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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

Lena church challenges ban on worship services

Cites memo from appellate prosecutor's office casting doubt on order's constitutionality

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

A church in northern Illinois has filed a federal lawsuit seeking to block part of Gov. J. B. Pritzker's stay-at-home executive order, and especially its restrictions on public worship services.

The suit was filed by the Thomas More Society, a conservative legal advocacy group, on behalf of Pastor Steve Cassell of Most Beloved Church in Lena, in Stephenson County. The complaint argues that the order violates several provisions of both the state and federal constitutions.

"The spiritual well-being of the people of Illinois is just as important as their temporal well-being during these dark times," Peter Breen, vice president and senior counsel at the Thomas More Society, said in a news release.

"Keeping liquor stores open but indefinitely shutting down churches and religious ministries violates our constitution and our most basic liberties. If liquor stores are 'essential,' so are churches."

The church has said it plans on holding services Sunday, despite the order, although details of how that service will take place were still being worked out Friday.

The latest stay-at-home order that went into effect Friday has been



COURTESY PHOTO Shopper's Guide

Most Beloved Church in the northwest Illinois Village of Lena has sued to block the part of Gov. J. B. Pritzker's Stay-at-Home order that bans public worship services in Illinois churches. The church planned to holding services this past Sunday.

amended to allow for small church services – limiting gatherings to 10 or fewer people and requiring social distancing.

The lawsuit cites an April 21 memo from David J. Robinson, chief deputy director of the Illinois Appellate Prosecutor's Office, to Director Patrick Delfino, in which he argues that any local prosecutors who try to enforce the order, especially as it applies to worship services, would likely lose in court.

"It appears that the stay-at-home recommendations and social distancing are great recommendations," Robinson stated in the memo. "Those things should be practiced; but criminal enforcement of the EO is a different question. My research leaves me less than confident that a reviewing court will hold that the Governor

has the authority close businesses, bar attendance at church services and assemblies in excess of ten citizens (particularly if they are assembling to redress grievances)."

Pritzker issued the first stay-at-home order on March 9 directing people to stay home as much as possible except for conducting essential business. That order also closed what were deemed nonessential businesses.

That order was originally set to expire April 7, but on April 1 he issued a second order extending it through the end of that month, and last week

he announced he would extend the order further, with some modifications, through May 30.

Pritzker has said that he will leave it up to local law enforcement and local prosecutors to enforce the order at their discretion.

But the Robinson memo notes that the Illinois Emergency Management Act, which is the basis of the executive orders, specifically states that the law may not be used to affect the responsibilities of police forces or firefighting forces, and therefore the orders may go beyond the governor's

statutory authority.

The church lawsuit argues that the order infringes on rights guaranteed by both the Illinois and U.S. Constitutions – specifically the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble and the guaranty of due process of law.

Those are all considered "fundamental rights" under the law, which means any attempt to restrict them will be judged under a "strict scrutiny" standard. Under that standard, the government must show that its actions are based on a compelling state interest, that the action is narrowly tailored to achieve that interest and that the action is the least restrictive means of accomplishing the stated interest.

The lawsuit concedes that the state has a compelling interest in preventing the spread of COVID-19, but it argues that the executive orders are not narrowly tailored, nor are they the least restrictive means of achieving the state's objective.

Asked about the lawsuit Thursday during his daily COVID-19 media briefing, Pritzker said most faith leaders in Illinois have found creative ways to hold services by video or telephone conferences, and that the lawsuit was "a bit of an outlier."

"But everybody has the right to sue and, you know, we've seen in multiple states now, people have filed lawsuits on various things having to do with the stay at home order, but we're going to keep doing what we need to do to keep people safe," Pritzker said.

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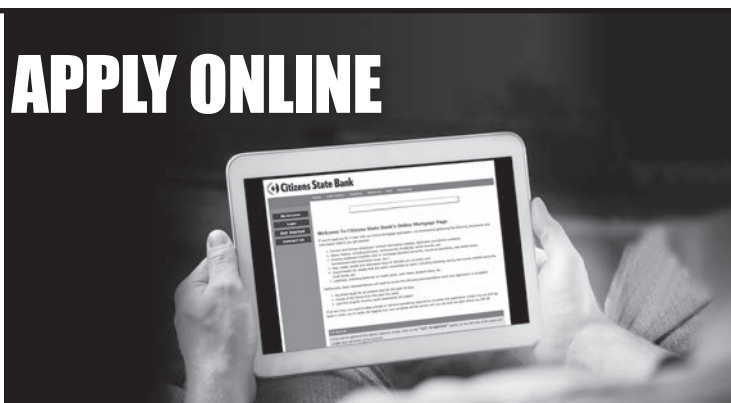


Springfield rally

Hundreds of people rally Friday afternoon in front of the state Capitol in Springfield demanding Gov. JB Pritzker end his stay-at-home order and reopen Illinois for business amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Above, Dr. Ngozi Ezike, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, announces Friday in Chicago that there were 3,137 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois and 105 additional deaths. See more photos on Page 7.

PETER HANCOCK PHOTOS *The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide*

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Fighting spirit of ag community, working during crisis

Crop scientists continue working despite many COVID-19 challenges

University of Illinois
Crop scientists are the original social distancers, muses Allen Parrish, director of the Crop Sciences Research and Education Center at the University of Illinois.

"Planting season is always a demanding time of the year," he says. "We obviously have restricted working conditions with the social distancing because of coronavirus, but for the most part that's the nature of our work — one person on the ground getting things ready, (and) one person in a sprayer or planter. Those are single-operator activities, so the current conditions don't critically hinder us."

"It is a seasonal song-and-dance the farm managers have honed over the years. That experience will be invaluable for this year's planting season."

The farm equipment is large enough that people can work together and still keep a safe distance from each other. They work outside, using facemasks and gloves, so farm operations can continue almost as usual as the world works its way through the pandemic.

Still, crop scientists face COVID-19-related challenges, such as delays in delivery of seed and other supplies as ag companies operate with limited staff and a reduced supply chain.

"Those things are ripple effects to our operations, which are outside our scope," Parrish says.

And he is confident the ag community's fighting spirit will prevail in the current situation.

"We understand the value of what we do and how it benefits our nation," he says. "We have to continue to keep moving along, otherwise people may come into hard times because we are not doing our job."

The Department of Crop Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at Illinois operates several research centers and farms, including about 16 acres on the south side of Urbana-Champaign, as well as the Morrow plots in the middle of campus and field locations in Monmouth and Baylis.

Research center staff recently took advantage of the nicer weather to plant oat varieties for plant-breeding trials. Soil conditions have been excellent for getting ground ready for researchers as well.

As you look across the landscape you see farmers hard at work getting their crops planted. Research takes on a different size and scope that is often more time-consuming and tedious, Parrish notes.

"We plant four-row plots that are 10 feet wide by 23 feet long," he says. "Then we fill packets with seeds, and there are quite a number of varieties in a single area. An operator on the planter must pour out each of the small packets individually."

The Variety Testing program treats crops with similar fertilizer and herbicide protocols, so the only factor that changes is the genetics.

"That allows the team to compare the performance of different varieties. This is very important information that farmers and industry use for the 2021 season," Parrish explains.

Field staff also recently harvested miscanthus, which manager Tim Mies at the U of I Energy Farm uses in a boiler system to heat a greenhouse. Grown and used on the farm, the crop creates a zero-carbon loop system and helps the Crop

Sciences department cut down expenses.

It was not difficult to follow social-distancing guidelines for that work.

"Each person is sitting in the cab of a tractor; there's a self-propelled forage chopper that chops everything up and blows it into the wagons," Parrish says. "Then you drive it by the person running the bagger, who fills a big silage bag with the contents, and then you empty it out and go on your way."

"You never have to get out or come into contact with anyone," he adds. "It's very isolated work, and it needed to get done so we could continue our operations."

