

the Scoop Today

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YOUR FREE HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

Extension event puts spotlight on Hanover hemp grower Sulcanna

The University of Illinois Extension will continue its "Grower Spotlight" webinar series on Friday (April 17) from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

This series serves as a platform for local producers and allows other growers and agribusiness professionals to come together to discuss agriculture.

Not only will the featured guests discuss their operations in detail, these programs allow participants to ask questions throughout and gain valuable insight from those with experience.

The Extension's Phillip Alberti will moderate this edition, which focuses on one organization's model for profitability in an uncertain environment.

That organization is the Sulcanna Company, which occupies a historic manufacturing facility in Hanover.

Its focus is on hemp horticulture, genetics development, extraction and product formulation, and it offers marketing, branding and distribution infrastructure to support farm-branded product sales.

Sulcanna has formed Illinois'



SUBMITTED PHOTOS The Scoop Today

A focus of the Sulcanna Company, which occupies a historic manufacturing facility in Hanover, is on hemp horticulture and genetics development.

only agricultural hemp cooperative, which consists exclusively of small-scale hemp farmers looking to capitalize on their collective knowledge

and tap into CBD and CBG retail price points.

Knowing the ins and outs of this industry before getting involved will be critical to success. The goal of this webinar will be to provide attendees with an overview of the current market structure, economics of hemp production and what it takes to be profitable in this new industry.

Additional topics will include things such as genetics, cultivation practices, compliance testing, harvest, drying and marketing.

Throughout the educational program, participants will be allowed to contribute to a live Q and A with guests Lance Larsen, Stacy McK-

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Sulcanna has formed Illinois' only agricultural hemp cooperative, which consists exclusively of small-scale hemp farmers.

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JDCF PHOTO The Scoop Today

Scales Mound resident Gary Bernard enjoys birding at Valley of Eden bird sanctuary near Stockton.

JDCF Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary designated an Important Bird Area

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) is pleased to announce that it's Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary, located in Stockton, IL has been designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) after an intense, two-year project led JDCF's volunteer group, the Friends of Valley of Eden. The Important Bird Areas program is a worldwide effort by Birdlife International to identify, conserve, and monitor a network of sites that provide essential habitat for bird populations. In the United States, Birdlife partners with Audubon to identify and preserve notable sites within each state. The Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary was recognized specifically for providing critical breeding habitat for grass-land bird species in Greatest Need of Conservation by Great Lakes Audubon.

The 409-acre property was generously donated to JDCF by former

Stockton resident, Nancy Winter, in 2017. The 104-acre grassland contained within the preserve is of particular importance, representing a very scarce habitat in the state. The birds found there represent typical species iconic to the prairies and grasslands that once covered eastern and central North America such as the bobolink, field sparrow, eastern meadowlark, and Henslow's sparrow. These birds, as well as many other grassland species that have suffered enormous declines in population and distribution largely due to habitat loss, are thriving in the diverse blend of woodlands, savannas, prairies, and grasslands found at Valley of Eden. The preserve is located at 5559 E Rush Creek Rd, Stockton, IL and will remain open daily dawn to dusk for those needing a breath of fresh air during these stressful times.

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Online webinars focus on being healthier at home

Staying healthy can be a challenge, especially as more of our time is spent at home. Learn health strategies for enriching your wellness journey over the next two months that can change your life.

Free online webinars offered by University of Illinois Extension nutrition and wellness educators begin at 1 p.m. Wednesdays through May 20.

Register online at go.illinois.edu/HealthAtHome.

• April 15: Emotional Eating: Understanding How Stress Impacts Hunger and Appetite

Have you ever found yourself searching for something to eat when you are not truly hungry? We eat for a number of reasons; maybe we're looking for comfort, feeling stressed and overwhelmed with life or simply

bored.

Increase your awareness of how emotions and stress affects eating habits, increase your ability to identify emotional triggers leading to emotional eating and learn helpful practices to reach your wellness goals.

• April 22: The Science Behind Popular Eating Trends

What is all the hype around Keto? What about Whole 30, Paleo or Intermittent Fasting?

Join us to explore these eating styles and learn the pros and cons of current diet trends. Plus, explore the eating plans that are evidence-based such as Mediterranean, DASH and the USDA MyPlate.

• April 29: Every Step Counts: Getting the Most Out of Activity Trackers

Illinois SNAP recipients begin receiving maximum benefit amounts

The Illinois Department of Human Services announced that more than 450,000 Illinois households will receive additional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

All who are eligible for the additional benefits should receive them by April 20.

The additional funds are intended to help Illinoisans obtain food and support for their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The maximum SNAP benefit amounts will be implemented for April and May.

"No Illinoisan should ever have to worry about where their next meal is coming from, especially during an

ongoing public health emergency," said Gov. JB Pritzker. "Expanding the amount of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits people receive will help families stay safe and healthy in the coming months."

Increased benefits will be automatically loaded onto SNAP recipients' Link cards, and there is no need for anyone to re-apply, visit an office, or call. All new applications authorized in April will also receive the maximum allotment for their household size.

"We're exploring every avenue

See **BENEFITS**, Page 8

Every step counts. Activity trackers give you an accurate count for steps, heart rate and sleep. They are also fun; they get you off the couch and moving. One could say they are a wearable piece of accountability.

Learn about different types of activity trackers, take a talk test and set goals for yourself. Get tips to get the most out of your activity tracker.

• May 6: Take Your Kitchen Appliances Out for a Spin

Are your counters full of appliances? Did you get an electric pressure cooker as a gift and not sure what to do with it? Do not let it sit on your counter collecting dust.

Join us to learn how to use slow

cookers, spiralizers, heavy-duty blenders, air fryers and the newest type of electric pressure cookers. We will share tips and tricks, recipes and food safety information, all to make your life easier and your meal plans varied.

• May 13: Diabetes: Practicing Self-Care During Difficult Times

Managing stress during difficult times is challenging for everyone. However, if you or a loved one has diabetes, it is even more important to be intentional about managing stress.

Making healthy food choices, getting adequate physical activity and understanding how stress affects diabetes are steps you can take to get

through those difficult times.

• May 20: Cooking For One

Set the table and light a candle for yourself. Single-person households are on the rise and forecast to grow over the next 15 years. The fastest growth in single-person households is citizens between 35 and 55 years of age.

Cooking for one can be creative and rewarding with or without leftovers. Indulge, choose what you like to cook and get the good smells going in your kitchen.

Join us and learn some new ways to plan, shop, prepare and enjoy meals on the smaller side. Liven up your menus.

Versiti creates special hotline, electronic form to enable recovered COVID-19 patients to donate convalescent plasma

Versiti blood centers, among the first in the U.S. to begin collecting convalescent plasma, is actively seeking recovered COVID-19 patients to donate convalescent plasma.

The plasma would be used by Versiti's hospital partners to treat the most severely affected coronavirus patients. Potential donors are asked to call a special hotline that has been created: 866-702-HOPE (866-702-4673) or visit versiti.org/covid19plasma.

"The recovered donors must be proven to have had a COVID-19 diagnosis through a positive lab test result by a physician or laboratory,"

said Versiti Senior Medical Director Dan A. Waxman, M.D. "That individual must then be symptom free for 28 days, or if symptom free for 14-27 days, they must provide results of a negative test."

This blood-related treatment — approved by the FDA as an Emergency Investigational New Drug (EIND) — could offer hope to the thousands of patients who continue to be diagnosed.

