

# Public Health Officials Announce 60,389 New Cases of Coronavirus Disease Over the Past Week

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) today reported 60,389 new confirmed and probable cases of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Illinois, including an increase of 608 deaths since January 28, 2022. The number of cases reported this week (60,389) is less than half as many reported during the previous week (123,812).

Currently, IDPH is reporting a total of 2,957,563 cases, including 31,296 deaths, in 102

counties in Illinois. The age of cases ranges from younger than one to older than 100 years. Since January 28, 2022, laboratories have reported 1,047,216 specimens for a total of 51,846,053. As of last night, 3,135 individuals in Illinois were reported to be in the hospital with COVID-19. Of those, 546 patients were in the ICU and 314 patients with COVID-19 were on ventilators.

The preliminary seven-day

statewide positivity for cases as a percent of total test from January 28 – February 3, 2022 is 5.8%. The preliminary seven-day statewide test positivity from January 28 – February 3, 2022 is 8.0%.

A total of 20,623,484 vaccines have been administered in Illinois as of last midnight. The seven-day rolling average of vaccines administered daily is 28,626 doses. Since January 28, 2022, 200,384 doses were reported admin-

istered 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 47% 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>.

## The Sidney Scoop



by Ann Rhoton, 688-2812

The Village of Sidney Board of Trustees regular monthly meeting should have taken place on Monday, February 7. Look for a report from your correspondent in next week's edition of the Southern Champaign County Today Paper.

I hope everyone stayed safe and warm during the Tuesday, February 1 – Thursday, February 3 ice and snow storm during which many businesses and schools closed early or weren't open at all.

Don't forget Monday, February 14 is Valentine's Day. I don't want anyone to land in the dog house because they forgot to get a Valentine's card or gift for the love one in their life. Happy hunting for that special gift and enjoy the day!

The Sidney American Legion 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.

Happy Valentine's Day!

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.

## Tolono Library Weekly Update: Family Bingo, Mystery Museum

Tolono Public Library News for Feb. 10-17, 2021

Many people ask us about the status of their orders when they request a book from another library. You can follow the progress of your request by watching the status of the request on your holds screen. Pending means your request is being entered into the system. Active indicates your request is in the system, but it has not been filled. An item can remain active for quite some time if there are numerous hold requests for that item. Shipped lets you know that your request has been

filled and it is in transit to our library. We have no control over how long it takes an item to arrive at our library. Held indicates your request has been delivered to our library, it has been processed and it is on the hold shelf, ready for pick up. Items can stay on the hold shelf for 7 days. If a hold is not picked up by the seventh day, it must be sent back to the owning library.

Program Events this Week

Virtual After School Bingo: Zoom Event, Wednesdays 3:30-4 pm Email the program coordinator at [programs@tolonolibrary.org](mailto:programs@tolonolibrary.org) to receive your

custom Bingo card (one per person) and the Zoom login.

Letters of Kindness: Feb. 10, noon-6 pm Drop in, write a note/make a card for a care facility resident.

Family Bingo: Feb. 11, 6-6:30 pm In-person event.

Children Take Home Craft: Feb. 13-19 Paper Heart Garland.

Mystery Museum: Feb. 12-20 Museum of the Grand Prairie Artifacts Display.

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 Story of Cupid



What would Valentine's Day be without images of a golden-tressed boy armed with bow and arrows? The arrows represent feelings of love and desire, and they are aimed and cast at various individuals, causing them to fall deeply in love - or fall out of it.

In Roman mythology, the boy is known as Cupid and is the son of Venus, the goddess of love. Portrayed as a cherubic and mischievous toddler, this magical boy was purported to be the matchmaker of gods and mortals alike.

For students of Greek mythology, Cupid represents Eros, the Greek word for "desire." He was the son of Aphrodite, Venus' Hellenistic counterpart, and would play with the hearts of mortals and gods, sometimes leaving mayhem in his wake. In Greek mythology, Eros was more

teenager than bubbly baby, and capitalized on his status as a heartthrob rather than the cherubic status of Roman mythology, according to Richard Martin, a Stanford University professor. While Cupid may have been an adorable imp, some historians say Eros had a darker side, going so far as to describe him as calculating and sinister - forcing the wrong people into lovelorn matches.

