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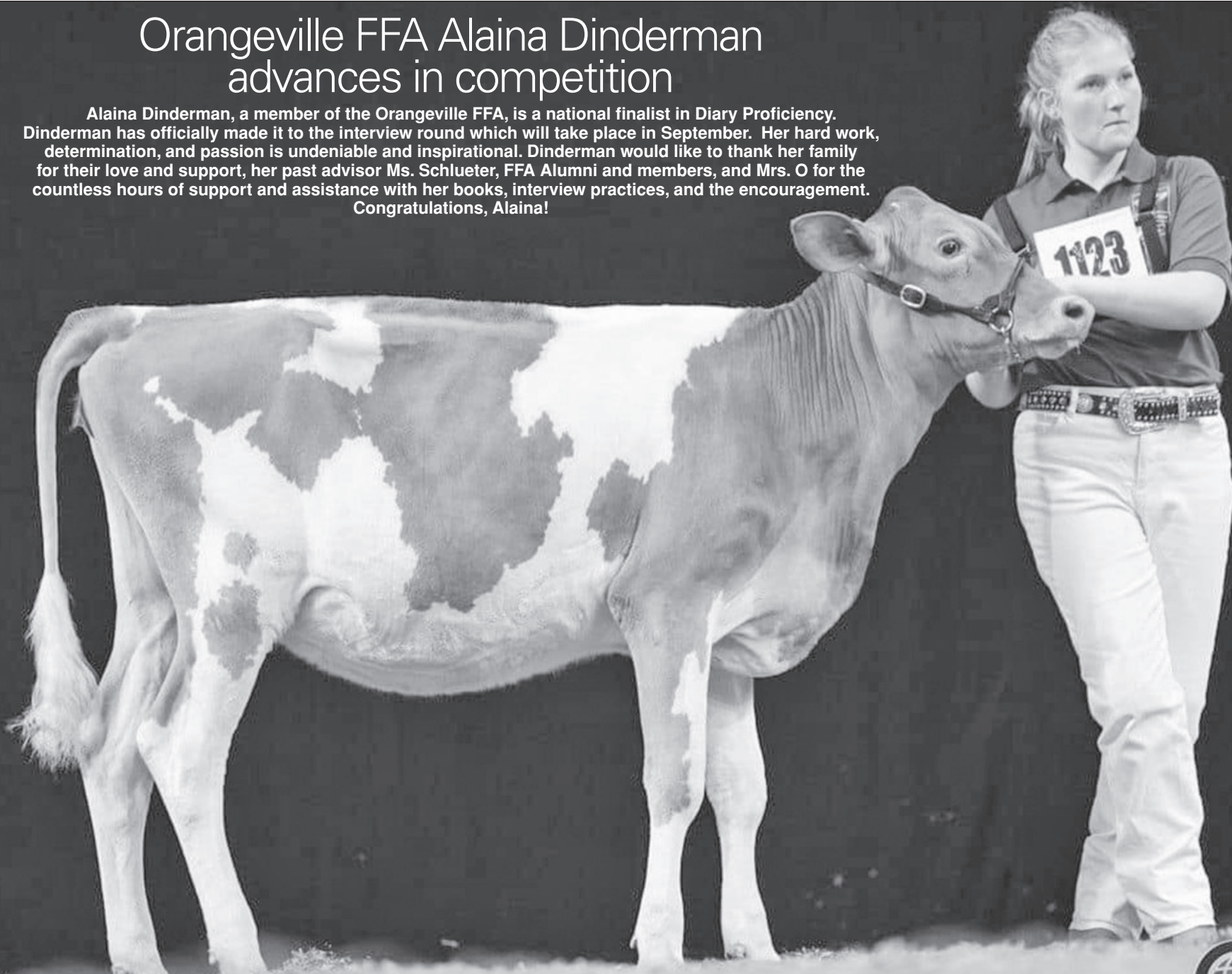
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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 14, 2024

Orangeville FFA Alaina Dinderman advances in competition

Alaina Dinderman, a member of the Orangeville FFA, is a national finalist in Dairy Proficiency. Dinderman has officially made it to the interview round which will take place in September. Her hard work, determination, and passion is undeniable and inspirational. Dinderman would like to thank her family for their love and support, her past advisor Ms. Schlueter, FFA Alumni and members, and Mrs. O for the countless hours of support and assistance with her books, interview practices, and the encouragement. Congratulations, Alaina!



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Obituaries

KATHLEEN BOATMAN

Kathleen Joy Boatman, age 76 of Boscobel, WI formerly of Lena, IL passed away peacefully at Beehive Homes of Maple Grove, MN on August 1, 2024, with her daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter at her side. She was born August 4, 1947, the 13th of 17 children to Carl and Inez (Rogers) Achenbach.



Kathy first attended a one room country schoolhouse prior to attending and graduating from Boscobel High School in 1965.

Kathy married Harold Wagner in 1967, and they had three children. She was later married to Donald Boatman in 1983 until his death in 2021.

Kathy held numerous jobs after high school to include being a telephone operator in Madison, WI and a clerk at the Winnebago County Courthouse in Rockford, IL. The jobs she enjoyed the most were working at the Lena Veterinary Clinic and the Lena Drug Store because she enjoyed meeting and interacting with the farmers and area residents.

Kathy enjoyed gardening, working in her flower beds, and remodeling homes (much to Don's dismay!) However, her greatest love was her grandchildren. She loved to spoil them every chance she got. She had a big heart and treated everyone's children as if they were her own.

Kathy is survived by her children Chris (Bambi) Wagner of Lena, IL and Nicole (Michael) Williams of Ham Lake, MN; her grandchildren Madelisa Wagner (Jason Radecki), Christopher (Cassie) Wagner, Alexandria Pearson, Wyatt Pearson, Alyssa Williams (Kody Sipe), Paige Williams, Evan Huebner (Savannah Heath), and Makenzie Huebner; her great grandchildren Greyson Wag-

ner, Sophia Wagner, Gunner Hillman, and Briggs Sipe. She is also survived by 4 brothers Jerry (Patti) Achenbach, Edward (Belle Ann) Achenbach, Robert (Judy) Achenbach, Dennis (Marilyn) Achenbach; 4 sisters Anna Walker, Thelma (Jerry) Jones, Barbara (Michael) Collins, Jeanette Nauert; brother-in-law Ted Hall; and numerous nephews, nieces, and their extended families.

Kathy was preceded in death by her parents, infant daughter Angela Marie Wagner, husband Donald Boatman, 4 brothers Patrick, Richard, Gene, and Donald Achenbach; 4 sisters and brothers-in-law Beverly and Robert Wallace, Madeline and Richard Hagensick, Mabelle and Lyle Turner, Peggy Hall, and Robert Walker.

At the request of Kathy and knowing her wishes, there will be no memorial service. There will be an open house celebration of life for Kathy and Don on Aug. 24, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at their former residence, 204 E. Bluff St. Boscobel, WI. A light lunch will be provided.

Chris and Nicole would like to extend a special thank you to our family members, Mom's friends, and her neighbors who helped her around the house during Don's illness and after he passed.

Kathy's eyes were donated to the University of Minnesota for research. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to: Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually impaired at 754 Williamson St. Madison, WI 53703 or WCBlind.org; Alzheimer's Association; or American Cancer Society.

NANCY SIERGIEJ

Nancy M. Siergiej, 72 of Stockton, IL passed away on Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024, surrounded by her family at SSM St. Mary's in Madison, WI. She was born on July 19, 1952, in Chicago, IL to Frank and Ann (Synoga) Moore. She was a 1970 graduate of the Jones Commercial High School in Chicago, IL.

Nancy married the love of her life, Mitchell Siergiej, on April 22, 1972, in Chicago, IL. Shortly after they moved to Camp Lejuene in North Carolina where Mitch was based for the Marines. Later that year they came back to Illinois to start their family.

In 1985 Nancy and Mitch



bought a resort in Arbor Vitae, WI. They proudly owned and operated the Buckhorn Lodge for eight years. Nancy ran the resort pretty much on her own with five kids while Mitch was working in Chicago. In 1994, they fell in love with a little farmette outside of Stockton, IL and moved there and embraced the small-town life. Nancy ended up getting a few farm animals. She had chickens, turkeys, pigs, geese, some goats and a couple of miniature horses.



SHERRY EGE

Sherry Lee Ege, age 61, of Elizabeth, IL passed away Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, at home surrounded by her family. She was born in Freeport, IL on Dec. 23, 1962, to the late Ivor and Norma (Reed) Raab. She married Ronald Ege on June 26, 1998, at Christ Lutheran Church in Stockton.

Sherry was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Elizabeth. She graduated from Stockton High School in 1981 and Highland Com-

munity College with her Associates of Nursing in 1995. She retired as a Registered Nurse after 25 years. Sherry served in the U.S. Army in Europe during the Cold War. She loved reading, singing, watching crime and history shows, her pets, and spending time with her family.

She is survived by her hus-

band, Ronald Ege of Elizabeth; her daughters, Wendy Bahr of MN and Bobbie Bahr of Freeport; her sons, Kyle Ege of Elizabeth and Nicholas (Fiancé Jamie Eden) Ege of Freeport; her granddaughter, Amarhea Bahr of MN; her sisters, Cathy Hastings of WI, Carol (Terry) Seas of WV, Virginia Raab of WI and Dolores (Alan) Downs of Stockton; her brothers, Jim (Patti Latton) Raab of SC, Jerry (Darlene) Raab of Stockton and Joe (Courtney) Raab of NE, and her dog, Izzo. She

also enjoyed tending to her flower and vegetable gardens as well. For several years Nancy worked for Vincent and Roth Law Office in Warren, IL as a paralegal. She loved helping her community in many different ways and to many of her children's friends she was like a second mother to them. Above all she loved her family and cherished the time she spent with them.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years Mitchell of Stockton, IL; 4 children-Mitchell Siergiej Jr of Rockford, IL, Vanessa Swank of Sycamore, IL, Jeffrey Siergiej of Rockford, IL, and Anthony Siergiej of Stockton, IL;

8 grandchildren- Garry, Katrina, Adam, Sarah, Ashlynn, Eli, Madison, and Lyanna. She is preceded in death by her parents and son Andrew in 2012.

