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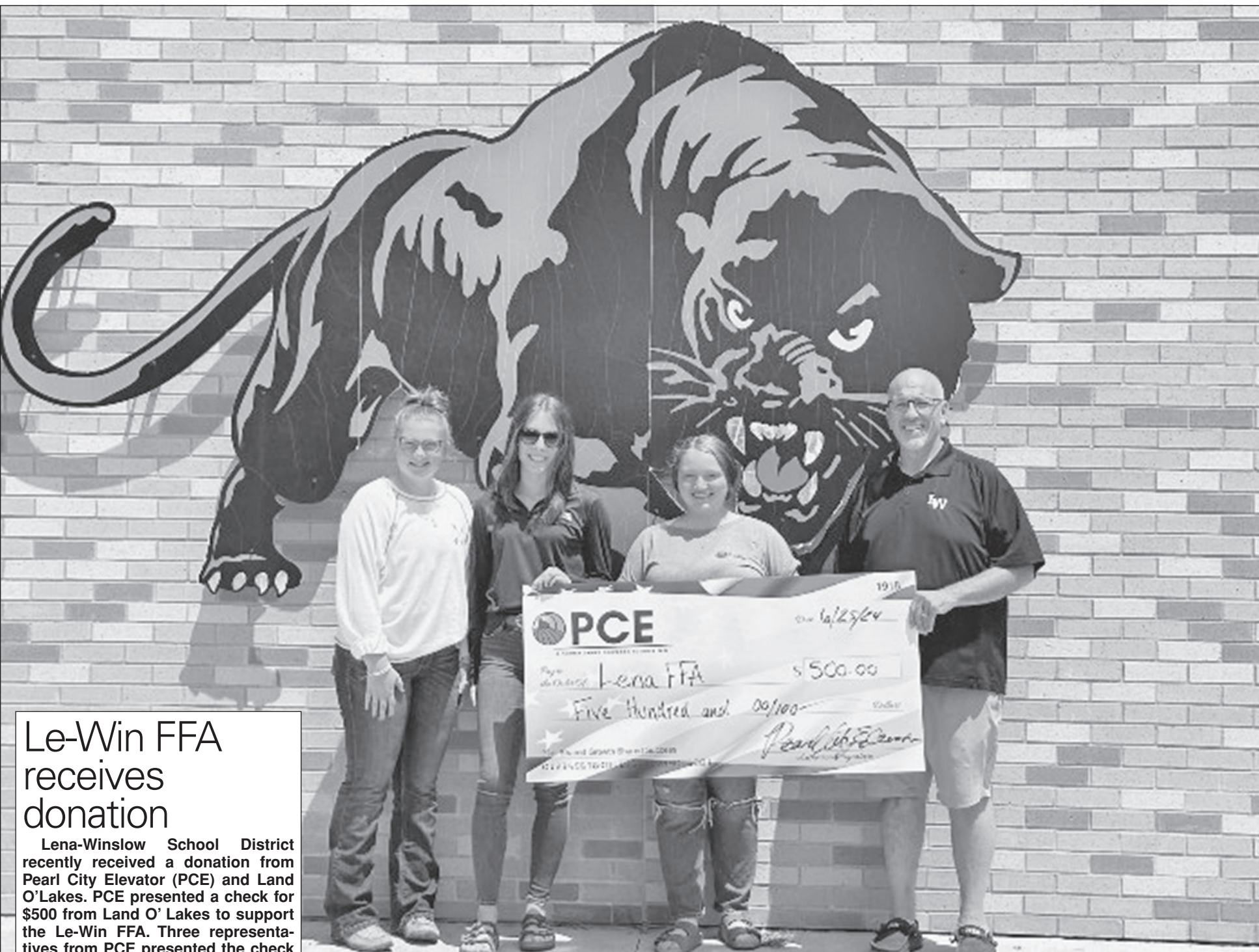
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VOL. 86 • NO. 29

YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024



## Le-Win FFA receives donation

Lena-Winslow School District recently received a donation from Pearl City Elevator (PCE) and Land O'Lakes. PCE presented a check for \$500 from Land O' Lakes to support the Le-Win FFA. Three representatives from PCE presented the check to Dr. Tom Chiles. Pictured are (left to right) Gracie Prose, Belle Jordan, Anna Johnson, and Tom Chiles.

LENA-WINSLOW CUSD #202 FACEBOOK PHOTO  
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# Obituaries

## JACK RAUSCH

Jack Rausch, 85, of Lena, IL, passed away at his home with his family by his side on Tuesday, July 2, 2024. He was born October 11, 1938, to Harry and Doris (Zorzi) Rausch in Livingston, IL. He married Sara Bradley in 1960 in Hammond, IN. Jack proudly served in the United States Army from 1961-1963 with the 1st Armored Division during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was a graduate of Purdue University.

Jack spent 40 years with Union Carbide and Viskase Corporation until his retirement. He was a member of the United Methodist Church and Lena Lions Club. In his free time, Jack loved watching his beloved St. Louis Cardinals and going golfing. Overall, Jack loved his family and was a man of honesty, kindness, and equality for all.

Jack is survived by his wife Sara of Lena, IL; sons- Brian Rausch of Houston, TX and



Mitchell (Carolyn) Rausch of Minooka, IL; grandsons- Brandon Rausch and Drew (Grace) Rausch, USMC; step

grandchildren- Ryan (Hannah) Johnson, Marisa (Jim) Bosonetta, and Kylie (Ulises) Carreno; niece- Sherry (Chuck) Demars, and nephew- Dave (Tammy) Mercer. He is preceded in death by his parents and sister Jill (Bob) Mercer.

Per Jack's requests no services will be held. A private family burial will be held at a later date at the Chapel Lawn Memorial Gardens in Schererville, IN. Cremation rites have been accorded. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite charity or organization in Jack's memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.leamonfh.com](http://www.leamonfh.com).

## PATRICIA L. (LUENSMANN) WEISBECK

Patricia L. (Luensmann) Weisbeck passed away peacefully in her home on July 3, 2024, after her battle with cancer.

Patricia liked to travel, garden, and spend time with her family, kids, and grandkids.

She is survived by her significant other, Greg Gipe, her children Justin (Emily) Weisbeck, Elizabeth (Shannon) Kringle, John (Anastasia) Weisbeck, her grandkids, Trindyn, Evelyn, Malcolm, Harlynn, Adeline, and Rowen, her grand-dog, Bosco,



her sisters Ann (Dick) Woodward, Lois (Bill) Lane, her brothers Larry (Deanne) Luensmann, Francis (Elaine)

Pistek, and her ex-husband James (Lainey) Weisbeck.

She was preceded in death by her parents John and Esther Luensmann, and her sister Elaine Pistek.

Memorial Services will be held at St. Paul Catholic Church in Worthington, Iowa, on July 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

## OPAL WEICK

Opal Rakowska Weick, age 102, passed away on July 1 in Lena, IL. She was born on September 20, 1921, to Rudolph and Velma Rakowska in Waddams Township, McConnell, IL. She attended McConnell Public Grade School, graduated from Winslow High School in 1939 and on May 3, 1941, married Allen Weick in Davis, IL.

Opal was employed at Burgess Battery and Micro Switch in Freeport, IL and later worked with Dr. Jaime Ballesteros in Orangeville, IL as his Medical Assistant. She retired from Citizens State Bank in Lena, IL in 1984 after 15 years of service.

She was a 4-H leader, a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for over 70 years in Lena and McConnell posts, the Eagles Club and VFW Auxiliaries, Winslow Woman's Club and Lena Golf Club. She was active in golf and bowling leagues. She loved to dance while "Beezil" played in the band and enjoyed playing cards and dominoes with her friends at the Lena Retreat when she lived there.

Opal traveled to Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia and Kitzingen, Germany for

family visits. She was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lena, IL.

She was preceded in death by her husband Allen in 1994, parents, one infant sister Doris and her four brothers Duane, Darrell, Jerome, Gary and two sisters-in-law Marilyn and Beverly. Opal is survived by her daughter Jill (Gregory) Schwartz of Hampton, VA, two grandsons- Britton (Kim) Schwartz of Virginia Beach, VA and Jason (Kimberly) Schwartz of Reston, VA and three great-grandchildren -Parker, Emmerson and Sophia. She treasured the pictures and news of them from Virginia. She leaves behind a loving sister-in-law Colleen Rakowska, devoted friends Mary James and Judy Love and many nieces and nephews.

A special thank you to the staff at Lena Living Center and the staff at Unity Hospice for their exceptional kindness and care of Opal. Per her wishes a family service will be held in the Chapel of Peace at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens, Freeport, IL at a later date. Cremation rites have been accorded by Schwarz Funeral Home, Freeport, Illinois. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.schwarzfh.com](http://www.schwarzfh.com).

## FREDERICK MEHL

Frederick John Mehl, age 96, of Woodbine, IL passed away Wednesday, June 26, 2024. He was born in Chicago, IL on March 5, 1928, to the late John and Janet (Miller) Mehl. Fred married Barbara Jeanne Turner on October 16, 1949, in Chicago, IL. Barbara passed away August 28, 2013.

Fred was a 1946 graduate of Hirsch High School and went on to attend Wilson Junior College. He then served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the WWII era and the Army National Guard. After his service, he went on to graduate from Loyola University with a Bachelor's of Science in Business and DePaul University with a Master's in Education Counseling. Fred was a longtime Methodist and always active in the church. He was a member of Natural Area Guardians, Jo Daviess County Conservation Foundation, and Telephone Pioneers of America.

Fred had worked as a line-man for AT&T and moved into HR Management. He retired early and formed his own consulting company, Continental Business Management. He had done consulting work with United Way, IBM, and Drake, Beam and Morin. After retirement, he fulfilled his dream of owning a farm and moved from the city to Woodbine, IL. He was always active in Boy Scouts. He was an Eagle Scout and in leadership he received the distinguished Sil-



ver Beaver Award. He loved music, especially big band and gospel. He also loved history and traveling, including

Route 66. Fred was active in charitable work throughout his life.

