to apply for."

In previous years, the college has annually awarded more than \$350,000

29, the state's rolling seven-day aver-

age case positivity rate was 4.3 percent, marking the 21st straight day

it has decreased and the lowest it has

ue on a downward trend as well. As of

Jan. 28, there were 2,735 patients hos-

pitalized with COVID-19 in Illinois.

the lowest amount since Oct. 25 and a

full 50 percent decrease since the be-

those hospitalized

COVID-19, 532 were in intensive care

unit beds and 297 were on ventilators.

Both numbers represent declines of

about 50 percent since mid-December.

since the pandemic began among more

than 1.1 million confirmed or probable

cases and more than 15.8 million test

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprof-

it, nonpartisan news service covering

The state also reported another 71 deaths, bringing the death toll to 19,138

Hospitalizations for the virus contin-

been since Oct. 12.

ginning of December.

results performed.

in scholarships to Highland students. Since 1962, the HCC Foundation has awarded more than \$8.8 million in scholarships through annually funded, endowed and memorial scholarships.

"Without the commitment from

the generous donors in the region, we would not be able to establish and sustain these scholarships," Dunn said. "We are so thankful for them."

To access the scholarship applications, go online to highland.edu/schol-

Individuals or community partners interested in supporting students by establishing a scholarship should contact Dunn at 815-599-3408 or foundation@ highland.edu.

You ought to be in pictures!

THIS IS AN OPEN CALL FOR SUBMITTED PHOTOS TO BE USED IN YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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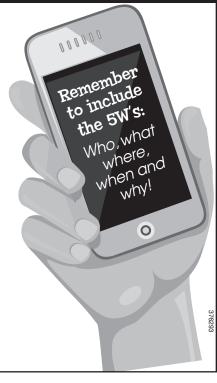
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• Vaccine (Continued from front page)

plan to secure 200 million additional amid falling positivity rates. On Jan.

"Of course, as I and governors across

the political spectrum have made clear, the current national vaccine supply pipeline is completely inadequate for national demand — a product of the previous presidential administration, whether or not you'd like to name it as such," the governor wrote to the GOP lawmakers. "In a country of 330 million, the CDC estimates that only enough doses to fully vaccinate about 23 million people have even gone out the door — and that doesn't count delays in administration or reporting."

In total, the state has received slightly more than 1.8 million doses of the vaccines manufactured by either Pfizer or Moderna, with about 1.3 million distributed outside of the long-term care partnership program. Of those outside of the partnership program, 59 percent, or 756,444, have been reported administered. Vaccine administrators have three days from when the shot is given to report it.

The vaccination rollout continues state government.

BC's of the New

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL **CIRCUIT** STEPHENSON COUNTY, **ILLINOIS**

FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB Plaintiff,

TODD A. WILLIAMS, RAYKELLE J. EASLEY

Defendant 20 CH 13 NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HERE-BY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 30, 2020, the Sheriff of Stephenson County will at 9:30 AM on February 18, 2021, at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Ave., (West Door), FREEPORT, IL, 61032, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following

THE SOUTH 62 FEET OF LOTS 31 AND 32 IN BLOCK 4 IN LINCOLN BOULE-VARD SUBDIVISION IN THE WEST HALF OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL ME-RIDIAN; SITUATED IN STE-PHENSON COUNTY IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

described real estate:

Commonly known as 720 S. MCKINLEY AVE., FREE-PORT, IL 61032

Property Index No. 18-13-36-331-032

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The judgment amount was \$80,742.70. Sale terms: 10% down of the

highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; the balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, 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 fur-

Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a

ther subject to confirmation by

deed to the real estate after con- DATED MARCH 5, 2007 et al firmation of the sale

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

IF YOU ARE THE MORT-GAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO 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. information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Alexander Potestivo, POTESTIVO & AS-SOCIATES, P.C., 223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610, Chicago, IL, 60606, (312) 263-0003. Please refer to file number 311395. E-Mail: ilpleadings@ potestivolaw.com Case # 20 CH 13 I3163146

The Shopper's Guide

(Published in

Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & 10, 2021)

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

Plaintiff,

DENNIS J. PIERRO, TRUSTEE OF THE DENNIS J. PIERRO LIVING TRUST.

