

FREE

BOONE COUNTY
LOCAL NEWS, OPINION & HISTORY
JOURNAL
Real Journalism for a Real Democracy



Subscribe Online
www.boonecountyjournal.com

Friday • November 27, 2020
Vol. 25, Issue 30 • No. 1278

Thanksgiving Day Blues?

by David Larson

Can anyone be blue on Thanksgiving Day? Try the guy in charge of preparing Thanksgiving Day dinner on a military base or someone who has to prepare Thanksgiving dinner for a few hundred people. The planning, the preparing, the baking and roasting and the carving and serving can be daunting.

A traditional, for some people, Thanksgiving Day feast would be roast turkey with the obligatory dressing, giblet gravy and mashed potatoes, fruit cocktail, sweet potatoes and Brussel sprouts trimmed with cranberry sauce. In addition, pumpkin pie, chocolate cake and ice cream to finish it off.

However, when the first Thanksgiving feast was planned, in 1621, the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag Indians gathered together to create a feast to celebrate the bounty that had been harvested that year. That multicultural feast has become the foundation of a multicultural celebration of the United States embracing different traditions and the humanity of coexistence. The first winter when the settlers had arrived in what would become America, that winter was savage. Cold temperatures, blowing snow that made creating housing and shelter difficult. However, the spring of 1621 held promise for the settlers with ample rain and the ground was deemed fertile and able to support crops such as root crops, corn and beans that they would grow and harvest in the autumn to have stores for the following winter.

Today the dinner table in homes and on many military bases around the world will be crowned with the featured dish, roast turkey. However, this year unlike any since perhaps 1918 the place setting count will be much much smaller for most. Roast goose or duck is a favorite meat that could replace the 20-pound turkey or it could be a year to experiment a bit. Being thankful for the safety and health of friends and family during these trying times is the spirit of the day more so than the feast.

It is likely that smaller birds might have been prepared in 1621 such as grouse or prairie hens or chickens instead of turkey. Further, venison from deer and elk and perhaps even moose were also items on the Thanksgiving Day menu. Bread would have also christened the table but not necessarily wheat bread. More likely the chosen grain was cornbread or a version of cornbread would have been baked. Corn pudding would also have been available and even today, one can travel to Boston and dine at Durgin Park near the wharf in the city and dine on what was available in 1621. Their specialty is bread pudding prepared from a recipe with its origin in 1621.

However, because America is a blending of cultures, many of those cultures will add their own alterations and improvements to the traditional menu. Even though Thanksgiving is a uniquely “American” holiday, many families who pay homage to their native culture will include special dishes for their banquet.

Italian families might have fish as an accent to the meal or perhaps as an appetizer. German and Scandinavian families will bake those special sweet cakes and coffeecakes to go along with the pumpkin pie. Those folks who might have



President Roosevelt celebrating Thanksgiving holiday in 1938 with polio patients at the Warm Springs Foundation for Infantile Paralysis Sufferers. (photo courtesy of the Library of Congress)

originated in Louisiana or Georgia might also serve a Brunswick Stew along with the meal or end the event with a sweet pecan pie. Those of Greek heritage might make up a pastitsio (a Greek Lasagna) to be served in place of mashed potatoes.

Thanksgiving is an American holiday that embraces all that is American from all the countries that make up this country. On some tables, collard greens for Thanksgiving is as American as roasted turkey and that is how the holiday should be celebrated.

George Washington’s 1789 Thanksgiving proclamation was the first national attention given

to the New England tradition. Without the dogged activism of Sarah Josepha Hale—a novelist, poet, and the editor of “Godey’s Lady’s Book,” a lifestyle magazine with an impressive pre-Civil War circulation of 150,000—Thanksgiving may never have become the national holiday it is today. Hale—who popularized the children’s song “Mary Had a Little Lamb”—wrote thousands of letters and editorials promoting a national day of Thanksgiving before President Abraham Lincoln adopted the idea in 1863. Thanksgiving was formally made a national holiday in 1941 after being a New England area tradition since 1621.

IDPH Preps for Expected Initial 400,000 Doses of Vaccine

First batch of vaccines will go to hospital workers, first responders

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

After Pfizer submitted its application for a COVID-19 vaccine to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week, Illinois public health officials have continued preparing locations to store and distribute the vaccine that could be released to frontline hospital workers in a matter of weeks.

Pfizer announced Friday that it planned to submit its COVID-19 vaccine application for emergency approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration—a process that could take between two and four weeks, Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said during Friday’s daily news conference.

On Friday, Ezike said she expects the state will receive about 400,000 doses of the vaccine in the first round of distribution.

“That is the number that we’re working with to identify how we will partition that out for the first phase,” she said.

“And we already know that we heard directly from General (Gustave) Perna that, as soon

Continued on Page 2

Pritzker Calls on Madigan to Answer Questions or Step Aside

Indictments of former ComEd officials fuel erosion of support for House speaker

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker on Thursday put his own pressure on House Speaker Michael Madigan, saying the Democratic leader needs to answer questions from the press and the public or else resign.

The governor’s comments during his daily COVID-19 briefing in Chicago came one day after federal prosecutors in Chicago handed down indictments against four former Commonwealth Edison officials, charging them with bribery and conspiracy in a scheme to win Madigan’s favor for legislation benefitting the company.

“If Speaker Madigan wants to continue in a position of enormous public trust with such a serious ethical cloud hanging over his head, then he has to, at the very least, be willing to stand in front of the press and the people and answer every last question to their satisfaction,” Pritzker said. “Written statements and dodged investigatory hearings are not going to cut it. If the speaker cannot commit to that level of transparency, then

Continued on Page 2

Vaccine *Continued page 1*

as FDA approval is granted, the next day they would start shipping out vaccines,” she added.

Perna is the chief operating officer of Operation Warp Speed, which is the Trump administration’s national program to develop, manufacture and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine.

Dr. Moncef Slaoui, Operation Warp Speed’s chief science adviser, reiterated this timeframe during a Sunday interview on ABC’s This Week with George Stephanopoulos.

Slaoui said vaccines would be shipped to states “within 24 hours from approval.”

“Hopefully, people will start to be immunized, I would say, within 48 hours from the approval,” Slaoui said during the interview.

Under the state’s COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Planning Guide released in October, the first vaccine doses released will be given to front line hospital workers and first responders.

During Monday’s news briefing, Gov. JB Pritzker was asked about ensuring access to the vaccine among low-income or marginalized communities.