A visitation was held on Friday, Aug. 9, 2024, at the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton, IL. A Funeral Mass took place on Saturday, August 10, 2024, at the Holy Cross Catholic Church in Stockton, IL. Burial took place at the Morseville Cemetery in Stockton, IL. Father Michael Morrissey will be officiated the service. A memorial has been established in her memory. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

was preceded in death by her parents.

A funeral service was held on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Elizabeth. A visitation was held on Friday, Aug. 9, 2024, at Hermann Funeral Home in Stockton. Interment will take place at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Freeport at a later date. In lieu of flowers a memorial fund has been established for the American Cancer Society. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

Crop price projections increasingly pessimistic

By Daniel Grant
FARMWEEK

Farmers should brace for even tighter margins and implement applicable risk management practices based on the latest crop price estimates from the University of Illinois farmdoc team.

Current levels of futures contracts suggest appropriate budgeting for 2024 crop production is down to \$4 per bushel for corn and \$10.50 for soybeans.

Those prices would result in low returns for 2024, much lower than the most recent low-price period from 2014 to 2019, according to ag economists on the U of I farmdoc team.

"I think we've now entered a period of lower returns to farming just like we did in 2013 and 2014," Gary Schnitker, U of I soybean industry chair in ag strategy, previously told *FarmWeek*. "The

big thing that we see right now is that just like in 2013 and 2014, cash rents are high relative to the return potential for farmland."

The national marketing year price for corn is currently forecast at \$4.65 per bushel (the 2023 marketing year ends in August) compared to \$6.54 in 2022. If it drops to \$4 for 2024, it would be the lowest since 2019 (\$3.56).

It's a similar story for soybeans with a current projected price of \$11.55 per bushel for 2024 compared to \$13.76 in 2023.

Meanwhile, cash rents increased from an average of \$277 per acre statewide from 2014 to 2019 to a projected \$359 per acre in 2024, an increase of \$82. Non-land costs during the same time increased by \$185 per acre for corn and \$149 for soybeans, according to Illinois Farm Business Farm Management data.

"Current market price indicators of

\$4 per bushel for corn and \$10.50 for soybeans are above the 2014 to 2019 averages," the U of I economists noted. "Still, return levels likely will be much lower than from 2014 to 2019 because of higher costs."

And don't look now, but current futures prices suggest cash prices at harvest could dip to around \$3.80 for corn and below \$10 for soybeans.

Beyond that, futures prices suggest market year average prices for 2025 of around \$10.80 per bushel for beans while cash corn prices at harvest in 2025 could be in the low-\$4.30-range.

Visit the website, farmdocdaily.illinois.edu, to read the U of I's latest report and crop budget projections.

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.

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Pritzker signs measures reining in biometric data privacy law, eliminating grocery tax

Measures are among more than 50 bills signed since Aug. 2

By Hannah Meisel and Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois' first-in-the-nation law that allows residents to sue companies over the improper collection of their biometric information will be slightly less punitive after Gov. JB Pritzker signed a new law.

Lawmakers this spring amended the Biometric Information Privacy Act in re-

sponse to an Illinois Supreme Court ruling last year that suggested lawmakers clarify the law. That ruling found fast food chain White Castle violated BIPA each time employees scanned their fingerprints in the course of performing their jobs, as the company never obtained employees' permission to collect their fingerprints.

But under Senate Bill 2979, employees or custom-

ers whose fingerprints, retinal scans, voice samples or other unique biometric information were collected by businesses without their permission can only claim one violation of BIPA instead of hundreds. In jobs with fingerprint-enabled time clocks and cash registers or other secure areas that require biometric data scans to access, employees might end up scanning their thumbs or eyes dozens of times per day.

Using the old method of accrual, White Castle's attorneys estimated the company would be on the hook for up to \$17 billion in penalties, as the law provides for \$1,000 in damages for each "negligent" violation or \$5,000 for each "reckless" or "intentional" violation.

Though the eye-popping number made headlines, White Castle earlier this year settled the case for \$9.4 mil-

lion. Business groups, however, argue that settlement and others like it represent the obvious outcome of the law unique to Illinois, which they argue has incentivized the creation of a cottage industry for ambitious attorneys.

Though technology took years to catch up with the law's aims, thousands of lawsuits have been filed—especially since they began to take off around 2018—including a few that have resulted in high-profile settlements, such as a \$650 million class-action payout from Facebook in 2020.

While some business groups were supportive of the reforms, others claimed they did not go far enough.

Chicago-based attorney Danielle Kays of Fisher & Phillips LLP, who represents companies facing BIPA challenges, told Capitol News Illinois that the amendment "can be seen as a step in the right direction" but said it's up to the courts to interpret the update to the law.

"This isn't the full reform that most businesses probably want—or that is warranted, given that still no plaintiff has actually been harmed by BIPA violations," she said.

Because there have been no data breaches that have led to anyone's fingerprints or other biometric information being stolen, Kays and others say lawmakers should further amend BIPA to allow businesses to cure violations before facing a lawsuit. A business is in violation of BIPA if

it doesn't have a storage policy in place, doesn't properly protect the data, or if it does not get consent from customers or employees for the data being collected.

The amendment also made it easier for companies to get consent from customers or employees.

While the old law required "informed written consent" for the collection of fingerprints and other biometric data, businesses can now obtain that consent via an electronic signature, which the bill defines as an "electronic sound, symbol, or process."

Kays also noted that there was an uptick in BIPA cases filed between May, when lawmakers passed the amendment, and the end of July.

"We track the cases on a daily basis and BIPA filings have been fairly consistent but there, of course, have been ebbs and flows," she said. "One could conclude that the plaintiffs were trying to file the lawsuits before the BIPA amendment went into effect."

Grocery tax to be eliminated

As part of state budget negotiations this year, lawmakers approved Pritzker's plan to eliminate the statewide 1 percent grocery tax beginning in 2026. He signed that provision into law on Aug. 5.

The revenue from the state grocery tax goes to municipal governments, rather than state coffers. To make up for those lost revenues, the law allows

See PRITZKER, Page 7

Church news

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

All are invited to worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 118 E. Mason St. Lena, IL on Sunday, Aug. 18 for Communion Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. This week's gospel reading is from the Gospel John 6:51-58.

On Wednesday, Aug. 21 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/GSLCLenaLL>) 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 thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost on Sunday, Aug. 18 at 9 a.m. Join us on Facebook if you can't make it in person. We will have a special reception in Luther Hall following the Aug. 18 worship service celebrating Pastor Dave's and his wife Lynn's 40th wedding anniversary!

The Women's Gathering

group will have their annual meeting and Ladies Night Out at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 13 in Luther Hall. It will be a patriotic salute to all area women who have served or are serving in the US armed forces.

Everyone is welcome to come to St. John's to play cards and dominoes on Thursday, Aug. 22 at 1 p.m.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 7:30 a.m. at the Garden View Restaurant in Lena.

The August Grace Meal will be on Sunday, Aug. 18. Meals can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Aug. 18. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, Aug. 15. The menu for the August meal will be shaved pulled pork, coleslaw, chips, and a chocolate brownie dessert. 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, Aug. 18, 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 Aug. 21 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 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

Calvary Church of Stockton is competing the month of August with a Mission Weekend. Lowell and Claudia Wertz of "Joy in the Harvest" in Tanzania, Africa, are

home on furlough and traveling throughout the Midwest. Their ministry is located on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, in Tanzania, a country with the Serengeti and all of Africa's "big five" animals, and home to Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing mountain in the world. Their motto is "so they may know Jesus" and purpose is "to provide expertise and resources needed by the church...in making Christian disciples."

A dinner is open to the public at 6 p.m. on Saturday night Aug. 24 for a donation to their ministry. Following the dinner, the Wertzes will answer questions and give a program showing their ministry in action. They will also speak on Sunday, Aug. 25 during the worship service at 10 a.m. Please call Calvary Church at 815-947-2414 with any questions. The public is invited to attend and learn about this exciting ministry in Africa.

On Sunday, Aug. 18 Calvary Church of Stockton will host a special service. "Westward Bound," a trio on tour will be performing during the 10 a.m. service. They provide a unique blend of gospel and modern worship music. The public is invited to attend.

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OPINION



Slices of life

The meaning of life



By **JILL PERTLER**
Columnist

Our search for meaning is nearly as old as time.

I've been round and round again (and again) with widowhood. To say I overthink it is the understatement of understatements.

It seems like something this big and this life-changing should have meaning.

Big meaning. I can't imagine going through what this has put me through without it having meaning. Purpose. Immense purpose.

Without that it would be such a waste. That would be even more sad than losing my person.

And that feels devastating. To be honest - and I can say this now that I am out of the dark, suffocating cloud that encompasses the center of grief - now that I am nearly on the other side (and I'm not sure there really is another side) I'm surprised I survived.

I'm glad I did. I think I'm glad. I wouldn't have wanted to give up or to die, but at times it felt like death, or maybe something close to death or maybe something much worse than death.

Because based on what I believe now, death is pretty awesome. It is a gateway to the spectacular. And we all will love it when we get there.

