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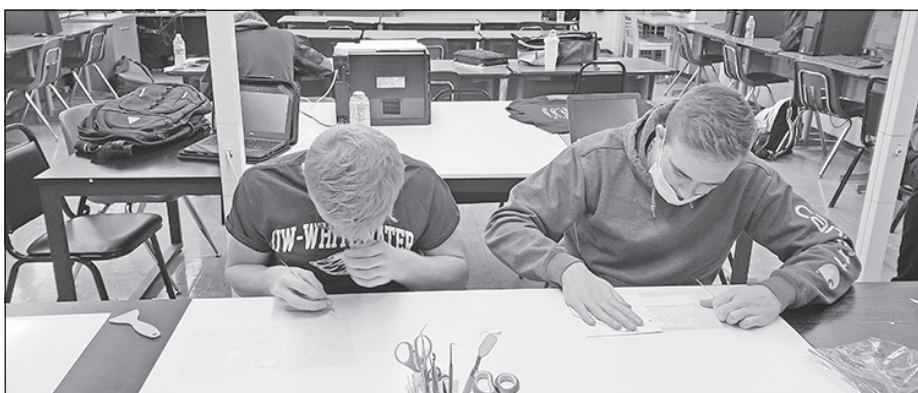
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392189

VOL. 87 • NO. 14

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2021



PHOTOS SUBMITTED
The Scoop Today

Stockton students take on T-shirt project

Students in business classes at Stockton High School recently designed and produced T-shirts for the school's student council members using a heat press. Business teacher Lindsey Duerr obtained the heat press through a grant. Above, Simon Rillie and Ashton Davis work on the T-shirt design. At left, Tiana Timpe presses one of the shirts.



Plan for planting with Extension's Get Growing series

Grant McCarty, Illinois Extension local foods and small farms educator, will host the Get Growing Webinar Series next month.

The series will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 22 through May 13, via Zoom.

Potential attendees must pre-register to receive the Zoom link to join the presentation. The series is free, but donations are being accepted to help offset the cost of Extension programming.

To register or for more information, go online to go.illinois.edu/jsw or call 815-235-4125.

Here's an idea of the Get Growing webinar topics, according to an Extension news release:

- April 22, Growing Perennial Vegetables

Rhubarb, asparagus and horseradish are the main perennial vegetables that are the first to yield in the early spring in Northern Illinois. These crops can grow successfully for decades. Topics will include varieties, general management and harvest.

- April 29, Raspberry and Blackberry Production for the Backyard



STOCK PHOTO The Scoop Today

A free online webinar series will help local residents get information about a variety of gardening topics beginning April 22. The sessions are free, but registration is required.

When it comes to growing fruit in the backyard vegetable garden, brambles like raspberry and blackberry can fit in well. They consistently yield with few disease issues. However, they do require pruning and trellising. Variety selection, pruning, insects and basic management will be addressed.

- May 6: Raised Bed and Container Vegetable Gardening

Raised beds and containers have become increasingly popular in the last couple of

years. This class will go into the basics of creating a raised bed, selecting material and general management. Container vegetable gardening also will be addressed, including selecting the right varieties and sizes and weekly management.

- May 13: Weed Management in the Vegetable Garden

This class will look at some basic recommendations on weed management, identify some common weeds and provide tips for preparing your growing area to keep weeds from becoming a problem.

State authorizes counties to expand vaccine eligibility early

By Grace Barbic
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Areas of the state may begin vaccinating those 16 years of age or older earlier than anticipated as vaccine demand slows under current guidelines and COVID-19 hospitalizations and cases see an uptick.

Vaccine eligibility is not set to open statewide until April 12, but in response to an increase in cases, Gov. JB Pritzker announced that local health departments seeing low vaccine demand can expand eligibility to all who are 16 and older. The state also

announced the deployment of five mobile teams to combat a surge in northwest Illinois.

The statewide seven-day rolling case positivity rate was 2.9 percent on March 26, the highest rate since Feb. 15. As of late March 25, 1,302 patients with COVID-19 were hospitalized, a high since Feb. 26. Of those, 264 patients were in intensive care unit beds and 120 were reported to be on ventilators.

Because some areas of the state have already administered first and second doses to a majority of those eligible under current guidelines,

demand for the vaccine has slowed, the governor's office said.

"We didn't want doses sitting around," Pritzker said at an unrelated news conference in Chicago on March 26. "We've got teams that are going to regions of the state where this is happening and effectuating change so that we can bring down the numbers."

The Chicago area is of significant concern as it has seen a daily case rate increase of nearly 50 percent since last week, along with six days of

See ELIGIBILITY, Page 11

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High school sports roundup

A roundup of high school sports scores and notes received by The Scoop Today/ Shopper's Guide. All scores are for varsity matches and games unless noted.

Girls volleyball

- March 20, Stockton defeated Orangeville, 27-25, 21-25 and 25-19

For Orangeville, McKayla Rierner had four aces. Kylie Wirth had five kills, one block and 14 digs. Ella Doyle had four kills, two aces, one block and four digs. Sam Mock had five blocks, two aces and two kills.

- March 22, Le-Win defeated East Dubuque, 25-19 and 25-8

- March 22, Le-Win junior varsity defeated East Dubuque junior varsity, 25-19 and 25-11

- March 22, Orangeville defeated Warren, 25-17 and 25-15

For Orangeville, McKayla Rierner had three aces, six kills, 10 assists and five digs.

Kylie Wirth had two aces, three kills, one block and 15 digs. Tori Plowman had eight digs.

For Warren, Sydni Sigafus had two kills and Emilie Slichenmyer had nine digs.

- March 23, Warren defeated River Ridge, 25-19 and 25-12.

For Warren, Emilie Slichenmyer had three aces and Claire Riedl had 12 kills.

For River Ridge, Sam Haring had six points, Oliv-

ia Leonard had two aces and Riley Finn had three kills. Leonard and Livia Haas each had four assists.

- March 23, Dakota defeated Le-Win, 25-12 and 25-10

- March 23, Dakota junior varsity defeated Le-Win junior varsity, 26-24 and 25-21

- March 23, Le-Win freshmen defeated Dakota freshmen, 25-22 and 25-15

- March 25, Aquin defeated Orangeville, 25-16 and 25-17

- March 25, Warren defeated River Ridge, 25-13 and 26-24

For Warren, Sydni Sigafus had five kills and Claire Riedl had four aces. Emilie Slichenmyer had four aces and 16 digs.

- March 25, Dakota defeated Le-Win, 25-15 and 25-17

- March 25, Le-Win junior varsity defeated Dakota junior varsity, 25-14 and 25-16

- March 25, Le-Win freshmen defeated Dakota freshmen, 26-24 and 20-19

Football

- March 19, Orangeville 18, East Dubuque 14

Orangeville did all its scoring on the run, with touchdown runs in the first, second and fourth quarters. Cade Janecke had 131 rushing yards for the Broncos.

- March 20, Stockton 8, Milledgeville 14

- March 26, Stockton 6, DuPec 28

- March 27, Le-Win 22, Orangeville 12



PHOTO SUBMITTED The Scoop Today/ Shopper's Guide

The National Rural Health Association has named Monroe Clinic one of the 2021 Top 20 Rural & Community Hospitals in the nation.

Monroe Clinic notches national honor

Monroe Clinic, a member of SSM Health, has been named one of the 2021 Top 20 Rural & Community Hospitals in the United States by the National Rural Health Association.

The award comes as part of an evaluation by The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

"Regarded as one of the industry's most significant designations of performance

excellence, Monroe Clinic is proud to have received this Top 20 award, along with being ranked as a Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital every year since 2016," according to a news release.

"We are incredibly proud to be recognized at a national level for the hard work and dedication our team members show every day," Monroe

clinic President Jane Curran-Meuli said in the release. "Our mission of providing health care excellence to our communities remains our top priority. This recognition should assure our patients and community members we are able to provide high quality service and care now more than ever."

Based on publicly available

data, the Chartis review gives hospitals a score across eight pillars of hospital strength: inpatient market share, outpatient market share, cost, charge, quality, outcomes, patient perspective and financial stability.

For more information about the award, go online to <https://www.monroeclinic.org/top100>.

Think twice about single-use plastics

Most bags, straws, bottles not biodegradable

By Heidi Thorp
CONTRIBUTOR

Next month we will be celebrating the 51st anniversary of the first national Earth Day, founded by U.S. Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin back in 1970. The event was organized

to protect life on the planet as well as to heighten awareness of the growing pollution problems.

We've made a lot of progress since then, but one growing problem is the convenience of single-use plastic. We've become a society that uses plastic items once and then pitches them.

Most of these plastics are not biodegradable. The ones that claim to be biodegradable require high temperatures for

long periods of time — conditions that might occur in a municipal composter but not in nature or in the ocean. Unfortunately, the production of new plastic material is increasing, not decreasing.

According to the World Economic Forum, at least 8 million metric tons of plastics leak into the ocean yearly; that's equivalent to 1,440 garbage trucks of plastic dumped per day. Predictions show plastic packaging use could double by 2030 and quadruple by 2050, with only 14% being recycled globally, so we're not going to be able to recycle our way out of this problem.