“I just want to say that one of the big concerns that I have is making sure that we do this with an equity lens, and that includes not only people of color but rural communities, places that often are left out and left behind, forgotten,” he said. “I want them to be significantly considered for the near term possibility of getting the vaccine but this vaccine is going to roll out over quite

a number of months. We’re not really going to see, as I understand, the vaccine coming to the general public until perhaps March or April at the earliest.”

Ezike said the hospital workers set to receive the vaccine in the first rounds include staff who are not health care professionals, such as the cleaning and food staff.

“A lot of those people in those jobs are our Black and brown communities and so we are going to make sure that they are included in that first phase 1a,” she said.

Essential workers outside of hospitals and at-risk individuals, including people 65 years of age and older, will be next in line to receive the vaccine in the first phase of distribution when limited doses are available, according to the vaccination planning guide.

Ezike said the initial doses of the vaccine will be distributed through hospitals in each of the 11 regions of the state.

State public health officials are also identifying freezer storage locations, since Pfizer’s vaccine must be kept at 94 degrees below zero.

“We’ve also ordered 20 separate contraptions that can hold vaccines at that ultra-cold level. So those 20 freezers, if you will, will be placed in all of the 11 regions to make sure that there is access for every part of the state to the vaccine,” Ezike said.

Pharmaceutical company Moderna could seek emergency approval for its COVID-19 vaccine application with the FDA by the end of the month, Slaoui said.

Unlike the vaccine under FDA review from Pfizer, Moderna’s vaccine can be shipped and stored long-term at standard freezer temperatures of 4 degrees below zero, for six months.

On Saturday, the FDA also issued emergency approval for a second anti-body therapy treatment for mild-to-moderate COVID-19 infections in adult and pediatric patients.

During Monday’s news conference, Ezike said the government has already provided the state with about 8,500 doses, and that the treatment is meant to be given early in the infection to help prevent hospitalization for high-risk and older individuals.

“We have teams that are working right now to discuss the equitable distribution of this very important resource. We are going to make sure that, in terms of communication, the public is aware of this resource and who are the appropriate

candidates,” she said.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Pritzker

Continued page 1

the time has come for him to resign as speaker.”

The indictments charge four people – Michael McClain, a former legislator and close Madigan ally who later worked as a lobbyist at ComEd; former ComEd CEO Anne Pramaggiore; former company executive John Hooker; and Jay Doherty, a lobbyist who worked on contract for ComEd – with conspiring to award no-work jobs, internships and lobbying contracts to Madigan associates in order to gain his support for favorable legislation. That included measures that relaxed the state’s rate regulation process and provided ratepayer-funded subsidies for two nuclear power plants owned by ComEd’s parent company, Exelon.

Madigan himself has not been charged, and he issued a lengthy statement Thursday reiterating his longstanding denial of any wrongdoing.

Madigan has served as House speaker for all but two years since 1983 and is currently the longest-serving state legislative speaker in U.S. history. He is also expected to seek another term as speaker when the General Assembly reconvenes in January, but his support within the ranks of House Democrats has been eroding since he was first implicated in the bribery scheme in July, when company officials entered a deferred prosecution agreement that included paying a \$200 million fine.

As of Thursday afternoon, according to several media reports, he appeared to be short of the 60

Quidnunc

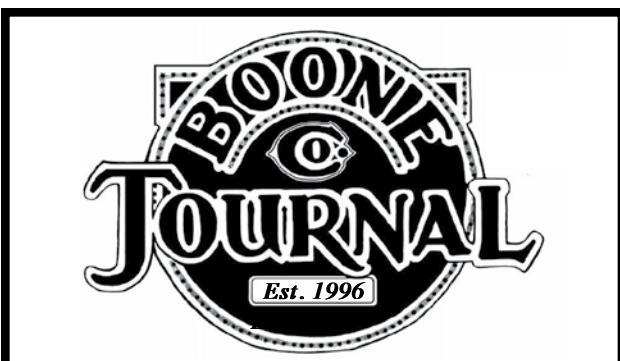


Boone County Fair 2021

Very High Likelihood

Obituaries

Alms, Cynthia, 67, Belvidere, November 16
 Gravunder, Patricia, 83, Belvidere, Nov 18
 Marcuccilli, Martin, 76, Poplar Grove, Nov. 18
 Moriarty, June, 96, Belvidere, November 17



real journalism for a real democracy

Publisher/Editor David C. Larson
Senior Writer/Editorial Charles Herbst
Advertising Bethany Staniec
Photography Susan Moran
Office Amanda Nelson

*David Grimm April 1938 - Dec. 2000
 Richelle Kingsbury Aug. 1955 - June 2013*

THE BOONE COUNTY JOURNAL
 419 S. State St • Belvidere, IL 61008
 Phone: (815) 544-4430 Fax: 544-4330
 www.boonecountyjournal.com
 news@boonecountyjournal.com

Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.
Letters. Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.
Guest columns. Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.
Opinions. The opinions expressed in the Journal are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Boone County Journal management or ownership.

Service Call Special \$19.95



Servicing all makes and models
 Over 30 years experience

815-332-7228

Count on us for fair, friendly service!

Belvidere Auto Maintenance, Inc.

Full Service Auto Repairs

Don't Get Confused & Go To The Wrong Place!
 Call First and Get EXACT Directions!

Next to the Ugly Radio Tower At
320 W. Locust, Belvidere, IL



\$19.95 OIL CHANGE
*up to 5 quarts of oil. Must present ad at time of service. Expires 12/31/20

(815) 547-8020

Boone County License & Title

Stickers - Titles - Plates

We Are OPEN

Bring:
 Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
 Or
 Old Registration Card
 Or
 Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date

419 S. State St. Bel
815-544-2075



votes needed to secure another term as speaker. At the same time, though, no other Democrat appeared to be close to a winning margin either. Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, D-Oswego, is the only other announced candidate for the job, but she has attracted little vocal support from other Democrats so far.

Pritzker would not offer any comment about who he thinks should be the next speaker and he said he had not spoken to Democratic lawmakers since the indictments were released Wednesday night.

"I've maintained from the beginning that legislators have a right to make their own decisions about who leads them, and I continue to feel that way," he said. "These legislators alone hold the unique power to elect the Illinois speaker, and I trust that they will think long and hard about the duties that they owe to the people that we all work for."