But that isn't supposed to be now. At least not for the most of us.

So we grapple with life - the struggles of it all and the meaning therein.

Because we all struggle. We all deal with our own struggles.

And each one of them seems so personal at the time. Because it is, but then again, it isn't. None of them are.

Because as personal as my struggle has been, there a lot of widows and widowers who are traveling through the turmoil that is grief.

Many people struggle with mental health issues. Likewise (sadly) for people with cancer and other diseases. There are lots who are physically or

cognitively disabled. There is abuse and neglect, poverty, homelessness and hunger. Many struggle with pain we all can see and even more with pain we can't.

There are so many ways to challenge the joy-filled happiness we all believe is supposed to comprise life.

We struggle collectively and we struggle individually while we search for a purpose to it all.

What does all this mean - for me, for the people I love, for the world at large? And why?

Why the need for the pain? The suffering. The despair. The confusion. The loss. Being lost.

What is the purpose of it all? Shouldn't there be a purpose? A meaning?

Perhaps pain is a teaching moment. Perhaps it is an integral part of the purpose.

Boy, wouldn't that suck? But it does make sense.

Maybe, pain is growth. Maybe it can lead to clarity.

Clarity regarding the small stuff; none of it matters. Clarity regarding the big stuff; none of it matters.

Our suffering is real. My suffering has been real. I will never deny that.

Oftentimes, suffering, in its specificity, feels personal. It feels like we are the only one, when that just isn't true.

We all struggle. We all suffer. We are all outcasts - in some form - at one time or another.

And it is what we do with that and because of that - for ourselves and for others - inward and outward, that propels us forward or backward or somewhere in-between.

It is what helps us define the meaning. It helps us find the meaning. Perhaps it is the meaning. The purpose - to move beyond and through the suffering to understand none of us is in this alone. We are all here together.

Perhaps that itself is the answer to my original question.

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.

In my opinion

Conversation on the importance of civic engagement with Gen Z voters

By U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi
I joined *The Hill's* Mychael Schnell, former Illinois Congressman Peter Roskam, and A Starting Point co-founders Chris Evans and Mark Kassen recently in Chicago for a bipartisan discussion on the importance of participating in our democracy and in broader civic engagement.

It was a pleasure to meet with so many students from the BridgeUSA organization, many of whom will be voting in their first presidential election in November.

Every vote matters, and it is our duty as Americans to participate in our democracy and make our voices heard and represented.

Examining the CCP's

Great Firewall and its techno-authoritarian state

The Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) recently held a hearing on the danger posed by the CCP's efforts to censor and monitor all information coming into and out of the country.

The internet is designed to connect people from around the world, promoting the exchange of ideas and information freely. But for those living within the People's Republic of China, this right is being denied by the CCP, which is using the internet to divide and suppress its people by cutting off their connection to the outside world and only promoting content and ideas that the CCP wants its

citizens to see.

The CCP has also stifled conversations about human rights and democracy within the PRC, painting the U.S. and our allies as aggressors and spreading anti-democratic propaganda to keep its citizens in line with the authoritarian regime. This, coupled with the CCP's estimated 500 million surveillance cameras in use throughout the country, has allowed the regime to maintain a stranglehold on its population.

As Ranking Member of the Committee, what is equally concerning is the spread of this type of techno-authoritarian state to other nations around the world. Xi Jinping has said that the countries that control the internet will win the world,

See **OPINION**, Page 16

FREELANCE REPORTERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED

Rock Valley Publishing is seeking freelance reporters and photographers to produce local news and photos for your hometown newspaper. Weekly stories and photos needed for Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties. Writing and reporting experience a plus. Work from home as an independent contractor with no in-office requirement.

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Around the Northern Hills

We had a hot day for our field day last week. Close to 90 people braved the heat to learn more about sustainable farming practices. Thanks to everyone that came out!



By **ANNETTE EGGERS**
Jo Daviess
County Farm
Bureau

Member discounts

Don't forget to take advantage of the member discounts from local businesses. Just show your membership card at the business to claim your discount. For a full listing of local benefits, visit our website at jodaviesscfb.com. Go to membership, then local discounts.

Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau offering \$250 towards ROPS purchase

The Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau would like to offer funds to reimburse farmers for purchasing Rollover Protection Structure (ROPS). Fifty-five percent of farm tractors in Illinois do not have a cab or ROPS. Only one in five victims will survive a tractor rollover accident. The leading cause of farm related deaths in Illinois is tractor rollover accidents. They account for more than 30% of farm related deaths. ROPS help protect farmers and family members from being crushed in the event of a tractor turnover or rollover.

Safety Chairman, Dan Robbe, states, "Safety is a priority of the farm bureau, and we would like to encourage our members to install ROPS on their tractors".

Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau members who

purchase a ROPS could receive a reimbursement of \$250 towards the purchase of a ROPS (there are six rebates available). To receive the \$250, members need to bring in their paid invoice to the Farm Bureau office in Elizabeth. Customers are responsible for the cost, freight, and installation which are available through the dealer. If you have been thinking about putting a ROPS on one of your tractors, now is the time. For more information about this program, or to become a member of our organization, contact the Jo Daviess County Farm Bureau office at 815-858-2235 or email jdcfbmgr@gmail.com.

Family Farm signs

As we are nearing the end of summer, we all start thinking of back to school and the fall weather coming soon. There's still time to do some work around the farm and spruce things up a bit. Why not add a "This is a Family Farm" sign to your landscape? The signs are 17.5" X 23" and cost \$30. Stop by our office and pick one up.

Farm Fun Fact

The core of a baseball is wrapped with 150 yards of wool yarn.



VILLAGE OF LENA FACEBOOK PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Lena Historical Museum to host 'Stagecoach Era' program

On Saturday, Aug. 17, Mr. Jon McGenty of Pecatonica, will present a program on the "Stagecoach Era". McGenty will discuss the time when stagecoaches were the primary mode of transportation for people and goods. This will be an interesting afternoon hearing about the stagecoach stops between Chicago to northwest Illinois. The program will be presented at 2 p.m. and is open to the public free of charge. The Lena Historical Museum is located at 427 Grove St. A new exhibit is being featured at the museum entitled "Capturing History with Real Photo Postcards". The exhibit highlights photo postcards that were taken in Lena by two commercial photographers. For more information please call Cindy at 815-369-4030.

Retail Officer, Ashley Chambers, graduates from two-year program



Ashley Chambers

Citizens State Bank is pleased to announce that Retail Officer, Ashley Chambers, is a recent graduate of the Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) Community Banker's School Program. CBAI hosts a variety of educational forums, seminars, and programs for bankers in Illinois and at the national level.

The Community Bankers School (CBS) is an intensive two-year program where bankers receive a rounded education on all areas of bank strategy and operations, as

well as tools to help them contribute to their bank's customer experience and overall success.

"We look forward to the insight Ashley is bringing back from CBS and applaud her for the hard work she has put in completing this program the last two years!" says President and CEO, Amy Baker.

Stockton schools to hold meet the teacher night

Stockton schools will hold meet the teacher night for tours of the buildings, a chance to meet your teacher, see your classroom, and put supplies in your locker.

Stockton Elementary School (Grades PreK-5), will be held Monday Aug.

19 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Stockton Middle/High School (Grades 6-12) will be held Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 5:30-7 p.m..

Freshman Welcome Night will also begin at 5:30 p.m. in the HS cafeteria on Aug. 20.

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Rusty Nut

(Jon Bourquin)

Annual Art Sale

Saturday, Aug. 17 • 9am - 4pm
Sunday, Aug. 18 • 9am - 4pm

Directions

7 Mile West of Apple River Canyon State Park on East Canyon Road. We are located 1/2 mile South on Bourquin Road

HELD OUTDOORS - RAIN OR SHINE
<https://www.facebook.com/rustynutart>

GAME PAGE

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

Level: Intermediate

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

Level: Advanced

SUDOKU

Fun by the Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test! **Here's How It Works:** Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

DOWN TO BIZ WORD SEARCH

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

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

- ACCOUNTING
- ALLOCATION
- ASSETS
- BALANCE
- BOND
- CAPITAL
- CASHFLOW
- COST
- EARNINGS
- ECONOMICS
- EMPLOYEE
- ENTREPRENEUR
- EQUITY
- EXPENSE
- FINANCE
- INPUT
- LIABILITIES
- LOAN
- MANAGEMENT
- MARGIN
- NET
- OUTPUT
- PAYROLL

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mongolian city ___ Bator
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Japanese city
15. Type of sandwiches
16. A type of shape
17. Son of Shem
18. French modernist painter
19. Grandmother
20. Mammary gland of female cattle
22. Hill or rocky peak
23. Secret political clique
24. Songs to one's beloved
27. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
30. Father
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Restrict the number or amount of
35. Combined into a single entity
37. Brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Materials in the earth's crust
40. Partner to cheese
41. Of the sun
42. Baseball great Ty
43. After B
44. Place to relax on the beach
45. Folk singer DiFranco
46. Partly digested food
47. Small dog breed
48. Japanese honorific
49. Salts
52. Beard moss genus
55. Mountain pass
56. Type of sword
60. Albanian language
61. Metric weight unit
63. Italian Seaport
64. Longtime late night host
65. Extremely angry
66. Wading bird
67. Days in mid-month
68. Omitted from printed matter
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN

1. Two-toed sloth
2. Cooking ingredient
3. Iranian city

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
60						61				62		63		
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

4. Accuses
5. Corrie
6. Delivered a speech
7. Collection of sacred books
8. Theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Arm bones
11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
12. ___ fide: legit
13. Gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Corporate bigwig
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Small Milky Way constellation
28. Satirical website
29. Border lines
32. Soft drinks
33. Capital of Guam
34. Six-membered ring (chemistry)
36. Bar bill
37. Car mechanics group
38. Notable Bill Murray character
40. Health care for the aged
41. Gurus
43. A passage with access only at one end
44. Reduce
46. Spy organization
47. The upper surface of the mouth
49. Plants of the lily family
50. Type of reef
51. Oral polio vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. Lose
54. Former Brazilian NBAer
57. Baseball great Ruth
58. ___ Clapton, musician
59. Chance
61. Spanish soldier
62. CNN's founder

• Pritzker (Continued from page 3)

counties and municipalities to levy their own 1 percent grocery taxes by passing an ordinance, rather than needing a referendum.