According to Museum Hack, while Cupid could make people fall in and out of love, he also was once in love himself. In this telling, Cupid is a young man when Venus learns that a mortal girl is born with such great beauty that others start to forget to worship Venus, adoring this girl instead. Upset about the misdirected adoration toward this mortal,

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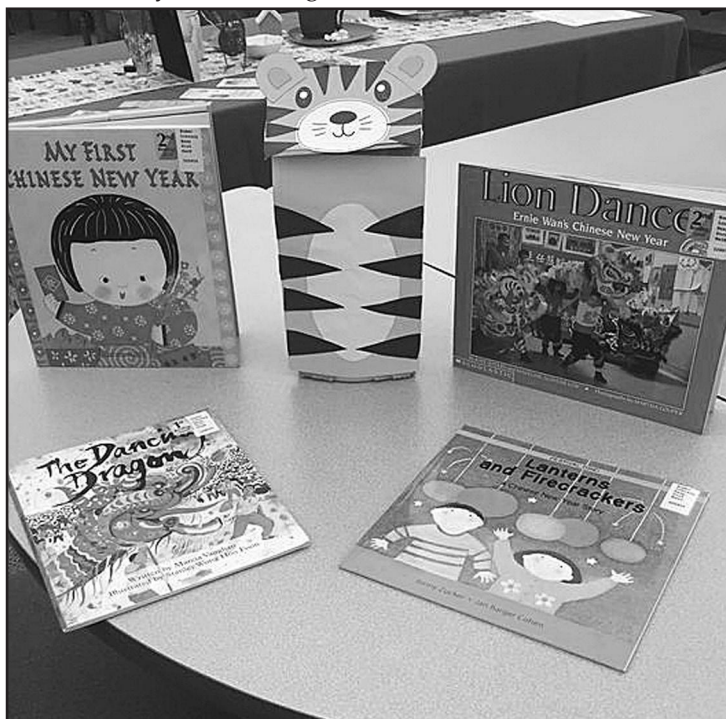
## Homer Library Celebrating Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year at the Homer Library

We have several children's books that describe the wonderful celebration!

This is the year of the Tiger.

Make a paper bag tiger puppet with your child. Free craft kits for this tiger puppet are ready to pick up at the Homer Community Library.



## Unity Music Boosters Presents All Out A Cappella

Unity Music Boosters will have their All Out A Cappella event on Saturday, February 26th at 4:00pm and again at 7:00pm.

All Out A Cappella is Unity Music Boosters' biggest fundraiser of the year.

Your attendance supports the music programs at every level in our district. We've used funds from this event to pay for music trips, scholarships, risers, costumes, and

instrument repair.

You'll see QB a Cappella, Illinois Rip Chords, Xtension Chords, No Comment, On The Brink Of Normal, Secondary Dominance, Surreal Sound and the Unity West 5th Grade Choir (4pm only).

We hope to see you there!

Ticket are on sale now for both performances at <https://search.seatyourself.biz/webstore/accounts/unitymusicboosters/buy-tix>.

HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY  
★ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ★

All of our offices will be CLOSED on Monday, February 21, 2022.

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FDIC

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 Prearranged funeral plan from Pekin Life Insurance Company. You'll understand why preplanning a funeral is so important.

**Freese Funeral Home**  
Sidney, 688-2014 • St. Joseph, 469-2331  
Tolono, 486-7555

## PEACE MEAL MENU

Sidney/Homer Peace Meal menu for Thursday, February 10 through Wednesday, February 16.

Thursday, 2/10/22 – Cheeseburger soup, roll served with butter or margarine, pickled beets, broccoli salad, peaches, and a half pint of milk.

Friday, 2/11/22 – Salmon burger served on a bun with condiments, baked beans, brussels sprouts, apricots, and a half pint of milk.

Monday, 2/14/22 – Lasagna, broccoli, corn, tossed salad with dressing packet, cheddar biscuit served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Tuesday, 2/15/22 – Fried chicken, mashed potatoes with gravy, collard greens, mandarin oranges, whole grain bread served with butter or margarine, and a half pint of milk.

Wednesday, 2/16/22 – Beef stew with vegetables, green beans, Jell-O mixed with fruit, roll served with butter or margarine, surprise dessert, 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 congregate 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

## Poets Corner

i carry your heart with me (i carry it in)  
by E.E. Cummings  
i carry your heart with me  
(i carry it in my heart)  
i am never without it  
(anywhere i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done by only me is your doing, my darling)  
i fear no fate  
(for you are my fate, my sweet)  
i want no world  
(for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
and it's you are

whatever a moon has always meant and whatever a sun will always sing is you here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows higher than soul can hope or mind can hide)  
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart i carry your heart (i carry it in my heart)

**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](mailto:jamie@thetuscolajournal.com)