Prior to Thursday, Pritzker had tried to keep some distance from the controversy, at first saying only that Madigan should resign if the allegations are proved true. He stepped up his criticism slightly following the Nov. 3 general election, during which Pritzker's signature graduated tax amendment went down in defeat, suggesting Madigan should step down from his role as chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois because the cloud of scandal surrounding him had become a liability for the party.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Village of Cherry Valley Announces Operational Changes to Village Offices in Light of Covid-19 Outbreak: Effective immediately, all village offices are closed to the general public. Public access will be available by appointment only and on a case-by-case basis in order to address critical and time sensitive business.

Rockford Public Library will be Offering Remote Services ONLY: Beginning Tuesday, November 17th until Wednesday, December 2nd. Due to the increasing Covid-19 cases the Rockford Public Library will be offering remote services only. Please direct any inquiries to info@rockfordpubliclibrary.org

Rock Valley College Library Update on Services: Beginning on Monday, November 23, 2020, the Rock Valley College Library will be open to students, faculty, and staff of RVC only. The RVC Library will be closed to community members. Community members who currently have materials checked out may return their items in the book drop or call the library for a due date extension

Comprehensive Community Solutions, Inc. Announces Upcoming Open House/ Orientation Event: Today, CCS is excited to announce its upcoming Open House/ Orientations that will take place on Fridays throughout the rest of the year. Subsequent events will occur on December 11th and December 18th, with two occurrences each of these days, one at 10 A.M. and another at 2 P.M. All Open House/ Orientations will take place at the CCS location at 917 S. Main Street, Rockford, IL, 61101

Rockford Choral Union Cancels 2020 "Messiah" Concerts: Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Rockford Choral has made the difficult but responsible decision to postpone its 2020 presentations of G. F. Handel's "Messiah" until 2021.

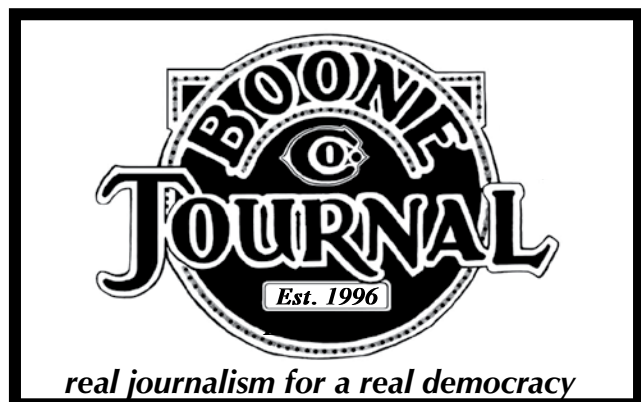
As an alternative, Rockford Choral Union has made available its 1965 video recording on YouTube. Please go to www.rockfordchoralunion.com home page and click on MESSIAH PART ONE and/or MESSIAH PART TWO, or go directly to YouTube and look for

Messiah Rockford Choral Union.

Girl Scouts Latest Recruitment Drive Ensures Girls Can Join in Time for Annual Cookie Program! In these changing times, Girl Scouts offers girls a unique chance to be part of something larger than themselves. This year, Girl of Northern Illinois (GSNI) is offering a recruitment drive right ahead of the cookie program, so girls who join now will be able to take part in the largest girl-led business in the world! Through the cookie program, girls learn the 5 Skills of goal setting, decision making, money management, business ethics, and people skills. The 2020-21 Girl Scout Cookie Program begins online on December 14, 2020.

Interested families can learn more and get started at www.girlscoutsni.org/snapshot.

Genoa Area Chamber of Commerce Holiday Light Show: Illuminate Genoa and show your holiday spirit! Judging will take place on Monday, December 14, 2020 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. All homes must be registered by December 7, 2020 and must have a Genoa address to participate in the contest. Register your home by emailing your name, address and phone number to info@genoaareachamber.com



Community News & Events

Community Building Complex Finance, Rules & Regulations and Building & Grounds Committee Meeting: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 11:45 a.m. at The Boone County Community Center.

Jeff Carlisle

Running For Mayor

Belvidere is my Hometown

Paid for by Jeff Carlisle's campaign fund

Pro Tree Care & Landscaping

Linda Johns owner

Over 30 years of service • 24 hr emergency service

General and Safety Pruning

Hedge and Shrub trimming • Tree and stump Removal

Spring and Fall cleanup • Firewood pickup and delivery

815-547-3345
jackoftrade81@mchsi.com

Charles Herbst

Attorney At Law

Practice Areas:

- Wills and Trusts
- Tax Strategy
- IRS Representation
- Real Estate
- Wealth Planning
- LLCs and Corporate

Education:

- LL.M. (Masters in Tax Law) New York University
- B.S. Business, J.D. Law (cum laude) Indiana University

Experience:

- International Tax Associates, Director of Federal Tax Research
- Ernst and Young LLP, Manager; Writer, Washington National Tax Writing Center
- Private Practice in the local area for over 13 years
- Former chairman of the written publications committee of the Indiana State Bar Association.

Over 25 years of experience

With a comprehensive approach to tax management.

Licensed to practice before the Internal Revenue Service nationally and in state courts in Illinois.

345 Bienterra Trail, Suite 3, Rockford, IL 61107

815 484 9482

Weddings + Events Dining on the Terrace

| STANCHION PUB HOURS: W-F 11:30 - 8:00 |

| WEDDINGS+ EVENTS | ARTIST STUDIOS | 4TH FRIDAYS |

300 W. Front St. Harvard IL | 815-943-4805 | starlinefactory.com

Illinois Supreme Court Strikes Down City of Sparta's Policy on Police Citations

Court rules the policy violates a state ban on ticket quotas

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

The state's highest court has struck down a southern Illinois city's policy that partly evaluates police officers on the number of citations officers issue, finding it violates an Illinois law prohibiting ticket quotas.

On Thursday, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of the labor union that represents police officers in the Randolph County city of Sparta.

The union, known as the Policemen's Benevolent Labor Committee, sued Sparta over the city's activity-points policy used for evaluating the performance of its police officers. The policy required all full-time officers to meet a monthly point minimum, based on actions that include issuing citations, making traffic stop warnings and taking on extra duty assignments.

Each action carried a different point value. For example, citations were worth two points while traffic stop warnings were worth one point.

In September 2018, the police union filed a lawsuit against the city that claimed the activity-points policy violates the section of the Illinois Municipal Code that prohibits cities and towns from implementing ticket quotas. The Illinois General Assembly amended the state municipal code in 2014 with a section titled, 'quotas prohibited.'