There are currently five massive patches of floating plastic held up in currents in our oceans. According to World Wildlife Federation and others, plastic consumption is killing hundreds of thousands of sea mammals and 1 million birds each year. Newly founded organizations working on ways to clean up these millions of tons of plastic waste deposits face monumental costs.

At what risk to our own human health are we gambling by using single-use plastic? We know that bisphenol A, or BPA, has been discovered to be an endocrine disrupter. The U.S. Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention says BPA is present in detectable levels in 93% of Americans ages 6 and older. BPA has been widely used to line food containers such as cans and drink containers. It enters our body by ingestion and absorption through the skin. Research is being done on whether the toxic chemicals in nano-plastics or microscopic particles that fish ingest pose any threat to us when we consume the fish. Fish are also ground up and used as feed for animals destined for human consumption.

We all can reverse this course by taking some simple steps:

- End the paper versus plastic dilemma and bring your own reusable bags to the store.

- If you must use a straw, bring your own stainless steel or glass straw.

- Stop buying water or other beverages in single-use plastic bottles.

- Bring your own reusable to-go mug to the coffee shop.

- Replace liquid soap in plastic bottles with bar soap.

- Instead of plastic utensils, use silverware; and when away from home, carry a travel set.

- Get reusable storage containers and ditch the plastic bags and wrap.

See PLASTICS, Page 6



Words can't express our HEARTFELT GRATITUDE for the MANY cards sent (from family, friends, & even some from perfect strangers) to Duane for his BIRTHDAY!!

THANK YOU!!

He LOVED them ALL! MANY THANKS AND may God Bless You ALL!!

The Kupersmith FAMILY



393072

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for all the prayers, cards, calls, food brought to the house, memorial donations and support since Buck's sudden passing. Also our thanks to the Stockton and Warren ambulance crews for their assistance.

Buck was such a kind, loving husband, father and grandpa. He is not only missed by his family, but so many others whose lives he touched.

Family of Wayne "Buck" Simmons
Pat Simmons
Brad Simmons
Wendy & Al Nowvick and Family
Brian & Vicky Simmons and Family

392691

Vaccination effort rolls along

FHN leads online registration for COVID-19 vaccine

COVID-19 vaccination efforts continue to ramp up in the area, according to officials at FHN.

So far, most vaccinations done in northwest Illinois have been the two-shot versions from Pfizer and Moderna. The one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine is just beginning to be distributed in the area, a news release said.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have treated over 380 COVID-19 patients at FHN Memorial Hospital," Mark Gridley, FHN president and CEO, said in the release. "In addition, we've tested almost 19,000 people for the virus, opened our Acute Respiratory Clinic to serve both COVID-19 patients and those with other respiratory conditions, and administered 6,183 doses of vaccine."

"Our staff are currently

vaccinating individuals three days every week at our dedicated COVID-19 vaccination location at 1763 S. Dirck Drive in Freeport, as well as hundreds more at community events throughout northwest Illinois."

Since the beginning of vaccine distribution, only county health departments have been able to order vaccine for use by health care organizations. A separate process is in place for vaccines administered by retail pharmacies.

"FHN has worked closely with the Stephenson County Health Department to ensure that we can maximize vaccination efforts for our area," Kathy Martinez, FHN executive vice president and chief nursing officer, said in the release.

On March 2, FHN took over management of the on-line vaccine registration list for Stephenson County, as well as making it available for other counties served by FHN (which includes Jo Daviess County).

"Since almost all vaccinations are currently being done by appointment only, we also are responsible for making a



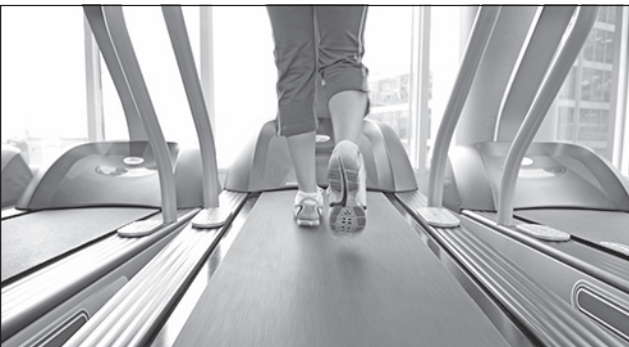
FILE PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

COVID-19 vaccination efforts continue throughout the area. To be added to the FHN list for a vaccination appointment, go online to www.fhn.org.

majority of calls to people on the list to set up their appointments — we average 150 to 200 calls per day," Martinez said. "We are also vaccinating an average of 300 to 500 people

per week using vaccine requested by the SCHD for our use."

To be added to the FHN list for vaccination appointments, go online to www.fhn.org.



STOCK PHOTO The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

FHN's Get Fit, held online this year, is a free program to help people focus on improving their health through exercise, eating habits and more.

FHN offers free online fitness program

Sign-up is open now for FHN's Get Fit 2021, a free 12-week online program to help people work toward better health and fitness.

"It's not yet safe to gather people together for pre-event screenings as has been done in past years, so the team competition has been put aside for this year and the focus is on helping participants work toward their personal best," according to an FHN news release.

GetFit 2021 runs through June 5 and people can join at any time during the program.

Participants will be able to learn and keep track of exercising, eating fruits and vegetables and getting enough water via recommended online wellness trackers, and FHN's Get Fit 2021 site will include videos from FHN physical therapists, dietitians and other experts to help participants

learn new exercises, recipes and more.

To sign up or get more information, go online to www.fhn.org/getfit.

Rhonda McPeck

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Federal & State Tax Returns

Payroll Tax Returns

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Monroe Clinic updates visitor policy

As of earlier this week, officials at Monroe Clinic began allowing one visitor/support person for clinic appointments and one visitor/support person per day for hospital patients.

According to the updated visitor policy, visitors must be over 18 years of age and will be asked to complete a health screening, including temperature, prior to entry. All visitors are required to maintain social distancing and cover their nose and mouth with a face covering.

Anyone with a positive exposure to COVID-19 or elevated temperature will not be allowed entry without approval by an administrative supervisor, according to a news release.

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

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

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State unemployment claims fall

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

First-time unemployment claims fell sharply last week as both the state and national economies have begun gradually reopening from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Illinois Department of Employment Security said March 25 that 15,595 Illinois workers filed initial claims for regular unemployment benefits during the week that ended March 20. And while that number would normally be considered high, it was down 78 percent from the week before. It was down 88 percent from the same week a year ago, at the start of the pandemic, when more than 126,000 people filed first-time claims.

That decline was in line with a national trend. The U.S. Department of Labor reported that the total number of initial claims nationally fell by more than 42,000, to 241,745.

IDES also announced that the state's preliminary unemployment rate dropped three-tenths of a point in February to a seasonally adjusted 7.4 percent as the economy added 21,100 nonfarm jobs. Those numbers reflect activity for the week of Feb. 12.

That rate was 1.2 percentage points higher than the national rate and it was 3.8 percentage points higher than February 2020, just before the pandemic forced a shutdown of major parts of the economy.

The biggest job gains in February were in the leisure and hospitality industry, which added 32,300 jobs. That sector was among the hardest hit during the pandemic because of restrictions placed on bars and restaurants, hotels, airlines and the cancellation of many conventions. Compared to a year earlier, the sector was still down by more than 185,000 jobs.



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Slices of life

Paying a debt of gratitude with positivity

It isn't often we have the opportunity to change someone's life in a significantly positive way. Wrong. This opportunity is available to us on a daily basis.

Problem is, most of us don't realize it. But, realization isn't necessary for doing. We can do good without ever giving it a second thought. Or we can do good intentionally.

It doesn't matter which. Both outcomes are the same. Both are worthwhile and equally valuable. Both outcomes are worth vying for. Doing good is great.

Often, though, we don't understand or comprehend the good we are doing, even when we are doing it.

I believe this is how things are supposed to be. If we did good because we were given immediate gratification for doing so, it would take away from the intent. We do good because we are propelled to do so, not because it is what we should do or because we want to experience the outcome. We do good because we are wired to do good.

I believe this to my core. I believe this is a gift — to those of us doing, not those of us receiving (although that is a gift as well).

It is heartening to be allowed the chance to affect a



By
**JILL
PERTLER**
Columnist

positive impact on a person's day, week, month or life. It is a privilege. I've been given such a privilege on a few occasions during my lifetime. Most of my "build-you-up" moments have been slightly less than life-changing, but they have been significant nonetheless.

Recently, however, I found myself on the other end of the giving spectrum. It was my turn to receive.

This occurred in the most obvious of places: a hospital. We were out of town and out of state, on vacation, when my husband suddenly became seriously sick and in need of medical attention —during a pandemic. Ugh. In a word, it sucked.

It is a helpless feeling — to need help and be totally dependent on others. Especially when you are in a place that isn't home. A place where people speak with an accent, but tell you that you are the one with the accent.