While fieldwork lends itself to social distancing, other activities such as staff meetings shifted to telecommunications.

However, the restrictions prove more challenging for large research groups with graduate students used to close collaboration.

Technology can facilitate planning and communication, but some on-site labor still has to get done. Rotating shifts and spreading tasks out to different locations accommodate social-distancing guidelines but can make the work more of a challenge.

"It's not always easy when you have to make a phone call rather than ask the person right next to you, or you have to run to pick up something you forgot in the lab or office," Parrish notes.

Crop scientists, like farmers, are no strangers to challenges outside their control. Last year, heavy spring rains made planting difficult and delayed, so this year they are

eager to get in the field.

Parrish says ag researchers and farmers are committed to their mission of sustaining the world.

"Even though the ag community is small, we produce a lot that others turn into other products and services that help families," Parrish says.

"That motivates everyone on our farm staff and our faculty. Everyone sees what they're doing as going beyond the immediate purposes and pushing the knowledge needle so we can be better stewards of our land and resources."

To learn more about the College of ACES and to support their work, visit <https://aces.illinois.edu/>.

THANK YOU
to all my friends and family who helped me celebrate my 99th birthday with cards, flowers and phone calls. They all helped make my day so enjoyable!

Betty Raders 372654

"We would like to thank all of our family and friends for the cards, memorials and masses we received since the passing of our son, Scott. God bless you all."

Terry & Diane Bonnet
Kristy Bonnet 372653

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**Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency
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Weatherization Assistance Programs**

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to assist residents of Jo Daviess and Stephenson Counties with home heating utility costs through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Weatherization Programs.

PY20 LIHEAP application taking has been extended to June 30, 2020.

If you have not applied for LIHEAP assistance during this program year, which began October 1, 2019, or your application was denied, you may call the office for more information on applying for assistance.

If you have received LIHEAP assistance but now have a disconnect notice on your gas and/or electric bill, or your propane tank is at 20% or below, you may be eligible for additional assistance. Please call the office for information about assistance.

Eligible households may call 800-883-1111 or 815-232-3141 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for information and how to apply for assistance.

Income Guidelines: To qualify, a household must have a 30 day gross income at or below 150% of the federal poverty level shown below for 30 days prior to and including the application date.

1 person household - \$1,561	2 person household - \$2,114
3 person household - \$2,666	4 person household - \$3,219

Add \$553 for each additional person in the household

**** The following documents will be required to apply for assistance. ****

- Social Security Cards for all members of the household.
- Proof of all gross income for all household members for 30 days including the application date including pay check stubs, SSA/SSI/SSD current benefit letters, pension/retirement statements, child support, unemployment reports, TANF/AABD/Township GA assistance notices, self employment reports, and proof of zero income.
- Current heat and electric bills issued and also disconnect notices received.
- Medical Card from Illinois Department of Human Services.
- Copy of current lease or rent receipt.
- Proof of Homeownership (Title for Mobile Homes) and tax bill are required for weatherization assistance.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, effective March 17, 2020 Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Main Office is closed to the public and appointments at outreach locations have been suspended until further notice.

We are still in the office and continuing to take applications for NICAA programs by phone, email, mail or fax.

For more information on how to apply for assistance, call the office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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372959

FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

I guess we are in Week 6 if you started with the first week in April. At least we have had some sun shining a few days.

The lilac bushes outside my kitchen window have started to sprout leaves. My tulips are ready to bud; my neighbor's tulips are already blooming. I guess I have slow tulips!

I know that greenhouses are up and running, but it is still mighty chilly at night. We do have something to look forward to because you can be in your yard.

If you still are into cooking, I have a few recipes. Instead of going out for Mother's Day brunch or dinner, we all might have to cook.

The first appetizer is an easy one. It uses crescent rolls and prepared pesto. They are easy to make and are pretty, too. If you wanted, I think you could chop up shrimp instead of the crab or use the imitation lobster. This is a good appetizer to keep around for any holiday.

Crab Crescents

1 tube refrigerated crescent rolls
3 T. prepared pesto
½ C. imitation crabmeat, chopped fine

Unroll the crescent dough; separate into eight triangles. Cut each triangle in half lengthwise, forming two triangles. Spread ½ t. pesto over each triangle; place 1 rounded t. of crab along the wide end of each

triangle. Roll up triangles from the wide ends; place point side down 1 inch apart on an ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 375 until golden brown, about 10 to 12 minutes. Serve warm.

Ham and Spinach Omelet Roll

If you are looking for something other than an egg casserole or an omelet, this interesting omelet roll will feed a bunch of people. It is also very reasonable to make.

If you can't find the chive and onion cream cheese, you could use regular cream cheese and add onion powder and dried chives (or parsley). You might have to add a little milk or half-and-half to make it more spreadable.

If you have ever made a cake roll at the holidays, this recipe uses the same principle. Enjoy this unique kind of omelet.

1 dozen eggs
1 pkg. (8 oz.) shredded cheddar and Swiss cheese
1¼ C. chopped ham
1 C. tightly packed baby spinach, chopped

1 tub (7.5 oz.) chive and onion cream cheese spread

Preheat the oven to 400. Line a 15-by-10-by-1-inch pan with parchment, with ends of parchment extending over shortest sides of pan; spray with cooking spray. Beat eggs in large bowl with whisk until blended. Stir in shredded cheese, ham and spinach. Pour into prepared pan. Bake 15 to 18 minutes until center is set; cool slightly.

Spread omelet with cream cheese spread. Starting at one short end of omelet, roll up omelet, peeling off paper as omelet is rolled. Place omelet on platter and cut into slices to serve.

Strawberry Poppy Seed Chicken Salad

If you are doing a brunch table,

this chicken salad is a great addition. You can serve it on lettuce cups or spread it on store-bought croissants. I would cut the croissants in two to serve them. I think you could substitute rosemary for the tarragon if you want.

½ C. mayonnaise
2 t. chopped fresh tarragon
2 t. Dijon mustard
1 ½ t. poppy seeds
1 ½ t. lemon juice
½ t. salt
¼ t. pepper
2 C. rotisserie chicken, shredded
1 C. quartered strawberries
1/3 C. sliced almonds

In a large salad bowl, whisk together mayo, tarragon, mustard, poppy seeds, lemon juice, salt and pepper; stir in chicken. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Stir in strawberries and almonds before serving. Place a scoop of chicken salad on a piece of Bibb lettuce. Sprinkle with fresh parsley.

Cheeseburger Biscuit Casserole

I gave you some brunch recipes, now this one is a casserole that you can have for company or for any meal. You can make it ahead and put it in the refrigerator because you add the biscuits halfway through the baking time. Notice all the good stuff you would put on a cheeseburger are in the casserole.

2 lbs. ground beef
1½ C. diced sweet onion
1½ C. diced fresh tomato
½ C. diced dill pickles
1/3 C. ketchup
2 eggs, lightly beaten
2 T. yellow mustard
2 t. Worcestershire sauce
1 t. salt
1 t. pepper
¾ t. garlic powder, divided
3 C. shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

12 oz. can buttermilk biscuits
2 T. unsalted butter, melted
2 T. chopped fresh parsley

Preheat oven to 375. In a large skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until beef is browned and crumbly and onion is tender; drain well. Remove from heat and let cool slightly. Stir in tomato, pickle, ketchup, eggs, mustard, Worcestershire, salt, pepper and ½ t. garlic powder into beef mixture

until well combined.

Spoon mixture into a 9-by-13-inch baking dish that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake for 15 minutes. Place biscuits on top of cheese; brush with melted butter. Sprinkle with parsley and ¼ t. garlic powder onto biscuits. Bake until cheese is bubbly and biscuits are browned, about 20 minutes more. Let stand for 10 minutes before serving.