That section states: "A municipality may not require a police officer to issue a specific number of citations within a designated period of time... A municipality may not, for purposes of evaluating a police officer's job performance, compare the number of citations issued by the police officer to the number of citations issued by any other police officer who has similar job duties."

The section goes on to address the allowable practice of evaluating a police officer based on the police officer's "points of contact."

The section defines points of contact as "any quantifiable contact made in the furtherance of the police officer's duties, including, but not limited to, the number of traffic stops completed, arrests, written warnings, and crime prevention measures."

The section states that points of contact "shall not include either the issuance of citations or the number of citations issued by a police officer."

The city of Sparta argued that the activity-points policy did not violate the law because it does not mandate officers to write a specific number of citations during a certain period of time, and that officers could meet the monthly minimum without writing any citations.

In December 2018, a Randolph County judge found the city's policy did not violate the state municipal code, and the union appealed its case to the 5th District Appellate Court, which is one level below the Illinois Supreme Court.

Last October, the 5th District Appellate Court reversed the Randolph County judge's ruling, and it found the city's activity-points policy violates the state law.

"Although it seems like an officer can achieve the monthly minimum points total without issuing a single citation, this policy still violates (the section of the Illinois Municipal Code) because it does exactly what is prohibited by the plain language of the statute, i.e., it permits the department to evaluate its officers by including the issuance of citations or the number of citations issued, among other things, as a point of contact," the appellate court stated in its opinion.

Following the decision from the 5th District Appellate Court, the city of Sparta asked the Illinois Supreme Court to hear the case and rule

in their favor.

The city was joined by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, which submitted a legal brief in support of the city's position to the Illinois Supreme Court.

In a nine-page decision issued Thursday, the Illinois Supreme Court agreed with the appellate court's ruling.

The high court's opinion, authored by outgoing Justice Thomas Kilbride, found the primary issue facing the court in the case "is whether (Sparta) may include the issuance of citations, along with other activities, as a point of contact in its activity-points policy used to evaluate the job performance of police officers."

The language of the Illinois Municipal Code's section on quotas, Kilbride wrote, "could not be clearer on that point."

In the opinion, the justices recognized the argument by the city and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police "that a fair points policy must account for the full range of officer activity and that the failure to include issuance of citations as part of duty performance undercuts important traffic safety enforcement programs."

But, Kilbride wrote, including citations in the points of contact systems is a matter "more properly addressed to the legislature."

"The (Illinois Municipal Code), as it is currently written, expressly prohibits that practice, and the (code) must be enforced as written," the opinion states.

Ed Wojcicki, executive director of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, said the group is pleased that the Illinois Supreme Court at least acknowledged that they raised some valid issues.

"We're disappointed with the decision itself because the act of issuing citations is an important part of helping to keep our community safe. The fear of getting a citation is preventive medicine," Wojcicki said in a phone interview.

"But this is going pretty far by saying (an officer) can't be evaluated on whether (he or she) writes any citations at all. That's going very far. We're going to have to figure out what that (decision) means and decide whether we want to go back to the legislature."

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

State Initiative Launched To Help Illinoisans Expunge Marijuana Arrests, Convictions

New Leaf Illinois is a state-funded alliance of 20 nonprofits providing free legal representation

by Raymon Troncoso
Capitol News Illinois | Report For America

A new state-funded initiative called New Leaf Illinois aims to connect Illinoisans who want to remove marijuana arrests or convictions from their records with 20 nonprofit organizations that provide free legal representation and information on expungements.

New Leaf Illinois was launched Thursday by the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, an organization created by a 1999 state law to distribute funding appropriated by the government to support nonprofit legal aid programs and initiatives. IEJF administers state appropriations to three programs – a broad legal aid grant program, a legal aid service for veterans, and, most recently, a marijuana offense expungement program.

As part of the 2019 Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act – the law that legalized marijuana for recreational use – arrests and convictions for certain marijuana offenses are eligible for expungement. Arrests and minor offenses are eligible for automatic expungement, while some convictions require a petition be filed in court.

The 2019 law also set aside a portion of the tax revenue generated from the legal sale of marijuana that must be put toward the expungement process. Through the IEJF, a portion of these funds are given as grants to New Leaf organizations to provide legal services.

Tax revenue from legal marijuana sales has also been earmarked for other services, like the R3 community investment program.

According to Leslie Corbett, IEJF executive director, the organization received a \$1.6 million appropriation to create the New Leaf initiative, with \$1.46 million being distributed as grants to the 20 member organizations and the remainder being used to administer the program.

IEJF estimates there are approximately

Continued on Page 6

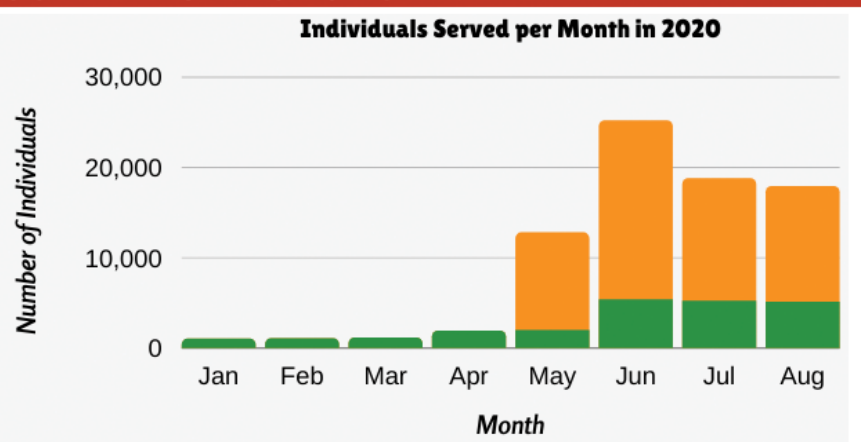


We are here to serve our neighbors in need and support our community during this difficult time.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

BAR GRAPH KEY:

- = Additional Saturday drive-thrus in Belvidere
- = Ongoing Tuesday hours at food pantry



26 VOLUNTEERS
3 STAFF

working to safely transport, stock, and serve food boxes on M, Tu, Th



36 SPONSORS

who are providing additional monetary support, helping us meet increased demand

YOU CAN HELP



CALL US
815-569-1571



DONATE
www.EmpowerBoone.org

OP ED

Celebrating Statesmanship can Bridge the Divisions in the Prairie State

by Jim Edgar and John Shaw

As a protracted and divisive political campaign season draws to a close, America is a nation in which partisan cleavages appear sharper than at any time in recent memory. Political analysts write of the United States as now consisting of two distinct nations, Red America and Blue America, and question if common ground will be achieved again.