"One plasma donation can be divided to treat multiple patients," said Dr. Waxman. "And one patient may require more than one plasma transfusion."

The plasma treatment would

transfer the antibodies that the recovered patient created, into critically ill patients currently receiving care.

The plasma donations, which take 30-40 minutes, will be collected by appointment from qualified donors at Versiti donor centers.

The donation process is the same as with other plasma donations, and will be performed using an apheresis machine, which separates the blood components.

Though blood group AB is the universal plasma donor, any blood type donor who has recovered from the virus is eligible to donate as part of the program.

Driver services extended again, Secretary of State Jesse White says

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White on April 10 announced his office filed emergency rules extending expiration dates for driver's licenses, identification (ID) cards, vehicle registrations and other transactions and document filings for at least 90 days after Driver Services facilities reopen.

The previous extension was for 30 days.

"Extending expiration dates by at least 90 days after Driver Services facilities reopen is the right thing to do," White said. "It will ensure driver's licenses, ID cards and vehicle registrations remain valid during this pandemic and will help alleviate the rush of customers vis-

iting facilities once they reopen."

After Gov. Pritzker's stay-at-home order, White closed Driver Services facilities to the public through April 30. While facilities are closed to the public, White is encouraging residents to go to cyberdriveillinois.com to take advantage of many online services — such as renewing vehicle registration stickers — from the comfort of their own home.

People who conduct online transactions will further help to reduce the number of face-to-face transactions that will occur at Driver Services facilities once they reopen.

Some of these online services include:

- Renewing a vehicle registration;
- Applying for a vehicle title and registration;
- Obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card;
- Obtaining a driving record abstract;
- Renewing a standard driver's license with the Safe Driver Renewal program.

"My commitment is to do everything we can to help protect the health and safety of our residents, while still providing services to the people of Illinois," White said. "This will, and must, continue to be the guiding principle of our decision making."



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Rural hospitals brace for surge

IHA official says they're ready, but more financial assistance is necessary

By PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

Although the COVID-19 outbreak in Illinois had been mainly concentrated around the Chicago area, public health officials are bracing for a surge of cases in rural areas of downstate Illinois, including areas that already have shortages of hospital beds, health care providers and equipment.

"So, we're keeping a close eye on that," Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said last week. "As we look right now, I think our hot spot is more northern Illinois ... but we're keeping an eye on all the beds, the ICUs, the ventilators and the availability of those, and we potentially, we'll have to do some moving of things, but we are also looking at what the needs will be there."

Despite health care shortages in some areas, Danny Chun, a spokesman for the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, said that most rural hospitals in Illinois should be well prepared for the surge, at least in terms of strategy.

"They are very prepared," he said, citing two major trends in health care: industry consolidation over the past five to 10 years into health care "systems" that have the ability to share resources and regional planning.

HCC Foundation extends scholarship deadline for 2020-21 school year

The Highland Community College Foundation has extended the deadline for its scholarship applications for the 2020-21 school year. The deadline for the majority of scholarships is June 1.

Highland awarded \$482,262 scholarships to more than 200 students for 2019. Highland-bound student scholarships are available for traditional and non-traditional students in more than 17 areas of study, including undeclared majors.

Pat Dunn, Director of Operations for the Highland Foundation, emphasizes that scholarships aren't just for academic achievement.

"Highland has over 350 scholarships based on where you live, fields of study, special interest, financial need and academic performance, so there is something for almost everyone," Dunn said. "The Foundation is always happy to help students find the specific opportunities to apply for."

Applicants can view the list of scholarships by accessing highland.edu/scholarships. For more information on Highland Foundation scholarships email foundation@highland.edu or call 815-599-3413.

"A lot of small and rural hospitals, critical access hospitals, are now part of large systems, like OSF, HSHS, Carle, Southern Illinois Health," Chun said. "Then there's an existing structure within the state of Illinois — they're called Regional Health Care Coalitions," he added. "There are 11 coalitions throughout the state covering every area of the state, including southern and central Illinois, where all the health care providers in that region get together in terms of emergency planning, pandemic planning, emergency exercises. That's been in place for years."

According to IDPH, each of those 11 regions has one main hospital designated as the coordinating center. For example, the Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana serves as the coordinating center in the Champaign region, which covers 18 counties in east-central Illinois.

Anita Guffey, who serves as the emergency management coordinator and readiness and response coordinator for that region, was unavailable for an interview. But she issued a statement through a spokesperson saying the planning process for COVID-19 is not significantly different from the planning they go through for other emergencies.

"In this region we need to be prepared for tornadoes, blizzards and even earthquake risk, in addition to pandemic planning," she said. "Every incident is different, but we work on this at all times so when the time comes, we're already familiar with each other."

The one thing rural hospitals have not been prepared for, however, is the financial pressure resulting from dealing with the pandemic.

Chun said hospitals throughout the state postponed most outpatient and elective surgeries, a significant amount of their annual revenue, in order to free up space and medical staff for treating COVID-19 patients. They also are "ramping up" for the pandemic, he added.

"We are urging the state to take all the steps that they can to increase cash flow to hospitals, because as you

know, they're facing a double whammy," he said. "...On the one hand, they're losing money because they're not doing elective surgeries and procedures, and then money's going out the door because of the preparations for the virus."

Chun noted that in March, the state comptroller's office used inter-fund borrowing to increase its Medicaid payments to state hospitals, paying down about \$200 million in past-due bills.

But the comptroller's office has already indicated that there likely will be additional payment delays in the coming months — the tax filing deadline was pushed back to July 15,

and the economic slowdown brought on by the statewide stay-at-home order and closure of nonessential businesses.

The federal government temporarily increased its share of Medicaid funding by 6.2 percentage points, retroactive to Jan. 1. That reduces the state's share of Medicaid costs, freeing up general revenue funds for other purposes.

The biggest boost hospitals will see in the near term will come from the \$2.2 trillion federal recovery package Congress recently passed, known as the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act.

Chun said that package includes

more than \$100 billion for hospitals across the country to help offset the cost of responding to the pandemic, including automatic funding increases and reimbursement programs that hospitals must apply for.

But even with that, Chun said, hospitals across the country will need additional assistance.

"We are preparing to ask the Illinois General Assembly for help on the state level with Medicaid funding for our hospitals," he said. "So whenever the legislature finally returns — you know, maybe in May, maybe in June — we will be asking the General Assembly for help for our hospitals."

Retired teachers to mentor students virtually

Members of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association — a statewide association of retired educators, their families and supporters — are volunteering during this COVID-19 pandemic to assist students tackling the unprecedented challenge of finishing the school year at home.

"We want to help students learn," said John Flaherty, a former high school and special education teacher and current president of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. "Our members are ready to help students build their learning skills and tutor in highly advanced subject areas like chemistry and mathematics."

"For elementary students, self-

paced and self-directed learning is a foreign concept. A teacher-mentor will help students take their own initiative and focus their learning at their own pace."

Parents desiring to match their student with a retired teacher may sign up on the Association's website, www.irtaonline.org.

Mentors are on a first come, first serve basis. Mentors will meet with students in virtual environments. Mentorships will last from now until the end of the school year or June 1. Mentorships are at the sole discretion of the teacher-mentors.

"A retired Illinois public school teacher's depth of knowledge is so great, it may be just what parents

need to energize their children into at-home students," Association Executive Director Jim Bachman said. "Retiree mentors can specifically target aspects of learning that need the most attention, whether it's mathematics, science, history, writing or reading."

"Younger students may simply need help reading a story; other students will need advanced tutoring. If we retirees can find a way to help, we will," Flaherty added.

