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## The Stoners

By David Larson

The Stoners began to arrive in Belvidere perhaps as early as 1869, and were well established in Belvidere by the 1880s. Two brothers, Bert and Bill Stoner, quickly became a part of Belvidere upon their arrival and found their marriage partners here. Bert built a thriving business and married Kate Shiplet at the home of her sister.

It is not known where the Stoners came from, or anything about them before they arrived. But they were not average. Bert aspired to be a prosperous merchant in a new and growing town. The National Sewing Machine Company was well-established and the farming economy was robust. Belvidere had electricity and a modern iron bridge. The railroad connected it to the world. The future looked rosy.

Bert Stoner opened a jewelry and music store in Belvidere on the southeast corner of State Street and Buchanan Street. Today it is Niko's Cabin. In the 1960s, it was the Corner Tap. In the 2010s it was The Wicked Brew coffee shop, a restored building by Ed Marx. This colorized photo shows the richness of his product line in musical instruments and helps us understand the character of the music culture in Belvidere in the 1880s. Banjos, guitars, mandolins, violins and a triangle are easy to see in the window. Most likely horns were on display inside and perhaps a piano, sheet music and supplies.

In the opposite window are decorative clocks and dozens of neatly displayed pocket watches.

Today the sidewalk comes flush from both streets to the building after having covered the window well and stairway in the original form of the building. Since publishing our story about the Corner Tap a few weeks ago, the Journal has learned that there was a restaurant in the lower level of this building many years ago. The restaurant was run as a separate business from those at street level and on the second floor. Belvidere Entertainment operated a pool hall and two-lane bowling alley on the second floor. No evidence exists that outdoor seating was available for the restaurant on the lower level (nor could it be said that there was not).

At the time of this photo, the lower level was a bootmaker's shop operated by an Afro-American fellow whose name is partially legible, but mostly illegible, on the sign at the head of the stairway to the lower level.

A hardware store is known to have been in operation shortly after Stoner ended business at this location. A large mural/billboard promoting the hardware store was painted on the Buchanan Street side of the building during its tenure. The billboard was where the New York Candy Store mural is today.

We do not know which man Bert Stoner is in the photo, if his brother Bill was included, or if Bill worked with Bert in the store. We do know and can guess that one of the three was, perhaps, Fred A Marean. Marean was a watch repair apprentice of Bert's.

Bert was a master watch repairman and upon Stoner's passing around 1900, Marean opened his own jewelry store in what used to be Holmes Hardware Store. Shortly after he moved to the future location of the New York Candy Store in



## County Fairs Hurt Financially by Covid-19 Shutdowns

**Officials still hopeful the shows will go on this summer at county, state fairgrounds**

by Rebecca Anzel Capitol News Illinois

The social distancing guidelines that led Illinois county fairs to cancel off-season events on their grounds through the end of April is one part of a financial impact double-whammy, a trade official said.

Many local fairs use revenue from off-season events and activities to "pay the bills," said Ken Tyrrell, president of the state's Association of Agricultural Fairs.

Guidelines from Gov. JB Pritzker's office regulating the number of people allowed to congregate shrank over the past few weeks from 1,000 to 50 to, finally, 10. County fairs canceled expositions, contests and other events back when that number was 250.

The other problem, Tyrrell said, is a delay in reimbursements from the comptroller's office for costs incurred last year. Under statute, the state is responsible for paying county fairs 66.67 percent of what organizers spent on agricultural premiums. That includes activities related to horticulture, poultry, livestock, horse races and rodeos.

Tyrrell said fair organizers "have never received that" — in recent years, they were reimbursed 25 percent of eligible costs.

"That's beginning to hurt a lot of fairs in the state of Illinois. We're told it's been at the comptroller's office since December," he said. "Possibly if the state would pay their bills, it would really help fairs."

A spokesperson from Comptroller Susana Mendoza's office did not return a request for comment by time of publication.