It also gives non-home rule municipalities the authority to impose sales taxes by up to 1 percent without a referendum.

Inspecting state developmental facilities

The Illinois Department of Human Services Office of the Inspector General will be allowed to conduct unannounced site visits at state-run facilities serving individuals with developmental or mental disabilities.

Senate Bill 857, signed Aug. 2, gives the OIG authority to conduct site visits to all community agencies in the state, including Community Integrated Living Arrangements and Community Mental Health Centers. The OIG is also required to issue written reports and recommendations after reviewing a facility.

The OIG will also have more authority to investigate allegations of material obstruction of an investigation under the law that took effect upon its signature on Aug. 2.

Coverage of infertility, wigs

Senate Bill 773 requires state-regulated group health insurance policies that cover pregnancy to group health insurance to cover the diagnosis and treatment of infertility starting in 2026, including such options as in vitro fertilization. The measure also requires those plans to cover annual menopause health visits for those age 45 and older.

Senate Bill 2573 requires insurance plans to cover wigs for individuals who are losing their hair for medical reasons, such as alopecia or from undergoing chemotherapy.

Mindful classrooms

Senate Bill 2872 allows educators to provide students with at least 20 minutes of relaxation activities, like yoga and meditation, each week. It would also allow them to partner with an outside institution to provide the activities.

During House debate this spring, supporters of the bill said practicing soothing techniques, like breathing exercises and stretching, helps students manage their mental health. But those

opposed expressed concern with potential programming interfering with classroom learning time and religious freedoms.

Food grants

A pilot program that has given nearly \$2 million to local farms will become permanent after Pritzker's signature Aug. 2 on Senate Bill 3077. It creates a special fund for the Department of Agriculture to administer the Local Food Infrastructure Grant Program.

Grants would go to select small farms for things like food processing and cold storage. Grant amounts could range from \$1,000 to \$75,000 for individual projects and up to \$250,000 for a collaborative project.

Garbage truck coverings

Garbage trucks that lose trash because they are not properly covered will be subject to fines starting next year. House Bill 4848 creates a specific violation for law enforcement to cite when garbage or other debris falls from a truck and litters highways. Each infraction will result in a \$150 ticket.



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ENGELKENS FARMS, MARY & EDGAR ENGELKENS ESTATE

FARM EQUIPMENT & HOUSEHOLD AUCTION

1885 N. HENDERSON RD., FREEPORT, IL
SATURDAY, AUG. 17 • 10 A.M.

LOCATION: From Freeport, IL go north on Rt. 26 approx. three miles to Winneshiek Rd., go east to Henderson Rd., go south to farm on left.

NOTE: Many items too numerous to mention. Over 60 years of farming on this property. Edgar was a well-known & respected John Deere salesman for many years. He always enjoyed his Black Angus Cattle & tractor pulling events.

COMBINE: JD 9560 STS Combine base unit with green star field monitor, with straw chopper, bullet rotor, A/C, heat, 2,654 engine hrs., 1,868 separator hrs.

HEADS: JD 693 Corn Head with poly snouts; JD 925F 25' Grain Platform.

HEAD CART: Easy Trail head cart.

SEMI TRACTOR: 1996 Kenworth T600, 592,973 miles, aero cab, sleeper cab, 9 speed Rockwell transmission, air ride.

GRAIN TRAILER: 2013 42' Wilson Pace Setter, double hopper bottom, 66' sides; air ride, elec tarp, double weight gauges, 11R/24.5 tires, very nice condition.

TRUCKS: 1989 GMC 7000 Dump Truck, auto, gas, 366 engine, 56,735 miles; 1976 Chevy 400 Truck, single cab, auto, 4WD, ¾-ton, 5th wheel hitch, 20,311 on new motor, total miles are unknown.

GRAIN EQUIPMENT & AUGERS: Airstream 1112 Grain Dryer, single phase, LP, continuous flow or batch flow, stationery, buyer to remove; 10' 30' Hutchinson grain pump with motor; buyer to remove; Peck 8' 50' auger with motor, on transit, buyer to remove; 8', 30' long auger; Hutchinson Discharge Corn Auger, newer; Westfield WR100-31 Auger, pto, on transit, like new; Westfield MK100-71 swing auger, pto, on transit, sharp; Westfield WR100-61 auger, pto, on transit; App 25-grain bulkheads; Aeration tubes; aeration fans; sev. Auger hoppers.

TILLAGE: JD 1760 Conservation Max Emerge 2, 12-row, no-till planter, equipped with radar, computer track 250 monitor, front fold, insecticide, soil farmer, yetter coulters, trash whips, extra bean & corn cups, extra planter parts, 2nd Dickey John radar JD 3960 Chopper with 2-row belted corn head, elec control, extra hopper parts, for planter; JD 1350-1450 Plow, 14-18", variable width.

FORAGE: JD 235 Disc with 21" cone blades & 24'-9" spacings; JD 3960 Chopper with 2-row belted corn head, elec control, & extra hopper parts; JD 567 Round Baler, cover edge, net & twine; JD 8300 grain drill, grass seed, double disc, 13', sharp.

WAGONS: Knight Chopper Box, 17-7 tandem; H&S 500 Chopper Box, with 6278 kory gear, tandem; Huskee gravity box, with gear & flotation tires; Kilbros 375 gravity wagon, 1065A gear, top extension, with unverferth auger, very nice; Brent Grain Buggy, 700-bushel, with scale, tarp, & unverferth auger; 24' Apache feeder wagon with dolly; Spartan snowmobile trailer.

FARM EQUIPMENT: N.H. 28 Blower; JD 100 Stacker; North American Double Hopper Grainovator, pto; 140 gal. Farm Pak chemical tank with pump, JD 65 Blower; L-shape fuel truck transfer tank; 1,650 gal. poly tank with pump; 550 gal. poly tank with pump; King Kutter 500 seeder; JD 6' bucket, fits 4400; Hesston SM30 stack mover; 3pt stalk mover.

GARDEN SHED: 12x16x11' H, vinyl siding, shingled roof, double doors, nice; buyer to remove.

CATTLE EQUIPMENT: Filson cattle squeeze circle tub, to be removed by buyer; Portable squeeze chute; Apache calf feeder; calf puller; 2-show sticks; sev. farm gates & corral panels; feed cart; water tank; rd. bale feeder; approx. 10-J Bunks & 8-H Bunks.

EQUIPMENT PARTS: JD 4040 muffler; sev. 3960 combine parts; disc parts; additional chopper parts such as knives & fan paddles; JD seat; parts for mixer mill, disc, planter, chopper, etc; grain buggy tire, fits JD 1065 49x17 cart; sickle sections; extra bean & corn cups.

MISC. FARM & SHOP ITEMS: forks; platform scale; industrial cart; 2-bales of twine; wagon hoist; 5-Oldsmobile hubcaps; 4-car dollies; Cummins Mack 16 spd. drill press; asst of tires; asst of elec. motors; 2-JD gator tires, newer; 20-ton hyd press; log chains; JD pressure washer, older; elec. band saw; Makita elec. Sawzall; Excell 2-ton engine hoist; MacTools cart; asst air hoses; Whirlpool shop/garage refrigerator/freezer.

STEAM CLEANER: Alto Neptune KW Steam Cleaner, hot & cold, 220 elec, 2 wands.

CONCRETE BLOCKS & LUMBER: 20-4', 21-6'x2', 50-6'x3' cement blocks, buyer to remove; asst of misc lumber.

HAY: approx. 16-round bales, 1st & 2nd crop of 2023 & 1st crop- 2024; small sq. bales wheat straw; sm. sq. bales of hay, count to be determined later.

GENERATOR: Winpower 12PT2 Generator on cart, 52.1 amps.

LAWN, GARDEN & SNOW: JD 726 walk behind snowblower; AgriFab lawn sweeper; cement lawn décor, deer, dog, & sm. cow planter; lg. hose reel on cart; metal lawn cart; fertilizer spreaders; lawn chairs; JD leaf blower; wheelbarrow; self-propelled push mower; Coleman lantern; fishing poles.

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, & TOYS: Commode; Flex Flyer sled; lg. asst of old license plates; cross cut saw; Green Bay Packer lamp; autographed football by Kevin Butler; collector dolls; JD 8760 collector tractor, in box; JD statue with boy; JD 1.25 scale die cast truck; JD semi tractor; JD tins, cups, & bank; White 145 pedal tractor; milk cans; Carnival glass dishes; berry dish set; Nancy Prentiss Fine China, platinum, complete 12-piece setting; flowered snack set; HP Japan serving set with chickens & flowers; wine goblets; blue basket; glass relish trays.

HOUSEHOLD: Maytag Washer & Dryer, red; nice oak 2-door cabinet; nice oak dining table with chairs; rocker/recliner; magazine rack; end tables; ent. center; love seat; rocker/glider; portable elec. fireplace; corner desk; dresser with mirror & chest drawers; book case; dorm size refrigerator; Presto popcorn maker; wall décor; vacuum cleaners; 3-wooden bar stools, nice; Maytag ringer washer; Christmas & Holiday décor; lg asst of craft items.

