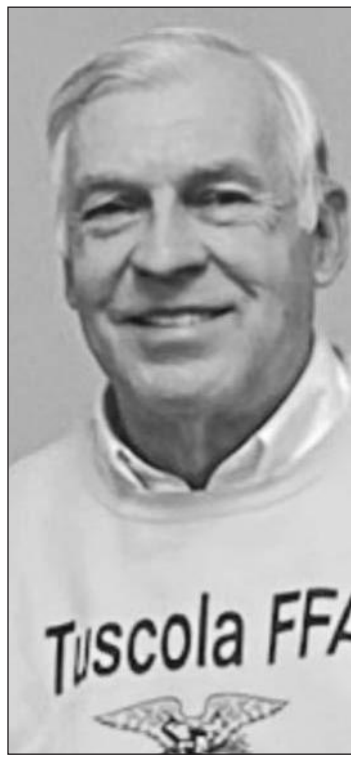


## Pie Auction

From page 1

“Kathie Clapper was the brainchild behind the alumni chapter,” Opperman said. It started with a dozen members and peaked at more than 40 members. It’s now down to about 25 members, and Opperman said the group is looking to increase those numbers.

The pie auction is the biggest fundraiser the group does, but there are a lot of projects for the funds raised. Opperman and Green said the group provides scholarships, helps FFA students pay for their blue jackets and to be able to attend leadership camps and state and national FFA conventions. It helps with supplies for the student FFA and has even helped make Christmas better for people in need. It also helped build a greenhouse at the high school. “We’re the



Opperman

lifeblood to the [student] chapter,” Opperman said.

Agriculture still accounts for about 10 percent of the

jobs in America, Green said. FFA helps students with personal growth, confidence, public speaking and in many other ways. He said he thinks it’s an oft-overlooked class. “I think they really depend on us.”

Green and Opperman pointed out others who have helped the alumni association grow, such as Tammy Kresin and Cindy Little as well as Clapper. Green praised the commitment that Opperman has made over the years.

The pie auction is conducted by Doug Rund of Pesotum, usually with help from bid catcher Jim Kleiss.

The alumni group meets four or five times a year, Green and Opperman said, and they welcome new members. Members do not have to be farmers or involved with agriculture. For more information, search for Tuscola FFA Alumni on Facebook.



CURRENT FFA ALUMNI officers are front row, left to right: Kathie Clapper, vice president, and Tammy Kresin, treasurer. Back row: Cory Green, president, Michelle Simpson, and Elizabeth Mitsdarfer, secretary. Submitted photos.

## Mask mandate

From page 1

original board voted on plan. At least until the Appellate Court makes a ruling.”

Masking was also part of the district’s back-to-school plan negotiated with the teacher’s union. The union released a statement Monday that they are waiting to see what the appellate court does.

One parent, who asked for anonymity out of fear of repercussions, stated, “Part of my confusion is that I have heard from multiple sources, who are requesting to stay anonymous, that school employees received a separate email from Mr. Alexander stating that the mask mandate will not be enforced at school.”

Another parent said they learned from the school office that masks would be recommended but not mandatory. “I don’t think the email [to parents] fully said that, directly.”

On Monday numerous teachers and students shed their masks.

By contrast, Arcola schools are keeping their mask mandate in place. “Since we have been advised by legal counsel that the court decision does

not apply directly to the Arcola School district ... we are required to continue to follow the current mandates,” said Supt. Dr. Tom Mulligan. Arcola and Tuscola schools share the same attorney.

Mulligan continued, “Since making a change to the masking requirement would be against the current, required mandates for the Arcola School District, I do not feel that this can be an administrative decision. Any substantive change in the plan would need to be brought up, discussed, and acted upon at a public board meeting.”

Gov. JB Pritzker stated Monday, “The judge’s decision cultivates chaos for parents, families, teachers and school administrators across the state, and I’ve asked Attorney General Kwame Raoul to seek to have the ruling overturned with all possible speed.”

Beginning in August 2021, Pritzker issued a series of executive orders related to the reopening of public schools. They included a requirement that schools enforce a mask mandate for all students, staff and visitors; that they require all school personnel either be vaccinated or submit to weekly

testing, and that they exclude from school premises for specified periods of time any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19 or who has been in close contact with someone who has.

The Illinois Department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education then issued a series of emergency rules to implement the executive orders.

Parents, students and, in some cases, teachers sued roughly 170 school districts across the state seeking to block those mandates. Those cases were eventually consolidated and transferred to Sangamon County.

In her ruling Friday, Grischow said that at the time the emergency rules were issued, the Department of Public Health had known about COVID-19 for well over a year and a half and that vaccines had been around for more than nine months. She then questioned why the rules could not have been developed under the normal process which would have allowed for public comment and legislative review.

She also noted that state law gives the Department of Public Health authority to

issue vaccine mandates. But in this case, IDPH did not issue such a mandate, the governor did, and then the State Board of Education issued rules to carry out the governor’s order – something she said was an improper delegation of an executive branch agency’s authority.

“The court cannot find (nor did any party provide) any law enacted by the state Legislature that grants the IDPH the authority to delegate and transfer its duties and responsibilities to ISBE and local school districts,” Grischow wrote.

She also found that exclusion from school buildings was a form of quarantine, and under state law, people who are ordered quarantined have a right to challenge the order in court and receive due process.

