



VETERAN ED CORBIN, right, was presented with a "Quilt of Valor" by Linda Glenn, commander of Douglas County American Legion Post 27, left. The American Legion makes quilts to give to local veterans. Corbin was a staff sergeant in the Air Force involved in the conflict in Grenada. He was a 20270 Radio Communication Analyst. *Submitted photo.*

The Area's Newest Destination Steakhouse

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Cottage Food Act changes open opportunities for home bakers

April 4 compliance date for Douglas County residents

Do you have a killer cookie or cake recipe, artistic flair to spare, and want to indulge this baking passion as a means of supplementing your income? Now you can without the overhead costs of operating a brick-and-mortar business.

In the past, some of the legal guidelines in place made growing such a business restrictive, but changes enacted this year to the Cottage Food Act are allowing more opportunities for culinary creators.

First of all, what exactly is the Cottage Food Act? According to Douglas County Health Department's Environmental Health Specialist Russell Anderson, "The act allows individuals to cook foods — that are not time and temperature controlled for safety — from their homes and sell directly to individuals. These would include things like baked goods, canned food, drinks, and fermented foods. What it does not include are time and temperature-controlled things like meat and dairy — any food that can become hazardous if not cooked and held at proper temperatures."

The Illinois Stewardship Alliance, which worked in partnership with the Illinois General Assembly to pass the new guidelines, noted, "This exciting new legislation helps farmers and

food entrepreneurs grow a business from their home kitchen, and gives Illinois shoppers greater access to support their neighbors and enjoy all the unique, local, and artisan foods that Illinois has to offer."

Changes to the act mean that, once an individual is registered, there are fewer restrictions placed on them. There is no cap on profits, more food items are included under the act and multiple sales venues can be utilized.

This permit is good throughout the state as opposed to a single event or geographic area giving you more options, especially in terms of venues. Sell through social media sites, at farmers markets, fairs festivals, and public events. The Cottage Food Permit means you are no longer required to have a temporary food permit every time you sell your wares at a public event. Temporary food permits currently cost \$20 per event.

This is not to say there is zero cost associated with the law's compliance. The initial cost to register under the Cottage Food Act is \$50, with an annual renewal fee of \$15. The other component — having a Food Service Protection Manager (FSPM) certification — means attending and passing (with a score of 75% or better)

said class, which runs \$140. However, the FSPM certification is good for five years.

Why require this class? Making sure home-based food purveyors are aware of critical food safety practices is a protection for both their customers and themselves.

"The Health Department's job is to ensure individuals are properly trained to produce safe food. We ensure anyone wanting to operate a home kitchen is required to be a certified food protection manager. This may offer your customers increased confidence in your product's safety. You can be better assured you aren't unknowingly doing something that compromises someone's health. It's an investment in your business and a way to learn more about your craft," says Lori Bowman, another DCHD environmental health specialist.

While the legislation became effective statewide on Jan. 1, Anderson says the decision was made to delay enforcing local compliance until April 4.

"We wanted to give the folks affected by this a reasonable amount of time to come into compliance, since it does involve registering with us and taking a class if they don't already have the certification." DCHD will be offering the

Certified Food Protection Manager Class on Friday, March 4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone interested in attending should call 217-253-4137 and ask for Administrator Amanda Minor for more information.

Registration paperwork for the Cottage Food Act can be found by going to the DCHD website (dhealthdept.org) and clicking on the green Environmental tab on the right. Look for the blue Cottage Food Registration Form (PDF) link.

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Church Directory

Bourbon Baptist Church
626 CR 475 E, Tuscola
Church Sunday 10 a.m.,
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group Sunday evenings 6-7:30 p.m.
Email bourbon.baptistchurch@yahoo.com

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
1100 E. Northline Road Tuscola 253-3896
Sunday Morning Sacrament Meeting 9:30 and 10:40 a.m., Wednesday Youth Night 7 p.m.