He is survived by his daughters, Kathy (Matt) Mehl-McNellis and Mary Wille; his sons, David (Judy), John (Ellen), Mark, and Matthew (Megan); his six grandchildren, Christopher Mehl, Meghan (Anthony) Vai, Gregory (Autumn) Mehl, Gelsey Weinstock Mehl, Colleen McNellis, and Alexandra (Holden) Thompson; his 8 great grandchildren; his cousin, Jeff (Cheryl) Mehl; and his two nieces, Barbara (Rick) Livingston, Sheryl (Ken) Spires, and one nephew, Burke (Paula) Mandable. He is preceded in death by his grandparents; his parents; and his wife, Barbara.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, July 20, 2024, at Calvary Church of Stockton at 11 a.m. There will be a visitation on Friday, July 19, 2024, at Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Interment will take place at Woodbine Cemetery at a later date. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at [www.hermannfuneralhome.com](http://www.hermannfuneralhome.com).



## Church news

### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, July 14 for Communion Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel Mark 6:14-29.

On Wednesday, July 17 the Peace Corps Quilting group will meet from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. No quilting experience necessary and all are welcome to join. Come and tie the quilts and make difference in the world.

All the services will be recorded and be available

on church's Facebook page and website. Please visit our website and (<http://goodshepherdlena.org/>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/GSLCLenaIL>) for information. Please contact the church office at 815-369-5552 with any questions.

### St. John's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church, Pearl City, will celebrate the eighth Sunday after Pentecost on Sunday, July 14 at 9 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thurs-

day, July 25 at 1 p.m. and to play dominoes in Luther Hall on Tuesday, Aug. 6 at 9 a.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, Aug. 7 at 7:30 a.m. at the Garden View Restaurant in Lena.

The July Grace Meal will be on Sunday, July 21. Meals can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. on June 16. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, July 18. The menu for the July meal will be brats, baked beans, potato chips, Jell-o, and a Rice Krispie treat. This meal is possible due to donations and a grant from the Foundation of Northwest Illinois.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Pearl City is an ELCA parish and is located at 229 First St. in Pearl City. We are handicapped accessible. If you need to contact the pastor or church, you may call 815-443-2215 for information.

### Salem United Church of Christ

All are welcome to join for a Sunday service led by Pastor Christopher Ham on Sunday, July 14, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Salem United Church of Christ, 8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL. The Adult Sunday School will be hosted prior to service, starting at 9 a.m. on the lower level of the church. Children's Sunday School is held during church service at 10 a.m.

The Wednesday Breakfast Bunch will meet July 17 at 8 a.m. at The Big Apple, 1427 West Galena Avenue, Freeport, IL.

If interested in participating in a fun evening of crafting, please join for Crafternoon from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each

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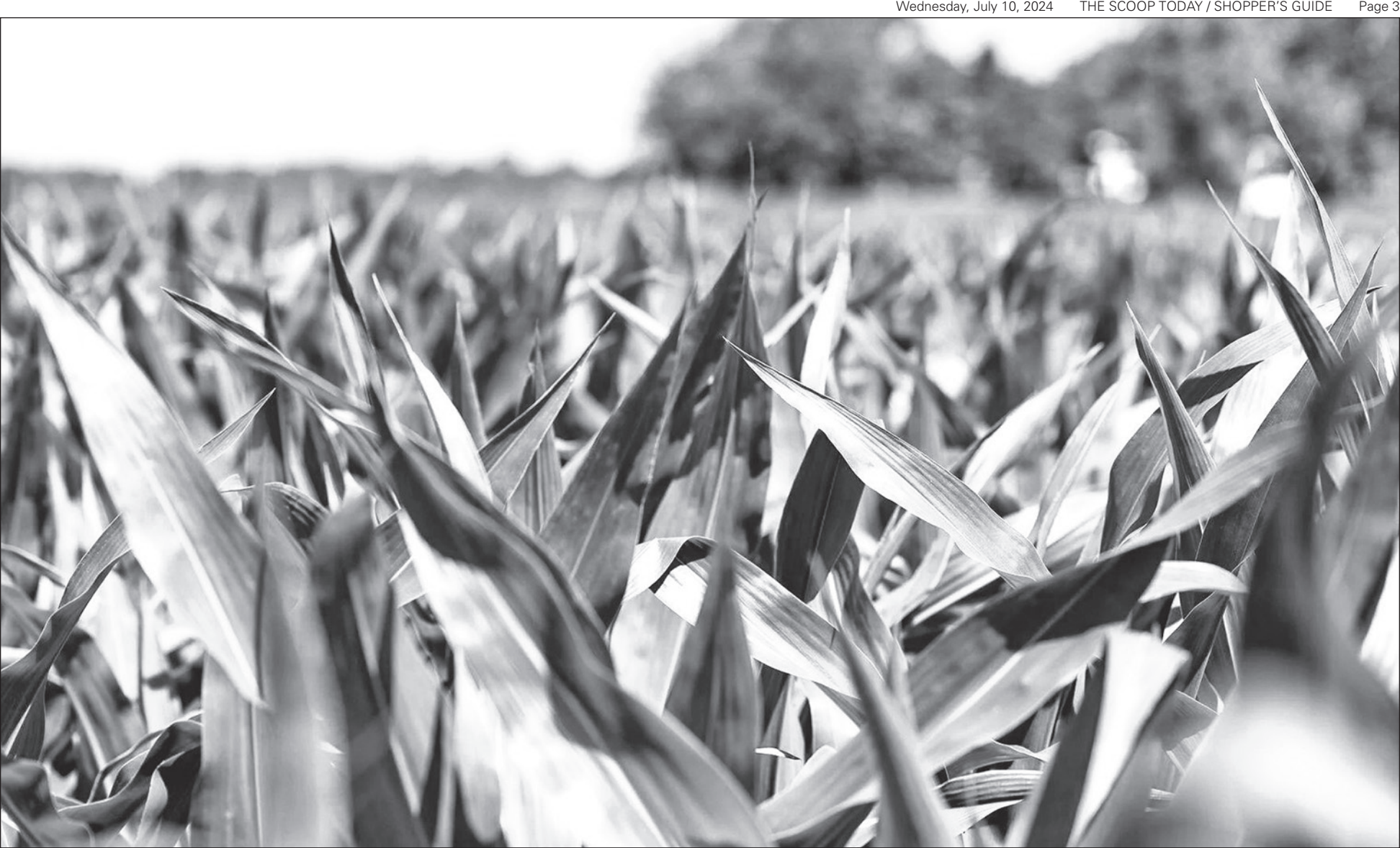
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The corn acreage estimate is down 3 percent from last year but more than a million acres above the average trade.

# Corn acres planted down, soybean acres up in Illinois

By Daniel Grant  
FARMWEEK

A challenging planting season apparently didn't stop U.S. farmers from seeding a hefty amount of corn and soybeans, according to USDA's much-anticipated June acreage report released June 28.

Despite wild weather fluctuations in recent months, USDA pegged planted acreage at 91.5 million acres of corn and 86.1 million acres of soybeans. The corn estimate is down 3 percent from last year but more than a million acres above the average trade guess while the soybeans es-

imate is up 3 percent from a year ago.

In Illinois, USDA estimates farmers planted 10.9 million acres of corn this season, down 300,000 acres from last year, and 10.7 million acres of beans, up 350,000 from 2023.

"Planted acreage surprised the corn trade," Karl Setzer, market analyst with Consus Ag Consulting, told FarmWeek. "The big question is how much of those acres may or may not have been lost to flooding."

Prevent plant acres are not accounted for in the June acreage estimates. Setzer and

fellow analyst Joe Camp, of CommStock Investments, feel the numbers could be revised in subsequent reports.

"It (the unexpectedly high corn acreage estimate) goes in the face of what we think about how the planting season went," Camp told the RFD Radio Network. "It's a reminder, though, of in past years these acreage numbers really are moving from here and potentially coming down."

USDA also released its quarterly stocks report Friday with some bearish undertones. That report pegged

stocks at 4.9 billion bushels of corn, 970 million bushels of bean and 702 million bushels of wheat. All three estimates were up considerably from last year and above trade expectations.

"I think the stocks numbers are more of what we're trading now rather than acres," Setzer said. "But, by the end of today (June 28), I think we're back to trading weather."

Camp also sees recent weather extremes as a key player in the market moving forward.

"There is a real back-and-forth between the speculators

trying to push the market lower and the fundamentals wanting to maybe say let's wait and see," Camp added. "You have a weather story that speculators may see as bearish, because of rains moving across the eastern Corn Belt after a hot dry spell, ignoring if you will what's going on in

the western Corn Belt with all of that flooding and the lost acreage."

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*

## • Church (Continued from page 2)

month. During this time there are snacks, a brief devotional thought, and plenty of time to work on crafts individually or together. This is hosted on the lower level of Salem United Church of Christ, and all are welcome to join. For more information on any Salem related items, contact 815-369-4511 or ruth.dake@gmail.com.

## Calvary Church of Stockton

On July 8 through July 12 Calvary will hold a five-day Bible Club. Children ages 5 -12 are welcome to attend. There will be a missionary story, song, great games, a Bible lesson and snacks. The event will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Please call Calvary Church at 815-947-2414 or Pastor Scott Hess at 815-821-9245 to sign up.

On Aug. 10 the church will hold a "Praise in the Park" from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



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The Scoop Today (USPS #25-737) is published weekly by Rock Valley Publishing, LLC, 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy., Ste. 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.

Periodical Postage Paid at Rockford, IL.

POSTMASTER: send address changes to

The Scoop Today, 7124 Windsor Lake Pkwy., Ste. 4, Loves Park, IL 61111-3802.