TERMS: Cash or good check. Not responsible for accidents or losses.

AUCTIONEERS: Tom Bidlingmaier, Browntown, WI 608-328-4878 and Cory Bidlingmaier, Monroe, WI 608-558-4924. Ill. Auctioneer Reg. 441000268 and 441000269.

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GRAIN & CATTLE FARM REAL ESTATE AUCTION

ENGELKENS FARMS, MARY & EDGAR ENGELKENS ESTATE

1885 N. HENDERSON RD., FREEPORT, IL

SATURDAY, AUG. 31 • 11 A.M.

LOCATION: From Freeport, IL, go north on Rt. 26 approx. three miles to Winneshiek Rd., go east to Henderson Rd., go south to farm on left. Property is centrally located about 60 miles west of Dubuque, IA, approx. 30 miles from Rockford, IL, 20 miles south of Monroe, WI, and minutes from Freeport, IL.

REAL ESTATE: Located in Sec. 20 of Lancaster Twp, Stephenson Co., IL, inc. 184.41 acres (according to Stephenson County tax bill) with approx. 150 acres tillable with a really nice set of buildings and a 4-bedroom country home.

TERMS: 3% buyer's premium to be paid at closing. \$100,000 down day of auction as earnest money, payable to Bidlingmaier Realty, LLC Trust Acct., balance in cash at closing on or before Sept. 30. Buyers will be required to sign an offer to purchase at auction with no contingencies. Crop land and pasture is rented for the 2024 season. There will be no rent proration to new buyers. All announcements made day of auction take precedence over any printed materials.

AUCTIONEERS: Tom Bidlingmaier, Browntown, WI 608-328-4878 and Cory Bidlingmaier, Monroe, WI 608-558-4924. Ill. Auctioneer Reg. 441000268 and 441000269.

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Net metering changes coming soon

In September 2021, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act was signed into law and is now changing the way ComEd and other energy providers are crediting those with renewable energy sources. This change will take place on Jan. 1, 2025. However, there are still many questions involved with this development.

What is net metering?

Net metering is a great incentive that an electric utility may offer. The purpose of the net meter is to measure power "delivered" to a house or "received" by the utility from solar array. At the end of the month, excess kWh credits are used to offset power delivered to homes. The "net" power delivered to homes forms the basis for calculating

electric bills for that month.

At the end of the month, if you generated more power than you consumed, excess kWh credits carryover to the next month. The monthly carryover then continues month after month. Depending on your utility, excess credits expire at the end of each quarter, bi-annually, or annually. Some utilities may pay for any end of term excess, but

many have a "use-it or lose-it" policy and no value is provided.

What is the difference come Jan. 1, 2025?

Currently, ComEd offers 1:1 net metering that applies to the supply, delivery and fees you are billed. On Jan. 1, 2025, ComEd will change its 1:1 net metering to apply to only the supply portion of

the power bill. Net metering will not affect the delivery and fees section of your power bills and you will therefore still have to pay for this part of your bill.

Does this change if I am currently producing solar energy?

If your solar array is installed and certificate of completion applied for before Dec. 13, 2024, your system will be grandfathered in with 1:1 net metering and will not

be affected by the net metering change. If you have been considering going solar, now is the best time to take advantage of the best incentives available to you.

How can I learn more?

You can learn more by calling Steline Solar or stopping in with any questions you may have about net metering changes and how you can act now to take advantage of the current net metering benefits.



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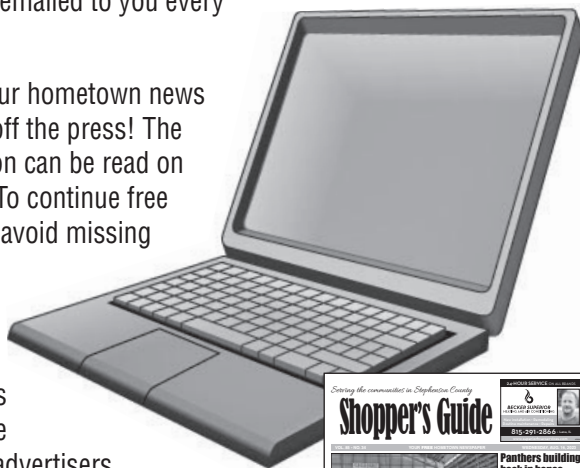
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STOCKTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(Grades PreK-5)
MONDAY, AUGUST 19
5:30-7:00



STOCKTON MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
(Grades 6-12)
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20
5:30-7:00

***TOUR THE BUILDINGS* MEET YOUR TEACHER*SEE YOUR CLASSROOM*PUT SUPPLIES IN LOCKER**

***Freshman Welcome Night will also begin at 5:30 pm in the HS cafeteria on August 20.**



Mail to: The Shopper's Guide, c/o Rock Valley Publishing, 1102 Ann St., Delavan, WI 53115 OR send by email to: scoopshopper@rvpublishing.com
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458572

Watch for signs of heat stress in livestock

By Rhiannon Branch
FARMWEEK

With plenty of summer left to go, livestock producers are reminded to monitor animals and implement management practices to reduce the risk of heat stress.

"We've had a couple spells of some high heat and high humidity, and it doesn't take very many of those days to cause some stress on the livestock," Dan Shike, interim head of the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois, told FarmWeek.

Heat stress is more common during periods of high nighttime temperatures.

"When we're not getting the nighttime cooling, that's when those animals really start to have some challenges because they're not able to get rid of that excess heat load and dissipate that heat through the night," Shike said.

Common signs of heat stress are panting, increased water intake and decreased feed intake. Low milk production in dairy cows could also be a symptom.

Shike said ensuring access to plenty of fresh water is key, for cattle especially.

"That's one of their primary ways of dealing with the excess heat load and their water consumption will go

up dramatically during times of heat stress," he said.

Providing enough shade for livestock in pastures is also helpful if it does not restrict airflow.

"If we're talking about putting out shade structures, we need to think about do we have the right amount?" he said. "If there's not enough space, the animals will crowd, then that's actually counterproductive because when they're all right next to each other, they're not going to be able to dissipate as much heat."

For livestock housed in buildings, like many swine and dairy farms, Shike said exposure to direct sunlight isn't a concern, but ventilation is important.

"Air flow ventilation, fans, misters and sprinklers are all tools that are used."

With county fair and exhibition season in full swing, Shike said there are extra things for showmen to consider.

"Be mindful of when you transport those animals and try to transport them in the early morning or evening hours to avoid the high heat as some of those trailers can get pretty hot."

He said exhibitors can keep livestock cool at fairs by using fans and misters, offering fresh water and

taking frequent trips to the wash rack.

"You do have to be careful if you have an animal that's absolutely in heat stress because if you put a bunch of cold water on their back you can shock their system," he said. "So, the best thing is to give them a drink, maybe start with a little water on their legs and belly and gradually cool them down."

If an exhibition animal gets overheated in the staging area or show ring, a rag with cool water around their neck can provide some relief, Shike said.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

Farmers should watch for potential heat stress issues during the dog days of summer.

See **STRESS**, Page 15

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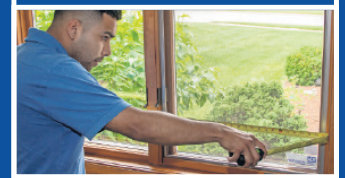


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Proposed Aqua rate increase reignites tensions between the company and its customers

Aqua Illinois proposal to increase rates under review by Illinois regulators

By Andrew Adams
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

As state regulators consider whether to approve a proposed rate increase for the state's second largest private water utility, its customers are criticizing it for poor service and high prices.

Aqua Illinois, which serves parts of 14 counties mostly in northern Illinois, requested an increase to its rates in January. Under the proposal, customers would see about a

\$30 increase in monthly bills, according to Citizens Utility Board, a consumer watchdog group involved in the case.

This comes at the same time as the state's largest utility, Illinois American Water, is requesting a similar rate increase of its own—and facing its own criticisms.

The Illinois Commerce Commission is expected to rule on both cases by the end of the year. Regulators at the ICC can accept, re-

ject or modify the proposals based on evidence presented to them from the companies, ICC staff, advocacy groups and municipalities.

Representatives of Aqua Illinois say the rate increase is necessary to maintain the infrastructure of its water systems, such as pump stations and water treatment plants, as well as to keep up with the cost of inflation. According to Aqua Illinois President David Carter, the cost of chemi-

cals needed for making water safe to drink has more than doubled since the utility's last rate case over six years ago.

But many Aqua Illinois customers say the company has already failed to adequately maintain its systems and shouldn't be granted the increase.

Last year, Aqua Illinois entered into a consent order meant to resolve years of legal battles with the state's attorney general stemming

from dangerously high levels of lead in the water system for University Park, a far south suburb of Chicago. The heavy metal can lead to brain and kidney damage and is particularly dangerous for young children.

University Park's mayor, members of its board of trustees and residents registered their dissatisfaction with the utility at an ICC hearing Aug. 1 in Bourbonnais. Black residents make up the majority of the working-class village of about 7,200.

McHenry County community are "angry" and "frustrated" with the company.

"No one uses water from the tap," she said.

University Park's unincorporated neighborhood of Eastwood Manor is often discolored due to high levels of iron. In the company's 2023 water quality report for that system, it found the iron concentration to be 2.3 parts per million. While it doesn't apply to this specific water system, the general threshold for iron set by the Illinois EPA's threshold of 1.0 parts per million for drinking water.

"This is environmental racism and injustice," University Park Village Manager Elizabeth Scott said during a public comment. "And ICC, I want you to know we have to have you do something. These people are monsters."