Defendant

2020CH56

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HERE-BY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on November 12, 2020, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 1:30 PM on March 5, 2021, at the office of Vincent Roth Toepfer & Leinen PC, 11406 U.S. Route 20 W, Galena, IL, 61036, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following

LOT SEVENTY-FIVE (75) IN GENERAL GRANT UNIT BRANIGAR'S APPLE CANYON LAKE SUBDIVI-SION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN JO DAVIESS COUNTY, IL-LINOIS, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

described real estate:

Commonly known as 3A75 GENERAL LEE CT, APPLE RIVER, IL 61001

Property Index No. 18-003-075-00

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the Judicial Sale fee for the Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount OF THE ILLINOIS MORTpaid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds/ twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments,

or special taxes levied against said real estate and SUBJECT TO A PRIOR RECORDED 1st Mortgage and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

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

You will need a photo idenor wire transfer, is due within tification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales.

> For information, examine the court file, CODILIS & AS-SOCIATES,

Attorneys, 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100, BURR RIDGE, IL, 60527 (630) 794-9876 THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-SALE

pending sales. CODILIS & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 15W030 NORTH FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 100 BURR RIDGE IL, 60527 630-794-5300 E-Mail: pleadings@il.cslegal.com

You can also visit The Judicial

Sales Corporation at www.tjsc.

com for a 7 day status report of

Attorney File No. 14-20-04549 Attorney ARDC No. 00468002 Case Number: 2020CH56 TJSC#: 40-2393

NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Case # 2020CH56 I3163262

(Published in The Scoop Today Jan. 27, Feb. 3 & 10, 2021)

Buckeye Township Cemetery Association Financial Statement

Balance 12-10-19 \$ 260.90 Taxes & Interest \$12,955.29 \$13,216.19 Expenses:

Rock Valley Pub. 28.13 Afolkey Cem \$ 1,720,00 Bellview Cem \$ 1,520.00 Cedarville Cem 7,960.00

Richland Cem 964.00 846.00 Zion Cem \$13,038,13

Balance 12/16/20 \$ 178.06 Trustees Dennis Fryer

Dale Kubatske Jim Obert (Published in

The Shopper's Guide Feb. 3, 2021) 389477

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Seeing yourself as others see you

Video conferencing brings teeth issues to light

Toward the end of 2020 I wrote a column about some of the negative ways that the pandemic was affecting oral health across America. Nationwide, dentists continue to report increased incidence in cracked and fractured teeth. This is often the result of grinding and clenching teeth due to both stress and poor posture from working at home in less-thanideal conditions. Other negative stress coping mechanisms wreaking havoc on teeth include nail, lip and cheek biting.

The disruption of routine schedules, including daily oral care, accompanied by an increase in snacking, has also led to a higher incidence of decay and inflamed gums being reported.

Oddly enough, one big change that has arisen from the pandemic is actually helping some people become more aware of their oral health and seek ways to improve it. With the enormous rise in video conferencing, many people are not only seeing themselves smile, but talk. While we often see ourselves in a mirror or in a picture, we do not see ourselves lined up next to others and conversing.

Many patients are reporting that they had no idea how much their fillings showed when they spoke or how crooked their teeth were. They were not aware just how stained their



DR. STEPHEN PETRAS Illinois Licensed General Dentist

teeth were or how chipped and missing teeth or other dental issues were made visible when they spoke to their colleagues, friends and family.

Seeing how other people see you is a great incentive to improve our oral hygiene routines. Many people are not comfortable with their appearance and are actively seeking to improve their smiles. Bear in mind that these are more than cosmetic and self-esteem issues.