IRTA encourages former teachers, spouses and supporters of teachers to join the Association. Learn more, join or renew your IRTA membership today at <https://www.irtaonline.org>.

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FROM LENA'S KITCHEN



The not so skinny cook

I guess we are in Week 2 if you started with April 1 (some of us started March 16, so it is longer), and they are talking about extending into May.

If you are like me, you are still cleaning and cooking. Easter has come and gone. I remember when I was a teenager I spent Easter in bed with Scarlatina. I was in my room quarantined for a week. Right now that doesn't seem so bad!

Back to Easter thoughts — I have recipes for Easter leftovers. I think there will still be some ham sales in the grocery stores. There is a great appetizer and some yummy desserts.

This cheesy hot dip is made with cooked, diced ham. You can use that leftover ham for the tasty appetizer. If you freeze your cubed ham in a plastic zip lock in 2- or 3-cup increments, you can make all kinds of dishes with the leftovers.

Chipotle Ham 'N' Cheese Dip

2 pkg. (8 oz. each) cream cheese, cubed
1 can (12 oz.) evaporated milk
2 C. shredded Gouda cheese
1 C. shredded cheddar cheese
2 T. chopped chipotle pepper in adobo sauce

1 t. cumin
2 C. diced, cooked ham
Vegetables and tortilla chips

In a 3-quart slow cooker, combine the first six ingredients. Cover and cook on low for 40 minutes. Stir in ham; cook for 20 minutes longer until heated through. Serve warm with vegetables and chips.

Dilled Three-Bean Salad

This tasty salad goes great with ham. It is also a good one for summer. If you want, you could use frozen green beans. Just cook them to crisp tender and drain. I think you also could substitute pinto or garbanzo beans for the black-eyed peas

4 C. sliced fresh green beans (1 inch pieces)
¼ C. white vinegar
3 T. sugar
¾ t. salt
¼ t. black pepper
1/8 t. crushed red pepper flakes
3 T. oil
1 can (16 oz.) light red kidney beans, rinsed and drained
1 can (16 oz.) black-eyed peas,

rinsed and drained

¾ C. diced red pepper
¾ C. diced yellow pepper
¼ C. chopped fresh dill

Bring a large pot of water to a boil over medium-high heat; add green beans. When water returns to a boil, drain green beans and transfer to ice water to stop the cooking process. Drain well and pat dry with paper towels.

In a large bowl, whisk together vinegar, sugar, salt, pepper and red pepper flakes; slowly whisk in oil. Add green beans, kidney beans, black-eyed peas, bell peppers and dill, stirring to coat. Cover and refrigerate until chilled before serving, about 3 hours.

Even if I am a week late, I have two ham recipes for you to try. The first is in a slow cooker. You just put the rub on, add the rest of the cola, turn it on and walk away. You can make this a day ahead of time and slice when you use it.

Slow Cooker Ham

½ C. packed brown sugar
1 t. ground mustard
1 t. prepared horseradish
2 T. plus ¼ C. cola, divided
1 fully cooked boneless ham, but in half (5 to 6 lbs.)

In a small bowl, combine the brown sugar, ground mustard, horseradish and 2 T. cola. Rub over the ham. Transfer to a slow cooker (at least 5 quarts); add remaining ¼ cup of cola to slow cooker. Cover and cook on low until a thermometer reads 140; cook 5 to 6 hours on low.

This next ham recipe uses a spiral-sliced ham. If spiral hams are cooked right, they are delicious. You have to be careful not to overcook them because they can get dry fast. You roast it low and slow. Enjoy the glaze that makes it special. A meat thermometer is important when cooking large cuts of meat, so if you don't have one, it is a great investment.

Maple-Glazed Ham

1 spiral-sliced, fully cooked bone-in ham (7 to 9 lbs.)

Glaze:

½ C. packed brown sugar
½ C. maple syrup
2 T. prepared mustard
½ t. ground cinnamon
½ t. ground nutmeg

Preheat oven to 300. Place ham on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Cover and bake until a thermometer reads 130, 1½ to 2 hours.

In a large saucepan, combine glaze ingredients. Bring to a boil; cook and stir until slightly thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove the ham from the oven. Pour glaze over ham; bake ham, uncovered, until a thermometer reads 140, 15 to 30 minutes.

This next recipe uses some of that leftover ham. It is easy to prepare and very tasty. You have a complete meal because the meat and vegetables are in the casserole. Enjoy this tasty leftover treat.

Creamy Noodle Casserole

1 pkg. (12 oz.) egg noodles
1 pkg. (16 oz.) frozen broccoli cuts
3 C. cubed, cooked ham
1 C. shredded mozzarella cheese
1 C. shredded Parmesan cheese

1/3 C. butter, cubed
½ C. half-and-half cream
¼ t. garlic powder
Salt and pepper

In a Dutch oven, cook the egg noodles in boiling water for 5 minutes. Add the broccoli and cubed ham; cook until the noodles are tender, 5 to 10 minutes longer. Drain and return to the pan. Stir in the remaining ingredients. Cook and stir gently over low heat until the butter is melted and the mixture is heated through.

Slab Lemon Meringue Pie

If you like lemon meringue pie, you will like this recipe. It takes a little time to prepare it, but it is well worth the extra work. Be sure to have your eggs room temperature, especially the whites. If the whites are not room temperature, they will not whip easily. This dessert would be great for an ending to a family dinner. You can make it a day ahead of time.

Crust:

2 C. flour
½ C. powdered sugar
1 C. butter, softened

Filling:

2 C. sugar
½ C. cornstarch
½ t. salt
2 C. cold water
8 egg yolks
1 T. lemon zest
¾ C. fresh lemon juice
6 T. butter
½ t. vanilla

Topping:

1 2/3 C. sugar
6 egg whites

Preheat oven to 350. Line a 9-inch square baking pan with parchment paper, letting excess extend over sides of pan. Lightly spray parchment with baking spray with flour.

Crust: In a small bowl, whisk together flour and powdered sugar. Stirring butter until mixture is crumbly, press into bottom and ½ inch up the sides of prepared pan. Bake until lightly browned, 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool completely.

Filling: In a large saucepan, whisk together sugar, cornstarch, and salt; gradually whisk in 2 cups cold water until smooth. Bring to a boil over medium high heat, whisking frequently; boil, whisking constantly, for 1 minute. Remove from heat.

In a medium bowl, whisk together egg yolks. Slowly add 1 cup hot sugar mixture to egg yolks, whisking constantly. Whisk egg mixture into remaining hot sugar mixture in saucepan. Cook over medium heat, whisking constantly, until mixture is thickened, 2 to 3 minutes. Whisk in lemon zest and juice, butter and vanilla; cook, whisking constantly, until mixture is thick and smooth, 1 to 2 minutes.

Spread mixture onto prepared crust. Cover with plastic wrap, pressing directly on surface of filling to prevent a skin from forming. Refrigerate until cold and firm, at least 4 hours.

Topping: In the top of a double boiler, cook sugar and egg whites over simmering water, whisking constantly, until mixture registers 140 on a candy thermometer, 3 to 4 minutes.

Transfer mixture to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment and beat at high speed until

thick, white and fluffy, about 10 minutes. Spread meringue onto cold lemon mixture.

Preheat oven to broil. Broil pie for 1 to 2 minutes to brown meringue. Serve immediately. Cover and refrigerate for up to two days.

