

Public Health Officials Announce 123,812 New Cases of Coronavirus Disease Over the Past Week

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today reported 123,812 new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including an increase of 843 deaths since January 21, 2022.

Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 2,897,174 cases, including 30,688 deaths, in 102 counties in Illinois. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100

years. Since January 21, 2022, laboratories have reported 1,310,730 specimens for a total of 50,798,837. As of last night, 4,533 individuals in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 800 patients were in the ICU and 460 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators.

The preliminary seven-day statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total test from

January 21 - 27, 2022 is 9.4%. The preliminary seven-day statewide test positivity from January 21 - 27, 2022 is 12.0%.

A total of 20,423,100 vaccines have been administered in Illinois as of last midnight. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 36,787 doses. Since January 21, 2022, 257,512 doses were reported administered in Illinois. Of Illinois' total population, more than

75% has received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, 66% of Illinois' total population is fully vaccinated, and more than 46% boosted according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

All data are provisional and will change. Additional information and COVID-19 data can be found at <https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19.html>.

Tolono Library Weekly Update: Stop in to Make a Kindness Card or Letter

Tolono Public Library News for Feb. 2-10, 2021

The Tolono Public Library would like to invite you to stop by any time between noon and 6 pm on February 10, 2022 to make a Kindness Card or write a Kindness Letter. The cards and letters will be given to area care facility residents. Let's brighten their days and show them we care about them! Simple acts of kindness bring people of all ages together. We never know the impact of a small act of kindness. While you are at the library, take time to

look around. Rachel has been working very hard on updating our collection and we've been moving collections to make better use of our space. Please ask at the desk if you need help finding anything. We are always glad to help.

Tax season is upon us. We have public computers available for filing taxes electronically. You can also use our computers to download and print the tax forms you need in order to file through the mail. Copies are \$0.15 per page.

Program Events this Week

Virtual After School Bingo: Zoom Event, Wednesdays 3:30-4 pm Email the program coordinator at programs@tolonolibrary.org to receive your custom Bingo card (one per person) and the Zoom login.

Adult Craft Kits: Feb. 6-12: Love Me Tender wall sign. While supplies last.

Letters of Kindness: Feb. 10, noon-6 pm.

Check our mobile app, Facebook page, or website for our calendar of events and see the new books available at the Library.

Pick up the latest edition

of BookPage, the monthly publication with book reviews, Q&A's, feature articles, interviews and much more. Free copies are located on the round table in our lobby.

The Tolono Public Library is following the Mask Mandate set by the Governor of Illinois. Everyone over the age of 2 must to wear a mask, that completely covers the nose and mouth, while inside the library. If you are unable to wear a mask, please call the Library and arrange a curbside pick-up.

The Giving Place Weekly Newsletter

Justice

"In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface, we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousand fold in the future. When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers, we are not simply protecting their trivial old age, we are thereby ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations."

— Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn

"Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe."

— Frederick Douglass

The Giving Place is a Christian ministry serving families in need in the Unit 7 School District. If you know of any families in Unit Seven that are in need, please encourage them to visit TGP on

Wednesday from 4:00 - 6:00.

Volunteers were kept busy at The Giving Place today. We served 9 families (1 new) / 25 people / 9 children in the Food Pantry. Thanks to Pastor Catherine, Sharon, Karen, Derrick, Tom, Dale & Mike for the efforts today.

We are in need of the following items: kid's cereals, baking items & individually wrapped snacks (chips, crackers, cookies, fruit bars & gummies).

Thanks to all that donate food, clothes and money to this ministry. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without your continued support.

Mike Williams

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

Romans 12:19

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Philo Library: New Welcome Additions to Your Reading List On Shelves Now

We've added two videos to our collection. "Dune" is a combo BluRay and DVD - this is based on the Frank Herbert novel. It is the story of Paul Atriedes, a gifted young man born into a great destiny. Paul must travel to the most dangerous planet in the universe to ensure the future of his people. Note: we have the book and sequels to the original "Dune" if you are interested either before or after watching the DVD. We also have the "Addams Family 2" DVD - rated PG-13.

Five new novels have been processed and are ready for check out. On the lighter side, we have two mysteries, "Show Me the Bunny" by Laurien Berenson is a Melanie Travis canine mystery and "Easter Bonnet Murder" by Leslie Meier is also a lighter mystery. One reviewer said

"if you like this type of mystery and this is your first meeting with Lucy Stone (the protagonist), it will probably not be your last. Heather Gudenkauf's latest thriller "The Overnight Guest" tells the story of Wylie Lark, a true crime writer who has retreated to an isolated farmhouse to write her new book. As a deadly snow storm rages, a young child is found outside the farmhouse door and then..... things begin to happen. "The Appeal" by Janice Hallett is a "modern Agatha Christie mystery" - one murder, fifteen suspects, can you uncover the truth? And, Bob Lee Swagger is back in Stephen Hunter's newest book "Targeted". If you like the other Hunter novels, this one will be a welcome addition to your reading list.

Winter is Upon Us: Managing Winter Blues

By Cheri Burcham, Extension Educator, University of Illinois Extension

Winter is upon us and those longer hours of darkness coupled with the colder temperatures can make many people experience those "winter blues." Add the complications of COVID like continued distancing from others and the mental fatigue experienced by the longevity of the pandemic, and I'm afraid we are going

to see more people experiencing those blues this season. I am much more aware of the signs of mental health issues having become a certified trainer for Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and Trauma-Informed Care trainings. I would highly recommend anyone to complete MHFA as the purpose is to help you recognize when someone is having difficulties and be able to respond in a helpful way.