County fairs in Illinois begin hosting their

## Pritzker, Lightfoot Support Artists During COVID-19 Shutdown

By PETER HANCOCK Capitol News Illinois

Gov. JB Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot announced Wednesday the formation of a new relief fund to support artists and performers who have been temporarily put out of work by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Arts for Illinois Relief Fund will provide financial assistance in the form of grants to artists, artisans and cultural organizations that have been impacted by the virus. The fund is a partnership between the city of Chicago, the state of Illinois and several charitable foundations.

Pritzker highlighted the new fund during his daily COVID-19 media briefing in Chicago on the same day the Department of Public Health announced 986 new confirmed cases and 42 deaths from the disease over the previous 24 hours.

That brings the state's total to 6,980 cases, including 141 deaths, in 56 counties. The 42 deaths were the largest reported in one day thus far.

"I think I have said, I hope I have said every day that we knew we would see more cases and we knew we would see more deaths," IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said during the briefing. "So as we develop more cases we are going to have more deaths."

Ezike and Pritzker both continued to stress that the best way to slow the spread of the disease is to practice enhanced hygiene — washing hands; wiping down frequently-touched surfaces — and social distancing, including the state's stay-at-home order.

Pritzker highlighted several ways in which that order has affected daily life in Illinois, including the lives of artists and performers who depend on public gatherings to display their

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**Stoners**

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the 400 block of South State Street, a location later run as Harvey's Confectionery nearly 100 years later. It was at this location that Marean began to prosper as well. Starting with nothing, having worked as a clerk learning the watch repair skill with Bert Stoner, Fred Marean began to accumulate an inventory of watches. He also invested in a wider stock of jewelry and a remodeling of the interior of the store.

When Marean passed away in 1913, he left a legacy of a functioning Commercial Club of Belvidere. Fred A. Marean helped found and functioned as a principal member of of the club during his business career.

**Fairs**

*Continued page 1*

main events in June. If the novel coronavirus pandemic continues into the summer, forcing fairs to begin cancelling, Tyrrell said "it would be devastating."

If a fair is canceled, expected revenue needed to pay laborers to maintain the grounds is lost, for example. Marla Calico, president of the International Association of Fairs & Expositions, added they additionally would lose vendor deposits and presale ticket money.

"Many downstate fairs struggle getting along as it is. They don't have money put away or deep pockets. All of them struggle," Tyrrell said. "Any time you lose revenue, it's going to affect the fair."

According to IAFE data, most county fairs across the country are scheduled for July, but events largely begin in June, extend strongly into August and wind down in September.

Member county fairs told Calico "they are taking a wait-and-see attitude," choosing not to close unless forced to do so by public health authorities because "many times, they are the single largest economic driver in the community."

She said county fair cancellations would cause "an entire ripple effect."

"It's not just the funds that not-for-profit organizations may gain and do good within the

community when they give out scholarships to young people," Calico said. "It's the small businesses all around them — the gas station benefits, the hotels benefit, the cafes and restaurants benefit."

According to a study commissioned by the IAFE, fairs in the U.S. are estimated to generate \$4.67 billion in economic activity annually. A survey of the association's members found that number is already down \$66 million due to 320 fairs forced to shut down 10,578 events thus far this year.

Events at the Illinois State Fairgrounds have been canceled through April. While Kevin Gordon, Illinois State Fair manager, said in a written statement that will have a financial impact, "our priority, first and foremost, is the health and safety of those individuals holding, and attending these events, along with our department support staff."

He added the Coliseum's renovation and reopening means more events than typical over the past few years had been scheduled and subsequently called off.

"Our staff is working diligently to reschedule any shows that have been canceled by this temporary closure," Gordon said in the statement. "Once we get through this uncertainty that we are all facing, we are anticipating another great spring and summer of events on the Illinois State Fairgrounds."

Tyrrell is the vice president of the Sandwich Fair's board in northern Illinois' DeKalb County, one of the largest in the state in terms of fair entrants. He said county organizers of summer events have not yet discussed fair cancellations, and also are taking "a wait-and-see attitude."

"I'm being optimistic, and I'm thinking this will take care of itself by the first of June," he said. "The main concern right now is that we've lost revenue from cancelling off-season events and lost revenue, and the state of Illinois not paying us what we're entitled to."