Easy Ultimate Carrot Cake

If you want an easy spring dessert, this carrot cake recipe is for you. You start with a box cake mix and add all sorts of goodies. I have made it into cupcakes instead of cakes and that works well also.

1 box Betty Crocker Super Moist carrot cake mix

½ C. orange juice or water
½ C. oil

1 can (8 oz.) crushed pineapple in juice, undrained

1 t. orange peel
1 t. vanilla

4 eggs
½ C. chopped nuts
½ C. coconut
½ C. chopped raisings

1 container Betty Crocker Rich and Creamy cream cheese frosting

Preheat oven to 350. Grease two 9-inch round cake pans or 9-by-13 pan and lightly flour, or spray with baking spray with flour.

In a large bowl, beat cake mix, orange juice, oil, pineapple, orange peel, vanilla and eggs on low speed 30 seconds. Beat on medium speed for 2 minutes. Stir in nuts, coconut and raisins. Pour into pans.

Bake round pans 30 to 35 minutes; bake 9-by-13 pan 37 to 43 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes. Run knife around side of round pans to loosen cakes; remove rounds from pans to cooling racks. Cool completely, about 1 hour.

Place one cake layer, rounded side down, on cake stand. Spread with about 1/3 C. of frosting. Place other layer, rounded side up, on top. Frost side and top of cake with remaining frosting or frost top of 9-by-13 cake. Store in refrigerator.

Final thoughts

We had beautiful weather last week until the end of the week, then the wind and some snow returned. Sort of like a lot of our dispositions.

I am lucky to have people who grocery shop for me, and I order out to help our local restaurants. I try to sit each afternoon in the sun soaking up the Vitamin D. Many people are out walking, so I do get to see and sometimes talk to people from afar.

My basement was my project this last week. I had started it and was able to finish up. It doesn't look like the same place! I do have a shelf of treasurers. I know that they probably will go to the Dumpster when I am no longer living in this house. You know there are some things that are hard to part with that mean something only to you.

Have a good week, stay the course and keep the faith.

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

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ON THE RECORD

Obituaries

CAROL M. SEFFROOD

Carol M. Seffrood, age 76 of Warren IL, passed away April 7, 2020 in Monroe, WI at the home of her daughter.

She was born Oct. 27, 1943 at the family home in Apple River IL., the daughter of Cyrus and Eva (Conley) Seffrood. Carol married James Paulson on Nov. 4, 1961 and had three children. They later divorced but remained friends. She was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Warren. Carol worked at numerous jobs, but spent many years at Micro Switch of which she retired from. She was a gifted quilter and had numerous hobbies throughout the years. She has also had many canine companions of which she cared for like family.

She is survived by her three children - Dean (Angie) Paulson of Beloit, WI, Donna (Terry) Rutsch of Monroe, WI, and David Paulson of



Cassville, WI, seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren, sister Shirley Miller of Warren, IL, and numerous nieces and nephews of whom were all special to her.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers- John, Pete, Francis and Jerry Seffrood; two sisters Catherine Diestelmeier and Charlotte Minke.

Private graveside services at the West Wiota Lutheran cemetery will be held with Vicar Michelle Knight officiating.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leanonfh.com

JEWEL D. MCNETT

Jewel D. McNett, age 57 of Benton, WI, peacefully passed away at home on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. She was born on Sept. 21, 1962; the daughter of the late Delvin and Doris (Disrud) McNett. She had previously been married to Timothy McAuliffe and together they had a son, Chase Christopher McAuliffe. She later married Timothy A. Ditsworth on Nov. 10, 2001, they have been together for 30 years.

She was a massage therapist who worked out of her home as well as at Lands' End in Platteville, WI. In more recent years she spent her time providing supportive care for friends and family. Jewel enjoyed working with photos, creating albums and memory boards. She also enjoyed journaling, home improvement projects, making crafts and collecting various trinkets. When she was able, she loved tending to her big garden, especially her pea pods and lilies. Most of all she loved her family, visiting, weekly phone calls and spending time with her great nieces and nephews. She had a warm heart and a kind soul along with a sassiness that no one could match. She was dearly loved and will be sorely missed.

She is survived by her husband Tim Ditsworth of Benton, WI; sisters, Joyce (Jack) Becke of Freeport, Janice (John) Bauch of Freeport, Jeanne (Ralph) Stietz of Gratiot, WI, and Joleen (Butch) Thommen of Warren, IL; brothers, Richard (Kathy) McNett of Lena, IL, Ronald McNett of Freeport, and James (Tammy Ihous) McNett of Shullsburg, WI; step-son, Greg Ditsworth; father-in-law, Glenn Ditsworth of Freeport;



sisters-in-law, Debbie (Kevin) Fleischer of Freeport and Sandy (Joe) Lacy of Belleville, WI; numerous nieces and nephews; and several honorary sons &

daughters that were friends of Chases who have kept close since his passing. She is preceded in death by her parents; son, Chase Christopher McAuliffe; sister, Jackie Hermann; brothers, Roger, Rodney "Pete," and Jerry; and mother-in-law, Ruth Ditsworth.

Due to social distancing, private family services will be held and she will be laid to rest next to her son in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Gratiot, WI. A memorial service will take place at a later date. A memorial fund has been established in her name. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

EARL J. "TIP" TIPTON

Earl J. "Tip" Tipton, age 89, of Stockton, IL passed away Thursday, April 09, 2020 at home. He was born Aug. 9, 1930 the son of the late Arthur N. and Louisa M. (Streicher)



Tipton. Tip married Darlene O'Neill on June 26, 1954. Darlene passed away June 23, 2017.

Tip grew up on a farm and drove truck most of his life, mainly for LCL and Jewel Rentar. He was a member of the Stockton American Legion and Teamsters. Tip enjoyed Nascar, boating, snowmobiling, spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and vacationing in his free time. He was also an animal lover.

Tip is survived by his sons, Jamie (Nan) of Rosendale, WI and Joey (Janet) of Galena, IL; daughters, Kelly (Kevin) Stewart of Stockton and Karla (special friend Chris) White of Stockton, IL; 13 grandchildren; Joshua, Cassie, Jesse & Caitlyn Tipton; Annessa Tipton & Amanda Vargas; Alex, Andrew & Aspyr Stewart; and Christian, Noah, Kansas & Kyah White; and eight great grandchildren; and his sister, Clara Endress. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife; infant son, Timothy; sister, Florence Wickler; and brothers, Harry, Carson and infant Clyde.

A private family graveside will be held. A memorial fund has been established. Condolences may be shared at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.



KENNETH LAVERNE MUSSER

Kenneth LaVerne Musser, 91, of Pearl City passed away April 9, 2020 in his home with his family by his side. He was born May 19, 1928 to Edgar (Dick) and Juanita (Thomason) Musser of Pearl City, IL.

Kenneth graduated from Pearl City High School in 1946. He was drafted into the army in January, 1951. He served in the Korean War until January, 1953 when he was honorably discharged. Kenneth married Donna (Johnson) on Oct. 4, 1953 at where is now Zion Community Church in Pearl City.

