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Thursday, April 2, 2020

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Health department announces county's first COVID-19 case

Vermilion County has its first positive COVID-19 case.

A Vermilion County resident in his 20s was tested in Champaign County and is currently hospitalized in Champaign County.

Vermilion County Health Department's Communicable Disease staff have begun its surveillance investigation, finding who the person lives with, works with, and spends time with, as well as others in close proximity (within six feet for more than 10 minutes)

so that determinations can be made about who needs to be fast-tracked for testing.

The health department is not releasing the patient's gender, address, or employer at this time, said Public Health Administrator Doug Toole.

VCHD is asking residents to continue to be vigilant: practice social distancing, stay home unless necessary to leave, and wash hands frequently. We have been preparing for this, and have been taking actions to try to minimize COVID-19's impact on the community.

Pritzker extends Stay at Home order, schools remain closed

CHICAGO—Building on the state's efforts to flatten the curve of new COVID-19 cases in Illinois and following consultation with experts in Illinois and across the nation, Gov. JB Pritzker signed a 30-day extension of the state's disaster proclamation. The disaster proclamation provides the governor the authority to sign additional executive orders, extending the Stay at Home order and suspending on-site learning in K-12 schools through April.

"I have let the science guide our decisions and I've relied upon the top medical experts, scientists, public health researchers, epidemiologists, mathematicians and modelers, from the greatest institutions in the world whose guidance on infection rates and potential mortalities and protective measures is second to none," Pritzker said. "Illinois has one of the strongest public health systems in the nation – but even so, we aren't immune to this virus' ability to push our existing capacity beyond its limit. We need to maintain our course and keep working to flatten the curve."

Extension of Stay at Home Order

On March 20, Pritzker announced a Stay at Home order to flatten the curve of COVID-19. The extension of the order will continue to permit a range of essential activities that will allow Illinoisans to meet their necessities while maintaining social distance

from others. Grocery stores, gas stations, pharmacies and other businesses providing services deemed essential will not close.

Staying at home and social distancing are the paramount strategies for minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in communities. Every Illinoisan plays a role in ensuring our health care system remains fully operational to treat patients in need of urgent care.

As of March 30, preliminary reports from hospitals statewide show that 41 percent of adult ICU beds are "empty", which means they are staffed and ready for immediate patient use, a two-percentage point decrease in a week. As far as ventilators, 68% are available statewide across Illinois, a four-percentage point drop in a week.

Statewide, about 35 percent of total ICU beds are occupied by COVID patients and about 24 percent of total ventilators are occupied by COVID patients. The state remains within its capacity, and is working to increase its capacity to prepare for an anticipated surge in hospitalizations related to COVID-19 in the coming weeks.

Those experiencing symptoms should call a health care provider who will help arrange medical treatment without putting others at risk of exposure. The

See HOME on other side

Due to the continued COVID-19 pandemic and a confirmed case in Vermilion County, we are adjusting our business hours to 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. until the situation is over.

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Open Sundays

Corona Changes

Hoopeston Area schools lunch distribution will be done in the John Greer bus lane. Parents do not need to leave their cars, just pull through the lane and receive lunches.

Effective immediately, the Grant Township Supervisor's office will be closed. For questions, please call (217) 283-5221.

Grant Township Food Cupboard is operating as normal at this time. Hours are Monday and Thursday, noon– 2 p.m. Please remember to practice social distancing if using the food cupboard. For questions, call (217) 283-0780.

Residents who wish to follow the shelter in place order but who need postage stamps can get them delivered by local postal carriers.

Those who want stamps are asked to leave a note saying how many stamps are needed and a check in an envelope in their mailbox. Write "Hoopeston Postmaster" on the envelope. The check may also be made to Hoopeston Postmaster.

Stamps are 55 cents each. A book of 20 is \$11 and a roll of 100 is \$55.

City of Hoopeston

- City hall remains closed to the public. The drop box

Home continued from other side

Illinois Department of Public Health has a statewide COVID-19 hotline and website to answer questions from the public or to report a suspected case: call 1-800-889-3931 or visit IDPH.illinois.gov.

Suspension of on-site learning

On March 13, Pritzker announced a temporary statewide closure of all K-12 schools to minimize spread of COVID-19 across communities. Child care providers who have been licensed to operate to provide care to the children of essential workers will remain open.

Schools will transition from Act of God Days to Remote Learning Days, with days counting toward the school year. Each school district will create and implement a Remote Learning Day Plan to ensure all students, including students with disabilities and English learners, receive instructional materials and can communicate with their teachers.

To prepare, the Illinois School Board of Education (ISBE) assembled an advisory group of more than 60 educators to make recommendations about instruction and grading during remote learning.

outside city hall will remain available for water payments and other city business. Residents may call (217) 283-5833 for payments over the phone or other questions.

The city website is available and includes necessary forms. Payments may be made through the site, cityof-hoopeston.com/

- Water shut-offs will not occur during the duration of the emergency. Late fees will still be incurred on delinquent accounts.

- 2019 golf cart stickers will be honored until May 1, 2020. Golf cart owners must still maintain insurance and equipment requirements as specified in the ordinance.

- Republic Services has suspended bulk service until further notice. All trash is to be placed in the blue totes for pickup.

- Residents are asked not to flush disinfectant wipes, baby wipes, cleaning cloths, feminine hygiene products or similar materials, down the toilet. These do not break down in the system and are being trapped by grease that residents continue to put down their sinks and toilets, resulting in blockages.

Village of Rossville

Per Mayor Dick Queen, Rossville Village Office has reopened. In order to help reduce the spread of

Schools can use up to five Remote Learning Planning Days at any time to prepare and refine their approaches to remote learning. Schools will design plans to minimize instructional loss and to provide opportunities for students' academic, linguistic, and social-emotional growth.

Remote learning will look different for every district and every school. School districts will create plans based on their local resources and needs. Most districts will use a mix of digital and non-digital methods of engaging students in learning.

As a part of their recommendations, the advisory group recommended that grades be used only to increase students' academic standing. Student grades will not be lowered during this time. The advisory group recommended that any grades that schools give during this time be used as an opportunity for feedback and not an instrument for compliance.

ISBE will continue to work in partnership with school districts to address questions and to provide guidance to educators and administrators to protect and support Illinois students.

COVID 19, the front door will be locked. Payments can be made by dropping the payment in the night drop slot on the front of the building, through the drive-up window or online thru PSN, on the village website, www.villageoffrossville.org/ or

Obituaries

FETTERS - Dale William Feters, 86, of Hoopeston, formerly of Rossville, died at 5:16 p.m. Monday, March 30 3030, at Heritage Health, Hoopeston. Due to the health concerns at this time, private family graveside service will be held. Memorials are suggested to Rossville Church of Christ, 514 E. Attica St., Rossville IL 60963.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Silgan Containers is hiring Press Line Mechanics. To apply, please visit <https://silgancontainers.mua.hrdepartment.com/hr/ats/Posting/view/10688>

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

www.govpaynet.com/.

Thank you for your patience during this time!

From the Blotter

A watch was found Tuesday at Floral Hill Cemetery. The owner may identify and claim it at the police station.

Weather

Mostly sunny today. High 60. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Low 44. Tomorrow, partly sunny, chance of showers late. High 64, low 48.

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

benefits. Please email your resume to seth.wilson@alstiremart.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.

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