Others, like former village trustee Sonia Jenkins, criticized the rate increase request itself, particularly after many have spent several years buying bottled water to avoid relying on the tap.

"We have major concern with Aqua water company," Jenkins said. "There is no trust. Our seniors cannot afford an increase like this."

In the five years since the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency found lead in University Park's water, Aqua has spent about \$18 million on remediation, according to Carter, none of which is being recovered from ratepayers. The lead contamination came from erosion of older pipes.

"We feel really confident that the erosion control treatment we have in place is working well," he said in an interview last week, also noting that testing has found lead levels to be acceptable for three years.

Residents of the village can also request lead level testing from the company at no cost.

"We are committed to wanting to begin to build the trust," Carter said Aug. 1.

But University Park residents are not alone in their discontent over Aqua's water quality. At a separate hearing Monday in the far northwest Chicago suburb of Crystal Lake, attendees complained of service interruptions and of discolored water.

"It's just unfair," said Frank Pontrelli of Lakemoor. "We're just getting browbeat here. Money's getting taken and the water is still orange."

Stephanie Tesmer, a customer and longtime critic of Aqua Illinois, said in an interview that she and others in her

McHenry County community are "angry" and "frustrated" with the company.

"No one uses water from the tap," she said.

University Park's unincorporated neighborhood of Eastwood Manor is often discolored due to high levels of iron. In the company's 2023 water quality report for that system, it found the iron concentration to be 2.3 parts per million. While it doesn't apply to this specific water system, the general threshold for iron set by the Illinois EPA's threshold of 1.0 parts per million for drinking water.

This leaves people like Tesmer relying on personally owned filtration systems to remove iron in their water, which can be costly.

Carter said despite the discoloration, the water meets state and federal safety regulations. Still, the company is expected to have a system-wide iron filtration system in place in Eastwood Manor by early next year. The company acquired Eastwood Manor's water system, which had been plagued by water quality issues for decades, in 2016.

But Tesmer remains skeptical the utility will keep to its timeline.

"I won't believe anything until I see a proposal at the county level that they're ready to do the work," Tesmer said.

Service interruptions and high costs were also common concerns among residents of Lake County who registered public comment.

Last year, Hawthorn Woods and Kildeer experienced a multi-day service interruption, leaving hundreds of households without water. Parts of Lake County, including Hawthorn Woods, earlier this month were put under a boil advisory after a water main break.

"In 31 years of living in Buffalo Grove, I only had one boil order," Susan Bauer, who moved to Hawthorn Woods four years ago, said during a public comment. "Furthermore, my bills were nothing compared to what I'm paying now. My friends who still live in Buffalo Grove, they pay half of what I pay."

These situations have, according to Aqua, been resolved and all of its water systems are testing below regulatory limits for other hazardous materials.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

I mentioned before that August is racing by. Teachers are in schools and fall sports have started. Gardens are producing tons of great vegetables. This week's column features the plentiful zucchini. I have had all kinds of calls for recipes using this vegetable that when you blink, it grows to epic proportions. I apologize for those who absolutely hate zucchini because we feature everything from an appetizer to main dishes and desserts too! Have a great week cooking.

Zucchini Appetizer

Beginning our zucchini theme for this week is an easy appetizer. It is made with Bisquick baking mix, and it can be cut into bite-sized pieces. It would be great on an appetizer table.

- 3 C. sliced zucchini
 - 1 C. Bisquick
 - 4 eggs, beaten
 - 1/2 C. chopped onion
 - 1/2 C. shredded Cheddar cheese
 - 1/2 C. oil
 - 1 clove garlic, minced
 - 1/2 t. salt
- Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease a 9x13 baking dish. Mix zucchini, Bisquick, eggs, onion, cheddar, oil, garlic, and salt together in a large bowl until well combined. Spread mixture into prepared baking dish. Bake until bubbly and lightly browned, about 25

minutes. Cut into pieces to serve.

Zucchini in Dill Cream Sauce

This great side dish gets rid of a lot of zucchini because it uses seven cups. It has a unique flavor with the dill and the sour cream sauce.

- 7 C. sliced zucchini, (1/4 inch slices)
- 1/4 C. finely chopped onion
- 1/2 C. water
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. chicken bouillon granules or 1 chicken bouillon cube
- 1/2 t. dill weed
- 2 T. butter melted
- 2 t. sugar
- 1 t. lemon juice
- 2 T. flour
- 1/4 C. sour cream

In a Dutch oven, combine zucchini, onion, water, salt, bouillon and dill; bring to a boil. Add the butter, sugar and lemon juice; mix together. Remove from heat and do not drain. Combine the flour and sour cream; stir half the mixture into hot zucchini. Return to heat; add remaining cream mixture and cook until thickened. Place in a serving bowl. Sprinkle with chopped dill.

Zucchini Boats

I have featured zucchini boats in a past column several years ago, and this one is sort of a take-off on stuffed peppers. It can be made ahead if you wish. Try this ground beef and zucchini weeknight meal.

- 2 medium zucchini, about 8 oz.
- 1/4 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 C. chopped fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 C. chopped red pepper

1/2 C. chopped green pepper
1 C. shredded cheddar cheese, divided
2 T. ketchup
Salt and pepper to taste
Preheat oven to 350. Trim ends off zucchini. Cut zucchini in half lengthwise; scoop out pulp, leaving 1/2 inch shells. Finely chop pulp. In a skillet, cook beef, zucchini, onion, mushrooms and peppers over medium heat, breaking beef into crumbles, until meat is no longer pink; drain. Remove from the heat. Add 1/2 C. cheese, ketchup, salt and pepper; mix well. Spoon into the zucchini shells. Place in a greased 9 x 13 baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 C. cheese. Bake, uncovered at 350. until zucchini is tender, 25 to 30 minutes. Serve with minced parsley and warm marinara sauce.

Chicken Zucchini Casserole

The last recipe was a beef and zucchini dish; this easy weeknight meal uses chicken. We certainly wouldn't want to offend anyone's meat choice!

- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) stuffing mix
- 3/4 C. butter, melted
- 3 C. diced zucchini
- 3 C. cubed, cooked chicken breast
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 medium carrot, shredded
- 1/2 C. chopped onion
- 1/2 C. sour cream

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, combine the stuffing mix and butter. Set aside 1/2 C. for topping. Add the zucchini, chicken, soup, carrot, onion and sour cream to the remaining stuffing mixture. Transfer to a greased 11x7 baking dish. Sprinkle with reserved stuffing mixture. Bake, uncovered, until

golden brown and bubbly, 40 to 45 minutes.

Piña Colada Zucchini Bread

This is a really unusual take on zucchini bread. This quick bread is filled with a lot of different flavors like pineapple, coconut, vanilla and a surprise ingredient. Try this tasty and different zucchini bread.

- 4 C. flour
 - 3 C. sugar
 - 2 t. baking powder
 - 1 1/2 t. salt
 - 1 t. baking soda
 - 4 eggs, room temperature
 - 1/2 C. canola oil
 - 1 t. coconut extract
 - 1 t. rum extract
 - 1 t. vanilla
 - 3 C. shredded zucchini
 - 1 C. canned crushed pineapple, drained
 - 2 C. chopped pecans
- Preheat the oven to 350. Line 3 greased 8x4 inch loaf pans with waxed paper; grease paper. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking powder, salt, and baking soda. Whisk until combined. In another bowl, whisk eggs, oil, and extracts. Stir in dry ingredients until just moistened. Fold in zucchini, pineapple, and nuts. Transfer to prepared pans. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 45 to 55 minutes. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pans to wire racks. Gently remove waxed paper.

Zucchini Cupcakes

These zucchini cupcakes have no chocolate. There are a lot of zucchini cake recipes that use chocolate. The frosting on these is delicious. My mother used to have a date cake recipe with this frosting. Try the different cupcakes with a touch of orange.

- 3 eggs, room temperature
- 1 1/3 C. sugar
- 1/2 C. canola oil
- 1/2 C. orange juice
- 1 t. almond extract
- 2 1/2 C. flour
- 2 t. cinnamon
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 t. salt
- 1/2 t. ground cloves
- 1 1/2 C. shredded zucchini

Frosting:

- 1 C. packed brown sugar
 - 1/2 C. butter, cubed
 - 1/4 C. 2% milk
 - 1 t. vanilla
 - 1 1/2 to 2 C. powdered sugar
- Preheat oven to 350. In a mixer bowl, beat together the eggs, sugar, oil, orange juice and almond extract. In a separate bowl, combine the flour, cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cloves. Whisk until totally combined. Gradually add to egg mixture and blend well. Take the bowl off mixer stand and add the zucchini, stirring carefully. Fill paper-lined muffin cups two-thirds full. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack.

Frosting: Combine brown sugar, butter and milk in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat; cook and stir until thickened, 1 to 2 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in vanilla. Cool to lukewarm. Gradually beat in powdered sugar until frosting reaches spreading consistency. Frost cupcakes.

Final Thoughts

Time marches on as summer winds down. The pool closes at the end of this week. Summer concerts are winding down, and fairs are a thing of the past in our immediate area. Teachers are preparing

rooms, and students are dusting off their Chrome Books.

There are a few things coming up that you may want to put on your calendar. The Lena Methodist Church is having an ice cream social on Aug. 15. Check out their menu. The Lena Area Historical Society is presenting a program on Saturday, Aug. 17 at 2 p.m. Jim McGenty of Pecatonica will present a program on the "Stagecoach Era." He has written many articles on the subject for the *Northwest Illinois Quarterly Magazine*. We have The Stagecoach Inn in Lena, one of the stops of the stagecoach on its run from Chicago to Iowa. Also, don't forget the Pearl City Boulevard Bash coming up later in August, the Shannon Labor Day Festival, and the Lena Lions Fall Festival the weekend after Labor Day. There are still all kinds of fun activities coming up.

