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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 The Scoop Today

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.

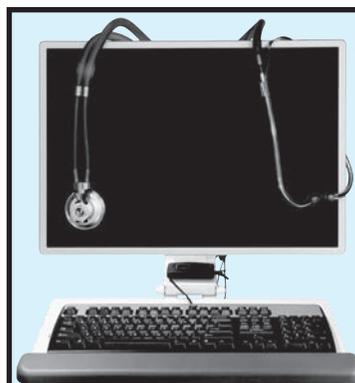
The church lawsuit argues that the order infringes on rights guaranteed by both the Illinois and U.S. Constitutions – specifically the free exercise of religion, freedom of speech, freedom to assemble and the guaranty of due process of law.

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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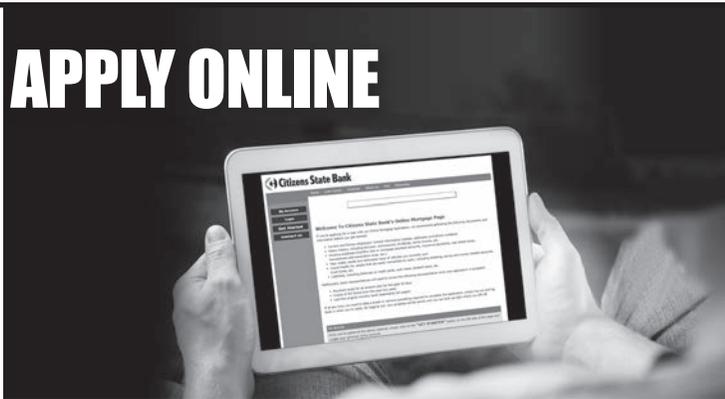
PETER HANCOCK PHOTOS The Scoop Today/Shopper's Guide

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.



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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
PY20 LIHEAP and 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 NICA 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
¼ 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
1 ½ C. diced sweet onion
1 ½ 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 coffeecake 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
1 ½ C. chopped fresh strawberries
1 ½ 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 mix-

ture 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

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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) Nowvioc, 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 Biack 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 Skrobutt 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 doggies.

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 NICA 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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815-947-3320

Our Area Churches Welcome You

APPLE RIVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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
 Jun^{Nr} High from 5:30 - 7 p.m.
 Sen^{Nr} 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
 Rad^N 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.
 • Reconc²iat^{Nn} 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.gbmg-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.schapv2leznn.org
 • *Sunday Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 10:00 a.m.*
 • Bible Study Classes Ava²ble

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH

608 East Ra²road, Warren, IL 61087
Father Skrobutt (815) 745-2312
 • *Sunday Mass – 8:00 a.m.*
 • Reconc²iat^{Nn} 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 Educat^{Nn} 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.*
 • Reconc²iat^{Nn} 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.*
 • Reconc²iat^{Nn} 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
A LGBT Friendly Church
Services and Religious Education are on
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
 A progressive, liberal relig^{Nn}us and welcoming
 congregat^{Nn} that encourages individuals to
 search for their own answers to life's ultimate
 quest^{Nn}s. Our living faith now draws from
 many sources including the wisdom tradit^{Nn}s
 of the world's relig^{Nn}s and the findings of
 science.

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
 Commu^{Nn} 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 Ava²ble
 • Commu^{Nn} Every 1st Sunday
 • First Sunday potluck following church
 services.
 • Open Sanctuary for meditat^{Nn} time from 4 -
 6 p.m. every Wednesday
 * *Handicapped Accessible*

WINSLOW GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

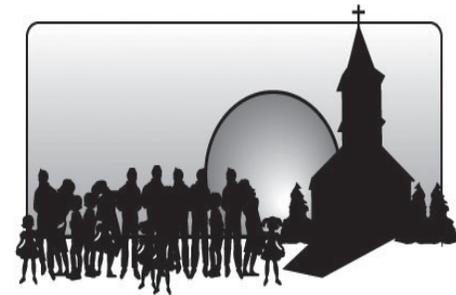
197 Carver Street, Winslow, IL 61089
Pastor Robert Patin (815) 230-1862
608-669-5770
 • *Sunday Worship – 10:45 a.m.*
 • *Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.*
 • Prayer and Bible Study – Wednesdays at
 6:30 p.m. in Home
 * *Handicapped Accessible*

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.

