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Flint says goodbye to Multi Agency as Sheridan says hello

After a second stint at the helm of Hoopeston Multi Agency, Chalmers Flint is stepping down - and he means it this time.

Flint turned over the keys to the building to the new HMA executive director, Marcie (Chesnut) Sheridan, last week. "I'm extraordinarily excited that we have someone filling my shoes who's so qualified," Flint said of Sheridan.

Sheridan, a Hoopeston native, has several years' experience in social services, predominantly in the area of advocating for sexual assault victims. Most recently, she was executive director of Kankakee County Center Against Sexual Assault, and previously worked at Iroquois Sexual Assault Services in Watseka and the YWCA's Women's Shelter in Danville.

"I really enjoyed what I did," Sheridan said, adding the new position will allow her to "help people in my hometown."

The job will also allow her to spend more time with her husband, Brad, and children Payton, 13 and Micah, 10. It will also be a much shorter commute from her home, located in the country between Hoopeston and Milford.

Sheridan brings experience in grant writing, budgeting and managing personnel to the agency and is ready to beat the bushes looking for new funding sources. "I think probably every agency has experienced difficulty in that area," she said.

She also plans to be involved with community groups, helping where she can, and is excited about her new position. "Right now I'm kind of learning," she said. "I think there are some great things going on here. It's a nice place that the community has for lots of services."



Chalmers Flint, left, turns over the Hoopeston Multi Agency keys to the new executive director, Marcie Sheridan, as HMA board president Dan Goodrum looks on.

Flint retired as principal of John Greer Grade School before serving five years as Multi Agency executive director. He retired from the post when he was elected mayor, but returned to fill an unexpected vacancy and has been there the last four years. He will remain until February 8 and then it's off on vacation. When he returns, he will be a member of the Multi Agency board of directors.

"Chalmers truly had this place in his heart," said Dan Goodrum, HMA board president. "He put in a lot of hours."

That time will now go to his wife, Carol, as well as his children and grandchildren, at least temporarily.

"I'm working on something," Flint hinted. "I'm not going to say what because I'm not sure if anything will come of it."

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Letters to the Editor



What has happened to the world economy?

Try to remember your grandfather's life as he and your grandmother raised a family. They lived and raised a family, put a roof over their children's heads, fed, clothed and made sure they received an education, paid taxes, and enjoyed a simple but happy life. Grandpa worked and was able to pay all the bills and they were able to save a little money for a rainy day. Grandmother stayed home, took care of the house and kids.

Then, grandfather's check did not go far enough and grandmother had to start working. They could not save money now, and used up all their savings. It got so bad, they had to borrow money. Grandpa was working just as hard, and now Grandma was working, and they still did not have enough money for all the bills. They stayed within their budget but now they had to do without things they used to be able to afford. Since they had not done anything different, it had to be the system that had changed. So they began to investigate what financial changes might have affected the system.

They remembered that in 1944, close to the end of WWII, the United Nations sponsored a World Monetary and Financial Conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, attended by leaders from the top 44 nations in the world.

To stabilize economies after the war, the dollar became the standard currency and all the nations' currencies were compared to it. Other currencies could be exchanged for the dollar, and the dollar could be used to purchase gold at \$35 an ounce. Gold was not shipped, but remained in a U.S. vault. Changes were recorded by accounting means. This ensured each nation's economy would be backed by the value of gold. This also required each nation to maintain discipline in handling their finances. If a nation ran a budget deficit, it had to surrender its gold until the budget was balanced.

The United States began running budget deficits in the 1960-1970s, because of the costs of Great Society programs, the Vietnam War, going to the moon, foreign aid, and anything else that congress wanted to pay for. Other countries worried the U.S. was printing up more money than they had gold to back it up, so they began demanding gold instead of U.S. dollars.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon ordered the Treasury Department to stop allowing dollars to be used for gold convertibility, vetoing what the 44 nations agreed on at the Bretton Woods Conference. That also began what is known as fiat currency for national economies.

Fiat currency (Latin meaning currency circulated by force) is backed by government decree, nothing tangible or real. Since then, our nation has not run a budget surplus, and our budget deficit has continued to increase. That is the main reason why our country has a \$16.5 trillion deficit today. There are other aspects of this mis-

take made in 1971 that became detrimental to our nations and the world's economies.

Other nations adjusted their currencies to a lower value to allow them to have cheap labor costs. This allowed them to compete with every other nation, so they could sell exports to the rest of the world. This is why countries like China, India, Japan, Mexico, and others have low costs for their manufactured goods. That is also why many U.S. manufacturing companies have shipped their jobs to factories in those countries. Also, that is why the balance of trade is overwhelmingly in their favor.

Our nation is in debt because gold is no longer used to back the dollar. The dollar has been devalued because we have printed up so much of it, plus the inflation rate each year has risen so much. Our government is not very good at handling the economy, our Federal Reserve Bank cannot manage finances, we can not compete with other countries because they lower the value of their currency, and many of jobs have been sent to foreign countries. Those are some reasons for our high unemployment rate.

At the same time, our government keeps increasing its inflation rate each year on goods that we purchase. They say it is only two to three percent each year, but the math just does not add up. When your grandpa was able to pay all his bills, he was able to purchase a gallon of gas for about 20-25 cents, and Grandma could feed her family for a week on \$20-\$25. Isn't gas near \$4 a gallon now, and how much food can you purchase today on \$20-\$30?