This is where I found myself, during a time when

See SLICES OF LIFE, Page 5



Shell bills leave voters in the dark

Recently seated members of the 102nd General Assembly had introduced 6,950 bills as of March 22. That is correct, it is not a typo and you did not misread. Almost 7,000 proposals of some variety have been introduced. In addition, 180 Senate resolutions, 162 House resolutions, 10 Senate joint resolutions, 26 House joint resolutions, 10 Senate joint resolution constitutional amendments and 32 House resolutions constitutional amendments have been filed. If you add in these 335 various types of resolutions to the 6,950 bills filed, you have a grand total of 7,285 initiatives filed by 177 elected officials (118 House and 59 Senate members). That is an average of just more than 41 proposals per member of the General Assembly. Your senator or representative might have filed an above or below average number of proposals.



By
**ROGER
EDDY**
Contributor

For the record, that does not make them above average or below average lawmakers.

If these numbers seem astounding, stop to consider the fact that this year is only the first year of a two-year General Assembly cycle. There will be many more proposals brought forward before the 102nd G.A. adjourns in January 2023. This also does not take into consideration the number of amendments that will be filed to alter these original proposals.

There will likely be thousands of amendments filed. Some of these bills are known as "shell" bills, which are simply pieces of filed

legislation that have no real content and will be amended, filled later with some type of content that is still being developed. In some cases, the content might be ready, but the sponsor wants to wait as long as possible to reveal the contents in order to avoid controversy or opposition.

One example of a "shell" bill is Senate Bill 12. This one amends something called the Medical Patient Rights Act. The synopsis of the legislative proposal simply states that it, "Makes a technical change in a Section concerning the purpose of the Act." Nothing specific at all about what that change might be is included. The proposal as filed simply strikes one word and does not replace that word with anything specific at all. Thus, the term "shell." It appears that the first 39 bills filed in the Senate this session are these type of shell bills.

This same is true in the

House, where there are tons of these shell bills. House Bills 501 through 544 all appear to be shells. There are literally hundreds of these shell bills available in the House and Senate that still need to be amended with specifics. You can easily see this for yourself if you go to the General Assembly website and do some investigating. Go to www.ilga.gov and click on the link for Bills & Resolutions in the top left corner. It is easy to identify shell bills from the lists of the hundreds of bills filed in both the Senate and House. Just look for a bill that contains the word "TECH" at the end. Click on that bill number link, then click on "full text", and read the text of the bill. HB514 is another good example. In the synopsis of this proposal, it is stated that this bill, "Amends the Illinois Income

See BILLS, Page 5

THE SCOOP TODAY SHOPPER'S GUIDE

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Report examines education in pandemic era

Survey raises concerns about teacher burnout

By Grace Barbic
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

The Illinois Education Association, one of the largest teacher unions in the state, last week released its third annual state of

education report examining attitudes toward public education in Illinois.

The poll, conducted by Normington Petts and Next Generation Strategies, surveyed 1,000 Illinois adults of varying backgrounds and regions of the state by phone or online.

One of the main takeaways from the poll, according to IEA, was that nearly 8 in 10 adults believe the COVID-19

pandemic has made teaching and learning more difficult.

Specifically, the poll asked, "Thinking about public school teachers in Illinois over the last year or so during the pandemic, do you think that teaching during the coronavirus pandemic has been much easier, somewhat easier, somewhat harder or much harder for teachers?"

According to the poll, 55 percent responded "much harder," 24 percent responded "somewhat harder," 11 percent responded "somewhat easier" and 8 percent said "much easier."

When it comes to the biggest impact of the pandemic on students, 44 percent said virtual learning challenges are the leading concern, while 29 percent said it's the lack of socialization.

IEA President Kathi Griffin said virtual learning also has had an impact on teachers, who are now expected to teach students both in-person and virtually at the same time.

"You have teachers who are working these extremely long days, developing lessons on multiple platforms, assessing their work, communicating with parents and trying to take care of their own health and

that of their family," Griffin said. "That is what is so stressful."

Griffin said there are other cases where students are sleeping in and joining virtual class late or parents are going on vacation because of the ability for students to work remotely.

"We want to make sure that our students are present, that they are going to participate, and that our families are supportive, and I know they're working so hard," Griffin said. "This is not easy for anybody, but we need to recognize the double duty that our teachers are doing right now."

In some cases, Griffin said teachers are working 10 to 12 hour days teaching and preparing hybrid lessons. Griffin warned of the potential of pandemic-related burnout wors-

ening the increasing educator shortage in the state.

One-third of IEA members who were polled in October stated that they were considering leaving the profession, while two-thirds said they felt "more burned out than normal this year," according to the report.

Of the 1,000 Illinois residents participating in the poll, 60 percent said they worry that educators leaving the profession will lead to lower student performance.

The poll found that 43 percent of adults believe health and safety are the most important issues to address as schools begin to return to normalcy. Getting students caught up, 22 percent of adults said, is the second leading concern.

As a result of the pandemic,

the IEA and the Illinois Federation of Teachers will be introducing legislation to: establish clear metrics for districts to know when it's safe to be in-person; enforce COVID-19 guidance and requirements in schools; provide rapid COVID-19 testing in schools; and provide protections so teachers won't be forced to work while they're sick.

The poll stated each of those principles without mentioning any legislation specifically, then asked if the respondents strongly favor, somewhat favor, strongly oppose or somewhat oppose the principles. Per the results, 43 percent said strongly favor, 36 percent said somewhat favor, 10 percent said somewhat oppose, and 7

See REPORT, Page 11

Bank appoints new lender

Alex Bertram has been appointed as a mortgage and consumer lender at Citizens State Bank, working out of the Lena and Freeport offices. Prior to becoming a lender, Bertram worked as a loan processor for the bank.

"With Citizens being a leader in the local mortgage industry, it's important to have experience and knowledge on our lending staff," Dennis Huttenlocher, CSB mortgage lending manager, said in a news release. "We are excited to add Alex to our seasoned team because he brings those qualities from his previous position and will be able to work through the process with our customers."



Alex Bertram

Bertram is a graduate of Highland Community College and Columbia College of Missouri, where he earned a bachelor's

degree in business administration with a major in finance. He serves on the Endowment Board at St. John United Church of Christ in Freeport.

Citizens State Bank has locations in Lena, Stockton and Freeport. Go online to csbnow.com for more information.

Bills (Continued from page 4)

Tax Act." However, there is absolutely no description of how the Illinois Income Tax Act would be amended. You might be surprised at how fun this shell game can be.

There are two important deadlines when a bill must pass from one House to the other, House bills to Senate or vice versa, to meet constitutional requirements. No worries, though, hundreds of shell bills are passed from one House of the General Assembly to the other routinely, without any additional details, to meet these deadlines.

The Illinois budget is always attached to one of these "shells" much later in the session. It is almost impossible to identify which shell bills will eventually contain the state budget and

the budget implementation bills that accompany the budget. It could be a Senate shell or a House shell.

The actual language of the enacted budget, along with the appropriation amounts to fund the budget, are added much later in the process. These details about how your tax dollars are to be spent are not revealed to those asked to vote on passage until the final days of session. Even then, very few, if any, really know

everything that is in the final version.

Things should not work this way. We need to demand better.

Let the shell games begin!

Roger Eddy is a retired member of the Illinois House and served on the Special Investigative Committee on the impeachment of Rod Blagojevich. He served the 109th District as a Republican from 2003 to 2012.



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Slices of life (Continued from page 4)

visitors weren't allowed at the hospital. First-hand information is a powerful thing. Lack of it is equally lacking. I felt without any resources or influence. And then Dr. Z called and literally changed the course of everything.

Others may have overlooked us. Visitors weren't allowed. It was the rule. We were from out of town. No one knew us or had cause to know us. Why care? Why not?

Dr. Z chose to care. She saw us as people, not numbers or insurance claims. She saw our situation wasn't working and fought to sneak me in for an unsanctioned visit. And she won. I truly believe with this one action, she changed our lives.

It isn't easy to be isolated during an illness and a pandemic — quite the opposite. Dr. Z fought for

us and against the isolation. She didn't look at just the odds, but at the people behind them. She doctored from the heart as well as the head, as a physician and as a person, or perhaps more accurately as a person and as a physician.

And she was followed by others who went above and beyond — nurses named Tory and Robert, an occupational therapist named Andrea, home hospice workers Dave and Amber. And so many more. I can't remember most of the names of the numerous good people who touched my life and my husband's life during his last days. Brain fog had already set in to protect me from my own thoughts. But please know I give thanks for every person who wanted to help make those difficult days less so. I was aware of your intent and your frustration and your sadness at our circumstance, just like you

were aware of our love and our pain.

For this, I owe you all an infinite debt of gratitude. And because of that I will continue the path you have started in me. I may not be able to save lives, but I can change them for the positive. And I pledge to do so.

Many thanks to you all. Your actions have more meaning than physical health. They connect humanity with humanity. Thank you for seeing your patients as individuals with lives and loves and loved ones. Thank you, Dr. Z, for sneaking me in. Thank you. Thank you. A million hugs.

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.

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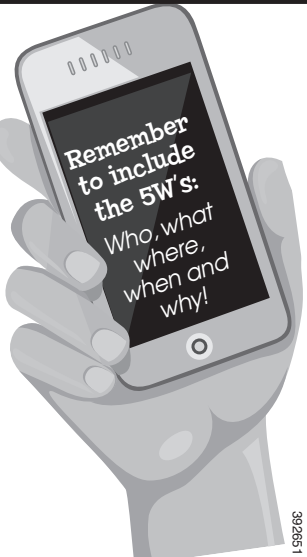
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Obituaries

BARRY JAMES

Barry James, 74, passed away on Monday, March 22, at Marshfield Medical Center following a brief illness. Born in Freeport, Illinois, Barry graduated from Warren High School and received his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University.