"Fairs have been around since before the founding of the country, so it's something I believe is really a part of America," Tyrrell continued. "As I said, I think we need to calm down and I have all the faith in the world we'll have a fair season this year."

Fairgrounds across the country that cleared their spring calendar are being repurposed to assist in the COVID-19 effort, Calico added. Grounds in Ohio, Missouri and Washington are operating drive-through testing facilities and one in West Virginia is using its indoor facilities to house community partners to package meals for school children.

"The Illinois State Fairgrounds and many other locations throughout the state have been identified as possible future community based drive-thru testing sites," a spokesperson for the Illinois Management Agency said in an email. "However, further evaluation is needed before any decisions can be made."

"Our members are going to step up to the plate — that's what they do," Calico said. "Each and every single one of us is a citizen of this world and must do what we must do to protect our family and neighbors."

**Illinois**

*Continued from page 1*

work.

"Art has always been of incredible importance to me and to my family. But of course, so many of the usual ways of enjoying art together, have had to be put on pause. And tragically, our creative communities have felt the financial hardship," Pritzker said.

Pritzker said the relief fund has raised more than \$4 million so far, including \$1 million from the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Artists can apply for grants and individuals can make donations through the program's website: artsforillinois.org.

Chicago artist Amanda Williams said she has seen first-hand how the shutdown of social activity has affected people throughout the arts community.

"And it's not just visual artists that I'm talking about," she said. "Actors, musicians, dancers, choreographers, playwrights, lighting techs, costume fabricators, wig makers, carpenters, electricians, stage managers, box office staff, ushers, facilities workers and the many more individuals and organizations that were immediately impacted when our theaters went dark, studios went silent, museums and galleries closed their doors."

**2020 Census**

Pritzker also noted that Wednesday, April 1, was Census Day in the United States. All people are required to report where they resided on that day. But the numbers are also used to determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal spending are distributed, including roughly \$34 billion per year that flow to Illinois for things like education, child care, workforce training, transportation and health care.

The U.S. Constitution requires a census of all residents be conducted every 10 years in order to apportion representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The state of Illinois is spending \$29 million as part of an effort to get an accurate count, and Pritzker said because of the outbreak, the state is now focusing that money mostly on outreach programs that target hard-to-count populations — rural communities, minority communities

**Obituaries**

Behuniak, WSillene, 83, Belvidere, March 28  
Gunsteen, Robert, 65, Belvidere, March 28



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Each week, the Journal seeks to present a variety of voices.  
**Letters.** Every attempt will be made to print all letters received with the exception of those that are libelous or obscene. Letters should be signed and include an ID or phone number, so that we can contact the author prior to publication to verify authenticity.  
**Guest columns.** Community leaders are encouraged to submit guest columns consistent with our editorial guidelines for possible inclusion in the Journal.  
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and low-income individuals and families, among others.

He also noted that because of the pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau has temporarily suspended sending census workers into the field to do door-to-door canvassing of people who have not yet filled out their census forms.

People can fill out their census forms online this year, even by using a smartphone, by visiting My2020Census.gov. It can also be completed by phone at 844-330-2020.

"I want to remind everyone that there is no citizenship question on the census," Pritzker said. "Let me repeat that there is no citizenship question on the census form. You will not be asked your immigration status and your information will not be shared with anyone."

**Health care coverage and workforce**

Pritzker also said Wednesday that more than 1,100 former health care professionals and those who practice out of state have responded to his call to renew or apply for licenses in Illinois so they can join the workforce treating COVID-19 patients.

He said many of the out-of-state practitioners are actually Illinois residents who practice in border communities just outside the state.

"Right now those numbers are running about half-and-half, with more applications coming in every day," he said. "It's really incredible to watch. The people of this state are truly so deeply genuinely caring."

But Pritzker had less kind words to say about President Donald Trump, who reportedly has refused requests by Democratic and Republican governors to reopen the enrollment period for people seeking insurance coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

"Some White House officials are saying that the President will not be reopening the insurance marketplace in response to the coronavirus," Pritzker said. "Frankly, this is leadership malpractice. Now more than ever, we need as many people as possible to have access to health care to seek out testing if we're ever going to be able to fight COVID-19 and eliminate it as a major risk to our people."