Address for payment, correspondence and any other inquiries: 1102 ANN STREET, DELAVAN, WI 53115

EDITOR: Kathleen Cruger

Advertising Sales: Cyndee Stiefel • lenaads@rvpublishing.com

Telephone: 815-369-4112

Email: News/Letters to the Editor and Classifieds: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com

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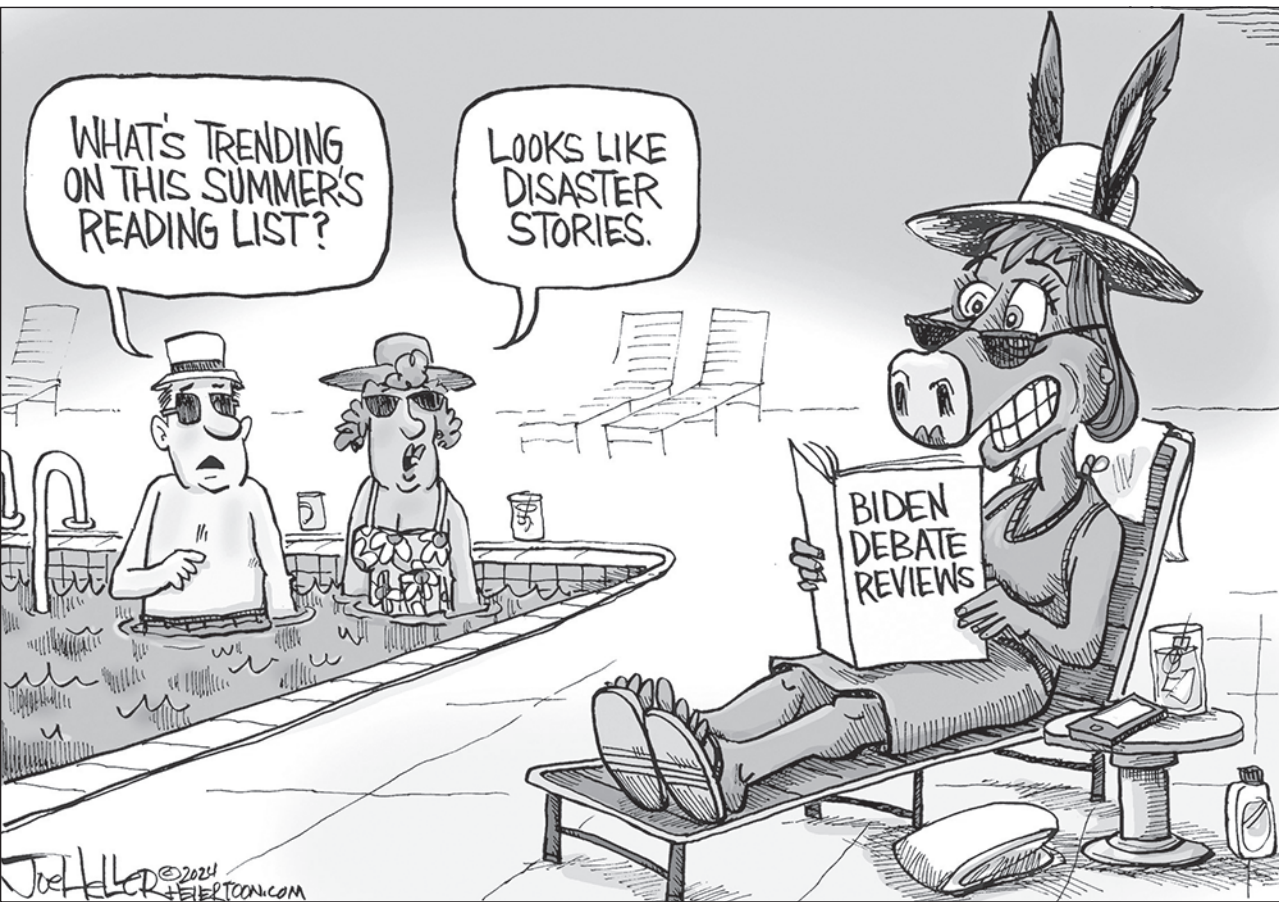
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# OPINION



## Slices of life

# Young on the inside



By **JILL PERTLER**  
Columnist

A very good friend shared a written message regarding thoughts on aging with me. It was about growing old, but not feeling like you are growing old. It gave me pause to ponder.

Your hair may be graying. Your skin thins and sags. Laugh lines (aka wrinkles) provide evidence of the happiness you've experienced. Medical issues may be more prevalent and demand more of your attention than in the past.

All around you, your body shows obvious signs of aging, but inside you're still the same you—youthful and young.

Isn't that the truth? We all grow old, on the outside; but don't we feel young on the inside?

I know I do. Do we ever change from that young, energetic spirit that once embodied our bodies into the old, wrinkled self that our bathroom mirror now houses?

I know I don't want to—or plan to.

Time changes our physical beings. But it doesn't change all the rest: our character, our sense of humor, our wisdom, our knowledge, our sense of adventure, our free spirit, our sassiness, our love for life, our soul.

We are so much more than the skin on our bones. We are so much more than the cells that make up our bodies. We are so much more than wrinkles and gray hair, sagging jowls and sagging—well, I won't go there.

Wouldn't it be cool if there were a mirror that could see us from the inside, as we see ourselves? As we truly feel? As we truly are?

Sigh. There are no magic mirrors.

Our eyes, and our mirrors, are constrained to the visual rules of Mother Earth's three-or-so dimensions. It's only when we leapfrog over these facts that we see things not as they physically are, but as they truly are.

All too often, that knowledge comes with the lessons of time. And by the time we learn this, youth has often been spent.

It's at this point, you look in the mirror and realize the only one who sees who you really are—still—is you, and perhaps (if you are lucky) those who have watched the calendar turn, year after year, with you, alongside you.

Those who have known you—inside and out—for decades.

Since band class in junior high. Since sophomore year in high school. Since then, whenever that was, when youth was easy and undeniable and under-appreciated and so very there for the taking.

But then, like sands through the hourglass ...

Youth fades. Along the way—through the days and months and years and decades—it gives way to time and time creates not only wrinkled skin but the cloak of invisibility. It comes upon us gradually—much like age is said to creep up on us.

In our culture, youth is shiny and bright and very visible. Aging is not. So as the calendar turns over each year and our age number increases by one, we become less youthful and a little less visible to those who merely see what is in front of them.

We don the cloak of invisibility.

But perhaps invisibility isn't so bad. Perhaps it is even under-rated. Perhaps it can be your secret. Our secret.

Because in the end, it doesn't really matter what the mirror reflects back upon you. It doesn't matter what other people see, or think they see when they meet you face to face.

Because you know. You. Know.

Age is a gift, and in such, this is written in truth. In some regards, increasing age brings with it decreasing visibility within the norms of this physical world. But that is okay.

It is more than okay. The beauty of youth gives way to the beauty of age. And if you learn to see that, really see that, you are truly bestowed.

Growing old is inevitable. Becoming old is a choice. What you see in the mirror is your decision—at any age.

And that, my friends, is truly magic.

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

## Weekly connection

# Our trip out west

For years now I have taken my wife and family on a trip somewhere across this beautiful country around the fourth of July. This year we went a week early to beat the rush and because we wanted to drive all the way to Oregon and Washington, which is an area we had never been to before. We thought about flying to save time, but then we remembered how much we love to take in all the sights and sounds by highway. The



By **SCOTT CERNEK**  
Columnist

trip didn't disappoint in the least. We kind of followed the Oregon trail on our way out making our way through Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and finally to the grand state of Oregon.

We had been to the Rocky Mountains many times, but there was something about the mountains in Oregon running alongside the very wide Columbia River that gave a majestic look that we had never seen. The beauty of all the different landscapes was just breathtaking. Part of the thrill for me is taking in all the varieties of farming that one sees on a trip like this as well. Of course, the ranch after ranch of beef cattle roaming the hillsides is a favorite, but I had never seen the beautiful, irrigated fields of Idaho potatoes to go along with all the standard crops like corn, wheat, alfalfa, and soy beans. The hay that's grown way out there in Utah, Idaho and Oregon is all irrigated because of the dry climate and so they are able to bale it up when it's the perfect texture. Back here in the Midwest we are always trying to dodge the rain in order to make decent hay.

When we take trips like this we want to unplug from our responsibilities and get recharged, but we are always looking for a God-appointment or two as well along the way. This trip was no exception. Here's how our God-appointment came about. Since my wife and I are Jr. High and High School classmates we have

this connection with lots and lots of people from our school days. One of my good buddies from school had long ago disappeared from everyone's radar although we knew he lived out in the Seattle, Washington area. The Lord gave us the idea to look him up and my wife was able to find his number through a nephew of his back home. To make a long story short we were able to reconnect with our old friend and his wife and have a wonderful weekend with them in the city. The visit rekindled our friendship, and helped bring a lot of joy and memories back to our hearts that we had buried long ago. Our classmate has a PHD in genetic engineering and has spent his career in research at the University of Washington and his wife is a professor there as well. We heard about all his academic work and it was good to reawaken the old Midwest dairy farmer boy that was still deep down inside his life. When our visit was finished and we were getting ready to leave, we urged him and his wife to come back home for a visit and maybe come to a class reunion. We told him to just name the airport and the time, and we would be

See TRIP, Page 6

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# After nine months, state data begins to detail new pretrial detention system

## But researchers say despite new 75-county data trove, it's still too early to judge bail reform law

By Jerry Nowicki  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Nine months after cash bail ended in Illinois, the state is taking its first steps in publishing the data that crafters of the bail reform law saw as essential to judging its effectiveness.

The data shows that judges in the 75 counties served by the Illinois Supreme Court's Office of Statewide Pretrial Services had collectively issued failure-to-appear warrants in just 5 percent of more than 28,000 court dates as of Friday. Judges had approved about 63 percent of petitions to detain a defendant pretrial that were sent to them by prosecutors.

The OSPS, launched in 2021 to provide things like pretrial safety assessments and electronic monitoring for 75 of Illinois' 102 counties, published the data in a new dashboard this week. It represents a key — but still early and incomplete — step in tracking Illinois' progress as the first state to fully end cash bail through a wide-ranging criminal justice reform known as the SAFE-T Act.

Some state's attorneys, sheriffs and other law enforcement organizations were staunchly and publicly opposed to the law when it passed — launching several lawsuits that ultimately delayed cash bail's elimination by nine months. But retired Cook County Judge Cara Smith, who now leads the OSPS, said she believes the data shows everyone is taking their responsibilities under the SAFE-T Act "very seriously."

"I think judges and the other stakeholders—everyone, regardless of what their position might have been on the policy behind the SAFE-T Act—that everyone's doing their job," she told Capitol News Illinois.

For David Olson, co-director of the Loyola University of Chicago's Center for Criminal Justice, or CCJ, the data demonstrates the complexities of tracking a reform as large as the SAFE-T Act in a state as geographically diverse as Illinois.