Barry enlisted in the U.S. Army in October of 1967 and served in both Vietnam and Germany. He was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Barry spent most of his life living in Apple River, Illinois. After his retirement from Merkle International Inc. in Galena, Barry and his wife, Barbara, moved to Central Wisconsin.

Barry enjoyed many hobbies and interests over the years. He was a pilot and also built and flew radio-controlled planes and drones. He



designed and built a variety of things — from buildings to intricate wooden gear clocks and kinetic sculptures. Barry spent many earlier years crafting his pottery.

Barry held several U.S. patents developed while at Merkle International Inc. and also received an award for an invention he designed while serving in Vietnam.

After his move to Wisconsin, Barry acquired and learned to appreciate a variety of John Deere implements and vehicles that helped him with lawn care, snow removal, gardening and general grounds maintenance at the property he called Cariput.

Barry is survived by his

loving wife of 45 years, Barbara (Holub); his brother, William (Linda) James; two nieces, Julie Modjeski (Gary Hunt) and her children, Nathan, Mitchell, Leah and Kallie Modjeski, and Jennifer (Chris Martin) James.

He is also survived by his cousins, James (Edith) Ford, Mary (Jim) Kuhn and their families; and special friends, Justin, Andrew (Melissa), and Robert Warner and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Irene (Brinkmeier) James; and his cousins, Gloria (Brinkmeier) Young and Cheryl (Brinkmeier) Felckowski.

Due to COVID, a private graveside service is being held with burial at West Ella Cemetery.

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

NOLA M. HOPKINS

Nola Marie Hopkins, age 91, of Stockton, Illinois, passed away Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at home. She was born March 26, 1929, in Freeport, Illinois, to the late Fred and Beulah (Endress) Mitchell. Nola married Owen Boyle on Feb. 10, 1949; he passed away May 24, 1969. She later married Howard Hopkins on Oct. 18, 1974; he passed away in 1990.

Nola was a member of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton, where she was a member of the Altar and Rosary societies and sang in the choir. She also was a member of the Eagles Women's Auxiliary Corp and played the drums in the parades. She had worked for Kraft Foods for four years, Burgess Battery, Atwoods,



and her sister, Sandra Plowman of Freeport. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husbands; her daughter, Cathy Jo Broshous; her four grandchildren, Eric Hollister, Jason Larson, Troy Boyle and Dusty Luke; her sister, Lois Tucker; her brother, Earl Goodman; her brother-in-law, Harold Tucker; her son-in-law, Richard Larson; and her daughter-in-law, Tina Boyle.

The visitation and funeral service were held March 27, 2021, at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton. Interment will take place at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Stockton. A memorial fund has been established for the Stockton Fire Department. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

Village Inn Supper Club for 15 years and owned and operated the Gambles Store from 1977 to 1979. Nola loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughters, Carol (Steve) Hollister of Morrison, Illinois, Connie Larson of Stockton, Colleen Hoefer of Stockton, Chris (Russ) Tippet of Stockton and Corky (Mike) Luke of Stockton; her son, Patrick (Kim) Boyle of Pearl City, Illinois; her son-in-law, Doug Broshous; her 22 grandchildren and 40 great-grandchildren;

JOHN F. HEILER SR.

John F. Heiler Sr., 80, of Lena, Illinois, passed away on Saturday, March 20, 2021, at the Monroe Clinic Hospice Home in Monroe, Wisconsin. He was born July 17, 1940, in Lena to Fred and Mary (Coscove) Heiler.

John graduated from Lena-Winslow High School in 1959. He married Kathleen Bender on June 18, 1960, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Freeport, Illinois. John worked many years as a welder for LBI and also worked in the area as a welder.

John was a member of the Depot Stove Gang, NRA and



the local rifle club. He enjoyed metal-working, tinkering with projects, working on his lathe and watching NASCAR.

John is survived by his daughter, Amy Heiler of Lena; two sons, Steven (Ronda) Heiler of Lena and John Heiler Jr. of Lena; four grandchildren, Michael Heiler of Lena, Jamie (Patrick) Heiler of Lena, Sarah Heiler of Lena and Johnathon Heiler of Freeport; three great-grandchildren, Landin

and Dean Heiler and Angel Hoeffer, all of Lena; and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Kathleen, on Dec. 30, 2016.

A visitation was held Friday, March 26, at Leamon's Funeral Home in Lena, followed by a funeral service on March 27, 2021, also at Leamon's Funeral Home. Randy Nicholas was the officiant.

Interment will take place at Lena Burial Park.

A memorial has been established in his name.

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

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BONNIE B. STARK

Bonnie B. Stark, 70, of Winslow, Illinois, passed away on Monday, Feb. 1, 2021, at the Monroe Hospice Home in Monroe, Wisconsin. She was born April 3, 1950, to Joseph and Violette (Belleville) Metcalf in Freeport, Illinois. Bonnie married Sidney Stark on June 6, 1968. She worked for MTX for many years, and worked for Freeport Health Network for 20 years. Bonnie liked to read and talk to her friends. She enjoyed her dogs, and spending time with her family and her friends.

Bonnie is survived by her



son, Rodney Stark, of Winslow; grandson, Adam Stark, of Winslow; and numerous.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Sidney, on June 10, 2020.

Graveside services will be held at noon on Saturday, April 3, at Staver Cemetery.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

•Plastics

(Continued from page 2)

We are encouraged by what some of our Freeport stores are doing toward a cleaner environment:

- Cub Foods is a "zero waste" store, averting 90% of its waste from landfills by recycling all plastics, metal, wood pallets, paper and cardboard. Food nearing expiration is given to various area organizations that provide free meals. The store's manager is on board with encouraging customers to bring their own bags and having cashiers ask customers whether they need a bag when purchasing one or two items.
- Sullivan's offers a 5-cent credit if you bring your own bags.
- Aldi bags are not free of charge, but most customers bring reusable bags or boxes into the store.

We must be the change that our Earth needs. Future generations will thank us. There is no Planet B!

Heidi Thorp is a member of the Freeport area Environmental Study Group. Go online to [facebook.com/es-group32](https://www.facebook.com/es-group32) for more information.

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Health care reform bill will head to governor

By Grace Barbic
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A massive health care reform bill, the fourth and final pillar of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus agenda, passed the state Senate March 25, the final step before heading to Gov. JB Pritzker for his signature.

House Bill 158, sponsored by Democratic Rep. Camille Lilly and state Sen. Mattie Hunter, both of Chicago, is centered around eliminating race-based and other inequities in the state's health care

system, and includes provisions to expand medical services available to low-income residents and residents of color.

Specifically, HB 158 addresses access to health care, hospital closures, managed care organization reform, community health worker certification and reimbursement, maternal and infant mortality, mental and substance abuse treatment, and medical implicit bias.

"For Black lives to truly matter, their right to quality

health care must (not) be inhibited," Hunter said in Senate floor debate. "It is our responsibility as elected officials to create laws that create an enriched, lasting impact on the communities we represent. This legislation does just that, and there is no better time to enact than now."

The bill passed on a 41-16 vote after revisions to the original version, which failed to pass in January's lame duck session.

The new version eliminated provisions that would have

replaced the state's Medicaid managed care program with a standard fee-for-service payment system. Managed care, which is a system of private insurance companies hired by the state to manage Medicaid, is how a majority of the state's residents on Medicaid are enrolled in the program.

A last-minute amendment, which enhanced dementia training requirements for the Illinois Department on Aging, was also added before the bill went for a full vote in the House recently. It passed the

House with a 72-41 vote.

Most of the items included in the bill are subject to state appropriation, meaning future General Assemblies will have to decide whether to allocate the money to fund them.

House and Senate Republicans shared concerns about the total cost of implementing this legislation. In the Senate floor debate, Republican Sen. Steve McClure, of Springfield, said he doesn't believe the state can afford to implement all the provisions in the bill

"The fiscal impact of \$12 billion would represent almost 30 percent of the governor's proposed fiscal year 2022 general funds budget, which is \$41.6 billion," McClure said. "We just can't afford it and that's really what it comes down to. And the \$7.5 billion from the recent stimulus is going to help us quite a bit, but we're still in very rough financial shape right now."

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River Ridge notes high school honor students

Officials at River Ridge High School recently released the names of honor roll students for the third quarter.