Strawberry Rhubarb Cheesecake Bars

It is rhubarb season, so we have some unique rhubarb recipes. After you have made the traditional rhubarb pies, you can branch out from the standard coffecake and make these unique rhubarb bars. It does take a little planning because there are three steps. Enjoy these tasty and decadent bars that feature the rhubarb and strawberry combination.

1 C. flour
1/3 C. packed brown sugar
Dash of salt
½ C. cold butter, cubed
1/3 C. chopped pecans

Filling:

1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
¼ C. sugar
2 T. milk
1 T. lemon juice
½ t. vanilla
Dash of salt
1 large egg, lightly beaten

Jam:

½ C. sugar
2 T. cornstarch
1½ C. chopped fresh strawberries
1½ C. sliced fresh or frozen rhubarb

1 T. lemon juice
Preheat oven to 350. Line an 8-inch square baking pan with parchment, letting ends extend up sides. Mix flour, brown sugar and salt; cut in butter until crumbly. Stir in pecans. Press into bottom of prepared pan.

Bake until edges just begin to brown, 12 to 15 minutes. Cool completely on a wire rack.

Filling: Beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in milk, lemon juice, vanilla and salt. Add egg; beat on low speed just until blended. Pour over crust. Bake until the filling is set, 15 to 20 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 1 hour.

Jam: In a small saucepan, mix sugar and cornstarch. Add the strawberries, rhubarb and lemon juice. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, until mixture

begins to thicken, 6 to 8 minutes. Cool. Spread over filling. Refrigerate until set, 8 hours or overnight. Using parchment, carefully remove cheesecake from baking pan. Cut into bars for serving.

Lemon Rhubarb Bundt Cake

I mentioned last week that I was into Bundt cake recipes. I also told you that they really are my favorite cake on a cake stand or a pretty cake plate. This recipe marries the taste of lemon with rhubarb. Both are sort of tart, but if you through in some strawberries, the taste is great!

3 medium lemons
1 C. butter, softened
2 C. sugar
3 eggs, room temperature
3 C. flour
1 t. baking powder
½ t. baking soda
½ t. salt
1 C. buttermilk

Rhubarb topping:

1 C. sugar
1 C. sliced fresh or frozen rhubarb
1 C. halved fresh strawberries
Powdered sugar for dusting
Preheat oven to 350. Grease and flour a 10-inch fluted tube pan. Finely grate enough zest from lemons to measure 2 T. Cut lemons in half; squeeze juice from lemons.

In a large bowl, cream the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in lemon juice and zest. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating well after each addition.

Transfer batter to prepared pan; bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean, 50 to 60 minutes. Cool in pan for 10 minutes before removing cake to a wire rack.

Topping: Combine the sugar and rhubarb in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Simmer until rhubarb is almost tender, 9 to 10 minutes. Add halved strawberries; cook until strawberries and rhubarb are softened.

Serve fruit sauce with cake. Sprinkle the cake with powdered sugar before serving the topping with the cake. The great thing about having the sauce in a separate bowl is that you can put on as much as you like.

See KITCHEN, Page 12

THE SCOOP TODAY SHOPPER'S GUIDE

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EDITOR: Todd Mishler

Advertising Sales: Cyndee Stiefel: lenaads@rvpublishing.com

Office Manager: Laurie Tanley

To Contact The Scoop Today & Shopper's Guide:

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ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

CLYDE GROOM

Clyde E. Groom, 97, of 416 Pearl St., Warren, IL, passed away Monday, April 27, 2020, at Liberty Village Nursing Home in Freeport, IL.

Clyde was born to Clara (Broge) and William Groom on Feb. 23, 1923. In his senior year of high school, he tested milk for DHIA Association. He graduated in 1942 from Warren High School. He married the love of his life, Wilma R. Creighton, on June 14, 1948, in Stockton, IL.

They shared over 65 years together until he lost her May 6, 2014. They were blessed with four children, Gregory (Deborah) Groom, Freeport, IL, Jiliane (Jacob) Hoekstra, Paw Paw, MI, Joel (Vickie) Groom, Shullsburg, WI, and Charl Groom-deceased. Grandchildren are Timmerlee (Amy) Nowviok, Ian (Claire) Groom, Rhianon Groom, Keith (JaVon) Jason, Brooke (Bruce) Meddaugh, Dana Groom, Cory Groom, Jason (Tammy) Champion, Carie (Ryan) Brandon, Natalie Althoff, Cori (Chris) Ingram, Robert Hoekstra, John Hoekstra, J.R. (Kathi) Hoekstra and Tammy (Darryl) Ouzoonian; and many great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are a brother-in-law Cecil Creighton and a sister-in-law Marita Moore. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Wilma, daughter Charl, brother Chester (Margaret) Groom and sisters Margaret (Roscoe) Innman, Ester (An-



drew) Innman, Lucille (Maine) McFadden, Climenta (Phillip) Guetschow, and Georgianna (Leland) Spragle; brothers-in-law Regis Creighton and Sandy Moore; and sister-in-

law Margaret Creighton.

After he graduated he worked again testing milk in Jo Daviess County and with his father, painting and decorating houses. Clyde was a veteran of World War II, serving 1942 to 1946. He served in the South Pacific in the Black Islands and many other islands as a specialist with the secret equipment unit. After returning home, he worked various jobs that included operating a local plant, cutting meat in Elizabeth, IL, and again as a milk tester in Jo Daviess County. In 1948 he joined the Illinois State Police District 1 in Sterling, IL. He served 27 years, two months and 16 days before retiring as a sergeant in 1975.

While in the State Police in 1968 he received the Governor's Award for Valor by Gov. Ogilvie for rescuing a fireman from an ammonia tank leak. After retiring from the police department, he worked with his son, Joel, decorating and painting houses for

about 15 years. Then he went into the antique business where he refurbished and refinished antiques and sold them from his shop in Warren.

He was a member of the Sportsman Club where he raised pheasants and was a member of the VFW, Warren, IL, for 70 years. His interests were buying, refinishing and refurbishing antiques, growing his garden and displaying his produce at the county fair in Warren. His tomatoes were always a hit, especially because he shared them with family and friends. He and Wilma were very proud of their flowers, which were always beautiful year after year. He enjoyed going deer hunting with family and friends and playing euchre at Smiley's, downtown Warren, with friends.

He loved to travel with his wife and friends. They visited all of the states except Alaska. They also toured Europe. Clyde loved to tell stories of his adventures and experiences. His children, grandchildren, family and friends never tired of sitting for hours with him while he reminisced and remembered his life. He was a great storyteller and was often told he should write a book. He had a knack for remembering details, names and dates. We will miss him dearly!

Rev. Andrew Skrobitt will officiate the services. A private family service will be held at St. Ann Catholic Church. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

DON LOBDELL

Donald W. Lobdell, 90, of Lena, died Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at his home after a short illness.

Don was born on March 11, 1930, in Lena, the son of Lester and Etta (Miller) Lobdell. He married Elsie Shippee on Oct. 19, 1951. Don served in the Army from 1951-1953 and then was a dairy farmer most of his life. After retiring from farming he worked at Hoy Ford, Lobdell Transportation and delivered flow-

ers for DeVoe Floral. He valued his membership in Lena United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Elsie, daughters Nancy Diddens of Genoa City, WI, Karen (Monty) Stabenow of Rockford, Kathy (Greg) Edler and Mary (Jim) Hudson of Lena, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two foster great-grandchildren and one brother, Kenneth of Oklahoma.

He was preceded in death by his

parents, one brother, one sister and one grandson.

In light of recent events, funeral services will be private. Burial will be at Salem-Shippee Cemetery in McConnell, IL. The Rev. Keri Rainsberger will officiate the services.

A memorial has been established in his memory for the Lena United Methodist Church. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

BEVERLY WILKOSZ

Beverly G. Wilkosz, 90, of Freeport, IL, passed away Friday, May 1, 2020, at Allure of Mount Carroll.

