

# Lake Land College to host a virtual Court Reporting Technology information session

Lake Land College will be hosting a virtual information session for its new Court Reporting Technology Degree special admission program September 1 at 6 p.m. Attendees will learn about the career opportunities available to court reporters.

The introduction of the program follows the increased high demand for court reporting and closed-captioning professionals throughout the nation.

"Court reporting creates several opportunities for rewarding career paths for students who are interested in developing this skill set," Lisa Earp, business instructor/director of court reporting/office professionals program coordinator, said.

Instructors for the pro-

gram will be available to answer questions, and all are welcome to attend. To register, visit [lakelandcollege.edu/visit/](http://lakelandcollege.edu/visit/).

The program will train students for careers in the judicial setting as either official or freelance court reporters. The program also provides students with the option to attain a captioning specialization, which prepares students for careers providing captioning for broadcast television and internet programs and working with the deaf or hard-of-hearing population by providing an accurate word-for-word text translation in education, civic and corporate settings.

Requirements for application to the program include admission to Lake

Land College and completion of an interest survey, English and grammar exam and a timed typing exam. Those interested must complete a Laker Profile at [lakelandcollege.edu/enroll/](http://lakelandcollege.edu/enroll/) and submit an intent to enroll at Lake Land College indicating the Academic Program (major) as AAS.CRT.TRK. The next cohort of students will begin in Spring 2022.

Interested students may begin the program with a typing speed of 40 words per minute. Keeping up with the pace of regular speech, the program is designed to train students on a specialized 24-key shorthand keyboard used by court reporters and captioners called a steno machine. Rather than typing out each word, letter for letter, as on a traditional keyboard,

stenographers spell out syllables phonetically on a steno machine. This form of specialized shorthand allows court reporters and captioners to capture speech with near complete accuracy.

Students will purchase or rent-to-own a steno machine.

Upon graduation, students will be prepared to sit for the Illinois Certified Shorthand Reporter (CSR) or the National Court Reporters Association (NCRA) Registered Skilled Reporter (RSR) and Registered Professional Reporter (RPR) certification exams.

For more information about the special admission Court Reporting Technology Degree program, contact Earp at [learp@lakelandcollege.edu](mailto:learp@lakelandcollege.edu).

## Secretary of State offices and Driver Services facilities to reinstitute COVID-19 mask policy

Due to a recent increase in COVID-19 cases, Secretary of State Jesse White announced that Driver Services facilities, Secretary of State offices and the Illinois State Capitol Building will require all employees and customers to wear a mask beginning Monday, Aug. 2.

White stressed that it is imperative for his facilities to remain open to serve the public to reduce the heavy

customer volume caused by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last year. White said reinstating the mask policy for employees and customers will help achieve this goal.

White is reminding customers that his office extended expiration dates for driver's licenses and ID cards until Jan. 1, 2022. As a result, expired documents will remain valid until Jan.

1, 2022, so customers do not need to rush into a facility.

White continues to urge the public to consider using online services when possible instead of visiting a facility due to heavy customer volume. White has greatly expanded online services and encourages the public to visit his office's website at "<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com>" [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com).

Many transactions can be conducted online, including the purchase of license plate stickers, obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card, and renewing driver's licenses and ID cards, including REAL IDs, for those who are eligible.

As a reminder, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023.

## Douglas County Health Dept.'s COVID-19 update

By Colleen Lehmann

The concern on the COVID-19 front, both nationally and worldwide, is the alarming rise in cases. IDPH reported on July 23, 2021 there were 7,983 new cases of COVID in Illinois in the past week alone. That same elevation is being seen locally as well, unfortunately. From July 1-25 DCHD has recorded 21 new cases, not counting six new cases just from July 27. By comparison, last month there were a total of 11 new COVID cases reported among Douglas County residents.

As of July 25, Douglas County has had a total of 2,714 COVID cases, 44 deaths, and is monitoring 23 active/close contacts. The 7-day rolling positivity rate for the county, as recorded on July 23, was 3.6 percent. For Region 6, that number was 4 percent. In Illinois, the highly transmissible Delta variant has been identified in 636 cases. Delta was first officially recorded in Illinois on June 15, when 64 cases were logged.

Vaccination is proving to be the most direct and effective means of keeping COVID-19 at manageable levels and avoiding serious disease and/or death. The CDC has reported 97 percent of patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19 infections are unvaccinated. Currently, 35.34 percent of Douglas County residents have been fully vaccinated. Today we vaccinated approximately 55 people at J600, and there are 18 people signed up for Thursday morning's clinic.

As another school year approaches, so too does attention to keeping in-person learning viable and ongoing. This Wednesday, DCHD will be at Arcola Schools from 4 to 6 p.m. for a COVID vaccine clinic aimed at students, staff and parents. Tuscola school district will have a similar clinic in August, and dates are being worked out for Arthur and Villa Grove school districts.

As a point of information, a Webex seminar with IDPH today made very clear that mask wearing for all unvaccinated individuals in schools is the intended standard that should be adopted, and regular (weekly) screening testing of those same folks is strongly encouraged. Social distancing of at least three feet whenever possible, good hygiene practices, and proper ventilation in classrooms remain best practices. Keeping schools open and safe to attend is the primary goal, and layering mitigations based on data is the means. It was noted today that no fees will be charged to any schools doing rapid testing on site, and a system has been developed so that schools don't have to seek CLIA status and they can have a standing order for testing.

This is the last week of Summer Meals, and DCHD is grateful to all the restaurants and businesses that are helping to make this wonderful program available to all children up to age 18 in our communities.

## Showmanship for the fair's beef cattle show

The Junior (12-years and under) and Senior (13-years and over) Showmanship for the beef cattle show was held on Saturday, July 17 at the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair. Pictured is 2021 Miss Moultrie-Douglas County Fair Queen Kali Pierce, Ellen Klein of Seymour; Reserve Senior Champion; Tenley Stollard from Sulli-

van, Reserve Junior Champion; Maddox Reedy from Tuscola, Junior Showmanship Champion; and Ashley Seegmiller of Arthur, Senior Showmanship Champion; and Emily Griffiths, beef cattle judge. In showmanship, you are judged on your abilities to control and present your heifer or steer to bring out its best characteristics.

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT OF ASHMORE TOWNSHIP

The Ashmore Township hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the period April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 has been made, and that a report of such audit dated July 12, 2021 performed by Doehring, Winders & Co., LLP has been filed with the County Clerk of Coles, in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The full report of the audit is available for public inspection at 22939 E Co Rd 1050 N in Ashmore, IL 61912, during regular business hours, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except for holidays.

Ad

Deadline

Thursday

4 pm

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