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.



Tickets available for the 10th Annual Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing

The highly anticipated 10th Annual Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing is back, offering a chance to win cash prizes while supporting local nonprofits. To celebrate the 10th anniversary, five new \$500 prizes will be awarded. Tickets for this year's drawing are now on sale, with options to purchase five for \$100 or an individual ticket for \$25.

From Oct. 1, 2024, through Sept. 30, 2025, ticket holders are eligible for 365 daily cash drawings. Prizes range from \$50 to \$500, with a total payout of \$22,900. Notably, each ticket remains in the drawing for the entire year, giving ticket holders daily chances to win.

The Daily Drawing supports 18 nonprofit organizations across Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Stephenson counties: The Caring Community of Elizabeth, East Dubuque Music Boosters, Eastland Music Boosters, Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, Galena Key

Club, Hanover Alumni Association, Hanover Chamber of Commerce, Hope Wins, Lena-Winslow Education Foundation, Midwest Medical Center Auxiliary, Pearl City Athletic Boosters, PEO-Champer OH, River Ridge Drama, Scales Mound Travelers, Stewards of the Upper Mississippi River Refuge, Stockton Girls Basketball, Warren Athletic Boosters, and West Carroll Sports Boosters.

Tickets are available until Sept. 20, so act quickly to secure your chance to win and support worthy causes. To purchase tickets, contact a participating organization or email Brenda at brendaje@hotmail.com. For more information, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northwestillinoisdailydrawing.

Support local initiatives and enjoy the excitement of daily cash drawings with the Northwest Illinois Daily Drawing!

You ought to be in pictures!

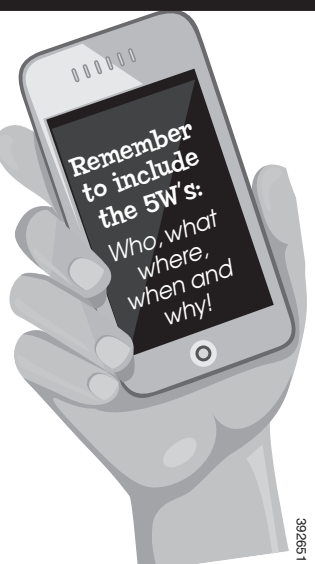
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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to business. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 18 = T)

- A. 20 3 7 5 1 18
Clue: Earnings above expenses
B. 24 22 3 4 1 15 11
Clue: Deposits with broker
C. 11 18 7 19 25
Clue: Share in a company
D. 1 15 16 8 11 18 24 8 15 18
Clue: Asset used to build wealth

Answers: A. profit B. margins C. stock D. investment

IN*CI*DENTAL*LY

What your tongue can say about your health



By DR. STEPHEN PETRAS Illinois Licensed General Dentist

Examining your tongue is a vital part of your oral exam. The shape, color, and any lesions, pain, burning, swelling, or coating on your tongue not only tells your dentist a lot about your oral health but also your overall health.

A normal, healthy tongue is moist, pink, and covered with papillae or small raised protrusions that contain taste buds. Deviations in color can indicate such conditions as a vitamin deficiency, fever, infection, or hormonal imbalance. If the exam reveals a coating on the tongue, the color of that coating can help identify if it is an infection or an underlying medical condition.

Swelling of the tongue can happen for a number of reasons. If your tongue swells up quickly and/or is accompanied by throat tightness, difficulty breathing and feeling dizzy or faint, this is a medical emergency, and you should seek immediate assistance. Other causes of tongue swelling include, but are not limited to, trauma from chipped or damaged teeth, sharp pieces of food, oral piercings, tongue

chewing, and ill-fitting dentures. Alcohol, tobacco, acidic, spicy, or hot foods and beverages, whitening products (especially hydrogen peroxide) and certain food additives (such as excessive cinnamon intake) can irritate oral tissues and cause the tongue to swell. Certain medications (especially certain high blood pressure meds), vitamin deficiencies, decreased thyroid hormone, overproduction of growth hormone, low-estrogen states, loss of bitter taste buds, HPV, canker sores, acid reflux and oral cancer are also associated with tongue swelling.

Tongue lesions vary and can be indicators of stress, trauma, infections, vitamin deficiencies, and systemic disease including cancer.

More people than ever understand the need to floss and brush twice a day, but many people are not aware

that food and bacteria on your tongue contributes to plaque buildup and bad breath.

Gently brushing your tongue from the back to the tip of the tongue helps to remove this buildup, improve your breath and sense of taste, and affords you the perfect opportunity to examine your tongue. Knowing what your tongue normally looks like makes it easy to spot changes early.

Bottom line, if you find any abnormalities in your tongue, do not wait until your next exam to notify your dentist. Early diagnosis and intervention can minimize complications, so make an appointment with your dentist to get it checked. Make sure you bring an updated medical history, as well as a complete list of all medications, including both prescription and over-the-counter meds and any nutritional supplements that you are using. If your dentist suspects an underlying medical condition, he will consult with your physician, and this information will guide them in determining which diagnostic tests will be needed to obtain a definitive diagnosis and treatment plan.

Answers

Puzzle 1 grid with numbers 8-9

Puzzle 2 grid with numbers 3-9

Crossword grid with letters U-I

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Illinois further expands reproductive health care protections

Pritzker signs bills safeguarding various reproductive rights for residents, visitors of Illinois

By Dilpreet Raju
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Gov. JB Pritzker signed multiple bills expanding reproductive rights in Illinois last week, including codifying a federal law that allows medical professionals to perform an abortion in response to a clinical emergency.

Another bill bolsters Illinois' interstate shield law that prohibits Illinois authorities from disclosing information, or using resources, to abet any interstate investigation into someone receiving abortion services within Illinois. The final bill signed prohib-

its discrimination against people for their reproductive health decisions, including abortion, in vitro fertilization and fertility treatment.

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in 2022 that overturned Roe v. Wade, states have had greater authority to curtail abortion access. States with Democratic majorities, like Illinois, have sought to enact more protections for abortion and other reproductive health services, while Republican-led states have moved to impose bans or limitations on the procedure.

One federal law Illinois lawmakers sought to codify in case it is struck down is the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, or EMTALA, which allows practitioners to perform abortions in medical emergencies. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a case against EMTALA in June, although it could come back before the high court once it advances further in the lower courts.

Pritzker at the time called the high court's decision a "small respite," but he said it was also important to be

proactive as a state in case of any further U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

"We can't wait around and be reactive when the latest attacks come, the pro-choice majority in this country need to be proactive," Pritzker said. "The three bills that I am signing today send a single, straightforward message: Illinois will always be a place where women have the freedom to make their own medical decisions."

Chief sponsor of the EMTALA-codification bill, Rep. Dagmara Avelar, D-Bolingbrook, said the realities of

medical emergencies are distant from the clashes of partisan politics.

"We recognize that a medical emergency like this knows no politics," Avelar said. "A person in crisis deserves care, not controversy."

The bill also allows the Department of Public Health to investigate potential violations where medical practitioners fail to provide "stabilizing treatment" and issue fines at a minimum of \$50,000.

Dr. Allison Cowett, medical director at Family Plan-

ning Associates Medical Group in Chicago, said her clinic is seeing more than double the number of out-of-state patients as compared to 2022.

"I will take care of patients from as close by as our West Loop neighborhood and as far away as Texas, border towns and the southern part of Florida," she said.

Cowett maligned the situation for people experiencing unsafe or unwanted pregnancies in states where abortion is illegal.

See PROTECTIONS, Page 15

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, 555 W. South Street, Freeport, Illinois 61032 to satisfy a lien on August 22, 2024 at approx. 1:00 PM at www.storage-treasures.com Cube 1076 Latrice Allen; Cube 1078 Cami McElroy; Cube 1171 Lateesha Watkins; Cube 1185 Melissa Walsh; Cube 1210 Chad Evans; Cube 1487 Nada Jones

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Aug. 7 & 14, 2024) 459215

"THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE" 42463

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS Nationstar Mortgage LLC; Plaintiff, vs. Krystle L. Schulz; Jeffrey S. Schulz; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants; Defendants.

Case No. 24 FC 24 Judge Presiding NOTICE BY PUBLICATION The requisite affidavit for

publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you:

-Jeffrey S. Schulz
-Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants that Plaintiff has commenced this case in the Circuit Court of Stephenson County against you and other defendants, for foreclosure of a certain Mortgage lien recorded against the premises described as follows:

LOTS THREE (3), FIVE (5), SIX (6) AND SEVEN (7) IN BLOCK THIRTY (30) IN THE VILLAGE OF DAKOTA, STEPHENSON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

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said Mortgage was given by Krystle L. Schulz and Jeffrey S. Schulz, Mortgageor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for Vision Mortgage Group, Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Stephenson County, Illinois, as Document No. 201000109815 Book 176 Page 2369-2381.

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UNLESS YOU file your appearance or otherwise file your answer in this case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Stephenson County, Stephenson County Courthouse, 15 North Galena Avenue, Freeport IL 61032 on or before August 30, 2024, A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.

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Phone: 312-360-9455
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(Published in The Shopper's Guide July 31, Aug. 7 & 14, 2024) 459262

STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STEPHENSON COUNTY-IN PROBATE In Re the Matter of the Estate of: John L. Rife, Deceased.

No. 24-PR-54 NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of John L. Rife, of Lena, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on July 26, 2024, to:

Debra L. Rife
814 S. Logan St., P.O. Box 193
Lena, IL 61048
as independent Executor of the Estate of John L. Rife, 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 February 10, 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: July 30, 2024.