He was a life-time member of the Pearl City American Legion Post 1014 serving numerous leadership roles, including several terms as treasurer, Post 1014 Commander and the 13th District Commander in 1985-1986. He was an active member of the Korean War Veterans Association. He was a member of the board and president for over 3 decades with Loran Mutual Insurance Company. Kenneth was the Loran Township Supervisor of Assessments for many years. He was a long-time member of Zion Community Church in Pearl City. Kenneth farmed in Pearl City his entire life. He continued to be a faithful famer even after moving to town. He loved Farm All tractors, watching wrestling and going for a Sunday drive. He never met a desert he didn't like! You could always find him reading or playing cards, if



he wasn't in the fields. He enjoyed watching his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren play sports and show at the local fairs. One of Kenneth's greatest honors

was attending an Honor Flight in May 2017 with his daughter Barb. His infectious grin will be missed.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Terry Musser and son-in-law Edward Curry. He is survived by his wife; son: James (Denise) Musser; daughters: Barbara Curry and Leslie Musser. He is survived by his grandchildren: Joel, Darin (Shannon), Brett (Aubrey), Courtney, Brock (Kim) Musser, Kerstin Curry, Morgan (Keagan) Blasing, and Grant Curry. He is also survived by his great grandchildren: Drake, Brea, Charlotte, Gemma, Shea, Sawyer, Levi Musser and Brixton Blasing.

Private family services will be held. Interment will take place at Oakland Cemetery and Mausoleum in Freeport. A memorial fund has been established. The family would like to give a special thank you to FHN Hospice for their care. Condolences may be shared with Kenneth's family at www.hermannfuneralhome.com.

**See more obituaries
on page 8**

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STOCKTON HONOR ROLLS

Stockton High School and Middle School honor rolls

Stockton High School Third Quarter

High Honor Roll
Grade 9: Dawson Broshous, Katherine Crome, Dustin Oppold, Ryley Schultz

Grade 10: Maria Bender, Joseph Brudi, Jenna Haas, Kenze Haas, Caleb Mammoser, Kayden Schubert

Grade 11: Jason Hermann, Kaylee Luke

Grade 12: Haley Brudi, Jamie Eden, Winston McPeck, Tessa Tucker

Honor Roll

Grade 9: Shreya Adhikari, Morgan Blair, Lily Burris, Jackson Curtiss, Skylar Davis, Braelyn Fahrney, Madeline Harbach, Olivia

Harnish, Noah Hess, Dayton Julius, Olivia Keeffer, Lauren Kehl, Kyla Kurek, David Lancaster, Garrett Luke, Griffin Luke, Maddux Morgan, Emily Paul, Zane Preston, Kyleigh Reusch, Haylen Scott, Whitney Sullivan, Ella Wackerlin, Abigail Wilkinson

Grade 10: Ian Broshous, Austin Chumbler, Matthew Cook, Justin Eden, Vanessa Ernst, Brynn Haas, Morgan McPeck, Diana Montalvo, Elijah Rice, Sarah Singleton, Kassadie Sullivan

Grade 11: Elise Adleman, Camden Baber, Wyatt Baber, Taylor Broshous, Mitchel Coffey, Lucas Crome, Adrianna Curtiss, Madelyn Ertmer, Andrew Haas, Case Harmston, Hunter Hille, James Hille, Hayley Johnson, Ivannie

Jones, Janet Katzenberger, Konnor Laity, Madison Lara, Patrick Mensendike, Alyssa Randecker, Chandler Reifsteck, Josh Reynolds, Simon Rillie, Bryce Smith, Tiana Timpe, Emma Westaby, Devin Wickler, Kiersten Winters

Grade 12: Tyler Bartch, Cody Breuer, Kaige Brown, Garrett Buske, Aiden Cahill, Ethan Cook, Zachary Cook, Mia D'Antonio, Elizabeth Eden, Elizabeth Eisfeller, Marc Gabel, Kenna Haas, Bryant Keeffer, Alyssa Meade, Keegan Phillips, Kendra Scaze, Cody Schultz, Rawley Schulz, Katie Wright

Stockton Middle School Third Quarter

Fifth grade High honors

Arianna Arand, Logan Dreyer, Payton Goswick, Morgan Haas, Caitlynn Robledo

Honors

Janna Barrett, Alexis Bennett, Carter Blair, Lucas Brenner, Danyan Broshous, Deryn Broshous, Huntlee Burris, Jazmine Curtiss, Raiyn Dauphin, Amelia Ernst

Isaha Glass, Taylor Haas, Haydyn Hinrichs, Isaac Hullinger, Delaney Julius, Isabella Kilburg, Quinn Larson, Haley Leitzen, Hanna Leitzen, Dionne McIntosh, Ireland Mensendike, Eden Moore, Evelyn Noller, Walker Olson, Bailey Page, Karmon Parsley, Madalynn Perry, Zoey Pfile, Quinton Preston, Zada Preston, Cooper Raab, Lola Rose, Kameron Rowe, Cullen Schubert, Owen Stich, Addison Thornton, Tyson Winters, Kaydra Wright

Sixth grade High honors

Noah Larson, Oliver McPeck, Sadie Vanderheyden

Honors

Tegan Arnold, Adrienne Baker, Anna Blair, Hailey Broshous, Piper Brown, Kaylynn Brunner, Paige Chumbler, Reece Demeter, Mark Detwiler, Wesley Drane, Ian Eisfeller, Olivia Ernst, Mauricio Glass, Drue Guerrero, Reese

Hoffner, Ayden Hullinger, Kiegan Jones, Eli Larson, Jeremiah Luke, Spencer Luke, Jake Marek, Jack Mensendike, Hunter Mulholland, Cody Noller, Gavin Offenheiser, Evan Page, Jon Randecker, Robert Rillie, Gynelle Rowe, Arya Scott, Gunnar Stich, Avery Wackerlin, Hailey Weipert, Ari Zink, Blake Zink, Isabella Zuck

See HONOR ROLLS, Page 7

Red Cross announces blood drive on April 23

The American Red Cross is scheduled to host a blood drive Thursday, April 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Warren.

Appointments are encouraged; walk-ins will not be accepted if appointments are filled.

To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org or call Nicole Miller at 563-275-0597.

There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus, and the Red Cross needs the help of blood and platelet donors to maintain a sufficient supply for weeks to come.

Throughout this outbreak, the Red Cross remains dedicated to ensuring the safety and availability of the U.S. blood supply for patients, including accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease.

Fall Eagle Fest features essay contest for students

The Eagle Nature Foundation has released the rules for its 2020 essay contest to be held during its Fall Eagle Fest in Galena on Sept. 19.

This contest is open to students from public and private schools, as well as home-schooled students. The essay must be titled, "What the Bald Eagle Means to Me" and be 500 words or less.

The contest has two divisions, high school and junior high school. Each division will have four winners: first place \$100, second place \$50, third place \$25 and fourth place \$10.

The school with the first-place winner in each division will receive \$50 and a plaque. There is no cost for a student to enter the contest.

The entries must be postmarked before Sept. 1 so they can be judged. Only the top four entries in each division will be eligible for the awards.

Each school is allowed to enter only four students in each division. The top four students in each division will be notified by Sept. 14 so they can make arrangements to come to Fall Eagle Fest to orally present their essays at 11 a.m. to be eligible for an award. The awards will be presented at 1 p.m.

Each of the essay winners in each division will get a free ticket to the festival.

Fall Eagle Fest will highlight two Wings to Soar shows — hawks, eagles, owls and vultures — by John and Dale Stokes, from Trenton, Georgia, one at 10 a.m. and the other at 2 p.m.

Request copies of the rules and entry form from: Eagle Nature Foundation, 300 E. Hickory St., Apple River, IL 61001, or call 815-594-2306.

Each essay must have a copy of the entry form attached.



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Scavenger hunt offered at Casper Bluff reserve

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) is taking COVID-19 seriously, and to that end it has canceled some events. However, its six nature preserves remain open for those needing an escape to nature.