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## OP ED

While it is important always to use words precisely, never was the need greater than now. One hears bandied about such terms as social distance, self isolation, just plain isolation, communication, and loneliness. It is imperative for us to employ such terms precisely and accurately.

Yes, we must maintain social distance for some considerable period of time. Some of us, unfortunately, must also self quarantine. But still there must be abundant communication. Public officials must communicate openly with us. Businesses must communicate. Fundamentally and absolutely, it is imperative that we communicate continuously with each other.

We must note that there are several reasons or purposes creating these imperatives. These

behaviors are, of course, necessary for the health of each of us. But they are imperative also for the health of all of us. Ultimately, they are imperative for the recovery and health of American society.

We are by nature a generous and gregarious people. Ever since the French visitor Alexis de Tocqueville made this observation in the 1830s, these traits have been identified as core elements of the American personality. We cooperate with each other. We join with each other. We help each other. We manifest these behaviors in generally unselfish ways. It is simply our nature to behave this way. This feature of our American personality has never been needed more than it is right now.

The imperative of social distance must not degenerate into selfishness, withdrawal, and the destructive isolation of loneliness. We must, of course, preserve our physical health. But we must do more. We must preserve also our national character, nay, our national soul. America will emerge from this struggle. But the America that emerges from the struggle must be worth the struggle.

*Bob Evans  
Rockford University*

### So Your School is Practicing Remote Learning. What Does it Mean?

*Standardized tests canceled as schools remain closed through April 30*

*By Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois*

Public K-12 schools statewide were instructed to begin remote learning days Tuesday until in-person instruction can resume, and standardized testing in the state is canceled for the year as well.

Illinois Superintendent of Education Dr. Carmen Ayala was given the authority to define and give guidance on remote learning days in a recent executive order signed by Gov. JB Pritzker in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All schools public and private will be closed

through at least April 30 after Pritzker announced Tuesday he would extend an executive order that had previously closed them through April 7. The Illinois State Board of Education's remote learning guidance applies to public schools but the state's nonpublic schools are encouraged to use it to inform similar programs, according to an ISBE guidance

*Continued on Page 5*

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**Illinois**

*Continued from page 3*

document.

“Remote learning will look different for every district and maybe even for every school. School districts will create plans based upon their local resources and their needs,” Pritzker said at a COVID-19 news conference Tuesday in Chicago.

Ayala wrote in a letter posted to ISBE’s website that remote learning recommendations “strongly encourage” local districts to adopt grading models of “pass or incomplete” that “embrace the principle of ‘no educational harm to any child.’”

The remote learning guidance is based on recommendations from a 63-member advisory group of teachers, students, paraprofessionals, related service personnel, principals, and district and regional superintendents. Each district is to interpret the guidance individually and come up with a plan that fits their district.

The emergency rules on remote learning days allow for e-learning or other kinds of remote learning days, which must be approved by the school’s or district’s superintendent or chief administrator.

A district’s remote learning plan must consider: student access to remote or online instruction; that activities reflect state learning standards when applicable; the means by which students confer with an educator as needed; the unique needs of students in special populations; and the transition from remote learning to on-site learning when remote days are no longer necessary.

Per the guidance, remote learning can be “real-time or flexibility timed,” and it “may or may not involve technology.”

“It cannot be assumed that every family or every student has access to the necessary devices and appropriate internet connection at their home. In many cases, students categorized as ‘at risk’ by schools are the ones without access to devices or reliable internet,” according to the guidance.

Per the recommendations, students should have the opportunity to “redo, make up, or try again to complete, show progress, or attempt to complete work assigned prior to the remote learning period in that time frame.”

“We continue to be awed by the phenomenal creativity, resilience, empathy, and problem-solving prowess of Illinois’ educators, administrators, and students,” Ayala said in a news release. “The stories we see every day on social media, in the news, and in our email show us just how focused our educators are on supporting our children in this time of crisis.”