Misaligned, overcrowded

"crooked" teeth have more places where plaque is difficult to reach and remove. An improper bite often leads to jawbone and temporomandibular joint (TMJ) issues, including (but not limited to) teeth grinding, chipped teeth, pain, headaches, migraines and ringing in the ears.

Straight teeth not only look better, but they are also easier to clean, helping you to avoid decay, periodontal disease and tooth loss. Missing teeth can cause bone loss and surrounding teeth to drift. Cracks and chips that are left untreated can lead to fractures.

Although orthodontic correction is usually quicker in a growing child, not so long as the gum tissue and bony support is healthy, it is never too late. In fact, adult orthodontics had been or one of the fastest growing areas of

dentistry even before video conferencing.

If seeing yourself on screen is causing you concern about your oral health or affecting your self-esteem, contact your dentist for an evaluation. Modern dentistry offers myriad options to help you reach and maintain optimal oral health and a confident smile.

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



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Pretrial detention and release will be non-monetary by 2023

By Raymon Troncoso CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing "Lame Duck Look Back series in which Capitol News Illinois is following up on the major bills that passed both chambers of the General Assembly in the Jan. 8-13 lame duck

Illinois will transition away from the use of cash bail as a determinant of pretrial detention by 2023 after lawmakers passed a wide-ranging bill reforming several aspects of the criminal justice system in the state.

The legislation, which now awaits Gov. JB Pritzker's signature before it can be finalized into law, would shift Illinois' pretrial detention and release system to one that is non-monetary.

Starting on Jan. 1, 2023, "all persons charged with an offense shall be eligible for pretrial release before conviction," and the "requirement of posting monetary bail" will be abol-

Proponents of ending cash bail have argued the presumption of innocence for those charged with crimes should also result in the presumption of freedom, rather than detention, as the default standard, except in certain cases.

Exceptions from pretrial release under the new law include forcible felonies such as first-degree murder, sexual assault, arson and any other felony involving the use or threat of physical force; stalking and aggravated stalking where the defendant poses a threat to the victim if released; abuse or battery of a family member where their release poses a danger to that family member; gun crimes where the defendant poses a threat to a specific, identifiable person; and cases where the defendant has committed a felony that wouldn't otherwise result in detention but they are considered a high risk of fleeing prosecution and miss-

ing their court date. The law would place the burden on the state to prove an individual should be detained, rather than the individual proving that they should go free.

According to Chicago Community Bond Fund Director Sharlyn Grace, the state's attorney prosecuting the defendant must request detention in each eligible case through a verified petition. If the defendant's offense is a Class 4 felony or misdemeanor. a hearing on their detention must be held within 24 hours of their first appearance before a judge. For a greater offense, there would be a 48-hour

Victims of the alleged crime must be given notice for the hearing as well. Pretrial release may come with some conditions. While the legislation provides guidelines as to what should be considered when establishing conditions - such as the nature of the crime, the evidence available and the history of the defendant — it does not establish what those conditions will

This leaves it up to the Illinois court system, which has roughly two years to devise its administrative code for the new method of pretrial detention and release. The Illinois Supreme Court and its administrative offices have been working on an alternative to cash bail for years and published a report on pretrial detention in 2020.

In that report, the Commission on Pretrial Practices determined conditions for release should be the "least restrictive" means possible to ensure community safety and the defendant's appearance in court. The report concludes these measures can include various forms of supervision, rehabilitative services or instructions tied to the nature of the alleged crime that the defendant must follow in order to avoid detention.

The legislation also creates a data oversight board for pretrial practices to track outcomes and methods across all Illinois counties to help make the right determinations on what guidelines will enhance public safety without harming the livelihood of the ac-

The push to end cash bail

Activists, lawmakers and officials who advocate for criminal justice reform have long pointed to the practice of cash bail as a system due for an

Entering his second year in office, Pritzker placed ending cash bail at the top of his 2020 agenda and has recently indicated he supports and will sign the criminal justice omnibus.