4.00 or higher GPA: Greta Dittmar, Bryton Engle, Julia Finazzo, Riley Finn, Madelyn Greenwald, Livia Haas, Kaitlin Kilgore, Danae Kloss, Emma Kloss, Sarah Pratt, Caleb Rhodes, Charlie Schnitzler, Jarrett Schoenhaar, Mary Scott, Libbey Shellenberger, Caden Albrecht, Margaret Cahill, Ashley Carroll, Kari Conklin, Kali Crusilla, Dominic Geerts, Samantha Haring, Owen Holcomb, Logan Johnson, Olivia Leonard, Ajdar Limani, Fallon Miller, Steven Moris, Anna Navarro-Garcia, Leanna Scott, Cora Dittmar, Sam Grzeslo, Lauren Kloss, Jamie Schnitzler, Nicholas Schnitzler, Emily Wurster, Addison Albrecht, Cora Boop, Avery Engle, Moran Flynn, Lynnea Groezinger, Micaela Miller, Amie Richmond, Isaac Rife, Ty Spahn, Evelyn Walters

3.50 to 3.999 GPA: Trevor Grube, Adam Holcomb, Mauricio Sanchez, Conner Tippet, Alexandria Whight, Brian Cahill, Bethany Diederich, Avri Miller, Camdyn Bauer, Mia Bower, Heaven Brotherton, Sophie Buck, Sadie Fry, Faith Hartman, Maddox Knauer, Kelsey Randall, Samuel Ries, Celia Turner, Emma Walter, Enver Ahmedi, Millicent Boden, Dolan Geerts, Lucas Holland, Arthur Horn, Katherine Leonard, Gwendoline Miller, Benjamin Richmond, George Winter

3.00 to 3.499 GPA: Hampton Petsche, Andrew Pratt, Jacob Velkamp, Elizabeth Clarkson, Erica Doms, Paige Nicholas, Keagan Schoenhaar, Dylan Diehl, Mateo Garcia, Ethan Gonzalez, Sydney Hamilton, Cameron Harris, Jackson Ketelsen, Traighton McGovern, Izak Sample, Emma Smallwood, Macey Fulton, Seth Nicholas, Cora Ritchie, Evan Tracey

High school students notch honors

Officials at Stockton High School recently named students to the third-quarter honor rolls.

Those who earned straight-A's were named to the high honor roll. Those achieving a GPA of at least 3.0 with no "D" grades were named to the honor roll.

High honor roll

• Freshmen: Anthony Bilich, Dominick Bilich, Bennett Graves, Carson McPeck, Nevaeh Peterson, Ashlyn Schubert, Leah Warner

• Sophomores: Katherine Crome, Olivia Harnish, Kyla Kurek, Dustin Oppold, Ryley Schultz

• Juniors: Maria Bender, Brynn Haas

• Seniors: Lucas Crome, Adriana Curtiss, Case Harmon, Jason Hermann, Hayley Johnson

Honor roll

• Freshmen: Kristian Adleman, Lily Baker, Logan Breed, Abby Chumbler, Jared Dvorak, Addison Ernst, Izabella Ertmer, Braden Freese, Brady Haas, Michael Haas, Karl Hubb, Lincoln Legel, Madalyn Marcure, Hope Mulholland, Drake Offenheiser, Gracie Raab, Maecee Rice, Lydia Schuldt, Colby Tucker, Gabrielle Ven-Huizen, Camerin Vincent, Maverick Winters

• Sophomores: Morgan Blair, Brady Broshous, Dawson Broshous, Lily Broshous, Jackson Curtiss, Skylar Davis, Madeline Harbach, Noah Hess, Dayton Julius, Olivia Keeffer, Lauren Kehl, David Lancaster, Garrett Luke, Griffin Luke, Parker Luke, Emily Paul, Jace Phillips, Kyleigh Reusch, Kaelan Schubert,

Haylen Scott, Whitney Sullivan, Ella Wackerlin, Abigail Wilkinson

• Juniors: Jared Bergeman, Charles Breed, Ian Broshous, Joseph Brudi, Austin Chumbler, Matthew Cook, Ashton Davis, Hannah Deininger, Austin Eisfeller, Matthew Ernst, Vanessa Ernst, Dezireigh Gillen, Keaton Graves, Owen Groshans, Jenna Haas, Kenze Haas, Caleb Mammoser, Morgan McPeck, Andrew Mensendike, Diana Montalvo, Brienna Morgan, Elijah Rice, Raeann Roberts, Kayden Schubert, Kassadie Sullivan, Connor Vincent, Trace Williamson

• Seniors: Elise Adleman, Taylor Broshous, Mitchell Coffey, Madelynn Ertmer, Andrew Haas, Hunter Hille, Camren Hofman, Ivannie Jones, Gavin Keeffer, Madison Lara, Kaylee Luke, Patrick Mensendike, Alyssa Randecker, Joshua Reynolds, Simon Rillie, Bryce Smith, Tiana Timpe, Emma Westa-by, Kiersten Winters

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In brief

Church hosts Life

Line Screening event

Calvary United Methodist Church in Stockton is hosting Life Line Screening on Thursday, April 22.

Screening participants can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteo-

porosis, diabetes and other chronic serious conditions, according to a Life Line news release.

There are costs for the screening tests. Pre-registration is required by calling 877-237-1287 or going online to lifelinescreening.com.

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USDA reopens farmer aid program, aims to increase outreach

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced last week that USDA is establishing new programs and efforts to bring financial assistance to farmers, ranchers and producers who felt the impact of COVID-19 market disruptions.

The new initiative — USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers — will reach a broader set of producers than in previous COVID-19 aid programs, USDA officials said in a news release. USDA is dedicating at least \$6 billion toward the new pro-grams.

The department will also develop rules for new programs that will put a greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers, specialty crop and organic producers and timber harvesters, as well as provide support for the food supply chain and producers of renewable fuel, among others.

USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers was needed, "after a review of previous COVID-19 assistance pro-grams targeting farmers identified a number of gaps and disparities in how assistance was distributed as well as inadequate outreach to under-served producers and smaller and medium operations," the release said.

"The pandemic affected all of agriculture, but many farmers did not benefit from previous rounds of pandemic-related assistance," Vilsack said.

USDA will reopen sign-up for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 beginning April 5. Go to farmers.gov/coronavirus for more.



PHOTO SUBMITTED The Scoop Today

Several students were inducted into the River Ridge FFA chapter Senior Honors Society at the recent FFA banquet. Pictured from left are Andrew Pratt, Kylie Hiher, Conner Tippet, Trevor Grube, Charlie Schnitzler and Abbi Johnson.

River Ridge FFA honors members

Members of the River Ridge FFA chapter held their annual banquet March 18 at the high school. Due to pandemic restrictions, only student members were allowed to attend and parents/families were invited to watch via Facebook live.

The annual banquet serves as a way to celebrate the chapter's accomplishments and honor outstanding individuals.

Students were recognized for earning their Discovery degrees (eighth-graders), Greenhand degrees (freshmen), Chapter degrees (sophomores) and State degrees (juniors and seniors). In addition, Conner Brown was honored as a potential American Degree recipient.

The new officers also are

formally inducted into their positions for the new year.

Award winners included:

- Outstanding Members, Avery Engle (Greenhand), Sophomore - Cora Dittmar (sophomore), Ashley Carroll (junior) and Kylie Hiher (senior)
- Chapter STAR in Ag Placement, Kari Conklin
- Chapter STAR Farmer, Charlie Schnitzler
- Chapter STAR in Entrepreneurship, Ashley Carroll
- DeKalb Award, Conner Tippet
- Senior Honor Society, Andrew Pratt, Kylie Hiher, Charlie Schnitzler, Abbi Johnson, Trevor Grube and Conner Tippet

Several businesses, organizations and individuals were recognized for donations:

Wildberry Farms, Jo Daviess Beef Association, Steffes Dairy Farm, Abe and Peggy Trone, Hoskins Building and Supply, Barb Curry, Woodbine Bend

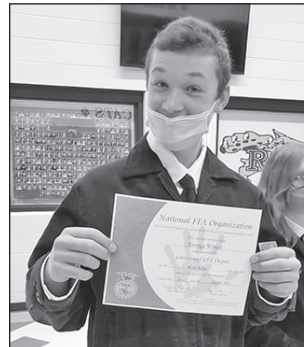


PHOTO SUBMITTED The Scoop Today

River Ridge freshman FFA member George Winter shows off his Greenhand degree at the March 18 FFA banquet.



PHOTO SUBMITTED The Scoop Today

River Ridge FFA President Kylie Hiher presents Charlie Schnitzler with the Chapter STAR Farmer award at the banquet.



PHOTO SUBMITTED The Scoop Today

Kari Conklin, left, named Chapter STAR in ag placement, shakes hands with River Ridge FFA President Kylie Hiher.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

Most of the snow is gone. I hope I haven't jinxed anything by writing that. Temperatures are running a little warmer, so life is good. This week's recipes still feature a meatless dish and a couple of Easter dishes. Enjoy this week's food suggestions.

Deviled Ham Spread

If you need a nice appetizer for Easter and if you are going with a ham theme, this recipe is a nice one for you to make. I love the little bagel chips they make now, and they are great for spreads and dips.

- 4 oz. country ham, chopped
- 4 oz. honey ham, chopped
- 4 oz. cream cheese softened
- 1/3 C. mayonnaise
- 2 T. chopped green onion
- 1 T. whole grain mustard
- 1 T. capers
- 2 t. minced shallot
- 2 t. hot sauce
- 1 t. pepper

1 t. Worcestershire sauce
Bagel chips or pretzel chips
Garnishes of chopped green onion or pickled okra

In the work bowl of a food processor, pulse all ham until almost smooth. Add cream cheese, mayo, green onion, mustard, capers, shallot, hot sauce, pepper and Worcestershire; pulse until smooth. Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours before serving or up to three days. Serve with bagel chips, mustard and garnishes.