"Everyone wants to know:

'How's it going in Illinois?'" Olson said in an interview. "Well, which of the 102 Illinois(es) do you want to hear about? There's 102 counties, and every one's a little bit different."

### New pretrial detention system

The SAFE-T Act included a provision known as the Pretrial Fairness Act that ended the use of cash bail in Illinois, meaning a person cannot be jailed while awaiting trial simply because they can't afford a dollar amount assigned by a judge. After litigation forced a delay in implementing the PFA, cash bail was officially eliminated on Sept. 18, 2023.

It created a replacement system in which prosecutors can petition judges to detain an individual based on the seriousness of the alleged crime and the defendant's dangerousness or risk of fleeing prosecution. Before a judge can order detention, the state must prove "by clear and convincing evidence" that the defendant committed the crime, poses a specific threat to a person or the community and that no other pretrial conditions can mitigate the defendant's risk.

The law also gives defendants a right to legal representation at their first court hearing, with the intention of making hearings more deliberative when an individual's freedom is at stake as they await a full trial.

OSPS had completed more than 16,600 pretrial investigations since cash bail ended as of Friday, with just over 10,200 of them for defendants accused of a felony. As part of those investigations, the OSPS provides individual reports about a defendant to judges, public defenders and prosecutors prior to a first appearance in court. The investigations usually include an interview with the defendant, a detailed criminal history, employment information and more.

The data showed that about 52 percent of cases that were subject to an OSPS pretrial investigation contained at least

one offense considered "detainable" under the SAFE-T Act. As of June 28, prosecutors had petitioned the court to detain the defendant in 62 percent of those cases.

The fact that judges approved 63 percent of those petitions, Smith said, was evidence the system was working.

"If we would have seen 99 percent of detention petitions are granted, that would have been a red flag," Smith said.

Smith also stressed that the statewide data only tells part of the story—county- and circuit-level data is just as important. The various circuit courts within OSPS' jurisdiction had detention petition approval rates ranging from 48 percent to 84 percent as of Friday, though Smith pointed out percentages can be misleading, especially in smaller counties with low case volumes.

Four large counties that are not part of the OSPS—Cook, DuPage, Kane and McHenry—report some level of pretrial detention data individually. Detention petitions as of June 28 were granted at a 38 percent rate in Kane County, 41 percent in DuPage and 40 percent in McHenry.

Cook County, which has the highest volume of cases of any jurisdiction by far, broke down its data further, reporting that detention was granted for 61 percent of 93 petitions filed for misdemeanor cases as of June 8, 41 percent of 1,485 domestic violence cases, and 70 percent of 2,641 felony cases.

### 'We didn't see any sort of knee jerk'

Judges as of June 28 had issued failure-to-appear warrants in only 5 percent of 28,416 court dates in the 75 OSPS counties since cash bail was eliminated. But Olson, whose CCJ has been studying pretrial detention since before the SAFE-T Act's passage, cautioned that those numbers could increase, as failure-to-appear warrants are most accurately accounted for

once a case has concluded.

"The (failure to appear) rates will likely increase as more of these cases have more time to have hearings missed," Olson said.

However, both Smith and Olson also noted the number is likely driven downward by the SAFE-T Act's instruction to judges not to rely on such warrants as a first remedy for a non-appearance.

"And really, the reason for that is a lot of defendants previously who had warrants issued just, basically, they forgot about court," Olson said.

Other means of assuring a defendant's appearance in court, Smith said, include simply sending text message reminders.

"We send about 200 court date text message reminders a day," she said. "So that has been shown—just like it is when we get a haircut or have a doctor's appointment—to be an effective way of keeping important appointments at the forefront of people's minds."

Another major function of the OSPS is to oversee electronic monitoring of individuals subject to home confinement in its 75 counties from a centralized location in Springfield. The OSPS now absorbs the cost of electronic monitoring — which, in many counties, was previously passed on to defendants.

Smith said OSPS has plans to add electronic monitoring data to a future version of its dashboard, and she added the agency has enrolled about 1,100 people in electronic monitoring.

"I was very afraid of an explosion in the use of electronic monitoring after Sept. 18," Smith said. "We have not seen that. The program has steadily grown, but it's grown sort of organically ... we didn't see any sort of knee jerk."

Olson echoed that point, noting that the OSPS made electronic monitoring—and pretrial services in general—available in counties where it was never previously an option. But some counties may

be reluctant to order electronic monitoring even though it is free to them, he said, because they'd have to expend potentially sparse personnel resources to enforce it.

### 'A lot of variation'

While the OSPS data is useful in understanding how certain counties are handling pretrial detention in addition to examining broader trends, Olson said, it further demonstrates the disparities across jurisdictions.

The detainability data specifically applies to individuals who have been subject to an OSPS investigation—and not those whom an officer has simply cited and released.

Olson pointed to one example of how the numbers can be skewed in any individual county based on its practices. He said Loyola CCJ researchers were told by officials in southern Illinois' Williamson County that all arrestees are held in jail at least overnight prior to appearing before a judge. As a result, the OSPS conducted investigations on all of those individuals, even if their offense was low-level. Thus, only 36 percent of individuals subject to an investigation in that county were detainable, per the dashboard.

In neighboring Franklin County, meanwhile, Olson said officials reported they jail only those individuals they believe are detainable, resulting in 59 percent of investigated cases containing a detainable offense.

There's also a lot of county-to-county variance on the percentage of detention petitions granted, Olson added.

"And it really illustrates what we suspect is going to happen, and that's there's going to be a lot of variation from circuit to circuit and county to county, just based on local practices, priorities, discretion that's given to prosecutors and who they seek to detain," he said.

### 'So has it increased crime?'

While both Smith and Olson said the dashboard is just an early step in the data-gathering process, Olson added there's a lot more information to be gathered in the coming years before the end of cash bail can be fully evaluated.

"I think that the biggest question people are going to want to know is, 'So has this increased crime?'" he said. "That's still too early to know."

Olson added that it's important to differentiate between longstanding cyclical crime increases—such as more crime occurring in warmer weather—and actual effects of the policy. He also advised against extrapolating judgments about the system from any single instance of an individual being released from custody and going on to reoffend—because that also happened under cash bail.


"It's still too early to say empirically, but there will likely be plenty of folks that talk about it anecdotally," he said of cash bail's effectiveness.

Olson's CCJ also noted the law has had its intended effect of adding scrutiny to decisions affecting an individual's liberty.

Bail hearings generally lasted about 4-6 minutes in four counties observed by the CCJ prior to Pretrial Fairness Act, according to a March CCJ report. After it passed, observed pretrial hearings averaged about 4-7 minutes — except in cases when detention was requested. Those hearings had median lengths of 10-30 minutes, with some lasting nearly an hour.

"That's actually one of the positive things that we've found is everybody in the courtroom, including the defendant, knows exactly why the judge is reaching the decision," he said.

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County Farm  
Bureau

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## Farm Fun Day

Saturday, July 13 is our Farm Fun Day at Shenandoah Riding Center in the Galena Territory. This is a great chance for families to come out and milk a cow, see the animals in the Young Leaders petting zoo bus, make ice cream and butter and so much more. Stop out from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and take part in all of the fun. This event will be held rain or shine.

## Peach orders

Are you already thinking about those fresh Illinois peaches? Orders are due by Wednesday, July 24 with payment and order form.

## Local member benefits

Don't forget to take advantage of member-only benefits for Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members. We have businesses around the County who have partnered with us to offer these discounts. Make sure to have your farm bureau membership card handy when asking for those discounts. For a full listing of the local benefits, go to our website [www.jodaviesscfb.com](http://www.jodaviesscfb.com) and click on membership, then local discounts.

## Stockton CUSD 206 mourns the loss of esteemed school board member, Tamara Kay Ruter

It is with deep sorrow that Stockton CUSD 206 announces the passing of esteemed School Board Member, Tamara Kay Ruter, who departed this life on June 28, 2024. She served the community with unwavering dedication and integ-

egrity, leaving a lasting impact on our schools and students. Tamara was elected to the Stockton School Board in 2023. During her tenure, she championed numerous initiatives aimed at improving educational standards, supporting



LENA-WINSLOW CUSD #202 FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Welcome back, Class of 1984!

Some members of the Lena-Winslow class of 1984 returned to Le-Win for their 40-year reunion and requested a tour of the current schools. The group toured the school on Saturday, June 15, accompanied by Mrs. DeZell. Thank you to Jim Kleckner for setting up this opportunity for his classmates. Members of the class pictured are (left to right) Dave Rackow, Scott Julius, Loretta (Duchow) Humphrey, Teresa (Knoup) Matthews, Jim Kleckner, Roxanne (Duchow) Zucker, Corey Lameyer and Michelle (Shumaker) Musser.

## • Trip (Continued from page 4)

there to pick them up. Well, I got a text from him as we were returning through the mountains. He said that he definitely wanted to come back, and they would be working on a time.

I love it when God brings these kind of

experiences into the life of a Christian. He wants to use us whenever we make ourselves available. I have a small plaque with the picture of a tennis shoe on it and Psalm 37:23 which reads, The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.

I want to take a second and invite all area families to our summer Vacation Bible School in Browntown, Wisconsin just west of Monroe July 8-12. A ministry team of wonderful young people called, Discipleship House, from Kentucky will be here once again to lead a sports camp from 9-11:30 at the park and then we will serve lunch and conduct the VBS portion from Noon -3:30. There is no charge, and it is open to all kids starting at age 3. Until next week, God bless!

## SSM Health honors 2024 residency and fellowship graduates

SSM Health Monroe Hospital is proud to announce the eleven doctors of the Family Medicine Residency, Pharmacy Residency, Emergency Medicine Fellowship and Emergency Medicine Fellowship Class of 2024.

A graduation ceremony and celebration were held on Thursday, June 27, at Bailey's Run Winery in New Glarus, Wisconsin that honored the doctors who completed the programs at SSM Health Monroe Hospital.

This year's graduates include:

Jason Christenson, DO, Family Medicine Resident, who is taking a primary care position at ArchWell Health in Overland Park, Kansas.

Zachary Coffman, DO,

Family Medicine Resident, who is entering SSM Health Monroe Hospital's Emergency Medicine Fellowship Program.

Landon Shea, DO, Family Medicine Resident, who is entering SSM Health Monroe Hospital's Emergency Medicine Fellowship Program.

