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Thursday, March 26, 2020

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Vermilion County judges changes court schedules for safety

Presiding Judge Thomas M. O'Shaughnessy announced that the judiciary in Vermilion County is taking action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rita B. Garman Vermilion County Courthouse performs essential governmental and judicial functions and operations, and, accordingly, must remain open for business, but has imposed imitations and restrictions.

"Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the health and well-being of the citizens of Vermilion County, and consistent with the recommendations of the Illinois Supreme Court, as well as the county health department, many of the civil and criminal cases in Vermilion County will be postponed and suspended," O'Shaughnessy said. The changes are in effect until April 7.

An administrative order entered by O'Shaughnessy restricts access to the courthouse to anyone who has traveled to China, Italy, Iran, Japan, or South Korea (or any other place to which travel restrictions have been placed by agencies of the federal government) within the last 21

days; resides or has had close contact with someone who has traveled to one of these areas within the last 21 days; has been asked to self-quarantine by any hospital, clinic, physician, or health agency; or has been diagnosed with, has had contact with, anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or has flu-like symptoms including fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Those people should telephone the Court Administrator at (217) 554-7830 for instructions.

The order also ensures that a judge will be available during all regular business hours to hear all matters determined by the court as emergencies and/or essential.

The administrative order continues/postpones all hearings scheduled through April 17 in the following categories of cases and the parties are directed not to appear:

- Non-emergency civil matters, including civil jury trials
- Law Magistrate (LM), including evictions
- Small Claims

See SCHEDULES on other side

2020 Balloons Over Vermilion falls victim to coronavirus

While no Vermilion County residents have been confirmed as having the coronavirus, COVID-19 has claimed its first summer activity.

Organizers announced Wednesday that this year's Balloons Over Vermilion will be canceled.

"It is with heavy hearts, but mindful of the serious situation we all face, that we announce the cancellation of Balloons Over Vermilion 2020," said co-organizer Pat O'Shaughnessy in a press release.

In making the decision, the board of directors considered several factors, including:

1) Since its inception, Balloons Over Vermilion has been a professionally organized, community-based family event. It has been made possible by the dozens of generous sponsors who support the event every year. Today, many of those sponsors are concerned with keeping their businesses open in a very trying

time. Whether open or closed, they are attempting to protect and pay their employees while continually wondering what the future holds for them, their employees and their livelihoods. Asking sponsors to support a community event at a time in which they find themselves struggling to support such significant human factors would certainly not be in the best interests of our community as a whole.

2) The question of "when will this all be over" is yet to be answered. Unfortunately, there are varying degrees of estimates and answers to this question from very educated and informed professionals, none of who are indicating it will end soon.

3) Planning for Balloons Over Vermilion takes the time and effort of many devoted volunteers. Contracts are signed, equipment is ordered, and commitments

See BALLOONS on other side

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Russell Leigh & Associates is still open.

We strongly encourage clients to drop off or mail in to help stop the spread. Telephone consultations are available as needed.

• State deadline is April 15

• Federal deadline was extended to July 15

Our offices will be taking very limited tax appointments past the April 15 deadline as May 1 begins our audit season. We will always take your drop-off or mail-in tax documents, and will make every attempt to get them completed in a timely manner.

Get in early and get your refund!

Call us at (217) 283-9336
with questions, or to let us know your tax documents are on the way.

Schedules continued from other side

- Miscellaneous remedy, including expungements
- Probate
- Chancery, including mortgage foreclosures
- Adoption
- Domestic relations, family, and child support cases
- Tax
- Some felony matters, including jury trials for defendants who are not in-custody and who have not demanded a speedy trial (Defendants are advised to contact their attorney to confirm the status of their hearings)
- Traffic
- Misdemeanor
- Conservation violation
- Ordinance violation
- Juvenile abuse, neglect, and dependency (JA) (except as outlined below)
- Juvenile delinquency (JD) (except as outlined below)

All hearings in these cases are continued to a date to be authorized by the judge presiding over the division. Notice will be sent to the last known address of each party. Litigants are directed to ensure that their mailing address on file with the Circuit Clerk is updated and current. Attorneys and litigants should also monitor cases rescheduled on the county’s website: www.vercounty.org.

Matters determined by the court to be emergencies will be heard in-person or by telephone conference on a case-

Balloons continued from other side

are made well in advance of the opening of the gates. Unfortunately, the date of July 10 continues to approach. We are not able to, nor are we willing to, ask sponsors to make financial commitments under the current circumstances. Contracts for services cannot be signed in good faith, volunteers cannot be solicited, and balloonists cannot be tied to an event that may not happen. If we knew the “all clear” date, we could estimate if it would allow enough time to complete all the tasks necessary to provide the quality event that the community has embraced. But no one knows the “all clear” date and it pushes closer to our event date with each passing day.

4) Vermilion County has yet to experience its first case of the Covid-19 virus. We are fortunate in this regard, but also mindful that a mass gathering like Balloons Over Vermilion attracts visitors, participants and vendors from across the nation. Protecting the health and welfare of all our residents and guests is a commitment we do not take lightly, and one which weighed heavily in our decision.

by-case basis. Attorneys and self-represented litigants should contact the Court Administrator at (217) 554-7830 for purposes of requesting the scheduling of an emergency matter.