The partisan divide here in Illinois is equally striking, intensified by regional tensions and antagonisms. The concept of "One Illinois" often seems an elusive aspiration rather than an achievable goal.

We have no formula that magically ends partisanship in Illinois, quiets the relentless rancor, and forges a coherent state identity and sense of shared destiny. However, we offer a tangible plan to affirm and honor the Prairie State's best traditions — traditions that include political leaders who are able to hold very different political views while still working together to find common ground.

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University was founded nearly a quarter-century ago by former Sen. Paul Simon, a lifelong Democrat. It is delighted to partner with former Gov. Jim Edgar, a lifelong Republican, to establish an award that illuminates the best traditions of both major parties and underscores the truth that elevated leadership can come from either of these parties or from independents.

The Paul Simon-Jim Edgar Prairie State Statesmanship Award will honor exceptional leadership in Illinois by state and local government officials. It will be presented to leaders — statesmen and stateswomen — who display unusual vision, courage, compassion, civility, effectiveness, and

bipartisanship in their work for their communities and Illinois.

When considering a public policy issue, the first question a statesman or stateswoman asks is, "what is in the public interest?" Personal and partisan considerations can follow later — but hopefully much later.

Given our current political climate, it is easy to forget that statesmanship, while unusual, has been a critical feature of Illinois politics and history.

Abraham Lincoln represents the model statesman. Even while dealing with the existential crisis of the Civil War, Lincoln looked to the future and supported initiatives to create land grant universities, complete the transcontinental railroad, and help pioneers settle in the West.

Illinois has been blessed with other statesmen over the decades, including exemplary governors from both parties. Edward Coles prevented Illinois from becoming a slave state in the 1820s. John Altgeld bravely pardoned three men who it seems were wrongly convicted of the 1886 Haymarket bombing. Henry Horner supported tax increases and bond issues to pay for unemployment relief during the Depression. William Stratton helped build the state's highways and universities in the 1950s and also advocated for civil rights. Richard Ogilvie pushed through Illinois' first income tax in 1969 and established the state's Environmental Protection Agency. Statesmanship in Illinois has not occurred only in the governor's mansion but also in the halls of the Capitol and in city halls up and down the Prairie State.

We believe it is important to identify and celebrate statesmanship in Illinois. As we consider recipients for the annual Simon-Edgar Award we will examine mayors who craft bold and imaginative plans for their cities and take political gambles to bring their dreams to fruition; city council members who prepare creative and constructive long-term strategies for their communities; and state legislators and constitutional officers who are willing to break from party orthodoxy and political comfort zones to advance solutions to improve the lives of fellow Illinoisans.

The Simon-Edgar Award will shine a spotlight

on exceptional leadership that is taking place in our communities. It will serve as a reminder that statesmanship is not only possible in Illinois, but is actually happening and deserves recognition and encouragement. Our fondest hope is that this award will inspire current and future public servants to act in the best traditions of our state.

Jim Edgar was the 38th governor of Illinois. He founded the Edgar Fellows Program at the University of Illinois's Institute of Government and Public Affairs. John Shaw is the director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and is the author of five books on history and politics.

Vista Tower Now St. Regis Chicago

By Charles Herbst

The brand-new, Jeanne Gang-designed, 1191-foot tall building on Chicago's Wacker Drive has a new name, The St. Regis Chicago. Originally named Wanda Vista Tower, and later, Vista Tower, the lower floors of the building were to be occupied by the first Wanda Hotel in North America.

When the Chinese-owned, Wanda Group was forced to pull out of the project, lawsuits were filed by condominium buyers because the presence and use of amenities of a five-star hotel had been a major selling point.

On Tuesday, Magellan Group, the tower's developer, announced that St. Regis Hotels and Resorts will manage the hotel and tenant amenities. St. Regis is a unit of Marriott International. There are 45 St. Regis hostleries in the world, all known for super-premium, luxury accommodations.

The restaurants in the hotel will be run by Chicago's famous Alinea Group. Alinea, with head chef Grant Achatz, is the only three-star Michelin restaurant in Chicago. AAA awards it five diamonds. Restaurant Magazine calls it the sixth-best restaurant in the world.

BOONE COUNTY LICENSE & TITLE

What WE Can Do For YOU!

Illinois License Plates & Stickers for

- Cars • Trucks • Motorcycles • Trailers • Boat Trailers
- Notary Public • Map Books

Ask us for details about our over the counter Plates and Sticker service.

- License & Title Services
- Plates, Stickers & Renewals
(Get sticker same day)
- Flat Fee for Services
- No Long Lines
- Friendly Helpful Staff
- Fast Convenient Service



(815) 544-2075

Located on State Street at the Journal
419 S. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008

Open 6 Days a Week

Monday thru Friday - 9 am to 6 pm
Saturday - 9 am to 2 pm

LEGAL NOTICES

Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC; Plaintiff,
vs. 20 CH 43
Juan S. Munoz; Joanna Munoz; Sabino Munoz; San Juana Munoz; Bank of America, N.A.; Portfolio Recovery Associates, L.L.C.; Unknown Owners and Non Record Claimants; Defendants.
Judge Presiding

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you: -Sabino Munoz that Plaintiff has commenced this case in the Circuit Court of Boone County against you and other defendants, for foreclosure of a certain Mortgage lien recorded against the premises described as follows:

LOT ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE (161) AS DESIGNATED UPON THE FINAL PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF FARMINGTON FIELDS EAST UNIT TWO, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE EAST HALF OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 31, TOWNSHIP 44 NORTH, RANGE 4 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN IN BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS RECORDED SEPTEMBER 27, 2006 AS DOCUMENT NO. 2006R10644 IN PLAT FILE ENVELOPE 358-A IN THE RECORDER'S OFFICE OF BOONE COUNTY, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

C/K/A: 3044 East 6th Street, Belvidere, IL 61008
PIN: 06-31-431-006

said Mortgage was given by Juan S. Munoz and Joanna Munoz and Sabino Munoz and San Juana Munoz, Mortgagor(s), to JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Boone County, Illinois, as Document No. 2007R07713.

E-Filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

UNLESS YOU file your appearance or otherwise file your answer in this case in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Boone County, Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere IL 61008 on or before December 21, 2020, A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED FOR IN THE PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT.