And it is very likely that you will need to be there for someone in that circumstance since according to the National Alliance of Mental Illness, one in five American adults is diagnosed with a mental illness each year and half of those disorders begin by age 14 and three quarters by age 24.

There are many ways to try and prevent those winter blues from sneaking up on us and to maintain positive mental health. Here are just a few tips to get started: Do your best to get outside

despite the cold. Studies show that certain scents within nature, such as jasmine, pine and lilacs have been shown to reduce stress and anxiety. Also getting your Vitamin D by soaking in some sun along with breathing in (airborne chemicals that plants give off to protect themselves) maintains a healthy and strong immune system. More energy and improved focus have also been proven to be results of spending time outside. Spend some time with a friend. Whether in

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The Sidney Scoop

by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812



Look for your correspondent's Sidney American Legion Post 433 Host's American Legion Department of Illinois Membership Caravan SCCIP Feature Article published in this week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Village of Sidney Board of Trustees will take place on Monday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sidney Community Building located at 211 East Main Street in Sidney. All monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held in the Sidney Community Building meeting room.

Sidney area residents State of Illinois 15th District U.S. House of Representatives Congresswoman Mary Miller's (R-IL) office will be participating in the Valentines for Heroes program this year. Valentines will be sent to active-duty military and veterans of our military and folks are encouraged to bring valentines to Congresswoman Miller's district offices on Tuesday, February 8 between 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Congresswoman Miller's three Illinois district office locations are 101 North 4th Street, Suite 303, Effingham, IL 62401, 201 North Vermilion Street, Suite 325, Danville, IL 61832, and 100 E. Locust Street, Harrisburg, IL 62946. Please direct all questions to Sallie Nyhan at (217) 500-7834 if a separate drop-off day or time is needed.

The Sidney American Le-

gion Post 433 will hold their next monthly meeting at the Post Home located at 221 South David Street in downtown Sidney on Monday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. Prospective new members are always welcome and encouraged to attend and all monthly meetings, unless otherwise posted, are held at the Post Home.

The Sidney Fire Protection District annual chili dinner will take place on Saturday, February 26 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Sidney Fire Station located at 302 South David Street in Sidney.

Drive-thru only service will take place and additional toppings, hot dogs, and drinks will be provided with each meal.

Donations will help support the Sidney Fire Protection District firefighters Association so stop by to enjoy some wonderful chili and hot dogs and to support your local Sidney Fire Protection District Firefighters Association.

Have a great week!

If you or your organization have news items you want published drop a line to Ann Rhoton at P. O. Box 491, Sidney, IL 61877 or call (217) 688-2812; don't hesitate to leave a message if there's no answer.

News items must be turned in by 10:00 a.m. each Friday to be published in the following week's paper. Items submitted after the deadline will be published in the following week's column.

PEACE MEAL MENU

Sidney/Homer Peace Meal menu for Thursday, February 3 through Wednesday, February 9.

Thursday, 2/3/22 - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes with brown gravy, tomatoes and zucchini, apricots, whole grain roll served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 2/4/22 - Tuna noodle casserole, buttered carrots, seasoned peas, mandarin oranges, roll served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Monday, 2/7/22 - Baked spaghetti, broccoli, corn, tossed salad with dressing packet, bread or roll served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 2/8/22 - Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned greens, clementine, whole grain roll served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 2/9/22 - Mushroom crusted chicken, au gratin potatoes, capri vegetables, pineapple, whole grain bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

The Sidney Peace Meal home delivered meals program continues Monday through Friday for seniors who qualify.

Individuals who wish to attend a Peace Meal Congregate Meal Site


are invited to attend the Peace Meal Congregate Meal Site in Homer. CONGREGATE MEALS ARE PICK-UP TO CARRY OUT ONLY AT THE PRESENT TIME.

Homer Peace Meal is served around 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday in the Homer Village Hall located at 500 East Second Street in Homer. Home delivered meals are available Monday through Friday for seniors who qualify.

To reserve your spot call Peace Meal at 1-800-543-1770 by 12:00 p.m. the day before the meal you wish to attend. Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the site supervisor for more information. Peace Meal sometimes needs to substitute on menus, but still guarantees a nutritious meal.

The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregare and home delivered meal, however, no older person will be denied a meal because of their inability to contribute to the cost of the meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program does accept the Illinois Link Card for payment.

The Sidney/Homer Peace Meal menu is submitted for the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program by Ann Rhoton.



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Winter Tool Auction

Friday Evening, February 4, 6:00PM

Held at the **Otto Center**, 2058 CR 1800E, Arthur, IL 61911

ON THE MARKET FOR QUALITY TOOLS? We're featuring another auction with many quality used, new in box, and new surplus tools!

For pictures & more info visit: auctionzip.com/auctioneer/48913
Online bidding will be available at: rohrerbros.hibid.com



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Why preplanning a funeral is so important

Pathway

from Pekin Life Insurance Company

When the reality of the loss of a loved one invades our lives, we need time to adjust. If funeral arrangements are being considered for the first time under the pressures of bereavement, many wishes of the deceased and survivors may be overlooked.

Let us explain the details of Pathway, a Pre-arranged funeral plan from Pekin Life Insurance Company. You'll understand why preplanning a funeral is so important.

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Poets Corner:

If you would like to see your poems/short stories published in the SCC Today "Poets Corner" please e-mail your work to: jamie@thetuscolajournal.com