Megan Gross, PharmD, Pharmacy Resident, who is taking a regional pharmacist position with Hometown Pharmacy.

Lindsey Proegler, PharmD, Pharmacy Resident, who is entering Aurora's PGY2 Ambulatory Care Residency.

Kelly Thomas, PharmD, who is continuing with SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group as a Year 2 Pharmacy Resident.

Stephanie Garvin, PharmD, Year 2 Pharmacy Resident, who is exploring opportunities in Wisconsin.

Lubna Hashmi, MD, Emergency Medicine Fellow, who is exploring opportunities in Michigan.

Michael Falahat, MD, Emergency Medicine Fellow, who planning to stay in the area and do locum work.

Justin Avigliano, DO, Emergency Medicine Fellow, who is exploring opportunities in California.

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teachers, and ensuring that all students had access to quality education. Her commitment to the district's mission and vision was evident in every decision she made. In addition to her role on the school board, Tamara was deeply involved in the community, volunteering her time with various organizations and initiatives. She was known for her kindness, leadership, and unwavering dedication to making a positive difference.

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# U.S. Supreme Court won't hear challenge to Illinois' assault weapons ban, for now

*One justice says he hopes high court will hear the matter once lower courts issue decisions*

By Peter Hancock  
 CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS  
 The U.S. Supreme Court announced last week it will not immediately review Illinois' assault weapons ban, leaving the law in place at least until challenges to the law have been fully heard in lower courts.

Day parade in Highland Park that left seven people dead and dozens more injured or traumatized.  
 That shooting served as the impetus for state lawmakers to pass the Protect Illinois Communities Act, which bans the sale and possession of a long list of semi-automatic rifles and handguns as well as various kinds of attachments and large-capacity magazines. "I applaud the U.S. Su-

preme Court for allowing Illinois' common-sense gun reform to continue," state Rep. Bob Morgan, D-Deerfield, the law's chief sponsor in the House, said in a statement. "Every day that assault weapons and high capacity magazines are banned in Illinois represents fewer gun deaths and reduced gun violence."  
 The court's announcement came in a batch of orders issued July 2, one day after the

court released the final opinions from its 2023-2024 session. Most of the orders dealt with petitions for cases to be heard when the court's next session begins in October.  
 Usually, the court issues only a one-sentence order either granting or denying a petition to review a case, known as a writ of certiorari. Occasionally, though, one or more of the justices will attach a statement explaining their reason for the decision.  
 Justice Clarence Thomas, one of the court's most conservative justices, issued such a statement, noting the court is often "wary" about taking up "interlocutory" appeals—that is, appeals of decisions made during the course of a proceeding, before a final verdict is reached.  
 "These cases arise from a preliminary injunction, and the Seventh Circuit stressed that its merits analysis was merely 'a preliminary look at the subject,'" Thomas wrote, referring to a November de-

cision by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. "But if the Seventh Circuit ultimately allows Illinois to ban America's most common civilian rifle, we can – and should – review that decision once the cases reach a final judgement."  
 State lawmakers passed the ban during a lame duck session in January 2023. Gov. JB Pritzker signed it into law just hours after its final passage in the House, making Illinois the ninth state at that time, along with Washington, D.C., to enact such a ban. The state of Washington passed a similar law a few months later.  
 The legal challenges to Illinois' law moved swiftly through federal courts, putting those cases in a position to be taken up by the Supreme Court ahead of challenges in some other states.  
 In April, a judge in the Southern District of Illinois granted a preliminary injunction to block enforcement of the law while it was being challenged, saying it would

likely be found unconstitutional. But in separate cases in the Northern District of Illinois, two other judges came to the opposite conclusion and declined to grant injunctions.  
 Those cases were eventually consolidated in an appeal to the Seventh Circuit, which lifted the Southern District injunction and allowed the law to remain pending a final resolution.  
 But the movement in Illinois and other states to ban the types of weapons used in numerous mass shootings came around the same time the new conservative majority on the Supreme Court was developing new legal standards for judging gun control measures.  
 In 2008, the court ruled in District of Columbia v. Heller that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess ordinary types of weapons that are commonly used for lawful purposes. But it also noted there is a "historical tradition of prohibiting the carrying of dangerous and unusual weapons."  
 Then in June 2022, less than two weeks before the Highland Park mass shooting, the court ruled in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen that to justify restrictions on someone's right to keep and bear arms, the government must demonstrate the regulations are "consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation."

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*See BAN, Page 14*

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# Illinois switching to ACT exams for state assessments

## High school students to start new exams in spring 2025

By Peter Hancock  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

When Illinois high school students sit down to take their annual state assessments next year, they will take a different exam than in recent years.

The Illinois State Board of Education recently announced that starting next spring, it will use the ACT exam rather than the SAT.

Both are standardized tests

that measure students' proficiency in core subjects such as English language arts and math. Both are also commonly used for college admissions—although many colleges and universities have stopped requiring them—as well as scholarship applications.

Illinois, however, also uses them as part of the battery of tests schools administer each year to meet federal mandates under the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Results of those tests are reported each year on the Illinois Report Card and are used to hold schools and dis-

tricts accountable for meeting basic academic standards.

Illinois started using the SAT with Essay as the state assessment for 11th grade students in spring 2017. Two years later, it began using the PSAT 8/9 exam for 9th grade students and the PSAT 10 for high school sophomores.

At the time, according to ISBE, incorporating a college entrance exam into the state's annual assessment program was considered a bonus because it gave nearly all graduating high school students a reportable score, paid for by the state, which they could then use for college and scholarship applications.

In recent years, though, many colleges and universities stopped requiring either the SAT or ACT as part of their application and admission processes.

In 2021, Illinois lawmakers passed the Higher Education Fair Admissions Act requiring all public universities and community colleges to adopt a "test-optional" policy for admissions, meaning students could voluntarily choose whether to include them in their application package. But ISBE continued using the tests as part of its federally mandated statewide assessments.

The upcoming switch to the ACT exam came about

through ISBE's routine procurement process. The agency's contract with the College Board, the nonprofit corporation that operates the SAT, was set to expire on June 30, prompting the agency to open a new bidding process.

The state board agreed to open the bidding process and solicit sealed proposals from testing companies at its regular monthly meeting in September 2023. The decision to award a six-year, \$53 million contract to ACT was finalized in May.

According to an FAQ document that ISBE has circulated, one of the advantages of switching exams is the ACT includes a science compo-

nent, whereas the SAT only covered the core subjects of reading, writing and math. That means 11th grade students will no longer have to take a separate Illinois Science Assessment, thereby reducing overall testing time.

The change also means that students who still want to take the SAT or the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will have to do so on their own, in addition to the statewide ACT accountability exam. Local schools and districts will have the option of choosing whether to administer those tests during the school day, but the state will not pay for students to take those tests.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing  
Dena Dammen, RN after receiving the DAISY Award on June 28.

## Dena Dammen, RN receives DAISY Award

Dena Dammen, RN, SSM Health Monroe Hospital Family Birth nurse, is the newest recipient of the DAISY Award. Dammen was nominated by fellow Family Birth nurse and patient, Lindsey Sigafus. Her nomination shared, "Dena was the nurse who cared for me the day that I was discharged home after delivering my stillborn daughter, Lilah. Dena made sure I had all the time I needed with my girl before I had to say goodbye. When it was time to leave, I requested to walk Lilah out with the funeral home. I was so stressed about having to say goodbye, but Dena made sure to support me in every way possible. Dena was not only the best nurse to me but is so compassionate in the care she provides ev-

ery day to her patients. I am lucky to work alongside of Dena, and I have learned so much from her. It was difficult returning to work to help other moms/babies, but Dena is always there to support me. I don't have enough words of gratitude to explain how forever grateful I am for Dena."

The DAISY Award is an international program that celebrates the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care delivered by nurses every day. Dammen is one of three million nurses nationwide who represent the largest healthcare profession. SSM Health Monroe Hospital and SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group employs over 300 nurses serving patients throughout southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

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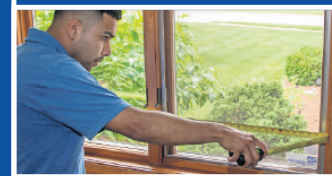
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# GAME PAGE

6			9	4				5
		3				8		
				8				4
		7	6				1	
					3			
5	9		1					
	6							1
2		4						8
	3				8	7	2	6

Level: Intermediate

	3			6				4
			5	8				
1	2	6						
	7						2	
4				2				9
		3			5	7	1	
			2	3		8		
				5	4	9		
				9				6

Level: Advanced

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## BACKYARD BASH WORD SEARCH

F M M S D P E L S D T A O T F A W M K L  
M B T Y Y F A S O T E M P E R A T U R E  
P D D U D P L A L N E L N B U I D D B O T  
F M N S C R A U N S Y E S K F U B I K O G  
A I E D O O E U N S S T S E U G I C E H  
R H F U C N W G U L T B I G R I L L U U  
B E U R C E B F R M I M B A C K Y A R D  
H M A A U E W U K U E N A M G M B A O M  
H H M K D N B Y N Y B A F O E U O B Y H  
C E A A S T E R O S B M L O N O P C A L  
H G P E R E O D A Y O S A K R P R W M N  
H R O T O R I G A B N D S H C M A H H S  
K O A S O T O M P S B A L C L F A R S C  
R I P H D A M A H A F L F S H A L L T O  
A T E Y T I S R H U D A B S D I M I A Y  
B A C P U N T I G S O S N F H A C R P G  
E P L K O F O N F A O H I K I H Y K O S  
N B L P C R W A L G W D B U F F E T E K  
P N D C T P P T H E M W S S M O K E D N  
A E N M U M D E C N L O L S W T P Y Y T

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- BACKYARD
- BARBECUE
- BARK
- BUFFET
- BUNS
- CHARCOAL
- CHICKEN
- ENTERTAIN
- FLIP
- GRILL
- GUESTS
- HAMBURGER
- INFORMAL
- MARINATE
- MEAL
- OUTDOORS
- PARTY
- PATIO
- SALADS
- SAUSAGE
- SMOKED
- STEAK
- TEMPERATURE
- WOOD