The full remote learning recommendations can be viewed at [www.isbe.net/Documents/RL-Recommendations-3-27-20.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/Documents/RL-Recommendations-3-27-20.pdf).

Schools are also allotted up to five “Remote Learning Planning Days” after March 30 to plan in partnership with their collective bargaining units.

The remote learning and planning days count as actual student attendance days toward the required minimum for a school year and will not need to be made up, just like “Act of God” days, which is how canceled school days were counted from March 17 to March 30.

Teachers and other public school staff will continue to be paid as part of a deal between education associations and unions negotiated by the Pritzker administration and ISBE, and state funding from the evidence-based formula will be unaffected.

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The same executive order pertaining to remote learning days also canceled testing requirements in the state, including for the SAT.

A release from the ISBE said it recognizes that the free SAT offered by the state is often the only opportunity for students to take a college entrance exam, and it is working on plans to allow 11th grade students to take the SAT in the fall.

ISBE also released a joint guidance statement with the Illinois Board of Higher Education and Illinois Community College Board on dual credit courses.

It stated, “Dual credit instruction should continue, if at all possible, during the suspension of in-person instruction, or resume as soon as possible, to ensure students are able to meet the objectives of the dual credit course. However, that instruction must not negatively impact a student’s academic standing.”

For AP classes, for the 2019-20 exam administration only, students may take a 45-minute online exam at home “on any device they have access to — computer, tablet, or smartphone,” per another guidance document from ISBE.

That document said questions are designed in ways that prevent cheating, and the College Board is using a range of digital security tools and techniques, including plagiarism detection software.

More information is available at [www.isbe.net/covid19](http://www.isbe.net/covid19).

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## LEGAL NOTICES

### Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
 COUNTY OF BOONE - BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS  
 AMERIHOM MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC; Plaintiff,  
 vs. 19 CH 137  
 LYRISSA CEDILLO; MARIA J. CEDILLO; UNKNOWN OWNERS  
 AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,  
 NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Thursday, May 7, 2020, at the hour of 12:15 p.m. inside the front entrance of the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

### Public Notices

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
 COUNTY OF BOONE - IN PROBATE  
 In the Matter of the Estate of Evelyn M. LaRue, Deceased.  
 No. 2020-P- 18

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION-WILL AND CLAIMS  
 NOTICE is given of the death of Evelyn M. LaRue. Letters of Office were issued on March 10, 2020, to Mark T. LaRue, who is the legal representative of the estate. The attorney for the estate is Attorney Charles G. Popp, P.C., 215 South State Street, Belvidere, Illinois.

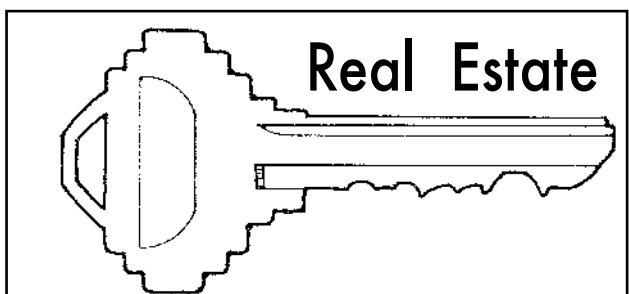
Claims against the estate may be filed on or before October 15, 2020, that date being at least six (6) months from the date of first publication, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to creditors, if mailing or delivery is required by 755 ILCS 5/18-3, whichever date is later. Any claim not filed by the requisite date stated above shall be barred.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Boone County Circuit Clerk--Probate Division at the Boone County Courthouse, 601 North Main Street, Belvidere, Illinois 61008, or with the estate legal representative, or both.