She was born Jan. 23, 1930, in Eileen, IL, to the late Leonard and Evelyn (Wharrie) Cameron. She married Arthur Wilkosz on Oct. 3, 1953. He passed away Nov. 29, 2011.

She had worked as a secretary for 30 years. Beverly was a fantastic seamstress and cook. She enjoyed flowers and gardening.

Beverly is survived by her sister, Marilyn Philp, of Shannon, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents,



husband, sisters Jean Patterson and Roberta Skerik and three brothers-in-law, Raleigh Philp, George Patterson and Tom Skerik.

Private family services were held in

Shannon on May 5 followed by a graveside service in Mount Auburn Memorial Park in Stickney, IL. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at hermannfuneralhome.com.

BARBARA PAUL

Barbara "Barbie" Ellen Paul, 78, of Janesville, passed away at her home on April 26, 2020, surrounded by her family.

She was born on Nov. 16, 1941, to Denzil Bunker and Henrietta (Martin) Bunker in Warren, IL. She married Richard D. Paul Sr. on July 26, 1959, in Martintown Community Church, Martintown, WI.

Barbie enjoyed socializing with anyone and loved her eight grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and one spoiled rotten pug, Molly B.

Barbara is survived by her husband, Richard Dallas Paul Sr., of Janesville; four children, Richard Dallas Paul Jr. (Cheri), Charlene Ann Paul, Becky Sue Wastak (Mike), Jeffery Allen Paul; eight

grandchildren Danielle, Joshua, Amber, Andrew, Mitchell, Kathy, Sara and Carmen; 19 great-grandchildren Gavin, Auron, Gabrielle, Emma, Annabelle, Jordan, Jada, Brooke, Margaret, Isaac, Daton, Caden, Adrianna, Jersey, Kenz, Ida, Tianna, Skyler, Hailey; one sibling and one little pug.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two children-twins, Robert and Rodney, one great-grandchild (Mia), four siblings and six little dogs.

In light of recent events, funeral services will be private. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

Burial will be at Rock Lily Cemetery in Winslow, IL. A memorial has been established in her memory.

See more obituaries on page 11

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Homeless Prevention/Housing Stability Assistance

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency has funding to assist families in Stephenson and Jo Daviess Counties who are in danger of becoming homeless or are homeless due to a recent financial crisis affecting their ability to pay housing costs including the COVID-19 Pandemic crisis.

Have you experienced one of the following crisis conditions:

- COVID-19 related loss of employment or reduction in work hours
- Loss of Employment or substantial reduction in work hours
- Current Medical Disability or Emergency
- Loss or Delay of some form of Public Benefit
- Natural Disaster
- Substantial Change in Household Composition
- Illegal Action by a Landlord
- Displacement by a Government or Private Action
- Some other condition which constitutes a hardship comparable to the ones listed above

You may be eligible for assistance if you:

- Can provide documentation of your financial crisis condition

Documents that are required to apply:

- Proof of Social Security numbers for all member of the household
- Proof of all income for all members of the household for the 90 days prior to the application date
- Current Benefit letter for household members receiving SSA, SSI or SSD income
- Copies of your current utility bills
- Medical Card
- Current Lease or Mortgage with contact information
- Third Party Documentation of Crisis

Please call our office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for information on how to apply.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, effective March 17, 2020 Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency Main Office is closed to the public and appointments at outreach locations have been suspended until further notice.

We are still in the office and continuing to take applications for NICAA programs by phone, email, mail or fax.

For more information on how to apply for assistance, call the office at 815-232-3141 or 800-883-1111 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency
27 S. State Ave., Suite 102, Freeport, IL 61032
815-232-3141 • www.nicaa.org



Chris Folmar
Financial Advisor

640 W. South St., #4
Freeport, IL 61032
815-616-5955

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Our Area Churches Welcome You

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102 E. Baldwin St., P.O. Box 188, Apple River, IL 61001
Pastor Libby Rutherford (815) 990-1428
Church (815) 594-2223
 • *Sunday Worship – 9 a.m.*
 • Bible Study – Every Monday 9 a.m.
Friendly Folks – Casual Attire – Join Us!

CALVARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

315 W. Maple St., Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Jonathan Singleton (815) 947-2414
E-Ma²: calvaryum@yahoo.com
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 8:45 a.m.*

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA STOCKTON

600 N. Main St., Stockton
Pastor Paul Gebo (815) 858-0941
E-Ma²: clc600@frontier.com
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Christ-Lutheran-Church-Stockton-IL>
 • *Saturday Worship 5:30 p.m.*
 • *Education for all ages*
Sun. 9:00 a.m. September - May
 • *Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.*
 • Confirmation Ministry
 Wednesdays 3:05 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 • Healing Services on 5th Weekends

EBENEZER – SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 102, Pearl City, IL 61062
Pastor Randy Nicholas • 815-369-4511
Sunday Worship Alternates Monthly
At the two churches
Find us on Facebook
 • *Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School follows worship*
 • May worship is at Ebenezer-UCC Church
 5421 S. Stone Church Road

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF LENA

720 N. Freedom Street, Lena, IL 61048
Dr. Jim Erb, Pastor (815) 369-5591
Rev. Scott W²son Associate Pastor of Youth
 • *Sunday Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 8:45 a.m.*
 • Awana Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
 • Youth Group Wednesdays
 Jun²r High from 5:30 - 7 p.m.
 Sen²r High from 7 - 8:30 p.m.
 • Listen to Pastor's weekly sermon
 at www.lenafreechurch.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

411 S. Main Street, PO Box 236,
 Pearl City, IL 61062
ema²: pearlcityumc@gmail.com
 Website: pearlcityumc.org
 Find us on facebook at
www.facebook.com/pcumc²
Pastor Donna Hoffman (815) 443-2177
 • *Sunday Worship – 8:30 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – during worship after the children's message*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

309 S. Main Street, Elizabeth, IL 61028
ema²: firstumcofelizabeth@gmail.com
Pastor Tiffany Garcea
 • *Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School - 8:15 a.m.*
 • Women's Faith Group -
 1st Tuesday monthly - 9:30 a.m.
We are handicapped accessible
Find us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/fumcelizabeth

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

118 East Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048
Pastor Miho Yasukawa
(815) 369-5552
 • *Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:45 a.m. (Sept. - May)*
 • Piece Corps Qu²ters –
 Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH OF WOODBINE

1904 S. Vel Tera Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Michael Burdett (815) 858-3843
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*
 • Prayer meeting – Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.
 Sunday services broadcasted at 11:30 a.m. on
 Rad²N WCCI 100.3 FM

HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON

151 S. Main, Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor David McAusland - (815) 947-2986
 • *Sunday Morning Service – 10:00 a.m.*
(Church luncheon following morning service)
 • *Sunday Afternoon Service - 12:30 p.m.*
 • Bible Study & Prayer - Wednesday Evening
 6:30 p.m.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

223 E. Front Avenue, Stockton, IL 61085
Father Mike Morrissey (815) 947-2545
 • *Saturday Evening Mass – 4:30 p.m.*
 • *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m.*
and 5:00 p.m.
 • Recon²iat²N Saturday – 3:30 - 4:15 p.m.
 • Parish Hall for Rent – Seats 200

LENA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

118 West Mason Street, Lena, IL 61048
Pastor Keri Rainsberger (815) 369-5291
 • *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:30 a.m.*
 • *Daily Dial-A-Devotion 815-369-4411*

McCONNELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 Hulbert Rd. P.O. Box 97, McConnell, IL 61050
<http://www.gbqm-umc.org/mcconnellumc>
Ema²: info@McConnellUMC.org
 “Like” us on Facebook
Pastor Donna Hoffman (608) 293-0194
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.*
 • *KidZone: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.*
 1st & 3rd Thursday - monthly
 * *We are handicapped accessible*

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

8491 West Salem Road, Lena, IL 61048
 (Turn on Salem Road at Eleroy Rest Stop)
Rev. Randy Nicholas (815) 369-4511
 • *Adult & Children's*
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:30 a.m.*
 • *Bookworms Reading Group - 7:00 p.m.,*
2nd Monday of the month

SCHAPVILLE ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

635 East Schapv²le Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Dottie Morizzo
(815) 845-2272
Cell (815) 238-0670
www.schapv²lez²N.org
 • *Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*
 • Bible Study Classes Ava²able

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

536 E. Schapv²le Road,
 Scales Mound, IL 61054
Church number (815) 845-2061
Rev. James Mehlretter
Website: www.shepherdofh²l.com
 • *Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School (Sept. – May) – 8:45 a.m.*
 • Holy Commun²N is celebrated weekly.