Russell C. Wirbicki (6186310)
Christopher J. Irk (6300084)
Cory J. Harris (6319221)
David A. Drescher (6301378)
Robert McMurray (6324332)
Tracey M. Coons (6311050)
The Wirbicki Law Group LLC
Attorney for Plaintiff
33 W. Monroe St., Suite 1540
Chicago, IL 60603
Phone: 312-360-9455
W20-0128
pleadings.il@wirbickilaw.com
I3160101

Published in *The Boone County Journal* Nov 20, 27; Dec 4, 2020

Public Notices

Public Notice

Boone County Supervisor of Assessments announces the Annual Assessors Meeting. will be held December 9, 2020 at 9:00 am in the County Board Room 1212 Logan Avenue Belvidere, IL
Published in *The Boone County Journal* 11/27/2020

Assumed Names

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a protein and tea bar business in said County and State under the name of Flo Nutrition at the following post office address: 419 Ste. B S. State Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Sarah Flores, 677 Southtowne Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008 and Robert Flores, 677 Southtowne Dr., Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # 815-670-4244

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 6th day of November, A.D. 2020

Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal November 13, 20, 27

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact an installation of roofing business in said County and State under the name of Beiza's Roofing at the following post office address: 436 Biester Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Horacia Beiza, 436 Biester Drive, Belvidere, IL 61008; phone #815-221-7186

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 20th day of October, A.D. 2020

Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal November 13, 20, 27

ASSUMED NAME CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY of BOONE

This is to certify that the undersigned intend to conduct and transact a landscaping business in said County and State under the name of JMB Lawn Mowing & Service at the following post office address: 725 Starr Street, Belvidere, IL 61008 that the true and real full names of all persons owning, conducting or transacting such business, with respective residence address of each, are as follows: Jose Escobar, 725 Starr St., Belvidere, IL 61008; phone # 779-537-7935

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, this 10th day of November, A.D. 2020

Julie Stapler, County Clerk
Published in Boone County Journal November 13, 20, 27

Marijuana *continued from page 1*

700,000 Illinoisans eligible for marijuana offense expungement, either through the automatic process or the court filing route. Automatic expungement means the beneficiary doesn't have to personally ask for expungement, but the process itself must still be carried out manually by the Illinois State Police and criminal justice officials on a case-by-case basis.

Due to the volume of records, ISP has set a 5-year timeline for when arrests and minor convictions will be expunged, in order of when the offense occurred. New Leaf Illinois offers to help applicants speed up the process if an arrest for a marijuana offense remains on their record.

"These individuals may have a criminal record that could make it harder for them to actually get a job, advance their education, or even be able to rent an apartment," Gray Matteo-Harris, an IEJF board member and partner at the Fox Rothschild law firm, said at a news conference announcing New Leaf Illinois on Thursday.

"If you look at the data, Black and brown people and economically disadvantaged communities were disproportionately penalized by past criminalization. The expungement process is one step toward repairing that harm for people who were previously arrested or prosecuted for something that is now legal for all of us," she said.

Illinoisans with an arrest or conviction for marijuana can go to NewLeafIllinois.org and fill out a form to be paired with a legal professional from one of the 20 member organizations to determine what options are available to them. They can also call the New Leaf Illinois hotline at (855) 963-9532.

Aquino to Replace Garcia as Illinois Presidential Elector

U.S. Constitution bars members of Congress from serving

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

U.S. Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia will not serve as a presidential elector in Illinois. Instead, he is being replaced by state Sen. Omar Aquino, the state Democratic Party confirmed, and the reason has to do with a requirement of the U.S. Constitution.

Garcia was selected to serve as an elector when the Democratic Party of Illinois' state central committee met in July. He was even listed on a press release the party sent out July 15.

Capitol News Illinois used that list for a story first distributed on Wednesday and also confirmed with a party spokesperson that the names and descriptions were accurate.

But soon after the story was first published, Freeport High School civics teacher Jim Winker emailed CNI to point out that there must have been a mistake. And, indeed there was.

That's because Article II, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which gives states authority to decide how their presidential electors will be chosen, also places one specific limit on who can serve: "no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States, shall be appointed an Elector."

The entire electoral college system has been the subject of considerable controversy in recent years. It was primarily responsible for George W. Bush winning the presidency in 2000, and Donald Trump winning in 2016, despite the fact that both had lost the popular vote.

There have been three other instances when the elected president failed to win the popular vote, including the election of 1876, when the Electoral College chose Republican Rutherford B. Hayes over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden as part

of a compromise that brought about the end of Reconstruction.

Many historians say that the Electoral College itself was part of a compromise by the framers of the Constitution, some of whom feared that a chief executive directly elected by the people could lead to despotism. In 1789, when the Constitution was written, no other country chose their heads of government through direct popular elections.

Others at the time, however, objected to Congress having any role in choosing a president because they wanted a clear separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches.

Jason Mazzone, who teaches constitutional law at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Law, said the ban on members of Congress serving as electors was meant as an additional check to prevent the office of president from becoming too much like a prime minister.

"It preserves the Article II branch as a distinct branch of government in a system in which we don't elect the president directly," he said in an email. "If you don't want citizens voting directly for the President then you have to give the vote to somebody else. If you give it to members of Congress then you are very close to the parliamentary system that was otherwise rejected."

A spokeswoman for the state Democratic Party did not immediately respond to questions about why Garcia was initially placed on the slate of electors but she acknowledged Thursday that he had been replaced by Aquino.

The list of electors still has not been officially submitted to the Illinois Secretary of State's office. A spokesman there said that is expected to happen "on or about" Dec. 4, the day final election results statewide are certified.

A Public Notice is an important tool in assuring an informed citizenry; a conduit of information from the government to the public. Notices are mandated by legislatures to make sure there is a public window into the activities of governments, officers of the court and others holding a public trust. Among the most common types of public notices are: hearings, government budgets, notices of contract bids, foreclosures, probate notices, adoptions, and dissolution of marriages, name changes and assumed business names. There are four key elements to a public notice:

Independent: A public notice is published in a forum independent of the government, typically in a local newspaper.

Archivable: A public notice is archived in a secure and publicly available format.

Accessible: A public notice is capable of being accessed by all segments of society.

Verifiable: The public and the source of the notice can verify the notice was published, usually by an affidavit provided by the publisher.

Enabling an informed citizenry through newspaper public notices helped America to develop participatory democracy where it counts: where money is spent, policy is made and futures charted. Public notices by government and private parties are so tightly woven into the American fabric that many citizens may take them for granted. Located in easily found sections of the newspapers, public notices reach out to interested readers, leading them to opportunities. Voices are expressed on taxation, communities are formed around planned public improvements, and assets are saved from loss to unworthy creditors – all as a result of public notices.