Her order strikes down several provisions of the emergency rules IDPH and ISBE issued in September and specifically restrains the agencies from requiring school districts to enforce mask mandates without a lawful quarantine order from a local health department.

It also restrains them from requiring districts to exclude unvaccinated individuals from the premises who object to weekly testing without first providing them due process. And it restrains them from excluding individuals who are deemed a close contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case without providing them due process.

The attorney general’s office filed immediate notices of appeal in the cases and on Monday filed motions asking

for an emergency stay of the order pending the appeal.

“These requirements – which have provided safety and stability to students, teachers, and schools for months – allow schools to protect their students and staff while providing an opportunity to return to in-person learning,” the motion stated.

As of Monday afternoon, the 4th District Court of Appeals had not yet ruled on the motion for an emergency stay.

The second half of this report was provided by Peter Hancock of Capitol News Illinois, a non-profit, 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.

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you may be feeling romantic lately, but there will be little time to act upon it. Bide your time for a week or two until you can spend time with a special someone.

### TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, craft an eclectic guest list for an upcoming party you’re hosting. The more points of view you can hear, the more engaging the event will be.

### GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, a loved one needs you and you’re the right person for the job. Find a way you can lend a hand. Your efforts won’t go unnoticed and pitching in will prove its own reward.

### CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, you may need to tighten the purse strings in the days ahead. Limit purchases only to the necessities for the next few weeks until you feel more secure.

### LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, bring people together is your specialty. Put your talents to use and encourage friends and family to get together for some fun. The party will be welcomed by all.

### VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Someone in your life could be at a crossroads, Virgo. Lend an open ear if he or she needs to talk. Your support will be well-received and reciprocated when the time comes.

### LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, your talents will be in high demand in the days and weeks ahead. Take things one task at a time and embrace the responsibility and trust.

### SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, you usually are outgoing, but this week you may feel shy and reserved. Stick closer to home if you’re not feeling the social scene right now.

### SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, now is the time to spread a little good cheer. Let others know how much you care and encourage them to do the same. This will have a positive effect on everyone’s mood.

### CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Activities that have you working in a group go as planned, Capricorn. Your willingness to work with others and set a good example is highly valued.

### AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, a brief separation from someone special in your life has you feeling melancholy. Surround yourself with friends to brighten your mood as much as possible.

### PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Treat yourself to a meal at a favorite restaurant or go on a little retail therapy spree. You deserve a little pampering.

<p><b>14" Thin Crust Family Pleaser®</b> with up to 3 Toppings</p> <p>Additional toppings may be purchased.</p> <p><b>\$21.50</b></p> <p>Includes: Family Garden Salad and Soft Drinks</p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out &amp; Delivery. No Coupon Required. Limit 2. Online code: 143fp</small></p>	<p><b>16" Thin Crust Pizza or 14" Pan Pizza</b> with 1 Topping</p> <p>Additional toppings may be purchased.</p> <p><b>\$16.50</b></p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out &amp; Delivery. Coupon Required. Limit 2. Online code: 161top</small></p>
<p><b>Two 14" Thin Crust Pizzas</b> with 1 Topping each</p> <p>Must buy in multiples of two. Limit 2 Offers.</p> <p><b>\$27</b></p> <p>Additional toppings may be purchased. Upgrade to a 16" for an additional charge.</p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out &amp; Delivery. Coupon Required. Limit 2 Offers. Online code: 142pie</small></p>	<p><b>8" 1 Topping Thin Crust or Pan Individual Pleaser</b></p> <p>Additional toppings may be purchased.</p> <p><b>\$8</b></p> <p>Includes: Individual Garden Salad and Large Soft Drink (Delivery available with \$10 minimum purchase)</p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out &amp; Delivery. Coupon Required. Online code: 8pleaser</small></p>

Must show coupon. Restrictions may apply. Not valid with other coupons or offers. Toppings exclude extra cheese. Delivery charges may apply. Available at participating Monical's Pizza® locations. Valid 1/24/22 - 2/27/22.

**MONICAL'S PIZZA RESTAURANT**

**OPEN DAILY**

**Rt. 36 Tuscola • Phone 253-4749**

**Delivered for \$2.25 more (Limited Delivery Area)**

**11 am – 9 pm**  
**Fri. & Sat. – 11 am – 10 pm**

**Delivery 4:30 p.m. to close 7 days a week**

**Lindenmeyer Insurance Agency**  
A Compass Insurance Partner

**\*\*Crop Insurance Update Meeting\*\***

Plan to join us for an educational meeting designed to give you the information you need to plan your Crop Risk Management Strategy for 2022. A Company Rep will be available to answer questions.

- Additional Price Discovery Options
- Risk Management Tools that allow you to insure up to 95% of your average production.
- ECO – Enhanced Coverage Option
- New Bundle packages

**We look forward to seeing you at our meeting location:**

**Arcola**  
**Tuesday, February 22nd @ Noon**

**Big Buford's**  
620 S Schrock Drive  
Arcola, IL 61910

**A Meal will be served. Please bring a Friend.**

**Please RSVP**

Daniel Herriott - 217.722.5979  
or danielh@givingdirection.com

Kathy Bickel - 217.268.3041  
or kathyb@givingdirection.com

Virginia Ecker - 815.457.7402  
or virginiae@givingdirection.com