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

608 East Ra²road, Warren, IL 61087
Father Skrobutt (815) 745-2312
 • *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m.*
 • Recon²iat²N Sunday – 7:30 - 7:50 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
 625 Country Lane Drive, Lena, IL 61048
Rev. Rick Bader (815) 369-4035
 • *Saturday Evening Worship – 5:30 p.m.*
 • *Sunday Worship – 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.*
 • Blast Program at 9:00 a.m.
 • High School & Adult Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
 229 S. First St., Pearl City, IL 61062
www.stjohnspearlcity.org
Pastor Thomas Ekstrand (815) 443-2215
 • *Sunday Morning Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
 • Christian Educat²N for all Ages - 10:15 a.m.
 Handicapped Accessible

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

8315 S. Massbach Road, Elizabeth, IL 61028
Pastor Lisa Burbank and Pastor Bruce Burbank
Church: 815-589-3367
 • *Sunday Worship – 9:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*
 “Celebrating 160 Years of Faith”

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

105 West Webster, Apple River, IL 61001
Father Skrobutt (815) 745-2312
 • *Saturday Mass – 6:00 p.m.*
 • Recon²iat²N Saturday – 5:30 – 5:50 p.m.

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

410 West Lena Street, Lena, IL 61048
Father Skrobutt (815) 369-2810
 • *Saturday Mass – 4:00 p.m.*
 • *Sunday Mass – 10:00 a.m.*
 • Recon²iat²N Saturday – 3:30 – 3:50 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - KENT

The Little Church with a Big Heart
 1334 Sunnyside Road, Kent, IL 61044
 1/2 m² north on Kent Road
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Holy Communion every Sunday*
 • Women Meet at 9 a.m. on the 2nd Sunday
 • Chair Lift to Sanctuary

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA

209 Clinton St., P.O. Box 445,
 Warren, IL 61087
Vicar Michelle Knight
(815)745-3444
www.stpaulswarren.org
 • *Saturday Worship – 5:00 p.m.*
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON

219 N. Pearl St., Stockton, IL 61085
www.uuchurchofstockton.org
Rev. Armida Alexander (815) 947-3812
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WARREN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Water & Jefferson St., Warren, IL
Pastor Roger Bronkema (815) 291-6261
ema²: rbronkema18@gmail.com
 • *Sunday Worship – 9:30 a.m.*
 • Adult Sunday School before Worship
 • Ch²dren Sunday School - During the service
 Commun²N Every First Sunday
 * *Handicapped Accessible*

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Corner of Hudson & Benton St.,
 Stockton, IL 61085
Pastor Chuck Wolbers (262) 308-2379
 • *Sunday School – 9:30 a.m.*
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*
 • Adult Bible Studies Ava²able
 • Commun²N Every 1st Sunday
 • First Sunday potluck following church
 services.
 • Open Sanctuary for meditat²N time from 4 -
 6 p.m. every Wednesday
 * *Handicapped Accessible*

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

197 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089
Pastor Robert Patin (815) 230-1862
608-669-5770
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.*
 • Prayer and Bible Study – Wednesdays at
 6:30 p.m. in Home

YELLOW CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

12602 W. Dublin Road, Pearl City, IL
Pastor Ellis Boughton • 815-864-2049
Ema²: ellis.boughton@live.com
 • *Sunday Services – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.*
 (when available)

ZION COMMUNITY CHURCH

10100 W. Sabin Church Rd.,
 Pearl City, IL 61062
Pastor Wayne Fischer • 815-266-6260
Pastor Chip Sohl • 815-541-1425
 • *Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.*
 • *Children's Church - during church service*
 • *Prayer Shawl Knitting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.*
 • *Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.*



Springfield rally



PETER HANCOCK PHOTOS The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide



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May 10 - May 16, 2020

Let's see what local school has the most **SPiRiT**! Post on social media using the hashtag **#NPW2020**

MON
May 11



Preventing Prescription Drug and Opioid Misuse

If a teenager's friends use prescription or illicit opioids, they can pressure the teen to try the drug, or at least make the teen want to try them out to fit in. Additionally, when friends abuse drugs, it normalizes drug use, making it seem more socially acceptable.

Athletes vs. Mathletes

Dress up as an athlete or a nerd.

TUE
May 12



Preventing Underage Drinking and Alcohol Misuse

Alcohol affects the region in the brain that is responsible for decision making (frontal lobe). A brain is not fully developed until the mid to late 20's.

Tourist Tuesday

Dress up as a tourist.

WED
May 13



Preventing Illicit Drug Use and Youth Marijuana Use

Marijuana's psychoactive ingredient is THC and is harmful to the developing brain. 1 in 6 adolescents who use marijuana increase chances for addiction.

Twin Day or Opposite Day

Ask a family member or grab your pet, get creative and dress up looking like twins or opposite of each other while practicing social distancing.

THU
May 14



Preventing Youth Tobacco Use (E-Cigarettes and Vaping)

E-cigarette liquid or juice like in a JUUL is not just flavored water. One JUUL pod contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes.

Hero vs. Villain

Dress up as your favorite characters. Get creative with your heroes or villains attire.

FRI
May 15



Preventing Suicide

Suicide prevention starts at home. Show kindness, compassion, friendship, acceptance and respect to everyone you meet.

Class Colors

Wear your school colors. Show your school spirit, socially distant but united!

Parents, make a difference, be part of our community effort to spread awareness about underage drinking. Please take a moment to answer our survey regarding the recent parent awareness campaign. We value your input and appreciate your time.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J2KWXCW>



FHN
Family Counseling Center

Funding in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

All photos must be school appropriate. No backless attire, spaghetti straps, bikinis/speedos, or inappropriate wording on t-shirts

Doyle steps down as Broncos head coach

Snider takes over Orangeville football program

By Trenten Scheidegger
SPORTS WRITER

The Orangeville Broncos' football program is coming off one of its most successful seasons in recent history.

They finished the 2019 season with a record of 7-4, placed second in the NNUIC-North and picked up a Level 1 playoff victory over Chicago Hope Academy.

It was the team's best regular-season finish since 2010, when they also picked up six wins.

After a string of losing seasons, Jay Doyle eventually took over the program as head coach. During his time

at the helm, Doyle led the program to one of its most successful years.

Although it has been a long process, things are looking up for the Broncos, and a lot of that is in thanks to what Doyle and his coaching staff have done.

Over eight seasons, Doyle posted a record of 25-51. However, 22 of those victories came during the past four seasons, a span in which the team went 22-19.

With that came the most successful three-season stretch the program has seen, as Doyle is the only Orangeville football coach to reach the playoffs three seasons in a row.

Doyle made it clear that this was a decision that he had long contemplated, and many factors went into the final decision.

"I just felt that it was time, by the

end of last year I knew that this coming year was going to be my last year," Doyle said. "It just works out best for everybody with everything going on with me outside of work, or outside of football," he added.