Cucumber Coleslaw

- 1/2 C. mayonnaise
- 1/3 C. apple cider vinegar
- 2 T. sugar
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. pepper
- 1/4 t. ground cumin
- 6 C. shredded green cabbage (about 1/2 of a small head)
- 1 C. shredded carrots (about 2 large)
- 1/2 C. shredded English cucumber

In a large bowl, whisk together mayo, vinegar, sugar, salt, pepper and cumin until smooth. Stir in cabbage and all remaining ingredients. Cover and refrigerate for at least two hours and up to 24 hours.

Broccoli Mac 'N Cheese

For your meatless Friday, this pasta dish is a great way to have your starch and vegetable. The basil pesto can be found in most grocery stores. I like the brand that Cub Foods has in the refrigerated case. The evaporated milk gives it a great creamy texture. Evaporated milk has 60% of the water removed, and it has less fat. It also won't curdle under heat.

- 2 C. water
- 8 oz. elbow macaroni
- 1 C. quartered broccoli crowns, stems with florets, about 6 inches long
- 2 T. unsalted butter
- 1/2 t. kosher salt
- 2 C. packed baby spinach
- 1 C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 C. shredded fontina cheese
- 1/2 C. evaporated milk
- 1/3 C. prepared basil pesto
- 1/4 C. julienned sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
- 1 T. coarse-grain mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste

Heat water in a large pot until boiling. Add the macaroni and cook until al dente. During the last five minutes, add the broccoli and salt. Drain and run cold water over

broccoli to stop the cooking. In the pot, place another tablespoon of butter over low heat until melted. Stir in spinach and 1/4 cup of water. Place the lid on the pot and cook until spinach is wilted. Add the cheddar, fontina, evaporated milk, pesto, sun-dried tomatoes and mustard and heat until cheeses are melted, about three minutes. Add the macaroni and broccoli to the pot and heat the mixture until warmed through. Season with salt and pepper.

Creamy Shrimp and Veggies

This dish can be served at any time, but it is a good one for a meatless Friday also. After Lent you can substitute boneless chicken breasts for the shrimp. When cooking a stir fry, try to keep the veggies the same size.

- 1/4 C. butter
- 1 large carrot, peeled and thinly sliced on the bias (about 3/4 C.)
- 1 yellow bell pepper, chopped (1 C.)
- 1 C. broccoli florets
- 1 lb. medium (41 to 50 count) shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1/4 C. chopped green onions
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/3 C. chopped Roma tomatoes (about 2)
- 1/3 C. whipping cream
- 1/4 C. white wine or vegetable broth
- 2 T. chopped fresh basil
- 1/8 t. cayenne pepper, or to taste
- 1/2 t. salt

Lemon zest, lemon wedges, and small basil leaves for garnish

Melt butter in a 12-inch skillet over medium-high heat. Add carrot and cook for two minutes. Add bell pepper and broccoli and cook four minutes more. Stir in shrimp, green onion and garlic. Cook and stir until shrimp are opaque and cooked through, about five minutes. Transfer mixture to a bowl; cover with foil to keep warm. Add tomatoes, cream, wine, basil and cayenne to skillet. Bring to a simmer, uncovered, until sauce is thick enough to coat the back of a spoon, six to eight minutes. Stir in shrimp mixture and season with salt until heated through. Garnish

with lemon zest, lemon wedges and basil. Serve over angel hair pasta or rice.

Easy Peach Cobbler

I had a peach cobbler recipe that used canned peaches, and I lost it. I found this one that is very close to the one I had. It is easy and really yummy. Serve it with ice cream or half and half.

1 can (15 oz.) sliced peaches

- 1 C. flour
- 1 C. sugar
- 1 C. milk
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 C. butter
- Pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 350. While oven is preheating, place the butter in a 9-by-9 pan in the oven. While the butter is melting, in a medium bowl, mix flour, sugar, milk, baking powder and salt until combined. Take the pan with the melted butter from the oven (be careful it is hot). Pour the batter mixture over the butter. Do not mix. Pour the can of peaches with the juice over the butter and do not mix.

Bake for 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the dough comes out clean.

Salted Caramel Chocolate Cupcakes

The last recipe was an easy one from start to finish. This one is challenging, but boy is it good. It has several parts to it, so don't get discouraged. There is some prep involved in unwrapping caramels, however, it is a great recipe to finish and eat!

- 1 C. butter
- 3 eggs
- 2 C. flour
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 1/2 C. water
- 1/3 C. rum
- 3 oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 2 oz. bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 2 C. sugar
- 1 1/2 t. vanilla

Fudge Frosting

- 6 oz. chopped bittersweet chocolate
- 2 T. butter
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 2 1/2 C. powdered sugar

Salted Caramel

- 2 T. whipping cream
- 1 T. rum

24 unwrapped caramels
1/4 t. sea salt

Allow butter and eggs to stand at room temperature for 30 minutes. Line 32 to 34 muffin cups with paper baking papers. In a medium bowl, stir together flour, baking soda and 1/2 t. salt. In a 2-C. glass measuring cup, combine the water and rum. In a small microwave-safe bowl, microwave unsweetened chocolate and bittersweet chocolate one minute; stir. Microwave 30 seconds more; stir until chocolate is smooth. Cool slightly.

Preheat oven to 325. In a large mixing bowl, beat butter with an electric mixer on medium speed for 30 seconds. Gradually add sugar, about 1/4 cup at a time, beating on medium speed until combined; scrape sides of bowl occasionally while beating in sugar. Add eggs one at a time, beating on medium speed and beating well after each addition. Beat in melted chocolate and vanilla. Alternately add flour mixture and rum, beating on low speed after each addition until well combined. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups, filling each about three-quarters full. Use the back of a spoon to smooth out batter in cups.

Bake about 18 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in centers comes out clean. Tops of cupcakes may sink slightly, but this will provide a nest for the salted caramel topping. At this time you might want to scoop 1/2 t. of cake from center to provide a deeper well for the caramel. Cool cupcakes in muffin cups on wire racks five minutes. Remove cupcakes from muffin tin. Cool completely on wire racks.

Fudge Frosting: In a large saucepan, cook and stir chopped bittersweet chocolate and 2 T. butter over low heat until melted. Cool five minutes; stir in sour cream. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating with an electric mixer on medium until combined. Place fudge frosting in a pastry bag fitted with a star tip; pipe frosting as a border around each cupcake.

Caramel: In a small saucepan, combine whipping cream and rum. Beat over medium heat until steaming but not

See KITCHEN, Page 11

WOODBINE BEND

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Sunday, April 4 • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Entrees

Pineapple Honey Glazed Ham \$19.95
Sweet pineapple and honey glazed over spiral sliced ham

Lemon Caper Salmon \$24.95
Creamy lemon and caper sauce over poached Norwegian salmon

Prime Rib \$29.95/\$32.95
Slow roasted Angus prime rib. Available in 12 oz. or 16 oz.

Herb Crusted Rack of Lamb \$31.95
16 oz. French cut New Zealand rack of lamb rubbed with savory herb breading

Baked or Fried Chicken \$19.95
Four pieces of chicken fried golden or lightly seasoned and baked

Build Your Own Omelette \$15.95
Omelette station to create your own culinary masterpiece

All Entrees served with soup/salad, rolls, choice of starch and vegetable

Soup
Roasted Carrot Bisque: sweet roasted carrots blended with cream

Salad
Easter Salad: mixed greens, strawberries, feta cheese, toasted almonds with a honey lemon vinaigrette

Starch
Scalloped potato, roast garlic parsnip mash, roasted sweet potatoes and beans

Vegetable
Honey glazed baby carrots or roast asparagus

Appetizers

Spinach Artichoke Dip \$8.95
A rich creamy blend of spinach, artichokes and 4 cheeses. Served with garlic bread.

Creamy Crab Potato Nests \$10.95
Crunchy potato cups filled with a cheesy crab mix

Stuffed Portobellas \$10.95
Italian sausage and mozzarella in 2 large mushrooms. Served with marinara.

Devilled Eggs \$8.95
Hard boiled eggs stuffed with a creamy yolk and topped with bacon and chives

Kids
Strawberry French Toast \$7.95
Served with scrambled eggs

Chicken & Fries \$7.95
2 pieces of fried chicken. Served with french fries.

Mac & Cheese \$6.95
Served with French Fries

Desserts
Carrot Cake \$6.95
Bread Pudding \$6.95
Peach Crumble \$6.95
Lemon Meringue Pie \$7.95

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392874

•Eligibility (Continued from front page)

increases in test positivity, the Illinois Department of Public Health said in a news release. Suburban Cook County has also seen its daily case rate increase more than 40 percent with nine days of increasing hospital bed usage.

Region 1 in northwest Illinois, which includes Rockford, has seen eight days of increasing bed usage and six days of increasing test positivity, according to IDPH.

"This is very concerning to us and makes us pause to evaluate the numbers," Pritzker said. "What we want to do most of all is make sure, is this a blip in the numbers, is this a short surge that will come back down, or is this something that could have some sustaining features to it."