State Sen. Robert Peters crafted the pretrial release provisions alongside a fellow Chicago Democrat, Rep. Justin Slaughter — was previously an organizer with the Coalition to End Money Bond and ran his senate campaign on ending cash bail. The pair had unsuccessfully introduced cash bail reform multiple times before the legislation was absorbed into and passed as part of the criminal justice omnibus in the lame duck session.

Slaughter and Peters recently appeared on The Appeal Live, a digital news program, to discuss the next steps legislators and activists can take on cash bail over the next two years before its abolition.

Stakeholders and legislators plan to host town halls to educate the public on the new non-monetary system and dispel myths while working privately to address the concerns of the legisla-

The State's Attorneys Association, with the exception of Cook and Lake counties, opposed the abolition of cash bail, along with law enforcement

"What we'll be doing is engaging them and continue to engage them in discussion," Slaughter said.

While proponents of the non-monetary system say safety concerns are adequately addressed in the bill, one issue held by some law enforcement agencies that is not tackled in the bill is the loss of revenue generated by monetary bail, which some counties use to fund victim services and court

Peters and Slaughter dismissed the idea, saying it was not a valid reason to maintain the system of cash bail.

"I don't think judges look over a spreadsheet and see the county is in the red when making bail determinations," Peters said.

While the elimination of cash bail may result in revenue losses for certain counties, Peters said, those revenue streams are variable rather than fixed and are therefore not a dependable method of funding.

According to Peters, it also underscored the lack of safety under the current money bond system. He used Kyle Rittenhouse, an Illinois teen charged with killing two men at a protest in Wisconsin last year, as an example. Rittenhouse was seen earlier this month at a bar drinking beer and allegedly flashing white power symbols after posting \$2 million bail and being released from jail.

other than restorative justice that harm communities more than they protect

"We need to make sure that we wean ourselves off of the prison industrial complex approach. Tying these things to budgetary matters is something we want to do away with,"

Budget shortfalls and gaps in fund-Slaughter said there is a need to ing for law enforcement agencies move away from administrative deci- forced to follow new and existing

sions and systems based on concepts mandates — such as mandatory body cameras, reporting requirements, data tracking and administrative procedures — could be issues for the new General Assembly to address in follow-up legislation. "We do want to look at financial

> and fiscal impacts that this system will have. We want to re-imagine our budgetary priorities," Slaughter said.

> Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering

REAL ESTATE LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB

Plaintiff.

TODD A. WILLIAMS, RAYKELLE J. **EASLEY**

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Commonly known as 720 S. MCKIN-LEY AVE., FREEPORT, IL 61032

Property Index No. 18-13-36-331-032 The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

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For information, contact Plaintiff's attorney: Alexander Potestivo, POTESTI-VO & ASSOCIATES, P.C., 223 WEST JACKSON BLVD, STE 610, Chicago, IL, 60606, (312) 263-0003. Please refer to file number 311395. E-Mail: ilpleadings@ potestivolaw.com Case # 20 CH 13

13163146 (Published in The Shopper's Guide

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT JO DAVIESS COUNTY - GALENA, II I INOIS

ILLINOIS BANK AND TRUST Plaintiff,

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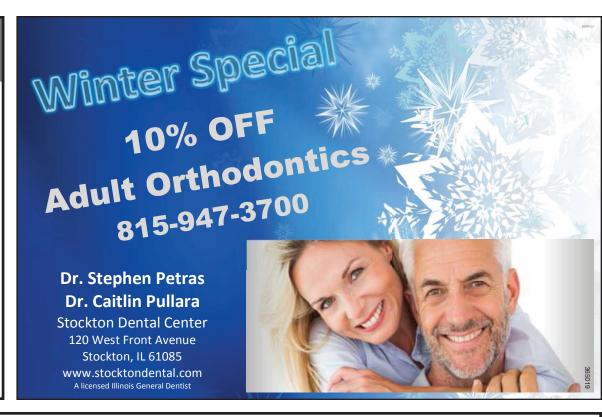
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