Time with his family played a big factor in Doyle's decision, saying "(Jake) will be a senior, and that goes into part of it. For those involved in football there is a lot that goes into the head job and a lot of extra stuff, and a lot of extra time that a lot of people don't see. They just see the Fridays and Saturdays.

"I have not been involved much in being able to go to my daughter's volleyball games. You're so consumed with the football side. I don't want to say you don't enjoy it, but you're always busy doing it."

He said that not having the over-

whelming responsibility of being head coach, it will allow him to enjoy the best of both worlds.

"I want to enjoy it, and part of enjoying it is not having to have some of the duties that go with it. It felt right, and it's gone well so far."

That being said, it will be a title swap for the Broncos staff because Doyle is simply stepping down to become an assistant coach.

However, a head coaching change often means a lot of changes and potential adversity for a program, but the hope for Orangeville is that this will be a seamless transition for the athletes.

With Doyle still around, and a more than familiar face taking over at the helm, the Broncos should pick up right where they left off in 2019.

Steve Snider has worked alongside Doyle for many years and is set to take

over.

"At the end of the day, as much as I was involved, Steve was involved on the varsity side to our success," Doyle said. "The kids knew that they could go to either of us and that we believe in the same message. That will be no different.

"Now, I'm sure Steve has his own things that he could do that will make us a better football team, but at the end of the day if the kids do their job it makes it very easy as coaches. Steve can go into his first year with a really good group and, hopefully, we should keep fighting towards another playoff berth."

The team returns nine starters who have postseason varsity experience on their resumes. So the Broncos already have their eyes set on reaching the 2020 postseason.

Clinic now offering radiation therapy

After months of construction, Monroe Clinic's oncology department now occupies its new home on the lower level of the clinic building and is accessible via its own entrance.

In addition, the department can offer an important service for cancer patients, radiation therapy.

"For the peace of mind of our patients, we are very happy to now offer radiation therapy," Director of Oncology Services Erin Daniels said in a news release. "Offering this service in Monroe means our patients and their family members don't have to drive great distances for high-quality radiation therapy."

Monroe Clinic's radiation therapy is provided by a brand new,

state-of-the-art linear accelerator. The oncology department also provides 10 new medical oncology treatment rooms, a private entrance and its registration desk.

In addition to the new service, Monroe Clinic has welcomed a new radiation oncologist to the team.

Dr. Sophia Edwards-Bennett earned her PhD in bioorganic chemistry at Georgia State University



Sophia Edwards-Bennett

and her medical degree from Weill Medical College of Cornell University in New York. Edwards-Bennett completed her internship at St. Vincent Hospital in Manhattan and her residency in radiation oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

In addition, Edwards-Bennett completed a post-graduate training program in cancer research and therapeutics at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

For specific information about receiving cancer treatment at Monroe Clinic or how to get a referral, call 608-324-2685.

For general information about the clinic's oncology department, visit monroeclinic.org/oncology.

Zweifel Scholarship applications available

The trustees of the Harry R. and Gertrude Zweifel Trust have announced that applications for post-high school educational grants are now available for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

Applicants must have resided in the Orangeville Community Unit District 203 and graduated after April 1, 2017, unless they served in the military within the four years immediately after their graduation.

Home-schooled graduates must have completed all requirements for graduation.

Zweifel Trust grants may be used for approved study at technical and vocational school as well as study at colleges or universities.

Applications may be downloaded from the Zweifel Trust website at www.zweifeltrust.org.

The application deadline is Aug. 3.

FHN temporarily changes hours at facility

In order to conserve resources during the COVID-19 pandemic, including staff time, some services and locations have been consolidated on a temporary basis.

This includes closing some offices early and others temporarily until stay-at-home mandates change.


So, laboratory and X-ray services at the FHN Family Healthcare Center (Burchard Hills) in Freeport will have these temporary hours of operation: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

Burchard Hills Rehabilitation and

Physical Therapy services will have these temporary hours: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Primary care and specialty provider offices at Burchard Hills (and throughout FHN) may vary; call your provider's office for more information.

Visit fhn.org/coronavirus for the latest information about how FHN is preparing for a possible influx of patients due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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102 Catlin St.
815-745-2294



Standard Process
SUPPLEMENTS

House Republicans urge more transparency on inmate releases

Pritzker administration says it's complying with laws and regulations

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Illinois House Republicans on April 27 stepped up their demands that the Pritzker administration release more information about inmates being furloughed or granted early releases from state prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They also requested the governor consult more with the General Assembly about granting such releases.

"As a co-equal branch of government, we shouldn't have to wait and learn of all of this from media reports," Rep. Avery Bourne, of Morrisonville, said during a video news conference. "We should not have had to learn from a media report that between March 2 and April 10, there were 1,300 prison inmates who were released through executive action. As a co-equal branch of government, we should have known about this ahead of time."

Gov. JB Pritzker issued an executive order April 6 allowing the Illinois Department of Corrections to begin medical furloughs to inmates beyond the standard 14-day limit.

But he has also used his executive authority to commute the sentences of 20 inmates since declaring a state of disaster on March 9, according to the Prisoner Review Board, and IDOC has used its administrative authority to grant early releases to hundreds of inmates to reduce the prison population and the risk of exposing both inmates and prison staff to the virus.

Pritzker estimated that more than 1,300 inmates had been released since he issued the disaster declaration, although he said he did not have an exact number when asked at his news conference Monday.

Pritzker said previously that his goal was to release inmates who were incarcerated for relatively low-level offenses and people who were nearing the end of their prison term anyway.

But Rep. John Cabello, of Machesney Park, said the releases have gone far beyond those criteria to include 47 people convicted of

murder, including at least two who had decades left on their sentences.

He specifically identified inmates Bobby Wilson and Brian Harrington, both under the age of 30. Wilson was not scheduled for release until 2049, according to IDOC records, while Harrington was scheduled to remain behind bars until 2032.

A review of their cases, though, reveals that both men were tried and convicted as adults for crimes they committed as teenagers. Wilson was released April 2, one week after the First District Appellate Court reversed his conviction on the grounds that he was too young to understand the consequences of waiving his Miranda rights. Harrington's attorneys and family had sought clemency for him last year, and he has been cited by the advocacy group Campaign for Youth Justice as an example of the harshness that results from trying teens as adults.

Cabello also said lawmakers want to make sure that crime victims and their families are being properly notified when an offender is released.

"We need to make sure that the victims' families have been notified," he said. "And I sure hope that none of these people reoffend because I will hold this governor personally responsible if any of these folks reoffend and hurt somebody else, and I would sure hope that the rest of the state does that as well."

But IDOC spokeswoman Lindsey Hess said in an email that crime victims and local law enforcement agencies are being notified of the releases.

"State's attorneys receive an email notification when an incarcerated individual is released early," she said. "Victims are notified by the Prisoner Review Board and the (Automated Victim Notification) system sends notifications to those who register."

Nevertheless, Republicans argued that the administration should consult with them more about decisions to grant early release and, at the least, explain the criteria being used to grant clemency and early releases.

Rep. Terri Bryant, of Murphysboro, said she is a retired employee of IDOC and remains in regular contact with counselors and other staff in the prison system who tell her there doesn't appear to be any consistency in the standards.

"The counselors are tasked with looking at the case files of indi-

viduals and then determining who meets the criteria," she said. "Well guess what, the criteria is changing every two or three days. So I get a glimpse of what some of that criteria is because individuals at Department of Corrections are sharing that with me. However, we as legislators don't know what that criteria is. And I don't think we'll have the chance to know what the criteria is because then everyone would know how this has been shifting."

During his daily COVID-19 media briefing Monday, Pritzker said he is willing to provide whatever information the lawmakers want.

"We'll be happy to provide information to anyone," he said. "I don't have the numbers right here. I can tell you that we've overall reduced the population in our prisons by, I know, it's more than 1,300. Overall, many of those were near the end of their terms or actually their sentences were up, but also many of them were

under this program of either medical furloughs due to COVID-19 or other reasons for pardons or commutations on my part."