Something new is a scavenger hunt at the organization's Casper Bluff land and water reserve, located at 870 S. Pilot Knob Road near Galena.

Families are asked to practice social distancing while taking the kids in search of the six clues on this hunt. A numbered tree cookie will mark the correct spot for each clue found. Answers will be posted on JDCF's website at www.jdcf.org.

1. A home of our blue flying friends.
2. An earthen symbol of the upper world built by indigenous people.
3. A place to view the mighty Mississippi.
4. A sunny prairie planted by students from the NW Academy.
5. A place to find shade under long branches. Be ready for a long walk north to find this one standing all alone.
6. At the final stop, consider dropping a few coins in the tube to help JDCF keep this special place open for all to enjoy. It's a great way to teach the next generation about generosity, community spirit and philanthropy, all of which are especially important in challenging

times such as these.

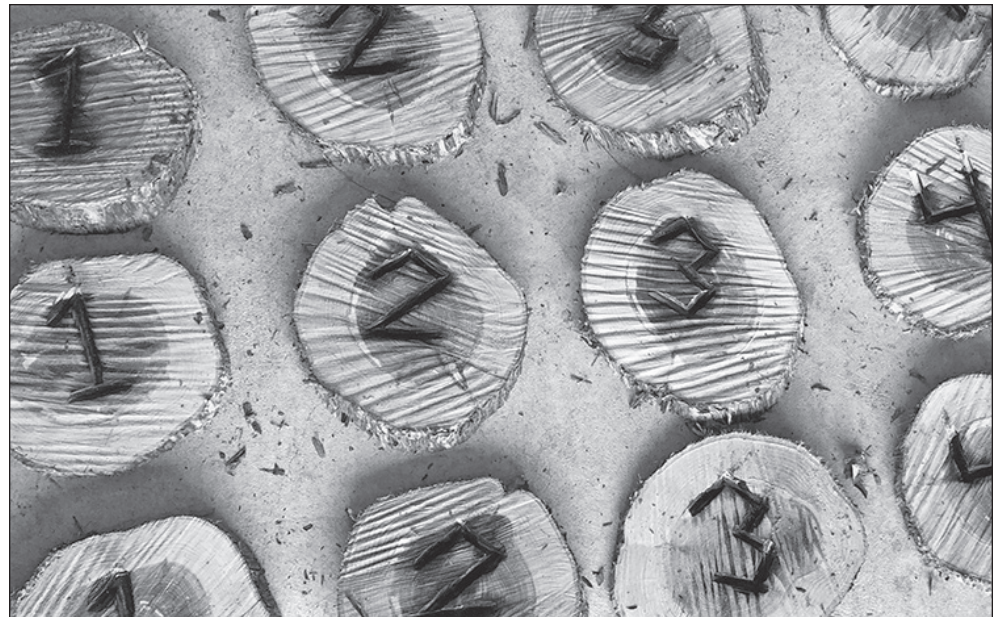
The foundation is a local, member-supported nonprofit whose mission is to preserve land for the lasting well-being of people and wildlife.

It owns several preserves that are open to the public for hiking, wildlife viewing and picnicking such as Casper Bluff and Horseshoe Mound. No tax dollars are used for the acquisition, restoration or maintenance of JDCF properties.

For more information, visit www.jdcf.org.

COURTESY JDCF The Scoop Today

Members of the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation have put together a simple scavenger hunt at Casper Bluff, near Galena, that families can do together while practicing social distancing. Tree cookies mark the location of each clue on the hunt. Participants should leave the tree cookies for others to find.



• Honor rolls (Continued from page 6)

Seventh grade High honors

Emily Broshous, Masyn Cahill, Jackson Coffey, Elijah

Haas, Kyle Haas, Jacob Harbach, Madalyn Mammoser, Ethan Steien, Landon Warner, Kacy Wright

Honors

Nikita Adhikari, Kyla Arnold, Lucas Baney, Dylann Broshous, Shirley Cook, Emma Demeter, Bryce Grube, Amber Haas, Ava Hess, Samuel Hille, Molly James, Veyah Luke, Javier Montalvo, Marley Morgan, Kendra Robledo, Jessica Rood, Daniel Schmoll, Lillian Sikora, Keagen Westphal, Katelyn Winters

8th grade

High honors

Anthony Bilich, Dominick Bilich, Bennett Graves, Carson McPeck,

Ashlyn Schubert, Leah Warner

Honors

Kristian Adleman, Lily Baker, Abby Chumbler, Rebecca Dreyer, Jared Dvorak, Addison Ernst, Izabella Ertmer, Braden Freese, Tanner Gile, Michael Haas, Karl Hubb, Gracie Keleher, Cyrus Kilburg, Lincoln Legel, Madalyn Marcure, Eve Moore, Hope Mulholland, Drake Offenhiser, Nevaeh Peterson, Gracie Raab, Maecee Rice, Lydia Schuldt, Colby Tucker, Camerin Vincent, William Westaby, Mavrick Winters

Zito brings experience to Apple River State Bank

Peter Zito recently joined Apple River State Bank as a loan officer and is located in the Warren office.

He worked most recently as the financial manager for Schweigert Family Farms in Cuba City, Wisconsin. Prior to that he served as a credit analyst with Apple River State Bank.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Zito is a member of the Apple River Lions Club and Galena Elks. He and his wife Megan, and two children, reside in Scales Mound.

"We are pleased to have Peter join our team of banking professionals," Joel Holland, Chief Executive Officer of First Community Bank of Galena and Apple River State Bank, said in a news release. "His agricultural and banking background will provide real value to our loan clients."

Apple River State Bank is located throughout Jo Daviess County in Apple River, Elizabeth, Hanover, Scales Mound, Warren and Galena (First Community Bank of Galena).

Last December, the bank opened

its seventh office in Hazel Green and the first office in Wisconsin. Apple River State Bank is a locally owned financial institution with its entire management team and board of directors residing within Jo Daviess County.



Peter Zito

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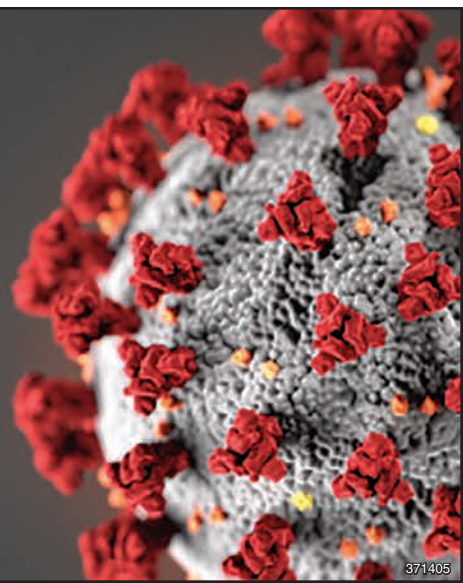
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- How to Protect Yourself
- Local Updates
- Local and National Resources



371403

Obituaries

BONNIE M. STUBBE

Bonnie M. Stubbe, 91, of Monroe, WI, formerly of Winslow, IL passed away on Friday, April 10, 2020, surrounded by her family, at Aster Assisted Living in Monroe, WI. She was born on Sept. 20, 1928 to John and Cecelia (Miller) Jordan in Freeport, IL. She married her high school sweetheart, Theodore "Ted" Stubbe on March 14, 1948. Ted and Bonnie established their home and farm near Winslow, where they worked together and raised their family. Bonnie also worked at Ammons Turkey Farm, Mitek, and Polly's Grocery Store for 17 ½ years. She was a past president of the Winslow Women's Club, delivered meals on wheels, and was a member of the McConnell United Methodist Church.