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Book size
8. Indonesian Island
13. "The Sopranos" character
14. Plants often found in stews
15. Stern
19. Atomic #52
20. Often seen after a company name
21. Silk garments
22. Inhibiting hormone (abbr.)
23. Type of beer
24. Margarine
25. Throw lightly
26. Explains again
30. Raccoon-like animal
31. Sneaker parts
32. Platforms
33. Scored perfectly
34. One's essence
35. Strikes with a firm blow
38. Makes tractors
39. Music term
40. Lack of energy
44. Vestments
45. \_\_\_ and feathers
46. Total
47. Gobbler
48. One with Japanese immigrant parents
49. Type of braking system (abbr.)
50. Home of Rudy Flyer
51. Manageable
55. Lugged
57. Irritated
58. Sea eagles
59. Warm seasons

### CLUES DOWN

1. About visual sense
2. Part of a horse's saddle
3. In a way, interchanged
4. Rocker's accessory
5. Very important person
6. It precedes two
7. Flavored
8. Musical notes

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12
13								14				
15							16	17	18			19
20						21					22	
23						24				25		
26			27	28	29				30			
			31					32				
			33					34				
35	36	37					38					
39						40				41	42	43
44					45					46		
47					48						49	
50				51					52	53	54	
55		56						57				
58								59				

9. String instrument (slang)
10. Mister
11. Fine, light linen fabric
12. Absence of bacteria
16. Discounts
17. Area units
18. A description of one's life
22. Goggles
25. Plumbing fixture
27. Makes especially happy
28. One side of something many-sided
29. Frosts
30. Defunct monetary unit of Guinea
32. Female animal species

34. School terms
35. Written law
36. Unpleasant aroma
37. Nuclear weapon
38. One who challenges
40. Opposite of first
41. Able to be utilized
42. Less interesting
43. Implants
45. Canister
48. Gestures
51. After B
52. Romanian monetary unit
53. Long-term memory
54. Cash machine
56. The Volunteer State

# FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

I hope everyone had a great Fourth of July celebration. The weather hasn't been beastly, and maybe we have had weather out of our system. This week there are some interesting dishes. The appetizer is a really different one as is the salad. The main dishes are quick and easy preps and don't require an oven. The desserts are using the fruits of the season. Enjoy cooking this week.

## Hearty Broccoli Dip

Someone sent me this dip recipe and said not to be frightened of the combination of ingredients. Any dip that uses Velveeta cheese in my book has to be good. My favorite Tortilla chips are the Multigrain Tostados. This appetizer would be great for fall football parties too.

- 1 lb. Ground beef
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese, cubed
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 3 C. frozen chopped broccoli, thawed
- 2 T. salsa
- Tortilla chips

In a large skillet, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Transfer to a 3 qt. Slow cooker. Add cheese, soup, broccoli and salsa; mix well. Cover and cook on Low for 2 to 3 hours or until heated through; stir after 1 hour. Serve with chips.

## Arugula, Watermelon, and Feta Salad

I like Arugula, but some people find it has too much of a bite to it. You could substitute red or green leaf lettuce for a milder taste. The dressing is a good citrus basted dressing. The combination of lettuce and watermelon is unusual, but if you try it, you will like it.

- ¼ C. freshly squeezed orange juice
- ¼ C. freshly squeezed lemon juice (2 lemons)
- ¼ C. minced green onions
- 1 T. honey
- ½ C. olive oil
- 2 t. salt
- ½ t. pepper
- 8 C. baby Arugula, washed and spun dry
- 4 C. seedless watermelon, rind removed and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 12 oz. Feta cheese cut and diced into ½ inch pieces

1 C. flat (Italian) parsley, chopped

Whisk together the orange juice, lemon juice, onions, honey, salt and pepper. Slowly pour in the olive oil, whisking constantly to form an emulsion. If not using within an hour, store the dressing covered in the refrigerator. (That means you can make it ahead if you want!)

Place the Arugula, watermelon, Feta, and parsley in a large salad bowl. Drizzle with enough dressing to coat the greens lightly and toss well. Taste for salt and pepper and serve immediately.

## Slow Cooker Orange Chicken

Orange chicken from the Chinese restaurant has a lot of kick to it. The Sriracha sauce will give that to you. If you want a milder flavor, you should use mild hot sauce. You can always add heat; it is hard to tone it down.

- ½ C. orange marmalade
- 1 T. Sriracha
- 1 pkg. Boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into bite size pieces about 4C.

1 T. cornstarch  
2 T. soy sauce  
2 T. chopped cilantro  
2 C. cooked white rice  
Spray a 2 ½ to 3 qt. Slow cooker with cooking spray. In a small bowl, mix marmalade and sriracha. Add chicken and marmalade mixture to the slow cooker, mixing to thoroughly coat the chicken with the marmalade mixture. Cover and cook on Low setting 1 ½ hours.

In a small bowl, mix cornstarch and soy sauce; stir into slow cooker mixture. Cover and cook on High setting 30 to 40 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink in the center and sauce is thickened and bubbly around the edges. Remove from slow cooker; sprinkle with cilantro. Serve with rice.

## One Pot Beef and Broccoli

This recipe is also an unusual one because it uses a soy sauce marinade. The recipe for the marinade is in the ingredient section. Supposedly you can buy it, but I haven't seen it or where it is available around here. It is a pretty reasonable dinner that cooks up quickly.

- 2 lb. Ground beef
- 1 bag (12 oz.) frozen, chopped broccoli
- 4 green onions, chopped, whites and greens separated
- 3 C. cooked white rice
- 1 C. thick soy sauce marinade
- ¼ C. soy sauce
- 2 T. olive oil
- 2 T. honey

- 1 T. red wine
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ½ t. ground ginger

In a nonstick 5 qt. Dutch oven, cook beef with salt to taste over medium-high heat, stirring frequently, until brown. Do not drain. Make broccoli according to the directions on the bag. Add whites of onions to pan with beef and cook 1 minute. Stir in rice soy sauce marinade. Cook and stir about 2 minutes until rice is heated through. Stir in broccoli; top with sliced green onion tops.

## Raspberry Cream Pie

This pie recipe is supposed to be award winning. I have never had a raspberry cream pie, so this one is interesting. There is no baking involved. The next recipe also calls for orange liqueur, so if you buy a bottle, you can use it for two recipes.

- 1 ½ C. crushed vanilla wafers, about 45
- ½ C. chopped pecans
- ¼ C. butter, melted

### Filling:

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
- 2/3 C. powdered sugar
- 2 T. orange liqueur
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 C. heavy whipping cream, whipped

### Topping:

- 1 C. sugar
- 3 T. cornstarch
- 3 T. water
- 2 ½ C. fresh or frozen raspberries, divided

Combine the wafer crumbs, pecans and butter. Press onto the bottom and up the sides of a greased 9-inch pie plate. In a large bowl, beat the cream cheese, powdered sugar, liqueur, and vanilla until light and fluffy. Fold in whipped cream. Spread into crust. Chill until serving. In a small saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch; stir in the water and 1 ½ C. raspberries. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Transfer to a bowl and refrigerate until chilled. Spread raspberry topping over filling; Garnish with remaining 1 C. raspberries.

## Strawberries and Cream Cake

This cake is a show stopper on a cake stand. It starts out easy with a yellow cake mix. It uses orange juice in the cake mix to give the cake more flavor. The recipe uses Grand Marinier, an orange liqueur. If you have triple sec, you can substitute.

- 1 yellow cake mix
- ½ C. oil
- 3 eggs
- ½ C. orange juice
- 1 t. grated orange zest
- 1 container (16 oz.) straw-

- berries
- 5 t. sugar
- 2 T. Grand Marnier or Triple Sec

Preheat oven to 350. Coat 2 cake pans (9-inch) with cooking spray. On low speed, beat cake mix, oil, eggs, orange juice, ½ C. water and zest until combined, 30 seconds; on medium; beat until fluffy, 2 minutes. Divide between pans. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 20 to 24 minutes. Cool in pans for 10 minutes. Transfer from pans to cooling rack; let cool completely.

Halve 2 strawberries. Trim and slice remaining berries. In bowl, toss sliced strawberries with 2 T. sugar and Grand Marnier. Let stand, stirring occasionally, until juice and sauce forms, about 15 minutes. On medium-high speed,

beat heavy cream and remaining 3 T. sugar and vanilla until stiff, about 2 minutes. Place on cake layer on serving plate or cake stand. Top with half of diced strawberry mixture then have of whipped cream. Top the remaining cake layer, strawberry mixture and whipped cream. Garnish with halved berries in center.

## Final thoughts

We were lucky enough to keep the fireworks going before the rain. There was a lot of activity in my neighborhood. I feel sorry for the dogs because most of them don't like celebrations that involve fireworks. Try to remember that as you are setting off a lot of bottle rockets and booms. I am not sure what the laws in Illinois are involving fireworks, but I'm pretty sure they don't include a lot of what goes on. Unfortunately,

ly, they keep setting them off for weeks after the Fourth. I will get off my soapbox now. The Lena Lions Club will sponsor their Pet Parade later this month. It is a great little parade with all kinds of pets, bikes, wagons, and foot traffic. The weekly Farmer's Market continues as do the lovely Music in the Park concerts. There is a lot to do for everyone who is looking for inexpensive entertainment. Keep cool because I heard the 90 degree weather is coming!

We continue to look for summer fruit and vegetable recipes, so send some favorites our way. If you find some recipes to share, you can contact us by email at scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com or by mail at From Lena's Kitchens, The Shopper's Guide at Rock Valley Publishing, 1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115. Have a great week.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The following self-storage Cube contents containing household and other goods will be sold for cash by CubeSmart Asset Management, LLL as Agent for Owner #4409, 5555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on July 18, 2024 at approx. 1:00 PM at [www.storage-treasurers.com](http://www.storage-treasurers.com) Cube 1171 Lateisha Watkins; Cube 1185 Melissa Walsh; Cube 1297 Sherman Dean

(Published in The Shopper's Guide July 3 & 10, 2024) 457447

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, VS. LINN PERKINS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PATRICIA LOUISE RATKOVICH, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA L. RATKOVICH; TRICIA A HALTER; ROBERT J RATKOVICH; BRIAN R RATKOVICH; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2023FC53 145 NORTH WHISTLER AVENUE FREEPORT, IL 61032

NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE

FORECLOSURE ACT PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on February 20, 2024, will on August 20, 2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash,

all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

THE NORTH SIXTY (60) FEET OF LOT TWENTY-EIGHT (28) IN POWELL AND WADDELL'S SUBDIVISION OF THE EAST HALF (1/2) OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (1/4) OF SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 7 EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, THE PLAT OF WHICH SUBDIVISION IS RECORDED IN BOOK 26 OF DEEDS ON PAGE 267 IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

TAX NO. 18-13-36-226-020

COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 145 North Whistler Avenue

Freeport, IL 61032 Description of Improvements: White vinyl siding, single family ranch with detached garage

The Judgment amount was \$87,897.07.

Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility

of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

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 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.

For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 23-16149IL

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale. I3246652

(Published in The Shopper's Guide July 10, 17 & 24, 2024) 457506

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY-IN PROBATE

In Re the Matter of the Estate of: Patricia A. Curran Deceased.

No. 24-PR-45 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION -CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of Patricia A. Curran, of Lena, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June

21, 2024, to: James R. Curran 501 Anson St. Warren, Illinois 61087 as independent Executor of the Estate of Patricia A. Curran, whose attorney is Anthony V. Coon Attorney At Law 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210

Freeport, Illinois 61032 The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless, under Section 28.4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4), any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a Petition To Terminate to the Clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at the Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 N. Galena Avenue, Freeport, Illinois 61032, or with the representative, or both, on or before January 6, 2025, and any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. Date: June 26, 2024.

James R. Curran, Executor By: Anthony V. Coon Anthony V. Coon, Attorney At Law Anthony V. Coon, #6269568 Attorney at Law 10 N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210 Freeport, IL 61032 815-235-2212 Fax 815-232-5500 [tonycoonlaw@aol.com](mailto:tonycoonlaw@aol.com)

(Published in The Shopper's Guide July 3, 10 & 17, 2024) 457916

# IN\*CI\*DENTAL\*LY

## Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease

Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease (HFMD) is a viral infection generally seen in children under the age of five. HFMD is different from foot-and-mouth disease (hoof-and-mouth disease) found in farm animals. You cannot get HFMD from animals, and you cannot spread it to them.

More than 200,000 cases of HFMD are diagnosed annually in the United States. While an outbreak of this virus can occur at any time of year, it is most common in the summer and fall. Having read that a recent outbreak of HFMD has taken place in San Antonio Texas, I thought it was appropriate to revisit this topic.

The symptoms of HFMD include fever and other flu-like symptoms (sore throat, eating or drinking less, drooling, and general malaise) anywhere from three to six days following exposure to the virus. One to two days after the fever starts, your child may develop sores in their mouth. These start as small red spots in the back of their mouth, that blister and may become quite painful. A similar rash usually develops on their hands and the soles of their feet, but may involve the knees, elbows, and genital area.

While HFMD is common in children under five years old, it is easily transmissible, and anyone can get it. This is because the virus which causes HFMD can survive outside the human body for days. In addition, while patients are the most contagious during the first week, the virus can live in your child's body and infect others for weeks after symptoms of the illness have disappeared. You should also be aware that adults can pass the virus without showing any signs or symptoms of the disease themselves.

While the disease can be transmitted anywhere, it is most commonly spread where groups of children play together, such as childcare settings, because of frequent diaper changes, toilet training, sharing toys and children putting their hands and other objects in their mouth. In the summer it is easily spread from child to child playing on playground equipment, sharing beach or pool toys, and sharing eating utensils or drinks. The virus



By DR. STEPHEN PETRAS Illinois Licensed General Dentist

spreads through contact with saliva, sneezing, coughing, stool, and fluid from the blisters. The virus can live on cloth, so avoid sharing washcloths, towels, and clothes (especially shoes and socks). It can also survive on toothbrushes. Although rare, HFMD can be transmitted in contaminated/not properly treated swimming pools.

HFMD treatment involves supportive care to treat symptoms of fever or pain caused by mouth or body blisters, and to prevent dehydration, especially in young children. Offer sips of cold fluids, ice pops and ice chips frequently. Avoid hot drinks and acidic fluids such as citrus fruit juice and soda. Offer soft foods that do not require chewing and avoid all salty or spicy food. While healing, it is also important not to scratch or pick at any rash or blisters as that can lead to skin irritation and bacterial infections. Your pediatrician may prescribe acetaminophen (Tylenol) or a combination of acetaminophen and ibuprofen (Motrin) to ease the pain, as children under the age of 16 should not be given aspirin. Your doctor may also order a cream for painful, extensive blisters. Although complications from HFMD are rare, alert your doctor if your child's fever lasts longer than three days, they develop neck or chest pain, decreased or dark urine and if their symptoms worsen or last longer than 10 days. If you are pregnant, alert your doctor that you have been exposed to HFMD, as the virus can cause complications during pregnancy.

As with all diseases, prevention is key. To avoid the HFMD virus and prevent its spread, the CDC recommends washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Do not rely on alcohol-based sanitizers to replace warm soap and water, because they are not effective

See DISEASE, Page 14

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# Pritzker signs bill creating new Department of Early Childhood

## New agency to bring multiple programs under one roof

By Peter Hancock

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker signed legislation June 25 creating a new cabinet-level state agency dedicated to early childhood education and development.

The new Department of Early Childhood, which will become operational in July 2026, will take over programs currently housed across three state agencies, including funding for preschool programs, child care centers and the licensing of day care centers.

Speaking at a bill signing ceremony at a preschool in Chicago, Pritzker said the streamlined agency should make it easier for new parents to access critical services for their children.

"It's hard enough juggling all the responsibilities that fall on the shoulders of parents," he said. "And on top of that, they shouldn't have to navigate a complex bureaucracy to get the care that they and their children deserve."

Pritzker first unveiled his plan for a consolidated agency last fall, just as lawmakers were beginning their annual fall veto session, when he issued an executive order establishing an Office of Early Childhood within the governor's office.

That order directed the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children and Family Services, and the Illinois State Board of Education to begin working on a transition plan to move the administration of their early childhood programs into a new agency.

The formal bid to establish the new agency was part of Pritzker's budget proposal to the General Assembly in February, along with a second year of increased funding for those programs under Pritzker's Smart Start initiative.

Under the plan, the new agency will take over the Early Childhood Block Grant program from the State Board of Education, which funds the Preschool for All and Prevention Initiative programs; the Child Care Assistance Program, Home Visiting programs, and Early Intervention Services currently housed in the Department of Human Services; and licensing of day care facilities, which is currently managed by the Department of Children and Family Services.

The legislation authorizing the new agency, Senate Bill 1, passed unanimously in the Senate in April, and last month passed with bipartisan support in the House, 93-18.

"The foundation of a child's success and well-being is built starting the moment they are born," Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, D-Maywood, the lead Senate sponsor of the bill, said in a statement. "As a state, it is our duty to provide the necessary support and resources to build such stability. The creation of this unique agency will break ground on our transition to a whole, trauma-informed approach to meeting children's diverse needs."

Much of the debate over the bill in the legislature focused on the cost of launching a new state agency. Lawmakers appropriated \$14 million in the upcoming fiscal year for initial startup costs, which include such things as hiring executive staff and opening new office space.

But administration officials were reluctant to provide estimates of how much the new agency would cost annually once it's fully operational, and whether those administrative costs would outweigh what the state is spending currently.

Responding to questions from reporters, Pritzker again declined to offer specific cost estimates but suggested consolidating the programs into a single agency could result in efficiencies and cost savings. But he did chide "people who want to complain" about how new state agencies will "cost ... taxpayers."

"I really don't think it will," Pritzker said. "I think there's real efficiency and taking programs that are desperately located in different departments and bringing them all together."

# Advocates say SCOTUS ruling paves way for law ensuring abusers have guns confiscated

## Urge passage of 'Karina's Bill' when lawmakers return in the fall

By Hannah Meisel

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

After the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a federal law that bars those under domestic violence-related restraining orders from owning guns, victim advocates say Illinois lawmakers should pass a measure to ensure firearms are actually confiscated in those situations.

The legislation has been stalled for more than a year, despite efforts this spring and last fall to resurrect it after the high-profile murder of Chicago resident Karina Gonzalez. She and her 15-year-old daughter Daniela were allegedly shot to death by her estranged husband less than two weeks after a judge issued an order of protection against him. Jose Alvarez remains in Cook County Jail.

But after the high court ruling, advocates say there is nothing else standing in the way of lawmakers taking up the bill,

which last summer was re-branded "Karina's Bill" after Gonzalez's murder. The bill would clarify existing state law and require law enforcement to take guns from those subject to certain domestic violence orders of protection.

Amanda Pyron, executive director of Chicago-based domestic violence advocacy organization The Network, said it "hit a lot of us really hard" that the Supreme Court decision was published on the one-year anniversary of Gonzalez's order of protection against her husband.

"I think it says a lot about our state that it took this long and we hope it will say something different about our state if we get it passed in (the General Assembly's fall) veto session," Pyron said of lawmaker inaction on Karina's bill during a call with reporters on Monday.

State Rep. Maura Hirschauer, D-Batavia, a chief sponsor

of Karina's Bill, said in a statement June 21 that while the high court's ruling is "a great relief for survivors of gender-based violence," the decision "merely preserve(s) the status quo."

"Here in Illinois, we should move forward by enacting Karina's Bill, which will provide clear guidance for getting guns out of the hands of abusers, and ensure those weapons are removed sooner—all within a framework that justices have now overwhelmingly endorsed," she said.

Hirschauer pushed an earlier, broader version of the bill through the Illinois House in May 2023, but it failed to advance in the Senate. Gonzalez and her daughter were killed two months later.

Under existing state law, when petitioning a court for a domestic violence order of protection, a victim can ask for 18 specific "remedies," in-

cluding the confiscation of the alleged abuser's firearms. But state law is less than clear on how firearms should be surrendered—or forcibly taken by law enforcement if need be.

Karina's Bill would clarify that firearms must be surrendered or confiscated within four days of a victim being granted a domestic violence order of protection against their abuser—a change from an earlier version of the bill that stipulated a 48-hour timeline. It would also explicitly allow a judge to issue a search warrant for those weapons when law enforcement goes to serve the order of protection.