Debra L. Rife, Executor
By: Anthony V. Coon
Anthony V. Coon, Attorney At Law

Anthony V. Coon, #6269568
Attorney at Law
10N. Galena Ave., Ste. 210
Freeport, IL 61032
815-235-2212
Fax 815-232-5500
tonycoonlaw@aol.com
(Published in The Shopper's Guide Aug. 7, 14 & 21, 2024) 459345

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing PLAINTIFF Vs. Michelle Dixon a/k/a Michelle L. Dixon; et. al. DEFENDANTS 24 FC 5

CALENDAR NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on September 18, 2024, at the hour 1:30 p.m., Security First Title Company, 205 West Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: LOT SIX (6) IN BLOCK

ONE (1) IN GREEN'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF FREEPORT; SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FREEPORT, COUNTY OF STEPHENSON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. 18-14-31-106-025. Commonly known as 318 W. Stearns Street, Freeport, IL 61032.

The real estate is: single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: At sale, the bidder must have 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

For information call Sales Department at Plaintiff's Attorney, Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527. (630) 794-5300. 14-24-00180 IJSC INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountyjudicialsales.com I3249538

(Published in The Shopper's Guide Aug. 14, 21 & 28, 2024) 459643

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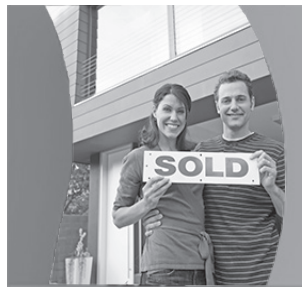
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459650

Please submit resume to: kwhittington@rvpublishing.com

real estate

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Burial Needs

7 CEMETERY PLOTS Willing to sell as a group or individually. Located at Roselawn Memory Gardens 3045 WI-67, Lake Geneva, WI 53147. This is a private sale. Contact Randy, the seller at randy@slpublishers.com.

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LEATHER POCKET 1" SLATE POOL TABLE and Accessories. \$99. 815-347-0496.



IT'S GARAGE SALE
TIME AGAIN!

Auction Deadline is Noon Friday!

Contact Rhonda at rmarshall@rvpublishing.com for information on advertising.

454287

• Protections

(Continued from page 13)

"Some patients share their stories with me, they share their rage about what forced them to come to Illinois for basic medical care," she said. "They were turned away because providers are afraid of criminalization and prosecution for even discussing abortion with a patient. This is not what health care is supposed to be."

Attorney General Kwame Raoul said Illinois' protections will help people in nearby states that have enacted abortion restrictions.

"We have Indiana with a near abortion ban, near-total abortion ban, Missouri banning abortions without exception for rape and incest, Kentucky the same,

and Iowa's recently enacted six-week ban," Raoul said. "That is horrific, but it lifts us up as a safe haven."

Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said the laws passed are about expanding the state's ability to take in more people seeking reproductive health care.

"Today is both beautiful and dumbfounding. As Gov.

Pritzker protects doctors and empowers Illinois families, the governor of Iowa just signed a fetal heartbeat bill that will push Iowans into our home for health," Stratton said, also adding, "We have to stretch our capacity to provide care, not just for the women of Illinois, but for all women in the Midwest and beyond."

• Stress

(Continued from page 9)

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.

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REAL ESTATE NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF STEPHENSON - FREEPORT, ILLINOIS
NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing
PLAINTIFF

Vs.
Michelle Dixon a/k/a Michelle L. Dixon; et. al.
DEFENDANTS

24 FC 5
CALENDAR

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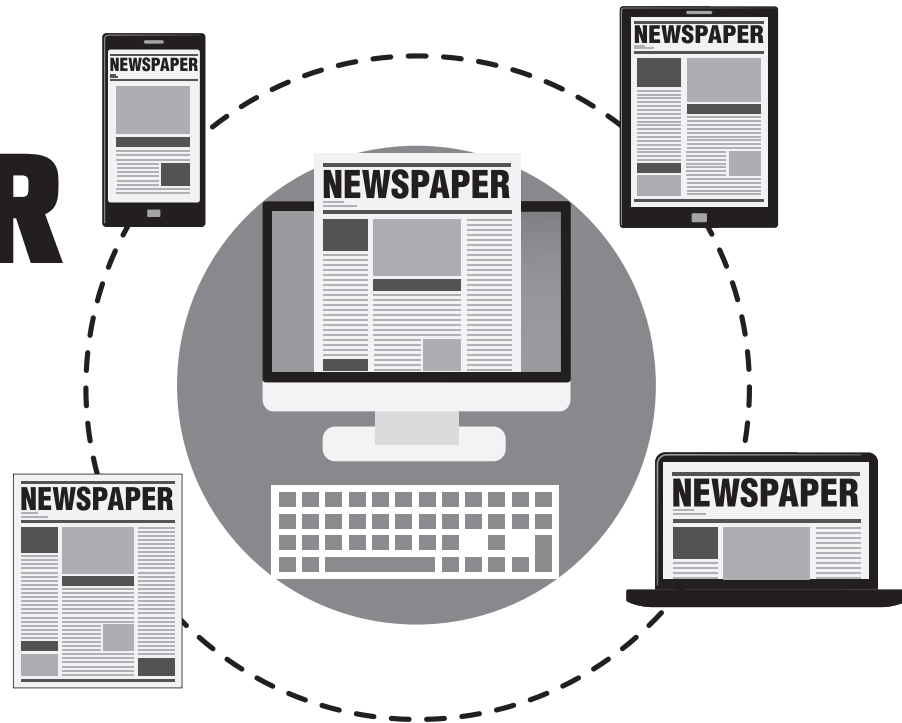
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Opinion (Continued from page 4)

and many other leaders, including Russia's Vladimir Putin, have taken steps to restrict online freedoms in a

similar manner.

The U.S. cannot allow this model to continue to spread, and we must continue to

work with our partners and allies to counter the efforts of the CCP to export its Great Firewall idea to other nations.

Working to protect the United States Postal Service

I joined with Robert Weissman, co-president of public interest at Public Citizen, in authoring a letter in the *Washington Post* on the current state of the United States Postal Service (USPS).

Under Postmaster General DeJoy's struggling strategic plan, customers of the Postal Service have seen relentless rate hikes. July 14 marked the fifth increase in three years, affecting broad categories of popular mail products,

including first-class mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, and more. Package prices have also been raised significantly, and the price of the first-class "forever" stamp is now 73 cents.

These recent price increases total more than 184 percent of inflation, leaving small businesses and customers racing to keep up with higher prices, even in the face of declining service standards and slower delivery times. The Postal Regulatory Commission, charged with oversight of the USPS, noted in its recent

comments on the rate hikes that "the Commission is concerned, given the current state of affairs, that the Postal Service's proposal does not reflect reasoned consideration of the potential widespread effects of its proposal, is not prudent, and is not consistent with the best interest of all stakeholders."

Our country needs a reliable, affordable postal system for everyone. Contrary to the title of Louis DeJoy's strategy for the USPS, his current leadership is not "delivering for America."

Increase (Continued from page 10)

But every water utility—public and private—is facing aging infrastructure that will need to be replaced or upgraded in the coming years. The federal EPA in a 2023 report found that Illinois needs more than \$22 billion in in-

frastructure spending over the next two decades, an increase of about 6 percent since its last assessment of infrastructure needs that was released in 2018.

While some infrastructure improvements can be handled

with government funding, for Aqua and other private companies, much of it will have to come from customers.

"We are on kind of a collision course, truly, with rates and infrastructure," Carter said.



459451

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2 Day Sale
AUGUST 19 - 20 2024

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While Supplies Last! **SATURDAY, AUGUST 31 2024**

1 1/4 lb AVG WEIGHT

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Whole Cooked Lobster, Sweet Corn, Potatoes, Soda or Water

LIVE LOBSTER MEGA MEAL DEAL \$169.99
 12 LIVE Lobsters, 12 Ears Sweet Corn, Case of Water, 5 lb Bag Red Potatoes

FRESH CAUGHT IN MAINE
 (PREPAID PRE-ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN THRU TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024)
Walk ups While Supplies Last!
 Not available to order in online shopping

SULLIVAN'S FOODS LOBSTERFEST 2024 SATURDAY, AUGUST 31ST

Prepaid pre-orders will be taken through Tuesday, August 27, 2024 (ALL PREORDERS REQUIRE PREPAYMENT)

LOBSTERFEST 2024 - ORDER FORM -SULLIVAN'S FOODS COPY-

QTY	Please fill out and turn form into your local Sullivan's Foods Customer Service Desk	
	LIVE LOBSTER-\$13.99 PLU50101	Pick up starts at 9am
	COOKED LOBSTER-\$15.99 PLU50102	Pick up 11am - 4pm
	COOKED LOBSTER MEAL-\$17.99 PLU50103	Pick up 11am - 4pm
	12 LIVE LOBSTER MEGA MEAL DEAL \$169.99 PLU50112	Pick up starts at 9am
Name: _____ Phone: _____		
Pick-up Time: _____		
QTY	LOBSTERFEST 2024	CUSTOMER COPY
	LIVE LOBSTER-\$13.99 PLU50101	Pick up starts at 9am
	COOKED LOBSTER-\$15.99 PLU50102	Pick up 11am - 4pm
	COOKED LOBSTER MEAL-\$17.99 PLU50103	Pick up 11am - 4pm
	12 LIVE LOBSTER MEGA MEAL DEAL \$169.99 PLU50112	Pick up starts at 9am
Pre-orders will be held until 5:00pm Saturday, August 31, 2024		

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