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.

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.

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!

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.

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>



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



COURTESY PHOTOS The Scoop Today

Flowers in bloom

Pam Phelps, a fifth-grade teacher at Warren Elementary School, instructed her students to make flower pictures for Earth Day as part of their remote learning. One needed to be made from a toilet paper tube, one from construction paper and one painted. After connecting with some of the students, they chose a theme: Hope Blooms in Warren and Apple River. Kyra Carter, above left, and Mayci Mullen display their three creations. The other beautiful arrangement on the left is from Lillian Euler.

Around the Northern Hills

The Stay-at-Home order was extended, so in this time of COVID-19 social distancing, our staff is working at home until June 1.

We are still here to take phone calls and emails. While this may be an inconvenience, we feel that it is best to follow the current guidelines to keep everyone safe.

If you have a dues payment, you are welcome to call our office and we can process a credit/debit card payment, or you can log on to www.myifb.org and make a payment as well.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through this uncharted territory.

If you do need to contact us, always feel free to call our office at 815-858-2235 or email me at jdcfbmgr@gmail.com.

- The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is offering financial and technical assistance to livestock producers for animal mortality disposal resulting from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Producers facing livestock depopulation are encouraged to file the EQIP application (Form CCC-1200) with their local NRCS field office, which became available beginning May 1.

You must work through your NRCS office for this process.

- I ran across a statistic recently that kind of surprised me. The article stated that during our coronavi-



By **ANNETTE EGGERS**
Contributor

rus quarantine we are eating more processed snacks.

I have to say that it is the opposite at my house. I love to cook, and now that I am actually home, I am cooking a lot more. It will be a rude awakening for my kids when life goes back to normal and I'm not home as much to cook!

- Mental health resources are available, do don't make trying times worse.

As farmers, we are great at taking care of our land and livestock, but not always great at taking care of ourselves. It's time to put yourself first. A healthy farm is nothing without a healthy you.

We know times are tough right now. If you or someone you know is struggling with daily stress, anxiety, depression, addiction or other mental health challenges, you are not alone. Reach out and ask for help. Your mental health and wellness are important to us. We are stronger together.

- Farm Fun Fact: "The farmer has to be an optimist, or he wouldn't still be a farmer" — Will Rogers

River Ridge FFA honorees

Greenhand degree recipients: Cora Dittmar, Ethan Gonzalez, Torey Winter, Owen Holcomb, Hannah Condran, Dylan Diehl, Owen Knauer, Jamie Schnitzler, Landis Longmore, Jack Ketelsen, Cameron Harris, Nick Schnitzler, Rafe Groezinger and Jordan Havens.

Chapter degree recipients: Emma Boop, Ashley Carroll, Amber Hupperich, Kari Conklin and Brad Diehl.

Outstanding junior high member: Cora Boop.

Outstanding Greenhand: Cora Dittmar.

Outstanding sophomore: Ashley Carroll.

Outstanding junior: Kylie Hiher

Outstanding senior: Riley

Wolter.

Chapter Star in Ag Placement: Andrew Pratt.

Chapter Star Farmer: Conner Tippet.

State degree recipients: Riley Wolter, Andrew Pratt, Conner Tippet and Kylie Hiher.

Dekalb Award: Kylie Hiher.

FFA Honor Society: To qualify students must be four-year FFA members, have completed an SAE record book and participated in four different FFA activities. Dalton Wachter and Riley Wolter.

2020-2021 FFA officer team: President Kylie Hiher, Vice President Ashley Carroll, Reporter Conner Tippet, Secretary Kari Conklin, Treasurer Abbi Johnson and Sentinel Cora Dittmar.

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APRIL 29 - MAY 13

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Dr. Jim Liles & Dr. Jared Liles
BCBS provider

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Saturday by Appointment.
238 W. Main St.
815-369-4974
Now providing
KLASER Therapy

WARREN:
Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
102 Catlin St.
815-745-2294

Standard Process SUPPLEMENTS

321148

Jo Daviess County offering grant program for small businesses

The Jo Daviess County Board has established a new \$250,000 Small Business Stabilization Grant program.