The state remains under Phase 4 restrictions, unable to move toward the "bridge" phase, which would allow for greater capacity limits for businesses and social gatherings, because of these early signs of a possible resurgence in COVID-19 cases.

The state is on track to reach 70 percent of first doses administered to residents 65 years or older in the coming days, which is one of the requirements that would trigger the bridge phase. However, increased COVID-19 hospitalizations are preventing the state from moving forward.

As of March 26, Pritzker said about 67 percent of those 65 years or older have received at least their first dose of vaccine.

Aside from vaccine administration numbers, hospitals must maintain 20 percent or greater intensive care unit bed availability, while hospital admissions for COVID-like illness and deaths must hold steady or decline over a 28-day monitoring period in order to trigger the bridge phase.

IDPH reported Illinois has seen 10 days of increases in the seven-day rolling average for hospital admissions. The COVID-19 case positivity rate has increased from 2.1 percent on March 13 to 2.9 percent March 26.

IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said it is the state's goal to get as many people vaccinated as quickly and safely as possible in hopes of slowing this increase.

"Recent increase in hospital admissions and test positivity are concerning new developments and we don't want to go down the same path we've seen before and experience a resurgence in the pandemic, which is why Governor Pritzker directed us to use all our resources to halt these upticks," Ezike said in a news release. "We cannot move forward if our metrics are going

backward."

The state is expected to receive nearly 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine this week, which IDPH reported as being an all-time high for vaccine distribution in the state.

While vaccine supply increases, the slow in demand could result in vaccines going unused, which is another reason why the state is expanding eligibility earlier than anticipated, based on each county's demand.

"Each county is different and local health departments know better how to vaccinate people in their communities as soon as and as equitably as possible," Ezike said.

Communities will continue to receive baseline allocation of doses and an additional supply of vaccines will be allocated to high-demand areas where at-risk eligible residents face long waits for appointments, IDPH reported.

The state also announced it will be deploying rapid response vaccination teams over the next two weeks to five counties in Region 1 in an effort to quickly administer vaccine doses to combat increasing cases in these areas.

These teams will be administering the single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine from an additional allocation of vaccines outside of the local health department supply.

IDPH reported 3,002 new confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19 of 76,774 test results reported March 26, with an additional 33 virus-related deaths.

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

•Kitchen (Continued from page 10)

boiling. Stir in caramels, vanilla and salt. Heat until melted, stirring constantly.

Spoon a teaspoon of caramel into the center of each cupcake. Sprinkle the caramel with sea salt.

Final thoughts

We are officially in spring—something about meteorological spring; it has to do with the Equinox and days getting longer. There are so many things to keep track of that my head spins sometimes. I just know the days are longer in the evening, but it takes forever for the sun to get going in the morning. I am a morning person, so it is taking me longer to get my act together in the morning.

I can't believe that we are at Easter already. I know it is early, but now that we are able to go out a little more, things seem to be going faster. I got my second vaccine shot last week, so one more week of really being careful.

I do have some daffodils popping up next to the house, so I guess we are really getting ready for spring.

Please be careful, as we seem to have many more things available for us to do. I intend to not be part of large crowds, and I am comfortable wearing my mask because it has become a part of my wardrobe. Stay healthy and keep safe.

If you have found any spring recipes, 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.

•Report (Continued from page 5)

percent said strongly oppose. Five percent did not know.

Asked if funding for schools should "increase, decrease or stay about the same," 64 percent said it should increase, 9 percent said decrease and 25 percent said stay the same. Two percent responded "don't know."

Griffin said it will be important to continue funding the state's evidence-based school funding formula, which became law in 2017. That law changed the way school districts receive the bulk of state funds, calling for \$350 million in new funding to be added to

the K-12 formula each year to be directed at the state's neediest districts based on a number of factors.

But last year, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the state passed a budget including no new funding for schools, while Gov. JB Pritzker's budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year would keep K-12 education funding flat for the second consecutive year.

"We need to make sure that we continue that funding," Griffin said. "Last year that funding was stagnant...but it should be increasing every single year. We need to continue

to work and make that happen so that we don't fall behind, because if we fall behind, who we are falling behind on are the kids, and we cannot do that."

Although respondents shared concerns about health and safety in returning to school, as well as the lingering educator shortage, Griffin said "we're seeing the light at the end of the tunnel."

"But what we need to make sure that we do is support our teachers the best we can, realize that things are going to be different this year, and move forward," she said.

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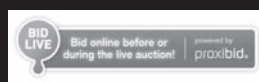


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Expansion of vote by mail, curbside voting will head to governor

By Sarah Mansur
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A bill to expand the use of vote-by-mail and curbside voting in future elections passed the Illinois Senate March 25, meaning it needs only a signature from the governor to become law.

House Bill 1871, which was approved by the House last week, would revise the state election code to make permanent some of the changes that were widely adopted

across Illinois for the 2020 general election in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

If the bill is sent to the governor and signed quickly enough, it would take effect immediately, possibly in time for the April 6 elections.

The changes include allowing election authorities to install drop box sites where voters can submit mail-in ballots without postage during and on Election Day. The bill also permits curbside voting

where people can fill out ballots outside the polling place during early voting and on Election Day.

The bill, sponsored by Democratic Sen. Julie Morrison of Lake Forest, would also require election authorities to accept mail-in ballots with insufficient or no postage.

The bill states that ballots turned in after the close of business "shall be dated as delivered the next day, with the exception of ballots delivered on election day, which shall be dated as received on election day."

Thomas Bride, executive director at Peoria County Election Commission, said this provision was carried out in his county by installing a locked cover on the drop box by 7 p.m. on election night.

"At that point, the drop box was locked and any (ballots) that were deposited before 7

p.m. were counted, and then it stopped the ability to leave (ballots) in the drop box after 7 p.m.," Bride said during the Senate Executive Committee.

The bill passed out of that committee on partisan lines March 24 and advanced to the Senate floor for a vote, where it was approved on a bipartisan roll call with 48 votes in favor and seven against.

Drop box use for April 6 election

The law authorizing ballot drop boxes and curbside voting for the 2020 election expired on Jan. 1, 2021. But some election authorities, including Cook County, have continued to use drop boxes for the February primary election and the upcoming April 6 consolidated election.

Sangamon County, which did not have a February primary, is using one drop box

that is located on the premises of the county building for the April election. The second drop box in Sangamon County that was available during 2020 outside of the county Regional Office of Education is not being used for the upcoming election.

Matt Dietrich, spokesperson for the state Board of Elections, said the Election Code is silent on drop boxes, as it is currently written. He said drop boxes were specifically authorized in the election bill for the 2020 general election.

"When that law expired on Jan. 1, there was no specific prohibition on their use nor was there any authorization for their use," Dietrich said in an email.

Sangamon County Clerk Don Gray said his office is treating the single drop box outside the county building as an extension of the elec-

tion office. The state's election code allows voters to return their mail-in ballots to the election authority office, which is the county election office in Sangamon County.

"I can't stress enough how universally popular and successful this resource was in the November general election," Gray said in a phone interview.

Sangamon County voters from both parties "utilized it often, and resoundingly praised it as a service," Gray said of the two drop boxes.

"We don't want to confuse voters," he said, by taking away a resource that was available to voters in November.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide.

Village of Stockton

Spring 2021 Open Burn Dates

The Spring burn dates for landscape waste will run from April 16 through April 25, 2021.

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON MULTI TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Town of Kent/Erin in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning 1 April, 2021, and ending 31 March, 2022, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 520 N Bridge St Eleroy from and after 9AM to 5PM, 1 day, April, 2021. Please call before coming 815-235-1436.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:30 o'clock PM, 3 day, May, 2021, at 2699 N Unity Rd, Lena in this Town and that final hearing and action on this ordinance will be taken by the Board of Town Trustees at a meeting to be held at 6:30 o'clock PM, 7 day, June, 2021.

Dated this 18 day of March, 2021.

Marcia Mammer,
Supervisor
Jean M. Amendt, Clerk
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
March 31, 2021)

392469

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Town of Erin in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning 1 April, 2021, and ending 31 March, 2022, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 520 N Bridge St Eleroy from and after 9AM to 5PM o'clock, 1 day, April, 2021. Please call before coming 815-235-1436.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 7 o'clock PM, 3 day, May, 2021, at 2699 N Unity Rd, Lena in this Town and that final action on this ordinance will be taken by the Board of Town Trustees at the meeting to be held at 7 o'clock PM, on the 7 day of June, 2021.

Dated this 18 day of March, 2021.

Andy Lobdell, Supervisor
Jean M Amendt, Clerk
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
March 31, 2021)

392470

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for road purposes of Erin in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning 1 April, 2021, and ending 31 March, 2022, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at 520 N Bridge St Eleroy from and after 9AM to 5PM, 1 day, April, 2021. Please call before coming 815-235-1436.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 7 o'clock PM, 3 day, May, 2021, at 2699 N Unity Rd, Lena in this Township and that final hearing and action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting to be held at 2699 N Unity Rd, Lena at 7 o'clock PM, 7 day, June, 2021.