Pleadings in all civil cases, including motions and agreed orders, may continue to be E-filed in the manners consistent with Supreme Court Rules.

The following proceedings/hearings will be held as scheduled, with appearances expected for all litigants, unless the travel or health appearance restrictions apply, all of which are deemed “essential matters”:

- All bail and bond review hearings and arraignments
- Hearings related to violations of supervision and probation for in-custody defendants
- Subpoena returns for in-custody defendants
- Other criminal law matters with the defendant in-custody at the discretion of the judge presiding over the division
- Criminal felony jury trials for defendants in custody and/or who have filed speedy trial demands
- Specialty courts (Drug, Mental Health, and Veterans’ Courts)
- Grand jury proceedings
- Motions involving statutory summary suspension juvenile shelter care and detention hearings, and adjudicatory hearings for in-custody minors

For these reasons, and as an abundance of caution, Balloons Over Vermilion 2020 has been cancelled. Due to the schedule of national ballooning events, it is not possible to postpone the event to a later date this year. There simply are not any later dates available which meet the local calendar and weather scenarios.

The Board of Directors and the entire Steering Committee of Balloon Over Vermilion remain fully committed to the future success of this event and we look forward to seeing everyone enjoying the sites, the flights, the smiles and the excitement of Balloons Over Vermilion 2021 to begin July 9, 2021.

Weather

Mostly cloudy, then chance of showers today. High 62. Tonight, chance of showers. Low 47. Tomorrow, showers likely. High 59, low 52.

For real time Hoopeston weather, visit justthefacts.net/weather/.

- Mental health hearings
- Petitions for emergency and plenary orders of protection, stalking/no-contact orders, or civil no-contact orders
- Emergency hearings on family matters as scheduled by the Court Administrator after approval of the judge presiding over the division

Defendants may continue to enter into plea agreements to conclude their cases.

Jury Service: The court shall minimize the need for jurors to be summoned to the courthouse. A juror summoned for jury service, who is experiencing acute respiratory illness symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, headaches), flu-like symptoms, fever, or are coughing or sneezing, should contact the Jury Commission Coordinator on weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at

(217) 554-7845 and report these symptoms. Jury duty service will be deferred to a later date.

Juvenile Detention: The Detention Center may implement emergency visitation and transport procedures for minors held at the detention center, in order to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. Non-essential personnel/visitors may be denied access to the facility to ensure the health and safety of minor detainees and detention center staff.

Marriages and Civil Unions: The court will continue to perform marriage and civil union ceremonies in the courthouse, however, only the two primary individuals are permitted to attend the ceremony. Additional people, including family and friends will be denied access to the courthouse, and not allowed to attend the ceremony.

Classifieds

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

1 BR ground level, \$400/mo. Call (217) 304-1103.

HELP WANTED

The City of Hoopeston is accepting application for an eligibility list with the police department. If interested, you will need to pick up and turn in an application to the police department located at 301 W Main St. Hoopeston, IL by May 4, 2020. Testing date will take place on May 30, 2020 at Hoopeston Area High School Library.

Help wanted: tire and mechanic experience helpful. Apply in person. Smitty's Dual Wheel, Inc. 8 miles west of Rossville.

City of Hoopeston is accepting applications for seasonal workers. Applications may be picked up at City Hall, 301 W Main St.

Robinson Chiropractic, a thriving and expanding chiropractic clinic, is looking for team oriented, multi-tasking, detail-oriented people. Candidates will be trained to assist with patient care. Customer service and phone skills a must. Candidates must be enthusiastic, outgoing, positive, great with people and have an interest in natural health and wellness and be flexible as we continue to thrive and grow in offices. Send resumes to trina.keller@robchiro.com.

We are currently hiring for our Verizon location next to McDonald's in Hoopeston! Are you interested in pursuing a career in sales where you can earn a base plus commission? Then this position might just be for you! If you like sales, love technology and have a competitive spirit you may have what it takes to join our amazing team! You'll use your knowledge and passion for technology to deliver an effortless customer experience while pursuing challenging and rewarding goals! This role comes with an hourly base and commission package as well as awesome benefits. Please email your resume to seth.wilson@alstire

mart.com or stop by our store for more details.

Aquality Solutions is looking for full-time delivery drivers skilled in efficiency, organization, and flexibility. Delivery Drivers will deliver bottled water and bagged salt to commercial and residential customers and must have knowledge or be willing to learn maintenance operations when not driving. Apply in person at 102 N 1st Street in Hoopeston or call us at 855-692-7824.

Full-Fill Industries Henning, IL, is offering many job opportunities for full-time and part-time positions. We offer full-time positions with a full benefit package. 1st and 2nd shifts are available. Full-Fill Industries also offers a unique opportunity to choose the schedule that fits your lifestyle. You may choose to work 1, 2, or 3 days a week. Candidates must be 18 years old, and you can pick your shift. Machine Operators are needed for 1st & 2nd shift. We are now offering a part-time flexible work schedule for Moms & Dads who want to earn some extra cash during school hours. We are now offering an 8:00 am - 4:30 pm schedule to fit the needs of your family while your children are in school.

If you are interested in applying for a growing company, please apply on-line at www.full-fill.com go to employment or employment opportunities and apply as indicated. EOE

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