Your government does not want you to know how much inflation rises each year, and they use all sorts of methods to hide the true figures. If the facts were known, the annual increase in the rate of inflation is closer to double digits. They will tell you that you receive a cost of living raise each year to make up for it. That is if you have a job, are not on a fixed income, and the increase is approved. Show me where an individual receives as much of a cost of living raise each year as what the true inflation rate is. Why do we have to have to have inflation that increases each year? Why do we have to have cost of living raises? We lose money in the tradeoff, and have less buying power because of it. What college professor in economics drew up this plan? Who benefits from it? The government, Wall Street, and money lending agencies.

Let's look at how our government borrows money from

See LETTER on other side

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Letter continued from other side

itself. We have run a budget deficit since 1971 to the tune of \$16.5 trillion (folks, that means this country is broke). If we were a family, we would have had to file for bankruptcy.

When the Treasury pays our nation's bills, including previous loans from the Federal Reserve, plus interest, and all the other yearly costs, they go to the Federal Reserve Bank and request that more money (a loan) be printed up and sent to the Treasury. The Treasury will pay for this loan with IOUs (United States Treasury Bonds) which the Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department will auction off to other countries, pension plans, and individuals.

Both the dollar bills and the treasury bonds were just paper before they were printed and transactions took place. The only thing that backed this paper and ink up is your government's good words. That is okay if you trust your government to be honest. After reading this so far, just how much do you trust your government?

Countries that sell us goods do so because they can sell us stuff cheaper than we can make it. Instead of putting the dollars they get from selling us goods into their national currency that would raise their economy (which would mean higher labor costs for them), they purchase U.S. Treasury Bonds to keep their labor costs cheap. Really, nice spot President Nixon put us in, in 1971, don't you think?

In 1971 something else took place: the U.S.A./World Ponzi scheme began. It is the worst part of this.

Ponzi schemes are fraudulent investment schemes that are not designed to create or earn wealth for their investor, like a legitimate investment, which invests in stocks and real estate. A Ponzi scheme uses second and third line investors to pay off original investors and this keeps going down the line until there are no more investors. The last groups of investors are out of luck and money and the whole scheme collapses.

That is exactly what our government has been doing since 1971. Money used in 2008 to bail out the failing banks was to keep the Ponzi scheme from collapsing. It worked, but it did not correct the problem. Eventually, countries will stop putting money into the system, it will collapse, and your children and grandchildren will have to pay for it.

When it collapses, hyperinflation will begin and eve-

ryone will abandon the dollar. Then, gold or something else of value will have to be used to replace the dollar, and a redistribution of the world's wealth will take place. Oh by the way, this country will be sucking hind teats when this redistribution takes place.

Wall Street and our government have not wanted gold to be used as the standard and in many cases, have tried to devalue gold by selling it off and other tricks to try to make the dollar look more valuable than it really is. Printed fiat currency puts the power in government control. Gold currency in citizens hands gives citizens freedom and control. If the government cannot print money, the only other means they have of paying bills is by the taxes they collect, and they know that its citizens will fight higher taxes. After all, isn't that why we fought and sought independence from the British in the first place?

We have also played our part in this spending issue. Many citizens complain that Wall Street and bank executives get millions in bonuses and at the same time were given tax money to bail them out in 2008. These people are the first to ask for more welfare, health care benefits, more state- and federally-run programs, and stimulus money to help the economy - the very same things that got us in this fix in the first place.

It may seem like our nation is the only country that will be affected by this collapsed Ponzi scheme. Not so. Every nation will be affected, because all of us have invested in fiat currency, the dollar bill.

Obituaries

McKINLEY - Arlene Virginia (Allen) McKinley, 78, of Milford, died Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013, at home. Visitation will be 3 p.m. until the 7 p.m. funeral Thursday at Knapp Funeral Home, Milford. Burial will be at a later date in Sugar Creek Cemetery, Stockland. Memorials are suggested to Iroquois County Historical Society, Iroquois County Genealogy Society or donor's choice.

Weather

Breezy today. High 36. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 23. Tomorrow, mostly sunny. High 30, low 20.
 For current weather conditions, call Hoopeston Weather Service, (217) 283-6221.

So there it is Grandpa and Grandma. I did not want this to scare you. It is going to happen, is happening, or has happened already. One of the most valuable things a person can obtain is knowledge, and no matter what problems exist, a person can best deal with it, if he has knowledge about it. I hope you have better knowledge about this issue now. Sticking our heads in the sand will not make it go away. If you have more questions to be answered, your public library is the Fort Knox of knowledge, and it does not cost a thing to seek its knowledge, no matter what your station in life is.

Tom Evans
 Hoopeston

Police News

Two Hoopeston men were charged with breaking into a garage at 1:05 p.m. Monday.

Skylar W. Cannon, 20, and Mark A. Hewitt, 32, were arrested after a neighbor alleged they were breaking into a garage in the 200 block of West Orange. Both were taken to the Public Safety Building in Danville to await arraignment.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Mustard Seed Christian Daycare is currently looking for Teacher Qualified Applicants for the Toddler 2's Room. Applicants must have completed 60 hours of College coursework with a minimum of 6 hours in Early Childhood. This full time position will be open January 28, 2013. Please contact Nicole Gregory or Terri Bemis at 217-748-6370 for additional information. Applications can be requested at mustardseed.christiandaycare@gmail.com or may be picked up in person at Mustard Seed 350 A North Chicago St in Rossville.

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