Copies of claims filed with the Circuit Clerk’s Office--Probate Division, must be mailed or delivered to the estate legal representative and to his/her attorney within ten days after it has been filed.  
 Published in *The Boone County Journal* Mar 27; Apr 3, 10, 2020.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT BOONE COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
**PUBLICATION NOTICE**

In The Interest of: Gracelynn Willer, minor Case No: 20-JA-09  
 To whom it may concern/ All unknown natural Fathers (Respondent)  
**ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**  
 Take notice that on February 27, 2020, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by Atty. Tricia Smith, State’s Attorney, 601



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 17TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
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 AMERIHOM MORTGAGE COMPANY, LLC; Plaintiff,  
 vs. 19 CH 137  
 LYRISSA CEDILLO; MARIA J. CEDILLO; UNKNOWN OWNERS  
 AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,  
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well into June and even into July.

If June 2020 comes along and farmers have yet to plant corn, Tuttle said, some may forgo planting and instead activate the “prevented planting” payments in their crop insurance coverage.

“If there’s wet spots in the Midwest and it’s June 1, I think some of those farmers will just wait it out and take prevent plant,” he said.

Nationwide, the USDA’s report shows farmers expect soybean plantings to increase 10 percent this year and corn plantings 8 percent. Illinois farmers are projected to be among the top states in acreage gains from last year if all acres are planted.

According to the report, Illinois farmers expect to plant the most acres of soybeans and second-most acres of corn, behind Iowa. Illinois ranked first and second, respectively, in production of each crop last year.

The prospective plantings report is compiled by the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service using survey results from more than 80,000 farm operators during the first two weeks of March.

## State, National Unemployment Spikes Amid COVID-19 Outbreak

*More than 114,000 Illinoisans file new claims in one week*

by Peter Hancock Capitol News Illinois

More than 114,000 workers in Illinois filed first-time unemployment claims in the week ending March 21 as the United States saw its biggest one-week spike in recorded history. 3.2 million workers filing for benefits.

The U.S. Department of Labor said the seasonally-adjusted number was due entirely to the COVID-19 outbreak, which has forced bars and restaurants to close, halted public gatherings and severely restricted travel across the country. The department said economists typically expect to see a decline in new jobless claims during the third week of March.

The previous national record of 695,000 initial claims in one week was set in October 1982.

The total number of new claims in Illinois last week was 114,663, a 950-percent jump over the previous week and a 1,338-percent increase over the same week last year when there were only 7,933 new unemployment claims.

Total claims for the month of March in Illinois now stand at 133,763, nearly five times as high as the same point in March 2019 when it stood at 27,493.

According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security, new jobless claims were already beginning to climb before last week. There were 10,870 new claims in the week ending March 14, a 25-percent increase over the week before.

The sudden and historic spike last week followed two executive orders by Gov. JB Pritzker severely restricting social and economic activity. On Sunday, March 15, he ordered all public and private K-12 schools to close. Then on Monday, March 16, he ordered bars and restaurants to close for consumption on their premises and banned public gatherings of 50 or more people.

On Friday, March 20, he issued a sweeping stay-at-home order banning virtually all public gatherings and directing people to keep a distance of six feet between

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themselves and anyone else while out of their homes. It took effect the following day.

Those actions were aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 which, as of Thursday, had resulted in 2,538 confirmed cases of the disease in 37 counties in Illinois and had caused 26 deaths.

The school closures and stay-at-home orders are currently scheduled to extend through April 7, but they could be extended depending on how widespread the virus still is at that point.

Dan Black, who teaches economics at the University of Chicago, called the current economic condition “unprecedented” and said in an interview that the ripple effects may be felt for a long time to come.

“I’ve seen people who are panicking and saying, ‘oh, is it going to be a recession? This is going to be the next depression.’ I’ve seen other people who kind of poopoo the idea, but the truth is, we don’t know because we’ve never seen anything like this,” he said.

“You know, part of that is going to depend upon how long it’s necessary for us to keep the economy shut down,” he said. “Obviously, if you’re a business and you’re paying rent, if nothing else, and you’re not taking in any money, that tends to go through your cash reserves pretty quickly. And so the fear would be a lot of these businesses that are not operating right now might cease to exist or may go bankrupt, simply because they’ve run out of cash reserves.”

The Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago issued a report Thursday warning that the spike in unemployment could also hinder the housing market.