Jean M. Amendt, Clerk
(Published in
The Shopper's Guide
March 31, 2021)

392471

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following is a list of the Warren Township monthly meeting dates; all the meetings start at 7:00 p.m. at the Township building except the Annual Town meeting starts at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday April 16, 2021
- Annual town meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday May 4, 2021
Tuesday June 2, 2021
Tuesday July 6, 2021
Tuesday August 3, 2021
Tuesday September 7, 2021

Tuesday October 5, 2021
Tuesday November 2,

2021
Tuesday December 7, 2021
Tuesday January 4, 2022
Tuesday February 8, 2022
Tuesday March 8, 2022
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is Hereby Given
To the legal voters,
residents of the Township
of Warren, in the County
Of Jo Daviess
And the State of Illinois
that the Annual Town
Meeting of said Town will
Take Place on
TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

At the hour of 7:30 p.m.
at the
Warren Township Building
For the transaction of the
miscellaneous business of
the said town; and after
a Moderator having been
elected, will proceed to
hear and consider reports
of officers, and decide on
such measures as may, in
pursuance of law, come
before the meeting; and
especially to consider and
decide the following:

Roll Call
Nominate a Moderator
Consent Agenda
Public comments
Financial Report
Transfer between Funds
Set Meeting Date for
APRIL, 12, 2022
Adjournment
(Published in
The Scoop Today
March 31, 2021)

392889

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JUDICIAL DISTRICT
JO DAVIESS COUNTY -
GALENA, ILLINOIS
HOME POINT
FINANCIAL
CORPORATION
Plaintiff,

-v.-
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DANIELLE MARIE
HOPPMAN-KOCH,
A/K/A DANIELLE
MARIE HOPPMAN,
RUDI J KOCH A/K/A
RUDI JOSEPH KOCH,
UNKNOWN OWNERS

AND NON-RECORD
CLAIMANTS
Defendant

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Galena, IL, 61036, sell at
a public sale to the highest
bidder, as set forth below,
the following described
real estate:

LOTS TWENTY-TWO
(22), TWENTY-THREE
(23) AND THE SOUTHERLY
TWENTY (20) FEET OF LOT
TWENTY-FOUR (24) IN BLOCK
EIGHTEEN (18) OF J.D.
SOULARD'S THIRD ADDITION
TO THE CITY OF GALENA,
ON THE WEST SIDE OF GALENA
RIVER, SITUATED IN THE
COUNTY OF JO DAVIESS,
IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as
1012 RIDGE STREET,
GALENA, IL 61036

Property Index No. 22-
101-414-10

The real estate is improved
with a white vinyl siding,
1.5 split level single family
home, attached two car
garage.

Sale terms: 25% down
of the highest bid by
certified funds at the close
of the sale payable to The
Judicial Sales Corporation.
No third party checks will
be accepted. The balance,
including the Judicial Sale
fee for the Abandoned Residential
Property Municipality Relief
Fund, which is calculated on
residential real estate at the
rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or
fraction thereof of the amount
paid by the purchaser not to
exceed \$300, in certified
funds/or wire transfer, is
due within twenty-four

(24) hours. No fee shall be
paid by the mortgagee acquiring
the residential real estate
pursuant to its credit bid at the
sale or by any mortgagee,
judgment creditor, or other
lienor acquiring the residential
real estate whose rights in and
to the residential real estate
arose prior to the sale. The
subject property is subject to
general real estate taxes,
special assessments, or special
taxes levied against said real
estate and is offered for sale
without any representation as to
quality or quantity of title and
without recourse to Plaintiff
and in "AS IS" condition. The
sale is further subject to
confirmation by the court.

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

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

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

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR
(HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE
RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION
FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY

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

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

MCCALLA RAYMER
LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC
Plaintiff's Attorneys, One
North Dearborn Street,
Suite 1200, Chicago, IL,
60602. Tel No. (312) 346-9088.

THE JUDICIAL SALES
CORPORATION

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

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

MCCALLA RAYMER
LEIBERT PIERCE, LLC
One North Dearborn
Street, Suite 1200
Chicago IL, 60602
312-346-9088

E-Mail:
pleadings@mccalla.com
Attorney File No.
20-04513IL
Attorney ARDC
No. 61256

Case Number: 19 CH 30
TJSC#: 41-418

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 # 19 CH 30
I3166417

(Published in The Scoop
Today March 31, April 7
& 14, 2021)

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Lena-Winslow School District has immediate openings for **Route Bus Drivers** (AM, PM, or Both Shifts) for the 2020-2021 school year. Position is IMRF pension eligible. If interested, please contact Duane Reed, Transportation Director, at 815-668-0805 or email him at reedd@le-win.net Applications accepted until positions are filled. Lena-Winslow CUSD #202 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

392955

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Jo-Carroll Energy

Jo-Carroll Energy is seeking highly motivated, detail-oriented, and enthusiastic summer interns to join our team. The ideal candidates are highly responsible and have the ability to maintain confidentiality and discretion. Candidates must have outstanding communication skills, a demonstrated aptitude for working well with people, and the desire to contribute to a dynamic and fast paced environment.

REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Must currently be pursuing a degree in a field related to the open positions.
- ✓ Excellent communication skills.
- ✓ Passion for details.
- ✓ Hardworking and responsible.

1 Broadband Technician Assistant

2 Electric Line Crew Assistant

3 Engineering Assistant
Electrical preferred

Please see our website at jocarroll.com for full job descriptions and to apply online.

Completed applications must be received by no later than **April 23, 2021**.

Positions are at the Elizabeth Office.

Stockton Park Board is looking to hire a concession stand manager/operator for the 2021 season. Please call 815-947-2769 before April 10 if interested.

Part Time Help Wanted

Part-time help wanted

18 years and over
Must be willing to work evenings and weekends
Please call the Lena Library at 815-369-3180 for more information.

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Call (815) 369-4112

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Misc. For Sale

ALL KINDS OF Hog equipment, pens & feeders. Priced reasonable. 815-291-2381

Stockton Community Unit School District #206
Afternoon/Evening Custodian - Full Time

Stockton Community Unit School District #206 currently has an immediate opening for a full-time afternoon/evening custodian during the school year and summer. This is a 12-month position with benefits. Starting pay is \$12.00 per hour. Benefits include medical, dental, vision and IMRF retirement. Career minded individuals who are detail-oriented and self-starters need only apply.

Please send a letter of interest and credentials to the Superintendent, James Bunting at Stockton School District, 540 N Rush St, Stockton, IL 61085. Applications accepted until position is filled. Stockton CUSD #206 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

391072

VILLAGE OF STOCKTON VILLAGE CLERK

The Village of Stockton is accepting applications for a Village Clerk. A detailed job description and employment application may be picked up at the Village Hall, 155 W. Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085.

Submit resume with references to the Village of Stockton, PO Box 186, Stockton, IL 61085 by April 2, 2021.

392956

transportation

Automobiles

1995 CABRIO: Convertible. New battery/brake lines/brain box. 110 mlg. 847-477-6384 or 696-3289.

2006 SATURN ION 200K mi., very clean. \$1,000 815-979-8794

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CORVETTE COUPE 1989 Blk/Blk, low miles, ga. kept. \$7,500 firm. 262-749-0356

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BOAT, MOTOR & TRAILER 14' Alumacraft, 9.9 Evinrude, Metzger trailer w/new wheels, \$1400 262-930-9109.

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47 FARMAL CUB, wheel weights, plow, cultivator & rear pulley. \$2,500. 262-534-6287.

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Trucks & Trailers

2000 F200 with Sno-Way down pressure plow. cap & bedliner 66K, new tires, 1 owner. \$4,000. 262-249-6174.

2017 MERCEDES BENZ CAR-GO VAN Excel., condition, Hi-top, 2500 series, many extras. \$29,500 OBO Call Rich 630-742-4730


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Please support these local business
in celebrating the
Easter holiday this year.

A Nativity

Rudyard Kipling, 1865 - 1936
1914-18

The Babe was laid in the Manger
Between the gentle kine—
All safe from cold and danger—
“But it was not so with mine,
(With mine! With
mine!)
“Is it well with the child, is it well?”
The waiting mother prayed.
“For I know not how he fell,
And I know not where he is
laid.”

A Star stood forth in Heaven;
The Watchers ran to see
The Sign of the Promise given—
“But there comes no sign to me.
(To me! To me!)
“My child died in the dark.
Is it well with the child, is it
well?
There was none to tend him or
mark,
And I know not how he fell.”

The Cross was raised on high;
The Mother grieved beside—
“But the Mother saw Him die
And took Him when He died.
(He died! He died!)

“Seemly and undefiled
His burial-place was made—
Is it well, is it well with the child?
For I know not where he is
laid.”

On the dawning of Easter Day
Comes Mary Magdalene;
But the Stone was rolled away,
And the Body was not within—
(Within! Within!)
“Ah, who will answer my word?”
The broken mother prayed.

“They have taken away my Lord,
And I know not where He is
Laid.”

“The Star stands forth in Heaven.
The watchers watch in vain
For Sign of the Promise given
Of peace on Earth again—
(Again! Again!)
“But I know for Whom he fell”—
The steadfast mother smiled,
“Is it well with the child—is it
well?”

It is well—it is well with the
child!”

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