Public Notice Network

Illinois Pushes for Digital Equity with New Broadband Investments

Office of Broadband announces 3 programs to address digital divide

by Raymon Troncoso

Capitol News Illinois | Report For America

The governor's office and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity are awarding \$500,000 through existing and new state programs as part of a "Digital Equity Package."

The Illinois Office of Broadband, which is based in the DCEO, is spearheading the targeted investment program. The package gives modest grants to community-based and regional actors to address gaps in household access to computing devices, hotspot connectivity and digital literacy skills.

While Gov. JB Pritzker's administration has also launched the \$400 million Connect Illinois program – funded through 2019's Rebuild Illinois capital infrastructure program – with the goal of expanding broadband capacity statewide by 2024, these significantly smaller grants are aimed at addressing inequalities and gaps in coverage that may not be solved simply by the growth of the state's broadband network.

"High speed broadband internet is an absolute necessity for economic progress and educational attainment, but too many of our towns and counties and communities have been left out of the digital revolution, especially downstate," Pritzker said in a release. "It's time for that to change. To accomplish our goals, we need resources and expertise."

The digital equity investment is split between three programs using \$500,000 in state dollars alongside \$250,000 in non-state funds.

Broadband Regional Engagement for Adoption and Digital Equity grants, part of the Broadband READY program, will award organizations up to \$50,000 to identify inequities in digital access and develop scalable solutions.

The DCEO splits Illinois into 10 economic development regions. The Broadband READY grants will be awarded according to how organizations plan to solve pressing digital needs in their regions. Two such areas of need are telehealth and remote learning, fields where shortcomings in broadband access has been a detriment to downstate and rural counties in the age of COVID-19.

The state is providing \$250,000 in grants with another \$100,000 being put forward by the Illinois Innovation Network, which is a group of public universities and community colleges that works with government agencies businesses, and community organizations to improve the state economy.

The program will act as a primer for regions to establish a framework for future broadband projects so they can compete for heftier grants offered by Connect Illinois or federal programs tied to digital infrastructure.

The Digital Navigator Collaboration is another project of the Office of Broadband that will spend \$100,000 on "digital navigators" that offer consultation for communities that struggle with home connectivity, managing devices and other digital skills.

Digital navigators will be volunteers or staff from social service agencies, libraries and health care centers that can offer remote and in-person guidance to members of their community. Qualified applicants will receive training on how to assist residents.

"We'd like to develop this into a full statewide network," Office of Broadband Director Matt Schmit said. "Almost like a one-stop shop. Instead of folks calling the

Office of Broadband and trying to get a hold of me, getting what I would hope to be helpful information and guidance, we've got a network of folks around the state that are able to make those connections."

Illinois Connected Communities, a pre-existing grant program, will be awarding a second round of funding as part of the Digital Equity Package – \$150,000 will come from the state with another \$150,000 in funding matched by philanthropic and non-state entities. The program offers community organizations up to \$15,000 in grants centered around three aspects of broadband: access, adoption, and utilization.

These grants offer funding for data gathering and organizing so communities can discover shortcomings, non-governmental partners and sources of non-state funds for projects. The first round of grants went to 12 organizations in July, including four school districts, two municipal governments and other organizations.

Ronda Sauget, executive director of the Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois, said because of the modest grant her organization received, it was able to identify gaps in broadband coverage and problems with connectivity that local internet service providers weren't addressing and found funding opportunities to address them.

"We have a Hispanic community in Fairmont City that has over 600 students that go to the local school district. The local school district came to us and said, 'we have real connectivity issues.'" Sauget said.

The Leadership Council and Fairmont City were able to find a non-profit organization, PCs for People, to provide low-cost hotspots and computers to families as a stopgap measure to solve connectivity issues while the city and organization work on a permanent fix.

"A lot of communities purchase hotspots for their students and they spend a lot of money doing that," Sauget said. "Well, you know maybe that money will be better spent on developing a long-term solution."

Kyle McEwen, executive director of Mercer County Better Together, said the grant his organization received from the program allowed it to reach out into the community regarding broadband access and quality. According to McEwen, information on the county's capacity for broadband was either unavailable or completely inaccurate when looking at state data or national data from the Federal Communications Commission.

"The divide in broadband access really had grown worse than we thought in the county," McEwen said, something that's not reflected in federal data that shows continuous coverage throughout Mercer County. "We have 560 square miles of county. As you go west (broadband) got more sparse. On access and use it gets progressively worse the farther you go west."

McEwen called the program the first domino that will allow the county to position itself for more future state and federal grants to build broadband infrastructure and digital access for rural residents and agricultural business.

Schmit and the Office of Broadband have billed the Digital Equity Package as the first in a series of steps being pursued by the Pritzker administration to address the lack of broadband and digital access in downstate and rural Illinois with more projects and funding opportunities to be announced in December and early 2021.

Applications for grants can be found under "Grant Opportunities" at <https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo>.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Food Availability Not in Question Ahead of Holiday Season for Most

As pandemic struggles continue for many families, annual survey finds cost of traditional Thanksgiving meal drops.

By Illinois Farm Bureau

With concerns resurfacing over possible food shortages, a study from a national farm group found the supply chain is as resilient as ever – and it's showing up in the form of lower prices for many traditional Thanksgiving dinner ingredients.

This year, the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual Thanksgiving dinner survey calculated the average cost of a traditional Thanksgiving meal for 10 people at \$46.90. That's less than \$5 per person and down 4 percent from last year.

"The average cost of this year's Thanksgiving dinner is the lowest since 2010," said AFBF Chief Economist John Newton, Ph.D. "Turkeys – and other staples of the traditional Thanksgiving meal – are currently in ample supply at grocery stores in most areas of the country."

The national survey's menu includes turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, a veggie tray, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and coffee and milk, in generous amounts accounting for leftovers. Volunteer shoppers across the country tracked the prices of these items in stores near them and online.

The average price for a 16-pound turkey is \$19.39, down 7 percent from last year, according to survey results. Prices also dropped for sweet potatoes and whipping cream, while the cost of other staples, like dinner rolls, cubed bread stuffing and pumpkin pie mix, rose moderately.

The falling total cost comes as a surprise for some, given the effect COVID-19 had on grocery bills earlier this year.