“Many unemployed mortgage borrowers will likely still find themselves with positive equity in their houses, depending on the course of house prices,” the report stated. “But the risk that they will remain unemployed for an indefinite period will undoubtedly limit their ability to borrow against that home equity. Moreover, mortgage originators are likely to focus their capacity instead on the large volume of still-employed borrowers seeking to benefit from the drop in long-term interest rates.”

Meanwhile, the Pritzker administration has already taken steps to extend unemployment benefits to those who are temporarily out of work due to the pandemic and has launched programs to extend low-interest loans and grants to small businesses affected by the disaster. He has also temporarily halted all residential evictions in Illinois.

Also, the U.S. Senate late Wednesday night passed a \$2 trillion recovery package that would deliver direct financial aid to nearly all citizens as well as financial help for businesses and state and local governments. The House is expected to vote on that package Friday.

But Black said there are many people, including small business owners, who won’t

qualify for unemployment because they are not “employees” of someone else, and he said he wasn’t sure whether the measures being taken will be sufficient to meet the crisis.

“The problem is, you always have this disconnect between who’s having to pay the real price for these activities – which are saving a lot of lives, I’m certainly not going to say we shouldn’t be doing this,” he said. “But it’s going to place a burden on a set of people and, whether those people are going to be adequately compensated by the stimulus package. It’s very difficult to say.”

“I think people are rightfully concerned in the Senate about whether or not airlines will be able to survive this crisis,” he added. “Their revenues have disappeared largely and that’s going to be a big, big problem for them. But it’s also a problem for the small business owner who maybe runs a barber shop here in town and needs to be able to cut hair in order to feed himself and his family. How that individual is going to be helped by this stimulus package is kind of opaque at the moment.”

News of the unemployment spike came on the same day IDES issued its regular monthly jobs report for February, a report that would have been seen as relatively good news for the state, absent the news about last week’s unemployment claims.

The state’s unemployment rate in February stood at a record low of 3.4 percent, one-tenth of a percentage point below January’s rate. The rolling three-month average number of jobs from December through February was up by 9,300 compared to the November-January average.

“This administration remains dedicated to providing relief to small businesses and families during this challenging period for the state economy,” Deputy Gov. Dan Hynes said in a statement. “As the state navigates this economic uncertainty, the governor will use every tool at the state’s disposal to help small businesses and families get the help they need.”

Meanwhile, many have reported issues with Illinois’ system for filing unemployment claims and Pritzker has noted the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology is working to make a new platform for such claims.

He said 17,000 people had filed claims successfully on Thursday alone as of 2 p.m. as the state tries to keep up with the unprecedented filings.

“Which is an amazing number considering that you know they’re literally building this airplane while it’s trying to take off,” Pritzker said at a daily COVID-19 news briefing in Chicago. “...We’re going to get this right, and we’re going to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to file for unemployment claims and we have sped up the process for people to actually receive those claims as well.”

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Palm Sunday- April 5th Live stream-9AM  
 Maundy Thursday- April 9th Live stream 6PM  
 Good Friday April 10th Live stream 6:30PM  
 Easter Sunday- April 12th Live stream 9AM



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Maundy Thursday	April 9	7:00pm
Good Friday	April 10	7:00pm
Easter Festival	April 12	10:00am

**"Offering New Life in Christ"**

**Holy Week**

April 5th Palm Sunday  
 8, 9:30, and 11am

April 9th Maundy Thursday  
 11am and 7pm

April 10th Good Friday  
 12 noon  
 7pm Tenebrae

April 11th Easter Vigil  
 6pm

April 12th Resurrection Sunday  
 6, 8, 9:30, and 11am



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# Empower Boone Food Pantry in Capron

## *Stay-at-Home Order*

The pantry is in need of donations. The demand for food will be more than we have ever experienced, and more than we are presently able to provide. The Stay-at-Home Order in Illinois and the loss of income for so many families make your donation so important.

None of us knows how long this will last but with your help we can minimize the pain for our community. For every dollar donated the pantry is able to purchase \$8 worth of food. Normally 2/3 of our neighbors are fixed income/social security incomes and a 1/3 are people that are in a temporary tight spot. We expect the later group to expand.

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