IDOC spokeswoman Hess noted that the department has statutory authority to place offenders on electronic detention or award earned "discretionary credit" in order to reduce an inmate's sentence. A list of all of the discretionary credits granted since March 1 is posted on the IDOC website.

Playhouse announces more postponements

The Timber Lake Playhouse in Mount Carroll recently announced the postponement of all performances and events through the end of June.

TLP staff are working with concert promoters and licensing agents to reschedule these dates.

"We at TLP have been looking forward to the opening night of 'SuperStar' in June, and we are as disappointed with this decision as everyone is," Executive Director Dan Danielowski said in a news release. "We are, however, committed to the health and safety of our employees and patrons and will do whatever it

takes to play our part to get this virus under control so we can all go back to doing the things we love to do."

The TLP offices will continue to be closed, but voicemails and emails will be answered.

"We have continued to be in touch with our resident company through video conferencing and emails," Artistic Director Paul Stancato said. "They are anxious to get started and excited that TLP is still planning to offer a summer season once it is safe to do so."

Ticketholders will see their tickets and seat assignments automatically transfer to the new date once TLP

has determined its new schedule. Options for ticketholders who cannot attend at that time will be available when the new schedule is announced.

"We will monitor the situation and our decisions will be made day-to-day," Danielowski said.

Watch the TLP website for updated information and the TLP Facebook page for videos of the new company and snippets from seasons past as well as other "live" events from Timber Lake Playhouse.

Visit timberlakeplayhouse.org or call the box office at 815-244-2035 and leave a message.

College news

Orangeville grad makes dean's list at Northland

Colton O'Connor, of Orangeville, a freshman at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, was named to the dean's list for outstanding academic performance during the winter 2019-2020 term.

To qualify for the dean's list, full-time students must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale with no grade less than a C.

Northland College is a private liberal arts college located in northern Wisconsin.



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Another 81,000 Illinoisans file unemployment claims

Total claims top 800,000 since mid-March

By Jerry Nowicki
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS
Unemployment in Illinois and the U.S. has continued to balloon amid the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The state reported 81,596 first-time claims in the week ending April 25, during which time more than 3.8 million claims were submitted nationally. That means 818,917 Illinoisans

had filed for unemployment since March 21, and 681,041 drew unemployment benefits during the week ending April 25. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, that is about 10.7 percent of Illinois' civilian work force.

The claims from March 1 to April 25 this year were more than 10 times those made in the same period last year, when approximately 69,000 total claims were filed in Illinois.

This was the first time in five weeks

that the number of initial claims in Illinois fell under 100,000. The peak was the week of April 4, when 201,041 initial claims were made.

Nationally, more than 30 million people filed jobless claims since the beginning of the pandemic.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 12.4 percent for the week ending April 18 was an increase of 1.5 percent from the previous week, once again marking the highest figure in the history of the metric.

The more than 81,000 claims filed in Illinois marked a decrease of about 21,000 from the week prior. The four-week moving average for claims was 131,683, according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Despite several reports of people continuing to have difficulty accessing unemployment, Gov. J.B. Pritzker said IDES had ramped up its capacity for its website and its ability to take phone calls.

At his daily news briefing on COVID-19 on April 30, he took questions about the ongoing issues.

"There's no doubt the system started out unprepared for this unprecedented level of filings," Pritzker said. "But at this point, I must say, the ability to connect online is available to everyone."

Pritzker said some people might have difficulty getting through the system if they previously filed a fraudulent claim; there were "challenges to the veracity of certain aspects of the forms that they filed," or they had forgotten their password. But he said it is working "reasonably well" considering the unprecedented number of claims it is receiving.

He also said there are "many more people answering phones" in response to the increase in filings, and "many of them are working overtime weekends and so on to get done what they need to."

Of note, Illinois had not yet set up its pandemic unemployment assistance system, which would apply to groups not normally covered by unemployment insurance, such as independent contractors, the self-em-

ployed and freelancers.

These federally paid benefits would last for up to 39 weeks, but that program is not expected to be up and running until the week of May 11. The state is contracting with the private firm Deloitte to complete the system.

The Freelancers Union called on the state to expedite the process and provide lines of zero-interest credit in the meantime.

"We are facing the greatest crisis to the freelance workforce in modern history," said Rafael Espinal, the union's president. "I have heard from thousands of freelancers who are losing gigs due to COVID-19. They're unsure of how they will be able to pay the bills. The governor must do everything in his power to guarantee freelancers will get the unemployment benefits that were secured for them in the CARES Act as soon as possible. The slow rollout of benefits for freelance workers further highlights the need for the government to focus on supporting its independent workforce."

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Increased testing continues to push COVID-19 count higher

*Pritzker says
hospitalizations still
remaining roughly flat*

By Jerry Nowicky
CAPITOL NEWS II ILLINOIS

Illinois' COVID-19 confirmed case count grew by nearly 2,500 again Saturday as a sustained increase in testing continues to drive the number upward.

"It really is a function of doing more testing," Gov. JB Pritzker said of the increased positive case count at his daily briefing on the virus Saturday.

There are now 58,505 confirmed cases in Illinois in 97 counties, including 2,559 deaths.

But the state reported another 15,208 test results, meaning about 16 percent of those resulted in positive cases. That number has gone down in recent weeks from a consistent appearance in the 20s to more frequently appearing in the teens. They had spiked, however, in the

two days prior to Saturday.

There have been just less than 300,000 tests conducted in Illinois since the outbreak began, and the state has tested more than 10,000 residents daily for more than a week.

"We're doing more and more testing, that is a very good thing," Pritzker said. "It's a very good sign, because more testing leads us to be able to keep more people at home who may have come in contact with those people so that we can have fewer infections across the state rather than more."

There were also 105 more deaths related to the virus reported in the past 24 hours, and 4,717 COVID-19 patients were still hospitalized as of midnight Friday, according to Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike. There were 1,250 COVID-19 patients in intensive care beds and 789 on ventilators as of midnight as well, according to IDPH.

Those numbers are either still ticking upward or in a state of pla-

teau in various areas, Pritzker said, and they are more telling than the total test count.

“As we’ve been talking about flattening and bending the curve, you know, as I have indicated, we’re still going up by a little bit (in hospitalization numbers)... maybe you would call that flat,” Pritzker said. “But whatever you would call it at the moment, we’re not going down. And that’s what we really need to do.”

The state's R-naught number, characterizes a disease's infectiousness by tracking how many people one carrier spreads it to, is roughly 1.2 at the moment, Ezike said. That's down from higher than three, and Pritzker has said a goal is to get the number below one.

"The point is that it definitely came down," Ezike said. "Again, thanks to the mitigation strategies because people work so hard to stay at home and to help limit the transmission of this virus. And so we're very proud that it came down. And

you know, we hope that it's not going to see a significant rise as people, if people change their behavior."

Pritzker said he weighs the costs of his stay-at-home order on livelihoods and economic activity against the risk to public health as hospitalization numbers grow even outside of Cook and collar counties. He said the state also listens to guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"So we're weighing them, I know there's no doubt I want people to get back to work and trying to find safe industries, safe ways to get people back into their jobs, whether they work in an office, a factory, a food processor or a restaurant or bar," he said. "These are all things that we're trying to weigh in the mix. And again, there's a lot of factors to consider as we're trying to reopen the economy."

Ezike said a significant proportion of new cases and fatalities continue to come from long-term care facilities. IDPH reported more than 1,000 deaths, or more than 40 percent of the totally fatality count in the state, were tied to long-term care facilities.

“And we know that congregate care settings are difficult in terms of two people being to a room ... maybe sometimes several hundred people in a fixed location. So by its nature, it’s very challenging,” Ezike said in response to a question about long-term care facilities. “And if people want to have their loved ones at home and are able to take care of their loved ones, there’s no restric-

tion on that at all.”