Church of the Nazarene
1001 Egyptian Trail Tuscola 253-3541
Song & Praise Worship 8:30 a.m.
Traditional/Hymnal Service 10:30 a.m.,
Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Eagle Mountain Assembly of God
401 E. Sale Tuscola 253-4444
Sunday Services 10 a.m.

Faith Baptist Church
300 Northline Road Tuscola 253-4231
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Real Teens, King's Kids 6:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church
300 E. Daggy Tuscola 253-4231
Sunday School 9 a.m., Worship Service 10 a.m.

First Christian Church
100 E. Church Street Tuscola 253-2394
Worship Services 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Sunday Youth Group (Grades 7-12) 6:30 p.m.
Wed. After School Program (Grades 5-6)

First Church of God
821 E. Barker Tuscola 253-2180
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Prayer Time 1:30-2:30 p.m.,
Wednesday Night 6 p.m.
Missionary Women meet
2nd Tuesday of each month 6 p.m.

Forty Martyrs Catholic Church
210 E. Van Allen Tuscola 253-4412
Pastor: Rev. Angel Sierra
Sacrament of Confession: Saturdays 5 p.m.
Or by appointment by calling the church office.
Weekday Mass Times:
8 a.m. Monday, Thursday, and Friday
Weekend Masses: 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m. Sunday

Immanuel Lutheran Church
600 E. Northline Tuscola 253-4341
Saturday Evening Service 5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship Service 9 a.m.

Tuscola United Methodist Church
901 N. Prairie Tuscola 253-4232
Sunday Morning Worship Services
8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday School 10 a.m.

United Church of Christ
114 E. Pembroke St, Tuscola 253-2532
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30 A.M.
Sunday School: 9:30 A.M.
Email: dealralph5@aol.com

<p>14" Thin Crust Family Pleaser® with up to 3 Toppings <small>Additional toppings may be purchased.</small></p> <p>\$21.50 Includes: Family Garden Salad and Soft Drinks</p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out & Delivery. No Coupon Required. Limit 2. Online code: 143fp Must mention offer. Restrictions may apply. Not valid with other coupons or offers. Toppings exclude extra cheese. Delivery charges may apply. Available at participating Monical's Pizza® locations. Valid 1/24/22 - 2/27/22.</small></p>	<p>16" Thin Crust Pizza or 14" Pan Pizza with 1 Topping</p> <p>\$16.50 <small>Additional toppings may be purchased.</small></p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out & Delivery. Coupon Required. Limit 2. Online code: 161top Must show coupon. Restrictions may apply. Not valid with other coupons or offers. Toppings exclude extra cheese. Delivery charges may apply. Available at participating Monical's Pizza® locations. Valid 1/24/22 - 2/27/22.</small></p>
<p>Two 14" Thin Crust Pizzas with 1 Topping each <small>Must buy in multiples of two. Limit 2 Offers.</small></p> <p>\$27 <small>Additional toppings may be purchased. Upgrade to a 16" for an additional charge.</small></p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out & Delivery. Coupon Required. Limit 2 Offers. Online code: 142pie Must show coupon. Restrictions may apply. Not valid with other coupons or offers. Toppings exclude extra cheese. Delivery charges may apply. Available at participating Monical's Pizza® locations. Valid 1/24/22 - 2/27/22.</small></p>	<p>8" 1 Topping Thin Crust or Pan Individual Pleaser <small>Additional toppings may be purchased.</small></p> <p>\$8 Includes: Individual Garden Salad and Large Soft Drink <small>(Delivery available with \$10 minimum purchase)</small></p> <p><small>Dine-In, Carry-Out & Delivery. Coupon Required. Online code: 8pleaser Must show coupon. Restrictions may apply. Not valid with other coupons or offers. Toppings exclude extra cheese. Delivery charges may apply. Available at participating Monical's Pizza® locations. Valid 1/24/22 - 2/27/22.</small></p>

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