The purpose is to help small businesses deemed “nonessential” pursuant to Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s Stay-at-

Home executive order to remain viable during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant program is intended to help small businesses pay expenses not covered by the federal government’s Paycheck Protection Program

or other sources of state or federal COVID-19 relief funding.

The maximum award a business can receive is \$5,000 for one month of qualifying expenses. The Jo Daviess County Board has authorized funding of this grant program through the Economic Development Investment Fund of the county.

The county believes small, non-essential businesses are, in fact, an essential part of our business and culture community and realizes the significant impact COVID-19 has had on them.

To be eligible for the SBSG program, a business (profit or nonprofit) must meet certain criteria.

They must be deemed a nonessential business under the Stay-at-Home order or a restaurant that is now limited to serving food for consumption

off premises; must operate out of a brick-and-mortar location and the business is not able to pay rent, mortgage or utilities; must meet the definition of small business defined as a business that employs less than 12 full-time employees or the equivalent weekly hours of 12 full-time employees; and must be legally be capable of entering into a binding contract.

They also must remain open for one year after the grant award. If a business qualifies for the federal Paycheck Protection Program, the owner must have applied for a loan under the PPP and been denied in writing.

Any nonessential business that has applied for the federal PPP and has not yet received notice of award is eligible to apply for the SBSG program. If the applicant is awarded funding through the federal PPP any

SBSG grant funds received from Jo Daviess County must be repaid.

The grant committee will consider, in appropriate cases, the applications of businesses for which the PPP is impractical or in the event of the illiquidity or termination of the PPP. Such businesses are encouraged to contact the Planning & Development Department or Northwest Illinois Economic Development prior to applying.

Applications for the SBSG program must be received by Friday, May 15, at 4 p.m.

For more information or technical instructions, contact Eric Tison at etison@jodaviess.org or Emily Legel at elegel@nwiled.org.

Applications are available online at the JDC website (jodaviess.org/covid19).



COURTESY PHOTOS *The Scoop Today*

Wedding surprise

Elizabeth native Tori Ertmer and Ethan Conrad, of Ottumwa, Iowa, were married Saturday, April 25, in a private ceremony at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Elizabeth with their parents present and their siblings watching from afar via live stream online. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, none of the other 300-plus invited guests could attend. So, family and friends organized a surprise drive-by receiving line to view the newlyweds and shout well wishes as they emerged from the church. Horns honked from vehicles adorned with posters and balloons. The last vehicle was a 1937 fire truck, owned and operated by the bride’s great-uncle, Bob “Hambone” Wand. The fire truck, decorated with pink streamers and balloons, then escorted the new Mr. and Mrs. Conrad through the streets of Elizabeth. Many residents stepped out of their homes to wave.

County’s severe weather plan available

The Jo Daviess County Multijurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan will be available for public review and comment from May 13 through May 20.

It outlines projects and activities to reduce damages caused by severe weather and other natural hazards.

A summary sheet and a comment survey also can be viewed on the Jo Daviess County website by clicking on the Jo Daviess County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan link on the main page.

Residents unable to access the plan via the website should contact Charles Pedersen of the Emergency Management Agency at 815- 990-6702 to view a paper copy.

Public comments will be used to make any revisions needed before this plan is submitted to the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and FEMA.

A public forum also will be conducted May 13 at 2 p.m. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the public forum will be conducted via teleconference.

Those interested in participating in the public forum should contact Pedersen, at 815-990-6702 or Cpedersen@jodaviess.org.

“This plan describes how the county and the participating jurisdictions have been impacted by severe weather and other natural hazards and identifies specific mitigation actions that can be taken to reduce damages to life

and health, infrastructure and property before events occur,” Pedersen said in a news release.

The Jo Daviess County All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee prepared this draft with technical assistance from state and federal agencies as well as a consultant specializing in emergency management planning.

The committee is comprised of representatives from various county departments in addition to Apple River, East Dubuque, Elizabeth, Galena, Hanover, Scales Mound, Stockton, Warren, Apple Canyon Lake and The Galena Territory.

Federal law requires that these plans be updated every five years.

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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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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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