The state has limited visitors at nursing homes since February, Ezike said, and there is strict testing for any employee or resident of a home exhibiting symptoms of the virus. She said the state is still trying to identify hotspots at long-term care facilities earlier as testing increases.

"So all of that put together is how we're trying to curb," she said. "We know that we can't ... prevent all cases, but if we can mitigate, try to prevent as many as we can, that's what we're doing going forward."

Ezike also stressed that it's important to continue statewide mitigation strategies such as social distancing, but she said it is also important to get physical exercise, such as taking walks outside

“Let’s think about how we can stay physically active safely, while socially distancing, wearing masks, so that we can take care of both our physical, mental and emotional health,” she said. “I know it’s been hard on everyone, and I’m encouraging everyone to continue to do their best to keep the people of Illinois safe.”

Pritzker said it is also important to keep an eye out for domestic violence as more people are home-bound during the pandemic.

“Domestic violence is everyone’s business and it’s more important than ever to look out for your neighbors to look out for warning signs,” he said.

He said anyone needing help can call the Illinois domestic violence helpline at 877-863-6338.

• *Kitchen* (Continued from page 4)

Closing thoughts

Closing thoughts
I have been bored just like everyone else. My solution has been to get in the car and drive around Lena. If you go slowly (and there are not a lot of cars), you notice a lot of things about our little town.

We have some beautiful homes. Most are modest and not grand, but they are pretty. We don't have a lot of areas that need help, and I think that even if some houses need paint, the yards are nice and people take pride in them.

I would suggest that you all take a ride around your town and look for the unique and good things in it. We are all proud of our little towns, and in

this age of social distancing we know we have practiced it a long time. We are lucky that we have some space.

Have patience and faith, and we will hopefully get back to some kind of life that we can all tolerate. Happy Mother's Day to all of those moms out there whose lives have been turned upside down. For those of us who have lost our mothers, have a great day remembering the special times we had together.

If you have found any spring recipes you think we would like, contact us in person, by mail at From Lena's Kitchen, Shopper's Guide, 213 S. Center St. or email us at scoopshopper@w Publishing.com

ATTENTION I ENA RESIDENTS

The Village of Lena Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 11, 2020 at 6 p.m. has been moved to the Lena Community Center to allow for "Social Distancing" of the trustees due to the dangers posed by the COVID-19 virus and the need for the Board to meet to continue with the day to day operations of the Village. The Governor's directive allows for the meeting to be held yet closed to the public, however, if you wish to participate in the public participation, you will need to submit your presentation in writing by noon on Friday, May 8, 2020 to be included in the board packet.

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Timpe heading to Central Michigan

By Trenten Scheidegger
SPORTS WRITER

Last month, one of the area's top basketball talents made a big decision about the next step of her career. Stockton guard Tianna Timpe made her commitment to play basketball for the Central Michigan University Chippewas.

The Chippewas are an NCAA Division I team that competes in the Mid-American Conference out of Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

It is an exciting time for the CMU as it is coming off a successful 2019-20 campaign in which they went 23-7 overall while going 16-2 in conference play, making it the MAC regular-season conference champion for a fourth consecutive season.

On top of that, the Chippewas won their fifth straight MAC West title and were the No. 1 seed in the MAC tournament.

Needless to say, they carry pretty

high expectations.

The same could be said about the Stockton Blackhawks and their staff as Timpe created some exciting times of her own.

She led the Blackhawks to a record of 25-7 while averaging over 16 points per game, made it to state to compete in the three-point competition for the third year in a row and was named to the Class 1A first team All-State basketball team for the second straight year.

Timpe's continued dedication and hard work has brought her much success, and it was only a matter of time until she made a big decision.

Success meets success as the 5-foot-10-inch shooting guard hopes to carry her high level of play to the NCAA after completing her high school career with the Blackhawks.

"I'm beyond thankful to be given the opportunity to pursue my dream of playing Division I basketball,"

Timpe shared on Twitter. "Thank you to everyone that has supported me and believed in me throughout the years. Go Chips!"

On paper, it appears that Central Michigan is the perfect fit for Timpe's style of play. Her ability to shoot from beyond the perimeter is something CMU head coach Heather Oesterle's offensive system takes pride in, and so does Timpe.

"I love the three ball and how CMU pushes the ball. CMU fits my style of play and it is a great program with amazing fan support," Timpe told Central Michigan Life.

Although it is exciting to wonder what Timpe's future holds with at Central Michigan, she still has her senior campaign to complete with the Lady Blackhawks.

Timpe has developed her game and taken it to another level each season. And that's the idea for 2020-21.



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Pritzker announces contact tracing plan to lower new COVID-19 cases

By Ben Orner
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

While the daily increase of COVID-19 cases in Illinois reached a new high May 1 and hundreds of people were outside the Capitol rallying to end his stay-at-home order, Gov. JB Pritzker was in Chicago announcing the state's plan for contact tracing of new cases.

State officials hope that tracing will reduce cases and move Illinois closer to lifting societal restrictions like the stay-at-home order.

Contact tracing is the tracing of the social movements of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 so officials can alert people who came in contact. It lets people know before their symptoms start that they might have the virus.

"Contact tracing is one of the most critical tools that we have to reduce our spread rate, speed up our diagnoses and seek to halt outbreaks before they happen," Pritzker said May 1.

The governor noted that contact tracing is not new. In the early days of the outbreak, when Illinois had a "manageable number of cases and contacts," Pritzker said, contact tracing was common. Back then, state and local health officials could alert people who had personal contact with those who had tested positive and instruct them to quarantine.

"Remember, we aren't reinventing the wheel here," Pritzker said. "Contact tracing has been done in every pandemic and major outbreak for many years."

Pritzker, in broad terms, laid out the scope of the state's plan, which he said will be "a massive statewide contact tracing operation, gradually building over the coming weeks, and then scaling up an army of contact tracers by the hundreds and then by the thousands."

The governor said he is looking at a benchmark of 30 tracers per

100,000 residents, but "that number can and will diminish if we see greater success in our public health measures, particularly our new face-covering requirement."

Pritzker said people who test positive will be interviewed to find out who they came in contact with over the previous 14 days. Those contacts will then be contacted by tracers via an app or through email, phone call or text message.

Contacts will also remain anonymous to protect privacy.

Pritzker has said contact tracing is the second of three hurdles Illinois must clear to significantly ease social restrictions and enter a "new normal." The first hurdle, testing, was cleared just over a week ago when the state began to meet its goal of 10,000 tests per day. The third hurdle is treatment.

"In order to move safely back toward normalcy, Illinois, the United States and frankly the whole world must contact trace on a never-before-seen scale," Pritzker said.

The contact tracing program will be led by Acting State Epidemiologist Dr. Wayne Duffus, who is also a trained Epidemic Intelligence Service officer with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Illinois Department of Public Health reported a daily high number of new COVID-19 cases on May 1, announcing 3,137 positive tests in the past 24 hours. May 1 was the first time that new cases in the state have exceeded 3,000. The state's total is now 56,055 cases.

IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said 14,821 tests were performed in the past 24 hours, bringing total tests to 284,688. She also said 4,900 patients were in Illinois hospitals April 30 because of COVID-19, including 1,263 in intensive care units. Of those ICU patients, 777 were on ventilators.



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You I Can't Say**

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How much I love you
I can't say:
It's more than words
can hold.
You're all at once my
rich, red clay,
My potter and my mold.

Yours the words that
shaped my voice,
The spirit within mine.
Yours the will that shaped
my choice,
My fortune, and my sign.

How lucky I was to have
had you
At the core of me!
Wise and good, you
always knew
Just what I could be.

And so I came to be
someone
Whom I could be proud of.
For this I give my
swollen sum
Of gratitude and love.

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