Although advocates had been waiting for the Supreme Court decision, they say lawmakers could have taken up Karina's Bill this spring during the General Assembly's regular legislative session.

See BILL, Page 14

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# Ban (Continued from page 8)

That opinion, written by Thomas, has been criticized as unworkable because of its reliance on practices that were in place at the time of the Constitution's founding, long before the invention of many weapons in use today.

In his statement July 2, Thomas acknowledged that the court so far has provided little guidance about which weapons are protected by the Second Amendment and which ones are not. But he also accused the Seventh Circuit of being "nonsensical" in concluding that the weapons banned under the Illinois law were "militaristic" in nature

and therefore not protected by the Second Amendment.

"The Seventh Circuit's contrived 'non-militaristic' limitation on the Arms protected by the Second Amendment seems unmoored from both text and history," he wrote.

Hannah Hill, executive director of the National Association for Gun Rights, a lead plaintiff in one of the Illinois cases and in cases in other states, said she was confident the bans will eventually be overturned.

"This is not a loss, it's simply a procedural setback," she said. "And we have ev-

ery confidence that the Supreme Court is going to strike down an assault weapons ban, as soon as the right vehicle gets brought to them."

But Yolanda Androzzo, executive director of One Aim Illinois, a leading gun control advocacy group, said in a separate interview that the battle is far from over.

"The decision indicates that the battle over this legislation will continue in lower

courts," she said. "One Aim Illinois remains committed to supporting this legislation and will continue to advocate for its upholding in district courts."

A spokesman for Pritzker, meanwhile, defended the law, saying in a statement that it makes Illinois a safer place.

"Despite those who value weapons of war more than the safety of their constituents, this law remains in effect

and will continue to protect Illinoisans from the constant fear of being gunned down in a place of worship, at a parade, or on a street corner," spokesperson Alex Gough said.

Attorney General Kwame Raoul said in a statement his office would continue to defend the law's constitutionality when the cases are returned to lower courts.

"Assault weapons were

designed for military use, and Illinois residents can be assured the Protect Illinois Communities Act will help prevent these weapons of war from being used to cause devastation in our schools, places of worship and recreation spaces," he said. "The law is an important part of what must be a multifaceted approach to addressing gun violence, and I am pleased it remains in effect in Illinois."

## REAL ESTATE NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, VS. LINN PERKINS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PATRICIA LOUISE RATKOVICH, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF PATRICIA L. RATKOVICH; TRICIA A HALTER; ROBERT J RATKOVICH; BRIAN R RATKOVICH; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.

NO. 2023FC53 145 NORTH WHISTLER AVENUE FREEPORT, IL 61032 NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on February 20, 2024, will on August 20, 2024, in Stephenson County Courthouse 15 N. Galena Ave (West Door), Freeport, IL 61032, at 9:30 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Stephenson, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:

TAX NO. 18-13-36-226-020 COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 145 North Whistler Avenue Freeport, IL 61032 Description of Improvements: White vinyl siding, single family ranch with detached garage The Judgment amount was \$87,897.07.

Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.

The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes

levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.

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

The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

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 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.

For Information: Visit our website at <http://illforeclosuresales.mrpllc.com>.

Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 23-161491L

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale. I3246652

(Published in The Shopper's Guide July 10, 17 & 24, 2024) 457507

## Disease (Continued from page 12)

against enteroviruses. Teach your child to wash their hands before and after using the restroom, sharing toys, sneezing, coughing, blowing their nose and eating. Clean and disinfect potentially contaminated surfaces such as doorknobs, diaper changing stations, pacifiers, toys and eating areas. Avoid

touching your face with unwashed hands, especially your eyes, nose, and mouth. Avoid close contact with infected people. Wash hands before and after diaper changes. Do not share cups, silverware, towels, clothes, or other personal hygiene items.

Once HFMD has been

diagnosed, continue to practice frequent hand-washing and isolate contagious family members. Parents and caretakers should assist the child to keep blisters clean and avoid touching or scratching them. Notify the child's daycare, sport team or camp leader, so they can alert the parents and

provide information about symptoms and preventive measures. Keep children out of daycare and other summer group activities until they have been free of fever for 24 hours and all mouth and body blisters have completely healed. Contagious adults should not go into work.

## Bill (Continued from page 13)

But the pending high court case wasn't the only barrier; law enforcement groups like the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police have expressed concerns about smaller, more rural police departments' abilities to follow the law's directive to confiscate weapons within four days of an order of protection being issued.

Even Gov. JB Pritzker, while generally supportive of the bill, pointed out last month that law enforcement officers could be going into

volatile situations when serving a search warrant for firearms.

"In the instance where you've got to go confiscate the firearm, literally you have to bring sometimes four officers to one situation in order to remove the weapon," he said. "And if somebody doesn't want to give it to you, it becomes quite complicated and maybe dangerous."

The latest version of the legislation would allow federally licensed gun dealers to store any guns seized or sur-

rendered by someone under a domestic violence order of protection with the firearm remedy—a change made after smaller police departments said they wouldn't be able to store all of those guns themselves.

Pyron and other advocates said the bill has been tweaked and is ready for lawmakers to take it up again when they return to Springfield in November. She also warned that the General Assembly's consideration of Karina's Bill is made even more urgent by a recent

"upward trend" in domestic violence-related gun homicides in Illinois.

According to The Network's analysis of statistics compiled by the Gun Violence Archive, Illinois saw a near-doubling of domestic violence shooting deaths from 2020 to 2023. Four years ago, 37 such victims died of gunshot wounds, compared with 70 last year. Pyron said that as of April 30, 34 people had died in domestic violence-related shootings in 2024—a 55 percent increase from the previous year.

The number of domestic violence victims injured, but not killed, in shootings is also increasing, she said. The Network's latest annual report containing 2023 data has not yet been published.

## Answers

PUZZLE 1									
6	2	8	9	4	7	1	3	5	
7	4	3	2	1	5	8	6	9	
9	5	1	3	8	6	2	7	4	
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8	6	9	7	3	2	5	4	1	
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1	3	5	4	9	8	7	2	6	

PUZZLE 2									
5	3	8	7	6	2	1	9	4	
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4	8	1	3	2	7	6	5	9	
2	9	3	6	4	5	7	1	8	
9	1	4	2	3	6	8	7	5	
3	6	7	8	5	4	9	2	1	
8	5	2	1	7	9	4	3	6	

CROSSWORD												
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P M N S C R A U N L Y E S K F B I K O T  
A I E D O O E U N S S T S E U G I C E H  
R H F U C N W G U L T B I G R I L L U U  
B E U R C E B F R M I M B A C K Y A R D  
H M A A U E W U K U E N A M G M B A O M  
H H M K D N B Y N Y B A F O E U O B Y H  
C E A A S T E R O S B M L O N O P C A L  
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E P L K O F O N F A O H I K I H Y K O S  
N B L P C R W A L G W D B U F F E T E K  
P N D C T P P T H E M W S S M O K E D N  
A E N M U M D E C N L O L S W T P Y Y T

## Graduates

(Continued from page 6) Sasha Carrea, MD, Hospitalist Fellow, who is continuing with SSM Health Monroe Hospital as a hospitalist.

The Family Medicine Residency program started in 2015 and is the first American Osteopathic Association (AOA) accredited rural training track in the country. The Emergency Medicine Fellowship program also began in 2015 and was developed for family physicians who desire further training in rural emergency medicine. The Pharmacy Residency was established in 2007 to prepare competent pharmacist clinicians.



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## for sale

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# Pritzker calls U.S. Supreme Court emergency abortion ruling 'small respite' as state protections await his signature

Democrats passed measure in May that sought to codify federal law if it was stricken down

By Andrew Adams  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Abortion remains legal as an emergency medical procedure in Idaho, for now, after a June 27 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, while a bill that would cement those protections in Illinois law awaits Gov. JB Pritzker's signature.

The 6-3 decision saw the three liberal justices concur with the order. Three of the court's conservatives—Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett—concurred separately. The dismissal sent the case back to the lower courts and reinstated a temporary injunction on Idaho's law banning all abortions except as "necessary to prevent the death of the pregnant woman" or in the case of rape or incest.

The case originated after the Justice Department sued Idaho shortly after its abortion ban went into place in

the summer of 2022. The Justice Department claimed the state was in violation of the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, or EMTALA, which it said allowed medical professionals to perform abortions to prevent "grave harm," not just death, in order to resolve medical emergencies.

The June 27 order dismisses the case as "improvidently granted," meaning the court decided it shouldn't have agreed to hear the case at this stage. It does not permanently resolve the case, as it will continue in the lower courts and could potentially end up in front of the high court's justices again.

"Today's ruling thus puts the case back where it belongs, and with the preliminary injunction in place," Justice Elena Kagan wrote in a concurrence with the court's dismissal.

The decision drew ire from

the high court's dissenters, with Justice Samuel Alito writing that, having already agreed to hear the question, there was "no good reason to change course now."

"Apparently, the Court has simply lost the will to decide the easy but emotional and highly politicized question that the case presents," Alito wrote. "That is regrettable."

The decision drew cautious support from abortion-rights activists. Gov. JB Pritzker, in a statement issued through his abortion-rights organization Think Big America, accused Republicans of "fighting to let hospitals refuse care for dying women."

"Today's ruling offers a small respite from some of the harshest outcomes, but it is not the broad protection that women and healthcare professionals are owed," Pritzker said in the statement.

Pritzker, a longtime proponent of abortion rights, is

expected to sign a bill sometime soon that would enshrine protections similar to the federal EMTALA law in Illinois statute.

The proposal, House Bill 581, would codify abortions as a "stabilizing treatment" that doctors must offer when necessary, in emergency situations such as ectopic pregnancy, preeclampsia, and fertility loss related to pregnancy complications. The measure passed on partisan lines.

Its chief sponsor, Rep. Dagmara Avelar, D-Bolingbrook, said that the "primary reason" the bill was introduced was to preserve the status quo in case a Supreme Court decision casts doubt on EMTALA's coverage of abortion procedures.

"While the Supreme Court preserved EMTALA for now, it has not ruled out future legal battles," Avelar told Capitol News Illinois.

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