Bonnie is survived by her children; Carlo (Linda) Stubbe of Savanna and Suzanne (Don) Rudisill of Lena, grandchildren; Christopher Stubbe of Lake Summerset, Heidi (LeWayne) Moore of McConnell.



and Brandon (Erin) Rudisill of Winslow, great-grandchildren; Zachary and Ashley Maaske, Toni Stubbe, and Lila Rudisill, 6 step great-grandchildren; and a Shippy of Free-

sister in law Monna Shippy of Freeport.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two grandsons, a sister Irene, brothers Cliff and Henry, and her husband Ted in 2014.

In light of recent events, funeral services will be private, but the family is planning a celebration of life at a later date.

Burial will be at Rock Lily Cemetery in Winslow, IL.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.leamonfh.com.

SCOTT WILLIAM BONNET

Scott William Bonnet, age 53, of Yorkville, IL passed away on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at his home. He was born on Aug. 26, 1966 in Freeport, IL the son of Terry L. and Diane (Gille) Bonnet.

Scott was united in marriage on Sept. 14, 1991 to the former Kristy K. Luchsinger and spent the next 28 happy years together. He was a loving husband, father, son, brother, and uncle who will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

Scott was a 1984 graduate of Lena-Winslow High School in Lena, IL. He served his country proudly as a former member of the United



Yorkville, IL. Scott was an avid golfer and enjoyed traveling and spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Kristy Bonnet of Yorkville, IL; his children, Tyler Bonnet of South Carolina and

States Army. Scott was employed for 29 years as an air traffic controller in Aurora, IL until his retirement in 2017. Mr. Bonnet attended Cross Lutheran Church in

Haley Bonnet of Yorkville, IL; his parents, Terry and Diane Bonnet of Lena, IL; his brother, Tony (Cassandra) Bonnet of Rockton, IL; as well as his five nieces and two nephews.

A Funeral Service will be held at Cross Lutheran Church in Yorkville, IL at a later date. A Celebration of Scott's Life will also take place in the future.

A memorial fund for Scott is being established by his family at 533 West Barberry Circle, Yorkville, IL 60560.

Arrangements by Nelson Funeral Homes & Crematory, www.Nelson-FuneralHomes.com or 630-553-7611.

• **Benefits** (Continued from page 2)

(Continued from page 2)

we can to provide extra support for Illinoisans. IDHS has applied for several waivers to make it easier for people looking for food assistance,” said IDHS Secretary Grace B. Hou. “Less documentation is required, in-person requirements are waived,

and now we'll be able to increase the amounts loaded into Link cards by a significant amount for many families."

The federal Families First Coronavirus Response Act gives states the option to provide SNAP households with the maximum SNAP allotment, which is based on household size. SNAP households which are not currently receiving the maximum allotment will receive additional SNAP benefits which bring their allotment amount to the maximum. Households already receiving the maximum benefit will not receive additional benefits.

Maximum amounts per household size are as follows:

- Number in household: 1. Maximum benefit: \$194 monthly.
- Number in household: 2. Maximum benefit: \$355 monthly.
- Number in household: 3. Maxi-

mum benefit: \$509 monthly.

- Number in household: 4. Maximum benefit: \$646 monthly.
- Number in household: 5. Maximum benefit: \$768 monthly.
- Number in household: 6. Maximum benefit: \$921 monthly.
- Number in household: 7. Maximum benefit: \$1,018 monthly.
- Number in household: 8. Maximum benefit: \$1,164 monthly.
- Each additional person: Add \$146.

Illinois SNAP recipients receive their benefits at different times each month, so increased SNAP benefits will be loaded on different dates for SNAP recipients.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program provides food assistance to low-income people and families living in the United States. It is a federal aid program administered by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Distribution of benefits occurs at the state level.

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ANNIVERSARY

Main Street feeling the pinch

Abrupt turn in small business optimism ends 39-month historic run

The NFIB Small Business Optimism Index fell 8.1 points in March to 96.4, the largest monthly decline in the survey's history.

Nine of the 10 index components declined, which is evidence that economic disruptions are escalating on Main Street as small businesses struggle to keep their doors open. The small business sector is anticipating and bracing for continued economic disruptions going forward.

"Small businesses are living through the coronavirus pandemic and it's hard to say what the severity of the disruption will be, but we do know they're feeling the urgency," NFIB Chief Economist William Dunkelberg said in a news release. "It is vital that these businesses have access to federal funds that are made available through the CARES Act to keep the doors open on Main Street."

State-specific information isn't available, but NFIB Illinois Director Mark Grant said, "Small businesses here are dealing with the whiplash reversal in the economy. Social distancing has forced a lot of our members to close temporarily, but they're determined to get through this. Our hope is that they'll be able to access these federal funds quickly so they won't have to close for good."

The financial markets saw substantial change in March, with the stock market indices losing 22 percent of their value and jobless claims rising to a record 10 million in the last two weeks of the month. The NFIB survey collected the majority of responses in the first half of the month, so the sharp decline in employment is not reflected in the March survey data.

The main takeaways from the March survey include:

- The NFIB Uncertainty Index rose 12 points in March to 92, the highest level since March 2017.
- Reports of better business conditions in the next six months declined 17 points to a net 5 percent, which is the largest monthly decline since November 2012.

- Real sales expectations in the next six months declined 31 points to a net negative 12 percent, the largest monthly decline in the survey's history.

- Thirteen percent of firms thought it was a good time to expand, a decline of 13 points from last month.

- Job openings fell three points to 35 percent.

As reported in NFIB's monthly jobs report, prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the small business labor market reported strong hiring, elevated levels of open positions and historically high employee compensation. However, hiring plans experienced a significant drop from February, yet finding qualified workers remains the top issue for 24 percent of small employers who reported this as their No. 1 problem.

Down two points from February, 60 percent of owners reported capital outlays. Of those making expenditures, 43 percent reported spending on new equipment, 26 percent acquired vehicles, 16 percent improved or expanded facilities, 6 percent acquired new buildings or land for expansion and 12 percent spent money for new fixtures and furniture.

Twenty-one percent of owners are planning capital outlays in the next few months, a sign that small business owners are scaling back spending as economic conditions started to disrupt the nation.

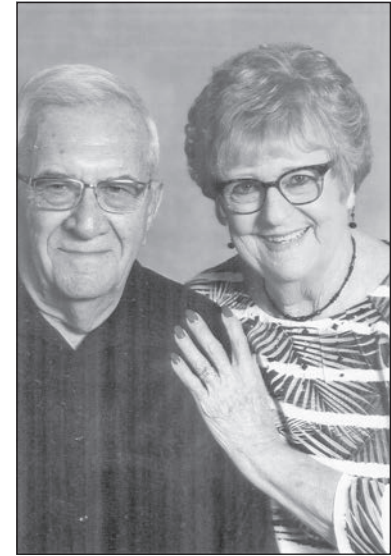
Sales held strong in March, with a seasonally adjusted net 8 percent of all owners reporting higher nominal sales in the past three months. As actual sales volumes remained strong, expectations of the future of sales growth deteriorated significantly. It is clear owners felt the pending economic shift as state officials began to shut down nonessential businesses and issue stay-at-home orders in response to coronavirus.

A net negative 3 percent of owners are planning to expand inventory holdings. Small business owners are bracing themselves for a significant reduction in consumer spending and future orders.