"There was an expectation that the prices would have gone up, as we saw last spring," said Illinois Farm Bureau Associate Director of Food Systems Development Raghela Scavuzzo. "I'm glad to see the price decreases, especially for those who are struggling this holiday season due to the impacts of the pandemic."

Some consumers responded to the pandemic by cooking more at home and stockpiling the ingredients. But farmers and the food industry adapted. Despite the ongoing shifts in supply and demand seen by the agriculture industry over the past several years, farmers have continued to provide a healthy food supply.

"Even in the throes of a pandemic, life goes on; farms continue to produce and we continue to eat," said IFB Consumer Engagement Manager Gracie Weinzierl. "While the supply chain surely does not look the same as it did a year ago, we've figured out how to adapt and make sure that consumers have steady access to food."

"The great news is that we know upholding our Thanksgiving traditions will be affordable this season, regardless of whether we choose to prepare our favorite family recipes for a small gathering at home, partake in a dinner drop with friends and family to enjoy in their separate homes, or order takeout or delivery from a local restaurant."

ROOM FOR RENT: Belvidere: Nice furnished room w/ fridge, near downtown, bus stop, Aldi, Drug & Dollar Stores. No Sec. Deposit. \$102/wk. or \$430/mo.
Call (815) 544-4466

Gift Cards: Don't Save Them, Spend Them

Odds are that you or someone you know will receive a gift card during the holiday season.

It's easy to see why. The cards are easy to purchase and (typically) easy to use. They can be the perfect gift for that difficult-to-buy-for-friend or a great stocking stuffer for a college student.

However, too many times I have heard stories about a gift card that was saved for a rainy day only to find out that there was no money on the card because too much time had elapsed.

One of the lesser-known roles of the Illinois State Treasurer's Office involves gift cards. That is why I hear the stories. Here's what you can do to protect yourself:

- Know that retail gift cards and bank gift cards are the two most common types of cards. Retail gift cards are redeemable at the specific retailer or restaurant that issued the card. Bank gift cards, which carry a payment network such as American Express or Visa, can be used at any location that accepts that specific brand.

- Resist the urge to save the card for a rainy day. Doing so may increase the likelihood that some of the card's value will be consumed by fees. Instead, use the card and set aside an equal amount of cash for a rainy day.

- Remember that while money on a typical bank gift card cannot expire for at least five years, depending upon the circumstances, inactivity fees can begin in as little as 12 months. Therefore, it is possible that inactivity fees could consume the cash value of a card before the five-year window has expired.

- Businesses that close likely will not honor an outstanding gift card.

- Treat a gift card like cash. If lost or stolen, report it to law enforcement. Contact the card's issuer to determine if a replacement card is possible and at what cost.

Today, the state treasurer's office holds more than \$3.5 billion in unclaimed property. Because our records are updated twice each year, we encourage residents to frequently check our I-Cash database, which can be found here or at www.illinoistreasurer.gov

Go claim what is yours, today!

Sincerely,
Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

10 Lawsuits Over COVID-19 Restrictions Merged in Sangamon County Court

Cases will be heard by judge who has ruled favorably for Pritzker

by Sarah Mansur Capitol News Illinois

The Illinois Supreme Court agreed to combine 10 lawsuits challenging indoor dining bans across the state with existing cases in Sangamon County that raise the same legal questions.

The Supreme Court's order brings a total of 19 cases involving legal challenges to Gov. J.B. Pritzker's COVID-19 related restrictions that are now consolidated in Sangamon County Court before Judge Raylene Grischow.

The 10 cases added to Grischow's group of pending cases were all brought by businesses operating as restaurants with indoor dining service, and all the cases are against Pritzker, Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike and IDPH.

The order filed on Tuesday is in response to a

request from lawyers with the Illinois Attorney General's Office, which represents the governor and state agencies.

The AG's lawyers note that all of the cases raise the same question about the governor's authority to issue multiple, successive disaster proclamations under the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act.

Grischow has already ruled in favor of Pritzker's authority to issue multiple 30-day disaster proclamations in two cases that challenged the governor's executive orders mandating certain public health measures in K-12 schools.

On Tuesday, in a separate matter, Grischow granted a temporary restraining order against four Sangamon County restaurants that continued to offer indoor dining after the county health department suspended their food service licenses.

The temporary restraining order remains in effect, pending a hearing before Grischow on Dec. 3.

In their request, lawyers with the AG's Office asked the Illinois Supreme Court earlier this month to consolidate 10 lawsuits — from Cook, Marion, Clinton, DuPage, Kane, McHenry and DeKalb counties — into the group of nine cases already pending together before Grischow in Sangamon County.

"There is no need for multiple circuit courts to review filings, hold hearings, and issue decisions on the very same legal question," the AG's court filing states.

The AG's lawyers also point out that the Illinois Supreme Court previously consolidated those nine cases to Grischow's group of cases "in August and September when presented with a series of cases similarly challenging the governor's authority to address the pandemic."

The cases consolidated before Grischow are scheduled for oral arguments in Sangamon County on Dec. 21.

The request from the AG's lawyers also asked the Illinois Supreme Court to consolidate all future cases filed that involve this legal question to the group of cases in Sangamon County but the Supreme Court did not grant that part of the request.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

Get instant cash for your **GOLD**



WE PAY HIGHEST PRICES

Belvidere Collectible Coins

880 Belvidere Rd. Belvidere, IL 815-547-7111	WE PAY 10% MORE THAN ANY OTHER OFFER!
--	--

Visit us Online at www.goldsilverjewelrycoin.com

**BOONE COUNTY
LICENSE & TITLE**

**What WE
Can Do For YOU!**

Illinois License Plates & Stickers
for

- Cars • Trucks • Motorcycles •
- Trailers • Boat Trailers •
- Notary Public • Map Books •



**Ask us for details about our
over the counter Plates and
Sticker service.**

- License & Title Services
- Plates, Stickers & Renewals
(Get sticker same day)
- Flat Fee for Services
- No Long Lines
- Friendly Helpful Staff
- Fast Convenient Service

**Notary
Public**

Open 6 Days a Week
 Monday thru Friday - 9 am to 5 pm
 Saturday - 9 am to 1 pm

(815) 544-2075

Located on State Street at the
Journal
 419 S. State Street
 Belvidere, IL 61008

Boone County License & Title Stickers - Titles - Plates We Are OPEN

Bring:
 Postcard Bill from the Secretary of State
 Or
 Old Registration Card
 Or
 Vin# + Plate # + Expiration Date