The frequency of reports of positive profit trends fell 2 points to a net negative 6 percent reporting quarter-on-quarter profits. Among the owners reporting weaker profits, 32 percent blamed weaker sales, 26 percent blamed usual seasonal change, 9 percent cited price changes, 7 percent cited labor costs, and 7 percent cited material costs. For those reporting higher profits, 53 percent credited sales volumes and 22 percent credited usual seasonal change.

NFIB released surveys in March on how COVID-19 is impacting small businesses. The latest survey showed 92 percent of small employers are negatively impacted by the outbreak and about half of small employers said they could survive for no more than two months under the current business conditions.

To view the survey, visit www.nfib.com/surveys/small-business-economic-trends/.



The Rothschild 60th anniversary party has been canceled.

Those who would like to send a card can mail it to 576 W. Quail Drive, Lena, IL 61048.

Luane and Marce were married on April 23, 1960, in Tyndall, South Dakota.

They have four sons: Steve (Glenda), Scott, Mike (Michelle) and Mark (Val), as well as 12 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

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Village of Stockton

Spring 2020 Open Burn Dates

The Spring open burn dates for landscape waste will run from April 17 through April 26, 2020.

All burning of landscape waste shall be carried out in compliance with Ordinance No. 674 which is posted on the Village's website at www.villageofstockton.com

**Deadline to sign up is 4 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10th
at Lena Office or Drop Box at Stockton Shell Station by**

Tuesday, June 9th at 4 p.m. (must be prepaid)

Please Sign Up EARLY. Early Registration is Appreciated!!

200,000 more Illinoisans file unemployment claims

By Peter Hancock
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

More than half a million Illinois workers filed first-time unemployment claims in the first four weeks since the COVID-19 outbreak first hit the labor market.

Economists at the University of Illinois are forecasting a major economic downturn that could last months, or even years, depending on the local severity of the pandemic.

The unemployment claims account for nearly 8 percent of the state's civilian labor force, and they are only part of the estimated 17 million workers nationwide who have lost their jobs during that month.

The Illinois Department of Em-

ployment Security said last Thursday that during the week that ended April 2, 201,041 Illinoisans filed initial claims, surpassing the previous record of 178,421 that was set one week earlier.

The most recent estimates from the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute, dated April 1, suggest that as many as 779,000 people in Illinois could be out of work by July, which would boost the state's unemployment rate to 15.6 percent.

That would be higher than the historic record rate of 13.1 percent set in February 1983, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

In February, just before the COVID-19 outbreak hit, Illinois actu-

ally recorded a record low unemployment rate of 3.4 percent.

On the same day the new numbers came out, the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois issued a report suggesting the economic downturn could have a devastating impact on the state's economy, and on state revenues in Illinois, depending on how severe the outbreak is and how long it takes the state's economy to recover.

Economically, the researchers said, a low-severity pandemic likely would push growth in gross domestic product this year to 0 percent. That would sink to about -3 percent growth under a moderately severe pandemic and -6 percent under a severe pandemic.

All of those scenarios assume the economy would recover quickly once the pandemic ends and that GDP growth would return to its normal rate of about 2 percent by 2023.

State revenues also are expected to take a major hit, but the extent of the losses would depend on the severity of the economic downturn and how long it takes the economy to recover.

Under the most optimistic scenario – a low-severity pandemic followed by a quick recovery – the state could expect to see a decline of about \$4.3 billion across calendar years 2020 and 2021.

Under a worst-case scenario – a severe pandemic followed by a slow, protracted recovery – the researchers

estimate the state could see a loss of revenue totaling \$28.4 billion through calendar year 2023.

"It is important to recognize the high level of uncertainty about the crisis' economic effects," the researchers cautioned. "The uncertainty stems from a lack of clarity about the epidemiological and health consequences of the virus, as well as from uncertainty about government monetary and fiscal policies to combat the economic consequences of the health crisis."

The researchers also noted that the full impact on the state and its economy could be lessened, depending on the kind of economic recovery measures are enacted at the federal level.

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Secondary Science Teacher will be teaching primarily at junior high level with some high school classes. Please send resume and credentials to Andrew Lobdell, Principal, Lena-Winslow Junior High School, 517 Fremont St, Lena, IL 61048.

Applications accepted until positions are filled. Lena-Winslow CUSD #202 is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Discover Wellness at Home with Illinois Extension free webinars

When life is uncertain, it's important to focus on personal wellness to help you and your family thrive during difficult times. Join University of Illinois Extension starting April 6, for a free weekly webinar series focused on building resiliency, clearing clutter, being mindful and more.

The "Discover Wellness At Home" six-part series of webinars are free and will be 2 to 3 p.m. CDT on Thursdays. They are available to the public to view remotely online from

the comfort of home or anywhere with internet access. Sign up online at go.illinois.edu/WellnessAtHome at least two days in advance. Participants will receive a confirmation email with webinar connection details.

"This series features timeless topics, developed to help individuals and families thrive during life transitions and difficult times," said Chelsey Byers, Illinois Extension Family Life educator. "We know many people

now suddenly are finding themselves at home and we can still deliver the same high-quality, research informed programs in a virtual format.

* **Caregiver Self-Care: Overcoming the Challenges of Caregiving**, April 2 – We all know someone who is providing care for someone else. It is a rewarding experience for most, but caregivers experience many difficult emotions and losses along their journey. This workshop will focus on overcoming the challenges of

care giving and will examine how to identify and prevent caregiver stress and techniques for self-care. Presented by Cheri Burcham and Tessa Hobbs-Curley.

* **Simplify Your Life by Clearing the Clutter**, April 9 – Does the clutter in your house cause you stress? Is the mess starting fights with family members? Are you too overwhelmed to know where to start? If this sounds like you or someone you know, join us to learn strategies, develop a plan to organize your life and reduce stress. Presented by Molly Hofer and Chelsey Byers.

* **Who Gets Grandma's Pie Plate**, April 16 – It's a touchy subject, but have you ever considered where your valued possessions will end up? This session features information about the importance of including personal title and non-titled property as part of estate and inheritance planning. Explore strategies for speaking with family members about distributing family items with emotional and sentimental value and preventing family conflict. Presented by Chelsey Byers and Molly Hofer.

* **Being Mindful During Difficult Times**, April 23 – During times of stress, our mental, emotional and physical health can suffer as we disconnect from life. Mindfulness is the act of actively paying attention to the present moment. The simple practice of being present can make life more enjoyable and reduce stress.

Participants will explore the benefits of mindfulness meditation and learn techniques that reduce stress and increase life satisfaction. Presented by Karla Belzer and Cheri Burcham.

* **Someday is Today – Live Your Bucket List**, April 30 – Do you have personal goals that always end up on the back burner because "life happens?" If you say "I'll get to that someday," and "when things slow down," on a regular basis, then you need to work on your bucket list. The point of a bucket list is to help you live your life to the fullest by reaching all of your goals. Join us to learn how to create a bucket list and set exciting goals to pursue your interests and fulfill your dreams. Presented by Karla Belzer and Cheri Burcham.

• Grower

(Continued from front page)

askill and Steve Tomlins.

The webinar invitation will be sent via email following registration for the program. Those interested in attending the workshop may register online at <https://go.illinois.edu/GrowerSpotlight2>.

There is no cost for this program, but registrations are limited. The webinar will be posted online at go.illinois.edu/spotlight shortly after the program.

For additional questions, contact Alberti at palberti@illinois.edu or 815-599-3644.



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